

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 700 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Legion Telephone 387-4212

COMMANDER:	Al Richar	387-5920	Newsletter Deadline	ADJUTANT:	Phil Colvin	387-6550
AUX. PRES:	Vickii Barry	387-9512	15th Of The Month	SAL CMDR:	Chris Bennett	387-6255
EDITOR:	George Van Valen	387-9858		TYPIST:	Kathi Roach	387-6636

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Tues	Feb 1	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Feb 2		Groundhog Day – A couple of members B.D.S. Do you know who?
Thurs	Feb 3	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Information Meeting (See Events)
Sat	Feb 5	7:00 PM	Birthday Party
Sun	Feb 6	2:30 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 800 Groton
		5:00 PM	Super Bowl Party – Dish to Pass- Big Screen TV
		5:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Mon	Feb 7	7:30 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Weds	Feb 9	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Feb 11	5:30 – 8:00 PM	1 st Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
SAT	FEB 12	FLAG	LINCOLN’S BIRTHDAY
Sun	Feb 13	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		5:00 – 6:00 PM	Club Dinner Meeting
Mon	Feb 14		VALENTINE’S DAY
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Feb 15	7:30 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Fri	Feb 18	5:30 – 8:00 PM	2 nd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Feb 19	2:00 PM	Shower in the Meeting Room
		6:00 PM	EAA (Experimental Air Craft Assoc.) Dinner – Banquet Hall
Sun	Feb 20	Noon	Daytona 500 Race Party – Dish to pass – Big Screen TV
Mon	FEB 21	FLAG	PRESIDENT’S DAY
Tues	Feb 22	FLAG	WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY
Weds	Feb 23	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Feb 25	5:30 – 8:00 PM	3 rd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sat	Feb 26	TBA	Shower
Sun	Feb 27	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Feb 28	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joint Legion Family Information Meeting – is being held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, Feb 3rd. The membership decided at our last meeting that perhaps we should limit the “dish to share or not” to alternate months...There will be no dish to share in February. Let’s try it and see how it goes. This is your opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions that will enable our SAL, Aux, and AL to enhance their programs. The Post belongs to our members. Let’s all pull together.

Super Bowl Party – 5:00 PM on Sunday, Feb 6th and **Daytona 500 Race Party** – Noon on Sun, Feb 20th. These two sporting events are among the “high lights” of the year and include a dish-to-pass party and viewing on our big screen TV. You will enjoy all the fun of “a tail gate party” without the expense. Come and join your friends for these gala days of sports.

Lenten Steak & Fish Fries – will begin on Fri, Feb 11th and continue for 7 consecutive Fridays throughout Feb & Mar. Come and enjoy some camaraderie and the best salad bar, Angus steaks, and fish to be had.

Post 770 Website – www.Post770.com – Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430, is our contact for computer info of interest to our membership. We are now offering our newsletter to be sent on line to those who would prefer

to receive it in this manner. All you need to do is let Patrick know and you will be put on his list of recipients via on-line preference. If you feel it to be a better solution than to receive via mail, it would save on our mailing costs and ensure prompt delivery. It's your choice.

Post Volunteers – have been responding admirably. We have received some requests to join our fish fry crews, help with bartending, laundry, etc. Please leave your name, phone number, and the area in which you want to contribute, with any officer or the bartender on duty. We will get back to you.

AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP

At this time our membership stands at 391. We have lost 13 members this past year due to their passing. Our present quota for 2004 – 05 is 446. As you can see we have a little more than 50 to reach this goal. Our dues are currently \$25. If you know of anyone who is planning to re-up, but hasn't, remind him or her we are in need of his or her aid. During the state of global affairs, many guardsmen and enlistees have been put on active duty. Please inform them of the benefits offered by becoming a member of the American Legion. We need the support of all Veterans' in order to be heard. If you have changed your address please inform us so that we may inform department, national, and correct our own mailing list.

NEWSLETTER

We are still continuing to receive a few newsletters returned because of incorrect mailing addresses. If you know of anyone not receiving theirs, please inform them that they may receive theirs on line or inform us of their corrected address. Our ears are always open for news concerning our Post. Recently Auxiliary member Jackie Newhart, sent us information affixed to a form she produced which included the following: Name of event, when it happened, who it involved, what was it all about, how many attended, etc. We couldn't get our hands on the form, but I think you can get the idea. You give us the info and we will print it.

