

December 2019
Post Newsletter
WesternSpringsVFW.org

Commander's Stuff

By Rich Jesswein

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! I hope each and every one of you who receive this letter has a happy, joyous and safe Christmas!!

This has been a tough winter so far, but it certainly hasn't slowed down our Post. Once again, we supported Hines VA Hospital so they could buy some new equipment and TVs. We continue to play bingo and give them \$300 every second Thursday of the month. By the way, if you enjoy bingo, everybody is welcome join in on the fun. You can get the details from Bruce Harken at brhed@aol.com.

We also continue to do pinning ceremonies for Kindred Hospice. I think we did about seven or eight ceremonies this year. We also did a pinning ceremony for Bethlehem Woods retirement home. There were about 35 vets pinned at Bethlehem Woods. It was a beautiful ceremony!! Once again, if anybody wants to become involved in pinning ceremonies, all are welcome. Just contact me at the above e-mail address.

Save the Dates

Dec. 10th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church
Dec. 12th – Hospital Visit
Dec. 13th – Deadline for January Newsletter
Jan. 14th – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

As I looked at my 2018 December letter, I wrote there was one thing I was disappointed in - that we did not grow our Post like I hoped for. It seems all I have to do is mention it, and our Post "jumps" on it to make it happen. This year our Post receive a banner from the 4th District congratulating us on being one of the top growing Posts in the district. Once again, nice work guys!!

I know everybody is busy this month, and our Post is not different! Here are dates of note:

- Dec. 5th "international volunteer day"
- Dec. 7th Pearl Harbor
- Dec. 15th deadline for the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and the teacher judging awards
- Dec. 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS

December is a time to reflect, and, once again, I feel blessed to be commander of Post 10778!! Everyone has worked hard to make our Post the BEST in the 4th District. THANK YOU!!

Soooooooooooooooooooo

*Roses are Red
Violets are Blue*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
To you and you and you and you*

Quartermaster Report

By Mike Winner

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Statement of funds as of 11/15/19:

Post General Fund \$9,789.25

Post Relief Fund \$3,031.69

TOTAL: \$12,820.94

Merry Christmas! Semper Fidelis!

Parade Committee Stuff

By Chuck Bosko

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Howdy fellow VFW vets. Elsewhere in this month's newsletter, you shall notice the procedure to nominate an individual for Grand Marshall of the annual Memorial Day Parade and Observance. The committee originally published this memo in 2013. Upon reading the memo, you will understand why the process is adhered to.

As such, the nominating process will commence Dec. 1, 2019. Nominations are to be forwarded to me at the address indicated on the memo. The committee has started the process now as during previous years, individuals nominated and selected at times declined the invitation to be the Grand Marshall due

to previous commitments. Let's face it, certain individuals receive invitations for events months, if not years, in advance and commit accordingly. Hence, we are planning accordingly.

So, if there is an individual you consider worthy, follow the guidance and send to me in enough time for the committee's Jan. 4, 2020, meeting.

In comradeship and Allons!

Hospital Chairman Report

By Walt Bergenthal

(708) 246-4858

We received word from Hines Hospital Volunteer Services that they will no longer accept donations of hardback books or DVDs.

In December, Bruce Harken, Seedy Ulrich and Walt Bergenthal will be delivering 30 Christmas cards with \$25 in each envelope to the patients in the Residential Care Facility.

Must See YouTube TV

Tune in to Veterans Views on YouTube to enjoy interesting interviews with fellow veterans. The show is featured through Lyons Township High School's TV station LTTV. So far, we have produced five episodes with guests Elisabeth Pennix, a USN/USNR veteran who recently completed military judicial training to become a military judge; John Ulinski, WWII veteran who served in both the North Atlantic and South Pacific; our own fellow member Dr. Paul Thomas; Tom Day, founder of Bugles Across America (providing military honors for families of veterans); and Bill Nawrot and Legion member Al Krinz.

Contact Chuck Bosko if there is a fellow vet or an individual who would be a great guest. Thanks for watching!

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 has been the process since 10778 has been organizing the event.

The following is the format to be used when submitting your nomination:

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 are you nominating this individual? 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 GMs. 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 who currently is the VFW member below.

Thank you and as always- ALLONS!

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