



Highland Park Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Post 4737 NewsGram



P.O. Box 47, Highland Park, Illinois 60035
Meetings at HP Police Dept., 1677 Old Deerfield Rd., Deerfield IL
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April 2018

Honor the Dead by Serving the Living

APRIL 12, 2018 POST MEETING AT WOODEN NICKEL, 444 LAKEVIEW AVE., HIGHWOOD, IL AT 7:00PM

ELECTIONS AT APRIL 12 MTG: Our next Post meeting will be Thurs, April 12 at 7:00pm, at which time those present will vote on officers for the 2018-19 year. The nominees thus far are:

Dave Kunz-Commander
Greg Detlie-Senior Vice Commander
Joe Heim-Junior Vice Commander
Pete Quilici-Quartermaster
Aaron Peaslee-Three Year Trustee
Aaron Ferrer-Chaplain

Nominations will remain open until voting commences.

Also, we will need to elect a new Junior Vice Commander due to the departure of Commander Skoropad, see below. Per the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, current Sr. Vice Detlie moves up to Commander and Jr. Vice Heim moves up to Sr. Vice to finish our fiscal year through June 30. That leaves the Jr. Vice position open.

Also, on the agenda:

1. **We have not scheduled the Schwaben Center for the Installation Brunch in June** due to significantly falling attendance, cost and prep time for this event and the Anniversary Brunch in November. The future of these events should be discussed.
2. **The future of a Post Color Guard,** especially considering the departure of Commander Skoropad who served as Captain. The Post approved expenditure for new uniforms at our last meeting, but we need firm commitments for volunteers.
3. A **Post name change** remains under discussion.
4. Should we **continue meeting in Highwood, perhaps alternating with Highland Park?**
5. Let's fill out the schedule for **the upcoming Memorial Day Poppy program.**

Please attend all coming meetings so your voice is heard on these and other issues as our Post undergoes a period of transformation.

COMMANDER SKOROPAD MOVING TO CALIFORNIA: As regular meeting attendees know, Commander Skoropad and wife Judy are moving to California in mid-April. Best wishes to both and many thanks to Commander Skoropad for guiding our Post the last few years and his service as Color Guard Captain and his over-the-top volunteerism at all our activities, at Lovell FHCC, at Highland Park's Immaculate Conception Parish and wherever a helping hand was needed. Truly a man for others, whose shoes will be hard to fill.

POST HOSPITAL NITE: Our Bingo Hospital Nite at Lovell goes on hiatus this month until September.

This event usually is suspended June thru August due to summer events at Lovell FHCC. April was cancelled due to a competing event, and the fourth Monday in May this year is Memorial Day. **Our next Post Bingo Nite is on Sept 24 at 6:30 PM** and on most following fourth Mondays at Bourke Hall, Bldg. #4, Lovell FHCC.

At last month's Hospital Nite, our Post volunteers (Aaron Ferrer and daughter Ayiana, Bill Gansberg, Pete Quilici and Steve Skoropad) distributed over \$300.00 in cash prizes and \$95.00 of pastries and fruit to nourish our players.

FIRST LEGIONNAIRES AND NOW NOROVIRUS AT QUINCY HOME???: On Apr 5 the Chicago Tribune reported 24 individuals at Quincy experienced vomiting and diarrhea from a suspected Norovirus outbreak.

Legionnaires Disease already has killed 13 people at the Quincy IL veterans' home since 2015. And despite the state spending \$6 million to upgrade Quincy's water system, this fall three more residents tested positive for legionellosis, including one who died. According to the Feb 21, 2018 Chicago Tribune, the Illinois Dept of Public Health on Feb 20 announced a fourth case of Legionnaires' disease in recent weeks.

Your Editor checked the IL Dept of Vet Affairs and the IL Dept of Public Health for updates on the recent outbreak, but none were found.

Also on the list of the missing is an update on the progress of the new IL veterans' facility on Chicago's northwest side. The groundbreaking for the much needed five-story, 200 room facility was in September 2014. The project is at a standstill.

And while we're at it, is the federal DVA on its third or fourth year in working on the rehab of Bldg #4 at Lovell FHCC, where we conduct our monthly Bingo Nite?

