

American Legion Family Post 408 Meeting – February 21, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Commander Steve Tackett followed by a salute to the American flag and opening prayer by Chaplin John McCullough.

VA Speaker

Commander Tackett introduced the speaker from the VA, Jeff Herndon, Public Affairs Officer. Herndon presented information on the 2022 PACT (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) Act. The 2022 PACT Act expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic-exposures during the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post 9/11 era. He covered eligibility, showed a short video, and answered questions. Herndon also noted there is a toxic exposure screening available for VA enrollees. (See attached brochure.)

Legion Report (Steve Tackett)

The plan for the new bathrooms was to use the materials purchased from the school district, but the stalls will not work in the ladies' room due to the elongated toilets that were installed.

A local company was contacted for a quote on steel, powder-coated panels. The quote, including all parts necessary for installation along with a 10% discount, came to \$3,314. We would install them.

Suggestion was made by Mike Saindon to divert the unused floor donations to the bathroom stalls.

There are broke pieces for the men's stalls this company can replace. Hugh Clare suggested we also get a quote on new stalls for the men's restroom. Tackett will get the additional quote and discuss it tomorrow at the BOG and PEC meetings.

ALA Report

American Legion Birthday Party is Saturday, March 18.

ALA questioned what meat would be on the menu for the Legion Birthday Party. Tackett indicated smoked pork loin and turkey breasts had been discussed. Several members have smokers that we can ask for assistance.

ALA still has a limited supply of patriotic tumblers available for \$25 each. Choice of black & white or color. Check the website for details: americanlegionfamilypost408.org

SAL Report (Mike Saindon)

On-going RADA kitchenware fund raiser. See website for details: americanlegionfamilypost408.org

ALR Report (Terry Gowen)

Operation Holiday Toy Run on Saturday, July 8, will now be run by AL 408 and ALR 408.

Looking at options for an ALR fund raiser.

Foundation (Pat Kitterman)

For donations, local businesses will be the first focus of the Foundation with large corporations following later.

The setup with Kroger's has been completed. You can now choose AL 408 as the recipient of your Dillons Community Reward. Watch for instructions on how to set it up.

Another way to add funds to the Foundation is to join iGive.com. There are hundreds of on-line places to shop, including your favorite stores, that will donate to us. Instructions for set up will be sent out shortly, and details are on the website: americanlegionfamilypost408.org

A logo for the Foundation was approved at the last meeting. A sample was passed around.

Venmo has also been set up for the Foundation.

Fundraising (Rhonda Hundley)

March 4 is the drive through Pancake Feed benefiting the Derby food pantry. We will begin set-up that Saturday morning at 7 am. Serving is from 8 to 10:30 am. Come join us. It's a lot of fun.

The evening before at 6 pm on Friday, March 3, we will be loading and transporting grills and supplies to the City Building needed for the Pancake Feed.

We will be joining BG Products during the month of March to collect toiletries and clothing needed by patients at the VA Hospital. Bring donations here to the post. Check the website for details: americanlegionfamilypost408.org

Prior to the Legion meeting on April 6, there will be a fundraiser: breakfast for dinner. Watch for details.

Thanks to everyone that attended the Trash Can Nachos dinner tonight. We had several compliments on the flavor.

BOG (Mike Saindon)

The carpet in the meeting hall will be cleaned on Tuesday, February 28. Help is needed this weekend to get everything moved out of the room.

Check the Wish List on the website: americanlegionfamilypost408.org Many things are needed to help us get open.

Volunteers will be needed for bartending once we are open. A drink directory will be available.

Saturdays and Sundays: help is needed to get open. There are jobs for everyone. The bar will be laid out this weekend so exact measurements can be made for the bar itself.

Terry Gowen reported the cages for the propane have been purchased.

Open Floor

Dan McKelvey noted that the VA representative at tonight's meeting stepped in at the last minute due to a scheduling conflict with the original presenter.

Anyone needing assistance at the VA should reach out to the American Legion representatives, and not the VA advocate. Two of the best American Legion reps in the nation are here at the Wichita VA Hospital.

Closing

Chaplin John McCullough lead in the closing prayer.

Flag of our country saluted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm

Next American Legion Family Meeting is Tuesday, March 21, at 7pm