MERLE GUILD AMERICAN LEGION POST 208
DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

Winter is upon us and our activities are increasing by the month. Hall rentals are going strong, the bar business has increased over the past months. All of our other activities – Bingo, Pull Tabs, Juke Box, Pool Table, Queen of Hearts, and even our Pin Ball Game seem to be going strong. We will be giving future updates as the steps to have electronic gaming at our Post continues.

We hosted “Rock The Vets Concert” on November 12, which was a huge success. Band was fantastic, place was rocking and the crowd was amazing. This was all due to the incredible work done by Brian Jones along with his sidekick Chris. Please, when you see Brian, congratulate him on this tremendous event, without him it would have not been possible.

We will be hosting sailors from Great Lakes on Thanksgiving Day this year, back to some normalcy. We will be providing all the trimmings, video games, phones for their use to call home, and the Arlingtones will here to entertain with their great voices. Please come and greet the sailors and make their experiences away from their homes for the Holiday a memorable experience. We have Christmas for the kids with Santa in December. There will more events in the upcoming months with notifications to follow as they arise.

God Bless, Happy Thanksgiving , Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. We all look forward to seeing you at the Post.

Dale Berg, Commander

From the Desk of the Auxiliary President . . . .

Autumn has definitely arrived. The leaves have changed color and most trees are nearly bare and the temperature has definitely dropped!

The Unit sends its condolences to John Glueckert and family on the loss of their mother, Rosanna. I only met her once but she was very nice and I would have liked to get to know her better.

Thank you to all who helped with the Thanksgiving Day dinner for the recruits from Great Lakes Naval Base. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Post's Children's Christmas Party. (If you didn't sign up, you'll have to wait til next year to enjoy this annual event.)

The Junior Auxiliary will be having a bake sale at the SAL Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 4. Please come out and enjoy the best Pancake Breakfast in the northern suburbs and take home some dessert to support our Juniors.

I wish you excellent health in the coming months and hope to see you at our next 2 meetings, Tuesday, December 13th and Tuesday, January 10th, at 7 PM.

May you all have a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Lois Kurowski, Auxiliary Unit 208 President

A Note from the Sr. Vice Commander . . .

As we diligently continue to process our renewals in a timely manner, we encourage you to check your membership card to ensure you are paid up for the current 2022/2023 membership year. If you do not have a 2023 membership card, please mail in your renewal check as soon as possible to avoid being delinquent.

I also invite all members, new and long-standing, to attend our monthly member meeting. You just may be surprised at how much your Post and the American Legion as a whole has to offer you as being part of the American Legion Family. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. I hope to see you and meet you soon.

In the meantime, if need to renew your membership you can mail your dues to the Post or pay online. If mailing a check, please make your check payable to and mail to:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 208
Post 208 membership
121 N. Douglas Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Visit **www.legion.org** if you wish to pay dues on-line.

AS A REMINDER….IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT 2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Dues paid by December 31, 2022 deadline:	$45.00
Dues paid after December 31, 2022 deadline:	$50.00

Stewart Abbink
Senior Vice Commander

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Since my last report in June, I have many updates to provide on our Post members.

I've been told we lost Paul Davis on June 1st, Bob Conner on August 17th, Gerald McGill on September 9th, Tony Balzan on September 21st, Arnold Pipenbrink on October 9th, and Joseph Scarpelli on October 24th. During this time we also lost Ruth Foglestad, one of our very own Auxiliary members. Please reach out to the families of those that you know on our behalf. May they rest in peace. I have also heard that Mike Kinney is fighting some serious health issues and can use some prayers. Please keep Mike and all our ailing members in your prayers.

As always please let me know of any updates on members or families who have passed away or are seriously ill or hurt so I can get the word out.

For God and Country,

Chap. Jack Schwar (630) 542-3528 jack.schwar@gmail.com

Congratulations to our August & September Golden Bucks Winners….

August

Doug Linett
Gene Fehringer

September

Larry Kugler
Bob Ferraro

Congratulations to all of our winners!
Will you be one of our next winners???
GOOD LUCK!

AS A REMINDER, THIS WAS THE LAST DRAWING FOR THE 2021/2022 LEGION YEAR. THE TICKETS FOR THE 2022/2023 YEAR WERE MAILED OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER. DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR TICKETS BACK BEFORE OUR FIRST DRAWING IN OCTOBER.

