



Savoy American Legion Post  
1492

Volume 3, Issue 2

February 1, 2012

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

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



## Current Happenings

Our January meeting was cancelled due to the uncertain weather conditions that were forecasted. The next meeting will be held at Old Orchard Lanes on February 9, 2012, at 6:30 PM. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Gordy Hulten, Champaign County Clerk. Please plan to attend and bring a potential member with you.

The Post has received word that we have achieved a current membership rate of 105%. This means that our total number of current members (new members, transfers and renewals) at the end of December 2011 exceeded our December 2010 figure by five percent. We still have a few members who have not

renewed for 2012, but our overall results are certainly impressive.

Each membership year, The American Legion establishes 10 target dates for achieving a certain percentage of each department's membership goal. Below are the remaining target dates for the 2011-2012 membership year:

- President's Day - Feb. 8, 2012 (85 percent)
- Legion Birthday - March 14, 2012 (90 percent)
- Children & Youth - April 11, 2012 (95 percent)
- Armed Forces Day - May 9, 2012 (100 percent)

As you can see, we are well ahead of the national goals, and we are also currently among the highest in

the state.

Those who have not yet renewed for 2012 are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. If you are not sure whether or not you have renewed, please contact Adjutant Don Wiggins at 217-417-9458 for assistance.

Don't forget that some of our members gather for a casual lunch at Old Orchard Lanes on the fourth Thursday of each month at 11:30 AM. These gatherings are midway between monthly meetings and are a great opportunity to enjoy a good lunch in the company of fellow Post members. If you can fit it into your schedule, please plan to attend.

## Hal Bigler

We were saddened to learn that one of our charter members, Hal Bigler, passed away on December 19, 2011 at his home in Champaign.

He was born on January 25, 1921, in Chicago, the son of Harry and Leota Bigler. He married his wife Marietta in 1946 and they celebrated their 65th anniversary last June.

Hal served six years in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1939 to 1945.

After the war he was a watchmaker, jeweler and gemologist, graduating from the Gemological Institute of America in 1952. He and his wife managed Bigler Jewelers Limited from 1968 to 1995. He also attended West Texas Teachers College, Parkland

College and the University of Illinois.

He served for several years as President of the Central Illinois Watchmakers Association and was on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Jewelers Association.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marietta and the family.

## Trivia



This month's newsletter launches a new trivia series.

The answers are found at the end of the column.

1 What marked the first time since the Revolution that the U.S. accepted direct financial aid to fight a war?

2. What U.S. military base was won in the last major

battle against Japan?

3. What trials, beginning in 1945, spawned the phrase "I was only following orders"?

4. What was the first war the U. S. took part in that was partially financed with lottery dollars?

5. What southeastern state was the last to return to the Union after the Civil War?

1. The Persian Gulf War
2. Okinawa
3. The Nuremberg war crime trials
4. The Revolutionary War
5. Georgia

## 2012 Calendar

### FEBRUARY

Feb 2: Ground Hog Day

Feb 9: Post Meeting at 6:30 PM

Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 14: Valentine's Day

Feb 20: Presidents Day

Feb 23: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

**Feb 23: County Meeting at Village Hall at 7:30 PM**

### MARCH

Mar 8: Post Meeting at 6:30 PM

Mar 11: Daylight Saving Time begins

Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day

Mar 22: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### APRIL

Apr 8: Easter

Apr 12: Post Meeting at 6:30 PM

Apr 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### MAY

May 10: Post Meeting at 6:30 PM

May 24: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### JUNE

Jun 14: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Jun 28: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### JULY

Jul 1: 2013 membership renewal campaign begins

Jul 4: Independence Day

Jul 12: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Jul 26: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### AUGUST

Aug 9: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Aug 23: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### SEPTEMBER

Sep 3: Labor Day

Sep 11: Patriot Day

Sep 13: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Sep 27: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

### OCTOBER

Oct 8: Columbus Day

Oct 11: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Oct 25: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM

Oct 31: Halloween

### NOVEMBER

Nov 4: Daylight Saving Time ends

Nov 6: Election Day

Nov 8: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Nov 11: Veterans Day

### DECEMBER

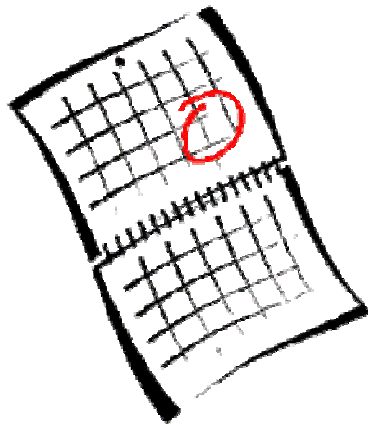
Nov 22: Thanksgiving

Dec 9-16: Chanukah

Dec 13: Post meeting at 6:30 PM

Dec 25: Christmas

Dec 27: Lunch at Old Orchard Lanes at 11:30 AM



## Did You Know?

That it continues to amaze me just how uninformed some veterans are regarding their possible eligibility to VA service-connected disability compensation.

As I visit various Posts and give a PowerPoint presentation on VA info, most of the Legionnaires present certainly know they can file claims if they were wounded or hurt in combat. But the majority are not aware of the other injuries/conditions that might allow them to get benefits.

We all raised our hand and took our oath to defend and protect the Constitution of the United States from all enemies, domestic and foreign. Once that pledge was recited we were on active duty 24/7, not just in basic training or in a combat theater.

Here are just samples of some of the claims we filed in 2010 and got compensation for our comrades outside of combat:

- A soldier in Germany was in a 25K bike race one weekend and a deer darted out into his path. He suffered various injuries and we got him compensation for a broken shoulder, wrist and fingers.

- A sailor was returning from her evening meal on her way back to her quarters and slipped on a wet area.

The one who just cleaned it failed to post "caution wet" signs. We got her benefits for three cracked ribs and an ugly scar on her neck.

- A marine was working out in the base fitness center. Someone tripped over the electric plug to the treadmill he was on. The sudden loss of power caused him to fall off and hurt himself. We got him compensation for a cracked pelvis and hip damage.

- A Coast Guardsman was diagnosed with AIDS. Turns out his wife cheated on him and he got the infection from her. VA benefits were awarded.

- An air traffic controller in the Air Force noticed that when she retired for the night after a full day of wearing earphones she experienced a buzzing or humming noise in her ears. We got her compensation for tinnitus.

- A soldier of OND (Operation New Dawn) ate some local food off base in Iraq and developed a stomach parasite which damaged parts of his small intestines. Again VA benefits were granted.

- An MP up in Alaska was doing perimeter guard duty and came across a fellow soldier who for some unknown reason wandered off base without his winter

jacket. He froze to death and the MP found the body. Still getting nightmares from this sight she was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) and we got her benefits.

As you can see none of these examples were caused by combat but since the veteran was on active duty (again 24/7) they were eligible. And not only will they get a tax free VA check for the rest of their lives, they now have complete access to the VA hospital system, civil service preference points, additional low cost VA life insurance and even a possibility of additional educational benefits under the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

So next time you're at your Post meeting and someone mentions a situation where they were injured but not in combat ask them "Have You Filed Your VA Claim Yet?"

As always if you have any questions at all contact me at the phone number or E-mail address shown below.

And may you all have a prosperous New Year.

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



## Membership Listing

Only a few of our 44 members gave permission to have their names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses included in a Post listing to

be distributed to our full membership. Because of that, the updated membership listing is being provided only to our Post's officers for use in fulfilling

their responsibilities as assigned by the American Legion's Post Officers Guide.

Don Wiggins, Adjutant





**Savoy American Legion Post  
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 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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