

American Legion Marne Post 13

Volume 11 Issue 4

Membership Meetings:
Monthly on the 2nd Tuesday
Dinner 6:30pm
Meeting 7:00pm

American Legion Post 13
24741 W Renwick Road
Plainfield, Illinois 60544

(815) 436-9231



www.plainfieldlegion.com

April 2025

Dear Members of Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13,

As we move into April, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and participation in our Post activities. Your involvement is vital to our community's strength and success.

Board of Officers

James Castaneda

Commander

David LaFrancis

Senior Vice

Brent Finney

Junior Vice

Bradley Sellers

Adjutant

Ken Blair

Finance Officer

David Levally

Chaplain

Paul Thomason

Historian

Tom Mlynek

Service Officer

Dennis Downing

Sergeant-at-Arms

Executive Committee

Robert "Doc" Schiavo

Brian Chevere

Hugo Gonzalez

Upcoming Events in April

Kids Easter Egg Hunt: Join us on Saturday, April 19th, for our annual Easter celebration. This family-friendly event promises fun for all ages. For more details and registration information, please refer to the Easter Egg Hunt Flyer available on our website.

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament: Test your skills at our tournament on Saturday, April 26th. Doors open at 10:00 AM, with the tournament starting at 10:30 AM. For registration details and more information, please visit our website.

Bingo Nights: Every Thursday, doors open at 5:00 PM, ticket sales begin at 5:30 PM, and games start at 7:00 PM. Come enjoy an evening of fun and camaraderie. plainfieldlegion.com

Final Thoughts

Our Post thrives because of the unwavering dedication of our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and Legion Riders. Together, we continue to honor our mission of service to veterans and our community.

Thank you for your commitment. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

**For God and Country,
Commander James "Casta" Castaneda
Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13**



Adjutant

We are getting close to achieving our Membership goal. We have 386 of 388 renewals complete for 2025. That puts us at 99%. We need an additional 2 renewals to achieve our goal of 100%. We currently have 33 new members of Marne Post 13 for the 2025 membership year. That means we have achieved Silver Brigade Status once again. We need 17 new members to achieve Gold Brigade Status.

If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

**Bradley L. Sellers
Adjutant**

Did You Know?

**Illinois Secretary of State
ILSOS.GOV**

Veteran Designation

A "VETERAN" designation may be placed on the face of an Illinois driver's license or ID card at the request of the card applicant with proper documentation. You must have received an honorable discharge from any branch of the U.S. military, served as a reservist or member of the National Guard, or retired from the U.S. military. For more information, visit ilsos.gov or call the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs at 800-437-9824.

Disabled Veteran License Plates

Any veteran who holds proof of a 50% or greater service-connected disability from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may apply for any military series license plate one time, free of charge. Additional fees may apply for vanity and personalized military plates.

Service Officer

Another Service offered at Joliet CBOC.

Optometrist and Ophthalmologist plus an eyeglass dispensary are now available at the Joliet CBOC. Another reason you can avoid a trip to Hines.

Tom Mlynek

Service Officer

Chaplain

Dear Legion members,

The sick call report: Please Reach out to and pray for our members who are recovering and on sick call; Ron and Mary Kay Allan, Frank Pecoraro (in rehab facility) Jim and Peggy Arends, Gary Taylor, Bill Miller and Family, Lee and Barb Perignon, George Shade, Tom Mlynik, Jim Walls. Please contact me or the Legion office for any additions and corrections.

There are no additions to Post Everlasting.d

Easter's Religious and Cultural Significance

What is Easter?

Easter is a significant Christian holiday that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, as described in the New Testament of the Bible. Here's a breakdown of key aspects:

Religious Significance: It's a central feast in Christianity, marking the culmination of Holy Week, which includes Good Friday (the day of Jesus' crucifixion).

For Christians, it symbolizes the victory of life over death and the hope of salvation.

Timing:The date of Easter varies each year, as it's determined by the lunar calendar.

Specifically, it falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox (around March 21st).

Traditions: Many cultural traditions are associated with Easter, including:

Easter egg hunts. Decorating Easter eggs. Enjoying Easter meals.

