

January 2025

Commander



Christine Candelario

Commander's Corner

Dear Post 42 Members,

I hope you survived the holidays and this finds you well. I'm well and adjusting in my role as your commander. At Thanksgiving we all can find at least one thing we are thankful for. Hopefully you were able to enjoy the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza without the stress they usually bring. If you haven't done so make a plan to be more involved in post activities. Check our post calendar for upcoming events. We miss you. Some upcoming events include our Super bowl Party and Huck Award dinner.

Our SAL came through again this year with a Great Pancake Breakfast. Legionnaires pitched in to help in the kitchen and on the line.



Legionnaires and SAL members serve breakfast at the Annual SAL Pancake Breakfast. (Photo by Christine Candelario)



The Pancake Breakfast was well attended. (Photo by Christine Candelario)

Post 42 was well represented at the Evanston Veterans Day ceremony. In addition to my Reflection, Greg Wilson offered the closing prayer and Gerry Romme led the crowd in God Bless America.



Veterans and friends attend a reception after the ceremony in Evanston. (Photo by Christine Candelario)



Veterans Day reception in Evanston. (Photo by Christine Candelario)

A festive cake at the

We were mentioned in The Skokie Review and the Evanston Round Table. After the ceremony refreshments were provided at the post.



The Post Holiday party was bittersweet this year as Jr. Vice Mike Wojciechowstki lost his wife and visitation was the same day. Post members attended the visitation either before the party or after.

Ongoing post improvements continue thanks to Jim Farley and his team. Thanks to our new Bar Manager, Sean for improving our Club Room.

Moving forward New Years is a time for fresh starts; remember to renew your membership if you haven't done so. Evanston Post 42 is part of the 7th District. There are 6 posts in the 7th District.

Our District numbers are:

116.7% Hellenic/ Park Ridge
93.48% Lincolnwood
89.36% Evanston
87.74% George Benjamin/ Northbrook
80% Joseph Sesterhenn/ Glenview
37.28% Morton Grove

Thanks to Mike Carder, Jim Farley,
and Peter Koerner for their hard work getting our
numbers up.

The Membership Caravan will be in our
area on January 12, 2025. Everyone is invited to
Morton Grove 6 pm dinner (6144 Dempster
Street, Morton Grove).

January we will be doing Buddy Checks.
We like to check on everyone. It can be a lonely
time of year. If you know someone that needs a
little extra TLC, please let me know. Going
forward if you have any concerns about the post,
I want to hear from you! Things can't be
corrected if I don't know about it.

Veterans Strengthening America,
Commander Christine

SAL Commander



David Madison

From Your SAL Commander:

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

First of all I want to recognize the hard
work of all the volunteers who helped us have a
record-setting Pancake Breakfast this year,
especially Chris Foreman who led the charge.
Thank you all! I also want to thank the local
businesses who sponsored the placemats this
year. Please grab one of the extras from the bar
and support those local businesses. We raised
more than \$5000 dollars and will be distributing
\$500 contributions to ten local charities. Well
done everyone!

Regular Meetings are held on the 2nd
Thursday of the month, at 7:30PM. For those that
cannot attend in person, a Google Meeting has
been arranged here:

Please join us in person or via Google Meet.
<https://meet.google.com/ooi-dins-zpr>

As always:

Dues can be sent (please DO NOT send CASH)
to:
SAL Squadron 42
1030 Central Avenue
Evanston, IL

Or electronically by sending a Zelle Payment to:
cdr@post42sal.org

In the memo section of either your check or Zelle payment, please put "SAL 2025 Dues" and your member number (if you have it handy).

Sincerely,
David Madison
Commander, SAL Squadron 42

Past 7th District Commander



James M. Brusek

The Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award

Nominations for the 2025 recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award are now being accepted. **The nominating timeline will terminate on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at the conclusion of the Board of Directors Meeting.**

Commander Richard Huck was the only commander in the one hundred five-year history of Evanston American Legion Post 42 that transferred to Post Everlasting 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 purpose of the award is to honor a Post or SAL member, who in the course the year(s) best demonstrated motivation, vitality, and dedication to the principles of the American

Legion, specifically Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. These "Four Pillars" describe the heart and philosophy of the American Legion in their dedication to Veterans and service to the community, state, and nation.

