



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 518
COMMANDER'S NEWSLETTER**
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MAY 2020

Greetings fellow Legionnaires,

It has been over a month since we have closed our doors due an executive order from Governor Tim Walz ordering all bars and restaurants closed for the foreseeable future to help decrease the spread of the covid19 virus. Although we are not open we are also not resting on our laurels, but are trying to make good use of the time available to us to make some upgrades and repairs around the post home. Some of you have been following along on Facebook, but for those aren't here is a brief list of some of the things that we are doing. We have put new wall coverings on both of the bathrooms and repainted the stall dividers to give both bathrooms a nice clean look. We pulled all of the old sheet rock and wains coating of the east wall and seal coated the exterior wall installed new insulations and sheet rock and wains coating. We have been making new signs and done some painting as well as shelving and cabinetry. We also added a new rack for the display of all of the clothing that we have for sale. I think these changes really have freshened up the post home and will really look nice when we're done. We will be looking at doing some deep cleaning before we reopen but we want to do so safely therefore we will be working in small groups so we can observe safe social distancing while we get ready to reopen. If you are interested in helping out Sonja Frye will be coordinating this effort and you can reach her at 507-382-8906.

April is normally the month that we would have our nominations for our new officers with elections coming in May. National, State and District have all posted resolutions that they will be keeping all of the current executive committee members and officers for the entire upcoming year and will not be holding elections. They recommend that individual posts do the same, our board has decided that we will keep current officers in place until we are able to meet again safely and the post can decide what they would like to do at that time. I believe this is the best course of action to take at the time being.

I hope that everyone is safe and healthy. We have been trying to connect with members via Facebook and the phone with as many members as we can. If you know of anyone that is in need please let me know. You can reach me at jeffrye927@gmail.com or 507-340-0831. I hope that I will be able to see you all in person sooner rather than later.

Jeff Frye
Commander

PLEASE NOTE: When we do have the all clear to open again, it does not mean we no longer need to protect our members! We will be doing a SOFT OPEN and limiting large crowd gatherings by **NOT** having Bingo, Meat Raffles, Bands, Friday Night Meals etc. until further notice. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Until we are officially open again, if you are in need of any medical equipment you may still get it by calling Tom Maus directly at 507-304-2806.

AUXILIARY

I hope this newsletter finds you all HEALTHY and SAFE!

Improvements around the Post are in full swing during this shutdown. The east wall has been repaired and painted, bathrooms have been gutted and redone, new cupboards behind the bar and a new display wall for our Post merchandise. Cleaning is next and new cupboards by the popcorn and coffee machine will be built. I cannot thank everyone enough for stepping up and making our Post even better during this stressful time. I cannot wait for you all to see the improvements and be able to enjoy our Post again! A HUGE THANK YOU to Bruce Defries, Travis Defries, Connor Meyer, Lyn Rohlfig, Deb Joerg, Michelle Bybee, Bre Rients, Mark Conrad, Paul Wingert, Teri Totushek, Mario Tortorella, Jeff Frye (I know I am probably missing a few people, sorry!) for making these improvements go smoothly.

I am expecting a packet from the state soon that should fully explain the guidelines for our Auxiliary to move forward for the rest of the year. I have been doing research on nominations and elections. We are going to follow the recommendations of Minnesota and National to stay with our current officers and board members through 2021. I did find out that Poppy distribution can be done at anytime, so in the next few weeks or so we will make a decision as to how we will move forward with our Post distribution.

We are uncertain when we will be able to open the Post, but our main concern is to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Please check on our Post members by giving them a call or sending cards. I know our members truly appreciate knowing that you are thinking of them. I do have addresses and some phone numbers if you need them. Give me a call, text or email if you need an address or phone number. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. We are ALL in this together!

Stay Safe, Stay Home and I can't wait to see you ALL!!!

Sincerely,

Sonja Frye - Post 518 Auxiliary President

sonerann71@gmail.com

507-382-8906

SAL

Hello all,

I hope this news letter finds everyone healthy and happy and getting out to enjoy some of the nice weather we have been having. I'm sure just like all of you are that I can't wait for this to be over and get back to some kind of normal and get back down to the club.

We have been taking this time to do some very nice improvements to the inside of the Legion. We have been busy painting and upgrading the bathrooms as well as fixing the far wall in the bar area with sealant, fresh sheet rock and paint. I want to give a very big thank you to everyone that has been helping to make these project possible. Everything is looking amazing and we can't wait to see everyone back, hopefully in the very near future.

I will try to keep everyone updated as we know more about future plans to get the Legion back up and running and possibly resuming meetings. If you have any questions or need anything in these tough times please don't hesitate to contact me.

S.A.L. Commander, Darin Hendley

507-317-7070

darin.hendley@yahoo.com

VETERAN OF THE MONTH/COLOR GUARD

Veteran of the Month

At our Saturday May 2nd VOM ceremony we will honor Army Staff Sergeant Walter Otto Kurth who was awarded the Silver Star posthumously for his heroic actions in Italy during WWII.

We will retire the Colors for April's VOM, Marine Corporal Welver Charles Vaughan who died in WWII during a landing on an island in the Tarawa Atoll.

Note – The May VOM ceremony will still take place, but **No Public is invited** – It will be performed by 3 legion members doing a much-abbreviated ceremony where we can all be separated by our “distance”. *We hope to be able to do our normal ceremonies during the rest of the year!!!!*

We still have 1 opening in July 2020.

Color Guard

During this past 2 months with Covid-19, we haven't had any Color Guard events and haven't been performing any Military honors, but expect we will have quite a few requests to catch up once we are able to do them again.

Any interest in being part of the team???

Stay Safe! Mark Conrad 507-380-8405 lefty48597@gmail.com

ADJUTANT

We hope that everyone is doing well, are safe at home and practicing their Social Distancing. These are very difficult times for most of us, but we know we can count on our Legion Family. **Any Legion member can request help through our Legion Funds and we also have resources if you need assistance, we cannot give you.**

At this time, Our National, State District and Local American Legion have cancelled all future events. We should wait to see if the Stay at Home order is lifted, as well as our events rescheduled.

The Twin Cities Honor Flight is taking applications for WWII and now Korean War Vets for upcoming trips to Washington DC. Vets will spend a day in DC touring the memorials at NO cost. To get more info and get registered go to their website. [Http://honorflighttwincities.org](http://honorflighttwincities.org)

VETSROLL.Org 10 Year!!! – WWII, Korea and Veterans through 1966 & Rosie-the Riveters Rolling to Washington DC. www.VetsRoll.Org Vets.Org 1777 Gardner St South Beloit, IL 61080 608-207-8319

Veterans Crisis Line by calling 1-800-273-8255 and pressing 1, using the online chat, or texting to 838255. These services provide free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. **An easy-to-remember, three-digit number 988 (similar to 911)** for those contemplating suicide could save lives, experts say, but it also represents a symbolic shift in a still stigmatized world — that mental health emergencies are just as important as physical ones.

News letters Deadline: The Sunday, after the Monthly Legion meeting.

Check the calendar for upcoming events and meals

Paula Anzures, Adjutant

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<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
April 26 MAY 2020	<i>April 27</i>	April 28	April 29	April 30	1	2 PRIVATE VOM OTTO KURTH
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY	11	12	13	14	15	16 ARMED FORCES DAY
17	18	19	20	21 BOARDS 6:00 FAMILY TBD	22	23
24 <hr/> 31	25 MEMORIAL DAY	26	27	28 JUKE BOX WITH MICHELLE	29	30