



THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST

UTICA POST 229 CALL!

ANTHONY PALLADINO, COMMANDER

JANUARY 2011

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

POST MEETINGS ARE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. (OPTIONAL DINNER AT 6:15)

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBERS!

Vincent Brancario
John Gacek
Howard Baye
William Parody III
Charles Titus
Reginald Stockton
James Geer
Frank Seminaro
Francis Caille
John Perez Jr.

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JANUARY

- 1 Bingo, 5:30 pm
- 3 Junior Auxiliary, 5 pm
- 4 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 5 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 6 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm
Post Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 10 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 11 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 15 DAV, noon
- 18 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 19 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 20 Executive Board, 7 pm
- 25 Bingo, 6:30 pm

LEGION HONORS, 'ADOPTS' JUDGE



Utica City Court Judge Ralph Eannace received Red, White and Blue Awards at the December membership meeting and was declared an "Adopted Son" of the Legion. PAGE 3.

POST LAUNCHING JUNIOR BASEBALL TEAM

Utica Post 229 is pleased to announce the creation of a junior American Legion baseball program. The junior team will be managed by Bob Roth, Utica Post 229

alum, and will play an approximate schedule of 25-30 games during June and July.

Eligible players must attend Utica City Schools and must be age 15 or 16 by

April 30, 2011. Members of the junior legion baseball team will be eligible for, but not guaranteed to, play on the senior legion team.

-- Greg Gaeta, manager

SHOUT 'BINGO!' ON NEW YEAR'S

Shouts of "bingo!" will reverberate through the Post hall on New Year's Day as Utica Post 229 offers bingo lovers an enjoyable way to celebrate the dawning of 2011, reports Bingo Chair Jim George.

The fun starts at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 1 -- an hour earlier than the usual start of the Tuesday night bingos.

Food and beverages will be available.

Hand-crafted guitar to bear member's native name. PAGE 5



JOINT MEETING IN JANUARY

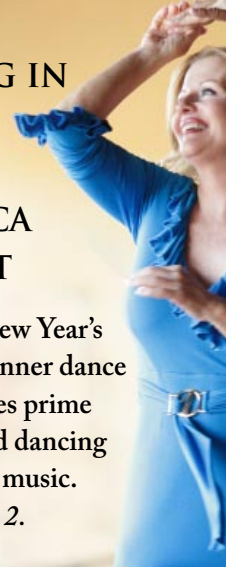
The Post and Auxiliary begin the New Year with a joint membership meeting on Thursday, Jan. 6.

Dinner is at 6:15 p.m., with the meeting getting underway at 7:30.

To make reservations for dinner, call the post at 793-9377. Dinner only costs \$7, and includes appetizer, entree course, hot and cold beverages, and dessert -- not to mention good conversation and camaraderie.

RING IN 2011 AT UTICA POST

The New Year's Eve dinner dance features prime rib and dancing to live music. PAGE 2.





I'm happy to report that as of this writing, we are at 97%!

With 2010 gone, we now have to start focusing on 2011. If you haven't sent in your 2011 membership dues, please do so now.

Also, ask everyone you do business with if they were in the military. If the answer is "yes", follow up with, "Are you a member of the American Legion?" This REALLY does work. Keep an application in your wallet or handbag and just hand it to them. Invite them to one of our delicious dinner meetings.

Membership recruiting is like the Energizer Bunny. It keeps going and going.

And procrastination is an exercise of doubt. Get those dues in now. The longer you wait, the greater the chance of being dropped.



JACK'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR DEC.

Quota:	649
Paid to date:	634
% of quota:	97%



COMMANDER'S CALL

ANTHONY PALLADINO

We hope everyone had a truly blessed holiday. To all our members: *a healthy and prosperous New Year!*

Speaking of "new:"

- New windows were installed in the front of the building and the new siding is about 50% completed.

- And a big "welcome!" to new members listed on the front page. With new members comes additional resources, which means our Post can accomplish more.

We encourage everyone to always keep new prospective members in mind. Ask people where you shop and do business if they have served in the military and would like to become part of the largest veterans organization in the country.

SPEAKING OF members, volunteers are needed for various activities, such as helping at bingo and bringing cheer to our adopted nursing home vets. Remem-

ber: This is YOUR post... Take pride in it.

LAST MONTH I praised our executive chef, **Franco LaPaglia**, for elevating the post's cuisine to tasty and sumptuous levels. I thought I would introduce him to everyone this month through a photo portrait. So, meet Chef Franco.



