



Savoy American Legion Post
1492

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The Post News is published for the members and friends of American Legion Post 1492, Savoy, Illinois.

Copies are mailed at the beginning of each month. For those who prefer to receive their copy by email (saving us printing and mailing costs), just send an email to: dhwiggins@comcast.net.

You can also view the newsletter on-line by going to the post's website (legionpost1492.org) and clicking on the tab marked *Newsletter*.



The POST NEWS

Public Relations/Membership Director Departs

We recently learned of the departure of Denise Fields, Public Relations and Membership Director for the Illinois Department.

Denise attended our post's very first meeting and was actually the person who suggested we name ourselves Post 1492.



She has been a great asset to the Illinois Department and a big help to us as well, especially

during our first few months of operation. She will be missed by all.

She wrote the following piece for the Department's December newsletter:

Dear Legionnaires, Family & Friends,

My greeting comes to you with mixed emotions.

I want to take a moment to let you know I am leaving my position at The American

Legion Department of Illinois. On December 1st I gave my resignation as Membership Director/Public Relations, my last day will be January 3rd.

My husband John was offered a job in Virginia, he accepted, therefore we are moving to Norfolk, VA.

I have enjoyed my job here and I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with

you. I'll leave with many memories and special friendships that were created.

I thank everyone who provided support, mentoring, and encouragement over the past 3 years at The American Legion. Even though I will miss the Illinois Legion Family, my colleagues and the company, I am looking forward to this new challenge and starting a new phase of my life.

John and I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Denise Fields

December Meeting Summary

Senior Vice Commander Jim Whittaker opened the meeting at 6:30 PM on December 9th at Old Orchard Lanes.

Bob Henderson, 17th District Commander, spoke about the membership drive and encouraged post members to renew as soon as possible.

Finance Officer Harvey Hodges presented the finan-

cial report.

Bo D. Henry reported that the Taurus Judge raffle netted more than \$700. The winner was Mr. Harold Zahnd.

Post members voted to send \$250 to Salt & Light and another \$250 to the Kids For Santa program.

We will be hosting the County meeting at the Village Hall on February 24th

at 7:30 PM and will order pizza from Old Orchard Lanes for the meeting.

Chaplain Don Wiggins announced that the Champaign County Rehab Center is no longer providing names of its military veteran residents

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be on January 13th at 6:30 PM.



"It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced."

President Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863

Fall Meetings Produce New Resolutions

During Fall Meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis Oct. 13-14, the National Executive Committee met to discuss matters important to The American Legion. The NEC passed a total of 30 resolutions, which spanned Legion programs and positions both internally and externally.

Resolution No. 6, from the VA&R Commission, directs the Legion to conduct a survey of women veterans' specific needs and issues, in hopes of improving the Legion's outreach to them.

Resolution No. 13, also from the VA&R Commission, directs the Legion to form an ad-hoc committee to examine both current practices and possible alternatives in the treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and post-traumatic stress (PTS).

Resolution No. 14, from the Internal Affairs Commission, establishes that there must be affirmative

consent, in the form of a completed member-data form - stating oral permission - on file at National Headquarters, in order for a member to be transferred from one post to another.

Resolution No. 18, from the Economic Commission, gives the Legion's support to seeking legislation re-authorizing and funding VA's Small Business Loan Program, and opening it to post-Vietnam-era veterans.

Other key resolutions, by commission:

Americanism

Resolution No. 28: establishing the Legion Baseball Region 1 Tournament site in Old Orchard Beach, Maine for 2011-2012.

Economic

Resolution No. 19: Support The Rollover Of IRA Accounts Without Penalty Or Tax Liability Of A Permanent And Total 100 Percent Service-Disabled Veteran With Individual Unemployability.

Resolution No. 20: Support A Veteran-Centric Website For Employment (a one-stop site for veterans nationwide, under the wing of Veteran Employment and Training Service (VETS), that the Legion would help design and implement).

Internal Affairs

Resolution No. 15: Redesignate The Liberty Memorial In Kansas City, Missouri And The District Of Columbia WWI Memorial As National WWI Memorials (there is no official, national World War I memorial).

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Resolution No. 12: Support Legislation To Increase The Income Threshold Of A Veteran Married To Another Veteran To Two Times The Financial Means Test For Enrollment Into The VA Health Care System.

The full text of all the resolutions passed at the Fall Meetings can be accessed on-line at: <http://www.legion.org/resolutions?t=2&c=33>



Photo by James V. Carroll

Job Openings for Disabled Vets

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) says it has a number of immediate job openings for veterans with a disability rating of 30 percent or more who are interested in becoming background investigators, program analysts,

management analysts and accounting technicians for the government. Depending upon the job duties, pay ranges from about \$32,000 to \$70,000 per year.

To fill these job openings, OPM is staging an online

Veterans Hiring Event between now and midnight, January 6, 2011. Details about the jobs themselves, candidate qualifications and application procedures are available at: www.fedshirevets.gov/job/events.



That one of the most misunderstood Department of Veterans Affairs entitlement programs are burial benefits? Some veterans have the mistaken impression that the VA will take care of everything and others feel they are not entitled to anything unless they get buried in a VA National Cemetery.

Well here are your clear and easy to understand burial benefits:

1. HONOR GUARD: The Department of Defense will furnish, based on availability, a three person honor guard, of which, one of the members will be from the branch of service of the deceased veteran. The arrangements are made by the undertaker and he will need a legible copy of the veteran's discharge papers or equivalent.

2. BURIAL FLAG: A burial flag is folded by the honor guard and presented to the next-of-kin or placed in the casket based on the family's wishes. The funeral director will pick up this flag at a local Post Office prior to the burial.

3. TAPS: The honor guard will play military taps and where possible a gun salute.

4. BURIAL PLOT: Based on space availability the vet-

Did You Know?

eran can be buried in a VA National Cemetery. The VA will furnish the plot, grave liner, open and close the grave, order a headstone and take perpetual care of the grave.

5. HEADSTONE OR MARKER: If the veteran is buried in a private cemetery the VA will furnish a government headstone. They come in bronze, marble, slate and granite and will be shipped, free of charge, to any cemetery in the world. Besides the standard engraving there is room for an additional 25 characters and there are over 30 religious symbols to choose from.

6. PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE: An engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased Veterans. It is mailed from the White House once the VA has been notified of the veteran's passing.

MONETARY STIPEND: If at the time of the passing, the veteran was receiving a monthly VA compensation or pension check or died in a VA hospital or nursing home the VA will pay either \$300, \$600 or up to \$2,000 depending on the cause of death. This is in addition to the Social Security stipend

of \$255 and includes pre-paid burials.

Well there you have it, an easy to remember checklist of the burial benefits. As mentioned above be sure to have readily available for the undertaker, a legible copy of your military discharge papers or its equivalent.

As always if any questions please contact me at the above telephone number or e-mail address.



*From the December 2010
Department of Illinois news-
letter, authored by:*

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1492**

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Savoy American Legion Post 1492 meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM, unless otherwise posted. Meetings are presently being held at the Old Orchard Lanes, 901 North Dunlap Avenue in Savoy. To get to our meeting room, enter the lounge near the front cash register and proceed to the room to your right. Meetings generally last no more than an hour, leaving plenty of time to meet and greet other military veterans. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

We thank these fine businesses for their support of our post.



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We are very grateful to the management of Old Orchard Lanes, 901 North Dunlap Avenue in Savoy for allowing us to hold our

monthly meetings at their facility.

In addition to bowling lanes, they have a pro shop, an excellent snack bar and a relaxing lounge where you can watch your favorite teams on their big screen plasma televisions.

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