POST NEWS

We began last newsletter with "over 100 Seniors consumed 5 or 6 turkeys at their annual Thanksgiving dinner." Our kitchen steward, Tom Bennett, promptly informed me we were on the low estimate side. They actually consumed 8 or 9 turkeys. Be that as it may, I bring this up because Tom has announced his retirement after about 50 years of service, as long as I have been a member of this Post. His "swan song" will be the Legion birthday dinner on Saturday, March 19th. He promises to put on one of his famous Spanish Pot Roast dinners for that occasion. To further augment that gallant event we have invited D.J. John Kiltz to play his music, as he did for so many years in the old Legion. Surely many of our senior members will remember dancing to the beat of John's selections. We are making great plans for this event and we hope you will put this one on your March calendar. Saturday, March 19th! ...Now, back to where we left off last time. The Legion membership made a donation to help the Auxiliary promote a wonderful kid's Christmas Party, which you will read about in Marge's Auxiliary news.... The highwayman's banquet on Dec 21st saw 53 tasty 1" cuts of prime rib served. This Xmas party saw chief Tom, Shirley, Chloe, Wayne, Mary Ann, George, and Chris serving up some hungry workers.... Our Christmas Eve open house brought forth a lot of "Merry Christmas" wishes and a lot of camaraderie. It was followed a week later with a different kind of New Years Eve celebration. A combined volunteer crew served 160+ Steak and Fish Fry dinners followed by D.J. Barry Smith's Phantom Sound and dancing in the lounge. All had a great time. Al Richar wishes to give a special thanks to all of those kitchen volunteers who chose to bring in the new year in this unique way.... Our joint meeting brought about 6 people to sample Jim Heroux's meatless tacos. It was decided that maybe we should limit the "dish to share" to every other meeting. None in February! Among discussions were: our older tables and chairs are available for home events to members only. Cost to be donations, pickup and return. Price lists were established for use of meeting room, banquet hall, kitchen use, bartender, cleaning fee, and catering fee. Most of these fees are waived if the Legion caters the event. The board of Trustees will supply the dollar amounts upon request... The breakfast put on for the public by Shirley, Wayne, Sam, and crew served 111. From all reports the food was excellent although there were a few that said it wasn't quite hot enough. That has been addressed with a number of solutions and we are informed it will be taken care of. It sure is a great breakfast for the money!... On Sunday, Jan 9th, the Legion hosted a fundraiser benefit for John Grandizio who was critically injured in an accident. John is fighting every day to recover. 100% of all proceeds will help the Grandizio family with their enormous medical expenses. The event which consisted of 3 bands of live music, a hair cut-a-thon, silent auction and many other activities brought forth a crowd which filled not only our entire parking lot, but the parking lot of the medical facility next door. According to the writing in the Ithaca Journal more than \$9,000 was raised and at least 373 tickets were sold. Our Post is pleased to be part of the community spirit in supporting fundraisers of this nature.... The middle of January steak and fish fry brought out between 210-215 loyal patrons. It was one of the best dinners I have had the pleasure of working. We used

up all of our food except fish and steaks, yet went all the way to 8 PM with people still coming in. With our crew of 17, I hope we didn't keep anyone waiting too long. Also, I hope you enjoyed our new angus steaks and lighter fries. A sample of our menu is as follows: Fried or Broiled fish 9.50, Angus steak 12.75, Adult ½ fish 7.50, child's 4.75, adult ½ steak 9.50, child ½ steak 6.25, salad bar only 4.75, fries 1.50, baked potato 1.50. All prices include sales tax... Post 770 was pleased to be able to allow its facilities to be used for a reception following the funeral of the husband and son of Brenda Northrup. An estimated 300 attended the luncheon and reception after the funeral. ... The Post is looking into the possibility of conducting Bingo. We have been given the go ahead and are now soliciting ideas and volunteers to conduct these sessions. We are open to suggestions as to frequency, prizes, number of volunteers needed, etc. Please contact Tom Bennett, our chairperson, or the American Legion... We were sorry to be informed that the Local VFW Post 5498 has turned in its charter. It will no longer be in operation. Our thanks to the organization for their monetary donation as they closed out their treasury. Our Legion has always been supportive of all veterans' organizations and we were sorry to see this VFW Post close down because of poor participation... Our Auxiliary has a number of handicap devices such as wheelchairs, walkers, etc. They are pleased to provide them for needy members, but remind you to return them when there is no longer a use, so they may be available for others in need... There is a raffle being promoted by the American Legion at a cost of \$5 per ticket for a flag pole (installed in concrete) and flag. Drawing to be on Memorial Day. Ask for details and tickets at the Post lounge... Ken Reimer of the Village Greenhouse donated the large sign that once stood in front of Tri-County Bowling Lanes and Richard's Restaurant to our facility. It was removed and stored for future use by several of our members. These members are also planning to dig holes and plant 12 trees from the Festival of Lights, which are currently in pots.... On Jan 15th our banquet room and parking lot was used to provide the Snowmobile Safety Course. 2 Tompkins County Deputies and 2 Finger Lakes Snowmobile members provided the course to 45 students. The Snowmobile Club sponsored the students and paid for the lunch put on by our Post.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Bob Hastings** – CMC
 Bob Read – Lakeside

