



**April 2025**

## **Commander**



**Christine Candelario**

## **Commander's Corner**

Dear Post 42 Members,

Welcome to Spring and new beginnings!!

Post 42 is moving more into the 21st century with a new website. Check it out! Thanks to Budd Webster and Jim Farley for their hard work. We are moving forward with adding video gaming. All the required paperwork has been submitted to the Illinois Gaming Board. Now we wait for approval.

With Spring upon us please join Jim Farley and his crew with the post' Spring

cleanup, Saturday, April 5 at 0800. Whatever amount of time you can give will be appreciated. It's everyone's post not just for a select few.

May 3rd will be the 7th District Kentucky Derby Party at Post 42. Keep your eyes open for a flyer.

Memorial Day is closing in fast. Volunteers will be needed for Poppy donation collection the week before. Volunteers will be needed to mark veterans' graves with flags on Saturday, May 24. On May 26 Post 42 will be at Memorial Park Cemetery at 0800 followed by the downtown Evanston Ceremony at 1030. Please try to attend these ceremonies as we remember our fallen comrades. Please see the post website for more details.

Now is also time to start thinking about Post Elections. Nominations for Commander, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Directors for the Board. We also need a new Service Officer. Steve Capiz needed to step down due to personal reasons.

Last but not least Congratulations to Joe Jefferson this year's Huck Award winner.

Veterans Strengthening America,  
Commander Christine

## SAL Commander



**David Madison**

From Your SAL Commander:

As we get into the last quarter of the 2025 membership year, we are still looking for dues.

We voted to renew ALL 2024 members and have sent Detachment the \$13 we owe for each member. We now have a few months to collect about 160 outstanding dues for our membership -- \$27 per each member. I kindly request that you submit your 2025 dues ASAP using one of the methods listed below -- and I strongly encourage you utilize the new website approach, as this will also help us stay in better contact with each of you.

We will be hosting our 3rd Annual Music Fest on July 12th, 2025 -- stay tuned for details and volunteering opportunities!

As always:

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>

For submitting Dues, here are our preferred methods:

Via the website: [www.evanstonpost42.com](http://www.evanstonpost42.com)

Via a Zelle Payment to:

[cdr@post42sal.org](mailto:cdr@post42sal.org)

In the memo section of either your check or Zelle payment, please put "SAL 2025 Dues" and your member number (if you have it handy).

Via USPS Mail: Check (please DO NOT send CASH)

SAL Squadron 42  
1030 Central Avenue  
Evanston, IL

Sincerely,  
David Madison  
Commander, SAL Squadron 42



**Mike (Wojo) Wojciechowski  
Jr. Vice Commander**

**The Santa Clause**  
Poppy Day and Flanders Field  
By  
Michael L. Wojciechowski

During World War I, in the year of 1915, there was an exceptionally horrific battle known as the Second Battle of Ypres, Belgium. During this battle, the use of poison gas by the German Army devastated the Allied troops. Dr. John McCrae, who was part of the Canadian Field Artillery Unit, had a friend, Alexis Helmer who

was part of the 18,000 Canadians that were killed in that battle. During Helmers burial service, McCrae wrote the first few lines of the poem Flanders Fields.

The poppies are a reminder of the valiant servicemen that paid the ultimate sacrifice, defending their country during that 6 long week battle. Even in this day and age, visitors continue to pay homage to Flanders Field and the troops buried there.

On May 24th, you will see volunteers, out in front of stores, out in the streets, or on street corners, asking for donations. Those kind people will receive a poppy. I put mine on my rear view mirror in my vehicle. I've seen them on hats, coat lapels, purses and even on lunch boxes. Despite that it was over 100 years ago, we continue to honor those fallen troops.

Members of the American Legion and the VFW are vigilant in helping collect donations commemorating the date in military history. These donations help support veterans and some of the programs that they are affiliated with. 100% of the donations go directly to veterans.

### **In Flanders Fields**

In Flanders fields, the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*-Lt. Col. John McCrae*

## **MEMORIAL DAY**

By  
Michael I. Wojciechowski

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It started being celebrated after the Civil War to commemorate those honorable warriors that paid the ultimate sacrifice while in battle. It became a federal holiday in 1971. The American Legion and the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars), help coordinate with veterans, volunteers, and Scouts, to honor all veterans. Placing American flags on graves of all veterans: especially the brave men and women who gave their lives for their country. There are ceremonies and services that help living veterans, the families of veterans, civilians, and the communities that they lived in, to remind everyone that we need to pay homage to these brave souls. Their memory lives on as an inspiration to civilians, families, and neighbors, both before and after the wars that they fought in.

As a veteran, I understand the history of the American Military and the number of sacrifices we make. At best, it would only be our youth that we sacrificed. But when we took the oath of office, we gave to the government a blank check. Hoping that they never have to cash that check and paying the ultimate sacrifice. Many civilians don't understand that the oath of enlistment really has no expiration because we are true patriots, willing to shed our blood for our country, family, and its citizens.

