



Shrapnel



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

January 2021

Commander



Wilfredo (Will) Candelario

“Commander’s Corner”

Hello Fellow Legionnaires. As we begin a new year, you may have heard some people say that they can’t wait for the end of 2020. And yes, it’s been a hell of a year. As of this writing, I have had 2 personal acquaintances pass away from Covid-19 in the last 10 days. Our own Immediate Past Commander James Brusek and his lovely wife June have both survived Covid. And you probably have a family member or friend who has dealt with Covid as well. So I’d like to take a moment to reflect on the past year, and to share some thoughts about the upcoming 2021.

What we’ll mostly remember about 2020 is that it was the year of “no, you can’t”. No, you can’t go to Church services in person. No, you can’t see your older family and friends. No, you can’t hold

a Legion meeting. Well, we did hold Legion meetings as often as we were able, and we continue to hold Board meetings via Zoom. The American Legion is a Veterans organization, and as Veterans, we all know one version or another of the motto I was taught in the Field Artillery at Ft. Sill: Mission First, People Always. The Legion, and we specifically at Post 42, have all worked to do everything we can to continue our mission – Veterans helping Veterans.

After the Post Hall was closed in March, the Board approved a plan to completely renovate the hall and kitchen. With the hard work done by Bill Petty, Jim Farley, Brett Hallongren, the Clubroom manager, and many others, Post 42 now has a beautifully renovated space and a commercial grade kitchen. This will enable Post 42 to continue in our space for many years to come, as well as help increase revenue through hall rentals. About the time that the hall was completed, we were able to open the patio bar, and again with the hard work of Brett Hallongren, and SAL member Mike Hughes, we started the patio music series out on the open green space next to the building. Through this great idea from Brett and Mike, the Post was able provide some much needed entertainment and relaxation for our local community. This had a couple of great benefits. We were able to continue that part of our mission of serving our community, and we were able to introduce ourselves to hundreds of local community residents who, quite frankly, did not even know that Post 42 existed. I believe that it is vital for the future of Post 42 that we continue to work to support our local community. After the end of

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summer, as the cold weather returned and brought on Round 2 of the Covid pandemic, and resulted in the second closure of our hall, we did not stop doing the work of the Legion. In October, Service Officer Jim Farley, working in conjunction with VFW Snell Post 7186 and the Midwest Veterans Closet, conducted a food drive to help Veterans in need. Approximate 2,000 pounds of food was collected in a 3 week period, and donated to the Midwest Veterans Closet. Outstanding work, Jim! As we move into the winter season, Sr. Vice Commander Dan Fleming has been leading the Post Membership team in working on retention of existing members, and recruitment of new members. In Legion year 2020, Post 42 was able to reach 100% of goal, but only at the end of the year in June 2020. With the Membership team's hard work, we are pushing hard to reach 100% much earlier for Legion year 2021.

Now, as we begin the 2021 calendar year, we are hopeful about the new vaccines coming on line to fight the Covid-19 virus. There are still some dark days ahead for us, but we can begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. On a personal note, I've always been a military history buff. I'm reminded now of the very dark days of 1942 and '43. Beginning when I was just a young boy, I have always taken time to talk to WWII vets, and others who lived through that time. Those were indeed VERY dark days. Yet, as always, Americans worked hard and fought through those days to victory. Now, I'm not a big fan of lots of "rah-rah" talk, but I do believe that it's important for us to all remember that we have gotten through worse, largely through the sacrifice and hard work of America's Veterans. Looking back on our ancestors, and even our own experiences in serving our country, I have no doubt that we will return to the "old" normal. (I'm not a fan of all the "new normal" talk. It simply strikes me as un-American.) So, we will continue our mission and our hard work of helping our fellow Veterans, and our larger community. I look forward to seeing you again soon, and continuing our work "For God and Country".



DANIEL J KELLEY

FROM YOUR SAL COMMANDER

Cancellations, postponements and Zoom Meetings continue to be the order of the day. I wish that I could report otherwise, but we must continue to cope with a challenging environment due to the pandemic restrictions.

The Detachment Executive Committee Meeting, which was to have been held in Columbia, Illinois, was canceled and rescheduled. The Department of Illinois headquarters in Bloomington was substituted as an alternate meeting location with proper social distancing and a limited number of on site attendees. Others followed the proceedings by means of Zoom Meetings.

Department of Illinois Commander Roy Weber addressed the Sons of the American Legion and made some interesting comments about the current political and social climate. American Legion Programs promoting "One Hundred Percent Americanism" are more important now than ever. We have seen too much civil unrest, including arson, vandalism, lawlessness and wide scale looting during 2020. Many students are not being taught basic civics and American history in school. Militants have taken to the streets and defaced monuments to Columbus, Washington, Lincoln and Grant among others. We really need to combat the autocracy of both the classes and

the masses by supporting the Essay and Oratorical Contests, Boys State, and the other Legion sponsored student scholarship programs. Weber added that the Department of Illinois has communicated its displeasure to Governor Pritzker over the state's frequent inappropriate display of the American flag at half staff on numerous occasions which are contrary to the United States Flag Code.

