



# The Post 615 Insider

## TINLEY PARK AMERICAN LEGION

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**Happy Thanksgiving**

**Merry Christmas**

**And A**

**Happy and**

**Prosperous**

**New Year!**

### Commanders Viewpoint Ronald C. Seiner

With the death of Jim "Jim Bob" Whalen, things were a bit hectic. Jim Bob single-handedly handled many tasks around the Post and we had to pick up where he left off. We are coming close to resolving all the issues and are getting up to speed. Thanks to Mike Gibbons, Bill McNellis and everyone else who has helped!

The Legion Fest was a success even with the day and a half of rain. We are planning to host the Fest again next year but hope to move the date up a month or two earlier. A big "thank you" to Tino for all his hard work in obtaining donations and making every effort to ensure that the event was successful.

I am again asking members to provide us with their e-mail address. You may e-mail that information to me at [commander@post615.com](mailto:commander@post615.com) or place the information on the sign-up sheet at the Post. Our goal is to get as many members on an e-mail distribution list to help defray the cost of circulating the quarterly newsletter. Thank you to everyone who has already provided us with this information. We are working on the distribution list and hope to have it up and running for the next issue of the newsletter.

The Post will be hosting the Christmas with the Troops on December 25, 2013. Anyone who is able to let us borrow their laptop, iPad, cell phone, etc. for the Great Lakes recruits to use the day of the party, please drop off the item(s) at the Post before 11:00 a.m. on December 25, 2013. You can pick up your items the same evening at 5:00 p.m.

(Cont. On page 5)

**THE NEWS ON MEMBERSHIP**  
**BILL MCNELLIS, SR. VICE COMMANDER**

Our membership is gauged against what we had at the Dept. of IL at the close of books last year (June) which was 441. As of this writing we have 357 renewals or 81% leaving 84 members still pending. These names will be posted so anyone that knows one of these members can contact them to see what the problem is.

There has been some confusion about what the Legion year is. It is August 1 to July 31 of each year. If your card reads 2013 that is last year and your dues are not paid.

If we had achieved 100% by Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> we would have received \$1 for each member from the Dept. but that does not appear realistic. However we can still achieve 50 cents per member if we hit 100% by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> which we intend to do.

(Cont. on Pages 4 & 5)

**THE HAPPENINGS**  
**SANTINO LETTIERI JR. VICE COMMANDER**

Hello to all legion members, hope everything is well, the summer and fall are over and all the activities went well. Now its time to remind everyone of the activities for the month of December. First, do not forget that every Thursday at 7:00pm is the Queen of Hearts raffle, come in and take a chance on winning the cash prize. Next on Dec. the 8th from 1:00pm to 4:00pm the post will be hosting the children's Xmas party ,for more details call the post at 708-532-1737. On Dec. 25th beginning at 10:30am we will have 40 recruits from Great Lakes Naval Station for a nice meal and a day of visiting with the recruits on Xmas day, so if you can spare a couple of hours to visit with them it will be greatly appreciated. Next event on Feb. 8th,2014 from 7:00pm to 11:00pm is the Ray Anderson Sock Hop, for more information go to our web site <http://www.post615.com/> or pick up a flyer at the post. I would like to thank Post 615, The Legion Riders, The SAL, and the Ladies Aux. for all their help during the American Legion Fest, without their help the festival would not have happened. My message to all members is this; for the post to be successful it needs the help from all its members. Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday, and wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

**FROM THE DESK OF THE**  
**SERGEANT AT ARMS: BILL PORTER**

First I would like to thank Mike Rachowicz for his job as Sgt-at-Arms and for nominating me to be his replacement. Mike, I am honored to follow your fine lead. I'd also like to thank the membership for voting me into office.

So far, for the calendar year of 2013 the Color/Honor Guard has participated in 19 events, with three more this coming month. Unfortunately eight of those events were wakes for our fallen comrades

As you can see we are a busy group and could use your help. If you have the time to spare please consider joining the Color/Honor Guard.

Lastly, and this isn't related to our Post, The Memorial Squad at Lincoln National Cemetery is in need of new members as well. The Memorial Squad performs military honors, (3-volley rifle salute, Taps, and the folding/presentation of the flag)



## American Legion Auxiliary Unit 615

### Peggy Williams, President

Dear members,

It's been a busy few months for the Auxiliary. We are off to a great start, making plans for the coming year.

