



THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST CALL!

UTICA POST 229

ANTHONY PALLADINO, COMMANDER

OCTOBER 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!

Frank Sarasay
Vincent Cannistra
Lynn Laracuent
Geary Sheeran

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OCTOBER

2	Dinner Dance, 5:30 pm
5	Bingo, 6:30 pm
6	Bloodmobile, noon-5
7	Post Meeting, 7:30 pm Post Dinner, 6:15 pm
11	VVA, 1 pm
12	Bingo, 6:30 pm
16	DAV, noon
18	DAV Service Van
19	DAV Service Van
19	Bingo, 6:30 pm
20	Bloodmobile, noon-5
21	Executive Board, 7:30
26	Bingo, 6:30 pm
30	Halloween Party, 12-2

NOVEMBER

2	Bingo, 6:30 pm
3	Bloodmobile, noon-5
4	Post Meeting, 7:30 pm Post Dinner, 6:15 pm

World Traveler and World War II Veteran AT 97, HARRER IS COUNTY'S SENIOR LEGIONNAIRE OF YEAR

Utica Post 229 member George Harrer of Utica is the Oneida County Senior Legionnaire of the Year. He was honored at the September general membership meeting, where Commander Tony Palladino presented the award on behalf of Oneida County American Legion.

The award recognizes Harrer, 97, as the oldest living Legionnaire in the county. In addition to being active in the Legion, Harrer has been an active traveler, even self-publishing a travel autobiography, "Horses to Uno: 70 Years of Word Wide Travel."

Continued on Page 2



George Harrer



Adjutant Jim George and Commander Tony Palladino presented long-time member Walter Fisher with a Legion life membership at the September meeting.

KICK UP YOUR HEELS OCT. 2

Want to enjoy an evening of good food, good company, and kick up your heels at the same time? Then come to the post dinner dance on Saturday, Oct. 2.

Boasting a roast beef buffet, the affair gets underway with hors d'oeuvres at 5:30, reports Chair Rose Coniglio. Dinner is at 7; open bar, 5:30 to midnight; dancing, 8 to midnight with music by Sonny Farrar. Price is \$18 per person.



COMMANDER TONY PALLADINO welcomed Oneida County Clerk Sandra DePerno on Sept. 2, when she and Deputy Clerk Brenda Breen signed up and made discount cards for 19 members. The cards (good at a number of stores and restaurants) are available to vets who file their DD 214 with the county. DePerno, whose parents were both War World II veterans, said that since July 1, they've signed up nearly 1,200 veterans for discount cards. They plan to be at the post again on Monday, Nov. 8, from 3:30 to 6 p.m.



Legion membership is annual, with the Legion year running from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. The 2011 membership campaign started in August, with the goal of having dues paid prior to Jan. 1. Per national membership policy, if dues are not paid by Jan. 1, the member becomes delinquent; and if still not paid by Feb. 1, membership is suspended (with no privilege except that of reinstatement by vote and dues paid). Such suspension continues until June 30, at which time the member is dropped from the roll by constitutional mandate, and membership is forfeited.

Please do not let this happen to you. Get your dues in NOW. Be an **EARLY BIRD**: Pay dues by Nov. 11, and you will be invited free of charge to our Early Bird dinner held later in November.

We're looking for suggestions and comments from our new members. You may email them to info@uticapost229.org, or send them by "snail mail."

By the way, our assigned quota for 2011 is 649 members, but our personal goal is 700.

For God and country.



COMMANDER'S CALL

ANTHONY PALLADINO

Just a reminder that Nov. 2 is election day. Be a good citizen and exercise your right to vote. And on Nov. 7, you can enjoy an extra hour of sleep as that's when daylight saving time ends.

ON VETERANS DAY, Nov. 11, Post 229 is coordinating the laying of wreaths at monuments around town. Coffee and doughnuts will be available at the post start-

ing at 9:30 a.m. There will be buses available, which will leave the post at 10:15 a.m. We will also honor the deceased Vietnam vets from Oneida County when we return to the post, just before our luncheon.

PLEASE GET YOUR 2011 dues in so we can save on postage. If you renew before Nov. 11, you can enjoy a free early bird dinner.

IF YOU HAVE any worn US flags, bring them to the post. We will be disposing of them at a flag retirement next month.

YOU CAN nominate individuals and companies for Americanism awards. Contact Len Lascala for details.

REMEMBER our troops in harm's way.

