



March – April 2023
Newsletter

First Division Cantigny
American Legion Post 556
Wheaton, IL

POST 556 OFFICERS

Dan Devine	-	Post Commander/VSO commander@cantignypost556.org
Stephen Arango	-	Senior Vice Commander senior.vice.commander@cantignypost556.org
Richard Flashing	-	Junior Vice Commander junior.vice.commander@cantignypost556.org
David Castillo	-	Adjutant adjutant@cantignypost556.org
Craig Singleton	-	Finance/IT Officer finance.officer@cantignypost556.org
John Lutz	-	Chaplain chaplain@cantignypost556.org
Jim Thompson	-	Sgt at Arms
David Thollander	-	Judge Advocate

POST 556 BOARD NEWS

From the Desk of David Castillo Post Adjutant

March 13, 2023 Post 556 Monthly Meeting Minutes

- 4 pm. Meeting called to order by Commander Devine in the Medill Room, Cantigny Park Visitor Center.
- Guest Speaker, Will Buhlig, Director of Collections and Operations, Cantigny Park. Will was at our meeting to introduce himself and discuss his continued efforts wot work with the Post in scheduling use of the facilities and communications. He also mentioned that any event the Post has will not be published in the general emails and the Honor Club emails.
- The committee to form the American Legion Auxiliary Post 556 will hold it's first meeting on March, 30th at Cantigny Park from Noon till 2:00 PM in the Medill Room. All interested parties are encourage to attend.
- One of the initiatives for 2023 is a major American Legion program "Be The One" a major campaign regarding mental health and suicide prevention. We will be working with the State Delegation for resources and assistance in getting this program initiated.
- The Post's annual Oratory contest for 7-8th graders, will be conducted on April 16 in the Visitor's Center at Cantigny Park. More details to follow.
- The Honor Guard led by John Lutz has progressed and been at 2 funerals the past month.
- Current active Post membership as of March 1 2023 – 214 members.
- The next Post meeting will be April 10th from 4:00 PM to 5 PM in the Medill Room, the Visitors Center at Cantigny Park.
- The calendar for 2023 is published in this newsletter.
- The next pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, April 29, 2023. It has also been noted that the Post's event calendar can be found in its entirety on our website.
- The Sports Memorabilia event will also be at Cantigny Park concurrently with the Pancake Breakfast.
- The Post will be sponsoring 2 Boys and 2 Girls to the Annual Boys & Girls State Programs this summer.
- A motion to adjourn was made and passed by unanimously

INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERS

Calendar of Events - 2023

Mar. 30,23 Thursday	American Legion Auxiliary Cantigny Post 556 1st Organizing Meeting Noon – 2:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Apr. 10, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Apr. 16, 23 Saturday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Annual Speech Contest Noon - 3PM Visitor Center, Medill and Theater, Cantigny Park
Apr. 29, 23 Saturday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Spring Pancake Breakfast 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Le Jardin Restaurant, Cantigny Park
May 8, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
May 26 - 29, 23 Fri - Mon	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Annual Poppy Program 7:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Cantigny Park & Cantigny Golf Course
May 29, 23 Monday	Memorial Day Ceremony 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, TBD, Cantigny Park
Jun. 12, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Jul. 10, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Jul. 12-15, 23 Wed - Sat	American Legion Department of Illinois Meeting 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM, TBD, Springfield, IL
Aug. 14, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park

Aug. 16, 23 Wednesday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Annual Pasta Dinner 5:00 – 8:30 PM, Le Jarden Restaurant, Cantigny Park
Sep. 11, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Sep. 13, 23 Wednesday	National POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony 11:00 AM – Noon, TBD, Cantigny Park
Sep. 16, 23 Saturday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Post Picnic 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, TBD, Cantigny Park
Oct. 9, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Nov. 4, 23 Saturday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Fall Pancake Breakfast 7:30 AM – 12:30 PM, Le Jardin Restaurant, Cantigny Park
Nov. 11, 23 Saturday	Veterans Day Ceremony TBD, Cantigny Park
Nov. 13, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park
Dec. 10, 23 Sunday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Holiday Party 5:00 – 8:00 PM, Red Oak Room, Cantigny Golf Course
Dec. 11, 23 Monday	American Legion Cantigny Post 556 Monthly Meeting 4:00 – 5:00 PM, Visitor Center, Medill Room, Cantigny Park

Check the Post Website for updated activities throughout the year.

