

EVERGREEN PARK POST 854  
"THE HOSPITALITY POST"  
9701 SOUTH KEDZIE  
EVERGREEN PARK, ILLINOIS  
(708) 422-9513

January/February 2016

## COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Greetings Comrades, Sons & Auxiliary

My fellow Legionnaires,

Greetings,

I would like to wish you and yours a very Happy New Year, and I hope you all had a Very Merry Christmas.

Membership renewal has been steady. We are experiencing a problem with members paying their dues for the second, and, in some cases, the third time. If you have your 2016 membership card, signed by me, please disregard all notices from the department for 2016 dues. The fiscal year starts in July 2016 and dues notices for 2017 will go out at that time. We have picked up a few new members, and some 2910 veterans who transferred to the post. If you know a veteran, ask him or her to join our post. We are a great source of information on benefits and the various memo's we get from the Department.

Just a BIG reminder, the post dues WILL go up on January 19, 2016. After that date, the dues will be \$35.00. So get your dues in now at the \$30.00 rate. Just a note, you can renew your membership online at [HYPERLINK "http://www.members.legion.org/renew"](http://www.members.legion.org/renew) [www.members.legion.org/renew](http://www.members.legion.org/renew). It's easy and painless.

As service officer, I've sent cards to family members who have recently lost a loved one, veterans who are hospitalized, and the guest speakers who come and talk on various subjects. To date we have lost 25 members: 13-WWII Members, 10 Korea Members and 2-Viet Nam Members.

Our annual Christmas party for the kids was held on December 5, 2015. Santa came and there were many happy kids.

The "Holiday Hop" was held on December 5, 2015. We had over 95 people attend. The food, band, and libations were well received.

Save the date of March 12, 2016 for our annual St. Pats and St. Joseph party. Cost will be \$35.00 per person.

I'm still hoping that we can have some of our female veterans come to the meetings. It's a good time to meet other veterans and talk about old times.

William J. Cooper  
Commander / Post 854  
708-860-6517  
HYPERLINK "mailto:wjc1249@att.net" [wjc1249@att.net](mailto:wjc1249@att.net)

## SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Gentlemen:

I hope everyone made it through the Holiday safely.

My report starts with how we try to keep things at the legion going. We are a group of Veterans who have things in common. We all served in the Armed Forces. To quote a saying "*all gave some and some gave all*". Our legion is only as strong as our members. Our members are like a tree, we are the root system that feeds the tree. We have over 500 members and only a few get involved. As our Sargent at Arms puts it "*the dirty dozen*". On a good night, we may have close to 40 members show up at the meeting. We serve food at the meeting, and free beer. I ask: **What more can you ask for?** We all know someone who is a member, in other words bring a buddy with you and come and enjoy a night out with the Veterans. Some of you have winter getaways so in January and February it gets a little lonesome. If you are here, come on in.

Hope to see you here. Thank you.

**NOTICE: 1 February 2016 – Anything in the Post Freezer will be thrown away!**

Chuck Sulek  
Senior Vice-Commander

## BOY'S STATE & POLICE ACCADEMY

### ATTENTION PARENTS & GRAND PARENTS:

Do you have a Grandchild or Child who is a junior in High School and may have an

interested in Politics or being a Police Person. The American Legion has two programs that your son or daughter may be interested in. Both programs are one week in the summer at College Location or Illinois Police Academy. If you have a child who may be interested in either program, please contact me at 312-718-5291 or see you at the Post.

Bill Winters  
Finance Officer

## ADJUTANT REPORT

Happy New Year to All!

We are on our way to reaching our goal of 100%. If you have not paid your dues, get them in before January 19<sup>th</sup>. After that date, dues will increase to \$35.00.

Thanks to all who participated in the food drive. We loaded Past Commander Bob Staudacher's van to the hilt for the benefit of the Evergreen Park Food Pantry.

Bingo help is always needed. If you can spare a Sunday or two a month, we can always use the help. Christmas decoration take down will be on Saturday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We need help. Coffee and doughnuts will be served.

For God & Country,

Steve Davies  
Adjutant

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The following have been called to the Post Everlasting:

John J. Krisik  
William Woods  
Richard Schultz  
Ralph Voss (Past Commander)

Please remember them and all our deceased comrades who have passed away. Also, remember those comrades who are ill and in the hospital or recovering at home, and pray for our young men and women who are serving our country on foreign soil and in harm's way.

