

LEGION NEWS

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2020

Visit our Website Americanlegionpost1080.com

Information is updated regularly!

COMMANDERS CORNER

Welcome back everyone and I hope you are doing well. You probably noticed we missed a few newsletters due to covid-19 and we will try to update you with current information, if any. First, I had previously mentioned we were asked to extend our officers for one year as the Legion is practicing spacing and we have done so. Your officers all stepped up and volunteered to do one more year and I thank them. Next, we went through phase 1, 2, 3 and now in 4 and I hope we move into phase 5 shortly. We are watching the reports and Will County is not currently trending well and your officers ask you to keep your spacing and wear your mask so you stay safe.

As of today, we are being asked to enforce the rules of the day and they are simple and short and follow:

1. Upon entering or leaving our post home we all must wear a face covering. Once inside, unless eating or drinking, we are required to wear our face mask.
2. When we get up to go to the restroom or outside to smoke we are asking to again put on your face covering until returning to your seat.
3. To play the video gaming machines we are asked to take a temperature test and if our temperature confirms we are ok, we can put on our face covering, wash our hands and enter the gaming room and enjoy.
4. All employees who are greeting or assisting members or guests are required to wear a face covering.

Hopefully this will be as bad as it gets. We need your help in following these rules and helping yourself and others who are visiting our Post home to stay safe and healthy.

If you have hopefully been visiting the Post you have noticed the many improvements in the flooring, wall coverings, lighting and window treatments. A lot of planning and work went into this project and I hope you all enjoy the outcome and from the feedback it appears the changes were worth the effort. A lot of money was spent but we are still on a sound operating base. Costs were reduced because a few volunteers (your officers) did a lot of the odd jobs, planning, etc... allowing us to keep the cost down. I am proud to say we brought the updates to the post in under budget. How many of our governmental projects can say the same?

IS THE UPDATE DONE?

No, it is not. We still need to complete the remodel and ask anyone interested to make recommendations, provide materials, do the work. Items still open include entrance hall furniture, wall coverings, other suggestions and additionally three doors still need work. The trees in front are dying and need to be removed. Also, we used the outdoor patio

more this year than ever before and many people have asked can we make it an improvement to have a better experience on the patio. What do you think?

To help cover the cost of doing business during the 4 Phases we tried several projects to bring in funds. Our kitchen tenant was able to set up a drive-up, walk-up business allowing us to share in the profits. When we could have outside activities either bar or food we did again. We have provided you several entertainment opportunities on weekends at our usual really low cost. We even had our annual poppy drive except we did everything under our front cover and provided food for the public. The city asked us not to go to the corners or work with other businesses and thanks to our kitchen and volunteers we were still able to have our poppy drive for our veteran families in need by using our great Post home as the only collection point.

Now for the News about the Post and Legion

The Legion is encouraging everyone to follow the health guidelines being provided and is scheduling many future meetings to be virtual in lieu of in your face. This should help reduce the spread through our fellow Legionnaires. Local news, we finished the year slightly down on a membership basis. Our goal was 617 and we finished up with 579. We were the 4th largest post in Illinois but now we are the 6th. One of my goals is to remain in the top 5 and I would appreciate your help to get there in 2020-2021. If we would have had 1 more member, we would have tied for 5th so we are still close. We have unfortunately had to cancel some of our group functions such as the kids Christmas Party but do not worry, we will have something for our kids. Keep watching the news.

Why You Should Belong (NEF)

Your American Legion has always had programs designed to help its members but are not well known to those members. Here is one that is designed to help our members when in need. The program, **National Emergency Fund**, may apply to some of our members now. Here is how it works. If your primary residence is damaged by a natural disaster similar to the one we recently had, you may be eligible for financial aid.

Here are the basics:

1. Your home must be damaged to such a point that you cannot live in it.
2. You must be a member in good standing which means you are an active member of your post and your dues are paid for the current year.
3. You need to apply for the funds which you can do at the Post or the Post can come to you if you call to make arrangements.
4. How long does it take? With proper communication, checks have been received in three days.
5. How much is available? Up to \$1,500.00 for first check to help cover expenses and then up to another \$1,500.00 to cover purchases needed for repairs. The receipts are needed to prove purchases.

If you have questions or feel you have a claim, please contact the Post 815-729-2254 and ask for Gary Stieg or Tony Arellano.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Commander and please remember a Post is only as good as its members. We have openings in the Honor Guard, Officer ranks, all the maintenance skills that helps keep the building as nice as it is, and all the great

programs of the American Legion. I have run the Northern Illinois Oratorical Program for the American Legion for several years and it is one of the many great programs and a young man we sponsored won \$18,740.00 in scholarships in 2018-2019. We have everything from scouting, shooting, police work, etc...to participate in or even run. Please consider one or more of the many opportunities at your American Legion.

