



*From the Desk of The Commander
Quantico - Buck Keyes Post 28
The American Legion
April 30, 2008*

To the Members and Guests of American Legion Post 28:

As I enter my sixth month as Commander of Post 28, I thought I would take a moment to share some of OUR accomplishments, OUR vision, and just simply say – THANKS!!

First, I want to thank the Past Commanders and Executive Board for setting the conditions to allow US to make these accomplishments and make your Post even better than before. I also need to personally thank all the volunteers. At the risk of omitting some – and if I did, please accept my apology up front – but I feel compelled to name a few of the volunteers who gave so freely of their time: Duane Witmer, Gary Holt, John and Sue Cordner, Rick McCormick, Mike Payne, Jack Lynch, John Payne, Yvonne Gardner, Carol Long, George Lussier, Danny Jones, Raymond Mountjoy, Jerry and Darlene Schrader, Arnie, Nick, and all the volunteers who make Bingo such a success. Also, don't forget the cooks, bartenders, and servers who make our breakfasts, dinners and functions such a success.

Second, in addition to some of the more visible things such as renovating the Post, some of the additional accomplishments are:

- WE have established set operating hours, hired more staff – and more are planned
- WE have reduced our loan more than \$15,000.00
- WE have cleaned the storage shed and surrounding area of all the old items
- WE have repaired both furnaces and both AC units at a cost of nearly \$4,000.00
- WE have acquired a breakfast/salad bar
- WE have purchased a pool table for which we now receive all proceeds
- WE have purchased a stainless steel ice storage chest
- WE have shopped around for the best value quality products to lower our costs
- WE now have more than \$2,000.00 in pre-paid stocks
- WE have paid all taxes
- WE have purchased new tables, table cloths, and acquired more chairs
- WE have purchased new glasses, plates, and silverware
- WE have purchased a new gas grill
- WE have erected a sign and are making new signs to replace the broken one at the entrance
- WE have upgraded SOME of the electrical wiring – still a long way to go
- WE have painted the entrance, repaired the door, and set up the POW/MIA table
- WE have installed smoke eaters in the bar area
- WE have new sand for the horse shoe pits
- WE purchased and installed a new hot water heater
- WE have upgraded the ladies bathroom

Third, looking toward the future (to name a few and not in order) we plan on:

- Hosting family and membership days
- Expanding the current banquet hall, putting up dry wall, and painting the hall entrance area
- Make the existing office a storage area
- Painting the current storage area, (where the furnaces are)
- Painting and repairing the ceiling in the current bar area
- Putting more windows and an AC in the hall area
- Filling and paving the pot holes in the parking lot
- Paving the area around the back door (near the BBQ area)
- Spraying part of the roof with “silver dollar”
- Purchasing a “refrigerated sandwich bar”
- Renovating the existing bar area
- Purchasing more tables, chairs, and table cloths
- Building a “bingo card” selling area and hard wiring the speakers in the banquet hall
- Purchasing a large screen TV – our old one finally died after 13 years
- Renovating the ladies bathroom and upgrading the men’s bathroom
- Getting all our servers RSVP and/or MART certified
- Establishing insurances for our employees
- Purchasing and implementing a Point of Sale system
- Upgrading the security system
- Building a new building – will take 2-3 years

Fourth, I need to thank all the members of the Post. I welcome and value your comments but ask that you be constructive – no whining please. Thanks to all the members of the board – they are the real backbone of the Post. I feel comfortable in knowing that as we work together - as a team – we will be very productive by making Post 28 and our community a better place.

Fifth, I hope that I have given you reason to reflect on past and recent accomplishments. To the volunteers, you should realize that your actions and achievements add up to a significant contribution to your Post and your community.

Finally, I need to thank the spouses of the volunteers for the understanding and support by allowing them to give of their time to make the Post and the community better. A special thanks to Barb for her support by allowing me to devote the time required to serve as your Commander and having the honor of serving.

Michael Smith
Commander