



# THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST

# UTICA POST 229 CALL!

CHRIS URBAN, COMMANDER

NOVEMBER 2011

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

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



*The Red Shirts came. P. 4.*

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## NOVEMBER

- 1 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 2 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 3 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm  
Auxiliary, 7:30 pm  
Joint Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 4 Fish Fry Friday
- 5 Dinner Dance
- 6 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 8 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 11 Veterans Day  
Fish Fry Friday
- 13 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 14 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 15 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 16 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 18 Early Bird Dinner
- 19 DAV, noon
- 20 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 22 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 29 Bingo, 6:30 pm

## POST SPONSORS PARTIES FOR NURSING HOME VETS

Utica Post 229 will hold a Veterans Day party and a Christmas party for veterans residing at the Pines at Utica Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Service Officer Dave Wilson announced at the October meeting.



*Dave Wilson*

The Veterans Day party begins at 2 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Pines. The Christmas party starts at 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15. Wilson urged post members to help provide a fun time for the nursing home vets and share camaraderie with the aged "brothers in arms." He added: "We all voted to adopt the veterans at the Pines, so let's support them."

## KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The post's annual Children's Christmas Party takes place Dec. 17 from noon to 3 p.m., Treasurer Jim Haggerty told October meeting attendees.



*Jim Haggerty*

The party will feature a special guest from the North Pole -- the jolly ole saint himself. A sign-up sheet will be in the post lounge starting Nov. 19, with Dec. 8 as the cut-off date for reservations.

The party is for children and grandchildren, ages 0 to 12, of post, auxiliary and SAL members. Reservations are required in order to prepare sufficient food and beverages and have enough presents available.

## HONOR VETERANS



*The Veterans Day observance on Friday, Nov. 11, includes wreath-laying and prayers at six monuments around Utica, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument -- shown here with Chaplain Col. Gary Howard praying at last year's ceremonies. The day begins with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 at Utica Post 229 and concludes with lunch at the post following the wreath-laying ceremonies. A bus will be at the post at 10:15 to take participants to each site. SEE PAGE 5.*



Jack LaPaglia

## RENEW NOW, ENJOY DINNER

by Jack LaPaglia  
*Membership Chair*

Fall is here. Don't fall behind! The quota for 2012 is 659, and as of this writing, 388 members have already renewed. We are at 58%. Your membership card should read 2012; if not, please get your dues in now. Dues are very important in advancing the many programs of the American Legion, most of them here in our local community.

If you know anyone who served in Iraq, Afghanistan or Pakistan, why not give him/her the gift of an American Legion membership. As we are getting older, we can only dream dreams, but the young have the vision to make them happen. Sign up a young man or woman today.

Remember the Early Bird dinner on November 18. If you pay your dues before November 11, you will be eligible for a free dinner. If you wish to bring a non-member guest, the cost is only \$10.00. Menu is Italian Buffet.

*For God and Country.*



## COMMANDER'S CALL

CHRIS URBAN

VETERANS DAY is Nov. 11. In addition to coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at monuments around the city, Post 229 will provide a free lunch to any veteran who visits our Post on Veterans Day. Lunch will be available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be available starting at 9:30, and a bus will be at the post to take anyone who needs a ride to the ceremonies, which start at 11. Come to the Post on Veterans Day and enjoy a free lunch, catch-up with old friends, and make new ones.

MEMBERS WHO pay dues before close of business on Veterans Day may also sign up for the free Early Bird Dinner, which will be on Friday, Nov. 18. Please sign up so we can plan the menu properly.

LAST MONTH'S Chicken Riggie contest was won by Jim George (I'm told his riggies were "the bomb"). By the time you read this we will have completed a Chili Cook-off. I suspect there are some GREAT cooks in our midst and I encourage all of you to jump into these fun competitions (I entered the Riggie contest; it was a lot of fun).

Please consider coming to the Post to judge the entries and help select a winner (it will cost you just \$5, which goes to Toys For Tots, and you will enjoy really great fare). Other events are in the works (a Wild Game Dinner, Members' Breakfast, more cooking competitions, and much more). Please visit our Web page frequently to find details and please consider participating in any/all

events that are of interest to you (I would love to see more of our members in the Post more often).

