

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication
Dept. of New York,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
of the United States



April/May 2007

"We honor our warriors because they are brave and because by seeing death on the battlefield they come to respect the greatness of life."
-Winnebago Elder

Volume 26, Issue 4

Donald Doell Commander

The first ever combined conference is behind us. The Mid-Winter Legislative and the Spring Gold Chevron Ball for Service Officers was combined into one conference this year. The conference was a successful one, with many comrades and sisters attending.

The Service Officers' Raffle and the Journal raised much-needed funds for our Veterans' Service Program. Thanks to PSC Hal Burke and State Inspector Ed Bassett for their work on the raffle and journal, respectively.

Legislative Chairman PSC Karl Rohde and Vice Chairman Cliff Lockwood, as well as their Committee, are to be congratulated for their work on this year's legislative agenda.

Many of our programs are complete for this year. Thanks to all who were a part of the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy program. VOD winner Ben Peak had the "experience of a lifetime" in Washington, DC. The Eagle Scout program is ongoing, thanks to Chairman Ron Mironchek. The last program I have to mention is membership. The Department of New York is only at 91% of our 2006 membership. That's over 7,000 members short of the 82,745 that were paid in 2006. A shortage of that many members

will adversely affect our budget and our ability to adequately provide services and fund our programs. We need to actively seek those members who have not paid for this year; and certainly, we need to attract new members. The Department has nationally trained membership recruiters who are willing to help, please seek them out and utilize what they have learned for your Post.

Many of you know that I lost my long time friend and companion, Margaret (Peggy) Regan this past December. It was a very difficult time for me. I don't know how I would have made it without the help and support of the comrades and sisters of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I want to sincerely thank those of you who were there for your support. I also am grateful to all who sent a message of condolence and sympathy during that very difficult time.

The year is quickly coming to an end, the Convention will be here before you know it. Make plans to be in Binghamton from June 20 to the 24th. I have a feeling it's going to be a great convention. I hope to see you there.

Loyally,
Don Doell



Commander Doell greets guests at the Service Officers' reception in Albany. L-R Tom Todaro, Buffalo Service Officer; Penny and Commander Doell.

Robert Barnhart Senior Vice Commander

Comrades:

I'd like to thank everyone for the great turnout for the State Legislative/Spring Conference, which was held in Albany February 24th through the 27th. I was impressed with the amount of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members who went on Monday to the LOB building to present our legislative programs to our Assemblymen and State Senators. They were particularly impressed that our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners came along with us. What a great representation of our youth to these politicians! For future years, I would like to make this experience a custom-

— SENIOR VICE, continued on page 2



R-L: Department Sr. Vice Commander Robert "Bob" Barnhart entertains National Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief George J. Lisicki in Bob's hospitality room.

Jack L. Haight, Jr. Junior Vice Commander

Spring is now upon us. Good weather is right around the corner. Our year is nearly over, and now is the time to put forth that extra effort to get those last few members to get 100%, also, to get those reports submitted. Remember, National Director of Membership Jim Rowoldt will send you a check for \$100 for ten new or reinstated members.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief George Lisicki has stated that next year the Boy Scout Award will be back in the National Programs. Let's get as many Eagle Scouts as possible into the program. Hopefully, National will keep the program going.



L-R: Department Jr. Vice Jack Haight and wife, Charlette, are greeted by Department Commander Don Doell.

Post 7223



Left to right: Andrew Purdy, "Monte" Montello, Navy Commander Joseph (Jake) Schneider, Richard Peterson, VFW Commander Andrew Winter, Suffolk County Police Sgt. John Jax and Vincent Ricciuti.

On Dec. 28, 2006, members of VFW Post 7223 of Amityville, NY, donated 250 phone cards to Commander Schneider of "The Navy Operational Support Center," Amityville, NY. The commanding officer will distribute 200 cards to appropriate service personnel overseas. The other 50 cards will go to state-side service people, including hospitalized personnel.


In appreciation of the VFW's donation, Commander Schneider presented an Iraqi flag to the "John J. Kreyer VFW Post 7223" of Amityville. The flag is of the newly formed Iraqi government.

Suffolk County Police Sgt. John Jax assisted in the ceremony and is a member of the Suffolk County Police Veterans Association. Sgt. Jax graciously offered the members of VFW Post 7223 membership in the Police Veterans Association.

Photographer:

John Brunato



State Editor:

William "Doc" Schmitz

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2006-2007 State Officers

- Commander:**
Donald Doell
- Sr. Vice Commander:**
Robert Barnhart
- Jr. Vice Commander:**
Jack Haight
- Judge Advocate:**
Phillip Schiffman, PSC
- Surgeon:**
Allan Davenport
- Quartermaster:**
Harold Burke, Jr.
- Adjutant:**
Art Koch, III, PSC
- Chaplain:**
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
- State Chief of Staff:**
Jack Veazy
- Inspector:**
Ed Bassett
- Patriotic Instructor:**
Harold "Mick" Learor

POLICY

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All members and other interested parties are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, letters to the Editor, or any other copy of pictures for publication on subjects relevant to veterans' issues and concerns. *New York State Overseas Veteran* reserves the right to edit material for length or grammar and to reject any material that is deemed not to meet current editorial needs.

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Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr.
PSC, Quartermaster

Comrades,
Spring is in the air, and soon the flowers will bloom as we begin the last quarter of our VFW year. Many things have taken place since the last newsletter that you should be aware of.

I am pleased to report that the Department Finances are stable, and we are in the final phases of aligning our investments to ensure the future financial stability of the Department. Currently, we are within budget overall, and it appears that we will be within budget at the end of this year. The financial strategies, overview and safeguards that have been instituted during my tenure as State Quartermaster have resulted in the Department's positive financial performance. All of the uncertainty and miscommunications related to the Department finances and what funds we have and do not have, has been clarified and that information is presented to the members of the Council of Administration quarterly. Since taking office, I provide Quarterly Financial reports to the Department officers and Council of Administration for their information and so that they can disseminate it to their District, Council and Post membership. I will continue to provide these reports to provide the financial disclosure that the Department Line Officers and Council of Administration have come to demand. The Department's current investment strategy provides security and reasonable safe growth. I hope that our District Commanders have provided the financial information that they have been receiving this year to the County Council Commanders and the members that are interested in the Department Finances.

The membership had much to do with the success of the finan-

cial changes. By supporting the changes required to improve our finances in a positive direction at the Legislative Conference, I recommended to the Council of Administration to increase the daily per diem from \$50 to \$60. By a motion properly made and seconded and passed, this increase was approved and was effective immediately.

