

The American Legion  
Ellsworth Meineke Post No. 1983  
P.O. Box 68213  
Schaumburg, IL 60194

# NEWSLETTER

January 2010

Commander: Chuck Linkenheld:  
(847) 895-0520

Service Officer: Tom Zasadil  
(847) 843-0451

## **Change of Meeting Time**

Starting with our January meeting the new **meeting starting time will be 7:30 P.M.** instead of 8:00. The change was made for the benefit of those who want to get home earlier.

## **VA Health Care Enrollment**

The Department of Veteran Affairs has adjusted the enrollment restrictions of Priority Group 8. The adjustment applies to veterans who were not allowed to enroll in the VA health care system in the past because their income fell above the VA's means tests threshold (MTT). Veterans who submitted applications prior to January 1, 2009 and were disapproved, will have to resubmit their applications to be considered for the new provision.

Also, there have been some additional inclusions in the medical coverage for vets exposed to Agent Orange in Viet Nam. Families of deceased Viet vets may be eligible for some additional funds. Any additional questions can be answered by contacting the VA representative, Jim Lopez, at the Schaumburg Township offices on Illinois Blvd. in Hoffman Estates on Wednesdays, 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone number: (847) 884-0030.

## **Membership**

Sr. Vice Commander, Todd Grischow, advised that our membership goal this

fiscal year is 236 members. Of the current 231 members we still have 60 that have not yet paid their dues for 2009. Remember that our fiscal year started last July 1, 2009. If your current membership card does not have 2010 on it, your \$30 dues are due now. Please send your dues to the address at the top of this newsletter to the attention of Todd Grischow or bring it to our regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the Barn on 123 Civic Drive in Schaumburg. Meetings start at 7:30 P.M. The American Legion National office starts to print up the roster for fiscal year 2011 in April, 2010. Please make sure your 2010 dues are paid by the March 18, 2010 meeting.

## **Election of Officers**

At our May 20, 2010 meeting, we will be conducting elections for officers for the coming fiscal year. The elected offices to be filled are: Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander, and Finance Officer. Appointed positions are Adjutant, Sergeant at Arms, Service Officer and Chaplain. If you have an interest in running for any of these positions, please call Dick AmRhein at 847-895-0036. There are also some subcommittees that are under those offices that could use some help. There are a lot of good things going on and we would like to get all members involved.

The installation of officers will be held at our June 17, 2010 meeting.

### **Flag Raising at the Hoffman Estates Veterans Memorial**

On the second Sunday of each month, at 1:00 P.M. we have the honor of raising a deceased veteran's flag at the H.E. Veterans Memorial at Gannon and Golf roads (in front of the H.E. Police Station). Come over and see us. If you would like to be a member of the Color Guard, come to one of the meetings and we will be happy to discuss it with you. We are always looking for additional personnel.

### **Continuous Membership Pins**

At our May 20, 2010 meeting, we will be presenting Continuous Membership Pins and Certificates to currently paid-up members of our Post who are celebrating a 5-year increment anniversary. The awardees this year are:

**5 years** – Eugene J. Bartholomew, Ronald J. Empen, Irl G. Field, Sean M. Honeycutt, Donald G. Kent, David G. Mielke, John R. Mittelstaedt, Dennis J. Moss, Ralph J. Newmann, Eugene J. Patrizi, Bruce K. Porsche, Daniel L. Potempa, George P. Rosiarmos, John Settipani, Charles D. Steizner, Peter Suarez, James M. Tantillo.

**10 years** – George Basinski, Louis P. Cuva, Patrick J. Kackert, Charles R. Linkenheld Jr., Warren Newman, Peter J. Olinger, Alfred P. Piccirilli, Michael J. Reidy, Walter R. Rennie.

**15 years** – Jerome Dvoratchek, Griffin N. Sepsey, Ronald O. Williams.

**20 years** – Sidney W. Bain, Michael R. Cece, August Greidanus.

**30 years** – James C. Edfors, Charles E. Fries, Richard G. Gerber, Gerhard A. Scholz, Jerry R. Trufholz.

Check your membership card. It should be a 2010 card and have the years shown. If it's not a 2010 card, send in your dues right away. If I accidentally missed anybody's name, please call me and let me know. Better yet, come to a meeting and let me know.

Congratulations to all the recipients. By keeping your dues current, your Post is able to continue to offer all the programs we do and service the veterans and youth of our community.

### **Post Color Guard**

Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms, Tom Nanna is requesting members to sign up for the Color Guard. The Color Guard marches in only three parades per year: The Hoffman Estates 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, the Tartan Day Parade in Hoffman Estates, and the Schaumburg Septemberfest Parade.

