

### **Legion Rider Update**

The Legion Riders of Post 80 participated in the Corn Fest Parade at Morris, IL on September 26<sup>th</sup> joining a large number of Legion Riders from other Posts in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division. Jack Border is now the American Legion Dupage County and 11<sup>th</sup> District representative, reporting on Legion Rider activities to both these Legion levels.

### **Candlelight Bowl Fundraiser – October 24<sup>th</sup>**

The theme for the Legion Rider Candle Light Charity Bowl on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Strikes & Spares Lanes in Lockport, IL was “Let the Good Times Roll!” And they certainly did with participation from other Legion Rider groups and Post 80 members.

All fundraising efforts by the Legion Riders of Post 80 support such events as the barbecue as well as direct assistance to meet the needs of the hospitalized veterans at Hines VA Hospital. Legion Riders also contribute to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund for children who lost parents during the 9/11 attacks. Legion Riders of Post 80 also contribute to the Support Our Troops Program to provide needed comfort items to active military in Iraq and Afghanistan.

### **Come Ride With Us!**

**October 30<sup>th</sup>** Our Annual Fall ride is scheduled for to the Haunted Pumpkin Farm and then to the Honey Hill Apple Farm in Waterman, IL to stock up on cider, apples, donuts and home made apple pie!

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** We've been invited to ride in the Veteran's Day Parade in Utica, IL at invitation of the Utica American Legion Post.

### **Working with and for Hines VA Veterans**

In addition to the very successful barbecue on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> for Hines Spinal Unit veterans, the Legion Riders are also working to assist the Hines VA to obtain additional grant funding from the 2011 Olympic Opportunity Fund to support the activities of the Hines Physically Challenged Sports Program. Currently, the Hines Physically Challenged Sports Committee is composed of physicians, nurses, therapists and administrative staff located at the Hines Veterans Hospital. Training for the National Events sponsored by Veterans Affairs is provided by Hines staff, as well as through community resources and activities, year round.

This program includes the Annual Hines VA Wheelchair Olympics which the Legion Riders participated in May 2010 and have been asked to participate in the 2011 event on May 14, 2011. Since its inception, over 30 years ago, the Hines Physically Challenged Sports Program has recruited and trained veterans of all ages and disabilities in therapeutic recreational activities. The ultimate goal of many who participate is to attend one of the Veterans Affairs National competitions/clinics. Last year, approximately fifty veterans from Hines Veterans Hospital attended four National Sporting Clinic/Games. Their attendance was made possible through fundraising efforts and donations made to this program through numerous individuals, groups and service organizations such as Legion Riders.

The goal of the Hines Physically Challenged Sports Program is to extend the rehabilitative process and to encourage the development of healthy, active, social and physical lifestyles. Participants learn to enhance their ability to overcome environmental, social and psychological barriers through local participation and national competitions. As a result, the participating veteran athlete gains confidence and independence in functioning outside his or her home following an injury or disability. Secondary to these life changing experiences, the effect of the Hines Physically Challenged Sports Committee is measured through increased participation in Hines therapeutic activities, as well as community involvement in recreational past times. The number of Hines Veteran participants continues to grow. This year an increase of 20 percent participation is expected. Awareness amongst veteran peer groups has also improved interest and participation.

