



2018 Calendar

- January**
14: Chapter Meeting
- February**
11: Chapter Meeting
- March**
11: Chapter Meeting
- April**
7: Chap 37 SFA Ball
8: Chapter Meeting
- May**
6: Chapter Meeting
12: Chapter Fishing Excursion
21-24: All American Week
25: Chicago Vets Ruck March
28: Memorial Day Parade
- June**
10: Chapter meeting
14: Flag Day; US Army Birthday
- July**
4: Independence Day Parade
10: John Steele Chapter Picnic
- August**
6: Chapter Meeting
8-11: 72nd National Convention
16: National Airborne Day
- September**
9: Chapter Meeting
- October**
14: Chapter meeting
- November**
1: Scholarship App deadline
11: Chapter meeting
- December**
9: Chapter Holiday party
31: Membership Renewals Due

Download a complete 2018 calendar from our website at www.chicagoairborne.com

The Chicago Chapter is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit organization

Chairman's Message

Hello Chicago Chapter and welcome to 2018! Enjoy this newsletter and hope to see many of you at our future events. We have some terrific opportunities to get involved with the chapter this year, including monthly meetings, a couple of parades, and a fishing excursion in May. Also please make your reservations for All American Week at Fort Bragg in May and the Association's 72nd National Convention in Orlando in August.

Airborne, All The Way!
Larry Slavicek, Chairman/Treasurer



2017 Holiday Party

The Chicago Chapter held its annual Holiday Party on Sunday, 11 December at The Ram in Rosemont, IL. More than 40 members of our Airborne family joined us to celebrate the season and another terrific year for the Chapter.

The event featured a 2017 recap, a salute to our departed comrades, member recognitions, and the installation of our 2018 Executive Board. There was an impressive static display of vintage Airborne gear - many thanks to Vice Chairman Glenn Granat and member Tom Carter for sharing part of their extensive collection.

Chapter Service Officer, Cal Roesner, led a moving memorial to our 2017 departed members. Outgoing Chapter Secretary/Treasurer Colin Gray installed the 2018 Board: Larry Slavicek as Chairman and Treasurer; Glenn Granat as Vice Chairman and Sergeant At Arms; and, Mark Mueller as Secretary. Cal Roesner will return as Service Officer and Hank Mazik as Finance Officer.

The winner of the 50/50 raffle was Pat Burnett, wife of chapter member Dick Burnett, and chapter member Ken Negley won the American Express gift card.

See more photos on our website or Facebook group.

Top Photo: WWII Veteran Matt Wojtaszek (middle), with daughter Marge Mazik and son in law Hank Mazik.

Middle Photo: WWII Veteran Stan Gryga and daughter Marilyn Korpalski.

Bottom Photo: 2018 Executive Board is sworn in.



"America's Guard of Honor"

AFRICA SICILY FRANCE THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM GERMANY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
VIETNAM GRENADA PANAMA PERSIAN GULF AFGHANISTAN IRAQ



2018 Chapter Officers

Chairman, Treasurer
Larry Slavicek

Vice Chairman, Sgt at Arms
Glenn Granat

Secretary
Mark Mueller

Service Officer
Cal Roesner

Finance Officer
Hank Mazik

Favorite Links

82nd Airborne Div Association
www.82ndassociation.org

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov

IL Dept. of Veterans Affairs
veterans.illinois.gov

Pritzker Military Library
www.pritzkermilitary.org/

Honor Flight Chicago
www.honorflightchicago.org

Operation Support our Troops
www.osotamerica.org

CHICAGO CHAPTER HEADLINES

Current Headcount

Our Chicago Chapter is currently more than 200 members strong.

Member Moves

- Colin Gray to Florida
- Aaron and Mo Pylinski to Japan
- Ron Wheatley to Las Vegas, NV

2018 Annual Member Renewals

Annual members who have yet to renew for 2018 are encouraged to do so by July 1. Contact Mark Mueller at (630) 561-2139 or info@chicagoairborne.com for more info, or visit our website to download an application. Annual membership dues are \$25 per year. Life Membership dues are \$175 for veterans age 50+, and \$250 for veterans under 50.