I know that we speak of this often, but our Department membership is not good. We need everyone's help to reach out to those comrades that have not paid their dues. At this writing (4/2/07), the Department is down about 6,000 annual members. Now is the time for each Post Commander, Post Quartermaster and Post Membership Chairman to act. We ask that you call those in the Post who have not paid their dues. If they are ill or need assistance, the Post can pay their dues from the Post Relief Fund. If you cannot access your Posts' information from the National Membership Program, please contact me; and I will get that information for you.

I appreciate the support I have received from the Line Officers, comrades and Past State Commanders of the Department of New York during my tenure as State Quartermaster. It has been my pleasure to serve as Department Quartermaster since June 2005. As the State Quartermaster, I review and approve all disbursements, write all checks, make all deposits, and administer all of the financial accounts of the Department. More stringent controls have been placed on the Department finances during my tenure, which has resulted in better cash flow management and accountability. The Department has not had to draw against the line of credit or withdraw funds from our investments during my tenure. Conversely, we have had the opportunity to add funds to

the Department Investments this past year. Currently, the level of effort to perform all of the Quartermaster's duties requires me to be in Headquarters approximately 18 to 24 hours each week. The performance of the Quartermaster's duties is accomplished at **no cost** to the Department of New York, as I do not receive a salary or pension benefits for performing this work. It is my

intention to seek the office of State Quartermaster again at the June 2007 State Convention. Therefore, I ask for your continued support again at this year's State Convention. Once again, thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as the Department Quartermaster.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Harold "Hal" Burk, Jr. escorts his wife, Carol to the Services Officers' Ball.

Thank You

To All Comrades and Sisters:

It has taken me a while to write this, and I think I have finally come up with the right words. At this time, my family and I want to thank everyone for their support of Dorothy and our family. Since September 2005 when Dorothy was diagnosed, she knew she had the support of so many while she fought the disease.

She told me often that one of the things that gave her strength to fight was her years as District 8 President. She would not let the cancer stop her from fulfilling her duties. In fact it gave her strength to go through the treatment. The cards and love from her sisters and comrades kept her and me going. It is times like these that you really know that the VFW and Ladies Auxil-

aries are a family. I know we have thanked everyone before for their donations to the fund. It helped with the cost of going back and forth to Buffalo. At this time I also want to thank all who donated to Hope Lodge in Buffalo. The Lodge is operated by the American Cancer Society and provides cancer patients and their families a no cost place to stay during treatments. The men and ladies who operate came to know and love Dorothy just like you. She had a way of doing that. Again, I want to thank you; and even though she is not with us, I know she is up there watching over us and waiting for the day when we will be with her again.

Sincerely,
Allan Fox and Family

SENIOR VICE, continued from page 1

ary practice for our winners.

The National Legislative Conference was held in Washington, DC, March 3rd through the 6th. The Legislative Chairman Karl Rohde, myself, and Jr. Vice Commander Jack Haight spent Tuesday at the Congressional Building meeting with Congressmen and women presenting our legislative programs for both National and State. In addition, we met staff from our two Senators Chuck Shumer and Hilary Clinton regarding these legislative programs. You also need to know that we discussed the hot topic in the news regarding the abhorrent conditions that our returning veterans are experiencing at the Walter Reed Hospital. They have advised us that there is a full-scale investigation going on

concerning this.

As I stated in the last newsletter, our participation in legislative programs is a key part in making our representatives aware of the fact that YOU are a veteran and that they are aware of what veterans' needs are.

Regarding membership, we are now eight months into the membership year, and we need to work hard to make 100% this year for Commander Doell. Everyone needs to pull together to secure the dues of our outstanding members and to be persistent in signing up new ones - particularly those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

I'm looking forward to the June Convention and seeing you all there. I also want to thank you, again, for your support throughout the years.

We're Too Small Of A Post

The Department VFW 1-518-463-7427. Let him know when, where, and what our function, they don't even know you would like; you can even request a certain person. The small of a Post; they're too busy. WRONG, WRONG, WRONG, will be sent, based on their availability and schedule. A Past State Commander might be asked to represent the Department at your function, but the bottom line is you have to let them know; you write or e-mail the Department Adjutant Art Koch, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204. E-mail: stateadjutant@yahoo.com

know you read it! "Doc," neck trying to read this, but I Hope you didn't get a stiff Department Adjutant Art Koch, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204. E-mail: stateadjutant@yahoo.com

Karl Rohde, PSC Legislative Chairman

A Legislative Marathon has just concluded. Starting February 24th with the Albany Legislative Conference and ending with the conclusion of the National Legislative Conference on March 7th. The only problem with this race is the only way we will know who won is based on the legislative changes we will be able to help enact. If there are no positive changes for the veterans or our service members, then the Marathon will have been in vain.

On February 26 Commander Doell, along with Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Lisicki led a delegation of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary to the Hill. The "Martin Van Buren" room was packed to standing room only. Comrades and sisters had to sit on the staircase to get a seat; many stood for the one-hour testimony. A small group of Senators and Assembly members listened to the testimony, and they promised to take the information back to their colleagues. Significant were the remarks of newly appointed Chairman Vincent Leibell. The Senator stated that he had long sought this chairmanship and intended to put the "veteran back in the Veterans' Committee." After the testimony, the Senator asked me, as Legislative Chairman and Senior Chief to be on a 15-minute TV show with him regarding veterans' issues. At the conclusion of the show, he asked the Senior Chief if he could be invited to Washington, DC, to confer with the VFW on veterans' issues. The answer was yes, and a meeting will be set up next fall. The Senator's aggressive manner bodes well for the veterans of New York.

A few comments must be noted regarding the Reception at the Marriott Monday evening. There were some problems with the event. First, there was a seating problem that will be addressed as well as some consideration for the dietary of some of the attendees. People should keep in mind that this is not a 12-course meal. It is a

cocktail party with a small amount of food available. The nature of the event is to mingle with your fellow comrades, sisters and elected officials. The turnout of elected officials was less than anticipated. I will meet with our officers regarding this issue. It is hoped that the lack of participation was not because the various Posts, Councils and Districts failed to invite their Assembly members and Senators. The purchase of a ticket is a small monetary sacrifice for the good it may bring.

The following weekend found Commander Doell leading a delegation to Washington, DC, as our National officers presented the National Agenda to the Joint Senate and House Veterans Committee. Sr. Vice Commander Barnhart, Jr. Vice Commander Haight and I spent from about 11:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. visiting various House members and our two Senators to present our National Agenda. Noteworthy during these visits was a meeting with newly elected Congressman John Hall who is on the House Veterans' Committee, and the fact that for the fourth time in three years, Senator Schumer's staff refused to meet with our delegation. While all the other members of Congress and Senator Clinton's staff will meet with us without an appointment, Schumer's staff claims that they are too busy to meet with us if we do not have an appointment. To add to this, I have always left information with his staff and I have never, I repeat, never been contacted by Schumer or his staff.

