



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



WE ARE AN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY!

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE - W. Cooper

My fellow Legionnaires,

Greetings,

By now you have received your 3rd notice, from the department, concerning your 2017 Dues. To date, 74.16% of our members have sent in their dues. We missed the cut off and a \$100.00 bonus by .84%. **Please don't sit on the notice because you will receive 3 more notices.** (Our next cut off will be December 25, 2016.) To eliminate this undo inconvenience, please send in your check for \$35.00 and the "Dues Notice" **RIGHT NOW!** Don't delay. We have 162 Members who still have not paid their dues. If you want to be dropped, let us know. Membership is important, it's the lifeline of the Legion.

You can renew your members online at www.members.legion.org/renew.

it's easy and painless. The 5 year dues card is still available by mailing a check for \$175.00 and that will cover you for the next 5 years.

The "Queen of Hearts" raffle is getting bigger. The grand total payout is approaching \$49,000.00! Every Wednesday at 7:00 PM; we pull the winning ticket. Stop by the post for your tickets and have some fun.

On Sunday evenings, we are **STILL** having trouble getting volunteers to help out at Bingo. The regulars are starting to get burned out and could use some relief. So please consider helping for a few hours on upcoming Sundays. Bingo may be coming to an end if we can't get help.

Remember, the Legion Post is your home so stop by and hoist a cold one with your family and friends. We also have an array of fine speakers who discuss your VA benefits.

"The Hospitality Post"

January/February 2017

Post 991 in Worth- 11000 S Depot is hosting a Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day to feed the Sailor recruits from Great Lakes. We need A LOT of volunteers to help. Please consider coming to help.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER - R. Reding

Hope everyone had a nice Holiday.

I am still waiting for Santa to bring me that new pick-up truck.

Thank you to all of Santa's little helpers for decorating the Post for this Christmas season.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will already have had the 8th District's Holiday Hop, the kid's Christmas party, and Wreaths across America. A very big thank you to all of you who volunteered for these events!!!

Without your help and tireless dedication, our events could never take place. If any new member or old member for that matter would like to get involved and volunteer for our various functions that take place around here, just ask. Any officer or executive board member will be happy to help you and answer any questions you might have.

Not much else to report or say that hasn't been said already. Remember this is your Post - you only get back what you put in.

JR. VICE COMMANDER - G. Brockman

If you are into New Year's resolutions make one to volunteer to help out at the post. Give an hour or two or one day a week. Join the Color Guard. There are many different opportunities to be involved in. You will be surprised at how enjoyable it can be.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Thanks

FINANCE OFFICER - W. Winters

You no longer have to wait for a copy of your DD-214!

It's official; DD-214s are NOW online. Please pass this on to other vets. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or try

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site.

Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records centers mailroom and processing time. Please pass this information on to former military personnel you may know and their dependents.

Kelly Drey needs donor for Liver Transplant

One of our members, Pete Drey, has a niece is in need of Liver. Please view the flyer on our website www.legionpost854.com for additional information.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - W. Winters



"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.**

ADJUTANT - J. Quintavalle

I was reading my most recent copy of *Department News Newsletter* when I came across a story that eventually will affect us all in Illinois.

"When the New Year arrives, it'll bring the rollout of the new Illinois license plate redesign," Secretary of State Jessie White announced on November 15th.

The Capital dome, the Chicago skyline and one-half of Abraham Lincoln's face will adorn the new license plates.

The plate's new look, which White said will bring no additional cost to motorists, should stand up better to weather and use. Plates have a large scale design and the old plates were losing their color and posing problems for motorists. The new design will be unveiled in January.



The new license plate is the first since White's office unveiled the current look in 1999. That 1999 plate design – consisting of a script "Illinois" above a Lincoln bust in the middle of the plate – was chosen via an online vote open to Illinois residents.

No vote was held at this time. Instead the secretary of state's office *"worked closely with law enforcement and developed a license plate that contains features unique to Illinois and is easy to read,"* said Henry Haupt, a secretary of state spokesman.

The resulting plate moves the Lincoln image to the left side of the design, getting it out of the way of the letters and numbers on the plate. It also contains white outlines of the Statehouse dome and Chicago's skyline, including the city's iconic Willis Tower.

