

To: Natick Select board:

Since I became the commander of the Natick AMVETS Post 79 on July 4, 2022, I have made some changes to the post in trying to improve what in the past was a place for Veterans to have a drink, have something to eat and to talk with friends. It is still there for that, but with Cathy Lopez, our facility manager as well as some very great people we have started a new vision of the AMVETS with making a more, friendly, family, and community facility. I would have to say we have one of the best properties on Lake Cochituate in Natick, but sadly not used to the full potential. Cathy and myself, were blindsided and were in shock when we found out that the post opened up early on Thanksgiving. We gave explicit instructions not to.

The week leading up to Thanksgiving, I heard that in the past, a tradition is to open up early to have some drinks. Being new to the post I was asked numerous times by the past commander what time are we opening? Because of his many requests, I felt like something was wrong so Cathy and myself said no. The past commander went so far to invite people down making it look like a huge party, thankfully they did not all showed up. The past commander then called me laughing about it. At that point Cathy and I sat down and talked about what needs to be done. First we suspended the past commander and the person that "ran" the event.

Even though none of our bartenders were involved, we talked to them about rules and procedure changes as followed

- Closing at 8:00 Sunday –Thursday. Last call at 7:30. Prevents people staying and drinking
- Closing later on Friday-Saturday IF we have bands of functions in the hall.
- Making sure, going over rules of bartenders of over pouring drinks, and amount of drinks per person.
- Listening to the patrons for people that may become intoxicated as well as listening to what they are saying to help prevent any wrong doings such as opening up early.
- Talked to cleaning crew to not allow anyone in before opening time of 11:00
- Cathy Lopez is also watching the point of sale computers (POS) to make sure all alcohol and beer is accounted for as well as doing an inventory twice weekly of our supplies.
- When I'm there I also watch to make sure what is going on to make sure we are following the rules.

Presently, I have seen some very serious allegations that were written by the bartenders against the former commander. Cathy and I have been in contact with the Natick Police and due to the nature of these crimes against the former commander I cannot elaborate. Cathy and I both realize now we have to be one step ahead and look at everything that is going on. We apologize for what happened on Thanksgiving and because of that, you will see a better and improved AMVETS. With Cathy's family and mine we have already shown what it is to have a family place where people can enjoy the grounds and post.

James Musgrave, Commander

