

QUARTER 3- 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

Commander's Corner

By Don Smolinski, Post Past Commander

American Legion Newsletter Article - JUNE 2023

Greetings from American Legion Post #673!



As you read this article, I have passed the gavel as Post Commander to Pat Conley. Pat is a Past Commander of the post, and has served on the Executive Committee. He is well qualified to lead the post forward. Please support him as you have supported me the last two years.

Those two years seem to have gone by in a flash. The post has grown financially and operationally, post activities, and in its support for veterans. This could not have been done without the support of the members and the entire Legion family.

While I cannot thank everyone who has made this post the best it can be, there are several individuals who have made a difference and helped me immensely and to move the post forward. Dan Stewart, my Vice-Commander stepped up every time requested to substitute for me at meetings and events. Dan was instrumental in our newly sponsoring Boy Scout Crew 1067. He has taken the lead in reinvigorating the Post newsletter and setup and maintains our excellent website. Thanks Dan.

Herb Glissendorf, my Adjutant, has distinguished himself by achieving our 100% membership goals. This is no mean feat, following up to obtain member renewals by whatever it took, letters, phone calls, knocking on doors. His efforts have kept higher Legion headquarters satisfied with membership. Thanks Herb.

Jim Sieczkowski, my Finance Officer, assisted greatly in implementing a first-ever post budget. He also contributed to our first-ever corporate audit. Our post finances have grown substantially, and Jim has managed them superbly.

Pat Conley serves on the Post Executive Committee. He has led as our representative to the County Veterans Assistance Commission. Pat has chaired the Boys State committee which culminated in the post sponsoring three boys to the state program for the first time in memory. Under Pat's direction, post donations to veterans' causes increased to over \$16,000 last year, and on track in better that this year. Thanks, Pat.

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Ken Raymer serves on the Post Executive Committee. As the Judge Advocate, Ken was instrumental in the drafting and implementation of updated post bylaws and constitution. He has also spearheaded, as Entertainment Committee chair, social events such as post installation, Christmas Party, Birthday Dinner, and Post Picnic. Of particular note is his capable handling of a major post Feather Party fundraising event. Thanks, Ken.

Mike Stojak serves on the Post Executive Committee. His primary role has been as House Manager. Mike has re-defined the position by establishing employee job descriptions and evaluations. He has spearheaded the implementation of a modern bar point-of-sale system and budget for the house operation. Under the direction of the House Committee, Mike has worked diligently to update and modernize our facilities to include the Honor Garden, remodeled rest rooms, a new beer cooler, and others. Under his management, the bar operations has grown from \$532,000 in revenue in 2020 to an estimated \$900,000 this year. Mike has chaired the VetFest committee for seven year with profits growing each year. Thanks, Mike.

Tim Nash has served on the Post Executive Committee. He has taken on responsibility for many post projects, such as Wreaths Across America, Legion School Awards, and Student and Descendant scholarships. Tim has also spearheaded many of our community service donations such as Senior Care Volunteer Network and the Huntley Chamber of Commerce. Donations to these causes exceed \$37,000. Thanks, Tim.

I want to thank our employees, full-time and part-time. Your dedication to quality customer service and veterans' services make our post one of the top social destinations in Huntley. Thank you all.

Finally, I want to thank Suzan Hoehn of the Auxiliary and Mike Thackwray of the Sons for their support and cooperation to the Legion Family. We could not be who we are without you.

Of course, I could not have done any of this without the support of my wife Gayle. She has endured many days and evenings of my absence over the last two years. Thank you dear.

I will not be going away, as I continue to serve on the Executive Committee as Past Commander. Hope to see you all at the Post!

BE LEGION!

HUNTLEY AMERICAN LEGION ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2023 - 2024

COMMANDER - PATRICK CONLEY
VICE-COMMANDER - DANIEL STEWART
FINANCE - JAMES SIECZKOWSKI
ADJUTANT - HERBERT GLISSENDORF
JUDGE ADVOCATE - KENNETH RAYMER
DIRECTOR AT LARGE - MIKE STOJAK
SGT OF ARMS - KYLE BATKER



(appointed to board) : PAST COMMANDER - DON SMOLINSKI

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

By Suzan Hoehn, President Women's Auxiliary

Auxiliary meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:15 in the Legion Hall

Hi Everyone,

It has been a busy few months for the Auxiliary:

Poppy Day was a big success, Thank You Sharon Stojak (Poppy Chair) and all the volunteers that participated (see below details from Sharon).

