



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST

# UTICA POST 229 CALL!

CHRIS URBAN, COMMANDER

JUNE 2011

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

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



## POPPY PRINCESS

Junior Auxiliary's Isabel Kelly was crowned Poppy Princess at the May meeting.

### INSIDE

Commander's Call	2
Baseball Schedule	2
Auxiliary President	3
Chaplain's Corner	3
Commander Profile	4

### JUNE

- 1 DAV Van 10:30-3:30
- 1 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 2 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Auxiliary, 7:30 pm  
Joint Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 7 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 8 Pasta Dinner, 4:30-7:30
- 13 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 14 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 15 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 18 DAV, noon
- 21 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 22 Pasta Dinner, 4:30-7:30
- 28 Bingo, 6:30 pm

### JULY-AUGUST

Bingo: every Tuesday, 6:30  
 Bloodmobile: noon to 5,  
 first and third Wednesdays.  
 No post meetings.  
 First Call resumes with  
 September issue.

## UTICA POST ELECTS OFFICERS NAVY AVIATOR CHRIS URBAN IS COMMANDER

Chris Urban of Holland Patent has been elected commander of Utica Post 229 for 2011-2012. He is a retired Navy commander who piloted ship-based helicopters and taught at the Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Urban and other newly elected officers were installed at a joint installation dinner May 7 with Legion Auxiliary Unit 229.

Theresa Jensen of Utica was installed for her third term as auxiliary president.

**Other auxiliary officers are:**

- 1st Vice Pres.: Eleanor King.
- 2nd Vice Pres.: Peggy Kohler.
- 3rd Vice Pres.: Pat Dodge.
- Secretary: Rosetta LaPaglia.
- Treasurer: Rosaria Haggerty.
- Chaplain: Gail Greco.

- Historian: Donna Wojcik.
- Sgt.-at-Arms: Francine Sansone.

**Other post officers are:**

- 1st Vice Cmdr: Len LaScala.
- 2nd Vice Cmdr: Jim George.
- 3rd Vice Cmdr: Bob Stronach.
- Adjutant: Rich Maloon.
- Treasurer: Jim Haggerty.
- Chaplain: Paul Wojcik.
- Historian: vacant (nominee withdrew name).

- Service Officer: Dave Wilson.
- Judge Advocate: Albert Alteri.
- Sgt.-at-Arms: Johnnie Stenson.

**Executive Board:** Tom O'Toole, Jack LaPaglia, Vin Zaleski, Frank Cassella, Tony Palladino.

**Scholarship Committee:** Vin Zaleski, Paul Wojcik, Jim McGuire, Tom O'Toole, Jim George, Chris Urban, Jim Haggerty.



Chris Urban during installation as commander.

## TROOPS RECEIVE GOODIES LETTER FROM THE WAR ZONE

*Our adopted troops in Afghanistan received the latest batch of goodies. Here is their letter to military liaison Pat Dodge, whom they call "Mama D."*

We got the boxes, and the cookies and the biscotti were a hit once more! Everyone says thanks! Mama D, everyone is asking for the biscotti recipe! Everything was delicious and I went to each office in the compound and at Camp Mercury and handed out rice crispy treats!

We just hit our six-month mark so it is down hill for now. Please keep praying for us and our guys. Our third brigade got here in March and as of last week we lost five young men. They could have been my sons. So young.

It is getting so hot here that carrying baby wipes is a norm. It is 100 at 0800 and it is not fun... But I am thankful to be alive. Thanks so much. God bless.

-- SGT Isabel Tio



# COMMANDER'S CALL

CHRIS URBAN

Utica Post 229 has over 600 members, but the vast majority of us do not volunteer any time to Post activities. Remember: many hands make light work. Please consider donating a little of your time; call or e-mail us and we'll "hook you up."

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS for 2011-2012 are:

- Americanism: Lenny LaScala.
- Auxiliary Liaison: Jim George.