These traditions have some roots in pre-Christian springtime celebrations.

Lenten Season: Easter is preceded by Lent, a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance for many Christians. In essence, Easter is a celebration of faith and renewal, observed by Christians worldwide.

Why Easter?

The celebration of Easter is rooted in the core beliefs of Christianity, centered around the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here's a breakdown of the key reasons:

The Resurrection of Jesus: At its heart, Easter commemorates the event described in the New Testament: Jesus Christ's rising from the dead three days after his crucifixion.

This event is considered by Christians to be a pivotal moment in their faith.

Symbolism of Hope and Renewal: The resurrection symbolizes the victory of life over death, good over evil.

It offers Christians hope for eternal life and the promise of salvation.

The spring season, during which Easter occurs, also aligns with themes of rebirth and renewal, which reinforces this symbolism.

Foundation of Christian Faith: The resurrection is a fundamental tenet of Christian belief.

It validates Jesus's claims and teachings, and it is seen as proof of his divine nature.

Therefore, celebrating Easter is a way for Christians to affirm their faith.

Religious Observance: Easter is the culmination of Holy Week, a period of solemn observance that includes Good Friday, which marks Jesus's crucifixion.

By celebrating Easter, Christians participate in a historical and spiritual tradition that has been observed for centuries. In essence, Easter is a celebration of the central event in Christianity, representing hope, renewal, and the foundation of their faith.

Per Gemini

Scripture verses for Easter.

John 11:25-26, Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die; Do you believe this?"

1 Peter 13:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Significant historical Event.Bataan Death March

Date April 9–17, 1942

Part of Battle of Bataan during WWII

Location Mariveles, Bataan and Bagac, Bataan to Capas, Tarlac, Luzon Island, Philippines

Target American and Filipino POWs (prisoners of war)

Attack type Forced march

Deaths Exact figures are unknown. Estimates range from 5,500 to 18,650 POW deaths.

Perpetrator Imperial Japanese Army

The Bataan Death March[a] was the forcible transfer by the Imperial Japanese Army of around 72,000 to 78,000[1][2][3] American and Filipino prisoners of war (POWs) from the municipalities of Bagac and Mariveles on the Bataan Peninsula to Camp O'Donnell via San Fernando.

The transfer began on April 9, 1942, after the three-month Battle of Bataan in the Philippines during World War II. The total distance marched from Mariveles to San Fernando and from the Capas Train Station to various camps was 65 miles (105 km). Sources also report widely differing prisoner of war casualties prior to reaching Camp O'Donnell: from 5,000 to 18,000 Filipino deaths and 500 to 650 American deaths during the march.

The march was characterized by severe physical abuse and wanton killings. POWs who fell or were caught on the ground were shot. After the war, the Japanese commander, General Masaharu Homma and two of his officers, Major General Yoshitaka Kawane and Colonel Kurataro Hirano, were tried by United States military commissions for war crimes and sentenced to death on charges of failing to prevent their subordinates from committing atrocities. Homma was executed in 1946, and Kawane and Hirano in 1949..

From Wikipedia

Americanism

Patriots,

Thanks to everyone who marched in the Hometown Irish Parade. As usual, we looked awesome with 11 flag bearers and our new WWI inspired uniforms.

At our Post membership meeting we will get to meet Serena Sabzaali. Serena is a Plainfield scout who applied for the American Legion Department of Illinois Eagle Scout Scholarship. Serena will be reading her Americanism essay she submitted as a part of her scholarship application.

Boys State is blowing up with interest!!!! We already have 7 boys from Plainfield who have registered and another three who have emailed me about the program and how to register. We were #1 in the state last year and are out to a huge lead this year. The program is open to boys who will be entering their senior year in high school next fall and who are in good academic standing. This year's program is at Eastern Illinois University from Saturday, June 7 through Friday, June 13th. The Post financially sponsors all Plainfield attendees.