On Memorial Day Auxiliary continued the tradition of preparing and serving lunch following the parade. Thank you to Nancy Pope, Jeannie Ziller, and all volunteers that helped to carry on the tradition, all your good work, as well as the delicious lunch.

Vet Fest was unprecedented this year. With record attendance, record number of sponsorships, as well as volunteers it was an amazing day. The Auxiliary sponsored Jim Cornelison to sing the Natl Anthem during the opening ceremonies, which was everything we anticipated it to be. A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, volunteers, and patrons who helped to make this keynote event a success.

Queen of Hearts jackpot is at \$171,779.14 as of June 27th 2023. Tickets are on sale for \$1.00 each (at the Legion) everyday until 7:15pm on Tuesdays. Drawing is at 8:15pm on Tuesday evenings -winner need not be present.

Please consider joining the Auxiliary and giving back to those that have and still serve our Country.

Thank You and God Bless America.

Suzan Hoehn
President Women's Auxiliary
Huntley American Legion Post 673



HUNTLEY AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2023 - 2024

PRESIDENT - SUZAN HOEHN
SR. VICE PRESIDENT - SHARON STOJAK
2ND VICE PRESIDENT - BARB READ
SECRETARY - BONNIE ROSINSKI
TREASURER - VICKI WILSON
HISTORIAN - DAWN CLEMENTE
CHAPLAIN - PENNY WARNER
SGT-AT-ARMS - ANGELA BATKER
HISTORIAN - MEGAN COOKE



SONS OF THE LEGION

By Mike Thackwray, Commander SAL Squadron #673

There are no items to report.



HUNTLEY SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2023 - 2024

COMMANDER - MIKE THACKWRAY
SR. VICE COMMANDER - WILLIAM FERRIS
JR. VICE COMMANDER - VACANT
ADJUTANT - MIKE THACKWRAY
FINANCE OFFICER - ROBERT PANEK JR.
SERVICE OFFICER - VACANT
CHAPLAIN - GEORGE LEWRENZ
SGT-AT-ARMS - ROBERT GRONBECK



Poppy Day

By Sharon Stojak



Our ceremony on May 27, 2023 was great. We pinned the first official Poppy on Mayor Tim Hoefft, to kick off the Poppy Day donations. I was surprised by Olivia Zak, from Huntley High School, who sang our National Anthem. It was very moving.

Many thanks to the sites that allowed us to offer our Poppies. Our Poppy Day Volunteer Team collected \$7340.00. This is a new record. The monies collected were sent to New Horizon, Veterans Path to Hope and BraveHearts.

Sharon Stojak
Auxiliary Vice-president
Poppy Day Chairman

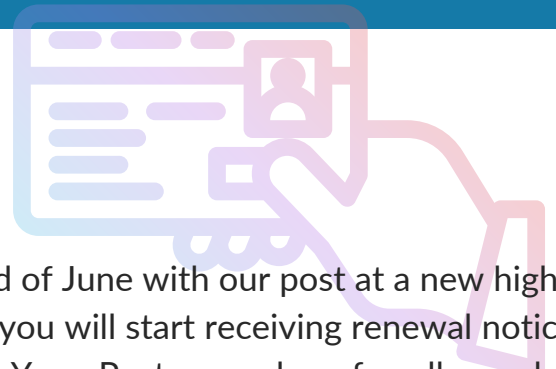


Poppy Day



From the Adjutant's Desk -

By Herb Glissendorf



The Department of Illinois closes books for 2023 at the end of June with our post at a new high of 364 members. Membership for 2024, begins July 1st and you will start receiving renewal notices. Dues for 2024 need to be paid by December 31, 2023. Your Post pays dues for all members serving on active duty, WWII veterans and members who have achieved 50 years or more of continuous membership. Dues will remain at \$40.00 and we are promoting a 5-year card option, where you pay for 4 years (\$160.00) and get the 5th year free. We will also be holding a raffle in November where you can sell or purchase \$50.00 worth of tickets and receive your membership along with a chance to win a turkey or cash prizes. As in the past you may pay online at MyLegion.org or mail to Huntley American Legion, PO Box 389, Huntley, IL 60142 or drop-off at the Post.

Thank you to everyone for helping make 2023 a successful year. Keep promoting the American Legion to all your friends and relatives. Only through our strength in numbers can we continue ensuring our veterans get the benefits and recognition deserved and promote the goals of the American Legion. Let me know if you have any questions on membership.

