

August 2017
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

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Our Post continues its long tradition of assisting fellow veterans, as witnessed by two events this past month: the sizeable donations to the RCF and Fisher House followed by a Chicago guided tour and pizza lunch for residents of the RCF. Thanks to all who made these activities possible; the residents and staff at the RCF are most appreciative.

Going forward we have opportunities to get our message out, which could potentially lead to increased community support. For instance, Lyons Township High School's annual Salute to Service game will be here before we know it. As you recall, our suggestion to help in planning and execution was accepted. Now the hard part-what to do to make it a special game?

As always, I am open to any and all suggestions.

Senior Vice Commander

By Chuck Bosko

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Tending to the pool the other day when a few strange thoughts developed. Actually, those thoughts were quite

Save the Dates

Aug. 8th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Aug. 10th – Hospital Visit
Aug. 11th – deadline for September newsletter
Sept. 12th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

humorous and rather quirky, at least to me. So, here it goes:

During my years on terra firma, it occurred to me that there have been 13 unique fellow Americans who have lived at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, DC: a haberdasher (who was a local city councilman), a general (5 star type), a rich Catholic (with a nice rocking chair), a rich Texas rancher (who pulled his dogs ears, ouch), a Quaker (hey, the guy appealed to the silent majority), a Michigan Congressman (with a car name), a peanut farmer (and Navy nuke guy), a Hollywood actor (win one for the Gipper), a rich ambassador (and CIA chief), a good ole boy from Arkansas (and chaser of two legged deer), the son of the rich ambassador above (and owner of a major league baseball team), a community organizer (?), and another

rich guy (with interesting hair & who likes to say “Your fired!”)

So, why did I find this interesting as I vacuumed my pool? Because the above individuals prove beyond a doubt that anybody in America can become President! Another way of looking at this, during my lifetime, we have had a President who said, “The Buck Stops Here” (responsibility, ownership) to a President who has really interesting hair.

And why can anybody become President? Because of you, dear reader. And because of all veterans, living and deceased. In some fashion, America’s veterans have allowed America to continually grow and, get this, continue to have one government for 241 years even though some of our leaders leave us wondering.

Next time you look in the mirror, be proud of the person looking back at ya! Until next month, enjoy the day and keep the conversation lively

Allons & Airborne

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 7/11/17:

Post General Fund	\$20,095.78
Post Relief Fund	8,015.61
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$28,111.39

We have been very fortunate in our Post to have just recently donated \$3,000 to Hines Hospital and \$3,000 to the National Home. We have an established scholarship fund in our name, granted to us by the Wakerly Foundation. We are able to gift \$150 each month at the Hines Bingo. We have positive funds in our

Memorial Day Parade Fund for future years even after spending over \$2,000 on rental equipment and gifts for participants.

Some of our operating expenses’ biggest hits are the VFW bond and insurance requirements as well as our recent Annual Dinner. We pay the U.S. postage fees, printing fees and card stock for 175 newsletters each month. We pay the Western Springs Business Association for the opportunity to spread our message. We give sizable monetary donations to kids who place in our Post’s Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy annual competitions. We gift almost \$2,000 to miscellaneous charitable organizations throughout the year including the National Home and Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans. We spend a lot of money on plaques. Our Poppy drive, our main source of gifting to veterans, costs \$780 just for the poppies.

So, at our meeting in July, when I was asked why the Post doesn’t give more, it’s because we need to stay the steady course. Until there is a significant change in membership enrollment and/or participation, we need to be smart about making large monetary decisions in our budget. The Annual Profit and Loss Report is in the hands of our Commander. Our Illinois Quarterly and Annual Reports and our Annual Federal Reports are all for public display via the Illinois VFW website. Copies of our monthly reports are available via the Adjutant. And, of course, I can provide anything you’d like to know at any time. Emailing me would be the best.

On a much more somber note, I’ve been informed from National VFW Headquarters that the following five members of our Post have passed. I have received no word from their families, so

if any of you can verify or disprove National's findings, please call me. If not, please keep these men in your prayers, as these are men who enabled us to live free.

William P. Burt

Ronald D. Fleck

Arthur C. Hanson

Arthur E. Odegard Jr.

Rudolph C. Wilczynski

Semper Fi!

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

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From Poppy Day collections, your Post donated \$3,000 for the maintenance of Hines Fisher House and \$3,000 to the Engineering Department at Hines Hospital for the purchase of flat screen TVs for patients' rooms to replace the old tube style TVs.

Remember – 100% of Poppy Day collections goes to veterans' needs.

All Eyes on the Sky for the Solar Eclipse

On Aug. 21, 2017, people across the United States will see the sun disappear behind the moon, turning daylight into twilight, causing temperatures to drop rapidly and revealing massive streamers of light streaking through the sky around the silhouette of the moon.

The Great American Total Solar Eclipse will darken skies from Oregon to South Carolina along a stretch of land about 70 miles. Here's what you need to know if you plan to check it out:

- **Take a road trip to Carbondale, IL**, for the best view in the state. The eclipse will hit the very southern point of the state around 11:52 a.m. with the totality beginning around 1:20 p.m.
- **Pack your solar viewing glasses.** Never look directly at the sun, even if it is behind the moon. These protective shades make it possible for observers to look directly at the sun before and after totality.
- If you're staying in town, check out **local eclipse events**, including Adler Planetarium, Daley Plaza in downtown Chicago and Triton College's Cernan Center.

-Sources: Space.com, Adler Planetarium and Triton College