Thank you to all who made either meeting and especially to those who made both meetings and thanks for taking the time to meet with your elected officials. That is what we are there for to meet with them and to advance our legislative agenda. If we do not, we will never know the results of this Marathon. All the hard work training for this race will be for naught.



L-R: Karl Rohde, VFW Department Legislative Chairman; Irean Rohde, Ladies Auxiliary Legislative Department Chairman; Department Ladies Auxiliary President Martha Ferens, Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief George J. Lisicki; Senator Bill Larkin; Department Commander Don Doell, and Department Chaplain Rev. Edward R. P. Kane at the 2007 Legislative Conference in Albany.

State Legislative Goals

New York State National Guard and Reserve Units

The events of 9/11 changed the way almost everything is being done in our country. The increased reliance on the National Guard and Reserve units must be addressed. These brave service members must receive entitlements that are commensurate with their service to our country. That means the level of and access to health care must increase, as well as education entitlements. We would like to see our great Empire State taking the lead in this issue.

Expansion of Health Care

Expansion of Health Care such as nursing home facilities, assisted living facilities in supportive housing not now served, along with in-home care.

Homeless Veterans

While the trend is to include Homeless Veterans with the countless homeless that are

under the umbrella of Social Services the fact is that Homeless Veterans are unique. State agencies that have the responsibility to provide care for the homeless must be required to track and monitor homeless veterans in the state and refer them to the VA.

Veterans' Cemetery

There must be an increase in the number veterans of cemeteries in New York. While we have long advocated that one be created near Sampson State Park, there is a need for other cemeteries throughout the state.

Veterans' Real Property Tax Exemption

New York State should eliminate the Attachment of the Equalization Rate to the Veterans' Real Property Tax Exemption, so Veterans can realize the full extent of their entitlement.

Service Officers Training

Part and parcel of our nation being at war is an increase in the number of returning service members who must be processed through the VA and the Division of Veterans Affairs. As a Veterans Service Organization, our Service Officers aid in the process. The state needs to provide monetary assistance to the VFW. Help is needed to train service officers and to help keep our Officers Training School open.

The Flag Amendment

Once more our United States callously voted not to protect the symbol of our great nation. The very foundation of all we, as veterans, fought and died for is represented by our flag. Once more we urge our elected leaders in New York to help us protect the American Flag by supporting the efforts to pass a Flag Amendment. Coupled with

William "Doc" Schmitz Department Special Projects Report

The project ends at the end of June at our Department Convention, and there still is time to make a difference. Several items have been purchased for the Batavia Combat PTSD clinic, and I have been informed that this year's special project has surpassed all other prior projects, thanks to your efforts.

There will be a full report at the Convention and in the paper when we conclude the project to recognize all who have participated. Please don't hesitate to step up to the plate and make a difference in veterans' care and give from the heart.

See you at the Convention.

Thanks, "DOC"



L-R Dennis Sullivan, Special Aide to the Commander; Dr. Terri F. Julian, Director of the Combat PTSD Clinic at the Batavia VA, and William "DOC" Schmitz, Special Projects Chairman, take a break at the informational table.

OTI School for 2007 is Cancelled

May 8, 2007

Comrade Commander and Members,

The Budget Committee for 2007-08 met on May 7, 2007 at Department Headquarters to prepare the annual budget for next year. The committee was once again faced with many challenges to continue funding current programs, new initiatives, employee salaries, employee benefits and the many financial obligations of the Department. Many adjustments had to be made to the budget to accommodate the programs and obligations of the Department for 2007-08. I commended the Committee for not only making the difficult decisions this year but their consideration of impact of their action on the future financial progress of our Department.

One of the Budget Committee's many recommendations is the OTI Program for this year not be funded and therefore cancelled. The reasons behind the decision include first and foremost the cost of the Department to Staff this program and associated costs of funding this program. Additionally, the members of the committee concluded

many of the students have a long history of attendance at the OTI Course and there fewer new students. The cost to the student continues to rise and impacts attendance. The discussion included future OTI programs. The consensus of those assembled was that due to rising cost, the program should be offered every two (2) or three (3) years depending on available funds and membership interest. To fund this program in the future, it was recommended that the incoming Commander work with their State Legislator for a grant to fund this program as has been done in the past. The Jr. Vice Commander, State Surgeon and I concur and agreed with the committee's assessment that the OTI program for 2007 should be cancelled and that the program should be held every two (2) to three (3) years based on funding availability and membership interest. Therefore, the OTI School for 2007 is cancelled.

Sincerely,

Robert Barnhart
Sr. Vice Commander

Service Officers' Raffle 2007 Winners

On behalf of the Department Service Officers and their Staffs, we would like to thank those who were so generous in their donations of prizes. We also thank everyone who supported this year's Service Officers Raffle. The \$9,436 collected all went to support the operations of our Service Offices.

Bob

**Bob Barnhart, Sr. Vice Commander
Co-Chairman**

Hal

**Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr., P.S.C. State Quartermaster
Co-Chairman**



Buddy Poppy 2007 Mid-Winter/Spring Conference Report

Buddy Poppy acquisition by Posts have reached 280,500, which remains 369,500 short of the desired goal of 650,000.

There is no better way to display support for Veterans than properly distributing Buddy Poppies. Wearing a Buddy Poppy displays support for all Veterans while the mere ordering of Buddy Poppies help disabled Veterans receive compensation for constructing these Buddy Poppies.

Money received as donations for distribution of Buddy Poppies is used exclusively for Welfare Fund of Post's usage in assisting needy Veterans. Your assistance in increasing Distribution of Buddy Poppies is essential if our goal of 650,000

Buddy Poppy acquisition is to be accomplished.

In order to allow Department of New York to receive Buddy Poppy credit, all orders must be processed through Department of New York at \$130.00 per 1,000. If in position to receive a White Hat, a minimum of 500 Buddy Poppies are required purchased after all other requirements have been completed.

With Memorial Day approaching, your Post should be planning a day of Buddy Poppy distribution. Remember, if your Post requires Buddy Poppies, the approximate time for delivery is six weeks from day order was processed.

Buy Buddy Poppies in memory of Veterans.