Lest we forget the price that these valiant warriors paid to protect our country, their families and their brothers and sisters in battle.

**MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE FOR A  
JOB WELL DONE**

## Meet our New Chaplain



**Chaplain Greg Wilson**

Past Post Commander Greg Wilson has assumed duties as the Post Chaplain. Please welcome him as he continues to serve our Post in new ways!

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



Happy Spring from the Post 42 Charitable Foundation. We've been hard at work preparing for our annual golf outing and want to remind everyone that it'll be here in a few short months. This year it is Thursday, June 12, 2025, and we return to Bloomingdale Illinois. We have a 9:00am start for registration followed by a Super-Putt contest and a 10:00am shotgun start. Please plan on golfing, volunteering or even promoting this event. The Bloomingdale Golf Club is a fantastic course and has been very supportive of the Foundation and our cause. Check out the events page on our website, download the flyer <https://post42cf.org/events> and check out the pictures from last year's outing. You'll also see

pictures from our Bocce Tournament (another hugely successful, annual, fundraiser for the Foundation).

We are always looking for ways to support the veteran community. We recently added a page on our site that allows anyone to nominate a person or organization. If you know of a worthy recipient, go to <https://post42cf.org/propose-a-recipient-1> and provide as many details as you can. The Foundation board meets monthly and can address these requests in a timely manner.

With these topics in mind, the Post 42 Charitable Foundation needs to align its current growth with our board. We need your support. It has become necessary that we consider the addition of new board members. If you would like to serve, or know someone who may be interested, please contact the foundation via our "Contact Us" link at <https://post42cf.org/contact>. You can also feel free to reach out to any current board member for more information on responsibilities, commitment, mission and goals.

Thank you for helping support the American Veteran and the entire veteran community.

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.evanstonpost42.com) and following the links to donate.

## **Post 42 Launches a New Website – Visit [evanstonpost42.com](http://evanstonpost42.com)!**

Great news for Post 42 members, supporters, and the Evanston community: American Legion Post 42 has unveiled a brand-new website at [www.evanstonpost42.com](http://www.evanstonpost42.com)! Designed to boost engagement and showcase what we're all about, this updated site is a fresh, modern hub for

everything Post 42. Whether you're a longtime member or just curious about our work, it's the perfect place to stay connected and informed.

### **A Modern Design with Purpose**

The first thing you'll notice is the sleek new look—clean, contemporary, and built to reflect the pride of Post 42. It's more than just a pretty face, though; the site's improved design makes it easy to explore and highlights our commitment to veterans, youth, and the community at large.

### **Membership and Events, Simplified**

Good news for members: you can now purchase or renew your membership online with just a few clicks—no paperwork hassles required. Planning to join us for an event? Registration is right at your fingertips, whether it's a dinner, a volunteer event, or a special gathering. It's a convenience that keeps you in the loop.

### **A Calendar That Keeps You Posted**

Our updated calendar is a standout feature, complete with a new “At-a-Glance” view. Check out what's coming up—think concerts, meetings, social nights, or the annual Post 42 Family Appreciation Day Picnic—all in one quick look. It's always current, so you'll never miss a beat.

### **Blogs, Media, and a Way to Chat**

There's more to explore, too. Our media pages feature The Shrapnel Newsletter and a new “Wojo's Dispatch” section with musings from our Jr. Vice. And we even added a blog and a chat function—have a question or just want to say hello? Drop us a line!

### **Your One-Stop Post 42 Connection**

The new [evanstonpost42.com](http://evanstonpost42.com) is more than a website—it's your go-to resource for all things Post 42. It's built to serve members, welcome supporters, and introduce our 103-year legacy to the broader Evanston area. From staying informed to getting involved, this site has it all.

### **Stop By and See for Yourself**

Take a moment to visit [evanstonpost42.com](http://evanstonpost42.com) and explore what's new. Sign up for an event, browse the latest updates, or simply enjoy the refreshed look of Post 42 online. We're excited to share this upgrade with you—it's the best way to stay tied to our mission and community. See you there!



## CLUBROOM NEWS



### ***Upstairs Bar at Post 42 - “Building Community While Serving Veterans”***

Greetings from the bar! It’s been a quiet start to the year, but things are beginning to heat up—both literally and figuratively. With the weather improving, and the golf course on the verge of fully reopening, we’re looking forward to welcoming more people up to the Post.

Here are a few highlights coming up that we hope you’ll be able to join us for:

#### **Foodie Monday — Every Monday Night at 5:30pm**

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, 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.

#### **Post 42/Lumberjacks Concert Fundraiser — May 1st, 7:30pm**

JB Vannatta & The Midnight Thieves are going to be putting on a raucous fundraiser concert, benefiting Post 42 and the Canal Shores Lumberjacks—you won’t want to miss it! Tickets are available through the link on our website calendar ([www.evanstonpost42.com](http://www.evanstonpost42.com)), as well as the band’s Facebook page.

#### **Post 42 Kentucky Derby Party — May 3rd, 2-7pm**

Put on a big hat or a seersucker suit and come watch the ponies run! This event is a fundraiser for the 7th District.

