



THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST CALL!

UTICA POST 229

ANTHONY PALLADINO, COMMANDER

NOVEMBER 2010

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!

Mark W. Smith
Frederick J. Ryczek

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NOVEMBER

2	Bingo, 6:30 pm
3	Bloodmobile, noon-5
4	Post Meeting, 7:30 pm Post Dinner, 6:15 pm
5	Fish Fry, 4-7 pm
6	Dinner Dance, 5:30-12
8	Discount Card Signup, 3:30-6 p.m.
9	Bingo, 6:30 pm
11	Veterans Day: Coffee, 9; Bus, 10:15; Lunch, 1
12	Fish Fry, 4-7 pm
15	County Legion at Post 229, 7:30 pm
16	Bingo, 6:30 pm
17	Bloodmobile, noon-5
19	Fish Fry, 4-7 pm
23	Bingo, 6:30 pm
18	Executive Board, 7:30
25	Happy Thanksgiving
26	Early Bird Dinner, 6 pm Cocktails, 5 pm
30	Bingo, 6:30 pm



Members of Utica Post 229 are encouraged to attend the post activities on Veterans Day on Thursday, Nov. 11.

The post is coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at monuments and memorials around town to remember the sacrifices of war veterans.

“Come join us for a time of remembrance

and camaraderie,” invited Post Commander Tony Palladino.

“We’ll begin with coffee and doughnuts at 9 a.m. A bus will leave the post at 10:15 to take members of the Legion, the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion to the ceremonies. Then we’ll return to the post by 1 p.m. for lunch.”

FISH FRY FRIDAYS RESUME

Utica Post 229 resumed its popular Friday fish fry dinners in October. They continue through Nov. 19 and pick up again in January, continuing through April.

The Executive Board on Sept. 16 approved the Fish Fry Fridays, with a change in menu and operation, after a board committee studied ways to avoid losses.

The dinners are offered from 4 to 7, with eat-in and take-out service available.

Menu choices are: fish

fry, baked fish, shrimp (8) or scallops (8), at \$9.95. A combo dinner for \$11 includes a half fish, shrimp (4) and scallops (4). There also is a chicken tender (4) dinner for \$8.50. All dinners come with choice of French fries or baked potato, cole slaw, roll and beverage. The price for children, aged 12 and under, is \$5.50 for a half portion. No half portions are available for adults.

Patrons order and pay as they enter the banquet hall.



RED SHIRT TRIBUTE

The October meeting paid tribute to past commanders, who were easy to pick out in their red shirts. See Page 4.



Membership is the life-blood of the American Legion. Take a look at your membership card. Does it say 2011? If not, it's time to get your dues in.

Perhaps you're thinking, "I don't even go to meetings," or "I've never been to the post." And one common misconception I hear is, "I don't even drink." A bar is available for those wishing an occasional cocktail, but it's a very small part of the Legion.

By renewing, you benefit the whole community; not only veterans, but the youth of today, the future of tomorrow. Your dues help sponsor programs such as Education and Scholarship, School awards, Boys Nation, Flag Education, the North, South, East and West Utica Little Leagues; Legion baseball, and senior citizen centers, just to name a few. Without you, the post could not accomplish as much as it does.

Come to a meeting. Check us out. Bring the kids or grandkids to one of our children's functions. If you know someone who served in the military, bring him/her with you. Grow our Legion family.
For God and country.



COMMANDER'S CALL

ANTHONY PALLADINO

Please vote on election day on Nov. 2. We served for our flag, recognizing that freedom is not free. In that same spirit, let's exercise our right and responsibility to cast ballots in local, county, state and national races.

DON'T FORGET to turn back the clocks and enjoy an extra hour of sleep when daylight savings time ends at 2 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 7.