Franco LaPaglia
Executive Chef

THANK YOU to our employees. They are a dedicated group. When you see them, say thankyou for their dedication and hard work. And kudos to **Joann Powers** for the bake sale she organized for the Marine Corps League Toys for Tots. She raised \$400. The post matched that, bringing the donation to \$800, and then the Marine Corps matched that for a total of \$1600 for the kids!

DON BEYERS is now our Jr. Shooting chairman. The Proctor JROTC instructor shares our vision to strengthen and grow the program, and put the Post's shooting range to good use.

WE LOOK forward to our joint meeting with the Auxiliary on Jan. 6. The Auxiliary is a blessing to the post. Welcome, ladies!

REMEMBER our military all over the world.

Until next time... *for God and country.*

Ring in the New Year To Prime Rib, Live Music

A New Year's Eve dinner dance features hot hors d'oeuvres, prime rib, chicken, open bar, and dancing to live music performed by the Sonny Farrar band.

Starting at 7 Friday, Dec. 31, sample the hot hors d'oeuvres and sip a beverage from the open bar. At 8 sharp, enjoy prime rib and chicken dinners, and after that, sprint onto the dance floor from 9 to 1.

It only costs \$50 per couple. To reserve tickets, or a table of five or more, contact Dinner Dance Chair Rose Coniglio at 735-9091.



Blood Chair Jim Haggerty urges members of the Post, Auxiliary Unit and S.A.L. Squadron to kick off the New Year by donating blood at Post 229 on Jan. 5 or 19, noon to 5 p.m.

"As the Red Cross says," notes Haggerty, "the need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give blood."

POST, NY LEGION HONOR JUDGE RALPH EANNACE

Citing his patriotism and support of veterans, both the New York Department and Utica Post 229 honored City Court Judge Ralph Eannace at the membership meeting Dec. 2.

David Riley, awards chairman for Oneida County Legion, presented a Red, White and Blue Award to Eannace on behalf of the New York Department, noting that an individual must exhibit exceptional service for state-level recognition.

Leonard Lascala, Post 229 awards chairman, presented the Post's Red, White and Blue Award, and recounted Eannace's support for veterans:

"While serving as Oneida County Executive, Mr. Eannace instituted an Oneida County Veterans Committee consisting of different veterans organizations. This group met quarterly with the county executive to discuss veterans' issues in our area. While county executive, he put a line item in the budget to purchase flags for veterans' graves for



Judge Ralph Eannace received Red, White and Blue Awards from David Riley, left, representing the American Legion's New York Department, and Len Lascala of Utica Post 229.

Memorial Day, which is still there today..."

He continued: "When Utica Post presented the county with a Blue Star flag at a county legislative meeting, Mr. Eannace had it flown in front of the county building next to the American flag. At the legislative meeting, he stated that no county employee presently serving in the Armed Services would lose his job or seniority. Today as City Court Judge, Mr. Eannace attends all Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities and

assists in wreath-laying with Gold Star Mothers and veterans. When called upon, he has always put his support behind the American Legion and the veterans in our area."

Despite the fact that Eannace is not a veteran himself, "he has continued to be a strong supporter of the veteran," Post 229 Commander Anthony Palladino noted. **"Therefore, it gives me great pleasure to announce that Utica Post 229 regards Ralph Eannace as an 'Adopted Son' of the American Legion."**



PAUL WOJCIK

I am New Year, I am an unspoiled page in the book of time

I am your next chance at the art of living, I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months.

All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination.

All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires.

All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have, these slumber lightly waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said "BEHOLD, I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW"

SICK CALL

Francis Jakubowski
Robert Voce • Bennie Price

MEETING DATES

Executive Board

Jan. 20	April 21
Feb. 17	May 19
March 17	

General Meeting 1st Thurs

Jan. 6	April 7
Feb. 3	May 6
March 3	

BUSINESS HONORED

Utica Post 229 recognized Professional Transmission in Marcy on Dec. 6 for its patriotic display of the American flag.

Membership Chair Jack LaPaglia presented NY Department and local Red, White and Blue Awards to Joseph Giannotti, owner of Professional Transmission, during a brief ceremony at the business. He praised Giannotti "for always flying the American flag in a proper manner." The flag is "well lighted at night, and the base of the flagpole is maintained with flowers and greenery throughout the spring, summer and fall."

Jack LaPaglia with Joseph Giannotti, right.



