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Minneapolis-Richfield American Legion Auxiliary Unit 435

Hello everyone,

Hope that this email finds you safe and healthy.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Auxiliary Executive Committee and General Membership meetings were canceled for the month of March.

I am sending an email out to all Auxiliary members that we have emails on file for so that everyone has an update on things. Please feel free to forward this to anyone that may be interested.

Hail and Farewell:

I am sorry to report that Patty Swanson passed away from natural causes. Patty was a Past Unit President and Past 5th District President. Although she hasn't been active with the Auxiliary for several years she was a huge influence on our Unit and District. She requested no services and will be buried at Fort Snelling next to Don at a later date.

We also lost an active member of the 5th District American Legion – Walt Lyndsley was a member of the Courthouse Post and past 5th District Commander. Walt succumbed to COVID-19 on March 30th. Please keep Sunny Dauphin and Walt's family in your prayers. I talked to Sunny on Monday and she seemed in good spirits. She is in quarantine until April 10th.

Building Updates:

At the February General Membership meeting of the American Legion, a Transition committee was formed and tasked with providing recommendations for moving forward. That committee met 3 times and provided recommendations to Commander Adam. The Committee has been disbanded. The Legion will communicate further updates on what will happen with the Building.

Auxiliary Property:

On March 15th the Auxiliary obtained a storage unit to store all of our property so that they can be removed from the Post Building. The storage unit is 10x10 and will cost \$65 per month. There are some discounts that we took advantage of for the first couple of months. The plan is to get the property out of the Legion building so that we have the access to our property and not dependent on Legion. Once the Shelter in Place restrictions ease, a date to pack and move our property to the storage unit will be announced.

Auxiliary Mail:

The access to mail at the Post building is continuing to be a challenge and we want to ensure that we are getting our mail in a timely fashion with Poppy season coming very quickly. The Auxiliary Executive Committee was contacted and the decision was made that Auxiliary mail will now be going to Sherry Morris's home. She will coordinate the distribution of mail to the appropriate Auxiliary members. Sherry Morris continues to process the Membership for the Auxiliary.

Annual Reports:

The Department office announced there is no change in the deadlines for reporting our activities for the period of April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2020. The committee chairman will do their best to pull the reports together. Please email any volunteer activities that you have done over the last year to Unit President Jill Davis at jfd@pro-ns.net no later than Wednesday, April 8th. Call or text any questions to 612-968-1172. The unit reports will be submitted via email to the Department Office.

Elections:

The Department office provided guidance on this item. They stated that the officers stay in their current positions until an election can be held. In our February meeting, there was discussion that all of the officers would stay in their current positions for another year. The current officers seemed willing. We will hold elections at the next General Membership meeting (either in April or May).

Speaking of meetings, with the shelter in place direction from National, State, and local leaders there is a chance that we will not be able to have our April meeting either. One option that is being used at the National, Department, and District levels is to hold a virtual meeting on the web. Would there be any interest in doing this for the April meeting? This meeting would be held using video conference software, though if need be some people can call in. Send your thoughts to me at jfd@pro-ns.net.

5th District President's project:

5th District President's project is for several activities at the Veterans Home. The fundraiser luncheon had to be canceled due to the Shelter in Place Order. We have money in the budget for tickets to attend the fundraiser and another line item for a donation to the 5th District President's project. These line items will be sent to the 5th District Treasurer. In addition at the January Omelet Breakfast tips of \$138.55 are earmarked for the 5th District project. Total donation (at this time) is \$438.55

Please stay home and stay safe during this time. I look forward to when we will get back to being social and supporting our local businesses.

Jill Davis
President
Mpls-Richfield Unit 435