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

The recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award is selected by the nomination of any Post or SAL member. Nominations should be legible and as detailed as possible, broken into three sections:

1. Personal information, i.e.: Family life, education, employment, etc.
2. Military information, i.e.; branch of service, promotions, awards etc. & if SAL, history of the person who allows them to be SAL.
3. What he/she has done while a member of Post/Squadron 42

To be considered for the Huck Award. A single paragraph will not be sufficient.

The Nomination will be placed in a sealed envelope, clearly identified as "Huck Award Nomination," addressed to the Post Adjutant.

Following the nomination deadline, all envelopes will be given to the selection committee for consideration by vote. The selection committee will review the nominations and present their selection to the Board of Directors. The award presentation will be made in March at the annual corned beef dinner on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

All nominations are due NLT the conclusion of the Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, January 23, 2025.



**Mike (Wojo) Wojciechowski
Jr. Vice Commander**

The Santa Clause

Dear Santa,

Ever since we were children, we were told that you only come once a year and mostly down the chimney. You bring gifts to boys and girls who have been good throughout the year. And the bad girls and boys either get coal in their stockings, clothes, or no presents at all. But definitely not any toys.

As we started growing up, we were also told that you couldn't be everywhere which was why dads, uncles, or grandfathers stepped up to fill in for you. Obviously, this is because we, as adults, know we must keep the spirit of Christmas alive and well for over a week rather than only for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

But the spirit of Christmas shouldn't just be during the Yule season. It should be throughout the year. My readers have heard me use the term RAK, Random Act of Kindness. Perhaps it starts during the Christmas season but the generosity needs to continue from that point on.

This generous spirit can manifest itself as the inner child in all of us. Our wives and girlfriends often will say their men still haven't grown up yet. We still make mistakes due to immaturity. And the only mistakes we repeat are the fun ones LOL. The good part of that lack of maturity is that we can better understand our children and know why they think the way they do.

We also get our children to understand writing a letter to you keeps them from getting on your naughty list. It helps them to do their chores, and being respectful to their mom, dad, sister, brother, and adults in general.

And, it is to no real surprise, as we get older we take great pleasure in being Santa. For we have known for many years it is always better to give than to receive. Thank you Santa for the gift of giving to others, especially all those good little boys and girls.

Santa's Helper,
Mike Wojciechowski

Happy New Year's Resolution By: Mike Wojciechowski

For the past 38 years, my family has celebrated at the stroke of midnight of the New Year, with sparkling cider and herring on a cracker. It's been my family's tradition for two generations now. My mom taught me doing this at the stroke of midnight, is to help bring monetary good luck to my family. It may be the smallest piece of herring on that cracker, and it's a cracker sandwich actually, but it's a tradition that has brought us good luck all these years.

My other personal tradition is also a small Chinese statue of Ho Tai. A deity of Chinese folklore to bring monetary good luck also. Thinking we can always use as much good luck without it costing us anything. Call it what you will, but after 38 years of financial stability, there is something to be said for continuing that tradition.

Another New Year's resolution that I've maintained is to link back up with an old friend, coworker, neighbor, or classmate. It's to re-establish an old friendship. Facebook has been a great tool in re-connecting with someone. White pages subscription is another tool to finding someone. It's all in how eager you want to re-kindle a friendship.

I've found classmates from grade school and high school. Also, from my National Guard crew that I'd only work one weekend a month and two weeks during the summer. And then there's my former coworkers. Since leaving the Navy in 1979, I've worked at only six different companies for 41 years. Two of them I worked at were 17 years each. The rest of the four jobs totaled seven years. I've worked with people of all ethnicities, ages, genders, and religions. I've always treated people like how I wanted to be treated: with respect. It's not very often that I've been able to link up with any one of them due to death or relocation. Most of those years, the lack of phone numbers being the same, or not like we had cell phones back then like we do now.

But the point of this article is to remind people that if you value an old friendship of coworkers, friends, neighbors, or classmates, make the effort to seek them out and re-connect. You just might be surprised how much you still have in common in spite how many years you have been apart.

Season of Good Tidings **By: Mike Wojciechowski**

Since I've started writing, I have met a number of strangers whose hearts have been touched by reading some of my articles. I've been the recipient of handshakes, thank-yous, and hugs. Sometimes they nod their heads reading them, sometimes they smile, and sometimes they cry. My intent in writing and sharing these articles isn't to make people emotional, but it's to get them to understand that there are other people out there experiencing some of the same things that I write about.