Shawn Miller – Oxford Veterans Hospital
Bill Hogan – Surgery, St. Joseph's Hospital

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership paid to date is 163. We need 30 more to make the quota of 193. Our Unit President, Vickii, spent a day at Sayre Hospital for tests. Edythe Neff had same day back surgery at CMC. Pat Platanotis spent a few days in ICU at CMC. Elaine Joseph had tests done at CMC. Bill & Marion Asay don't get out much anymore. Our thoughts are with you all. Jackie Newhart, who chaired the kids Xmas party, would like to thank the following for all of their help- shopping for the gifts, Jackie, Renee Heroux, Susie Smith; wrapping of gifts, Jackie, Rene, Julie Richardson, Marge Bennett, Lenny Bailey; working the party, Pat Plat, Shelley & Christina Bennett, Susie Smith & Brittany Weeks. There were 38 kids attending. A special thanks to Santa, Ralph Root & Butch Smith for bringing Santa to the party in the T-burg Ambulance. Also, special thank you's to the following for baking cupcakes; Barb Cole, Barb Garrett, Shirley Willard, Sue Borden, Chloe VanValen, Mary Harvey & Jean Hovencamp. Thank you to the Post, Auxiliary, & SAL for the money donations for gifts, food & 2 Post gift certificates presented to Santa. We wish Jim & Bev Golden a Happy 50th Anniversary. Congratulations to Pat Bonsall who has a new granddaughter born 12/05/04....There will be NO Auxiliary dinners in Feb & Mar due to the Lenten Fish Fries. Next dinner will be 4/15/05. Put March 19th on your calendar. Kids can come to our Easter party and have breakfast from 10:00 AM till Noon with the Easter Bunny. It's official- We now have a new vacuum and brooms & dustpans for Rene to clean with. Vickii & Roberta Stilwell will attend Mid-winter Conference on 1/28/05 in Albany. We had a brand new wheelchair donated to the Post from Richie Wellin. Thank you very much. Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Feb 1, 2005 at 7:00 PM. Happy New Year! Respectfully submitted by Marge Bennett

THE VOICE

Our American Legion Post belongs to NYSLPA (New York State Legion Press Association). The name of their monthly newsletter is "The Voice". I thought you might like to read a letter, which appeared in the December issue.

"My Country, 'tis of thee", written by Vic Mahoney, Editor Emeritus, The Bugle Call Rag, Atlanta, GA

On my refrigerator door rests a clip from a long-ago discarded magazine. It reads: "Sometimes I get the feeling that the whole world is against me, but deep down I know that's not true. Some of the smaller countries are neutral." I've kept it at eye level just for chuckles. In the past year or so, it has become less of a chuckle and more of a groan because I see it as

applying to our country – we have been informed by journalists and intellectuals and even a past President that we are the most hated country in the world. That’s a jolting change from the almost universal outpouring of compassion following 9/11/01. Obviously, hitting the terrorists in Afghanistan and the pre-emptive strike on Iraq soured our old “friends”. We were condemned for using our muscle, for showing our anger, for following through on the old American cry: “Don’t tread on me!” They must have heard the outburst by some anonymous American on the Jersey shore: “This is Pearl Harbor. Somebody’s going to pay for this!” Our “friends” don’t like that attitude. It’s still hard to comprehend why France, Germany, Italy, Greece, Spain, and other European countries would feature massive protest gatherings to condemn us. Surely they must know that terrorism must be met head on. Surely they must know that they also will be targets. Why, then, do they dismiss our anger over the deaths of 3,000 innocent Americans? Surely they didn’t expect the impotent UN to right the wrong. What is more difficult to accept, however, is the hateful mouthing of some of our own people. In the eyes of some of our elitists and intelligentia and “celebrities”, we are the culprits of the world. They preach that we deserve whatever hatred comes our way. The Michael Moores insult us at home and abroad while they laugh all the way to the bank. There is something puzzling about all this global hatred of us. If we are such villains, why, then, do we have 3 million illegal immigrants and hundred of thousands of legal immigrants and tourists pouring into our land each year? Why are so many so eager to join us? There’s another side of that coin. These European countries that express so much hatred of us are actually sanctify their own kind. They forget that our land is peopled by those whose ancestry is European. Tacitus put it this way; “the bitterest hatred is that of near relations.” Well, as far as I’m concerned over the homegrown haters, let them try living in Putin’s Russia or Sharon’s Israel or Pakistan. As for all that global hatred, I find solace in the immortal words of Brett Butler to Scarlet O’Hara: “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn!”