

## APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

### **Notes from Commander Jim Rosenberg:**

My Fellow Legionnaires, as we all are doing what we can to get through these trying times, the Post 5 Executive Committee and Home Association Committee has had to make some very tough and unprecedented decisions. To start with let me Thank all the members of those 2 committees for all their availability for special meetings, email exchanges, discussions and votes of all the issues at hand. What a wonderful group of Veterans and Post 5 members they are. Most of the decisions were made after lengthy discussions and ended with votes on the issues with the Post and its valued members' best interest in mind.

As of Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1201 AM, Post 5 will be closed per the direction of the County and City officials. We do not yet know how long it will be closed, but we will be sure to put it out to as many folks as possible and as soon as we know. We might be down, but we are far from being out. During the down time, the post facilities will be deep cleaned and sanitized so that it will be ready for our re-opening when that happens. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and we also apologize for any inconvenience. We are in unprecedented times and we want all members to be safe and healthy during the COVID-19 crisis.

The month of May is election time for new post officers. Whether or not we have a meeting remains to be seen but read the entirety of this month's newsletter to see the nominees. We will figure out a way to allow everyone to vote by the time we have to cross that bridge.

Wishing and Praying for all to be safe, healthy and happy during these trying times.

"Always Remember-Never Forget"

Jim Rosenberg, Commander Post 5

### **Notes from Adjutant Jim Mead:**

We have 77 new and transfer members so far this year. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I encourage you to send in your dues as soon as possible to help keep Post 5 and the American Legion strong organizations. Our 2020 membership goal is 1,392 and we presently have 1,249 members that have paid their dues for 2020.

The Nominating Committee for 2021 Post Officer Elections has selected their nominees for the following positions: **Commander – Gary Kempker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Randy Owens and Daniel Levasseur, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Dee Dee Cryderman, Adjutant – Jim Mead, Finance Officer – Tom Lauer, Service Officer – Don Cryderman, Chaplain – Bert Miriello, Historian – Gerald Turnage, Sergeant-at-Arms – Dave Campbell, Judge Advocate – Charlie Goodin, Executive Board – Charlotte Dudenhoefer, Executive Board – Dave Campbell and Executive Board – Vince Rost.** If you have an interest in running for one of the Post Officer positions and were not nominated come to the May meeting to toss your hat in the ring. The 2021 Elections will take place at the May Post Meeting.

The Post Officers strongly encourage members to attend the monthly Post Meetings to provide your input into how your Post operates.

The Missouri Veteran's Commission, Veteran's Service Officer (VSO) has been relocated from the Jefferson Building to 1500 Southridge Drive (Adjacent to Das Stein Haus) Suite 300. The phone number for the VSO is 573-522-4225.

**Upcoming Events:** There are no scheduled events for the month of April due to the shutdown ordered by the Cole County Health Department. When the Post is allowed to re-open, the calendar will be posted on the website as well as on our Facebook page.

Visit our website (**www.post5.com**), for the newsletter, calendar of events, news releases and various other functions by our Post Family clubs. Also visit our State website: (**www.missourilegion.org**).

**New Members:** Larry Shepard, Robert Werdehausen, Dan McCullough, Harry Richardson, Everett Tennesen, Leo Gentry, James Knaebel, Robert Herman, Samuel LePage, and Frederick Gage. Let's be sure to make an effort to welcome these new members to our Post.

**TAPS:** Melvin J. Leonard, Stephen J. Lutz, Richard C. Hirst, and Ronald Lootens. Please keep their families in your prayers.

**Notes from Auxiliary President Dorothy Goodin:**

Dear Friends, I was so sorry that the Birthday Dinner had to be cancelled. I had hoped to celebrate our 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a printed program featuring the history and facts about the auxiliary and presenting a video compilation of pictures from our past. If we get to reschedule, I hope to go forward with this.

During these trying times we can continue to serve. If you know an older veteran who is confined to their home please reach out with a phone call or note. If you are able, you can offer to bring groceries or pick up items for them, (following precautions). Staying connected with one another can be a big morale boost.

Please pray for our leaders and our Country that this issue is resolved soon. We will have lots of work to do serving our veterans and our community when this is over.

Stay well and God Bless.

