



The Post 615 Insider

TINLEY PARK AMERICAN LEGION POST 615

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Commanders Outlook David B. Montee

As I look back and reflect on the past year I can't believe it has gone by so quickly. I would like to say thank you to so many people for the many things they have done to help me through the day to day running of the Post as well as those who have been very instrumental in accomplishing the things I have wanted to accomplish.

First of all I would like to thank your new Commander, Bob Shaffner, without his help (especially in the last few months) the Post would have been in sad shape. I believe you have made a great choice in Bob and I wish him the best of luck in his new quest.

I would next like to thank what may have been the best group of supporting officers ever assembled. Bob Shaffner, Sr. Vice, Jim Taylor, Jr. Vice, Sean Minor, Chaplin, Melissa Gula, Adjutant and Jim Whalen, Finance Officer.

When you put this team together with our executive and house committee members you spell success.

There is no way that I can finish this column without the thanking our great family of SAL, Aux and Rider members, without who's help many of the changes and accomplishments could not have become reality.

I would hope that when this year is looked at by the membership it will be seen as one in which many new strides have been taken and new paths have been forged; I hope these things will carry on while even bigger strides are taken.

The question not asked will never be answered, the task not tried will never be successful. In order for our Post to remain successful we must ask the questions and try new things. We can not remain if we remain stagnant.

Thank you for letting me serve as you Commander!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The year in review
- Membership News
- Color Guard Events
- 2011-2012 Aux. Officers
- New S.A.L. Post Officers plus
- Congratulations to Jim Hunter, Dept. S.A.L. Sr Vice Cmdr. And Jim Borgman, 1st Div. S.A.L. Cmdr.
- Final Words from Director Jim "JJ" Johnson

T H E N E W S O N M E M B E R S H I P
R O B E R T S H A F F N E R S R . V I C E C O M M A N D E R

AS WE COME TO THE END OF THE 2011 MEMBERSHIP YEAR I'M SAD TO REPORT WE DID NOT MAKE OUR GOAL OF 100%. WE ENDED UP WITH 97.41% OF OUR MEMBERS GETTING THEIR DUES IN ON TIME. EVEN THOUGH WE DID NOT REACH 100% WE HAVE INCREASED OUR MEMBERSHIP ROSTER TO 473. THIS IS DUE TO THE SIGNING OF NEW MEMBERS AND A NUMBER OF TRANSFERS FROM OTHER POSTS. AS WE MOVE INTO THE MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2012 THE DUES NOTICES HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT. REMEMBER THEY ARE MAILED OUT FROM NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, NOT THE LOCAL POST, SO DO NOT THROW THEM OUT ! YOU CAN PAY ON LINE OR PUT YOUR PAYMENT AND DUES NOTICE IN THE ENVELOPE WHICH IS PROVIDED FOR YOU AND DROP IT IN THE MAIL. THIS WAY IT WILL COME RIGHT TO THE POST. PLEASE DO NOT SEND IT BACK TO NATIONAL. AS ALWAYS YOU CAN ALSO DROP IT OFF AT THE POST. THE NEW MEMBERSHIP CARDS ARE IN, YOU WILL HAVE THEM A.S.A.P. AFTER PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.

IN THIS PAST MEMBERSHIP YEAR WE AT POST 615 LOST 21 OF OUR COMRADES TO A HIGHER COMMAND. MAY THEY REST IN PEACE.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MEMBERS OF OUR POST WHO HELPED MAKE MY YEAR AS YOUR SR. VICE A SUCCESS. WITHOUT YOU THIS POST WOULD NOT BE WHAT IT IS TODAY, ALSO THANK YOU FOR HAVING THE CONFIDENCE IN ME TO BECOME YOUR COMMANDER FOR 2011-2012.

