



# Canandaigua American Legion Post 256

## Newsletter April - June 2012

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### **Legion News from Ron Evans, Commander**

Our Post hosted the Department Commander, Department President and Detachment Commander to Ontario County's visitation in February. By all accounts, including attendance, it was a large success. Thanks to our County Officers, Norma Weissend and Jerry Luzum for making it so.

The Post Home Improvement Committee is alive and well and is planning a Special Persons Picnic this season. Sandy Counciller and Mike Stolt will be coordinating the event with the group homes and Post volunteers. We will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month, please join us if you can.

Lloyd Savage, with the Post selection committee, has chosen seven Canandaigua Academy Juniors to attend Boys State this June. Lloyd continues to work with the Canandaigua School District to administer the four oratorical contests sponsored by our Post.

An Honor Guard appreciation dinner was hosted by the Auxiliary and the Sons. Chuck Pelton was presented with the "Legionnaire of the Year" award during this wonderful dinner. The Honor Guard has performed six Military Funerals since early January. Our hats are off to the Guard.

Brad Fisher organized a Veterans Benefit information meeting at the Post in March. The Veterans Medical Center Service Officer, Lisa Wild, was present to answer veterans' questions. Also present were Robin Johnson and Louise Motyka from the Veteran Volunteer Service. If you missed this opportunity you will have another chance at the Open House Brad is organizing for April 21st at this Post.

Our Post Finance Officer, Dan Bresnen, and Membership Chairman, Fran Bucher, have informed me we are only a few members short of our membership goal. A little help here would be greatly appreciated.

The Post Executive Committee met with the owners of the new True Value Hardware

Store planning to open June 8 in Big Lots' plaza. Based on the owners deep respect for our nation's Veterans and the Veterans programs Post 256 actively support, they would like to express their appreciation with both monetary and material support to this Post. Details will be forthcoming. Matt Shapiro, one of the owners, is now a member of the Legion Sons. Good work Gabe. Two important events to mark on your calendar, Election of Post Officers at the Post meeting May 8th and the Armed Forces Day/Opening of the "Trail of Remembrance" May 19th ceremony begins at 11 AM.

#### **Post 256 Web Site.**

Norma Weissend (Web Master). Keep posted on [www.alny256.com](http://www.alny256.com) for items of interest. The newsletter is posted on the web site and we offer the option to send it via email to members who have email addresses. Simply send an email to the Post email address stating your request. We currently have 47 of our 749 Newsletter recipients receiving it in this manner.

#### **Boy's State**

By Chair Lloyd Savage

Thanks to the Boy's State Committee, made up of the Chairman, Ron Evans and Jerry Luzum, who interviewed nine boys from Canandaigua Academy on March 21st. And, congratulations to Michael Cuciti, Alex Simmons, Sean Outhouse, Troy Garbinski, Keven Mottler, Sam Harding and Ben Northrup who were chosen to attend this year's event at SUNY Morrisville from June 24th to the 30th.

#### **Please Keep These Dates**

Please mark your calendar and participate in the following events.

Armed Forces Day - May 19th, 11 AM at the Post. The Trail of Remembrance will open its season recognizing Peace Keeping, Humanitarian Operations & Campaigns in the Americas and China. The winner of the essay contest focusing on these events will participate and receive a \$500 award for

their effort.

Memorial Day - May 28th. Events begin at 8 AM at the Post, with the parade at 10 AM, a service at Woodlawn Cemetery at 11 AM and a pier side service at 12 PM.

Flag Day - June 14th. Joint event with the Elks will be held at the Post pavilion at 6 PM, with the retirement of flags that are no longer serviceable.

#### **New Members**

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members: John DeVall, Raymond Fegley, William Frank, Robert French, Brian Hammond, Stephen Holt, John Larivee, Michael Lofton, William Schultz, Abigail Smith, Perry Stolt and Charles Weissend.

#### **Sick Call**

Jim Nenni and Al Bender at Crest Manor

#### **In Memory**

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of John Polimeni, Pete Hayes and Albert Schojan.

### ***Auxiliary News from Rosemary Luzum, President***

Since this is the last newsletter of the current administrative year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all who have helped make this another successful year for the Auxiliary. Your generous support of our fundraisers has enabled us to do much for our veterans and our community.

Upcoming 75 Club Raffle drawings will be at 6 PM on April 26, May 31, June 28 and July 26. This is a major fundraiser for our programs so we are always looking for names for the waiting list to keep the raffle fully subscribed. Please contact Ruth Neilson or sign the sheet by the Lounge entrance at the Post.

