

January 2020
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Esteban Lopez

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The month of December brought another setback to Illinois and to our Post. Although we couldn't meet, I know you were busy preparing for holiday festivities. Some of our neighbors put out festive lights and symbols early and joy filled the air.

In December we were finally looking at COVID-19 vaccinations. Be aware that the medication is being called a vaccination and not immunization. We need to know the difference between the two.

Immunization means to make someone immune to something. Vaccination, by contrast, according to Dorland's Medical Dictionary, just means to inject "a suspension of attenuated or killed microorganisms...administered for prevention...or treatment of infectious disease."

Most people do not realize that when you receive a shot or a vaccine it does not mean you are immunized. Many people believe that once you are vaccinated you are completely protected. That belief is wrong. The use of the word "immunization" instead of

Save the Dates

Jan. 12th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Jan. 15th – deadline for February newsletter

Feb. 9th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

"vaccination" is used everywhere.

Most importantly, news outlets tell the public that immunization is the same as vaccination. However, there is a large difference between the two. Vaccines contain a dead or live weakened germ that can cause a particular disease, like tetanus, or parts of a germ. When we are given a vaccine shot, our body immediately produces antibodies against the germ. It is at this point that most believe the body's defense mechanism kicks in and immunity will occur in the event that said antigen gains entry again into the body but, this is not the case with all vaccines.

So, what all this means? When you get the shot against COVID-19, you might have to continue to exercise social distancing, hand sanitation, et al. to avoid getting sick.

VA News

Planning is underway at the VA to deliver a COVID-19 vaccine when one becomes available. VA is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to develop a phased plan based on five core ethical pillars: safety, maximizing the benefit of the vaccine, equity, fairness and transparency. VA will offer the vaccine first to high-risk health care personnel (HCP), as they are essential in continuing to care for patients throughout the pandemic.

As more vaccines become available, VA will offer the vaccine to high-risk veterans. VA's ultimate goal is to offer it to all veterans and employees who want to be vaccinated.

I wish you all a Happy New Year! Be well and stay safe.

See you in 2021!

Ad Maiora

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 12/15/20:

Post General Fund	\$6,069.73
Post Relief Fund	\$5,810.10
TOTAL:	\$11,879.83

Semper Fidelis!

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

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From this year's Poppy sales, your Post dropped off 24 Christmas cards with \$25 enclosed for each of the patients in the residential care facility at Hines Hospital.

We also contributed \$2,000 to the Fisher House for maintenance plus \$1,500 to the Hines Hospital wish list.

None of this could have happened without your help. The top Poppy seller this year was Tom Higgins.

Our sympathy and condolences to the family of Past Commander and Life Member Joseph Gorski, Jr., who recently passed away. Joe served with the Army of Occupation in Korea after World War II and before the Korean War started.

Cereal Anniversaries

Prior to 1949, new cereal launches were sporadic. America's cereal boom began mid-century, right around the baby boom. Find out what year your favorite cereals debuted!

1949 – Sugar Crisp
1950 – Corn Pops
1951 – Wheat Chex
1952 – Frosted Flakes
1953 – Sugar Smacks
1954 - Trix
1955 – Special K
1956 – Shredded Wheat
1958 – Cocoa Puffs
1961 – Life
1963 – Lucky Charms
1967 – Capt Crunch
1971 – Count Chocula
1977 – Cookie Crisp
1978 – Honey Nut Cheerios
1981 – Banana Frosted Flakes
1984 – Cinnamon Toast Crunch
1988 – Dunkin Donuts cereal
1994 – Reese Peanut Butter Puffs
1999 – Millenios Cheerios
2001 – Kashi Go Lean Crunch
2008 – Banana Nut Cheerios
2016 – Girl Scout Thin Mints cereal
2017 – Chips Ahoy cereal

Source: Food Network Magazine

