



# SHRAPNEL

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

January 2019



**JAMES M BRUSEK**

## “Commander’s Corner”

**Serving Veterans –  
Mentoring Youth –  
Supporting Our Community**

### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

American Legion Evanston Post 42 has ended 2018 at 100% membership!

Two calendar quarters into the 2019 Legion year, your Post has attained a milestone, that will pay financial dividends back to the Post. To those members that worked the phones to urge Post members to renew early, and those members that brought new members into the Post, and those members that worked on the revitalization.... Thank You! Membership is the “Life blood” of any organization!

Without it, we cease to exist! Our future looks brighter, our Post is stronger, new members mean new energy and ideas.

Thank You! Let’s keep up the good work and bring in more veterans for the remainder of 2019!

For those of us that enjoyed the Post Christmas Party, held on 9 December 2018, a BIG Thank You goes out to Christine Chevlin, Will Candelario, Joe Port and Joe Jefferson. Without these volunteers, you wouldn’t have had a great meal and a good time!

The first calendar quarter, which is actually the third quarter of the 2019 Legion year, will be a very busy quarter for our Post!

The American Legion Family (Legionnaires, SAL, Auxiliary and Legion Riders) will be conducting the annual State Membership Caravan; the scheduled dates will be January 17-26, 2019. During this timeframe, the Caravan will make some 19 stops throughout all 5 divisions in the Department of Illinois. Of the 3 stops in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, our Post will be the 1<sup>st</sup> stop. On Sunday, 20 January at 0800hrs—Breakfast will be served at Evanston Post 42. We expect to serve breakfast to between 35-50 attendees. The special guest speaker on this Caravan will be Past National Commander, Denise Rohan. This year’s caravan is special for two reasons; It is the American Legion’s 100<sup>th</sup> Year celebration, and the Guest Speaker, Denise Rohan, is the first female National Commander. Come and join your fellow Post, District, Division and Department members, have breakfast and hear about the issues that may affect our organization. Uniform of the morning will

be gray slacks, white shirt, tie, navy sport coat and Legion cap. See you there!

Break out the green beer, because on Saturday, 16 March 2019, the Post will be sponsoring our annual St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner and the ninth Richard Huck Award Dinner.

The Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award was created by the Evanston American Legion Post 42 Board of Directors after the untimely passing of our Commander, Richard Huck. Commander Huck was the only commander in the ninety-plus year history of Evanston American Legion Post 42 to have passed away while in office. The board decided to create an award in his honor that best reflected his spirit, energy and dedication to the principles of the American Legion.

The ideal recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award is not necessarily an officer or holder of office in the Post, but rather a post member, SAL member or member of our Post 42 Legion Family, who displays the principles of the American Legion, by active participation in Post programs and activities in a manner that distinguished that member above others.

The recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award is selected by the nomination of any Post 42 member. The nominations are sent to Post 42 for consideration and a vote.

Past Award Recipients are:

- 2011 Adam Kwiecinski
- 2012 Richard A. Thompson (Deceased)
- 2013 Robert Larson (Deceased)
- 2014 Robert "Bobby" Weiss
- 2015 Neal Franke
- 2016 Tony Switzer
- 2017 Robert Kacynski (SAL)
- 2018 Gerald A. Romme
- 2019 James A. Farley Jr.

The Board of Directors decided to create an award in the name of Richard Huck. The purpose of the award was to honor a post member or member of the Post 42 Legion Family, who in the course of the year, best demonstrated spirit, energy and devotion to the principles of the American Legion, especially Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. These "Four Pillars" describe the heart and philosophy of the American Legion in their dedication to Veterans and also service to the Community, State and Nation.

Please join us in honoring this year's recipient, an 8 year Legionnaire & Army veteran, Comrade James A. Farley Jr.

**"It isn't the price you pay to be a member**

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**It's the price you paid to become eligible"**

### **National Commander's Pin Incentive Program**

American Legion national Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his national commander "Membership Excellence: Team 100" incentive pin to any Legion family member who obtains three new members into the American Legion

A new member is any eligible person joining the 2019 membership year who was not a member of the American Legion during the 2018 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members to you detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Reistad's pin incentive program will end 30 June 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.



**DANIEL J KELLEY  
FROM YOUR SAL  
COMMANDER**

Squadron 42 currently stands at 90.9% of its membership goal for Fiscal Year 2019 with 170 paid members. The Squadron needs 17 more paid membership cards (renewals or new applicants approved) to reach 100%. Any additional members above the number 187 would achieve a new "All-Time High" for our Squadron.

Membership renewal notices were issued in late June – almost six months ago. The 2019 Fiscal Year began on July 1<sup>st</sup> and the new 2019 cards were issued to paid members later that month. To date, 109 members renewed (based upon the close of the books last June) and 61 new membership applications were approved. That's the good news.

