



World War I Memorial Post 109
224 W Main St
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Legionnaires and former Legionnaires of Post 109,

June 1, 2022

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing you primarily to invite you to a Special Meeting of your American Legion Post board at 1pm on Saturday June 11th. Specifically, I am doing so because there are two decisions which in accordance with our bylaws require notification to each member of the organization. The first of these is in regard to a prospective purchase of a 1.5-acre property cattycorner to our Post at 323-325 W Allen St. (i.e., the old Lumby's building). The second is in regard to the recommendation of the expulsion of one of our fellow Legionnaires from The American Legion. Both of these decisions are to be made by vote of 2/3 of the membership present at the meeting. Also, I would like to highlight some of the great things that have been going on both within the Post and our community.

If your membership has lapsed and are interested in taking part in these and other important decisions of the Post, we ask that you renew your membership with us before the Special Meeting either in person at the Post or online at <https://www.mylegion.org>.

As you may know, the Post is currently going through the bidding process for a previously approved renovation of the first floor of the building. This renovation will modernize the first-floor ballroom (Bentzel Hall) as well as several of the adjoining rooms. The intent is to meet the needs of our membership by having a large, family-friendly smoke-free and accessible area available for both dining and events. At this very moment our antiquated dumbwaiter is being replaced which will allow for the ready flow of food from the kitchen to the ballroom. Additionally, the small bar in the ballroom will be opened up with plans to be made available for regular service as well. While this is all information about what is currently happening, with the coming opening of this additional space we foresee a need for additional parking space in order to meet the anticipated need. We currently have nearly 900 Legionnaires within our membership, as well as hundreds more members of the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. We recognize that we only see a small portion of our total Legion Family on a regular basis due to a number of reasons including the current lack of a family-friendly, non-smoking area for comradeship. Even with the limited number of members who come in now, we often find that we are at capacity for parking.

Given the renovations, we are hopeful that many of those we don't see now will rejoin us. Space within the Borough of Mechanicsburg is fairly limited, and space adjoining our property is even more so. By purchasing the property, we not only have a means of meeting our immediate needs but also securing additional options for the future of our Post. The board's recommendation is for a vote of yes on the purchase of the property. We plan to post additional information onto our webpage at <https://www.legionpost109.com> in the week prior to the meeting as well as share additional information and take questions at the meeting on the 11th.

It is with sadness that the board is also asking for your vote in regards to the recommendation from an appointed Trial Board of your peers (three Legionnaires in good standing who were asked to sit and hear evidence regarding the conduct of the member) for the expulsion of one of our fellow Legionnaires. While

we all as Legionnaires should never wish to push out a fellow veteran from our ranks, at times it is a necessary step for the safety and good of the organization as a whole. We are again asking for your vote of yes for expulsion of the member. The recommendations of the Trial Board will be presented at the meeting on the 11th as well; however, there are 5 charges enumerated in the bylaws which may individually result in suspension or expulsion from The American Legion. The Trial Board found the individual's actions in violation of 3: "(a) disloyalty to ... The American Legion; ... (c) dishonesty; **or** ... (e) conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion."

Our Legion has been very active over the last year both internally and within the community. In addition to the signs outside the Post and bulletin boards & video displays inside, if you haven't done so, we invite you to check out our website at <https://www.legionpost109.com> or follow us on Facebook (as *American Legion Post 109 Home Association Canteen*). Our Communications Committee, a joint effort of members across our Legion Family, does yeoman's work to keep our membership informed of what events are upcoming. While some of the events are focused on Canteen activities (our primary fundraising activity), many support what we as The American Legion are truly focused on, the Four Pillars of The American Legion: *Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation*. If you are unaware of these Pillars, you can find out more by going through Legion Basic at <https://www.legion.org/alei> using an active membership number.

We are excited to announce that our board recently made a decision to pay the dues of all of our Korean War era veterans in addition to those of our World War II era veterans in perpetuity: meaning that we will pay their dues for as long as they remain with us.

We are also proud to announce that Christopher Adam, one of our junior SAL members and soon to be Legionnaire as he heads off to the Air Force Academy, was recently announced as this year's National Eagle Scout of the Year 2022 (read more at <https://www.legion.org/scouting/255730/national-eagle-scout-year-2022-named> , or likely soon in The American Legion Magazine). Our Legion Post supported him throughout his project, and we are glad to see what he has been able to achieve and what he will accomplish as he sets out on his military career. Chris is not alone in receiving our support. We have provided support to many other Eagle Scout candidates and are the sponsoring organization of Boy Scout Troop 196, in addition to supporting numerous other youth organizations and events within our community. The Boy Scouts recently held a cleanup day of their camp, Camp Pioneer, located in Dillsburg on the morning of May 21st. If you are interested in helping out on future efforts, please contact Past Commander Michael Neff (at either 717-414-0979 or miken61954@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Jamie M. Lethiecq

Commander

The American Legion, World War I Memorial Post 109