



Canandaigua American Legion Post 256

Newsletter January - March 2012

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Legion News

2011 at Post 256 was an outstanding year. We excelled at all our Legion endeavors, to include community services, charitable donations, and growing membership. The spirit of volunteerism was exceptional evidenced by the condition of our grounds, our repaired monuments, refurbished restrooms and foyer. All this completed with only the cost of materials, but with hundreds of hours of hard work by our members. During the year we asked our members for help with Red Kettle, gifts for Troops, food for Veterans, programs for youth and Special People, and gifts to the Veterans Hospital, all done with the cooperation of our Three Families.

Our Honor Guard reflected our Legion spirit at our community and post ceremonies, parades, and when we buried our departed Veterans.

I want to thank the Officers of the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons and the Post Board for their diligence and sometimes frustrating

work for the good of the Legion.

Some bad news, Nancy Kurzejeski has, for personal reasons, resigned as Chairperson of our Post Home Improvement Committee. Nancy and the Committee members, Sandy Counciller - Treasurer and Special Peoples Program Coordinator, Tom Ireland, Barb Saar, Rosemary Luzum, and Jerry Luzum have completed many charitable projects. I would like to continue that initiative. For the time being I will assume Nancy's position as Chairperson, continuing to support the existing agendas.

Finally, once again I ask our Family members for support. The Ontario County American Legion, Auxiliary and The Sons will welcome the Department Commander, President and Detachment Commander at Post 256 on Saturday, February 11, 2012. Three members of our Post serve as Officers at the County Legion, Norma Weissend as County Commander, Jerry Luzum as County Adjutant and Tom Ireland as County Third Vice

Commander. These Legionnaires have consistently over the years been Star contributors to our Post. I'm asking that our Post have the largest membership participation of the eight Ontario County Posts at the February Department welcoming. This will demonstrate to the District and the Department that we appreciate and support our special Legionnaires. Information for the event is available in our lounge. Thank you.

For God and Country

Ron Evans, Commander

Membership Reminder. By way of a reminder, the membership year is from January 1 to December 31 each year. A member who doesn't pay the following year's dues by January 1st is classified as 'delinquent'. If dues are not paid by February 1st the **member's privileges are suspended** and, if not renewed by June 30th, membership is forfeited. To regain membership, the veteran must again apply and be approved. At this writing the National Headquarters has sent out its **third** membership reminder. I would like to request that any member who has not paid their 2012 dues do so **NOW**. PLEASE HELP US MEET OUR GOAL. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

Activities Report by Brad Fisher

2nd Vice Commander

Our Veterans Day Dinner on November 12th, 2011 went over Great. We had well over 100 people in attendance. The Prime Rib and the Chicken Cordon Bleu were GREAT. I Must thank Mike Bucher, his wife and his staff for a well cooked meal. A thank you goes out to Gabe Cinquegrana from the S.A.L. for his help with the event. I must thank all who attended; without you and your support this event could have not been so welcoming and enjoyable.

MEMBERS PLEASE SUPPORT OUR POST come to a Post meeting, remember we have Door Prizes at every Meeting. But you must attend. Next Post meeting will be on JANUARY 10th at 7:30pm. SEE YOU

THERE!!!!

HAVE A GREAT NEW YEAR EVERYONE

POST 256 MEMBERS ONLY CHRISTMAS PARTY. The Children and Grandchildren's Christmas Party, which was on December 17th, 2011, was A SUCCESS. This just might be an annual event. We had over 114 adults and over 80 children, not including all the volunteers who helped to make this a success. The City of Canandaigua Fire Company provided a lift for Santa and his Elves to arrive at 11:30 AM, with the Canandaigua Emergency Squad behind them. I thank you both for being there.

This event was very, very Fulfilling and I hope everyone enjoyed it. I must thank Jim Walsh for being Santa, Cody Cosmano, my Grandson, and his Mother, Lynda, for being the Elves and Wayne Inman for being our Christmas Tree. I also would like to thank Woodforest National Bank [Branch Manger Dolly Fisher] for bringing their Mascot and to Gabe Cinquegrana, Mike Stolt, Ron Fisher, John Fisher, Gary Grove and to all other volunteers that helped this long time coming event.

I must also thank all the contributors, including Wegmans, Home Depot, Lowes, American Made, Unique Toy Store and the Restore for use of Santa's Chair.