The big question is why haven't 78 of our members paid their 2019 dues yet? The

Squadron retention rate is 58.2%. According to our National By-Laws, as of January 1, 2019, all membership accounts with unpaid dues are considered delinquent. All benefits and privileges will also be suspended for those who failed to renew their memberships.

Don't get a pink slip. Renew today in person or on line at Visit the following address and click on the link provided: <http://evanstonpost42.com/about-us/membership/sons-of-the-american-legion/>

November 11, 2018 was the Centennial of the Armistice which ended the First World War. A commemorative service was conducted at Fountain Square, and it was well staged and a fitting ceremony (two of my great uncles served during the war). The newly redesigned Fountain Square had been rededicated a few weeks earlier, and it really made for an impressive setting for the observances.

The new Fountain Square is much more accessible as a public assembly space and the visibility of honor roll of those military personnel who sacrificed their lives in service of the United States of America is greatly improved. Despite some construction delays and cost overruns, Fountain Square is, once again, a public memorial that everyone who attended a community forum discussion or public meeting can be proud of. I am grateful that the architects really took the concerns that Post 42 and other veterans' organizations expressed to heart and included many of these suggestions in the new memorial site.

2018 was a sorrowful time in some respects. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, John C. Richards passed away, following our friends Bob May and Hank Kmiecik. I learned that Nancy Lindeman, the wife of Past Post Commander Charles Lindeman, who was a former Auxiliary Unit 42 officer had also died a few months ago. I hope that none of us are called

upon to meet at another funeral home for many weeks and months to come.

The story is that Barney Richards told his son, Jack, that he would have to make a choice. Dad was willing to pay for Jack to take golf or tennis lessons, but not both. Jack chose to golf which proved beneficial to all of us who patronize "Canal Shores." Over the years, Jack supported the golf course in good times and bad and served as a volunteer Director of the Community Golf Course Association. When things went from bad to worse, Jack stepped up again and took a lead role in litigation that resulted in overdue improvements to the course and a reinvigorated Board of Directors.

Jack was a Korean War veteran (Lieutenant in the Army Judge Advocate General Corps) and a lifelong friend of Hank Kmiecik. He was a gifted story teller (of the professional Irishman variety) and a graduate of Evanston Township High School and Loyola University College of Law.

During January, some of your Squadron officers will be attending the Detachment Executive Committee Meeting in Franklin Park. The Homecoming for Detachment Commander Eugene Gort will be held at the same location in March. More details will be provided later.



**CHRISTINE CHEVLIN**  
**CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

## **Season's Greetings From the Chaplain's Corner**

By the time you read this column the holidays will be past in some ways. For our Christian members we may still have a few more days left of the 12 Days of Christmas.

For all of you I pray you took some time during all the "doing" of the holidays to take some time for the "being". We need to stop & spend some quiet time to ponder the true meaning of the holidays and spend time listening for God's word to us no matter what your denomination is. This word comes not as a loud shout to be heard above all the bell ringing & carols being sung but as a soft whisper. So take some time this season to listen, ponder & pray for family, friends & veterans everywhere.

Pray also for our legionnaires who have gone on to Post Everlasting since our last newsletter:

Hank Kmiecik  
John Richards

Rest in Peace.

Peace & Joy to All of you & your families,

Chaplain Christine



**JAMES FARLEY**  
**Service Officer**

## **Veteran Affairs**

### **JAMES A LOVELL VA Federal Health Care Center**

Post 42 will be hosting a group of Hospital patients at a Northwestern University basketball game. On February 13th, the veterans will get an opportunity to experience Big Ten basketball in the new re-designed Welsh-Ryan Arena. We are all looking forward to our courtside seats for and conference game with Rutgers University.

### **Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Post 42**

As we have done in past years, the members of Post 42 hosted our colleagues from the Lovell Hospital. With the able assistance from our Scouts and leaders and parents from Troop 4 and Cub Pack 916, we served 58 veterans to a full sit-down Thanksgiving dinner.

The Dinner was kicked off with a welcome from Commander Brusek. He greeted the Hospital patients and staff and made sure everyone had all they needed.

Magician John Measner performed for the group and was able to engage some guest to help with his performance. We were amazed at the illusions he performed.

We then served a Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings: mashed potatoes and herb gravy, sweet potato casserole, bread stuffing with cranberries. Dessert followed: pumpkin pie with whipped cream, cookies.

Thanks to Starbucks Coffee, Bennison's Bakery and Kauffman's Bagel Bakery. These local businesses donated many delicious products to make our dinner complete.

## **CLUBROOM NEWS**

### **A brief introduction and some initial thoughts**

My name is Nick Grube, and I have accepted the club manager role filling the very large shoes previously and notably of Brett Hallongren. I endeavor to perform an equally worthy service to Post 42.

A few things about myself: I live in Evanston with my wife and fourteen-year-old son and daughter twins. Our house is close enough to facilitate frequent walks to the Legion to have a drink, to pour a drink, or to need a drink. I am self-employed as a designer mixing disciplines of graphic, industrial, and interior design.

