



Shrapnel



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

October 2024

Commander



Christine Candelario

“Commander’s Corner”

Dear Post 42 Members,

Let me reintroduce myself. I am currently serving as your Chaplain. I have been a member of Post 42 since 2015 and your Chaplain since 2017. I served in the Army Nurse Corps from 2001-2011, with Past State Commander Michael Carder, with the 801st Combat Support Hospital. It was through his encouragement that I joined Post 42.

This year’s elections were held in June, as the Legion year begins in July. All positions were filled except for Commander. The Past

Commanders came up with the idea of having “Leadership Council”. Unfortunately that idea was rejected by National and Department (State) leaders. If we don’t have a Commander we would have to surrender our Charter and Post 42 would go away!

I stepped up to be Commander when no one else would. This is a job that I can’t do alone. I NEED YOUR HELP!! Our mission is to keep Post 42 alive and well.

Don’t let fear of not knowing how; stand in your way of participating. We’ll show you the ropes.

If we ALL don’t step up, make one meeting a month, and volunteer in our projects, Post 42 will be going away.

If you have concerns that all we do is drink and swap war stories, I can assure you that’s not the case. We work on projects that support the Four Pillars of the American Legion:

Pillar I: Veterans Affairs & Rehab:

- Post 42 supports the Lovell Legends (wheelchair basketball team).
- Participate in Wake & Funeral services and Memorial Day services.
- Host Thanksgiving dinner for Lovell vets

Pillar II: National Security:

- Support Blue Star Banner Program
- Support Midwest Veterans Closet and Military Outreach

Pillar III: Americanism:

- We recruit high school students for Boys and Girls State
- Conduct Flag retirement ceremonies
- Participate in the 4th of July Parade in Evanston

Pillar IV: Children & Youth:

- We support Special Olympics

I know there are more female post members. I would appreciate your participation ideas, and perspectives so we can work on issues of our female members and so that I'm not the only woman at the meetings.

For our younger members with families and jobs I would especially like to see you come to meetings to help us understand your needs from the Post and get support with other members with families or other members with jobs.

In closing I hope to see you soon. Please don't be offended if I don't know all your names. It takes me a while. It's easy for you as I'm usually the only woman at the meetings.

Hopefully this will be changing. Post 42 is a TEAM and there is no I in team. We need you!

I am not completely abandoning my role as Chaplain. I will be working with Gregory Wilson who is a past Chaplain of Post 42, who will fill in for me.

Last but not least I want to thank Past Commander Will Candelario for his leadership these past four years.

Veterans Strengthening America,
Commander Christine



Post 42 Commander Christine Candelario with Past Commander Will Candelario Aug 1.
(Photo by Peter Koerner)

SAL Commander



David Madison

From Your SAL Commander:

Summer is over and we are back in full fall force. The SAL is once again in Pancake Breakfast planning mode. We will be finalizing our planning at the next regular meeting (October 10th, at 7:30pm). For those that may not know, we have raised \$4000 in each of the past two

Pancake Breakfasts. We have three sources of revenues for the event. First, the Placemat Sponsors, who account for the largest amount of money raised. If you know someone who has a local business and would like to be a placemat sponsor, or, if you yourself have a business you'd like to promote, please see the form at:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/16rCgbZFkYklzswUNN0hDxw8lrjnHo-NHIG_EbIzY4jw/edit?usp=sharing

As always, we need volunteers to make this happen. From everything from flyer distribution to kitchen and banquet hall preparation to flipping pancakes and cleaning up when we are done, we can always use more help!

Volunteer Sign-Up:

<https://forms.gle/FJaEg1tujDK8kG399>

The Pancake Breakfast Flyer is attached to the email (for those getting it in electronic form); please download the attachment and send it to anyone you know who may be interested in volunteering or attending to enjoy good food and conversation.

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

Post 42 Collects Donations for Midwest Veterans Closet

On Saturday 7 September 2025 members of Post, Squadron & Booster 42 were able to deliver our first furniture to the Veterans' Closet in 2024.

Our first stop was in Orland Park, where we picked two complete beds. Then on to Plainfield, where we picked up more beds, couches, living room chairs, tables, desks, lamps and clothes & linens. The 26' foot truck was not as empty as shown when we arrived at the Veterans' Closet.