The ALA Unit meetings will be at 2:00 PM on April 17, May 1 & 15 and June 5. Don't forget that we recess over the summer, with no

meetings in July or August. We resume on Sept. 4, 2012.

The final County ALA meetings for this administration will be in Shortsville at 7:30 on April 18, at Phelps at 7:30 PM on May 16, with the June 20th installation of officers at Canandaigua, starting at 6 PM. All ALA members are welcome to attend the County meetings as observers.

**New Unit Officers elected for 2012/2013:**

Rosemary Luzum; President; Rose Cornish 1st Vice President and membership; Marlene Milton, 2nd Vice President; Jeanne Stahl, Secretary; and Carol Roe, Treasurer. Suzie Beeman will be our Chaplain and Carol Roe will continue to be our Sergeant-at-Arms.

They will be installed at the June meeting.

**Children and Youth** by Sandy Counciller

Our Special People's picnic is scheduled for July 14th, from 12:00 - 2:00 PM, in the pavilion, weather permitting. Volunteers, servers and cookie bakers are always welcome to help our special guests enjoy the food and games.

**Community Service** - Jeanne Stahl

Our members donate their time not only to the Auxiliary, but to local schools, libraries, senior citizen's residences and other non-profit organizations. 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.

**Education** by Chair Debbie Dekouski

Please continue to save your Campbell brand labels and UPC's for our local schools to supplement their education funds. Labels can be dropped off at the Post Home and deposited in the same box in the lounge as the manufacturer's coupons. Likewise, Betty Crocker Box Tops for Education can be a source of funds for the schools. If you prefer to donate to your local school, please put a note in the Coupon box telling us of the amount of your donation.

Information about the ALA Rose Comella Scholarship, which is awarded each spring to a student interested in the medical field, has been made available to students at Canandaigua Academy. In addition, the Marie Trumbull Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1000, shall be awarded each year by the Education Committee of the Canandaigua American Legion Auxiliary, Unit #256, in the field of Political Science or Business. Please urge any young people in your family who are Seniors in High School to apply for ALL the scholarships awarded by the American Legion Family. They are listed in the "Need a Lift" publication available at the school counselor's office and at the public library.

**Girls State** by Barb Saar

Our Girls State Delegate this year is Alexandra Grimm, with Carlie Eagle as the alternate. Orientation will be on Sunday, June 3rd at the Phelps Legion Post. Both the Delegate and the Alternate, along with their parents, will attend. Empire Girls' State, will be held at Brockport College from June 24 to June 30, 2012. "Learning by Doing" is the motto as Delegates build a mythical 51st state government, create platforms and draft bills. Training young women is the ideal and principal of our democratic form of government, informing them of the rights, responsibilities, privileges of American citizenship and teaching Love of God and Country are but a few of the goals of "Girls State"

**Legislation by Rosemary Luzum**

We need to continue to pressure Congress about issues of patriotism and those concerning our veterans. Thanks to a huge letter-writing campaign, the proposed cut in Medicare and Tricare payments to doctors, was put off for a year. But that doesn't mean the issue is settled. The Flag Amendment bill, the purpose of which is to protect our precious Flag from desecration, has again been introduced in Congress. Please let your Senators know of your concerns on

these issues. Their e-mail addresses are: [www.Senator@schumer.senate.gov](mailto:www.Senator@schumer.senate.gov) [www.Senator@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:www.Senator@gillibrand.senate.gov) [www.reed.house.gov](mailto:www.reed.house.gov) is the address for the 29th District Representative, Tom Reed. Please let me know if you receive a reply from any legislator as the Department wants to keep a tally. It is important that the National ALA be able to show Congress that we are effective in communicating with our legislators and to protect the tax exempt status of the ALA.

### **Manufacturer Coupons**

National Security Chair, Rosemary Luzum. Our supporters have done an outstanding job of supplying the Auxiliary with manufacturer's coupons. **REMEMBER!!!** Coupons **MUST** be no older than **three months past their expiration date**. So stop by the Post often with your coupons. Since January, ten volunteers have spent 338 hours so we could send coupons valued at \$54,600 to our military families on 16 bases overseas. **GOOD JOB, EVERYONE.** The thank you notes we receive from these bases are heart warming.

### **Membership** by Rose Cornish

Thank you to all our "Sunflowers" who have paid their 2012 dues! We are now at 260, 96.2%, paid members. Our goal is 270 so we lack 10 dues for our goal! Those of you who have not paid would make our goal, so please, at your earliest convenience, make a check payable to Canandaigua Unit #256 ALA and mail it to me, Rose Cornish, at 5555 Purdy Road, #11, Canandaigua, NY 14424, or drop it off at our Legion Post for the amount of \$20. Let's all help to make our goal and keep the programs we sponsor going. If you happen to see them, welcome our newest members: Deborah Kinne and Mary Schultz.

