

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Circulation: 588

ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

Telephone 387-4212

CMMDR:	Tom Stilwell	387-5361	Newsletter Deadline	ADJUTANT:	Phil Colvin	387-6550
AUX. PRES:	Anne Stiles Hunt	273-3452	15th Of The Month	SAL CMDR:	Brady Roach	387-6636
EDITOR:	George Van Valen	387-9858		TYPIST:	Kathi Roach	387-6636

CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Fri	Oct 3	1:00 PM	Department Visitation at Post 770 (See Special Events)
Sat	Oct 4	6:30 PM	Early Bird Dinner & Program (See Special Events)
Mon	Oct 6	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snow Club Meeting
Tues	Oct 7	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Oct 8	Noon	Senior Citizen's Luncheon Meeting
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Oct 10	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Phil Colvin's Crew
Sun	Oct 12	FLAG	Columbus Day
Mon	Oct 13	FLAG	Columbus Day (Observed)
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Thurs	Oct 16	5:30 – 8:00 PM	American Legion Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Oct 17	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Senior Citizens Bazaar Set Up
Sat	Oct 18	8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Senior Citizens Bazaar
Mon	Oct 20	7:00 PM	Snow Club Meeting
Weds	Oct 22	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri	Oct 24	7:00 PM	NRA Banquet
Sun	Oct 26	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		Noon	Bath VA Hospital Visitation and Steak Luncheon (See Special Events)
		Noon	National Commanders Visitation Dinner at Post 154 Elmira Heights
Mon	Oct 27	FLAG	Navy Day
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Fri	Oct 31	8:00 PM	Halloween Party (See Special Events)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Department Visitation at Post 770: On Friday, Oct 3rd, shortly after lunch the Department deligation including the Commander and President will be arriving at our Post. It would be nice to have as many members on hand to greet them as we can master up. Following a short stay at 770 they will be heading out to Post 1143 in Dryden for a 6:30 PM dinner. If you would like to attend please see Bill Parker, Tom Bennett, or Commander Tom Stilwell for tickets.

Early Bird Dinner and Program: will take place at 6:30 PM on Saturday Oct 4th. This is a free dinner if your membership dues were paid before October 1st. Come and join us for a great evening as we kick off the fall season. We have invited our Boys & Girls Staters to tell us about their experiences at State this past year. Reservations are required for this usually well attended event. Call 387-4212 or sign up at the Post. You won't want to miss this great event.

Bath VA Hospital Visitation & Steak Luncheon: Once again we will be extending our hospitality to our Bath Hospital Veteran friends. Come at Noon, on Sunday, Oct 26th, and extend a bit of comaraderies and make these guys and gals feel at home. If you can pour coffee, smile, and carry a plate, please volunteer to help. The inner reward you receive will be heart warming. Some of you will be getting a call to bake a pie or contribute somed home made goodiers. It's all for a great cause.

National Commander Visitation Dinner: will take place beginning at 4:00 PM at Post 154 – Elmira Heights on Sun, Oct 26th. Anyone planning to attend the vistingation and dinner will need to have a ticket. Please see Tom Bennett, Bill Parker, or Commander Tom Stilwell to make reservations and obtain a ticket.

Halloween Party: It has always been our policy to provide some munchies to enjoy with your drinks while we try to figure out who is behind the mask and costumes. Let this Halloween be no exception on Friday, Oct 31st. Who can be the weirdest of all? Fool your friends. After the kids are done tricking or treating at you hourse, we'll see you at the lounge about 8:00PM.

Walk of Honor: We continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched and installed at our Memorial Site. Order forms are available in the entryway to 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

Wanted: Newsletter Editor, Librarian, Display Coordinator. If interested in any of these positions please contact Commander Tom Stilwell.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Ray (Bill) Terry:** **Blair Hoover:** Surgery **Bud Riddle:** CMC – Now Home

TAPS: **Georgia C. Chesley:** Passed away on August 20, 2008. Following the funeral service a reception was held at the American Legion Post 770.

Richard D. Maine: Passed away on August 28, 2008. He was a member of the American Legion and the VFW.