<https://cantignypost556.org/>

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

BE THE ONE

First Division Cantigny American Legion Post 556

Pancake Breakfast

Spring!

Saturday, April 29, 2023
7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

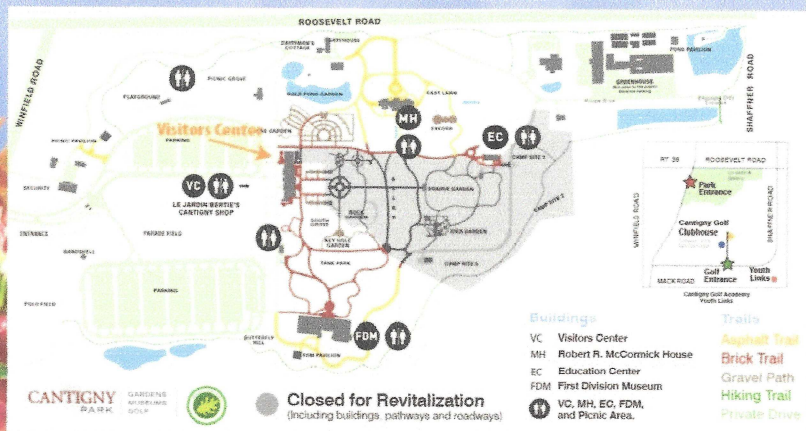
Come to the American Legion Cantigny Post 556 at the Le Jardin Restaurant in the Visitors Center at Cantigny Park, 1S151 Winfield Rd, Wheaton, IL 60189

Pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, butter, coffee, tea, orange juice and syrup (both regular and sugar-free) will be provided.

\$12 for 13 and over; \$6 for 5 through 12.

Free for children 4 and under.

Parking is free at the park for this occasion.



Growing American Legion Cantigny Post 556

As we move forward into 2023, we want to grow Post 556 with a renewed membership drive plus we feel the foundation for that growth is to embrace 2 of the major programs identified as the American Legion Family. Members of The American Legion, [American Legion Auxiliary](#) and Sons of The American Legion comprise the Legion Family, which has a combined membership of nearly 3 million.



American Legion Auxiliary

Founded in 1919, The [American Legion Auxiliary](#) has nearly 1 million members from all walks of life. While originally organized to assist The American Legion, the Auxiliary has achieved its own unique identity while working side-by-side with the veterans who belong to The American Legion. Like the Legion, the Auxiliary's interests have broadened to encompass the entire community.

The American Legion Auxiliary is made up of the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace.

The committee to form an American Legion Auxiliary Post 556 will be holding it's first meeting on March 30th, 2023 in the Medill Room, Visitors Center at Cantigny Park from Noon till 2:00PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information on programs and activities, dues, meeting dates, and suggestions for officers. We are happy to have Angie Mulligan, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, Membership Chairman joining us to answer any questions. Anyone interested please attend.

If you are interested but unable to attend, contact Connie Arango at Carango05@gmail.com

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Sons of the American Legion

Founded in 1932, the Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires.

SAL members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the U.S. military and were eligible for American Legion membership.

Although SAL has its own membership, the organization is not a separate entity. Rather, SAL is a program of The American Legion. Many Legionnaires hold dual membership in SAL.

If you are interested in becoming a member in the soon to be formed Squadron Post 556 Sons of the American Legion, contact John Lutz at: EDP609@gmail.com.

