



North Albany Post 1610

American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, New York 12204

May 9, 2009

Dear Legion Family Member and Friends,

Tulips abound and the grass is green and plentiful. It's that time of year when we shift our focus to those outdoor chores when the rain will allow. Take a break from those chores and help us select our upcoming slate of officers at our next regular meeting.

The next regular meeting will be held on May 18th, at 7:00 PM. Please join us as we prepare the slate of officers for the upcoming year. The June executive board meeting will be held on Monday June 1st at 7:00 PM and the June regular meeting will be on June 15th, also at 7:00 PM. Remember our Memorial Service at 6:30 PM prior to our May meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Final notices have gone out to those members that are delinquent in paying their 2009 dues. We will begin collecting dues for the 2010 membership year after the 4th of July holiday. We do not wish to keep repeating the same message but we haven't found another method of reaching people.

We do appreciate those that have responded to our pleas. We are still about 27 members short compared to last year.

NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

Nominations will remain open until elections are held at the May meeting. Pursuant to Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution and By Laws of the American Legion, Department of New York, Post 1610, the nominating committee chairman Jack Mullin sets forth the following slate of officers to be presented at the May meeting:

Commander Mike Swezey	1 st Vice Commander Charlie Johnson
2nd Vice Commander Joe Ferraiolo	3 rd Vice Commander Roy Van Amburgh
Adjutant William Parker	Finance Officer James "Skip" Egan
Judge Advocate William Gray	Historian Chuck Kelly
Chaplain Archie Cellini	Service Officer ?
Sergeant-at-Arms William Gilheany/ ?	Bar Committee Earl Wilson

Anyone interested in participating in our organization as an officer please show up and contact nominating chairman Jack Mullin.

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

MEMORIAL SERVICE

As is our custom, at 6:00PM (this is a time change from prior newsletter) on May 18th, prior to our regular meeting, our Memorial Service, led by Chaplain Archie Cellini, will be conducted. Please join us as we remember all those past members who have gone before us.

DECORATION OF GRAVES

Sunday May 24th is the date for decoration of the graves of all those who are deceased and served their country. Please join us as we give these veterans their just due. The Commander will lead the contingent from the Post rooms at 8:30 AM, stopping for the laying of the wreath at the monument in front of North Albany Academy at 8:45 AM and then mustering

at St. Agnes Cemetery at 9:00AM. After a brief ceremony at the entrance to the cemetery all will go to their assigned areas and place the flags on the graves of our veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Albany's annual Memorial Day parade will step off on Monday, May 25th at 9:00 AM. The parade will begin at the corner of Partridge St. and Central Ave. Please join us marching or at the very least, turn out on the parade route welcoming us as we pass by.

The grand marshall of this year's Memorial Day parade and ceremony is Dawn Martin, mother of Sgt. Shaun Martin, who was killed in action June 20, 2007.

HONOR-A-VET

As previously noted in this letter, the May Honor-A-Vet ceremony was held in our post rooms honoring past commander Sam Yanni. We had a turnout of over 175 people, including the 8th grade from North Albany Academy. This is the largest turnout ever for this ceremony. Thank you to all who joined us in honoring one of our most dedicated legionnaires. Part of the ceremony includes the presentation of a flag flown over our nation's capitol. The Yanni family has donated the flag to the Post and we are proudly flying it in Sam's honor.

The June honor-a-vet ceremony is June 1st at 8:30 AM at 112 State St. Please join us as we pay tribute to Bob Cooke.

CHICKEN BARBECUE/CASINO DAY

Mark Saturday, July 18th on your calendar. We will be hosting a casino day and barbecue in our Post rooms. The casino portion of the day will be held in the hall and the barbecue will be hosted in the pavilion area. There will be no charge for those just attending the casino portion of the outing. The barbecue will be \$20 per person with hot dogs and hamburgers served during the day and a chicken barbecue later in the afternoon. Draft beer and soda is also included. Tickets will be available at the bar. Pat Dolan and house chairman Skip Egan are chairing this affair.

