

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Thurs	Dec 2	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Information Meeting – Heroux Chili
Fri	Dec 3	4:00 – 7:00 PM	Festival of Lights Buffet Supper at Post 770 – Public Invited
		8:45 PM	Festival of Lights Fireworks at Post 770 – Public Invited
Sat	Dec 4	8:00 – 11:00 PM	Festival of Lights Jazz Swing Dance @ \$5 per person – Public Invited
Sun	Dec 5	5:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Mon	Dec 6	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 221, Ithaca
TUES	DEC 7	FLAG	PEARL HARBOR DAY
Weds	Dec 8	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Dec 10	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Dec 11	6:00 PM	HOGS Christmas Party
Sun	Dec 12	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Dec 13	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Dec 14	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Christmas Party
Weds	Dec 15	Noon	Senior Citizens Christmas Luncheon
		7:00 PM	VFW Post 5498 Meeting
Fri	Dec 17	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	Dec 18	TBA	Bus Garage Christmas Dinner
Sun	Dec 19	1:00 PM	Kids Christmas Party – Public Invited – Sign Ups Required
Tues	Dec 21	Noon	Tompkins County Highway Department Christmas Party
Weds	Dec 22	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Dec 24	4:00 – 6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Open House, Free draft beer, soft drinks & hors d’oeuvres
SAT	DEC 25	FLAG	CHRISTMAS DAY – POST CLOSED
Mon	Dec 27	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Fri	Dec 31	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Combination Crew
		9:30PM – 1:00AM	New Years Eve Party with a DJ
SAT	JAN 1	FLAG	HAPPY NEW YEAR! Football Bowl Games on TV at the Post

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Legion Family Information Meeting – will be held on Thursday, Dec 2nd at 7:00 PM with a dish to share or not. Jim Heroux has promised to provide chili, depending on his luck with deer hunting. These meetings have provided an opportunity to express ones opinions and suggestions. They provide an outlook to the future of our Post. Why not take an hour or two and attend?

Festival of Lights – is being held on Fri & Sat, Dec 3rd & 4th. Featured are our dinner buffet on Fri 4 –7 PM, fireworks at 8:45 PM and a Jazz Swing Dance with music for \$5 from 8 – 11PM on Saturday. See you there.

Breakfasts – We are continuing with our middle of the month breakfast put on by Shirley, Wayne and the crew on Sun, Dec 12th, but are canceling our late month breakfast on the 26th because of its nearness to Christmas. See you on the 12th.

Kids Christmas Party – will be held on Sun, Dec 19th at 1:00 PM. Plenty of refreshments and fun are in store when Santa arrives with his bag of toys and goodies. All little boys and girls between the ages of newborn and 12 are invited to come. Bring your mom and dad, grandma & grandpa, the more the merrier. We need you to sign up and tell us the ages, sex, and how many children you are bringing by Dec 15th, so that Santa can fill his sack with presents for everyone.

New Years Eve Party – as you can see by our calendar of events, we are trying something new this year. Our party will be preceded by a Steak & Fish Fry dinner to be followed by the traditional dance and New Years celebrations. Won't you come and bring in the New Year at Post 770?

Destruction of Original Military Records– was an important communication listed in your last newsletter. We received this information from member Paul Harrington disputing this information. “Attention: There is a rumor circulation among Veterans organizations that Official Military Personal Files (OMPF's) at the National Personnel Records Center will be digitized then destroyed. This rumor is not true! Neither the Dept of Defense nor the National Personnel Records Center intends to destroy any OMPF's at the Center. The purpose of any electronic scanning would be to reduce the handling of fragile records during the referral process or to reduce the time necessary to locate and answer OMPF inquiry. The National Archives and Records Administration preserves and protects OMPFs because they are permanently valuable records that document the essential evidence of military service for the Veterans of our Nation.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

At this time we have 357 members signed up. We are still hoping to reach our quota of 446 members. As you can see we have a few more members to sign up in order to reach our goal. They are out there! All you need to do is convince them of the rewards that await them by joining our organization. Time is running short. Sign up or renew now and save \$5. The membership dues will soon be \$25. If you have changed your address, please notify us so that we may correct your newsletter address.