It touches base with what they've experienced. It's often uncanny that I am told as they point to a specific sentence telling me: "I've done that!" or "Is this about personal experience?"

Obviously, I do admit to having done that or experienced that. Having done something or seeing it firsthand helps us to learn a valuable lesson. The lesson of how to act when presented with a certain circumstance.

And now with the season of Goodwill and Good Tidings upon us, we often see RAK. Random Act of Kindness. Simple things we see more often than not and witness. Helping someone change a tire, bringing groceries into a house, buying someone a cup of coffee or a meal, or simply opening a door. It's the gift of giving with nothing being expected in return.

Yes, there are a number of "pan handlers" out in the middle of the street near intersections, asking for money, carrying a sign saying "Homeless and Hungry, can you please help me?" I'm sure there are a number of people out there like that that are legitimate, but it's those people who portray themselves to be homeless or hungry who are far from that. I've had a few police officers in my neck of the woods who have pointed out certain individuals who are unscrupulous who panhandle. Like the old saying goes, "Once burned, twice shy."

My grandfather would rather bring a street person into a bar and buy him a shot and a beer instead of giving him money. He'd know where the money really went and for what it was used.

Jesus is the reason for the season and encourages us to bring good tidings. We should continue to donate not just money, but food, goods, or labor to worthy causes.

Army – Navy Game Update

Navy not only crushed Army in their annual football face-off, but Mike Wojciechowski defended his title and the honor of the Navy by defeating Jim Brusek in Army-Navy Chili Cook Off competition. In a vote of 6-3, Mike, the Navy's representative at the Post, won, again, with his Venison Chili.

\$170 dollars was collected to raise funds for the new Fisher House near Great Lakes Naval Station.

Go Navy!

Veteran Community Service

By: James Farley

While the American Legion is known as a nationwide organization constantly supporting veteran's affairs at the national and state levels much of the positive effect of the organization is local. Post 42 members here in Evanston are working on several activities helping veterans in our community.

For example:

Using the proceeds earned at our family picnic in September, Post 42 was able to make a \$500 donation to the Midwest Veteran's Closet (MVC) in North Chicago. The MVC is collecting clothing, furniture, food and other household supplies to need veteran families in Lake and Cook County.

Members of the Post visited veteran patients at the Skokie Meadows assisted living facility in our neighborhood. The Post members hosted ten patients to popcorn and soft drinks while we showed the documentary film, "Heroes On Deck" about how specially fabricated ships were used to train WWII Navy fighter pilots on Lake Michigan. Everyone enjoyed learning about this interesting story.

Post 42 Legionnaires and Evanston VFW Post members visited a group of veteran patients at the Pearl on Foster Street. We met with facility patients who served in most of the military branches. The vets ranged in age from 50's to one Navy vet who is 102 years old! What an honor it was to talk with these men about their military experiences.

Two Successful Service Projects

By: James Farley

In May of 2023 Eagle Scout candidate, Neil Stedman-Shaw, was looking for a project to complete earning the Eagle Scout rank. He approached Post 42 about if he might be able to perform a service project of significance. Well, he was successful in selling his idea to build a fence to enclose the Post storage area on the East face of the Legion building. He made the plan

and collected the material to build a six-foot-tall fence surrounding the facility. And supervised the construction with the help of his Troop members and parents. The very handsome fence is perfect for the area. See the plaque mounted on the fence.

Upon the completion of the fence we quickly noted that there was more work to do to secure and beautify the storage area. The ground inside the fence was uneven and many large weeds had grown up making the storage area less usable and was quite unsightly,

The Civil Air Patrol to the rescue! Under the direction of Captain Bill Klosa. The cadets of our local CAP Unit jumped in and enthusiastically cleared out the weeds and leveled the ground. They moved many paving bricks and cleared the area down to the base soil. They made it possible for the Post to spread pea gravel to permanently finish the storage area.

Post 42 has benefitted greatly from the ingenuity and hard work of the youth in the Post 42 family.



