



October 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
Auxillary 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

**The Commanders Comments:**

Your Officers are working very hard to maintain the Post and to make sure we can again open up with the confidence that everyone will be safe.

We are counting on each and every member to renew their membership in a timely manner, so we can rely on the funds to get us through these unprecedented times.

I ask again, if you can allow us to send the monthly newsletter to you by email instead of a hard copy that needs to be mailed out with all of the added costs involved. One would think that if we aren't having meetings and dinners we are saving money but we still have to pay utilities, maintenance costs and general upkeep.

Today we see that the President has come down with Covid-19 and as a Nation we send our thoughts and prayers to him and his family. This event has brought to the forefront the need to wear a mask when in public and continue social distancing.

Michael B. Knight  
Post 663 Commander

**FROM THE ADJUTANT:** Here it is the first of October and we turn our attention to the coming Christmas season, a Christmas the likes of which we have not seen before. Our Veterans Basket Program is going forward this year as we have done in the past. We will be making it work in accord with health and safety guidelines while seeking donations, preparing and delivering baskets. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS for October 30 and 31. We have received permission to ask for donations at the HyVee on 86th Douglas on those days. We will be working INSIDE the doors as we have in the past so we will be protected from the weather. Please contact Don or Jan Cruikshank (515-276-6107) to sign up for a time. We will work in 2 hour shifts from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Please come with mask and/or hand sanitizer so you can protect yourself and others as we solicit donations.

Morning coffees have resumed in the Post hall, join if you are comfortable, and **PLEASE** wear a mask for conversation time. Folks gather from between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. M-F. Join if you are comfortable.

Take care of yourself. Check on your buddies. Think positive and test negative.

**FINANCIAL ISSUE FOR OUR POST:**

Our Post has experienced a substantial decrease in income this year due to Covid-19. The biggest issue being reduced revenue derived from building rentals. In past years, building rental income has been half of our annual revenue. Since March of this year, rental income has dried up. As a result, we have been operating in a deficit for the last four of five months -- and expect that to continue at least through the remainder of 2020.

It is much easier to reduce expense vs. increasing revenue. With that in mind, there is a small way for all members to help with this, and it won't cost you anything. We all enjoy receiving the monthly newsletter; either through snail mail or via email. Email is free when compared to the cost of the local printer to create the current 223 hard paper copies, plus postage. We are currently paying the local printer \$190 per month, as well as paying postage -- which is approximately \$.30 per copy to mail. Over a year's time, this amounts to an expense of around \$3,100 per year.

We are aware that not everyone has access to email, and we completely understand if that is the case with you. But if that's not your situation -- we would like to see as many members as possible who are currently receiving the newsletter via paper mail, switch to email delivery. This would not only save the Post considerable money, but email of course is a faster delivery method. Using email will also allow you to receive any online correspondence from us in real time. This year there have been news items which went out only by email and provided information on short notice.

Please consider making the change. Just send Peg Mullen (mullen.margarete@gmail.com) your email address, and she will include you on the next monthly newsletter email.

We all need to work together to keep our Post financially healthy during this pandemic.

Ted L Rutherford, Finance Officer

**Membership Report:**

Membership renewals for 2021 have slowed down a bit...for those of you that have not yet renewed -- expect another renewal notice in the mail from National in the next couple of weeks. Please consider renewing at that time, so we are in good shape moving into the fourth quarter of the year. As of this mailing, 176 members have renewed for 2021. We gained one new member and one transfer member to our Post, from another state. Welcome to both of you! At this time we have an overall total of 228 members in good standing. Seventeen members have passed away in this calendar year. Any questions about your membership, please let me know. Thank you.

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 with the May 2021 Post Everlasting.

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

**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:**

**October 12, Columbus Day**

**October 31, Halloween**

**November 1. Daylight Savings time ends**

**November 3, Election Day**

**November 11, Veterans Day**

**VETERANS ON THE MOVE:**

Please accept the challenge of your Post Officers to get active and stay active during the Covid-19 pandemic while supporting your Legion Post and Post Auxiliary. The challenge is to move at least 66.3 miles (walk, run, treadmill, elliptical, stationary bike, bicycle, or other non-motorized vehicle) between September 1, 2020 and Veterans Day, November 11, 2020. The registration fee is \$6.63. An appropriate recognition will be awarded upon successful completion of the program. Simply send your name along with a check payable to American Legion Post 663 to 6805 Douglas Avenue, Urbandale, Iowa 50322. Please contact Gordon Hendrickson ghlegion@q.com or 515-480-4348 with any questions. **Remember, this is for all Auxiliary and Post members**

**Auxiliary News Urbandale Unit #663:**

We had an in person meeting on Sept.22nd outside at the Urbandale Historical House. We had a nice turnout and conducted the following business:

1. We voted and approved to send 2 girls to Girls State next June 2021. We requested and received our money back from GS 2020. We will use that money again for this coming year.

2. Since we were not able to have Poppy Days this May 2020, we still have our poppies left from this year and will not need to reorder. We have been notified that we can use them for next year May 2021.

3. We are able to hold meetings at the Legion Hall starting in October. Our next meeting will be Oct. 20th at 11:00am (time change for Oct.) at the Urbandale Legion Hall. After October we have the Legion Hall booked for the 4th Tuesday of every month at 1:00 pm for our monthly meetings. Each month the group attending will decide if the following month is needed for a meeting based on the business on hand and the current status of Covid.

4. Membership has been sent out and Marti Wiese is our Treasurer that you will send your membership to for renewal this year. Thanks to everyone who has sent in their membership already. Marti would like to have membership done as quickly as possible. When sending your membership in to Marti, we would greatly appreciate you sending an e-mail address also. We want to be able to send out e-mails to the membership with news and updates in the future. If you have already sent in your membership please send your e-mail address to Meribeth at: mbhaynes18@gmail.com Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Oct. 20th meeting at 11:00 am at the Urbandale Legion Hall. Meribeth Hanes, Auxiliary President

**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 Remainder of 2020**