



Shrapnel



Newsletter of American Legion Post 42
1030 Central Street - Evanston, IL 60201 - 847-475-9076

October 2025

Commander



Christine Candelario

Commander's Corner

Dear Post 42 Members,

Another summer has passed. Autumn feels like it's still summer.

Legion Fest was a huge success thanks to our SAL group. Unfortunately I couldn't attend as I was representing Post 42 at our State Convention in Springfield. I heard nothing but positive comments about the event. Thank you Post 42 SAL.

We had a great Family picnic. A fun time was had by all in spite of the HOT day. Photos of

both events are on our website in the Media section called Galleries.

Some may have heard rumors about our District merging with another District. I want you all to hear it from me. First a little background: Post 42 is part of the 7th District, which is part of the 1st Division, which is part of the Department (state) of Illinois.

From the 1st Division Meeting on September 10th:

The first question was WHY? Primarily, why was the only question. Some answers are:

1. The Department of Illinois is the only Department that has a Division with more than (4) four districts according to National records.

2. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed by directive from past Department Commander Delmar Buske in 2023. They were instructed to look at redistricting of the Department. There's (3) three Districts that are below 1000 members, which is a National requirement.

3. Merging Districts will bring membership over 1000 in the newly formed districts which will save the Department the cost of per diem and mileage for Districts Commanders.

When this will happen has yet to be determined. I will keep you all informed as I learn the details. This affects us very little at the Post level. It just means the commanders will be

going to other locations for District meetings in the future

Now just a gentle nudge, when wake/funeral notices get posted please try and make an appearance. I know this shines a light on our own mortality, but it makes a big impression on the family when we come. "I didn't know him/her" shouldn't be your excuse.

They are a fellow Legionnaire, that's all that matters. Please let the post know if you hear of a Legionnaire who has passed so we can post it on the website. I try to go to all wake/funerals when I know about them. Sometimes we are there in lieu of family which can be a sad situation.

Please be safe in these upcoming holidays, Halloween, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukah. Yes, they are coming up quickly! Hope to see you at some of the events during the holiday season.

This holiday season if you find yourself alone and feeling down, reach out to us. You are not alone! Post 42 is here for you! The VA is here for you. VA offers a network of support for all Veterans and their families and friends. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.

Veterans Crisis Line Dial 988 and Press 1

Veterans Strengthening America,
Commander Christine

SAL Commander



David Madison

From Your SAL Commander,

Greetings and Happy Fall (if it ever comes)!

We are now deep into planning for our Pancake Breakfast, which will be held on November 15th, from 7am to noon. There are still many opportunities to volunteer for prep work, day of work, and, let us not forget that the vast majority of our fund raising comes from our gracious placemat sponsors. So, if you or someone you know would like to support our efforts, please reach out to us at: cdr@post42sal.org.

As I mentioned in my last Shrapnel letter, Squadron 42 now pre-pays Detachment for all members who were active the previous year. This means that we send \$13 for 247 members. This payment was made in September, and now we need our members to pay their dues as soon as possible.

We encourage everyone to please pay using the Post's website: <https://www.evanstonpost42.com/form-sal-renew>

By using our website we are able to better gather contact information and keep it current, which allows us to keep all of our members

informed of events, meetings, and other volunteer opportunities.

I also want to take a moment to re-iterate that we meet EVERY month -- the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30pm. Our meetings general last 30 minutes, and, remember, holding a monthly meeting is not just to get people to the bar...it is a REQUIREMENT for the SAL to maintain a charter with Illinois (and National) -- please make every attempt to make as many meetings as possible. To make it even simpler, we broadcast the meetings via a Google Meet, and participating by joining the call is always welcome.

As always:

Please pay 2026 dues (\$40) at:

<https://www.evanstonpost42.com/form-sal-renew>

Regular Meetings are held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 7:30PM. For those that cannot attend in person, a Google Meeting has been arranged here:

<https://meet.google.com/ooi-dins-zpr>.

Please join us in person or via Google Meet.

Sincerely,

David Madison
Commander, SAL Squadron 42

Jr. Vice Commander



Mike (Wojo) Wojciechowski

It Is What It Is

By

Michael L. Wojciechowski

I'm thinking many people have heard the adage "It is what it is." But having been in both the Navy and the Illinois National Guard, I've added, "It be what it be," to it. Experiencing events in my life, I've used that full term often.

