



Savoy American Legion Post  
1492

Volume 2, Issue 9

September 1, 2011

Editor: Don Wiggins

E-mail: [dhwiggins@comcast.net](mailto:dhwiggins@comcast.net)

*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](mailto:dhwiggins@comcast.net).

You can also view the newsletter on-line by going to the post's website ([legionpost1492.org](http://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

## August Meeting Summary

The minutes from July 2011 were read and approved. Recently transferred member Roger Eshleman was in attendance and introduced himself to the membership. Finance Officer Harvey Hodges presented the financial report and FY 2012 budget. Senior Vice Commander Bill Smith presented Harvey Hodges with a medal in

recognition of his outstanding work as Finance Officer.

Adjutant Don Wiggins discussed membership renewals for the new fiscal year, which are already at 64 percent of our total membership. He also discussed how veterans can get copies of their military records, as well as the records of family members.

Harvey Hodges suggested that we meet informally for lunch on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Old Orchard Lanes in Savoy. For those who can make it, the first gathering will be at 11:30 AM on August 25<sup>th</sup>. The meeting adjourned at 1910.

## From the Department Commander



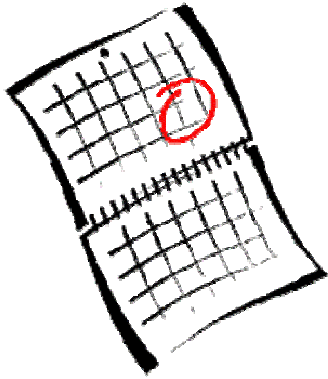
The 93rd Annual Convention is over but time has not been wasted since because we are off and running for the 2012 membership year. I would like to say thank you to all of you for the welcome that you gave to Connie, my family and I during the convention and throughout this past year, it meant a lot. Speaking of Convention, we feel that the First Timer Award (eagle pin) was a HUGE success. If you were at convention you saw that we gave out quite a few of these pins. This will become an annual

tradition for the Department of Illinois with the convention year engraved on the pin. Hopefully all those who received the pin will attend again and invite fellow legionnaires who haven't ever attended a convention to come to the next convention. Also, we hope the First Timers learned a little bit more of what this great organization is doing.

I was glad to see that the POW / MIA booth at convention was a big success. They handed out POW/MIA t-shirts and huggies. A big thank you goes out to the POW/MIA committees.

The American Legion Riders Bike contest was a first-class event again this

year with a pretty good turnout. We hope to see this really take off and have even more participants next year. Congratulations and Welcome Aboard Department Sr. Vice Commander Wayne Wagner and Second Lady Jane. Wayne and I have already been on the road visiting posts all over the state attending various Legion functions and installations. We just returned from National Headquarters in Indianapolis after attending the three day Membership Workshop and training. There we discussed with the National Commander what we (Illinois) should obtain in Membership goal. *(Continued on page 2)*



## 2011 Calendar of Events

Sep 5: Labor Day  
Sep 8: Post Meeting @  
6:30 PM

Sep 22: Lunch at Old Or-  
chard Lanes

Oct 10: Labor Day

Oct 13: Post Meeting @  
6:30 PM

Oct 27: Lunch at Old Or-  
chard Lanes

Oct 31: Halloween

Nov 10: Post Meeting @  
6:30 PM

Nov 11: Veterans Day  
Nov 24: Thanksgiving

Dec 8: Post Meeting @  
6:30 PM

Dec 25: Christmas

## Membership Renewals for 2012

The month of August saw a rise in our post's 2012 membership renewal rate to 71%. We are now just twelve renewals away from achieving our goal of 100%!

If you're not sure if you renewed for the current year, look at your membership card. If it shows "2012" in red letters at the top of the card, you're all set. While you're at it, check to be sure that you signed the card before putting it in your wallet.

As of this writing, the following individuals have

not yet renewed, according to the post's records. For privacy reasons, only membership ID and the last year for which you paid are shown here. Both are on your membership card.

203843444 (2011)

203567296 (2010)

203843450 (2011)

203789658 (2011)

203843445 (2011)

203843448 (2011)

202513221 (2010)

203844416 (2010)

204151123 (2011)

204245547 (2011)

204326475 (2011)

203812046 (2011)

If you have not yet paid your 2011 dues, you will need to pay \$25.00 for *both 2011 and 2012* for your card to reflect your actual continuous years of Legion membership (as shown inside the star on your card). If you pay for only 2012, your number of years starts over.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your membership, please contact Post Adjutant Don Wiggins:

admin@legionpost1492.org  
or phone (217) 417-9458.



## Department Commander (Cont'd from page 1)

We hope to obtain our goal in early October if at all possible.

In the meantime we will continue to work on new American Legion policies and practices for The American Legion Department of Illinois. We'll write new resolutions so we can continue to protect our current veterans' rights and assure these rights are here for the veterans who are returning home.

We would like to also see more volunteerism for Boys State, Special Olympics, Job Fairs, Oratorical contests,

Youth Police School, etc. Your participation is what allows these programs to succeed. If you have some new ideas for other projects throughout the year we are always open to discussion.

