

# LEGION NEWS

MAY – AUGUST 2020

Visit our Website [Americanlegionpost1080.com](http://Americanlegionpost1080.com)  
Information is updated regularly!

## **ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING COVID-19!!!**

With the current and probable future medical crisis facing the nation and Post 1080, we felt it necessary to let our members know what we are doing to protect and serve them. First we are not giving medical advice except to recommend you keep current with CDC and other medical instructions and follow them as we will at your post. During the last period of closure we kept the office staffed so our members and any authority needing to contact the post can do so easily. We keep the office open for normal workdays of Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and this will continue in the future to serve our members and our customers. To serve our members who wanted our fish fry through Lent our kitchen set up a drive-up position which enabled us to fill this need of our members and this will continue with daily carry-out specials and may be expanded in the future.

We also spent the time of the recent closure to increase the cleaning and any needed maintenance of the post. Hopefully you will notice the post looks even cleaner than before. You can rest assured your post officers are following any instructions put out by the health authorities or public officials.

Let us all hope that what we experienced was a one time crisis but you can feel confident your post is ready if we experience a similar crisis and we will be a better place when the crisis is over. We regret we were required to cancel events including our kids Easter party which has been going on for many, many years and we hope we never have to cancel again.

Your post officers remind you to stay safe, wash your hands and follow the instructions of our health officials. If you need us during any crisis times we can still be reached by phone at 815-729-2254 or during open times just come to the post. The doors will be locked so you will need to ring the door bell which is located adjacent to the front door.

Have a healthy and safe year.

## **COMMANDERS CORNER**

Welcome to all and I hope no one has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is truly something we did not want nor need and something we have to learn to live with until our leaders find a solution. With our governor leading the direction of the state and providing instructions for battling this terrible virus we have been asked to make many revisions to our activities. Also, the State and National Legion programs were essentially stopped with all meetings and events including conventions, competitions, etc...cancelled. The State has not scheduled anything until after September 30, 2020. The American Legion is making every effort to follow the CDC guidelines and instructions and the American Legion's main concern is the health and wellbeing of our members and their families. The post is following a similar path and following the National and State example and instructions. General meetings require 12 members in attendance which exceeds the 10 person limit we must use so General meetings are cancelled until October unless we are given updated instructions. The officers are fewer in number and the Post will have needs and actions so Board Meetings will continue to cover needs.

This newsletter has been affected by everything that has been going on. First the letter was set to go to printing but the printer closed. Just found a printer to do the job and what you are receiving is our effort to give you a newsletter to keep you informed and current but may look out of date at times. Please enjoy the pictures and enjoy the effort. You will notice we are continuing the Early Bird renewal and we will draw the winners on the August date normally reserved for the picnic and yes the COVID-19 is requiring we cancel the picnic. We should get back to our quarterly newsletters in September.

**Annual Election of Officers are normally held with nominations in May and elections in June: All positions except trustees are ONE YEAR and are open this year. The Department of Illinois is again giving leadership and is extending all officers in their current position for one more year. Post 1080 is in a similar position and has asked all current officers to accept a one year extension to their position and thankfully all agreed to extend for another year. In May/June of 2021 the Post will again have nominations and elections. If conditions warrant some new officers they will be appointed to finish the terms. Hopefully this will not happen.**

Even though we are not having elections, we ask that you become familiar with these positions and step up to serve as a post officer. You will find the positions and a brief description of the duties so you can tell us of your interest and the position you want to fill.

**ALL POSITIONS ARE ELECTED EXCEPT FOR ADJUTANT, SERVICE OFFICER OR TRUSTEE. We ask that you pick a position that you like from the following list and let the officers know of your interest.**

It is time for new officers to step up and continue the success of your Post 1080. The requirements of being an officer include being a member in good standing which means your dues are current for 2020 and you attend the General and Board meetings. The

General Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. and the Board Meeting is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 p.m.

The following are available to you:

Commander: Duties include presiding over all meetings, wakes and other post activities. Hold position of Chief Executive Officer of the Post and will supervise over business and affairs of the post.

Senior Vice Commander: Will assume the responsibilities of the Commander while the Commander is unable. Will support the Commander with post operations when needed. In addition to his other duties, he is responsible for membership.

Junior Vice Commander: Duties include assisting the Commander particularly in patriotic observances of all kinds and in developing post activities and in the entertainment features.

Finance Officer: Duties include being in charge of all financial activities of the Post. This includes taxes, insurance, payrolls, etc. He will provide a written monthly report to the members at the General Meeting. He will make recommendations on the use and raising of funds for the post. He will have one of the required signatures on post checks.