Members of our local Civil Air Patrol Unit pose for a photo after completing work on the outdoor storage area. (Photo by James Farley)

Post Building Improvements

By: Jim Farley

Over the last 18 months, the Post 42 has been making several improvements in our House and Grounds. In October the Elevator, Porch and Deck project completed the last phase in the construction. We just finished the last major exterior addition. We were able finance the project with part of the revenue that the Post earned by renting out main hall to the City of

Evanston Park District last summer. We now have a secure enclosed storage area under the Porch. Thanks to JAG Construction Company for their quality work and a significantly discounted cost.

News from Post 42 Charitable Foundation <https://post42cf.org/>



**Service Officer
Steve Capiz
Veteran Affairs**

Season's greetings from the Post 42 Charitable Foundation.

The foundation continues to seek individuals and organizations that may fit our mission statement and need our support. We have dedicated a page on our website www.post42cf.org for submissions. Navigate to <https://post42cf.org/propose-a-recipient-1>. Here is where anyone can leave information about a worthy veteran, veteran family or veteran organization that can benefit from the Foundation.

Happy New Year!

As we turn over to the New Year, please think about the Veterans in your life, especially those who struggle to access services in the winter. I am here to help facilitate support for those Veterans however I can. I will continue my work with helping our fellow Vets get the benefits they deserve. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Respectfully,
Steve Capiz

We held our 2nd annual Bocce Ball Tournament on November 2nd. As reported in the last issue, we partnered with the 100 Club of Illinois <https://www.100clubil.org/>. This organization earmarks funds and resources for the families of the fallen as well as active-duty heroes. We were honored to be included in this event and to split the proceeds from this event. This event raised over \$9000 for each of our organizations!

During a previous meeting the Board met and voted in an additional member. We are pleased to welcome Mike O'Connor and look forward to his contributions. If you know Mike, you know that he will be an excellent addition to the Board. Glad to have you on board Mike!

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for our annual golf outing. This coming year, it will be held on June 12, 2025 at the Bloomingdale Golf Club. More precise details to come but please plan on attending or volunteering. Go to

<https://post42cf.org/events> and download our Save-The-Date flyer and feel free to share.

With the holiday season upon us, let us all reflect on the sacrifices that all service members and their families have made and will continue to do so. We wish them peace, safety and offer our continued gratitude and support.

On behalf of the Post 42 Charitable Foundation, we wish you happiness and joy during the holiday season and in the New Year.

Sincerely,
Chris Mitchell
Post 42 Charitable Foundation
Trustee/Historian

GIFT AND ESTATE PLANNING FOR POST 42 AND THE FUTURE

Have considered leaving a bequest to Post 42 as part of your estate plan? A gift or bequest to Post 42 can have fantastic long-term benefits to veterans, service personnel and our community.

There are so many activities and programs your Post 42 gift or bequest would support: helping veterans, visiting the sick, raising funds for the “Gifts to the Yanks” Program, sending parcels to our troops overseas, supporting Scouting in Evanston, helping to repair housing for needy homeowners, helping the community to remember its veterans through public ceremonies and public speaking, supporting Legion Programs and sponsoring Little League and American Legion Baseball. When we have large capital investment issues like boiler replacement, we would have resources to draw on.

We have also created a 501(c)3 Charitable Foundation to be able to accept donations that are 100% tax deductible. This new Foundation will allow us to support veterans that need assistance as well as other organizations that provide similar support. We just completed our 1st annual charity golf outing that was an outstanding success to start off the foundation.

If you are interested, please contact your Attorney, and ask him to include us in your planning through a gift, will or codicil. You can also contact us for more information by e-mailing us at evanstonp42@gmail.com, by calling the Post Commander who is listed toward the end of this newsletter or going to our web site www.evanstonpost42.com and following the links to donate.



Resources for Veterans U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Discover VA benefits and resources
PHONE: 1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)
WEBSITE: va.gov

Crisis support for Veterans, their friends, and families
PHONE: Dial 988 then Press 1
CHAT: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)
TEXT: 838255

Stories of strength and recovery for Veterans and their families
WEBSITE: MakeTheConnection.net

Counseling, peer support, and other resources at community offices
PHONE: 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)
WEBSITE: www.vetcenter.va.gov

Help for Veterans and their families to find and keep safe, stable housing
PHONE: 1-877-4AID-VET (424-3838)
WEBSITE: va.gov/homeless

CLUBROOM NEWS



Upstairs Bar at Post 42 - "Building Community While Serving Veterans"

Greetings and Salutations from the Upstairs Bar! Thank you so much, from all of us upstairs at the Post 42 Bar, for making 2024 such a fantastic year. The sense of community and charity I've seen demonstrated by the members and patrons of the Post constantly has me in awe. It is simply unlike any other bar or restaurant I've ever worked at, and it is truly a privilege to be a part of it.