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

GEORGE HARRER *Continued from Page 1*

This penchant for travel and writing seems to run in the family. A distant relative, Heinrich Harrer, was the Austrian mountain climber who became a tutor and friend to the Dalai Lama just before China's takeover of Tibet. Heinrich's 1953 autobiography, "*Seven Years in Tibet*," propelled him to worldwide fame and was made into a movie in 1997 starring Brad Pitt.

George made his first trip around the world before World War II – traveling by train, and even bicycle, through China, India and Egypt (where he slept outside next to the Sphinx) and across Europe, even Nazi Germany. It was during that Nazi era when in 1938 his relative Heinrich became one of the first to climb the formidable north face of the Eiger in the Swiss Alps.

Heinrich, who died in 2006 at 93, spent much of his life

promoting the cause of the Tibetan people. As it turns out, George notes, his daughter, Jane Clemmons, and her husband also have been helping the Tibetans -- by printing documents and books for them that pre-date China's takeover of their country.

Unlike Heinrich, who regretted having joined the Nazi party in his youth, George is a native Utican who served as a personnel specialist with the U.S. Army and then the Army Air Corps (which became the U.S. Air Force). He wanted to fly, George relates, but they wouldn't let him because of his poor eyesight. After the war, he achieved his dream, earning a pilot's license on the GI Bill.

George's grandfather, Charles, fled Germany as a boy to avoid serving in the Kaiser's army and came to Utica where his brother was living. This brother, George's great uncle Bill, also wrote a

book, "*With Drum and Gun and '61*," about his experience in the Civil War, starting out as a drummer boy and working his way up to the rank of captain. George's father, Garfield Harrer, volunteered for the Spanish-American War, serving in the Philippines in 1898.

George and his family were treated to dinner at the post in conjunction with the award presentation.

Even though "all my friends are dead and I don't have anyone to talk to anymore," he says he's still an optimist.

"We went to the opera at Glimmer Glass this summer and I had to climb the stairs to the balcony with a cane and a bum leg. That's what I call an optimist!"

BINGO!

Bingo volunteers are needed Tuesday nights. Contact Jim George at 749-3058.



NATIONAL GUARD HONORS DRISCOLL

Ben Driscoll, one of the younger members of Utica Post 229 and son of First Vice Commander John Driscoll, was honored by the National Guard Bureau Aug. 25 for outstanding performance.

Following a visit by a National Guard inspector from

Washington, D.C., Driscoll was summoned to New York Army National Guard headquarters in Latham to be recognized for writing an outstanding maintenance SOP for the Utica-based 107th MP Company. He is a PFC and computer operator with the 107th.



Jimmie Foster
National Commander

THE FOCUS THIS YEAR: SAVED

Newly elected American Legion National Commander Jimmie Foster of Alaska expressed thanks in Milwaukee Sept. 2 after delegates to the 92nd National Convention made him the leader of the nation's largest veterans organization. Now, he wants thanks expressed to as many veterans as possible during the 2010-2011 Legion year.

"My motto or slogan is the word SAVED, meaning 'Serving America's Veterans Every Day,'" Foster said during his acceptance speech.

"I don't care how you do it, but I want you to ensure that you take care of our veterans in any way possible. It does not have to be something monumental. Just say, 'Thank you for serving our country.' That will work."



PAUL WOJCIK

Remember me when flowers bloom
Early in the spring
Remember me on sunny days in the
Fun that summer brings
Remember me in the fall as you walk
Through the leaves of gold
And in the winter time remember me
in the stories that are told
But most of all remember
Each Day right from the start
I will be forever near
For I live within your heart

REST IN PEACE

Edward J. Murphy
Rocco V. Motto

SICK CALL

Robert Voce
Stanley Zebrowski

SIGN UP YOUR GOBLINS FOR HALLOWEEN FUN

Don't forget to sign up children for the Oct. 30th Halloween Party at the post. A sign-up sheet is in the post bar.

The fun and food start at noon and continue to 2 p.m., reports Chair Eleanor King.

Besides goodies galore, there will be clowns and other entertainment. Children from newborn to 13 years of age are welcome.



MONTHLY DINNER

The monthly dinner preceding the general membership meeting is open to Utica Post members only (legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion).

Starting in October, money will be collected at the door as you enter. Thank you.

-- Jim Haggerty, treasurer

EVENING FOR PAST COMMANDERS

The October dinner meeting on Thursday, Oct. 7, will be an evening to honor past commanders. Dinner starts at 6:15. Past commanders should RSVP Frank Cassella at 868-7364.

