

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

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**ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770**

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**CALENDAR FOR APRIL**

Sun	April 1		Palm Sunday April Fools Day
		1:00 – 3:00 PM	Kids Easter Party
Mon	April 2	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	April 3		First Day of Passover
		7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	April 4	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	April 5		Good Friday
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	7 <sup>th</sup> Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sun	April 8	FLAG	Easter - Post Closed
Mon	April 9	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – Announce Proposed Slate of Officers
Weds	April 11	Noon	Senior Citizens Meeting
Fri	April 13	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Regular Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sun	April 15	1:00 PM	6 <sup>th</sup> District Spring Meeting at Post 876, Sherburne, NY
		1:00 PM	Birthday Party
Tues	April 17	6:30 PM	Tompkins County Joint American Legion Dinner Meeting at Groton
Weds	April 18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	April 19	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	April 21	4:00 – 8:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	April 22		Earth Day
		7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	April 23	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	April 25	11:00 – 2:00 PM	Bowling Banquet
Fri	April 27		National Arbor Day
		3:00 – 9:00 PM	Retirement Party
Sat	April 28	6:00 PM	Trumansburg Fire Department Banquet
Sun	April 29	9:00 AM	Women’s Community Breakfast

**SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thought For the Day** – “God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.”  
Daniel Webster

**“Walk of Honor”** – Thank you for inquiring about the purchase of an inscribed brick honoring a veteran. Application forms are available at the entryway to the Post lounge. We are submitting orders for installation in the spring.

**Post 770 Maintenance** – It has been brought to our attention that in order for our zone heating system to operate correctly and maintain proper temperatures, the doors within our facility must remain closed. Each room is on a separate thermostat. Thank you in advance for helping maintain a cozy and comfortable temperature throughout our building.

**From the Board of Directors** – The bar and Legion can be closed at the discretion of the bartender during inclement weather if it is deemed conditions warrant such action. Also, we now have a regulator set up to provide beer for kitchen crews.

**Post 770 Website** – [www.Post770.com](http://www.Post770.com) - We continue to post our website for you because there is a lot of Legion info that may be of interest. If you have anything you think might be of interest to other Legionaires, please contact Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430.

**Albert M. Becker Memorial Scholarship Award 2007** – This \$1,000 cash scholarship in the memory of Albert M. Becker, past NALPA President and Dept. Commander is awarded to a student entering or attending an accredited 2 or 4 year college and majoring in the field of communications. The student must be a child of a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, or a member of the SAL, or graduate of the Boys or Girls state. There is an application form on our bulletin board which may be used to produce a copy for your use in applying for this scholarship. Applications must be received with all attachments included, by June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007.

**Elections of Officers** – The slate proposed by the nominating committee will be announced at the 1<sup>st</sup> Post membership meeting in April. The election of officers will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Post membership meeting in May. Anyone having an interest in running for an American Legion office should make their thoughts known to the committee or any Post officer. The nominating committee is comprised of Tom Bennett and George Van Valen.

**Kids Easter Party** – will take place at 1:00 PM on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The event will include all kids from newborn to 12 years of age. Following the Easter egg hunt, the Easter Bunny will hop to each little girl and boy with a basket full of goodies. There will be refreshments for all. Parents and grandparents will need to sign up your children by Weds, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Bar Mirror** – We have noticed more and more info papers posted on the mirror behind the bar. We are asking bartenders to refrain from this practice and use the bulletin boards instead. At the same time we are appealing to our members to help in keeping our bulletin boards up to date and presentable. Right now they are maxed out with obsolete information. Let's all pitch in and help out.

**Planning Ahead** – Just how far do you plan ahead? Check out these dates in September. We are setting aside either the 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 16<sup>th</sup> for the family picnic and the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> for a fall cleanup of our facilities. I know you won't want to miss either one so put them on your calendar for September.

**Volunteer Bartenders** – once again we are appealing for more volunteer bartenders. On occasion we do lose one for one reason or another which necessitates that we add to our pool. If you have ever had a thought about volunteering, now is the time that you are needed. To get started you would train by working with someone until you felt comfortable to be on your own. Please consider helping us at Post 770.

## MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has grown to 377. We are still 28 members short of our quota. Getting close but we can't relax yet. How about signing up some of our newer, younger eligible veterans. There are a lot of them out there and we need some new blood to keep our organization at its peak. Sell them with the idea of what our group has to offer as a united veterans organization. We have but 2 more months before convention and reporting time.

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

**Taps: Barbara S. Leahey** – died Friday, February 23, 2007 at Schuyler Hospital SNF, Montour Falls. She was the mother of member Paul Leahey.

**Leslie B. "Les" Scott** – passed away on February 13, 2007 in Bokeelia, Florida. He was the brother of member Bill Scott.

**Beverly B. Hastings** – passed away on Friday, March 2, 2007 while visiting family in Tucson, Arizona. She was the wife of former member Robert "Bob" Hastings.