VETERANS DAY, Nov. 11: 9 a.m. coffee and donuts, 10:15 bus leaves for wreath laying, 1 p.m. luncheon at post. One change: The memorial service honoring deceased Vietnam veterans

from Oneida County will be held on Memorial Day 2011, instead of prior to lunch on Veterans Day.

TO ALL POST, auxiliary and **SAL** members and their families: Please have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

IF YOU HAVEN'T paid your dues for 2011, please do so. You will not only help us reach our quota, but also make it possible for us to hit our goal of increased membership.

ANYONE interested in becoming an instructor for junior shooting, please leave your name/phone number at the post.

NEW GLASS doors were installed at our main entrance, replacing a 20-year-old set that finally succumbed to, we estimate, well over a half-million open-and-closes.

BRING YOUR DD214 to the post on Monday, Nov. 8, and receive a Veterans Discount Card ID from County Clerk Sandra DePerno. She'll be here from 3:30 to 6 p.m. The card provides discounts at a number of retail operations.

REMEMBER our military throughout the world.

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

COLOR GUARD HAVING A BUSY NOVEMBER

Utica Post 229's award-winning Color Guard will have a busy November:

- providing colors for a naturalization ceremony for new citizens in the Legislative Chambers at the Oneida County Office Building at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 5.
- marching in the CNY Veterans Parade at noon

on Saturday, Nov. 6, in Syracuse.

- participating in the Veterans Day wreath-laying ceremonies at monuments and memorials around Utica on Thursday, Nov. 11.

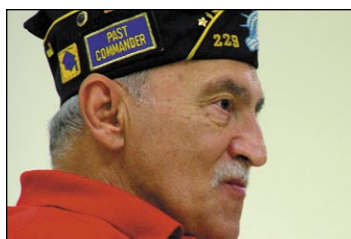
JOIN THE TEAM

Team Captain Mike Cavanaugh reports that the Color Guard is always

looking for new members to bolster the team's depth.

"Don't worry about whether you think you are good or bad" in marching and drill techniques, Cavanaugh notes.

The team will provide training, plus a new practice schedule starts in January. "We welcome everybody."



Jack LaPaglia
Post Membership Chair

JACK'S MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR OCT.

Quota:	649
Goal:	700
Paid to date:	425
% of quota:	65%

BINGO CALLERS

Bingo volunteers are needed Tuesday nights. "We especially need bingo callers," noted Bingo Chair Jim George. Contact Jim at 749-3058.

DANCE TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT

Where can you enjoy an Italian buffet dinner, and then dance to your heart's content ?

At the Utica Post 229 Dinner Dance on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Enjoy good conversation while sampling tasty hors d'oeuvres and sipping a beverage from the open bar, all start-

ing at 5:30. Feast on Italian dishes starting at 7 sharp. Then, from 8 to midnight, dance to music provided by Main Event.

Tickets are \$18 per person.

To make a reservation, contact Dinner Dance Chair Rose Coniglio at 735-9091.



PAY DUES, ENJOY FREE FEAST EARLY BIRD DINNER IS NOV. 26

The Early Bird Dinner on Friday, Nov. 26, gets underway with cocktails at 5. Dinner starts at 6.

A sign-up sheet will be in the lounge starting Nov. 1, with Nov. 19 as the cutoff date. Reserva-

tions are required.

The dinner is free to all Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members who pay their 2011 dues by Nov. 11.

Guests are welcomed at a cost of \$10.



SIGN UP CHILDREN FOR CHRISTMAS FUN

Utica Post 229 will host a children's Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 18, from noon to 3 p.m.

It is open to the children and grandchildren of members (Legion, Auxiliary and SAL), 12 and younger.

Children must be registered in advance. A sign-up sheet will be in the post lounge, with a cut-off date of Dec. 7 for reservations.

The festivities, including lunch, are free for children 12 and younger. Anyone older than 12 may part take in lunch for \$3.00.

MONTHLY DINNER NOW \$7

Starting in November, the price of the dinner preceding the monthly membership meeting will be \$7, reports Treasurer Jim Haggerty. Also payment will be collected at the door, he said.

