



Bolingbrook Legionnaire

American Legion Post #1288
Auxiliary Unit #1288

P.O. Box 1133
Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133



Celebrating our 40th Anniversary 1/17/2012

January 2012

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On the Web: www.legion1288.org • Post Phone Number (630) 861-9659 • E-mail: ilam1288@aol.com

POST BEGAN FORTY YEARS AGO

On January 17, 2012, it will be 40 years since the temporary charter for Bolingbrook Post 1288, Bolingbrook, Illinois, was signed by the then National Adjutant Wm. F. Hauck on January 17, 1972.

Forty years since Waldo W. Ensminger and Alvin J. Knox encouraged 13 other Bolingbrook veterans to sign the charter application for a post here in Bolingbrook. During those years, the post is grown from 15 initial members to 150 members (providing that all the current members pay their 2012 dues).

Our first official post meeting was held January 19, 1972 at the home of Leo Sanville on Assembly Court in Winston Woods with 10 members present. At that meeting Virgil Banker was elected as our first Commander, Al Knox was elected Senior Vice Commander, and Ron Kessler was elected Junior Vice. Larry Scott became our first Finance Officer, and Leo Sanville became the first Adjutant. Bob Blumunstein was elected the first Sgt. at Arms and Waldo Ensminger became our first Chaplain. Other members present included Orval Easkins, Don Costello and Larry Gruel. The dues were set for \$7 per year. Guests at the meeting included Eugene Miller, 2nd Division Commander; Alvin (Andy) Anderson, 11th District Cmdr.; Don Erstrom, 11th District Adjutant; and Homer Mane, 11th District Service Officer.

POT-OF-GOLD & 50/50 DRAWING

If John Charnevsky had been at our November post meeting, he would have won our "Pot-of-Gold," currently worth approximately \$48.00. Each month, members who are present at the meeting contribute \$.25 to the "Pot-of-Gold." At the end of the meeting, one name is drawn from among the members in good standing. If that person is present, then they win the "Pot-of-Gold." The 50/50 Drawing was won by Bob Adame, who received \$12.50.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan 14, 8:30 a.m.: 2nd Saturday Breakfast:
Golden Corral

Monday, Jan 16, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, 7:30
p.m.: Post/Auxiliary Meeting: Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Ln.

Wednesday, Feb 8, 7:00 p.m.: Will Co. Council, Plain-
field Post #13, S.E. Corner Renwick & River Rd.

Saturday, Feb 11, 8:30 a.m.: 2nd Saturday Breakfast.

Monday, Feb 13, 7:30 p.m.: Will County VAC , 128
N. Scott St., Joliet

Monday, Feb 20, 7:30 p.m.: Post/Aux. Meeting: Levy
Sr. Center., 251 Canterbury Ln.

POST TO RECOGNIZE ANNIVERSERY

Post 1288 will commemorate the 40th anniversary of the issuance of our temporary (initial/interim charter) on January 17, 1972 during our Post meeting on January 16 at 7:30. p.m. Light refreshments will be served at the beginning of the meeting. Some of our "historic" documents will be available (temporary and permanent charter, minutes of the organizing meeting Dec 2, 1971, first meeting in January 1972, photos of early commanders, etc.).

Please come out and help us celebrate 40 years of service to Bolingbrook veterans and the community as a whole.

If you are a past post 1288 commander, please let us know if you can attend. We would like to get a group photo of as many who are in the area as possible.

SMALL POST – BIG IMPACT

For a young post (many go back to the early days of the American Legion when it was formed in 1919) we have made significant contributions to the American Legion here in Will County, our 11th District, and even the 2nd Division.

To date, our post has had 25 commanders. In our 40 years we have been honored to provide seven commanders for the Will County Counsel to the American Legion: Virgil Banker, 1978 – 1979; Al Knox, 1985 – 1986; James Iori, 1991 – 1992; John Jennings, 1994 – 1995; Clyde "Bud" Johnson, 1998 – 1999; Mel Hansen, 2002 – 2003; and Eldon Laffoon, 2007 – 2008. Considering that there have been between 14 and 16 posts in the county during that timeframe, for any one post to have provided seven commanders shows the seriousness of purpose with which we understand our responsibilities to the American Legion community.

At the District level, we have also provided a number of commanders: Virgil Banker was the first from our post to serve as 11th District Commander in 1985; Al Knox followed in 1991; and Wayne Macejak served in 2003. Considering that there are approximately 54 posts in the 11th District, for anyone post to have three members selected to the office of commander is a significant accomplishment.