- Baseball: Anthony Palladino.
- Bingo: Jim George
- Boys State: Chris Urban.
- Color Guard: Tony Palladino.
- Executive Board: Rich Maloon.
- Finance: Tom O'Toole.
- Junior ROTC: Chris Urban
- Junior Shooting: Don Beyer.
- Law-and-Order: Paul Wojcik.
- Legal Advisor: Hon. Al Alteri.
- Legislation: Lenny LaScala.
- Membership: Jack LaPaglia.
- Military Liaison: Pat Dodge.
- Oratorical: Joseph Fraccola.
- Publicity (including Website): Robert Stronach.
- SAL Liaison: Paul Wojcik.
- Scholarship: Vincent Zaleski.
- Scouting: Dave Manore.
- Service Officer: David Wilson.
- Utica Memorial Day Parade: Paul Wojcik.
- Veterans Day Remembrance Activities: Paul Wojcik.

Post Officers and Executive Board Members. Over the next year, it would be great to see a reduction in the number of repeated names on these lists.

Additionally, we can always use help at Bingo on Tuesdays.

**Bottom line:** volunteer a little time and make a big difference in OUR Post and community.

*For God and Country.*

PLEASE NOTICE the number of repeated names in this list and in the lists of

## UTICA POST 229 BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME AND LOCATION
<b>JUNE</b>		
2 Thursday	@ Ilion (non-league)	7:30 @ Ilion High School
5 Sunday	@ Oneonta	DH 12PM @ Damaschke Field
8 Wednesday	West Winfield	6PM @ Murnane Field
9 Thursday	Little Falls	6PM @ Murnane Field
11 Saturday	Saratoga	DH 1PM @ Murnane Field
12 Sunday	@ Anaconda	DH 12PM @ Schenectady
13 Monday	Helmuth Ingalls	6PM @ Murnane Field
16 Thursday	@ Sherrill	6PM @ Noyes Park
18 Saturday	@Norwich	DH 12PM @ Norwich High School
19 Sunday	Melvin Roads	DH 1PM @ Murnane Field
21 Tuesday	@ New Hartford	6PM @ New Hartford High School
22 Wednesday	Herkimer	7:30 PM @ Murnane Field
23 Thursday	Adrean	7 PM @ Murnane Field
27 Monday	@ Roberts	5:30 PM @ Holland Patent High School
29 Wednesday	Gaithersburg, MD	10 AM @Doubleday Field, Cooperstown
30 Thursday	Whitestown	6PM @ Murnane Field
<b>JULY</b>		
2 Saturday	Joel Stevens Tourney Opening Cerem	2 PM @ Shaute Field
2 Saturday	Cherry Hill, NJ	3 PM @ Kelly Field
3 Sunday	Mansfield, PA	9 AM @ Shaute Field
3 Sunday	Horseheads Post	6 PM @ Joel Stephens Field
4 Monday	Playoffs (if qualify) 9AM OR 12PM & 3PM	@ Mansfield, PA
6 Wednesday	@ Fort Schuyler	6PM @ Delutis 2
7 Thursday	Smith	6PM @ Murnane Field
9 Saturday	Clonan	12PM @ Murnane Field
11 Monday	Ilion	6PM @ Murnane Field
12 Tuesday	@ Parkhurst	7:30 PM @ Delutis
13 Wednesday	@ Moran	6PM @ Camden Yards
July 18 - July 24	District V Playoffs	@ Delutis
July 27 - July 31	New York State Tournament	@ Newburgh, NY



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY

## MEMBERSHIP AT 244

BY ROSE A. CONIGLIO

As you know, our quote for the 2010-2011 year is 222.

As of May, we have 244 paid members, with ten new members.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2010, I cannot accept your 2011 dues. Please pay your 2011 dues because your 2012 dues will be due soon.

The auxiliary year runs from July to July, so get your dues in soon.

Please send your dues to:  
Rose A. Coniglio  
607 Jay St., Apt. C2  
Utica, NY 13501

## WELCOME!

I would like to welcome two new Junior members:

- Julia G. Bora
- Colette M. Bora

## JOIN JR. AUXILIARY

Any member of the post or auxiliary who would like to register a daughter or granddaughter for the Junior Auxiliary should contact Mary Stronach at 796-9284. The girls will be involved in service projects and fun activities.

