

American Legion Marne Post 13

Volume 10 Issue 1

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

September 2024

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

Ken Blair

James Castaneda

Dear Comrades,

I hope this message finds you all in good spirits. It is an honor to be back in the role of Commander, and I am filled with gratitude as I step into this position once again. I want to begin by extending a heartfelt thank you to all of our newly elected officers, including those from the Post Membership, the Plainfield American Legion Riders, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Plainfield American Legion Auxiliary. Your dedication to serving our Legion and our community does not go unnoticed, and I am confident that together, we will continue to achieve great things.

I also want to express my sincere thanks to outgoing Commander Brian Chevere for his outstanding contributions over the past year. Brian, your leadership and commitment have left a lasting impact on our Legion, and I wish you nothing but the best in your future endeavors.

As we move forward, I encourage all of you to stay engaged with our Post's activities. We have Bingo every Thursday at 5 pm, Queen of Hearts every Friday at 8 pm, and our Riders' Bike Nights every other Wednesday evening. These events are more than just opportunities to gather—they are a chance to strengthen the bonds that unite us as veterans and supporters of our military community. And, of course, many other events are on our calendar as well.

Reflecting on the transformative year we experienced together not too long ago, I am reminded of the strength and resilience that defines our Legion family. We faced challenges head-on, grew stronger, and set a new course for the future. As we embark on this new chapter, I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident that with your continued support, we will make this year another remarkable one for our post.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our Legion, to each other, and to the values we stand for. Let's continue to work together in service to our veterans, our community, and our nation.

For God and Country,

Commander James "Casta" Castaneda
Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13



Junior Vice Commander

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help out with our installation dinner. It was a big success and very well received!

As always, we are always in need of volunteers to help with all Marne Post 13 events. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer.

**Brent Finney
Junior Vice Commander**

Adjutant

Membership is coming along nicely with 188 of 388 renewals complete for 2025. That puts us at 48%. We need an additional 200 renewals to achieve our goal of 100%. We currently have 5 new members of Marne Post 13 for the 2025 membership year.

We are going to be holding a raffle for a free 5 year membership during our Christmas party for any member who renews for 2025 by November 15th. We will receive \$1.50 per member back from department if we reach 100% by November 15th.

We are currently participating in the 5 Year Membership Campaign:

5 Year Gold Card Plan

Here are some of the benefits:

- **It's cheaper than a Paid Up for Life Membership**
- **We did not raise our dues to match the national increase for 2024, so prepaid dues will be protected from future increases**
- **Nice plastic membership card with name, post number, and ID number and years covered by the plan**

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

Bradley L. Sellers - Adjutant

Chaplain

I am honored to be elected Chaplain of Marne Post 13 for the new term and to serve in this capacity. I have been asked if the chaplain in the American Legion is a "clergyman"? This is not a requirement to serve as chaplain, "but one must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership and one who gives dignity and respect to the office." On a personal note, I became a follower of Jesus Christ when I made a profession by faith at age 21, This was sixty years ago as of July and about 50 years ago after some training I was certified by the United Methodist Church as Lay Pastor. I have been active in serving in a local church in many different capacities and responsibilities. A favorite activity is leading and teaching adult fellowship groups. I am a food scientist by training and spent many years in developing, marketing and selling food ingredients. I was drafted in 1967 and after basic I was assigned to Walter Reed for about a year and then another year in Vietnam, and returned home in February of 1969. Sharon and I have been married for 57 years and we have three daughters and ten grandchildren.

As the chaplain of Marne Post 13, I was sworn in confirming my duties and responsibilities with the following pledge: "To you is given the spiritual leadership of this post. You will lend dignity and respect to your office. You should be in close trust with the commander and the other officers of the post and should attend all meetings of the post." Among the duties is to offer invocation and benediction at our meetings and at other functions that involve the American Legion.

In the past several months, I have been acting chaplain appointed by the commander. It has been my privilege to perform the duties of chaplain and to serve the many who have reached out to me for council and assistance. There is a wonderful team of volunteers that faithfully serve as honor guard and other duties at the funerals of members and family members. (If you can serve as an honor guard please contact me.) If you want or if you know of anyone who desires to be served by the chaplain reach out to me or to the office to let us know.

