



DANIEL SIMPSON

POST630
112N. MAIN ST. ELBURN IL 60119



2ND QUARTER 2020

FROM THE SENIOR VICE DESK:



We have all either said it, or heard it before. I want to be involved. Involvement is what gets things done! Lack of involvement is what makes things routine and boring. Eventually making members uninterested because nothing ever changes. We will never stop asking for your input or involvement! So here are ways to get started to make a difference.

PAY YOUR DUES! This is the easiest way to help the post, yet for many members it is like pulling teeth! We still have about 5 members not renewed!

Please check your membership card and make sure you are paid up! If you need assistance, please contact the office and we will help you! If members were to pay dues on time it would make the jobs of our officers a lot easier. It would also free them up to work on more important projects for the good of the Legion. This past year we did not achieve the 100% mark for 2020 membership by the end of 2019. Our goal as a post should always be 100% renewal by the end of the calendar year! Don't wait for your 2nd or 3rd notice to come in the mail. Any time between July and December send that check to the post, renew on line or choose a 5 year or Paid Up for Life option and be done with it! Contact the office for more info on your options.

ELECTION of OFFICERS is coming up. In April, a recommendation committee of past commanders will make their recommendations for the membership to vote on at our May meeting. The positions of Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander and Finance Officer are up for election. If you want to comment on, or are interested in any of these positions, come to the April meeting and talk to our past commanders. They want to hear from you!

Board Positions; Building Committee (meets monthly) & Charities Board (meets quarterly) are always looking for the next members. This is a great way to get your feet wet in helping. Start by attending meetings which are open to all members and learn what each committee works on.

SKILLS; Do you have a special skill? Tradesman, lawyer, finance, counselor, event planner, computers, newsletters, etc.? Another great way to get involved is to donate your time and talent. No matter what your skill we can use it!

Visit a Member; This year our officers will be focusing on the "Buddy Check" of our members. Anyone can do this! If you are interested in meeting your fellow member by paying them a brief visit, contact the office and we will set you up with members in your area.

Post Officers

Commander: Mark Krebs
Vice Commander: Dan Kolzow
Jr. Vice Commander: Chris Mulvihill
Adjutant: John Reece
Sergeant at Arms: Lloyd DaMask
Chaplin: Jim Elgar
Interim Finance: Dan Kolzow
Service Officer: Norm Welker
Judge Advocate/ Parliamentarian: Paul Gardner

Contact Us



American Legion Post 630
112 N. Main Street / Elburn IL 60119
630-365-6530 / elburnpost630@gmail.

Just for Laughs



Post 630 Welcomes New Member

Justin Smitherman - USAF



@AmericanLegionPost630



Blood Drive Dates
April 2nd
&
June 25th
1-6pm at the
Post 630 Legion Hall

Check out our Web Page
www.elburnpost630.org

If you have any pictures, articles or ideas you want to share with the post, contact us in the office. All contributions must be in alignment with the values and guidelines of the American Legion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE POST



ELBURN SCOUTS: On December 29, the Elburn American Legion hosted an Eagle Scout ceremony for Troop 7's Noah Treadway. Eagle Scout Treadway and 13 volunteers spent a Saturday interviewing 11 veterans for a total video time of 12 hours of raw footage. The combined efforts of 178 man hours created the final project for the Elburn American Legion.

Noah developed the idea after he had volunteered for the second year at a Native American veteran's gathering. That year, one elderly veteran from my first year had unexpectedly passed and no one there could remember where in Vietnam he was Stationed. This made me realize how easy it is to lose the information, insight, and stories of our veterans. He and his volunteers set out to keep the legacy of our veterans alive, even when they aren't here to tell it.

On February 9th, the Elburn American Legion presented the Legion's "Good Citizenship" award to Eagle Scout Timothy Bohanek, of Venturing Crew 413. Eagle Scout Bohanek spent numerous hours repainting, refurbishing, and repairing windows at the Elburn Food Pantry at the Community Center.

On February 23rd, Elburn American Legion presented 12 "Cub Scout Certificate of Achievement" to Scouts from Elburn Cub Scout Pack 107 for earning the "Arrow of Light", the highest award in Cub Scouts.

POST 630 SENDS 30 CARE PACKAGES: Organizer John Nevenhoven and his wife Melissa said that most soldiers, sailors and others serving in the armed forces typically receive care packages from their families during the holiday season. Nevenhoven said the Legion's idea is to send the care packages in February, when the holiday giving has slowed down and the community can show them they are not forgotten. Collections and donations were taken over the holidays and then boxed up and sent out in early February. Pam Hall was also a big help in the planning and implementation of the project.



