



AMERICAN LEGION POST 56

Our Mission

To support and assist all veterans and their families; To provide child, youth and community programs that instill teamwork, citizenship, and patriotism; To encourage our elected leaders to support legislation that ensure our service members are properly trained, equipped, and receive the benefits they have earned; To honor the sacrifices made by our veterans in defense of our nation.

"Serving Veterans, Serving the community"

142 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN * 373-7993 * www.americanlegionpost56.com

March, 2019

Greetings Legion Family,

Spring is in the air! Although you may not believe it, soon those cold winter days will give way to the rebirth of earth. Birds and other wildlife will soon be arriving and waking from their slumber to prepare for the birth of a new generation, grass will begin turning green and the trees will bud with new leaves. Yes, things should start warming up. And as is usually the case the post will begin the busy season once again.

February was a painfully slow month for the post. Other than the Super Bowl Party on the 3rd and our normal burger basket, Bingo and Karaoke nights there wasn't much going on at the post.

We held a volunteer bartender training session for anyone who was interested in helping the post save money. As it turned out we only had 2 people show up for the training. We were hoping for a better turn out, however we have 2 more volunteers than what we started with. We will look at doing it again later this year for those who were not able to attend the last session.

March is our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony. This year the ceremony will take place on Monday, March 18. This is an opportunity to bring families of deceased veterans together as we formally say goodbye to their veteran one final time. The Ceremony begins at 6 pm and is followed by the post membership meeting. A meal will be served. A free will donation is greatly appreciated.

I mentioned last month that we are looking for a couple people to fill in as Trustees. If you have any interest in serving as a Trustee. In addition, our Adjutant Bernie Priebe would like to phase out of his position over the next year. If you are interested in any of the positions, please let me, or any of the executive board members know.

I've been getting some feedback from the membership about the club being closed on Mondays. I think it's important that I take a moment to address this. When I began my duties as the commander back in 2017, I discussed in my first few newsletters that we had to run the post like a business. What I meant by that was we had to be fiscally responsible and the club had to be self-sustaining financially. I also asked all of you, our members for your help. I suggested that with the size of our club if all our members spent \$10 a week at the post, we wouldn't be worried about being able to pay our bills and we could be open more. However, that hasn't materialized.

Commander's letter Continued on page 3

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MARCH 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Noon Kiwanis	5 Ladies Bridge 11:30 am Clover Leaf Lions 6-8 pm	6 Women's Vets of Freeborn Co. - 11:30 am	7 G. Kiwanis 9:30 am	8	9 Private Party Event Center
10 Post 56 Breakfast 8-12:30	11 Noon Kiwanis House Committee 4 pm Executive Board Meeting 6 pm	12	13	14 G. Kiwanis 9:30 am Private Party Event Center	15	16
17	18 Noon Kiwanis Post Meeting 7 pm	19 Clover Leaf Lions 6-8 pm	20	21 G. Kiwanis 9:30 am Fish Fry 5-7 pm	22	23
24 Post 56 Breakfast 8-12:30	25 Noon Kiwanis Private Party Event Center	26 Legion Riders - 6:30 pm	27 Ladies Bridge 11:30 am	28 G. Kiwanis 9:30 am	29	30
31 Legion Auxiliary Breakfast 8-12:30						

Every Tuesday:
Every Wednesday:
Every Thursday:

BURGER BASKET 5 P.M. TILL 8 P.M.
BAR BINGO IN LOUNGE 6 PM
7PM TRIVIA IN THE LOUNGE

Every Friday:

STEAK/SHRIMP SPECIALS 5-9 PM
KARAOKE AT 8 P.M.

Lounge Opens

Daily Monday-Friday 1 pm - 10 pm • Saturday 10 am - 10 pm • Sunday - Closed

www.americanlegionpost56.com

D.A.M.

D.A.M Donations

Maurice/Helen Duffy	Mem of Joan Paczkowski
Odean/Gerri Berg	Mem of Joan Paczkowski
Odean/Gerri Berg	Mem of George Feuerhelm
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Pendra Nelsen	Mem of Joan Paczkowski

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Greetings from the Auxiliary.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!!

March 15th is American Legion Post 56's 100th Birthday. We will present them with a check for \$100.00 and serve cake at the Post Everlasting meeting on March 18th.

It is also time for election of officers. If anyone is interested please let me know - 373-3767.

Our next meeting will be April 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. A memorial service will be held.

March is Community Service Month. The A.L.A. community service program is all about working together and making a difference for our Veterans, their families and our communities.

Dues for 2020 are going up. The Department and National have each raised what we send them by \$3.00 each. We will need to send \$24.00 out of each membership due payment to them and District gets \$2.00 for each member. So in order to continue our Veteran, Youth and Community programs, dues will be \$30.00 for senior members and \$7.00 for junior members. National went up last year but we kept our dues the same. I hope each of you will continue to renew. We need each of you to continue our programs. Thank you.

Our next fundraiser breakfast will be March 31, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30. If you could help please call 373-3767. Thanks.

March Dates: 10th - Daylight Savings Time begins (set your clocks ahead one hour); 15th - Post's 100th Birthday; 17th - St. Patrick's Day and on the 20th - Spring begins.

Other March Trivia: 1st - Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day; 3rd - "Star Spangled Banner" made U.S. National Anthem (1931); 5th - Shrove Tuesday; 6th - Ash Wednesday; 12th - Girls Scouts of the U.S.A. founded (1912); 19th - Iraq War began (2003); 24th - Kosovo Campaign began (1999); 29th - National Vietnam War Veterans Day; 31st - Somalia Campaign ended (1995).

Fly your Flag! Support the Legion Club!

God Bless,
Bonnie Schneider
Auxiliary President

We've also taken steps to hire someone to increase the business in our event center, which has done very well since Linda Peterson came on board. But those additional events only help the club to break even. We have raised prices, changed our menu and our drink choices to lower costs, asked for volunteers to work the bar, etc. All to no avail. So now the difficult decision of closing the post on non-busy days is the only choice we have. We cannot continue to operate like we have been and expect a different outcome. It takes all of us to effect the changes we want.

For those members who frequent the post I appreciate your support. We will continue to monitor the business as the months get warmer and people begin to get out more. If there is a significant change in business traffic or volunteer participation we will consider reopening on Mondays.

I hope you all have a great month and I'll see you at the post.

Paul Nolette

Commander

"Serving Veterans, Serving the community"

LEO MARTIN CAREY



American Legion Post 56
Albert Lea, Minnesota
"Stay Active"



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March, 2019

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Post 447 VFW and Auxiliary meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of every month at the American Legion Post 56 Clubrooms @ 7:00 pm.

Come and join VFW Post 447. Veterans helping Veterans.