



SHRAPNEL



Newsletter of Evanston American Legion Post 42

1030 Central Street, Evanston, IL 60201 - (847) 475-9076

JANUARY 2018



JAMES M BRUSEK

“Commander’s Corner”

Serving Veterans - Mentoring Youth - Supporting Your Community

Merry Christmas & wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, from the officers & board of directors of your Post.

Yes, it’s the end of 2017 and the beginning of 2018 in calendar years!

But, in the American Legion calendar, we are only half way through the year! The Legion year begins on 1 July and ends on 30 June. So, we are half way through the Legion Year and we are barely over 80% of last year’s membership numbers. There are many, many of you that were members last year, but have yet to renew for the 2017-2018 Legion Year!

If the Legion card that you are carrying in your wallet doesn’t show “2018”, then you

haven’t renewed your membership. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization, and your Post is in need of some critical help. We have a number of members that have transferred out of state, transferred to other Posts or have transferred to Post Everlasting. We need to replace these losses just to remain even with the membership numbers we had in the 2016-2017 Legion year.

Remaining even means no growth, and growth is very important. New members, new ideas, new excitement, new challenges. If haven’t already renewed, please do it ASAP. If you know a veteran, invite them to a meeting, have a libation in our new “Clubroom,” and sign them up at your Post.

**“It isn’t the price you pay to be a member

It’s the price you paid to become eligible”.**

January starts off with our 1st General Business Meeting on Thursday, 4 January 2018. Bring a potential new member to the meeting! Meeting starts at 1930hrs and a lite snack is provided immediately after the conclusion of the meeting.

The Post “Super Bowl” Party is Sunday, 4 February, and tickets will go on sale soon. Big fun, Big Food, Big Game!

The 1st golf event of the year is scheduled for Saturday, 17 February at 1000hrs. Good food, Great Bloody Mary’s, challenging golf shots, and monetary awards.

The first quarter ends with our fabulous St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner and the Richard Huck Award Dinner, on Saturday, 17 March beginning at 1700hrs.

1 January 2018 will be half way through my fifth year as your Commander! That's three and a half years longer than it is supposed to be. Your Post needs many positions filled: Junior Vice, Senior Vice, Children & Youth and a couple of board members. We need new people with new ideas, new energy to keep your Post functional, active and vibrant. Any Legionnaire interested in getting more involved with your Post, please contact any current officer to discuss your options. It will only be a few rewarding years, if we can fill the vacancies and keep the pipeline full of potential members.



**DANIEL J KELLEY
FROM YOUR SAL
COMMANDER**

January 1st marks the midway point of the Legion Year. For those who have forgotten, the American Legion, like the military and many branches of government operates on a fiscal year basis. This is the reason why membership renewal notices were mailed in June of 2017, and new 2018 cards were distributed beginning in July.

Currently, Squadron 42 has 148 paid members. Our retention rate, however, is only about sixty-five percent thus far. The Squadron ranks have been boosted by more than thirty new members. We have over 102

delinquent members who have not paid their 2018 dues (\$25.00 now with late fees assessed). Those who are unpaid as February 1, 2018 are subject to being removed from the rolls. Once a member is deemed lapsed by National, his seniority is forfeited. Even if he reappplies and is reinstated, there is no method for reclaiming the past years for seniority purposes. Your seniority is noted on your membership card.

Late notices will be mailed next week. Those who remain unpaid will be dropped next month.

Last year, Squadron 42, was the largest Squadron in the 1st Division (Cook County, Illinois). The Squadron set another all-time high for membership for the third consecutive year. If forty-two delinquent members would renew by paying their dues, Squadron 42 would be at 100% of last year's membership (the Sons of the American Legion uses the number from the previous year as the benchmark). Anything above that figure would represent a new all-time high.

Some people ask questions: "Why is there such an emphasis on verifying the veteran's status of an applicant's ancestors, paying dues and maintaining current membership cards?" The answer should be obvious. We are part of a national organization. The formalities are prescribed by the National and Detachment offices. The National Headquarters are in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Detachment Headquarters is located in Bloomington, Illinois. Additionally, there are Division (Cook County) and District officers (Squadron 42 is in the 7th District, which also includes Squadrons in Glenview, Morton Grove and Wilmette). At various times, Squadron 42 officers are obliged to attend meetings outside of our home Post.

