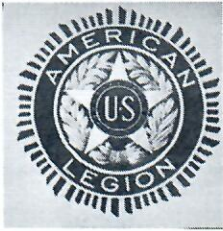


**American Legion Post 112 Newsletter**  
**American Legion Davis-Darrow-Meyer Post 112 Elk River**

**2021**  
**Volume 37**  
**Issue 1**



**Commander's News**  
**March and April 2021**

The Honor Guard is up to 16 members now, with everyone in uniform. The new Guard SGT. is Greg Artman, who is also my adjutant. He's doing a great job. So now if you must die you will have a military honor guard to "send you off properly"!

Good day to all of the Post #112 family. I write these words of wisdom for the 10-12 of you who actually read my dissertations.

I don't have to tell any of you how badly the last few months have been. The Post was closed for many weeks with no income flowing in. The bar was closed, as was the kitchen, but we were able to qualify for some grant money from the State and Sherburne County to keep us afloat. We were able to keep our post manager, Tammy, employed. That was a big help. The government let us reopen to 50% capacity and allowed us to open the bar and serve and start serving food via curbside service. I couldn't believe the volunteers we had to cook and serve and bring it out to the drive-up customers! We were serving many more customers than we did in the past-including some Fridays in Lent. That REALLY helped our finances! The takeout actually found us running out of food a few times. The burgers on Mondays (144 average), Thursday tacos and Friday Fish dinners all were well received. Thanks to all our volunteers, especially to those who gave back to the post all the tips they received from the curbside service. The 2021 Lenten fish and shrimp dinners are coming up in a few days so we are looking for volunteers. You will have a good time and make new friends. If you can help out, there is a sign-up sheet in the bar-or you can show up any Friday.

The post being closed DID have some advantages. The kitchen was rebuilt with new flooring, new countertops, new lighting, improved electrical and a new stove (to replace our 50-year-old one!). We managed to clean out the plates and stuff not used but taking up space, cleaned out the arms room and built shelving in the basement to hold all the extras. This was accomplished by many companies giving us a great deal on their labor or simply donating items. Funds were also provided by the Auxiliary, SAL, the Riders and the post. All of this came in under what was budgeted.

I should also mention that we now offer gift cards to be used for dinners or in the bar. Hopefully that will be well received.

Our membership is growing. The post is at 103% of our goal. The Auxiliary's membership is also growing as is the SAL and especially the riders. In closing, thank you to all our many volunteers, staff members, officers and the general public for their support to help us keep growing for another 100 years.

For God and Country,  
Tom Kulkay, Commander

**Post Officers**

Commander – Tom Kulkay  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander – Bob Hackenmueller  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander – Bernard Richter  
Post Adjutant – Greg Artman  
Finance Officer – Jim Holt  
Sergeant-at-arms – Bill Stevenson  
Chaplain – Chip Martin  
Service Officer – Vacant  
SAL Squadron Commander – Blair Overton  
Legion Riders Director – Dawn Olsen  
Honor Guard Director – Greg Artman

**Haven for Heroes**

Haven for Heroes in Anoka is in need of cleaning and office supplies. Items needed include window and floor cleaning supplies, laundry soap, softener or dryer sheets, disinfectants/spray disinfectants and dusting supplies. Other needs include Kleenex, toilet paper, band aids, #10 envelopes, printer paper, post-it notes and stamps.

If you would like to help out, bring items to the Birthday Dinner on March 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

## **B.O.D. News & 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**

At best 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone. And we look forward to better and brighter days ahead in 2021.

A real positive for the Legion was curbside food sales and all the volunteers who made it possible. Hats off to everyone who helped out. And another positive is having a renovated kitchen to work in.

When the government approved opening with 50% occupancy with strict spacing guidelines, it was decided to open the north banquet hall to accommodate more patrons. That has proven to be a wise decision as it is very busy especially on weekends.

Mark your calendars for the Legion Birthday Dinner to be held Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Bob Hackenmueller  
Chairman, BOD & 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, Post #112

## **Honor Guard**

The Honor Guard holds quarterly squad meetings with the first being held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. We cleaned and organized the arms room as well as the storage closet downstairs. The squad enjoyed reminiscing of the old days looking through all of the old photos. There were numerous squads in Post 122, always marching tightly in formation for parades and performing graveside services not so many years ago. At the meeting the squad unanimously nominated and confirmed Greg Artman as the new Honor Guard Director.