Adjutant: This important position is key to the operations of the American Legion BUT is not involved in the daily operations of the Post building and operations. This is a highly honored position in the American Legion. The Adjutant receives all American Legion correspondences and gives to the appropriate Officers. The Adjutant handles the records including renewals and members cards. The Adjutant records the General and Board meeting and prepares the minutes for subsequent meetings. The Adjutant reports to the Commander and makes recommendations to the Commander on important American Legion matters. This is not an elected position but is extremely important to the operations of the American Legion. Just ask to be considered.

Post Historian: Duties include photographing post events and recording events of the Post. He shall also perform other duties that pertain to the office as directed by the Post.

Chaplain: The Post Chaplain is in charge of the spiritual welfare of members by providing divine, but non-sectarian, service and dedications, funerals, public functions and post meetings. He will follow ceremonial guides as recommended by national or the Department. He is the chairman to the sick committee.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Duties include security and preserve order at all meetings and perform other duties as assigned to him by the Post Executive Board.

Please let your Post Officers or Georganne, our office manager, know if you have interest in being an officer.

### **POPPY DAYS (May 22 and 23)**

Yes, with Memorial Day we are again selling Poppies but it will be done with a few changes. The dates are the same but the city of Joliet has cancelled any solicitation so we have come up with a different approach. Someone will be in Front of the building

each morning from 8-12 selling poppies. Other options will be to send a letter to the post requesting a poppy be mailed to you or since we are usually open 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tuesday – Friday for carry-outs you can stop in and buy a poppy. Remember all money goes to NEEDY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. Thank you for helping.

### **Scholarship Updates:**

The American Legion Oratorical Contest successfully completed it's 83<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year of contests in the State of Illinois and Post 1080 was again fortunate to sponsor another speaker. His name is John Warning and he finished third in the Department Contest taking home a \$1,000.00 scholarship. He also won money at the District and Division Contests which all go to help pay for his advanced schooling. Remember last year we sponsored Caleb Maue who won state and took 3<sup>rd</sup> Nationally and won \$18,750.00 to use for his schooling. Contest is held after Christmas until April of each year. See post Coordinator for details as post must sponsor contestants.

### **Post Scholarship: The Post offers several \$500.00 scholarships for Essays written by students in our area.**

The next large scholarship event is Premier Boys State and Girls State. Both are held in June and have been cancelled for 2020. Rules for next year to be eligible are the student must have just completed their Junior year of High School. (DUE TO THE 2020 CANCELLATION, THE STUDENTS WHO SIGNED UP THIS YEAR CAN COMPETE NEXT YEAR EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SENIORS) The Contestants are asked to form the 51<sup>st</sup> state in the Union and run for office. Two outstanding contestants from each program will again compete in August for a U.S. Senator position in Washington D.C. A program highlight is they meet with the President of the USA during the program. Many scholarships are offered with the largest being the Legacy Scholarship which are for direct family members of Veterans, particularly those who served in Korea during the Korean War. The Legacy offers \$10,000 scholarships to the state winners. You can apply at the post as the post has to sponsor for the 2021 program.

There are many more scholarships offered. To view, just "Google" American Legion Scholarships for more information on what is available. All applicants must be sponsored by the post but do not have to be related to members of the Post. Let us have a great Spring and Summer.

For God and Country  
Gary Stieg, Commander

### **SR. VICE COMMANDER**

Daylight is lasting longer into the evening and spring is here. This is great news, but it also means the Legion year will be ending soon in June. There is now less than 100 members left who have not paid their dues. The American Legion is now and has remained firm in helping all veterans get the benefits that they have earned through their military service. Our strength in Congress is our membership. Your membership and mine makes us a strong organization with the ability to work with government in helping veterans. The recently passed Legion Act has broadened eligibility for membership. Take the time to talk to your friends about becoming members. In the long run, we all win.

For God and Country, Tony Arellano, Senior Vice Commander

### **JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**

Is it Summer yet? Ok. I'll settle for a decent Spring.

Our Neil Diamond and Dueling Pianos events were very successful and a lot of fun. Unfortunately, we had to cancel a couple of the upcoming shows. Hopefully they can be re-scheduled at a later date.

Flag Day Weekend, June 12-14 will offer our fish fry on Friday, Chicken Fry on Saturday and pancake breakfast and brat fest on Sunday.

**\*\*\*The above depends on the Governors Rules. Regretfully, with all the unknowns and members not wishing to attend group activities, we had to cancel this year's picnic.\*\*\***

Ron Gale, Jr. Vice Commander

### **SERVICE OFFICER**

The coronavirus is sweeping across the world. The numbers are small here in America, but growing daily. There is no need to panic, but there is a need to take precautions. Please listen to the advice and guidance provided by medical experts. The most important is to wash your hands at least 20 seconds and the use of hand sanitizers. Avoid the habit of shaking hands and try to keep a distance from others. If you have not gotten a flu shot, there is still time to get one. The flu shot does not protect from coronavirus. There is no vaccine to prevent it and no medication to treat it; prevention is key. The military service made us all leaders and team players, lead the way by using safe practices.