Place	Prize	Winner
1st	\$500 Louis W. Oppenheim Post 1019	Ladies Auxiliary 1314
2nd	\$250 in Memory of Neil "Cuddles" Connolly – The Connolly Family	Ladies Auxiliary 5798
3rd	\$100 in Memory of Warren Barnhart – Robert & Karen Barnhart	Joan Davis George Murray
4th	\$100 Jack and Charlotte Haight	Ladies Auxiliary 2159
5th	\$100 in Memory of Jack Longendyke – Jim and Mary Longendyke	
6th	\$100 in Memory of Harold M. Burke, Sr. – Harold & Carol Burke	Sharon Goodman Chick Daley
7th	\$100 in Memory of Art Koch, Jr. – Art & Brenda Koch	Joel Vanik
8th	\$100 in Memory of Roberta Higgs – Martha & Jim Ferens	Loren & Pamela Wilmot
9th	\$100 in Memory of Ralph A. Fields, KIA WWII – E. James Fields	Roy S. Gibbs Daniel Murtha
10th	\$100 in Memory of Robert G. Choquette, KIA Vietnam – William "Doc" Schmitz	D.A.V. Fred W. Hess
11th	\$100 in Memory of Lyle Young, MIA, Korea – Cindy & Skip Campbell	
12th	\$100 in Memory of James A. Bassett – Edward Bassett	
13th	\$150 for God and Country – Karl Rohde, PSC & Charlie Miller	
14th	\$50 James McNally, PSC	

100 Ticket Seller Drawing

\$50
\$50

Winner
Dan LaBarge
William "Doc" Schmitz



Department Patriot's Pen Participation Report Summary Department of New York

Participation Totals: 54 Posts, 34 Auxiliaries, 2,859 Students, 170 Post Winners Advanced

Districts/Auxiliaries: 7/7

County Councils/Auxiliaries: 5/5

Actual money awarded to participating students:

Posts – \$10,295.00
Districts – \$1,975.00
County Councils – \$725.00

Department Awards:
First Place – \$500.00
Second Place – \$300.00
Third Place – \$200.00
Other – \$400.00

Total Savings Bonds – \$14,395.00

Additional expenses associated with Patriot's Pen Program:

Posts – \$1,976.00
Districts – \$827.85
County Councils – \$100.00

Department – \$300

Other – \$0

Total Additional Expenses – \$3,203.85

GRAND TOTAL \$17,598.85

Hornell VFW Post 2250

The Hornell VFW Post 2250 celebrated 75 years at their Veterans Day Open House on November 11th. A luncheon was open to the public and some birthday cake was passed out to everyone who attended.

The Marine Corps League celebrated their birthday at the Post Home on Friday, November 10th. Over 75 Marines and their spouses were in attendance.

On November 19th, the VFW sponsored a holiday bingo party at the Bath VA with over 100 Veterans from the VA playing and enjoying the pizza party and bingo games.

Past 5th District Com-

mander, Patrick Manning volunteered over 98 hours helping the Post and Auxiliary in their annual Buddy Poppy Drive. He has been helping with the annual Buddy Poppy Drive for over 10 years, and the Ladies Auxiliary of Post 2250 cannot say enough about his hard work and dedication.

And last but not least, the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary will be celebrating a first for us by hosting a "Breakfast with Santa" this year on December 3rd. Children, grandparents and parents are all invited. Santa will be played by Robert Clifford, and gifts will be given to all the children.

The following are the winners for the Patriot's Pen contest for 2006-2007 at the Department level and how they finished:

1st Place – \$500.00

Gabrielle Bennett
Post 9487
Franklinville
Cattaraugus-Allegany
Co. Council
District 6

2nd Place – \$300.00

Brianna Zimmerman
Post 5796
Kings Park
Suffolk County Council
District 1

3rd Place – \$200.00

James Flynn
Post 7241
Port Jervis
Orange County Council
District 2

4th Place – \$100

Nicholas Pierro
Post 1545
Windham
Rip Van Winkle County Council
District 3

4th Place – \$100

Jesse Spellicy
Post 6338
Gouverneur
St. Lawrence County Council
District 4

4th Place – \$100

Lyndsey Ladd
Post 569
Fulton
Oswego County Council
District 5

4th Place – \$100

Kelly Thompson
Post #8495
Fairport
Monroe County Council
District 8



'Old Vets welcome home New Vets'

On Tuesday, February 20, 2007, Veterans from the Lt. Col. Sam DiRienzo VFW Post 2285, along with the LeRoy Gregory American Legion Post 979 (both of Eastchester, N.Y.), hosted a veterans forum at VFW Post 2285. Our guests were 15 members of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, who are presently stationed at West Point. All of these young veterans have served at least one tour in either Iraq or Afghanistan; some have already completed multiple tours. They are all regular Army. This event gave the younger veterans an opportunity to share their stories and experiences with veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam and to hear what it was like in the other wars from the older veterans. Most of all, the night was meant to show these gentlemen that the veterans of both the VFW and American Legion of Eastchester support them, appreciate what they have done for their country and that we will be there for them should they need assistance. Approximately 60 veterans attended the event, and it was a huge success. In the spring, the veterans of the Eastchester Posts and their families plan to host a picnic for these veterans and their families.



Telephone Solicitors

The Department of New York does have two (2) approved telephone solicitors. They are Marking Squad and Xentel.

The Commander asks that you get the word out to the membership and friends so that everyone is aware of our Solicitors.

Please check it out before calling a telephone solicitor a scam artist.

If there is a question about the legitimacy of a Telephone Solicitor or complaint about their activities please call the State Adjutant, Art Koch III at 518-463-7427.

Robert Walton National Home Chairman

In November I visited the National Home. During my visit I had a tour of the facilities and New York cottages, one and two. There were no major concerns at this time.

My tour was in a new van purchased with Campbell Soup labels. I would encourage all Posts to collect Campbell Soup labels and send them to the Home. You only send the bar code not the whole label.

I received a report from the National Home, which indicates that the monetary assets for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the New York houses is \$18,220.41. This is not a lot of working capital for two houses.

I received through the mail donations totaling \$2,525.00.

So far, I would like to thank all who have donated and for any future donations.

If donations are going to be sent in the future, please send them to me; and I will forward them to Art Koch III. This way, I can keep track of how much has been donated for the 2006-2007 year.

I plan on visiting the National Home again around the end of May for the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new cottage that the U.A.W. has built.

**State National Home Chairman
Robert Walton**
9112 Wortendyke Road
Batavia, NY 14020
585-344-0867
585-409-3214

Department of New York Voice of Democracy Winners (2006-2007)

The Voice of Democracy **First Place** winner is **Benjamin R. Peak** from Adams, New York. He is 17-years-old and is a junior at Bellville-Henderson Central School. He was sponsored by the South Jefferson County Memorial VFW Post 5344, Adams, in District 4. Benjamin went to Washington, DC, in March to compete at the VFW National level.

This year's **Second Place** position goes to **Margaret T. Brower** from Norwich, New York (Christy Rock Post 2782, Norwich, in District 5); and **Third Place** is held by **Taylor T. DesRosiers** from Fairport, New York, (Perinton Memorial Post 8495, Fairport, in District 8).

