

September 2016
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

joebarker104@gmail.com

The opening webpage of the Illinois Department states: "Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Elite."

It's an eye catching introduction, and it got me thinking of numbers. Sorry, it's a job hazard. I apologize upfront if my numbers and/or math are incorrect, however roughly speaking:

- There are 320 million citizens of the United States.
- Of those, about 20 million are veterans (per a table on the VA website I stumbled on).
- That means about 6% of the population are veterans, a very small percentage.
- Taking it one step further, there are about 1.4 million members (according the VFW website).
- That means VFW members make up only 0.4% of the population, an elite crowd to be sure. This statistic certainly underscores the Departments message.

So again I have to say thanks for your (and your families') continued service.

This also means the VFW as a whole has about 18.6 million potential new members. It'd be interesting to try to

Save the Dates

Sept. 8th – Hospital Visit
Sept. 13th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Sept. 16th – deadline for October newsletter
Oct. 11th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

determine the statistics for our area (demographics, location, numbers) in order to help our recruitment team. Any thoughts?

A few important dates in September, by no means an exhaustive list:

- 9th: The Rotary Club of Western Springs' Steak Fry, noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Western Springs Baptist Church.
- 11th: The 15th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Please take a moment to remember those who died and were injured during those attacks, and those who have suffered serving our nation since.
- 16th: POW/MIA Recognition Day, one of only six days of the year on which flying the National League of Families POW/MIA flag has been congressionally

mandated. Please take a moment to remember our POWs and MIAs.

- 18th: The U.S. Air Force celebrates its 68th birthday. I think the Army still uses canteen cups older than the Air Force!
- 25th: Gold Star Mothers and Families Recognition Day, recognizing families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. They continue to pay a price, which cannot be repaid.

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

(708) 829-0069

Gonakadet@att.net

Statement of funds as of 8/19/16:

Post General Fund	\$14,438.42
Post Relief Fund	4,863.26
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$19,101.68

Did you serve between 1955 and 1975? If so, you're eligible to attend the Cook County, IDVA & Brookfield Zoo Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 29, at the Brookfield Zoo Swan Pavilion. Registration forms must be submitted by Thursday, Sept. 15. Call or email me for form.

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

(708) 246-4858

Last month, Post Life Members Walt Bergenthal, Al Jacobsen, Harold Kulat and Seedy Ulrich attended the interment of the late Life Member Henry "Doc" Mathews and his wife at the Abraham

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery. It was a moving ceremony provided by a six man gun salute in Doc's honor.

To date, there are more than 40,000 veterans interred at this facility with a 400,000 eventual capacity. Let's pray wars come to an end and it will never be filled.

A hearty thank you to Mike Winner's father, Wayne, who has provided Hines Hospital with an untold amount of books and DVDs totaling hundreds of dollars.

Service Officer Stuff

By Chuck Bosko

(708) 205-3541

There is a flyer in this issue – a 50 Year Anniversary for Viet Nam on Thursday, Sept. 29, at Brookfield Zoo.

Borrowing a few items from an acquaintance, Ray Toczek, VSO for the American Legion. Ray provides a column for the Legion Department News called, "Did You Know?" Here's a couple, with permission:

"I received a Purple Heart in Viet Nam for grazing shrapnel wound. It was minor and the scar is even hard to see. The Veterans Health Administration Hospital told me I couldn't use them because I wasn't service connected disabled and my income was too high."

Actually, any veteran who received a Purple Heart for any kind of injury is eligible and should be placed in category three.

"I applied for hearing loss but was granted only 0%. Guess I can't get hearing aids."

Actually, a zero rating for hearing loss makes one eligible for the hearing aids.

Speaking of Hines, IF you applied for VA Health Care perhaps years ago and were denied based on income, try again, especially if you are retired as your

income has changed. You'll never know if you do not try.

Here's something to ponder:

AN ACTUAL CRAIG'S LIST
PERSONALS AD

To the Guy Who Tried to Mug Me in
Downtown Savannah night before last.