For God and Country
Gary Stieg, Commander

Scholarships

Your American Legion is working hard to continue the many scholarship programs for the upcoming year. Plans are being drawn up to make the programs more on-line vs. the way they have been done, at least until the covid-19 crisis is over. The Post is still doing its annual Essay contest which will carry forward to the Department Contest. It is a 500-word Essay and applications are available at the Post. For more complete information of other American Legion Scholarships just go to the web-site for the Legion and look up Scholarships or contact the Post.

Gary Stieg, Scholarship Coordinator

SR. VICE COMMANDER

2020 has been a real challenge for everyone. Here at 1080 we were not able to achieve a 100% membership from last year. Each year we lose members to Post Everlasting, but there are also many who choose not to spend the \$40.00 to stay involved. Let's face it, forty dollars is not going to make or break you. That money goes a long way to help veterans and to help our community. There are programs for children and help for veterans with families who are down and out. Those who did not rejoin, we want to know what will bring you back. This is a member driven club and we will do what you ask us to do if it is legal. We have leadership positions for you and you could join our outstanding volunteers who keep this post going and have a good time doing it.

While the post was shut down by Covid 19 we let the circumstances provide us the time to do a makeover and update the hall and bar area. Please make time to drop in. The bar is open and we are still providing excellent food at the 1080 Café. We hope to see you soon and remember, the dues for the next year are due. When you get the letter from National, send the dues in or tell us how we can be the club you want to visit.

For God and Country, Tony Arellano, Senior Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Are we all having fun these last few months? Well hopefully we can help. We have entertainment every Friday night from 6:00-9:00 along with our weekly fish fry. Half Baked Potatoes, the Nightlife Band & 3 Aces have been entertaining us lately. Let's take a break and have a good time!

Ron Gale, Jr. Vice Commander

SERVICE OFFICER

During the Vietnam War, over 350,000 Purple Hearts were earned by our veterans. Each August 7th is National Purple Heart Day. A day to honor and remember the men and women who were either wounded or made the ultimate sacrifice to their country.

I want to remind everyone that we are not out of the woods yet on Covid-19. Now is not the time to let your guard down and forget to wear a mask or social distance. As you know the enemy strikes when your defenses are down. We will get through this united in spirit. If anyone has needs that we can help with, step forward and let it be known. Either I or the chaplain is here to assist you. My job is to advocate for your benefits that you have earned through your service.

For God and Country
Tony Arellano Post Service Officer

CHAPLAIN

Vows and promises

There's a story of a guy who was running late for his flight at O'Hare airport. He was desperately looking for a parking space in one of the O'Hare parking decks. Finally he began to pray "God, please help me get a parking spot and I promise to begin going to church again and to even begin tithing....." when all of a sudden in the middle of his prayer someone just 50 feet in front of him began backing out of a parking space which he immediately took. As he pulled into his spot, he glibly said "forget it God, I just found a place."

Isn't that just how people sometimes are? We are told in scripture to be very careful when promising or making a vow to God (Deut. 23.21 and Ecc. 5.2and 5). The verse in Ecclesiastes even suggests that it may be better not to vow or promise at all. Truly the non-Biblical saying "A promise made is a debt unpaid" can be a warning to all.

Matthew 12.36 tells us that "for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. Jesus once said in Matthew 15.11 that it is "Not what goes into the mouth that defiles a man (or woman), but that which comes out." As this condemns us all it is truly comforting to know that we have a loving God who has made a way for us to escape the punishment of this judgment.

I'm reminded of our "Pledge of Allegiance to our flag" which we have all said in school hundreds of times. And in church, we made vows and promises to God to follow Him and to try our best to do His will. In this time of national crises, let us keep in mind these promises made in schools and churches and show love and compassion for one another.

Chaplain Marvin "Buck" Balsley

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Pandemic 2020 has turned life as we know it upside down. Things taken for granted are no longer the norm.

Our meat raffle had to be postponed several months. The first place ticket was drawn and the winner was Post 1080. The Riders donated the winnings back to the Post and it went to the V.A.C. to a family in need. Second place was donated back to the riders for a future donation. Thank you all for your support.

Rides have been few and far between and we're all hoping for a better 2021.

Please be safe, follow the guidelines and maybe, just maybe, we can beat this pandemic.

God bless the men and women in the military, our Veterans and first responders.

American Legion Riders

SAL

Greetings from the Officers of Squadron 1080!