TOYS, TOYS, TOYS: This past Christmas John Reece help make Elburn Post 630 an official drop off point for the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program. John distributed collection boxes to various businesses in town as well as the Legion office and collected five full boxes for the cause! Not a bad job on our first year! Participants of our Queen of Hearts event on Thursday nights also brought in donations.

RAFFLE: Post 630 is raffling off this 196cc mini bike. \$10 per ticket. First prize is the mini bike, second prize is \$100, third prize is \$50. Get your tickets to sell or to buy from the office or your favorite Legion member. Drawing will be held at the Elburn Community and Countryside Center's "Chow Down 2.1" event held on June 27, 2020. Join our partner for an afternoon of food music and fun for the whole family!



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DRAWDOWN! It's that time again! Our annual drawdown is April 17th! There is still time to get your tickets! Contact the office for tickets to buy or sell to your friends. Grand Prize \$2000! 50/50 drawings, Meat raffle, special cash raffle and of course the Big Six!

Come out for an evening of fun with friends and family!!!

POST HISTORY

The following is a summary of Elburn Herald reports and regular meeting minutes from the post archives:

In October 1946, the Legion not only challenged the community but also itself. To build a community center. Not as a club house for the servicemen, but for the good of the town as well the surrounding rural community. The details had not been worked out yet, not the where or the how, but the need was identified and was real. In true American Legion form the community came first.

In October of 1946, the Elburn Legion had pledged \$1000 toward the building of a community center which would serve as a recreational facility, house a library and serve as a "living memorial" to those Elburn servicemen who lost their lives in the service of their country. Plans were put on hold when, in November of 1947, the Turner Brass Company had a devastating fire that threatened the entire business district. The structure that housed Turner Brass, known as the Mansfield building, was one of the town landmarks and was nearly 100 years old. The fire was discovered by Legion member, Grover Petrie, who was the manager of Turner Brass at the time.

October 22 1948: Members of the American Legion are asked to report to the site of the old Village Hall on October 31st to assist in filling in the location to make it suitable for a playground and recreational purposes. (This project was proposed by the Legion and approved by the Village. Even while planning and raising funds for a new community building, the Legion continues to serve the community)

By April 1949, the Legion had enough funds to purchase the site of the former Mansfield building and groundbreaking ceremonies for the Elburn Community Memorial Center took place on April 30, 1949, 29 years to the day of the organization of the Elburn Post. After a prayer by Wesley Weston, Legion chaplain, Fred Johansen, outgoing President of the Village Board of Trustees, as one of his last official acts, turned the first spade of dirt signaling the beginning of excavation operations. A bulldozer began working that very afternoon. Plans for the 40x124 foot building included a lighted memorial paying tribute to the men who died while in service to their country in WWI and WWII, as well as an "Honor Roll"- a list of names of all the local men and women who had served their country.

Despite the concern about raising the needed building funds, the Legion was committed to carrying on its work in the community. The Post's share of the proceeds from Elburn Days was \$2121.47 and it would be placed in the General Fund, the balance of which was only \$84. At meetings that fall and winter of 1949/50, motions carried to contribute to a fund for a crossing guard (to be paid \$55) at the railroad crossing, to make the annual donation of \$15 toward the Christmas party for the Elgin State Hospital, and to sponsor a basketball team for grade school boys, as well as a baseball team. The Post also sponsored a banquet for the High School sports teams.

June of 1950: North Korean troops had pushed into South Korea and the US entered the Korean War. In December of that year, a motion was made to invite members of the Selective Service Board to the February 1951 meeting. Cmdr. Campbell of Maple Park Post 312 and Paul Morris, a member of the Sandwich Post also attended. W.A. Beith, a member of Draft Board 145 spoke at the meeting. The following month, a motion carried to pay the membership dues of any Legion members that entered military service.

At the Jan 1952 meeting, by unanimous vote, a motion carried to write a letter to the school administration denouncing the actions of a janitor employed by the school when said janitor failed to display proper respect to the flag of the United States of America by failing to rise at attention in the Genoa Kingston v Elburn basketball game at the Genoa High School gymnasium."

Completion of the building;

Despite numerous delays and setbacks, the work on the Memorial Center brought a great spirit of cooperation and unity to the community as so many pulled together to bring the project to fruition. Nearly all the work was done by Legion members and other volunteer workmen as a reflection of their effort to “give expression to the community’s desire to honor its veterans.” Work parties were organized and masonry services were donated by tradesmen of the William Hedlund Masonry contracting firm of Aurora. Auxiliary members served coffee and donuts to workers and George Herra donated soft drinks.

