



# SHRAPNEL



Newsletter of Evanston American Legion Post 42  
1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 - (847) 475-9076

APRIL 2017



## “Commander’s Corner”

### Serving Veterans – Mentoring Youth Supporting Your Community

The first quarter of 2017 is in the rearview mirror and the highlight of the activities of the first quarter must be the recipient of this year’s “Richard Huck” award.

Congratulations to SAL member Robert Kacyznski! Robert is a very active member of Squadron 42 and is always one of the first people to assist the Post with our ongoing activities. Congratulations on a job well done!

The second quarter of 2017 is once again going to be a busy time for members of our Post. It starts with the Rebuilding Together Service Project scheduled for Saturday, 29 April 2017. This project brings together Legionnaires, SAL members, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and other volunteers to render assistance to a needy resident. Painting, repairs, gardening, removal of waste and

other projects are tackled to help the recipient enjoy their home and not worry about issues they are unable to afford or accomplish on their own. If you haven’t participated in the past, consider giving up a Saturday to make some one’s life easier. All are welcome!

On Saturday, 20 May 2017, Post 42 will host our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner, Raffle & Silent Auction to financially support the “Lovell Legends Wheelchair Team. Currently, there are 20 Raffle items for you to bid on. The raffle boxes are on display at the Post. We have almost as many items that will be involved in the silent auction, the night of the Pasta Dinner. Come on out, enjoy a great meal, buy a few raffle tickets and participate in the silent auction. ALL proceeds go to the Lovell Legends.

The Post needs volunteers to hit the streets, train stations, retail store fronts and sell poppies from 24 May through 29 May. All monies raised in the five days that we can sell poppies, go to support our veterans and veteran programs. Consider working a few hours in the am and then again in the pm. Consider donating yourself!

Also in May, on Saturday, 27 May, once again Legionnaires, SAL, Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts and other volunteers, will be participating in “Grave Registration Day” at Memorial Park. Placing our nations colors on the gravesites of Veterans. Over 1000 graves warrant a flag!

On Monday, 29 May, Legionnaires will be participating in Memorial Day Ceremonies at both the Memorial Park and at a site to be determined for the replacement site for Fountain Square. The war memorial at Fountain Square, will be under renovation and unable to host the ceremony. All are welcome to attend the festivities and join in refreshments at the Post after the completion of the ceremonies.

In June, Flag Day, Wednesday, 14 June, the Post will fulfill one of the missions of the American Legion and we will respectfully retire tattered and unserviceable flags. The ceremony will begin at noon with the chaplain offering prayers and then we will retire the flags. All are welcome.

And last, but not least. Actually, most important, the Post General Business Meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday of every month. The meeting begins at 1930 hours and usually completed by 2100 hours. There is a served snack at the completion of the meeting. Come out, listen to what your Post is doing and consider getting involved.

### **Poker Night**

Like playing poker, Like Post 42, Support the Post & enhance your skills

American Legion Post 42 is pleased to announce the remaining four (4) dates that Poker Players can play in tournaments that benefit Post 42. Mark your calendars now!

**FRIDAY, JULY 7<sup>TH</sup>**  
**The MAX McCook, IL.**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**The MAX McCook, IL.**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Viking Lodge Tinley Park, IL.**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**Viking Lodge, Tinley Park, IL.**

Chicago Charitable Games is the only place in Chicago, Illinois and the Chicago land area where you can play live charity poker. You must be 18 years old, to play charity poker in Illinois at Chicago Charitable Games. You can play live charity poker tournaments & live cash games or ring poker games. You can play poker for as little as \$20 for charity poker tournaments. Chicago Area Poker Players can also play several types of live poker cash ring games including Texas holdum, Omaha, stud, and NLH that will fit any Charity poker player's budget, as well as help Post 42 raise money for worthy causes.

Charity poker is a tax on the willing poker players of Chicago, and all over Illinois who come out to support local charity poker events run by Charitable Organizations that support great causes. Please continue to support local charity poker by attending these great poker events, and by donating a little bit of time to an organization of your choice. By supporting local charity poker, you are supporting the groups that continually make this world a better place, and we can all use a little bit of charity every now and then.

These poker tournaments run from 1:30pm through 1:30am and we members of Post 42 work the check-in & exit tables for the duration of the tournament. So, we not only need players, but we need workers. (one can work a shift and play a shift)



**FROM YOUR SAL  
COMMANDER**

One of the central challenges that I was determined to address as Squadron Commander was improving our paid membership. For every organization, membership is of critical importance. I am happy to report that we have made some significant progress: For the past three years, Squadron 42 has set new all-time high membership numbers.