MEETING DATES

Executive Board

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

General Meeting First Thursday

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

GIVE BLOOD?

It's not like we're asking for blood...oh, wait, we are, and it's for the American Red Cross bloodmobile, at Utica Post 229 every first and third Wednesday of the month from noon to 5 p.m.

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT REMEMBERS RAY SINNOTT



Post 229 Commander Anthony Palladino offers remarks at the opening ceremony of the softball tournament dedicated to the memory of former Post Commander Raymond Sinnott. Looking on are, from left, Utica Mayor David Roefaro,

Assemblywoman RoAnn Destito, Congressman Michael Arcuri, Carol Sinnott and daughter, Tammy; VVA Chapter 944 President Thomas Buono, and daughter Gabriel. (Photos by JOE FRACCOLA)

Opening Ceremony Features Remarks By VVA, Post 229 and Political Leaders

The 14th Kid Memorial Foundation Softball Tournament took place Aug. 21-22 at Wankel Field and was dedicated to the memory of Vietnam veteran and former Post 229 commander Raymond Sinnott, who died earlier this year.

The co-ed tournament was organized by the Sinnott family and volunteers, with proceeds benefitting Vietnam Veterans of America Utica Chapter 944.

The opening ceremony was at noon on Saturday, Aug. 21, featuring color guards from Utica Post 229 and Notre Dame NJROTC. Thomas Buono, president of VVA Chapter 944, led off the remarks, and Jessica Lawrence sang the National Anthem.

Congressman Mike Arcuri presented a flag flown over the Capitol to Ray Sinnott's widow, Carol Sinnott. Also speaking were Assembly-

Utica Mayor Dave Roefaro.

Post 229 Commander Anthony Palladino offered remarks, and post color guard captain Mike Cavanaugh presented a plaque to the Sinnott family.

With final remarks from Buono, taps was played by Vin Zaleski from Post 229. A ceremonial first pitch was thrown by Carol Sinnott and

play resumed.

Saturdays games were completed, but Sundays games were played in a shorten version due to steady downpours. The winning team was Uncle Joe's from Ithaca, NY and the second place team was Steinbrenners from Watertown, NY. The winner of the raffle was Steve Coleman from Utica.



Utica Post 229 Color Guard

RAY SINNOTT AND 14TH KID MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

By THOMAS BUONO

Ray Sinnott was a proud Marine, and veteran. He was past commander of Post 229 and a member of its Color Guard. He was active in Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 944 and a member of the Honor Guard. He was a member of VFW Post 9591, 40/8 Voiture 92, DAV Chapter 82, and Marine Corps League.

Ray's family formed the "14th Kid Memorial Foundation". Ray came from a family of 15 children, and Ray was the 14th child. That is how Ray became known as "The 14th Kid", which the license plate on his vehicle indicated.

The Co-Ed Softball Tournament was organized by his daughter Tammy and other family members and friends. VVA Chapter 944 was asked to help with an Opening Ceremony and other functions throughout the games.

'All I Had to Do Was Ask,' Bowen Says After Recruiting 5 in One Day

New York Department has a 2011 membership goal of 136,700 Legionnaires, Department Membership Chair Mike Bowen told a membership workshop for posts in Districts 5 and 6 on Aug. 15.

To achieve that goal, the department is asking each of the state's 937 posts to increase the membership roll by one (over 2010).

In his third year as membership chair, Bowen said he was pleased at the turnout for the series of workshops being held around the state. In fact, some 70-80 people were at the District 5-6 workshop at Post 787 in Cicero, "the largest" he has seen for the region during his tenure.

Attracting new members is really a simple process, he said. In fact, he recruited 68 people himself last year, including five on Veterans Day. "All I had to do was ask."

Prospects are everywhere – your favorite stores, gas station, restaurant. Ask the

prospect if he or she has served in the military, and if yes, ask: "What American Legion post do you belong to?" If he or she is not a member, ask about his/her branch of service and when he/she served, and extend the invitation to join.

With 2.3 million members (4 million including Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion members), the Legion is the largest wartime veterans organization, and one of the most effective in fighting for veterans rights and benefits with the U.S. Congress and the Veterans Administration. Legion Posts are a friend to the military, promoter of patriotic values, and huge supporter of youth and charitable programs in local communities.