IF YOU HAVE ideas for events or any kind (I don't care how unique), please contact me or send them to me. You may leave a message at the Post (793-9377) or email [info@uticapost229.org](mailto:info@uticapost229.org).

LAST BUT NOT least: we still need bingo workers. We use a great deal of bingo proceeds to support non-profit causes in the area. Your time investment can be as little as 2 hours on one Tuesday per month (many of our members are working 5 hours on multiple Tuesdays every month). The work is easy, but we need more folks to do it. *Remember: many hands make light work.*

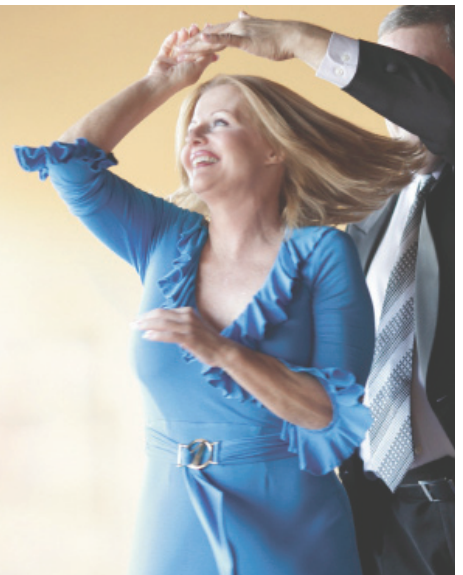
## DINE ON ROAST BEEF, DANCE 'TIL MIDNIGHT

Enjoy a roast beef buffet and then kick up your heels on the dance floor at Utica Post 229 on Saturday, Nov. 5.

It all starts at 5:30 p.m., with open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Dinner is at 7 sharp. Dancing is 8 to midnight, with music provided by Sonny Farrar.

The cost is \$22 per person. For reservations, contact event chair Rose Coniglio at 735-9091 or drop in at the post.

*Future dinner dance dates: Dec. 3, New Year's Eve.*



# MORE COOK-OFFS IN NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, JANUARY RIGGIE CONTEST 'A LOT OF FUN,' WINNER BEAMS

Members of the Post/Auxiliary/Sons held a Chicken Riggie Contest on Sunday, Sept. 25, raising \$105 for Toys for Tots. Five amateur "chefs" braved the opinions of more than 20 tasters who got to feast on the assorted riggies.

When the votes were tallied, Vice Commander Jim George's recipe took first place. The prize included a gold medal, a squishy tomato ball and having his name on a poster in the lounge.

The other chefs were Joanne Powers, Joanne M. Powers, Mike Crigger, and Commander Chris Urban.

"It really was a lot of fun," George says. "We're working on other events." A chili cookoff took place Oct. 16.

The cook-offs are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Sundays, as follows:

Nov. 6 - Greens

Dec. 4 - Meatballs

Jan. 8 - Mushroom Stew

A \$5 donation allows one to savor and judge all the entries. "It's all you can eat,"



George says, adding: "The money all goes to charity. Winners get bragging rights, a medal and some kind of goofy prize."

Post/auxiliary/SAL members, their family and guests are invited. Post/auxiliary/SAL members or their immediate kin who would like to cook up their homemade recipes and enter one or more contests may contact the post at 793-9377 or info@uticapost229.org.



PAUL WOJCIK

## IF A CHILD

If a child lives with criticism  
he learns to condemn.  
If a child lives with hostility  
he learns to fight.  
If a child lives with ridicule  
he learns to be shy.  
If a child lives with shame  
he learns to be guilty.  
If a child lives with tolerance  
he learns to be patient.  
If a child lives with encouragement  
he learns confidence.  
If a child learns with praise  
he learns to appreciate.  
If a child lives with fairness  
he learns justice.  
If a child lives with security  
he learns to have faith.  
If a child lives with approval  
he learns to like himself.  
If a child lives with  
acceptance and friendship  
he learns to find love in the  
world.

## REST IN PEACE

Leroy Michel  
James D. Gaffney Sr.

*If you know of a member who is ill, please let us know so we can acknowledge him/her.*

## PLAY PITCH AND PINOCHLE?

Some members would like to restart a Pitch League and possibly start a Pinochle League. If you would like to participate, please visit the Post and place your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet(s) in the lounge or contact Post 229 and leave a message with your name and contact info. As of Oct. 12 there were only 8 members signed-up.

