



CARL A. JOHNSON POST #2

1971 E. Beltline NE 106 #213, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
401 North Park St., Grand Rapids, MI. 49525

William Palczewski, Adjutant David Thrasher, Commander

MARCH 2018 BITS AND PIECES

Post meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.at
401 North Park St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525
All members are encouraged to attend.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAR. 7	Home Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
MAR. 10	Breakfast @ Club (Open to Public)	8a.m.- 11am
MAR. 14	Legion Birthday Potluck & Post Meeting	6pm & 7:30P
MAR. 18	Roast Beef Dinner @ Club	12pm -
MAR. 27	Post E-Board Meeting	7:00p.m.
MAR. 27	United Veterans Council @ Post 154	7:00 p.m.
MAR 28	Easter Bunny – Lincoln School	9:30 a.m.
MAR. 28	Bar Board	7:00 p.m.



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

For March's Legion Birthday we will be having a Potluck prior to the meeting. The Post is proving Ham and all members are asked to bring a dish to pass and the Auxiliary cake and deserts.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sorry to report no new members in February 2018.

Auxiliary News

Our membership is currently at 61, against a goal of 68. If you have not paid your 2018 and have received your second notice from National, please consider renewing. Due to an increase in dues by National for 2019, our Unit dues will be \$25.00 and Juniors at \$6.00. This is an increase of \$5.00 for Seniors and \$1.00 for Juniors. Remember, a portion of your dues goes to help our veterans.

Our March **14 Meeting will be a joint potluck dinner**, celebrating the Legion's 99th Birthday. We would love to have you join us. Bring a dish to pass. The Post is providing ham and the Auxiliary will have a birthday cake. Our 5th

District President Missy Townes has been invited to join us so let's have a good turnout.

The Easter Bunny will again be delivering Easter Baskets to Lincoln Developmental School on Wednesday, **March 28** at 9:30 a.m. This has been a Post project for 60+ years. If you would like to help out, please join us. It is a very rewarding experience. We will also need help filling the baskets on **March 24**, 2018 at 10 am at the Boat and Canoe. If you have any questions, please contact Pam at 452-6311 or p.mcveigh@comcast.net.

Did You Know?

We have members working with Veterans in need, people at the Veterans Home, some working at the Boat and Canoe, the Boy Scouts, working on projects "startup of a West Michigan Veterans Ranch, and there are other activities as in March we have our Annual Bunny visit at Lincoln School where the bunny will visit the children and leave a small arrangement of candy for each. You do have an active Post.

The Boat and Canoe is always a work in progress, as in any business and I would like your input to pass on, reference the Club's operation and

services. You have Post members that attend Club meetings and at the last Home Board Meeting the subject “usage of the Bavarian Room” was mentioned. We want to take a look at the usage, rules and cost to use the space. What changes to the space that may make it a better space. It seems that the space could be used more often and in turn increase the Club’s income. The Club is our home and base of operations and important to all. Contact Don or any Board Member.

More to think about and plan

Not on the calendar above but 17 March is St. Patrick’s Day and interesting we have National K-9 Veterans Day on the 13th. It was agreed to on March 13, 1942. **April** we have Post Executive Board nominations. One of our fund raisers is scheduled **13-15 April**, Texas Holdem at the Lincoln County Club and there is a need for volunteers to take part. Easy work and it can be fun and always interesting. We also are scheduled to **work any dances scheduled for the month of April**. Again, the work is easy but sometimes it is difficult to get three members to take part. Now **May** is a very active month with Parades, setting of the Stars and Strips flag on our heroes that lay at Restlawn Cemetery. The Region Memorial Banquet normally held by our sister unit in Cedar Springs. Poppy Days (fund raiser) is in May. It is a joy to interact with the young people reference the Poppy and many of our Veterans or their family member will stop and tell their story. Let Don 616-802-0806 fgrampadon@gmail.com know if you wish to work this event. Also in May, our Post Executive Board election will be held during the monthly meeting. Fun Fun Fun ☺