Dorothy Goodin, President Unit 5

**Notes from Sons of the American Legion Commander Rick Wolters:**

With the current COVID-19 crisis, I ask that you please check in on our fellow SAL members and their families and lend a hand if needed. There will be no meetings or activities until the restrictions have been lifted by Cole County.

Stay Safe!!

Rick Wolters, Commander Squadron 5

**Notes from Legion Riders Director Daniel Levasseur:**

Due to the massive impact COVID-19 has placed upon the Greatness of the United States and our promise to keep you informed there are several things we want to pass on to you, the Rider.

In compliance with National American Legion Commander and National American Legion Riders Chairman's guidance, the Commander of Post 5 has with great heart-ache, deep thought, conferring with Executive board, and being proactive deemed it necessary to protect all members of the Legion and it's families, and since the Riders fall under that same umbrella, it will affect us.

What does this mean for the Riders? The meeting and any events for April, (Chapter Meeting on April 2nd & ALR Cook Night on April 3rd), are still on but susceptible to postponement and/or cancelation. Remember, the Riders will trust your judgement and support you if you choose to stay away for the time being. We are all in this somewhat together and we do a great job to support and look out for each other. Keep others in mind during this complicated time and if you can assist or help then by the Grace of God do so.

Let's see what we can do better.....Together.

Daniel Levasseur, Director ALR Chapter 5

**Notes from the Home Association:**

There isn't much to say right now with the government directed shutdown. During this time the Post will be receiving a deep cleaning and preparing for the renovation. I will still be at the Post during limited hours to conduct business for the Home Association. Although there is no calendar of events for the month of April one will be posted to the Post 5 website and our Facebook page as soon as we are allowed to re-open which we hope will be soon. When we do re-open we will continue the increased hygiene procedures to protect our members and their guests.

Let's pray for everyone's good health.

Club Manager - Sharon (573) 636-2311

## **American Legion Post 5 Building Renovation Project**

As most of you have hopefully read in previous post newsletters or learned from other sources, American Legion Post 5 is about to get a facelift. While this project has involved many, many people over a lengthy period of time, we thought it might be helpful to provide some background and information about the project in this newsletter to ensure everyone has the correct information and the ability to plan for the inevitable inconveniences that accompany any renovation.

The renovation of the post is certainly not a new idea. Several of our members have contributed many hours at different times to try to prepare a home for our members for many years to come. Much of the design and information collection process started more than 13 years ago. Those earlier efforts were incorporated into the current plan.

In July of 2016 a new committee was formed and a plan developed for moving the effort forward. A significant catalyst for this effort was the sale of our remaining lease of the American Legion Baseball Complex. That funding along with funds set aside by the Home Association and Post 5 enabled the committee to revisit the renovation project. The committee included representation from all of the American Legion Family organizations to ensure the voices of those groups were represented in the process. A review of prior designs and information was conducted along with meetings with Architects Alliance, real estate experts, and many others to prepare a plan. In addition, a survey was sent out with the post newsletter to solicit input and to develop a list of priorities. A town hall type meeting was also held in November 2016 to give members more input into the efforts. The first effort of the group was to improve the parking lot entrance area at a cost of approximately \$115,000.

The final plan for the renovation of the entire post building was expected to exceed \$2,000,000. Because of the costs associated with the project and the reluctance to borrow money for future members to repay, a decision was made to break the renovation into phases. Based on the input received, it was clear that the priority for many members is the club room area and features in the design related to that area. Three area contractors were contacted and invited to meet to discuss the project. In the end, Septagon Construction Company was selected to proceed with the project. They have brought a number of subcontractors in and continue to meet with the facility committee on a regular basis. The project will include new ADA accessible restrooms, a completely renovated bar and bar area, a larger annex room, outside covered and uncovered patio area with fireplace and many other features. Diagrams of the new design will be posted in the bar area. The cost for this phase of the project will be approximately \$415,000 with \$25,000 built in for contingencies.

The project is expected to take approximately 4 months for completion and is scheduled to start in May. Once the project starts a temporary wall will be constructed so that the current bar can continue to function during the earlier part of the project. Later in the project most operations will have to be moved into the main dining room on a temporary basis. We ask for your patience and support as we embark on this major project. We will also need your support as we raise money for furnishings and other equipment for this phase and in raising money for the remaining phases of the post renovation.

Again we thank you for your input through this process and ask that you contact the Home Association Board of Directors with any questions.