

THE BOUTON BUGLE

MARCH

2009

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR MARCH

Sun-Weds	Mar 1-4		American Legion Conference in Washington, DC
Sun	Mar 1	1:00 PM	Baby Shower in the Meeting Room
		1:00 – 5:00 PM	Girl Scout Meeting in the Banquet Room
Mon	Mar 2	7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 1134- Dryden
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Mar 3	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Mar 4	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Mar 6	5:30 – 8:00 PM	2 nd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew
Sat	Mar 7	5:00 PM till?	Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner- Public Invited
Sun	Mar 8		Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mon	Mar 9	11:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Pioneer Seed Growers Luncheon
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Mar 10	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Cub Scout Meeting
Weds	Mar 11	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
Fri	Mar 13	5:30 – 8:00 PM	3 rd Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sat	Mar 14	5:00 PM	Open House for Post 770 Auxiliary’s 75 th Birthday
		6:30 PM	American Legion 88 th Birthday Party & Dinner (See Special Events)
		TBA	Department Oratorical Contest at Sandy Creek Middle School in Albany
Mon-Tues	Mar 16-17		Hill Day in Albany
Mon	Mar 16	7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Mar 17		St Patrick’s Day – Come and Celebrate the “Wearing of the Green”
		5:30 PM	Lions Club & Rotary Club Dinner for Senior Citizens (See Special Events)
Weds	Mar 18	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Mar 20		Spring Begins
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	4 th Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	Mar 21	8:00 AM -?	Twin Lake Snow Club Activities and Banquet
Sun	Mar 22	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Mar 23	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Tues	Mar 24	6:00 – 7:00 PM	Cub Scout Meeting
Weds	Mar 25	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon Meeting
		7:00 PM	TCS Scholarship Grant Committee Meeting in the Small Room
Fri	Mar 27	5:30 – 8:00 PM	5 th Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin’s Crew

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legion & Auxiliary Birthday Dinner: will be celebrated on Saturday, March 14th. Open House starts at 5:00 PM, hors d’oeuvres at 6 and Legion Birthday dinner at 7:00 PM. Tom is putting on one of his special dinners. Come and celebrate the birthday of our organization which was founded in 1919 and the Auxiliary’s birthday which was founded in March 1934. We ask that you please call or sign up at the Post for reservations so that we may have an attendance count.

St Patrick's Day Celebration: Come and celebrate this Irish event with "Wearing of the Green" and a bit of fun and camaraderie in the Post lounge. The Lions and Rotary Clubs are putting on a Corned Beef and Ham dinner for our senior citizen's on this special date. This sounds like a gala evening you will not want to miss. Check your local paper, but I think it's about 5:30 PM for the dinner.

Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinners: will continue each Friday night throughout the Lenten season. Please come and enjoy a great salad bar and fish or steak dinner. It's a great way to visit with your friends or bring your favorite gal / guy for a "date night".

Walk of Honor: We continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched even though they will not be installed at our Memorial Site until spring. Order forms are available near the entryway in the lounge. The purchase of a brick is a meaningful way to honor a veteran.

Post 770 Website: www.Post770.com Why not pull up our website and see what is new? If you have any newsworthy items that would be of interest to our Legion family, please contact Patrick Richar, 111Third Street, Waterford, NY 12188-2430

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Letha Dean:** CMC **Jackie Brooks:** Knee Surgery **Mary Alford:** Hip Surgery

Taps: **Ida Christianson:** Passed away January 29, 2009. Ida was the aunt of Auxiliary Member Carol Doolittle. The family asks those who wish to make a contribution in Ida's memory to kindly consider the Lakeside Nursing Home or the American Legion Post 770, PO Box 456, Trumansburg, NY 14886

