



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*.



"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

Relocation Assistance for Foreclosed Veterans



The recession has taken a heavy toll on homeowners nationwide, and America's service members haven't been spared. But veterans who lose their homes to a short sale or a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure will now have some financial cushion to help them rebound. The VA has authorized mortgage servicers to provide veterans with up to \$1,500 in relocation assistance. Borrowers can use the money to cover moving expenses and other costs associated with the change

in their living status.

Relocation assistance is the VA's latest effort to help service members on the edge. The agency has for years incentivized mortgage companies to exhaust all alternatives when veterans are in jeopardy of losing their homes.

"VA has a longstanding policy of encouraging servicers to work with veteran borrowers to explore all reasonable options to help them retain their homes or, when that is not feasible, to mitigate losses by pursuing alternatives to foreclosure," according to the two-page VA circular released on the subject. "These options generally provide a substantially better outcome than a foreclosure sale for borrowers, investors and communi-

ties."

Veterans won't receive the funds as part of their home's overall sale. Mortgage servicers will be reimbursed by the VA.

While service members have certainly been hit by foreclosure, overall they represent one of the most committed and secure borrowing demographics on the market. Paying bills on time and staying out of debt are almost ingrained pillars for most service members.

In fact, VA loans in particular have proved especially safe in face of recession.

They continue to have the lowest rate of foreclosure of any major loan program, an exemplary achievement given the fact that 90 percent of all VA loans come with no down payment.

March Meeting Summary

The March meeting of American Legion Post 1492 was held on March 10th at the Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy.

Junior Vice Commander Bill Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Darrell Gerald gave an update on the preparations for

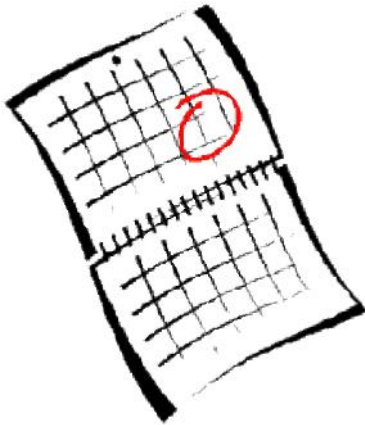
the May Poppy distributions. Details can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Don Wiggins agreed to represent the post at the U of I ROTC Awards Day.

Bo D. Henry, Tom Watson, Harvey Hodges and their guests will attend the Eagle Scout Award Dinner.

There was a brief discussion about forming a Legion Auxiliary, but the subject was tabled for further discussion.

The 50/50 drawing was \$15.00 and was won by Adjutant Kent Kraus.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.



Apr 13: Final Renewal Cut-Off
 Apr 14: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Apr 22: Good Friday
 Apr 24: Easter
 May 2: Final Renewal Notices Mailed
 May 8: Mother's Day
 May 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 May 21: Armed Forces Day
 May 27/28: Poppy distribution
 May 28: Post social gathering at the Smiths' home

immediately following poppy distributions (approximately 12:30 PM). More details forthcoming.
 May 30: Memorial Day
 Jun 12: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Jun 14: Flag Day
 Jun 19: Father's Day
 Jul 4: Independence Day
 Jul 14: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Aug 11: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM

Sep 5: Labor Day
 Sep 8: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Oct 10: Labor Day
 Oct 13: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Oct 31: Halloween
 Nov 10: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Nov 11: Veterans Day
 Nov 24: Thanksgiving
 Dec 5: Post Meeting @ 6:30 PM
 Dec 25: Christmas

American Legion Racing



With 75 million racing fans nationwide - many of them younger veterans - the 76 Freedom Car is an excellent marketing and membership tool for The American Legion. Racing is also a family sport, which celebrates God and country by playing the national anthem and reciting a prayer before each race. And that's what The American Legion is all about - God and country.

The Johnsons are a Legion family. Driver Jerick Johnson is a Sons of The American Legion member.

His father, team owner Jack Johnson, is a Legionnaire. And his mother, Debbie, is an Auxiliary member. Each of them is a tireless supporter of the Legion and its programs. Supporting the 76 Freedom Car program is supporting The American Legion family.

The 76 Freedom Car's primary sponsors are The American Legion and The David Law Firm. American Legion National Headquarters provides no monetary support but gives Team Johnson Motorsports ex-

clusive marketing rights to raise funds for the 76 Freedom Car.

The car's success depends on donations, sales from racing merchandise and apparel, associate sponsors and The David Law Firm.

Racing merchandise can be purchased through the American Legion Flag and Emblem catalog or on-line at: <http://emblem.legion.org/NASCAR-Legion-Racing/products/352/>

Poppy Day Volunteers Needed!



We are rapidly approaching our annual poppy distribution campaign and we need as many volunteers as possible. This is an easy and fun way to help raise cash for veterans causes.

This year's Savoy distribution points will be at the entrances to Schnucks and Walmart. We hope to have a table in Tolono again this year as well. Dates are May 27th and 28th, 8:00 AM to

1:00 PM or 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, depending on location. If you can help for an hour or two, please contact Darrel Gerald at 217-377-7772 or sign up at the next Post meeting.