A few years ago, our ranks numbered seventy-four (74). Last year, the Squadron had one hundred and seventy-two (172). With three months to go, Squadron 42 is on a pace to set another all-time high record. Currently, there are one hundred and sixty-five (165) members. Squadron 42 is ranked first in the 7<sup>th</sup> District and tenth in the Detachment of Illinois.

Last year, Squadron 42 was recognized at the Detachment of Illinois Convention for its increased membership and received two awards, the 2016 Roy Mitchell Membership Trophy (largest numerical increase in Squadron membership) and the PFC James T. Cummings, Jr., Membership Trophy (largest percentage increase in Squadron Membership). I ought to note that the actual trophies have been retired to the state headquarters in Bloomington and that Squadron 42 received two plaques in recognition of its membership achievements.

I want to thank everyone who has worked to help the Squadron make its membership goals. The next step is to find more members who will support our activities and charitable endeavors. In breaking down the membership data, one area of concern exists. The Squadron retention rate could be improved.

To date, only about seventy percent of our 2016 members have renewed. Our numbers have remained constant due to the influx of brand new members. What would our membership numbers be if everyone renewed on time?

I want to recognize two Sons of the American Legion Members in this issue of the Shrapnel: Thomas Tully has helped restore the Canal Shores Golf Course after the property had been badly neglected. The putting greens have never looked better and several holes have been substantially renovated. Tom is leaving Illinois to accept a new position as the superintendent of parks in Aurora, Colorado. He will be missed; Robert J. Kacynski, the Vice Commander of Squadron 42, has been selected as the recipient of the 2017 Richard Huck Memorial Legion Spirit Award for his volunteer activities that have benefited Post 42. He is the first Sons of the American Legion Squadron 42 member to be so honored. Bob has performed a wide variety of chores and thankless jobs before and after almost every Legion sponsored event. Both men deserve our thanks!

Squadron 42 is observing its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. While American Legion Post 42 was chartered in 1919 and the Sons of the American Legion were created at the Legion National Convention held in 1932, it wasn't until March of 1992 that our Squadron's application papers were approved and our charter was issued in April of that same year.

Many members have come and gone during the intervening quarter century, but we are still fortunate to have such long time officers and members such as Bob Labahn, Brian Lamberg and Bob Weis (a dual member of the Post and the Squadron) with us still.

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself as your new Assistant Chaplain.

My name is Christine Chevlin. I served with the 801<sup>st</sup> CSH with the late LTC. McGowan & Maj. Carder. It was through their encouragement that I joined the American Legion & Post 42.

I have been exposed to a variety of religious beliefs in my lifetime. It started within my own family. My father's side of the family is

Jewish & my mother's side is Catholic. I was raised Catholic. I went to a Lutheran Nursing School. I am open to all religious beliefs.

I am honored & look forward to serving Post 42 as Assistant Chaplin.

My civilian career has been in orthopedic nursing, first in a hospital & currently now in an orthopedic office. I enjoy ballroom dancing, cooking, & travel.

Chaplin Chris



**Service Officer, James Farley**

### **Northwestern Basketball Game**

We all enjoyed following our hometown team through the Big Ten tournament and on to their first NCAA bid. We have some big basketball fans at the Post and we were able to share our fun with other veterans in February.

Post 42 hosted a group of Veterans from the V.A. James A, Lovell Hospital to a game on February 18, 2017. Fourteen veterans from the hospital boarded the bus for Evanston to see a game at Welsh Ryan Arena and NU really took care of us. We had good seats on the mezzanine and received a welcome gift. Everybody had a great time. Now with the team making the NCAA tournament we are all looking forward to next year .

## **VETERAN ISSUES**

### **Access to VA Health Care**

(From MOAA, Jan 2017)

After reports of secret waiting lists at VA Medical Centers (e.g. Phoenix), an independent commission was established to make immediate and long-range systemic changes in order to provide the best quality care and support services to service members, veterans and their families. This commission issued its final report 30 June, 2016.

A statement by the co-chair provides a compelling reason as to why immediate reform is needed:

*The systemic problems in staffing, information technology, procurement and other core functions threaten the long-term viability of VA's health care system...No single factor can explain the multiple systemic problems that have frustrated timely access to care, Government challenges, failures of leadership, and statutory and funding constraints all have played a role.*

The VA must now implement the reform recommendations described in the report. Needed reforms include changes in facilities leadership, recruitment of separating DoD medical professionals, upgrades of clinical space, and an overall of out dated technology, financial and human capital systems.

The VA must also double down on efforts to improve mental health care delivery and address the number of veteran suicides. The VA and DOD must strengthen their collaborative efforts in integrating medical mental health, disability evaluation and benefit programs to more rapidly and effectively deliver care and support services.

