**GENTLE REMINDERS**

Comrades: In regards to the recent email from Ontario Command regarding the use of lottery funds and being permitted to have take out services please take the necessary precautions.

LOTTERY: If you are going to NEED to use a portion or all of your lottery funds to maintain NECESSARY Branch operations you will need to take that email to your Municipality advising them that you have permission from the AGCO to do so. Branches will need to show to the Municipality when Provincial restrictions have been lifted and Branches re-open accountability for using these funds as well as Zone and District will need to know what the money was used for when inspections are done. I would strongly advise Branches to work with your Municipality if you need to use these funds as at the time of your next report submission the Municipality will not be blindsided that these funds have been used. Remember this is only during this closure that you will be permitted to do so and once restrictions are lifted you will not be permitted to use above the normal percentage allotted by the Municipality. Not advising the Municipality and working with them could impact your relationship with them in the future. Transparency is vital and please be diplomatic and respectful advising them of why these funds need to be used and that Branches do have permission to do this as they may not have received this directive from the AGCO. Please keep good books as you will need to show why it was needed and what it was used for.

FOOD SERVICES: If your Branch makes the decision to do take out it is recommended that this have a majority approval of the Branch Executive as the decision to do so should not be made by one or two as we are a democratic organization and not one that is run by one or two individuals. Last week there was an email sent out on how to have an Executive Meeting by teleconferencing and it is recommended you follow this process and have the decision on record. It is VITAL THAT YOU DO NOTIFY your local Public Health Board to advise them of your intentions as there are restrictions involving food handling and having individuals who have taken the food handling course as well as the restrictions placed on society due to COVID 19 that must strictly adhered to. It would be to your benefit that you receive in writing a response from the Health Board that yes, they are aware you will be doing this.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Comrades as our communities rely on the Legion for many things in supporting our Veterans, seniors, youth just to name a few and we rely on local businesses for donations to our fund raisers and hall rentals. Please keep in mind how the possible impact of going forward with take outs may affect the resturants who are also struggling to survive and the employees whose jobs have been affected as well. Also please keep in mind that these businesses do not get municipal or educational tax exemptions nor that they may not have investments or the use of 100% of lottery funds that has just recently been granted to us or the refunds from Ontario and Dominion Command or the fact that their business does not operate on a volunteer bases. I realize that they are eligible for government assistance, I am just asking you to considered everything before you follow through with take outs as I am not fully aware of your relationship with your community or the number of restaurants if any. I would just not like to see a negative relationship arise within the community by going forward with this. I would also recommend that you advise your insurance company that you will be doing this to ensure you are covered especially if you are doing delivery services.

Again I would like to stress I am not saying that you may not move forward with the decision to do take out I am just asking that you consider all aspects of doing so and ask will this affect your relationship with these businesses and your community once restrictions are lifted and we return to normal. The final decision is yours as to whether you wish to do take out or not. The Legion and businesses as well as community members need each other.

Please stay safe, stay healthy and we all look forward to when our doors will open again.

Yours in Comradeship

Lynn Deering

District Commander