We were fortunate that the closet had any space at all. They are in the process of building completely larger, new, modern structure and have been closed for any/all furniture drop offs since December 2023. Thank you to all the volunteers.



The first donation of beds from Orland Park.
(Photo by James Brusek)



Pictured volunteers in photo left to right: Dan Fleming, Jack Steffek, Peter Koerner, Alex Tsvetanov, Kirk Molinero (furniture donor), James M. Brusek & James P. Sampson. Not pictured Ian Darbyshire and Mike Wojciechowski.

(Photo by James 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.



Past Post Commander and new Chaplain Greg Wilson.

The Family Day was a very fun and successful event.



Chaplain Christine Candelario

Greetings from the Chaplain's Corner

We have begun another season. Changes are afoot. As you now know I have been elected as your new Commander. This does not mean that the Post's spiritual needs have been abandoned. I have enlisted Past Commander Greg Wilson to be our chaplain. He has been our chaplain in the past. He will cover for me while I am your Commander. Please give him your support as we enter a new phase at Post 42.



The ticketing entry at the Family Day Aug. 11. (Photo by Chaplain Candelario)



Community members enjoy the music and nice weather Aug. 11 at Post 42. (Photo by Chaplain Candelario)



There was quite an impressive turnout throughout the day. (Photo by Peter Koerner)

In the next few months as we celebrate the holidays, let us pause and thank our Creator for all of the blessings we have received.



Kids enjoyed various activities during the day. (Photo by Chaplain Candelario)



Peace and Love,
Chaplain Christine



Post 42 member Jerry Romme sings *America the Beautiful* with the Canal Jumpers playing back-up Aug. 11. The Canal Jumpers along with Louie Zagoras provided live music all evening. (Photo by Peter Koerner)



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

**Pearl Harbor vs. 911: A Comparison of
Generations
By: Mike Wojciechowski**

Almost 83 years ago Americans witnessed its first attack on U.S. Soil of the modern era. It took almost 60 years later to once again be attacked and this time, a bit closer to home. Most notably at the Twin Towers in New York City. As we all know that day, a number of other states and locations were also attacked.

The contrast between the two events is that Pearl Harbor was a military target. The other, was an attack on innocent victims, American citizens themselves, not the military. They attacked our lifestyle, our families, our country, and what we stand for.

But we must remember where it is we have been, in order to know where it is we must go. If you see something, say something.

We must not tolerate the systemic, planned carnage that was perpetrated by Anti-Americans who we allowed entry into this country out of the goodness of our hearts.

We must prevent further harm to our citizens. And in order to do this we must: read between the lines, learn to do the research, and think for ourselves.

God bless us one and all.

COURAGE

By: Mike Wojciechowski

As an acting Platoon Sergeant in my last few years in the Illinois National Guard, and as a leader, I learned to power down. Some of the troops that are assigned under you are given tasks or missions. These tasks or missions are an essential part of the overall unit's responsibilities and missions that are under the jurisdiction of the Governor of Illinois.

And in doing so, they learn firsthand the meaning of leadership and responsibility. As a leader, you learn to accept responsibility and be able to delegate authority. Leading by example, not being afraid to still get your hands dirty if and when necessary.

In this training, it's the start of the changing of the guard. Passing onto your troops what it takes to be a good leader. Getting your troops to complete missions not because they HAVE to, but because they WANT to. A sense of pride and accomplishment. And this sense is actually in both civilian and military lives.

The spark of inspiration for this article isn't just because of my military experience, but knowing that not all generations understand the need of the passing of the military torch because it doesn't always apply. I remember in the movie "The Help," the mother of the main character tells her: "Sometimes courage skips a generation." This dialogue to me didn't mean how my 2 sons didn't find the need to join the military. But in fact, their courage is in the form of being a father, a husband and a good provider. A roof over their heads, food on their tables, and clothes on their backs. And not just only their basic needs either.

Courage comes in many forms and not just in the military sense. But it's the idea of knowing something that you could fail at but you attempt to achieve it anyway. We learn by doing and in doing so, we learn a valuable lesson: A lesson that's shared from one generation to the next.

Naval Traditions: I AM A SQUID!

By: Mike Wojciechowski

I spent four plus years of my young adult life after high school in the United States Navy. I took the Oath of Enlistment before I graduated so I entered into the Delayed Entry Program. Boot Camp for me was in San Diego. After Boot Camp, I was transferred to Great Lakes in North Chicago. I then graduated from Basic Electricity and Electronics School. It was there that I met a number of fleet sailors from both the Navy and the Coast Guard.

