

THE BOUTON BUGLE
MAY **2008**

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR MAY

Sun	May 4	2:00 PM	Square Dancers Club Festivities
Mon	May 5	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Meeting at Post 800 - Groton
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	May 6	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	May 7		Unconditional Surrender of all German Forces Signed in 1945
		7:30 AM	Chamber of Commerce Meeting
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
		7:00 PM	TCS Alumni Reunion Planning Meeting
Fri	May 9	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sun	May 11	FLAG	Mother’s Day
Mon	May 12	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7: 30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – Election of Officers (Only one Post Meeting this month)
Weds	May 14	12:00 PM	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
Thurs	May 15	5:30 – 8:00 PM	American Legion Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Sat	May 17	FLAG	Armed Forces Day
		6:30 PM	Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner – Public Invited – Reservations Requested
Mon	May 19	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7 :00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	May 20	6:00 PM	Place Flags on Graves at Grove Cemetery
Weds	May 21	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sun	May 25	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	May 26	FLAG	Memorial Day (Observed)
		9:00 AM	Walk Through Flag Retirement Ceremony
		10:00 AM	Parade and Observances at Grove Cemetery
		12:00 – 3:00 PM	Open House at Post 770
		12:30 PM	Flag Retirement Ceremony at Post 770
Weds	May 28	12:00 PM	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
Fri	May 30	FLAG	Memorial Day (Traditional)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Albert M. Becker Memorial Scholarship Award 2008: This will be the last notification concerning the \$1,000 cash scholarship in the memory of Albert M. Becker, past NALPA President and Dept. Commander. Applications must be received with all attachments included, by June 1st, 2008.

Elections of Officers: The proposed slate of officers submitted by the nominating committee, by rule, contains one person for each office. The slate of officers is as follows: Cmdr – Tom Stilwell, 1st Vice – Jim Dew, 2nd Vice – Scott Hulslander, 3rd Vice – Open, Adj – Phil Colvin, Financial Officer – Lee Weaver, Service Officer – Don Bennett, Chaplain – Bill Parker, Historian – George Van Valen, Sgt-At-Arms – Cal Bailey, Judge Advocate – Don Smith. Others interested

in running for an office may be nominated from the floor at the Monday, May 12th Post meeting during which time the elections of officers will be held. Your attendance is important!

Installation and Awards Dinner: The American Legion will be installing their newly elected officers at a dinner on Saturday, May 17th at 6:30 PM which is open to members and to the public. Installations and award presentations will follow the dinner. Awards will be presented to those members celebrating 5 year anniversary multiples of continuous membership. Those with 25 years or more continuous membership are guests of the Post. Please show your support of our officers by attending. Reservations please at 387-4212 or sign up at the Post.

Flags On Graves for Memorial Day: Anyone wishing to help put flags on veteran's graves please be at Grove Cemetery at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, May 20 at which time we will break up into several groups and put flags on graves. There are several cemeteries which we have assigned other members to honor. If you know of any veteran that does not receive a flag before Memorial Day, please let us know so we may honor all of our veterans.

Memorial Day Parade, Flag Disposal Ceremony, Observances & Open House: will be held on Monday, May 26th beginning at 9:00 AM. This is perhaps the largest annual observance taking place on the Post calendar. Uniform will be navy or black pants and shoes, Post logo or white shirt, tie is optional and Legion hat. Logo shirts are available free of charge for those members who participate in our color guards. In the event of cold weather, we will wear Legion jackets, or wear your own blue jacket. We will be conducting our flag disposal ceremony while we are in uniform and the attendance of the public is at its greatest. At 9:00 AM we will walk through the flag ritual at the Post; at 9:45 assemble for the parade; at 11 AM ceremonies at the cemetery; 12:30 PM flag retirement at Post 770; and from Noon – 3 PM Open House at our Post. During Open House we are planning to show a film on DVD TV of the 3rd Cavalry in action during WWII for those who wish to watch it. Fred Asay and several other local veterans were part of this combat force. All members are encouraged to participate in these events which the American Legion holds annually as one of their most honored and esteemed days.

Children at Play: All well and good! However, we have been experiencing some destruction of property because of play that is too intense. Please keep your children off the tables and the Cannon, stop them from playing in the hallway and keep them away from the pool table. Kids will be kids and sometimes things happen. Please supervise them. Thank you.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Jean Hovencamp:** Home **Russ Maracle:** Accident **Denny Millsbaugh:** Surgery

Taps: **Leo Smith:** Passed away March 27, 2008. He was the father of member Donald Smith.

Thelma Smith: Passed away April 3, 2008. She was the wife of deceased member Clifford Smith and mother of member Phil Smith.

