

LEGION Post **22** NEWS

July-August
2020



POST**22**★

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★



Adjutant Report

Comrades

Here at Lodi Post 22, Veterans are at the heart of everything we do. This pandemic has caused major disruptions for us, our outreach activities and our community support events. To date, since we have discontinued all events that require the use of our building, we are busy engaging in activities that will better enable us to support our veteran's community in the future. Monetary gifts have had a direct and immediate impact by ensuring our people have a safe place to acquire services, hold meetings, enjoy meals, and a place where they can access mental health services.

As the pandemic continues, we are taking this opportunity to update, repair and improve our building. We have thoroughly cleaned, repaired and re-painted our kitchen and our social hall. We are removing all of the unsafe ceiling tiles, re-painting the ceiling and will eventually install a dropped ceiling that will improve lighting and lower our utility costs. The social hall project will cost us more than \$30,000.00, and we understand that these two projects are outpacing available funds. We currently have in-hand and promises of approximately \$12,000.00, so we are stepping out on faith that ample donations will come in as we proceed. If you can contribute, you will be directly helping our veterans today.

I draw inspiration from the ways our Lodi American Legion Community is coming together to help one another. We think of the greater good and choose compassion in moments of need. That's what it means to lead with purpose, and that's what it means to be an American Legionnaire. I am deeply grateful for the generosity of our community.

Thank you for your generosity of the past; and thank you for answering this call to help now if you are able.

Sincerely,

Robert Gross

Adjutant



Commander's Message

Comrades

Well March, April, and May have been tough times and it looks like June isn't going to be much better. On the upside, businesses are opening up again, including restaurants, barber shops, churches, wineries and brewery's. It looks like we should be able to open for the omelet breakfast in July.

During the lock down we have been able to do some much needed renovations to our great building. Our building manager, Martin Jones, literally took the bull by the horns. First was the kitchen. It has new paint from ceiling to floor. This was accomplished with the help of a couple of helpers. Thanks to Victoria, Ria, Mike Bennett, Mike Ratto, Bob Gross, John Bates, Bill Selling, Epi Sauseda, Allen Bennett, and Rick Tellyer.

Oh, I almost forgot the main hall. The ceiling tiles were removed and the ceiling painted black. The upper half of the walls are light grey and the bottom portion were repaired and now off white. The doors are painted a darker grey. The back of the stage was also painted black. The kitchen service windows have new stainless steal counter tops, (thank you Bill Selling). Stop by and take a look, I think you will be impressed.

Memorial Day was not as good as in past years but we did set the grave flags with the help of volunteers. Thanks Ken.

We also cancelled the Awards Dinner and hopefully can reschedule it later in the summer.

Mike Ratto has lined up a couple of guest speakers and hopefully we can get back to meetings. I think advertising the guest speakers will help draw more member to the general meetings. Hopefully some new members also. Which reminds me, all veterans are now eligible for membership, not just wartime veterans.

We have a great line of officers for next year headed by Rick Tellyer as commander, Jene Vanzant as 1st Vice Commander and Mike Ratto as 2nd Vice, Commander, Bob Gross as Adjutant, Chad Donley as Chaplin, John Bates as Finance Officer, Glen Duspiva as Sargent at Arms, Ken Kramlich as Service Officer and Martin Jones as Building Manager. Executive Board members are Scott Fiene, Karl Nielsen, Steve Howard, and Muriah Grabner.

In closing, I want to let you know what an honor is has been for me to be your Commander for the last year and hope that next year will also be successful. Please stay safe during the troubled times.

Randy Bender

Commander

Post 22 Officers and Executive Board Members

American Legion Lodi Post 22	209-368-1420
Commander: Rick Tellyer	209-601-0864
1st Vice: Jean VanZant	209-327-3863
2nd Vice: Mike Ratto	209-727-5064
Adjutant: Bob Gross	209-334-0505
Asst. Adjutant: Martin Jones	209-625-7982
Finance Officer: John Bates	209-663-8028
Chaplain: Chad Donley	209-256-9881
Sgt. At Arms: Glen Duspiva	209-334-4346
Service Officer: Ken Kramlich	209-479-2884
Building Manager: Martin Jones	209-625-7982
Board Member: Scott Fiene	209-712-2868
Board Member: Stephen Howard	209-747-5944
Board Member: Muriah Grabner	209-861-1544
Board Member: Karl Nielsen	209-369-8497



Business Office Hours

W/F 1-4 pm

Lodi Post 22 Phone: 209-368-1420

lodipost22@gmail.com



Auxiliary Attic



I hope everyone is well and staying healthy, and now slowly going out a **little** bit at a time!

