

BOLINE - MANFREDI



VFW POST 9662

ISSUE #13 JULY — SEPTEMBER 2020

Helping veterans amidst the threat of COVID-19

It goes by many names -- 2019 Novel Coronavirus, coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, and COVID-19. -- but no matter what you call it, it's rapidly proving to be one of the most deadliest pandemics in U.S. history.

Per Governor Kim Reynolds' March 17 disaster proclamation, all restaurants and bars, theaters, fitness centers and casinos were closed, and all "Social, community, spiritual, religious, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people" were prohibited.

The VFW Department of Iowa quickly followed suit, as the state commander suspended post meetings and events, as well as closing all posts with clubs.

However, "Food and (non-alcoholic) beverages may be sold if such food or beverages are promptly taken from the premises, such as on a carry-out or drive-through basis, or if the food or beverage is delivered to customers off the premises."

Following the Governor's April 2 proclamation, all Posts continued to be closed through April 30. On May 1, restrictions began lifting in 77 Iowa counties, allowing some businesses to operate at 50 percent capacity.

On May 28, the State Department of Iowa Commander issued Executive Order 4, allowing VFW Posts to reopen for the resumption of business.

By that point, the pandemic had already impacted much of America. As for the VFW, on the national level, the 121st VFW National Convention was cancelled. Within the Department of Iowa VFW, the 2020 Iowa State VFW Convention was cancelled, and the three-day meeting was replaced with a one-day abbreviated Convention, allowing only for an outgoing Council of Administration (CoA) meeting, Election and Installation of Department Officers, and an incoming CoA meeting.

And with the cancellation of the 2020 Iowa State Fair, there will be no state VFW booth.

Like many of Iowa's individual posts, Boline-Manfredi Post #9662 also suffered dire consequences from the lengthy shutdown.

While many events, such as Buddy Poppy sales, were cancelled, perhaps the most ominous effect upon many of Iowa's VFW Posts was financial.

According to figures from Post Quartermaster Ron Koontz, between March 17-May 27, the Post faced the

loss of more than \$25,000 in sales.

That shortfall includes the loss in sales of food, beer, liquor, pop, lottery tickets, dance ticket donations, game machines and rentals. On the plus side, however, there were no expenses for food, beer, liquor, pop, or bands during that same period

Another liability in relation to post operations, were ex-

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From the Post Commander



Greetings, comrades, Auxiliary and all patrons!

April, May, and June have been difficult for VFW Post 9662 and its Auxiliary, just as they've no doubt been for the entire Department of Iowa and our country, with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nonetheless, much was accomplished at the Post during our March 17 - May 27 shutdown. Don Brown and Vicki Feeken especially, put in many hours cleaning, painting, and much more. Others helping clean were Tammie Wulfekuhle-Dirks, Theresa Mann, and Elaine Podnar. If I've left anyone out who helped, my humblest apologies.

If you haven't been to the Post since we reopened, please stop in...you'll be amazed at the improvements.

Donald (Don) E. Brown is our new Clubroom Manager, as of May 5. Thank you to outgoing Manager Mike McFarlin and Kitchen Manager Theresa Mann. Your continued support is appreciated.

Our Post #9662 Auxiliary 70th anniversary dinner, was postponed and VFW "recruiting events" were canceled, as was The May 9 Buddy Poppy Drive .

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Iowa VFW news

Upcoming #9662 events

Red, White and 'Que - Sept. 26, 2020;
Poker Run - July 11, 2020;
Corn & Chicken Feed - July 25, 2020; and
Auxiliary 70th Anniversary Dinner - Fall 2020.

Report volunteer hours

Post members are reminded to report any hours they accumulate through the performance of volunteer duties each month to the Post Commander James Wettestad, at jandfwettestad@gmail.com. Members should also provide a brief one-line description of their volunteer activity.

Volunteer work conducted within your Church and Post is no longer being accepted as volunteer duties by the VFW.

VFW/Auxiliary District meets

The District 5 VFW and Auxiliary Fall 2020 District meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 10, at Post 9127, 4029 Urbandale Ave., Des Moines.

VOD/Pen themes announced

The 2020-21 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen themes have been announced.

The VOD theme is "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned," while the Patriot's Pen theme is "What is Patriotism to Me?"

No Iowa State Fair booth

The Department of Iowa will not host a booth at the Iowa State fair this year, after the Iowa State Fair Board announced cancellation of the 2020 fair.

As announced at the State Convention, The Department of Iowa VFW is automatically set up for the 2021 State Fair.

New Dept. of Iowa officers

New officers have been elected to serve within the Department of Iowa VFW. They include:

Department of Iowa Commander:

Paul Arnold;

Past Commander: Russell Saffell;

Sr. Vice Commander: Mike

Braman;

Jr. Vice Commander: Ron Leber;

QM/Adjutant: Jerry Black;

Chaplain: Gary Ruffcorn;



From the Auxiliary President



Hello everyone! My name is Angie Lauer and I'm very excited to be your VFW Post 9662 Auxiliary President.

I joined the Auxiliary in 2018 as a life member. I was the dependent daughter of a U.S. Marine for many years. I've lived in 27 different houses in seven states and Okinawa, Japan, and attended 12 different schools and three colleges.

My Father Lt. Col. Richard "Kirk" Rothell, USMC (ret.), was stationed in Korea for a year while my mother.

two sisters and I were here in Des Moines. He previously oversaw the Iowa recruiting stations and sent many young Soldiers through MEPS. He joined Post 9662 because there's no active post in his area and he knew how much passion I had for supporting Veterans in our community.