POST NEWS

It seems like a long time ago but the first event to be held since the cut off date for last month's newsletter was the Kids Easter Party. Although we were not in attendance, about 40 to 50 kids, parents and grandparents were. Sounds like a good time for all. ...The Legion Birthday dinner proved to be a wonderful event. Following a delicious Roast Beef dinner put out by Cindy and Gary Reckdenwald, Tom & Roberta Stilwell, Lee Agard, and Lennie Bailey, about 50 people enjoyed a beautiful birthday cake presented by the Auxiliary. Along with the cake the Auxiliary gave the Legion a much needed Post 770 flag. The old one had been repaired many times during numerous years and needed to be replaced. The highlight of the evening was a short talk given by each of the Boys Stater's. Benjamin Robertson, Tyler Murray, Calab Blass, and Daniel Sullivan told of their experiences during the week they attended Boys State at Morrisville last summer. Their presentations were absolutely wonderful. If a person had any doubts as to the direction the youth of today are taking, listening to their experiences would certainly have you thinking very positive about this program and our young students. It was a great evening. ...Our last two fish fries did quite well. About 140 attended the last Lenten fry put on by the Heroux crew near the end of March and about 150 came out for the regular Steak & Fish Fry dinner put on by the Colvin crew in April. Be sure you get out to enjoy the May fish fry on Friday the 9th because it appears it may be the last one until September. With only 3 crews to alternate and about 8 or 9 straight Friday fish fries during Lent, it seems our crews are getting "burned out". In the old Legion we never did have fish fries during the summer. There has also been some talk about doing away with the salad bar and replacing it with a premixed salad like we did years ago. What are your thoughts on the subject? ...Breakfast's have been doing wonderful, however we are sorry to say we cannot get anyone to put a crew together for a special Mothers Day breakfast. The Heroux's that head up our monthly breakfast will be away that weekend. Any ideas or volunteers? ...Also, we have heard that our rules state Bingo should not take place on holidays. Because Memorial Day (Observed) is on a Monday, there will be no Bingo on that evening. But you better check anyway in case we are wrong. ...Our interviewing committee has selected three to attend Boys State this year. They are Andrew Harned, Skylar Fairchild, and Eric Irish. The membership has allocated funds for their attendance. We

hope they get as much out of their experiences as last years attendees did. ...In this newsletter under announcements we listed candidates proposed by the nominating committee. We would like to see some new faces among those interested in governing our Posts affairs. Please if you are concerned with the operation of the Post, declare yourself as a candidate. Elections held at the regular meeting on May 12th, select officers by secret ballots from those candidates proposed or from the floor. Try to attend this meeting. ...As you can see under Events and Announcements we have quite a full day planned for the Memorial Day. In addition to the usual festivities including the parade, ceremonies, flag disposal ritual and open house will be a showing of a film of the 3rd Cavalry's invasion during WWII. Fred Asay, who served with the 3rd Cavalry, is quite excited about the showing of this film. I think it would please him a lot if we had a good turnout to watch it. ...We can't say enough about the progress being made along the lines of formulating a museum, library, and presenting an attractive interior at our Post. Ruth Doane, aided by Roberta Stilwell, using funds made available for the purchase of mannequins by one of our members, has dressed 4 out of the 5 in military uniforms. I know Fred Asay's Army, Aleta Bower's Navy and Bill Stanton's Navy are three of the uniforms. We are not sure who's uniform is the Air Force and do not believe we have acquired a Marine uniform. In addition I'm not sure whom to thank besides Wayne Doane, Phil Colvin, and Jim Dew, but they and perhaps others have made wonderful wood plaques with names and information to be added to the ones we already have in the hallway. It seems we have used up all the space on the Past Commanders, Post Everlasting, and officers plaques. These will be great additions and will keep us up to date. Our library has many books and more promised by Izzy Duddleston and others when we can get the library better organized. We are happy to report that new glass doors have been ordered for the trophy case and the lock on the glass doors of the patch board in the lounge has finely been removed so that we can transfer the patches into the larger case. So it looks like things are coming along nicely. We can still use some volunteer help with many of these projects. ...One thing we haven't forgotten how to do is spending money. Just kidding! Certain things are necessary. We are purchasing a new tent to be used for Legion events such as the Fair, Grassroots, etc. It appears the old one has had it with all of the use it has rendered. The membership has made a few donations. We made a monetary contribution to Adriana Sanchez Traveling Basketball team of which she is a participant and to the Veterans Memorial Home in Port Allegany, PA to help in replacing the home, which burned down recently. Existing fire insurance won't cover its cost. ...We noticed recently Dave Allen's Landscaping Truck was repairing the golden eagle, rope and flags aloft on our flagpole. Apparently the wind caused a lot of damage to it this past winter. Thanks Dave ...Don't be too alarmed as to the condition of the wood in the cannon wheels. They have been repaired at least twice that I can remember and probably more than that. We are working on ideas to make them last longer.