**William B. Stanton** – died Thursday, March 8, 2007 at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. "Bill" received an honorable discharge from the US Navy after having served in the Korean War. He was a member of both the Trumansburg American Legion and the Ithaca VFW.

## POST NEWS

Lenten Steak & Fish Fries are off and running every Friday night. We are very pleased with the turnouts when you consider how many fish fries there are in the area. We thank our patrons for being so loyal to Post 770. ...Last Saturday night we took our grandkids to the Boy Scout Spaghetti dinner and it too was well attended. The parking lot was just about full but we found a spot and really enjoyed a fine dinner with great service. It is nice that we have a facility worthy of the various benevolent groups that use it. ...Another large crowd was in attendance for the snowmobile clubs "appreciation for landowners" dinner. We heard many nice comments about the "Feast" ...Tomorrow night we plan to go to the Lion's Club Annual Senior Citizen's Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. No wonder we are putting on a few pounds. ...Changing the subject a wee bit, we have purchased a snow blower with the SAL going in on it with us. It seems the old snow blower could no longer keep the sidewalks clean. ... We understand the Auxiliary is footing the bill for another CO2

extinguisher to be available at the other end of the kitchen. You never know when one of these may be needed as we found out last fish fry with an oven grease fire. Fortunately the CO2 extinguisher did its job in a few seconds. ...The Legion membership is looking ahead to summer and made a donation to the Girl Scout Camp Fund. ...A donation was also made to the Trumansburg Fire Co. in memory of member Harold Seuss. ...Bingo: Cindy and Gary Reckdenwald, our co-chairpersons, have made much progress. It is not an easy job to fill in all of the compliance forms for the State to get the whole project off and running. It appears the biggest obstacle is getting the names and signatures of American Legion members who are willing to work on Mondays, our designated day, even if they can only work occasionally. This is a state mandate. Others may assist in various ways, but we need Legion names to accompany our application. We will also need some people to help with food. All is for a good cause in as much as the state mandates that we spend the profits on benevolent causes. When working you cannot play or drink, but may venture into the lounge to deal with your thirst. We think this gives you a picture of what is needed and expected. Won't you help out and get Bingo underway?

### AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is now at 153 and we need 35 more members to make our quota. Please think about re-upping or signing-up new members. Take notice of the new patriotic aprons the ladies are wearing at dinners. Mary Harvey made them. Thank you on a job well done. Our best to Joyce Darling who had surgery on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The two Auxiliary scholarship applications are due on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Our annual Kids Easter party will be on Sunday, 4/1 from 1:00 till 3:00 PM. Election of officers will be here soon. At our meeting on 4/3, we should appoint a nominating committee and see if we can find a Poppy Princess. The electronic bugle was presented to the Post at their birthday dinner on 3/31. More wood is being installed in the corridor. Excellent job guys! Thank you.

**SAVE: Sept 11, 2007 – Antique Appraisal Day** – More to follow.

Have a Happy Easter.

Respectively submitted Marge Bennett

### SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Squadron 770 was chartered on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1967. Our original members were Bernard & James Albertsman, Brian, Christopher & Tomas Bennett, James & John Ferner, Steven Frost, Timothy McGee, and Douglas & Alexander Park. Thanks for getting us going. To celebrate this milestone, we are throwing a party with food, drinks, and music for the entire Legion some time in August (hopefully the 4<sup>th</sup>). More on this later. ...At our last meeting, we decided to raffle a Bose Acoustic Wave radio for Father's Day. Tickets will be available at our April meeting. Nominations for officers will also commence in April. Membership is still lagging from last year. Please renew your membership. Our next meetings will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>. Come out and let your voice be heard.

### A THOUGHT ON MILITARY DISPLAYS

For a long time it has been a desire among a few of us to establish a military display of artifacts of interest to the membership. Call it a museum, building, room, or hallway for exhibiting and preserving historical military related objects, things, and information. The picture shown is a display room in the Royal Canadian Legion in Parrsborro, Nova Scotia, a village about the size of Trumansburg. Take note of the display of uniforms and other military related objects.

We could begin small with some uniforms draped on wooden frames or mannequins in our spacious hall and entryway. We already have several donated uniforms on hand for display. Ideally it would be nice to construct a seasonal museum as part of our planned pavilion. However, this would probably be a long-range goal. Realistically, the meeting room, which already has a WW1 theme of artifacts displayed, and the hallway and entryway would be a great place to start adding memorabilia. Is there any interest or suggestions out there? Let us here from you.

### TO KILL AN AMERICAN!

You probably missed it in the rush of news, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So an Australian dentist wrote an editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is so they would know when they found one. (Good one, mate!!!) "An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian, or Greek.

An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan. An American may also be a Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many other tribes known as Native Americans. An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in American than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses. An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God. An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness. An American is generous. American have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return. When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup>, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan. Americans welcome the best of everything...the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best services. But they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built American. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001 earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists. So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other bloodthirsty tyrants in the world. But, in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.