Sincerely,  
Sean Foreman  
[ClubManagerP42@gmail.com](mailto:ClubManagerP42@gmail.com)



## Poppy Update

From the Poppy Team Memorial Day 2025

Much thanks to all previous workers. Please support us once again this year. We also welcome and encourage any members of the Legion or SAL to participate in this year's National Poppy Day.



This year we will need extra help from Post Members as our Service Officer Position is currently vacant. If you would like to volunteer please contact Peter Koerner at [pkoerner@gmail.com](mailto:pkoerner@gmail.com) or 260-318-1408.

## Huck Award Winner

**Congratulations to Joe Jefferson the 2025 Huck Award Winner!**



Joe Jefferson uncovers his name on the Huck Honoree Plaque, March 16, 2025. Jefferson was recognized for his years of service to the Post. (photo by: Christine Candelario)



Commander Christine Candelario presents Joe Jefferson with the 2025 Huck Award March 16, 2025.





Joe Jefferson poses with family after receiving the Huck Award March 16, 2025. (Photo by Christine Candelario)



Joe Jefferson (center left) poses for photos after receiving the Huck Award March 16, 2025. (Photo by Christine Candelario)



Post 42 Members prepare food for the Huck Award Dinner March 16, 2025. (Photo by Christine Candelario)



Group photo after Huck Award Dinner March 16, 2025.



## Post Recognizes Civil Air Patrol for contributions to Post 42

Post 42 recognized Captain Bill Kolsa of the Civil Air Patrol for his Squadron's contributions to projects at the Post. Recently the Civil Air Patrol worked to clean up and gravel our outdoor storage area.



Captain Kolsa receives his award from Commander Christine Candelario April 3, 2025. (Photo by Greg Wilson)

### Resources for Veterans

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

**Discover VA benefits and resources**  
PHONE: 1-800-MyVA411 (698-2411)  
WEBSITE: [va.gov](https://va.gov)

**Crisis support for Veterans, their friends, and families**  
PHONE: Dial 988 then Press 1  
CHAT: [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)  
TEXT: 838255

**Stories of strength and recovery for Veterans and their families**  
WEBSITE: [MakeTheConnection.net](https://MakeTheConnection.net)

**Counseling, peer support, and other resources at community offices**  
PHONE: 1-877-WAR-VETS (927-8387)  
WEBSITE: [www.vetcenter.va.gov](https://www.vetcenter.va.gov)

**Help for Veterans and their families to find and keep safe, stable housing**  
PHONE: 1-877-4AID-VET (424-3838)  
WEBSITE: [va.gov/homeless](https://va.gov/homeless)

### Free Health and Wellness Mobile Apps

**Live Whole Health**  
Learn skills to help you reach your whole health goals

**Mindfulness Coach**  
Reduce stress or anxiety, manage pain

**PTSD Coach**  
Monitor and manage PTSD-related symptoms

**Virtual Hope Box**  
Manage stressors with personalized support tools

**CBT-i Coach**  
Improve sleep quality and duration

**Annie App for Veterans**  
Receive text reminders to help you manage your care  
*(Note: This is only available via VA Mobile.)*

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

**2025**

<b>April 3</b>	<b>Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM</b>
<b>April 3</b>	<b>General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward)</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM</b>
<b>April 10</b>	<b>SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>7th District Meeting, Post 42 Evanston 7:30 PM</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Post Everlasting – Food afterward)</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM</b>
<b>May 19</b>	<b>Poppy Day Can pick-up, after 3PM</b>
<b>May 19-27</b>	<b>Poppy Day Collection</b>
<b>May 21</b>	<b>7th District Meeting, Morton Grove Post 134 @ 7:30 PM</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Post 42 Board Meeting 7:30 PM</b>
<b>May 24</b>	<b>Grave Decoration Day Memorial Park, meet at East lot, 9:00 AM</b>
<b>May 26</b>	<b>Memorial Day Ceremonies Memorial Park (East Lot) 8:00 AM Fountain Square 10:30 AM Refreshments served after ceremonies at the post</b>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>Post 42 Charitable Foundation Meeting 6:00 PM</b>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>General Business Meeting 7:30 PM (Food afterward) Post Election of Officers</b>
<b>June 7-13</b>	<b>Boys State Eastern Illinois University</b>
<b>TBA</b>	<b>1st Division “Mini-Convention” Location TBA</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>SAL Board Meeting 7:00 PM</b>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>SAL Business Meeting 7:30 PM</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>US Army Birthday</b>
<b>June 14</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>
<b>June 14-20</b>	<b>Girls State Eastern Illinois University</b>
<b>June 18</b>	<b>7th District Meeting, Lincolnwood Post 1226 7:30 PM</b>
<b>June 21-27</b>	<b>Junior State Police Training</b>
<b>June 26</b>	<b>Board Meeting 7:30 PM</b>

**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	Vacant	
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  
Director Emeritus Adam Kwieciwski

Newsletter Editor: Peter Koerner

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