NEWSLETTER

During this past month I, as your editor, have been upset with the inability of us to get your newsletter to you before its news becomes obsolete. We feel the calendar is an important part of the newsletter, especially to our local members, and you have not been getting it on time. The November issue was completed on Weds, the 20th of October, our deadline. Our typist and arranger advisor, Kathi Roach and I completed our final submission by Tues, October 26th. On Weds at 10 AM I submitted our application for 635 copies to Gnomen Copy to be run off and sent upon completion to Mailbox, Inc. for assembly, addressing and sorting. Gnomen took two days to complete their part and the newsletter reached Mailbox, Inc on Friday the 29th. It was because of the weekend that the delivery to the Trumansburg Post Office wasn't made until Monday, November 1st. At 3 PM I was contacted by the Post Office that our 635 mailings had arrived. At that time I wrote out a check to cover the cost of the mailing. Now the part that bothers me is that many others and I didn't receive our newsletter until Monday, Nov 8th. This is unacceptable. Apparently the local mail is now being sent to the Rochester distribution center to be sorted, box-by-box, before being returned to T-burg to be put into our mailboxes. We are totally dismayed! Here is what we plan to do. Change the deadline for submission from the 20th of the month to the 15th. Perhaps this extra 5 days will get your newsletter to you on or before the 1st of the month. So be it! Any comments or suggestions? I am still looking for a collaborator to help produce this newsletter. My handshaking condition impairs my writing to the extent that I no longer know how much further Kathi will continue to interpret my scribbling. If there is any one of you Legion family out there that would either aid or take over our communications, please give us a call. Thank you all for being so understanding.

George Van Valen

POST NEWS

The Early Bird dinner brought forth a nice crowd as it serves to be our fall kickoff Legion get-together. Our program centered on reports from our Boys Staters, Stephen Kilberg and Dan Oches. It is always a pleasure to hear of the experiences of our young men attending this once in a lifetime experience... Our breakfasts continue to draw well. We certainly welcome our second crew, which allows us to have two breakfasts each month; one in the middle and one near the end of the month. Our tummy fillers on Oct 7th served 106. Great job Shirley, Wayne, Ruthie, Harold, Sue, Chloe. Our Halloween party produced some weird characters. Top awards went to a pair of unidentified people posing as Little Red Riding Hood and the Big Bad Wolf. We received a note from “Little Red” telling us who she was at the end of the evening. Otherwise, no one ever knew. Other great costumes were worn by Chris, our bartender, Lenny Bailey and Butch Smith. There were others, but those were the ones I remember. A big thanks to Chris Bennett and Barry, the Phantom DJ, for not only providing us with the music, but food, entertainment, prizes, and awards fitting for Halloween. Our flu clinic at the Post was cancelled for lack of vaccine. I answered the Ithaca Journal announcement of a Tompkins County flu clinic at the Armory. Our wait was about 1

¼ hours- no big deal! The woman next to me in line was from Groton and said her husband had gone to the Ithaca VA clinic the day before and received the shot at no expense and no waiting. We wish we had known because we would have announced it, but there was much uncertainty at the time of anyone having the flu shot. We attended part of the Joint Family Legion meeting on the first Thursday of the month and found it to be a great discussion of things to come about. Come next month and taste the chili Jim Heroux promised us. We answered the call for a color guard in the Ithaca Veterans Day Parade on Sunday, Nov 7th. Alas, we were the only one to show up. I knew several others had commitments, yet we were hoping for some new blood to come forth. Next year we must have Post 770 represented. Talking later with others Post members I was disappointed we were not represented. Post 770 was represented at the DeWitt Veterans Day Ceremonies in Ithaca on 11/11/04. Tony Chiesa, Harold Wright, and Dave Boyd formed a firing squad. George Van Valen, Calvin Bailey, Phil Smith, and Don Teeter also were on hand to represent Post 770. The Cornell ROTC, Sons of Union Veterans, Salvation Army, and a number of other Veteran organizations conducted the ceremony. We returned from this celebration to attend our own annual Post 770 Veterans Day Dinner. Thanks to Chef Tom Bennett and Mary Ann Richar and an able crew we enjoyed a wonderful roast pork with dressing dinner accompanied by all kinds of the traditional sides. Thanks to Cmdr. Al who ended up doing dishes and all who pitched in. The weekend proved to be a busy one. The following day, Friday, our Department visitation began at 10 AM. Harold Wright, George Van Valen, and Tom Bennett were on hand to greet our Department Commander Paul Cartright, Auxiliary President Pat Dyer, SAL Commander and various Department Aides and District, County, and Post officers. The schedule was tight. The visitation began at 10 – 10:30, wine tour until 11:30, luncheon at Post 770, dessert at Post 221, hors d'oeuvres at Post 800 Groton and dinner at Post 1134 Dryden. You get the picture as the Department dignitaries try to visit each county throughout the year. Thus, this was Tompkins County day. We thank the Auxiliary gals, Shirley, Sue, Chloe, and many in the kitchen, Auxiliary President Vicki Barry, Cmdr Al Richar and Chaplain Bill Parker who acted as Master of Ceremonies. Also in attendance from Post 770 was member Blair Hoover. Thanks to all those named and some I missed for presenting our Post in such a positive way. All I heard was how great our facilities are. We should be very proud! Our last fish fry dinner had slightly over 200 patrons. We hope you will continue to enjoy our fish, steak and salad bar. We think it's great. Chris Vann has donated his commission as realtor for the property sale of the Legion property on Kentucky Avenue. This monetary donation is for the erection of posts and chains around our Walk of Honor Memorial Site and Cannon. The committee of George Van Valen and Tom Bennett are looking into possible enhancements. We will probably be making recommendations in the spring. The right to conduct the game of Bingo was passed by ballot in the Town of Covert on Election Day. The membership has been discussing the implications and preparations necessary to conduct this event on a regular basis. Tom Bennett will act as chairperson of this committee. Member Calvin Bailey has been conducting 50/50 raffles at many functions for the benefit of the Post. Member John Emmerick won a recent Race Car Drawing. Congratulations John. A special Thank You to Dawn Reeves, her son Letty McFall, Jackie Ferretti, and Jackie Newhart for the Guardian Angel Wishing Well in memory of Bonnie Smith located in the front foyer. What a beautiful gift you have given the Legion. Bonnie is missed and will be remembered forever thanks to you.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Jack Ellsworth – CMC Harry Teeter – Rochester General – Now Home
 Wescena Smith – CMC John Breen - Sayre

