

**August 2016**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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I write this column with a fair amount of trepidation, being my first for the Post newsletter (ever). Due to the consistent and continued efforts of the members over the past 25+ years, our Post is the example by which other service organizations should be judged.

By any measure, you have demonstrated an incredible amount of leadership, compassion and determination. A few examples: the countless hours volunteering at the VA, helping veterans in need, the Memorial Day parade and remembrance ceremony, Poppy Day activities, the LT scholarship. The Post was recently recognized for the donation to the Fisher House and VA Oncology/Nursing Department. The list is nearly endless and I cannot fully express my admiration at all which has been accomplished.

With this backdrop, I believe we still have to ask ourselves, "Where do we want to be in the future?" How do we improve what we do, how can we grow the Post, how can we communicate to the community our great work. These are but a few of the questions we should discuss. I humbly offer these prompts not as a way of indicating shortcomings,

**Save the Dates**

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Aug. 11<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> – deadline for September newsletter  
Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

but as a way to build on the solid foundation already in place. It's clear to me that we need everyone's input and participation.

Thoughts? Suggestions?

**Poppy Day Funds Support Vets at Fisher House, Hines Hospital**

**By Mike Winner**

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Statement of funds as of 7/19/16:

Post General Fund	\$15,033.53
Post Relief Fund	255.26
Post Dues Reserve	95.13
TOTAL:	\$15,383.92

Thank you to Jason Dobrzynski, president of the Western Springs Rotary Club, for coming to our July meeting and graciously extending an invitation to

all veterans to their annual Steak Fry from noon to 1:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 9, at the Western Springs Baptist Church, 4475 Wolf Road in Western Springs.

Thank you to Walt for creating a new Post calling tree. It is enclosed in this newsletter. It's up to each of us on that list to make a real effort to get the word out. Thank you all!

We've received word that fellow members Henry Mathews, Fred Guillen and Harry J. Obuchowski have passed away. Please keep Henry, Fred and Harry along with their family in your prayers.

Our Relief Fund is down because we made two generous donations to the Hines Fisher House in the amount of \$2,143 and a donation to Hines VA Hospital in the amount of \$2,500. Thank you to all who helped make this possible through our Poppy Day drive!

### **Post Supports Hines Hospital**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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It has been 26 years since our Post adopted the Spinal Injury Ward at Hines V.A. Hospital. Besides casual visits to the ward, we have a monthly bingo party where we disperse \$150 in prizes to the winning participants.

Past Commander and Life Member Dick Demski was our original chairman and came up with the bingo games. We also give patients of the ward a \$25 Christmas gift. Prizes and gifts come from our Poppy sales, so you know how important it is to support this cause.

Current bingo volunteers are Bruce Harken, Jack Lund, Bill Nawrot, Seedy Ulrich and Tom Higgins, who was our Parade Marshall in 2015.

Until further notice, Hines is not accepting lap robes, blankets or clothing.

On July 14, your Post donated \$2,500 for the upkeep of the Hines Fisher House and \$2,143 for the purchase of a much needed refrigerator in the Oncology Department of Hines. Again, all made possible from our Poppy sales.

Our sympathy of the family of Charter Member Henry (Doc) Matthews, who passed away just before his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Doc served as a dentist in the Army reaching the rank of Major. He island hopped from Guada Canal in World War II ending up heading the dental facilities in Korea. Doc survived Japanese bombings of medical tents and wired the jaws of many due to rifle recoils.

### **Service Officer Stuff**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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Politicians and Diapers – both need to be changed for the same reason!

Got your attention with the above? Good. On to some stuff. Seems that the Veterans Administration may add several new medical conditions to the Agent Orange list, including: bladder cancer, Parkinson's disease-like symptoms, hypothyroidism and high blood pressure. This info is highlighted in the June /July edition of the VFW magazine. One could ask – why now? Well, here's a partial answer. The VA relies on the Institute of Medicine (sub agency of the Institute of Science) to provide information and guidance on matters of a scientific/medical nature. When the VA receives that "green light," the agency then authorizes a study group to determine the exact avenue(s) of how to compensate veterans. Hence, it is not always the VA that delays rulings – a lot of "stuff" goes in the mix. Further, with the same

research, Spina Bifida may be withdrawn as a compensation benefit and it is doubtful that high blood pressure (hypertension) will be included.