Everything that I predicted, about Girls State, in my last newsletter did not happen. Girls State was cancelled, and a virtual-simulated Girls State will be happening on-line with the girls spending one day presenting their bills, etc. They will receive credit from the program in this pandemic year. But I'm sure, you like me, feel it's just not the same. Our State Convention has also been cancelled, and all Department officers are retaining their state positions for another year.

We didn't get to have a Memorial Day ceremony this year, at Lodi Community Cemetery, but the members did get out, and put the little flags on each Veterans grave, early in the morning and then take them down that evening. I did participate in the Virtual filming at Cherokee Memorial Cemetery by placing the wreath. The Post Color Guard did the 21 gun salute, and Chad Donely gave the invocation, and closing prayers. You can view the 30 minute ceremony at cherokeememorial.com and just click on the Memorial Day.

I would like to thank everyone for donating to the Poppy fund-raiser, and just a little reminder that all the monies collected must go directly to Veterans, active serving military, and their families. I hope you all were wear them on May 22nd National Poppy day. Thanks to all that donated. We have been donating additional funds to VA Livermore to help up grade, and get new computers for them. With no visitors they have been using the computer to communicate with their families and friends in the out-side world. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that helped making face masks, and donate cards. We sent 54 masks, and over 133 cards, and a roll or stamps. This will help them communicating with their loved ones until people are allowed back for visits. Our talented member Carol, has made so many masks for our local Assisted Living homes too! Again thank you ladies, I couldn't have done it without your talent, and support.

We just finished another Zoom District 11 meeting June 6, and most officers will be retaining their same seats, with the exception of 1st Vice President, which will now be Arlene Smith from Amador Unit #108. She has been accepted, and voted in. The District 11 installation is set for July 11, in Ripon, at 10:00 am. The first District meeting is set for September 19th tentative at Amador Post 108, Sutter Creek. Our Post/Unit will be hosting the District meeting on January 9th 2021. So heads up!

Now I hate to be the barer of bad news but, Valley Spring Bill Brinlee Unit #102 is giving up their charter. Some of their members will be transferring down to our Unit, so when they do, lets make them feel welcome. Our District is now down to 9 Units. We need new, members. So let's get out there and recruit one. If we all did that we would double our Units membership!

Dates to remember:

Monthly meeting – June 18th – our Post 6:00 pm – we can keep a social distance!

District 11 - Installation July 11th in Ripon 10:00

Remember service not self.

Ann Scholl – ALA Unit 22, President



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

STILL ONE NATION UNDER GOD

It's hard to believe that we are 7 months into 2020 and what a crazy year this has been. I am looking forward to things slowly going back to normal as we are prayerfully in a post COVID-19 season. Although we may not get to gather in large groups at Lodi Lake to watch fireworks this 4th of July, I am still looking forward to celebrating our freedoms with my family and remembering the brave service men and women of the past and present who make our freedoms possible.

We became a free country on July 4, 1776. However, I think that many may not know – or forget – that America is also a nation under God founded on Christian principles. When I was in school, we were taught that 54 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence were Christians and 27 of them held theology degrees. John Hancock, the 1st signer of the Declaration of Independence wrote, "Resistance to tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and, with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us" (*History of the United States of America*, Vol. II, p. 229.).

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Upcoming EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June Omelet Breakfast is canceled one last time

July 2nd: Executive Board meeting 1pm

July 11th: Broadway Concert 5-9pm at POST
This is a benefit for our post. Please see flyer for more information

July 16th: General Meeting 6pm

July 19th: Omelet Breakfast 8 to 11am.