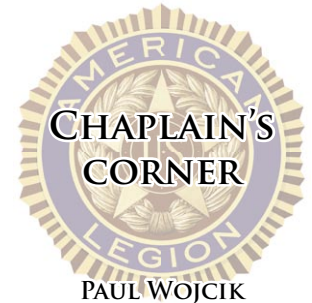
The dinner typically includes appetizer, entrée, dessert, and hot and cold beverages.

He encouraged everyone interested in coming to the monthly dinner to "make a reservation no later than one week before the meeting" by calling the post at 793-9377.

Those who regularly attend the meeting dinners may be placed on a permanent reservation list by informing Haggerty.

VVA MEETS ON 2ND MONDAY

Vietnam Veterans of America, Utica Chapter 944, meets at Utica Post 229 on the second Monday of the month at 1 p.m.



PAUL WOJCIK

Unlike some holidays, Thanksgiving is most commonly celebrated at home with family and friends. This is one of the things we like best, wonderful traditions with family.

We should be thankful that we have the strength to meet the challenges that come with life. Thankful for the memories that friends and family have given us. Thankful for the understanding that it is more important to give than to receive. This Thanksgiving we have much to be thankful for. **HAPPY THANKSGIVING.**

SICK CALL
Bobby Voce

MEETING DATES

Executive Board

Nov. 18	March 17
Dec. 16	April 21
Jan. 20	May 19
Feb. 17	

General Meeting First Thursday

Nov. 4	March 3
Dec. 2	April 7
Jan. 6	May 6
Feb. 3	

GIVE BLOOD

The American Red Cross bloodmobile is at Utica Post 229 every first and third Wednesday of the month from noon to 5 p.m.

OCT. MEETING A TRIBUTE TO PAST COMMANDERS, PRESIDENTS

Past auxiliary presidents and past post commanders were honored at the October membership meeting for their service to the Legion.

Past commanders who were present were: Dave Wilson, Calvin Anacker, Paul Wojcik, Frank Cassella, Jack LaPaglia, John Loperfido and Jim Haggerty.

Past auxiliary presidents attending were: Eleanor King, Rose Coniglio, Donna Wojcik, Rosetta LaPaglia, Gail Greco, Celeste Aney, Rosaria Haggerty.

MEMBERSHIP Chair Jack LaPaglia presented an honorary lifetime Legion membership to Vincent "Zeke" Zaleski, noting: "For all the work you do for the Legion, we could never repay you."

REFERRING to the newly installed set of glass doors at the main entrance to the post, Finance Chair Tom O'Toole said he hoped the new doors would last longer than the old ones, which finally succumbed after "over a half-million" open-and-closes.

LAW-AND-ORDER Chair Paul Wojcik announced that the post would present its Firefighter of the Year Award to a member of the Utica Fire Department at the November membership meeting.

He also encouraged post members to turn out for Veterans Day activities on Nov. 11. "A bus will be here at the post by 10 a.m." to take participants to wreath-laying ceremonies at monuments



Past Post 229 Commanders, decked out red, were honored at the October membership meeting. Front, from left: John Loperfido and James Haggerty. Rear, from left: David Wilson, Calvin Anacker, Paul Wojcik, Frank Cassella, Jack LaPaglia, and current commander Tony Palladino.



Membership Chair Jack LaPaglia, left, presents Vincent Zaleski with an honorary lifetime Legion membership, thanking him for all the work he does on behalf of the Legion.



Paul Wojcik, above, announced plans to present the Firefighter of the Year award at the November meeting, while Jim George, below, appealed for bingo volunteers.



and memorials, and then return them to the post for lunch. "The more who show, the better it is."

ADJUTANT and bingo chair Jim George issued an appeal for volunteers. "We especially need bingo callers."

