



NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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

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"You need to overcome the tug of people against you as you reach for high goals." – George S. Patton

Volume 28,
Issue 1

Department of New York Fall Conference



L-R: Commander Jack Haight, Charlotte Haight and Past Commander-in-Chief George Lisicki.

State Commander Jack Haight and his wife, Charlotte, pose briefly with Past Chief Lisicki before heading off to dinner during the Fall Conference in Liverpool, NY, which was held October 17-19, 2008. Past Chief George Lisicki was the National Representative for the Dept. of New York's Fall Conference.

George Lisicki, of Carteret, New Jersey, was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on August 23, 2007, at the VFW 108th National Convention held in Kansas City, MO.

George served in the U.S. Army from 1966-69. In Vietnam, he served with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands near Pleiku. He was awarded the Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Medal among others.

In 1971, George joined VFW Post 2314 in Carteret, NJ where he became a

Life Member in 1976. He was the first Vietnam Veteran in Post 2314 to be elected Post Commander, an office he held for four terms. He earned the title of All-American State Commander in 1988. George served as the New Jersey State Membership Director for nine years and the instructor for the New Jersey Officer Training Institute for 24 years. In 1995, he was elected to a two-year term as a VFW National Council Member. He has served as chairman for the National Security, POW/MIA and Legislative Committees. His other committee assignments include National Civil Service and Employment and Resolutions.

George is a member of the Military Order of the Cootie, The American Legion, Vietnam Veterans of America, Catholic War Veterans, 4th Infantry Association and 2nd Bn., 35th Infantry Association. He also serves as the chairman for the Carteret Veterans Alliance.

Jack Haight Department Commander

First, I would like to thank all of you that sent me cards while I was ill. I had cellulites, spent four days in the hospital and the remainder of two weeks in home care with visiting nurses. I also want to thank the Lyons VFW for the fruit basket. One of the nurses at the hospital was an Auxiliary member there.

I made an error in my last article. The Sampson Veteran's Cemetery is to be maintained by Seneca County and run by trustees of the cemetery association. We had State Senator Mike Nozzolio update the Council of Administration at our Fall Conference. There were about 750,000 sailors and airmen that took their basic training at the Sampson base. After the military left there in the mid 1950s, the land was given to New York State. Mainly through the Senator's efforts, a portion of the land (100 acres) has been set aside for the Veteran's Cemetery. Due to the closeness to the Bath National Veteran's Cemetery, it could not be a National Cemetery and because of State Law, it was by far better to have it run by Seneca County. The expected date of the first burial is Veterans Day 2009. There is already a waiting list, and it is open to any veteran that honorably served and his/her family member. On the shore of Seneca Lake, it is a beautiful spot.

The Auxiliary President, Cindy Campbell, and I would like to raise enough in donations from our members to purchase the flag pole, lights and plaque. The

plaque would state that the NY State Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary made the donation. We need about \$4,000 each (The VFW and Aux). The Auxiliary is running a raffle for a Queen-sized quilt with WWII fighter planes on it. Tickets are \$1.00 for one ticket or six tickets for \$5.00. It will be drawn at the Spring Conference. Donations can be sent to the Department Headquarters earmarked "Cemetery."

We are also seeking donations to bring children from the National Home to our Convention in Buffalo next year. We would need approximately \$1,000 each (the VFW and Aux). Donations can be sent to the Dept Headquarters earmarked "to bring National Home kids to State Convention."

My Special project is the Fisher House and donations again can be sent to the Dept Headquarters. A report was given at the Fall Conference. Thank you for your donations.

It is hard to believe, but this year is already a quarter over. By now, you should be well underway with all projects. Refer to the Membership Program booklet.

You may notice that the paper is not as big as the last few. This is partially due to the economy. The OSV paper is paid for by one of our solicitors. Donations are down, mainly due to the economy.

Have a happy and safe holiday season. Hunters, be careful. I know of one person that was just practicing and wounded himself.

See you in February.

Ronald Sakonyi MAP Chairman

Military Assistance Program

The VFW Military Assistance Program is the outstretched hand between the VFW and Active Duty, Guard and Reserve military units, as well as their families. It is the bridge that unites them. Total National Military Service donations by NY for the period 2007-2008 was \$94,125.80.