## INTERESTED IN WILD GAME DINNER?

Interested in attending a Wild Game Dinner in February? The post is trying to gauge interest. Please place your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet(s) in the lounge (or call/email and leave your name and contact info).

## TAX DEDUCTION FOR WILD GAME DONATIONS

To keep the cost of the Wild Game Dinner at a minimum, the post is asking for donations of wild game from members and non-members. "We have a mechanism that will allow us to document these charitable donations and allow donors to deduct the fair market value of their donation from their income taxes," noted Commander Chris Urban. "If you or someone you know can donate wild game, please contact the Post."

## POST MEETINGS

Nov. 3	March 1
Dec. 1	April 5
Jan. 5	May 3
Feb. 2	June 7

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nov. 17	March 15
Dec. 15	April 19
Jan. 19	May 17
Feb. 16	June 21

## MEETING DINNERS ARE \$7 FOR MEMBERS

The monthly meeting dinners (on the first Thursday of the month) are open to members of the post, auxiliary unit and Sons of the American Legion squadron at a cost of \$7 per person. To bring a guest, cost is \$10.

Reservations are required (unless you are on the permanent reservation list). Dinner start at 6:15 p.m., with the member meeting at 7:30.



**Past post commanders were honored at the October dinner-meeting, and they were easy to spot in their red shirts. Seated are, from left: John Loperfido, commander for 1980-1981, and Jim Haggerty, 1983-1984. Standing, from left, are: Albert Alteri, 2004-2006; Dave Wilson, 2006-2008; Calvin Anacker, 1961-1962; Frank Cassella, 2008-2009; Anthony Palladino, 2009-2011; Jack LaPaglia, 1996-1997, and Paul Wojcik, 2002-2004**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP MEETING

### FUN OF WORKING BINGO

Some recent bingo nights have been short a volunteer or two, so there is a real need for new volunteers, reported Bingo Chair Jim George.

“Volunteering one evening a month will make a big difference,” he said.

Added Commander Chris Urban: “Working bingo is a lot of fun... We always have a few laughs.”

### REPAINTING THE POST

Executive Board member Tom O’Toole noted that the post facility has been undergoing some improvements and repainting to keep it in good condition, and that the post’s liquor license has been renewed.

### GET OUT AND VOTE

On the topic of Americanism, Vice Commander Len Lascala urged everyone to get out and vote in the November elections. He also said the Oneida

County Board of Elections is often looking for election workers, and if anyone is interested in working at the polls, contact the county.

### TRAIN WITH COLOR GUARD

Past Commander Tony Palladino said the Color Guard Squad continues to be busy, presenting the colors at Oneida County’s naturalization ceremonies. The five-member squad plans to perform at the flag retirement ceremony at the 40 & 8 on Nov. 12.

The squad, he added, is looking to add members and build depth. Full training will be provided. Anyone interested may leave a message for Palladino at the post or via email at [info@uticapost229.org](mailto:info@uticapost229.org).

### BE AWARE

On the subject of Homeland Security, Sgt.-at-Arms Johnnie Stenson urged: “Be aware of what’s going on around you.”



**Vice Commander Jim George officially welcomes World War II Navy veteran Charlie Piccione to his first post meeting.**

# HONOR VETERANS NOV. 11

Veterans, family members and public officials will remember the sacrifices of war veterans at six memorials and monuments in Utica on Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Coordinated by Utica Post 229, with help from Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, Polish League of American Veterans and several other veterans groups, the ceremonies get under way at 11 a.m. at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Oneida Square.

“The ceremonies will last 10 to 15 minutes at each site,” said Veterans Day Chairman Paul Wojcik. Retired Army Chaplain Col. Gary Howard will offer a prayer, Color Guard squads will present the colors, and veterans, family members and public officials will take turns laying a wreath at each of the sites. He noted that Colonel Howard was the chaplain to Gen. David Petraeus when the general was the U.S. commander in Iraq.

After Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the group proceeds to the Parkway to

stop at Vietnam Veterans Memorial, POW-MIA Monument and World War I/World War II/Korean War Monument. After that will be Purple Heart Park on Whitesboro Street in West Utica, and finally, All Veterans Memorial at Utica’s Main Post Office on Pitcher Street.