T H E H A P P E N I N G

JAMES TAYLOR, JR. VICE COMMANDER

I would like to thank everyone for the support this past year. From the Prime Rib Dinner that gave us sandwiches all year, to the Turkey Shoot that all the turkeys were all raffled off. The Christmas for Recruits that was the "Best Christmas Ever ", and I'm looking forward to doing again. The Ray Andersen Sock Hop that can still get you to do the jitter bug and the post Picnic that all can get together for a fun time. Thanks, Jim Taylor

FROM THE DESK OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS: JOE LEPORE

Upcoming events for the Color Guard (**all dates approximate**)

No upcoming events scheduled in August

11 September 2011: Kevin Clarke Memorial.

18 September 2011: St. Julie parish picnic for vets. More to follow.

23 September 2011: Andrew High School Homecoming Parade

22 October 2011: Vets breakfast at Tinley Park Convention Center

More to Follow.

I am trying to get a date set up in the near future for the Color Guard to meet at the Post to practice for the ceremonies that we attend.

Anyone wanting to buy a legion jacket, we have a place on Oak Park Avenue called Evon's Trophies.

Thank you Norm Pestlin for putting out the phone blasts for activities, and thanks to Jim Wilson and Harold Neubauer for all their help at the General Meetings.

Thanks to Tom Healy and Mike Rachowicz for cleaning the weapons with me. They also volunteer at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Cemetery along with Larry Cavanaugh of our Color Guard and Jim Hunter of the SAL. We know it is an all day affair and it is greatly appreciated by the families of deceased soldiers.

If you know of anyone who would like to join the Color Guard please contact me. My phone number is 815-464-6515.

Deceased comrade: July 12, 2011, Morris Baillies, Army Air Corps.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 615

Katrina Scheidler, President

Yea it's Summertime!!!

Hello Ladies!

I hope this finds you all doing well.

As we shift from 2011 to 2012 in our Legion calendar, I'd like to let you know who your officers are.

President	Katrina Scheidler
Treasurer	Karen Borgman
Secretary and Historian	Sherry Buffington
Sgt. at Arms	Deb Melchert
Chaplain	Pam Sandrin

I'd like to thank Joni Barton and Leona Zastrow for their help and commitment last year to the respective posts of Secretary and Vice President. Both have opted out this coming year due to work obligations. Thank you to Sherry Buffington for pulling double duty this coming year.

With that said, **we need more of you attending the meetings.** We will be having a meeting Wednesday, August 3rd at 7:00. We will be going over committees for our several functions for the year and planning our volunteerism. We'll also be talking about what happened at Department Convention in July. This is a great opportunity for those of you who are new to come and learn more about what we do.

Notices for membership dues will be going out soon. Please have your money to us as soon as you can. Our goal is to have 100% paid by fall.

Enjoy the summer my fellow supporters!!

Katrina



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 615

Larry Grossenbacher, Commander

WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS AND CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL OUR NEW OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS;

COMMANDER: LARRY GROSSENBACHER

SR VICE CMDR: CHRIS PRESLER

JR VICE CMDR: BILL DURKIN

ADJUTANT: RON WICHEREK

FINANCE OFFICER: JIM HUNTER

CHAPLAIN: TOM TILTON

HISTORIAN: JIM BORGMAN

SGT AT ARMS: TOM WAPPEL

WE ALSO HAVE A FEW OF OUR MEMBERS ELECTED TO OTHER OFFICES:

1st DIVISION COMMANDER: JIM BORGMAN

STATE SR VICE COMMANDER: JIM HUNTER

GOOD LUCK TO ALL AND WE HOPE WE HAVE A GREAT YEAR.

OUR CARRIBEAN BLOCK PARTY DIDN'T START OUT TOO WELL. THE HEAT THIS YEAR KEPT THE PEOPLE FROM COMING OUT LIKE THEY USUALLY DO. EVERYONE WAS IN THE SAME BOAT. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, YOU CAN'T MESS WITH MOTHER NATURE.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE POST'S IMPROVE NIGHT IN AUGUST AND THE BIG 911 MEMORIAL IN SEPTEMBER. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL AT BOTH

REMEMBER IT IS DUES TIME AGAIN AND YOU CAN PAY THEM AT THE POST OR MAIL THEM TO THE POST.

