



The American Legion
Riddle – Hutcheson Post 0077
POB 2084
Bentonville, Arkansas 72712

August 20, 2015

TO ALL MEMBERS, VETERANS, AND FRIENDS OF THE LEGION:

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY AND ASK QUESTIONS.

Decisions made here affect our future.

As all of you know, Post 77 in Bentonville was inactive for a couple of years and was in danger of losing its Charter in Bentonville. In late November last year, 2014, steps were taken to revitalize Post 77, and we have grown since then from four officers holding what was left of the post together, to 76 members currently, and still growing. Our progress is stifled because we do not have a facility of our own to conduct all the activities we need to have going on. We need a family oriented facility where we can base all our activities, including: 1) The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA); 2) The Sons of the American Legion (SAL); 3) The American Legion Riders (ALR); 4) Boy's State and Girl's State; 5) Americanism training for the community, including the youth; 5) Youth Baseball; 6) Scouting; 7) Education support and Scholarships; 8) Veteran Emergencies and assistance; 9) Post fundraising; and 10) A place for veterans and their families to call home - among many other things.

The Masonic Temple has been very gracious by letting us have meetings there, but there are several other users. Therefore, limited space and scheduling does not let us do the other Legion activities known to be the mission of the American Legion. So what we need to do is find our own place. The Post Executive Officer Committee (EOC) has been looking into this need and has been searching for answers. There are plenty of properties available, but the cost is way beyond our current means. So, firstly we need your direction. And secondly, we need your help - both in evaluating our needs with a plan, and obviously, financial support.

The ball is rolling; we recently received a \$1,000 donation for our future facility. We promptly opened a restricted fund bank account for our "Building Fund" which now contains the \$1,000. We have promises from other contributors contacted through our recent Pork Butt Sale fundraiser. In our General Operating fund, we have had two membership/fundraisers in front of local WalMart Neighborhood Stores and raised an average of \$500 each time. And, the recent Pork Butt fundraiser brought in near \$1,000.

So far, the labor for these fundraisers has been mostly from the Post Officers, but we need membership help as well. Please consider helping with this exciting growth. Let's become a veteran driving force in the area. ***We want the community to know who we are, what we are, and where we are.***

Specifically, we have located a piece of land just south of the Bentonville High School, which is perfect. It is .67 acres, which may be a little small, but we expect spill-over parking can take place on both sides of the property. The asking price is \$159,000 before negotiations and closing costs. So, firstly, we need to pin this property down so that it does not get sold out from under us while we are planning and moving toward our goal. Do you know of anyone who is financially capable of helping with this? We would be more than willing to work out a deal with a supporting entity, which would benefit all of us. Remember, we are a non-profit corporation and can offer rather large tax considerations in a proper arrangement. So we are open to the details. Secondly, as a member of The American Legion and our post, or as a supportive friend of veterans and their needs, please consider what you may be able to donate to this great cause.

We ask that you respond to this letter as soon as possible so that we know more about where we stand, and what we can do as we proceed. This is going to happen. We will not back away as we struggle with hardships and growing pains. Bentonville should be the "shining star" for veterans and their families in NW Arkansas. Financial position is key to how fast we can move and what we can guarantee. There is no doubt that if we had a facility - a place to fly our flag, show our symbol, a place for veterans and those currently serving to call home, memberships and service would soar rapidly. But, I cannot do this alone, nor can we do it with just officer participation. We ask that you get personally, and actively involved. You will be glad you did, and we all will benefit.

Sincerely,

Ray Brust, Commander
The American Legion, Riddle-Hutcheson Post 77
POB 2084, Bentonville, AR 72756
Phone: 479-381-1142
Email: rookwing60@gmail.com

3 Attachments: 1 Donation/Funding Form
2 Post 77 Membership Applications (sign up your friends)



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Dear Commander and EOC,

I will support our American Legion Post and its growth in the following way:

- I can make a tax-deductible donation to the Building Fund \$ _____ today, which is attached.
- I can pledge a tax-deductible donation total of \$ _____ to the Building Fund which I will give \$ _____ every _____ (month) until complete. \$ _____ is attached as the first payment.

- I am willing to discuss a major tax-deductible donation to Post 77 Building Fund. Please contact me for an appointment. Give contact address, phone, and email (if avail.):

- Though I cannot donate funds today, I will help out by:

Suggestions/comments:

Signed:

Please Print Name and Date:

(Please mail this form to the address at the top of page.)