

The Northerner

Mark A. Moore, Post No. 3



www.facebook.com/MarkAMoore.Post.3

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2019-2021 Post Officers

- Commander: Robert "Mac" McMillen
- 1st Vice: Vacant
- 2nd Vice: Vacant
- Chaplain : Pat Natseway
- Adjutant – Fava and McMillen
- Finance Officer – Rick Paterson
- Sgt. At Arms – Vacant
- Post Historian – Vacant
- VA Benefits Officer – Pete Fava

Executive Committee

- Pete Fava
- Rick Paterson
- Pat Natseway

Past Commander

John "JT" Thompson/Deceased
Jake Phelps

American Legion Auxiliary

- President: Wildene Rodriguez
- 1st Vice: Bev Muns
- 2nd Vice: Mary McMillen
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Margret Jamillo
- Chaplain: Vacant
- Sgt. At Arms: Vacant
- Historian: Vacant

SAL Squadron #3

- Commander: Erin O'Brien
- 1st Vice: Jim Southern
- 2nd Vice: Michael Brabee
- Secretary: Vacant
- Treasurer: Ric Hudgins
- Chaplain: Kelly Teague
- Sgt. At Arms: Kelly Teague
- Legionnaire Advisor: VACANT

Commander: The COVID-19 pandemic has hit our post right where it counts the most, our general and Bar funds. We had to close the post in March for several months before opening on a very limited bases. We had to close until we got the go-ahead and open part time/full time from the Governor, the state liquor board and Health department. The City played a role in protecting our community by putting restrictions on places of business, private or public.

- We realized that we could not do events inside our hall. That hit us hard as that is one of our revenue sources to help the legion survive. In 2020, we did not rent our hall to anyone due to the size restrictions (social distance) and we had to cancel several rentals.
- Once open for limited seating (social distances / Mask wearing) our members as legionnaires, Auxiliary and the Sons, and their guests, stop coming in but for good reason, COVID-19 was everywhere in our state and county.
- The American Legion Department of Arizona, decided not to hold a convention to conduct elections and change the officer positions. For your post here, it was hard enough to attract members in the post and just as hard to hold elections from last year. So, it was determined that the dual hatted officers in place now, will remain.
- We had to get creative to make money as the bills were piling up and no other revenue was coming in and product was spoiling. Although we had some money in the bank, we eventually started Saturday PARKING LOT BINGO...in the summer. That was a blast but not the participation we were used to. It was hard to not have it on Wednesdays as was the tradition.
- Eventually the bar was able to open if we cleaned the place top to bottom, to protect guests from getting the Covid. We even opened the hall for BINGO but with limited tables and seating spread apart. Because we didn't rent the hall, we had Bingo on Saturdays at 12 noon and Wednesdays at 7pm. WELCOME BACK Bingo players!!!
- WE MUST THANK the faithful community BINGO players for coming to the post during this pandemic. They have been the saving grace to keeping our 101-year-old post open. In the colder weather parts of 2020, the bar had to close on Mondays due to lack of business. We do pay our Bar manager but there were days his pay was delayed. We barely pay the bills, but we manage!

Meetings were never cancelled. We had the hall with tables spread out, in support of social distancing. Masks were required. The Vaccine was not close to being dispensed until DECEMBER 2020. Although everyone stayed away, the elected officers in 2019 stayed committed to the American Legion and held non-formal meeting as we never had a quorum to conduct official business.

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Membership Meeting

Chaplain's Corner Hello members, friends, and family – I hope you're all having a great New Year so far, despite the pandemic called, COVID-19. Whether you're making changes or having to make changes, keep faith and they will, for the most part, work out for the better. I'd also like to say our hearts are out to you if you've had any difficulties family-wise. We've seen quite a few veterans and members depart recently and it's been on our minds. All we can do is reflect upon their service and time spent with them. **Pat Natseway**

Post Adjutant: Commander and VSO Pete Fava learned a lot about the American Legion adjutant job like membership. This is one job that takes time to complete. It's very important that these membership cards get out to our members, and we did the best we can. I think you will agree, we did a better job in 2020, after you were getting all those reminders from the National Headquarters, to renew. As you know, National will start again in July 2021 on membership drive. Please consider helping and be the next Adjutant of your American Legion Post.