I would like to extend congratulations to newly elected Auxiliary President Diana Umdenstock, SAL Detachment Commander Harl "Butch" Ray, National Executive Committeeman Luis "Louie" Gonzalez and Larry Moore our new Alternate National Executive Committeeman. I look forward to working with each one of

you. To all of the new officers who have taken the step to move forward in this unique organization I wish each one of you a good year and if you need anything don't hesitate to call me.

See ya down the road. Remember We Are Veterans Serving Veterans, so let's get to work... "TURN TO"!

**David M. Hicks**

David M. Hicks  
Illinois Department Com-  
mander

## Did You Know?

Did You Know that twice a year your Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) accredited service officers attend school? In February and again in July the Illinois Department service officers meet either in Washington D.C. or Indianapolis, Indiana for three days of intense refresher training as well as updates on the myriad of

VA benefits changes. We also listen to expert speakers from diverse fields who discuss such varied topics as different types of knee injuries and how to develop lay evidence and buddy statements. Starting at 8:00 in the morning and lasting till 8:30 at night (with breaks

for lunch and dinner) our National VA&R people train us in claims processing, techniques in conducting a personal hearing before the Decision Review Officers, how and when to appeal cases and recent court decisions from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. American Legion service officers come from all over the United States (there were over 100 of us) and we share best practices as well as air our concerns and problems. At the end, a one hundred question test is taken. We then return to our home states to put what we learned into practical application with the veterans we serve. Besides all this we also come back with some interesting tidbits. Here are just some examples:

National Guard personnel called up by the governor for help with natural disasters are not covered by the VA if injured. They must file for workman's compensation. However if the President calls them up the VA will cover their injuries.

Veterans enrolled at a VA hospital or clinic can get eyeglasses and hearing aids if their primary doctor feels they are needed. The vet need not be service-connected disabled. The only cost will be for the outpatient visit to give the hearing or vision test and the fitting.

The VA makes 830,000 ratings a year.

Private doctors opinions carry as much weight, if not more, in deciding a veteran's compensation claim and even lay statements from friends and relatives can help in a VA favorable decision.

The veteran's suicide rate is 3.2% higher than the civilian population.

If a veteran's military records are lost or misfiled, resulting in a claim being denied and those records are later found the VA will pay retroactive benefits back to the original date of claim even if its 30 or 40 years ago.

If a Navy veteran's ship docked in Vietnam and the sailor left the ship, even for ten minutes, they are presumed to have been exposed to Agent Orange and can get special benefits for such conditions as diabetes, coronary artery disease and certain cancers.

A new law called

"substitution" allows widows and children to continue on a claim or appeal after a veteran death.

Under Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) retired military personnel can, in most cases draw their full VA compensation AND their military retirement pay.

These are just a fraction of the interesting information we gathered from our school. Your Department can be proud of its service officers. We are motivated, skilled, compassionate and ever on a learning curve. It you should ever have a benefit question yourself or are approached by someone from your Post don't hesitate to refer them to us. Our contact information is listed above. Remember, the only stupid question is the one that was never asked!

Raymond P. Toczek

Legion Service Officer

312-980-4264

Raymond.Toczek@va.gov

*All "Did You Know" articles published in this newsletter, come from "The Department News," the Department of Illinois' monthly newsletter.*

*"The Department News" is available on-line at:*

*illegion.org/deptnews.html.*



## Minnesota Wins American Legion World Series



After 13 nail-biting innings, Eden Prairie, Minn., overcame last year's Legion World Series championship loss to Oklahoma by edging Tupelo, Miss., 5-4 in 13 innings Tuesday night to capture the 2011 crown.

"This just feels great and unbelievable," center fielder Danny Blasy said. "I can't believe we pulled it off."

Eden Prairie defeated Las Vegas 2-1 during Game 14 on Tuesday and turned around to play the championship game against Tupelo. The Central Plains regional champs ended a 4-4 tie in to the top of the 13th inning with the help of first baseman Tyler Peterson. Tupelo pitcher Ben Hudspeth walked Peterson, who advanced to third on a fielding error by second baseman Kirk Roberts. Eden Prairie's Jordan Smith

stepped up to bat, and the left fielder's RBI ground-out brought Peterson across home plate for the winning run.

"This is the best feeling of my life after last year was such a disappointment," Peterson said. "Coming in today we just knew we were not losing, we can't, we were not going home again like that. We are taking this one home for us. This just feels so amazing!"

## Legion Facts

Under Section 1 of Article II of the National Constitution, The American Legion is designated as a civilian organization and membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service. Nor is there any rank in our organization, and no member should be addressed by his military title in any convention or meeting.

The American Legion, under its Federal Charter, is prevented from engaging in political activities, and under Section 2 of Article II of the National Constitution, it is prohibited from engaging in the dissemination of parti-

san principles or the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. Consequently, neither the Post, Department nor National Organization can endorse any candidate for public office.