We also represent the Post at the Memorial Day ceremonies at St. Peter's Church and at the flag raising at the Hoffman Estates Veterans Memorial. In addition, we post the colors for any legitimate organization that needs us.

### **American Legion School Awards**

The American Legion School Award is designed to place emphasis on the development of the qualities of Courage, Honor, Leadership, and Service. In June of each year, we present these awards to boys and girls at eight of the local Jr. High Schools in the area. They are:

St. Hubert Catholic School  
Helen Keller Jr. High  
Robert Frost Jr. High  
St. Peter Lutheran School  
Lincoln Prairie School  
Jane Adams Jr. High  
Margaret Meade Jr. High  
Dwight D. Eisenhower Jr. High

If you would like to assist at any of these presentations, please contact Tom Zybko at 847-895-2981

### **Premier Boys State and Girls State**

In addition to the many other activities we are involved in, we also sponsor high school boys and girls, completing their junior year, to attend Premier Boys and Girls State, a program that gives the students an opportunity to learn about government and the political system from the local level to the national level. The week-long program is held at Eastern Illinois University. We have contacted the local High Schools in our area to see if they have anyone who would like to participate. If you have a child or grandchild who is interested in attending and is currently in their junior year of high school, let us know.

### **Oratorical Contest**

We are also working with the high schools for participants in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. The students compete with other students throughout the district, state, and national for college scholarships. The subject for speaking relates to the Constitution of the United States. For more information, contact Tom Nanna at (847) 885-1178 or check out the web site at: [illegion.org](http://illegion.org) and look under forms relating to the oratorical contest.

### **Donations**

In addition to the many programs we offer in the community, because of our Poppy Days sales, we were able to make donations for the benefit of our comrades. We donated \$1500 each to Hines and North Chicago hospitalized Vets.

At North Chicago Veterans Hospital we distributed coupon books to patients which they use at the canteen for personal items. At Hines Hospital they provide us with a list of things that the veterans need or that we can provide which will make life a little easier for them. This year, we specified that the money go to gas and food cards for

outpatient vets who needed assistance and also basic clothing and toiletries for homeless vets who come to the hospital for medical care. Not to leave out the newer vets from the gulf war, we funded some Wii games that they said were in great demand by these young vets to help keep them occupied during their stay at the hospital. We also donated \$500 to the Schaumburg Township Food Pantry for the purpose of helping local veterans and their families.

### **Casino Night Fund Raiser**

In case you were not aware, of our \$30 dues, the per-capita paid to the American Legion National, Department, and District leave us with about \$6.25 per member to operate our Post for the entire year. You can see why the dues are so important. Members who have not paid for the current year leave our treasury with less money to work with. The Poppy fund is a separate fund for hospitalized vets and vets in need and is not used to operate the Post.

To keep from raising dues, your Post officers have contacted a group that runs Casino Nights for non-profit organizations as fund raisers. Some of our officers have worked with other organizations that have used this group successfully. We also were invited to observe one in action to see what our involvement would be. We have decided to sponsor a Casino Night on April 26, 2010. The location will be determined and the necessary permits with the State of Illinois will be arranged.

Our involvement will be to sell the chips to the participants and to redeem the chips at the end of the day. This will require shifts of about 5 persons, totally supervised, for a few hours, a total of about 24 members and/or family members. This is a great opportunity for our Post with no liability. We will be looking for some volunteers at that time.

### **More Illinois Bonus Payments for Veterans**

Member, Dick Koepke, provided us with some information regarding bonuses for Illinois vets that had served during specific war periods from WWII to the current War on Terrorism. The amount of the bonus is based on when you served and certain other requirements. From the information in the article, it appears that most vets that served during those time periods would be eligible for the bonus. For additional information go to:

[www.veterans.illinois.gov/benefits/bonus-payment.htm](http://www.veterans.illinois.gov/benefits/bonus-payment.htm).

Dick also provided me with a copy of the article and a copy of the application form. Come to the next meeting and find out if you have some money coming to you or call me, Dick AmRhein, Adjutant, at (847) 895-0036.

### **E-Mail Address**

In order to reduce costs of mailing the newsletter, we are requesting all members that have an e-mail address to send it to Todd Grischow at [tgrischow@realm1.com](mailto:tgrischow@realm1.com). By sending the newsletter via e-mail to as many members as possible, we can reduce the cost of printing and mailing.

As you can tell by this and some of the other articles, we are trying to maintain our services by cutting costs and reducing spending and not increasing dues. This would be a good example for our state and federal government to practice.

For additional information about what's happening with our Post, check our website at:

[www.schaumburgpost1983.com](http://www.schaumburgpost1983.com).