Finally Thank You **ALL** for coming out and supporting the Family of the American Legion Organization, [the Post members, The Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion]. This is a wonderful Family and I am proud to be a part of it.

Watch for Postings of our Continuous membership Luncheon Date and Time coming!!!! We are looking to have an Open House in the early part of next Spring.

I wish everyone a HAPPY and SAFE New Year.

Post 256 Web Site.

The Post web site provides up-to-date Post and Legion information, as well as links to help our service veterans. On a practical level, through the web site our Snowbirds are able to keep up with Post activities. And for those who have computers, the ability to read the newsletter on-line, reducing some of the cost of printing and mailing over 700 quarterly newsletters, is a step in the "Green" direction. To date 45 households, less than 10% of our members, have elected to receive their Newsletter by email. To join them, send an email to post256@alny256.com. With postal rates increasing in January, this is an easy cost saving measure for the Post. Keep posted about other events on www.alny256.com.

Four Chaplains Service

Ontario County is hosting the Four Chaplains Service at the 11:30 AM Mass on February 5th at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 95 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY.

New Members

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Carlton East, Daniel Bradley, Leslie Breuer, Richard Rickolt, Bruce Mills, John Bierman, Stephen Vandewater, Carl Miller, Richard Szewc, Paul Lyons, Natalie Ross, Richard Dana, Paul Kwiecinski, Gary Weidenborner, Carol DuMond and Joseph Fitzgerald.

Sick Call

Jim Nenni and Al Bender- Crest Manor.

In Memory

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Richard Senglaub, Dean Simino, Jim D'Agostino, Ed Lomber, Lloyd Snow, Charles Wahlers and Fred Mason.

Auxiliary News from Rosemary Luzum, President

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Can't believe 2012 is here already. Due to inclement weather, the first

January meeting was cancelled. Our next meeting is January 17. The only meeting in February, is on the 7th. The March meetings are on the 6th and 20th. Meetings in April will be on the 3rd and the 17th. All meetings are at the Post home at 2 PM.

In accord with our Constitution, this is official announcement that election of new officers for Unit 256 will be held on April 3, 2012. If anyone is interested in an office let one of the officers know. If you want to exercise your right to select our next year's officers, plan to attend that meeting.

Ontario County Auxiliary Committee meetings will be held at our Post Home on January 18 and February 15 at 7:30 PM. All Auxiliary members are welcome to attend to learn what other posts and our County officers are doing. The Auxiliary, Department of New York has a website with information about ALA activities and legislative alerts, <http://www.deptny.org>.

Community Service Jeanne Stahl

Our members donate their time not only to the Auxiliary, but to local schools, libraries and senior citizen's residences. Thanks to all who donated prescription bottles in the past. **PLEASE DON'T BRING ANY MORE PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES TO THE POST.** We no longer have a place to send them.

Craft and Bake Sale Report - Rose Cornish
A Big Thanks to all who helped! Our Craft and Bake sale was a great success, thanks to all who helped set up, prepared and served lunch, sold tickets, baked all those delicious pies, cookies, cakes and breads and served as hostesses. You did a great job and helped make our Cancer donations and Community Service projects possible. We raised over \$1500 and the following received donations: Canandaigua Emergency Squad, Mercy Flight, Cardiac Rehab Center at Thompson, Camp Good Days, Cancer Awareness, Clifton Springs Oncology, Thompson Hospital Sands Center, Ho-space House in Naples, House of John at

Clifton Springs, Ontario-Yates County Hospice, and Serenity House in Victor. Raffle winners were: 1st prize - June Bunnell, 2nd prize - George Harford and 3rd prize - Andrew Chavez. Thanks again and have a Happy New Year.

Education by Chair Debbie Dekouski
Unit 256 members and friends are saving Campbell brand labels and UPC's for our local schools, which can redeem them for education funds. Labels can be dropped off at the Post Home and deposited in the same box as the manufacturer's coupons. Likewise, Betty Crocker Box Tops for Education can be a source of funds for the schools. You can drop them off at the Post or donate them to your local school. Please let us know how many you donate so we can add them to our report totals.

