



Savoy American Legion Post
1492

Volume 2, Issue 12

December 1, 2011

Editor: Don Wiggins

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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*.



"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



THE POST NEWS



District Membership Caravan Visits

District 19 Commander, Larry Workman, accompanied by several District officers, met with Post 1492 Commander Ron Karr and Post Adjutant Don Wiggins on Saturday morning, November 5th.

The visit was the first of many post visits scheduled for the weekend.

Commander Workman presented a plaque to Post 1492 for achieving a membership renewal rate of 100% during the previous membership year of 2010-2011. He stated that we were within one renewal of achieving the same result for the 2011-2012 membership year, as of November 5th.



L to R: Distr 19 Commander Workman, Commander Karr and Adjutant Wiggins

Veterans Day Observance

Veterans Day was observed on November 11th at the Veterans Memorial in Savoy under a blue and sunny sky.

Diane Ducey from radio station WHMS emceed the program, which included a color guard from the U of I ROTC. The invocation was offered by Dr. Rev. Randy J. Gauger, followed by comments from Village President Robert McCleary and the keynote address from Post 1492 Commander Ron Karr.

Following Commander Karr's address, Legion members posted American flags next to each of the stones representing the military services and Donald Molnar played taps in honor of our departed veterans.

Despite the cool temperatures, the ceremony was well attended by the community.



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Upcoming Events

2011

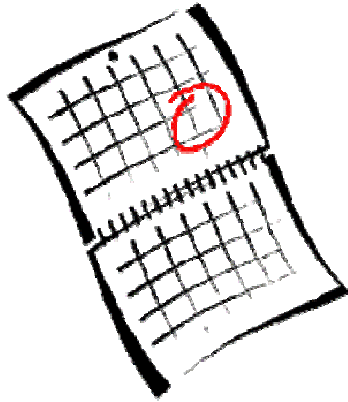
Dec 8: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Dec 20-28: Hanukkah
 Dec 25: Christmas

2012

Jan 1: New Year's Day
 Jan 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Jan 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
 Jan 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM

Feb 2: Ground Hog Day
 Feb 9: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday
 Feb 14: Valentine's Day
 Feb 20: Presidents Day
 Feb 23: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 Feb 23: County Meeting @ Village Hall @ 7:30 PM
 Mar 8: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Mar 11: Daylight Saving

Time begins
 Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day
 Mar 22: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 Apr 8: Easter
 Apr 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Apr 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM
 May 10: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 May 24: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes @ 11:30 AM



Enclosed with this newsletter is a data sheet containing membership information that we have for each recipient. Please look over the document to ensure each item is correct and then report changes/corrections to Adjutant Don Wiggins by one of the following methods:

tant Don Wiggins by one of the following methods:

- Mail to: PO Box 471, Savoy, IL 61822
- Email changes to: admin@legionpost1492.org

- Call Don at 417-9458 anytime between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday.

Please indicate if you agree to have your info shared with other post members.

Post Adjutant Survey

November Meeting Summary



The membership met at Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy on November 10th and the meeting was called to order by Commander Ron Karr at 1830. Minutes from the October meeting were read by Adjutant Don Wiggins and were approved by the membership. The financial report was presented by Finance Officer Harvey Hodges and accepted by the membership. The Post has slightly more than \$2800 in available cash. Commander Karr presented a 2012 recruiting pin to Senior Vice Commander Bill Smith. Adjutant Don Wiggins

provided an updated summary of our 2012 membership renewals. We still have 11 members who have not yet renewed their memberships. Members were reminded to check their membership cards if they have any doubt as to whether or not they have renewed. The year is shown at the top of the card. Senior Vice Commander Smith is in the process of contacting those who have not yet paid for the current year. Adjutant Wiggins announced that the support and relationship agreement between Team Johnson Motorsports and The American Legion is being

terminated. Senior Vice Commander Smith outlined the details of the Veterans Day observance to be held on November 11th. Bo D. Henry and Tom Watson provided an update on the current gun raffle. Another \$620 has been received since the last meeting, making a total of \$1435 to date. This is more than enough to cover the cost of the prizes. Tickets and donations may be turned in right up to our next Post meeting on December 8th. The drawing will be held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Did You Know?

