

WHEELER-YOUNG VFW POST 201  
2205 Baldwin St., Waterbury, CT 06706-2652

**April 2021**

**WHEELER-YOUNG VFW POST 201**  
**SENTINEL**

HERE TO INFORM MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY ALIKE



**1920 - CENTENNIAL - 2020**

**NEW YEAR - NEW CENTURY**

**WE SUSTAIN AND MAINTAIN THROUGH  
DEDICATION, HARD WORK AND PERSISTANCE AND  
READY OUSELVES TO CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY  
AND TO CREATE A MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
HONORABLY FILLED OUR RANKS IN SERVICE TO AND  
SACRIFICE TO OUR GREAT NATION**

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**YOUR SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS ARE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED  
AND WE ARE EVER GRATEFUL FOR ALL THE SUPPORT WE HAVE ENJOYED  
THERE ARE MANY THINGS TO DO & GOOD TIMES TO COME  
AS WE MOVE FORWARD HERE AT POST 201**

## WHERE WE ARE TODAY AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### CURRENT HAPPENINGS AT POST 201, COVID-19 AND BEYOND

Good news is that we have managed to survive the year under lockdowns, face masks, social distancing, distance learning, rules, guidelines, Governor's Executive Orders and everything else that came our way to disrupt the daily routine that we had become so accustomed to but, somehow, we would - To Quote - "IMPROVISE - ADAPT & OVERCOME" all the hardships.

We learned how to "**socially meet**" via computers and phones, using 'FACE TIME', 'ZOOM', 'TEAMS' 'WHAT'S APP', 'INSTAGRAM', 'SNAPCHAT' & so many other alien forms of communication, many of us have never heard of.

Here at VFW Post 201, we made every attempt at doing the right things to help get us through these challenges. It has been difficult but, thanks to the commitment, persistence, and efforts of some hard working and dedicated members, friends and guests, who made our home an inviting place to gather (in a socially distanced) way, share some food, beverages, conversation, pearls of wisdom, express views on how things could have been done differently, done better or not done at all and then take the opportunity to shed opinions as to what shudda, wudda or cudda happened to make things run more smoothly. Some wanted to bend or even disregard the rules and to throw caution to the wind but, we were resolute in following the guidelines and adjusted, compromised, and found our way through a very bad year. Plexiglas and signage would become a part of our Canteen life. Sanitizing everything and everyone, taking temperatures and using volunteers, when possible or available, to clean and maintain our home, and to help save us money, was not by choice but by necessity. The, now "John F. Rinaldi Memorial Hall" suffered the loss of much needed revenue because of severe capacity limitations. It looks like there may be hope and light at the end of this dark time and it cannot be stated enough that we are grateful to everyone for helping us arrive where we are today. We did it the honorable and right way. "WE DID IT OUR WAY"! Eyes to the future and the hope for better days to come.

### WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

March brought us some reduction in COVID-19 restrictions, and we had a successful "St. Patrick's Day - Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner". Our Event Hall has been showing signs of life and rentals are being booked on a regular basis again and Rachel Carpentier, Permittee/Canteen Manager/Bartender is available on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7PM to handle those hall rental bookings. Some limitations remain and we still have to wear a mask when moving about but, all-in-all, things are looking up. Thanks to the donation of Plexiglas to partition the patrons from the bar staff, we are able to accommodate more people even though some distancing requirements remain. We were approached by staff from the VA Medical Center in West Haven in an attempt to secure our building as a COVID-19 vaccination site. Al Comeau, House Committee Chairman, met with Congressional liaison and Health System Specialist Jacqueline Fonseca-Ramos and the VA opted to use St's Peter & Paul, now vacant school, as a Waterbury location for veteran vaccinations and will revisit Post 201 when smaller groups remain in need of the vaccine. We will once again provide an outside dining experience in the area adjacent to the Canteen doors. We have changed our Internet provider to Xfinity-Comcast and went from wi-fi download speeds of 25Mbps to 600 Mbs and reduced cost. Stay tuned for more to come and stop by to spend some time with us.

**WISH LIST AND THOUGHTS**

We are hoping to schedule a time for a combined celebration of the 100-year anniversary of both Post 201 and Auxiliary and considering a possible mid-September time frame.

Plans are still on the table to dedicate a special place, somewhere in the grassy area where our three flagpoles stand, for a memorial recognizing all who have served our nation in uniform past and present. Plans were in the works, pre-pandemic for both our 100-year anniversary and creating a memorial but received some major setbacks as a result of COVID-19.

In addition to those setbacks, the Post Auxiliary was forced to suspend Sunday Brunches, but plans were formulated to resume, and a Sunday Easter Brunch had been scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> but, several issues arose that brought about the need to cancel. A May 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Brunch, sponsored by the Auxiliary is in the plans and volunteers are being sought to assist, we look forward to a successful brunch that will take place in our event hall and, as with most of our events, success can only happen when our dedicated volunteers pitch in. Please contact us at (203) 754-0738 or [vfwpost201@yahoo.com](mailto:vfwpost201@yahoo.com), for Hall Rentals or other questions or concerns.

**ADDITIONAL PLANS**

A “**STEAK DINNER**” is being discussed, similar to one we have had in the past and which was a great success.

The “**QUARTER AUTION**” was something everyone seemed to enjoy and is on the horizon for April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We have made our event hall available once again for “**LIFE LINE SCREENING**” with a date of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**VFW Post 201 is designated as a restaurant under the current COVID-19 CT Reopen Guidelines as follows:**

**Restaurants & Indoor Recreation**

6 ft. spacing or non-porous barrier continue to be required between tables, with an 8-person maximum table capacity.

***Food Service continues to be required with alcohol service - Bars that only serve beverages must remain closed. No standing bar services are allowed outside of private events***

All restaurants and indoor recreation continue to be subject to an 11:00 PM closing time.

Detailed information can be found at; [https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid\\_Business\\_Recovery-Phase-2-1/CTReopens21\\_IndoorDining319.pdf](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DECD/Covid_Business_Recovery-Phase-2-1/CTReopens21_IndoorDining319.pdf)

**YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME**

Visit: [Http://www.vfw201.org](http://www.vfw201.org)

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