### "Let us pray"

Almighty and Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, without which we can do nothing, grant, we humbly pray, Thy blessings and protection upon our

Nation. We are grateful for Thy help on days past. We humbly ask Thee to be with us still as we face the problems of the present and the difficulties of the uncertain future.  
AMEN.

## **HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR MEETINGS**

William R. Winters  
Chaplain

## **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and I hope Santa delivered everything you wanted. We are starting to see some fresh faces around the Post which is really good. Sadly, I can't remember names that well so don't be shy or embarrassed if I call you by the wrong name, just re-introduce yourself to me. Heck, half the time I don't remember my real name. Rich Venckus is doing a great job as my back-up quarterback along with the rest of the "Rouge Patrol" when I'm not here, Thanks a lot! If any new Comrades have any questions or concerns catch me before or after a meeting and we'll figure it out. Thanks.

Ron (Otis) Reding  
Sgt-at-Arms

## **COLOR GUARD**

We were kind of slow over the Holidays which is a blessing in disguise. There were some members who passed away without their family notifying us to post Colors at the wakes. Please tell your family that, in the event of your passing, you would like us to be there. Put it into you will, along with a copy of your DD214 or your discharge papers. It will help your family, the funeral directors, and us tremendously. We can't go if we don't know. Always looking for new members to join us. If you are interested, give us a call or see us at a meeting. We can fill you in and answer any questions you may have. All you have to be is a member in good standing and have a Legion cap, we supply the rest.

Gary Brockman  
Ron (Otis) Reding  
708-610-4173  
773-931-5636

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

Happy New Year. We are looking forward to an exciting year ahead. We have a meeting Saturday, Jan 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00 a.m. in the members' room. I hope to see you all there. We are also sponsoring a chili cook off at the Legion Post Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup> @ 2:00 p.m. The entry into contest is free. The prizes are \$60 for first place and \$30 for second place. Any and all participants are welcome. This includes the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and the public. Non

participants (tasters) will be the judges. If you are interested in participating or judging, please let me or someone at the Legion know.

The ongoing Queen of Hearts Raffle is big, and growing BIGGER. Swing by on Wednesday nights and win a small fortune! Drawing at 7:00 p.m.!

We are also looking for help planning for a summer picnic.

Dennis Reilly

SAL Commander

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. May 2016 be a happy and healthy one for all of you.

THANK YOU to all the ladies of the Auxiliary and the men from the Post who helped to make the November spaghetti dinner a huge success. Thanks also to the ladies who participated in the Wreaths across America at Abraham Lincoln Cemetery.

Our next meetings will be on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday, February 22 at 7:00 pm. looking forward to seeing you then.

We are always looking for new members and would love to have you join us.

Nora Cummings

Women's Auxiliary President

## E-MAIL ADDRESS

Post 854 would like to enter the 21st Century and we would like to send our newsletter to you via E-Mail so if you like to receive FUTURE Newsletter via E-Mail:

Send an email to: [alpost854il@aol.com](mailto:alpost854il@aol.com)

View our Web Address: [legionpost854.com](http://legionpost854.com)

## QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING

BE SURE TO BUY YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR WEEKLY QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING ON WENESDAY AT 7:00PM. THE DRAWING WILL BENEFIT THE LEGION PROGRAMS AND OUR SAL SQUARDON. YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU DON'T PLAY!!!

## REQUEST

If a member wishes to attend a meeting, and has no transportation, we may be able to get a ride for you. If you call the Post, it may be possible to arrange transportation for you. We are trying to set up a crew of volunteers to get you to our meeting and back home. Call (708) 860-6517.

"Bill "Cooper, Commander

**Save the Date!**

**March 12. 2016**

**Saint Patrick's – Saint Joseph's Party**

**Evergreen Park Post 854**

**9701 So. Kedzie Ave**

**Chicago, IL. 60805**

Happy Hour – 6:00 p.m.

Harrington's Corned Beef Dinner – 7:00 p.m.

Entertainment – Irish Dancers

Our Kilty Bag Pipers

Fab Tones Band

Tickets \$35.00 per person available at the bar or see Bob O' Staudacher

The "Hospitality Post" newsletter is the official publication of Evergreen Park Post #854 of the American Legion. It is published bi-monthly and distributed by US Mail, at the First Class Rate, to all Post members, Auxiliary members and SAL Members.

Jim Quintavalle  
Editor

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