### **Military Exchanges Now Open to Veterans**

It was just reported that any honorably discharged veteran can now shop online for discounted military exchange products under a policy change by the Department of

Defense. As many as 16 million veterans stand to benefit.

A memorandum was signed in January by acting undersecretary of defense, Peter Levine that will allow the Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) to create the software for verifying veteran status using VA records.

The online benefit does not extend to dependent, though spouses and family members could use an authorized customer's login credentials.

As they do with other authorized customers, the exchanges will use data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center to verify veteran eligibility for online shopping privileges. Veterans whose records are incomplete or don't appear in the Veterans Affairs Department database will need to register through VA, according to a letter to congressional committees with oversight over DoD and VA issues by Peter Levine, former acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The exchange services will provide registration information on their online sites, and the AAFES call center will help veterans navigate the process. Toll Free: (800) 527-2345

### **Real Estate Assistance for Veterans**

When we think of spring, we think of doing all the chores we did not do over the winter, like cleaning house, washing windows, preparing the garden for all the beautiful flowers we love. But spring is also a great time to put your house on the market or begin looking for a new one.

If you want to sell your home, listing it for sale in the spring gives you the maximum amount of market time and probably the largest pool of buyers. If you want to purchase a home, spring offers, or properties to choose from. It goes without saying that most people prefer to move when the weather is nice or at least comfortable.

We are Evanston based agency and offer full service serving veterans by assisting them in home buying and selling process. When a veteran closes on a real estate transaction with us, we will make a contribution to the veteran's favorite charity, project or organization.

Carol A Levy Managing Broker  
Alpha Omega  
Real Estate Services, Inc  
(847) 424-0203

### **Poppy "DAZE"**

Sweet 16! Yes, 2016 was a banner year for Post 42 volunteers. Their efforts on Poppy Day Collection dates, along with the generous people of Evanston, generated a record amount of donations.

Now we have the 2017 campaign on the horizon. This year, let us adopt the same motivation and inspiration in order to continue the financial support of veteran's programs.

These programs include day and evening trips, holiday activities, and much more. Therefore, Post 42 will sponsor this year's Poppy Day organizational meeting on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 3pm at the Post. This collective meeting of all our volunteers will provide support and contacts, supplies and locations. Food will be served....for more information, please call (847) 373-1188.

### **SELLING DATES**

Thursday May 25<sup>th</sup>  
Friday May 26<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday May 27<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday May 28<sup>th</sup>

Certainly, we all have other commitments and obligations....and the Poppy Day Committee only asks that you commit to what you can so that we can recognize and honor this noble cause.

Thank You!

## **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner Saturday 20 May, 5:00-8:00pm**

It's that time again! We will be holding our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner to support the Lovell Wheel Chair Team! Over the last 5 years, we have donated over \$25,000 to the team that is used for their expenses to compete in the games...all as a result of your generous donations and support! This year the Team will be competing in Cincinnati, OH 17-22 July.

The cost for the dinner is only \$12 pre event and \$15 at the door....children under 6 are free! There are numerous great raffle prizes, which can be seen at the Post or at our web site: [evanstonpost42.com](http://evanstonpost42.com) Raffle tickets are 1 raffle ticket for \$5, 6 tickets for \$25 and 13 for \$50. Raffle tickets and dinner tickets can be purchased at the Post or on the day of the event....winners need not be present to win. We will also be having a silent auction of additional prizes the day of the event. Please plan on attending and if you have any questions, please call, come up to the Post or visit our web site!

### **CLUBROOM NEWS**

Welcome to Spring in the Club Room. Don't forget to join us for some spectacular Bluegrass concerts. To find out who is playing go to [ChicagoBluegrass.com](http://ChicagoBluegrass.com). Upcoming concerts are scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>, April 22<sup>nd</sup> & May 13<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to sell out the Evanston Live event. Try and join us April 29<sup>th</sup> or June 24<sup>th</sup>. This retro-cool talk show features Evanston artists, musicians, chefs, local notables and historians. You can get your tickets at <https://squareup.com/store/evanston-live>.

For beer lovers, the taps have been running at Post 42. We have the old standby favorites like Old Style and Coors Light of course. We also have a rotating stable of microbrews from Sketchbook, Half Acre and others. With a total of 6 taps you're sure to find something you'll like. If you like Irish Stout we have an excellent one

from Sketchbook. You'll need to stop by soon as it's going fast.

Don't forget to buy your Queen of Hearts raffle tickets to help support a new 2<sup>nd</sup> floor deck project for the Legion. The pot will be over \$3,600.00 for our next drawing. Tickets are \$2.00 each, 3 for \$5.00 or 15 for \$20.00. Every Monday at 8pm we pick a raffle ticket and that person gets to turn over one of the cards on the board. If you are there and pick the Queen of Hearts you split the pot with the Legion. Each week the Queen of Hearts isn't pulled you have better odds of winning and the pot continues to increase.

