



GURNEE LEGIONNAIRE

Happy Holidays!!



**Join us March 17th for a
Corned Beef & Cabbage
Dinner to
Celebrate
our 99th Birthday!!**

Tickets available soon!!



**Meet the
New Post
771
Chaplain!**

**Rent One of Our
Halls for Your Next
Event!!**

**For More
Information**

**Call Terry
at
(847) 224-2728**

From The Commander

Growing Healthy Veterans

Through the experience of working with the soil along with peer support, Growing Healthy Veterans seeks to help veterans heal from the traumas that often lead to isolation and suicide, while at the same time delivering the skills necessary for a variety of careers in agriculture. The powerful healing that comes from working directly with the soil has been documented with numerous studies of veterans diagnosed with PTSD. As I researched this subject with the help of GHV, I was made aware that America will need over 1,000,000 farmers in the near future. As the farming community ages out, we need their replacements ready and trained to continue the growth of this important economic weapon - FOOD.

So what are we going to do? We are going to build Year-Round Hoop Houses on our vacant land to the south of the baseball fields. We will begin with two and expand the building as needed. We will kick off the building in the spring and will be fully operational as the planting season blossoms. In the future, we will also construct some raised bed houses that will be wheelchair accessible for our veterans who need that access.

The food in these gardens will be used by the veterans and sold to local restaurants to help offset the expense and provide additional funds for further development. I already have contacted Tim O'Tooles pub, who have locations throughout Lake County, and they have committed to support this endeavor. I expect our community and all of you to embrace this project and help our veterans with this project.

Warren Blue Devils Graduates That Served

The American Legion will spearhead a fund-raising effort within the community for the placement of a video board at Warren Township High School- Almond Campus to recognize and honor the Warren graduates who went on to serve our county in the military. We have already secured a prominent location at Warren High School alongside the main office as you enter the school. There will be a 70" VIDEO board placed on the wall that students, alumni, and visitors will see as a recognition of the dedication our community has to service and identifying those graduates who chose that path during the next phase of their life. This will be a community effort to identify those who have served. High Schools do not maintain records after school. We will be calling alumni, parents, relatives and other community organizations who help us with this worthwhile project.

Jim Huisel

Post 771 Commander

Notes from the Auxiliary

The year 2017 was a year of loss as we lost three members: past unit president Elynore Baker, a member of 34 years; Doris Leble, a member of five years; and Muriel Nickula, a member of 38 years. Our thoughts and prayers went out to their families. If you know of any members who may have passed away or a member who is ill, hospitalized or just need someone to talk to please let our Chaplain Marie Worth know at (847) 689-4378. We want our members and their families to know that we do care about them.

Community Service Chairman, Cathy Hill (847) 263-1430 cathhill@comcast.net, is asking members to keep track of any volunteer hours (anything done without pay and not for relatives) such as church, food banks, taking people to appointments, fundraisers, etc. These hours are combined throughout the entire organization and reported to Congress. As they say – Power is in numbers! Maurine Richter and Sandy Whiston are two incredible ladies who have donated countless hours by attending send-offs and welcome homes of our troops, funerals and other veteran services. “We thank you ladies, for all you do!”

We purchased a table at the Holiday Bazaar held on December 2 here at the Gurnee American Legion where we sold baked goods, crafts and our famous handmade soaps. I would like to say “thank you” to all of you who donated your time, baked goods and helped man the table and the kitchen. It was a success for us and the proceeds will go to supporting some of our programs i.e. Scholarships, American Legion Auxiliary down state, community service projects (35 pies for Thanksgiving dinners at the Gurnee Community Church, serving luncheons that raises funds for special needs children, etc) We do many projects throughout the year and we hope that you will join us as we continue to provide many needed services for our veterans, active duty military and their families.

A more recent project is our unit is sponsoring a grant purchase, a new kiln, supplies and greenware for the residents at the Capt. James A. Lovell FHCC. We must come up with 20% and the National provides the grant through an Examination Board. Any veteran registered at the FHCC can enter any art projects into the Creative Arts Local competition and winners to national level. Art is a wonderful therapy. Remember, most of the residents have no families visiting them – We are their family and it's fun to do different projects with the men and women.

