POST FUNDRAISING
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You’ll have a good chance of staying out of money troubles if you follow these three general principles:

First, make your dues high enough to meet fixed, administrative costs: postage, stationery, department dues, and in some cases, rent. These are costs that every post must meet to stay in business.

Second, if the community is to benefit from an American Legion project, don’t hesitate to solicit the community for funds for example, an American Legion Baseball team, a community playground or a swimming pool. The post will actually add to its reputation with such projects, but a full public accounting needs to be made of all funds received and of how they are spent.

Third, don’t ask the public to give in the name of charity for any project that will be of benefit primarily to Legionnaires. A businessman may donate to send a young man to Boys State, but he probably wouldn’t care to give money to buy a new cooler for your bar. Sometimes it is necessary to raise funds from outside for something that is strictly for the benefit of the post and its members. When this happens, make sure that the public receives full value.
WHY RAISE FUNDS

The obvious reason is to keep the cost of dues to a minimum. Fundraisers allow those who can afford to participate to spread the cost out and effectively reduce the costs for all members.

Secondly, Post Fundraisers allow you to target specific Post programs and the people who are supportive of them.

TYPES OF FUNDRAISING

There are several national restaurants chain that support fund raising activities for non-profit organizations.

Check with your local restaurant like:

Pick a few of these ideas and talk about them to the class. Ask for examples from your students of their successes.

- Arby's Restaurants
- Boston Market: 15% donation on sales.
- Buffalo Wild Wings
- Burger Kings 20% of sales during specified nights.
- Culvers
- McDonalds - Some McDonalds have local nights.
- Noodles & Company Fundraisers
- Panda Express - 20% of the event sales
- Pizza Ranch
- Pizzeria Uno Chicago Grill: 20% of sales.
- Potbelly Sandwich Shop - 25% by hosting a Restaurant night.
- Red Robin Gourmet Burgers
- Sonic Drive-In
- Wendy’s - Each local Wendy’s is different.
- Boston Stores has "Coupon Days" fundraising opportunity.
Using old coffee cans you can create donation canisters for the Post home or even ask local businesses if they would put them in their stores.

Raffles are easy to conduct - just be sure to follow all state and local laws.

Silent auctions require some leg work to collect prizes but the rewards can be very significant.

Spin a Wheel or a dart game can be a fun addition to children's event.

Many sporting events allow local groups to work as staff for Event Concessions in exchange for a percent of sales.

- Tootsie Pops for Dollars
- 5K Run/Walk
- Black Tie Affair
- Pet Wash
- Heads or Tails
- Ice Cream Social
- Pie-eating Contest
- Yard Sale
- Bake Sale
- Car Wash
- 50/50 Raffle
- Dunk Tank
- Marshmallow Putting Contest
- Trivia Night

**HOW OFTEN**

This is a very hard question to answer. Each community reacts differently to fundraisers.

The best way to determine what works in your community is to TRY IT!