



# Ely-Fagan Post

Volume 7, Issue 12

God Bless America

December, 2016

## Post Commander

John Compitello

Thanks to all who contributed to our Veterans day celebration, the day was a fitting tribute to those that have served our country, and a special nod to Tim Tysall. Tim had surgery the week of our celebration and was unable to attend any of the events. He felt bad that he could not be there, this was the first Veterans day event Tim missed in 40 years. This is the kind of dedication that has made our Post so successful, we appreciate his efforts (and the many others who contribute) and wish him speedy recovery with his new knee.

Welcome back to Paula Orme, Paula has also been recovering from foot surgery and is ready to resume her duties as bar steward, thank you to Kevin for filling in during Paula's absence.

I continue to receive many compliments on our post, it's members and the support we provide to the community, let's keep up the good work.

This month we will be having our Christmas party, we hope to see you there.

Myself and the executive committee wish every member happy holidays and a joy filled New Year.

## For the good of the legion

## Sons of the American Legion

Tom Hayes

Wow, what a great start we have had so far. We are over 50% for membership. So check your membership card to see if it says 2017. If not, your dues are due. Please send a check payable to Sons of the American Legion #1151, and mail them to Kevin Yost, 1474 Middle Road, Rush NY 14543. Or save the postage fee and bring them to our next meeting on December 14 at 6:45 PM. We will be discussing various donation organizations.

## December Meetings

The Executive Committee meets December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. The S.A.L. meets at 6:45 pm on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The General Meeting is December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. A light meal is served at the General meeting. The Auxiliary meets December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm. Any member can attend any meeting held at the Post.

## Veteran in Need of Assistance

We have a veteran and his wife in Henrietta that are in need of assistance. Both have health issues. The Veteran is 69 and still working for the federal government. He has received information on Medicare but has not enrolled. His agency has not had any retirement seminars informing him of his benefits. The veteran and his wife need help navigating the process necessary to enroll in Medicare.

Do you know of anyone that would be willing to help them get enrolled in Medicare? Better yet, can YOU help? Helping someone in need is keeping with the Spirit of the Christmas Season. If you want to know more, please Call John Compitello at 585-481-7360.

## Post Christmas Party

Our Post Christmas Party will be Saturday, December 10, 2016, starting with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar at 5 pm, dinner will be served at 6 pm followed by Karaoke with Dave Ells in the Devil's Bar at 8 pm. The menu includes fresh garden salad, traditional turkey & dressing, with mashed potatoes & gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetable, rolls and dessert. There will be door prizes and 50/50 drawing. Cost is \$3.00 per person or \$5.00 per family and one canned food item per attendee for the local food bank. Reservations are required. Please contact the Post by December 7<sup>th</sup> to have your names added to the list by calling 585-334-8228.

## Monroe County Honor Guard

The Monroe County Honor Guard could use new members, are you ready to help out? The Honor Guard has about 25 active members, they perform a great and needed service rendering a final salute in honor of a Veteran's service to our nation. Many times the Honor Guard has to turn down funerals as they do not have the membership to support all requests. Some members have continued to perform funerals as long as they could but due to age or health reasons can no longer continue to be active members. Whether you are retired or still working you could volunteer to assist during the week or strictly weekends if that is what your schedule allows. It is a great organization that performs an honored tradition which is much appreciated by the families. If you would like more information, please contact the Post Commander.

## Good of the Legion

There are a lot of members of our Legion Family who work “behind the scenes” to ensure all of the “little details” in Post events are taken care of. They work for years without recognition. Kathy Callagee is one of those members. Kathy has been making the wreaths we have used in our ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial and elsewhere for years. Also, Kathy and her family have been an integral part of our Ely-Fagan Legion Family for decades. For that we thank you, Kathy. The Euchre Club recently donated \$100 to the Legion Ladies to help with their “Project 2016” fundraiser.

## 2017 Membership Drive

As of this writing, approximately 62% percent of our members have renewed their membership for 2017. It would be great to reach 100% by the New Year so we could be done until August. Please renew your membership for 2017 as soon as you can. If you know someone who has yet to pay their dues, please remind them. If you or someone you know needs help, please tell us. If you have any questions please contact Ray McCormick at 585-764-9548 or email at [Relkml@yahoo.com](mailto:Relkml@yahoo.com).

## Legion Ladies News

The Legion Ladies would like to thank everyone who has come to the Tuesday night dinners and made donations to our Project 2016. We have reached our goal of \$2,500.00.