Our District President has asked for calendars to distribute to hospitalized veterans at Hines Hospital. They are in high demand and she always needs more -- at any time of the year. At this time of year free calendars are plentiful. Please consider dropping off your unwanted calendars or any free calendars you may find at the stores. Any calendars are fine, but wall calendars are especially desired.

We plan to sponsor an indoor flea and collectible market on Sunday, March 2, 2014 from 7am-3pm. Tables will be \$25 each and Deb Melchert will be in our kitchen making her famous Biscuits n' Gravy for those early birds who need nourishment. Light snacks will also be available later in the day. Pass the word around that tables are available. We plan to advertise heavily, so watch the local papers or the Tinley Patch for updated info. Please consider joining us either as a seller or purchaser — get rid of your unused items while helping us help our vets. Everyone loves a bargain! If you are interested in a table, please email me at [tpaux615@comcast.net](mailto:tpaux615@comcast.net) or phone me at (815) 641-0424 and leave your name and number if I am not available. We are also accepting items to sell if you are interested in donating. All proceeds from the Auxiliary sale table will go towards funding our programs.

We are also planning a craft show for Sunday, April 13, 2014. Our secretary, Eva Reyes-Seitz, will be handling the details and we hope to make it a successful annual event. Tables will be available. Please contact Eva for further information at 708-819-0385.

We will again be selling cookies for children to decorate at the annual Holiday Market at the Village train station. Personally, I've always had a great time at this event, and look forward to doing it again. If you are at the Holiday Market, please stop by and say hi!

With sadness, I wanted to let you know that one of our long-time members, Lorraine Ziska, passed away on October 8th. I did not know Lorraine personally, but I have heard a lot about her dedication to our Auxiliary. We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

Please remember Walt's when you grocery shop. Walt's always supports Legion Family fundraising activities. Many grocery stores have opted out of fundraising assistance. **PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT TO THE MERCHANTS WHO SUPPORT THE LEGION FAMILY!**

I ask you to consider attending one of our monthly meetings. We have a great group of active members and we welcome your participation. We share ideas and everyone is encouraged to give their opinions. Yes, it does take some time out of our schedule each month, but feeling good about what we do to help our veterans is priceless payback. For those of you who have been active participants in the past, thank you for your service to the Auxiliary. We are following in your footsteps to make the days brighter for those who have served and sacrificed.

(Cont. on Page 5)



## Sons of The American Legion Squadron 615

### Chris Presler Commander

Greetings from the S.A.L.

In honor of Veterans Day, Thank You, to all you veterans for your service to our great nation. Thanks to everyone who turned out for the village's Veteran's Day service at the 80<sup>th</sup> Ave train station on Monday Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. We were able to beat the rain and have a very nice ceremony. Congratulations to Jimmy Hunter for receiving the Colonel David G Seaman Volunteer Award for his dedicated service to our Military Veterans from the Tinley Park Veteran's Commission.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the carnival. The weather was against us but we are hoping for better results next year. Also thanks to our helpers and participants for our Chili Cook Off and Night at the Races. We had some interesting entries and everyone had a good time.

Anyone who would like to help with the Christmas tent at the train station the weekend of Dec 6,7 & 8, please sign up on the board in the post.

Also don't forget Christmas Day with the troops on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> at the Post. Bring your cell phones, laptops and notebooks so we can supply these kids with the means to contact their loved ones on Christmas Day. It is a day you won't forget. On Dec 4<sup>th</sup> the V-SPANN Veterans Network is hosting a Christmas party for our Veterans and their families in Chicago at the studio where they film the Chicago Fire TV program. Any Vet interested in going please contact Jimmy Hunter at 708-567-9062. They will have entertainment, food and Santa with gifts for the kids.

We still have some members that haven't paid their dues. Please send them in or drop them at the post. We need 16 more members to pay to be 100%.

The S.A.L. will not have a December meeting due to Christmas Eve falling on our meeting night.

Hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

(Membership Cont. from Page 2)

On the bright side we have 18 new members and 4 transfers which more than makes up for our losses to Post Everlasting, etc.

Please remember the Legion is all about membership – because without membership there is no Legion.

Congrat's to Peter Laffy who at the Nov. mtg received the Dept. certificate and pin for 60years Legion membership. Photo of presentation is on the Post website. DD 214's. The Federal government thru the IRS in their absolute wisdom can audit any Legion Post and if a members DD214 is not on file at the Post the Post will be fined \$1000 per day until resolved. If you have not as yet please send in a copy of your DD 214, and add your e-mail address.