TAPS

None reported for the month of February 2018.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- Carlos Castillo Mar 3
- Ken Gatchel Mar 4
- Leonard Deyman Mar 9
- Steven Wicking Mar 12
- Ronald Easley Mar 13
- Thomas Fitzgerald Mar 17
- Allen Watts Mar 24
- Richard Osborn Mar 25
- P.C. Dean Decanter Mar 31



- Navy Reserve Birthday Mar 3
- Seabee Birthday Mar 5

Adjutants Corner

The latest Post information can be found online at:
 Post Web page: www.alpost2.org
 Facebook: American Legion Post 2 Grand Rapids Mi.
 Mylegion.org
 myLegion.org is a **FREE** website designed to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership,

My Legion Members - allows members to view information on file at National Headquarters, view messages and events published through the department and post myLegion sites, and network with other myLegion members using networking tools. Our newsletter is also posted to this site.

To create your personal account go to mylegion.org

The American Legion and our Post are celebrating our 99th Birthday this year, the Legion this month and the Post in June when we were chartered by Congress. We and the Legion are already making plans for next years 100th Birthday. The U.S. Mint will soon be minting a coin and many Posts, Districts, State Departments and National will also be minting Challenge coins.

Membership

New membership and renews have stalled. Let’s get out there and recruit new members and grow our Post. If you have not renewed for 2018 PLEASE do so soon!

The Thirteen Folds of the U.S. FLAG

By Ron Tranmer

The flag that drapes a casket is handled with respect,
 as it's folded for a loved one left behind.
 In case you don't recall, there are thirteen folds in all
 and the meaning of each one is here defined.

The **First** represents the symbol of all life.
 The **Second** stands for life eternally.
 The **Third** fold is in honor of all veterans who have died
 in the fight for the right to keep us free.

Four reminds us of the weaker nature of mankind,
 and our trust in God's pure guidance from above.
Five serves as a tribute to the country we call home.
 America ... The land we dearly love.

Six. A symbol of our hearts, for it is there we pledge,
allegiance to our flag as we stand tall.
A nation under God, and through Him indivisible,
with liberty and justice for us all.

The **Seventh** for armed forces. Each and every branch,
who protect our country from the enemy.
On ocean, ground, or in the sky ... victory will be our cry
and the stars and stripes will wave from sea to sea.

Fold **Eight** is in honor of the mothers of our land.
Those living, as well as those who've died.
They are the reason why, our nation's flag will fly every Mother's day, to show our love and pride.

Fold **Nine** is much like eight, as it honors womanhood
and the faith in our land they resonate.
With devotion, they have molded the character of men
and women who have made our country great.

Ten is for all fathers, who have lost sons and daughters
and yet, with pride, hold their heads up high.
Freedom's price to them is clearer. Our flag even dearer,
and it's presence makes the strongest of them cry.

The **Eleventh** fold is for our right to worship as we please,
and praise God for the freedom of this land.
The **Twelfth** is for the hope that we will worthy be,
to continue to be guided by His hand.

Thirteen. The final fold before inspection of the flag,
to insure that it's been folded properly.
Then, with a salute, a veteran's paid tribute
as the flag's presented to the family.

Texas Holdem

Our Texas Holdem Date for 2018 are:
April 13-15 @ Lincoln CC
May 4-6 @ Lincoln CC
June 22-24 @ Lincoln CC
July 2-4 @ Eastbrook
Workers are needed for all events, contact Bill Brinkman
616-866-0093.

GRAPEVINE

Flags: Replacement flags for outside are soon to be purchased and a set of Military Branch flags are also projected to be purchased for the interior of the Boat and Canoe.

Need work: DK Security (dksecurity.com) is looking for some good Veterans to fill positions at the Gerald R. Ford airport as they improve the runways. The openings are considered temp but should be at least two years. Spread the word and apply.

Veterans Home Project here and in Detroit; things are still happening but MONEY is dragging. More about this is to be printed in our United Veterans Council of Kent County News Letter.

Tigers Opening Day Party at the Boat & Canoe, 29 March; \$6. Buffet, Raffle for Easter Baskets (each with a ham), Burger Night is April 6. ☺

<p>Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Don Fletcher, Editor. Requests must be received by the 15th to be in the current</p>
