

**The American Legion Morton
Grove
Post 134
6144 Dempster
Morton Grove, IL 60053
(847) 965-9503
www.mortongrovepost134.org**

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



September / October 2019 Vol. 2

Post 134 is proud to be the largest in Post Membership in the State of Illinois



Commanders Message

Nora Gunning (773) 633-0140 noragunning@yahoo.com

It was a humbling experience to run our Post meeting for the first time in July. It was an awesome meeting, and our members had wonderful ideas. Please stop by to see all that our Post is working on and bringing into place. All veterans are welcome and encouraged to participate. Post 134 is truly a wonderful place, and I can't wait to see you, your guests, and new members next month.

Please join us for our joint installation on September 13th. It will be a fantastic event filled with good food, great entertainment, and your Post family members.

Thank you,
Nora Gunning

Auxiliary Message

Sharon Martin (847) 967-1875 mumoo5@att.net

I hope you are enjoying your summer. Our first meeting will be September 10th at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! Dues are due for next year, so be sure to send them in if you haven't. We will again be going to Jessie Brown Veterans Hospital to play Bingo with the Veterans. This happens on the 3rd Thursday of the month, so let Donna know if you can help out.

Sons of the American Legion

Jerry Coursey (847) 977-2662

The SAL had a great time grilling for our Annual Legion Family Picnic, and we are looking forward to our Chili Cooking Fest & Membership Drive this year. We will keep you posted on the dates for our upcoming events!



**A Letter to the American Legion Family from
Thanksgiving Day Committee Chairman
Casey Bachara:**

I know it's early to be thinking of Thanksgiving, but with the newsletter being bimonthly, I wanted reach out to you earlier rather than later.

On Thanksgiving Day, November 28th, 2019, Post 134 will be sponsoring their 13th Thanksgiving Day Dinner for the Navy recruits. Each year our Post betters itself from the previous year. The event usually starts anywhere after 8 a.m. and continues until 4:30 p.m.

Anyone who wishes to stop and greet the recruits is welcome. Also, anyone wishing to bake/donate something for the sweet table is greatly appreciated.

If you wish to make a monetary donation toward this worthy event, please make checks payable to:

Sailor Fund
American Legion Post 134
Attn: Casey Bachara
6144 Dempster St.
Morton Grove, Il. 60053

We take pride in entertaining, and supporting our troops each year. Help us continue this memorable tradition for all.

If you have any questions call:
Casey Bachara (847) 299-3613
Joe Gesicki (847) 966-4889

Thank You

American Legion Riders

George Vail (847)287-7414 gvail@yahoo.com
Legion Family,

Currently several of our Riders are participating in the 14th Annual Legacy Run. This year's 5-day ride began on Sunday, August 18th, departing from Post 347 in Lady Lake, Florida and will arrive at Wayne Post 64 in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 22nd. Our Legion Riders will be donating \$3,500.00 on behalf Legion 134 to the American Legion's Scholarship Fund. \$2,500.00 of this money was donated by AMVETS, and \$1,000.00 was donated by a friend of the Legion Riders (TBA).

On July 27th, Rider Andy Haszlakiewicz arranged a ride to Pierogi Fest in Whiting, Indiana. Andy called Whiting Post 80 to let them know we were coming, and they treated the Riders like family!

On August 24th, there will be a ride heading to Knuckleheads in Eagle, Wisconsin.

We welcome and encourage new members, and if you would like to be a Legion Rider, you must:

1. Be a member of the Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion in good standing.
2. Own a 350cc or larger motorcycle.
3. Be licensed to operate a motorcycle in the State of Illinois and have current insurance coverage.

If you meet these criteria, come be a member of the Legion Riders Chapter of Post 134! Feel free to call me with any questions!

Our Riders Meeting are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm. The meeting will be held in the Club 134 Bar.



**The Queen was found on
8/13 under card #8, the Pot
reached \$10,400! Here we
go again! See you on
Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.!**

Club 134 Information

**Effective September 1st,
Domestic and Import Beer will increase by .50 cents**

Gone but not Forgotten

"Tommy" Williams, 96 WWII Navy Veteran, Merchant Marine gunner, and longtime Legionnaire entered Post Everlasting on August 5th, 2019.