The day begins and ends at Utica Post 229, with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. and lunch for veterans by 1 p.m. A bus will be at the Post by 10:15 to take participants who want a ride to the monuments and memorials.



**Veterans Day observance includes wreath-laying and prayers at three sites on the Parkway: Vietnam Veterans Memorial, POW-MIA Monument and World War I/World War II/Korean War Monument.**

## ORIGINS OF VETERANS DAY

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service...”

The original concept was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution

on June 4, 1926, noting “the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals” and encouraging public participation in an annual commemoration “in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies.”

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday -- a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as “Armistice Day.”

Armistice Day was primarily a day

set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation’s history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word “Armistice” and inserting in its place the word “Veterans.”

With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

# 40 & 8 HOSTS FINAL SALUTE FOR OLD FLAGS ON NOV. 12



Old or worn U.S. flags may be brought to Oneida County 40 & 8, Voiture 92, on Judd Road in Whitesboro for proper disposal in an annual flag retirement ceremony that starts at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12.

"It's a respectful ritual," past Voiture 92 Chef de Gare and past Oneida County American Legion Commander John Ryan explained.

It's not just a matter of burning the flags, he said, noting that veterans equate that with protestors.

He said they retire flags with respect and dignity – much the same way a family says goodbye to a deceased loved one. The ashes of the flags are taken to a cemetery and buried with a veteran.

The ceremony begins by retiring the flag on

the 40 & 8 flag pole, and unfurling a new one. Cadets carry the retired flag, representing thousands of flags being retired, through an honor cordon and to 40 & 8 officers for inspection and prayer.

Then the flag is placed in a steel burn pit already full of flags being retired. Veterans and cadets come to attention and salute, and a bugler plays taps... as the flags are set aflame.

## BINGO REPORT

Date	Income	Prizes	Expenses	3%	Profit
08/02/11	\$3524.00	\$2133.00	\$25.00	40.98	\$1325.02
08/09/11	3292.00	2140.00	0.00	34.56	1117.44
08/16/11	2820.00	2036.00	0.00	23.52	760.48
08/23/11	2938.00	2008.00	25.00	27.90	902.10
08/30/11	2959.00	2613.00	0.00	8.88	287.17
09/06/11	3006.00	2046.00	0.00	28.80	931.20
09/13/11	2474.00	1932.00	0.00	16.26	525.74
09/20/11	2730.00	1988.00	0.00	22.26	719.74
09/27/11	2513.00	1951.00	0.00	9.17	296.61

## BINGO WORKERS

- Albert Alteri.
- Stu Bailey.
- Steve Campese.
- Phil Capraro.
- Frank Cassella.
- Chuck Dailey.
- Pat Dodge.
- Jim George.
- Jim Haggerty.
- Frank Jakubowski.
- Al/Peggy Kohler.
- Jack LaPaglia.
- Rich Maloon.
- Dave Manore.
- Jim McGuire.
- Tom O'Toole.
- Tony Palladino.
- Dan/Virginia Pieloch.
- Scott Sebastian.
- Steve Terzini.
- Chris Urban.
- Paul Wojcik.
- Jerry/Grace Welp.
- Vin Zaleski.

**CALLERS AND CASHIERS ARE NEEDED!**

**AUG. DONATIONS:** \$1300 Building Fund.

**AUG. EXPENSES:** \$483.29 First Call (PJ Green), \$24.95 Clemente, \$621.85 water, \$186.11 trash, \$186.64 trash.

**SEPT. DONATIONS:** \$75 Utica Unit, \$100 Muscular Dystrophy.

**SEPT. EXPENSES:** \$256.22 Clemente.

## VA HOTLINE AIMS TO HELP HOMELESS AND AT-RISK VETS

In 2009, nearly 149,000 veterans spent at least one night in an emergency shelter or transitional housing program. That statistic spurred the Department of Veterans Affairs' mission to end veteran homelessness by 2015.

