

June 2020
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Rich Jesswein
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I know this is a continuing theme of mine but, here we are in June, half of the year is over!! Where has the time gone?? I know, some of you think time is standing still! You are probably stuck home with your own children or your grandchildren. My wife and I comment that we are glad we do not have young children in the house. I truly feel for you, entertaining young folks all day long, and then tomorrow is just like today. The only thing I can say is you will get through it, and when you do, it will be better than ever.

We had an installation (no dinner) on June 9 in the parking lot at Grace Lutheran Church in Western Springs.

Your new elected officers are as follows:

Commander	Esteban Lopez
Sr Vice Comm	Buddy Georgoulakis
Jr Vice Comm	Bill Newrot
Chaplain	Rev. Bob Geaschel
Surgeon	Dr. Paul Thomas
Judge Advocate	Seedy Ulrich
Quartermaster	Mike Winner
Trustee	Rich Jesswein

(Three-year term)

Save the Dates

June 12th – deadline for July newsletter
July 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Note the installation dinner has been canceled.

Well, folks, this is my last letter as your commander. I've had a lot of fun dealing with all the members of our Post. I hope, as I leave as your commander, that I left it just a little bit better than when I started. It has truly been an honor to serve you!!

As I review some of the letters I've written over the last two years, I'm going to leave you just as I started as your commander.

Soooooooooooooooooooo

*Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
I'm so very happy and humble
To have served you*

Ciao

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 5/12/20:

Post General Fund	\$6,769.22
Post Relief Fund	3,930.16
TOTAL:	\$10,694.38

Semper Fidelis!

You Don't Know (Cracker) Jack

Baseball might be on hold, for now, but you can still enjoy classic ballpark food like Cracker Jack. More than 110 years after the release of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," the molasses popcorn and peanut mix is still synonymous with America's favorite pastime. Here are some fun facts about this beloved baseball snack:

- Frederick and Louis Rueckheim debuted an early version of Cracker Jack right here in Chicago during the 1893 World's Fair. It contained molasses, which made the mix super sticky and clumpy. They improved the recipe with a dry coating – a company secret to this day!
- Cracker Jack was one of America's first mass-produced snack food. The company's novel wax-sealed package kept the snack fresh during shipping.
- Advertising gurus consider the line "buy me some peanut and Cracker Jack" one of the earliest and longest running examples of free product placement.
- Ironically, Jack Norworth, who wrote the lyrics to "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," never attended a baseball game.
- While Kellogg's started tucking coupons for kids' books into boxes of Corn Flakes in 1909, it was Cracker Jack who first put toys inside the package in 1912.
- When Yankee Stadium tried to replace Cracker Jack with Crunch 'n Munch in 2004, fans complained so much that officials reinstated Cracker Jack two months later.
- Cracker Jack is sold at 25 of the 30 MLB stadiums.
- Frito-Lay, the brand's current owner, has tried to appeal to a new generation of kids with digital prizes and limited edition flavors, such as birthday cake and holiday sugar cookie.
- The most valuable Cracker Jack prize is a 1915 baseball card for "Shoeless Joe" Jackson sold for \$120,000 last year. Full sets have fetched \$800,000.
- Early prizes included pot metal miniatures in the 1920s made by Dowst, the same company that made the original Monopoly tokens.
- The Alphabet Animals series in the 1950s got kids buying more boxes of Cracker Jack to get a complete set!

Source: Food Network Magazine