**By: Raymond P. Toczek
Legion Service Officer
312-980-4264
Raymond.Toczek@va.gov**

That one of the most interesting and pleasant occurrences in a service officer's job are those instances of "Serendipity" that we run into after our normal working hours. As defined by Webster, Serendipity is a propensity for making fortunate discoveries while looking for or doing something unrelated. Here are just a few examples and they all actually happened.

1. I was attending an installation of officers at a local Post and was introduced to one of the officer's 92 yr. old mother. She was a Gold Star widow and her first husband died during World War II. Many years later she remarried and recently became a widow for the second time. She was unaware she could again receive her VA benefits based on her first husband's service. I filed the claim and VA monetary benefits granted!
2. I was at a family gathering to celebrate my grandson's birthday. There were several new faces there so

we got to talking. Turns out one served in the Navy and damaged his hearing firing off those big guns. I filed the claim, VA monetary benefits granted and he now gets free hearing aids from the VA hospital!

3. At church on Memorial Day weekend our Pastor asked all the veterans in the congregation to stand and be recognized. As I stood I looked around and noticed a rather young man standing in the back. After the service I introduced myself. He had just returned from Iraq and was unaware of his school benefits. I filed the claim and he got both his Federal G.I. Bill and a four year state veteran's scholarship.

4. While having my teeth cleaned my dentist mentioned the high cost of his prescriptions. Knowing he was a veteran I asked if he had enrolled in the VA hospital yet. No, and he had a Purple Heart from a minor shrapnel wound. I helped him enroll and he now only pays \$9 a month for each 30 day supply.

5. In the waiting room of where I get my car oil changed I started up a con-

versation with another customer who was waiting for his car. Turns out he served in Viet Nam, was exposed to Agent Orange and now has diabetes and had his prostate removed due to cancer. I filed the claim and VA monetary benefits granted!

6. I was having breakfast at a local restaurant with one of my Post comrades. We both had our Legion hats on and the waitress noticed us. A conversation began and she related how her neighbor (who was a vet) had died a few years back without any relatives or friends. She had helped raise the money to bury him but couldn't afford a headstone. I filed a claim for the free VA government marker and now his grave has the proper honors he deserved.

Many people ask me why I enjoy my job so much and the above few examples of Serendipity help to explain that. As always if you or any of your Post members have any questions please contact me at the above telephone number or e-mail address.

Did You Know?

Champaign County Service Officer

One of the individuals attending the February meeting of the Champaign County Legion was Mr. Robbie C. Walker. For those who didn't have an opportunity to speak with Robbie after the meeting, he is the Legion Service Officer for Champaign County. In addition, his full-time job is as the Veterans

Service Officer for the Illinois State Department of Veterans Affairs so he always has the most up-to-date information on veterans benefits.

His office is located at 2125 South 1st Street in Champaign. His office hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. His phone number is 217-278-

3388 and his FAX number is 217-278-3375. address is:

Robbie is available to assist with all Champaign County veteran's issues, but it's always a good idea to call ahead to be sure that he'll be available to address your specific questions and issues.





**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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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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**Courtesy
Rides**

Savoy Post 1492 Spring for Cash Raffle

Included with this month's newsletter are five raffle tickets. If you decide to participate in this raffle, tickets are \$5.00 apiece or all five for \$20.00. Prizes are as follows:

- . First Prize: \$500.00**
- . Second Prize: \$250.00**
- . Third Prize: \$50.00**

Drawing will be held at the conclusion of our post's meeting at Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy on May 12, 2011. You need not be present to win.

All purchased tickets may be brought to the April or May meetings. They may also be mailed to: American Legion Post 1492, P.O. Box 471, Savoy, IL 61874, but be sure they're mailed in plenty of time for the raffle!

**RECRUIT A MEMBER...
GET A PIN!**



Most of us know at least one eligible veteran who is not a member of The American Legion. Why not invite that person to join our organization? You'll not only expand our membership, but your friend will become a part of the nation's largest veterans organization.

To receive a 2011 Membership Recruiter pin, you just have to recruit one new member. A "new" member is one who has not been a member of The American Legion for at least two years.

To receive your pin, just have your friend fill out one of the forms to your right.

Mail the form, along with the \$25.00 annual membership fee for each new member to:

Kent Kraus
Savoy Post 1492
P.O. Box 471
Savoy, IL 61874

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Phone) _____
 (Mailing Address) _____ (Date) _____
 (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) _____
 (E-Mail) _____ (Dues) _____

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below

<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 20, 1989 - Jan 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U. S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 - Jan 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec 7, 1941 - Dec 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 - 8/15/45 (only eligibility)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918	

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

(Signature of applicant) _____ (Name of recruiter) _____

Receipt of Dues
(Please Print)

From _____ \$ _____ for 20 _____ Post # _____
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____

The American Legion Membership Application

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