Do you have a neighbor or friend with a District 202 Senior? Seniors at the four Plainfield High Schools graduating this spring with the Class of 2025, should check with their school's College and Career Office. Applications for the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship are available and are due to the HS career office by the end of the school day on Tuesday, April 8th. The application is straight forward, and it is an opportunity to earn \$500 for college or trade school. This scholarship is meant for graduating seniors from the community not affiliated with the American Legion. Post members with graduating senior or college student children or grandchildren are eligible for the Post Legacy Scholarship. Applications for that scholarship open in June.

The Honor Wall Committee will be having their next meeting on Monday, April 7th at 6:30pm in the Main Hall. We will be meeting with an architectural firm to discuss drawings of our initial concept. All post family members are invited to attend and become a part of our committee.

**March important days to remember:
Sunday, April 20th Easter Sunday**

**E pluribus, unum,
Greg Roach
Americanism Officer**



Auxiliary News

Hello Legion Family,

Happy Spring! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped out to make the Pub Crawl such an amazing success! We greatly appreciate all of you!

The first Post 5k is a week away. As a reminder, the date is April 5th . We will need quite a few volunteers for this event to be a success, so please plan on coming to Post to help out from 730a until around noon. Any questions, please see Hugo or send a message in the Stack App.

The Post Easter Party is Saturday, April 19th from 11a-2p. Volunteers are needed to help out. If you plan on attending with kids, please make sure to sign up with the office for head count. This event is for members and their families.

Poppy Month is just around the corner. The Auxiliary have decided on Saturday, May 10 th as our Poppy collection date! However, we are still currently working on securing locations for donations since some locations are no longer allowing us to stand outside. Please be on the lookout in April for signup sheets. As mentioned last month, we are hoping to surpass last year so we will need everyone's support and a lot of volunteers.

We are all so lucky to belong to such an incredible Post!

Our next Bunco date is Sunday, April 6th. Registration begins at 12:00, with game play beginning at 1p. Come on out to support this Auxiliary fundraiser and for a chance at winning cash prizes!!

With much gratitude and appreciation!

**Deb Uher
President ALA Unit 13**

Auxiliary Officers

Deb Uher

President

Renee Bush

Vice President

Crystal Egle

Secretary

Karen Gibson

Treasurer

Erica LaFrancis

Historian

Sandi McVey

Chaplain

Cynthia King

Sergeant-at-Arms





Sons,

Euchre will be on Wednesday, April 2nd. Registration will start at 6pm and games will take place between 6:30 and 9:30pm. Come out and have fun!

Come out for some great music and singing on Friday, April 4th for karaoke! We have been having such a great time with an incredible spectrum of different types of music. This has really been a success. Don't miss it!

Thank you to those who helped support the Pub Crawl and marched in the Hometown Irish Parade. As Sons we are all about support and your participation was greatly appreciated! Please come out and support the Post's Children's Easter Party. Saturday, April 19th 11am-2pm. Volunteers are needed.

The second Monday (our meeting night) this month is on the week after the Legion Meeting (April 14).

**In service and support,
Greg**

SAL Officers

Bob "Boots" Tosch

Commander

815-557-8316

Greg Roach

Sr. Vice Commander

Mike Krebs

Jr. Vice Commander

Gary Uher

Adjutant

Jim Bush

Finance Officer

Chris Gibson

Chaplain

Jaidyn Williams

Eric Williams

Markus Williams

Sergeant-at-Arms

Mike Krebs

Secretary

Greg Roach

Historian





Dear Legion Family,

April has arrived, bringing with it the promise of warmer weather and exciting events for our community! We are thrilled to announce that the Riders are gearing up for our Wednesday Bike Nights in the pavilion, starting on April 9th. We are kicking off the season with our annual bike blessing. Whether you ride or not, we invite everyone to come out and enjoy relaxing evenings filled with camaraderie among your fellow Legion members and the community.

We are honored to have Pastor Dick Wisdom from the Plainfield Methodist Church join us for the blessing of the bikes. It's a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our love for riding and the bonds we share as a Legion family.