During the calendar year, there are numerous opportunities for volunteers to support the American Legion Post and the SAL Squadron. Sadly, apart from a few core

volunteers, a significant number of members are content to be nonparticipants or to enjoy the activities while others do the planning and preparation or the set up and the break down.

In 2018, the Squadron was offered an opportunity to do some fundraising by providing volunteers at "Texas Hold'em" poker tournaments. It would be a good prospect for helping support the Post, but we need more people to volunteer for the shifts. The tournaments take place for lengthy periods of time, usually in suburban hotel locations. If you can help, let us know!

Lastly, for purposes of improving communications we really need current email addresses for all of our members. If you move, send us your new address information. If you changed email addresses, we need that information to be updated too!

Squadron 42 of the Sons of the American Legion wishes to extend its condolences to Eric Harms on the recent death of his father, Louis C. Harms.



**MICHEAL CARDER
DEPARTMENT SR VICE
COMMANDER**

MEMBERSHIP

I hope that everyone in the Department of Illinois had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Hopefully everyone's waistline stayed the same and all were safe.

Well, as you know, as of December 15, 2017, the Department Membership was 79.41% and by the time you read this article, the Department will be over 80% I must say that I am very proud of the work that is being done on membership by everyone and maybe the Santa wish of Commander Bob and all of the Department for 100% membership will be granted.

The past months have been busy with the Revitalization in the 22nd and 19th Districts, as well as attending Division and District Officer meetings.

Now, the next big event in membership is the American Legion Family Membership Caravan January 11-20, 2018, with the schedule on-line and in the Department newsletter. Commander Bob and I are hoping for a good turnout at each stop and Bob is hoping for a 2% increase in our membership from the caravan.

Now is the time for TEAM ILLINOIS to kick up our quest for members who did not renew early. We must not forget them for they are the foundation of our organization. Division and District Commanders are once again looking at your Posts to find those who are having problems with their members. Division Commander's are reviewing their Districts to see who needs assistance at individual Posts. Posts that are doing well are reaching out to fellow Posts and offering a helping hand. With every legionnaire pitching in, we can achieve something that we call all be proud of....100% membership in our Department!

Remember, we are a Team striving for the best for veterans, and our country....there is no 'I' in our quest for membership, we are simply a **TEAM** where **T**ogether, **E**veryone, **A**chieves, **M**ore.



**CHRISTINE CHEVLIN
CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Greetings to all this Holiday Season

So in the spirit of the season I present the following:

When most people hear “The 12 Days of Christmas” they think of the song. This song has its origins as a teaching tool to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. In 1558-1829 Roman Catholics in England were not able to practice their faith openly, so they had to find other ways to pass on their beliefs. That song, “The 12 Days of Christmas” is one example of how they did it

The song goes, “**On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me.**” The “true love” represents God & the “me” who receives these presents is the Christian. The “**partridge in a pear tree**” was Jesus, who died on a tree as a gift from God,

The “**two turtle doves**” were the Old & New Testaments- another gift from God.

The “three French hens” were faith, hope, & love- the 3 gifts of the spirit that abide (Corinthians 13).

The “**four calling birds**” were the 4 Gospels, which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The “**five golden rings**” were the first 5 books of the Bible also called the “Book of Moses.”

The “**six geese a-laying**” were the 6 days of creation.

The “**seven swans a swimming**” were the “seven gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 12).

The “**eight maids a milking**” were the eight beatitudes.

The “**nine ladies dancing**” were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

The “**ten lords a leaping**” were 10 Commandments.

The “**eleven pipers piping**” were the 11 faithful disciples.

The “**twelve drummers drumming**” were the 12 points of the Apostles’ Creed

So the next time you hear “ The 12 Days of Christmas” consider how this otherwise non-religious sounding song had its origins in the Christian faith.

Peace & Joy,
Chaplain Christine



**JAMES FARLEY
Service Officer**

Veteran Affairs

**James A. Lovell Federal Health Care
Patients Enjoyed a Complete
Thanksgiving Dinner on November 12,
2017**

Every year Post 42 hosts a large group of patients from the Hospital for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Volunteer members of the Post help to prepare and serve traditional roast turkey dinner with all the trimmings. The Lovell staff helps to organize bus transportation to and from the Post.