### **Poppy Days** by Carol Roe

Once again we are getting ready to offer poppies to the people in our community. Poppy days will be Thursday, May 24, thru

Saturday, May 26. A sign-up sheet will be posted around the beginning of May, with times and places. It takes every one working together to make a success of this very important program for our organization. The money donated for the poppies enables us to do so many of the things that we enjoy doing to help our veterans, such as supporting a ward at the VAMC, the monthly spaghetti/roast beef dinners, the Christmas lunch, the summer picnic, BBQ dinners delivered to the group homes and a monthly dinner at the Veterans' Club on Foster Street. These men and women have done so much for us and we shouldn't ignore them or forget them. Please try to find a couple of hours to offer the poppies so we can remind the public of our veteran's sacrifices and encourage them to support our efforts for the vets.

### **Rummage Sale** Florence Trumbull & Jeanne Stahl, co-chairs

We are having a Rummage Sale at the Post on April 13th (9 AM-7PM) and 14th (9 AM - 12 noon) with a Bag Sale to follow on the 14th from 12 - 2 PM. We would appreciate donations of household goods, small appliances, dishes, books, games, toys, baby items, jewelry, and good clean clothes. Items can be dropped off on Thursday, April 12th, after 9:00 AM, at the rear entrance to the Post basement. Please help make this project a success by donating and by shopping for bargains. For questions, call Florence at 394-8448 or Jeanne at 394-7813. Funds will be used for our Community Projects.

### **Troop Fan Mail** by Rosemary Luzum

Thanks to our 10 volunteers who enabled us to send 300 Valentine Cards to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Don't forget, the website to send a message to our troops: [www.amillionthanks.org](http://www.amillionthanks.org). In addition, eight CARE packages valued at \$376 were sent to chaplains in Afghanistan to distribute to the troops in their care.

**VA&R** - by Chair Marlene Milton

On March 10th, the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion joined forces to honor our own "Honor Guard" with a festive dinner. A special thanks to our chef Mike and to Wayne and Kim Inman, who volunteered to wait tables with me. Valentines, each containing a small monetary gift, were distributed to 24 veterans living in group homes. In addition, Valentine baskets were delivered to female vets. They really appreciate being remembered.

Our monthly Spaghetti/Roast Beef dinners at the Post for vets from the Veterans Club continues to be a crowd pleaser, thanks to the Auxiliary members who assist. In addition, 4 members of the Auxiliary prepare and serve dinner once a month to the Vets at the Veterans Club on Foster Street.

The Four Chaplains of WW II were remembered this year on Feb. 5th at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua. It was a beautiful ceremony.

**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 Mary Ann Scharr, to Ellen Polimeni on the loss of her husband, John, and to Ellen Taylor on the loss of her husband, Pete.

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

**MEMBERSHIP:** Our Squadron is currently at 87% of our goal for paid-up memberships. If you have not renewed your membership for 2012, please do so soon. Your renewal payment not only puts our Squadron in good stead with the NYS Detachment, but also allows you to continue Legion privileges. Per our Constitution and By-Laws: "A member whose dues for the current year have not

been paid by January 1 shall be classified as delinquent. If his dues are paid on or before February 1, he shall be automatically reinstated. If he is still delinquent after February 1, he shall be suspended from all privileges. If he is still under such suspension on June 30 of such year, his membership in the Sons of The American Legion shall be forfeited."

**ACTIVITIES:** On January 23rd our Squadron hosted the Ontario County Sons of the American Legion for their bi-monthly meeting. Squadrons included in the County SAL are Canandaigua, Geneva, Shortsville, Phelps, and Honeoye.

In February, Canandaigua hosted the NYS Visitation of State, District, and County Commanders and Presidents of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons. As is tradition in Ontario County, the Sons of the Host Legion, which was our Squadron this year, covered the cost of the dessert at dinner.

The Sons has successfully commandeered wall space in the Dining Hall for awards and certificates that the Sons have received. Stop and take a look.

On March 10 the Canandaigua Sons and the Auxiliary sponsored a dinner for the Legion Honor Guard, in appreciation for the time and effort they spend annually going to funerals, parades, and special events throughout the area. Their job is critical but often not recognized, we are honored to honor them.

We will again be handing out flags to kids at the Memorial Day parade. If you are interested in assisting, please contact Gabe at 394-2462.