Do you get the feeling that all the political blabbing about doing right by veterans is a bunch of BS?

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIVE DATES: May 28 (Memorial Day); June 6 (D Day: Allied invasion of Europe, 1944); June 14 (Flag Day: Adoption of US Flag on June 14, 1777). Display the flag.

QUOTE TO REMEMBER: "The most dangerous man to any government is the man who is able to think things out for himself, without regard to the prevailing superstitions and taboos." *H. L. Mencken.*



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
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...INCLUDES NEWS OF
HO TAI P.T. #67 MOC



APRIL MEETING AT WOODEN NICKEL

DEPT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS SECY SHULKIN RESIGNS OR WAS FIRED: According to news reports, DVA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin was either fired, according to him, or resigned, according to the White House.

It makes a difference because of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998, which gives the President the authority to temporarily fill a vacancy at a federal agency if the official "dies, resigns, or is otherwise unable to perform the functions and duties of the office." Based on Secy. Shulkin's "resignation," President Trump appointed a DOD official, Robert Wilkie, as Acting Secy, thereby side-stepping Thomas Bowman, next in the line of DVA succession and the proper Acting Secy if Secy Shulkin was "fired."

All this is a tempest in a teapot if the President's choice for a permanent Secretary, Dr. Ronnie Jackson, is quickly confirmed by the US Senate. But there is growing concern for Dr. Jackson's lack of experience in operating a large bureaucracy. So, if Acting Secy Wilkie starts making major decisions during a drawn-out confirmation process, the lawsuits will start flying.



HO TAI PUP TENT NO. 67 - A brief resume of "Louse-y" News

SCRATCH, SCRATCH: May 3, June 7, July 5 and all subsequent Scratches (first Thurs unless otherwise notified) will be held at 6:59 1/2 PM, at the Highland Park Police Dept. Training Room, 1677 Old Deerfield Road, Highland Park, IL.

COOTIE HOSPITAL NIGHTS: Capt. James Lovell Fed Health Care Ctr, Bldg. 134, Bingo and Ward visits, 6:30 PM. Coming dates are Apr 19, May 17, June 28 and all third Thurs, unless otherwise notified.

"KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE"

UPCOMING LOCAL ACTIVITY CALENDAR:

All first Thursdays of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Scratch.

All second Thursdays of the month: Post 4737 meeting.

All third Wednesdays of the month (except July and August): Meeting of Lake County Veterans Assistance Commission at Forest City Community Center, 2001 Virginia Avenue, Great Lakes, IL 60088.

All third Thursdays of the month: Ho Tai Pup Tent No. 67 Hospital Nite.

All fourth Mondays of the month (except June, July, Aug)-**this month also April and May cancelled**): Post Bingo Nite at Lovell FHCC.

April 12-Election of Post Officers.

April 21-5th District Spring Frolic at Fox River Post 4600, 3002 Route 120, McHenry, IL.

May 19-5th District Meeting at Fox River Post 4600, 3002 Route 120, McHenry, IL. **Attendance by Cmdr or delegate required.**

May 28-Memorial Day. The Post traditionally provides a Color Guard to post the Colors and for a closing Bell Ceremony. Also, this year we are scheduled to present a Highland Park resident member as a "Hero Among Us." **(Further info on events available on VFW Natl/Dept websites, gen internet search or contact QM Quilici)**

DEERFIELD PASSES ASSAULT WEAPON BAN: On Apr 2 the nearby Village of Deerfield passed an assault weapon ban which takes effect on June 13. The ordinance appears to mirror Highland Park's ordinance, except the fines are way higher. Deerfield can impose a \$250 to \$1000 a day fine for violation. If any of our Deerfield or Highland Park Comrades have a semi-automatic rifle or shotgun which is described in these ordinances, be aware. Although there is no national firearms registry, someone probably knows you own it, and loose lips sink ships.

CONTACT THE NEWSGRAM WITH NEWS/COMMENTS THROUGH: Editor and QM Peter A. Quilici, 7501 Kostner Ave., Skokie, IL 60076/ Phone: (847) 997-7662 (cell) or (847) 763-1793 (home hard line) / E-mail: pquilici@ameritech.net. **Please feel free to submit for publication news of interest to veterans.**