## GIVE BLOOD

American Red Cross bloodmobile is at Utica Post 229 every first and third Wednesday from noon to 5.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Member,

My second year has come to a close and has been rewarding. I would like to thank the ladies of the Auxiliary and all the Past Presidents that gave me help these past two years. I'm going to start my third year in June and I'm hoping for a super year.

Ladies, don't forget to keep track of your volunteer service, donation of time and monies, and the miles you travel over the summer hours. Thursday, August 25, at 6 p.m., our first Executive Board meeting will take place at the Post. Our first monthly Auxiliary meeting will be September 1, 2011.

In closing, I wish everyone a great and safe summer.

*Your in service.*



**AUXILIARY OFFICERS: First Vice President Eleanor King, 2nd Vice President Peggy Kohler, 3rd Vice President Pat Dodge, Historian Donna Wojcik, Sgt.-at-Arms Francine Sansone. BELOW: Membership chair Rose Coniglio, Chaplain Gail Greco, Treasurer Rosaria Haggerty, Secretary Rosetta LaPaglia and President Theresa Jensen.**



PAUL WOJCIK

## A SUMMER PRAYER

Long warm days...the pace of life slows  
A time for picnics and rest in the shade.

LORD

Help me to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence.  
Slow down my restless heart and fill me with gentle compassion for all your people  
Amen

SICK CALL  
Sam Saccoia

REST IN PEACE  
Anthony Carcone  
Alfred T. Latour Sr.

## PASTA DINNERS JUNE 8 AND 22

Utica Post 229 will offer all-you-can-eat pasta dinners from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays this month -- June 8 and 22.

Cost is \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

## NEWS BY EMAIL

If you would like to receive FIRST CALL by email, instead of a printed copy in the mail, send a request to [firstcall@uticapost229.org](mailto:firstcall@uticapost229.org).

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

First Call is a monthly publication of  
Utica Post 229 American Legion,  
409 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13502,  
whose mission is to serve veterans,  
members and local communities.  
Yearly membership includes First Call,  
published 10 times a year.

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
-PAID-  
Utica, NY  
Permit  
No. 566**

*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.*

## POST COMMANDER LOGGED 1,000 SHIPBOARD LANDINGS

Christopher Urban, the new commander of Utica Post 229, spent 20 years on active duty as a naval aviator, logging more than 1,000 shipboard landings as a helicopter pilot.

Retiring as a U.S. Navy commander in 2000, his naval career highlights include:

- flying assault, search-and-rescue and airlift helicopters (UH-1N Iroquois, CH-46D Sea Knight, and CH-53E Super Stallion).
- serving over two years as ship's company (ship driver) aboard USS Saipan.
- serving as a faculty member at U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis,

MD, teaching computer science, seamanship, navigation, and shiphandling.

- serving as chief information officer (CIO) and faculty member at Naval War College.

- serving as commanding officer of Navy Recruiting in the six New England States.

- being named an Honorary Chief Petty Officer (CPO) by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy.

He met his wife, Christine Chapman Urban, aboard the USNS Sirius Combat Stores Ship, where he spent a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea with a detachment of two CH-46D helicopters. She was a Maine

Maritime Academy graduate and Merchant Marine Officer working for Military Sealift Command as ship's third officer.

Urban, who is currently a faculty member in the Computer Science Department at SUNYIT, grew up in Whitesboro, attended Sacred Heart School and graduated from Notre Dame High School. He went on to graduate from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and then obtain an MS in Computer Information Systems from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and an MA in National Security and Strategic Affairs from

the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

The Urbans have two children -- Cathy, who graduated in May from Villanova University with a BS in Nursing and was commissioned as a U.S. Navy ensign, and John, who will enter his senior year at Villanova and who also hopes to join the Navy after graduation.

In addition to his military and academic pursuits, Urban has a wide range of interests, from hiking, camping, fishing and target shooting to gardening, home brewing and bee keeping (currently keeping five hives in his backyard).