"This is a forward-thinking, long-term solution that does not require a complete replating overhaul, which would cost about \$60 million," White said in a statement. *"This plan removes older plates and replaces them with newly designed plates within our current budget. This will ensure that plates are appropriately replaced with the ultimate goal being no license plate on the road will be more than 10-years old."*

The staggered rollout begins next year, with the replacement plates first going to motorists with the oldest plates, which were manufactured from 2001 and 2002; then plates from 2002 and 2003 will be replaced in 2018, etc. Vehicle owners will be contacted by mail when they qualify. The "B-Truck" plates, used on some pickup trucks, SUVs and vans, is expected to begin in 2018.

Motorists who are not due for a replacement may still request a new license plate in January at cyberdriveillinois.com for a replacement fee of \$29. In addition, vehicle owners with license plates manufactured after

2001 that are showing signs of wear and are difficult to read may visit cyberdriveillinois.com to apply for the newly designed plate at no charge. (Taken directly out of the Department News Newsletter, December 2016, page 8)


For God and Country

SERVICE OFFICER – W. Cooper

Please remember our members who are in nursing homes, disabled, and our departed comrades in your prayers. Since the 1st of July, we have lost 9-WWII members, 7-Korean War members, and 4-RVN War members.

It is very important that you tell your family members and closest friends where they can find your DD-214. It a very important document and it will get you all the benefits that you earned.

SERGEANT AT ARMS - R. Venckus

 always believed that history is no mystery." So, too, with the position of Sergeant-at-Arms. The office traces its roots all the way back to the Roman Empire, where senior officers of the Roman State chose twelve patricians to act as bodyguards and serve police functions. These men had very few limits on their powers to arrest, or even use violence in their roles. They answered to no legal authority, but their own masters.

With our National Election now over, our president-elect, once inaugurated, will be giving his first State of the Union Message. The Congressional Sergeant-at-Arms will be the person who announces

the arrival of the president to the House of Representatives in the Capitol Building, with the acclamation, *"Mister (or Madam) Speaker, the President of the United States."* I will continue to explore with you, the historical evolution of this office.

May all of you have a wonderful and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Imbibe responsibly.

May God Bless our republic!!!

COLOR GUARD: CAPTAINS:

Gary Brockman
Reding

Ron

708.610.4173
773.931.5636

On the behalf of the Color Guard; we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION- D. Reilly



I a great meeting 11AM. per 3rd at the Post. Our meeting will be February 4th 1 in the member's room at the Post.

We approved another \$200 for the purchase of additional hats & shirts that we had ordered. We will be selling shirts with our emblem for \$10.00 each while they last.

Thank you to Stanley, Dave P, Matt, Bob R, Mark N, Bob S., Bill B, Ed V, Steve S, Jim W, Phil M, Mark B, Otis and Julie for their help with Queen of

Hearts.

The Queen of Hearts as of 12/07/16 is approx. \$49,000, 60% is \$29,400, 40% is \$19,600 & 5% is \$2,450. On Wednesday's @ 7PM, hope to see you here.

We really need Volunteers for Bingo kitchen help 5PM to 7:30 PM Sundays. It can be fun if we have at least 4 different people every Sunday.

See me at the Legion to volunteer for the Bingo kitchen and upcoming worker breakfast this month.

We have new member applications in the SAL slot behind the bar. Just ask the bartender for one if you find a new member that wants to join.

AUXILIARY NEWS - N. Cummings



I Auxiliary Members,

I our Holidays were most enjoyable!

Be sure to mark your calendars for our next two meetings: January 25th and February 27th at 7 pm.

Remember to be kind to each other. Be sure to smile and enjoy every day of this New Year!

BOYS STATE

JUNE 10-16, 2017

**EASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY**

CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS

Do you have a Son, Grandson, and Great Grandson who will be entering his junior year of High School this coming school year? You might talk to your son or

grandson on the Benefits of attending Boy's State next June. If you need any information, please contact Bill Winters-Finance Officer-
ALPOST854IL@aol.com or 708-422-9513.

QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING

The Post Family, the Sons, Auxiliary, and the Post appreciate your support for the Queen of Hearts, and we have completed week eleven on the board.



**BE SURE TO BUY YOUR
TICKETS FOR THE WEEKLY
QUEEN OF HEARTS DRAWING
ON WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD – C. Sulek

My name was put in the running for an executive board member position. Although I did not attend the vote meeting, I greatly appreciate everyone who voted for me. I will try to keep the membership in mind while doing my best to help the American Legion.

ST. PATRICK – ST. JOSEPH PARTY



The event will be held on Friday night, March 17, 2017. It will run from 6 pm to 11 pm. The cost will be \$35.00 per ticket. This includes a Harrington Corned Beef (the best in the nation) dinner, Irish Step Dancers, Bagpipers, a D.J., Irish Soda Bread, and an open bar.

Tickets will be available at the Bar, or you can purchase them from Past Commander Bob O'Staudacher.

Be sure to come! We are all Irish on St. Patrick's Day. It is a

wonderful time with wonderful people.

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

View our Web Address:
legionpost854.com

REQUEST - W. Cooper

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.

EDITOR - J. Quintavalle

Newsletter articles for our March/April Newsletter will be due by our 02/16/2017 Meeting. Make sure to have them in by then.

Those of you, Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL, who would rather receive their newsletter electronically, but have not provided an email address, you can do so anytime. We would love to include you on our mailing list.

HAPPENINGS:

Post:

01/01/2017 – No Bingo

01/03/2017 – Post General Meeting

01/08/2017 – Sunday Bingo

01/10/2017 – Executive Board Meeting

01/15/2017 – Sunday Bingo

01/17/2017 – Post General Meeting

01/22/2017 – Sunday Bingo

01/29/2017 – Sunday Bingo

02/05/2017 – No Bingo, Super Bowl Sunday

02/07/2017 – Post General Meeting

02/12/2017 – Sunday Bingo

02/14/2017 – Executive Board Meeting

02/19/2017 – Sunday Bingo

02/21/2017 – Post General Meeting

02/26/2017 – Sunday Bingo

SAL:

02/04/2017 – Meeting, 11 AM at post

Auxiliary:

01/25/2017 - Meeting, 7 PM at Post

02/27/2016 – Meeting, 7 PM at Post

8th District:

01/26/2017 – Meeting, 8 PM, Rehfeldt-Meyer Post 474, Matteson

02/23/2017 – Meeting, 8 pm, Hazel Crest Post 398, Hazel Crest

Department Dates to Remember:

01/02/2017 - 2nd 100% Post Cash Award (1:00 PM Cut off)

01/06 – 07/2017 - National Membership & PA Workshop, Indianapolis, IN

01/12 – 21/2017 American Legion Family Membership Caravan

01/21/2017 - Gold Pin (1:00 PM Cut off)

02/03/2017 – 3rd 100% Post Cash Award (1:00 PM Cut off)

02/11 -12/2017 - Lincoln Pilgrimage, Springfield, IL

Oratorical Contest – 03/04/2017

Boys State – 06/10/2017 thru 06/16/2017

Illini Girls State – 06/18/2017 thru 06/24/2017

Youth Police – 06/25/2017 thru

06/30/2017

ONE LAST NOTE - The Rogue Patrol

Our membership is about 640 or so, and out of that 640, approximately 32 to 36 actually attend meetings. Out of that 640 about 18 members take on all the volunteer work required to run the Post. So, as a Past Commander once said, “...*a few do the work for many.*” It is disturbing to know we cannot count on anyone other than the Rogue Patrol and quite honestly, they are getting burned out. ***Please consider volunteering and participate!*** Heck, you might discover that warm and fuzzy feeling doing a good deed brings.

This is your Post. It cannot exist without you. It does not hurt to volunteer and we all can give a couple of hours on every other Tuesday to attend a meeting. The cost is \$1.00. For this money, you will be eligible for two raffles and a free meal.

IT’S THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN!
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?

We look forward to seeing you!

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, and/or emailed to all Post members, Auxiliary members and SAL Members.

Jim Quintavalle
Editor

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E-Mail Address: alpost854il@aol.com

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