

THE BOUTON BUGLE

OCTOBER

2007

THE AMERICAN LEGION

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ARTHUR E. BOUTON POST 770

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CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER

Mon	Oct 1	6:30 PM	Tompkins County Joint American Legion Auxiliary & SAL Dinner Meeting at Post 221, Ithaca
		6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:00 PM	Sons of the American Legion Post 770 Meeting
Tues	Oct 2	7:00 PM	Unit 770 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting
Weds	Oct 3	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Sun	Oct 7	Noon	Bath VA Hospital Visitation and Steak Luncheon (See Special Events)
Mon	Oct 8	FLAG	Columbus Day
		6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Fri	Oct 12	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Steak & Fish Fry Dinner – Public Invited – Don Smith’s Crew
Sat	Oct 13	6:00 PM	Past District Commander & Presidents Dinner at Post 154 Elmira
Sun	Oct 14	1:00 PM	6 th District Fall Meeting at Post 154 Elmira Heights
Mon	Oct 15	6:45 PM	Bingo
Weds	Oct 17	7:00 PM	Board of Trustees Meeting
Thurs	Oct 18	5:30 – 8:00 PM	Auxiliary Dinner – Public Invited
Fri	Oct 19	TBA	4 H Kids Pizza Party
Sat	Oct 20	Noon	Music Boosters Program Set Up
		7:00 – 10:30 PM	Music Boosters Program
Sun	Oct 21	11:30 AM	Department Visitation Luncheon at Post 770
		1:00 – 6:00 PM	Square Dancers
		5:00 PM	Department Visitation Dinner at Post 221, Ithaca
Mon	Oct 22	6:45 PM	Bingo
		7:30 PM	Post 770 American Legion Meeting
Weds	Oct 24	Noon	Set Up for the NRA Banquet
Thurs	Oct 25	6:00 PM	NRA Banquet
Fri	Oct 26	Noon	Senior Citizen’s Bazaar Set Up
Sat	Oct 27	All Day	Senior Citizen’s Bazaar
		6:00 PM	Early Bird Dinner & Program (See Special Events)
Sun	Oct 28	7:30 – 11:00 AM	Breakfast – Public Invited
		4:00 PM	National Commanders Visitation Dinner at Post 758, Johnson City
Mon	Oct 29	6:45 PM	Bingo
Weds	Oct 31	8:00 PM	Halloween Party (See Special Events)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter: We continue to look for someone who has a desire to see our Newsletter be edited and published as it has been for many year. It is a rewarding job that keeps you aware of all the activities and events at the Post. I will be very happy to assist you in getting started with this project. We have asked for monthly articles to be contributed by the Commander, Board Chairman, and other committee heads and interested members which should make up a substantial part of future newsletters. How about it? Are there any out there interested? If so, please let me know.

Bath VA Hospital Visitation and Steak Luncheon: Once again we are extending our hospitality to our Bath Hospital veteran friends. Come and extend a bit of camaraderie 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 goodies. It's all for a great cause.

6th District and National Commander Visitations: On Sunday, Oct 14th at 1:00 PM at Post 154 in Elmira Heights and Post 758 in Johnson City will host this annual event. Anyone planning to attend the dinners will need to have a ticket. Please see Bill Parker to make reservations and obtain a ticket.

Early Bird Dinner and Program: will be on Saturday, Oct 27th at 6:00 PM. It 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 and 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.

Halloween: It has always been our policy to provide some munchies to enjoy with your drinks while we try to figure out who's behind the mask and costume. Let this Halloween be no exception on Weds, Oct 31. Who can be the wierdest of all? Fool your friends. After the kids are done Trick or Treating at your house, see you at the lounge around 8:00 PM.

Breakfast Crew: The Post continues to look for someone to head up the 2nd breakfast crew. Currently we have one crew led by Jim Heroux that puts on a breakfast on the 4th Sunday of every month. The public response has been so great, that we would also like to be able to offer a breakfast on the 2nd Sunday of every month. If anyone is interested in forming this crew, please contact Jim or Commander Tom.

Volunteer Parking: If at all possible, we are asking voluteers for large events to park in the overflow lot just north of the regular lot.