I started Gunner's Mate School but I quit the program and unceremoniously was transferred to the East Coast onboard USS John F Kennedy (CV-67), an aircraft carrier in dry-dock at Portsmouth, Va. After retrofitting, she was returned to her home port of Norfolk, Va. It was then that I started to learn of the traditions of the Navy. The same traditions that have been carried on for the last 240 plus years. Respect, discipline, swabbing decks, mess cook duty, ports of call, when, where, and who to salute.

West coast, East coast, Gulf coast, Mediterranean and Caribbean. Not only had I served on one aircraft carrier, but two: I am a Plank-owner on USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69). Plank-owner is when you are stationed aboard a ship when it is commissioned. I never really knew how much of an honor it is being a Plank-owner until I started telling other military retirees.

I never crossed the equator so that makes be a Pollywog in naval traditions. But I have to say, considering all the bases, cities, towns, states, and countries I visited while serving in the Navy, I take great pride in knowing I was a representative of the U.S. Navy and the United States of America.

The nickname for a sailor is "Squid." Typically, it's used by sailors to call one another and it's a term of endearment because of the traditions that we've come to love and appreciate. We share these traditions with other sailors who come after us so that they can carry these

traditions on for generations to come. Just as other services share their own traditions to the newest generation of soldiers, airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsman, and newly minted guardians.



**Service Officer
Steve Capiz
Veteran Affairs**

Time for Fall and cooler weather. Let's set back our clocks and prepare for the holidays. I will continue my work with helping our fellow Vets get the benefits they deserve. On the following pages of this newsletter, I have provided various resources for Veterans to include a list of VSOs in the area. If you have any questions, please reach out.

Respectfully,
Steve Capiz

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



Greetings from the Evanston Post 42 Charitable Foundation. As we wrap up the summer, we reflect on the warm weather days, the success of our events, and the valued support of our volunteers and donors. We also look

forward to what is to come. We are excited to not only share a save-the-date for the 2025 outing but also introduce you to a few events that benefit the veteran community.

Bocce Ball Tourney- “Boccin’ for the Red, White & Blue” -November 2, 2024- Elwood Park Community Recreation Center- 4 Conti Parkway Elmwood Park, IL. 11a.m. check in, Noon start. Individuals or teams are welcome to attend. This benefit is in conjunction 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 are honored to be included in this event as the 100 Club of Illinois has invited the Post 42 Charitable Foundation to split the proceeds from this event. This is a unique venue. There are indoor, climate-controlled courts as well as outdoor courts. There will be a pig roast (with all the fixins’) and a cash bar.

Please save Thursday, June 12, 2025, for our annual golf outing. We again return to the Bloomingdale Golf Club for our biggest fundraiser of the year.

The Evanston post 42 Charitable Foundation is also excited to announce that we are currently planning our first poker tournament. This is sure to be a popular event so stay tuned for specifics. Following our Facebook page is a great way to stay in the loop as we will post information and updates.

The Foundation is excited to share that we have contributed to American Legion Post 335 for their River Grove Veterans Memorial - <https://www.rivergroveil.gov/365/River-Grove-Veterans-Memorial>. The Memorial was developed to “honor veterans, providing a place of reflection and remembrance and a place of recognition to give thanks to the many men and women who have given their lives for this country. It will be located at Indian Boundary and Grand Avenue in River Grove.” The Post 42 Charitable Foundation has sponsored two benches (Army and Navy) that will demonstrate how Post 42 supports the veteran community. We hope to have renderings soon.

As always, we thank everyone who contributed, volunteered or assisted the foundation either financially or with their time, muscle etc. As with any organization, its strength comes from participation and a desire to support the American veteran and their families. Contact us to learn more or to get involved.

You can also go to www.post42cf.org or visit the Facebook page (please “Like” and “Follow”) to learn more or to comment.

Wishing everyone a safe, and enjoyable fall season.

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.

CLUBROOM NEWS



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

Greetings and Salutations from the Upstairs Bar!