Empire Girls' State by Chair Barb Saar
Our Girls' State candidate, Brianna Carlson, and her parents, David and Mariane, attended the Veterans Dinner on Nov. 12, 2011. Brianna told of her experience at Girls' State at Brockport College and received a citizenship certificate. Pictures were taken and sent to her. Information about the 2012 Girls' State, which will be at Brockport College from June 24 - June 30, has been taken to Canandaigua Academy. During their week at Girls' State, the Citizens build a government for a mythical 51st state, from the local level to the state level. They participate in campaigns, rallies, speeches and work on various legislative committees.

Fundraisers

Thanks to the supporters of our 75 Club Raffle, which continues to be one of our main fundraisers for our charitable projects. If you wish to participate and have a chance of winning up to \$500, please contact Ruth Nielson or sign the "waiting list" at the Post, on the bulletin board in the lounge.

Leadership - Rose Cornish
Mid-Winter Conference is Jan. 28 & 29, 2012, at the Albany Marriott in Albany, NY.

This is an overnight and at this time you will have an opportunity to meet our National President, Kris Nelson of Baxter, MN. Rosemary Luzum will be attending.

Legislation Chair Sandy Counciller
We need to continue to pressure Congress about issues of patriotism and those concerning our veterans. The battle continues to stop the pending decrease in Medicare payments to medical providers, which will also impact Tricare reimbursement. We need to let Congress and the President know that decimating our military structure and attacking military retirement is not an acceptable way of reducing the deficit. Let our representatives know your preferences on upcoming legislation. Our local Senator's email addresses are:

<http://schumer.senate.gov> and <http://gillibrand.senate.gov>. The 29th District Representative, Thomas Reed, can be reached at <http://reed.house.gov>. Reed also has a website at www.house.gov/reed. Any answers you receive can be forwarded to me to be sent to Department so they can tally the results. It's important that the National ALA be able to show Congress that we are effective in communicating with our legislators in order to justify continuation of our Charter and tax exempt status.

Manufacturer Coupons

National Security Chair, Rosemary Luzum.
Thanks to everyone who continues to support our Coupon program. **REMEMBER!!!** Coupons **MUST** be no older than **three months from the current month**. So stop by the Post often with your coupons. Since October, 32 volunteers have spent 393 hours so that we could send coupons valued at \$63,000 to our military families overseas. We regularly receive thank you emails and letters from the bases to which these coupons are sent. Occasionally we receive a thank you from an individual who has benefited from these coupons.

GOOD JOB, EVERYONE.

Membership by Rose Cornish

Welcome to our new members: Sara Donaldson, Helen Vallee, Kathleen Giehl, Christine Vigoneir, Linda Checho, Heidi Williamssen, and Barbara Hill. Hope to see many of you at our meetings. We have 246 members paid; we need our goal of 270 so please send your dues in as soon as possible to me, Rose Cornish, or drop them off at the Post. Pursuant to our Auxiliary Constitution and By Laws - Article VII, Section 1 Penalties: "A member failing to pay ... annual dues by January 31 (2012) shall be classed as delinquent and shall be suspended from all membership privileges. Payment of back dues after suspension shall reinstate such member to active membership." Let's hope we have our Goal before Feb. 11, as our Department President, Ann Geer, will be making her visit to our Post at that time! "Cultivate a new attitude, Dream, Believe, Succeed." Let our seeds of our Sunflowers grow tall!

Past President's Parley by Barb Saar

Eight Past Unit Presidents attended the Veterans Dinner on Nov. 12, 2011: Betty Herendeen, Edith Robbins, Rose Cornish, Marlene Milton, Florence Trumbull, Jeanne Stahl, Barbara Saar and Rosemary Luzum

VA&R - Marlene Milton

It's been a busy time for this committee. I had the privilege of assisting the Sons of the American Legion in distributing Thanksgiving Dinner to the veterans living in our area, including Victory House.

I got my wish this year when Wayne Inman found a Christmas tree and, with the help of Jeanne Stahl, we decorated it with lights and our beautiful poppies and we put it in our lounge. Thanks Jeanne! To carry the theme further, Debbie Dekouski and I decided to decorate 4 wreaths with poppies also, two for our entrance windows and two for our lounge windows. Thanks Deb.

On December 13th, eleven members of our Auxiliary served 43 veterans a luncheon

prepared by our caterer, Mike Bucher. They had a complete turkey dinner with all the trimmings, including pies donated by our Auxiliary members. While they were eating, Christmas music was playing, DJ'd by Kevin Snover. Each veteran got a little gift when they left. They all had a good time and were very appreciative.