We hope that this newsletter finds everyone who reads it and their families safe and healthy! The SAL Squadron has been active through this pandemic. In conjunction with 1080 Café, we have had generous breakfast plates available for \$10.00 on the third Sundays of the past 5 months. It was a gut buster for those who came and had partaken in it. Our sincere thanks to John Jones for this opportunity. We had a Smoked Pulled Pork sandwich sale in August. Tezak Funeral Home generously donated the fee of the Jib Brothers Band and they entertained the crowd. Our hats off to them for playing in the heat! We normally have our Pig Roast to benefit the Will County Veterans Assistance Commission in September. The Officers have elected to cancel this year's event due to the pandemic and opted to donate directly to the VAC. We have already set a date for next years event which will be held on Sunday, September 19, 2021, so mark your calendars! We meet every third Wednesday of the month at the Post at 7:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to come out and see what the Squadron is planning!

Jim Heckler – S.A.L. Commander

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone!

This year has been a challenge to say the least. I hope everyone is staying safe and doing as well as can be expected. As I write this article, Will County is in the process of some restrictions being put back in place which is unfortunate and hard telling what the future holds for us. The auxiliary is going to safely move forward following restrictions and social distancing with some events that may or may not happen. Our auxiliary

officers met this July and put together a calendar of events for the next couple of months.

Oct. 4th – 9:00-4:00 Craft-Vendor/Country Market. Vendor will be able to social distance with their items either in the hall or outside by the patio grass. We hear that Eddie Korosa will be here in the afternoon with a parking lot dance.

Oct. 25th – Trunk N Treat in Post Parking lot 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Nov. 6th – American Legion Auxiliary will be passing out birthday cake to any diner to commemorate the American Legion Auxiliary 101 birthday.

Potica and Apple Strudel sale (See Flyer)

Something new this year, John Jones from 1080 Café offered another fundraiser to the Auxiliary regarding Chicago Bears football games. In the past, the post offered free food to patron throughout the game but because of COVID-19 they will not be allowed to do so. John Jones came up with the idea of offering food baskets for \$3.00 and for each basket sold, the auxiliary receives \$1.00 and any tips as the waitress will be the auxiliary. Great idea!

The auxiliary appreciates everyone who has supported us over the years and hopes you will continue to do so. Speaking of...Our Flag day brat/hot dog curbside lunch was a huge success! A big thank-you to everyone who came out (even both days) and supported us. Thank-you to John Jones with his donation of time and product as well as Jim Condon's "very generous" donation. We are indeed grateful! All the money that is made through our fundraising events have and will continue to go to support our veterans in local nursing homes, homebound, or struggling veterans in the community. Obviously, we are extremely limited as to what we can do to support our veterans at this time, but we have been trying to do our best. We have dropped off cards to veterans in nursing homes/assisted living for Memorial Day and Flag Day as well as small flags. Some Auxiliary members have participated in "drive by" birthday celebrations of veterans in the community. Honor flight didn't fly veterans this year but volunteers have been going to each veteran's home to present a sign for outdoors to let them know they are not forgotten and let the community know they will be eventually taking a trip. Some of those had "drive by's" also. Our next project will be to "Pack the Pantry" at Veterans Assistance Commission.

We will start up with our meetings with everyone present wearing a mask and social distancing from each other. The following are our meeting dates: September 3rd, October 1st and November 5th, all starting at 6:30. The Auxiliary has donated a basket of disposable masks for anyone that is in need and can be found on the table in the hallway as well as small American flags.

This most likely will be our last newsletter of the year so on behalf of myself, auxiliary officers and members I would like to thank all of our veterans for their service to this great country and you hopefully have a nice Veterans Day. I also want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and pray that 2021 will be better for all of us. I wish you all good health, blessings and hopefully some type of "normalcy" in our lives.

Sue Bustin, Auxiliary President

AUXILIARY VICE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all Auxiliary members who have paid their 2020 dues. Keep up the good work.

We still have members who owe for 2020. Our dues are \$25.00 for the year. It is important to pay your dues before December 31, 2020. Department will put your payment in after that for 2020-2021 but you lose the years you have paid for in past years. You can pay for dues to American Legion Post 1080 and turn your payment in to Post 1080 or mail your dues to me at:

2611 Caddy Lane, Joliet, IL 60435

Checks are the preferred method of payment for dues. Checks should be made out to American Legion Unit 1080. Cash is fine but please make sure it is in an envelope with the correct amount, your name and phone number.

If you have any questions regarding payment of your dues please call me. My phone number is 815-690-7038.

Thank you for all you do to support us. Enjoy the coming days and God Bless all of you.

Barbara Guardia
Auxiliary Membership Chairperson

Auxiliary News:

Octoberfest craft and vendor show outside at Post on Sunday, Oct. 4th from 9:00-4:00. Polka music and dancing-Eddie Korosa 1:00-4:00 plus delicious brats from the grill. Come enjoy a fun welcome fall event. ***soaps, avon, jewelry, kettlecorn, wood items and much much more***

Potica-Strudel Sale. Fill out enclosed order form and drop off or mail to the post with cash or check.



