

THE BOUTON BUGLE
MAY **2006**

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	15 th Of The Month	SAL CMDR: Brady Roach	387-6636
EDITOR: George Van Valen	387-9858		TYPIST: Kathi Roach	387-6636

CALENDAR FOR MAY

Mon	May 1	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 1134 - Dryden
Tues	May 2	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	May 3	Noon	Bowling Banquet
		7:00 PM	Board or Trustees Meeting
Thurs	May 4	7:00 PM	Joint Legion Family Information Meeting
Sat	May 6	1:00 PM	Shower in the Small Meeting Room
Mon	May 8	FLAG	VE Day 1945
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – Election of Officers
Weds	May 10	Noon	Senior Citizens Luncheon Meeting
Fri	May 12	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sat	May 13	2:00 PM	Demolition Derby Fairgrounds - American Legion Food Tent at 10:00 AM (See Special Events)
		5:30 PM	Dinner Dance School Music Boosters Fund Raiser
Sun	May 14	FLAG	Mother’s Day
		8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Weds	May 17	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	May 19	5:30 – 8 :00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	May 20	FLAG	Armed Forces Day
		10:30 AM	Bill Alford Military Funeral Internment – American Legion Reception for relatives and friends to follow.
		6:00 PM	Department Commanders Homecoming Dinner
Mon	May 22	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	May 24	6:00 PM	Place Flags on Graves at Grove Cemetery (See Special Events)
Sat	May 27	7:00 PM	Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner – Public Invited (See Special Events)
Sun	May 28	8:00 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	May 29	FLAG	Memorial Day
		9:00 – 10:00 AM	Walk Through Flag Retirement Ceremony (See Special Events)
		10:00 AM	Parade and Observances at Grove Cemetery
		Noon – 3:00 PM	Open House at Post 770
		12:30 PM	Flag Retirement Ceremony at Post 770
Weds	May 31	Noon	Pioneer Telephone Company Luncheon

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

American Legion Elections of Officers – will be held at the regular meeting at 7:30 PM on Monday May 8th. A nominating committee composed of Tom Bennett, George Van Valen, and Don Bennett have proposed the following Candidates: Commander – Al Richar, Adjutant – Phil Colvin, 1st Vice Cmdr – Tom Bennett, 2nd Vice Cmdr – Tim Frank, 3rd Vice Cmdr – Open, Finance Officer – Lee Weaver, Service Officer – Don Bennett, Chaplain – Bill Parker, Historian – George Van Valen, Sgt-at-Arms – Open, Judge Advocate – Don Smith. As you can see, a number of the proposed candidates have served in these offices during the past year. The selection committee has asked many potential candidates

to serve, but they are not quite ready to commit themselves at this time. We need some interested people to step up to the plate and become involved. If you are one of these people, please let us know. We have some offices that are unfilled and a great stepping-stone from which to learn and start up through the ranks. It requires an evening meeting lasting 1 – 1½ hours twice a month and the fulfillment of the duties of their office. At the meeting on Monday, May 8th, candidates for office may also be selected from the floor. Please attend this important meeting.

Legion Food Tent at Fairgrounds Demolition Derby – on Sat, May 13th from 10:00 AM on. The American Legion will be providing food when the pits open and will continue throughout the day. This is one event you will not want to miss and do take advantage of our tasty dogs, burgers, and hot sausage sandwiches throughout the day. If interested, I'm sure we can use some short order cooks and servers. Let us know in advance.

Flags on Veterans Graves at Grove Cemetery For Memorial Day - Anyone wishing to help put flags on Veterans graves should meet at Grove Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Weds, May 24th. If you know of any Veterans graves that do not receive a flag before Memorial Day please contact the Post.

Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner - The American Legion will be installing their newly elected officers on Sat, May 27th at 7:00 PM. Cocktail hour begins at 6:00 PM. The installation of officers and presentation of membership awards will follow dinner. Awards will be to members celebrating 5 year multiples of continuous membership. Those with multiples of 25 years or more are guests of the Post. The occasion is open to everyone. Please show your support to our officers and long time members by attending. Reservations are requested. Stop by the Post and sign up or call 387-4212.

Memorial Day Parade, Festivities, and Flag Disposal Ceremony – will commence at 9:00 AM on Mon, May 29th beginning with a walk through practice for the flag disposal ceremony. At 9:45 AM we will form up for the 10:00 Parade to Grove Cemetery. Following the Memorial Day Festivities at the Cemetery, we will return to the Post for an Open House at Noon. At 12:30 PM, witnessed by an anticipated sizable crowd, we will perform our ritual disposal of unserviceable flags. Uniforms will be navy or blank pants and shoes, Post logo (or white short sleeve) shirts, navy or black jackets if weather demands and Legion hats. White logo shirts are available free of charge for those members who participate in our color guard regularly. We hope to have flat bed transportation for those members unable to walk to the cemetery. Let's have a great turn out. See you there.