The bar has had its ups and downs this year, but overall we have been trending in the right direction. The bar itself is in a decent spot as we prepare to hunker down for the winter months and holiday party season (fingers crossed no more large appliances or pipes break in the near future). As a result, we have been able to reliably increase the amount of money we donate to the Legion Charitable Fund, which has been a goal of mine since I joined the Post back in June. We have a few

exciting events coming in the next few months I hope you'll join us for:

- January 15th / February 19th / March 19th - Legion Concert Series - Join us every third Wednesday for a free concert!
- February 9th - The Post 42 Super Bowl Party - Participate in the Super Bowl Squares, or just come by to enjoy the festivities!
- March 15th - 2nd Annual Lizenbergs St. Patrick's Day Bash - Celebrate Irish heritage by drinking deep from our stock of Irish Whiskey and dancing to traditional Irish music!
- March 16th - St. Patrick's Day & Richard Huck Award Dinner - Enjoy a traditional Irish-American meal of corned beef and cabbage, as we celebrate Post 42's Legionnaire of the Year, Richard Huck Award winner for 2024: Michael Wojciechowski!

I'm looking forward to seeing what 2025 will bring, and improving the bar as much as we can!

Sincerely,
Sean Foreman
ClubManagerP42@gmail.com

**POST 42 DATES TO REMEMBER 2025
PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!**

2025

January 1	New Year's Day
January 2	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
January 2	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
January 9	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
January 9	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
January 15	7th District Meeting, Morton Grove Post 134 7:30 PM
January 23	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
February 6	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
February 6	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
February 9	Post 42 Super Bowl LIX Party (Time TBA)
February 13	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
February 13	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
February 19	7th District Meeting, Evanston Post 42 7:30 PM
February 27	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
March 6	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
March 6	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 9	Daylight Savings Time Starts – Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
March 13	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 13	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 16	St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner and Richard Huck Award Dinner Cocktails at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM
March 19	7th District Meeting, Morton Grove Post 134 7:00 PM
March 27	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
April 3	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
April 3	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
April 10	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
April 10	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
April 16	7th District Meeting, Post 42 Evanston 7:30 PM
April 24	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 1	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
May 1	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting – Food afterward)
May 8	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
May 8	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
May 19	Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3PM
May 19-27	Poppy Day Collection

May 21 **7th District Meeting, Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM**
May 22 **Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM**
May 24 **Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9:00 AM**
May 26 **Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM Fountain Square**
10:30 AM Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post

June 5 **Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM**
June 5 **General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward) Post Election of Officers**
June 7-13 **Boys State Eastern Illinois University**
TBA **1st Division "Mini-Convention" Location TBA**
June 12 **SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
June 12 **SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM**
June 14 **US Army Birthday**
June 14 **Flag Day**
June 14-20 **Girls State Eastern Illinois University**
June 18 **7th District Meeting, Lincolnwood Post 1226 7:30 PM**
June 21-27 **Junior State Police Training**
June 26 **Board Meeting 7:30 PM**

Note: Some Dates are subject to change

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2025 Legion Year Officers - Post 42

Commander	Christine Candelario	773-425-1133
Senior Vice-Commander	Michael Carder	708-990-3489
Junior Vice-Commander	Mike Wojciechowski	708-296-6688
Adjutant	Peter Koerner	260-318-1408
Finance Officer	James Farley	720-244-7241
Service Officer	Steve Capiz	773-319-7803
Sergeant at Arms	Will Candelario	847-529-0137
Chaplain	Greg Wilson	
Judge Advocate	Greg Lisinski	847-309-8074
Post Historian	Michael Carder	708-990-3489
Past Commander	Will Candelario	847-529-0137
SAL Commander	David Madison	312-953-6260

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian Darbyshire
 Larry Pahlke
 James Sullivan
 Director Emeritus Adam Kwieciwski

Newsletter Editor: Peter Koerner

Contributions are always welcome. Contact Peter Koerner (260) 318-1408 or by e-mail at pkoerner@gmail.com