We are in the planning stages of a fundraiser concert out on the golf course with food, drink and laser tag. Look for more information soon but we are tentatively looking at June 9<sup>th</sup> so keep your calendar open.

As always, let me know if you have any questions or comments. You can leave a message at the Post 42 phone number or email me at [ClubManager@EvanstonPost42.com](mailto:ClubManager@EvanstonPost42.com).

### **MEMBERSHIP**

If you haven't renewed your membership, please consider do so now. Remember, the Legion membership year starts 1 Jul and ends 30 Jun. You can renew your membership by going to our web page, [www.evanstonpost42.com](http://www.evanstonpost42.com) and following the link to memberships or you can come up to the Post and pay your friendly bartender.

As stated previously, we can be found at [www.evanstonpost42.com](http://www.evanstonpost42.com) When you visit us, you will find all the latest info, upcoming events, Post information, and a wealth of other information. For those who are more technology adept, we can be found on Face Book. [www.facebook.com/EvanstonPost42](http://www.facebook.com/EvanstonPost42)

### **RECEIVE SHRAPNEL BY E-MAIL?**

Just send your e-mail address to: [evanstonp42@gmail.com](mailto:evanstonp42@gmail.com) or [ordanlmf@reagan.com](mailto:ordanlmf@reagan.com) and we will send it to you whenever we publish.

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**2016 Legion Year Officers - Post 42**

|                       |                   |               |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Commander             | James M Brusek    | 773-263-4726  |
| Senior Vice-Commander | VACANT            |               |
| Junior Vice-Commander | Art Sanders       | 312-342-6518  |
| Adjutant              | Greg Lisinski     | 630-309-8074  |
| Finance Officer       | Dan Fleming       | 847-769-5242  |
| Service Officer       | James Farley      | 847-866-8486  |
| Sergeant at Arms      | David Hurwitz     | 773-368-9727  |
| Chaplain              | Christine Chevlin | 773- 685-5975 |
| Past Commander        | Greg Wilson       | 224-381-5010  |
| SAL Commander         | Daniel Kelley     | 847-226-3652  |

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Adam Kwiecinski                      Michael Wojciechowski                      Kim Cook

Newsletter Editor: Dan Fleming  
Contributions are always welcome. Contact Dan Fleming (847) 769-5242 or by e-mail at [evanstonp42@gmail.com](mailto:evanstonp42@gmail.com)

## **POST 42 DATES TO REMEMBER 2016-2017**

PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!

### **2017**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>April</b>     | <b>General Business Meeting 7:30pm (Food afterward)</b>   |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>7th District Meeting at Post 42 @ 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>April</b>     | <b>Rebuilding together Service Project (Tentative)</b>  |
| <b>May 4</b>     | <b>General Business Meeting 7:30pm (Post Everlasting - Food afterward)</b>  |
| <b>May 6</b>     | <b>7th District Kentucky Derby Fundraiser</b>   |
| <b>May</b>       | <b>Canal shores Twilight Golf League TENTATIVE (Contact Golf course)</b>  |
| <b>May 13</b>    | <b>Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser (Time TBA)</b>   |
| <b>May 17</b>    | <b>7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30pm (Post Everlasting)</b>  |
| <b>May 24</b>    | <b>Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3:00pm</b>  |
| <b>May 25-29</b> | <b>Poppy Day Collection</b>   |
| <b>May 25</b>    | <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>May 27</b>    | <b>Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9:00am</b>   |
| <b>May 29</b>    | <b>Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00am.<br/>Fountain Square 10:30am. Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post</b> |
| <b>June 1</b>    | <b>General Business Meeting 7:30pm (Food afterward)</b>   |
| <b>June 3</b>    | <b>1st Division “Mini-Convention” Location TBA</b>  |
| <b>June 14</b>   | <b>Flag Day – Flag Ceremony to Retire Tattered Flags 6:00pm at Post</b>   |
| <b>June 21</b>   | <b>7th District Meeting 7:30pm</b>  |
| <b>June 22</b>   | <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>July 4</b>    | <b>4th of July Parade Assembly begins 12:30pm at starting point Parade at 2:00pm</b>  |
| <b>July 6</b>    | <b>NO BUSINESS MEETING</b>  |
| <b>July 27</b>   | <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |
| <b>August 3</b>  | <b>General Business Meeting 7:30pm (Food afterward)</b>   |
| <b>August 13</b> | <b>Post 42-SAL Golf Outing and American Legion Picnic</b>   |
| <b>August 23</b> | <b>Board Meeting 7:30pm</b>   |

**Note: Some Dates are subject to change and marked “tentative”.**