

March 28, 2011 Post Meeting

The main entrée item is open for the March meeting – if there are volunteers, please contact 515-720-7624 to coordinate plans. (Looking for new volunteers – not those who have already served in this capacity.) Meeting date is March 28, 2011 with meal beginning at 6:00 p.m. The meeting location for this month will again be the **basement of the Wells Fargo bank**. Other Post members attending are again asked to bring side dishes, salads, and desserts to complement the meal. No reservation count is required for this meal.

IMPORTANT

March 28, 2011 Post Meeting Action Item

At the February 28, 2011 Post meeting, American Legion Post 403 officially declared its' intention to move forward with a building structure that supports our communities and communities' future. Post members in attendance could have as easily decided that they needed to downsize and only support Post needs – they did not – they wholeheartedly moved to endorse a structure that would fill the needs of the communities and the Post. Please see the attached motion submitted at the February 28 meeting that is to be discussed and voted upon at the March 28, 2011 meeting. The motion is on golden rod colored paper.

Who They Are?

As you read through the Minutes of the February 2011 Post meeting you will notice the inclusion and reference to 4 names of non-Post member individuals. Who are these individuals and why have they taken such an interest in the Post building project to commit their personal time and their professional expertise? Each has been asked to supply a short bio and explanation of their motives – **Please see the backside of the golden rod colored paper to become acquainted with them and their motives.**

And when you get down to a review of the Minutes and look at the attached "Preliminary Opinion of Construction Cost" of the Post proposed 9,900 square foot building if the project was commercially bid, please note that approximately \$120,000 of typical project cost is not included for donated professional design and administrative fees. Another \$60,000 - \$80,000 may be subtracted for possible donated construction and contract supervision services and another approximately \$20,000 for site full plan set and specifications. These are typical professional fees for a commercial project of the Post's proposed structure that we would have to incur for the services and talents of these individuals. A

large portion of the typical professional fees are being donated by Edge Commercial, CGA, and ORIS PLC as Pro Bono and/or at a much reduced costs. What a boost the Post and Communities are receiving!!!

In Remembrance

Post member Joseph Martin Herman (1921- 2011) departed our company for the Post Everlasting on March 5, 2011. Joe was an avid Legion member, supporter, neighbor, and friend – he enjoyed coming to meetings and see our struggles, but he was always there to give guidance and help us to find our way. As his obituary notes, "**Joe served his country in both World War II and the Korean War. Joe had a Masters in common sense and led with a strong handshake. He was welcoming and friendly to all.**" A celebration of Joe's life will be held on April 8, 2011, the planned date for his 90th birthday party. Services will be held 11 a.m. Friday, April 8, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Waukegan, where the family will receive friends from 10 to 11 a.m. Inurnment of the cremated remains will follow at the Iowa Veteran's Cemetery near Van Meter. The Post has been asked and will be honored to participate in Military Honors for Joe's celebration.

Post Auction March 19, 2011

Auction has progressed well with over 260 plus items donated and collected by Post members. Vic and Ed announcements on radio and TV went really well. I was waiting for Ed to say, "Well, here's the deal" but somehow must have missed it. Legion Riders have been informed about the event and they will be happy to assist the Post if they are requested for any "fill-in" rolls. Next actions will be the event itself with Friday set up and Saturday set up, and Saturday auction actions, concessions, libations, membership, raffle, and clean-up to get back the \$500 deposit for Ed. This looks to be a very good fundraiser. All items have been donated so proceeds should go direct to building fund. **ONE BIG THANK YOU** for all of Candy Brown's work on keeping us on-track, coordination, investigating, printing, designing forms, etc (you name it --- Candy has accomplished it.) Friday setup will start at 11 a.m. A few individuals will meet at Ed's house on R16, but all others that can help are welcome to meet at Dallas County Fairgrounds – Candy is planning on getting the key and unlocking the building around or a little before the 11 a.m. time on Friday. Saturday activities will start at 8 a.m. with Start of Auction to be at 11 a.m. Post members are asked to wear Legion cap if you have it, or Post T-Shirt/Polo Shirt. If you are bringing pie or baked goods – check in with Candy on Saturday. Legion Riders have noted they will be in attendance and "Ready" to help – they will be wearing their black vests to distinguish them. Ed's & Vic's contact numbers are: Ed McNair – 321-7171 Vic Olson – 991-7539 -- make contact only if you must as they have a few things on their agenda to take care of besides your phone call.