Beyond that, our post has had the honor to have Al Knox serve as the 2nd Division Commander for 1999 – 2000. The honor of the first choice for making a nomination for this position rotates between each of the four districts in the division. Within that each district has four counties, each of which in turn is afforded the opportunity for a first nomination. This means that any one County only has the opportunity for first choice to nominate someone for division commander once every 16 years. (Continued)

Small Post – Big Impact. (From page 1)

So it really is quite an honor for a post to have a member be able to serve as a Division Commander.

Our post has also had significant impacts in other ways. One of our past post commanders, Wayne Horne, served a number of terms as the chairman of the Will County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC). This is a county agency, which provides assistance to veterans in the County as well as helping them with benefit claims to the Veterans Administration. Wayne Macejak another one of our past post commanders and also a past 11th district commander served as treasurer for the VAC.

Wayne Macejak has served at the post, county, district, division, state and national level on the American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commissions. He currently serves the American Legion Department of Illinois as the Director of the Office of Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation. Another one of our members, Arthur Taylor, served with Wayne as a department service officer before he recently moved to Florida, where he continues to serve as a service officer.

All that is to say, we have been able to provide service to the American Legion beyond the post level far beyond what would be expected for a post of our size. I am sure that there are probably other members who have also made significant contributions beyond the post level. Thank you to each and all who have served on various County, District and Division commissions or provided assistance at events and in programs sponsored by them.

"SMALL POST – LOTS OF LOCAL IMPACT"

Our post has been involved with Bolingbrook in numerous ways over our 40 years. One of the first things we did was to sponsor Cub Scout Pack 37 from October of 1972 through at least May of 1977. There were picnics for member's family and Christmas parties with gifts for kids. We marched in our first Bolingbrook parade in September of 1972. We sponsored a baseball team and bowling team. Our post was responsible for installing the flag pole at the back of Boardman Cemetery, we provided Honor Guards for patriotic events, and worked with the Romeoville High School as early as 1973 to provide Legion ROTC medals for their awards ceremony. In recent years, we were instrumental in helping fund and erect the Bolingbrook Veterans Memorial in the early 80's, initiated the one year commemoration of September 11, 2001 on that day in 2002 and sponsored a breakfast for WWII veterans on the day of the dedication of the WWII memorial in Washington D.C. Some of our members (also VFW members) developed the Bolingbrook Veterans Honor Guard to provide military honors to Bolingbrook veterans.

We help sponsor BINGO events at the Manteo Veterans Home and Hines Blind Center, sponsor young men to attend Boys State ("a week that shapes a lifetime"), sponsored participation in the Department Patriotic Oratorical Contest, provided financial assistance to numerous



Always Remembered

Never Forgotten

Primary Post Officers		
Commander	Joe Rojek.	630.605.9522
Sr. Vice Cmndr	Rich Tomaszewski	630.759.3963
Jr. Vice Cmndr	Leroy Rheubottom	630.739.2646
Adjutant	Mel Hansen	630.739.4439
Finance Officer	Herschel Nelson	630.226.0243
Primary Unit Officers		
President	Esther Laffoon	630.783.2669
Vice-President	Christina Rivera	630.739.5223
Treasurer	Carolyn Hansen	630.739.4439

Printing Courtesy of Business Printing Solutions
490 Woodcreek Dr., Suite D, Bolingbrook IL 60440
Jack Champine, Operations Manager, 630.378.2220

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POST MEMBERSHIP

As of January 10, we have 122 renewals, new members and transfers for 2012. "Thank you" to all of you who have renewed to date. Your early renewals are sincerely appreciated. Our target is to reach and surpass our last year's membership of 143. As stated elsewhere, if everyone who was a member last year renews, we would be at 150.

If you have not yet renewed for 2012, your dues are technically in arrears as of January 1, 2012. If not paid by the end of January, voting privileges and participation in Legion activities are technically suspended until the dues are received. Regardless of whether you paid between Jan 1 and June 20 in 2011, the Legion is a "pay in advance" organization, so, please, if your membership card does not read "2012," just go ahead and send in your renewal now. Let's get this done. Just do it. Send the \$30.00 to the Post at P.O. Box 1133, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133. Pretty please.

LOCAL IMPACT (CONTINUED)

veterans in need, conducted patriotic educational observances at public schools. The list could go on and on, but the point is made. We serve the veterans and community of Bolingbrook. Perhaps the most important effort is advocating for decent benefit levels for our returning veterans and providing assistance in helping them secure what they have earned. Each one of us, whether we attend the meetings and participate in the events or simply support the Post with membership, fly our flags and fulfill the privileged responsibilities of citizenship in the greatest county on earth, make a difference. We have an impact. A good one.