

THE BOUTON BUGLE

FEBRUARY

2007

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation 630 Members

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

Thurs	Feb 1	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Meeting
Fri	Feb 2		Ground Hog's Day – See your shadow?
Sat	Feb 3	4:30 – 7:00 PM	Blue & Gold Banquet
Sun	Feb 4		Four Chaplains Sunday
		2:30 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 221 – Ithaca
		5:00 PM	Super Bowl Party – Dish-to-Pass
Mon	Feb 5	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
Tues	Feb 6	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Feb 7	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Feb 9	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux's Crew
Sat	Feb 10	TBA	American Legion Zone Oratorical Contest – Site TBA
		2:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	Feb 11	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Feb 12	FLAG	Lincoln's Birthday
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Feb 14		Valentine's Day
		Noon	Senior Citizen's Luncheon Meeting
Thurs	Feb 15	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sun	Feb 18	Noon	Daytona 500 Race Party – Dish-to-Pass
Mon	Feb 19	FLAG	President's Day
Weds	Feb 21		Ash Wednesday
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Feb 22	FLAG	Washington's Birthday
Fri	Feb 23	5:30 – 8:00 PM	1 st Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited - Phil Colvin's Crew
Sun	Feb 25	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Feb 26	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Feb 28	Noon	Senior Citizen's Luncheon Meeting

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Board of Directors – For your information the position of kitchen steward is an appointed position by the Board of Directors. There is no opening at this time.

“Walk of Honor” – We are sending orders to our brick inscriber as we receive them. Applications are available in the lounge entryway. Past & present veterans of the Armed Forces are being added to the “Walk” monthly.

Post 770 Website – www.Post770.com - Patrick Richar at 111 Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430 is looking for photos and info of interest to our Legion family. You may have your newsletter sent on line. Check out our website, who knows what you are likely to find.

Super Bowl Party – 5:00 PM on Sunday, February 4th and **Daytona Race Party** - Noon on Sunday, February 18th. These two sporting events are among the “highlights” of the year and include a dish to pass party and viewing on our big screen TV. You will enjoy all of 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 Friday, Feb 23rd and continue every Friday night throughout the Lenten season of February and March. Come and enjoy some great food and comeraderie with your friends.

Albert M. Becker Memorial Scholarship Award 2007 – New York American Legion Press Associates offers annually a \$1,000 cash scholarship in the memory of Albert M. Becker, Past NYALPA President and Department Commander. The student must be the child of a member of the American Legion, Auxiliary, of SAL or a graduate of New York State American Legion Boys State or Girls State. In addition, the student must be entering or attending as an undergraduate, an accredited 2 or 4 year college pursuing a degree in the field of communications. Some examples would be public relations, journalism, repographics, newspaper design or management or other related fields acceptable to the scholarship committee. Applications must be received no later than May 15, 2007. I have put a copy of the application form on the bulletin board with further information which may be used for duplicating by any interested applicants.

MEMBERSHIP

We have acquired a few more members during January. Our present enrollment stands at 363, 44 short of our 2006-2007 membership quota of 407. New members or renewals will now be assessed \$30 for dues, an increase of \$5 from last year. Now is not the time to drop your hard earned membership. Your Legion membership provides many rewards.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Ronnie Crumb** – Surgery – Now Home **Robert Ladder** - Surgery

Taps: **Ralph E. Bacon** – passed away Friday, December 22, 2006 in Winterhaven, FL. Both Ralph and a surviving daughter Terri Justice were former members of Post 770.

Dorothy E. Green – passed away on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at the Cortland Regional Medical Center. Dorothy was a 43 year member of Post 800 American Legion Auxiliary and the wife of long time American Legion Post 770 member Royden (Joe) Green.

Of Interest: Recent changes in New York State laws governing winter burials have been inacted. Unless there are extenuating circumstances burials at cemeteries will take place during the winter rather than being delayed until spring. This means we may be called upon to do military funerals in the winter time. Be prepared... Dress warm.

