



Highland Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 4737 NewsGram

P.O. Box 47, Highland Park, Illinois 60035
Meetings at Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave., Highwood IL
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January 2019

POST WILL MEET: On Thurs, Jan 10, 2019, 7:00pm at the Wooden Nickel, 444 Lakeview Ave, Highwood, IL. Future mtgs: Feb 14, Mar 14 and all second Thursdays of the month, unless otherwise notified. The Post will provide after-meeting fare from the Wooden Nickel menu.

*****A rehab/redecorating project is underway to convert our meeting space at the Wooden Nickel into a more suitable venue. Attend the meeting and check on the progress.*****

POST HOSPITAL NITE: Our next Post Bingo Nite is on Jan 24 at 6:30 PM and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Capt. J. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. We entertain 30 plus veterans at this monthly event. **Volunteers needed!!**

VOD/PATRIOT'S PEN WINNERS AND UPCOMING RELATED CALENDAR:

Prior to our Dec 13 meeting, the Post held its Award Ceremony for the winners of our 2018-19 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Youth Essay Contests at the Highland Park Police Dept. Training Room. In attendance were Chris Brennan, Cmdr Dave Kunz, Sr Vice Cmdr Greg Detlie, Joe Heim and QM Quilici.

Our winners were: VOD 1st Place-Sara Perl (Highland Park HS); VOD 2nd Place-Hannah Frazer (Highland Park HS); VOD 3rd Place-Molly Selligman (Highland Park HS); Pat Pen 1st Place-Alexandrine Harig (St. Mary's School, Lake Forest); and Pat Pen 2nd Place-Emma Kunz (Woodland middle School, Gurnee).

The winners, their families and friends and school personnel attended the ceremony. Cmdr Kunz congratulated the contestants and distributed the award prizes and winners' certificates.

Our 1st Place winners now advance to the Fifth District competition, which will hold its Award Banquet on Jan 12, 2019 at VFW Post 4551 in Antioch. Our Post will be notified shortly before the District Banquet if either or both of our VOD or Pat Pen winners won a 1st, 2nd or 3rd at the District. Then the 1st Place District winners will advance to the Department (State) Competition, which will hold its Award Banquet in Springfield, IL on Saturday, February 9, 2019. And those winners then advance to the National competition.

THE TWO THINGS THAT WILL DEFINE IL STATE GOV'S VIEW OF VETS: The smoke has cleared. On January 14, J. B. Pritzker takes office as the 43rd Governor of Illinois. He is a Democrat, and both the IL House of Representatives and Senate are controlled by the Democratic Party. **The Two Big Things** IL veterans should be watching insofar as determining the State's view of vets are: the Quincy Illinois Veterans' Home and the unfinished Illinois Veterans' Home at 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. in Chicago.

As you know, the Quincy Home's ancient water system contributed to the death of 13 veterans from Legionella. Supposedly, the State will replace the outdated structure. Also, the 4250 N. Oak Park Ave. Chicago facility broke ground in 2014, but construction ceased because, according to reports, it was being built based on the Chicago Bldg Code instead of the Illinois Bldg Code, which supposedly is more restrictive for earthquake protection. Many residences and other structures in the area were built according to the Chicago Code, and they are doing just fine.

The Two Big Things and how they are handled in the coming spring construction season should let us all know how we stand with IL State government. Money is tight, but Gov-elect Pritzker made promises to do right by veterans. We'll see.

1-833-839-8387-VFW MEMBER SERVICE CENTER: Page 40 of the Jan '19 Edition of the VFW Magazine describes the VFW's Member Service Center which is there for members to "Call us about **anything**," according to one of the Service Center supervisors. Put this number into your phone. According to the photo, there are almost 20 VFW employees at National HQ in Kansas City, MO waiting to help with a veteran's issue. The article states the Service Center operates between 8:15 and 4:30 (Central). It also has an email: MSC@vfw.org. Oddly, your Editor found no mention of it on the Natl website.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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MEETINGS AT WOODEN NICKEL IN HIGHWOOD

CONSOLIDATION OF POST CHARTERS: The December 2018 Illinois Dept. General Orders disclosed the following VFW Post consolidations: Niles Memorial 3579 (Niles, IL) and Skokie Valley 3854 (Skokie, IL), into what shall be known as Niles Memorial 3579; and, Lewis P. Schultz 1486 (Sandwich, IL) and Kendall County Torch of Liberty 8234 (Yorkville, IL), into what shall be known as Lewis P. Schultz Post 1486.

These sorts of advisories regularly appear in the monthly Department General Orders. They are a reminder that increasing membership is important, but also remember that the heart and soul of a VFW Post is members who attend meetings and volunteer for activities.

The merger of Skokie Valley 3854 into Niles Memorial 3579 was a bit of a shocker to your Editor. The Skokie Post is just a few blocks from your Editor's home in Skokie. It seemed to be active over the years. Now it's Post Home has a "For Sale" in front.

2019 POST MEMBERSHIP STATS: Per the National website, we now have 153 members of whom 148 are Life Members and 5 are Continuous (Annual Dues Paying) Members.

LAKE COUNTY VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION HAS MOVED: The LCVAC has moved to 501 North Route 21, Suite 106, Gurnee, IL, 60031, 847-377-3344.

The monthly LCVAC meeting for 2019 will be held at the Gurnee American Legion Post, 749 Milwaukee Ave., at 10:30am on Mar 20, May 15, Sept 18 and Nov 20. Visitors are welcome.

QUOTES TO REMEMBER: The following two quotes come from Edward R. Murrow, an American journalist, WWII correspondent and TV personality from the late 1950s.

"A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves." This quote certainly describes Illinois.

This one from the pre-digital era is insightful: "The speed of communications is wondrous to behold. It is also true that speed can multiply the distribution of information that we know to be untrue."

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES: January 27 (Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord in 1973); Feb 15 (Sinking of USS Maine, 1898, which led to the Spanish-American War); Feb 15 (Presidents Day commemorating the births of Presidents Washington and Lincoln). Remember to display the flag.



HO TAI PUP TENT NO. 67 - A brief resume of "Louse-y" News

SCRATCH, SCRATCH: Feb 7, Mar 7, Apr 4 and all subsequent Scratches (first Thurs unless otherwise notified) will be held at 6:59 1/2 PM, at the Highland Park Police Dept. Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL.

COOTIE HOSPITAL NIGHTS: Capt. James Lovell Fed Health Care Ctr, Bldg. 134, Bingo and Ward visits, 6:30 PM. Coming dates are Jan 17, Feb 21, Mar 21 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"

CONTACT THE NEWSGRAM WITH NEWS/COMMENTS THROUGH: Editor Peter A. Quilici, 7501 Kostner Ave., Skokie, IL 60076/ Phone: (847) 997-7662 (cell) or (847) 763-1793 (home hard line) / E-mail: pquilici@ameritech.net. Please feel free to submit for publication news of interest to veterans.