

March 2017
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Joe Barker

joebarker104@gmail.com

Our last meeting provided yet more examples of the future of our country. We awarded the second and third place recipients for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy contest. It is always great to see the students in person, and I am looking forward to increased participation next year. Thanks again to Bruce and the Education Committee for their efforts!

Along those lines, we are trying to coordinate the donation of the money from Lyons Township High School's "Salute to Service" game. The tentative plan is to have representatives from the football team and the Fisher House at our next meeting. More to follow.

Last Friday, we bid farewell to Stanley Golaszewski, a WWII Army veteran. Stanley served in Military Intelligence, working inside camps for displaced personnel and later at the Embassy in Switzerland. His family was appreciative of the service and kind words spoken during the ceremony.

There was a motion presented (and seconded) to explore the possibility of forming a VFW auxiliary. According to the VFW By-Laws (section 1102,

Save the Dates

March 9th – Hospital Visit
March 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
March 17th – deadline for April newsletter
April 11th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

Eligibility), "Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be limited to spouses, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children and grandchildren of a person who was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States." We will have the final vote at the next meeting. Your input is important; please consider attending and contributing to the discussion.

I'd be remiss if I did not send out a reminder of two events around the corner: Buddy-Poppy Drive and the Memorial Day Parade. Any help you can provide is always appreciated.

Thanks for all you do for fellow veterans!

Joe Barker

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

(708) 829-0069

Gonakadet@att.net

Statement of funds as of 2/14/17:

Post General Fund	\$17,840.60
Post Relief Fund	2,415.00
Post Dues Reserve	0
TOTAL:	\$20,255.60

This report does not include the very generous donation from the Wakerly Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. It does, however, include the very generous donation from Lyons Township High school in the amount of \$5,400.

Donations in honor of Ed Pilarski continue to come in:

- John Tallarico-\$25
- Charlie and Bonnie Tomasson-\$50
- Kimberly Corpora-\$105
- Edward and Sandra Pauley-\$30

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

(708) 246-4858

Our sympathy to the family of Stanley Golaszewski, who passed away on Feb. 13. Stan served in Europe during World War II as PFC in the 7707th Military Intelligence Service Center where he worked undercover in the displaced persons' camps and served at the Embassy in Bern, Switzerland.

Don't forget to **SPRING AHEAD** one hour when Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 12!

Service Officer Stuff

By Chuck Bosko

(708) 205-3541 (cell)

(312) 980-4512

chuckbosko@att.net

The following topic is applicable to membership and Service Officer stuff. Here goes. Our Post has experienced a decline in membership, which is due to the passing of individuals, non-renewals and folks moving. To address this concern, discussions have focused on the idea of allowing "non-combat" veterans to join Post 10778 as "auxiliary" members.

Truth be told, over the previous year, I have met other veterans who did indeed express an interest in joining Post 10778. The concept certainly is not new as posts across the country have travelled this very road. And, when one really thinks about it, why not accept new members in this fashion?

During the Post's February meeting, the subject was discussed and a decision was made to notify all members of Post 10778 that during the March 2017 meeting a vote will be conducted to start an auxiliary membership. Do read more about this elsewhere in this newsletter.

Let's expand on this concept since we're on the subject. For several years, I truly have thought about why there are so many different veteran organizations anyway. Okay, perhaps there was a certain need for each organization to exist, each catering to the vast differing status of veterans: war time era, "boots on the ground" veterans, peace time era veterans, wounded veterans, religious affiliation veterans, and what have you. However, has the time finally arrived that there should be one organization for ALL veterans? Okay, I know AMVETS exists, but barely. No, I am

contemplating one massive veteran entity that appeals to all living veterans- something akin to the AARP. Here's why.

The AARP has a membership base of about 22 million members. 22 million! Why is that so impressive? Think about it. Whenever Congress attempts to change in any fashion the institution of Social Security, the AARP simply reminds those members of Congress just how many AARP members can be notified and those Congressional reps steer clear of any change to Social Security. Now, answer me this, how many living veterans are in America? Did you think- 22 million? Yup! You are correct Mr. Veteran. And just how many belong to any existing veteran group? Perhaps 5 million. Only 5 million. And those numbers may be skewed as many vets belong to two or more. Let your imagination run rampant for a few minutes. IF 22 million veterans belonged to one massive veteran organization, veteran benefits would never be in jeopardy.

Interesting thought, no? I believe so. Let me know your thoughts, like – am I “right on” or “nowhere near reality?”

Anyway, thought I would share this with the readers.

Allons,
Chuck

When Life Gives You Leftover Cake, Enjoy Another Dessert!!

Whether the bottom half of your cake got stuck to the pan or you can't finish the rest before it gets stale, *Real Simple* magazine offers three ways to use up leftover cake.

Mini Cake Trifle

Spoon a small layer of **vanilla pudding** into the bottom of a tumbler or small mason jar. Top with a layer of **cubed cake scraps**. Drizzle cake with **dark rum** (optional). Top with a layer of **sliced mango and raspberries**. Repeat the layers until you reach the top of the glass. Finish with a dollop of **whipped cream**.

Cake “Crunchies”

Heat oven to 250°F. Spread **cake crumbs** on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake for one hour or until crumbs are completely dry. (For fine crunchies, process the toasted crumbs in a food processor). Let crunchies cool, then sprinkle over **ice cream**.

Cruffles (Cake Truffles)

Add **cake scraps** to a food processor and process until they are finely textured and evenly crumbled. Transfer crumbs to a bowl. Add your choice of liquid—**Cointreau, Kahlúa, amaretto, or heavy cream with a splash of vanilla extract**—one drizzle at a time, until the crumbs stick together firmly in a ball when squeezed. Roll into 1-inch balls and refrigerate until firm. Microwave **chocolate candy melts**. Dip the balls in chocolate until fully coated. Top with **sprinkles, chopped nuts or toasted coconut**. Transfer to a parchment lined baking sheet and let cool until chocolate is dry and set.