

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Legion Telephone 387-4212

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## CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Sun	Aug 1	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited – Welcome TCS Alumni!
		5:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Mon	Aug 2	7:00 PM	Tompkins County A.L. Organizational Meeting, Post 1134 Dryden
		7:30 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Aug 4	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Aug 5		Anniversary Party
Fri	Aug 6		1 <sup>st</sup> Atomic Bomb Mission, Hiroshima, 1945
Mon	Aug 9	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
			2 <sup>nd</sup> Atomic Bomb Mission, Nagasaki, 1945
Tues	Aug 10	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Meeting
Fri	Aug 13	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & fish fry Dinner – Don Smith's Crew- Public Invited
Sat	Aug 14		Japan Surrendered, Ending WWII, 1945
Weds	Aug 18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		7:00 PM	VFW Post 5498 Meeting
Sun	Aug 22	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Aug 23	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting –
			Voting on a Constitutional Bi-Laws Amendment- (See A.L. Membership)
Tues – Sun	Aug 24 – 29	All Day	Trumansburg Fair American Food Tent – (See Special Events)
Sat	Aug 28	5:00 PM	Trumansburg Fair Fireman's Parade – (See Special Events)
<b>LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL EVENTS:</b>			September 12 Family Picnic & Flag Retirement Ceremony
			October 16 Bath Vets Noon Visitation Dinner

## SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**American Legion Food Tent at the Fair** - will take place Tues–Sun, August 24<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> all day long. This is another fundraiser for the American Legion family and it takes an enormous number of volunteers to prepare and serve breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day. Please check with Pat Platt if you want to be placed on a crew or stop in at the Post and sign up. We are counting on you!

**Trumansburg Fair Fireman's Parade** – The parade will begin at 5:00 PM sharp on Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Parade lineup will commence at 4 PM. We will form our Color Guard at the Post at 4:15 PM and head over to the starting point at about 4:30. Uniform will be white Legion logo or short sleeve shirts, dark navy or black pants and shoes, and a Legion Hat. If you are unable to walk, we are hoping to have flat bed transportation for you. Let's have a good turnout for this event.

**Post 770 Website** – Patrick Richar has our new website, [www.Post770.com](http://www.Post770.com), set up. We need material that would be of interest to our Post members to be sent to Patrick at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430. Give us a try.

**Charter Bus to Washington, DC Memorial Sites** – Those of you that have signed up for the Sept 25<sup>th</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> trip should have received a form to fill in regarding our excursion. Please return the form with your check to Phil Colvin by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time we have a stand by list in the event of cancellations.

**Breakfast** – Because the TCS Alumni are in town the Legion has “found a way” to put on a special breakfast at the Post on both Sat and Sun, July 31<sup>st</sup> & Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope our returning alumni and Legion members will have an opportunity to get together at one or both of our fabulous breakfasts from 8:00- 11:00 AM. See you there.

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 770 CONTRIBUTION FUND

We are extremely pleased with both the renewed volunteerism and monetary contributions that have been rendered to our Legion Post during this time of financial difficulty. We are very pleased to tell you that you have rescued us from a very precarious situation. We now have a better financial outlook. That is not to say we are "out of the woods", but are presently much more stable. We owe this resurgence to our members and friends, the rank and file, of our organization. Without your dedication, our glorious Post would not continue to exist. Thank you members and friends... Enjoy the beauty; it's your Post.

## AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP DUES

Our returning Department delegates, Don Smith and Tom Bennett, have informed us that the Department delegate members voted in majority to increase membership dues \$5.00, from \$20 to \$25 per year. This change will occur on January 1, 2005. Our Post 770 membership, at its last meeting, decided in order to remain financially stable, we too should increase our dues by \$5 on Jan 1, 2005. Much of the money we collect for dues is turned over to the NY Department and National Legion for their operating expenses. To not increase our dues would put us in financial jeopardy. A problem with a dues change does exist however. In order to increase the dues, we must amend our Bi-Laws.

**Article V – Finances and Dues of the Bi-Laws Section 1** reads as follows: The amount of annual Post dues shall be \$20 payable in advance on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October each year. In order to change the amount of dues that Post 770 members shall pay, we need to amend the Bi-Laws to read, "Membership dues shall be \$25.00". "The Bi-Laws may be amended at any regular Post meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members attending such regular meeting, provided that the proposed Amendment shall have been submitted in writing and read at a preceding regular meeting of the Post, and provided further that written notice, including a copy of proposed amendment, shall have been sent to all members at least ten days in advance of the date when such amendment is to be voted upon, notifying said members that at such meeting, the proposal to amend the Bi-Laws is to be voted upon. In as much as the August 23, 2004 meeting will fulfill the requirements of the amendment procedure, we will therefore vote upon the fore-mentioned amendment upon that date. August 23, 2004. If passed, dues will be increased from \$20 to \$25 on January 1, 2005. Members' who are on active duty, please notify us if you are no longer on active duty. Also, notify us of your correct address.