Bingo

UPCOMING DATES:

December 9th & 23rd

&

January 13th & 27th

7:30 p.m.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

Regular Bingo Games / Special Bingo Games
PROGRESSIVE SPLIT THE POT GAME

American Legion Post 208
121 N. Douglas Avenue
Arlington Heights
847/253-6632
www.arlingtonheightsamericanlegion.org

PROCEEDS BENEFIT OUR LOCAL VETERANS & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Honor your hero. Be a hero. Donate blood.

American Red Cross

American Legion Post 208 Blood Drive

Main Hall
121 N Douglas Ave
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Tuesday, December 20th
9:00 a.m. to 2:00p.m.

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit redcrossblood.org

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit redcrossblood.org/RapidPass for more information.

Bring a photo ID or your blood donor card, or two other forms of ID.
Site/building: none

Special offer from our partners at Amazon: To thank you for coming to give June 14-30, we'll send you a $5 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. Restrictions apply, see amazon.com/gc-legal. Terms and conditions apply; visit rcblood.org/together.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800 RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 Download the Blood Donor App today!

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December

5 Harry & Juanita Kairys
7 Corrine Putwen & Sam
9 Jerrine & Clarence Placek

January

8 David & Joyce Mills
14 Rich & Carolyn Bolger
20 Jim & Corinne Zarno

Congratulations everyone!
Here's to many more years of wedded bliss!

REGULARLY SCHEDULED MONTHLY MEETING & EVENTS

P.O.C. / Executive Board Meeting – Monthly; 1st Tuesday
Post & Auxiliary Meeting – Monthly; 2nd Tuesday
S.A.L. Meeting – Monthly; 2nd Wednesday
Junior Auxiliary Meeting – Monthly, 2nd Sunday
Bingo – Bi-Monthly; 2nd & 4th Friday
Karaoke – Weekly; Friday night
Queen of Hearts Drawing – Weekly; Thursday night

The FEBRUARY / MARCH Newsletter deadline is
Tuesday, January 10th
E-Mail Your Articles
(in Microsoft WORD FORMAT and FLYERS in PDF FORMAT please)

to the Newsletter E-Mail Address

NEWSLETTERFORPOST208@YAHOO.COM

CELEBRATE

December

2 Star Kucic
3 Susan Fitzpatrick
3 Herb Cohan
4 Steve Doerner
9 Kathleen Hansen
9 Alvin Johnson
11 Marsha Serigos
14 Eugene Kaczmarek
18 Robert Ptaszek
23 Iona Collignon
23 Marie Depa
29 Stephenie Kowalczyk
29 Kimberlee Goczeski

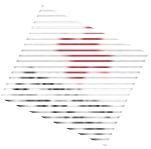
January

2 Marilyn Kossmann
3 Mel Pick
4 Vicki Boven
4 Ed Kuhl
5 Roy Pfeifer
8 Sue Roberts
9 Julie Tillman
11 Carol Rauch
21 Renee Schlenhardt
23 Nikki Kuhl
25 Roberta Becker
25 Brian Somerville
27 Clarice Falat
29 Terri Mares
30 David Roberts
31 Erwin Hagemann

*Please send **Birthday and Anniversary** additions and corrections to:*
NEWSLETTERFORPOST208@YAHOO.COM

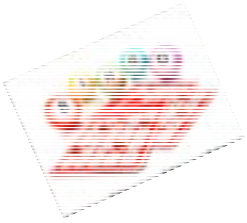
2022 / 2023

December
4 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast with Santa
9 Bingo
10 Children's Christmas Party
20 Red Cross Blood Drive
23 Bingo
25 Merry Christmas



January
1 Happy New Year
1 S.A.L. Winter Classic
13 Bingo
27 Bingo

February
5 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast
10 Bingo
12 S.A.L. Super Bowl Party
14 Valentine's Day
24 Bingo



March
5 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast
10 Bingo
17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
18 Post's St. Patrick's Party
24 Bingo

April
2 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast
9 Happy Easter
14 Bingo
28 Bingo

May
5 Auxiliary Cinco de Mayo Party
7 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast
12 Bingo
14 Happy Mother's Day
26 Bingo
29 Memorial Day Parade & Luncheon

June
9 Bingo
14 Flag Day
18 Happy Father's Day
23 Bingo

was the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
a sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary,
the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone,
curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice;

I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my country, my corps."
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold evening's chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
whispered, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."

By Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt

UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

DECEMBER

1 Queen of Hearts
2 Karaoke
4 S.A.L. Pancake Breakfast/Jr Aux Bake Sale
6 POC Mtg - 5:30 / Exec Board Meeting – 7 pm
8 Color Guard / Queen of Hearts
9 Bingo / Karaoke
10 Post's Children's Christmas Party
11 Jr. Aux Meeting 11:00 a.m.
13 Post / Auxiliary Meeting 7pm
14 S.A.L. Meeting 7 pm
15 Queen of Hearts
16 Karaoke
20 Red Cross Blood Drive
22 Queen of Hearts
23 Merry Christmas
25 Bingo / Karaoke
29 Queen of Hearts
30 Karaoke

JANUARY

1 Happy New Year / S.A.L. Winter Classic
3 P.O.C. 5:30 / Exec Board Meeting – 7 pm
5 Queen of Hearts
6 Karaoke
8 Junior Meeting
10 Post / Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm
11 S.A.L. Meeting 7 pm
12 Color Guard / Queen of Hearts
13 Bingo / Karaoke
19 Queen of Hearts
20 Karaoke
26 Queen of Hearts
27 Bingo / Karaoke

QUEEN of HEARTS

PROGRESSIVE RAFFLE

WILL YOU...

FIND HER?

WINNER RECEIVES 50% OF THE JACKPOT

DRAWINGS HELD at 7:00pm on THURSDAY'S
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)
TICKET SALES END at 6:45pm

SEE THE BARTENDER OR QUEEN OF HEARTS TICKET SALESPERSON
TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND TO REVIEW THE RULES

Looking for a hall to hold your Special Event . . .

The Legion has two halls available for rent to celebrate your special occasion.
From Christenings to Weddings and everything in between, one of our halls will suit your needs.
We are currently booking dates in 2023 so don't wait.

Contact: Donna Locher, Rental Chairman @ 847-502-1002

DECEMBER, 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 **Q.O.H.**	**2** **Karaoke**	**3** Rental (VH)
4 AA 7:15-9:15 **Pancake Breakfast** Rental (VH)	**5** U.S.M.C. (CR)	**6** **P.O.C. 5:30pm** **Exec Board 7pm**	**7** VFW 981 (VH)	**8** **Q.O.H.** **Color Guard**	**9** **BINGO** **Karaoke**	**10** **Post's Kids Xmas Party (VH/CR)**
11 AA 7:15-9:15 **Jr. Meeting (VH) 11-2pm**	**12** Rental (VH)	**13** **Post Mtg 7pm** **Aux Mtg 7pm**	**14** **SAL Mtg 7pm**	**15** **Q.O.H.**	**16** Rental (VH) **Karaoke**	**17** Rental (VH)
18 AA 7:15-9:15 Rental (VH)	**19**	**20** Red Cross 9 am	**21** U.S.M.C. (VH)	**22** **Q.O.H.** Rental (VH)	**23** **BINGO** **Karaoke**	**24**
25 *Merry Christmas* AA 7:15-9:15 Rental (VH)	**26**	**27**	**28** VFW 981 (VH)	**29** **Q.O.H.**	**30** **Karaoke**	**31** *New Year's Eve*

JANUARY, 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 AA 7:15-9:15 **SAL Winter Classic**	**2** USMC (CR) 7 pm	**3** **POC 5:30** **Exec Board 7pm**	**4** VFW 981 (VH) 7 - 9 pm	**5** **Q.O.H.**	**6** Karaoke	**7**
8 AA 7:15-9:15 Jr. Meeting	**9**	**10** **Post Mtg (VH) 7pm** **Aux Mtg (CR) 7 pm**	**11** **SAL Mtg (VH) 7 pm**	**12** **Q.O.H.** **ColorGuard 7 pm**	**13** **Bingo** **Karaoke**	**14**
15 AA 7:15-9:15	**16**	**17**	**18** USMC (VH) 7:30 p.m.	**19** **Q.O.H.**	**20** **Karaoke**	**21** **Rental (VH)**
22 AA 7:15-9:15	**23**	**24**	**25** VFW 981 (VH) 630 pm	**26** **Q.O.H.**	**27** **Bingo** **Karaoke**	**28**
29 AA 7:15-9:15	**30**	**31**				

POOL LEAGUE EVERY SUNDAY @ NOON

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Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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