



Snyder-Lewis-Welty Post 454 Colon Michigan



Hello Everybody,

I had hoped that this newsletter would be packed with all of the things that we have accomplished since last fall. Unfortunately, COVID and the restrictions imposed by the State have severely limited what we have been able to do. The post has been open and closed and open again. Currently we are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 2:00-10:00 PM. Normally we would stay open later on Friday and Saturday, but again there are State imposed restrictions that force us to close at 10:00. We are, however, serving food all three nights so come on out and support us. Last year was a tough year for the Post financially and we could really use the business for the bar and kitchen!

The President has promised that everyone who wants a vaccination will be able to get one by the end of July. So, with that in mind and the anticipation of an easing of restrictions we are moving forward on planning for events for this year. The Legion is resuming meetings as of March. We will resume Bingo on April 5 with a limit (currently) of 34 players. I anticipate a Fish Fry (in some form, maybe take-out only) at the end of March. We are planning on holding the children's Easter Egg Hunt on April 3. Memorial Day is coming up as is the 4th of July. And don't forget about the Magic City Egg Fest which has been moved to August 21. Unfortunately, I don't see a Legion Birthday Party again this year. Normally we hold this in March and draw a big crowd and with current restrictions in place until nearly the end of March this just won't be possible.

We have not been completely idle during the shutdown. We have continued to provide military honors to veterans who have passed. This is extremely important and we have been able to conduct these safely, outside and provide veterans the honor they deserve. We conducted a small Veterans Day ceremony in front of the Legion in November and we have continued to assist veterans in obtaining benefits, getting to doctor appointments, etc.

The exterior of building was completed last fall (minus a few touchups that we need to complete when the weather improves). It looks fantastic and I have received many compliments from people in the community about how nice it looks. We have a new



website coming! Hopefully the website will keep members and the community at large updated on all the great things that the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL do. Look for that to go live in the next month or so. You should be able to just Google Colon American Legion. The Legion will be voting on a new constitution and by-laws at the April meeting. This serves as your notice of such. The proposed new constitution and by-laws will be presented at the March meeting and copies will be available in the bar for you to review. Election of new officers will be at the May meeting.



I mentioned the Magic City Egg Fest earlier. We held this event for the first time in June of 2019. It was a huge success, largely from all the work our EGG-secutive Director, SAL Member Tim Taylor, put into it. We had to cancel last year but don't want to lose the momentum in making this year's event even bigger and better. It will be held outside on August 21, hopefully in the municipal parking lot downtown. Tickets will be available soon so ask about them when you are in the bar and keep an eye on the Magic City Egg Fest Facebook page for details as the event gets closer. If you want to have a team in this BBQ competition, call Tim at 773-383-7892 or email at

tim.taylor@magiccityeggfest.com to find out how to

register. Teams will compete in Ribs, Chicken and Pizza on the Big Green Eggs provided by our sponsor. Mark your calendar for August 21.

The Village of Colon designated the park on the channel at the end of Canal Street as Veterans Memorial Park. Unfortunately, they didn't put any funding towards the park so there is nothing there that would lead you to believe that it is a memorial to veterans. Your Legion has taken up the challenge to transform this park into a respectable memorial to veterans of Colon and the surrounding area. We are working with an architect and should have an artist's rendering of what we hope the park will look like soon. Until the architect completes his work, we do not have a final cost for the project though we know it will be in the hundreds of thousands. We are raising funds through a number of ways including donations, grants and a raffle called the Queen of Hearts. If you would like to donate, in any amount, please contact us.

We are starting a new progressive raffle at the Legion called the Queen of Hearts. Proceeds from this raffle will go towards funding Colon's Veterans Memorial Park. Tickets will be sold each week with a drawing held at the Legion each Saturday evening at 7:00 PM. Again, this a progressive raffle like the lottery so if nobody wins for the week the jackpot grows. The first drawing will be on May 1 so tickets will be available for \$2 each prior to then. The starting Jackpot will be \$1,000.

Finally, I know that it is easy to forget when you are stuck at home and not getting into the Legion but we need you to renew your membership if you haven't already. Legion, Auxiliary and SAL are all behind

in our membership goals, so if you haven't sent in your dues for 2021 yet, please do so right away. We really need you. And if you know someone who is eligible for membership, we need them too!

Oh, and I just remembered...come on in for St. Patrick's Day and join us for Corned Beef and Cabbage at \$9 a plate. We're not currently open on Wednesdays but we're going to make an exception for St. Patrick's Day so come on in.

Upcoming Special Activities:

March 17, 4:00 PM until gone—St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage \$9 a plate

April 3--Easter Egg Hunt--At the High School

May 29, 10:00 AM--Flag Placement on Veterans' Graves at Lakeside and South Colon Cemetery

May 31--Memorial Day Ceremonies, 9:00 AM-- at the bridge in Colon, 10:00 AM --Lakeside Cemetery,
11:00 AM--Leonidas Cemetery, 1:00 PM--Burr Oak Cemetery.

June 12, 10:00 AM--Flag Retirement Ceremony--Legion Barn

July 4--Independence Day Parade, Ox Roast and Fireworks

August 21—Magic City Egg Fest BBQ Competition and Tasting hosted by your Post.

Your post is vibrant, active and doing great things in the community. I encourage you to come out and join us. We are always looking for volunteers for our varied activities. If you are interested in helping out with something, call the Legion and let us know or email me directly at brettej@aol.com

I look forward to seeing you around.

Brett Johnson
Commander

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