It's been an education of sorts. Learning from my mistakes and how to prevent repeating them, despite repeating the fun mistakes, LOL. Learning the hard way sometime. Our parents tried giving us the benefit of the doubt that perhaps we wouldn't have to learn the hard way. But we're not totally as smart as we needed to be growing up. A bit uncooperative you might say.

Our parents shared some of their youth and their experience. Hoping we would accept and understand their wisdom. There were some things I grasped, some I didn't. Dad: Measure twice cut once. Mom: As a parent never threaten with discipline without willing to go through with it. Just a few that come to mind.

In the dark recesses of our mind, we might think they didn't know what the hell they were talking about. But as we got older, we often realize the wisdom they tried sharing and how it

really did apply, how it really was meant to be appreciated.

We as adolescents, they tried imparting tough love when necessary. I've had to do that once. Not fun at all but it was what was needed at that moment in time. My wife shed tears of compassion but I got her to understand that tough love helps make young men out of boys, helps them to become responsible adults eventually.

The circle of life is sometimes only as tough as you make it. I just read that it's not that we should give our kids what we never had, but to teach them what we weren't taught. I've helped teach both my sons many things. Responsibility, respect, joy, and faithfulness just to name a few. Placed before them on the altar of life.

We often teach our sons and daughters not only by saying or telling them things, but by doing things in front of them, having them watch us. Sometimes without us even realizing it. For actions often speak louder than words.

Past Post Commander



James Brusek

The Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award

Nominations for the 2026 recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award are now being accepted. The nominating timeline will terminate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the conclusion of the Board of Directors Meeting.

Commander Richard Huck was the only commander in the one hundred five-year history of Evanston American Legion Post 42 that transferred to Post Everlasting while in office. The board decided to create an award in his honor that best reflected his spirit, energy, and dedication to the principles of the American Legion.

The purpose of the award is to honor a Post or SAL member, who in the course the year(s) best demonstrated motivation, vitality, and dedication to the principles of the American Legion, specifically Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. These "Four Pillars" describe the heart and philosophy of the American Legion in their dedication to Veterans and service to the community, state, and nation.

The ideal recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award is not necessarily an officer or holder of office in the Post or SAL, but rather any member who exhibits the principles of the American Legion by active participation in Post programs and activities in a manner that distinguished that individual above others.

The recipient of the Richard Huck Legion Spirit Award is selected by the nomination of any Post or SAL member. Nominations should be legible and as detailed as possible, broken into three sections:

1. Personal information, i.e.: Family life, education, employment, etc.
2. Military information, i.e.; branch of service, promotions, awards etc. & if SAL, history of the person who allows them to be SAL.
3. What he/she has done while a member of Post/Squadron 42

To be considered for the Huck Award. A single paragraph will not be sufficient.

The Nomination will be placed in a sealed envelope, clearly identified as “Huck Award Nomination,” addressed to the Post Adjutant.

Following the nomination deadline, all envelopes will be given to the selection committee for consideration by vote. The selection committee will review the nominations and present their selection to the Board of Directors. The award presentation will be made in March at the annual corned beef dinner on Sunday, March 15, 2026.

All nominations are due NLT the conclusion of the Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

Service Officer



Joe Jefferson

Fellow Comrades,

Greetings to you and family, as you read this message. On 6 November 2025 at the American Legion Post 42, 1030 Central Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201, at 7:30pm there will be two guest speakers;

- George Ohanessian, Military Caseworker and Outreach Coordinator for State of Illinois
- Christian Wind, Pre-Planning Advisor, Dignity Memorial

These two gentlemen will take a limited time to discuss briefly the benefits available to veterans and families and available options and information burial options available to veterans and their spouses., respectively.

I recognize this can be a very sensitive subject, but it is important that you and your family members are informed and or receive this information. In that spirit I encourage you to attend, if possible. However, if you can't attend and want the information provided, please contact me via email, jeffersonjoe@att.net with your request or questions on the subjects.

I additionally encourage all readers of this message to extend this invite to all veterans who may be impacted at large to attend this meeting.

