

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9143

No one does more for Veterans



Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9143, 1045 Dahlonega Hwy. Cumming, GA (770)887-9275 <http://vfwpost9143.com/>

Comrades, this is going to be a good year. First, I like to thank the officers for stepping up for those that are new and those that are existing. I have been trying to figure out some achievable goals this year. One is the sign issue. I am taking this on and hope to get it where it needs to be so that its visible north and south on Hwy 9. Second issue is that we have become a drop off point for people's items. If you see this happening, please inform the officers. That being said, we are going to clean out the storage shed so that it can be properly utilized, as of now we have too many items that have been stored inside and outside the shed. Going forward, we will have an inventory of 3 wheelchairs, 3 walkers, 3 sets of crutches and 4 canes. No porta potties nor ADA shower benches. One, these items are used and due to infectious control procedures, I don't feel comfortable giving another veteran or their family a used appliance. Also, we have other items in the shed, a powered scooter/chair that has been there since Donald was commander, most likely this does not work anymore and may be too corroded to be used, what I am getting at is that we are not masters of hording. We need to be distributing these items as fast as we get them if at all possible.

The outside of the storage shed is a drop off point for appliances, in which we cannot just throw them away unless its safe. So if no one wants these items we need to pay one time for someone to take the freon out of the appliances and then we can load them on a trailer and take them to a recycling location.

Inside the post there will be some minor changes as well. The kitchen in the post will soon be inventoried and then secured to keep from any more items that belong to the post and kitchen from disappearing, and also to prevent theft of merchandise that our kitchen staff purchases for bingo and our meetings. Does this mean the kitchen is off-limits, No! what it means is that we are going to be more accountable. Diane, Donald, Johnny, the officers and Virgil will have a key to the kitchen, and there will be a spare in the lock box in the canteen. It will be the responsibility of the canteen operator to keep track of the key if its going to be used to unlock the kitchen so that it can be returned to the lock box after the kitchen is resecured.

We will also need to come together as a team and clean the kitchen and storage area. I hope we will get volunteers to assist in doing this.

As I have moved to the commander position, I would like to see more volunteers come and assist with projects, Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, Edward L Woods Scholarship, Buddy Poppy drives, color guard for funerals and flag dedication at JROTC and county sporting events, recruiting at the fair, Memorial Day breakfast, Veterans in the classroom – this is big, I have had a lot of replies from schools and students on the power point I present. They do not teach history like they used to in school, and as it is hard for some to talk about what it was like, you must understand if we don't speak out and help this younger generation understand what war or conflicts are, we will be in conflict after conflict. These students are our future leaders.

We also have a turkey shoot that starts in October and ends in December. We used to have Blood drives, I am presently trying to work with the Auxiliary and hold an immunization location at the post as it was presented at the department meeting, the VA will come up and administer immunizations. This will be a good time for recruiting both for Veterans and Auxiliary. Humana also stated they will provide refreshments and snacks.

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Our Post 75-year anniversary is coming up, we have had ideas from a breakfast to holding off to the spring and doing a BBQ. We even thought about a DJ or bringing Bogie back to play music. Ideas on this matter please bring to any of the officers, and past commanders Donald Hughes and David Hopkins.

Another big push from the VA is to recognize female veterans, when recruiting remember to speak to couples, because it may not be evident on who is the actual veteran.

I have been asked also if we can increase the ADA parking at the post. Per the ADA standard we are in compliance, however I am considering adding two spots on the rear side of the building to have rear access.

Our post can be only as great as it can be from volunteering! We have obligations and we need to fill these, like Donald and David I would like to see this post be All-State and All-American, please consider volunteering and assisting us in achieving these goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kepler".

John Kepler, Commander
Post 9143