2017 Farewells

In 2017, our Chicago Chapter said a final Farewell to three members:

- Harry Hewitt, 94, of Westfield, IL
- Robert "Bob" Bell, 87, of Columbus, GA
- Charles Kelly, 78, of Waukegan, IL

Belanger Promoted to Brigadier General

Congratulations to Chicago Chapter Life Member Kris Belanger on her promotion to the rank of Brigadier General. BG Belanger assumed Command of the 85th Army Reserve Support Command on 15 August 2017; a unit comprised of over 4,000 Soldiers in 46 Battalions located throughout 24 states and Puerto Rico.



Chapter Fishing Outing - 12 May



Calling all Airborne fishermen! Grab your favorite fishing gear and meet up at Tampier Lake, located at 131st & Wolf Road in Orland Park, from 8:00am until all fish are caught. We will meet at the west end of lake. Please plan to bring food, drink, and your gear -- we'll have a great time! Contact Vice Chairman Glenn T. Granat at (630) 209-2834 for more info or to let him know you're interested.



January Member Spotlight: Chairman Larry Slavicek

Larry entered the U.S. Army in 1971 as a Private/E-1. He served with the 1/325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, from 1971-1979 and rose to the rank of Platoon Sergeant/E-7. Larry is Master Jumpmaster and Pathfinder qualified and he successfully completed the Jungle Operations Training Course in Panama.



After leaving Active service, Larry served in various roles in the U.S. Army Reserves and the Army National Guard. Larry served in Operation Iraqi Freedom from January through August, 2003. His military's education includes the Infantry Officer Advanced Course and the United States Army Command and General Staff College. Larry served our country for over 39 years and retired as a full Colonel in May, 2011. Larry is an alumnus of Northern Illinois University, earning a B.S. in Finance and a Master of Business Administration.

Larry is currently serving his second term as Chicago Chapter Chairman and also serves as the Chapter's Treasurer. Larry and his wife Ann reside in Brookfield, IL. They enjoy spending time with their three beagles. Larry is also an avid fisherman and runner.

Chapter 50/50 Raffle



New this year, our chapter has started a 50/50 raffle that collects money throughout the year and then draws once in June and again in December at the Holiday party. Raffle tickets will be reset for each drawing. The raffle is open to the public and members are encouraged to help sell tickets, as proceeds benefit the chapter. Visit our chapter website or Facebook group for all the details and to download printable tickets.

Donate To Your Chicago Chapter

This appeal is low on the page but high on our priority list. The Chicago Chapter welcomes any/all monetary donations to help us grow and help others. Visit our website at ChicagoAirborne.com to make a secure donation online. To discuss, feel free to contact Chairman Larry Slavicek at (708) 341-3619 or chairman@chicagoairborne.com.



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

February 11
14:00 to 16:00

The Ram Restaurant & Brewery
9520 W Higgins Rd,
Rosemont, IL 60018

Meet us in the private room!

March 11
14:00 to 16:00

Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery
28265 Diehl Road
Warrenville, IL 60555
(Across from the Regal Theater)

Meet us in the 2nd floor loft!
Join us at 14:45 for our first ever Airborne Trivia!



82nd & Association Merchandise

Association members and friends looking for Association or 82nd Airborne Division merchandise have a number of good options, including:

Association Sales: Airborne and Association branded merchandise is available online at aaquartermaster.com.

Museum Website: The 82nd Museum Gift Shop offers merchandise online. Visit 82ndairbornedivisionmuseum.com/cube.

CHICAGO CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

HOT 2018 Airborne Calendars

This unique 82nd Airborne Division-themed calendar is professionally produced by the Chicago Chapter and is wall-ready. Enjoy 12 months of vivid All American, jump-qualified imagery and historic Airborne dates. Size 11" x 8.5" folded or 11" x 17" open. Get one for home, the office, and as a gift for your good friends. Cost is \$10 each.



Get Your Chapter Merchandise

Our eBay Store offers the following items for sale:

- Challenge Coins, \$12 each
- St. Michael Medallions, \$12 each
- Lapel Pins, \$5 each
- Wristbands, \$5 each
- Window Decals, \$4 each
- Holiday Cards, \$12 for pack of 20

NATIONAL ASSN. HEADLINES

Association IRS Status Update

In 2017 the National Association officially changed from IRS 501c4 to 501c19 status. This new status allows for donations from both businesses and individuals to be tax deductible. This status change has not yet trickled down to the chapter level; however that action will happen eventually.