POST NEWS

157 dinners were served on New Year's Eve and about 60 people were on hand to dance and bring in the New Year following the dinner. A lot of us truly enjoyed dancing to the music of "Rawhide" and I for one, would like to see our Post have more dinner and/or dance nights in the coming months. We did not have a cover charge on New Years Eve; however we wonder what your thoughts are on this subject. Let us know. "All work and no play make Jack a dull boy". ... We recently received a note from Patrick Richar informing us that someone had contacted the Legion website looking for "The origin of Taps". Fortunately, I was able to find it in an article we did in the February 2001 newsletter. There were two versions of how Taps originated. Both versions conclude they originated during the Civil War. Someday we will run the answer again. ...We just remembered how great the Christmas Eve Open House was. I thought the days of having eggnog were over; not true, it was simply delicious as was the hot and cold abundance of hors d'oeuvres. A great spread and a great crowd! Somebody, or a lot of people, did a wonderful job preparing, presenting, and cleaning up afterwards. It was a great evening to spend with many friends. ...Thinking about and reading old newsletters reminds us of some of the past fun events. Remember when we had Valentines Day Sock Hops, Chili cook offs, beach parties with sand and palm trees, Presidents day parties and Karaoke's, all in February? In March we had St Patrick's Day celebrations, Monte Carlo night, etc. We still do have a Legion Birthday party and Kids Easter Egg hunt. Just reminiscing, a favorite hobby of mine. If you feel you would like to see some of these parties or events reinstated, please voice your opinion, after all it's your organization. ...It occurred to me that many of you may not know what the "Four Chaplains" Day is on your calendar. Each year the Legion sets aside a day in February to observe the tragic fate of the four chaplains that perished aboard the USS Dorchester which was sunk by torpedoes during WWII. The chaplains administered last rites and helped to put survivors into life rafts while giving up their own lives and going down with the ship. Someday I will resurrect the whole story regarding their heroism. .. We feel badly for the snowmobile club and their lack of snow so far this winter. We don't know how you can have a "Poker Run" without snow. ...On Saturday, January 13th, a work crew of about 16 or so convened at the Post Lounge to install the new hardwood molding that was donated

and processed for installation. Incidentally, I have been reminded that Doug & Denny Millspaugh did more than just run boards through a joiner. They sanded and further prepared the baseboard for installation throughout our building. Following a beehive of activities, small groups each working on a different facet of the project, began to put it all together. The transformation of the lounge is something to behold. What were once plain looking doorways and windows is now surrounded by rich looking assorted molding which enhances the whole room. The baseboard and the continuation of the molding (up high) holding the names of various posts, complete the picture. Thank you to all who found the time to pitch in and help on this most meaningful project. It is an accomplishment we should all be proud of. ... Our family of 5 including 3 grand children attended the 2nd Sunday of the month breakfast in January. We had not been in a while and were surprised at the newer items offered on the menu including Corn Beef Hash, several varieties of omelets, sausage gravy, etc. They all sounded so good that I ordered more of a variety than I should have, reasoning that the size of portions would be reduced. When two plates full arrived within 5 minutes time, I knew I had ordered too much. Try as I did, I could not finish the whole thing. The moral of the story? Order what you know you can eat. You can always order more if it was not enough. Great breakfast, quick service, good friends, fantastic portions, great variety, unbelievable price!

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is 143. Still need 45 to make our quota. The following people were presented with continuous year membership: 20 yrs – Darlene Ahouse, Sue Close, Phylis Brooks, Pat Plataniotis, Sarah Gatch; 35 yrs – Pat Dickerson; 40 yrs – Liz Jenner, Jean Hovencamp, Elsie Reynolds; and 70 years to Alma Hogen. Alma is OUR longest living member joining only 2 years after we were chartered. Congratulations to all. ... Thank you to Sue McConnel for taking pictures to further our history book, to Izzy Duddleston for the monetary donation and to Mary Alford for the twin air mattress. Our best to Liz Jenner who is recovering from a fall. In January, Susie Smith, Vickii Barry, and Roberta Stilwell attended the mid-winter conference held in Albany. ... We have 2 scholarships available to High School Seniors. They are due by April 15th. The essays are “What Liberty Means to Me” or “The Importance of the American Legion”. Please contact the Guidance Counselor if interested. .. We sent 4 packages to some of our service men for Christmas. We also donated an electronic bugle to the Post. The Ritual Team will use it for funerals. Check out the new look in the lounge area. Phil Colvin and crew put up wood molding around the doors, floors and windows and put up all the license plates we had accumulated. It really makes the area more of “A Home Away From Home”! A job very well done. Thank you...The next Auxiliary dinner will be February 16th from 5 – 8 PM. Our next Auxiliary meeting is on February 6th. It was nice to see new faces at last months meeting. Respectively submitted Marge Bennett