MAP provides support for the Post,

District and Department's interactions with the local military community. MAP offers grants to VFW Posts that participate in military unit functions, such as sponsoring Farewell and Welcome Home activities and family readiness group events.

Continued on page 5

"Of the four wars in my lifetime, none came about because the U.S. was too strong."
– Ronald Reagan

<p>Photographer:</p>  <p>John Brunato</p>		<p>Editor:</p>  <p>Arnie Anderson</p>
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**INSIDE
this
NYSOV**



Military Assistance Program1 and 5
**Fisher House –
Commander's Special Project3**
Life Membership4
Gold Chevron Journal7
Navy Unit Awards8

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Allan Davenport

Jr. Vice Commander:
Jack Veazy

POLICY

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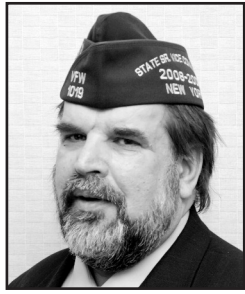
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Allan E. Davenport Sr. Vice Commander



By the time you read this, Thanksgiving will have gone by, but a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year will be in line. Please have a safe and happy holiday season.

We haven't had a meeting as yet, therefore, I don't have any updates on programs. Of course we need to support all of the Commander's projects: The Fisher House, the National Home and all others, big and small.

Membership is still an important program, so do your best on recruiting a member or two. Turnout at meetings has been better, and I understand that the Conference in October has many more members attending.

Again I hope to see old friends, and meet more of my fellow veterans in my travels throughout our state. If you haven't visited your Post or have gone to a meeting lately, please do so. We need you, and you will find it rewarding.

Harold Leavor Department Inspector



Comrades, I would like to thank the Deputy Inspectors for the job they have done so far this year in getting inspections done in the Posts and County Councils.

Try and get as many done as early as possible, before the white stuff starts flying. Also remember that District, County Councils and Post Commanders and Quartermasters need these forms to be completed to receive their white hats for an All-State award at the end of the year.

As of now, all County Commanders have received their Inspection forms in the mail. If for some reason they have been misplaced, you may also go online at www.vfw.org and www.vfwny.com for blank copies of the Inspection form that you can make copies of and fill out.

I have noticed on some of the Inspection reports coming in to me so far this year, that some Posts are not bonded. The National Bylaws, Article VII, Section 703 requires that each Officer accountable for funds or property be bonded in the proper amount.

The Commander of each Post, County and District is responsible for making sure this has been done. You may purchase a Bond each year through the Department of New York with the minimum bond of \$5,000 costing you \$25. You may also increase the amount of the bond with the cost increasing also.

IMPORTANT: IRS 990 FORMS – NEW FOR 2008 – NEW ANNUAL ELECTRONIC FILING REQUIREMENT FOR SMALL TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATIONS. Most small tax-exempt organizations must now file new form 990-N,

Continued on page 4

Jack G. Veazy Jr. Vice Commander



Since I have been elected to the position of Jr. Vice Commander, I have been very busy attending conferences, Conventions, etc. Of course, it has been a very interesting excursion, to say the least.

I attended the 109th National Convention in Orlando, Florida. An uninvited guest also attended the Convention – namely tropical storm Faye and it rained for 10 days.

Emphasis was placed on programs rather than membership. Although membership is the backbone of our organization, many people are not familiar with the VFW programs. By changing the programs, the people of our communities will see just what the VFW is all about – honoring the veterans of their communities.

I attended OTI at the Rome Post and Rochester. The veterans seem to like the idea of the district planning the training at different Posts, as it seems to leave more time for asking questions, etc.

On August 11th, I was invited to Fort Drum where I was given a tour of the facility, which was very impressive. I had breakfast and lunch with the wounded warriors. Training is realistic rather than what we had in our times.

On October 10-11th I was invited to Kansas, MO. There were 54 states of Jr. Vice Commanders there. We had a tour of National Headquarters and was shown how Headquarters operated.

Robert Walton

VFW National Home Chairman

I visited the National Home on October 9 and 10, 2008. To operate the VFW National Home, the cost runs just under \$6 million a year. It is important that our donations keep coming in.

I met with three people: Tim Smith, Development Director; Todd Marriott, Facilities Director; and Susan Stevenson, Public Relations Director. Susan has been on staff for about four months. She will be promoting the National Home.