Bowen urged legionnaires to always carry a membership application in their wallet or purse. Once filled out, simply turn it in and let the post follow up with the new

member for proof of honorable service.

One attendee mentioned how some prospects were turned off by the "bar," saying they weren't big drinkers anymore.

"The Legion is not about bars," Bowen said. Half of the 937 posts in the state do not have bars, he noted, adding that posts need to get the word out that they're about helping veterans and being involved in the community.

Some attendees shared their successes and challenges, including a woman who related how she joined the Legion when her post held an open house for women veterans.

Bowen announced Department awards for those who do a good job of recruiting. A pin will be awarded to legionnaires who recruit five new members, or who are able to transfer five members not assigned to a local post (from the Department's 001 Post). A Top Ten award goes



W. Michael Bowen
Department Membership Chair

to those who sign up ten new or reinstated members.

Utica Post 229 had most of its membership team at the workshop, including Chair Jack LaPaglia, Anthony Palladino, Jim Haggerty, Frank Cassella, Chris Urban and Bob Stronach.

HISTORY: IT ALL BEGAN IN 1919...

In 1919 members of the American Expeditionary Force convened a caucus in Paris, France from March 15 to 17 to form a patriotic veterans organization. That was followed up in May with the St. Louis Caucus, where the name American Legion was officially adopted.

On July 15, 1919, after many World War I veterans returned to civilian life, a group of them met in Utica to form a local post. After approval of the application on Aug. 20, 1919, Utica Post 229 became a reality.

The post's first meeting, with about

150 members, took place Aug. 28 in the old Infantry Armory on Rutger Street. Chester W. Davis, a local attorney who was a major in the 27th Division, was elected president (commander). The activity of the new post went into high gear as members competed to serve on various committees.

At the next meeting on Sept. 11, 1919 -- just five days before the U.S. Congress chartered the Legion -- membership soared to more than 200, and by January, the post boasted more than 500 members.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO BOWL FOR POST 229

Interested in bowling?
How about joining the Utica Post 229 Bowling Team.

Please contact Rich Maloon at 601-3224.

You must be a current paid member of the Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

NOTES FROM THE COMMUNITY

THANK YOU for your service to the community. I felt honored that you attended the NJROTC awards ceremony.

The scholarship I received will be used to buy a laptop for college.

Thank you for your continued support to this great program.

-- *Daily Grerreno*

THANK YOU for the award honoring my citizenship and community service. The award (will) help me buy a few books next year in college.

-- *John Stratton*

THANK YOU for your generous support of the 2010 E.J. Herrmann Invitational.

-- *E.J. Herrmann Race Committee*

ON BEHALF of the Faxton-St Luke's Healthcare Foundation, I wanted to thank you for your wonderful generosity to the Children's Miracle Network for two years. Your gift of \$200 makes miracles happen for so many children we care for at Faxton-St. Luke's. Thank you again for your generosity.

-- *Eileen Pronobis*

VETS PARADE: I wanted to invite you to participate in and spread the word about the 2010 CNY Veterans Parade on Nov. 6 at noon in Downtown Syracuse.

This parade usually draws several thousand residents to watch as more than 40 veterans' organizations, local military units and marching bands parade down

the street to give thanks to our Veterans.

Please feel free to email or call me with any questions.

Thank you,

Diana LaMattina Abdella

Communications Coordinator

Assemblyman William Magnarelli, D-120

"Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom. That our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us..."

-- *WWII Army Nurse*



Women Veterans At 1.8 Million

The total Veteran population in the United States and Puerto Rico, as of September 2009, was approximately 23 million. The population of women Veterans numbered 1,824,198.

States with the largest number of women Veterans were California, Texas, Florida, Virginia and Georgia. **New York has 65,116 women vets.**

BINGO REPORT

Date	Income	Prizes	Expenses	3%	Profit
8/3/10	\$2840.00	\$2048.00	0.00	23.76	768.24
8/10/10	2751.00	2005.00	313.00	12.97	419.43
8/17/10	3063.00	2078.00	0.00	29.55	955.45
8/24/10	2818.00	2104.00	0.00	21.42	692.58
8/31/10	3309.00	2222.00	50.00	31.11	1005.89

BINGO WORKERS

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

PITCH LEAGUE, ANYONE?

Interested in starting a pitch league?

There is a sign-up sheet in the post bar.

You must be a member of the Legion, the Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion (SAL).

DAV MEETS ON 3RD SAT., VAN HERE IN OCT.