POST NEWS

We can't believe how efficient David Updike and his crew at Mailbox, Inc. are. Usually you are lucky to get your newsletter by the last day of the month by the time Kathi and I go around with it several times then to Gnomes Copy and on to Mailbox for addressing and sorting. It finally arrives at the Post Office and is usually several days before you receive it. Not the case last month with Mailbox bringing it as quick as a wink to the Post Office at 3 PM on March 21st. When did you get your newsletter? ... We were a wee bit disappointed with the turnout of 38 or 39 at the Legion birthday dinner. Those who didn't attend missed a great Corned Beef or Ham and Cabbage dinner. Do we need a program or some other attractions to make this annual birthday dinner more appealing? Some of us remember when, at the old Legion, anytime we had an event we always had music, either a DJ or band. I know what you are thinking. "We can't afford it" or "We don't dance." Sorry, let us remind you, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy?" Seriously, are there those of you who would like to kick up your heels and enjoy that kind of fun? Let's hear from you... We have been reminded that Bill Mathers donated the convection oven we use so often in cooking. Along those same lines we were also reminded that Cliff Northrup along with Ed Brown, were the electricians that wired up the oven. Several people have told me that Cliff has also sired other electrical conveniences. Thank you guys. It means a great deal to our Post to have people like you stepping up to the plate and helping us out. While we are in a thank you mood, let us give a pat on the back to Brady Roach, Roberta Stilwell and Vickii Barry for their "Spring Cleaning" job of the lounge including butt kits (Outside ashtrays) and bar mats. It was a job that needed to be done.... Our joint meetings of late have had different objectives. This is not necessarily a bad thing. It seems that there are some real important issues that need to be tackled and these meetings seem to be the place. April's joint meeting concentrated on Bingo. It appears that Gene Carroll and his wife, Chris, along with Gary and Cindy Reckenwald and Shirley Willard (did I miss anyone?) are taking the bull by the horns and making progress with an attempt to institute Bingo at Post 770. I believe they have filled out all of the necessary documents and have submitted them to the Town of Covert for approval and acceptance. We will keep you informed as we are updated. ... Our Lenten fish fry's are about over. When we take stock of all of the businesses and organizations putting on fish fry's it seems that we should be thankful that we have so many faithful patrons, especially during the Lenten fish fry's. Our crew, on the 7th of April served 179 dinners. This seems to be typical for most Lenten Friday nights. Our two a month breakfasts' are also holding their own against several organizations and businesses that features Sunday morning breakfasts. We thank all of you that contribute to support us. We also thank our Legion family of workers who make these events possible. ... As we write this newsletter the kids Easter party is taking place. This will be the first one I have missed in a long time. The grandkids are either getting too old or are away on vacation. From the

looks of the names on the bulletin board sign up sheet, it appears the Auxiliary will not be lacking children in attendance. This sunny, warm day should provide a great atmosphere for the Easter egg hunt. ... At last night's fish fry we were greeted at the bar by the husband and wife bartending team of Tom and Roberta Stilwell. It was great to see Tom, with a night off from hauling semis on the road, working with Roberta behind the bar. Other somewhat new volunteer bartenders are Jim Rowan, a retired Navy Warrant officer but still working at Cornell, and Roxanne Conklin who has been holding down Wednesday nights recently. Vickii Barry is usually behind the bar on Thursday and Fridays as she used to be for many years. Phil Colvin has been handling Tuesdays for some time now and others have been filling in from time to time. If you are interested in joining the ranks there are still plenty of slots to fill. ... Our Boys State interview committee composed of Con and Tom Bennett, Cmdr Al Richar, and George Van Valen were to meet with some 15 possible candidates for selection of 4 boys to attend Boys State. For one reason or another only one boy showed up for the interview. He would have qualified on any interviewer's list, but, alas, he bowed out as did all of the other no shows. This is the first year that Post 770 has not sent anyone to Boys State. We are so disappointed because we feel that this program is so beneficial to the boys that it just doesn't seem right that no one is attending. Some Post members think it is because of the discipline brought forth by the Marines associated with the affair. I am not so sure this is true, but if it is some of the boys will have a rude awakening if they choose to enter the service. ... There have been some misconceptions as to the role the Legion plays in the Scouting program. We have asked member Steve Oveca to explain. "Many of you know that Boy Scout Troop 13 meets here at the Legion every Tuesday night, but how many know that this troop actually belongs to our Legion Post? Boy Scouts of America were granted a charter (franchise) to Post 770 to operate a Boy Scout Troop. The Post Commander appoints a member of the Post to be the Chartered Organization Representative (COR). The COR is head of the "Scouting Department" in Post 770 and as such the responsibilities of Troop 13 and its leadership is ultimately the COR's responsibility. Troop 13 is an astragal part of our Post." ... Each year delegates are selected to represent our Post at the 6th District and Department Conventions. Our delegates this year are Don Smith and Tom Bennett. Alternates are Cmdr. Al Richar and Bill Parker. ... We are pleased to receive a substantial donation from the Sons of American Legion for use toward payment of bills to operate our Post. We were also grateful for a monetary donation to our Legion Baseball Fund from Ben Hermann and Tompkins County Trust. Along those same lines the membership is happy to make monetary donations to the Finger Lakes Youth Wildcats Basketball team and Youth Leadership Washington. ... For some time now we have been involved in paperwork concerning the purchase of a strip of the Weatherby property abutting our plot. We do believe we now own this addition. ... As you may or may not have noticed, we always include a "circulation (number of) members" under our NALPA logo atop page one. In keeping with a somewhat accurate count, we are revising this number to 600 members largely because, as we are now in a new membership year, our American Legion is at 387, down 50; Auxiliary is at 160, down about 30; and our SAL is about 39, down about 20. It looks like we all have to make a special effort to encourage our friends to re-up or join up to bring our Legion family back to the 700 it once was. ... Wrapping up Post news let me close with an ad placed in the Ithaca Times. It read: "Support Our Troops. When They Return Home: On any given night, between 200,000 and 300,000 veterans are homeless in the United States. More than 500,000 Veterans are homeless at some point during a calendar year. As of Nov 2005 more than 430,000 US soldiers are Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. More than 16,000 American soldiers have been wounded in those conflicts. If we send them to fight overseas, shouldn't we fight for them when they come home? Contact your elected officials and lobby for better benefits and outreach programs for US Veterans."