All American Week 2018

The 82nd Airborne Division will once again host All American Week (AAW) at Fort Bragg and invites all veterans to attend the festivities. This year's event, celebrating 101 years of 82nd Division pride, will occur over 21-24 May. Event registration remains at \$100 per person. Visit 82ndairborneassociation.org for all the event and registration details.

The main hotel will once again be the IHG Army Hotel on post, with a rate of \$74/night for a standard Queen room and \$83/night for a King room, plus tax. The hotel rate includes a full buffet breakfast each morning. Rooms for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Members should contact the hotel directly for reservations or questions about rooms.

72nd National Convention

The 82nd Airborne Division Association will host its 72nd Annual National Convention over August 8-11, 2018, in Orlando, FL. Registration is \$110.00 per person, which includes two formal dinners and food and drink in the hospitality rooms. Bus transportation to the drop zone is available for an additional charge of \$15 per person and must be requested in advance as busses will only be available for those who have paid for transportation prior to the Convention.

The host hotel will again be the Rosen Centre in Orlando, FL, just minutes from many of the Orlando vacation attractions. The rooms are \$85 per standard room a night (max 4 persons per room). Hotel reservations can be made by calling (407) 996-9840. Registration forms and all the details are available at www.82ndairborneassociation.org.

All Chicago Chapter members are encouraged to attend the convention - it's a great opportunity to reconnect with the Airborne friends.

Association Education Fund

The 82nd Airborne Division Association Education Fund is available to dependent children of Airborne veterans or Airborne veterans themselves who apply within two years of separation. The fund provides grants to those eligible and who apply and meet all requirements. The firm deadline for receipt of completed applications is November 1. Details and applications are available on the Association website at www.82ndassociation.org, or contact Chicago Chapter Secretary Mark Mueller at (630) 561-2139 or secretary@chicagoairborne.com.

Donations to the Education Fund are always welcome. The Fund is set up as a unique legal entity and is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible.

Association PARAGLIDE Magazine

Just a friendly reminder that the National Paraglide magazine continues to be published quarterly, however is only available online. Hard copies were discontinued a few years ago due to increasing costs.

LOCAL INTEREST HEADLINES

Paratrooper License Plates

The State of Illinois offers Paratrooper license plates to vehicle owners. These plates feature basic jump wings and the word "Paratrooper" to let everyone know you've earned your wings. Visit the Cyberdrive Illinois website for more information. Proof of airborne qualification is required.



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**ABOUT THE CHICAGO CHAPTER**

The Chicago Chapter is one of the three original chapters in the Association, officially organized as the Illinois State Chapter on 25 March 1946. On 15 April 1948, the Chapter reorganized to make room for more Illinois paratroopers and received its charter as the Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

The 82nd Airborne Division Association was honored on 5 November 1990 by The United States Congress in receiving a Congressional Charter.

Today, the Chicago Chapter is more than 200 members strong and active in social and service activities. The Chapter is managed by an Executive Board of five officers elected by chapter members and governed by our chapter By-Laws.

AIRBORNE HISTORY

A monthly installment by Vice Chairman Glenn Granat

The 82nd Infantry Division celebrated 100 years of service to our great nation in 2017. From its beginning in the First World War to the current Global War on Terrorism, the All Americans have been *America's Guard of Honor* serving throughout the world with courage and distinction.

The All American Division was organized on 25 August 1917 at Camp Gordon, Georgia, shortly after America's entry into WWI. The All Americans served with distinction on the Western Front at St. Mihiel and the Meuse Argonne. Famous soldiers of the 82nd include Colonel Emory J. Pike, who was the Division's first Medal of Honor recipient. Colonel Pike served with the 321st Machinegun Battalion and was killed in action on 20 September 1918 from enemy artillery fire.

The Division's second Medal of Honor recipient was Sergeant Alvin C. York, who captured 35 machineguns and killed more than 25 enemy soldiers, as well as capturing an additional 132. The All Americans returned to the United States in 1919 and were deactivated in 1921. The 82nd Division was reactivated on 15 August 1942, as the 82nd Airborne Division under the command of General Omar N. Bradley, who was the Division's only Commanding General not Airborne qualified. The 82nd Airborne remains at Fort Bragg today.



LTC Emory Jenison Pike



Sgt. Alvin C. York

CHICAGO CHAPTER
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