



HEART OF THE LAKES

POST 1008

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March - April 2021

Better late than never....



In March of 2020 just before the * hit the fan Joe Atchoo received a plaque in appreciation for his constant dedication and support to Post 1008 and all Veterans. *Thank You Joe!!!*

COMMANDER:

Mark Woods

SR VICE COMMANDER

Bill Storm

JR VICE COMMANDER

Mark Adkins

QUARTERMASTER

Bob Benson

CHAPLAIN

George Smith

1ST YEAR TRUSTEE

Mike Roy

2ND YEAR TRUSTEE

Mike Kerr

3RD YEAR TRUSTEE

Brad Harris

COVID did not stop us from helping others

....that's not to say it wasn't a challenge, but thanks to the unwavering dedication of our members we managed to pull off our Christmas food baskets and presents for the kids. We had an amazing out-pouring of financial donations that allowed this event to happen even without our normal fundraising events. We were able to help over 40 families by providing them with a Turkey dinner along with other food items and gifts for over 40 kids. We arranged curb side pick up to keep things safe.



Quartermaster's Report



Comrades,

WOW! What a year. This has been one of the most unusual and difficult years I can remember. It has been difficult on individuals and companies, including the VFW's. The majority of our income is from the Hall rentals which were non-existent during the shut down. Perhaps the most difficult issue was the lack of our being able to see, talk and laugh with one another. Well so much for the negatives, let's look at the positives!

During this down time there were numerous items that needed to be taken care of that would have resulted in shutting down the Post to get them done. Items such as, resurfacing the parking lot, a new stove for the kitchen, replacing the antiquated cooling system for our liquid refreshments and the list goes on. The board prioritized these items, developed a budget and received approval from the membership. Fortunately we came in under budget which allowed us to add one additional change that was important - the kitchen ventilation fan.

These projects put a significant strain on our operating capital which turned out **not** to be an issue due to the phenomenal generosity of organizations, individual donors, and hard work from the membership. Oakland County and the Marine Corps League made significant grants/donations. Individual members and supporters were giving donations from very large to substantial. The members chipped in the labor for the coolers, painting and re-arranging of the Post. The Honor Guard, (always ready no matter how short the notice or what the weather was like), was a constant source of needed income. As a result of all of this generosity, dedication and hard work we are emerging from this dark period better, stronger and more financially sound than when we entered it.

I am so happy to be a part of this great organization.

Bob Benson
Quartermaster

MARCH / APRIL CALENDAR

American Legion - Third Thursday of the month 7:30pm

Board Meetings - Second Wednesday 7pm

General Membership Meetings - Third Wednesday 7pm

Be sure to check out VFW1008.org
for more information.



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Post 1008 Commander's Column

Comrades & Auxiliary members,

It has been an extremely challenging and moral damaging 10 months. We will make steps to come back from the damage done.

Without the many donations and grants we have received since March 2020 we would be in a much more difficult position. We are heathy for the moment, it's time to be frugal and stay prepared for further damage control.

On a better note, we had a wonderful Christmas dinner give away to people in need, along with toys for all ages. The donations that came in for that alone let us do what we did with money left over for next year.

The Honor Guard has been bringing in a substantial amount of donations through the past few months which has also helped a lot with the bills. All said, without the generosity of the many, our post would be suffering... We are not.

As you can see from the pictures a lot of work has been done. We finally got rid of the water cooled system for both the front and back coolers which should reflect on our water bill considerably.

Mark Woods, Commander

CLUB MANAGER'S REPORT

Hello 2021 :) Good bye 2020 :(We are really hoping for some great things to happen at Post 1008 this year. Did some remodeling while we were closed, trying a few new liquors and beer on the bar as we look forward to seeing your smiling faces again! We are still experiencing some restrictions but have our fingers crossed, like so many, that it is only a matter of time before things can be back in full swing and we can settle in to continue with our purpose, to help and assist Veterans, their families and the community.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that helped make our "Clause Cause" successful for Christmas 2020. We were able to put smiles on the faces of a lot of kids with the generous donations of toys and money that we received. All total, we provided for over 40 families that had a lot merrier of a holiday then they'd expected. It takes a lot of organizing between getting food and toys, packaging everything and getting ready for delivery. I'm sure Santa was proud of the elves at Post 1008 for the great job they did, I know we are. No matter how hard times get the members of Post 1008 and the community come together when we see a need. Thank you again.