NEWS FROM NOV. EXECUTIVE BOARD, DEC. MEMBER MEETINGS

\$800 FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

Post employees held a bake sale to raise money for the Toys for Tots campaign, collecting nearly \$400. The Executive Board voted to match that amount, resulting in a donation of nearly \$800 for the Marine Corps League program.

FRIDAY ALTERNATIVES

With lower-than expected turnout at the majority of the fall Fish Fry Fridays, and resultant meager funds for most of the groups benefiting from the dinners, the Executive Board decided to discontinue the fish fry dinners and consider alternative events and offerings.

MEMBERS ELECT, ENDORSE

Members elected Past Commanders Cal Anacker and Paul Wojcik to three-year terms as directors, and also endorsed Commander Tony Palladino as a candidate for the office of Oneida County vice commander.

OFFICER RESIGNS

1st Vice Commander John Driscoll has resigned, reported Commander Tony Palladino. Chris Urban has moved up to be 1st vice commander and Len Lascala, 2nd vice commander, leaving the position of 3rd vice commander vacant until the annual elections in May.

AUXILIARY TO BUY FRIDGE

Commander Palladino announced to applause that the Auxiliary "just voted to buy the Legion a new refrigerator."



Commander Tony Palladino was endorsed as a candidate for County vice commander.



Len Lascala responded to a request to visit St. Luke's Home on Veterans Day.



Dave Manore hopes to see the Junior Shooting and Scouting programs grow.



Dave Wilson says the post is providing a great service by hosting the DAV van visits.

VISIT TO NURSING HOME

While the post was involved with wreath-laying ceremonies on Veterans Day, Len Lascala and his brother-in-law responded to a request from St. Luke's Home to visit and bring cheer to veterans there on the same day.

NEW SHED APPROVED

The Executive Board approved the purchase and installation of a \$1,000 shed to be located near the dumpster on the edge of the parking lot. Gasoline-powered equipment will be stored there, such as lawn mower and snow blower. The old shed

adjacent to the post had to be removed while new siding was being installed.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Jim George reported that bingo nights were "doing well," but that he could still use a few more volunteer workers to help when any of the regular volunteers are unable to be there.

HOSTING DAV VAN

Service Officer Dave Wilson said it was a great service for the post to host the DAV van when it comes to Utica to help veterans process new claims with the Veterans

Administration or follow up on already-submitted claims. While DAV service officers were at the post for two days in September, they were able to process 46 claims, and during their previous visit, they processed 56 claims, he said.

JUNIOR SHOOTING CHAIR

Commander Tony Palladino announced that Chief Warrant Officer Don Beyer, a Navy JROTC instructor at Proctor High School, has agreed to head up the post's Junior Shooting Program. Any members who would like to become Junior Shooting coaches may leave their names at the post, and the post will arrange for a certified NRA instructor to come in and train them.

MORE YOUTH NEEDED

Junior shooting and Scouting Chair Dave Manore said that both programs were looking for more youth to get involved, especially since CWO Don Beyer will be heading up Junior Shooting and that the post wants to add a Scout troop to the Scouting program, which currently consists of a Cub Scout Pack. Interested families may leave their contact info at the post (phone 793-9377 or email info@uticapost229.org).

DAV SAYS THANKS

Manore, who is also treasurer for DAV Leo B. Wheeler, Stars & Stripes Chapter #82, announced a \$250 donation to Post 229 to thank the post for its hospitality. The chapter meets every third Saturday at Post 229.

HAND-CRAFTED GUITAR TO BEAR LEGIONNAIRE'S NAME

By BOB STRONACH

Post Adjutant Jim George, who enjoys playing the guitar, is now making an electric guitar from scratch out of maple wood. And when he's done with it, and it's ready to emit the sound of song, the guitar will carry the label of its maker – which in this instance will be part of Jim's Mohawk name.

It's Okwa:ho.

"That's one way to say 'wolf'," Jim noted. He's named after his grandfather, who was a Mohawk chief and whose name roughly translates as Lone Wolf.

"My full name is Okwa:ho Owella (pronounced o-GWA-who o-gweela). Mine roughly means younger or junior wolf."

Regarding crafting the guitar, "this is my first 'real' one," he said. "I used to buy older ones or busted-up ones and 'Frankenstein' them. That's pretty much how I got to learn to put them together. Plus I used to tinker with mine all the time. I also used to fix them for friends, depending on what the problem was."



Jim George holds the body of the maple wood guitar he is making, and which will bear his Mohawk name, Okwa:ho.