POST NEWS

As the snow falls and refuses to melt, we can't help but notice how well our parking lot looks with the snow removed from the walks and lot. Someone is doing a great job... The cannon is somewhat covered with snow yet we can't help but notice the wheels are gone. We are informed they are being rebuilt with something other than wood. (Which has rotted out several times) and will soon be reinstated on the cannon. Can't wait to see it whole once again. ...We are informed that the Board of Trustees has opted for a new contract of heating, plumbing, and general maintenance for our facility. We have been experiencing some problems lately and look forward to better overseeing of maintenance problems. ...The membership is pleased to make a monetary donation to the Seven Lakes Girl Scouts. ...About 35 people who enjoyed a great variety of food attended the Super Bowl party, on Sunday Feb 1st, and snacks while watching the Steelers beat Arizona. ...SSG John M Bieber, husband of member SSG Stacie Yaw Bieber, returned to active duty in June 2008 and graduated Military Police School. He is now assigned to the 188th Military Police Company in South Korea. ...PVT Jeremy Yaw, son of member Stacie Yaw Bieber and Post member Fred Yaw and stepson of member John Bieber, has enlisted in the US Army Reserve. He will be going to Basic Training at Fort Benning, GA in June and will attend light wheeled mechanic school after graduating high school in June 2010.... Our esteemed Editor George and his lovely wife Chloe have taken a well-deserved vacation and left the foxes in charge of the hen house. Don't worry; he'll be back next month to take over the helm of the Bouton Bugle.

MEMBERSHIP

We now have 323 members, plus 9 in the process, giving us a total (hopefully) of 332. As you can see we have quite a few more to get reach 380, which is our assigned quota. As promised, we are currently going over the list of delinquent members and after notifying them we are removing their names from our mailing list. Please sign-up or re-up now. The Legion is your home away from home. Become active and participate in our activities. We have a lot to offer.

AUXILIARY NEWS

We would like to wish the American Legion Post 770 a happy 88th birthday. We gave the Post new window shades for the banquet room and lounge area. Membership is 134 seniors and 6 juniors for a total of 140 and our quota is 165. We welcome Caroline Bennett as a new senior. The next Auxiliary dinner will be April 16th. Our next meeting is March 3rd at

7:00 PM. The kid's Easter party will be April 5th. Our condolences to Karen Dickson on the loss of her husband Charles "Fuddy" on January 15th. One of our junior- now senior member – Sarah Gatch, will graduate in May from the University at Binghamton in nursing. She had a 4.0 GPA in her fall semester. Our best to Jackie Brooks who is recovering from knee replacement and Mary Alford who is at Lakeside. Congratulations to Roxie Conklin & John Everhart who were married on February 14th. Caleb Blass is the recipient of the Anna Bennett scholarship. He attends Delhi and his mother is Denise Blass and the grandmother is Mary Harvey. On Feb 2nd Elaine Joseph resigned as our Unit secretary. Happy 75 years to our Unit. The Arthur E. Bouton Unit 770 was chartered in March of 1934. Here's a bit of history you might enjoy. There were 14 original members. The Unit President was Mary Durling. There are 44 Past Presidents. We have sent 57 girls to Girls State, which was started in 1938. The first was Connie Swartout in 1941. Alma Hogben was the longest member of 70 years. The first junior member was Jaynce Marquart Fergus. We have had 8 Past County Presidents, 3 District Presidents and 5 Life members. We also have 5 members with 50 plus years. The first ever husband & wife County Commander & President was Don & Marge Bennett and the Post Commander & Unit President was George & Chloe Van Valen. We have had 1 Department Officer Chaplain, which was Laura Dimick in 1943- 44. The Poppy was adopted at the first National Convention as the Memorial flower in 1921 and are hand made by Veterans. March 14th Open House at 5:00 PM and dinner at 7:00. Come out and help us celebrate.
Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION NEWS