Note to Lounge Patrons: Don't let a large number of cars in the parking lot stop you from coming into the lounge. The lounge is usually quite quiet even when large events are going on in the banquet room. You can always find a parking spot in the overflow area.

MEMBERSHIP

As we continue the 2007 – 2008 year, our membership stands at 271. This is 122 short of our goal. A number of you have forgotten to re-up and so we are posting your names on the bulletin board next to the pool table. Hopefully this will be a reminder to renew your membership for the coming year. Remember, membership renewals honored before Sept 30th provides you with a free Early Bird dinner on Oct 27th. As we approach the end of this current year, we will be dropping non-paid members from our mailing list.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Sick Call: Oleta Bower: Sayre Hospital. Knee replacement.

Taps: Carl A. Ward: Past away August 23rd at CMC. Carl proudly served in the US Army and was a long time member of Post 770. He was interred in Grove Cemetery with military honors presented by the Post 770 ritual team.

Irene E. Walsh: Past away September 10th. She was the mother of member William L. (Bill) Walsh.

POST NEWS

A lively discussion took place at the September Post meeting. It concerned the prices we charge for various dinners and the sales tax, which we must pay, but haven't added on. In order to offset costs such as heat, lights, gas, etc. and remain competitive, it appears we may have to increase our prices slightly. No decision was made by the membership. However, it seems likely that a small increase will occur this fall to include sales tax. Those that frequent our events will be noticing donation baskets at the Post: Adopt a Child (Seneca County Social Services) and Toys For Tots (Tompkins County Sheriff's Department). ... The membership donated \$100 in response to Ruth Doan's request to purchase personal items for returning Iraqi veterans from Texas. It appears that many of these service men and women are returning with only the clothes on their backs. ...The Post cleanup scheduled for Sept 7th – 9th had to rescheduled because of numerous conflicts. Sorry to all of those who anticipated a busy weekend. A future date will be announced. ... It is a sad moment to recall that we made no official observation on 9/11, Patriot's Day as planned. Our annual candle light vigil at the Cannon Memorial and "Walk of Honor" did not take place because of Post meetings and a rainy, windy night. We all feel badly about this omission. However, this observance will be scheduled on our calendar for next year

and if the weather does not cooperate, it will be held indoors. ... Thanks to all of those who volunteered to work at the American Legion Food tent at the Fair. Especially to Pat Platt who organized the event as she has done in the past. In spite of some real rainy weather and flooding conditions in the tent, we seem to have done quite well. ...It was a beautiful day for the fall picnic at Raymond's Pond. Although we did not attend we understand that everyone had a nice time. We would have liked to try Mike Wright's pig roast. Thanks to Mike, Tom & Roberta and the rest of the crew that put this event together. And of course a thank you to the Raymond's for the use of their facilities. Lucille McGill wrote this little poem that we thought you might enjoy: THE LEGION PICNIC: The best of time was had by all at the Legion picnic where we all had a ball, no other place can compare with all the friends that were there. So keep in touch throughout the year, with all the friends we hold so dear, all our friends we will see again next year... Our first bingo night was held September 17th. With the exception of a few "hiccups", the event was a great success. Thanks to Cindy, Gary, Gene and Al for the brunt of the organizing and thanks to all of the other volunteers for making it happen. As with all Legion functions, we can always use more volunteers. Contact Cindy or Gary Reckenwald (387-3360) if you want to help. It's actually a lot of fun...Thank you Oleta Bower for your contribution and your interest in our proposed Museum. It would seem the Meeting room/Library is the obvious place for this project. We will have to remove a number of items that clearly do not belong in this room. This should not be a problem. We continue to look for help from interested members regarding the Museum and particularly we need to find mannequins for the uniform displays. We have the funds to effect various purchases as needed.

