

**January 2017**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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It was quite a productive meeting in December, beginning with an extremely generous donation from Lyons Township High School. Kurt Weinberg, LT head football coach, presented a check for over \$5,000, which represents half of the proceeds from the Salute to Service game. Equally important was the discussion after the presentation, where Kurt asked for ways in which we could work together to help each other. Let's get some ideas together in order to grow the relationship.

In other LT news, the school paper, The LION, asked me a few questions regarding our Post and our mission. The reporter was amazed by the work our Post accomplishes in support of veterans and our outreach programs. Which again leads me to say:

- Thanks to the Hospital Committee for consistently providing comfort to our veterans at Hines.
- Thanks to the Parade Committee for continually improving an already excellent event.
- Thanks to the Educational Committee (Teacher of the Year, Voice of

**Save the Dates**

Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
Jan. 13<sup>th</sup> – deadline for February newsletter  
Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Democracy, and Patriot's Pen) for expanding our circle of influence to the community.

- Thanks to all the members, you make this a special Post.

See you at the next meeting!

**Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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On the evening of Dec. 15, Seedy Ulrich, Bruce Harken and Walt Bergenthal played Santa Claus at the Hines Hospital Spinal Injury Ward. We delivered Christmas cards to each patient in the ward. Each envelope contained \$25. All made possible by our Poppy Day sales – 100% of which goes to veterans in need.

Our sympathy to the family of Thamer Dennis Schooley, who passed away on Dec. 5. Dennis was a Life Member of our Post and was Grand Marshall of our Memorial Day Parade some years back. He was a World War II Navy veteran serving in the Atlantic and Pacific earning eight battle stars.

Len Moscicke reported that Post member Richard J. Rimdzus, Navy Seabee Vietnam veteran, passed away in November. Rich had no known relatives.

Got any paperback books? Hine is always looking for them. Drop them off at Walt Bergenthal's back door, 3951 Western Ave. in Western Springs, or bring them to a Post meeting.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and yours!

### **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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#### Statement of funds as of 12/19/16:

Post General Fund	\$14,041.82
Post Relief Fund	2,697.07
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$16,738.89

We lost a member in December, Salvatore Terracina. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran who served in the Pacific Campaign in the Philippines for four years. More importantly, he was married to his wife, Ivy, for 67 years.

Again, we all see the leadership examples of a generation of men and women who selflessly served our country, came home and made the American Dream. We say Farewell and God Bless!

### **Service Officer Stuff**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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Just goes to show ya, you truly can learn something new every day! Here is what I became aware of recently. Fellow member Len Moscicke asked Walt to ask me to call Len. So, I gave Len a call. Seems his neighbor, friend and fellow Post member Richard Rimdzus passed away in November. Trouble is, Rich had no family members in the area, no other friends, and apparently, no will, estate, last wishes, nothing. And Len, being the good veteran he is, worried that Richard would be buried on "Potters" field without so much as a last honor. Did I mention that Richard, as of this writing, is still in the county morgue? That is when Len requested my assistance.

Okay, now what? So, I gave an acquaintance, Todd Hitzeman of Hitzeman Funeral Home, a call and reiterated the story from Len. Todd replied, call the county administrator. County administrator? I never heard of the office in all my years. Of course Todd, being the professional kind of guy he is, provided the telephone number. I called and learned a great deal, especially when the situation focuses upon the demise of an individual such as Rich. Once I contacted the county administrator's office, I was connected to a case manager assigned to Richard's situation.

Think what you will of Cook County daily issues. The staff at this administrator's office has a profound duty and in just one 20-minute conversation, I had a certain respect for an office I never knew existed. The officer had already established an ongoing effort to publish (nationwide)

Richard's death, attempt to contact any existing family members and any remaining details that would normally be included for any individual's death. Further, this agency would try to locate Richard's parent's gravesite so that Richard could be buried with his parents and order a VA headstone. Should that not be possible, arrangements would be made with the VA's Abe Lincoln cemetery, pending receipt of Richard's DD 214. Turns out, I was able to provide a DD 214 which was very much appreciated. Further, I informed the case manager that Richard's home VFW Post would be available for whatever assistance needed. As mentioned earlier, you learn something every day.