The Runner-ups are:

William G. Peterson, Coram, NY (Capt. William H. Neuss

Post 6194, Yaphank, District 1)
Kristen Candice L. Gaerlan, Bronx, NY (Greater Mahopac Post 5491, Mahopac, District 2)

Amelia L. Persico, Ravena, NY (Unitas Memorial Post 9594, Ravena, District 3)

Molly J. Minogue, Orchard Park, NY (Orchard Park Post 6247, Orchard Park, District 6)

Abigail S. Nesbitt, Lyndonville, NY (Lincoln Post 1483, Medina, District 7)

Congratulations to all of you,

Michael W. Webster
State Youth Development Recognition and Scholarship Chairman (Voice of Democracy)

Lisa Raplee
Ladies Auxiliary Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Art

Happy 75th Birthday, VFW

Reprinted from "Lynbrook/East Rockaway Herald" -

A number of past Commanders of VFW Post 2307 were in attendance at the Post's 75th anniversary celebration.

Seated, left to right are Patrick Bruno, Pete Behrens, Dominic Porcaro, John Chiari and Bob Becker; standing, left to right are Ed Donegan, John Johnson, and current Commander Pat Cardone.



Post 8495



Perinton Memorial Post 8495 members Joel Durham, Dick Grube and Pete Swanson collect signatures for a petition to Governor Spitzer to reinstate the \$250,000 funding in the NY State Budget for the Rochester Veterans Outreach Center. The petition activity was at various locations in the area and included Eastview Mall from February 22 through February 25 as shown in the picture.

Post 5491



District 2 Color Guard, Post 5491

Post 502 – Frankfort



Many renovations have been done. Commander Bruce Williams and Auxiliary President Claudette Williams (the artist).

Post 7763 – Massapequa Park



Post 7763 Massapequa Park provided food and beverages at the Northport VA. Submitted by Richard Begandy.

Post 2398 – Long Island City



Sr. Vice Commander Richard Woodward.



Post 2398, Long Island City, celebrated its 75th birthday. Commander Russell Samberza holding charter dated Jan. 22, 1932.

Post 2736 – East Meadow



Post 2736, East Meadow, donated six benches to a memorial park. On hand were Maureen O'Connell, County Clerk; Sal Pellegrino, Commander; Norma L. Gonsalves, Legislator 13th District; and Robert Walker, Assemblyman 15th District.

Suffolk County Council



Suffolk County Council have Christmas Party at the Northport VA.

On Sunday, December 17, VFW Suffolk County Council and its Ladies Auxiliary (D1) presented the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook with items requested on their Wish List.



Left to right: State Historian Mike Pascal, Long Island State Veterans Home Chairman of the Board Bill Beatty, Veterans Home Acting Director Joe Picerno, State Commander Don Doell, Auxiliary 4927 Theresa Sullivan, Aide to State Commander (Quartermaster 4927) Dennis Sullivan, Suffolk County Council Commander Ray Hansen and Post 1469 Commander Robert Fitzsimmons.

Left to right: Veterans Home Service Officer Bill Beatty, Father Dan, Suffolk County Council Commander Ray Hansen, State Historian Mike Pascal, State Commander Don Doell and Veterans Home Acting Director Joe Picerno.



Post 6249 – Rocky Point



Members of the Post had a clothing drive to provide clothing for returning wounded vets. L-R: Sr. Vice Bob Kelly, Rental Chairman Kevin Molly, Officer of the Day Joe (the Plumber), Quartermaster Robert Wood, and Public Relations Ken Eliason.

Community Activities Report

Commander Richard M. Gross
 Chairman Peter Verzillo
 Caption by: Past County Commander George Whitfeld



The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen VFW contests always draw local political talents for our judging process. This year we were honored to have from left to right, The Monroe County Executive's Assistant, Rebecca L. Wehner (first time); Maggie Brooks, County Executive; Cheryn Dinolfo, County Clerk, a past participant of the Patriot's Pen contest; Terri Robach, mother of State Senator Joseph Robach; and Sharon Arthur, retired school teacher from the Town of Gates School District. These and other local celebrities are always standing by to assist in our programs in the Rochester Area. Some of the essays are used in the County Executive's Youth Promotions via the Internet and local news media with the participant's consent. We, in the Monroe County Council, are proud to be a part of the success of these programs.

Post 1161 – Newberg



Post 1161, Newberg, District 2, held a VFW Day at Castle Point VAMC – Department Sr. Vice Commander Robert Barnhart, Department Ladies Auxiliary President Martha Ferens, District 2 Commander Charles Miller, and District President Billy LaBlank. Submitted by Anthony Buccieri. If you look closely, Eugene Bryant is in the back – Hi Marine, "Doc."

VFW Post 5942 – Plainview Donation to Help the Homeless Veterans

Commander Joseph W. Varrone, along with members of the Plainview VFW Post 5942 and members of the 2006 Poppy Committee donated \$3,000.00 in supplies to help the homeless veterans at the Salvation Army Veterans Residence at Northport, NY (SAVRN). The money was raised, thanks to the GENEROSITY OF THE PLAINVIEW/OLD BETHPAGE COMMUNITY, during the May 2006 Poppy Campaign.



Shown with the supplies at the Salvation Army Veterans Residence at Northport are left to right: Tim McDermott, Dennis Cudahy, Peter McCann, Gina Varrone, Commander Joseph Varrone, Jim Waters, Vic Zodda, William Demarest (top), Ralph Plaisance, Pat Astegher, Artie Anderson, Ed Astegher and Rocco Figalora.

VFW Post 1231 Men's Auxiliary Canton, NY



L-R, Front Row: G. Bushaw-Treasurer, R. Cota, W. Murphy, L. Goolden, R. Carrier-President; Second Row: R. Burke-Post Commander, H. Berube-Vice President, F. Field-Secretary, B. Norton, D. Ames-Ladies Auxiliary Vice President; Back Row: C. Streit, C. Streit and M. Mason.

Post 7763 – Massapequa Park



Post 7763, Massapequa Park – L-R: Commander Richard Begandy, PPC Lou Pisane, 1st Lieutenants Erica and Adam Ropolewski, PPC John Ronga and Steve Piller. Both officers were welcomed home at a party celebrating their return from Iraq.

Post 2977 – Medford



Cadet Christopher Schilling was presented with a VFW Award from Joseph Themann.

