

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



MAY 2020

HAPPENING THIS
MONTH:

MAY

3rd DISTRICT
MEETING
1:00 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

3

MEMORIAL DAY
PLANNING
MEETING
6:30 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

7

RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE
10:30-4:30

8

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LE-
GION MEETING
3:00 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

9

POST & AUXILIA-
RY MEETINGS
6:30 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

11

BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
MEETING
6:00 PM

21

Post Steps Up Amid Crisis!

With the Covid-19 Crisis putting a damper on several Red Cross Blood Drive sites across the Nation, our Post stepped up to the plate to make a big difference! Hosting its' first Blood Drive, our Post Family exceed our



goal of 31 pints of life-saving blood & plasma by 26%!

Loretta McCarthy, Red Cross Territory Account Manager had this to say about our efforts, **"The results finally posted for your blood drive yesterday, and WOW - we don't typically see blood drives that collect OVER 100% - but yesterday - it was 126% by end of day! AMAZING - especially during these unusual and restrictive times! Our Team Lead, Teresa, was so pleased with the volunteers, the building, the donors and said it was a wonderful day for all..."**

Several Post Family Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to ensure the success

of this much needed Blood Drive. We also had the pleasure of welcoming The American Legion's National Judge Ad-



vocate, Kevin Bartlett, into our Post Home, to get a first-hand look at how we give back to our Community.

With the need for Blood Drive in such a dire strait, we will host a second drive on Friday May 8, from 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM.

Congratulations on your commitment to Veterans and our Community, and a Job Well Done!



The American Legion's National Judge Advocate, Kevin Bartlett, registers during the Blood Drive



Post Membership Report

May brings remembrance for me. One way that I remember the fallen is by two of my favorite quotes.

The first is from former President Ronald Reagan, **"The United States and the freedom for which it stands, the freedom for which they died, must endure and prosper. Their lives remind us that freedom is not bought cheaply. It has a cost; it imposes a burden. And just as they whom we commemorate were willing to sacrifice, so too must we - in a less final, less heroic way — be willing to give of ourselves"**.

This quote reminds me, in my own way, that one way to honor those that have fallen before, is for me to give of myself by volunteering to serve those that have served. By being active in the American Legion.

After April's meeting, and voting in a new member, we totaled 147 members! 131 for membership year 2020, and 16 that still need to renew. I am hoping they do. It's easy at Legion.org!

May's meeting will have us voting in two new members wanting to transfer to our post. Please join us in the honor, and being active in the American Legion.

Each month we gather, and I do as my second favorite quote by General George S. Patton inspires me to; **"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived"**.

Hope you join me!

Dave Whynot - 1st Vice Commander / Chairman - Membership Committee

Membership257@gmail.com



Buddy Checks A Welcome Call!

Several of our Post's volunteers have been busy calling Members during this uncertain time. The purpose of these all-important Buddy Checks is to stay in communication with you, to let you know we're here for you, and to make sure everyone is safe & sound.

As a result of some of these recent calls, Members were able to express

their needs, and appropriate referrals were made to request assistance.

Just as we learned during our years of Military Service, we never leave a Buddy behind...not then...not now...and not in the future!





Virtual Post Meetings Are Here!

As our Nation struggles to get through the Coronavirus Pandemic, our Post will conduct our April Meetings via Video/Audio Conference. All Members with a computer, a smartphone, or a telephone, will be able to participate in these meetings.

We will be using Zoom, which is a state of the art Video Conferencing application. All Members will receive an email invitation with a link to access the online meeting. For those Members without a computer or smartphone, a dial-up telephone number will be provided with an access code.



Our April Meeting was a resounding success, and believe you'll find your experience rewarding and easy to use!

You can prepare for our online meeting in advance by downloading and installing the Zoom Client for Meetings at:

https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

American Legion Basic Training

As many of us have been spending much more time at home following the Governor's Stay Home Order, now would be a good time to get this valuable course into your toolbox.

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

This self-paced course is designed to walk Legionnaires through the History, Programs, Hierarchy, and Four Pillars of The American Legion.

It's simple to do, simply go to Le-

gion.org and create an account. Once your account has been established, search for "Basic Training", and follow the link to the course.

The Course is arranged into 5 major topic areas and 1 concluding section. Each section will present information about the topic via text, images and video.

At the end of each topic area there is a quiz that will help gauge your understanding of the material.

When you've completed each section quiz, you'll be able to take the final exam. The exam will take roughly ~30 minutes to complete.



Auxiliary News

Information regarding the 2020 Auxiliary Unit Elections

As a Unit we need to decide how we are going to hold our Annual Officer Elections. Two choices are listed below. Our May meeting will be held as a video conference (Zoom) with more discussion concerning elections. To read all information in its entirety regarding elections, go to the Department web page www.michalaux.org.

What do you and the District/Unit need to do?