*Joke time:*

*Dr. Jones: I'm an Army doctor.*

*Pvt. Smith: Do you operate on officers?*

*Dr. Jones: No, I have a Private practice.*

More service officer stuff:

Agent Orange related. The VA researchers have found a link between the guys who were involved in the application procedures of Agent Orange and hypertension. This study involved about 4,000 veterans who served between 1965 and 1973. The results indicate that self-reported hypertension was highest among veterans who distributed and maintained herbicides in Viet Nam (81.6%), veterans who sprayed herbicides during the Viet Nam war, but were not in Viet Nam (77.4%), veterans who served in Viet Nam but did not spray herbicides (72.2%) and veterans who did not spray herbicides and were not Viet Nam veterans (64 %).

As such, this is only a study and the results will be shared with the National Academies of Science. Why the fuss? Perhaps, hypertension will be included

in the "presumptive" list of illnesses considered for disability compensation. Hey, bladder cancer is currently on the table as is pancreatic cancer. **Stay tuned!**

Some more officer stuff:

Included in this newsletter are two pages of current Veterans Administration Health Care Enrollment Priority Groups. Hopefully, this information may be beneficial for the reader. ***Keep these pages as future reference for yourself, family or friends.***

Some interesting data pertaining to WW II, Korean War, Viet Nam War, Desert Shield/Storm and The Global War on Terror as of May 1, 2016 from the VA.

**WWII:** Total service members worldwide: 16,112,566. Battle deaths: 291,557. Non-mortal wounds: 670, 846. Living veterans: 696,000.

**Korean War:** Total service members worldwide; 5,720,000; In theater: 1,789,000. Battle deaths: 33,739. Non-mortal wounds: 103,284. Living veterans: 1,592,000

**Viet Nam War:** Total service members worldwide: 8,744,000. Deployed to Southeast Asia: 3,403,000. Battle deaths: 47,434. Non-mortal wounds: 153,303. Living veterans: 6,953,000.

**Desert Storm/Shield:** Total service members worldwide: 2,322,000. Deployed to Gulf: 694,550. Battle deaths: 148. Non-mortal wounds: 467. Living veterans: 4,483,000.

**Global War on Terror:** Living veterans: 4,398,000. (Ongoing conflict)

## **Submitting candidates for Grand Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade and Observance**

Believe it or not, there is a procedure when submitting a candidate as a Grand Marshall. And here is the most important reason, an avoidance of disappointment. When a member of our Post wishes to submit a candidate, it is to be in writing and forwarded to the Memorial Day Committee. This committee is comprised of your fellow VFW 10778 members. The committee actually commits to reading the qualifications and reasons for the individual, discusses the merits of each individual and arrives at a consensus. This process has been the process since 10778 has been organizing the event. Following is the format.

1. Name of individual
2. Veteran's branch of service and period served
3. Member of the VFW. Not necessary, but nice.
4. Military awards, honors, citations, etc.
5. What has veteran done since service- career, civic, volunteer, etc.?

And here is the gotcha!

6. In your opinion, why is this individual being nominated by you. Why should this person be the Grand Marshall?

We select individuals for all the above reasons. Not because we desire to feel good about ourselves or to allow the nominated to "feel good." No, the rationale we select a Grand Marshall goes beyond our own Post. We want the public to become aware of what a true veteran is, has done, is doing and will continue to do for America and our communities. Yes, we do honor our own members and if there is any doubt, look at the past GM's. The committee is sincere when the selection of a GM is at hand. Without doubt, it is the most important task we accept and accomplish.

Therefore, should any member decide to nominate any individual for the Memorial Day Parade and Observance, please do so following the procedure above and send it to the parade chair.

Thank you and as always- ALLONS !

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