## POST NEWS

We had the opportunity of a lifetime in attending the recent Empire Girls State on June 30<sup>th</sup> held at SUNY Brockport. It was indeed a pleasure to watch the closing ceremonies of girls selected by various American Legion Auxiliary Posts around New York State. Of course we were partial in watching our granddaughter, Sarah Gatch, march into the auditorium among 360 girls. It was certainly a night to be proud of...We purchased a used PA System for \$100. It was certainly an improvement over the one we were using...There are 74 chairs, 10 tables, and a 20 x 20 tent that the Post is offering to rent out. None of our new banquet room tables are included in the package. Phil Colvin is the one to check with if you wish to request any of the chairs, table, or tent. We recently had several people signing out chairs and tables for the same day...but not from Phil. Could cause problems. Give Phil a ring...Thank you to Mike Boylan for installing new faucets and Ed Brown and Cliff Northrup for running a 220 circuit to the banquet room for our steam tables. We also want to thank the Millspaugh Brothers Hardware, Denny and Doug, for materials donated for our steam table and washer/dryer hookups. Post 770 salutes you. Thanks...The Post recently heard a presentation from a representative of the Trumansburg Festival of Lights. We were approached regarding participation with a Friday night dinner and fireworks, and a Saturday night swing dance (December 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>). Sounds like a great community event and a win-win situation for both the Village and the American Legion. We're going for it...Our July Fish Fry, on which I worked along with many other dedicated crew, served 230 dinners (212 & 18 carry outs). As tired as we were, we thank our patrons for making it a very successful evening. We hope you will keep coming as you have in the past...The American Legion Baseball is over. We wish to congratulate our team and coaches on their splendid record of 8-3, even though they did not end up representing Tompkins County in the District play offs. Great job guys!...The Board of Trustees has retained a new bookkeeper, Karen Grant. We wish her success in keeping our various financial records in good order...Members, Dave & Sandy Kline, donated funds to repair the Legions electrical panel to be used at the Fairgrounds. With two large fundraisers coming up in Grassroots and the T-Burg Fair, we certainly need that electricity. Thanks to the Kline's for their donation...We are always pleased to hear or read about our Legion family. We noticed with great pride that Ithaca College Junior, Brett Huckle, grabbed one of the 2004 Empire 8 All-Conference team. Huckle, a graduate of Ithaca High School, led all Ithaca midfielders with 29 goals and was fourth on the team with 36 points. He is the grandson of member Gordan and Margaret Huckle...Members Izzy and John Duddlestone, great grandparents of James Douglas Dew, have informed us of his induction into the US Army upon completion of his senior year, June 2004 at

COD High School. James is the son of Jim and Cindy Dew. Congratulations to him, his parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents. What we need now is to sign James up to our Post 770 American Legion membership. It's free while you are on active duty. (We pay the dues)...Did you catch the recent photo in the Free Press showing the Taughannock Garden Club beautifying the entrance to the village? Featured dead center is our American Legion Sign. It was stolen several years ago and recently replaced. Nice to see it in a prominent location once again...

**Iraq – One Persons Viewpoint** - (Ithaca Journal Letters to the Editor) As your newsletter Editor, I have tried never to present a bias report politically or otherwise. We realize there are always two sides to every story...yet I really think you should have the opportunity to read this letter written by Susan Agati of Newfield. (I haven't the slightest idea of who she is). You may or may not agree with her thoughts...that's the beauty of being an American...to each his own.

“Weapons of mass destruction or WMD, how many have to die in any one episode of their exposure tens, hundreds, or thousands? Nearly 3,000 died on 9-11. More than those killed on that infamous day of Dec 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was attacked. WMDs come in many forms and I believe that those trained to maim and kill innocent people are as destructive as any biochemical. Training camps to teach how to mass murder are WMDs. These had been found when our brave soldiers went into Iraq to liberate a people that have been raped, tortured, and starved. We are talking about a whole nation of men, women and children. How many of you would condemn your mother, aunt, sister or niece to the rape and torture perpetrated upon the women of Iraq under Saddam and his sons? Families left behind by those who were fortunate to escape were brutalized to ensure others wouldn't leave. Another thing: We did not invade Iraq. We are there to liberate, quite a difference. If the news media doesn't know the difference they should look up the words. Some complain that we are there a year now. We are in Kosovo five years since Clinton started his bombing. We are more than 50 years still in Korea since that war ended. Liberation does not come easy. Read about the founding fathers of the United States what they were to endure. Are the Iraqi people better off today than before President Bush had the fortitude to go in? Yes! Some of the news media would like to have us think from the few they convince to speak negatively, that the average Iraqi is against us. This is not true, sure there are growing pains to a new life, but one that will be well worth the efforts. I feel very sorry for those who have lost loved ones, but they fought valiantly for the liberation of Iraq, to say otherwise is to disgrace these brave, young men and women.” Susan Agati, Newfield