This past month has been particularly active for the Riders, as we proudly welcomed four new members into our ranks! This growth has also positively impacted our post, bringing in three new members: one son and two Legionnaires. The fourth new member was already actively involved with the Auxiliary. We look forward to the energy and ideas our newest members will bring to our organization!

Additionally, mark your calendars for April 26th as we host our Texas Hold'em.

Registration is open, and we can't wait to see everyone there for an evening of fun and friendly competition.

While April brings new beginnings, we also recognize that March has been a tough month for many of our members dealing with aging and ailing parents. Our hearts go out to all those facing challenges during this time. Please keep in your thoughts and prayers: Karen's father Paul, Leslie's father Anthony, Donna's mother Milica, and Brad's mother Betty. May God be with these families and their loved ones, providing them strength and comfort during difficult times. Let us also remember to pray for the healthcare workers who are taking care of our loved ones.

Thank you for being a part of our Legion Family. Your support and love for one another create a strong bond that helps us all navigate life's ups and downs.

Wishing you peace and strength in the month ahead!

Riding in Service to Veterans and Children,

Chris Gibson

Riders Officers

Chris Gibson

Director

Nick Mesik

Assistant Director

Karen Gibson

Secretary

Leslie Vavra

Treasurer

Donnie Williams

Membership Chair

Donna Blagojevic

Chaplain

Brad Arnold

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jason Vavra

Historian

Jeff Kocis

Communications Officer

Nick Mesik

Run Coordinator

Roger Scott

Safety Officer

Jason Vavra

Nick Mesik

Road Captains



Calendar of Upcoming Events

April

- 04/01/25 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7pm**
- 04/02/25 Euchre Tournament**
- 04/04/25 Karaoke @ 7 pm**
- 04/06/25 Auxiliary Bunco Event Registration @ 12:30, Bunco starts @ 1pm**
- 04/14/25 SAL Meeting @ 6:30pm**
- 04/08/25 Post and Auxiliary meetings, dinner @ 6:30pm and meetings to follow**
- 04/16/25 Riders Meeting @ 6:30pm**
- 04/18/25 Live Music: GJAK'D UP Band**
- 04/26/25 Riders Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney (Doors open @ 10am)**



May

- 05/02/25 Karaoke @ 7 pm**
- 05/04/25 Auxiliary Bunco Event Registration @ 12:30, Bunco starts @ 1pm**
- 05/06/25 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7pm**
- 05/07/25 Euchre Tournament**
- 05/12/25 SAL Meeting @ 6:30pm**
- 05/13/25 Post and Auxiliary meetings, dinner @ 6:30pm and meetings to follow**
- 05/16/25 Live Music: Don't Matter To Me Band**
- 05/17/25 Riders Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney (Doors open @ 10am)**
- 05/21/25 Riders Meeting @ 6:30pm**
- 05/26/25 Memorial Day**



WEEKLY EVENTS

- Monday Mornings: Military Movie at the Post @ 10am (see Google Group for specifics)**
- Every Thursday: BINGO (Doors open @ 5pm, ticket sales start @ 5:30pm)**
- Every Friday: Queen of Hearts Drawing @ 8pm**

Plainfield American
Legion Riders
Presents



04/26
2025



10:30
Registration
11:30 Play starts

Texas Hold'Em
TOURNAMENT

\$100.00 Buy in 61K in chips, No Rebuys 1
Add On For \$50.00 For 60K In Chips, 5K In
Extra Chips With Preregistrtn, Arrive
Before 11 Am For Another 5K In Chips.

Plainfield American Legion Hall
24741 Renwick Rd, Plainfield, IL 60544, Cash Bar
And Snacks, To Sign Up Go To
plainfieldlegion.com Click On Texas Hold'Em
Registration Link. 80% of proceeds go to payout

plainfieldlegion.com

Plainfield American
Legion Riders Present



BIKE And Cruise NIGHT

Classic cars
welcomed!

50/50

Bike Blessing



APRIL
9TH, 2025

5-10 PM

First Bike Night of 2025, Join
us for a Bike Blessing at 7Pm

Plainfield American Legion Hall Pavillion
24741 Renwick Rd, Plainfield, IL 60544