



American Legion
Frank Spickelmire Post #60
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POST COMMANDER'S UPDATE

My fellow Legionnaires, Members of the Auxiliary, friends and supporters of Post 60, I wanted to share with each of you a status report and a heads-up on future events. First, let me express my deep appreciation for everyone's support and hard work to ensure the success of Post 60. Rod and Robin Miller want each of you to know how much your help means to them and send their thanks for your generosity. And in case I get buried in the Holiday rush, Shauna and I send our very best wishes for a memorable Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year to all of you.

Each of us in our own households and budgets has felt the sharp sting of today's economic situation and our Post is no exception. The rising costs of electricity, propane, insurance premiums, cleaning services, our three liquor licenses, food, alcohol and bar supplies all conspire to make it difficult to meet our monthly/annual operating and maintenance expenses. Despite our best efforts to shop for the best deals and be frugal in our expenditures it has become increasingly clear that we will have to make some adjustments in our operations. I asked the Post's Financial Committee to thoroughly review our expenditure and revenue situation and make recommendations to stay within our budget and still be able to support Veterans, children and our community. Just so you know, this committee includes past Post Commanders, past Post Finance Officers and our current Post Finance Officer, all men who have worked closely with this Post's operations.

It came as no surprise to me that their first recommendation was to raise the amount of our Happy Hour bar prices; we have been losing money in this area for several years. Effective on November 4th Happy Hour prices for all drinks, except for sodas and bottled water, will be increased by 50 cents per drink. This shouldn't cause a lot of teeth-gnashing because our prices will still be the best value around compared to other establishments. Joe Posluszny will continue to try and keep meal charges down based on what we have to pay for food products. The Finance Committee will keep researching ways to reduce our operating and maintenance costs.

As some of you may already be aware, our next major fundraising effort will be directed toward replacing the floors in the Hall and Lounge areas. Exact estimates are not known yet but preliminary work reveals that we will need to raise around \$25,000 to purchase the material and use volunteer labor to install the new flooring. A generous benefactor has promised to match the first \$10,000 we raise with a \$10,000 donation. We can do this and hopefully by next summer will have new, low maintenance, high quality floors. Members can help in this project by making a pledge donation, a donation in memory of a family member or by volunteering to help in fundraising efforts. Please notify myself or the President of the Auxiliary if you have any innovative ideas for fundraising.

The heart and soul of our Post is that we are all volunteers with common goals and interests. In order to keep moving forward we all have to be willing to pitch in and help. My immediate goal is to improve our communication and coordination efforts to encourage more members to help share the workload. I have tasked myself, John Pearson, John Dickey and Joe Posluszny to make this happen; we have to do a better job at letting members know when and where we need your help. So when one of us puts out the word for help, please find it within yourself to give some of your time. Please, please remember to sign up on the Volunteer work sheets posted in the entryway for upcoming events; and log in your hours in the notebook so we can keep track of members time and identify others who can help.

November and December are upon us and besides our normal Friday Night Socials there are several large events coming up. You'll soon be asked to help hang and replace Christmas lights on Main Street here in the next week or so, we need to wax and buff the floors in the Hall before Thanksgiving, we'll need lots of help for our annual community Thanksgiving dinner, Santa's coming to Cascade on 18 December and we're planning a prime rib dinner on 31 December. And there are several Hall rental events with catering scheduled at the Hall during this period.

I have the deepest respect and affection for each of you, I am proud to be a member of this Post and each of you should also share that same sense of pride and accomplishment. I apologize when my sometimes brusque bearing and Marine habits make me a bit over-the-top. Old habits die hard, but I am trying to soften my approach.

Semper Fidelis
Mike Keithly