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Just want to invite all to our last meeting and covered dish on June 2nd at 7:00. It's still not too late to get your dues in. Checks for \$16.00 for senior members and \$5.00 for juniors should be mailed to Debbi Heritage, 1 Birch Tree Rd, Albany, NY 12205.

POST INFORMATION

WEB PAGE

The Post web page can be accessed at <http://www.northalbanypost1610.org/>. Among other information, the monthly newsletter, Post history and current activities are posted on this site.

25 WEEK CLUB

For one dollar a week, for 25 weeks you get an opportunity to win many various prizes. There are weekly prizes as well as larger cash prizes at the outing August 9th. Interested parties should contact Roy VanAmburgh at 465-4800.

BARTEDERS NEEDED

Bar chairman Mick Ryan is looking for a few members - Legion, Auxiliary or Sons - interested in bartending part-time. Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message for Mick.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Boys State chairman Charlie Johnson has announced that the interview and selection process has been completed. Boys from Albany High, Christian Brothers Academy, Shaker High School and Bishop Maginn High School were interviewed. Those selected include:

Andrew Blood, Stephen Figge, and Zachary Cietek from CBA; Bilal Turner, Xzavier Gibbes and Juan Carlos from Albany High; Miguel Concepcion from Bishop Maginn and Douglas Swezey from Shaker High. Congratulations and good luck to those boys selected to participate.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

Sunday, June 7th is the opening of the baseball season with ceremonies at 12 noon followed by North Albany playing Zaloga. Legion field is located at the corner of Frisbee and McCarty Avenues in the south end of Albany. Please show up to support our team coached by Joe Pedegrasso.

SPECIAL CELEBRATION

On May 31st the Homefront Café is holding a birthday party for John F. Finn on his 100th birthday at the Altamont Community Center from 1:00 to 4:30. Mr. Finn is from California and is the first recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War II. Also attending will be fellow Medal of Honor recipients Francis Curry and Nicholas Orisko. All are invited, especially fellow WW II veterans.

New vets budget is cause for celebration, says The American Legion

WASHINGTON, DC (April 30, 2009) - The National Commander of the nation's largest veterans' service organization expressed appreciation for yesterday's congressional passage of the fiscal year 2010 federal budget resolution with its proposed Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) funding increase.

"The American Legion is pleased with the projected VA funding level and especially the provision allowing advance appropriations for medical care in FY 2011," said Commander David K. Rehbein. "This effort to assure timely, predictable and sufficient funding for VA medical care is something that the entire veterans' community supports."

With a favorable U.S. House vote mid-afternoon yesterday and an evening passage by the Senate, Congress has now adopted a conference report on the \$3.6 trillion fiscal 2010 budget resolution. The measure includes an unprecedented, nearly 12-percent increase in funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The spending plan provides a \$53.4-billion VA appropriation -- \$5.6-billion over the 2009 allocation. The budget agreement also contains a provision long supported by The American Legion allowing Congress to provide annual discretionary appropriations for VA medical services in both FY 2010 and 2011. This gives assurance to the veterans' health care system administrators that they will receive funding at the start of the new fiscal year, even if funding of other portions of the appropriations bill are delayed.

"Only four times in the last two decades have Department of Veterans Affairs appropriations been adopted at the beginning of the new fiscal year," said Commander Rehbein. "For too long VA administrators have been told 'the check's in the mail' as they waited for final congressional action on the VA budget. Advance appropriations will be a tremendous boon for the VA and, by extension, this nation's veterans," continued the Commander. "No longer will the VA be plagued by funding delays -- delays that often lead to rationing of care, delays in service, postponements in building

maintenance, hiring freezes and the like, that often compromised the quality and timeliness of veterans medical care.”

“This is a good news day for our veterans,” concluded Commander Rehbein. “Today we must thank the President and the congressional leadership for making veterans and their families a national priority.”

The American Legion joined with eight other veterans service organizations in a “Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform” that helped author and promote legislation that has led to these needed budget provisions. The Legion’s partners included AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America.

The American Legion, celebrating its 90th year in existence this year, is the nation’s largest veterans’ service organization with 2.6 million members. Its website address is www.legion.org.

POST EVERLASTING

TIMOTHY P. TRACY

For God and Country,

Mike Swezey, Commander

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