Membership is currently XX . Our quota for this year is 58, so lets get out and renew your membership. Many thanks to those who came out last month and helped clean our Post. The SAL has purchased a new 42- inch flat screen television for the lounge. It will be installed early March, so come on down and check it out. The SAL will be putting on a Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, March 28th. We need volunteers. Get hold of an Officer and sign up to help. Congratulations to Bobby Bowers, our Valentines Day raffle winner. Congratulations also to recently married John and Roxi. Our next meeting will be Monday, March 2nd. Plan on spending an hour or so taking care of our Post prior to meeting.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Best Kept Secret By Dorolyn Perry, Binghamton, NY: While reading the Fall 2008 issue of the National American Legion Press Association newsletter, I came across an article titled "The Best Kept Secret", which describes a program that was instituted at the Bath VA Hospital many years ago. I thought some of our older members might enjoy reading about a program; Post 770 was involved in a number of years ago. Do some of you remember our annual trip to the Bath VA Hospital for the purpose of decorating the facility for Christmas? Read on, for it will bring back memories.

The secret is out! The American Legion supports veterans and their families. The four pillars of the American Legion are Americanism, Children and Youth, Community Service and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation. In keeping with this tradition, the Bath Gift Shop Program at the Bath VA was instituted many years ago. The program was stated to allow hospitalized veterans to choose Christmas gifts for their families at no cost to the veterans. The yearly Christmas Gift Wrap Program is sponsored by part of the 6th and 7th District. The Broome County Legion Auxiliary is a member of the 6th District, and has sponsored the program for many years. The American Legion has donated over \$10,000 to support the program. Each year, representatives from the American Legion Family register the veterans and the family members for the program. Approximately 200 veterans cheerfully register and participate. Addie Butler, a Post 1390 Auxiliary member from Maine, NY, chairs the program. Appointed by the Department President, a very dedicated Addie shops all year long for affordable, suitable gifts for the program. Helping with the delivery of the gifts to Bath were Co-op Feed of Elmira and their drivers. Every year, approximately 40 volunteers from the American Legion Family board a hired bus bound for the Bath facility, from Johnson City, NY. Volunteers are armed with homemade cookies, fudge, fruit, Christmas wrapping paper and bow, etc. for the program. On arrival at Bath, we are met by a red-hooped skirted Mrs. Clause (Addie) to begin our long, rewarding day. "I feel this is the only big thing we can do for them and their families," stated Addie. Our program begins with the excited arrival of the vets to the recreation room. The room is set up with gifts according to gender and age. The vets are met by cheerful volunteers with brown bags, and are ready to help the vets shop until they drop. After presents are selected, their bags are delivered to the wrapping area. The gifts were wrapped and nametags are placed on the gifts. Next, the presents are boxed and brown wrapped. The United States Post Office has a temporary station set up to mail all the packages directly from the facility. After shopping, the vets are treated to homemade goodies, fruit, coffee or soda. After several hours of wonderful camaraderie with the vets, we break down the

tales and pack away all the articles for next year. Why do we do this each year? In the words of Broome County American Legion Auxiliary Historian, Sandi Gates, “The value of this program is immeasurable; being able to donate my time is a donation of love and thanks.” **This sums it up for all of the volunteers; we are here to serve vets.**

Proposition Would Help More Disabled NY Veterans: Albany

The sole statewide ballot proposition New Yorkers faced Nov 4th would make sure disabled war veterans get an advantage in civil service job test event if they aren't collecting disability payments. Proposal No 1 would amend the state constitution to make sure any veteran disabled in war time gets the additional points on civil service test allowed by law when applying for state or local government jobs. The amendment would allow for disabled veteran who aren't collecting disability benefits to receive the automatic points on civil service test as long as they are certified as being disable. That certification would come from the federal Department of Veteran Affairs. The benefit would apply to all honorably discharged veterans, including legally documented immigrants, when seeking a civil service job or when seeking a promotion within the civil service system. The Senate and Assembly have approved the measure twice, as required by the constitution. Now it's up to voters. And We Passed It.