Another wonderful, beautiful Memorial Day Parade and Observance!! This event is possible only on two equal levels. First, a dedicated parade committee: Jim Boland, Bruce Harken, Val Price, Bill Nawrot, Rich Jesswlin, Vince Huml, Rev. Bob Geasche, Pete Zika, Jack Lund, Buddy, and myself. Each member is responsible for a function of the parade and attends to that function until the parade is a memory. I thank each for their time and devotion. Second, the members of the Western Springs Business Association, other businesses, the Village of Western Springs, Lyons Township and individuals. Their donations enable us to secure publicity, permits and provide various "thanks" to participants.

Further, there is a rather special relationship between Post 10778 and the Village of Western Springs. The village has consistently provided support for our Post, the Memorial Day Parade most notably. In turn, a couple of us committee folk began a thought process-call it brain gas- of how can we, as an organization, express our gratitude in ways other than plaques/certificates that may or may not be displayed in a hall somewhere. The concept we came up with – benches for the Tower Green area. An annual bench presented to the village with an inscription dedicated to the military personal of each American conflict. One bench per year. A bench is a gift that is publicly visible, useful and just plain nice. Okay, the idea has been hatched. Let's continue the process at our next meeting.

Speaking of the parade, I am humbled and honored because a fellow vet

believed my military and civilian careers were, and are, worthy enough to be nominated as the Grand Marshal for the Memorial Day Parade. Humbled that my fellow comrades considered my nomination and voted for me. Honored to serve as the GM. Honored to share with my family, fellow veterans and those gathered my beliefs and visions of what Memorial Day is all about. A day of recollection and reverent gratitude for the sacrifices of those whom we knew, whom we laughed with, cried with, sought and gave comfort to. We honor those souls by continuing to be faithful to America, our families and our fellow veterans. In this fashion, their deaths are not forsaken. Their sacrifices matter. For this honor, I thank you all.

Well now, how about this? Effective July 2016, the "Veteran" designation on one's driver's license shall be expanded to include National Guard and Reserves personnel. Here's da catch though- both services individuals must have completed their initial service obligation (six years) and received the documents indicating this. For National Guard personnel, it will be the NGB 22 indicating six years' service and for those who served in the reserves, it will be the Certificate of Service signed by a current President (DA 526). The only alternative for an individual who has not completed the six years will be for a medical discharge. And of course, the offices one needs to visit to have those documents stamped (certified) is a local Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Office (closest to our Post is located at 1515 Harlem Ave, Forest Park. Call first at (708) 366-5020 and take those documents.

Hey, if there are topics or subjects you need info on email your questions to me at [chuckbosko@att.net](mailto:chuckbosko@att.net).

**VFW POST 10778 CALLING TREE 7/2016**

<b>COMMANDER</b>	<b>1) SENIOR VICE</b>	<b>2) JUNIOR VICE</b>	<b>3) CHAPLAIN</b>
Joe Barker 708-354-3076 Calls <b>1,2,3</b>	Rich Jesswein 708-246-0249 Calls <b>4,5</b>	Jim Boland 630-532-2443 Calls <b>6,7</b>	Bob Geaschel 708-846-4170 708-839-1200 (Church)
<b>4) Bruce Harken</b> 708-246-2383	Calls Guy Vorsanger 708-354-9134 Calls Pete Zika 708-246-4527 Calls Val Price 708-246-5022	Who Calls Who Calls Who Calls	Joe Delaloye 708-354-3165 Al Jacobsen 630-259-7274 Richard Demski 708-620-8321
<b>5) Walt Bergenthal</b> 708-246-4858	Calls Seedy Ulrich 708-246-4582 Calls John Flood 708-354-5754 Calls Jim Prorok 708-485-5145	Who Calls Who Calls Who Calls	Danny Legan 708-246-5327 Vince Huml 708-246-9670 Bill Staunton 630-842-4852
<b>6) Jack Lund</b> 708-246-2228	Calls Jack Schaus 630-662-0224 Calls Fred Rodriguez 708-246-4022 Calls William Nawrot 708-352-5835	Who Calls Who Calls Who Calls	Len Moscieke 708-579-5928 Ray Vavra 708-579-7295 Ed Palarski 708-354-2330
<b>7) Chuck Bosko</b> 708-205-3541	Calls Paul Thomas 708-246-7072 Calls Esteban Lopez Calls Buddy G	Who Calls Who Calls Who Calls	John Palla 708-246-2140 Rich Kurland 708-579-2840 Andrew Dillon 708-246-2707