Post volunteers were ably assisted by the Boy Scouts of Troop 3 and Cub Scouts Pack 916. The Scout leaders are always ready to step in wherever needed. They did a fantastic job of serving, cleaning up the dining room and helping to wash all the dishes. It was a lot of work, but their great attitude made it a real fun day.

The Dinner guests were entertained by the fabulous John Measner Magic Show and the music of Pat Plunkett and Charlie Walden.

**Bowling Night with the Lovell Hospital
PTSD Program Patients**

It is becoming an annual event that is greatly enjoyed by the Post members and the Lovell PTSD Team. On 29 November, Post 42 sponsored a group from the Hospital at a bowling night and pizza party. Joe Port, Matt Casey and Jim Farley were challenged to keep up with the energetic group of Veterans. While Matt and Jim tried to beat the Vets on the lanes, Joe was hard pressed to keep them supplied with pizza and soft drinks. Everybody had a great time.

Homeless Veterans Support

Post 42 is active with a program called Veterans Exiting Homelessness (VEHP). The Post 42 Membership is always looking for ways to help our local veterans through tough times. We recently started working with this very worthwhile group to make a

difference. VEHP in coordination with Military Outreach USA, a national faith-based organization is helping veterans transitioning to apartment life with move-in essentials.

Post 42 is collecting household supplies in the Evanston neighborhoods and passing them on to this charity to give to veterans. The Post has also donated money to the group to buy beds for veterans moving into the apartments. If you have new household supplies like: paper goods, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene, etc., bring them to the Post and we will distribute accordingly

**Legislation proposed, enacted into law
that affects veterans**

The House approved several bills that affect veterans. These measures now move to the Senate for consideration. A few of the bills include:

- ***H.R. 918: Veteran urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act*** – This bill would require the VA to provide an initial mental health assessment and any subsequent mental health services required to meet urgent mental health care needs to former service members who would otherwise be ineligible for such services because they were discharged for military service under other than honorable conditions.
- ***H.R. 1066: VA Management Alignment Act of 2017*** – This bill would required the VA to submit a report regarding the roles, responsibilities and accountability of elements and individuals of the VA.
- ***H.R. 1133: Veterans Transplant Coverage Act*** – This bill would authorize the VA to provide care and services needed to a veteran to receive an organ transplant from a live donor, regardless of whether the donor is eligible for VA health care

or whether the health care facility is part of the VA.

- **H.R. 3122: Veterans Care Financial Protection Act 2017** – This bill would direct the VA to work with Federal Agencies and States to develop and implement standards that protect individuals who are eligible for this increased pension from dishonest, predatory or otherwise unlawful practices.
- **H.R. 3562: Amend Title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans to rehabilitation programs** – This bill would give VA designated appraisers the ability to rely on information from approved third parties, such as desktop appraisal, when determining a home's value for a VA Home Loan.
- **H.R. 3705: Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act** – This bill would instruct the VA to use plain language in its debt notices to provide a clear explanation of why the VA is alleging that the Veteran owes such a debt.
- **H.R. 4173: Veterans Crises Line Study Act of 2017** – This bill would require the VA to conduct a study on the outcomes and efficacy of Veterans Crisis Line based on an analysis of national suicide data and data collected from the VCL.

Legislation recently signed by president trump

- **P.L. 115-75: The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2017** – This Bill directs the VA to increase, as of 1 December 2017 the rates of veterans' wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and

dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

- **P.L. 115-86: The VA Prescription Drug Accountability Act of 2017** – This legislation compels the VA to share all controlled substance prescribing information with state-run databases.

CLUBROOM NEWS

Happy New Year!

2018 is an exciting time in the Club Room. We've had a face-lift with new flooring, paint, bead board and a lot of hard work donated by the Home Depot crew in Evanston. We also have new seating, a big farmhouse table and a soon-to-be-hung new TV for the lounge area. We're starting out 2018 with a bang and will continue to work toward making a visit to the Club Room your favorite day (or days) of the week.