August 6th: Executive Board Meeting 1pm

August 20th: Installation Dinner 5pm.
Social hour, Installations, Awards, and then dinner. Please rsvp to 209-368-1420 by 8/15/2020

August 16th: Omelet Breakfast 8 to 11am

Enough time has passed and California has moved steadily forward in the reopening of businesses and public spaces. that we are confident that we can do in person meetings while still do social distancing and provide a safe environment. We look forward to seeing you all soon.

One of our members offers vision care for homeless veterans. If you know of a local veteran in need, please call Dr. Molamphy at 747-3010.



The mission of Life Line Screening is to provide advance, yet affordable and convenient health screenings that supplement your traditional healthcare.

They can help make you aware of a previously silent, unrecognized problem that can now get treated at an early stage, or confirm that you are on the right path and should continue your healthy habits.

Don't let heart disease and stroke get in your way of the life you love. Call toll free 1-888-653-6441, visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle, or text the word, "circle" to 797979 to schedule your health screening.

Life Line Screening has been using our venue for many years as a community service. If you are interested in a screening, please call or go on line to find the prices and dates. (Next date here in Lodi is August 10th.)



June's Omelet Breakfast has been canceled.

We are confident that breakfast will resume in July.

"Broadway" Musicals Concert

Directed by Nicole Howton



Saturday, July 11, 2020
7pm-9pm

\$10 General Admission
For Tickets, Text or Call
209-481-5134

No Children Under 4 Please

Doors open to the public at 6:15pm
Beer, spirits and snacks will
be available for purchase before the show
and during intermission!

American Legion Memorial Building
320 N Washington St, Lodi

This Concert promises
to be a fun evening.

Please purchase tickets
early due to limited
seating for this event.

Lodi Musical Theater
will present a full
evening of music.

Adult beverages will be
available for purchase.

Snacks will be available
for purchase.

Take this opportunity to
see the new look of the
interior of the Ameri-
can Legion.

If you have any ques-
tions, please call 209-
481-5134



Your generous support of our Post 22 is greatly appreciated

A valuable local partner of the American Legion



**GRIZZLY
MECHANICAL**

209 425 1490
DAVE BENDER LIC #1011141
grizzlymechanicalservices@gmail.com

Thank You!



for deliciously donating their locally crafted beer for another successful fundraiser. Your participation in this tradition is greatly appreciated.

A valuable local partner of the American Legion

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As we celebrate our freedoms this 4th of July, let us also remember that we are still one Nation Under God. The late, great, Ronald W. Regan, our 40th President, once said, "Without God there is no virtue because there is no prompting of the conscience...without God there is a coarsening of the society; without God democracy will not and cannot long endure...If we ever forget that we are one Nation Under God, then we will be a Nation gone under."

Happy 4th of July



Lets get started with the first section



We are getting serious now. Organized chaos



Scraping all the peeling paint off the ceiling and walls in the kitchen had to happen and it was no easy task. Thank you Mar-



Even the Hood Vent got a new coat of paint.

Allen Bennett was not afraid of hard work.





Look what we found under all that paint and dirt.



Robin Brown spent a couple of days reorganizing and putting things away in the kitchen.



Randy Bender finished painting the stage cabinets and kept right on going down the stairs well on the west side of the stage. We could not have done without Randy. He showed up every day.

A special thank you to Martin Jones for leading the effort to give a facelift to our American Legion kitchen and Main Hall. Commander Randy Bender showed up every day to help paint, discuss problems and help make decisions. It was a huge project and we owe them a both a debt of gratitude.

Bill Selling was also a big part of the team. He donated the stainless countertops in the kitchen serving line and he was certainly was not afraid of hard work.

Allen Bennett, Epi Sauseda, Mike Bennett, Rick Tellyer, Mike Ratto, Victoria Corona, John Bates, Robing Brown, Bob Gross all helped in some capacity. Martin could not have done it without you. Many hands make for light work.

Thank you all.



Before and after



The refurbishing of the stove took two weeks of hard work.



Bill Selling oversaw the installation of the new serving counters.

Thank you so much



The kitchen floor took three coats of paint. WE had to paint one section at a time.