Post 357 – Schenectady

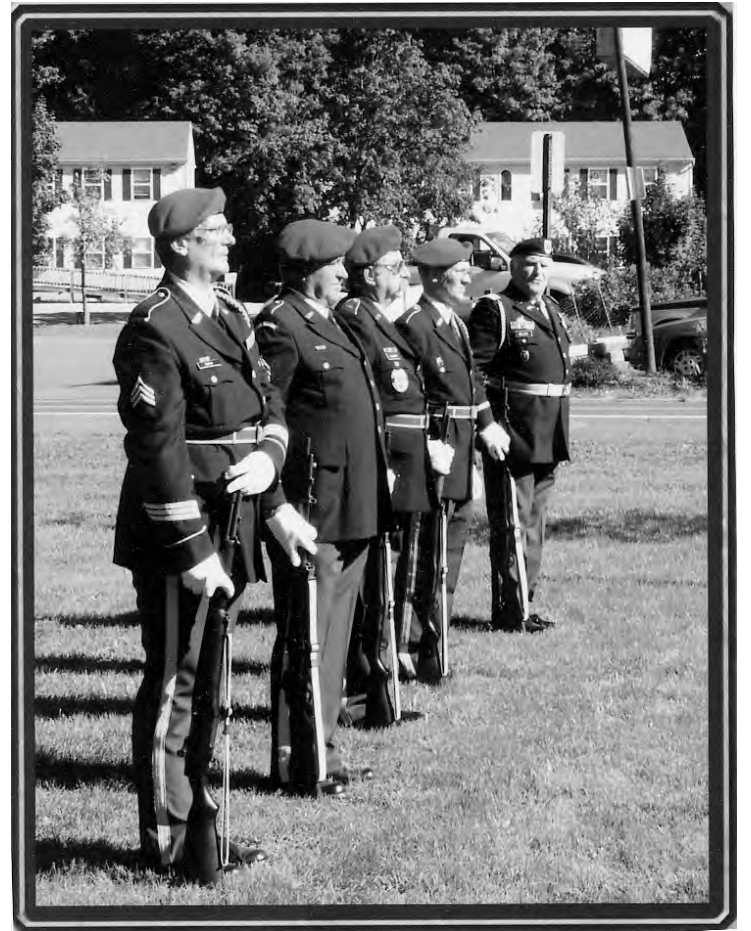


Post 357, Schenectady, has chartered Boy Scout Troop 357 for over 50 years. L-R: Josh Barndt of Rotterdam, Jon von Maacher of Scotia and Paul Chianello of Glenville all received their Eagle Scout Awards.

Post 7765 – Red Hook



Commander Pat Di Stefano presenting a check for \$3,000.00 to Cherisse Young, Director of the Adaptive Sports Foundation, which is part of the Wounded Warrior Program.



Post 7765, Red Hook, Color Guard.



Memorial Park – sponsored by Post 7765, Red Hook.



Memorial Park – sponsored by Post 7765, Red Hook.

Post 2813 – Woodside



Post 2813, Woodside, honors fallen comrade, Henry A. Thompson, 1841-1889 USMC Medal of Honor winner. L-R: James Drew, Sgt-at-Arms; Jerry Sisco, PPC, Mason Manner; Marvin Jeffcoat, Jr. Vice; Arazio Pando, O.D.; Bob Shaw; Jan Kaozhang, Sergeant; and Bill Kennedy, Commander.

Post 5491 – Mahopac



A traditional ceremony at the cemetery honoring our fallen veterans. A community celebration was held at the Post open to the community.



Celebrating Pearl Harbor Day.

Post 8647 – Mayville



The Post honors veteran Rodney Asel of Ashville, who saved the life of a fellow citizen. Pictured are all of the veterans present at the awards ceremony. Back row, from left, Ron Smith, Walt Langford, Ralph Wakeley and Leonard Neckers. Middle row, from left, Hoby Damico, Kevin Coyle, Otto Graham, Wes Weise, Paul Holthouse and Ed Davies. Front row, from left, Jan Derbish, Rod Asel and David Crandall, mayor of Mayville. Photo reprinted from the "Post Journal." Submitted by Juanita Holthouse. It is a great honor to publish this – "Doc" – Nice job, Rod!

Cub Scout Pack 124



Cub Scout Pack 124 in Ridgefield, CT, sold popcorn as a fundraiser. On one day, the children setup stations throughout the town selling their products. Prominently displayed at each station was a large blue bucket with a sign "POPCORN FOR LOCAL TROOPS." They collected \$2500 worth of popcorn to send overseas to our fighting men and women, which they gave to Post 672 to ship to troops serving in Iraq.

Albany
Legislative Conference



Albany Legislative Conference heavily attended.



Membership recruitment never stops, four new ones in the front row at the Albany Conference.

Post 672



At the March monthly meeting of Post 672, Commander Art (left) presented Life Member (and Post Trustee) Robert Gregory with a plaque for his years of service to our Post. Primarily, he

was honored for his work with our Post's monthly newsletter. Bob began the newsletter in 2001 and was the Editor, Publisher, and Mail clerk. A couple of years ago, Bob stepped down as Editor but remained in the other positions and took on the roll of Assistant Editor and proof-reader.

National Legislative Conference



National Legislative Conference is exhausting, and everyone needs a break.



Past Department Commander James McNally, at the VFW National Legislative Conference in DC, wishes to thank all those that called and wrote during his recent surgery.

Post 8444



VFW Post 8444 receives replacement Life Membership Perpetual Charter. At a recent meeting of VFW Posy 8444 in Albany, New York, Hal Burke, Jr., PSC, Department Quartermaster presents Commander Henry J. Rosenzweig and the members of VFW Post 8444 with their Life Membership Charter. The original Life Membership Charter was lost during recent renovations of the Post.

Post 53



Local veterans from the Jamestown area took part in a wreath laying ceremony the Civil Air Patrol initiated at the Lakeview Cemetery. When the clock read 12 noon and the chimes rang throughout the warm December day, veterans all over this country from World War II to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East took time out to remember those patriots who were and still are in harm's way as we enter the holiday season. From left to right are members of Post 53: Roland Swanson, Tony Constanzo, James McNally, Tom Todaro Sr., Jim Baer, Bob Waid, Frank LaMarca, Joe Mallore (The Bugler) and Tom Abbott.

Post 170



Post 170 Ladies Auxiliary President Judy Comiskey awarding certificates for the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy to winners Tyler Sparks and Samantha.



Commander Michael Burke poses with members of the Ladies Auxiliary who have done an outstanding job since Judy Comiskey has taken office in July 2006. Sitting 2nd from left is Nancy Cozean, Mayor of Poughkeepsie and standing far left is Paula Twillinger, founder of Semper Fi parents.

Post 9249



A check presentation the Charles N. DeGlopper Memorial VFW Post 9249, Grand Island NY, made to Mark Francis and the Deputy Director Dennis in Buffalo, November 29, 2006. The check represents enough money (over \$1,000.00) to purchase three Bedside Personal TVs. Post 9249 had approved the purchase of the three TVs for use in Buffalo VA before we had learned of the Commanders 2006-07 Project. As a result we amended the donation after learning of the project and needs, so one of the TVs would go to the Batavia PTSD/WRP Facility. Pictured are Mark Francis, Post 9249 Sr. Vice Commander; Michael Mehlretter; Deputy Director Batavia VA Dennis Heberling; Post Commander Daniel B. McMahon and Post Quartermaster Richard Lozo, Sr.