Herb Glissendorf/Adjutant (847)727-3202 Post673@huntleylegion.org

Descendant Scholarship -

Congratulations to our 2023 Descendant Scholarship Recipients, who will receive \$2,000 each

<u>Recipient Name</u>	<u>Member Name</u>	<u>College Name</u>
Eric Michael Banks	John Eric Banks	College of DuPage
Grace Covington	Don Smolinski	University of Alabama
Colleen Dahl	Richard Dahl	University of Illinois
Justin Dahl	Richard Dahl	University of Minnesota
Ronni Fiedler	Ronald Fiedler	Iowa State University
Kilee Galgay	Robert Newton	University of Missouri
Jacob "Jake" Meyer	Eric Jensen	University of Health Sciences
Abigail Panier	Chad Panier	University of Wisconsin

Legion Entertainment Update

By Ken Raymer

The Annual Vet Fest is in the books for this year, and we are already working on plans for next year. Any suggestions for improvement are welcome and appreciated. This year was a huge success, and we would like to thank the army of volunteers that helped this to be the huge success that it was. There is a lot of time and effort that goes into this event and thankfully every year has been better, and we hope the trend continues.

Concerts in the Park have started back up and the Huntley American Legion will be grilling hamburgers and Reams bratwursts for sale in the Honor Garden for each concert. Thanks to Jimmy Gallagher for cooking up the goods for us to enjoy and thanks to the volunteers that help him. Please check the Village website for the schedule of upcoming concerts.

Sunday August 6th will be the Huntley American Legion's picnic. The Glissendorf family has graciously offered the farm for the location again this year. Details will be posted on the website and inside the Legion within the next couple of weeks so stay tuned and we hope you will come join us. This will be open to all members of the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL's and customers.

**THANK
YOU!**

VetFest

By Mike Stojak

Well, another successful event is in the books. The final numbers are not in yet, but it will be a new record for us in excess of \$32,000.00. What a great turnout and a lot of fun. Our opening ceremony went off without a hitch and listening to James Cornelison sing the National Anthem was awe-inspiring.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors (over 60), our volunteers (over 130), and the excellent staff that made this event what it has become. It has been an honor and privilege to work with these people over the last 7 events. I am sure they will give the next chairman all the support that I was fortunate to receive.

Personally, I would like to thank Lori, Jen, Suzan, Ken and Barb, who have been with me since the beginning. You have my heartfelt gratitude and respect.

Thank you,
Mike Stojak
Vetfest Chairman

VetFest Photos



Post Events-

SAVE THE DATE: 6 AUG - Huntley American Legion Picnic

Back by popular demand Legion Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 6, 2022, 12:00 -?

- **Location:**

7400 N. Union Rd. Huntley, IL
(Olson - Glissendorf Farms)

- **Food:**

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips, Draft Beer,
Pop, Water, paper plates napkins &
silverware supplied by Legion

