



AMERICAN LEGION POST 690



# Post 690 NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011—JANUARY 2012

WWW.ALPOST690.US



## COMMANDER'S NEWS TODD PEARSON, COMMANDER

To My Fellow Post Members,

Well it is December which means we all made it through one heck of a busy November. The beginning of the month saw us involved with Veteran's Day activities. We held a great outdoor program involving our community, schools and our Post Membership and for those involved with getting all of this put together, I thank you so much. Additionally, we were involved with a ceremony at St Theresa school as well as a wall dedication. which is now a permanent fixture, at Tamarack Senior Center for veterans who reside (or had resided) at their facility. Fred Hall, Verne Edgar, Ed Grabowski, Bob Moloznik, Bill Pohlman...just to name a few- my thanks go out to all of you.

Later in the month, we kicked off our Squidfest II- hosting 38 sailors from Great Lakes Naval Station for a fun filled, homestyle Thanksgiving Holiday. Cindy Altenbach and Jeff Van Horn were the Chairman to this project which saw over 40...that is right FORTY of our family members involved in making this program happen. Over \$4000.00 from businesses, local residents and especially our membership family members was raised. Any profits from the program will be returned to the Post and placed in reserve. It is my hope that we can begin the foundation for the creation of a memorial across the street in the park to honor Palatine natives who have given their lives for this great country. The Squidfest Project was a strong success and one that we should all be proud of and if you were involved in it in any way, be very, very proud of yourselves and I thank you again for your help.

Do not forget about the Post Christmas Party this month and watch for other events for December and January. If you are a Legion member then come out to our membership meetings- the first Thursday of each month at 1930 hours. Come out and see how your branch can win the honors each month. Not sure what that means? Come to the meeting. Let's continue to make this year a great one.

Merry Christmas to each of you and if you are of the Jewish faith then Happy Hanukkah. Other than that I hope you have a Happy New Year.

Todd Pearson

Commander

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CORNER—JUDY KYSKA, PRESIDENT



The months of October and November have been very busy.

The month of October started out with two fish fry's, one hosted by the Auxiliary and one by the S.A.L. Both were huge successes. People enjoyed the fish fry's and there will be more in the months to follow.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> the Auxiliary and S.A.L. had a joint tail-gate party at the Post. There were thirty people who participated. I would like to thank all the S.A.L. and Auxiliary ladies who helped with the event. Everyone seemed to have a great time.

The next weekend the Auxiliary had a Halloween Party. We showed the movie, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Several of the S.A.L. and Auxiliary members dressed up as characters in the movie. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed themselves.

In November the ladies were busy shopping for food for the Palatine Township *Basket for Needy Families*. The Legion donated food for three baskets. The Auxiliary donated food for two baskets and the S.A.L. donated food for one basket. Fred Hall and his wife donated the food for another basket.

Delores, Alice and I went shopping for all the food for the baskets. The closet was piled full with food. Delores and Alice put all the baskets together. I would like to thank the S.A.L. Commander, Jason Foltyn, who helped take all the baskets to the Township hall. They were grateful to see the seven baskets that were donated by the Legion Family.

I also started a toy drive for Toys for Tots this year by having a jar behind the bar and collecting money to go out and buy the toys. The toys will be given to needy children in the Palatine area.

On Thanksgiving Day the Legion Family hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner for recruits from Great Lakes Naval Base. The recruits went bowling and were able to call their families. They really enjoyed the day. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this a Thanksgiving Day special for our service men and women.

## MEMBER NEWS—PAT KOWALSKI, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Happy Holidays everyone.

I want to thank all the members that have paid their dues, but I still have many to collect. If you have not paid them please do so. It would be greatly appreciated.

National will be raising the dues for the year of 2013. I am sad to say announce our dues for the Auxiliary year of 2013 will be \$21.00 an increase of \$4.00. This is the time to think about becoming a PUFL, a paid up for life member. Being a PUFL you will never have to think about paying dues or seeing an increase in your dues. If you would like to become a PUFL please give me a call and I will be happy to help you and let you know how much it would be. (847-459-5930)

If you have any questions regarding the year on your card, please feel free to call Department and they will explain why we all lost one year or you may give me a call.