That I am a man of my word? My yes means yes and my no means no. Last issue I said I would have more rumors for you and here they are; some are old and others new:

1. My dad served in Vietnam and I served in the first Gulf War. We have both been out of the service over ten years so we can't receive the State of Illinois bonus.

This is entirely false. For its Illinois veterans the state offers a bonus payment of anywhere from \$100 to over a thousand dollars. The \$100 applies to Vietnam, Korean, Gulf War and the War on Terrorism. World War II veterans can get as much as \$15 a month for each month served overseas.

There is no time limit. To see if you qualify contact the Illinois Dept. of Veterans Affairs at their toll-free number of 1-800-437-9824.

2. It's been over a year since I was released from active duty, I can't file a claim for VA compensation benefits, I blew the time limit.

Again wrong. Although you must file within one year of discharge to receive benefits retroactive to the date you were released other than that there is no time limit for filing. If you file over one

year from discharge and are eligible, you will receive benefits back to the date of your filing. Due to the wonderful work of our Post Service Officers we are getting claims from veterans as far back as World War II that thought they could no longer file claims.

3. My VA doctor simply refuses to give an opinion about my disability and its relation to service so I'll never get the VA to grant my claim.

False. Although the VA loves to get its evidence from a VA doctor, under Federal Law it must also consider medical opinions and evidence from private doctors. We have encouraged many veterans to use their Medicare OR Blue Cross coverage, see a private doctor and get an opinion. These are almost like GOLD and many a case has been won with this outside evidence.

4. "Don't worry honey, when I die the VA will take care of my burial."

False. Although there are some VA burial benefits available like a government headstone, free plot in a National Cemetery, burial flag, honor guard and a small stipend for burial expenses, the bulk of the funeral expenses like the casket, embalming, wake, hearse, etc. must be borne

by the family.

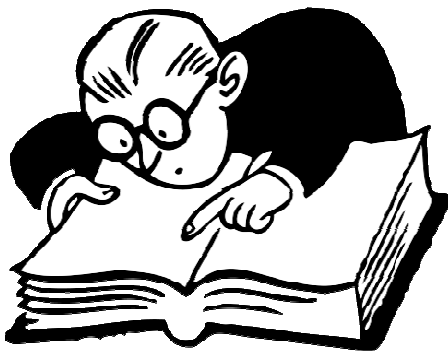
5. My VA psychiatrist has diagnosed me with P.T.S.D; I will automatically get benefits from the VA.

Not always true. Most veterans who have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder do in fact get compensation but the VA claims office must also determine that the condition is related to service. Some PTSD cases may stem from childhood trauma before service e.g. abuse, or from a civilian incident after service, e.g. being shot during a robbery. Our advice is to always file a claim and explain in your own words the traumatic event. This does not apply to veterans who were former POWs, in combat or received certain medals like the Bronze star with V-device.

As always if you have any questions about your VA benefits don't hesitate to contact our office.

Until the next issue:
THANKS FOR SERVING.
WE ARE VETERANS
HELPING OTHER VETERANS

Raymond P. Toczek
Department Legion Service
Officer
312-980-4264
Raymond.Toczek@va.gov



Don't forget that raffle tickets and donations must be submitted in time for our December 8th drawing. Mail them to Legion Post 1492, P.O. Box 471, Savoy,

Raffle Ticket Turn-In Deadline

IL 61874 as soon as possible, or you can bring them to the Post's December meeting on December 8th at 6:30 PM, at the Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy. Tickets not

received by the drawing date, along with the accompanying donations, must be returned to the giver. Please don't miss this important deadline!



**Savoy American Legion Post
1492**

P.O. Box 471
Savoy, Illinois 61874
<http://legionpost1492.org>
E-mail admin@legionpost1492.org



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 glassed-in room to your right. Meetings generally last no more than an hour, leaving plenty of time to meet and greet fellow 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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Equal Housing Opportunity



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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