I also toured New York Houses, #1 and #2. There were no great concerns for the houses at this time. The family in house one will be moving out soon, as their program is complete. The house will be readied for the next family. New carpet will probably be installed at the cost of between three and four thousand dollars.

House #2, the residential house, has two children at the present time: a girl 14-years-old and a boy who is 6-years-old. They could have up to six children, if the need arises.

The present fund balance for the two houses is \$32,868.49. I presented a check to Tim Smith from the money raised in the Department of New York in the amount of \$1,025.00 for the New York Homes.

If you would like information about the National Home sent to you, please contact Robert Walton, 9112 Wortendyke Road, Batavia, NY 14020.

Ed Bassett State Chief of Staff



Well, Comrades, we are almost halfway through the membership year and we are down on members. I know things aren't easy out there, the way the economy is. We still have to think about

our organization today and in the future.

Everyone is probably sick of hearing about membership. However as Chief of Staff, my goal is to start a new Post with all new members or even better yet, start several new Posts with all new members.

I cannot do it by myself, but we can do it together! At the fall conference, the District Deputy Chiefs of Staff and I were at the membership meeting to get some ideas on how to help with the possibility of starting some new Posts and reaching our goal.

If anyone has a idea or a thought about where a new Post can be started, please contact your District Deputy Chief of Staff or myself. I can be reached at: 607-937-5160.

George Osborne

Membership Chairman

We are off to a good start. Next, we need to work on reinstatements. The list of over 5,000 names, addresses, etc. are available from your District Commanders and District Membership Chairmen. The lists are not easy and many of the phone numbers and some of the addresses still may not be good. We know that VFW Members will prevail in chasing down these lost members.

We ask the membership chairmen at all levels to contact any and all Posts who are less than 100% and ask them what you can do to help them. Let's all work hard this year to bring New York back to the top. The Membership Team and the National Recruiters are working just as hard to bring in new members to our Posts.

Remember, there is no MIP Program anymore; we recruit for you, our Posts. We may ask you to pay a year's dues for these young returning veterans. A few members at \$20 each isn't going to break any of us.

Good luck, and thanks for all that you do for veterans.

Arnold Anderson

Department Newspaper Editor

At the Fall Conference held October 17-19, it was decided that the newspaper size needs to be scaled back to only eight pages instead of the 12 pages we have enjoyed in the past, because there wasn't enough money to keep producing a 12-page newspaper.

Given that bit of information, I was presented with the challenge as the editor to fit all of the information I had received into an eight page newspaper. I have done the best I can to cover the news from Posts all over the state, while keeping in mind the department officers and chairmen reports need to have priority.

All that being said, I hope that Posts still send a brief description of functions, awards and community activities so we can let others know that our VFWs are active, supporting our veterans and our troops.

Thanks for understanding!

I want to thank everyone for sending me get well cards and letters, and also for remembering me in your prayers during my recent illness.

God Bless you all.

Ed Fletcher

Lloyd H. Creeley Chairman – Commander's Special Project



I would like to take this time to thank everyone who has donated funds to Commander Haight's Fisher House Special Project before the Fall Conference and during the Parade of Donations at the Fall Conference. The Fisher House is doing a great service to the Veterans and their families. As a veterans' organization, we need to help them in any possible way we can. Hopefully, by the end of the year we will have word as to whether they are going to expand in the near future.

If you or your Post hasn't made a donation to Commander Haight's Special Project already, I ask you to take a few minutes and sit down and write a check payable to the VFW Dept. of New York and put a note in the memo section "Commander's Special Project – Fisher House" and mail it to: VFW Dept. of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, New York 12204.

Thank you, again, for your generosity on this very important project.

Below, I am providing a lot more information on the **Fisher House in Albany, NY**. I hope you will share this information with others so they will know that the Fisher House is there to assist veterans and their families.

Fisher House at Albany, New York

The Samuel S. Stratton Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Albany is proud to be the first VA Medical Center in the nation selected as a site for the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House. It is a measure of the quality care given that Mr. and Mrs. Fisher chose this medical center to pioneer support to veterans and their families.

What Is Fisher House?

Fisher House is a home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized veterans or veterans who are in the area to visit a hospitalized member of their immediate family. Also welcome to stay at the Fisher House are veterans, undergoing an extended episode of outpatient therapy, who are able to care for their own personal needs or are accompanied by a caretaker.

Registration:

A waiting list is maintained. To register, contact the Fisher House Program Director at 518-626-6919. Patients or families may alternatively contact the patient's VA Social Worker. Referrals from the private sector are handled by the Program Director.

Registration hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Emergency requests are handled by the Administrative Officer of the Day; Ext. 66620 at all other times.

House Features:

- Accommodations: Two suites which sleep six each, five single rooms which sleep two or four each. Roll-away beds and port-a-cribs help with extra needs. Each room has a private bath, TV, clock radio and telephone.

- Occupancy: Seven families. When single individuals share a room, more families can be served at one time.

- Office: Located on the first floor.

- Common Rooms: Living room with fireplace and library, dining room, kitchen and laundry.

- Kitchen: Private locked cupboards keep food secure for each family. Built-in refrigerator and freezer store cold food which families label with their names.

- Food Provisions: Families provide most of their own food. However, some complimentary basics are on hand such as coffee, tea, sugar and cereal.

- Laundry: Machines and detergent are provided.

- Linens: family is responsible for their room's assigned inventory.

House Rules:

Families are responsible for their own rooms and cleaning up after themselves in the common areas. It is important to remember there is no maid service. Other important rules are no smoking, no alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs, no firearms and no pets. Quiet and mutual respect is also requested.

Group Living:

Families help each other in many ways. To adjust to life in the house, hospital and local community, newcomers get a helping hand from experienced guests.

They also exchange moral support in coping with the overwhelming stress of illness in the family. In this way, they serve as each other's extended family.

Eligibility:

The criteria which is evaluated to determine eligibility and priority are:

- Family members of the seriously ill or family members of the patient who is undergoing surgery.
- A veteran who is undergoing extended episodic outpatient therapy who is accompanied by a spouse or caretaker.
- Family members of a hospitalized veteran who are elderly and frail themselves, making travel a hardship.

Guests must be willing to abide by house rules and regulations including no smoking, alcohol or illegal drug use.

Background of the House:

The idea for a comfort home was presented to Mr. Fisher in 1989 by Admiral Carl Trost and his wife, Pauline.

The first Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher House was built at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland in 1991. Mr. Fisher hired his own architect, builder and interior designer.

After the houses are completed, the Fishers turn ownership over to the respective Services or the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Fishers receive so much joy from the houses that more are being planned.

About Mr. & Mrs. Fisher:

Zachary Fisher left high school at age 16 to help his father and older brothers in the family construction business. Early in his career he suffered a severe knee injury in a construction accident, which prevented him from serving in the military. However, over the years, he and his wife, Elizabeth, served the country well by volunteering time and donating money to family-oriented military efforts.

In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Fisher began the Fisher House program, dedicating more than \$20 million to the construction of comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel. Fisher House now operate at 17 military bases and at seven Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers throughout the nation and in Germany. More than 183,000 days of lodging are provided by Fisher House every year, saving families an estimated \$5 million annually. Since the program's inception, more than 65,000 families have stayed in Fisher House.

The Fishers were dedicated to enhancing the public perception of the U.S. Military and to helping needy members of the Armed Forces. They were true patriots who ardently supported a number of philanthropic activities. The Fisher House Foundation, Inc.* has established 32 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Houses, providing a home-away-from-home for families of hospitalized patients undergoing treatment at U. S. Military and Veterans hospitals. Their work is carried on by their nephew, Kenneth Fisher, who is chairman of the Fisher House Foundation Board. Mrs. Audrey Fisher and Nancy Edelman, both Fisher House Foundation Trustees, act as ambassadors for the Fisher House Foundation and visit each house annually.

Source: <http://www1.va.gov/visns/visn02/alb/fisherhouse.cfm>

Karl Rohde Legislative Chairman

Comrades, there is not much to write about because we have not had our Legislative Committee meeting to put together our statewide legislative priorities. They will be written at the Fall Conference in Liverpool. There is an interesting piece of legislation that should be looked into and that is the Military Personnel Citizenship Processing Act, a bill that curbs snags in background checks for Iraq and Afghanistan service members' citizenship applications. Senator Schumer is one of the supporters of this bill. I met with his staff a few weeks ago in Washington and they did not mention it. When you read this article, the election should be over. Please contact your re-elected or newly elected members of Congress with the National Legislative Goals. We had a great year for veterans this year in Washington – let's try to match it again. Please contact all your elected officials regarding the entitlements of veterans.

VA Health Care: The VFW calls on Congress to pass a sufficient budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs so that it can properly care for all of America's sick and disabled veterans. The VFW urges funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs to be sufficient, predictable and timely, ending the trend of the last decade wherein the VA's budget has been delivered months late. Congress must ensure that the unique health care and benefits challenges of OEF/OIF veterans are met, to include increased funding for Traumatic Brain Injuries and other related disabilities, as well as improved access to care, especially for veterans suffering from mental illness and for the growing number of women veterans accessing the system. The VFW calls on Congress and VA to increase priority given to women veterans by providing adequate services by hiring specialized health care providers and by providing training in gender-specific issues to help address shortfalls in gender-specific care and mental health care services for PTSD, Military Sexual Trauma and other needs. The VFW urges the Department to improve outreach so that all veterans are aware of the range of health care services and benefits available to them, especially with female, minority and rural veterans, who may be less aware of their rights than other groups of veterans.

VA Benefits and Compensation: The VFW asks Congress to provide adequate resources to enable the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) to reduce the current backlog of claims. To protect the needs of current and future veterans, the VFW opposes any changes to the current definition of "line of duty," structural changes to the programs for disability and survivors' benefits, or curtailment of veterans' or beneficiaries' rights of entitlement or to appeal benefit decisions.

Seamless Transition: The VFW demands a truly seamless transition for those men and women serving in uniform who are transferring from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs. We envision a system with a truly integrated electronic medical record that travels wherever the service member is stationed eventually to VA where it follows the veteran to wherever he or she receives health care. The VFW urges Congress and the Administration to improve the transition services and benefits provided to our veterans to ensure a steady and safe return to civilian life, including viable training, employment and education programs that address the realities of the current and future job markets to provide meaningful careers and not just temporary jobs.

Military Quality of Life: The VFW call on Congress to fully fund all programs that enable our troops to succeed in their mission. We must ensure our active duty, guard and reserve members are provided increased pay, affordable healthcare and adequate housing and work facilities for themselves and their families.

The difference between genius and stupidity
is that genius has its limits.

– Albert Einstein

To me, life is like the back nine in golf. Sometimes you
play better on the back nine. You may not be stronger,
but hopefully you're wiser. And if you keep most of your marbles
intact, you can add a note of wisdom to the coming generation.

– Clint Eastwood

Harold Burke, Jr. Department Quartermaster

As we enter another season we experience new and exciting challenges. The most recent challenge that faces many of our Posts is completing and filing their IRS 990 form by November 15, 2008. During the past two years we have provided informational seminars on this topic. The most recent presentation was made by the I.R.S. at the Fall Conference in Liverpool, New York. The information was very well received and provided many of our Comrades and Auxiliary members' very valuable information on the annual 990 filing requirements for non-profit organizations. As previously stated, the final filing date for this year's 990 filing is November 15, 2008. We hope that the information we have provided to you has helped make this transition a little easier and user friendly. For those Posts with gross receipts of less than \$25,000, you may file online at the following Web site address: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

I.R.S. Annual Tax Return Filing

An annual income tax return (Form 990) is required of each Post exempt from tax under Section 501(c) of the Code. Gross receipts include income from all sources, including membership dues, liquor, hall rental, or restaurant receipts, etc. Some of this may be "unrelated business income," in which case filing of Form 990-T may be required. This return must be filed on or before the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the Department's accounting period (period ends June 30, due date is November 15, 2008). Requests for extension of time to file may be made by submitting Form 2758, Application for Extension of Time to File. **If a Post fails to file the return on or before the due date, or the extended due date, a penalty of \$10 for each day the return is late (not to exceed \$5,000) is imposed unless it can be shown that the failure to file was due to reasonable cause.**

Factors that Effect Tax Exempt Status

Membership: The National Bylaws provide for only one type of membership; that is active membership. There are no provisions in the National Bylaws, nor is there any authority or justification for issuance of Club Membership cards, Associate Member cards, Honorary Membership cards, Courtesy Membership cards or any other special type of cards. Any Post issuing such unauthorized cards, or conducting club operations open to the general public, endangers its standing with the Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit organization. Officers signing outlaw cards admitting non-members to VFW premises are subject to disciplinary action. National and Department officers cannot defend practices that conflict with VFW Bylaws or procedures.