Legionnaire John Maloney sent us this email when he was informed of his passing, with his permission we are sharing:

"Over the years I got to know Tommy, and he told me a little about his wartime service.

Tommy was part of the US Navy's NAVAL ARMED GUARD.

NAVAL ARMED GUARD personnel were assigned to sail on civilian/merchant marine ships in convoys to Europe and Russia. Tommy's main job was as a signalman using Morse code on the ship's radios, as well as, by using wig-wag signal flags and/or signal lights between ships. Tommy probably was assigned an ancillary duty as a gunner but he never mentioned it to me.

During our talks, Tommy was concerned that very few people knew what the NAVAL ARMED GUARD was all about and mistook them as members of the MERCHANT MARINE.

I did some online research and found a lot of info about the NAVAL ARMED GUARD. I brought Tommy to my home and showed him what I'd found. He was delighted and saw pictures of places where he'd been billeted in New York City, while he waited being assigned to his next merchant convoy.

As was/is the case with many WWII vets, Tommy never talked to me about the details of any of the convoys he sailed on. I don't know how many convoys Tommy sailed on, but know he often wore a T-shirt with the names of many of the ships he sailed during the war."



MEETING MINUTES June 20th, 2019

Opening The regular meeting of Post 134 was called to order at 1930 hours by Cmdr. Bill Peterson.

Approval of Minutes Accepted as printed.

Finance Financial report accepted.

Open Issues / New Business

- Unit Cmdr. Lenny Jakubiak of Chicago's Own Young Marines, presented a plaque and a certificate of appreciation to Post 134. Jakubiak also thanked our Post for the opportunity to have "Taco Tuesdays" the resulting profit of \$500.00 benefits Chicago's Own Young Marines. Jakubiak also invited Post members to a Line Dancing Fundraiser on June 21st to be held in the Main Hall.

- We are in need of some still unfilled appointments for Officers. Please see Cmdr. Gunning if you are interested in serving & representing the Post.
- New Legion Officers are sworn in (see attached Roster).

Post Everlasting No report.

Executive Board Report, Ken Trumbull

- Membership is at 102%

Sgt-at-Arms, Ron Sheirok

- Morton Grove Days opening ceremony will be July 3rd at 6:00 pm. The rifle squad will be performing flag honors for the event.

Corporation President, Ken Trumbull

- We have yet to have an exact total for Poppy Days as monies are still coming in. It is currently estimated at \$9,311.42 (This is with the cost of Poppies, mailings, and other expenses deducted). Casey Bachara was #1 in fund collection. Congratulations, Casey! Persons who collected over \$750 will receive a shirt as a token of our appreciation.
- There is a budget meeting on July 22nd at 7:00 pm (prior to the Executive board meeting). All Chairmen and elected Officers need to be present.

Village Liaison, Joe Hedrick

- Final written report regarding the gun range has not been completed as of yet.
- ***Please make main hall reservations for 2020 as soon as possible.*** The Community Room and the Clubhouse bar have far more availability throughout the year.

Riders, Joe Lampert

- Reminding members: Riderfest has been cancelled due to a scheduling issue. A winter fundraiser will be announced in the future.
- Riders will be participating in first in-state Legacy run (a fundraiser) prior to the State Convention. Chairman Ken Trumbull donated \$1,000.00 to The Legacy Scholarship Fund on behalf of Post 134.

The Legacy Run raised \$17,009.86 for the following Legion charities: The Legacy Scholarship Fund, Operation Comfort Warrior, and Gifts to the Yanks that Gave.

Service Officer, Don Stotz

- Don Stotz expressed his gratitude for serving as Service Officer for the past 10 years as his final report.

S.A.L. Not present, no report.

Auxiliary, Sharon Martin

- Financial report was submitted.

Election results for the Auxiliary are on attached 2020 Roster.

Ray Ariaz

- A 16-24" brick in the Memorial to honor Past Commanders is being reviewed.

Unfinished/Old Business/Other

- A new member, Hal Van transferred in from a Post that had closed (Amvets 243). This new member has graciously donated \$5,000.00 "to be used as best determined by the members." We are honored to welcome a new member and appreciative of his donation.

Pot of Gold

- Peter Faraci, the 2nd Jr. Vice Cmdr., will be temporarily filling in for the Pot of Gold in the future as Don Stotz has resigned from the position.