THE KITCHEN TURNED OUT BEAUTIFUL.



Victoria finishing up cleaning the stage cabinets.



Commander Randy Bender painting kitchen cabinets



Allen Bennett and Martin Jones painting in the kitchen



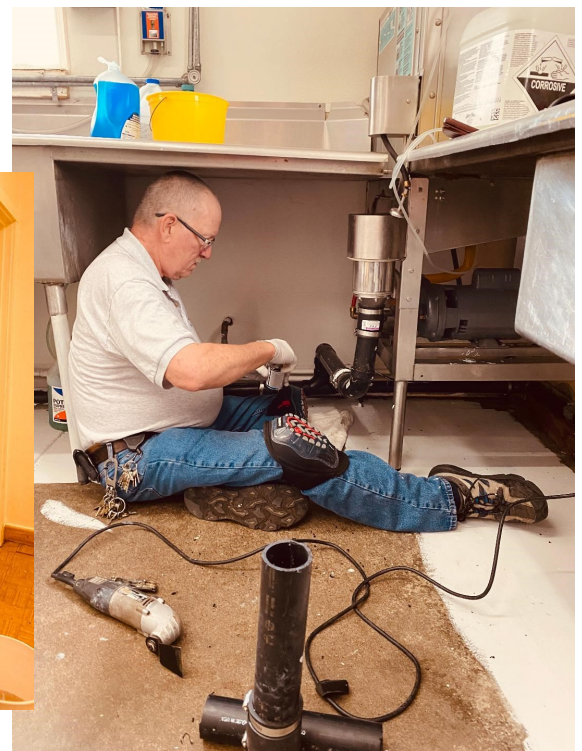
Epi Sauseda painting the pot and pan room.



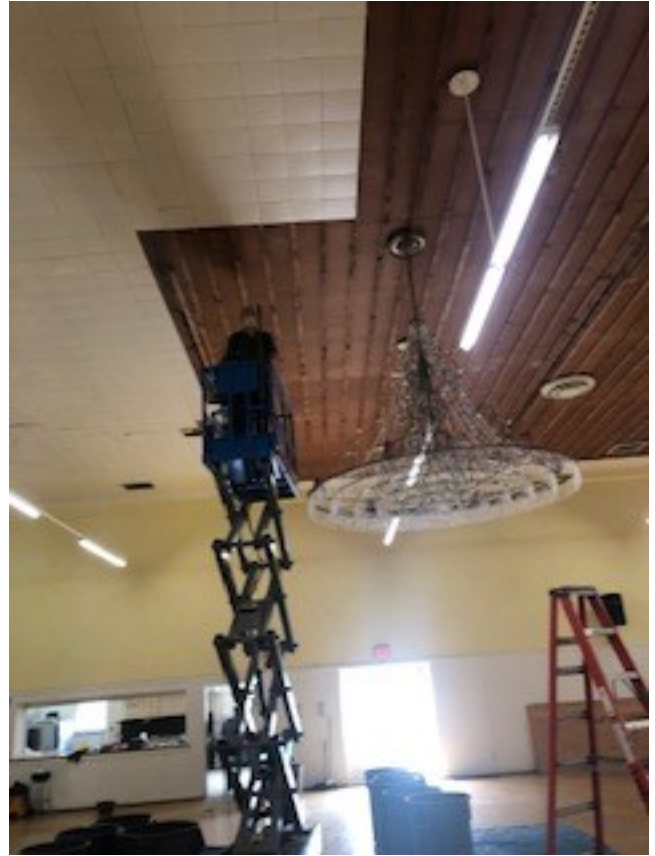
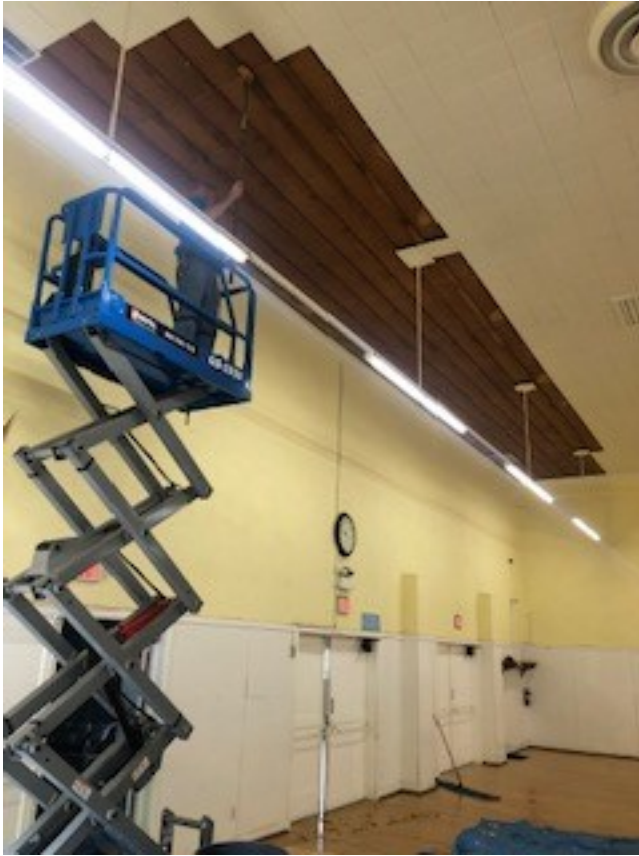
Martin painting window trim