Because of our non-profit status, your District and Unit must decide how to elect officers for the 2020-2021 year. You have two choices for action. It is up to the individual District/Unit. 1. Pass a resolution among the District/Unit Executive Committee members stated in your Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, keeping the current slate of officers in place until the 2021 elections. OR 2. Hold the election in accordance with the emergency provisions, either by conference call, email vote, mail vote, or a combination of the three, ensuring that members only cast one vote.

Unit Mailings

There is much communication that comes out of the Department office for all members. Visit the Department web

page at www.michalaux.org and click on the Unit Mailing link. You can select the most current information or past publications. Browse thru some of the other links to see what you can discover of interest to you.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

The way it is looking today, most events have been canceled. However, we have 144 small flags to be placed around the perimeter of our Post Home property. I would like to see as many Auxiliary members, as possible, come out to this event. Our Unit will be hosting this for our Post Family members. At our May video-conference we will discuss further in detail of what the event may look like.

May Unit Meeting

Our Unit meeting for May will be held via video-conference (Zoom). I will be sending information ahead of time so everyone can be prepared to join the meeting. I am looking forward to everyone being able to join the conference, even our out-of-state and out-of-town Ladies. This might be our biggest meeting yet!!!

Stay safe, stay well, take care of each other. Happy Spring!

Yours in Service,

Penny Wright



Auxiliary News

How is Memorial Day different than Veterans Day? Know the difference...

Memorial Day honors the men and women who died while serving in the military.

Veterans Day recognizes all who have served in the Armed Forces.



Post Adapts To A Changing Environment!

Hearing of a need in our Community to help families out with mounting Returnable Cans & Bottles in their homes, our Post started a Bottle & Can Donation Drive last month.

To say that this program has been a resounding success, would be an understatement!

Members of our Community have expressed words of praise and thanks for our efforts to help them out, while offering an easy way for them to Donate to our Post's efforts!

Our best estimate so far, and that would be a guess, is that we've collected well over 5,000 cans & bottles.

Thanks to everyone who continues to help out with this highly successful Community Service Fundraiser!

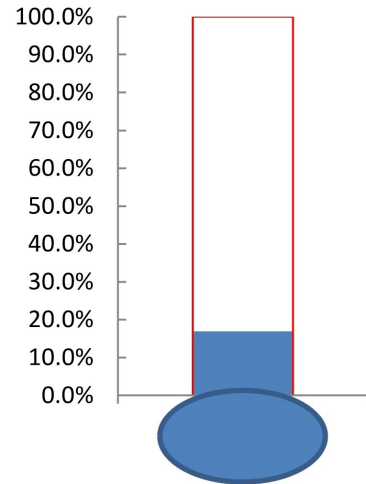




Capital Campaign Progresses!

Our Post's Building Capital Campaign continues to grow with each passing day! As we move further down the road to our purchase, we need to ensure we're all sharing our Post Home & Community Center with everyone we know.

Trifold flyers and Donation Forms are available to all at our Post Home. Be sure to keep a generous supply on hand...you never know who you're going to run into!



SAL News

Our Sons of The American Legion Squadron held their Annual Elections during their April Meeting. Congratulations to the following Officers for their commitment!

Commander: Andrew Mohlman

1st Vice-Commander: Orval King

Adjutant - Ken Nierman

Finance Officer - Ken Nierman

Chaplain - Robert Dirmeyer

Historian - Brian Mohlman

Sergeant At Arms - Terry Favorite

Post Family Meeting Schedule

The Post & Auxiliary meet the Second Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM, and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 257 meets the 2nd Saturday of each month @ 3:00 PM

We welcome your attendance and participation, and extend an invitation to all who are interested in membership in the SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II Post 257 Family!



Post/Auxiliary/SAL

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Post, Auxiliary, & SAL have several opportunities to volunteer in the Community and to support our Military in the near future! Now is the time to pitch in and help make a difference for our Veterans and our Community!

May 8 - Red Cross Blood Drive - 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM

May 16 - Flag Placement - Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens - Time: TBD

May 25 - (Subject to Change) Memorial Day Ceremony - 11:00 AM Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens

Officer Directory

Post

Commander - Brian Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Dave Whynot
 2nd Vice-Commander - Orval King
 Adjutant - Robert Dirmeyer
 Finance Officer - Robert Dirmeyer
 Judge Advocate - Samuel Gray
 Service Officer - Kathy Dillon
 Sergeant At Arms - Brad Langley
 Chaplain - Bill Hohman
 Historian - Dave Whynot
 Members-At-Large:
 Dean Newsome, John Howe, Chris Jenney

Auxiliary

President - Penny Wright
 1st Vice-President - Jessica Earl
 2nd Vice-President - Open
 Treasurer - Penny Wright
 Secretary - Carol Langley
 Sergeant At Arms - Renee Dickinson
 Chaplain - Lee Dirmeyer
 Historian - Diana Cloud
 Executive Committee Members:
 Vicki Dickinson, Kim Siedelburg, Lisa Simon

SAL

Commander - Andrew Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Orval King
 Adjutant - Ken Nierman
 Finance Officer - Ken Nierman
 Chaplain - Robert Dirmeyer
 Historian - Brian Mohlman
 Sergeant At Arms - Terry Favorite

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