***"I am highly honored for the opportunity to serve Post 112 in this capacity. I have always felt that the Honor Guard is one of the most important functions and services the post can provide. It is imperative that we continue to honor our fallen. I also acknowledge that these are a big set of boots to fill and will do my best to make Bill and the rest of the squad proud."***

The new year has brought in great optimism as we added two more members to the squad. We welcome John Olsen (Navy) and Larry Gross (Marine), both are dedicated Rider members. We have a couple

other candidates on the short recruitment list that will be announced when they enlist.

We are always in need of more Honor Guard members to continue building the ranks. The responsibilities and schedule are flexible. You help when you can. And if you are retired or work from home with a flexible schedule, we would like to talk with you about weekday funeral ceremonies. We provide uniforms (minus boots) and will train you.

## **Honor Guard Obituary- Jodi T. Walz**

The month of November 2020 was a rough one for the Elk River American Legion Honor Guard with several of our members contracting COVID. This limited our abilities to perform services during the month. And if the COVID didn't do enough, we experienced a huge loss with the passing of our Bugler, SFC Jodi T. Walz.

Jodi started serving along-side his father Ron Walz, as the bugler for the Honor Guard squad in 1985. He was just a sophomore in the Elk River high school band and was awarded the John Phillip Sousa Award. He then enlisted and was accepted into the US Army Band.

After completing basic and AIT at Ft Dix, NJ, Jodi went onto serve this great nation for 30 years all over the world. He served in Desert Storm and performed for many dignitaries including President George H.W. Bush. Members of the Honor Guard talk about watching Jodi performing live on TV while stationed overseas. Jodi continued to serve on the Honor Guard squad, serving most recently at the funeral of the Honor Guards past Commander, Bill Dollansky. Jodi said Bill was big influence on him in pursuing his enlistment in the Army band. *"I'm thinking the two of them are performing a ceremony today."*

The Honor Guard is working on details for a scholarship to recognize Jodi's unwavering commitment and service through music to our country, our post and the Honor Guard Squad. The **SFC Jodi T. Walz Music Scholarship Award** will be awarded to an Elk River graduating senior who is pursuing a degree in instrumental music.

Jodi's father Ron, is still a dedicated member of the squad and can always be counted on for his service.



## **Legion Riders**

Our first meeting of 2021 was held in January to discuss the upcoming year. Our first pancake breakfast since reopening was in February and will continue each month on the third Sunday. We also discussed upcoming monthly group rides, our participation in the 1<sup>st</sup> annual benefit “Ride 4 Heroes” coming up on May 1<sup>st</sup> and riding with the Honor Guard for the Memorial Day Ceremonies. Of the 16 Honor Guard members, there are 6 ALR members proudly serving. As 2021 rolls into spring, we look forward to sharing great memories while serving our veterans and the community. Rubber side down.

Dawn Olsen  
ALR Director



## **SAL**

Post 112 has a long standing reputation for a fabulous fish fry! It is the volunteers that have made this a successful and a memorable event. Below are the volunteer positions needed on Fridays through April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Friday mornings 8:30-11:00**  
**8-10 volunteers for prep and setup**

**Friday afternoons/evenings 4:00-8:30**  
**20-25 volunteers for cooking, serving & cleanup.**

A signup sheet is located in the bar, stop in & sign up if you are able to help out.

Blair Overton  
SAL Squadron Commander

## **Menu Options**

**Monday’s Burger Night (5-8pm)**  
**Tuesday’s Bar Menu (5-8pm)**  
**Wing Wednesdays (5-8pm)**  
**Thursday’s Tacos (5-8pm)**

## **Fish & Shrimp Dinners -**

## **Events Calendar**

Bingo is back!! Wednesday’s at 6:30 starting  
**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. (No Bingo on Wednesday March 17<sup>th</sup>)

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Live Music by Terry DuBois – 7:00pm

**March 17<sup>th</sup>** - Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner –  
5:00-8:00pm (while supplies last)

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Rider’s Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11:30

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** – Legion Birthday Dinner  
Social Hour 5:00pm, Dinner 6:00pm

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** – Live Music by Terry DuBois – 7:00pm

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Live Music by Terry DuBois – 7:00pm

**April 4<sup>th</sup>** – Bar Closed – Easter Sunday

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Auxiliary’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Soup Lunch  
11:00-2:00

**April 18<sup>th</sup>** – Riders Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11:30

Board of Directors Meetings at 6:30

Thursday, **March 11<sup>th</sup>**

Thursday, **April 8<sup>th</sup>**

Post & Auxiliary Meetings at 7:00pm

Thursday, **March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Thursday, **April 1<sup>st</sup>**



## Auxiliary News

### **Celebrating 100 years 1921-2021**

Greetings Unit Sisters and Friends,  
It's been a while since our last newsletter. This has been a difficult time for many. I hope you and your family are doing well and we are deeply sorry if you have lost a loved one to Covid 19 or other illness.