Hello from the bar! I'm grateful to still be here, even after an ill-fated attempt to replace Coors Light (which was quickly rectified, everybody makes mistakes). I am happy to report that the bar is in a great place at the moment! The inclusion of taxes and other tweaks has enabled us to increase the amount of money we are able to pass on to the Post 42 account each month, which is wonderful. Here are a few choice highlights and updates from the past few months:

- We officially opened on Tuesday nights, and welcomed two new bartenders: Jeff Kmet and Jack McConkey. In addition, we welcomed back Seth Brav-McCabe to regular bar duties on Saturday nights.

- We introduced the Legion Concert Series every third Wednesday with the help of John Manos, which will continue through November before taking a break in December. The next show is scheduled for October 16th featuring Late Breaking News.

- John Hayes and Larry Knox have helped with booking concerts on select weekends without a private event, bringing our official concert count each month up to three. The next show is set for October 11th, featuring The Paulina Project.

- Foodie Monday made its triumphant return after Labor Day, with thanks to Dan and Karen Fleming for picking back up the baton. This continues to be a weekly highlight and a great time to come in and socialize with other members. Aydin Dincer, Mark Meyer, and Alex Tsvetanov deserve special mention for keeping this event alive and thriving. Sign up sheets are

Resources for Veterans



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

myVA

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

Veterans Crisis Line
DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

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

MAKE THE CONNECTION
www.MakeTheConnection.net

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

Vet Center

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

877-4AID-VET
va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838

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


posted in the bar for anyone interested in offering their culinary expertise to the Post!

We are looking forward to continuing to serve the members of Post 42 as we head into autumn. As always, feedback is welcomed and encouraged, so please reach out to me in person or at ClubManagerP42@gmail.com. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Sean Foreman
ClubManagerP42@gmail.com

Free Health and Wellness Mobile Apps




- Live Whole Health**
Learn skills to help you reach your whole health goals
- Mindfulness Coach**
Reduce stress or anxiety, manage pain
- PTSD Coach**
Monitor and manage PTSD-related symptoms
- Virtual Hope Box**
Manage stressors with personalized support tools
- CBT-i Coach**
Improve sleep quality and duration
- Annie App for Veterans**
Receive text reminders to help you manage your care
(Note: This is only available via VA Mobile.)


THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 42
— present —
**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

The Annual Pancake Breakfast benefits Evanston's local charities. Since the inaugural breakfast, we have donated over \$60,000 to charities.

★
WHEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024
WHEN: 7AM-12PM
COST: \$9/PERSON AT THE DOOR
**ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS
AND CHILDREN 8 AND UNDER
ARE FREE**

50/50 Raffle to benefit Local Veterans & Families
\$5 for 1 ticket, \$25 for 6 tickets, \$50 for 13 tickets

OLD FASHIONED BREAKFAST:
PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE, JUICE, MILK, COFFEE

FOR MORE INFO: EVANSTONPOST42.COM/EVENTS/PANCAKE-BREAKFAST

**POST 42 DATES TO REMEMBER 2024
PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!**

2024

October 3 Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
October 3 General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
October 10 SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
October 10 SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
October 13 US Navy Birthday
October 16 7th District Meeting, Geo. W. Benjamin Post 791 7:30pm
October 24 Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM

November 3 Daylight Savings Time – Move clocks back 1 hour
November 7 Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
November 7 General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
November 9 SAL Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
November 10 US Marine Corps Birthday
November 11 Veteran’s Day
November 14 SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
November 14 SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
November 20 7th District Meeting, Morton Grove Post 134 7:30 PM
November 21 Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
November 28 Thanksgiving

December 5 Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
December 5 General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
December 10 Pearl Harbor Day
December 12 SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
December 12 SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
December 15 Post 42 Holiday Party (Time TBA)
December 19 Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
December 25 Christmas
December 31 New Year’s Eve

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

SHRAPNEL is a publication of Evanston Post 42, American Legion, all rights are reserved.

2024 Legion Year Officers - Post 42

Commander	Greg Lisinski (rotating)	847-309-8074
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	Ed Sanderson	757-469-0558
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

Christine Candelario
 Ian Darbyshire
 Peter Koerner
 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

Connect with Veterans Service Officers

Veteran Service Offices remain dedicated to providing assistance to Veterans *BY PHONE*



What is a VSO?

Veterans Service Organizations were established to advocate on behalf of veterans and provide veteran-specific resources. Many are federally chartered (officially recognized by Congress), and are mostly private, nonprofit organizations run by volunteers. The federally chartered designation is especially important when considering using a VSO to help file your claim, as the chartered organizations are also officially recognized by the VA secretary to represent you.