MEMBERSHIP

The membership is currently 387 members. This is rather disappointing because our quota is 432. We are still 45 short. It appears that unless we become serious about re-upping or joining up, we will not fly that 100% membership streamer this year. We are pleased to welcome transfer Leroy Ellerbrock. It's nice to have you with us.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Taps: Michael J. Churey – passed away unexpectedly at the Cayuga Medical Center on Tuesday, March 14, 2006. During WWII he served as a medic in the US Army Air Force. Mike was honorably discharged from the service on January 30, 1946 with the rank of corporal. Nine Post 770 members and a bugler rendered military honors at the funeral.

William Henry Holtkamp – died at this home on Friday, March 17, 2006. Bill served his country during WWII as a bombardier and instructor. He was a long time member of Post 770 and was buried at Grove Cemetery with military honors rendered by nine Post 770 members and a bugler.

James Owen Ellis – passed away Thursday, March 23, 2006 at his residence. Jim was a member of Post 770 having served his country in the US Army from 1968 – 1971. He was honorably discharged with the National Service Medal Marksman .45 and also a sharpshooter M-14 Medal.

Bill Alford – A military funeral Internment will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 10:30 AM at Grove Cemetery. A reception for relatives and friends will follow at the American Legion.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership stands at 165. We still need 23 to meet our quota. We welcome Cindy Reckdenwald as a new senior member. The Girl Stater this year is Cathleen Hannah. The Peppy Princess is Breanna Lederman and is the granddaughter of Pat Bonsall. Congratulations, girls. The Auxiliary dinners will be on the 3rd Friday of each month. We hope to see you. Vickii Barry and Susie Smith will be attending spring conference at the end of April. A belated birthday gift to the Post is 2 new smoke management receptacles for our entrances. Look for more details about an antique auction show on 7/9/06 chaired by Pat Bonsall. At the next meeting on May 2nd at 7:00 PM, the nominating committee will announce their candidates for officers for the year July 2006 – July 2007. Election will follow at our June meeting. Please plan on attending. Don't forget to wear your Poppy PROUDLY on Memorial Day to Honor Our Veterans!

Respectfully Submitted, Marge Bennett

SAL NEWS

Election of SAL officers will take place at our regular meeting on Monday, May 1st at 7:00 P.M. Nominations for these positions are still being accepted. If you would like to nominate someone who is willing and interested to serve our squadron, please attend this meeting or call Brady Roach at 387-6636 or James Richar at 280-7747. Nominations thus far are: Commander – Brady Roach; Vice Commander – Mike Bennett, James Richar; Treasurer – Gary Reckenwald; Chaplain – Gordy Veley; Historian – Leonard Bailey; Sgt. At Arms – Chip Martin; Adjutant – Lee Weaver. Your participation in this election process will be greatly appreciated. Membership stands at 49, up 10 from last month, and we still have 14 members not paid. Please renew your membership if at all possible. Please welcome new members Tom Stilwell, Mike Donnelly, Ayden Makkala, and Nathaniel Hulsander. If you know someone eligible to join the squad, please let us know and we will follow up. BIG NEWS – The SAL was asked and has agreed to operate a Beer Tent at the T-burg Fair, Friday and Saturday, August 25th and 26th, from roughly noon to midnight. This is a great opportunity for us to raise money for our squadron, but it will require a lot of help to pull it off. There will be a sign-up sheet posted at the Legion next month or you can call Gordy Veley at 227-0024 to sign up directly. In other news, the SAL is exploring a possible Golf Tournament for sometime in the fall. Members Chip Martin and Dana Smith have agreed to head up this event. More on this as it evolves. Also, we are considering several good ideas for summer and fall raffles. So, please come to our meetings on the first Monday of every month at 7:00 P.M. Your input in these matters is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Respectfully, Brady Roach, Interim Commander