We have over ½ of our membership collected to date. “Thank you!” Membership Chairman Cathy Hill is always looking for “new” members with a passion for what the Auxiliary's mission is – To carry on for our future military and veterans. Being a member has many rewarding benefits you will find listed in this newsletter. The Auxiliary meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month except in July – EVERYONE IS INVITED!

December's meeting will be a potluck starting at 6:00 pm. The meat will be provided and we are asking for side dishes from the members attending.

I hope your holidays are warm, fun and spent with your family and friends!



Sandy Nys – President
(847) 356-8834



ALA Member Benefits – *There's more in it for YOU!*

The value of being an American Legion Auxiliary member is growing big time! You bring untold value to the Auxiliary and America's veterans through your service to our mission; to show our appreciation, the ALA is bringing valuable benefits to you! Your membership brings you access to a wide array of discounts, products, and services.

It's easy! Online at www.ALForVeterans.org (go to Member Only > Members Resources > Member Benefits), you can learn about an array of benefits through our partnership with Gallagher Benefit Services Inc., USAA and several other companies.*

GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES

Health Discount Services & Programs—Available online only

- Dental and Vision Discount Program
- Fully Insured Dental
- VSP Insurance
- Rx Discount Program

Abenity Discount Program — Available online only

Discounts include but are not limited to:

- Amusement Parks
- Car Rentals
- Hotels
- Concert Tickets

BonusDrive—Exclusive \$500 Cash rebate when you purchase a vehicle from participating automotive companies

- www.BonusDrive.com
- 888-98-BONUS

Insurance Carriers**

- Senior Term Life Insurance by The Hartford®
- Long Term Care by LTCR
- Critical Illness
- Medicare Supplements
- Pet Insurance

Additional Discounts & Services

- Hearing Aids and Services by Hear in America
- 1-800-286-6149

For more information, call the Voluntary Benefits line Toll Free Number, (855) 461-6500, or visit www.ALForVeterans.org, Members Only*, and Member Benefits tab.

*ALA members must have a login and password for the members' only section of the national website to access member benefits information

**Some insurance carriers are available via telephone. Visit our Member Benefits page at www.ALForVeterans.org for the most up to date information.

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS

USAA Credit Card: American Legion Auxiliary Credit Card

- (855) 291-8252
- www.USAA.com/ALA
- USAA Bank will make a contribution to the American Legion Auxiliary when you open an account, make eligible purchases and keep an active account

ScriptSave Prescriptions Savings Program

- Prescription savings for your entire household on brand name and generic drugs at thousands of participating pharmacies nationwide.
- (800) 700-3957
- www.scriptsave.com
- ALA Code: Group #417

Dell Computers

- Savings on computers and software
- (877) 289-9437
- www.dell.com/epp/flyer
- ALA Code: CS711278890

Alamo Rental Car

- Save on everyday low prices when you rent from Alamo.
- (800) 354-2322 and mention the following contract ID:
- Contract ID# ALAUX

Wyndham Hotel Group

- (877) 670-7088
- <http://wr.wyndhamrewards.com>
- Enter code below in the Corporate Code box when looking for a reservation
- ALA Code: 1000002807

SIRVA Home Benefits

- Real Estate & Mortgage Services
- (877) 833-9484
- <http://legion-aux.sirvahomebenefits.com>

NorthAmerican Van Lines

- Interstate Moving & Storage Discounts
- (888) 458-7986
- <http://legionaux.movingnavl.com> or email: info@movingnavl.com

Allied Van Lines

- Interstate Moving, Packing & Storage Services
- (800) 871-8864
- <http://movingallied.com/legionaux> or email: info@movingallied.com

You would look good in Uniform!!!

Looking for people for Honor Guard duty. Requesting your assistance for parades, ceremonies, funerals and school programs. All Legionnaires, Sons of the American Legion and Auxiliary members are invited to join the few remaining H.G. members. We would like six new volunteers so we don't have to turn down requests and can rotate our personnel as needed.

Call Al Billings 847-223-9379 to pick out a uniform

Memorialize our Deceased Veterans

Engraved Bricks are available for purchase which are installed at the Veteran's Memorial Park "Walk of Honor" in Gurnee

Bricks are for deceased veterans only and it honors all veterans. Not restricted to only honor Gurnee Veterans.