The Ladies presented the Rush-Henrietta Area Food & Transportation with a check for \$500.00 on behalf of our Post to help with their Holiday meal program. The Ladies will be contributing \$500.00 to the US Marine Corps Reserve annual Toys for Tots Campaign and will send at least one deserving Girl Scout to camp this summer. The Ladies have decided to maintain a fund to have in case a situation comes up where a Legion Family member needs help and to continue donations to RHAFT, Toys for Tots, and Sending a Girl Scout to summer camp.

The Legion Ladies are an unofficial group of Auxiliary members who are involved and want to support the Post and our community. If you are interested and want to help, please talk to one of the Ladies in the kitchen on any Tuesday night. You’ll be glad you did!

## Memorial Walkway

Honor your loved ones by purchasing a brick paver for the Post Memorial Walkway. The donation is \$75.00 each and there are 3 lines with 15 characters per line for name, rank, service & period. The next order will be in the spring in time for Memorial Day. Order forms are available at the Post and on the Post [website](#). If you have questions please contact Ralph Litzenberger at 585-750-1854.

## American Legion Boys State

American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. A participatory program in which students become part of the operation of local, county and state government, Boys State was founded in 1935 to counter the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps. The program was the idea of two Illinois Legionnaires, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card, who organized the first Boys State at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield. American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a separate but similar program for young women called Girls State.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses and recreational programs. Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.

Boys State programs currently exist in all Legion departments except Hawaii. As separate corporations, Boys State programs vary in content and method of procedure, but each adheres to the same basic concept: teaching government from the township to the state level.

**For more information please call** Ray McCormick at 585-764-9548 or email him at [Relkml@yahoo.com](mailto:Relkml@yahoo.com).



We are again assisting the Marine Corps League with the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. We have Toy collection boxes in the Hall and in the Devil’s Bar at the Post that need to be filled with new toys, books, and stocking stuffers as soon as possible. The items need not be expensive. We will be accepting applications for assistance from families and we will distribute gifts from the Post during the month of December. If you have a few extra dollars after you’ve done your Christmas shopping, please buy an inexpensive toy, book or stocking stuffer to drop in our Toys for Tots collection boxes. We can help a child have a Merry Christmas.

The program is always in need of volunteers. For more information, click here [2016 Toys for Tots](#) , or write [roctoys4tots@gmail.com](mailto:roctoys4tots@gmail.com) or talk with Rose Rossi-Williams, our Post Toys for Tots Representative.

## Tuesday Night Dinners . . .

**December 6 / 5 – 7 pm: Sandwich Night Grilled Chicken Breast** on a fresh bun or a huge **Sloppy Joe**, hot & meaty with just the right amount of spice, piled high on a fresh bun. Sandwiches come with French fries and cole slaw. **\$8.00**

**December 13 / 5 – 7 pm: Country Fried Steak** A healthy portion of delicious breaded, fried steak, with mashed potatoes & smokehouse gravy, Southern-style green beans and a house salad for only **\$8.00!**

**December 20 / 5 – 7 pm: Spaghetti & Meatballs / Italian Sausage.** Thin pasta, smothered in our classic secret sauce, with your choice of meatballs and/or Italian sausage! House salad & toasted garlic bread included for only **\$8.00!** (extra meat is \$2.00 more).

**December 27 / 5 – 7 pm: Chicken Cordon Bleu** Thin slices of chicken, wrapped around ham & Swiss cheese, coated with bread crumbs, served hot with mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetable, and house salad. Only **\$8.00!**

**January 3 / 5 - 7pm: Sandwich Night: Grilled Reuben** or a **Turkey Bacon Club.** Sandwiches come with French fries and cole slaw. **\$8.00**

As always, smiles, coffee, tea & water are included with all dinners at Ely-Fagan. Soda in cans and bottled water is available for \$1.00 each. Eat here and let us clear the table and do the dishes or take it out and eat it in the comfort of your home. Call us (585-334-8228) and we will have it ready when you get here. We deliver locally for orders of \$25 or more.

## December Sunday Breakfast

The December Breakfast will be on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

We have eggs any style, omelets, pancakes, potatoes, toast, bacon and sausage with orange juice, great coffee, tea and a whole Hall full of friends! Come on down and see friends you haven't seen since May and enjoy a good meal. You won't find a better breakfast deal in a friendlier atmosphere anywhere in the county!

