



AMERICAN LEGION

The Oxley Post

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Summer 2020

Commander's Message

By: Bruce Conklin

I hope this finds all of you to be well. What a time, please let us know if you need help with anything. Whether it be a ride, to pick up something for you, or just to reach out to let us know how you are. My cell number is 215 495 9912, Feel free to call anytime 24 - 7.

Much work has been done at the Post over these past months. The hall floor and our kitchen were replaced. Our material for that was donated by The Home Depot. **Mike O'Leary and Tom Cheeseman** took the initiative to go after the smoke eaters and the ceiling in the canteen. They removed, painted and replaced the ceiling tiles and painted the ceiling grid work. The smoke eater over the bar was replaced and one was added near the hall, front door area, which will hopefully eliminate the smoke problem. **Paul Christian and Mickey Hunt** repainted the canteen walls. Painting was the easy part: all of the license plates pictures military display etc. were removed and reinstalled. Many of the items on **Greg Aschendorf's** infamous "to do list" have been knocked out as well. I want to thank all of you who came by to help!

Now for the bad news. As you know, we've been closed since March but we still have fixed costs associated with the building. We applied for grants from the federal and city governments but unfortunately we were not approved. As of this writing, our bills are mostly up to date, but there is no clear indication from the state when we will be allowed to reopen. We are essentially broke. We've utilized all our reserves and the Sons donated money to help keep us current. We estimate we can only last another couple months. We're looking into our various options, but there are ways for you to help, which you can read about below. I hope if you are able, you'll make an effort to help. Thanks.

Please stay safe, and again call if you need anything.

Post Everlasting: Please keep Francis Dufner, a 70 year member of the American Legion in your prayers.

The 5th District held its Post Everlasting ceremony as part of Post 152 Walter L. Mason Federal Post's Memorial Day ceremony where all deceased members of the Oxley Post were remembered. Thanks to Post 152 Commander Tom O'Brien for hosting the ceremony along with Commander Ed Kelleher from Philadelphia Police Post #937 for conducting the ceremony. Greg Aschendorf, Jack Tomkins and Bob Cummings represented the Oxley Post.

Happy Birthday: Please join us in wishing a Happy Birthday to the following Oxley Family Members.

John O'Neill 6/3; Wayne Kirwin 6/6; Nicole Menow 6/8; James Vandiver 6/17; Patricia Grab 6/18; Bob Cummings 6/22; Charlie Loggia 6/22, Walter Myers 6/23; Ted Etling 6/24; Noreen Williams 6/28; Kathy Hughes 7/6; Barb Hays 7/19; Debbie McAndrew 8/1; Michael Snyder 8/2; Ed Conlon 8/12 & Charles Curran 8/14

Adjutant Report:

By: Jack Tomkins

Membership: Please check your most recent membership card. If it says 2019, you haven't paid your 2020 dues. If so, you are at risk of being dropped. July begins a new year for the American Legion and it's time to send in your **2021 dues**. Please send in your \$30 check to the post. You can also pay your \$30 dues safely and conveniently online with a credit or debit card by going to www.legion.org/membership/renewals. Please call me at 215-280-2033 if you have any questions. **Please mail your 2020 payments to the post in c/o Adjutant Jack Tomkins.**

Membership Changes: Last year, Congress changed the rules regarding membership in the American Legion. Basically, anyone who has served in the Armed services since December 7, 1941 is eligible to join the American Legion. This change entitles approximately 6 million veterans who were previously unable to join the American Legion to now join. So if you know other veterans talk to them and encourage them about joining the Oxley Post.

Memorial Day/Flag Day: Because of the virus we didn't hold our usual events, but several of our members did continue the tradition of putting flags out at veterans' graves at Magnolia cemetery. We will hold our memorial ceremony at Magnolia ceremony on Sunday, June 14th at 12:00 and a ceremony at Michael Strange's Memorial at the Post at 1PM. We hope to see you there.

Donations: As you all know, we have been closed since March due to the Coronavirus and as of now, there is no indication as to when we might be able to reopen. Through our reserves and assistance from our Sons Squadron, we've been able to keep the lights on and our bills are current, but we're now at the end of the line. We have determined we have 1-2 months before we are insolvent. While we know that many of you are struggling yourselves, we are asking – if you are able – to make a contribution to the post to help keep the lights on. If you can, please send a check payable to the Post and write "Donation" on the memo line. Keep in mind, as a 501(c)19 all donations are tax deductible subject to the maximum amount permitted by law. We are working on setting up a PayPal account and a GoFundMe account. Stay tuned to our website or facebook page for more information.

Corona virus Update: As a result of the Corona virus, the National and Department made the following changes:

The National and Department Conventions for 2020 have been cancelled. All elected and appointed Department Officers, all District Commanders and officers, all elected and appointed County Officers and all elected and appointed Post Officers will remain in their positions until the close of the 2021 Department Convention in Harrisburg. All Department committee chairpersons and current committee members will remain in their positions until they either resign or are reappointed at the September 2021 D.E.C. The 2021 thru 2023 Department Conventions are contracted with the Harrisburg Hilton. The 2024-2025 Department Conventions will be given to Lancaster as consolation for cancelling this year's Convention.

A Prayer Amid a Pandemic

By: Kerry Weber

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders. Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow. Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace. Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth. Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. Jesus Christ, heal us.

Source: Weber, Kerry. "A Prayer Amid a Pandemic." *America*, 30 Mar. 2020, www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer.