
QUARTERLY UPDATE

Building Momentum. Strengthening Post 500.

It has been a busy and exciting few months at American Legion Post 500. Since taking office, one of my biggest goals has been to build momentum and bring renewed attention to some of the fundamentals that keep a Post strong - improving our facilities, strengthening our organization, supporting our veterans and community, and making sure Post 500 is positioned for a strong future.

We have made a lot of progress in a short period of time, but none of it happens because of one person. It takes a dedicated Board, our employees, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Riders, volunteers, members, and community partners all working together.

I'm proud of what this team has accomplished, and I wanted to take a few minutes to share some of the progress being made around Post 500.

Camping & Parking

We took over the management of camping and parking just before May. With the help of Jim Bellaire, we have already made a number of positive changes to improve both the camper experience and the overall operation of camping at Post 500.

We have also updated electrical poles as needed throughout the camping area, improving functionality and safety for our campers.

Camping and parking have long been important parts of Post 500, particularly because of our unique location across from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. By taking a more active role in managing these areas, we believe there are opportunities to improve the experience while also strengthening an important source of revenue for the Post.

Reserve your camping spot: [Post 500 Camping Reservations](#)

A New & Improved Website

With the help of Rob Cadick, the Post 500 website has received a complete upgrade.

One of our priorities has been improving communication and making it easier for members and the community to know what is happening at Post 500. Our new website gives us a much better platform to share Post news, promote events, provide useful information to our members, preserve our history, and introduce Post 500 to potential new members and visitors.

This is an area we intend to continue building on as we find new ways to keep our members informed and connected.

Improvements Around the Post

We have also begun addressing projects around the property that needed renewed attention.

The back deck railing has been improved to make the area safer and more user-friendly. We have remodeled the former poker room so that, while poker remains suspended, the space can be rented and generate additional revenue for the Post.

Some of the most important improvements, however, aren't necessarily the ones members can see.

We have begun putting our major mechanical and safety systems - including HVAC, plumbing and fire suppression - on regular preventative-maintenance schedules.

Our approach going forward is simple: identify problems early, maintain our equipment properly, and stay ahead of issues rather than waiting for something to fail.

Getting Our Kitchen Back Up and Running

One example of why that renewed focus on preventative maintenance matters came when we discovered that our kitchen fire-suppression system had not received the attention and service it required, resulting in the temporary shutdown of our kitchen.

What could have become a major setback instead became a great example of teamwork and quick thinking.

Our staff immediately adapted, developing a temporary menu that allowed us to continue serving our members. They even fired up the grill and took the cooking outside, grilling menu favorites so we could keep the food coming.

At the same time, our Board moved quickly to get the necessary repairs completed at a reasonable cost and with minimal downtime.

The system has now received the attention it needed, and fire suppression is among the critical systems being placed on a regular maintenance schedule so we can help prevent situations like this in the future.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in, adapted and worked together to keep things moving. It was a great reminder of what can happen when everyone pulls together for Post 500.

Recognizing the People Who Make Post 500 Great

We have brought back and recommitted to keeping current our Volunteer of the Quarter and Employee of the Quarter recognition programs.

Post 500 simply could not operate without the people who give their time, energy and talents to this organization. Recognizing those contributions needs to remain a priority, and we want to make sure the people doing the work know that their efforts are noticed and appreciated.

Going forward, we intend to keep these recognitions active and make celebrating the people behind Post 500 part of what we do.

Membership & Participation Are Growing

We are continuing to welcome new members to Post 500. Growing our membership is essential to the future of our organization, and it is exciting to see new people becoming involved.

Just as importantly, every position on our Board is currently filled - something Post 500 has not seen in many years.

We have also maintained a full quorum at every meeting, another encouraging sign of renewed involvement and participation.

A strong Post needs more than names on a membership roster. It needs people willing to show up, participate, volunteer, share ideas and serve.

We are seeing that happen again at Post 500, and that is a very encouraging sign for our future.

Supporting Local Students

Post 500 continues its commitment to our community by awarding multiple scholarships to local students.

Supporting the next generation is one of the many ways our Legion can make a lasting difference beyond the walls of our Post.

We are proud to continue that tradition and recognize young people in our community as they take the next step in their education.

Speedway Car Show Comes to Post 500

After weather forced the cancellation of the Speedway Parks and Recreation car show at its original location, they chose to move the rescheduled event to the Post 500 property.

We are excited to welcome the community to our Post, and Post 500 will be open during the car show.

Building stronger relationships with the Town of Speedway and other community organizations is an important part of moving Post 500 forward. Events like this give us another opportunity to open our doors, welcome our neighbors and introduce more people to who we are and what we do.

A New Post 500 Podcast

Another new way we are improving communication and telling the Post 500 story is through the launch of the Post 500 Podcast, in partnership with Speedway Community TV.

The podcast features veterans from our own Legion sharing stories about their time in the service, what the American Legion and Post 500 mean to them, and even a few Indianapolis Motor Speedway stories along the way.

I join Dave Wilson as we help tell the stories of the veterans who make our Post what it is.

Watch and subscribe: [Post 500 Podcast on YouTube](#)

We are excited about what we've started and look forward to continuing to grow the podcast and preserve more of our veterans' stories.

Auxiliary Serving Our Community

Our Auxiliary continues to demonstrate what service means.

Recently, Auxiliary members prepared and distributed backpacks to people experiencing homelessness, providing needed supplies while representing the compassion and service at the heart of the American Legion family.

Thank you to our Auxiliary for continuing to make a difference in our community and representing Post 500 so well.

Moving Post 500 Forward

There is still plenty of work ahead, but there is also a lot to be proud of.

We have a full Board. Members are attending meetings. New members are joining. Our facilities are improving. Preventative maintenance is being addressed. Recognition programs are active again. New sources of revenue are being explored. Communication is improving. Our community partnerships are growing.

And most importantly, people are stepping forward and getting involved.

That is how we build a stronger Post 500.

Some of the changes we've made are highly visible. Others are happening behind the scenes. But they all share the same goal: making sure the things that need attention receive it, keeping our members better informed, taking care of our facilities, recognizing our people, and creating new opportunities for Post 500.

Thank you to our Board, employees, Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, Riders, volunteers, members, and everyone else who has contributed over the past few months.

I appreciate the trust you have placed in me as Commander, and I'm excited about where we are headed.

We've accomplished a lot, but we're just getting started.

Jason Corlette

Commander

American Legion Post 500