Honor a cherished veteran and have a permanent Memorial in Gurnee.

If you have any questions, please contact
Al Billings
at (847) 223-9379

Upcoming Events:

Sweetheart Pancake Breakfast
St Patrick's Day / 99th Birthday Dinner

February 10th
March 17th



Save the Date!!

Tree-Ripe Citrus Co makes a stop at the
Gurnee American Legion
on January 20th at 1:30 pm

Come and purchase some delicious
citrus!

For more information visit
www.tree-ripe.com



From The Desk of Chaplain Larry Peters

I am delighted to be the newest Chaplain to serve here at Post 771! As I carry on from the past Chaplain Bill Schultz, I hope to continue his passion and commitment to all of our members as well as the community. Among many of my passions is to partner with organizations within our community and take steps toward familiarizing them with us as a veteran organization and how we can partner to better serve the community at large together. One of those passions was to have a food collection box for COOL Food Pantry at the Post. I appreciate all of those who have been contributing to this program from the day of its inception. I also want to reach out to those members of our Post and let you know that as the Chaplain, I am about promoting a common “bond” which is love and allegiance to our country and the sincere belief that we are All children of God... and it is to Him we pledge our allegiance and credo” FOR GOD AND COUNTRY!” Please feel free to call upon me (224) 399-5629 as I want to reach out to you as a veteran and as my fellow American.

I would like for us to:

- Treat ALL guests and visitors with respect, kindness and render to them the best service possible.
- Conduct ourselves at ALL times as members worthy of our membership and oath as Legionnaires
- Enjoy good fellowship, always being mindful of the dignity and rights of those who share it with us

ALWAYS remember that Post 771 was established and has existed through the years by the sacrifice of our fellow comrades, their families some are still with us and others who are no longer with us but their passion and commitment lives on and it is our DUTY to “never forget!”

VA Photo ID Cards for “ALL” Veterans

Just a friendly reminder to veterans the “Veterans Identification Card Act 2015, orders the VA to issue hard-copy photo ID to any honorably discharged veteran who applies. The card has to contain the veteran's name, photo and a non-Social Security identification number the law states. The change comes as the military exchange stores now allow “all” honorably discharged veterans to shop online. Veterans who wish to use this new benefit must be verified through VetVerify.org.

How will AARP Driver Safety Help Me?



- You get a discount on your auto insurance for 3 years; (you must attend both days)
- You learn to deal with those driving problems unique to seniors
- Keeps you up to date on changes in yourself as well as our cars, our roads and the Rules of the Road;
- Builds up your confidence in your driving;
- You will have fun too!!

2018 Classes to be Announced
For More Information Contact Terry at (847) 224 – 2728

GURNEE AMERICAN LEGION POST 771
749 Milwaukee Avenue
Gurnee, IL 60031



Member Spotlight



One of our members is in hibernation in Florida but you can still contact him:

George Tomasiewicz
4550 PineBrook Circle
Bradenton FL 34209

Cardio Drumming Classes at the Post Home

A new year will soon be upon us and maybe you have promised yourself you will be healthier in 2018. Let the Gurnee American Legion be a part of that promise by joining the weekly cardio class of Cardio Drumming instructed by two of the Legion's dedicated and committed members:

Terry and Ed Shebenik
(847) 244-2606

Classes are every Thursday in the lower hall from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

If you have any questions or would like to make a suggestion, please feel free to contact the Post at



(847) 244-9282



Visit our website

www.gurneeamericanlegion.org

WE NEED YOUR CURRENT CONTACT INFO. SEND TO INFO@POST771.ORG

Post Officers:

Commander: Jim Huisel
Sr. Vice Commander: Terry Waddell-Moenter
Jr. Vice Commander: Peter Mockapetris
Adjutant: Tracy Isom

Finance Officer: Ron Carlson
Service: Bill Frangquist
Chaplain: Larry Peters
Sgt at Arms: Joe Riedel
Historian: Bob Long

Notary Service

Available at our Post

Contact Peter Mockapetris to schedule an appointment

Email: pm10897@comcast.net

Phone: 847-204-6815 (please leave a message)