



AMERICAN LEGION POST 449

STENZ-GRIESELL-SMITH

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Open letter to Post 449 members

27 Oct 2015

From: Adjutant Michael Cannon

As we are here tonight, we have heard from the Finance Officer for the past several months that we have trouble meeting our bills. Recently the Post received an assessment from the City of Brookfield for the road improvements. This combined with our outstanding line of credit, our Post is struggling financially. With that said, how long does Post 449 survive?

I, as Adjutant, have a duty and responsibility to the membership of this post to bring forward any and all inquiries that would affect Post 449. Approximately one month ago, I was approached by a representative of Cudworth Post 23 Milwaukee to discuss the possibility of our two posts merging. Post 23 has been, in the past, one of the largest in the state. For several years, now they have been meeting at the Whitefish Bay Women's Club and renting office space from Solly's on Port Washington Rd. Post 23 has a membership of approximately 350 paid members. They are looking for a post to merge within the Milwaukee or Brookfield area. If a merger between our two posts happens, we could become the largest post in the state. There are many issues that need to be discussed before a merger can happen. I have been in contact with the State Adjutant Dave Kurtz for guidance on the protocol of what each post needs to do before a merger can move forward.

We, as a post, need to be realistic in the fact that we are in need. Cudworth has taken proactive steps within in their post by having a complete audit of their finances.

I have formed an exploratory committee to talk to Post 23 on the merger process. Our exploratory committee will report all information to the Commander, Executive board, Auxiliary, and SAL. Also, the membership will be informed by postings on our post boards around the post. There are resolutions that need to be published in the *449er Newsletter*. A vote by the Legion membership is needed to approve any merger. The exploratory committee is made up of the following members. Adjutant Mike Cannon, Past Commander Monte Lunde, 1st Vice Mike Daigle, Past 2nd Vice Alex Kolander, Past Sgt.-At- Arms Erine Jaekl, Pat Gordon, and Jim Cofta. The committee is hoping to have much more information at the November general meeting.

In the next few weeks, the committee will be looking to hire a CPA to do a complete audit of Post 449's finances. It is very important that both posts are completely open for this merger to move forward. If there are any questions, I will try to answer them at that time.