FREE CHOW FOR VIETNAM VETS

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29

Thanks For Your Service, Vietnam Veterans.
When your country called, you answered.
You are Our Heroes every day! Please enjoy
a **FREE** Sandwich with our gratitude.



Know a Vietnam Veteran? Bring them in for a **FREE** sandwich on us. We'd like to say "Thanks" in person!



Notes from the Editor

We will produce a newsletter every other month to bring information important to the members on a more regular basis. We will email it out to all active members and put it on our website:

<https://cantignypost556.org/>

and Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/American-Legion-Cantigny-Post-556-299784936717213>

The items we would like from the members are:

- Names of members sick or in the hospital.
- Names of members that have passed.
- News you feel is important to the members.
- News worth sharing with members for volunteer programs.

One of our Post members - Cliff Dixon is in Hospice care at Hines VA Center. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Please submit information to: Stephen Arango,
steve.arango@gmail.com 630-650-6633



IMPORTANT BENEFIT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Veterans Crisis Support

Line:

Dial 988 then Press 1

Text 838255

Contacting VA Benefits: **800-827-1000**

- Burial
- Death Pension
- Dependency indemnity compensation
- Direct Deposit
- Directions to VA Benefits Regional office
- Disability Compensation
- Disability Pension
- Education
- Home Loan Guarantee
- Medical Care
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Health Care Benefits: **877-222-8387**

Track Your VA Claim

Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans have set an all-time record for filing online disability compensation claims. VA began to process all PACT-related claims on Jan. 1, 2023. If you have a pending claim or appeal, use VA's online tool to stay up-to-date on its status.

<https://www.va.gov/resources/how-to-check-your-va-claim-appeal-or-decision-review-status-online/>

New Improved Life Insurance Program for Veterans Coming Soon

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) was launched on Jan. 1, 2023, as a new guaranteed acceptance whole life insurance program for service-connected Veterans. Those currently enrolled in Service-Disabled Veterans Life Insurance (S-DVI) may keep their coverage or switch to VALife.

<https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife-rates.asp>

Shop Military Discounts at the PX

Save money with a variety of discounts. Enjoy deals on clothing, electronics, fitness, food, and more—all available to Veterans, service members, and their families and caregivers. Check out these year-round discounts before your next purchase.

<https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/>

Supplement Your Pension with Aid and Attendance

Did you know that VA's Aid and Attendance and Housebound benefits can increase your pension payments to support the additional care you need? If you need help with daily activities, or if you are housebound, you may qualify for an increased VA pension to help pay for in-home care, assisted living, or a nursing home.

<https://www.va.gov/pension/aid-attendance-housebound/>

Raising Your VA Compensation Rates

As the cost of living goes up, VA ensures that your benefit rates do too! Starting Jan. 1, 2023, all compensation benefit rates have increased by **8.7%** to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), as well as other VA assistance programs. If you receive VA compensation benefits, learn your new rates today.

<https://www.va.gov/disability/compensation-rates/veteran-rates/>

Buy from the PX

The AAFES and Navy exchanges started to allow all honorably discharged veterans to shop online? You must register first by filling out a secure form to establish your eligibility.

<https://www.vetverify.org>

DD-214's are available online

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's online:

<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

Or try

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

 AMERICAN
LEGION

BE  THE ONE

Sign a Member, Get a Pin!



Any current member who signs up a “New” member,
for Membership Year 2023, will receive a
2023 Membership Recruiter Pin!

A new member is someone who has not belonged
to any Legion Post for two years or more.

Recruiter Pin Request Form



I certify that the member listed here has recruited at
least one new member in our Post for 2023. Please send
a 2023 Membership Recruiter Pin for presentation.
Return completed form to Department Headquarters.

Recruiter's Name: _____

Recruiter's Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Post No: _____ Recruiter's Member ID: _____

Post Officer's Signature: _____

Mail Form To:

The American Legion, Department of Illinois P.O. Box 2910 Bloomington, IL 61702