

American Legion Post 145 Records

Descriptive Summary

Dates of Material: 1933-1999

Creator: American Legion Post 145

Level of Description: Box

Administrative Information

Title: American Legion Post 145 Records

Extent: 8 boxes

Abstract: The American Legion Post 145 Records include items that may be of historical value to someone researching local veterans history, including community service and outreach. The collection represents the organization's member's activities, charitable contributions, finances, and ongoing support for retired military personnel in the Highland Park, IL area.

Accession Number: 0313/2018

Provenance: Highland Park Historical Society

Separations: None

Processor: Kelsey Wilcoxon, Danielle Oakes, Briana Love, Tom Hill

Preferred Citation: Dominican University, Dominican University Archives and Special Collections (River Forest), American Legion Post 145 Records, Box #

Language: English

Repository: Dominican University Archives and Special Collections (River Forest)

Biography/History:

The American Legion is a veterans association, originally formed in Paris, France on March 15, 1919 by veterans of WWI. The American Legion continues to offer programs that range from baseball to national conventions. They also provide career, education, health, troop and family support services to support veterans. To be an eligible member of the American Legion, an individual must have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras. Given the opportunity, the American Legion utilizes their institution to help their community meet their needs. The American Legion publishes their own magazine and allows anyone to subscribe. According to their website, the organization describes themselves as, "A patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. A non-partisan, not for profit organization with great political influence in Washington."

The American Legion Post 145 is the Highland Park, IL chapter of the national organization. Their involvement in the local community includes support for holidays and parades, community fundraisers, visiting with patients in hospitals, and providing care for sick.. The local chapter provides a place for veterans to assemble and speak freely about issues they feel are important and relevant to themselves and the community. The records in this collection span from 1933-1999, however, the organization is still active and can be found on social media.

Scope and Content:

The records of American Legion Post 145 from Highland Park, Illinois document member participation in local, state and national events. These records have examples of a number of charitable events that the organization has participated in the Highland Park, IL area from the 1930s through the 1990s including carnivals, hospital visits, community fundraisers, and others specific to the organization. Through documents in this collection, the progression of rank among the members showing different rosters and promotions can be traced. Also included are examples of blank promotion and award certificates to illustrate what is required of the organization administration for these merits. The American Legion Post 145 has a rich history in the Highland Park community and records of different speeches are documented along with the date and location that they were given. Different items acquired for charitable causes or purchased for use by the organization give an idea of the cost of living throughout the 1930s-1990s. Use of the minutes to log the activities of the chapter show how different local, national, and global issues affected the organization and give a timeline of the responses of the organization.

The American Legion Post 145 Records consist of mixed media content: paper records, pamphlets, books, newspaper clippings, photographs, tin press pictures, fabric flags and banners, felt armbands, medals/awards, pins, wall plaques, blank forms, letters, certificates, receipts, financial reports, checks, tax returns, deposit logs, grave registration reports, bills, 16mm film reels, keys, patches, minute books, membership lists, bills of sale, and other ephemera relating to the American Legion Post 145 business operations.

See inventory lists noted under arrangement for dates and types of materials. This general box inventory does not account for every item in the boxes and may contain materials of a broader scope than listed.

Addenda: None

Arrangement:

Box 1 Items of fabric, plastic, metal keys, medals, pins, plaques, dated 1954, 1976, undated

Box 2 Financial records, expense brochures, photographs, receipts, handbooks, marketing materials, cemetery reports, tax info, blank stationery, merit forms, deposit logs, building insurance information, newspaper clippings, investments, officer listings, speeches, bank statements and checkbooks, 1936-1999

Box 3 Official Minute Books and Post News 1944-1955. By Laws, Certificates, Building plan, letters to members of the American Legion, pictures of veterans, service programs, daily schedule plan.

Box 4 Bank Statements (in order by month), cancelled bank checks, 2 tin plates (photos), brush, receipts, 1991-1998

Box 5 Newspaper clippings about legion news and Korean war, 1948-1964, legion mail 1987-1997

Box 6 American Legion Minute Books, 1960-1993, bulk 1960-1976

Box 7 American Legion Minute Books and Post News, 1933-1961, bulk 1940s-1950s

Box 8 Movies and movie camera on carnivals and misc. 1947-1955

Related Collections:

[McLean County Museum of History American Legion Collection](#)

[The American Legion Collection](#)

[Highland Park Historical Society](#)

[Staten Island Museum](#)

Subject Headings:

American Legion
Community centers
Fraternal organizations
History (general)
Military Operations
Non-governmental organizations
Societies
Patriotic societies and organizations, A-Z
Pamphlets,etc
Photograph
Print
Retired military personnel
United States
Veterans
20th Century

Additional Information:

Storage of film reels is recommended to be cold storage below 65°.