## Fish Fry Every Friday!

Join us for a fish fry every Friday from 4 pm to 7 pm, serving battered, breaded or baked 12 – 14 ounce haddock filets, shrimp, scallops, clams and a limited landlubber's menu. Meet friends for dinner or make friends at dinner. Call us at 585-334-8228 and we will have it ready when you get here.

## Snowbirds!

Snowbirds need to call the Legion at 317-860-3111 to notify them when they are leaving and when they intend to return. Questions? Contact Ray McCormick.

## Devil's Bar News

Paula Orme

I am back!!!! I have a new Assistant Bar Manager...Diane! New drink Specials will be posted on the board in the Devil's Bar every week! If anyone is interested in becoming a bartender, they need to contact Diane, John or myself directly and one of us will arrange to meet with them at a time that works for all parties involved to get together face to face so that we may discuss the job duties and availability of the potential new bartender. We are currently working on getting the bar hours back to being open Monday- Sunday and will keep the members updated.

For the Christmas Party December 10th, the DJ (Dave) will start at 8pm and end at midnight

Karaoke will now only be once a month. The next one being Saturday January 21st starting at 8:30pm and ending at 12:30pm

The Devil's Bar is having a Super Bowl Party on February 5th 2017. for anyone interested in attending. We will have pizza and wings and other finger foods along with drink specials. If you are interested in helping with that or just have a few suggestions, please feel free to stop in and see one of our bartenders on duty!

Finally I would like to take a second to thank **everyone** who came together and held down the bar while I was away. I am grateful to have such a wonderful group of bartenders. Also, The Devil's Bar is truly blessed to have Earl who comes in tirelessly and cleans for hours without fail, smiling the entire time. And what would I do without Kevin who did a great job acting as Bar Steward so that I could recover at home without having to worry. Thank You All! *Paula Orme*

December **Euchre Nights** are December 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 in the Devil's Bar. **Wii Bowling** meets Mondays at 6:30 in the Devil's Bar. Everyone is welcome! We have two lanes and it goes pretty fast. We have a **dart board** and are hoping to get a league going. We have a beautiful, 8 foot **pool table** just waiting for someone to play.

Have a **birthday drink on the Post!** Just show proof it is your birthday & your favorite drink is on the house. Bring your friends with you!

The Devil's Bar will close at 6pm on Christmas Eve and will not reopen until Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

## Hall Rentals

Our Hall is available to rent from 8 am to 10 pm daily. Hall rental is \$175.00 with a \$100.00 security deposit. The rental fee does not include use of the kitchen, which is extra. A contract is required and other conditions may apply. For more information contact Ralph Litzenberger at 585-750-1854.

## **A Small Christmas Truce** (abridged)

In WWII, during the Battle of the Bulge, while the Americans fought against a massive German onslaught, a tiny shred of human decency happened on Christmas Eve. A German mother made it so.

Three American soldiers, one wounded, were lost in the Ardennes Forest as they tried to find the American lines. They had been walking days when, on Christmas Eve, they came upon a small cabin in the woods.

Elisabeth Vincken and her son, Fritz, had been hoping her husband would arrive to spend Christmas with them, but it was now too late. They had been bombed out of their home in Aachen and had moved to their hunting cabin in the Hurtgen Forest, about four miles from Monschau, Belgium. Fritz's father stayed behind to work and visited them when he could. Their Christmas meal would now have to wait for his arrival. Elisabeth and Fritz were alone in the cabin.

There was a knock on the door. Elisabeth opened the door to find two American soldiers standing at the door and a third lying in the snow. Despite their rough appearance, they seemed hardly older than boys. They could have simply burst in, but they hadn't, so she invited them inside and they carried their wounded comrade into the warm cabin. Elisabeth didn't speak English and they didn't speak German, but they managed to communicate in broken French. Hearing their story and seeing their condition-- especially the wounded soldier-- Elisabeth started preparing a meal. She prepared a chicken to roast and sent Fritz to get potatoes. There was another knock on the door and Fritz opened the door to find four armed German soldiers. Knowing the penalty for harboring the enemy was execution, Elisabeth pushed past Fritz and stepped outside. There was a corporal and three very young soldiers, who wished her a Merry Christmas, but they were lost and hungry. Elisabeth told them they were welcome to come into the warmth and eat until the food was all gone, but that there were others inside who they would not consider friends. The corporal asked sharply if there were Americans inside and she said there were three who were lost and cold like they were and one was wounded. The corporal stared hard at her until she said "*Es ist Heiligabend und hier wird nicht geschossen.*" "*It is the Holy Night and there will be no shooting here.*" She insisted they leave their weapons outside. Dazed, they complied and Elisabeth demanded the same of the Americans. She took their weapons and stacked them outside.