Have a great day!
Respectfully,

Joe E. Jefferson
Service Office
American Legion, Post 42
312-339-0872
jeffersonjoe@att.net

**News from Post 42 Charitable
Foundation <https://post42cf.org/>**



Greetings from the Post 42 Charitable Foundation. As we bask in this unseasonably warm weather we reflect on the success of the annual golf outing and want to thank all who contributed. Whether you donated money or muscle, your contributions did not go unnoticed.

Keep an eye on our website as we announce events, updates and topics relevant to the Post, Foundation, and opportunities for everyone to further support our veterans and the veteran community. This is also a good time to recognize the efforts, contributions and leadership of Dan Bogojevich. Now that Jim Brusek has been named the new President, it's important to recognize that this Foundation was built on Dan's leadership and guidance. We thank him for his hard work and dedication we know, and are thankful he'll still be involved

Speaking of the website, we've been busy gathering to discuss how to better broadcast the news, updates, and events concerning our mission. We formed a new website committee and are happy to welcome Dan Fleming and

Budd Webster to the group to brainstorm and construct a streamlined and more user-friendly web presence. If you've seen the new Post 42 site and the pictures from the 2025 golf outing, you know we are in for a bright, new look. Stay tuned for updates and please help us thank Dan and Budd for their contributions.

Included in this issue of the Shrapnel is information on our annual Bocce Ball Tournament in Elmwood Park. If you've been there before, you know it's a great opportunity to experience some spirited competition, good food, and a fun way to raise money for some good cause. Please consider attending as an individual or team. It would be great to see a wider Post 42 presence at this year's event.

On behalf of the Post 42 Charitable Foundation, we wish you a safe and happy Fall season and look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Sincerely,
Chris Mitchell
Post 42 Charitable Foundation
Trustee/Historian

**GIFT AND ESTATE PLANNING FOR POST
42 AND THE FUTURE**

Have considered leaving a bequest to Post 42 as part of your estate plan? A gift or bequest to Post 42 can have fantastic long-term benefits to veterans, service personnel and our community.

There are so many activities and programs your Post 42 gift or bequest would support: helping veterans, visiting the sick, raising funds for the "Gifts to the Yanks" Program, sending parcels to our troops overseas, supporting Scouting in Evanston, helping to repair housing for needy homeowners, helping the community to remember its veterans through public ceremonies and public speaking, supporting Legion Programs and sponsoring Little League and American Legion Baseball. When we have large capital investment issues like boiler replacement, we would have resources to draw on.

We have also created a 501(c)3 Charitable Foundation to be able to accept donations that are 100% tax deductible. This new Foundation will allow us to support veterans that need assistance as well as other organizations that provide similar support. We just completed our 1st annual charity golf outing that was an outstanding success to start off the foundation.

If you are interested, please contact your Attorney, and ask him to include us in your planning through a gift, will or codicil. You can also contact us for more information by e-mailing us at evanstonp42@gmail.com, by calling the Post Commander who is listed toward the end of this newsletter or going to our web site www.evanstonpost42.com and following the links to donate.

Clubroom News



Greetings from the Clubroom,

For those that I haven't yet met my name is Phil Cocco. As for my background I have been in the hospitality business for more than 40 years running country inns, hotels, fine dining restaurants, night clubs, bakeries and marinas mostly in New England. I've been in the Chicago area for about 10 years, 8 of them as GM of Farmhouse restaurant in downtown Evanston and now currently as GM of EvaDeans Bakery and Café in downtown Wilmette.

I am very excited to take on the club manager responsibilities. Sean Foreman left the club in great shape and I hope to build on what he established. You all should be very thankful for what he achieved. Most importantly, profitability.

A few updates:

- Gaming check for August. \$15.57
- We have signed a contract with Coca Cola and we will be replacing all Pepsi products on Oct 21st.
- We have created a new Instagram site dedicated to events. @post42bar_events
- In partnership with EvaDeans we have created a food menu available for all functions. EvaDeans will give 15% of sales back to the Legion
- We have begun listing all concerts on local event listing sites. And the TV schedule is up to date
- We are considering moving the TV schedule to the main bar for more exposure
- We have begun adding our function room to event sites and are considering joining the North Shore Convention bureau for greater exposure (\$300/yr.). We will be able to list events as well.

