

**February 2021  
Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Esteban Lopez**

630-765-1848

lopez\_esteban@hotmail.com

January 2021 marks an era of hope in our global history. The vaccine against COVID-19 was approved and veterans are called to partake in inoculations.

Hines is vaccinating 700 veterans and employees a day. It's a big job, but Hines has been outstanding in the task at hand. I am glad to hear that members of Post 10778 opted-in for vaccinations. We are all doing our part to stop the virus and return to some normalcy.

This month we tested Zoom to conduct our meetings. The test was on Jan 5, 2021, and was successful. I scheduled the next meeting for an online environment.

In our next meeting, District Commander Macinnes might join us. The online meeting is a National push to continue to reach those members who cannot attend the meetings, even when sanctions for in person meetings are lifted. I hope to have meetings in person and in Zoom as a hybrid in the future. I am looking to add telephone for audio meetings to reach everyone in our Post.

In January, the nation had a change of command and that change trickles to

**Save the Dates**

Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** via Zoom

Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – deadline for March newsletter

March 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting**

veterans via the Department of Veterans Affairs chain of command. We had an outstanding push from the outgoing Under Secretary of the Veterans Benefits Administration Dr Paul Lawrence, who conducted live town-halls around the country, identifying issues that affect veterans in every state. I am saddened by his departure. More to follow about the new command emplacement.

January brought two winners for the Voice of Democracy. Congratulations to Pietrzak and Lopez for their entries.

**VA News**

Vaccinations – get your appointment to get vaccinated. Please call 708-202-7000 for the COVID Vaccination Call Center and Appointment Scheduling.

Hines' Current Vaccination Stratification List:

-- Veterans 65+ years old

-- Dialysis patients

- Chemotherapy patients
- Organ transplant veterans
- Homeless Veteran Program participants
- Inpatient Spinal Cord Center
- Community Living Center
- Residential Care Facility (RCF)
- Hines VA employees

As vaccines become available for more groups of veterans, VA care teams will reach out to eligible veterans to schedule vaccinations. Thanks to Bruce for the above update.

#### **Upcoming meetings**

- Parade Committee is on Feb. 6 at 0900 via Zoom.
- WS Post 10778 meeting is February 9, 2021 via Zoom.

Welcome to the Metal OX year.  
Ad Maiora

### **Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**  
(708) 829-0069  
Gonakadet@att.net

In December, we donated \$500 to the National Home, \$1,500 to Hines Wish List, \$2000 to Fisher House and \$450 to Hines Hospital patients for Christmas.

#### Statement of funds as of 1/12/21:

Post General Fund	\$5,258.56
Post Relief Fund	5,595.10
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$10,843.66</b>

Semper Fidelis!

### **How the Marker Got Its Magic**

As some youngsters are headed back to in-person instruction at schools, let's take a look at the origins of some beloved school supplies.

**Pencil** – In the 1500s, a storm tore down a tree in an English village, unearthing a shiny substance now known as graphite. Farmers began using it to mark sheep, then encased it in wood to prevent it from staining fingers.

**Eraser** – The rubber eraser was invented in the 1840s. Until then, the best “device” for removing pencil marks was a piece of bread.

**Magic Marker** – In 1952, American inventor Sidney Rosenthal developed the first felt-tip writing implement. His ink-filled bottle with a wool wick was dubbed the “Magic Marker” because of its ability to write on almost any surface – much to the dismay of parents!

**Glue Stick** – Aboard a plane in the late 1960s, German chemist Wolfgang Dierichs dreamed up the idea for a glue stick while watching a woman apply lipstick. It was convenient and eliminated messy paste pots or brushes.

**Paper Clips** – Before paper clips, thread and needle were used to bound paper. Samuel B. Fay patented the first paper clip in 1867. This clip was originally intended primarily for attaching tickets to fine fabric (instead of a pin), but the patent also recognized that it could be used to attach papers together.

*Source: Real Simple*