There was tension in the cabin as the two enemies eyed each other, but the warmth and smell of roast chicken and potatoes began to take the edge off. The Germans produced a bottle of wine and a loaf of bread. While Elisabeth tended to the cooking, one of the German soldiers, a medic, examined the wounded American. In English, he explained that the cold had prevented infection but he'd lost a lot of blood. He needed food and rest.

By the time the meal was ready, the atmosphere was more relaxed. Two of the Germans were only sixteen; the corporal was 23. As Elisabeth said grace, Fritz noticed tears in the exhausted soldiers' eyes-- both German and American.

The truce lasted through the night and into the morning. Looking at the Americans' map, the corporal told them the best way to get back to their lines and provided them with a compass. When asked whether they should instead go to Monschau, the corporal shook his head and said it was now in German hands. Elisabeth returned all their weapons and the enemies shook hands and left, in opposite directions. Soon they were all out of sight; the truce was over.

Fritz' parents passed away in the Sixties. For years he tried to locate any of the soldiers without any luck, to see how they had fared. President Reagan referenced the story in a speech he gave as an example of peace and reconciliation. But it wasn't until *Unsolved Mysteries* broadcast the story that it was discovered that a man in a Frederick, MD nursing home had been telling the same story for years. Fritz flew to Frederick and met with Ralph Blank, one of the American soldiers who still had the German compass and map. Fritz also managed to contact another American, but was unable to contact any of the Germans. Fritz died in 2002, almost 58 years to the day of the Christmas truce. He was forever grateful that his mother finally got the recognition she deserved.

## **The Following Businesses Support Our Post**

The following local businesses support our Post. We encourage you to consider these businesses first when you have need of services and let the manager know we sincerely appreciate their support.

Gander Mountain	<b>Macaroni Grill</b>
<b>The Outback Steak House</b>	Olive Garden
Mama G's Italian Restaurant	<b>Buffalo Wild Wings</b>
<b>Cerame's Italian Villa</b>	Tim Hortons
Fireside Grill & Sports Bar	<b>Bill Gray's</b>
<b>MacGregor's Grill &amp; Tap Room</b>	Home Depot
Young and Co, CPA's LLP	<b>Wegman's</b>
<b>Suburban Animal Hospital</b>	Northridge
ContractingPerri's Pizzeria	<b>Extreme Auto Solutions</b>
<b>Key Bank</b>	Cortese Lincoln
Tony Pepperoni	<b>Peppermints</b>
<b>Declan Casey Entertainment</b>	The Appliance Store
<b>Cheryl Litzenberger / Nothnagle Realtors</b>	

*Have a very merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year!*

# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>29</b> Tuesday Dinner Meatloaf	<b>30</b> Weekly Drawing	<b>1</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>2</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen of Hearts	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> SUNDAY BREAKFAST Devils Bar Closed	<b>5</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Euchre Tuesday Dinner Sandwich Night	<b>7</b> Weekly Drawing 7pm Exec Mtg	<b>8</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>9</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen	<b>10</b> Christmas Party Karaoke
<b>11</b> Devils Bar Closed	<b>12</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>13</b> Tuesday Dinner Country Fried Steak	<b>14</b> Weekly Drawing 6:45p SAL Mtg 7:30p Gen Mtg	<b>15</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>16</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen of Hearts	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Devils Bar Closed	<b>19</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>20</b> 6:30 PM Euchre Tuesday Dinner Spaghetti & Meatballs	<b>21</b> Weekly Drawing 6:30p Aux Mtg	<b>22</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>23</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen of Hearts	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve
<b>25</b> Christmas Day Devils Bar Closed	<b>26</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>27</b> Tuesday Dinner Chicken Cordon Blue	<b>28</b> Weekly Drawing	<b>29</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>30</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen of Hearts	<b>31</b> New Years Eve
<b>1</b> New Years Day Devils Bar Closed	<b>2</b> 6:30p Wii Bowling	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Euchre Tuesday Dinner Sandwich Night	<b>4</b> Weekly Drawing 7pm Exec Mtg Weekly Drawing	<b>5</b> TOPS Devils Bar Closed	<b>6</b> Fish Fry Friday! 7pm Queen of Hearts	<b>7</b>

## Contact the Post

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