New Planning Opportunity for Those with IRAs

Recent legislation offers a new opportunity for you if you are:

- Age 70 1/2 or older
- Own an IRA, and
- Regularly make charitable contributions.

The new Pension Protection Act of 2006 allows you to make distributions directly from your IRA to one or more charities without the distributions being included in taxable income and subject to withholding.

Previously, if you wanted to use IRA funds for a charitable contribution, you had to withdraw money from your IRA and then contribute it. The amount you withdrew was taxable, and the deduction for the contribution

may or may not have offset the tax. Another benefit of the new legislation is that the funds transferred from your IRA to a charity count towards your mandatory withdrawal.

These tax-free distributions can be made only until December 31, 2007.

If you would like more information about making a charitable contribution from an IRA, please contact Mike Anderson at manderson@vfw.org or 816/968-2720.



POST TO POST

POST #16 – ROCHESTER – Commander Ned Northrup has the newsletter sent out on e-mail. Bill Meminger dresses up as a clown and Santa Claus, great volunteer work in the mall representing the VFW.

POST #5253 – ALBERTSON – Carle Place High School teacher Ms. Kieran Morris and class home economics class baked cookies for Northport VA; Commander Frank P. Maltese and Vinny De Martino delivered. This Post does tons of volunteer stuff. Wish I had a picture! "Doc."

POST #2307 – LYNBROOK – Commander Patrick Cardone had a Post 75th Anniversary party with a USO show. Happy Birthday to James Johnson, Donald Watson, Bill DiRocco, Brian Goldfuss, and Jack Pessin.

POST #2476 – RIVERHEAD – Commander Gene McSherry has a new Color Guard, Sergeant Joe Edler. Scholarship Fund sponsored by the Post, spring cleanup.

POST #6196 – QUEENSBURY – Commander Chick Daley hosted a large awards banquet, Loyalty dinner and parade. Barry Cronkhite and others worked very hard on the dedication of a monument in Crandall Park.

POST #375 – YONKERS – Joe Porcelli, Commander, my compliments to your Post and membership. I recently visited the Post at a District meeting and was very impressed. Thank you for your hospitality and friendly conversation. William "Doc" Schmitz.

POST #478 – BINGHAMTON – Commander Jim Furch recognizes Eleanor Ronk for first prize in a grass skirt contest at the beach party, and John Fitch won at the limbo. President of the Men's Auxiliary Tino DeAngelo has put on many dinner projects at the Post enjoyed by all.

POST #1498 HALFMOON – Commander Thomas Gillis and Sr. Vice John Dahoda recognized Fred Miller for his writing ability. Art DeVoe is taking care of the elections for the Post.

POST #2670 – GENEVA – Men's Auxiliary President Pete Dinsmore and Ladies Auxiliary President Gloria Riccione are forging ahead with functions. Please place full names in your newsletter so I can recognize the members, thanks, "Doc."

POST #2883 – NEWARK – Commander Dick Kraus and his Post hosted the 8th District meetings, lots of snow and good comradeship. VERY NICE POST; I enjoyed my visit, thanks, "Doc."

POST #202 – HOLLEY – Preparing for

their 35th anniversary of the Post on April 10th. Guest speaker Sr. Vice Commander of the Department, Robert Barnhart. Many dinners and functions scheduled. "Doc" needs names in your letter to give credit to your members, thanks.

POST #9587 – STATEN ISLAND – Driver Safety course, Fleet Week coming up, Dolores Scricleani is busy taking calls. Hi, Commander Joe Pirrello.

POST #7279 – LINDENHURST – Jim Mcharen, Sr. Vice Commander, announcing a new kitchen, walk-in cooler and next, the parking lot.

POST #7462 – PIERMONT – Commander George Lynch \$3,000.00 on what trip? John Kroll and wife, Dot, are taking the job of Quartermaster/Adjutant; that's great.

POST #348 – SALT CITY – Valentines were sent to soldiers by 4th grade class at Cato Meridian Elementary School – teacher Ms. Heins, "Doc" would like a copy of those photos on the front page, very moving, real nice, "Doc."

POST #600 – CANASTOTA – Dick Lynch and Danny Klabs got a big thanks for officer renovation. Flag rental? Buy a bench program for placing on Post grounds.

POST #420 – SARATOGA – New members Robert F. Asken, Morris D. Vaughn, Jr. Commander Gene Ratigliano, your Editor Gene Ratigliano puts out a very informative newsletter.

POST #8692 – ALBANY – A breakfast proceeds to benefit the VFW National Children's Home, supporting Boy Scout Troop 77, Loyalty Day celebration, Post improvements, Adopt a Soldier, Scholarship program. Commander Robert A. LaDuke, nice job.

POST #901 – ELMIRA – Commander Jerry Lenox, the Post hosted patient from the Bath VA, calendar of events listed, bingo going well, hall rentals going well. Shuffle Board League, lots of activities.

POST #516 – FARMINGDALE – Commander Doug Makosky, supports Cub Scout Troop #601. The Commander spoke at their news conference and was the Chairman at a polling place for elections. Keeping the VFW image out there, nice job, Commander. "Doc."

POST #557 – BEMAS POINT – Commander Don Anderson, new generator is installed, nice project. 9,000 Posts around the world, 1.8 million members – I didn't know that, wish I signed them up, "Doc."

POST #9483 – WEBSTER – Bud Bossert, Joe Furnari, and Joe Mulay are on the nominating committee, according to Commander Ralph Dimmick.

POST #2159 – STATEN ISLAND –

Submitted by John Sciamie – submitted a special edition honoring all veterans killed in combat. Outstanding job.

POST #4787 – FLUSHING – Boy Scout Troop #I is the oldest in the area and possesses one of the original Boy Scout Flags. Daniel Carter, the founder, has his signature attached to documents. New Eagle Scouts Benjamin Califano, Timothy Power, and William Labete, Gregory Finch, and Henry Grabkowitz. Submitted by Ben Singer.

POST #6247 – WEST SENECA – VOD program had 66 entries.

POST #9294 – GRAND ISLAND – Patriot's Pen program had 118 entries.

POST #2348 – LONG ISLAND CITY – The Post participated in the Veterans Day parade on 5th Avenue. Russell Samberaz, Charlie Pappas, and Tony Masciandro spoke at six schools on What Is Veterans Day.