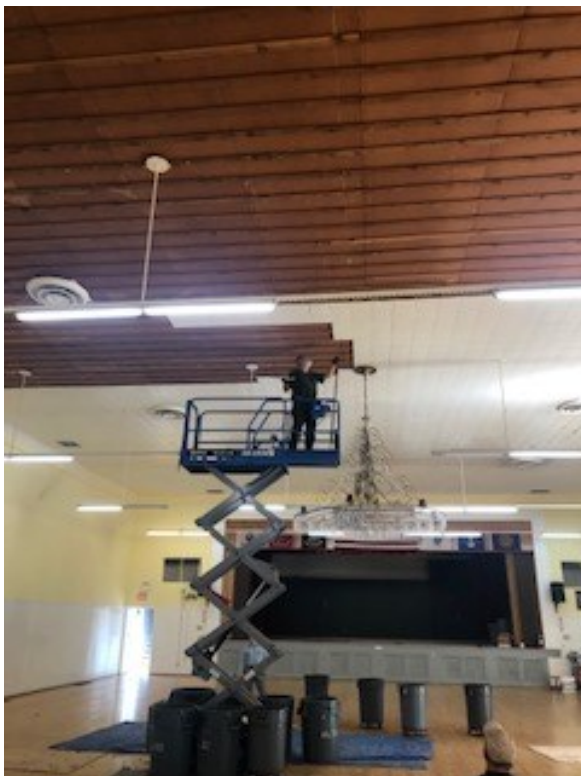
Victoria cleaning walls



Martin repaired and replumbed the dishwasher.



Martin Jones spent days peeling ceiling tiles off. Helpers were on hand to fill trash cans and transferred tiles to the dumpster. We so appreciate the team work and time donated to this project. It was a long time coming.



Taking extra care around the chandelier.

Thank you helpers, Mike Bennett, Rick Tellyer, John Bates, Bill Selling, Randy Bender, Mike Ratto.

What a mess and they all worked hard.





The guys made sure our chandelier was not damaged.



The ceiling was a challenge put we did not slow down.



Martin Jones with a little help from Ria painted the ceiling trim by hand. It looks great. Team work and a lot to be proud of.



View of the ceiling while working in the scissor lift. Good thing we are not afraid of heights.



The ceiling tiles are now in the dumpster.

What a mess that job was.

Well earned break.



Epi painted the pot and pan room, up the east stage doors, storage room and the stage bathroom. He just kept going.



Randy Bender tackled the storage doors under the stage are now darker grey.



Martin Jones put paint on the walls and Bob Gross scraped paint off the floor.

Martin doesn't look that guilty about it either. Martin called the paint spots 'dippin dots' and there were plenty of those 'dots'.

We all worked together to make it happen and it is looking fabulous.



TAH DAH