Jean L. Hovencamp: Passed away on September 17, 2008. She was a life member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Following the funeral service, a reception was held at the American Legion Post 770.

POST NEWS

We have been informed that the Post 770 American Legion Baseball team had a great year. In the 6th District playoffs our guys ended up playing some great ball teams in the losers bracket. They finally succumbed mainly because they just ran out of pitchers according to Harold Wright who attended their final game in Binghamton. If my notes are correct, they had a fantastic 24 – 7 record. ...We are pleased to see our Post Colors leading the Fireman's Parade as they made their way down Main Street. Roger Meier, Phil Colvin, Lee Weaver, Don Smith and several others made up the Color Guard. From all reports I believe our food tent did well again this year at the T-Burg Fair. Thanks to all of those who carted the supplies, erected and took down the tent, and worked the daily shifts including breakfast, lunch and supper. We couldn't have succeeded without everyone's help. ...Wow! Have you seen the new look in the Post? The shine on the floors is enough to blind you, the kitchen sparkles, and the new woodwork in the banquet room adds to the beauty of our facility. No wonder we are becoming a popular site for weddings, etc. Our guys and gals really pitched in and did quite a job. Thanks to everyone who answered the plea for help. **Kitchen & Facility Clean Up:** Lee & Sue Weaver, Don & Dawn Smith, Marty & Jerry Clark, Phil & Nan Colvin, Jim & Renee Heroux, Tom & Roberta Stilwell, Dana Smith, Brady Roach, Marge Bennett and Don Cole. **Banquet Hall Woodwork:** **Cherry Wood:** Donated by Henry Van Ness & Jim Stevenson. **Millwork:** Millspaugh Bros Doug & Denny. **Finish Work:** Phil Colvin, Don Smith, and Lee Weaver. **Assembly:** Don Smith, Lee Weaver, Phil Colvin, Jimmy Doolittle, Jim Heroux, Bill Terry, Don Cole. ...After careful consideration and weighing the input from our patrons it was decided to continue to offer a salad bar at our fish fry dinners. In order to keep our costs down we have decided to eliminate several items from the salad bar, so if it appears that we have run out of a few items it may just be they have been dropped to keep our costs and the price down. If in doubt don't hesitate to ask. We value our customers! ...The membership is pleased to have made monetary donations to the Bath Veterans Hospital Christmas Gift Store and mailing facility. ...We can't help but notice how nice the grounds surrounding the Post look. The beautiful flower and shrub plantings compete with the interior spit and polish of the Post making our facility an attractive addition to the community. ...Our annual family picnic took place yesterday but because of the discouraging weather reports, it was decided to be held at the Post instead of Raymond's Pond. Our hat is off to Tom & Roberta Stilwell and crew for the food prep and to Mike Wright for the excellent preparation of the roasted pig. It was great and the day was beautiful, with kids and parents playing games inside and out, relaxing and chatting with friends. ... We would like to thank the crew who worked so hard to serve the 490 people for the Bonton Roulette

breakfast. It was a very long 2 weeks since we know most of you also worked 3 breakfasts for Grassroots and still had our regular monthly breakfast to go. Thank you very much for your dedication to our American Legion.

MEMBERSHIP

As we begin our new membership year our count stands at 235. Our quota has been assessed at 380, last years final tally. As you can see we need a lot of re-ups and sign –ups to reach our goal. Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today! Among a number of new members joining our Post are several transfers. We welcome Kevin R. Barr, James R. Duddleston, Anthony D. DeFranco, Alan K. Jamison, and Bradford C. Fisher. We are glad to have you with us. If you have changed your mailing address please let us know. Thank you.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our membership is at 50 for the new year. Please remember to pay your dues soon. Too late for the Early Bird dinner which will be Oct 4th this year. Dinner is free if dues were paid by Oct 1st or you have 5-year increments of continued membership certificates being awarded to you this year. Thank you to all who worked at the Fair food tent and the crew that helped clean up our Post. Thanks to Phil Colvin and crew for installing the cherry wood around doors, windows and floor in the banquet room. It really dresses the place. Roberta Stilwell was elected to represent the Auxiliary on the Board of Directors. We made a monetary donation to the Food Pantry. Congratulations to Gary & Cindy Reckdenwald on being first time grandparents. Happy 80th Birthday to Wescena Smith. Our condolences to Eleanor Ellsworth & family on the loss of her mother Mildred Smith on 8/16/08. Our best wishes to Dolores Hendrix who had surgery in mid September. Our next Auxiliary dinner will be October 16th. Our next meeting is October 7th at 7:00 PM. Mark your calendars for October 26th, when the Bath Veterans are here for their annual Steak Dinner and homemade desserts. Please think of baking, serving, or just welcoming them to our “home away from home”. Respectively Submitted, Marge Bennett

