

**April 2017**  
**Post Newsletter**  
WesternSpringsVFW.org

**Commander's Stuff**

**By Joe Barker**

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You can almost feel spring in the air, which means two things are around the corner: Buddy Poppy days and the Memorial Day Parade. As mentioned before, they are the highlight events for our Post and I hope everyone helps the committees as much as possible.

If you were not at the March Post meeting, you missed a spirited discussion and well-needed reminder of how to conduct a business meeting. My thanks to everyone who participated (especially Jim). It once again showed what great members we have: we hit a misunderstanding, had a reasonable discussion, reached a conclusion, and moved on with business.

At April's meeting, we hope to have representatives from Lyons Township High School and the Fisher House present so we can donate the proceeds from the Salute to Service game. Hope to see you all there.

Joe Barker

**Save the Dates**

April 11<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church  
April 14<sup>th</sup> – Hospital Visit  
April 15<sup>th</sup> – deadline for May newsletter  
May 9<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. **Post Regular meeting** at Grace Lutheran Church

**Quartermaster Report**

**By Mike Winner**

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Statement of funds as of 3/19/17:

Post General Fund	\$17,941.50
Post Relief Fund	1,955.00
Post Dues Reserve	0
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$19,896.50</b>

We're looking good, but there is much we need to do for our fellow veterans in need. Please make an effort to help us make this year's Poppy Drive successful!

Sign up, or just show up at the Grace Lutheran Church at any time May 23-25. Let our community see your faces as you ask them to support our veterans.

Semper Fi!

## **Hospital Chairman Report**

**By Walt Bergenthal**

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During our April 11 meeting, nominations for the various Post chairs will be taken from the floor for our new year beginning July 1. A tentative slate of elected officers would be:

Commander	Joe Barker
Sr. Vice-Commander	Rich Jesswein
Jr. Vice-Commander	Esteban Lopez
Quartermaster	Mike Winner
3-year Trustee	Jack Lund
Chaplain	Rev. Bob Geaschel

## **Service Officer Stuff**

**By Chuck Bosko**

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First & foremost- some humor. Somewhere within the pages of this newsletter is a menu from the "Roadkill Café" Find it and enjoy.

Back to sanity. You may have heard about this in the mainstream news cycle. The new Secretary of VA, Dr. David J. Shulkin, expressed a rather intriguing initiative during recent Congressional hearings. The Secretary stated that the VA intends to expand mental health care for former service personnel with "other than honorable discharges." Here is the essence – there are far too many veteran suicides, by all estimate, 22 per day. And among the service personnel receiving OTH discharges, the rate is higher.

Granted, there are far too many suicides on a daily basis in America among all sectors of our population, but among veterans, there may be some chance of control. By all estimates, the suicide rate among veterans who DO NOT RECEIVE VA HEALTH CARE is

greater than those veterans receiving VA health care. Okay, those veterans who have OTH discharges generally "screwed up" in some way. However, among medical professionals, those vets may just have mental health issues leading to irrational decisions. Think what you may, this initiative by the new VA Secretary is a true "leave no soldier behind" idea. More to follow as the idea floats through the halls in D.C.

From the Camp Lejeune Water issue: (f) Disease associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune. If a veteran, or former reservist or member of the National Guard, was exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune during military service and the exposure meets the requirements of §3.307(a)(7), the following diseases shall be service-connected even though there is no record of such disease during service, subject to the rebuttable presumption provisions of §3.307(d).

(1) Kidney cancer. (2) Liver cancer. (3) Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. (4) Adult leukemia. (5) Multiple myeloma. (6) Parkinson's disease. (7) Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes. (8) Bladder cancer.

What does this translate into? The VA now allows for veterans to submit disability claims for the above medical conditions. Many details to understand, so find an organization with accredited veteran service officers who will assist in the process. Do not submit a claim directly to the VA.

Allons,  
Chuck

## ROADKILL CAFÉ

You kill it, we grill it



### Entrees

The Chicken-that didn't cross the road-	\$6.95
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Flat Cat- served single or in a stack-	\$5.95
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### From the wild side

Chunk of Skunk-	\$3.50
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Smidgen of Pigeon-	\$2.80
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Road Toad Ala Mode-	Seasonal prices
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Shake & Bake Snake-	\$4.80
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Swirl of Squirrel-	\$3.50
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Whippoorwill on a grill-	\$5.25
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Narrow Sparrow-	\$2.25
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Rigor Mortis Tortoise-	Seasonal Prices
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### Beverages

Salt Creek Fizz	\$2.50
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Cal Sag Malt	\$3.50
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Water Reclamation Bottled H2O	\$2.00
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