If there are any WWII or Korean vets who have not been on the "Honor Flight" to DC please let us know so we can add your name to the list. Program is FREE.

Just a reminder that there is several ways to pay dues:

1. Send a check, MO or cash with your renewal notice
2. Pay on line each year

(Cont. on next Page)



## American Legion Riders Chapter 615

### Don Moore Director

Hi from the Legion Riders. We have had many events and functions this past summer, I would like to highlight a few. Rodney Swenson arranged for us to join in Welcome Homes for Captain Dannielle Carroll and John Weston Specialist E-4. The Riders escorted Jim Whalen to Abraham Lincoln Cemetery for final rest, he will be missed. We were also glad to be a part of "Dream Kitchen" ( Home Depot donated a kitchen remodel for a disabled Vet.) We escorted her from the Northlake Home Depot to her home in Chicago, it was a total surprise and joy for her.

As for events some of our members attended the 4th Annual Veterans Benefit at Colonel Robert R. McCormick Cantigny Park, if you have not been to the Park it is something to see! We helped with the American Legion Family Festival, to bad for the rain but still a great time. We also participated in the 15th annual Manteno Veteran Home ride to raise money for our Vets. We presented Manteno a check for \$500 to be used for their Canteen Fund. Our big event of the year was The Halloween Bash Fundraiser, it was a lot of fun and we hope all that attended had a good time. The winner of the 50/50 was Tammie B. and she was presented a check for \$1096. Special thanks to Ladies Aux Post 615, VFW Post 2791, and Rep Michael Hastings for purchased bulks of tickets to our fundraiser. We also donated \$500 to the Legacy Scholarship Fund which was presented by JJ and Leonia.

The riding season is about over but the Legion Riders will still be supporting our Veterans. Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!

(Membership Continued from Page 4)

3. Pay on line with a credit card that will automatically renew each year on Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>
4. A 5 year card which also locks up the current fee and forestalls any future increase

(Commanders Viewpoint Cont. from Page 1)

If you would like to drop off the items prior to December 25<sup>th</sup>, please contact me at (708) 254-3825.

Thank you for allowing the recruits to use your items to contact their family members. The recruits always appreciate our efforts to make their Christmas away from home a special day.

As the holiday season approaches we will be hosting several functions at the Post. Please support your Post and attend as many of the events as possible. Best wishes to everyone for a happy and safe holiday season.

(Aux. Cont from Page 3)

Until next newsletter, have a blessed holiday season and stay safe. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Suggestions are always welcomed! You can always contact me at [tpaux615@comcast.net](mailto:tpaux615@comcast.net).

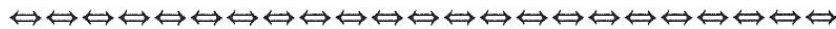




**STEPHEN E. EBERHARDT**  
**Attorney at Law**



16710 Oak Park Avenue  
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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**

**Current members come on in and meet your comrades and possibly find a new friend or two.**

**Watch for news of our programs, you might find one that interests you, we can**

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*Law Office of*  
**James E. Stanula**  
*Attorney*

14496 John Humphrey Drive  
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

Business: 708-935-0363  
Facsimile: 708-226-9930  
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**For God and Country  
God Bless America**

**To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;**

**SERVICE OFFICER ALAN PATTERSON**

Hello everyone I'm Alan Patterson the Post Service Officer. I'd like to thank our commander for having faith in me to take over for Mickey Framke who from what I understand has done a wonderful job for many years and wish him the best

As service officer a large part of my duties is to assist our members in the filing of claims with the V.A. Many of your questions can be answered on the V.A. website. If anyone has questions they can call me at (708)614-6408 or email me at: 80camap@sbcglobal.net

**Taps**

**Sick Bay**

Please keep Al Bechtel, Jim Priebes, John Liston and Mickey Framke in your prayers, as well as our service men and women who have been wounded.

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

We are saddened to report the untimely passing of Mark Reilly, the son of Jim and Pam Reilly.. Since the last newsletter we have also transferred James Peloquin, James Whalen, Don Rickey, Byron Glista, and Ralph Rosynek to Post Everlasting, our sympathy and prayers go out to all of these families

Please pray for all our deceased members and their families!