Member Lists

The Goal is to get Booster memberships. Both new and renewals. Too many people say they are Booster members and haven't paid for years. We have collected various member lists and I have sorted what I have. It's been brought to my attention that if you paid on the national site you might not show up on our current lists. Our goal is to have a complete list. Who does the booster list? I think this is where we have most opportunity.

Foodie Monday is Back — Every Monday Night at 5:30pm – Starting October 13th

Come and join us for dinner! The food is free for members, but donations are greatly appreciated. If you're looking for a fresh way to contribute to the Post, we are always looking for volunteers to cook and clean on Monday nights.

If you are interested in cooking, here's how to get involved:

- Sign up via the poster located in the bar—select an open date, and what you would like to cook

- Make whatever you want! The only requirement is that there is enough for 20-30 people

- Use the Post's kitchen to prepare the meal, or cook at home and use our kitchen to heat it up

- The Post will reimburse \$100 for groceries and supplies

- Socialize with the grateful members enjoying the fruits of your labor!

If you are not interested in cooking but would still like to help out, you can also volunteer to help with cleanup after the meal.

Thumpin' Thursdays — Every Second Thursday, 8PM

Our house band—The Canal Jumpers—hosts their monthly concert after the SAL meeting concludes. Great guys, great tunes, great night!

Last Call Wednesdays — Every Last Wednesday of the month, 7pm

On the last Wednesday of every month we'll be hosting free concerts upstairs. Come have some unexpected fun on a Wednesday! Check out our calendar for official dates and band details.

I look forward to seeing you all at the bar!

-Phil

POST 42 DATES TO REMEMBER 2025
PLEASE NOTE REVISED MEETING TIMES!

2025

October 2	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
October 2	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
October 2	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
October 9	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
October 13	US Navy Birthday
October 15	7th District Meeting, 7:30 (George W. Benjamin Post 791)
October 23	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM

November 2	Daylight Savings Time – Move clocks back 1 hour
November 5	1st District Meeting 7:30 PM (Franklin Park Post 974)
November 6	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
November 6	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
November 8	Bocce Ball Tournament in Elmwood Park 11AM
November 10	US Marine Corps Birthday
November 11	Veteran's Day
November 13	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
November 13	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
November 15	SAL Pancake Breakfast
November 19	7th District Meeting, 7:30 PM (Morton Grove Post 134)
November 20	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
November 27	Thanksgiving

December 4	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
December 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 11	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
December 11	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
December 15	Post 42 Holiday Party (Time TBA)
December 18	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Year's Eve

2026

January 1	New Year's Day
January 8	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
January 8	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
January 15	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
January 15	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
January 21	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM (Morton Grove Post 134)
January 29	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM

February 4	1st District Meeting 7:30 PM (Morton Grove Post 134)
February 5	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
February 5	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food Afterword)
February 8	Post 42 Super Bowl LIX Party (Time TBA)
February 12	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
February 12	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
February 18	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM (Hellenic Post 343)
February 26	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
March 5	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
March 5	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 8	Daylight Savings Time Starts – Set Clocks Ahead 1 Hour
March 12	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
March 12	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
March 15	St. Patrick’s Day Corned Beef Dinner and Richard Huck Award Dinner Cocktails at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM
March 18	7th District Meeting 7:00 PM (Joseph M. Sesterhenn Post 166)
March 26	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
April 1	1st District Meeting 7:30PM (Cicero Post 96)
April 2	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
April 2	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)
April 9	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
April 9	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
April 15	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM (Evanston Post 42)
April 23	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 7	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
May 7	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting – Food afterward)
May 14	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
May 14	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM
May 18	Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3PM
May 19-27	Poppy Day Collection
May 20	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM (Morton Grove Post 134)
May 21	Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM
May 23	Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9:00 AM
May 25	Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM Fountain Square 10:30 AM Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post
June 4	Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM
June 4	General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward) Post Election of Officers
June 6	1st Division Meeting TIME TBD (Evergreen Park Post 854)
June 7-13	Boys State Eastern Illinois University
June 11	SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM
June 11	SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM

