



Bolingbrook Legionnaire

American Legion

Post #1288, Auxilliary Unit #1288

P.O. Box 1133

Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133



An Award Winning Newsletter

February 2006

Volume 9, Number 2

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

POST PRESENTS GIFTS TO YANKS CHECK TO COUNTY

Commander Elden Laffoon presented a check for \$1,603.60 to the Will County *Gifts to Yanks Who Gave* Drive Chairperson Paul Briese at the January County meeting in New Lenox. While considerably below the 2004 total of \$3,703.45, it will still represent a significant portion of the amount raised by the 15 Posts in Will County. The coordinator for Volunteer Activities at the Manteno Illinois Veterans Home remarked earlier that this is the only program that provides a gift to every resident during the Christmas season. That is true for all of the Illinois Veterans Homes and for the VA Hospitals in Illinois, as well as other long term care facilities as we become aware of veteran populations.

Thank you again to those who participated. It is not too early to mark your calendars for this year's drive the first weekend in November after Nov. 3. Perhaps we will be able to regain our place in the Top 10 Posts in the State. We made it 2 years in a row. And don't forget that the Poppy Day drive will be coming up in May

GOT AN ITEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER?

If you or your committee has an item for the Legion or the Auxiliary, an article or an idea for a recurring column, please submit it to the editor by the Saturday before the Monday preceding the Post meeting. Newsletters are normally mailed the Tuesday or Wednesday before the Post meeting. The newsletter is normally two pages in length, but that can be increased if submitted material warrants. Submissions can be made to MelHansen@aol.com or mailed to him at 436 Salem Square, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-2977. If you have a word processor, Times New Roman 11 point font is the standard.



Always Remembered

Never Forgotten

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

POST TO HELP WITH COLOR GUARD FEB 4, 12:30 P.M.

Post 1288 and VFW Post 5917 will provide a Color Guard for the production of "Breaking Barriers: Chicago's African American Aviation Pioneers" at the Bolingbrook Community Television Studios. The program will be taped for broadcast and will feature a number of the Tuskegee Airmen and others from the local area. Help us honor these aviation pioneers. Participate in the Color Guard and/or be an audience member. Gather this Saturday at 12:30 for color guard practice. Meet at the south west entrance to Village Hall (around the west side, by the garage entrance.)

MANTENO BINGO TRIP MARCH 12

Mark your calendars for March 12, our next Legion/Auxiliary trip with VFW Post 5917 to the Illinois Veterans Home at Manteno. The BINGO will start at 1:45 p.m. We need to arrive at least by 1:00 to help with set-up and escorting residents who need a push to the hall. Departure from the Levy Sr. Center will need to be by 11:40.

COMING EVENTS

- Saturday, Feb 4, 12:30 p.m.: Color Guard for Black Aviator History TV program, Village Hall (south west entrance by garage door).
- Monday, Feb 6, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 S. Canterbury Ln.
- Monday, Feb 13, 7:30 p.m.: Will County VAC Executive Com. Meeting, 128 N. Scott St., Joliet.
- Friday, Feb 17, County Meeting, Joliet #1080, 2625 Ingalls, Joliet.
- Sunday, Feb 19, 2:00 p.m.: 11th District Past Commanders Club Dinner, Post 1084, Roselle, IL.
- Monday, Feb 20, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Lane
- Saturday, Feb 25: Newsletter submission deadline
- Monday Mar 6 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 S. Canterbury Ln.
- Sunday, Mar 12, 11:40 p.m.: Manteno Trip, Depart from Levy Center
- Monday, Mar 13, 7:30 p.m.: Will County VAC Commission Meeting, 128 N. Scott St., Joliet
- Friday, Mar 17, 8:00 p.m.: County Meeting, Post #39, Braidwood, 248 E. Main St.
- Monday, Mar 20, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 S. Canterbury Ln.

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	Nicky Armstrong	630.378.9247
Vice-President	Herstine Crenshaw	630.759.5661
Treasurer	Kimberly Macejak	-----

MEDICARE RATES 2006

The Senate passed its budget reconciliation bill (S. 1932) late in 2005, which included language to repeal the 4.4% cut in Medicare reimbursement rates slated to take effect on 1 JAN 06 and freeze Medicare and TRICARE reimbursement rates at 2005 levels. It also included some last minute changes in unrelated parts of that bill. Before the bill could be sent to the White House, it required additional approval from the House because of the changes. Unfortunately, the House had already recessed for the year, so the measure could not be passed before the 1 January deadline. As a result, Medicare was required by law to institute the 4.4% reduction in reimbursement rates.

When the House reconvenes at the end of January, lawmakers will consider the Senate measure. Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) has tentatively scheduled a House vote for 1 FEB. While a close vote is predicted, the House is expected to pass the measure. Once approved and signed into law, Medicare will automatically reset reimbursement rates effective 1 JAN. Medicare then will automatically reprocess all claims filed since the first of the year, and reimburse each provider accordingly. However, Medicare has acknowledged that it could take until July before all the claims have been reprocessed. Doctors who choose to stop seeing Medicare beneficiaries because of the temporary cut will be given a 45-day reenrollment period to rejoin the program. Tricare officials announced that Tricare will continue to pay claims at the 2005 rate on the assumption that the legislation will be passed soon, as expected. [Source: FRA Newsbytes 13 Jan 06 ++]

THANK YOU

To Carolyn and Mel Hansen for representing the Auxiliary Unit and Post at the County Auxiliary January 7 Ice Cream Social at the Manteno Illinois Veterans Home.

To Wayne Macejak, Mel Hansen and Elden Laffoon for attending the Feb 17th County Meeting in New Lenox and especially to Wayne Macejak for his skillful driving back from the meeting on really nasty snow covered roads.

POST MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NEED HELP

Membership renewals/transfers/new members for 2006 now stand at 97 of 116. If your Membership Card does not say "2006," please send in the \$30.00 renewal to the Post at P.O. Box 1133, Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133. We missed a 100% membership banner for our flag again as well as the monetary "bonuses" awarded by Department for Post reaching 100% before December 31. Don't forget that Legion dues are a pay in advance situation. Dues not paid by December 31 for the following year are technical delinquent.

VA HOME LOANS LIMITS UPPED

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home loan guaranty limit has been increased. Effective 1 JAN 06, changes in the loan guaranty limits will mean veterans are able to get no-down payment loans up to \$417,000. The previous ceiling was \$359,650. The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 tied increases in the VA guaranty to increases in the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation's conforming loan limit. When this limit increases, VA guaranty limits also go up, allowing VA to keep pace with rising home values. VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, service members and reservists. With VA guaranteeing a portion of the loan, veterans can receive a competitive interest rate without making a down payment, making it easier to buy a home. Information about VA home loan benefits is available on the Web at www.homeloans.va.gov or by calling 1(800) 827-1000. [Source: VA News Release 29 Dec05]