POST #8823 – HASTINGS – New bar, remodeled the meeting room, back-up generator, new electric service, landscaping; Commander John Williams and members have been busy. Many thanks by first name only. New members Frank Burgess, Kevin Douglas, George Legoe and Wilford Lucier.

JAMES HANSON – 1-315-668-8139 is collecting stuff to send to the 82nd Airborne in Afghanistan.

POST #6394 – SYOSSET – Birthdays – Gus Scutari, George Boult, and Michael Grande. Casino trip planned. Excellent tips on safety, nice job, Robert Thompson, Editor.

POST #1386 – KINGSTON – Commander Joseph L. Straub speaking out to members to bring them in for Post meetings and functions. Seabees helped remodel the canteen. Quick draw and lottery tickets in the canteen. Football and free to dogs on Monday night. Vince Giuffre and Joe Forte are recognized for their work. Dave Arkins, Sr. Vice, put up the Post's Web page.

POST #5298 – SPRING FIELD GARDENS – Commander Leroy A. Barnes, boxes were sent to Iraq vets, encouraging meeting attendance. Post Adjutant T. J. Tharpe.

POST #982 – REMSEN – Heart Run sponsored by the VFW. Carl Roberts and team placed 4th. Commander Frank Northrup.

POST #2813 – WOODSIDE – New members Jose Lopez, James Waydens. Service Officer Eddie Avila. Arazio Pando was appointed to something not mentioned.

POST #5491 – MAHOPAC – Richie Sochor is in charge of the kitchen. Mike Spina, Ed Miller, Joe Tschinkel, Bob Johnson, and Russell get a special

thanks from Commander Ben Boccia.

POST #6338 – GOUVERNOUR – Memorial Plaques Chairmen Michael Webster and Karl Beck doing a good job. Wish there were more names in the paper – "Doc."

POST #2736 – EAST MEADOW – Commander Sal Pellegrino thanking the Post membership for all the dedication. Ed Litt – you're welcome, "Doc."

POST #4927 – CENTEREACH – Dennis Sullivan, Quartermaster, thanks for the tour of your wonderful Post. – "Doc." Andy Chapman, Commander, moving forward with many activities.

POST #2913 – PATCHOGUE – Commander George W. Egan and Mike Amodio participated in a Community Service program at the local High School, teacher Ms. Rita Mario-Murphy arranged for the program.

POST #1419 – HAMBURG – Commander Tim Leary, \$10.00 gun raffle tickets, beverages, food and events at the drawing, a great deal. Any pictures, Commander? "Doc."

POST #8647 – MAYVILLE – Dick McMaster is the Bar Manager, aggressively working on the accounts. Member Kahl Counts is on active duty, a crew chief on Black Hawks and Black Sheep member, P.O. Box 2495, Fort Riley, KS 66492. Commander Don Skellie

Be Careful

It never hurts to be careful in this crazy world we live in.

1. Tip from Tae Kwon Do: The elbow is the strongest point on your body. If you are close enough to use it, DO SO!

2. Learned this from a tourist guide in New Orleans. If a robber asks for your wallet and/or purse, DO NOT HAND IT TO HIM. Toss it away from you ... chances are that he is more interested in your wallet and/or purse than you, and he will go for the wallet/purse. RUN LIKE MAD IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

3. If you are ever thrown into the trunk of a car, kick out the back taillights and stick your arm out the hole and start waving like crazy. The driver won't see you, but everybody else will. This has saved lives.

4. Women have a tendency to get into their cars after shopping, eating, working, etc., and just sit (doing their checkbook, or making a list, etc.) DON'T DO THIS! The predator will be watching you, and this is the perfect opportunity for him to get in on the passenger side, put a gun to your head, and tell you where to go. AS SOON AS YOU GET INTO YOUR CAR, LOCK THE DOORS AND LEAVE ...

5. A few notes about getting into your car in a parking lot, or parking garage:

A.) Be aware: look around you, look into your car, at the passenger side floor, in the back seat and underneath the car.

B.) If you are parked next to a big van, enter your car from the passenger door. Most serial killers attack their victims by pulling them into their vans while the women are attempting to get into their cars.

C.) Look at the car parked on the driver's side of your vehicle, and the passenger side. If a male is sitting alone in the seat nearest your car, you may want to walk back into the mall, or work, and get

a guard/policeman to walk you back out. IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY. (And better paranoid than dead.)

6. ALWAYS take the elevator instead of the stairs. (Stairwells are horrible places to be alone and the perfect crime spot.)

7. If the predator has a gun, and you are not under his control ALWAYS RUN! The predator will only hit you (a running target) four in 100 times; and even then, it most likely WILL NOT be a vital organ. RUN!

8. As women, we are always trying to be sympathetic. STOP. It may get you raped, or killed. Ted Bundy, the serial killer, was a good-looking, well-educated man, who ALWAYS played on the sympathies of unsuspecting women. He walked with a can, or a limp, and often asked "for help" into his vehicle or with his vehicle, which is when he abducted his next victim.

9. Another Safety Point: Someone just told me that her friend heard a crying baby on her porch the night before last, and she called the police because it was late and she thought it was weird. The police told her "Whatever you do, DO NOT open the door." The lady then said that it sounded like the baby had crawled near a window, and she was worried that it would crawl to the street and get run over. The policeman said, "We already have a unit on the way, whatever you do, DO NOT open the door." He told her that they think a serial killer has a baby's cry recorded and uses it to coax women out of their homes thinking that someone had dropped off a baby. He said they have not verified it but have had several calls by women saying that they hear baby crying outside their doors when they're home alone at night. Please pass this on and DO NOT open the door for a crying baby. This should probably be taken seriously because the Crying Baby theory was mentioned on America's Most Wanted when they profiled the serial killer in Louisiana.

Quartermaster General

The IRS Exempt Organizations Implementing Guidelines for FY 2007 (essentially IRS's work plan) states that the IRS will be targeting exempt organizations that conduct gaming activities because "historically examinations of {those organizations} ... have identified a high level of noncompliance." The IRS has picked ten states, which it has not identified, where they will look initially. The IRS has developed and will use a "gaming risk model" by which it projects the identity of entities with a "high likelihood of noncompliance." I think this somewhat confirms my prediction that the IRS will crack down on gambling. Posts need to have their ducks in order.

Additionally, the Guidelines indicate that IRS will be specifically targeting employment withholding and FICA compliance. This is another area where the Posts need to be careful.

Larry Maher
Quartermaster General

So You Think You Know Everything?

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right. (Bet you tried this out mentally didn't you?)

Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable. (I'll bet you're going to check this out.)

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt."

Our eyes are always the same size from birth,

but our nose and ears never stop growing.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

The words 'racecar', 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes). (Yep, I knew you were going to "do" this one.)

There are only four words in the English language, which end in "dous": tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.