June 11	Charitable Foundation Golf Outing
June 14	US Army Birthday
June 14	Flag Day
June 14-20	Girls State Eastern Illinois University
June 17	7th District Meeting 7:30 PM (Lincolnwood Post 1226)
June 21-27	Junior State Police Training
June 25	Board Meeting 7:30 PM

Note: Some Dates are subject to change

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2025 Legion Year Officers - Post 42

Commander	Christine Candelario	773-425-1133
Senior Vice-Commander	Michael Carder	708-990-3489
Junior Vice-Commander	Mike Wojciechowski	708-296-6688
Adjutant	Peter Koerner	260-318-1408
Finance Officer	James Farley	720-244-7241
Service Officer	Joe Jefferson	
Sergeant at Arms	Will Candelario	847-529-0137
Chaplain	Greg Wilson	
Judge Advocate	Greg Lisinski	847-309-8074
Post Historian	Michael Carder	708-990-3489
Past Commander	Will Candelario	847-529-0137
SAL Commander	David Madison	312-953-6260

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ian Darbyshire
 Larry Pahlke
 James Sullivan
 Neil Franke
 Director Emeritus Adam Kwiecinski

Newsletter Editor: Peter Koerner

Contributions are always welcome. Contact Peter Koerner (260) 318-1408 or by e-mail at pkoerner@gmail.com



THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 42
— *present* —

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The Annual Pancake Breakfast benefits Evanston's local charities. Since the inaugural breakfast, we have donated over \$60,000 to charities.



WHEN: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15TH, 2025

WHEN: 7AM-12PM

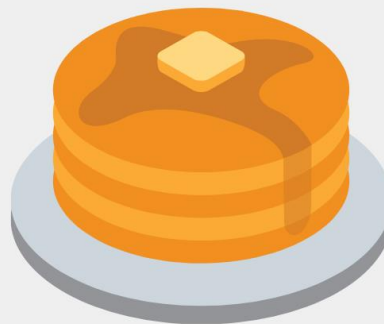
COST: \$9/PERSON AT THE DOOR

**ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, VETERANS, FIRST RESPONDERS
AND CHILDREN 8 AND UNDER
ARE FREE**



50/50 Raffle to benefit Local Veterans & Families

\$5 for 1 ticket, \$25 for 6 tickets, \$50 for 13 tickets



OLD FASHIONED BREAKFAST:

PANCAKES, EGGS, SAUSAGE, JUICE, MILK, COFFEE

FOR MORE INFO: EVANSTONPOST42.COM/EVENTS/PANCAKE-BREAKFAST

Boccein' for the Red, White & Blue



What: Bocce' Tournament Supporting First Responders and Veterans

When: Sunday November 9, 2025 } 11am Check-in / 12pm Event Start

Where: Elmwood Park CRC } 4 Conti Parkway, Elmwood Park
To register for the event call Gina Pesko at 708-452-3924

Bocce' Tournament

To show our support for First Responders and U.S. Military Veterans we are hosting a "Bocce" Tournament. The tournament is a Single Elimination format. Each match consists of one game to a score of fifteen. The entry fee to play is \$50.00 per person. There will be three cash prizes, (1st, 2nd, & 3rd place prize determined by entry sales). \$100.00 Sponsorships are available and will be displayed at the event. A \$50 per ticket cash prize raffle, (1st prize \$2500, 2nd \$1500, 3rd \$1000), is also available with the winners announced at the event. All of the funds raised will be donated to the 100 Club of Illinois to support families of First Responders killed in the line of duty and Military Veteran Support Services.

Please make checks payable to: "Post 42 Charitable Foundation"

c/o LTC (Ret.) Dan Bogojevich 42 Woodside Drive, Oak Brook, IL 60523





2025 CHICAGO WINTER STANDDOWN

Food, *services*, and giveaways for veterans who are homeless, housing insecure, or in-need.

Bring Veteran ID or DD-214 for Registration

For questions, please call

(312) 569-5750 or (312) 569-8288

1551 N. KEDZIE AVE

CHICAGO, IL 60651

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH

8:30 AM- 2 PM

Illinois National Guard Northwest Armory

More information: www.chicagostanddown.org