**The Enola Gay Exhibit ‘Let's Learn From It’** By Matt Grills, Assistant Editor at The American Legion Magazine

Americans can now see history's most famous peacemaker in one piece. Reassembled and fully restored to its wartime condition, the Enola Gay is once again going on display at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum – this time without controversy. In 1994, the Smithsonian asked The American Legion to join with it in revising the script for an Enola Gay exhibit scheduled to open in May 1995. To the horror of America's veterans, the script called into question President Truman's decision to drop two atomic bombs on Japan in 1945. After months of trying to remove a bias that cast America as aggressor and Japan as victim, the Legion formally opposed the exhibit, arguing that the bombing helped end World War II and saved hundreds of thousands of lives expected to be lost in a planned invasion of Japan. The new display avoids moral scrutiny of the Enola Gay's mission and instead looks at the Boeing B-29 Super-Fortress from a technological perspective. Designated for the 509<sup>th</sup> Composite Group, the Enola Gay and other B-29s were outfitted with special engines and propellers and faster-acting pneumatic bomb-bay doors. The aircraft also marked the first successful large-scale use of pressurized crew compartments. Too massive to be housed in the National Air and Space Museum's flagship building on the National Mall in Washington, the Enola Gay is in the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center near Dulles International Airport. Because of the work of some very talented men and women, future generations will sense firsthand the unalterable significance of this aircraft in World War II and human history. “Let's learn from it”.

#### CHAPLAINS CORNER

**Taps** **Madelyn B. Xavier** – died Sunday, June 27, 2004 at Geneva General Hospital. She was the sister of member James Toro.

**Donald Parker** – died at home on Sunday, July 18, 2004. He was the brother of member and recent Post Adjutant, William (Bill) Parker.

#### A LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR BOYS' STATE PARTICIPANTS

It is always a pleasure to send young men from our County to participate in Boys' State. Please read the following letter received from Boys' Stater, Steven Kolberg, this year: “Dear Commander Richar: I would like to sincerely thank the American Legion for sponsoring my trip to Boys' State. At Boys' State I served as an elected representative in the state legislature as an Assemblyman. The actual hand-on political experience opened my eyes to state government that no school class could ever match. I was exposed to contrasting cultures as well, as many participants were from either one of the five Burroughs of New York City or Long Island. I found these contrasting cultures to be extremely interesting, adding to my

experiences at Boys' State. The speakers that were present at assemblies, such as Senator Schumer, were informative. I have a great newfound respect for the Marines as well as for all participants in the Legion. The work and deeds of both the Armed Forces and the Legion are very humbling to me. Again, I would like to thank you for sponsoring my week of politics, discipline, camaraderie, fun, fitness, and teamwork known as The American Legion Boys' State of New York. Sincerely, Steven Kolberg PS: My county was particular successful: both the Governor and Lieutenant Governor were from my county."

### **ADJUTANT REPORT**

You have by now received your membership dues notice for year 2004 – 2005. We hope you will consider responding early in our new Legion Fiscal Year. Perhaps one incentive may be free admission to the Early Bird Dinner in the fall and perhaps another might be a \$5 savings if our dues are raised on January 1, 2005. We continue to remain a very strong organization during these times of world uncertainly and hope you will continue to reinforce our ranks. The membership goal for 2004 – 2005 in Tompkins County is 1168. At Post 770 the goal is 446. We missed last year's goal of 460 by 16 members, having had 444. Lets get our 100% membership banner this year. There are a lot of new eligible veterans out there eager to become one of us...go get 'em! Welcome new members Eric R. Blass, James A. Jones, Donald R. Murray, and Ruth A. Murray. Welcome Aboard!

### **AUXILIARY REPORT**

Don't forget, dues are due starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. Pay now so your Early Bird dinner in October will be free. We have noticed that we are missing tables, chairs, wheel chairs, walkers, etc. Please return them as soon as possible upon recovery or after your function, so the next person may have the same opportunity that you have had. Thank you. Our next meeting will be Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.