I've organized soldier care packages and letter-writing campaigns through my work at Wells Fargo. I wanted to take it to the next level, so I joined the VFW. I've met so many incredible people through Post 9662 who've already had an influence on me. But I know I have much more to learn about the VFW.

I am married to Joe and we live in Ankeny. We have two grown sons, one granddaughter and three grandsons. Many of you supported Joe and I last year as he underwent treatment for esophageal cancer. We are very thankful to get to know you all and have your thoughts and prayers.

This year we have seen many challenges with COVID19, racial unrest and rioting. I don't know what the year holds in store for us, but I am looking forward to the opportunity to work within the Post and Auxiliary to make sure we have a successful year.

I appreciate your calls, texts and emails as I learn more about each of you. We have a great team and I pray we always strive to do things for the good of the organization. You can reach me at dowieas@mchsi.com, or (515)208-2004.

Our 2020 elections were as follows: Angie Lauer, Auxiliary President; Theresa Mann, Senior Vice President; Tammie Wulfekuhle-Dirks, Junior Vice President; Elaine Podnar, Secretary; Carol Holmes, Treasurer; Jeannie Andrus, Conductress; Joan Bever, Guard; Doris Decker, Chaplain; Sarah Decker, 3 year trustee (also elected as District 5 President).

**Angie Lauer,
Post 9662 Auxiliary President**

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penses the Post had yet incur, such as utilities, security, and water, while being deprived of income.

“We only net about \$3,500 annually after paying all expenses, including payroll, taxes, licenses, permits, insurance, maintenance/repairs, utilities, trash removal, entertainment, supplies, janitorial services, etc.,” said Koontz.

There was at least one benefit to

having a closed post - the ability to begin a massive cleaning.

“All I can say regarding the shutdown of VFW Post 9662 and Clubroom, is that key people, such as Vicki Feeken, Don Brown, Tammie Wulfekuhle-Dirks, Theresa Mann, and Elaine Podnar spent countless hours cleaning, painting, fixing, and making great use of that time,” said Post Commander James Wettestad,

The virus also affected how we provide assistance for our veterans. While donated items are still being provided, actual “hands-on” assistance has been suspended.

Carolyn Holmes and her husband, Mike have devoted a great amount of time at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Carolyn has served as a weekly volunteer for 10 years and Mike has volunteered there on a weekly basis for eight years.

For the past six years one of their duties has been providing popcorn in the main lobby of the hospital.

“As regular Volunteers at the Des Moines VA, this Covid virus has limited our time my husband and I can be there due to our family members who already have health issues,” said Carolyn. “We really miss being there.

“Since we’re there on a weekly basis, we got to know a lot of the veterans, their families and the staff. Often, we greet them with a smile, give them someone to talk to and/or a hug. We consider those at the VA like an extended family. Not only does it brightens their day, it also brightens ours,” she said.

Even with the Iowa Department Commander’s reopening of Posts and Canteens, requirements are still in place regarding operating at 50 percent capacity, as well as social distancing, hygiene and other public health measures.

Since COVID-19 has yet to run its course, with flare-ups reappearing around many parts of the country, it may be quite some time as to whether we’ll ever return to “life as it used to be,” or accept the current safety measures as “the new norm.”



Friday Night Dances

July 3, 2020

Lonesome Fugitive

July 10, 2020

Country Classic

July 17, 2020

Company’s Comin’

July 24, 2020

Country River

July 31, 2020

Country River

Band donation is \$7 per person at the door. Max occupancy is 70 people. Social distancing must be practiced. Sharing of the dance floor will be necessary due to social distancing guidelines. If you are sick, or have been exposed, do not enter the club. Please, self-quarantine for 14 days. Food is available.

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College Scholarships of \$500 each, were awarded by the Post and Auxiliary to Karsten Lappe, nephew of Cheryl TanCreti; David Potter, grandson of Lois Porath; and Payton Swafford, great nephew of Elaine Podnar .

We need more volunteers. If you’ve taken “time out” from volunteering at the Post or Clubroom, please come back. Talk to the Clubroom Manager, Quartermaster, bartender, or myself, if you can help.

Car and bike shows will be held Thursday evenings, all Summer long, except for July 2 and September 3. Bring your classic car or motorcycle and show it off. We’ll serve hot dogs, bratwurst, cheeseburgers, hamburgers, and pork tenderloins from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

Welcome Angie Lauer, incoming VFW #9662 Auxiliary President, and her Auxiliary officers for 2020-21.

Obituaries of deceased Post or Auxiliary members are posted on the bulletin board. Please visit the VFW Post website at <http://vfw9662.org>, Facebook at “<https://facebook/post9662/>” or email “VFW9662@gmail.com,” to learn more about Post events.

Post meetings are now held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is Tuesday, July 7.

“No one does more for veterans! What have you done for the VFW or Clubroom today? I’m honored to serve as VFW Post 9662 Commander and hope to see you at the Post! Thanks for your support!

James Wettestad
Post 9662 Commander



Every Thursday 5 to 7:30 p.m.

*Bring your vintage
or show vehicle
and get
one free drink ticket.*

*The show will be
cancelled at 4 p.m.,
the day of the event.
if it's raining,
or the streets are wet.*

TODAYS SPECIALS	
Hamburger	\$6
Cheeseburger	\$6
Bratwurst	\$5
Hot Dog	\$5.50
Pork Tenderloin	\$6
Side Dishes	Extra

In Memoriam



Members who are no
longer with us.

VFW Members

Duane Joe Johnson

Franklin Arbs

Gerald Gathercole

Edward Metge

Auxiliary Members

None