VA Extends 'Presumptive' Coverage for Gulf War Veterans



Eric K. Shineski
Secretary of Veteran Affairs

Gulf War veterans, including those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, now will have an easier time qualifying for health-care benefits and disability compensation for nine diseases associated with their military service, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced Sept. 28.

He said a final regulation published in the Federal Register relieves veterans of

the burden of proving these diseases are service-related: Brucellosis, Campylobacter jejuni, Coxiella Burnetii (Q fever), Malaria, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, Nontyphoid Salmonella, Shigella, Visceral leishmaniasis and West Nile virus.

"This is part of historic changes in how VA considers Gulf War Veterans' illnesses," said Shinseki. "By setting up

scientifically based presumptions of service connection, we give these deserving veterans a simple way to obtain the medical and compensation benefits they earned in service to our country."

The final regulation establishes new presumptions of service connection for the nine infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia beginning on or after the start of the first Gulf War on Aug. 2, 1990, through the conflict in Iraq and on or after Sept. 19, 2001, in Afghanistan. A veteran will only have to show service in Southwest Asia or Afghanistan and that he or she had one of the nine diseases within a certain time after service and has a current disability as a result of that disease, subject to certain time limits for seven of the diseases. Most of the diseases would be diagnosed within a year of return from service, though some may manifest later.

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

GOLF TOURNEY THANKYOU

On behalf of the Jackie Wolber-Lawler Memorial Golf Tournament 2010 Committee, thank you to all our wonderful sponsors, donators and golfers.

Your participation in this year's golf tournament, and generous support of it, resulted in a net profit of \$13,000 for programs and services offered at the North Utica Senior Citizens Center.

-- George Penree and Dick Lawler
Co-chairs

VET2VET COORDINATOR

As Vet2Vet coordinator for Compeer of Mohawk Valley, my job is to help veterans readjust from long deployments as well as help during difficult times with redeployment. I am a retired staff sergeant (U.S. Army) who served in Iraq and understands the trials and tribulations that veterans encounter in the civilian world. I hope...you will want to know more about our program and how you can help us grow.

-- Michael A. Sportello, 315-724-7770

HISTORY: BIG IMPACT ON LOCAL AVIATION

Utica Post 229 had a big impact on aviation history in the Utica area, including lobbying for a municipal airport and sponsoring a meeting that featured aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart.

The City of Utica built the Utica Municipal Airport in Marcy at a cost of \$250,000 "at the urging of Utica American Legion Post 229," Observer-Dispatch history columnist Frank Tomaino reports. The airport, located near present-day Walmart Distribution Center, opened in 1928 and was a hub for aviation enthusiasts until it was replaced in 1950 by the old Oneida County Airport in Oriskany.

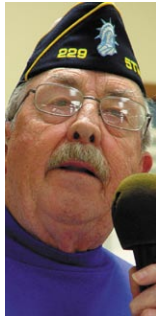
The old Utica airport boasted several visits by Amelia Earhart, the first woman pilot to cross the Atlantic (1928) and the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic (1932). Her first visit was in 1928, "when she spoke at the Utica Country Day School (today the site of Wedgewood Apartments in New Hartford)," Frank Tomaino reports. "Her sister, Muriel, taught there for several years. That same day, 500 attended a luncheon in her honor in Hotel Utica. Later that year, she attended an aviation meeting at Utica Municipal Airport on River Road in Marcy sponsored by Utica Post 229, American Legion."



Amelia Earhart

MEMBERS ON THE GO

DAV TAPS WILSON FOR NATIONAL POST



Past Post Commander Dave Wilson was elected alternate national executive committeeman for New York during the national Disabled American Veterans convention in August in Atlanta, GA.

Wilson served in the Air Force during the Korean War. He joined the Legion in 1995 and is service officer for the post and Oneida County Legion. He resides in Utica.

