

**November 2016**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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I hope you enjoyed the submariner presentation at the last meeting as much as I did. It always fascinates me to learn about other branches of the service and their contribution to the defense of our country. When we have these presentations, it helps underscore how our support is important to the greater community.

We often discuss the future of our Post in small groups after the meeting, however at some point I'd suggest we should discuss our future collectively. We have a great history, which we should be proud of, and I'd like to build on it. Should we be doing anything different? Could we be doing anything better? Could we use our limited resources in other areas? Think about it and let's talk.

While every month has important dates, this November brings a few biggies:

- Nov. 8: Election Day, when we exercise our privilege to vote.
- Nov. 9: Day after Election Day, while an unofficial day, it is the first day to not have political ads

**Save the Dates**

Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> – deadline for December newsletter  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

24/7. Unfortunately, it's a brief respite.

- Nov. 10: Marine Corps founded at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia. Since their founding, the Marines have truly been the tip of the spear. Always ready, self-sufficient, maintaining the standard. Happy 241<sup>st</sup> birthday! Semper Fidelis!
- Nov. 11: Armistice Day, celebrating the surrender of Germany (though the Treaty of Versailles wasn't signed until later). In 1938, the day became an official holiday; and in 1954 the name was changed to Veterans Day.

There were many, many other events that took place throughout history during November, including the Gettysburg Address and the conclusion of Operation

Desert Storm. My wish is for you to enjoy Veterans Day by knowing you helped continue the tradition of our services.

## **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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Statement of funds as of 10/16/16:

Post General Fund	\$13,956.47
Post Relief Fund	3,928.50
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$17,885.06

## **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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Your Post sent a \$500 check to the VFW Children's Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to help with maintenance of the Illinois Home.

We also presented a \$250 check to the Model U.N. Club at Lyons Township High School.

These are the reasons we need your help when we have our Poppy Days drive.

## **Service Officer Stuff**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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Just in case you know a veteran who served in the National Guard and/or Reserves but no active duty!

A new program offered by the Illinois Secretary of State for drivers licenses- veterans who served at least six years in the Guard or reserves are now eligible to have "VETERAN" on their driver's licenses. As always, to verify the six years, an individual must visit the offices of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs wherein a VSO will verify the

veteran's service. The documents we review will either be:

1. The NGB 22 – this is similar to a DD 214 but the Guard issues these when an individual separates from the Guard.
2. Army Reserve FM- 249-2E- statement of retirement points. This document indicates years of "good service." Must have at least six "active reserve years."
3. Naval Reserve, NPRC 1070-124- statement of retirement points.
4. Air Force Reserve, AF 526- Retirement points.
5. USMC Reserves- NAVMC 798- Retirement points.
6. Coast Guard Reserves, CG 4175, Retirement points.

Now, although the above documents are used to verify service, the only documents we can stamp for the driver's license people is:

- 1- A DD 214
- 2- A NGB 22
- 3- NA 13038 (a copy of that form is included in the newsletter).

The NA 13038 is a document a reservist receives after serving at least

six years. I know, I know, many vets will state they never saw one nor received one. What can I say? The drivers' license folks want that form.

Confused yet? Well, if you are, the very best bet is to visit a local IDVA office and get the latest. The closest IDVA office is located at 1515 S. Harlem Ave., Forest Park inside the VA Vet Center. Telephone: (708) 366-5020.

### **More stuff:**

Of interest for any service member who served at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina from Aug. 1, 1953 until Dec. 31, 1987: the issue of exposure to contaminated water supplies has been a rather hot topic in recent years. Now, however, after studies by the Institute of Medicine, the Veterans Administration has published "proposed regulations" to establish regulations to establish presumptions for service connections for military members who are diagnosed with the following conditions: Adult Leukemia, Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes, bladder cancer, kidney cancer, liver cancer, multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkins's lymphoma, Parkinson's disease.

If you know of a vet who happens to be ill with any of the above, advise that vet to seek the assistance of a veteran service officer to discuss a disability claim. There is a "correct" way to submit a claim and no vet should attempt to do so without the assistance of a VSO.

### **Still more stuff:**

When was your last college experience? Immediately after discharge? A few years after? Never? Whatever, did you know a veteran can still reinvent oneself? Yes indeed! Illinois has a program referred to as the Illinois Veterans Grant. This nifty

program pays for tuition and certain fees at any state funded college- be it a community college or the U o f I. True, perhaps most of us have utilized this program in our younger days but maybe not all of the allocation. Okay, Chuck, why would go back to school now? Glad ya asked. Perhaps there's a course or two that may interest you, such as painting, gardening, writing, computing stuff, whatever. By the way, whoever stated that we should stop learning anyway? Truth be told, you just may have IVG benefits available. Stop by a local IDVA office and inquire.

### **A story edited out of the book of Genesis (The Bible- for those who may have forgotten)**

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the gate of the garden and bark at anyone who walks past. For this I will give you a life span of 20 years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only 10 years and I'll give you back 10 years." So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain Adam and Eve and the crew, do tricks, make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a life span of 20 years."

The monkey said, "Tricks for 20 years? That's too long to perform. How about I do 10 and I'll give you back 10?" So, God agreed to this too.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "Go in the field all day under the sun have calves and give milk for the humans. Do this and I'll let you live for 60 years."

The cow thought about this and said, "That's a long time giving milk for 60 years. How about 20 and I'll return 40." Again, God agreed.

On the fourth day, God created man and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy the life I give you. For this, I'll give you 20 years."

Ah, but man said, "Only 20 years? How about you give me my 20, the 40 the cow gave back, the 10 the monkey gave back, and the 10 the dog gave back?"

God replied, "Okay- it's all yours!"

So, that is why for the first 20 years, we eat, sleep, play and marry. The next 40 years, we work in the sun to support our families, the next 10 years we do monkey tricks for our grandchildren and the last 10 years, we sit in our yards and bark at passersby!"

And now life as we know it has been explained for you.

### **Tidbits:**

At 23 years old, George Armstrong Custer was the youngest general in the Union Army  
Both Leon & Michael Spinks (remember them?) served in the USMC.

Paul Newman was disqualified from the Navy's pilot training because he was colorblind.

The most effective way to remember your wife's birthday – is to forget it once.

The next "Veterans Benefits" session at Lyons Township School is at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the South Campus.

On a separate page in this newsletter is a listing of Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs offices, addresses and telephone numbers. Keep this with your other contacts.

Until next month

Allons

### **Food Idioms and What They Mean**

A universal preoccupation with food is apparent in the many idioms based on it. Here are a few:

**1. Chew the fat:** Originally the expression meant to argue over a point, perhaps because people arguing make energetic mouth movements similar to what is required to masticate gristle. In British usage, both "chew the fat" and "chew the rag" mean to argue or grumble. In American usage the expressions mean to engage in friendly conversation.

**2. Cream puff:** Literally, a cream puff is a shell of puff pastry with a cream filling. In British usage, a "cream puff" is an effeminate person. In American usage, a "cream puff" is a used car in especially good condition.