#662 Kevin Henley, Chicago-Not Present
 #1314 No longer a member
 #707 No longer a member
 #765 Jacob Jones, Lombard-Not present
 #1368 No longer a member
 #1205 Andrew Pelos, Skokie-Not present
 #1500 Joshua Strecker, Elk Grove Village-Not present
 #58 Joe Lampert won the Silver Pot and donated it to Gifts to the Yanks that Gave.

Adjournment

- Cmdr. Bill Peterson closed his last meeting as Commander, thanking all and wishing us well.

**MEETING MINUTES
 July 25th, 2019**

The inaugural meeting of Cmdr. Gunning was called to order at 1930 hours.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes accepted as printed and distributed.

Commanders Report, Nora Gunning

- Chairs were appointed for various appointments. There are several chairperson positions available for the new year from Americanism/Scouts to Service Officer. If interested in one of these significantly important positions, please contact Cmdr. Gunning.

Rifle Squad, Joe Kowalczyk

- Current membership data has not provided by the State.
- Walmart presented the squad with a check for \$500, in appreciation for the unit posting colors for their Grand Opening.

Finance

- Financial report accepted.
- 2020 Budget carried with two votes against

Open Issues / Other Business

- PC Lampert expressed his gratitude towards the Post 134 members for their support. Our Division 1 was the #1 Division in the State!
- Cmdr. Gunning, along with Post members, will be working to create computer training classes for Post members and friends. This introduction to computers will teach basics of internet navigation, email, and social media. More to come!
- Jr. Vice Cmdr. Doug Shreffler: The Legion Family Picnic is Sunday, August 4th starting at 12:00. Please bring a side dish to share! Commanders 50/50 Raffle tickets and Queen of Hearts tickets will be available for donation.

Post Everlasting No report.

Executive Board Report, PC Ken Trumbull

- Legionnaire's for 2020 Life Membership are now being considered. If you would like to nominate a Legionnaire, please submit a resume for the candidate and contact the Post 134 for Life Membership criteria.

Corporation President, Ken Trumbull

- Poppy Days: Casey Bachara was the top fundraiser, bringing in approximately

\$2,100.00! Congratulations Casey, and thank you for your ongoing service!

- Room rentals and guidelines are available online. Clubhouse or meeting room rentals upstairs should be directed to Joe Lampert. Main Hall rentals should be directed to Village Liaison Joe Hedrick.
- The Queen of Hearts raffle pot is now at \$8,900.00 tickets are sold at the Clubhouse bar, Monday through Friday during business hours.
- New 5-year membership cards are available for \$175 (currently \$40 a year) from the Post. Current membership cards must expire in 2019 to obtain a 5-year membership card for 2020. Online access to these cards will not begin until 2020. Contact the Post with any questions.

Village Liaison, Joe Hedrick

- The Memorial Room board is going to be completed in approximately 2 weeks.
- 2020 dates for main hall rentals need to be submitted as soon as possible. Legion affiliated scheduling must be submitted by November 1st to ensure a reservation. Reservations will now be confirmed by a signed copy by the Village, to avoid some of the scheduling conflicts we have recently had.
- Architects and engineers representing us are working with our attorney to complete the final response and documents to be presented to the Village.

Legion Riders, Joe Lampert

- The inaugural State Legacy Run, raised \$17,098.86. Thank you to all the Rider's, passengers, and supporters who participated!
- The National Legacy run will take place in August starting from Florida to the National Convention in Indianapolis. Four of our Post 134 Riders will be participating. We wish them safe travels!

S.A.L. Not present, no report.

New Business

- Casey Bachara suggested the Post should reward WWII Veterans (members & non-members) by receiving complimentary beverages when at our Post. Bachara was advised the matter is out of order and a Corporation issue. Enterprise also advised

there are liquor licensing regulations that prevent the motion, and would jeopardize the retention of our liquor license. Motion delayed by PC Ken Trumbull. PC Joe Hedrick offered to pay for any beverages of visiting WWII Veterans visiting our Post. The matter was again deferred to Corporate. As a reminder, we are a "club", and are governed by various rules as an organization.

Cmdr. Gunning advised the Post will be reaching out to WWII Veterans, and inviting them to our Post.