I was the guy wearing the black
Burberry jacket that you demanded that I
hand over, shortly after you pulled
the knife on me and my girlfriend,
threatening our lives. You also asked for
my girlfriend's purse and earrings. I can
only hope that you somehow come
across this rather important message.

First, I'd like to apologize for your
embarrassment; I didn't expect you to
actually crap in your pants when I drew
my pistol after you took my jacket. The
evening was not that cold, and I was
wearing the jacket for a reason.. my
girlfriend was happy that I just returned

safely from my 2nd tour as a
Combat Marine in Afghanistan .. She
had just bought me that Kimber
Custom Model 1911 .45 ACP pistol for
my birthday, and we had picked up a
shoulder holster for it that very evening.

Obviously you agree that it is a very
intimidating weapon when pointed at
your head ... isn't it?!

I know it probably wasn't fun walking
back to wherever you'd come from with
crap in your pants. I'm sure it was even
worse walking bare-footed since I made
you leave your shoes, cell phone, and
wallet with me. (That prevented you
from calling or running to your buddies
to come help mug us again).

After I called your mother or "Momma"
as you had her listed in your cell, I
explained the entire episode of what
you'd done. Then I went and filled up
my gas tank as well as those of four
other people in the gas station, -- on your
credit card. The guy with the big motor

home took 153 gallons and was
extremely grateful!

I gave your shoes to a homeless guy
outside Vinnie Van Go Go's, along with
all the cash in your wallet. [That made
his day!]

I then threw your wallet into the big pink
"pimp mobile" that was parked at the
curb after I broke the
windshield and side window and keyed
the entire driver's side of the car.

Earlier, I managed to get in two
threatening phone calls to the DA's
office and one to the FBI, while
mentioning

President Obama as my possible target.
The FBI guy seemed really intense and
we had a nice long chat (I guess while he
traced your number etc.).

In a way, perhaps I should apologize for
not killing you ... but I feel this type of
retribution

is a far more appropriate punishment for
your threatened crime. I wish you well
as you try to sort through some of these
rather immediate pressing issues, and
can only hope that you have the
opportunity to reflect upon, and perhaps
reconsider, the career path you've chosen
to pursue in life.. Remember, next time
you might not be so lucky. Have a good
day!

Thoughtfully yours, **Semper fi**,
Alex

Finally: The VFW Service Office staff
will be providing Post Service Officer
training from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 17. This informative
session is always interesting and, by the
way, what you take away can be useful
when recruiting a prospective member.
The cost is \$25 and I entered a motion at
our August meeting for the Post to
sponsor one or two members. I'll be

driving , so hey, if you're interested, give me a call. How about this, Pentagon facts:

Employees- civilian and military, 23,000
Office space-3,705,793 square feet
Parking lots- 16
Acres of parking-67
Stairways-131
Escalators-19
Water fountains-691
Restrooms-284
Daily phone calls-200,000,
Miles of telephone cable-100,000.

This stuff is great for parties!

That's it for September.

7 Ways to Say in Vacation Mode

1. Put clean sheets on bed, hang fresh bathroom towels and get ride of any clutter before your trip so you won't feel overwhelmed coming back to a mess at home.
2. Prepare a home cooked meal before you go and freeze it. Then ask your pet sitter/neighbor checking mail to put it in the fridge the day before you come home. You'll have a meal to pop in the oven your first night back and won't have to worry about cooking!
3. Schedule your trip to end on Friday. That way you have the weekend to catch up on sleep and chores before heading back to work.
4. Better yet, take an extra day off from work. Then your first week back can be a short week too!
5. During your trip, put all your dirty clothes in a separate bag. Then toss the contents right into the wash when you unpack.
6. Set a vacation picture as your desktop. Every time you go on computer, the scenic photo will remind you of your trip.
7. Start planning the next vacation. It gives you something to look forward to and helps make the reality of returning to the grind less frustrating.

Source: Real Simple