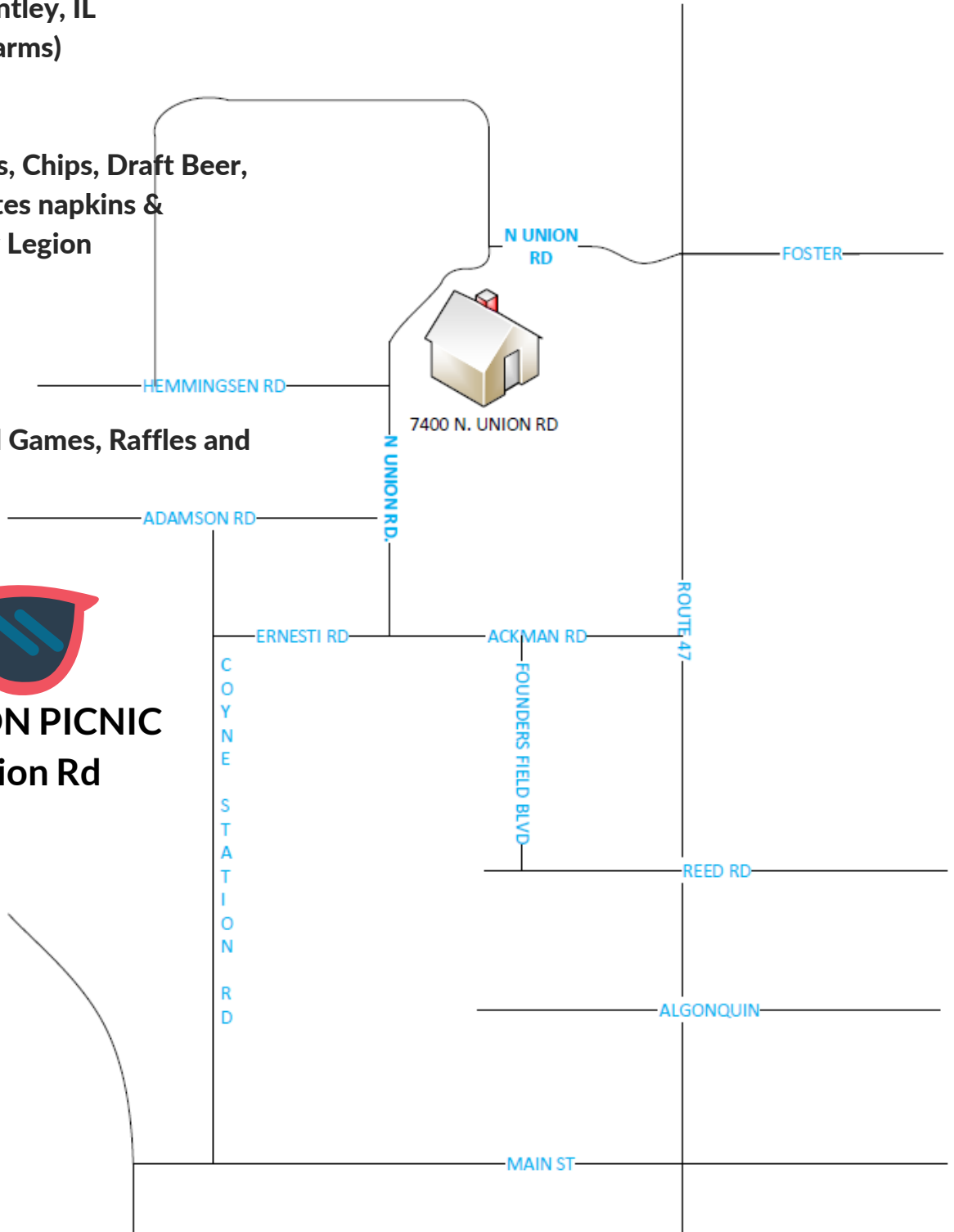
Bring a dish to pass

- **Activities:**

Kid Games, Bags, Card Games, Raffles and
more



MAP TO LEGION PICNIC 7400 N Union Rd



Honor Guard

By Patrick Conley

Well the Honor Guard has been involved in the Memorial Day Parade in Huntley, also Union, and Harmony.

Of course we presented the colors at Vet Fest. We also rendered Honors at Jeff Pope's funeral. We are always looking for volunteers to join the Honor Guard, contact me or Kyle Batker.

For God and Country,
Patrick Conley



Memorial Day Parade



Membership Committee Notes

By Herbert Glissendorf, Membership Committee Chairman

Huntley Post 2023 Meetings:

Jul 20, 2023 (7:00 PM)

Aug 21, 2023 (7:00 PM)

Sep 19, 2023 (7:00 PM)



A sign up sheet is available at the Legion for all volunteer opportunities.

Please stop in to see what is available and donate an hour (or more) of your time.

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**

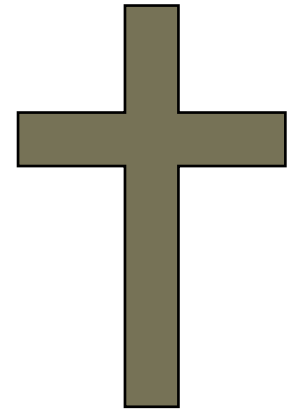
Speaker May Meeting - Patrick Kenneally

The McHenry County States Attorney, Patrick Kenneally, spoke at our May Legion Meeting about identity theft and crime prevention.

Some specific things you can do to prevent identify theft:

- Never give out your Social Security number
- Shred your bills or anything with your personal information on it
- Freeze your credit by contacting the 3 credit bureaus:
 - Equifax
 - Experian
 - Trans Union
- If you have been a victim of ID Theft, you can contact the Illinois Attorney General - Identity Theft Division
 - Toll free number 1-866-999-5630





A Hero's Welcome

by Robert Longley

Richard Groves
US Army - Vietnam

Jeffrey Pope
US Navy - Vietnam

Roger Brandt
US Army - Vietnam

Time to come home dear brother
Your tour of duty through
You've given as much as anyone
Could be expected to do

Just a few steps further
The smoke will start to clear
Others here will guide you
You have no need of fear

You have not failed your brothers
You clearly gave it all
And through your selfless actions
Others will hear the call

So take your place of honor
Among those who have gone before
And know you will be remembered
For now and evermore

Website and Newsletter

By Dan Stewart, Internal Affairs Committee Chairman



Website – HuntleyLegion.org

We continue to update and introduce improvements, we are working with a marketing company to update our website.