Post Building Fundraising ONE

Raffle tickets – be sure to get those turned in to Gary Wemer. Gary is scheduled to be back on Thursday (be interesting to see if earthquake had any impacts to their

trip). Preliminary results on raffle is that proceeds exceed by triple the cost of the rifle – so an excellent idea by Vic and Ed to move this item to the front of fundraising activities. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the auction – up to the actual drawing at the conclusion of the event – so hoping we can reach the 4X cost level of proceeds. Rifle can be viewed at Post website of www.legionpost403.org

Post Building Fundraising TWO

Concession food items for the auction are Parkin's Family Pulled Port Sandwich, Tom's Manly Man Beans, Cheesy Potato Casserole and Choice of lemonade or water. You will find additional detail on our volunteer concessionaire -- Stacey Parkin in the January 2011 Minutes. Beer concessions will also be available through the Fairgrounds liquor permit. Carl Lyons is heading up this sales project.

Post Building Fundraising THREE

The pie challenge is on -- Candy has been contacted by three town officials for entry to the "Most Raised Dough" contest and she has the ribbons ready (twice over) to award. This is the Elected Official Contest, but Candy also has an OPEN category for pie/baked goods for all others in the "Most Raised Dough" contest. Thank You, Candy. Bring in your favorite baked item to the Fairgrounds by 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning and GOOD LUCK. Baked goods can also be dropped off at Van Meter City Hall on Friday – or contact Candy and arrangements will be made to get your goods to the auction.

Post 403 Website

The updated "auction items" list can be found on Post website at www.legionpost403.org – link for the list is about half way down on the first page displayed. As always, if you have suggestions for improvement on website – forward those in.

Boys State / Girls State

Want news of something else -- the Post needs Boys State and Girls State candidates. Rick Roberts has contacted teachers of students at Van Meter who have juniors – but as in prior year's selection – the candidate can come from any school or be related to a Post member – all that we ask is that they have a desire and passion to be our Post representative and be able to completely commit to the week of training and education on citizenship and democracy. Candidates must be finishing their Junior year in May 2011 to qualify as candidates for Post sponsorship. Legion Boys State is from June 12-17, 2011 and Auxiliary Girls State is from June 19-24, 2011. I have also been advised that Minburn Post would be glad to help the Post in funds if additional candidates presented themselves to our Post.

Editorial – Deja Vu

The Post has gone full circle on putting together information for a new Post / Community Center building with the current package put together by Boyd/Bryngelson/Herman/Wiederholt. John Volk had given the Post details back in September/October 2009 of the cost of a Post structure using "industry standard" costs for a commercial building. John, also, at that time had devoted many hours of personal time and business occupation expertise to assist the Post in the project. At that time, Post members failed to understand John's proposal and intentions. John was right on track with his figures and I hope people will finally understand that. John's work expertise on number crunching and giving accurate figures based on industry standard costs was "right on" and John knew that actual costs would be reduced as soon as the Post could go into a bid phase and obtain "in-kind" donations. John was trying to give the Post the value and quality of a building that the Legion and Community would be proud to call their own. John's proposal even included national Post recognition by making the Post the only LEED certified legion structure in the country. So when people say they were asking for this 2 years ago – well, maybe they actually had it and just didn't realize it.

County Legion Meeting March 29, 2011

Meeting will be held at the Dallas Center American Legion Post in Dallas Center. Registration starts at 6:30 p.m. with joint meal with the Dallas County Auxiliary – meal being served by Dallas Center Auxiliary. Post 403 has to submit meal guarantees for 4 meals – so if you would like to attend and expand your Legion experiences beyond the Post level – contact Adjutant Terry Vande Kamp at 720-7624 for carpooling coordination.

District Legion Meeting April 30, 2011

American Legion Post #274 will be hosting the Spring District Conference. The Post is located at 2211 East 42nd Street, Des Moines, IA 50317. I believe registration start time for the meeting will be 8:00 a.m. Department Service Officer Reports and Department Reports will be on the agenda of topics. There is a minimal registration cost that will be reimbursed by Post 403 – again contact Vande Kamp if you would like to travel together.

"Never let what you can't do interfere with what you can do."

"Operating a business with no advertising is like winking at a beautiful woman in the dark – you know what you're doing, but nobody else does."