The American Legion has no form or class of membership except an active membership and dues are paid annually or for life. The American Legion does not recognize honorary memberships, but each applicant must establish his eligibility as a qualified veteran.

Under Section 3 of Article

IV of the National Constitution, a person can only be a member of one post at any one time and if they attempt to join a second post, the last membership would be void. In the event a member wishes to change membership from one post to another, it is done by making an application for a transfer. The application must be approved by the post to which transfer is sought, inasmuch as no post is required to accept a member who has made application for such transfer.



## LST-325 Coming to Chester, Illinois

If you missed seeing LST-325 in Henry, Illinois on September 1st, as described in the last newsletter, you have another chance to see it.

LST - 325 (Landing Ship Tank) will be in Chester,

Illinois on September 16, 17, 18. Chester is located about 60 miles south of St. Louis and about a four hour drive from Champaign. You can tour the historic ship, walk through the WWII Living Camp

and visit the Historical Military Vehicle Display along the banks of the Mississippi River on the Chester Riverfront.

Ship tours are conducted daily 9am-5pm. For more details visit [www.LST325ChesterIL.org](http://www.LST325ChesterIL.org).

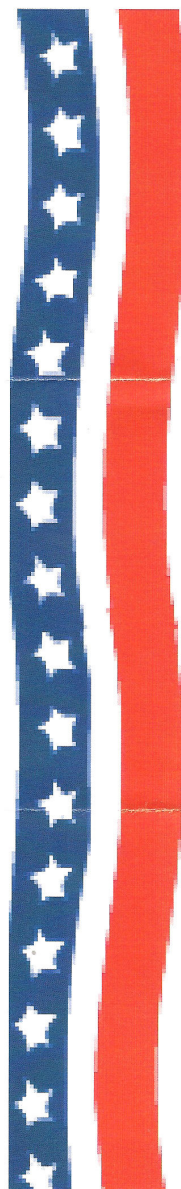


## Veterans Small Business Event

On Thursday, September 15th, between the hours of 9:30 AM and 1:00 PM, at 1307 North Mattis Street in Champaign, the Springfield Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Illinois Small Business Development Center at the

Champaign County Economic Development Corporation and the Champaign SCORE Chapter will be providing one-on-one opportunities for veterans to meet with SBA staff and/or SCORE business counselors to discuss the steps necessary to start a new business, expand an

existing business or purchase a business. If you have any interest in these topics, you're encouraged to attend this Veterans Small Business Event. Be sure to share this announcement with other veterans you know who are considering running their own business.



## Veterans Small Business Event



**HOSTED BY THE**

**U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION,  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY,  
SCORE AND THE ILLINOIS SBDC OF CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The event will allow veterans to obtain information on:

1. Government Contracting
2. Business Financing and
3. Free Business Counseling:
  - business start-up
  - business expansion
  - change-of-ownership

### **When and Where:**

September 15<sup>th</sup> in Champaign at 1307 N. Mattis

**Times: 9:30 am until 1:00 pm**

No Registration Necessary. For Additional Information contact:

Springfield Branch Office  
U.S. Small Business Administration  
3330 Ginger Creek Drive  
Springfield, IL  
217-793-5020-114  
Stephanie.Schatz@sba.gov



**Savoy American Legion Post  
1492**

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

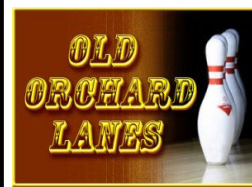


The Real Estate Center of IL LLC

**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
REALTY

**Ron Karr**  
REALTOR®, ePRO®  
Cell: 217-898-6356  
Fax: 217-356-6116  
[rkarr@ameritech.net](mailto:rkarr@ameritech.net)  
[www.karrsellshouses.com](http://www.karrsellshouses.com)  
821 S. Neil Street • Champaign, IL 61820

Each office is Independently Owned & Operated



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.

**CATHY HALL & ASSOCIATES**  
*Insurance*

COMPLETE INSURANCE SERVICE  
711 S. NEIL ST. CHAMPAIGN, IL 61820-5240

217/ 352-8833 OFFICE  
217/ 352-9265 FAX  
217/ 493-2645 CELL

**JANET HALL**

Proud to support the  
**American Legion Post 1492**

**Busey**

Busey Bank • (217)365-4500  
Busey Wealth Management • (217)365-4800

FDIC  
[busey.com](http://busey.com)

Kenneth C. Sensenbrenner, DMD  
Nikkole B. Patterson, DDS  
3101 Village Office Place  
Champaign, IL 61822  
217-352-4646  
[www.champaigndentaloffice.com](http://www.champaigndentaloffice.com)

**MYLER**  
*Automotive*  
SINCE 1977

American & Imports

**COMPLETE  
AUTO REPAIR**

- All Repairs And Maintenance
- A/C - Heating
- Charging System
- Suspension
- Tune Ups

Serving Champaign  
Urbana Since 1977

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

Email: [mylerauto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mylerauto@sbcglobal.net)

**217-359-0798**

1212 Parkland Ct.  
Champaign

**Courtesy  
Rides**