

The commanders of the Stevens-Connor Post and the Ely-Fagan Post would like to take this opportunity to explain and clarify the Post merger project that is currently under way.

Ely-Fagan Post:

Since I have been a member (2004) our membership has stayed about the same. We continue to do great things for the community and veterans, so very few of our membership continue to do the work. Many members have contributed much to the post through the years and no longer participate, through their hard work have earned the right to enjoy their time.

Our post has been fortunate to have a steady membership, others do not have the veteran base that we have and would like to have a post to call home as well as be a part of a very active post, which we are.

As they approached us, we discussed the different aspects of what we could do for each other, there was a concern that a merger would bring more work to our already overtaxed volunteer work crews. The consensus was that it would not, they already have members that flag the Rush cemetery and perform some fundraisers, they also provide scholarships and send students to boy's state, some of these functions could be consolidated. Some of their members may also fill executive positions which, at times, we have difficulty filling. I believe a merger, overall would be for the good of the legion.

Regards, *John Compitello*

Stevens-Connor Post:

Almost two years ago Stevens-Connor Post created a Strategic Planning Committee to evaluate the direction of the Post and to explore options for maintaining an American Legion presence in the Town of Rush. The Stevens-Connor Post has provided service to the Rush community for decades and with a declining and aging membership there appeared to be a real possibility that the Post would simply dissolve away with age and the community service with it.

The committee came up with four proposals: do nothing; surrender the charter; revitalize; or merge/consolidate with another post. These options were presented to the membership at meetings and through a survey that was sent to every member. The committee also met with other local Post commanders, including Ely-Fagan, to discuss the possibility of a merger or consolidation. Smith-Warren (Scottsville) and Ely-Fagan Posts were receptive to a merger/consolidation and with maintaining Legion programs in the Town of Rush.

The survey indicated that over 70% of the Stevens-Connor Post membership favored merging/ consolidating with another post and a majority of that 70% favored Ely-Fagan Post. Based upon the survey results and a resolution passed at a general membership meeting, the committee proceeded to engage Ely-Fagan leadership with planning and coordination.

Today, a committee of Stevens-Connor and Ely-Fagan Post leaders are actively planning a merger proposal that will soon be presented to both Posts in the form of resolutions. The 'Plan of Merger', upon approval of both Posts, will then be presented to the NY Dept. of State as well as the American Legion Dept. of NY for review and approval. This entire process has been totally transparent in both Posts, including open discussions at membership meetings, newsletter articles and formal/informal polling of members.

Finally, a merger of our posts will protect the assets of both posts, consolidate membership and preserve the programs and services provided by the American Legion to the entire Rush-Henrietta community. We, (your commanders and members of the committee) hope that you will participate in this process. Your suggestions, recommendations and participation are always welcome.

Salute, *Ron Regoord*