Commander Weber is firmly committed to resuming the Department, Auxiliary and Detachment Conventions this coming July. The annual Membership Caravan is also going to take place in January, but it remains to be seen how the event will be staged.

The three Caravan stops designated for the 1st Division are tentatively as follows: North: Arlington Heights 208 (Merle Guild); West: Cicero 96; and South: Evergreen Park 854. The Caravan will begin in Arlington Heights during the morning, visit Cicero during the midday and conclude at Evergreen Park in the evening. Some improvisation may be in order. It is uncertain if meals will be served en route. An official announcement will be made soon.

The 1st Division Sons of the American Legion Commander, Kevin J. O'Connell, reminded us to be supportive of local law enforcement and other first responders. Many of these officers have endured long hours and been the subject to unrelenting criticism and abuse from radicals. While there may be some bad actors, we all rely upon these officers for our safety and well being.

Maintaining membership is going to be a challenge as the pandemic closings have given many ambivalent members an easy excuse for allowing their memberships to lapse. Squadron 42 is at 68.4 percent of its goal for fiscal year 2021. Delinquency notices are going to be issued in January to those Squadron members who remain unpaid.

The SAL blood drive that was canceled last month has been rescheduled at Marrs-Meyer Post 991 (Worth, Illinois).



Chaplain Christine Candelario

Greetings from the Chaplain's Corner

By the time you read this the holidays have come and gone. Let's try to keep the spirit alive. Why you may ask. It has been a lousy year! Even with the craziness of Covid, if you stop for a moment, you can find something to be thankful for. Thankful that you and your family are healthy or have recovered from Covid, Thankful for the time to catch up on the things you have been putting off doing, the things you just haven't gotten around to doing. Thankful for being able to reach out and touch someone in new electronic ways. Thankful for the time to learn a new skill. In some way, shape or form we can count our blessings during this crazy holiday season.

This is also the time to reach out to family and friends. **STAY CONNECTED!!** You are not alone during these trying times. We are all here for each other. As the song goes, "We are Family." So call, e-mail, text, or send snail mail. Some of you may know that I was adopted. As a result over the years I have created many "families", my adopted family, my biological family, my dance family, my church family, my grammar school reunion family, my new in law family, and last but not least my legion family of Post 42. So to my legion family I want you to know I'm here for you. If you need something call, text, e-mail or snail me, even if it's just to talk.

If you know of anyone who is sick or has passed on please let me know so that I can make

a sick call or send a sympathy card to the family. I am keeping all my legion family in my prayers.

May God Bless You,
Chaplain Christine
legionchaplainchristine@gmail.com
773-425-1133



JAMES FARLEY
Service Officer

Veteran Affairs

Food for Veteran's Collection

Post 42 and VFW Snell Post 7186 joined efforts to sponsor a collection of non-perishable food items for the benefit of our comrades having difficulty feeding their families. We wanted to honor all that served and in coordination with Veteran's Day, we made an appeal to our friends and neighbors to donate food to be given to needy veterans.

The response was over-whelming. Between Veteran's Day and November 20th we collected almost 2,000 pounds of canned goods, cereals and other non-perishable meals. We had two collection points: The Vet Center on Howard St. and the Post Legion Hall. The donation poured in at both locations

We gave the donations to the Midwest Veteran's Closet in North Chicago and local veterans. All

went to veteran families to help make the Thanksgiving Holiday more enjoyable.



Guitars for vets comes to Post 42

Started in Milwaukee in 2007 by guitarist Patrick Nettesheim and Vietnam veteran Dan Van Buskirk, **Guitars for Vets (G4V)** has been teaching veterans to play the guitar for 13 years and has grown, since that time, from one to 136 chapters throughout the USA. So far, G4V has offered over 40,000 hours of free instruction and given away over 4,000 brand new guitars to our veterans. There are four chapters just in Illinois alone. One of them is right here in Evanston, and wouldn't you know it, the Evanston chapter coordinator is one of our own, Bill Petty.

On September 5th of this year, Post 42 held a fund raiser for G4V on our wonderful patio bar

CLUBROOM NEWS

music venue and we raised nearly \$5,000. To put this in perspective, once a student has completed 10 one hour, one on one, lessons, he/she is presented with a brand-new Yamaha FG800 acoustic guitar along with a gig bag, tuner, stand, and a bunch of incidentals. The cost for this package is \$200 so, a quick calculation tells us that we raised enough money to pay for about 25 vets.

Music has a proven record for helping people cope with difficult life situations. Many of our vets are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and music has a soothing and therapeutic effect not just for PTSD sufferers, but on us all.

Taken from the G4V website:

Music helps decrease anxiety, increase self-esteem, and reduce episodes of panic attacks, nightmares and flashbacks. A research study of Guitars 4 Vets students showed a 21% improvement in PTSD symptoms and a 27% decrease in related depression symptoms. The study attributed learning and playing guitar as the primary catalysts for these improvements—and we want to ensure as many vets as possible have that opportunity.

More simply, playing a guitar can help veterans safely connect with their surroundings and other people.

