

Greetings,

I assumed my duties as your commander on July 1st. I want to thank you all for your trust and confidence in electing me commander. I pledge to you that I will always strive to improve and move the organization forward. I intend to honor our traditions but not be stuck in the past. As other service organizations in this community are declining and/or disbanding, I see the Colon American Legion stepping up to be the premier service organization in the area, not just the community. To that end, we need to appeal to a broad cross-section of the population and figure out how to be relevant to younger veterans and their families. I am an inclusive leader and while I understand that you can't please all the people all the time I understand that this is OUR organization and everyone's input is important. Understand that I will listen to and consider that input. What WE decide may not be what YOU want but I hope and expect that when a decision is made that everyone will get behind that decision and help ensure its success and not work to undermine it. I intend to form standing committees with appointed chairs and I will be seeking membership for those committees. The committees that I have in mind are (and these are tentative names) Leadership (executive), Veterans', Youth, and Finance. These will be permanent committees. Additionally I plan to form an ad hoc committee for strategic planning. If you would like to serve on one of these committees please contact me.

I also want to thank Mike Smoker for his outstanding leadership of our organization for the last four years. Mike's energy and enthusiasm in advancing this post cannot be overstated. Our post is strong financially and has a solid membership base due to Mike's efforts. Two of the four years that Mike was our commander this post achieved 100% of our membership goals. Most recently this was achieved in 2019 with post membership at over 100 members. We are the only post in the county with this distinction and there are not many in the state that achieve this level of recognition. Our fiscal year begins on July 1st and we are now working towards our membership goals for 2020 so please renew your membership as soon as you can and encourage another veteran that you know to join.

Mike's swansong was organizing and running the Magic City Egg Fest on June 15th. If you didn't attend this event, you missed out on a great day filled with fun activities and fabulous food. We had 15 teams competing in three events, grilling ribs, chicken and pizza on a Big Green Egg Grill and Smoker. Two Brothers team took first place for ribs, Grills Gone Wild won first place in chicken and our American Legion Team, Stone Cold Grillers, were tops in pizza as determined by our "professional" judges. Magically Grillicious won the Tasters' Choice Award voted on by everyone who came in to eat all this fantastic food. We want to make sure to thank Clemons Food Group who donated the ribs, Miller Poultry who donated the chicken and Five Star Pizza who donated the pizza dough as well as all of our other wonderful and supportive sponsors. If

you were there, you know what a great event this was. If you weren't, be sure to make plans to attend next year.

Our walnut drive is underway and with about a week left to go we are over a ton of walnuts sold. Perhaps we'll hit two tons this year!! Don't forget us next year and ask for a barrel to be delivered to you so you can fill it up.

I look forward to serving as your commander for the next year and pledge to do my best to advance our organization. I am excited about our future and am confident that we are going to have an outstanding year.

**Your new Legion Officers for this year are:**

Commander-Brett Johnson  
First Vice Commander-Mitch Miller  
Second Vice Commander-Don Truax  
Adjutant-Ron Taylor  
Finance Officer-Mike Smoker  
Historian-Dick Persing  
Judge Advocate-Jack Delle  
Sergeant-at-Arms-Al Musell  
Service Officer-Matt Newman

**Upcoming Events:**

-October 27th--Halloween Party--Dress up in your best costume and come on down.  
-November 9th--Member Appreciation Night (Formerly Feather Party)--6:00PM at the Post. Bring a dish to pass. All drinks 1/2 price. Raffles.  
-November 11th--Veterans' Day Celebration--11:00AM at the High School. Includes plaque dedication.  
-December 7th--Christmas in Colon--Chili Cook-Off at the Legion--Enter your favorite Chili!  
-December 21st--Children's Christmas Party  
-December 31st--New Year's Party  
Also don't forget SAL Breakfast-2nd Sunday each month, Legion Fish Fry-last Friday each month, Bingo every Monday evening, euchre-3rd Sunday each month and bar poker every Wednesday. Call the Legion for details--269-432-9088.

Thanks,  
Brett Johnson