Our next project was shopping to fill 40 goodie bags for our local veterans. Debbie Dekouski and I spent many hours looking for bargains. Bags were filled with hygiene supplies & lots of cookies, candies, etc. We spent about 2 hours stuffing and delivering bags with the help of Rose Cornish. Finally, Debbie and I went shopping for our adopt-awards, 9A and 9B at our local VAMC. They received coffee, creamers, popcorn, pretzels, cookies and candy.

As you can see, it was a very busy time for us. A special thanks goes out to any member of our very special organization, "Unit 256." Our working together makes great things happen. A special thanks to Mike, Kevin, Jeanne and Rose for your extra help. Debbie, I can't thank you enough for the hours you spent helping me. I couldn't have done it without you. We continue to host our veterans from the Veterans Club on Foster Street at our monthly roast beef/spaghetti dinner on the first Wednesday of the month and, now that the holiday rush is over, we will resume the monthly dinner at the Veterans Club itself.

This is just a little of what poppy donations are spent for.

Troop Fan Mail Chair Rosemary Luzum

Thanks to all who wrote Christmas cards to our troops. This year, 5 Auxiliary members and friends spent an estimated 15 hours so we could send 500 cards to Chaplains of 10 military units to distribute to the troops.

Right now we are collecting Valentine cards to send to those same chaplains so feel welcome to drop off a message of support at the Post. There is a box in the Lounge. I know

our troops would appreciate messages all year long, not just at Christmas. www.amillionthanks.org is a website to send a message to the troops.

In addition, we continue to send CARE packages to troops in Afghanistan. We include hygiene products, socks, snacks, paperback books and magazines.

Sick Call: Betty Kransler - Ontario County Health Facility; Lillian Toomey - Ewing Continuing Care Facility and Dorothy Waugh - Geneva Living Care Facility.

In Memory: Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Betty Fletcher.

Sons of the American Legion News *From Gabe Cinquegrana, Squadron Commander*

MEMBERSHIP: Membership continues to be a strong point of the Canandaigua Squadron, as we continue to meet and exceed membership quotas and goals set for us by the State and District. Our monthly Squadron meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 6:45. Please try to periodically attend a meeting and show your support for the S.A.L. Membership renewals may be accepted at any time, the cost is still only \$20. If you would like to receive our Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes each month and keep abreast of S.A.L. activities and information, please forward your email address to gcinqueg@rochester.rr.com.

ACTIVITIES: The S.A.L. again ran a successful Thanksgiving program. Several hundred raffle tickets for free turkeys were sold throughout October and November, and 12 turkeys were awarded on November 20. And, with the help of the Auxiliary, the contribution of time and supplies by Mike Bucher, and the able assistance by our S.A.L. members, we were able to prepare and deliver full course meals the Sunday before Thanksgiving to 30 Veterans. Those Vets were in the two local Veteran Homes, the

Veterans Club, and Victory House, and as an extra treat we were able to also supply them with fresh pumpkin pies. The meals were greatly appreciated. Our appreciation goes to all who helped in the event, and a special Thank You to Wegmans for donating the Turkeys and Pumpkin Pies.

A number of members of the Canandaigua Sons also took an active role in helping the Post with it's very successful Children's Christmas Party in December. Thanks again to those members who helped, and our appreciation as not only S.A.L. members but family members, to Brad Fisher and his committee for a great job organizing and conducting the event.

GOOD OF THE LEGION: It is not too late to start attending our monthly meetings, as we will soon be looking at projects to undertake in 2012, and how we can best be of service to the Legion and to the Community. Your voice needs to be heard and your ideas are welcome. Help us to make 2012 a banner year for the Canandaigua Squadron. And to all members of the Legion Family we wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and a Healthy and Happy New Year..

Board of Directors

By Ken Weiner, President.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to both thank and applaud Tom Irland for the outstanding job he did as President of the Board this past year. I am honored and humbled to follow in his footsteps and the footsteps of the many fine Legionnaires who have preceded me.

I would also like to thank two other Board members who have retired from the Board. I, and the other members of the Board, wish to acknowledge our appreciation to both Dick Milton and Calvin Nichols for their many years of dedicated service to the Board and to the Legion.

