

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR APRIL

Weds	Apr 1		April Fools Day
Fri	Apr 3	5:30 – 8:00 PM	6 th Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sat	Apr 4	8:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sun	Apr 5		Palm Sunday
		2:00 PM	Kid’s Easter Party (See Special Events)
Mon	Apr 6	7:00 PM	Squadron 770 Sons of the American Legion Meeting
		7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Apr 7	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Apr 8	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Luncheon
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Apr 9		Passover Begins
Fri	Apr 10		Good Friday
		5:30 – 8:00 PM	Last Lenten Steak & Fish Fry Dinner– Public Invited– Jim Heroux’s Crew
Sun	Apr 12		Easter Sunday – Post Closed
Mon	Apr 13	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting – (See Special Events)
Weds	Apr 15		Income Tax Deadline for 2008
Thurs	Apr 16	5:30 – 8:00 PM	American Legion Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Apr 17	1:00 PM	Decorate Banquet Room for Wedding
Sat	Apr 18	2:00 PM	Wedding Reception
Sun	Apr 19	Noon	Bath VA Hospital Visitation & Steak Luncheon (See Special Events)
		1:00 PM	6 th District Spring Meeting at Post 876 - Sherburn, NY
Mon	Apr 20	7:00 PM	Snowmobile Club Meeting
Tues	Apr 21	6:30 PM	Tompkins County American Legion Joint Meeting at Post 800 – Groton
Weds	Apr 22		Earth Day
		7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Apr 23	6:30 PM	Cub Scout Meeting
Sat	Apr 25	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM	Walk-a-thon and Motorcycle Ride sponsored by the Candor American Legion, as a benefit fund-raiser for Veteran’s Homes
		7:00 PM	Dance with DJ- Sponsored by the SAL- No Cover Charge- Public Invited
Sun	Apr 26	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
Mon	Apr 27	7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Apr 29	6:00 PM	TCSD Grant Committee Meeting

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kids Easter Party: will take place on Sunday April 5th at 2:00 PM. The event will include all kids from newborn to 12 years of age. Following the Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter Bunny will hop to each little boy and girl with a basket full of goodies. There will be refreshments for all. Parents and grandparents will need to sign up your children by April 1st.

American Legion Election of Officers: will be held at the regular Post meeting on Monday, May 11th. Commander Stilwell has appointed a nominating committee of Don Smith, Jim Dew, and Tom Bennett. If anyone is interested in

running for an office, please let any one of the committee members know. It is important that we continue to provide leadership for our organization in order that we may be an intrical part of community service.

Bath VA Hospital Visitation and Steak Luncheon: Once again we will be extending our hospitality to our Bath Hospital Veteran friends and staff. Come at Noon on Sunday April 19th and extend a bit of comederie 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 some home made cookies. It's all for a great cause.

Walk of Honor: As we endeavor to inhance the cannon atop our Memorial, we continue to accept orders for bricks to be etched and installed among the many that are already part of our "Walk of Honor". 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

The American Online Update: Sign up for a weekly electronic newsletter published every Thursday and sent to your e-mail address. It has great stories, with links to slide shows, video clips, and related materials at their Web Site. Just go to www.legion.org and click on "Publications" and submit your e-mail address. It's easy and it's free.

Cigarette Butts: The membership is concerned with the number of butts on the ground around the entryways to our Post. If you are a contributing factor, please use the receptacles provided. It presents an unsightly mess which needs to be addressed. Thanks to those smokers who do take pride in the appreance of our Post by picking them up and disposing of them properly.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: **Jack Frost:** At Home **Bill Walsh:** Accident- Home in cast **Oleta Bower:** Hospital
 Dawn Reeves: CMC – Now Home **Gary Reckdenwald:** CMC Mini stroke – Now Home

Taps: **Katherine Walker:** died recently. She was the sister of Charles, Richard, and Roger Hubbell.
 Helen VanDerzee: died in February. She was the wife of Keith VanDerzee and sister of Don Teeter.