THE S.A.L.'S DUES ARE \$20 OR YOU CAN GET A 5 YEAR CARD FOR \$75 AND SAVE \$25.

PLEASE MARK YOUR ENVELOPE

S.A.L. DUES

ATTN: JIM HUNTER

SEE YOU AT OUR MEETINGS THE 4th TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7 P.M.

For God And Country

Larry Grossenbacher



American Legion Riders Chapter 615

James Taylor Director

Written by James "JJ" Johnson

Well we find ourselves at a new change of Command, Congratulations and Thanks for stepping up to carry on the future of the Legion Riders. Your new officers for 2011 and 2012 are as follows, Jim Taylor Director, Donny Moore Asst. Director, Jackie Moore Treasurer, Leona Zastrow Recording Sect.; Ron Wicherek Sergeant-at-Arms, Pam Sandrin Chaplain, Tom Cermak Historian, and road captain Bob Baisa. (Looking forward to some great rides.) A big Thanks goes out to all former officers who helped make 2010-2011 a good year.

Since the last news letter the riders have been quite busy with their picnic, Patriot Guard rides and other things. All who attended the picnic had a good time and plenty to eat and drink, those who help in putting it together, **Thanks** from all who attended. And all did have a good time.

The Memorial weekend found the A.L.R. and others escorting the Honor Guard's of the American Legion and the V.F.W. to the cemeteries and park where they payed honor to all the veterans who served to preserve our freedom we enjoy today.

On Saturday June 18th 2011, the riders took part in the Freedom Run; the riders were part of the lead group that escorted the Gold Star Mothers to Marcela's and the ceremony at the Middle East Veterans Wall. Again the riders took part in the Mokena Mayors' breakfast and 4th. of July Parade, had a great time and fun parade. Our Thanks to Mayor Joe Werner for having us.

We would like to say Hi to our new guest from Texas, who will be visiting us while he is working in the area. Doc it's good to have you along with us. We have a member on the mend after surgery, Rich Zednick. Get well soon and we hope to see you riding with us. By the way Riches' surgery was not from riding. Also Congratulations to Ken Barntt who was recently elected as Chairman of the Great lakes Chapter of the Air Force Police Association.

The officers of the riders have decided to hold a 50/50 raffle as a way to raise money to help our veterans and programs of the Legion Riders, the winner will be announced at the Oct. dinner dance, we are having. Look for more information to follow. The raffle tickets are on sale now, so see Jim Johnson for any tickets you may want to sell to your friends and fellow workers. (P.S. now's your chance to see how many of the ones who sold you tickets in the past now buy from you!!) The prize will be determined by how many we sell. The last one we held paid out \$1800.00 Plus. The one selling the most tickets will receive \$50.00, So get your tickets now and start selling.

This brings to a close for now but before I go want to thank all who helped make this past year a good one for all, Your Past Director, Jim Johnson



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Tinley Park American Legion Post 615

Still Serving America's Veteran's

Check out our Hall Rental

Watch for news of all of our Events

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**For God and Country
God Bless America**

**TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS
OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS**

Sick Bay

Keep Bert Dahlman in your prayers. Bert is still fighting a tough battle against lung cancer. Hopefully they will be back to good health and we will see them soon!

We all miss our comrades and hope they are back with us before long.

If you know of any of our members who are sick please inform The Post 708-532-1737

Taps

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the friends and family of Ernie Rodgers, 11 May, Bob Rady, 15 May, Morris Baillies, 12 July, and Richard Baumgartner, 21 July. God Bless them and may they rest in peace in Post Everlasting.

If you know of a member who has passed away please inform The Post 708-532-1737