As with many misfortunes, scammers find it hard to resist trying to get your social security number or bank information. This information is never requested by banks or social security.

Follow social distancing rules and wear face masks, but please check on our neighbors and friends by calling them on the phone. Remember, we are all in this together.

For God and Country  
Tony Arellano Post Service Officer

### **CHAPLAIN**

In First Samuel chapter 30 there is a story of how David and his men defeated the Amalekites. The Amalekites were long standing enemies of the Jewish people going all the way back to Moses' time. Hundreds of years after David one of their descendants named Haman proposed the extermination of all Jewish people; a story you will find in the book of Esther. David had rescued two of his kidnapped wives and took a great deal of "booty" from this battle. Upon return, those who had fought in the battle with David did

not want to share the “spoils” with those men who had stayed behind to guard the families and work in supply. David immediately let everyone know that all would share in the spoils of war as all had played a part. This showed wisdom on David’s part as he would eventually become king and wanted to set protocols for future battles. I have heard that it takes 8 to 10 military personnel to put one person in the field of battle. People work in supply as cooks, medical doctors, etc. in support of those in the field. All those in uniform of our country deserve our respect regardless of their particular location of service or job to which they were assigned. Some served in the Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, Army and/or Air Force in various locations around the world and in many varying capacities. All deserve our thanks and respect for their service. And I would also mention the loving families who endure hardships in support of their loved ones in service. God Bless America and all those who have served and are currently serving and their families.

Chaplain Marvin “Buck” Balsley

### **AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS**

As we spring ahead, the season we all look forward to is clearly in sight.

“Kick stands up”, a phrase we love to say and hear. Don’t forget to do your walk arounds to make sure the bike is ready for riding because safety is top priority.

Lunch rides are being planned by our coordinator and hopefully we can plan a few dinner rides also.

We would like to thank all of you that have helped support our annual meat raffle. All money raised goes to the veterans that need a little support. This year’s meat raffle drawing will be May 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at American Legion Post 1080.

As always, may God Bless the men and women in our military and the veterans we so dearly cherish.

American Legion Riders

### **AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

As I write this newsletter article it is during some very challenging times and I kind of fell numb and at a loss for words. Our Pie and Ice Cream Social @ Manteno has been cancelled as well as our spring fundraiser on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Our Veterans throughout the community received homemade Valentine’s Day Cards but now we had planned to provide 84 veterans with an Easter Card and \$5.00 within local nursing homes but now that is questionable waiting for this to pass.

Looking ahead, Honor Flight Chicago on October 7, 2020 will have a first all women veteran’s flight named “Operation Her Story”. This flight will be in addition to the seven other flights scheduled for 2020. If you know a lady veteran, please submit her application now and to all other veterans with an interest please also submit to get on the list. Everything is paid for by the generosity of donors.

In closing, take time to reflect all we take for granted in life. We have been spoiled to be able to do what we want, go where we want, and eat where and what we want. You can thank our veterans for this! This too shall pass. It is just a matter of when. Take some time to check on your neighbors, the elderly and immune suppressed people that you

know and see if there is anything they need. It is a scary time for us and so you can only imagine for them.

Stay healthy everyone!  
Sue Bustin, Auxiliary President

### **AUXILIARY VICE PRESIDENT**

Spring is right around the corner and I for one cannot wait.

It is with a heavy heart to report our Membership Chairperson, Rachael Corp, passed away January 9, 2020. For the rest of the Auxiliary Membership year which accepts payments until May 31, 2020, please make your payments to American Legion Post 1080 or mail your dues to me at:

16244 Tomahawk Lake Court, Crest Hill, IL 60403

If you have any questions regarding payment of your dues please call me. My phone number is 815-556-8676.

Thank you to all Auxiliary members who have paid their 2019-2020 dues. We still have many members who owe for the years dues. There are members who still have not paid their dues for 2018-2019. After two years of not paying your dues you will no longer remain on the membership roster. Send in your payments of \$25.00 so we can keep you with our American Legion Family.

Have a Wonderful Easter and thank you for all you do to support our Veterans and Active Military Families.

God Bless all of you and the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country.

Terry Stieg  
Auxiliary Vice President/Membership Chairperson

***“1080 Café” serving Carry-outs Tues. thru Thurs. 3:00-6:00, Friday 12:00-7:00, Saturdays 4:00-6:00. Call 815-729-2254 to get the Daily Specials or check the Herald News! Cash or Credit Cards accepted.***