Although the post has been closed the business of VFW has continued mostly by Zoom broadcasts, but still getting things done. Post 1008 submitted entries to the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen project. The banquet to acknowledge these students was cancelled, but the scholarship opportunity went on. If you need help with anything please contact us at the Post. David "Doc" Maloney is our service officer and is ready to help, just call the Post and we'll get you connected!

Our clubroom hours are Monday through Friday 3 to 10, Saturday 1 to 10 and Sunday 12 to 6. Won't be long and spring will be in the air. Come on down to your Post and see some old friends! We'll keep the light on for you!

Donna Kelley, Club Manager



Honor Guard News



From the VFW Post 1008 Color/Honor Guard:

We have been slow so far with the new year. The activity for the Honor Guard has been at an all time low, due to Covid 19 issues and restrictions. Since October 1st of 2020 to January 29th 2021 we only performed 25 funerals. (Normally we perform more than 25 in 2 months). The majority of funerals were performed at funeral homes and private/public cemeteries, and the remainder at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Although, we are slow at the moment, I suspect we will be busier in the following months with vaccines coming into the picture.


We always need the help, if anyone is interested in taking on the prestigious title of a VFW 1008 Color/Honor Guard member. It is more rewarding than you can imagine, working with the grieving Vets, widows or family members giving them the final closure.

Our team has sacrificed family time on a regular basis to give the Vet (his/hers) the Honors they deserve.

“THANK YOU TEAM!”

ALL VETS DESERVE A PROPER FUNERAL! WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

Thank you, Ron Seaman, Color/Honor Guard Captain



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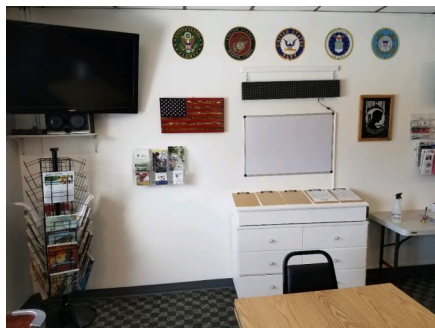
A much needed new oven and stove which will help boost hall rentals.



Even more needed, new electric coolers, the savings on our water bill will be huge!



A little clean up/spruce up in the bar area. The old wall was a little tired looking. Now it is clean and neat and inviting. Nice Job!



Can't forget the fun....A foosball table found its way into our bar too. Nice addition for those needing something to do.





Post 1008 Auxiliary Column

Judy Coe, President - Post 1008 Auxiliary

We would like to thank all person's that gave, from their hearts, the generous donations of monies and toys or our Christmas Basket Program.

We were able to give Veterans and/or their families 41 Food Baskets and helped give 50 children of Veterans a Merry Christmas. We were also able to give the Community 12 Food Baskets and gifts for 17 Community children. Once again Thank you all for your donations and help making this a success.

Looking forward: I have been in contact with our VAVS Rep. for the Detroit VA Medical Center and they are in need of new/unopened playing cards and finger and toenail clippers. I will be placing a donation box in the Clubroom upon its scheduled opening of 2/2/21 for all donations. Thank you for your donations to help our Veterans while hospitalized.

Service Officer Letter:



During the months of November and December, I had contact with 8 veterans or family members of veterans inquiring on a range of subjects regarding VA benefits.

With the current state of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been difficult to coordinate efforts on their behalf. The State Service Office has been closed as well as the Oakland County Veterans office and our own post. The State Service Officer was stricken with the virus and down for a time but is now back at work helping veterans with their claims.

I have been utilizing social media (Facebook) to post public service announcements with some success. I opened a new email, dedicated to my Service Officer position (corpsmanup0311@yahoo.com) in an effort to reach more veterans without burdening the post with SO business.

The VA has an online page where you can attempt to navigate forms to file your claims. I would strongly suggest you discuss your intentions to file with a Service Officer before submitting a claim direct.

I want to thank our Commander Mark Woods for assisting a family prior to Thanksgiving by providing them a wheelchair so the husband could be home for the holidays. Being with family is even more important during these times.

Recently a Korean veteran was looking for assistance to modify his bathroom, as entering and exiting the tub was becoming difficult. I sent him a form 10-0103 from the VA that affords financial assistance for home improvements, alterations, and modifications. If you need this type of modification contact me for information.

I also received a call from a veteran looking to get a service animal. The VA does not provide this service but you can contact the VA for counseling, where they can refer you to other organizations. If you qualify for an animal, they will pay for certain veterinarian services.

Remember, if you think you need help, call me or a service officer from any service organization. We will attempt to help you navigate the system.

Doc Maloney

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