The Post is being optimistic and has scheduled the annual **Legion Birthday Dinner for Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm**. This will be a roast beef dinner furnished by the Post. No side dishes or desserts can be brought in. The Auxiliary will furnish birthday cake. Please call the bar at 763-441-3150 to reserve a seat.

For safety sake several events and fundraisers had to be cancelled over the last year due to shutdowns during the pandemic. But we are happy to report we had enough in the General Fund to pay donations to our budgeted programs and projects. The Poppy Fund is under-funded, but we are confident looking forward. Our first 2021 fundraiser, the **Third Annual Soup Lunch is set for Saturday, April 17 from 11am-2pm**. This year curbside takeout will be available as well as inside service – spacing according to rules. There will be a variety of soups and chili, plus bread & butter, and sweet treats. We hope you can attend.

If you have not yet paid your dues yet, please send payment to the Post (525 Railroad Dr. NW, Elk River) or mail to Michele Smith (18670 Simonet Dr, Elk River) or renew on line at <http://member.legion-aux.org/member/memberprofile>.

Two other important things to pass along. First the **annual election of Unit 112 Officers** for 2021-2022 is coming. If you are interested in serving or have any questions, please call me at 320-808-3680. And it will soon be time for us to complete annual reports for 2020-2021. We need a total of any volunteer hours you served from April, 2020 through March 31, 2021. These include such things as working at

CAER or another food shelf, serving as an election judge, and any way you helped veterans or children (but not for family members). Please give a short description of the work you did and the hours. Please give the number of hours you worked baking and helping at the Bake Sale last October too. (Contact Roberta Takle, 763-441-1440 or [rptakle@aol.com](mailto:rptakle@aol.com) or Ramona Doebler, 763-442-80009 or [ramonadoebler@msn.com](mailto:ramonadoebler@msn.com)  
Everyone please take care of yourself.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless the USA.  
Kristina Dahlin, Unit 112 President

### Unit Officers

President – Kristina Dahlin  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Sharon Hackenmueller  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Mary Murphy  
Secretary/Treasurer – Sylvia Frolik  
Sergeant at Arms – Darlene Salitros  
Chaplain – Cathy Artman  
Historian – Ramona Doebler  
Executive Committee – Lorraine Salk, Darlene Salitros, Roberta Takle, Ramona Doebler



Some of the great volunteers at the successful Craft and Bake Sale in October!

Despite 2020 being a rough year, there were good times too!



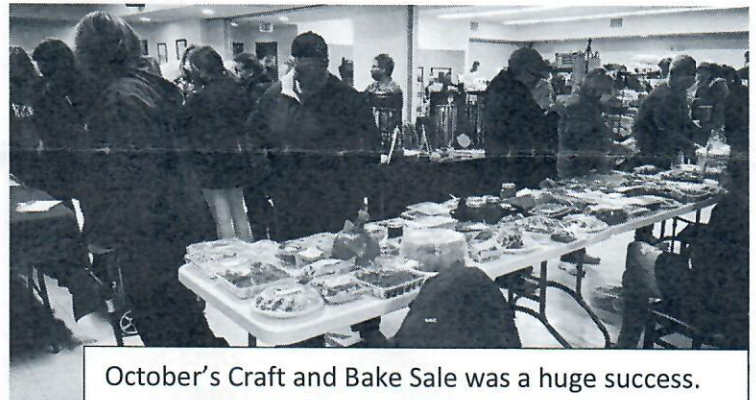
Busy day for curbside service!



The "gleaming" newly renovated kitchen.



Reid and Joey were the youngest volunteers helping out with curbside and were recognized for their efforts at the Volunteer Dinner in August.



October's Craft and Bake Sale was a huge success. People were ready to get out after being cooped up. The baked goods went fast!



In July, the riders hosted 45 CVMA members at the post. \$500 was donated to the IGYSIX fund. The ISYSIX is active in supporting awareness of veteran suicides.

To close out the year, the Rider's "float" participated in a parade at the Minneapolis VA hospital.