I want to thank you for keeping my husband Bob in your prayers. Bob was at Hines VA Hospital for 4 months 10 days. He is now home, but still has a long journey to go for full or at least 90% of recovery.

Thank you all again and God Bless every one of you.

**SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION** JEFF VAN HORN, ADJUTANT

Fall is slowly going away with winter around the corner. With winter brings the Holiday Season! We've already begun preparing for it, donating to causes, etc.

The Squadron donated a food basket to the Palatine Township Families in Need. The Legion and Auxiliary also donated baskets, along with Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hall – totaling our Post family donation to 7 baskets.

In October, our fish fry was successful, along with the joint Auxiliary-SAL Tailgate Party. The Baggo Tournament went ok, however an early bye week by the Bears, coupled with a beautiful day outside equaled a low turn-out. One of the great non-events in October was the new flag pole installed in front of the Post! The SAL paid 2/3's of the cost of this pole.

November had us busy preparing for 35 sailors from the Recruit Command at Great Lakes Naval Base for Thanksgiving. Volunteers and sponsors stepped up to the plate and made this a wonderful event! As one of the co-chairs (along with Auxiliary 2nd Vice-President Cindy Altenbach and Post Commander Todd Pearson), I personally want to thank each and everyone who helped make this a fantastic day for these recruits. The men and women ranged in age from 18 – 36 and for the majority of them, this was the first Thanksgiving they spent away from family. Our Post Family and Friends made them as comfortable as possible, taking them bowling, having a phone bank available for them to call family and friends, computers for Skype, Facebook, email, etc., and three new 32" LED TV's were set up with gaming systems (those TV's are being raffled off, see bartender in Clubroom for more information!!). Members of the Palatine Police and Fire Department stopped by to socialize with the recruits, too. We will have a wrap-up meeting once all the bills come in, however there is talk of possibly doing it again next year! For those who stopped by the Post on Thanksgiving and took pictures, please email them to the SAL email address or to Jeff Van Horn as soon as possible. We are going to post all the pictures on our website and email the link to the sailors so they can share the day with their loved ones.

The Post 690 Family Christmas Party falls on December 18th this year. Check the chalkboard or flyers for the times, once that information has been determined.

The SAL has an email account, [sal690@hotmail.com](mailto:sal690@hotmail.com). We send monthly meeting notices, along with minutes from the previous month's meeting and Post newsletters via this account. If you would like to be part of it, please send an email to that account and request to be put on. Please include your name, too.

Did you know the SAL sells 3x5 American Flags? They are in the clubroom and are \$20. These have hand sewn stars and are good quality flags. Remember to retire your old one in the retirement mailbox in front of the Post. We also have Post Family t-shirts available for \$15 in the clubroom.

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month, beginning promptly at 10:30 AM.

## SQUIDFEST REPORT—FRED HALL

Thirty-eight sailors from the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago were treated to some very special Thanksgiving Day activities. The Boot Camp sailors included men and women who ranged in age from 18 to 36.

Two buses driven by members of the Legion family picked the sailors at 8:30 A.M. and drove them to the Brunswick Zone bowling facility on Rand Road in Lake Zurich, where they had two hours of open bowling including shoe rental, TV, soft drinks, and the use of video, pool and other coin operated games, all at no cost to the sailors.

The sailors arrived at the Post at noon where they had access to open toll-free phone lines and several computers to call or e-mail loved ones throughout the country. Following appetizers, they enjoyed a full Thanksgiving dinner with all the sides. In addition to the phone lines and computers, they also had four large TV's to play video games on and five TV's to watch football games. The phone lines, TV's, food and all other hospitality items were hosted by members of the Auxiliary, the Sons of the Legion and the Legion.

Special thanks are extended to the following:

- ◆ Auxiliary member Cindy Altenbach and SAL member Jeff Van Horn who served as co-chairpersons of this large and ambitious project.
- ◆ Salt Creek Rural Park District for providing two vehicles to transport the sailors.
- ◆ Brunswick Zone for providing huge discounts for this project.
- ◆ Morkes Chocolates for providing gift bags of candy.
- ◆ All of the Auxiliary, SAL and Legion members (and their friends and families) who volunteered as planners, shoppers, cooks, servers, technicians, drivers and as set-up and clean-up staff.