POST NEWS

We recently returned from 2 weeks in the South where we soaked up some warmth and sunshine while visiting with friends and family. 3,500 miles on interstates took their toll and we are resting up after our return just in time to work with our fish fry crew during the Lenten season. The crews have served 106, 129, and 150 dinners the last three fish fries. Not bad when you realize that just about anyone who has the facilities serves fish dinners on Friday nights during the Lenten season. We thank our patrons for their loyalty. ...We attended the Boy Scout Spaghetti dinner with our family and were pleased to see the parking lot over flowing for a great dinner. 225 dinners were served. It's so nice that our facility is being used for community events. Which reminds us that Tom Bennett and crew served 95 prime rib meals at the Pioneer Seed Company luncheon recently. ...The Legion and Auxiliary celebrated birthdays with a wonderful prime rib dinner put on by Chief Tom Bennett and crew. Renee Heroux made some wonderful hor d'oeves for the Auxiliary Open House, which was held before the dinner. The Auxiliary is 75 years young while the Legion is 88 years in its existence. The Auxiliary President and Legion Commander introduced their officers. About 70 members were in attendance. ...It is time once again to be selecting candidates to participate in Boys and Girls State, which are held in the summer. There are 11 boys interested in attending this year, which means our committee will need to interview each one and select 4 or 5 from the group. Not an easy job! This is a wonderful way for our boys and girls to participate in Americanism.... Our Post membership has made a number of monetary donations this past month. They were made to the John Grove Memorial Fund, Cornell ROTC Medals (we share the cost with the other Tompkins County Posts), DeWitt park restoration fund, SPCA in memory of James Stanton, Hospicare in memory of Charles Dickson, Mecklenburg Fire Department (flag)... The newsletter insert is an explanation and application for the Albert M. Becker Memorial Scholarship award. This is an annual award given by NYALPA.... The Post received a 48 Star American flag from Wesley Dean to be put on display. ...We bought a new highway Post sign after trying out a number of old used ones. ...The Post 770 Funeral Detail conducted a military funeral for Harold Menzies during February. ...Several members that participated in the annual Bath gift shop program informed us that the article titled "The Best Kept Secret" in the March newsletter was written by a Binghamton area person and did not include much about Tompkins County's participation.

Two people of the many from our County that should have been included in the article were Arlee Robinson and Jean Ward. Perhaps we will be able to add much more to the Bath Gift Shop article sometime in the future if someone would be willing to come up with coverage about our past involvement.

MEMBERSHIP

We are still climbing with a membership count of 340. Will we reach our quota of 380 by the end of April? Tom Bennett, our membership chairman is contacting all members who have not paid their dues. This is your last chance or we will have to drop you from the rolls and cancel your newsletter. Please sign-up or re-up now. Welcome new member Lee H. Topete. It's nice to have you on board.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Our membership is now at 140 seniors and 6 juniors for a total of 146, while our quota is set for 154. Almost there! We welcome senior Eva Vangelder to our Unit. The Kids Easter Party is April 5th. On April 19th the Bath Veterans will be here again. They love all of the baked goods. On April 16th the Auxiliary dinner will be served. Our next meeting is April 7th at 7:00 PM. The nominating committee will present a slate for officers. We are looking for a young lady to be our Poppy Princess for Memorial Day. We gave a carnation to the veterans at Lakeside for St Patrick's Day. Dawn Reeves was hospitalized and now home. We wish her well. On March 14th the Auxiliary celebrated 75 years with an Open House & a delicious Prime Rib Dinner. Renee Heroux did a tremendous job with snacks and decorations. It was a nice turnout of around 60 people. Have Happy Easter!

