



AMERICAN LEGION NEWSLETTER

POST #20

162 QUARRY RD, PLATTSBURGH, NY

SPRING 2012

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5



Commander's Corner

Dale McMahon, Post Commander

March is here and spring is around the corner. We are doing well here at the Post but our twenty year old building has required lots of repair. These repair issues are becoming less frequent and we thank those who have helped us with them. In the last newsletter we put out a request for more volunteers to assist with activities and Legion events. I am sad to say we have not had much of a response. Volunteers are an important part of making a good Post successful. I would like to thank our paid staff and some members of the Sons of the Legion for the hours they have put in volunteering. Please thank them when you see them.

The community work team from the Altona Corrections facility has been working at the Post stripping and waxing our floors. They have done a nice job and the floors look outstanding. Our Sweetheart Ball was a big success this year with nearly 80 people in attendance. Thanks to all the staff members who donated their time to make this a great evening!

Manager's Note

Peter Gallagher

As we move into spring the staff and I are gearing up for a very busy year here at Post 20. We already have dozens of weddings, parties and banquets booked along with our regular weekly and monthly meetings and even have some Christmas parties confirmed already. Our staff is doing a fantastic job and we have had nothing but very positive feedback on the quality of our food and service.

At our most recent membership meeting six of our staff members were presented with certificates of appreciation from Post 20 for their job performance and the time and effort they contribute to the Post on a volunteer basis. The following employees were recognized for their service above and beyond their hourly duties: Chef Dennis Bola, Bar Manager Heather Harkness, bartender and server Kael Robarge, bartender and server Chrissy Moody, server and cook Anastasia Fagan and server and cook Kelly St. John.

Our Valentine's Day Ball was a big success with Ray Mitchell and Genny Alvarez named King and Queen of the evening. We are including a monthly calendar of events in the newsletter to keep our members informed of upcoming events and we hope to see you all here supporting Post 20.

Join Us!

Paddle Raffle
Sunday, 3/25/12
12-4pm



Commander Dale McMahon presents 60 year certificate to Bob Tourangeau.



Staff members were presented with certificates of appreciation for their volunteer work. Not pictured is Heather Harkness.

Membership

Art Maggy, Executive Committee Member

I just want to say thank you to Mr. Robert T. Booth a WWII Veteran and a former POW, for his generous donation of (3) \$30 checks to help pay the dues of (3) other needy WWII veterans. Many veterans are on hard times due to the economy, loss of jobs or just struggling to pay the many household bills each month. So if any other **members** out there who could help with the dues of some of these members it would surely be appreciated. Just send a check for \$30 to American Legion Post, 162 Quarry Rd, Plattsburgh, NY 12901 and mark it dues.

Our membership to date stand at 683 paid. We still need 43 more to reach our goal set our Department of 726.

I'm asked many times over why should I pay my dues as I don't or can't attend meetings. **(Your membership continues to help the American Legion support our many Children & Youth programs as well as giving us the numbers for when we testify in Washington DC for benefits for Veterans of all wars.) As with any other organization numbers do count, Because that's the first thing members of Congress look at is who many members does this organization have.**

Just some of the numbers reported last year are:

3,899,125 Hours of Community service by post members.

\$4,249,713: Money spent on Community service

159,187: Number of Veterans benefits cases handled by Post Service Officers.

\$2,319,797: Money spent by post providing emergency aid in their community.

968,233: Volunteer hours Legionnaires spent providing emergency aid.

\$208,233: Money raised locally for the National Emergency Fund, which provides cash grants to Veteran and military families who have suffered hardship due to a natural disaster.

\$1,953,108: Dollars raised by local post for VA hospitals.

34,621: Number of Legionnaires who are registered in VA Volunteer Service.

830: Number of local Heroes to Hometown coordinators, who assist wounded warriors and newly discharged veterans.

3,619: Number of veterans placed in jobs with help from the Legion.

811: Number of veterans job fairs with local post involvement.

80,097: Number of pints of blood donated by 45,457 Legionnaires.

21,074: Number of school medals presented by local post.

7,209: Number of ROTC medals presented by Legionnaires.

109,475: Number of funerals honors provided by local Legion Post for veterans and military personnel.

16,105: Number of Boys State participants sponsored by Legion post at a cost of \$3,059,628.

\$1,037,926: Local donations to Legacy Scholarship Fund to help children of military personnel killed on duty after 9/11.



314: Number of citizenship and naturalization activities conducted by local Legion posts nationwide.
 2,058: Number of local post on websites.
 2,786: Number of local post with publications.
 47,508: Number of youth participating in Legion-sponsored Scouting units at a cost of \$1,833,442.
 237,905: Number of competitors in Legion oratorical contest.
 13,934: Number of college scholarships granted by local post at a cost of \$4,039,834.
 875: Number of post that have Vet's in the Classroom programs.
 39,048: Number of U.S. flags presentations by post.
 1,464: Number of local Legion events to recognize the anniversary of 9/11.
 4,401: Number of post with local Flag Day activities.
 6,899: Number of post with Veterans Day activities.
 7,317: Number of post with Memorial Day activates.
 1,506: Number of post with local Get Out the Vote programs to encourage registration and participation in the electoral process.
 2,272: Number of Legion Baseball teams sponsored at a cost of \$5,989,272.
 6,943: Number of participants in post-sponsored Junior Shooting Sports clubs at a cost of \$245,030.

THIS IS WHAT YOUR DUES GOES TO SUPPORT



Taps

Victor E. Perry
 Clifford Chappelle

Chappy's Corner

Ron Wood

Greetings,

While sorting through a box of things a small book came into view. The book, "I am an American" contains the complete text of The Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Constitution, The Monroe Doctrine and much more. I would like to share with you a quotation and two anecdotes.

Daniel Webster (1843) – "There shall rise from every young breast the ejaculation 'Thank God, I – I also am an American' "

Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was probably our most resourceful public man. One joke he liked to tell on himself was about the time he was a captain during the Black Hawk Indian War. One day part of his company was marching across a field, and Lincoln saw ahead of them the gate through which they must pass.

"I could not for the life of me remember the proper word of command for getting my company endwise," he said. "Finally, as we came near I shouted: 'This company is dismissed for two minutes, when it will fall in again on the other side of the gate' "

General John Pershing

One day a new recruit approached General Pershing with these words: "Hey, buddy, give me a light, will you?"

The General handed the rookie a match for his cigarette, while some other soldiers looked on aghast. When they told their new buddy the name of the distinguished gentleman he had accosted, the boy turned white and ran after the General.

"I'm so sorry, sir," he stuttered. "I didn't recognize you. I've only been here a couple of hours, and I don't know one uniform from another and—"

"That's all right son," General Pershing interrupted with a twinkle in his eyes. "Only take my advice and never try it on a second lieutenant."

This small book should be required reading for all Junior and Senior high school students. It is my concern that our leaders and people of influence are trying to erase the truths written in this book from our history. As citizens and veterans we need to do all we can to keep these truths in the minds of our youth.



Till next time—Chappy Ron Wood

Heather Harkness
President

Another year has gone by and elections are coming up once again. Any nominations of officers that you may have need to be in by April 4th at our membership meeting. Also elections will be held on May 2nd at the May membership meeting. Hope to see everyone there. ATTENTION: As of July 2012 National has raised the dues for membership meaning that our dues will go from \$15 to \$20.

Hello Ladies,

Unit 20 Auxiliary



American Legion Post 20
162 Quarry Rd.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

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