WOJCIK REAPPOINTED DEPARTMENT VICE CHAIR



Paul Wojcik, a past commander of Utica Post 229, has been reappointed as a New York Department vice chairman for conventions.

He is currently post chaplain and he chairs the law-and-order, Memorial Day and Veterans Day activities.

On the county level he is a commander's aide and on the district level, he also serves as chaplain.

A 17-year member, Wojcik served in the Navy during the Vietnam era. He resides in Utica.

WELPE HEADS DAV CHAPTER



Jerry Welpe, a 23-year member of Utica Post 229, has been elected commander of the Disabled American Veterans' Leo B. Wheeler/Stars & Stripes Chapter #82 for a one-year term. The chapter meets on the third Saturday of the month at Post 229.

Welpe hails from Barneveld and is a Vietnam-era Navy veteran.

Other chapter officers, mostly Post 229 members, are:

- Jim Haggerty, sr. vice commander.
- Ray Sylvester, jr. vice commander.
- David Wilson, PDC/adjutant.
- David Manore, treasurer.
- Phil Capraro, chaplain.

FUN YOUTH PROGRAMS: FROM SCOUTING TO SHOOTING



Interested in learning how to become a sharpshooter and doing it safely? Then check out Utica Post 229's Junior Shooting Program, with its own indoor air rifle range.

Interested in getting involved in Cub Scouting? Then check out the Cub Scout Pack, which meets at the post.

For more information on these youth programs, contact Dave Manore at 797-6618 or 723-4723.

BINGO REPORT

Date	Income	Prizes	Expenses	3%	Profit
9/7/10	\$3132.00	\$2728.00	55.90	10.44	337.66
9/14/10	2792.00	2060.00	578.00	4.62	149.38
9/21/10	3115.00	2154.00	0.00	28.83	932.17
9/28/10	3402.00	2210.00	293.75	26.93	871.30

BINGO WORKERS

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



NAVAL JROTC COLOR GUARD

Cadets from Notre Dame High School's Naval Jr. ROTC program received appreciative applause after they posted the colors at the opening of the October general membership meeting.

DONATIONS: Baseball \$2474.75, Scholarship \$75.00, Proctor NJROTC \$75.00, RCIL \$100.00.

EXPENSES: Garbage \$176.00, Checks \$68.40.



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY

It's Time To Renew Membership

By ROSE A. CONIGLIO

We do not have a quota for the new year yet, but so far we have 133 paid members for 2011, including five new members.

If you haven't paid your 2010 dues, we cannot accept your 2011 dues.

If you pay your dues by Nov. 11, you will be invited to the Early Bird Dinner on Nov. 26.

Please welcome these new members:

- Joyce M. Walerstein.
- Eileen A. Bowes.

PLEASE SEND your dues to:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Members,

November is upon us with beautiful leaves, warm days and crispy nights.

It's also a very busy month.

NOVEMBER 2nd is Election Day. Please exercise your right and go to the polls and vote.

NOVEMBER 11th is Veteran's Day. In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month, the world rejoiced and celebrated after four years of bitter war, and armistice was signed. The "war to end all wars" was over. Let's not forget our veterans.

THANKSGIVING Day is November 25th, a day of thanks for the blessings of the year. It is also a time to be with family, friends and to enjoy good food. I'd like to wish everyone a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

AND A HUGE THANKYOU to Eleanor King for chairing the children's Halloween party!

Happy Thanksgiving



GAIL GRECO

THANK YOU LORD

Lord, I hope You hear
This prayer I have today
Please listen now real closely
To the words I need to say.

I thank You for Your
blessings

That You've always given me
You've given me a love of life
And eyes that I might see.

I look to see the beauty
Of everywhere You touch
I'm deeply filled with
gratitude

And I thank You Lord,
so much.

The gifts You give go on
and on
Each day brings something
new

Peace and joy and happiness
I can always count on You!

~ Charlotte Anselmo ~

If anyone knows of a death
or illness, please notify me.