The sailors departed the Post and were returned to Great Lakes at 7:00 P.M. More than forty Legion family members volunteered for this project. We can all attest to the value of our efforts. It was a most rewarding experience.

### *Something to add to the newsletter?*

Contact Glenn Stout at: [AMLPost690@GMAIL.com](mailto:AMLPost690@GMAIL.com)

Please use this email address ONLY for official post business.

**SQUIDFEST 2011—The sailors that we hosted**

Squidfest Picture

## **PISTOL TEAM REPORT—ED HEWSON, PISTOL TEAM CAPTAIN**

### **Article II (Gun World) practical match 10-04-11**

This match presently is between Post 1084 Shooting Sports and Post 690 with twelve shooters competing four shooters from Post 690. Joe Hartmann, Mike Mittelstaedt, Bill Bridger and I competed and scored 425 against Post 1084 with a 505. We had an independent shooter and also one from VFW Post 2801 compete in the match.

### **Bullseye Match 10-21-2011**

Post 690 came in second (four teams competing) and again high score shooter was a 249 (out of a possible 300) by Post 690 SAL member Andy Engelhardt. The Marine Corp League team won the match and proved once more that they are the team to beat (Semper Fi). New team member for 690 was SAL member Dave Valentine who did a great job and two of his scores were used. Legion and team member Joe Hartmann helped with one of his scores in slow fire. Also competing was Past Commander Bill Bridger and me, PC Ed Hewson. The scores are as follows, Marine Corp League 467, A.L. Post 690 443, VFW Post 2801 423 and CCE with 410.

### **Article II (Gun World) practical match 11-01-2011**

Post 1084 won the match with a score of 482 to Post 690's 441. Post 1084's Greg Hull took top honors with a score of 188 followed by Post 690's Dave Valentine 154. We had five shooters representing Post 690, Dave Valentine 154, Joe Hartmann 144, Andy Engelhardt 125, Gene Andres 66 and Ed Hewson 143 and 141 (I shoot two calibers). Team totals were scored using the top three scores from each team.

### **Bullseye Match 11-18-2011**

The Marine Corp League won the match again with a score of 475. CCE was second with a 418, VFW Post 2801 third with 402 and American Legion Post 690 with 376. Our attendance was down this match and I think it was due to opening of deer season on the same day as the match. Next year I will make an effort to insure there is no conflict between hunting and the match. Legion members Wayne Schleeauf and Joe Hartman contributed greatly and their scores were used for the Team totals.

The Bullseye pistol matches are at VFW Post 2801 in Villa Park and are on the third Friday of the month and everyone is welcome to come to the matches. Our next matches will be on Fridays December 16<sup>th</sup>. 2011 and January 20<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The Article II range is located at 250 Cortland Avenue in Lombard; 355 or 53 to North Avenue go East (left) two lights to Lombard Road and turn left and go until you get to Cortland. Article II is the second building from the corner. The practical matches at Article II are on the first Tuesday of the month, December 6<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012.

We have openings on the Pistol Team for anyone interested in competing with Post 690 Pistol Team. The only MUSTs are you must attend and complete the safety class, you must have an Illinois FOID card and you must be a member of American Legion, the Ladies Auxiliary or the Sons of the Legion, and be in good standing.





The American Legion  
Attn: Commander  
122 West Palatine Road  
Palatine, IL 60067

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2709  
PALATINE P&DC IL

OR CURRENT RESIDENT

Place Label Here

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<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Meeting Time and Date</i>
American Legion Post 690	1st Thursday of Every Month @7:30 PM.
Past Commanders Club	1st Sunday in May and August, Noon
Post 690 Executive Board	4th Tuesday of Every Month @7:30 PM (this is a change)
Post 690 Board of Managers	Second Tuesday of the Month @ 7:30 PM
Sons of the American Legion	First Saturday of the month, 10:30 AM (not in July)
Legion Auxiliary Unit 690	2nd Thursday @ 7:30 PM (meetings NOT held in July or August)
Junior Auxiliary	3rd Saturday; 10:00 AM to app. 1:30 PM at Post 690 (not in Jul or Aug)
Palatine Jaycees	3rd Thursday @ 7:00 P.M