VA has transformed its programs for at-risk veterans and their families by providing comprehensive, coordinated access to health care, housing, employment, education, job counseling and training, and justice system assistance and benefits. VA expects to spend \$3.4 billion this year to provide health care to at-risk veterans and \$800 million in specialized homeless programs. In October, VA kicked off a nationwide campaign to involve individuals at the local level in 28 events across the country (including Canandaigua, NY on Oct. 12).

The events were intended to raise awareness of the VA



Department of Veterans Affairs

Hotline for At-Risk Vets  
**(877) 424-3838**

benefits and community-based support and resources that veterans and their families have earned. They include health, housing, employment, and job training, not only for veterans who are homeless, but also for those who are at risk of losing their housing. Veterans and their families and friends can access these services through a one-stop hotline, at (877) 424-3838. It is staffed by trained counselors 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The American Legion encourages Legionnaires to get involved by spreading the word. If you know someone who is homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless, encourage them to make the call.

-- *The American Legion National Headquarters*



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY

## MEMBERSHIP QUOTA IS 219

BY ROSE A. CONIGLIO

Our quote for the 2011-2012 year is 219.

As of this writing, we have 125 paid members. Our percentage of quota is 47.08 %.

If you pay your dues by Nov. 11, you are entitled to attend the Early Bird Dinner on Nov. 18. If you haven't paid your dues for 2011, I cannot accept your 2012 dues.

Please send your dues to:

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

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- Marie E. Dodge
- Elizabeth Douglass
- Ann Cox
- Debra L. Cox

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Members,

November is upon us with beautiful leaves, brisk mornings and chilly nights. November is a very busy month.

Election Day is November 8th so don't forget to exercise your right to vote.

Veteran's Day is November 11th. In 1918 on the 11th hour of the 11th day in the 11th month, the world celebrated and rejoiced.

Thanksgiving is on November 24th. This is a day of thanks for the blessings of the year and all the food and desserts that we eat with family and friends. Let's not forget the turkey with all the trimmings.

I like to wish everyone a blessed and safe Thanksgiving.

*Yours in service.*



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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 ~*

### SYMPATHY

Cynthia Pinto

### GET WELL SOON

Eleanor King  
Nancy Nudo



**Past Auxiliary Unit 229 presidents were honored at the October dinner-meeting. From left: Rosaria Haggerty, Gail Greco, Rose Coniglio, Rosetta LaPagia, Theresa Jensen.**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORT

Our unit made another \$100 donation to the Veteran's Outreach Center food pantry. Just in the month of October, our members volunteered more than 329 hours, and donated over \$1,100 to various charities, veterans' causes, and senior citizen aid. The value of their time alone totals more than \$6,900! Keep up the great work ladies!

*Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPagia, chair*

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

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members and local communities.  
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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.*

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## LEGIONNAIRES HELP SPRUCE UP SCULPTURE OF AMERICAN FLAG

Legionnaires noticed that the U.S. flag sculpture at Oriskany and John Streets in Utica was suffering from several years of neglect and wasn't lit up at night. So they did something about it, contacting the city and volunteering their time to scrape and paint the base of the sculpture on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

Provost Post 1686 Commander Edward Jackson, Provost member Marron McCleod, and Utica Post 229 chaplain and law-and-order chair Paul Wojcik took on the task of scraping and painting the sculpture of the American flag "to brighten it up."

"The mayor (Dave Roefaro) and Dave Short, supervisor for parks, offered to help with the clean-up, and plans were made to spruce up the area in the spring," reports Wojcik.

"The lights at the base of the flag are being repaired to light up the flag during evening hours. Paint, primer and brushes were donated by Troy Williams of Sherwin Williams.

"With a little work and TLC, this area will shine and represent the spirit of our community toward our veterans. The American Legion would like to thank all those who helped make this project happen."

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

RHETTARAY BAILEY  
ANTHONY BASTEDO  
GLORIA BROADBENT  
MATHEW BROOKS  
SUSAN HOGG  
KELLY HOGG  
DAVID JEFFALONE  
TIM KOHLBRENNER  
RAYMOND OLIVER  
CHARLIE PICCIONE  
MIKE RIZZO  
ROBERT SHEVLIN  
JASON TUTTLE  
STEVE URBAN  
WILLIAM URBAN JR  
VALARIE VASHIO  
KEN WARD  
ARTHUR WASSERMAN  
JOSEPH WERNER