I am looking forward to this new term working with the officers and members to hold on that which is honorable and sacred and to change and improve on our service to all of the men and women who have served and sacrificed.

To conclude I offer this scripture from the Book of Psalms:

Psalms 1:1-3. How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. Nor stand in the panth of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord. And in His law he meditates day and night.. And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does he prospers.

Dave Levally,

Chaplain

Service Officer

Service Officer Newsletter September 2024

You may remember, depending on the era, having the Newspaper Stars and Stripes delivered to you. Well, it still exists but in digital form. Go onto www.stripes.com to subscribe. I believe it is 99 cents a week. You can look at news from any theatre U.S. personnel are currently, and, to keep up with where you may have been deployed.

Illinois Legislative News Supplied to me by 84th District State Rep., and Marine, Stephanie Kifowit.

Laws of interest to Veterans:

- **HB 612 - Property tax exemptions for WWII and disabled Veterans**
- **HB 5640 - Adds the Space Force to our existing statues**
- **SB 2751 - Permit fee waivers for construction accommodating a Veteran's disability**
- **HB 4108 - Creating the Air Force Combat Action Medal license plate**
- **HB 4365 - Creating the National Defense Service Medal license plate**
- **HB 5353 - Temporary Social Work licenses for military spouses who move to Illinois and are waiting for a permanent license**

You can look up details on any of these Bills by going to www.illinois.gov and scroll down to Government and choose Legislative Branch.

Yours in Service

Thomas Mlynek -Service Officer

Americanism

Patriots,

Welcome to September and the start of the new American Legion year. As always, this year will include a number of Americanism activities and I expect we will excel in them as we have the last several years. On Monday, September 2nd we celebrate Labor Day and on Wednesday, September 11th our nation will commemorate the 23rd anniversary of 9/11 when we acknowledge Patriot Day. Please fly your flags for Labor Day and Patriot Day and reflect on all who those we lost that day, those we have lost since due to the mysterious illness many who worked at Ground Zero have come down with, and those who have served in harm's way because of that terrible day.

Our first parade of the year will be the Plainfield Homecoming Parade on Saturday, September 28th . We will be meeting at the Post at 7:30 am to form our color guard. I would like to be able to have enough marchers to carry all of our unit flags, all of the service flags, and the two Springfield rifles. As always, riders on their bikes are requested to be a part of the color guard. In October, I am planning on establishing a committee to help make a new monument in Settler's Park a reality. Mayor Argoudelis has started the ball rolling by hiring an architecture firm to draw up plans for the monument. The goal is for the monument to include the names of the Plainfield residents who fought in America's overseas conflicts dating back to World War II.

Presently the red monument closest to the pond has the names of Plainfield residents who fought in the Civil War, Spanish American War, and World War I. I do not expect this to be a large time burden in the beginning but expect that the process will take time to make creating the monument a reality. If you are interested in being a part of the committee, please reach out to me at cdrroach@gmail.com .

E pluribus unum,

Greg Roach - Legion Americanism Officer



Auxiliary News

Hello Legion Family,

The Auxiliary has been busy this year! We helped make the Pub Crawl a huge success back in March. We assisted the Post with the Easter Party, as well as dropping off Easter baskets to our Veterans at a Plainfield assisted living facility. Poppy season was incredible and we were able to collect a great deal of funds for Veterans. We sponsored one of our Legion members with going on Honor Flight with his siblings. There were many other accomplishments as a group, but those were just a few.

We recently held our 1st Mum Sale Fundraiser! The window is closed for ordering, but if you placed an order, please make sure to pick up your mums on Saturday, Sept. 7th between 9am-12pm. A huge thank you to Jackie for all your help making it such a great success!

We are getting ready to do another Manteno donation in September. We have collaborated with the Sons this time so we will be able to purchase more items needed by the Veterans with their generous donation added to our budgeted amount. Bunco continues to be successful each month! It is usually on the 1st Sunday of each month, with holiday weekends changing to the 2nd Sunday. Please see the event calendar on the Legion website to confirm if you're looking to join us. It's a lot of fun so come on out!!

