



## Snyder-Lewis-Welty Post 454 Colon Michigan

Hello Everybody,

Your American Legion, Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion have been very busy since our last letter. I'm very proud of all that we have achieved together. We have a great team!

Our walnut drive ran through the entire month of October (actually we started collecting in September) and over the course of that month we collected and sold 6,497 pounds of walnuts. That's husked with the meat still in the shell. When you think what the weight of those nuts was with the husk still on, you can see we collected a lot of walnuts. We sold them for \$975 and received an additional \$270 in donations, bringing the grand total to \$1245. Thank you to all who collected nuts for us and special thanks to Buzz Farrand, Mike Smoker and Ham Truckey for their extra effort in this endeavor. Don't forget us next fall. We can drop you a barrel and come back for it when it's full.

The Post was involved with Halloween in Colon, passing out candy and 50 cent pieces to kids trick-or-treating downtown. We had 311 kids come through.

Our Membership Appreciation night went well but turn-out wasn't as large as we had hoped. The Post provided smoked beef, courtesy of Ray Schwartz and people brought dishes to pass. There was a great spread of food. Drinks were half price and we raffled off turkeys and hams in addition to drawing the winner for the Children's Fund Raffle. All told, we raised over \$500 for the Children's Fund and had a great time. If you weren't there you missed out and hopefully you can attend next year.

We did something different for Veteran's Day this year, holding our ceremony at the high school. Dan Wagner led an effort to plant a tree and install a plaque dedicated to Colon High School Alumni and teachers who were killed in action in various wars. The entire junior and senior high along with 4th and 5th grade students from Colon were in attendance in the high school gymnasium for our ceremony and the dedication of the plaque. The band played the National Anthem and America the Beautiful. While originally planned for outside near the planted tree, our unseasonal cold snap and snow storm drove us inside. Hopefully we will be able to continue to partner with Colon Schools for future Veteran's Day programs.

December was a busy month for us. It started with Christmas in Colon on the 6th and 7th. On Friday we had 15 entrants for our chili cook-off and 52 people paid \$5.00 to taste(eat) chili and vote for their favorites. Prizes were paid for 1st (30% of take), 2nd (25% of take) and 3rd (20% of take). Our bartender and Auxiliary Member, Debbie Haynes took first place. Second went to Auxiliary Member

Susan Freeland and third went to Legionnaire Fred Brunn. We had about 6-8 vendors set up selling various items from goat soap to ladies undergarments. The Auxiliary had their cookie walk with lots of cookies available. Saturday, two vendors returned and in the afternoon, just prior to the parade, we had a magic show for the kids attended by about 50 children and adults.

On December 21st we held our annual children's party with Santa Claus. He presented gifts to about 120 kids over the course of two hours. Each child also got a chocolate bar and an orange. We were also fortunate to have Tamara Sterlini and her group of talented singers here entertaining everyone with Christmas Carols. All this was made possible by you buying and returning the raffle tickets that we sent out with our last newsletter. Thank you to all who contributed.

We were scheduled to hold a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 30. Unfortunately due to a shortage of Red Cross personnel, they had to cancel on us at the last minute.

January started off the new year with food service in the bar. We are serving a full menu of appetizers, burgers, sandwiches and dinner on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night each week from 5:30 to 8:30. We are continuing to host our monthly fish fry so the full menu is suspended on the last Friday of the month and you will still be able to get our traditional all you can eat fish served family style.

Your post continues to support the community. Together the Legion, SAL and Auxiliary provided over \$3500 to the State Champion Colon Football Team to help them travel to Marquette for their championship game. Again, a combined effort put more than \$1000 towards the Angel Tree at the Colon Branch of Strugis Bank and Trust, providing Christmas gifts to underprivileged children in the community.

Many of you have already renewed your membership dues, but if you haven't please do so right away. We are closing in our membership goal and want to hit that 100% number again this year. If you know someone who is eligible for the Legion, the SAL or the Auxiliary, please encourage them to join. Membership applications are available from the bartenders at any time. Remember all veterans since the end of WWII are now eligible. That means that sons, grandsons, spouses (yes spouses--male spouses of female veterans are eligible for auxiliary membership), daughters, granddaughters, mothers and sisters of those veterans are also now eligible!

Remember all of our recurring activities:

- 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 PM--Legion Meeting
- 1st Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM--Auxiliary Meeting
- 2nd Sunday of the month, 7:00-11:00 AM--SAL Breakfast--All you can eat!
- 2nd Sunday of the month, immediately following breakfast--SAL Meeting
- 3rd Sunday of the month, 2:00 PM--Euchre
- Every Monday, 6:00 PM--Bingo
- Last Friday of every month, 5:30-7:30 PM--Fish Fry--All you can eat!

Upcoming Special Activities:

- March 21, 6:00 PM--Legion Birthday Party--Call the post to RSVP (269-432-9088)

April 11--Easter Egg Hunt--At the High School

May 23, 10:00 AM--Flag Placement on Veterans' Graves at Lakeside and South Colon Cemetery

May 25--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 6--Colon Egg Fest BBQ Competition and Tasting hosted by your post.

June 13, 10:00 AM--Flag Retirement Ceremony--Legion Barn

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

If you plan to attend the Legion Birthday Party you'll need to call and make reservations. This is a free dinner that the Auxiliary has catered so we need to know how many are coming to ensure that there is enough food.

This summer we will begin some outside remodeling of the Post Home. We plan to install new windows where needed and re-side the building. 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. If you want to enter a team into the Green Egg BBQ Competition, call the Legion and let us know. The event is limited to 30 teams and we already have about 20 teams committed. If you want your four person team registered, you need to do it by the end of February.

I look forward to seeing you around.

Brett Johnson  
Commander