



January / February 2021 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:

I hope all of you had a pleasant Holiday Season, ready for a New Year, and with a goal of getting back to normal.

I want to tell you about some very special people we have working at our Post. Don and his wife Jan Cruikshank were responsible for bring Christmas to 270 plus people this Holiday Season. They organized the assembly and distribution of 270 bags using strict COVID -19 guidelines. They asked for volunteers to meet at the Post and they got them. I want to thank each and every Member that stood up and volunteered to help in this project. The assembly and delivery were directed by both Jan and Don and to say the least went on like clockwork. The retail value of the bags ranged from \$22.62 per bag to \$39.82, with an overall average value of \$27.83. The total retail value of all the bags was \$7,512.82. In addition to the individual bags, a number of items, which did not fit in the bags, were delivered to the VA Hospital for general distribution. We estimate the value of those items to be about \$1,100.00. That means Post 663 provided goods valued at more than \$8,600.00 through our **Christmas Basket Program**. All of this was made possible by the generous support of Urbandale citizens, business, our members and a grant from Endow Urbandale. I want to emphasize that we did not use any of the Post’s general fund to support the program.

The next group of members that provided outstanding support during this Pandemic was a team organized and lead by Peg Mullen (Membership Officer). This was the **Fifth Grade Essay Program**. The Team consisted of Jean and Ed Zell, Marty and Mike Wiese and Peg and Ron Schooley. The essays were provided in paper format, and picked up at each school. They were distributed among the reviewers, who completed the reviews and selections from their individual homes. Each team selected their first, second and third choice from each school. After the first, second and third selections were documented from each school they moved to the final step, which included selecting first, second and third from the overall selections. Corresponding via email completed this process.

The first, second, and third place selectees received a check from our Post for \$100.00, \$75.00 and \$50.00 respectively. The Number one selection was forwarded to HQ along with the required application.

In a normal year this would be a simple process that takes place at the Post. This group of Members accomplished this task under extreme conditions and completed this in a timely manner. Michael B. Knight Post 663 Commander

FROM THE ADJUTANT:

Finally 2020 is in the rearview mirror. Let's all look ahead to a better, safer 2021 when we can meet again in person. Until that time arrives there are a few things we can do to stay connected. First and foremost, call a buddy. Check in with a fellow veteran (member or not) to see how they are doing. Remind them how much every one cares for them and appreciates their service. Second, make sure your dues are up-to-date. Call, text or email Peg Mullen if you have questions about membership. Third, get a covid19 vaccination when you are eligible to do so. Doing so will allow us to meet again that much sooner.

I also have a request of you. Each year the Post reports to national headquarters on our activity and our support of the community. Please let me know how many pints of blood you donate in 2020 and how many volunteer hours you put in with community organizations. Call, email or text me 515-480-4348, ghlegion@q.com Thank you. Gordon Hendrickson, Adjutant

Membership Report:

Thanks to those of you that paid your 2021 membership dues before the end of 2020. As of 12/31/2020, our member count was approximately 302. The ongoing pandemic has been a financial struggle for many members, and we have several that are now in a delinquent member status. If you are in a position to assist with a membership donation, it is always appreciated. We had 23 members join Post Everlasting in 2020. As we begin a new year, please let me know if you would be interested in receiving our newsletter via email instead of paper mail. If that is not an option, that is perfectly fine. But I promise you will not receive a bunch of useless email communication from us. We appreciate each and every one of you, so please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns regarding your membership. Thank you for your continued support. 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:

January 18, Martin Luther King Day
January 27, Vietnam Cease-Fire 1973
January 30, Start of Tet Offensive 1968
February 1, National Freedom Day
February 4, Officers Meeting
February 2, Groundhog Day
February 14, Valentine's Day
February 15, Presidents' Day
February 16, Mardi Gras
February 17, Ash Wednesday
February 23, Iwo Jima Flag raised 1945
February 28, End of Desert Storm

Urbandale Auxiliary #663:

The VA Hospital let us know they no longer had a need for canvas bags for Veterans and their families to take home their personal items. They did share they had a need for cream pies in December for the Veterans, so our Unit purchased several pies for the hospital. In addition, we would like to recognize Connie Cade for personally purchasing different meats and cheeses for the Veterans and donating them to the VA Hospital.

Our next event will hopefully be in May, when we do our annual Poppy Days at the local grocery stores. This is a major fundraiser for the Auxiliary. This year will once again depend on the situation with Covid on whether or not we can do Poppy Days. We will keep everyone updated!!

The Auxiliary has been going month by month on whether we will have a meeting due to Covid and the weather. There is a calling tree that has been established to let members who have been attending know if there is a meeting. If you would like to make sure and be on the calling tree, please contact Ginny Campbell who is in charge of the notifications. Her number is: 515-276-4168.

If you have not sent your membership in yet, please do this as soon as you can!! Thanks!
Meribeth Haynes - President Auxiliary #663
mbhaynes18@gmail.com

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
first 6 month of 2021