SAL NEWS

Membership is 43, which leaves about 20 unpaid thus far. Let’s all get out this year and recruit some new members. Applications are available at the lounge. The Grandfather clock raffle was a HUGE success and should contribute significantly to some sorely needed parking lot repairs this spring. Thanks again to all those who participated and, once again, thanks to Chris Vann for the generous donation. Our next two meetings are Mondays, February 5th and March 5th at 7:00 PM. We would like to get a raffle for Fathers day going. Please bring your ideas.

FROM “THE VOICE” of the New York American Legion, Press Associations, Anne Baglio, Editor

1. **SAL 75th Anniversary Celebration** – The Sons have a reason to celebrate this year. It was in 1932 that the American Legion voted to create the Sons of the American Legion. There are currently more than 307,000 SAL members in more than 5,500 squadrons in all 50 states and nine foreign countries. Sons now donate millions of dollars and millions of man-hours each year to American Legion programs and local charities across the nation. “We want this to be a year long celebration,” says National Commander Stillwell. “We’re asking squadrons to look for a variety of fun ways to recognize the fact our organization is 75 years young and still going strong”.
2. **Personal Products Needed for Wounded Service Members at Walter Reed** – Officials at Walter Reed Medical Center are seeking donations for wounded troops who are forced to leave behind personal belongings when medically evacuated from war zones. Many of the troops “arrive with nothing,” said officials from the hospital’s Family Assistance Center. Because of the speed with which the most serious wounded are evacuated from Iraq or Afghanistan, their belongings are often left behind and don’t catch up with them. So the Center is looking for everything from shoes, gloves, and winter jackets to postage stamps, prepaid phone cards and razors.

Donations may be sent to: Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Medical Family Assistance Center, Bldg 2, 3rd Floor, Room 3E01, 6900 Georgia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 2001

For more information go to <<http://wramc.army.mil/Soldiers/MedFac1/index2.htm>>

3. **Children of the Legion Family** – Here is a wonderful website for children to play games and learn patriotic information at the same time. <http://www.legionkids.org/docs/about.htm>
4. **Gulf War Research Funding Positive Sign for Affected Veterans** – The leader of the nation’s largest veteran’s organization applauds Congress for having the foresight to provide funding to the Southwestern Medical Center’s Gulf War Illness research program. The Center, headed by Dr. Robert Haley at the University of Texas Southwestern, was awarded \$15 million, renewable for up to four years, to further the scientific knowledge on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses research. “This research will not only impact veterans of the 1991 Gulf War, but may prove beneficial for those currently serving in the Southwest Asia Theater and the Middle East during this Global War on Terror,” said National Commander Paul A. Morin.
5. **Forty Legionnaires Graduate from the 2006 American Legion College** – A new generation of leaders came to Indianapolis from twenty-nine departments of the American Legion to be challenged in leadership skills, team building, communications and mentoring. These forty men and women of the American Legion met every task head-on with integrity, creative teamwork and enthusiasm. They are the graduating class of the 2006 American Legion College who received their diplomas from National Commander Paul Morin on November 3rd. Members of the class began a five-day course that saw them lay a solid foundation for the American Legion post revitalization. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for Legion activities at their respective posts for presentation at a mock department meeting. The students also toured the local VA hospital and had the opportunity to interface with some of the veterans receiving medical attention. The American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer’s leadership, management and communication skills. The result is young members of the American Legion prepared to lead the nation’s largest wartime veteran’s organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship, for both other members and special groups in the community, was a central point to several of the activities for the class.