Disabled American Veterans, Leo B. Wheeler/Stars and Stripes Chapter 82 meets at Post 229 at noon on the third Saturday of the month.

DAV National Service Officers will be at Post 229 Oct. 18-19 to help vets file VA claims or check on claim status.

VVA MEETS ON 2ND MONDAY

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

DONATIONS: Scholarship \$75.00, Baseball \$422.62.

EXPENSES: Garbage \$176.00, Flowers \$51.84, Water Bill \$457.17, First Call \$671.97.



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY

Renew Now

By ROSE A. CONIGLIO

I did not receive a membership quota for 2011 yet. Your 2011 dues are now due. If you haven't paid for 2010 yet, I cannot accept your 2011 dues.

So far I have 15 paid members for 2011, and I would like to welcome these new members:

- Sharon H. Chortine.
- Christine C. Urban.
- Virginia Hardt.

PLEASE SEND your dues to:

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Members,

October is **Breast Cancer Month** and let us not forget to have a Mammogram. I hope all our members have had their screening. This is very important.

I WANT TO thank everyone that helped at the September 18th Oneida County American Legion Auxiliary luncheon. You make me proud to belong to this great organization.

THE CHILDREN'S Halloween Party will be Saturday, October 30, from 12 to 2 p.m. There will be clowns, food and fun. A sign-up sheet will be in the bar. Ages newborn to 13 years of age are welcome. **Eleanor King** is chairing this event, and Auxiliary members will be baking cupcakes and volunteering.

Let's have a good turnout.



Auxiliary officers, from left: Third Vice President Peggy Kohler, Second Vice President Pat Dodge, First Vice President Eleanor King, President Theresa Jensen, Secretary

Rosetta LaPaglia, Treasurer Rosaria Haggerty, Chaplain Gail Greco, and Historian Donna Wojcik. Not pictured: Sgt-at-Arms Diane Capirci.



AUTUMN IS A TAPESTRY

Autumn is a tapestry
Hung on sunny days

With warp and woof of luster

In shades of red and maize
More vibrant than bright hangings

In a great museum of yore,
Awesome and so wondrous,
One couldn't ask for more.

This tapestry of beauty is for
all to view,

A change that's quite beguiling
After summer has its due.

The tapestry soon fadeth,
So let's enjoy its stay

Amd marvel at the artistry
That hangs each autumn day.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

goes out to:
Donna Wojcik ,
for her father,
and Nancy Nudo,
for her husband.

SYMPATHY
Martha Tamer

NATIONAL PRESIDENT INVOKES 'THE POWER OF ONE'

Carlene Ashworth, of Pasadena, Texas, was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 90th National Convention in Milwaukee Aug. 28–Sept. 2.

For her theme as national president, she has adopted, **"The Power of One."**

"One thought, one word, one smile, one attitude, one action--one idea can launch

a transformation; the collective power of one Auxiliary can change the world," Ashworth told the convention.

"As we begin our 91st year of service, we will continue to focus on our mission and our programs," Ashworth said. "For



years we have been involving ourselves in many great programs, but they are not our programs. They are not part of the mission of our organization. Everything we do should involve,

in some way, our veterans, our military and their families."

Ashworth encouraged Auxiliary members to return to the organization's roots by involving the community in activities that will make them more aware of who members are and what they do.

"Become that center of activity once again just as those American Legion posts and Auxiliary units were in the early years, and the members will come to you," she said.

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

**Address Service
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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.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO JOIN US?



ADVOCATING FOR VETERANS. MAKING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER.

We foster citizenship, character-building, leadership.

We sponsor youth, education & charitable programs.

We donate nearly \$30,000 a year to the community.

We volunteer an untold number of hours to causes.

Take youth, for example. Did you know we sponsor:

- Notre Dame High School Jr. ROTC.
- Proctor High School Jr. ROTC.
- Junior shooting sports, with indoor air rifle range.
- Legion Baseball (2010 District V champions).
- Boys and Girls State. • Oratorical excellence.
- Boy Scouts of America. • Numerous scholarships.
- Four different Little Leagues. • Pop Warner Football.
- Children's holiday parties.

Just to name a few.

If you are honorably discharged, or serving on active duty, or in the Reserve or Guard, then you could be eligible to become a proud member of our American Legion team.

UticaPost229.org

Contact our membership chair:
Jack.LaPaglia@uticapost229.org

315.723.2239