Feel free to send any feedback or suggestions you have to improve the site.

Newsletter

We are publishing the quarterly newsletter. It is posted to the website and mailed to members who don't have internet access. Let us know if there is a section you feel we should include in the newsletter.

Send an email if you think of an article you would like to include for the next newsletter (dstewart13@yahoo.com).

Thank you to Karen McCartney for all her work putting together the Newsletter!



REMODELING PHOTOS



Huntley American Legion - Family Day



BINGO 7PM

2ND & 4TH MONDAYS

HALL OPENS

@ 5:00



**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY
QUEEN OF HEARTS RAFFLE**



TICKETS SOLD

AT THE AMERICAN LEGION

ALL WEEK UNTIL 7:15PM ON TUESDAYS
DRAWING EVERY TUESDAY@8:15PM

MONDAY CARD DRAW

CARDS ARE \$1.00 EACH

WINNER TAKES

6:00PM

80% OF THE POT!

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE 80%

**REMAINING 20% SUPPORTS THE VETERANS'
ORGANIZATIONS LOCAL TO HUNTLEY AND MCHENRY COUNTY**



POST 673

POST PIZZA SMALL

CHEESE \$8.00

CHEESE & SAUSAGE \$8.00

CHEESE & PEPPERONI \$8.00

**(Cheese, Sausage, Mushroom,
Green Pepper & Onion) PARTY \$8.00**

**HOT &
FRESH**

LARGE

CHEESE \$10.00

CHEESE & SAUSAGE \$10.00

CHEESE & PEPPERONI \$10.00

**(Cheese, Sausage, Mushroom,
Green Pepper & Onion) PARTY \$10.00**



TORN & TATTERED FLAGS

BRING YOUR TORN AND TATTERED FLAGS

TO THE LEGION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

THEN COME JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

FLAG BURNING CEREMONY

Held annually on Flag Day

"THANK-YOU" TO OUR SPONSORS!

PLOTE
CONSTRUCTION INC.

Carmichael
Construction Inc.

Alliance
CONTRACTORS, INC.



**Join us for Bingo
2nd and 4th Mondays
each month**

MONTHLY PLANNER

Calendar

Search



↑ ↓ July 2023



Day



Month



Year



Try the New Outlook

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7/2	3	4 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	5	6	7	8
9	10 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	11 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	12 4p Legion Executive Committee Meeting (7:15p Auxiliary Meeting (7:15PM))	13	14	15
16	17	18 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	19 7p S.A.L. Meeting (7PM)	20 7p Legion Meeting (7PM)	21	22
23	24 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	25 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	26	27	28	29
30	31	8/1 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	2	3	4	5

MONTHLY PLANNER

Search

↑ ↓ August 2023

Today Day Week Month Year ... Try the New Outlook

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7/30	31	8/1 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	9 4p Legion Executive Committee Meeting (7:15p Auxiliary Meeting (7:15PM))	10	11	12
13	14 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	15 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	16 7p S.A.L. Meeting (7PM)	17 7p Legion Meeting (7PM)	18	19
20	21	22 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	23	24	25	26
27	28 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	29 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	30	31	9/1	2

MONTHLY PLANNER

Calendar

Search

↑ ↓ **September 2023**

Today

Day

Week

Month

Year

...

Try the New Outlook

— □ ×

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8/27		28 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	29 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	30	31	9/1	2
3		4	5 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	6	7	8	9
10		11 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	12 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	13 4p Legion Executive Committee Meeting (7:15p Auxiliary Meeting (7:15PM))	14	15	16
17		18	19 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	20 7p S.A.L. Meeting (7PM)	21 7p Legion Meeting (7PM)	22	23
24		25 5p Bingo (Doors Open 5PM / Start 7PM)	26 7p Queen of Hearts (Drawing at 8:15PM)	27	28	29	30

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 673
PO BOX 389 HUNTLEY, IL 60142**



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HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET YOUR LEGION NEWS?

Our Legion newsletter has been a great success with over 265 emailed and approximately 90 sent out through regular mail. If you are receiving this and getting the mailed newsletter, there is no need to respond to this section, unless you'd like to change your email or mailing address. If you do need any changes, please make corrections here and drop it at the post or mail to: **Huntley Legion Post #673, PO Box 389, Huntley, IL 60142**

Suggestions for improvements or additions should be addressed by the same means.