Popular federally chartered VSOs include American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

States and County government also provide many Veteran Services

All VSOs with on-site offices at the FHCC are located in Building 135, 1st floor, noted below with asterisks. All others are off-site. All require prior appointments, no walk-ins, so please let your fingers do the walking first!

American Veterans (AMVETS) *

Harold Dukala: (224) 610-4138

Email: harold.dukala@va.gov (Preferred contact)

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) *

Maurice Holman: (224) 610-2961

Services: Veteran claims assistance

Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transition Officer *

Leon Ocasio: (224) 610-1460

Services: Active-Duty claims assistance, TAPS

Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission (VACLC)

(847) 377-3344, Email: veterans@lakecounty.il.gov

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Walter Wilson: (217) 512-4911 (Deerfield Office)

William A. Illa: (847) 948-6983 (Deerfield Office)

Bradley Gaylord: (847) 948-6982 (Deerfield Office)

Frank Delatorre: Cell: (217) 836-6967, (Elgin Office)

In Lovell FHCC on Tues, 9A-4P, Bldg. 135, Rm 160

Melissa Downey: (815) 338-9242 (Woodstock Office)

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Chicago Regional Office: (800) 827-1000

Other Veterans Services Officer nearby:

Indiana Veterans Service Offices

(317) 232-3910

Kenosha County Veterans Service Office

(262) 605-6690

McHenry County Veterans Assistance Commission (MCVAC)

(815) 334-4229

Milwaukee County Veterans Service Office

(414) 382-1727

Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

(800) 947-8387

(414) 902-5757

Should You Use a Veterans Service Organization to File a VA Claim?

Updated: November 4, 2022

Do I have to use a VSO to help file a claim?

Transitioning out of the military can be an overwhelming, stressful experience for veterans. Not only are you likely moving to a new location and providing for your family, but you also may be recovering from a combat situation and re-learning what life is like in the civilian world. You may need some support as you apply for jobs and college and adjust to not wearing the uniform every day.

In addition to these stressors, navigating the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims process can be overwhelming. *No one* – not even the VA – would describe this process as easy.

What is a VSO?

Veterans Service Organizations were established to advocate on behalf of veterans and provide veteran-specific resources. Many are federally chartered (officially recognized by Congress), and are mostly private, nonprofit organizations run by volunteers. The federally chartered designation is especially important when considering using a VSO to help file your claim, as the chartered organizations are also officially recognized by the VA secretary to represent you.

Popular federally chartered VSOs include American Veterans (AMVETS), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), The American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Why use a VSO to help you file a claim?

The majority of VSOs were started by veterans for veterans. Using a VSO representative means that you will have someone who understands where you've been and what you're up against as you transition out of the military. VSOs also advocate on Capitol Hill for veterans' benefits, are up to date with current legislation affecting veterans, and have posts conveniently located throughout the country.

How does a VSO help in the VA claims process?

A VSO representative (also known as a Veterans Service Officer) helps you with the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims. Once your claim is filed, they track the claim through the VA system, act as liaisons between you and the VA, and are your official representative by acting as your power of attorney (POA). According to the VA, giving a veteran's service officer the power of attorney allows an appointed VSO representative to *"initiate your claim to preserve an effective start date, gather required records and evidence on your behalf, and review your application prior to submission... a VSO serving as your POA is also given 48 hours to review your VA decision to ensure it is correct before it is sent to you."*

To be an accredited VA representative, individuals must pass an exam, submit to a background check, and take continuing education courses. These recognized organizations and individuals can legally represent you before the VA. Non-recognized individuals are able to provide information but cannot be your official representative.

What are the costs of using a VSO representative?

Using a VSO to help file your claim is free of charge (barring any unusual expenses). Though they would certainly appreciate it, you do not have to be a member of the organization to use their services, and becoming a member is not an expectation.

Do I have to use a VSO to help file a claim?

No. If you decide not to use a VSO representative, you could use a VA-accredited claims agent or attorney. The downside is that, unlike Veterans Service Organizations, claims agents and attorneys charge for their services.

Additionally, you always have the option of filing the claim yourself. If you choose to file yourself, you run the risk of not having your paperwork in order, which may cause your claim to be delayed or denied.