He is using maple, he said, "because out of every guitar that I've owned, the maple ones always had a warmer sound and more sustain to them. I think it just gives a

much fuller sound. That's pretty much the standard with the highend guitars as well."

When Jim was growing up, he spent a lot of time with his grandfather, who lived at

Akwesasne (Saint Regis) reservation (which straddles the New York-Canadian border) and then later in Utica. As a chief, his grandfather had met with Pope John Paul II several times and developed a friendship to the point of exchanging personal letters.

Jim used to accompany his grandfather everywhere, including celebrations at the Martyrs Shrine at Auriesville and the Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine at Fonda. (Kateri, a 17th century Mohawk mystic declared Blessed by the Vatican, lived her young years at Auriesville, and then her teen/young adult years at Fonda after the Mohawks moved their village across the river following a small pox outbreak.)

"I used to speak quite a bit of the language," Jim said, "but since my grandfather passed, I've pretty much lost it because I don't speak it with anyone anymore. But when I go to the 'rez', I find I still understand quite a bit; just kind of lost most of the speaking part."

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

THANKS FROM CHIEF

I would like to take a moment to thank you for always making the dinner award ceremony at the Utica Post such a memorable event for those being honored as well as their family and friends...

All of your efforts are much appreciated by all.

Russell E. Brooks II
Fire Chief

CONCERT THANKYOUS

A sincere and heartfelt thankyou for once again sponsoring our annual "Salute to Veterans" concert for 2010. We are especially proud to have won the prestigious *Red, White and Blue Award*. The two Proctor High School band directors, Jeff Corigliano and Alexious Wronka, were very proud to receive

the award and also of their students for performing so beautifully.

A special thankyou to this year's master of ceremonies, Robert Stronach, who did an excellent job.

As always, we look forward to working with you again.

Carmela Brown
Director of Fine Arts
Utica City School District

THANKS FROM NY DEPT.

On behalf of Department Commander V. James Troiola and The American Legion Department of New York, please accept our thanks and appreciation for the contribution of \$100 to the National Emergency Fund... and your devotion to mutual helpfulness...

Richard M. Pedro
Department Adjutant

FACES OF AN ONEIDA COUNTY LEGION MEETING

Utica Post 229 hosted the Oneida County Legion meeting on Nov. 15.

County Commander Walter Constantini took the opportunity to recognize Post 229 for winning awards at the NY Department Convention and presented Post Commander Tony Palladino with:

- national plaque for outstanding youth programs.
- first place plaque for the Color Guard's parade performance.
- best website plaque for uticapost229.org from New York American Legion Press Association.

Present were more than 50 Legionnaires representing many of the 25 posts in Oneida County.



Walter Constantini
County Commander



Frank Carletta
County Historian



David Riley Sr.
2nd Vice Commander



Frank Savino
Baseball



William Park
Credentials, Delegates



Don Edwards
Chaplain



Patrick Gubbins
1st Vice Cmdr



Deborah Martin
Leon Roberts Post 161



David Williams
Commander's Aide



Glen Keesler
Exec. Committee



Richard Wagner
Law and Order



Edward Jackson
H. Provost Post 1686



Christine Panik
Charles Love Post 406

BINGO REPORT

Date	Income	Prizes	Expenses	3%	Profit
11/2/10	\$3270.00	\$2115.00	50.00	15.15	489.85
11/9/10	3040.00	2155.00	0.00	26.55	858.45
11/16/10	2694.00	2057.00	112.00	15.75	509.25
11/23/10	2784.00	2399.00	0.00	11.55	373.45
11/30/10	2455.00	2004.00	50.00	12.03	388.97

BINGO WORKERS

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Albert Alteri. | • Walt Fisher. | • Evelyn Muench. |
| • Stu Bailey. | • Jim George. | • Tom O'Toole. |
| • Phil Capraro. | • Jim Haggerty. | • Tony Palladino. |
| • Frank Cassella. | • Frank Jakubowski. | • Dan/Virginia Pieloch. |
| • Mike Cavanaugh. | • Al Kohler. | • Ben Price. |
| • Chuck Dailey. | • Jack LaPaglia. | • Scott Sebastian |
| • Wayne Dapre. | • Rich Maloon. | • Chris Urban. |
| • Pat Dodge. | • Dave Manore. | • Paul Wojcik. |
| • Tony Famolaro | • Jim McGuire. | • Vin Zaleski. |



JROTC COLOR GUARD

Members applauded cadets from Notre Dame High School's Naval Jr. ROTC program for providing the color guard for the opening of the December general membership meeting.