PAST PRESIDENTS HONORED AT OCTOBER MEETING



Past Auxiliary Presidents received recognition and gifts at the October meeting. From left: Eleanor King, Rose Coniglio,

Donna Wojcik, Rosetta LaPaglia, Gail Greco, Celeste Aney, Rosaria Haggerty, and current President Theresa Jensen.

**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.
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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 ADOPTS 70 SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

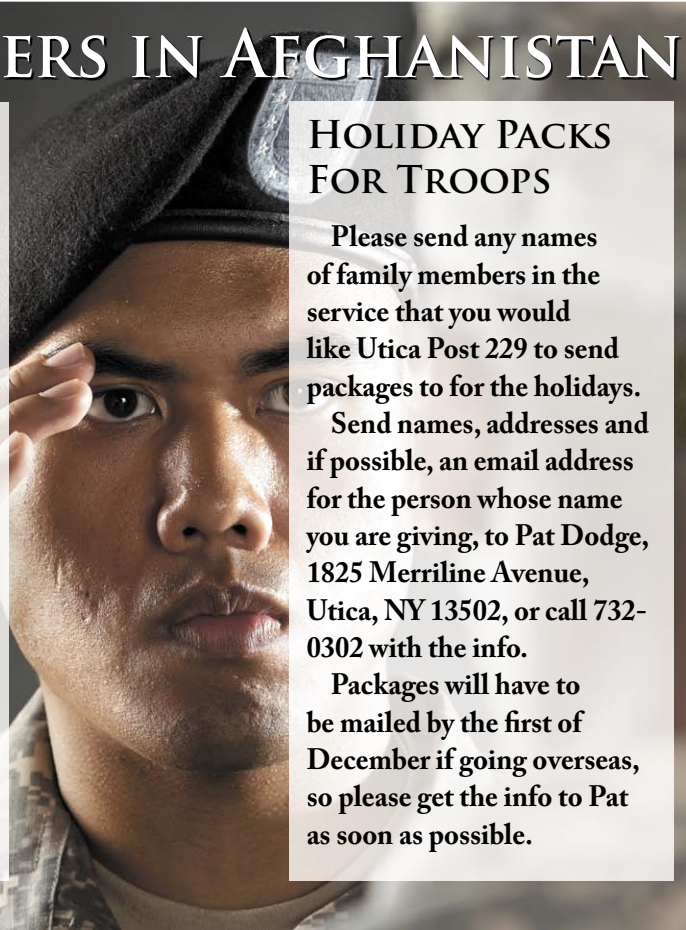
Pat Dodge and Diane and Frank Capirci went up to Fort Drum on Sept. 12 to meet the new platoon that the post and auxiliary are adopting. The unit began deploying a few days later for Afghanistan.

"We were treated to coffee and conversation," Pat said, noting that she and the Capircis "were amazed at how young everyone was."

Post 229 "will be supporting 70 troops, so everybody get ready to bring in the magazines about fishing, hunting, sports, finances, and ladies magazines, too," said Pat, an auxiliary member who

serves as the post's military liaison. "Ladies, get ready to bake those wonderful home-made cookies."

She added: "Once again we have quite the unique force. Our new group is an international force on a NATO Headquarters Mission comprised of higher ranking officers mostly. They are being deployed for one year and their responsibility is for four provinces... They will be focusing on stabilizing the area with teaching, intelligence, monitoring and providing logistics, managing money, public affairs, medical people, and taking care of visitors to the area."



HOLIDAY PACKS FOR TROOPS

Please send any names of family members in the service that you would like Utica Post 229 to send packages to for the holidays.

Send names, addresses and if possible, an email address for the person whose name you are giving, to Pat Dodge, 1825 Merriline Avenue, Utica, NY 13502, or call 732-0302 with the info.

Packages will have to be mailed by the first of December if going overseas, so please get the info to Pat as soon as possible.