MEMBERSHIP

As we near the end of our current membership year, 380 veterans are on our list of paid up members. 393 is the quota we were assigned. Only 13 short. We don't know if that number has any significance but we do know that at 6th district meeting time all lists must be handed in. So time is short or lose some privileges including newsletter mailings. So how about it? Re-up or sign-up now!

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership is at 143. We still need 19 for our quota. The nominating committee presented the following slate for officers: President Ann Stiles Hunt, 1st Vice: Sue McConnell, 2nd Vice: Beth Jenkins, Secretary: Elaine Joseph, Sgt-At-Arms: Susie Smith, Treasurer: Roberta Stilwell & Mary Schmidt, and for the Board of Directors seat Roberta Stilwell or Sue McConnell. The Poppy Princess is Meghan Clark. The next Auxiliary meeting will be May 6th at 7:00 PM to elect officers for 2008 – 2009. Please plan on attending. The next Auxiliary dinner is May 15th serving Roast Pork dinner with all the trimmings. Our thoughts are with Jean Hovencamp who is recovering from a stroke. Our Girl Stater this year is Rian Little. Spring Conference is at Binghamton on April 26th and Vickii Barry & Susie Smith will be attending. Susie Smith (who chaired the Kids Ester Party) would like to thank Jackie Ward for donating stuffed animals for gifts & all the parents who helped out with the food and games. Thanks also to the judges on the Easter Egg Decorating contest: Al Richar, Bob Smith, & Lee Agard. The installation of officers will be held on Saturday, May 17th at a dinner. The dinner is free to newly elected officers and to members receiving 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, & 50-year certificates. Happy Mothers Day to all. Wear your poppy proudly to honor all of our veterans on Memorial Day. Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Election of Officers will be finalized on May 5th at our regular meeting. Since no one has expressed interest in taking over any of the officer positions, the roster will likely remain the same. At our meeting on April 7th, we spent the evening refurbishing some of the old barstools to use as back-ups. We also assembled a pair of park benches to be donated to the Bath Vets "Wander Garden" on Armed Forces Day (May 17th). All had a lot of fun. We decided that at each and every

SAL meeting, we would take on a project that benefits our Post. Next month, weather allowing, we are going to clean up the grounds.

IN MEMORY OF THE FALLEN, SHARE A POPPY

The red poppy has been a symbol of the Auxiliary since the 1920's. The flower is held near and dear to the hearts of our veterans because of what it represents and because the veterans make the crepe paper flowers to help them with their rehabilitation. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Auxiliary members are spotted distributing poppies to the public in exchange for donations. The money that is donated helps provide financial assistance to veterans. "The poppy is about the men and women who served this country," said Diane Kelly, National Poppy Chairman. "Being in wartime now, men and women sacrifice so much for the United States. It is a way to say thank you." The story of the poppy begins long before the Auxiliary adopted the flower as a way to help veterans. The story began during WWI when a doctor and soldier, Lt. Col. John McCrae of the Canadian army, found out a friend of his died in battle. McCrae wrote one of the most famous war poems, **In Flanders Fields**, to honor those who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Every year, around Memorial Day, services are held in Flanders Fields to honor the more than 360 American servicemen buried in Waregem, Belgium. Some of the bloodiest battles of WWI took place in the areas of northern France and southwest Belgium known as Flanders. The British front line was determined to keep the Germans from traversing Flanders and Ypres river valley to reach the port of Calais in France. Troops from both sides were holed up in the Ypres salient, an outward projection of the battle line. Defending British troops were vulnerable on three sides; therefore this was a bloody and dangerous place for a soldier to be. The destruction from the battles in this area reached beyond the battlefield to the towns and roads of the area, and led to the demolition of buildings, roads and all plant life, leaving only mud. But the dormant poppy seeds were now exposed after the burial of the dead soldiers and in the spirit of 1915, red poppies flourished in Flanders Fields covering the newly dug graves. "When you give a poppy, you have the opportunity to tell the poppy story and raise awareness about our veterans and the Auxiliary," said Mary Davis, Past National Poppy Chairman. While the main distribution of poppies remains on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, Auxiliary members can work year round to educate their communities, especially youth, with the poppy story. "The poppy story provides the Auxiliary an opportunity to instill the significance of the flower, who veterans are and the importance of the work our veterans do," said Davis. "If the Auxiliary doesn't go out there and tell the story, it will be forgotten," said Kelly. "It is important to teach them and say that this is part of our veterans. This is a way to memorialize them."