DONATIONS: Top Fireman \$70.00, Utica Unit \$75.00.

EXPENSES: Water \$595.34, First Call \$1309.87, Garbage \$359.58, Nimo \$164.64.



Theresa Jensen, President

AUXILIARY



GAIL GRECO

We're Inching Slowly Toward Member Goal

By ROSE A. CONIGLIO

As of early December, we have 148 paid members, which means we're more than 60 percent toward our goal. Our membership quota for 2011 is 244.

Please get your 2011 dues in as soon as possible. If you are behind on your 2010 dues, you need to pay those before I can accept your 2011 dues.

PLEASE SEND your dues to:

Rose A. Coniglio
607 Jay St., Apt. C2
Utica, NY 13501

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Theresa Jensen



Dear Auxiliary Members,

Christmas is past and we are now in a New Year. Where does the time go? I hope everyone had a blessed holiday.

Our January meeting will be a joint meeting with our Legionnaires. A full report of the activities our unit has done will be given. We hope our Auxiliary Members will attend.

Help is always needed at BINGO. Please come and help in the kitchen on Tuesday nights. Call Rosaria Haggerty at 866-5950.

Ladies, let's have a great year!

JR. AUXILIARY MEETS JAN. 3

The Junior Auxiliary will meet at 5 p.m. Monday, Jan. 3, at the Post. Roller skating is planned. The Junior Auxiliary is for daughters, granddaughters and girl relatives of veterans. Girls, ages 5 to teen, are invited. Refreshments will be available.



Thank you Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend
The year ahead is empty
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And the happiness it brings
Please give the leaders of our world

A courage born of peace
That they might lead us gently
And all the fighting cease
Please give to all upon this earth
A heart that's filled with love
A gentle happy way to live
With Your blessings from above.

Charlotte Anselmo

JR. GIRLS BRING CHEER TO 4 VETERANS

Two Junior Auxiliary members tied bows on pairs of socks, created Christmas cards, and then visited four veterans residing at Willow Park Assisted Living Facility on Herkimer Road in Utica on Dec. 6.

"The girls gave each veteran a custom-made Christmas card, a pair of socks; then they shook their hands and said 'thank you for serving our country,'" noted Mary Stronach, Auxiliary youth co-chair along with Mary Anne Ciccone. "The veterans welcomed and hugged the girls, and made them feel very special, just as the girls made the

veterans feel special. The veterans were so touched that they kept saying, 'thankyou-thankyou'."

The girls -- Isabella Kelly, 7, and Gabriella Kelly, 5 1/2 -- ended the evening being treated to pizza by the Auxiliary and talking about how they wanted to visit the veterans again. Accompanying the girls was their mother, Melissa Chiellino.

The veterans were: Kenneth Kowland (Army), Walter Juteau (Marine Corps and the eldest at 96), Lyle Hyman (Marine Corps) and Merrell Washington (Army).



Isabella & Gabriella visit Merrell Washington (top left) and Kenneth Kowland (top right) after making Christmas cards.

**Utica Post #229
The American Legion
409 Herkimer Rd.
Utica, NY 13502**

First Call is a monthly publication of
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whose mission is to serve veterans,
members and local communities.
Yearly membership includes First Call,
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Since its founding in Paris in 1919, The American Legion has been an advocate for America's veterans, a friend of the U.S. military, a sponsor of community-based programs for young people and a spokesman for patriotic values.



Utica Post Brings Holiday Cheer to Nursing Home War Vets

Using red bags donated by the Village Toy Shop, Santa's helpers at Post 229 created sacks of goodies for 22 nursing home war veterans that the post has adopted at the Pines at Utica Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation. Post and Auxiliary members held a Christmas party there on Dec. 16. Each sack contained four wrapped gifts including socks, cookies and candies. From left: Executive Board member Vincent Zaleski, Commander Tony Palladino, Auxiliary member Evelyn McVoy, Service Officer David Wilson and Past Commander Frank Cassella.

GOODIES FOR TROOPS!

We have finally heard from our troops in Afghanistan and so that means cookies. Lots of cookies. We have 86 people in our adopted platoon.

I would appreciate the Auxiliary baking an extra dozen or two of cookies when they're doing theirs. I am looking magazines (sports, financial, etc.), and if you donate toiletries, please, nothing used.

I would like the cookies for our Jan. 6th meeting. If you cannot get them to the Post, please call 732-0302. Please keep all our troops in mind and prayers.

-- Pat Dodge