Finance Officer: 1st vice and Finance officer Paterson has been learning a lot about post finances than he cares to admit. This is one job that's the most important job I've ever had, and still working full time plus, as a tow truck driver. I must report that I can't remember a day when our post made money at year's end, in recent history. Our accountant, and I thank her so much, helps me out a lot with the books. I can put the information together but she's our saving grace when it comes to taxes and payroll, but she also keeps track of the income and expenses. BY The grace of the few faithful members of the Legion, Auxiliary and the Sons, we are still here to celebrate our 102nd birthday! WE NEED HELP with tax deductible monetary donations so that we can fix what's been put on the back burner and COVID-19 didn't help either. I am not kidding!

Bingo Committee Chair: The post and community BINGO took a hit in 2020 due to COVID-19 but was never dead. It became more alive and doing well just before the summer months with PARKING LOT BINGO! The machine was brought outside, and we had a big board with numbers on it. If you got a BINGO, you HONKED your car horn...It was a blast!. But as soon as it was getting colder outside and the City allowed gatherings with social distancing in our hall, we continued Saturday at noon Bingo INSIDE! This was always going to be temporary but even to December, we still have community Bingo. If you remember, Bingo was on Sundays, and we will go back to that in 2021! Thank our lucky stars for the COVID-19 Vaccine! Again, thanks for your support! Robert "Mac" McMillen (Bingo Manager) and Mary McMillen Events Coord.

Club Facilities Mangers: Now is the time for all good members to come support your American Legion here in Flagstaff! 2020 has been tough but our members are tougher. We opened to doors for limited hours when we were allowed to open. We were forced to close our doors on Mondays due to lack of patronage to the point the light bill and payroll (one paid employee) could not be justified to be open. We have had to close early and open later towards the end of 2020. WE hope that 2021 will be a better year and we see our members and their guests coming back in again.

If you are not on social media, you should be. We have a Facebook account and I try to put all the events, both announced and unannounced on there. If you want to know what is going on, our social media page is a good source!

In the summer months, we continued the Friday evening tradition of Fish & Shrimp dinners, sponsored by the Legion. The Auxiliary also did their end of the month Fish Fry's and unannounced dishes that were a treat in itself!

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Next Membership Meeting: SECOND Tuesdays of every month at 6pm

Special Post Meeting: Scheduled at the request by membership or Commander of the post

From the VA Benefits Officer: Pete Fava

Are you or do you know of an American Legion Member that was in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War? Do you know what the Blue Water Navy RVN Act of 2019 allows? Did you know the presumptive illnesses of Vietnam? The Blue Water Navy (BWN) Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (PL 116-23) extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

The diseases now on the VA's Agent Orange list are ischemic heart disease, lung and trachea cancers, prostate cancer, multiple myeloma, Hodgkin's disease, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, Parkinson's Disease, type 2 diabetes, peripheral neuropathy, AL amyloidosis, chronic B-cell leukemia, chloracne, early-onset peripheral Neuropathy. As the VA Benefits Officer of this post, I can and will assist veterans and surviving spouses on submitting their claims to the VA. I have been told that if you received a letter that explains this new law as it pertains to you... you first have to see the Vietnam registry folks at VAMC Prescott. Then call the post and use extension #5.

From the Post Executive Board:

Many thanks to the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the volunteer bartenders, who have helped Post #3 become a hub of Family-centered Veteran service and support. We don't have lots of money, but we are NOT writing rubber checks and pleading with our creditors to give us more time to pay our bills, as we once did. We no longer have long-term contracts for equipment we do not need at prices we cannot afford. The year 2020 was not kind to us as a post. The members stayed away and for good reason; COVID-19. When social distancing was introduced, it was not imagined that everyone would stay away, and we would have to close our doors on certain days and open/close hours that we were not used to. We as a group continued to hold meetings to keep the post from shuttering our 101-year-old doors and I think we've done that. Anytime we're not talking about selling the property at 204 W Birch St, that means our charter is not in jeopardy, right?

"Mac" (2020 Commander) and Mary (Events coordinator) McMillen, Bev Muns (Kitchen Mgr), Waldine Rodriguez (Auxiliary President), Pete (VSO/EB), and Richard Paterson (Finance/EB) are ALWAYS generous with their time, energy, and great ideas when it comes to post events and BINGO! What we lack are YOUR ideas and time.

There are, of course, more people to mention and thank, including every member of our core group, who always show up and turn to, and seldom get recognition. We all know who you are, and we're grateful. Let's go forward into 2021 and have fun!! If you have some input, please submit to the Bartender, Adjutant Box, or Email us at

FlagstaffAL3@Gmail.com

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Executive Committee