Since the onset of the Wuhan Virus, the Vets Center, here in Evanston, where Bill was conducting lessons, has not been open to lessons, luckily, our newly remodeled hall is a perfect venue for lessons. It is spacious enough so that Bill can give one on one lessons while keeping his students and himself safe from infection.

Having our building, including the patio bar, has afforded us the opportunity to do things that other organizations cannot do. G4V is just one example of what good we can do. Surely there is much more to come.

As most of us know the Club Room is closed due to state COVID rules. Hopefully, we will be able to open back up again soon.

I would like to thank Carmen and Faye for donating a couple nice bar stools last month. Carmen donated them in memory of her brother Luis Quinones, a Vietnam Veteran. Luis died on May 24th due to COVID. He served two tours in Vietnam, joined the Navy reserves after he got back and spent 55 years working for the United States Post office.

Looking forward to a better 2020 everyone.

Brett Hallongren
Club Room Manager
ClubManager@EvanstonPost42.com.

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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IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE**

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Legion Department



**LEGION FAMILY: IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE
NO-COST-TO-YOU BENEFIT***

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Did you know that starting 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they maintain their membership in the Legion Family – TAL, ALA, & SAL. This new “one and done” approach will save you from needing to re-enroll every 5 years. The LegionCare program will continue to cover you for \$1,000 of AD&D coverage. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, we will cover you for \$5,000 of AD&D coverage.*

THERE IS NO COST TO YOU

- Coverage has been arranged on your behalf by Your American Legion Department.
- This coverage is Underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company, (Cedar Rapids, IA), and paid for by The Legionnaire Insurance Trust.

YOUR COVERAGE IS EFFECTIVE WHILE YOU ARE TRAVELING ON OFFICIAL LEGION FAMILY BUSINESS

- Regardless of your age, health or occupation, your acceptance is guaranteed.**
- Your coverage will become effective the date your Enrollment is received by the Administrator.

YOUR COVERAGE IS VALUABLE

We want you to know too, LegionCare is now available to all members of the Legion Family including the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members 18 years and

older. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard with Transamerica to provide valuable benefits to your entire family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans' insurance needs.

YOUR COVERAGE IS APPROVED AND ENDORSED

- This No Cost to you coverage is endorsed by your Department. It qualifies for complete approval and endorsement.
- Your Department has arranged this coverage at No Cost to you because of the need for this type of protection and the recognition that many Members may not have enough protection.

EXCLUSIONS: suicide; self-inflicted injury while sane or insane; sickness, disease, bodily or mental infirmity or medical or surgical treatment thereof; war or acts of war (declared or undeclared); while serving in the military; flying, except as a fare-paying passenger on a scheduled airline; participation in any speed or endurance contest; bacterial infections.

ACTIVATE ONLINE AT: www.TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of the Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from a function at which the member represents his/her local, state, or national Organization in an official capacity. Bonus Benefit Rider is not available in MN and NH.

**This is a supplemental health insurance plan that requires you to have major medical coverage, Medicare, or other health coverage that meets "minimum essential coverage" as defined by the Affordable Care Act.

Accidental death coverage underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company, Cedar Rapids, IA. Coverage is paid for through the Legionnaire Insurance Trust. For more information please call 1-800-235-6943

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2020 Legion Year Officers - Post 42

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Service Officer	James Farley	847-866-8486
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Chaplain	Christine Candelario	773-685-5975
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Past Commander	James M Brusek	773-263-4726
SAL Commander	Daniel Kelley	847-226-3652

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Meter Ian Darbyshire Anne Cooper Clifton Pappas Adam Kwieciwski

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 2021

PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!

2021

January 7	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
January 20	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM
January 28	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
February 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
February 7	Super Bowl Party 2:00 PM (until game is over)
February 17	7th District Meeting at Evanston Post 42 @ 7:30 PM
February 25	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
March 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 13	St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef Dinner and Richard Huck Award Dinner Cocktails at 5:00, Dinner at 6:00
March 17	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7 PM
March 25	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
April 1	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
April 21	7th District Meeting at Post 42 @ 7:30 PM
April 22	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 1	Rebuilding together Service Project (Tentative)
May 3	Twilight Golf League TENTATIVE
May 6	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting - Food afterward: Deadline for Post 42 Board Nominations)
May 8	7th District Kentucky Derby Fundraiser
May 19	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting)
May 23	Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3PM
May 26-30	Poppy Day Collection
May 27	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 29	Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9:00 AM
May 31	Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM Fountain Square 10:30 AM Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post
June 3	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward) Election for 2022 Board to be held
June 5	1st Division "Mini-Convention" Location TBA
June 14	Flag Day – Flag Ceremony to Retire Tattered Flags 6:00 PM at Post

June 16	7th District Meeting at Morton Grove @ 7:30 PM
June 24	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
July 4	4th of July Parade Assembly begins 12:30 pm at starting point Parade at 2pm
July 8	NO General General Business Meeting
July 22	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
August 5	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
August 15	Post 42- Golf Outing and American Legion Picnic
August 26	Board Meeting 7:30 PM
September 2	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
September 15	7th District Meeting 7:30
September 23	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM

Note: Some Dates are subject to change