AUXILIARY NEWS

At our September meeting we received a letter of resignation from our Unit President Susie Smith. She is coping with health related problems. Thank you for all your efforts this past year. Vickii Barry will resume the position of Unit President. ... Membership is starting to come in. Apparently National will not be sending out dues notices until October. Sorry about the confusion. If you paid dues by September 30th you are invited to the Early Bird dinner free. ... A big THANK YOU to all involved in the food tents at Grass Roots and the Fair. ...Congratulations to Marti Smith and Jerry Clark on their new daughter, born on August 25th. Proud grandparents are Don & Dawn Smith. ...We wish the best to Edyth Neff who was in CMC, but now home. Our condolences to Sue Langner's family on her passing on 9/11/07. Our thoughts are with you. ...The Dollar General store is making a donation to "The Support for Military Personnel" box. ...On October 7th the Bath veterans will be here for their annual steak dinner. If interested in taking part, just show up about 11:30 AM. We need baked goods for desert. Please help us make them feel at home. They so look forward to this event and the great homemade deserts. ...Oct 2nd is the next meeting at 7:00 PM and our Auxiliary dinner is October 18th serving Pork Roast, Stuffing and all of the trimmings. We will be raffling off the rocking chair at a later date. Tickets are still available at the Post. ... BINGO is now every Monday night at 6:45PM. Come on out and have some fun. ...The dart league will be starting soon.

Respectfully submitted, Marge Bennett

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Once again, it is time to renew your membership. We managed to do 105% last year. Let's try to do even better this year. So, if you know someone eligible and interested, try to get him or her signed up.

The SAL is sponsoring a collection station for the volunteer group HERE 4 YOU. We will be helping them collect health and wellness items to be sent to local military personnel currently serving overseas. There is a collection box placed in the foyer of our lounge and has a detailed list of the desired items. Most of these items can be purchase for a dollar or two. They are also requesting the names and addresses of local military personnel. For more information contact Cliff Irwin at 607-869-5791 or go to here4you@zoom-dsl.com. This is a great opportunity to provide some comfort to our soldiers for very little money. Our next meeting will be October 8th.

A BIT OF HISTORY – LIBERTY SHIPS

Thanks Chris Vann, SAL member and friend for dropping off the History Channel Magazine for me to read. The article about "Hero Ships" is of particular interest to me. "The murky dawn of June 6th, 1944 revealed an armada off the coast of France such as the world had never seen. More than 5,000 ships were gathered for the D-Day invasion. They ranged in size from ocean liners to fishing boats. A German officer manning the Normandy defenses reacted with awe and disbelief. "It's impossible...there can't be that many ships in the world!" Fifty years later, elaborate celebrations

were held to mark the golden anniversary of D-Day. Out of that vast fleet, only a single ship was able to return to Normandy for the occasion. It wasn't a battleship or a destroyer, or one of the ubiquitous "Higgins Boats" that hit the beaches. The ship that returned was the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, a cargo vessel of type known as a Liberty Ship. It was, in a sense, fitting that a Liberty ship should have the stage to itself. The Liberties were unsung heroes of World War II. Faced with a critical shortage of cargo ships, the US responded with what might be the largest industrial program ever designed. It turned out an astonishing 2,710 Liberty ships in just three years. They carried planes, tanks, landing crafts, ammunitions, food, fuel, and other vital materials all around the globe. President Franklin Roosevelt once called them "ugly ducklings", but it would have been just about impossible to win the war effort without them. The last Liberty rolled into the water in the summer of 1944. Most were mothballed after the war and eventually scrapped. At one time anyone making the journey along the Hudson River near West Point would have noticed the large number of Liberty ships lying at anchor. Today they just about have all disappeared. Only two remain. One is Jeremiah O'Brien. Launched in Portland, Maine in 1943, the O'Brien carried supplies all over the globe, but it's most notable service was in support of the D-Day invasion. The ship made 11 trips from England to Omaha and Utah beaches. The reason these ships were of so much interest to me was that my Uncle was superintendent of transportation of materials at the Bethlehem Fairfield shipyard near Baltimore, MD. It was his job to get the building materials to the construction site. On one occasion he arranged for my father and I to attend a launching of one of the Liberty ships. I remember how thrilled I was to be beneath the bow of the ship where the welders cut the steel plates with their torches to allow the ship to slide down into the water. During this time the champagne bottle swung overhead from the christening. The ship had barely reached the water when the next crew began laying a new keel. It was certainly a thrill to see a ship launching.