



December 2020 Newsletter

American Legion Urbandale Post 663

6805 Douglas Avenue

Urbandale IA 50322

Phone: 515-278-8940

WWW.POST663.ORG

OFFICERS LIST

Commander	Mike Knight	515-556-9239	Chaplain	Rob Stark	515-979-2925
1st Vice	Connie Gregory	515-210-8158	Finance Officer	Ted Rutherford	515-240-0241
2nd Vice	Larry Draughn	515-238-1856	Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Dreckman	515-491-8973
Adjutant	Gordon Hendrickson	515-681-9663	Membership	Peg Mullen	515-205-6853
Historian	Lynn Clary	515-494-1510	Facility Manager	Fred Gagen	515-669-2612
Service Officer	Robert Morris	515-278-4231	Bldg. Rental	Gordon Hendrickson	515-681-9663
Auxiliary President	Meribeth Haynes	515- 480-2429			

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." – Elmer Davis

Commanders Comments:

Holidays Greetings my fellow Legionnaires, I hope this article finds you both safe, as well as sound, this Holiday Season.

On the 11th of November it was my privilege to represent Post 663 at the Veterans Day Ceremony held at Gabus Park in Urbandale. The attendees at the ceremony were the Mayor of Urbandale, the Urbandale Police Chief and many other City Officials. It was a very good turnout considering the COVID situation. The Color Guard, which was made up of representatives of the Urbandale Police Department, performed in an outstanding manner. Chaplin Rob Stark was the Master of Ceremonies along with his wife, who sang beautifully.

I would like to thank VFW Post 9668, who shares our building, for paying for the WIFI installation, Router, and 6 months of WIFI usage for our Post as well as their own. I want to thank all of you who came forward and opted to receive your monthly newsletter by email instead of a mailed hard copy. This helps to save us money so we can continue to operate in these unusual times.

Please continue to social distance and wear your mask and we will get through this together.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!
Michael B. Knight Post 663 Commander

FROM THE ADJUTANT:

Christmas and Hanukkah are almost upon us and as we approach these special holidays, we as a Legion Family remember our fellow veterans who have little or nothing. Our Christmas Basket Program is going forward as in past years. We need your help identifying veterans who are home bound (whether members of the Post or not) so we can prepare Baskets for them. Please let any of the officers know of any veterans who should receive baskets this holiday season. Also, we need volunteers to help pack bags on December 15 starting about 8:30 in the morning and again on December 16 at about the same time to deliver baskets. In both cases masks and social distancing will be required. If you can help, please do so.

In this unusual year, we have not been able to meet as a Legion for many months. After careful consideration of the current trends in the coronavirus pandemic and the expectation that a vaccine will not be widely distributed in the next few months, we have determined that we cannot safely hold a dinner meeting until July 1, 2021 at the earliest. Likewise, we determined that the building will not be open to outside rentals until July 1, 2021. We look forward with great anticipation to being able to meet again when it is safe to do so. Thanks.

Gordon Hendrickson, Adjutant

FINANCIAL ISSUE FOR OUR POST:

As we look forward to someday returning to what used to be considered normal, we continue with important ongoing projects such as the holiday gift baskets.

As in previous years, we will again provide holiday gift baskets to local military veterans. This has been a popular event for us to reach those hospitalized, shut-in, or in nursing homes. The project has received widespread community support from our two-day event at the Hy-Vee store, an Endow Urbandale grant, as well as generous donations from our member Legionnaires.

We also continue to request those of you who are receiving this newsletter by mail (currently 203), to please consider changing to your email, this will save our Post money and does not cost you anything. Just send your email address to Peg Mullen (mullen.margarete@gmail.com), and she will include you on the next monthly newsletter email. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Ted L Rutherford, Finance Officer

Membership Report:

Membership dues for 2021 have slowed down considerably since last month. We have approximately 270 members in good standing at this time -- which is less than we had at this point a year ago. Just a reminder that your 2020 membership formally expires on 12/31/2020. If you have not paid for 2021 yet, your ongoing membership status is in jeopardy of becoming delinquent at the end of this year. If you are local, dues can be dropped off in the mail slot at the Post, saving postage. In addition, many members pay online which also saves paper and postage. If you have any concerns about our Post which are impacting your thoughts on renewing your membership, please reach out to a Post Officer to discuss -- we would love to hear from you versus lose you as a member. I know Post activity has been relatively quiet due to the virus this year -- but veteran support is still very much needed all around us.

Thanks everyone!

Peg Mullen, Membership Chair
mullen.margarete@gmail.com phone 515-205-6853



URBANDALE POST 663
6805 DOUGLAS AVENUE
Urbandale IA 50322

POST EVERLASTING:

Please notify us when you know of a member who has passed away, we want to be sure to get them enrolled in Post Everlasting. Please Contact Peg Mullen 515-205-6853 or mullen.margarete@gmail.com with name of member who passed away.

**** POST EVERLASTING ****

Due to the Covid-19 we will hold this year 2020 Post Everlasting in late 2021 Post Everlasting.

***** Perform Buddy Checks *****

Don't forget to check in with a buddy this month. A call, text or email to a fellow veteran can mean a great deal during this holiday season.

Check in with older veterans in your communities to make sure they have the supplies they need, are feeling healthy and help them acquire the resources they need. Of course, Buddy Checks can be done with phone calls and emails so as not to risk spreading or contracting coronavirus.

Dates to Remember:

December 7, Pearl Harbor Day
December 10, Hanukkah begins
December 21, First day of Winter
December 25, Christmas Day
December 31, New Year's Eve
January 1, New Year's Day
January 7, Officer's Meeting
January 18, Martin Luther King Day
January 27, Vietnam Cese-Fire 1973
January 30, Start of Tet Offensive 1968

Urbandale Auxiliary #663:

1. The Dec. 22nd mtg. date has been changed to Dec. 15th (Tuesday) at the same time, 1:00 pm at the Urbandale Legion Hall.
2. Please bring any extra Christmas cards or cards of any type to use for the Veterans at the VA Hospital. Our unit is checking into sending pies and meat/cheese trays instead of the bags we were going to do per the VA Hospital's request.
3. Have you sent your Membership in yet? Membership is due by the end of December if you want to keep continuous membership status. Our membership dues help support our projects for Veterans and their families. Please send it in as soon as you can!!

Monthly meetings will still be reviewed by the group attending meetings, as to whether or not the next month there will be a meeting. They are following Covid rates and the weather to make the determination on whether to meet or not. It will be posted in this Newsletter whether there is a meeting for the next month of January. In case of bad weather there is a calling group to notify members who planned on attending.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!!
Meribeth Haynes - President Auxiliary #663

Flags for Sale:

American Legion Post 663 sells new flags in three sizes 3X5 - \$30.00, 4X6 - \$40.00, 5X8 - \$50.00 the Post keeps several in stock.

No Dinner or Meetings for the first 6 month of 2021.