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919: 1. The American Legion is founded in Paris at the first caucus by members of the American Expeditionary Force. 2. The second caucus meeting in St. Louis adopts “The American Legion: as the organization’s official name. The Legion’s draft constitution is approved, and so is its preamble, which begins: “For God and Country, we associate ourselves together....” The preamble, with its heartfelt dedication to freedom and democracy, is still recited today at official gatherings of the American Legion. 3. The National Executive Committee of the American Legion adopts the Legion Emblem. 4. The US Congress charters The American Legion. 5. The American Legion convenes its first annual convention in Minneapolis. 6. The American Legion’s Constitution and Preamble are adopted at the convention in Minneapolis. 7. The American Legion passes resolution supporting the Boy Scouts of American. Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units that involve 64,000 youths. 8. Delegates to the American Legion’s first annual convention in Minneapolis vote 361 – 323 to locate the Legion’s National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., rather than Washington, DC.

1921: The US Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration, is created as a result of efforts by The American Legion. Today, the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

1923: The first “Flag Code” is drafted during a conference called by The American Legion in Washington, DC. The Congress eventually adopted code in 1942. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to gain a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

1925: American Legion Baseball program is created. Today, more than 60 percent of professional baseball players are graduates of The American Legion Baseball program. About 89,000 high-school-age youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.

1931: Membership in The American Legion increases to more than one million veterans.

1935: The first American Legion Boys State is convened in Springfield, Ill, to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of American government. The first Boys Nation was organized in 1946.

1938: The final round of The American Legion’s first annual National High School Oratorical Contest is held in Norman, Okla. Today, more than 25,000 high school students from around the country compete annually in the contest designed to develop a greater understanding of the US Constitution. Winners are awarded thousands of dollars in college

scholarships.

1942: **1.** The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is changed for the first and only time since its creation in 1919 – the word “War” is changed to “Wars”. **2.** The American Legion’s charter is amended to allow veterans of World War II to join the organization.

1943: Harry W. Colmery, past national commander of The American Legion, writes in longhand on hotel stationery the first draft of what will later become the “GI Bill of Rights, the Legion’s greatest single legislative achievement. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to improve benefits for this nation’s newest veterans, those who’ve served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and are serving today in a variety of peacekeeping roles.

1944: President Franklin Roosevelt signs The GI Bill into law.

1946: **1.** A \$50,000 grant from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is presented to a small, struggling organization, the American Heart Association, to inaugurate a nationwide program for the study, prevention, and treatment of rheumatic heart disease. **2.** Legion membership surpasses three million.

1949: The first World War II veteran is elected national commander of the American Legion.

1950: **1.** The American Legion voted to contribute funds to the field of mental health with the provision that the three major mental health organizations then in existence be amalgamated into one. They accepted this provision and the National Association for Mental Health was born. **2.** Korean War veterans are approved for membership in the American Legion.

1954: The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed. Since that time, the foundation has awarded \$4 million to youth-oriented organizations and projects designed to help America’s children.

1966: **1.** Vietnam War veterans are approved for membership in the Legion. **2.** The American Legion voices great concern over the fate of POWs in Vietnam. Today, the Legion continues to press for a full accounting of POW/MIAs and has formed a special group from among the nation’s major veterans organizations to take the lead on this issue.

1972: The American Legion implements the Halloween safety program for children. Today, it remains the only national program of its kind.

1980’s AND BEYOND WILL BE PRINTED IN NEXT MONTH’S NEWSLETTER EDITION.