Submitted, Marge Bennett

THE VILLAGE CANNON AND MEMORIAL

Historian's Report: On July 4, 1922, practically every resident in Trumansburg was present at the unveiling of the handsome monument to the servicemen of World War I. Several hundred men and women from other sections of Tompkins County including Ithaca were in the big audience, which filled the park and thoroughfare in the immediate vicinity of the monument. The heroes of the past conflicts were not forgotten: the name of 97 Trumansburg youths were inscribed on a bronze plaque including seven who made the supreme sacrifice: Major Arthur E. Bouton, Raymond Jeffers, Lemuel Potter, and serving the National Guard: Frank Baker, Raymond Gee, Fred Higgins and George Norse. The original monument was made possible by public subscription and remained a focal point in the village until the rerouting of Route 96 in 1961 necessitated its removal. Today, upon completion of its restoration, the village cannon stands proudly atop its monument replacement of brick and mortar in front of our Post. Number 35-S with a 3.2-inch gun carriage, Model of 1892; it is inscribed: Rock Island Arsenal 1004. There are a number of Bronze Tablets on the sides of the memorial pedestal.

Weathering has caused the cannon to rust and the wood in the wheels to decay to a point that it needed to be restored. David Kauppinon remembers the wheels being removed and the wood in them replaced many years ago. In about 1987 when I was commander, it became a priority project to have the wheels replaced and the metal part upgraded. They were removed and restored by Harry McCue, a wheelwright from the Ovid area who was a Cornell professor, but did this sort of thing as a hobby. The cost was about \$350, which was shared by the Town of Ulysses, or the village of Trumansburg or perhaps both, and the American Legion. The metal parts of the cannon were sanded, primed and repainted by Harold Wright and the members of his crew. Sometime between 1987 and the present, the wheels were once or perhaps twice removed and the wooden parts replaced while resting on its monument in front of our new Legion facility. Now again, in 2008 -2009 the wood in the wheels had decayed and needs to be replaced. Recognizing the problems the Legion faced with the cannon, Doug & Denny Millsbaugh joined by Bill Armstrong undertook the immense task of restoring the cannon, especially the wheels. At their own expense they created new spokes and a rim liner through millwork using a high-density vinyl material fabricated for just such use. The results they obtained are unbelievably outstanding, far greater strength and durability than the original wheels. In creating this superb work of art they noticed that one wheel was an inch higher than the other. They reasoned it was made that way to travel level on crowned roads. Sounds reasonable! Fortunately they realized this difference before milling the spokes for the first wheel, which were an inch shorter. Upon repainting a few metal parts, the wheels will be ready to be mounted on the cannon once again. Our hats are off to all of those involved with the restoration of the cannon, especially Doug, Denny and Bill. We will be proud to see our cannon in all of its glory resting on its monument beneath our flag once again. The inscribed names of veterans in

the bricks forming our “Walk of Honor” and the names inscribed on the bronze plaques of the memorial truly represent the feeling of all who originally, through subscription, and those in present day, brought about this local point honoring our veterans who have served and are serving in all wars.

SIGNIFICANT DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – THE 1980’S

While listing significant dates in the October 2008 newsletter, we ran out of space and are now continuing with events from the 1980’s.

1. 1982 The American Legion presents a \$1million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund toward the construction of “The Wall” in Washington, DC. The Legion, which had solicited donations from its members, eventually became the largest single contributor to the project. **2. 1983** The first Korean War veteran is elected national commander of The American Legion. The American Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. The results of “The American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans” were presented to Congress in 1989. **3. 1988** The first Vietnam War veteran is elected national commander of The American Legion. **4. 1989** The new Department of Veterans Affairs, elevated to cabinet-level status, begins operations. The American Legion had fought hard for the Veterans Administration to become a cabinet-level department, arguing that veterans- as an important segment of society deserved representation in the highest councils of government. The long-standing objectives of The American Legion to improve adjudication procedures for veterans’ claims are achieved as the US Court of Veterans Appeals begins operations. Most of the provisions contained in the law creating the court originally were included in the Veterans Reassurance Act, which was written by the Legion and introduced in Congress in 1988.