In April 1952, the final drive began for the completion of the Memorial building. It was estimated that it would take another \$12,000 to complete the project. Volunteers were working as often as possible as the push was made to ready two of the rooms on the main floor for occupancy by the Kaneland Community School District in time for the school year beginning Sept 1. Plumbing, heating, and electrical were finished, and the roof was completed in early July. Rubber tile on the first floor was installed in the middle of August. Although there were still some finish work to be done, the building was now ready to be used by the community.

On Wednesday, August 20, 1952, the first meeting of the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary (who normally met in the homes of its members) was held in the newly completed Community and Memorial Center where installation of new officers for both organizations took place.

Open House: Over 350 people attended the open house held at the Memorial Building on Nov 11, 1952. The focal point was the large plaque at the entrance to the building designed by Turner Brass company of Sycamore with the names of Elburn men who lost their lives in both World Wars. Those so honored include Jay M. Griffith, Fred W. Pattee and Daniel W. Simpson (WWI) and Emerit Lee Hughes, William S. Johnson, Robert L. Motz, Kenneth M. Sears, and Gideon W. Warne (WWII). Mrs. Ida Key and Mrs. Ethel Wolf, first grade teachers whose classes met in the building, were on hand to show visitors their classrooms. Refreshments were served in the basement and the Legion Auxiliary sponsored a sale of articles made by veterans.

It did not take long for the building to become an integral part of community life and a popular gathering place. Even before the basement room was finished it hosted community activities. Pool tables donated by Kane County Title company became popular with youth during the after-school hours. The Elburn public library made its home there in early part of 1953.

Dedication of the Building: The Elburn Community Memorial Center was officially dedicated the following year, on Armistice Day, Wednesday, Nov 11, 1953 in a program broadcast by radio station WMRO-Aurora and attended by nearly one thousand Elburn residents. The event was presided over by Master of Ceremonies, C. V. Amenoff, former national commander of the American Legion, with a dedicatory address by Hon. Edward A Hayes,

The night previous, over two hundred attended a pre-dedication dinner at the hall. Past Commanders of the Post 630 were called upon to talk about their efforts during the construction of the building. Among those who spoke were Stanley Henderson, Scott Anderson, James Rowe, Stanley Chaon, and the chairman of the evening’s program, Earl Wilkson. The program for the evening’s entertainment included acrobatics, tap dances and a group of variety numbers. The high school orchestra performed harmonica selections and Paul and Robert Gee delighted the audience with numbers on the piano and guitar. The meeting closed with the group singing “God Bless America”.

Special Thanks to Christina Murri for her contribution

American Legion to Congress: Investigate allegations of VA wrongdoing

The American Legion

FEB 09, 2020

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford released the following statement regarding allegations that senior leadership at the Department of Veterans Affairs attempted to retaliate against a staff member for reporting a sexual assault.

"Generally, The American Legion does not comment on VA's internal personnel matters. We invest full faith and credit in the administration, the Inspector General, and department leadership to faithfully execute their duties, serve in a manner that honors their sacred positions, and work to protect the communities they serve. We are not privileged participants in any formal investigations and learn of publicly available reports from the same sources the general public does, and we rely on these reports to inform our membership, our voice, and positions.

"In cases where evidence is uncovered of malfeasance or wrongdoing, The American Legion expects that the perpetrator or perpetrators will be held accountable and either disciplined, dismissed or prosecuted accordingly. The allegations that have been reported over the past week at the Department of Veterans Affairs are extremely concerning and bring into question the ethical suitability of the leadership at VA's highest levels.

"The American Legion calls on the administration and Congress to thoroughly investigate the recent allegations of improper employee behavior and report their findings to the American people with complete transparency. We expect that any persons found to have acted outside of their authority and the scope of their duties will be held accountable and dealt with in an appropriate manner. This was one of the core tenets of the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017 that The American Legion supported, and still supports today."



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Post Calendar

(Holiday / Notable Day / Post 630 Event / Other)

- 2nd) Queen of Hearts Drawing/ Blood Drive
- 8th) Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 9th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 10th) **Good Friday**
- 12th) **Easter**
- 13th) Post Meeting
- 17th) Draw Down!!
- 16th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 23rd) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 30th) Queen of Hearts Drawing

APRIL

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MAY

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31						

- 6th) Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 7th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 8th) **VE Day**
- 10th) **Mothers Day**
- 11th) Post Meeting
- 14th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 16th) **Armed Forces Day**
- 21st) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 25th) **Memorial Day**
- 28th) Queen of Hearts drawing

- 3rd) Bld. Comm. Meeting
- 4th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 6th) **Anniversary of D Day**
- 8th) Post Meeting
- 11th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 14th) **Flag Day /US Army Birthday**
- 18th) Queen of Hearts Drawing
- 21st) **Fathers Day**
- 25th) Queen of Hearts Drawing / Blood Drive

JUNE

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American Legion
112 N. Main Street
Elburn IL. 60119

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