It's crazy cold outside, so drop in and stay nice and warm with us. The heat is on full blast, but the beer is still cold and thirst quenching after a long midwestern winter day. Guinness will join our tap selection in mid-January; and if you're in the mood for a shot of Malort with an Old Style chaser, we're the place to be in Evanston. At the very least buy a shot of Malort for any friend who hasn't heard of it. The look on their face will be well worth it. Green Spot Whiskey was also a breakout hit and after a short hiatus will be back in mid-January. Get together with your friends and send us over a request to add your favorite spirit. Assuming it doesn't taste like Malort, we'll look into stocking it.

Bluegrass shows continue to sell out at Post 42. Check out below for details and to reserve tickets.

www.ChicagoBluegrass.com

Evanston Live! is also back for another local talent packed season. Drop by

<https://squareup.com/store/evanston-live> to check out the show dates and buy your tickets. We continue to pack the house for a true Evanstonian night.

Don't forget to check out the calendar at www.TheLegionClub.com for all the event listings.

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.

GOLF COURSE NEWS

WINTER SHOOT-OUT!
February 18, 2018
10:00 AM at Canal Shores

Rescheduled so join in!

Hey Everyone, it's that time of year again. Pull out that short iron and hit a few balls in our Winter Shoot-out Closest to the Pin Contest.

It's a great winter morning diversion!

\$10 per participant.

Each player gets three shots from 100 yards for a chance at Closest to the Pin prizes 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Winners (each a different player)

Breakfast served at 10:00 AM

Shoot-out follows immediately afterward.

DEADLINE: Please sign up no later than Noon, Saturday.

Sign up on the sign-up sheet at the post or e-mail Greg Lisinski at

g.lisinski@sbcglobal.net

RECEIVE SHRAPNEL BY E-MAIL?

Just send your e-mail address to: evanstonp42@gmail.com or danlmf@reagan.com and we will send it to you whenever we publish.

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2018 Legion Year Officers - Post 42

Commander	James M Brusek	773-263-4726
Senior Vice-Commander	VACANT	
Junior Vice-Commander	VACANT	
Adjutant	Greg Lisinski	847-309-8074
Finance Officer	Dan Fleming	847-769-5242
Service Officer	James Farley	847-866-8486
Sergeant at Arms	David Hurwitz	323-518-3159
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 Chris Meter

Newsletter Editor: Dan Fleming

Contributions are always welcome. Contact Dan Fleming (847) 769-5242 or by e-mail at evanstonp42@gmail.com

POST 42 DATES TO REMEMBER 2018

PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!

2018

January 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
January 17	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM
January 25	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
February 1	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
February 4	Super Bowl Party 2:00 PM (until game is over)
February 17	Winter Golf Shoot-out Breakfast 10:00 AM Cost \$10 (tentative)
February 21	7th District Meeting at Evanston Post 42 @ 7:30 PM
February 22	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
March 1	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 2-3	Dept. of Illinois HS Oratorical contest Crowne Plaza Springfield
March 17	Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Richard Huck Award Dinner Cocktails at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00
March 21	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7 PM
March 22	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
April 5	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
April 18	7th District Meeting at Post 42 @ 7:30 PM
April 26	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
April 28	Rebuilding Together Service Project - Volunteers needed
May 3	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting - Food afterward)
May 5	7th District Kentucky Derby Fundraiser
May 9	Canal Shores Twilight Golf League TENTATIVE (Contact ProSop)
May 12	Spaghetti Dinner and Fundraiser (Time TBA)
May 16	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting)
May 23	Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3PM
May 24-28	Poppy Day Collection
May 24	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 26	Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9 AM
May 28	Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM Fountain Square 10:30 AM Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post
June 2	1st Division "Mini-Convention" Location TBA
June 7	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
June 14	Flag Day – Flag Ceremony to Retire Tattered Flags 6 PM at Post
June 20	7th District Meeting 7:30
June 28	Board Meeting 7:30 PM

July 4	4th of July Parade Assembly begins 12:30 pm at starting point Parade at 2pm
July 5	NO BUSINESS MEETING
July 26	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
August 2	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
August 12	Post 42-SAL Golf Outing and American Legion Picnic
August 23	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
September 6	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
September 19	7th District Meeting at Lincolnwood Post 7:30pm
September 22	Commander's Homecoming Event
September 27	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
October 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
October 12	Glow-Ball Golf Tournament 7:30 PM
October 17	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM

Note: Some Dates are subject to change and marked "tentative".