**With Appreciation and Gratitude,
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,

I hope everyone had a great summer and is taking advantage of the warm weather while it lasts this fall. CDR Bob Tosch and the newly sworn in officers are excited about the opportunity you have provided them to lead our group this next year. As always, we need your active support and participation in all that we do to be successful. Upcoming activities include karaoke at 7:00pm on September 6th , a revival of our Euchre nights which Junior Vice Mike Krebs is working out the details on, and the Plainfield Homecoming parade. We need members to help carry flags and represent the post as the parade's color guard. We will be meeting at the Post at 7:30am on Saturday, September 28th . The parade steps off at 9:00am from Plainfield Central High School.

In service and support,

**Greg Roach
Senior Vice Commander
SAL Squadron 13**

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





Riders Officers

Chris Gibson

Director

Karen Gibson

Secretary

Donnie Williams

Membership Chair

Mike Gorecki

Chaplain

Brad Arnold

Sergeant-at-Arms

Jason Vavra

Historian

Nick Mesik

Run Coordinator

Roger Scott

Safety Officer

HELLO RIDERS, SUPPORTERS, AND LEGION FAMILY,

The Riders are planning a special memorial for September 11th on Bike night, the memorial service will start at approximately 5:45 and go to about 6:30, please join them that night for a day of solace and remembrance. The Plainfield Fire Department will be there with a fire truck and the memorial bell, the bell will be rang in memory of those lost that day, if you know anyone that lost their life that day and would like your family and friends names to be read off during the ceremony please email Chris Gibson at cglegionrider@gmail.com the fire department will also be joined by the Romeoville MCJRROTC honor guard, Will County Sherriff and the Chicago Police Departments pipes and drums is supposed to be there as well.

The Riders have also purchased 10 Mums from the Auxiliary Mum sale to decorate the outdoor pavilion, these will be picked up by the auxiliary and they will be placed in and around the pavilion and Legion on Friday September 6th .

The Riders will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots this year!

September 21st will be the Riders monthly Texas Hold'em poker tournament, you can register on line at plainfieldlegion.com

**Chris Gibson
Director Plainfield Legion Riders Post 13**





BIKE NIGHT 9-11-2024. 5-10 PM

NEVER FORGET 9.11

Please join the Plainfield American Legion Riders for an evening of solace and remembrance as we honor those lost on 9-11-2001. The Romeoville MCJRROTC will do the honors of color guard, and the Plainfield Fire Department will be there with a truck. There will be no fundraising at this event, vendors are welcome as always. The Riders will be selling 9-11 T-shirts

PATRIOT DAY



NO DAY SHALL ERASE YOU FROM
THE MEMORY OF TIME

24741 Renwick Rd, Plainfield, IL 60544

Calendar of Upcoming Events

09/03/24 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7pm

09/06/24 Karaoke @ 7pm

09/06/24 Auxiliary Mum Sale Pickup

09/08/24 Auxiliary Bunco Event, Registration @ 12:30, Bunco starts @ 1pm

09/09/24 SAL Meeting @ 6:30pm

09/10/24 Post and Auxiliary meetings, dinner @ 6:30pm and meetings to follow

09/13/24 Live Band: Don't Matter to Me Band @ 7pm

09/18/24 Riders Meeting @ 6:30pm

09/21/24 Riders Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney (Doors open @ 10am)

**(Preregister prior to event, details on Legion website:
www.plainfieldlegion.com)**

09/22/24 Red Cross Blood Drive

09/24/24 Auxiliary Officers Meeting @ 6:30pm

10/01/24 Executive Committee Meeting @ 7pm

10/04/24 Karaoke @ 7pm

10/06/24 Auxiliary Bunco Event Registration @ 12:30, Bunco starts @ 1pm

10/08/24 Post and Auxiliary meetings, dinner @ 6:30pm and meetings to follow

10/11/24 Live Band: Legacy @ 7pm

10/12/24 Riders Texas Hold'em Poker Tourney (Doors open @ 10am)

10/14/24 SAL Meeting @ 6:30pm

10/16/24 Riders Meeting @ 6:30pm

10/22/24 Auxiliary Officers Meeting @ 6:30pm



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

Please visit our website at www.plainfieldlegion.com for event calendar and updates