After three months as club manager, I may be able to describe the Post. Some nights it is the exact place it's been for decades. On other nights, it will never be the same place twice. I've seen weddings, tailgates, birthdays, reunions, concerts, and Diwali. One Saturday, with all hands on deck, we went from bridal bouquets to bluegrass in an hour. Tuxedos passing flannels on the stairs. The description of the Post I've heard most often is "local gem" and it is; although, I'll go with "stone soup."

I now know where most everything is but not where it went, how most things work but not always how to fix it. I am thankful for all the help I've been given and offered. I recognize and commend the efforts of everyone to make this Post and this organization such a great one. I'm proud to be a part.

Probably the best part of my job at the Post is getting to meet so many people: veterans, members, locals, and guests. Upon accepting/being accepted as the club manager, I appreciate the congratulations, the support, the well wishes, and even the condolences. I look forward to meeting and knowing many more folks to come. Having

written that, please check out some upcoming events and plan on coming out for:

**Bluegrass** Saturday 1/19  
**Evanston Live!** Saturday 1/26  
**Super Bowl LIII** Sunday 2/3  
**Bluegrass** Saturday 2/23  
**Evanston Live!** Saturday 3/9

Thank you,  
Nick Grube

Now where did that keg wrench disappear to?

[ClubManager@EvanstonPost42.com](mailto:ClubManager@EvanstonPost42.com).

## **SUPER BOWL PARTY**

On Sunday, 3 February 2019, the Post will be holding our annual Super Bowl Party!! If you attended it in the past, you know it is a great time to get together with friends and family while enjoying a great game. Game time is 5:30cst. Cost to attend the party is \$10.00 per person. Menu items will include; Italian beef, chicken wings, hotdogs, venison chili, potato salad, coleslaw, chips & dips, and vegetable trays. At game time, there will be plenty of food and a cash bar!

## **GOLF COURSE NEWS**

**WINTER SHOOT-OUT!**  
**Sunday February 17, 2019**  
**10:00 AM at Canal Shores**

**Come on and 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Winners (each a different player)

Breakfast served at 10:00 AM  
Shoot-out follows immediately afterward

DEADLINE: Please sign up no later than Friday February 15, 2019

Sign up on the sign-up sheet at the post or e-mail Greg Lisinski at [g.lisinski@sbcglobal.net](mailto:g.lisinski@sbcglobal.net)

**BY E-MAIL?** Just send your e-mail address to: [evanstonp42@gmail.com](mailto:evanstonp42@gmail.com) or [danlmf@reagan.com](mailto: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	Will Candelario	847-529-0137
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 Joe Jefferson Mike Carder

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 2018**

**PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!**

**2019**

January 3	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
January 16	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Morton Grove post 134 7:30
January 24	Board Mtg 7:30PM
February 3	Super Bowl Party 2:00 PM (until Game over)
February 7	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
February 17	Winter Golf Shoot-out Breakfast 10:00 AM Cost \$10 (Tentative)
February 20	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Evanston Post 42 7:30 PM
February 28	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
March 2-3	Dept of Illinois High School Oratorical Contest Crown Plaza Springfield
March 7	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
March 16	St Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner/Richard Huck Award Dinner Cocktails 5:00 PM, Dinner 6:00 PM
March 20	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Morton Grove post 134 7:30
March 28	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
April 4	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Morton Grove post 134 7:30
April 25	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
April 27	Rebuilding Together Service Project (Tentative)
May 2	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting – Food Afterword)
May 4	7 <sup>th</sup> District Kentucky Derby Fundraiser
May 9	Canal Shores Golf League (TENTATIVE (Contact Golf Course
May 15	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Morton Grove post 134 7:30 (Post Everlasting)
May 22	Poppy Day Can Pick-up, after 3:00 PM
May 23-27	Poppy Day Collections
May 23	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
May 25	Grave Decoration Day: Memorial Park, meet at East lot 9:00 AM
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM – Fountain Square 10:30 AM – Refreshments after ceremonies at Post
June 1	1 <sup>st</sup> Division “Mini-Convention” Location TBD
June 6	General Business Mtg 7:30 AM (Food Afterword)
June 14	Flag Day Ceremony 6:00 PM at Post
June 19	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Morton Grove post 134 7:30
June 27	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
July 4	4 <sup>th</sup> of July Parade Meet at Post 10:00 AM – Parade starting Point 2:00 PM
July 4	NO GENERAL BUSINESS MTG
July 10-14	Dept DEC & Convention Springfield Illinois
July 25	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
August 1	General Business Mtg 7:30 (Food Afterword)
August 11	Post SAL Golf Outing/Picnic
August 22	Board Mtg 7:30 PM
September 5	General Business Mtg 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
September 18	7 <sup>th</sup> District Mtg at Lincolnwood post 134 7:30
September 22	Post 42 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Post 42
September 26	Board Mtg 7:30 PM

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