



# Bolingbrook Legionnaire



American Legion

Post #1288, Auxilliary Unit #1288

P.O. Box 1133

Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133

An Award Winning Newsletter

April 2005

Volume 8, Number 4

On the Web: <http://members.aol.com/ilam1288>

## MANTENO BINGO TRIP

Post 1288 participated with VFW Post 5917 and several other VFW post and auxiliary units in the Manteno BINGO trip March 13, 2005. Some \$867 was distributed in prize money to about 65 residents during the 1½ hour event. Thanks to Mel Hansen for representing the Post.

## COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Apr 2, 9:00 a.m.: Membership 2910-a-thon, Plainfield Post 13, Renwick Rd. @ River Rd.

Saturday, Apr 2, 8:30 a.m.: First Aid/CPR/AED Training, 16841 Laraway Rd., Joliet (\$15.00)

Monday, Apr 4, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Lane

Sunday, Apr 10, 1:30 p.m.: 11<sup>th</sup> District Meeting, Union Post #482, Union, IL.

Monday, Apr 11, 6:00 p.m.: VAC meeting, 128 N. Scott, Joliet

*Wednesday, Apr 13, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Cnty Meeting, Plainfield #13, Renwick Rd @ River Rd.*

Friday, Apr 15, 8:00 p.m.: County Meeting, Monee #1200 - 25665 S. Governors Hwy

*Monday, Apr 18, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Unit Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Lane*

Saturday, Apr 30, 5:30 p.m.: Bolingbrook ROTC Dining Out/Awards Night, B.H.S. Cafeteria

Monday, May 2: 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Ln

Monday, May 9: 7:30 p.m.: VAC Commission Meeting, VAC Office, 128 N. Scott.

Tuesday, May 10, 8:00 p. m.: Poppy Day Proclamation issued at Village Board Meeting, 375 W. Briarcliff Rd.

*Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Cnty Meeting, Lockport 17, 15052 Archer Ave.*

*Monday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Ln.*

Thursday, May 19, 6:00 p.m.: Romeoville ROTC Awards Night, Romeoville High School

Friday, May 20, 8:00 p.m., County Meeting, New Lenox #1977 - 14414 Ford Dr

***Fri. & Sat., May 20, 21: Poppy Days in conjunction with VFW Post 5917. (Post & Unit)***

**Monday, May 30: Memorial Day – Ceremonies at Boardman Cemetery, 9:00, Hillcrest Cemetery, 9:45 ish, Village Veterans Memorial, 11:00 (Flags set-up - 6:00 a.m.)**

## POST DUES INCREASE PASSES

Post 1288 did vote on increasing dues from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per year at the March meeting. The increase will be effective for the payment of the 2006 dues year. That will begin being collected in July.

If you have considered becoming a Paid-Up-For-Life (PUFL) member, now is a good time to do it. The cost is based on your age and Post dues. With a dues increase, the cost of the PUFL goes up for each age bracket. So if you want to save some money, consider signing up now.

## LEGION MEMBERSHIP CALL-A-THON

If you have a cell phone and some free time between 9:00 a.m. and Noon on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, please help with our 2<sup>nd</sup> Division "2910-a-Thon" at Plainfield Post #13 (Renwick Rd at River Rd.). The event will provide an opportunity for post members to call Legionnaires currently registered to the Department's "2910" state post and invite them to transfer to a local post. We will also have a list of those post members whose dues are delinquent and we may be able to make some calls to our current and past members. If you can spare a couple of hours and some weekend minutes, call Wayne Macejak.

## POT OF GOLD

If Ronald Kladder had been at the March Post meeting, he would have won The Pot of Gold which now stands at \$10.00. Ron is currently living in Florida. Good reason not to come to a cold March meeting in Illinois. Each meeting the members who are present put a quarter in the Pot of Gold. At the end of the meeting, a name is drawn from all the active members. If you are present when your name is drawn, you win.

## FIRST AID/CPR/AED TRAINING

April 2 is also the Will County Emergency Management Agency will hold First Responder First Aid / CPR / AED (Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) certification training. If you want to attend, contact Commander Laffoon if you have not already done so. An exact headcount is needed. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. at the EMS's training facility, 16841 W. Laraway Rd., Joliet (next to the County Sheriff's Office). There is a \$15.00 fee for the training

Meeting in the Levy Senior Center, 251 Canterbury Lane, at 7:30 p.m.  
Post #1288 – 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the Month • Auxiliary Unit #1288 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the Month  
American Legion Motto: *Get Involved*

**POPPY DAYS 2005 MAY 20, 21  
AUXILIARY TO PARTICPATE**

The dates for Poppy Days have changed from May 13 – 14, as announced at the last Post and Auxiliary meetings, to May 20 – 21. Please mark you calendars. This is the primary drive that provides funds usable at the Post/Unit level on projects/programs that support and aid veteran’s relief.

This year, the Auxiliary Unit will join the Post for the collections as we share the streets and stores with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5917. This year’s Committee Chairpersons are Mel Hansen and Larry Shaver for the Post and Peggy Barrera for the Auxiliary Unit.

A sign up sheet is available at the bottom of the page. If you can attend, please indicate on which shifts you can help.

Due to new Bolingbrook requirements, those of us who do street collections will be wearing a reflective safety vest provided by the police department. This does two things: Helps motorists see us, and lets passing police know that we are an authorized group. We are also supposed to wear something identifying our organization, carry a collection container marked for the event and the organization collecting, and someone at each intersection is to have a copy of the Village permit authorizing the collection. These are to discourage out of town organizations from doing unauthorized collecting.