Pot of Gold \$553

#697 Stanley J. Janczek, Niles *Not Present*

#174 Thomas R. Brens, Niles *Not Present*

#1362 Ara Shekerjian, Chicago *Not Present*

#1414 Not a current member

#1014 Cesar Monsipius, Round Lake Beach *Not Present*

#544 Not *a current member*

#1555 Thomas M. Wildren, Park Ridge *Not Present*

#29 *Cmdr. Nora Gunning won the Silver Pot and donated the \$24 proceeds donated back to the Post.*

MEETING MINUTES August 22nd, 2019

Opening

The regular meeting of Post 134 was called to order at 1945 hours by Sr. Vice Cmdr. Joe Kowalczyk, as Cmdr. Gunning arrival was delayed.

Approval of Minutes Accepted as printed.

Due to Officers attending the National Convention, no financial report was received.

Sr. Vice Cmdr. Joe Kowalczyk, Report

- In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941.

The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

*Information about the Legion Act can be found at:
<https://www.ialeion.org/11-things-you-need-to-know-about-the-legion-act/>*

- Membership: We are currently at 54.49%. We currently have 720 Paid members. To obtain our 2020 goal, we are short 598 members.

Historian, Ray Ariaz

- A collage album will be created to honor our Post. Please visit the Post Memorial Room, which is open prior to & after the Post meetings.

Village Liaison, Joe Hedrick

- The new Memorial board is complete, and on display in the Memorial Room.
- The 2020 Census is approaching, and any member interested in contributing to this PAID temporary position, please contact Joe Hedrick. The upcoming Census requires counting an increasingly diverse, hard to reach, and growing population. The information the census collects helps determine how much federal funding is distributed to states and local communities each year.
- The response to the Village has been prepared regarding the gun range, and will be returned this week.

Chaplains Report, Joe Gesicki

- Our Rifle Squad honored longtime Legionnaire "Tommy" Williams who entered Post Everlasting on August 5th, 2019. His family expressed many thanks and gratitude for the Service.

Rifle Squad, Joe Kowalczyk

- Welcome our 2nd Jr. Vice Peter Faraci as the newest member of the Rifle Squad!

Commanders Report, Nora Gunning

- We still have 2 important Officer positions that need to be filled, including Service Officer. Please Contact Cmdr. Gunning if you can commit to this important role for Post 134.
- Please be sure to RSVP for the Joint installation on September 13th.

Legion Riders, George Vail

- We currently have 3 Riders' on the Legacy Run from Lady Lake, Florida en route to Indianapolis, Indiana. We wish all the Legion Riders safe travels, and weather for this fundraiser!

- Legion Riders generally have rides weekly, weather permitted. Anyone interested in joining, contact George Vail, or stop in to the Clubhouse.

Pot of Gold \$565.00

#820 Matt Landry, Pebble Beach-not present
 #1050 Armando Navarro, Huntley-not present
 #152 Nicholas Balonic, Evergreen Park-not present
 #1223 William Reed, Beach Park-not present
 #332 Eric Delgado, Lyons-not present
 #58 George Vail won the Pot of Silver and donated the proceeds to Gift to the Yanks That Gave.

Please Join Us For A
Red, White and Fun
 Nora Gunning
 Post 134 Commander
 &
 Sharon Martin
 Auxiliary
 Celebrating

Post Installation

SEPT 13

Cocktails from 5 - 6pm
 Dinner 6pm - followed by entertainment

The American Legion
 Post 134
 6144 Dempster Street
 Morton Grove, IL 60053

Regrets & RSVP Only to Nora Gunning at (773) 633-0140 by
 Sept 1, 2019
 Bring Your Appetite!

MORTON GROVE COINS & COLLECTIBLES	
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	Dan DiMaria Branch Manager/MLO NMLS #965705 VA FINANCING Mobile 312-363-9595 eFax 866-728-1202 ddimaria@fairwaymc.com www.danthelegingman.com Son of the American Legion
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Ken Lipski Member Post 134 847.470.0212 6038 W. Dempster Morton Grove, IL 60053 orders@minutemanmortongrove.com	
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ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?!
Join us kicking off the season with the BEARS vs. the PACKERS
Thursday September 5th at 7:20 p.m.
Snacks and Great Company Provided!