During the winter we established a new association with the NYS Office of Operation Military Kids (OMK). Their Program Director came from Watertown to visit, and we were able to work out with them several possible partnerships in the future. In the meantime they agreed to take part in our Easter Egg Hunt on April 7, which is expected to be attended by almost 100 people. In addition to



Legion Family members, we are able to include children of Active Duty, Reserve, and Guard Personnel, through the efforts of OMK and the local Unit of the Family Readiness Group (FRG). Our sincere thanks to OMK and FRG for their assistance with the Easter Egg Hunt, and we are working to partner with both Organizations for more undertakings in the future. We would also like to acknowledge the assistance provided for the Easter Egg Hunt by TOPS, Tim Hortons in Parkway Plaza and their employees, BJ's Wholesale Club in Geneva, Sweet Expressions, and the Legion Auxiliary.

We will be conducting another Pig Roast and Music Show on Saturday July 28th, and will feature area Country/Rock favorites Flint Creek. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks and months.

The Sons made a contribution to Legion member Ernie Cummings and his family, who recently lost their home and belongings to a tragic fire. A fund was established to assist them, and we were happy to contribute to this worthwhile need.

**GOOD OF THE LEGION:** Our Commander, Gabe Cinquegrana, was appointed by the National Office of the American Legion as Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services (VAVS) Representative to the Canandaigua VA, and will be representing the 7th District in all Volunteer efforts at the VA.

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. If you can't attend but would like to stay informed and receive our Meeting Agenda and Meeting Minutes each month, please forward your email address to [gcinqueg@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gcinqueg@rochester.rr.com).

***Board of Directors from Ken Weiner, President***

Welcome spring. What a wonderful winter. I don't remember any past winters with so

little snow. Nice.

Your Board of Directors has worked diligently, over the past few months, with the State Liquor Authority, to finally get all of our paperwork in and accepted. We have now been brought up to date with all the new changes in their application process and should not have problems with them in the future.

We have been looking into the long anticipated bar renovations. Our target date to begin renovations is January or February of 2013. We must receive member approval for the anticipated expenditure and this will take place at our Annual Corporation Meeting on 18 October 2012. We are also exploring an amendment to our corporate by-laws that would allow the SAL Squadron Commander to become a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors. This would be the same as the Auxiliary President is now and has been for many years. By doing this we feel that all of all our groups will be represented at Board meetings. The SAL has done much to enhance our Post Home and it is only fitting that they should have representation.

For these reasons listed above, it is important that as many of our Legionnaires as possible attend our October Corporate meeting. Please put this important date on your calendar now so it doesn't slip away. We will also be electing two board members. The terms of Lloyd Savage and myself, Ken Weiner, will be up. More information and reminders on all of this will come later.

It is the Board's responsibility to represent the Corporation, which consists of all members of Post 256, be they Legionnaires, Auxiliary, or Sons. Any member who may have a question, comment or grievance should request an audience at a Board meeting to communicate these thoughts directly, rather than sit at the bar and speak of their thoughts. It is counterproductive to question

or gripe about the folks who give of their time to represent your interests. I invite anyone who has anything to say to come to a Board meeting and say it. We are open to your thoughts and ideas.

**Deadline**

The newsletter is published quarterly. Deadline for the July - September issue is June 28th.

**Disclaimer**

Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or columnist, and are not those of the National, Department, District, County or American Legion Post.

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**CALLING ALL VETERANS**

ARE YOU A MILITARY VETERAN? DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE SERVING IN THE MILITARY? OR, DO YOU JUST WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS? IF you said YES to either question YOU'RE INVITED TO THE "VETERANS HELPING VETERANS" OPEN HOUSE HERE IN CANANDAIGUA.

LEARN ABOUT BENEFITS YOU EARNED WHILE IN UNIFORM. GET HELP IN FILING A SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABILITY, GETTING YOUR DD 214, A VA HOME LOAN OR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS.

NEED A JOB? WE'LL HAVE SOME LEADS TOO.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY. IT'S FREE - REFRESHMENTS, SERVICE, FUN AND CAMARADERIE.

DON'T MISS "VETERANS HELPING VETERANS' OPEN HOUSE, SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM HERE AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 256, 454 NORTH MAIN STREET, CANADAIGUA.

AND IF YOU ARE NOT A VETERAN, STOP BY AND SAY, "THANKS FOR SERVING."

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*Rummage Sale*

*April 13th - 9 AM - 7 PM, April 14th - 9 AM - 12 PM*

*Bag Sale April 14th from 12 PM - 2 PM*

*American Legion Post 256*

*454 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York*

*Use Rear Entrance Door for Drop Offs on the 12th*

*and Sale on the 13th & 14th*

*Sponsor - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 256*

*Purpose - To Support Veterans Programs*