Primary Post Officers		
Commander	Elden P. Laffoon, Sr.	630.783.2669
Sr. Vice Cmndr	Larry Shaver	630.759.1274
Jr. Vice Cmndr	Bettye Carter	630.378.1433
Adjutant	Joe Rojek	630.759.6450
Finance Officer	Wayne Macejak	630.378.6223
Primary Unit Officers		
President	Esther Laffoon	630.783.2669
Vice-President	Nicky Armstrong	630.378.9241
Secretary	Irene Wojtal	630.739.0275
Treasurer	Kimberly Macejak	630.202.2053

**POST MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS  
REACH 103 – 20 MORE TO GO**

As of Tuesday, the Post has submitted 103 renewals/new memberships. That brings us to 85.12% of last year’s membership of 121. Our post is still next to the bottom of the list for Will’s County’s 15 posts. Seven Posts have now reached their 100%. Thank you to those of you who have sent in your 2005 dues (which were due by December 31<sup>st</sup>). If your membership card does not show “2005” for the membership year, *please send in your \$25.00 renewal RIGHT NOW while you are thinking about it.* Just send a check for \$25.00 made out to American Legion Post 1288 at American Legion Post 1288, P.O. Box 1133, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133. It’s a small price for such a great organization.

**AUXILIARY PRESIDENT RUNNING  
FOR COUNTY CHAPLAIN**

Ester Laffoon has been endorsed by Auxiliary 1288 for the office of County Chaplain. Elections are to take place at the next Auxiliary County meeting April 13 at Plainfield #13 (West end of Renwick at River Rd.). The Auxiliary County meeting is open to all Auxiliary members. Attending them is a great way to get a feel for the functioning of the Auxiliary. Unit members are encouraged to attend, especially the next one in support of Ester. President Laffoon expresses her appreciation for the support and recommendation of the unit.



Always  
Remembered

Never  
Forgotten

Yes, I will help Post /Auxiliary Unit 1288 with Poppy Days for 2005! I can start on/ work the following shifts:

**Fri. – Sat. May 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> > Meet at Dunkin’ Donuts – IL 53 & Beaconridge**

- 6:15 a.m. for 6:30 – 8:15 rush hour collections at I-55 & Weber, I-55 and IL. 53, etc.
- 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 – Noon streets and stores collections.
- 12:30 p.m. for 1:00 – 3:00 streets and stores collections.
- 3:30 p.m. for 4:00 – 6:00 rush hour streets and stores collections.
- 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 – 9:00 night stores collections.
- I cannot make it out to help, but here is a contribution to help the Post’s/Unit’s program.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Return at Post/Aux. Unit meeting or mail to the Post/Unit at P.O. Box 1133, Bolingbrook, IL 60440

## VETERANS BENEFITS & SERVICES

### BURIAL FLAGS

*Why does the VA provide a Burial Flag?* The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) provides a U.S. flag at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased veteran who served honorably in the U. S. armed forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a veteran's military service to his or her country. Section 517 of Public Law 105-261 added eligibility for former members of the Selected Reserve.

*Who is eligible to receive a Burial Flag?* Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin as a keepsake after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making a request for it. For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families or friends of veterans buried in these national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

*How do I apply?* You may apply for the flag by completing VA Form 21-2008, Application for United States Flag for Burial purposes. You may get a flag at any VA regional office or U.S. Post Office. Generally, the funeral director will help you. When burial is in a national, state or military post cemetery a burial flag will be provided. To contact the VA regional office, call 1-800-827-1000.

*Can a Burial Flag be replaced?* The law allows one flag for a veteran's funeral. It cannot be replaced if it is lost, destroyed, or stolen. However, some veterans' organizations or other community groups may be able to help you get another flag.

*How should the Burial Flag be displayed?* The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 21-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag. The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

## LAW CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR HEADSTONES AND MARKERS

On December 27, 2001, President Bush signed Public Law 107-103, the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act of 2001.

This law includes a provision that allows the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish an appropriate headstone or marker for the graves of eligible veterans buried in private cemeteries, whose deaths occur on or after September 11, 2001, regardless of whether the grave is already marked with a non-government marker. This new provision is codified at 38 U.S.C. § 2306(d).

## NEW VA ELIGIBILITY WEBSITE

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Chief Business Office (CBO) has recently announced a new re-engineered health eligibility Internet website. Launched in January 2005, this site is VA's authoritative source on the Internet for information on veterans' health benefits eligibility. This site provides easy access to VA's comprehensive health benefits, eligibility and enrollment and can be accessed at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility](http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility).

## INCOME TAX CHECK-OFF TO BENEFIT ILLINOIS VETERANS HOMES

In an effort to raise money for the Illinois Veterans Homes, the State of Illinois has created a new tax check-off for the Illinois Veterans Home Fund.

The check-off allows taxpayers to donate to the fund as part of their 2004 Illinois income tax return. The funds will be used to purchase needed equipment and supplies to enhance the lives of the residents. The fund will be required to maintain a \$100,000 minimum each year to maintain the check-off for the following tax year.

The State of Illinois operates four Homes located in Quincy, Anna, Manteno and LaSalle. The Quincy Veterans Home is one of the oldest facilities in the United States where over 500 veterans and their spouses call "home".

## OBTAINING MILITARY RECORDS AND MEDALS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not retain veteran's military service records. Military service records are kept by the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) which is under the jurisdiction of the National Archives and Records Administration.

To request military service records, complete Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records. Fill in as much information as possible and send it to the correct address listed on the form by U.S. mail. Please note that it may take up to six months for a reply from NPRC after your written request is received.



Help Us Reach The Top  
– Send in your 2005 dues today –