Taps: Dean Gooding – died in October. He was the father of member Ed Gooding.
Donald K Dimick – passed away unexpectedly on Friday, October 29, 2004. Don was the son of Past Post 770 Commander, James Dimick and Past Auxiliary President, Laura Dimick.
Robert C. Bowers – passed away at home following a lengthy illness on Friday, November 5, 2004. Bob was the husband of Auxiliary member Pat Bowers and father of SAL member Robert Bowers. Family and friends joined in a reception at the Trumansburg American Legion Post following the prayers of Committal. Thanks Shirley, Sue, Chloe and Harold for putting it on.
Raymond E Poyer Sr. – passed away at Veterans Hospital in Tampa, FL on November 5, 2004. Ray was a 40-year member of Post 770. He was the father of member Ron Poyer and Auxiliary member Mary Poyer. Post 770 conducted a military service at the gravesite with 10 members participating.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is 146. Quota 193. Welcome Karen Austic-Grant, she is the bookkeeper for our Post, and Yvonne Foot. We had 32 Early Birds. Thanks to Barb Cole & crew on all the work put into the Grandma's Attic Sale on 10/16. Also thanks

to Chris Bennett for food, decorations, and gift prizes for the Halloween Party and of course to Barry Smith for being the DJ. One of our Past 6th District Chairman, Laura Dimick's son Donald, died unexpectedly on 10/29. Our condolences to the family. Condolences also to the Pat Bowers' family on the passing of her husband, Robert, on 11/5. Thanks to Sue, Shirley & crew for doing the funeral luncheon on 11/9 for the Bowers' family. The Auxiliary dinner of cabbage rolls and turkey ala king will be on 11/19 put on by Barb Cole and crew. Thank you. The Auxiliary December dinner will be announced. Our Christmas party will be on Dec 14th at 7:00 PM. The Auxiliary will provide snacks. Please bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange. Thank you, Sue & Shirley, for doing the Department Visitation Luncheon on 11/12.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!!

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY CARE

“Television coverage of the Iraq War may be the first time most of us have seen American women serving in combat. Yet for more than 200 years, women have played other critical roles in our Nation's military conflicts. Today, an increasing number of women are choosing careers in the military, and the number of women veterans is rising steadily. The US now has more than 1.4 million female veterans. Our nation has more than 200,000 women on active duty and an even greater number in the National Guard and Reserves. By 2010, women likely will comprise more than 10% of the veteran population. In response, VA has increased its emphasis on women's health care. Although they have a long history of service and sacrifice for our country, women historically have not received the same benefits or care as male veterans. VA remains committed to ensuring that female veterans receive the benefits they have earned. American women have served alongside men in armed conflict for more than 200 years, and now they are formally a part of our combat forces. They have earned, and will continue to earn, the best care VA can provide. For more information on women's health care/benefits call 1-800-827-1000.”

Written by Dr. Mindy Aisen, printed in The American Legion Magazine