Incorporation: VFW Posts should take the necessary steps to incorporate under the laws of the state in which the Post is located. Financial responsibility laws, as interpreted by the courts, may cause members of unincorporated posts to be at risk. Incorporating under the provisions of sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure and the laws of the state will provide protection for Post members. Posts are urged to contact their Department Adjutant to obtain the proper forms for incorporating. The Articles of Incorporation must be reviewed by the Commander-in-Chief prior to forwarding them to the proper state authorities.

Bonding: The attention of Post Commanders, County Council and District Commanders and inspecting officers is directed to Section 703, Manual of Procedure-Bonds. Each accountable officer of this organization shall be bonded *with an indemnity company as surety* in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets for which he/she may be accountable. Liquid assets are defined as cash on hand or in the bank and other negotiable instruments readily convertible into cash.

Continued on page 6

Inspector's Report (continued)

Electronic notice (e-postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not required to file Form 990 or 990-EZ. You may click on to www.irs.gov and click the Charities and non-profits tab for more information. You may also call the IRS at 1-877-829-5500...**Remember filing Deadline For 2008 is November 15th 2008.** An Informational Seminar was held by the IRS at the Fall Conference October 17, 2008 for all the Comrades and Ladies of The Department of New York that were interested...You may have to consult a tax advisor the first year to see what form you might need...Do Not Lose Your Tax-Exempt Status...There are still many Posts that have not filed as of yet, and we are reminding them to do so.

As mentioned in the last news article of the *New York State Overseas Veteran*, you must register at least one Delegate from your Post for \$10.00 to the National Convention each year. Do Not Take a chance of losing your Post Charter for not sending your registration in.

Correction on mailing Inspection Reports...Mail to: Veterans of Foreign Wars of The United States, Department of New York, 1044 Broadway, Albany, New York 12204. They will be date stamped at Department and then sent to me for comments. In the event some are mailed to my address, you will still be credited.

To Your Family from Mine,
Have "Safe" and "Happy Holidays"

Steven Wantz Life Membership Chairman

I am honored to become your new Department Life Membership Chairman and I will make sure to do everything within my power to make this an excellent year for the VFW. For those who were unable to attend the Fall Conference, or those who did not get a chance to hear my report, I am going to include it here so that anyone may take a look at it. Please feel free to e-mail me or call me with any questions or comments that you may have.

Most of the districts in the Department of New York are around 80% Life Members. I believe that this is a good number; however, there are still many other annual members that could have the potential to be Life Members. For younger members like me, a Life Membership can be very costly. I would like to see individual Posts help annual members who are active within the VFW and want to become Life Members. It is not too much to ask to help those who give their time to this organization.

Benefits of Life Membership

- No more hassling with annual dues
- Significant long-term cost savings
- Lifelong accidental insurance policy
- Guaranteed VFW community and youth programs
- Uninterrupted delivery of VFW magazine
- Eligibility to VFW's Life Legacy program

Life Membership Fees based on age:

0-Age 30:	\$425
Ages 31-40:	\$410
Ages 41-50:	\$375
Ages 51-60:	\$335
Ages 61-70:	\$290
Ages 71-80:	\$225
Age 81 and over:	\$170

If you have any questions about Life Membership, please contact me. I am providing both my phone number and e-mail address below.

Phone: 315-396-7075

E-Mail: steven.wantz@yahoo.com

A stupid man's report
of what a clever man says is
never accurate because
he unconsciously translates
what he hears into something
he can understand.

- Bertrand Russell

Dennis Sullivan Department Citizenship Education and Community Service Chairman

Community service is one of the most important things we do as members of the VFW. Actually, community service is the lifeline of the VFW. We served for our country. Now it is important to be there to serve in our local communities. To get credit, we need to report all the time and money expended while volunteering in our communities. Those reports are due to me twice a year. The first reports collected cover May 1 to Oct. 31 and are due to me by Nov. 15th. The second report which covers Nov. 1 to April 30th will be due to me by May 15th.

To date, I have received 107 Post reports out of 521 Posts. Money expended: \$67,140.00. Number of volunteer hours: 19,649 hours.

We also need to recognize an outstanding teacher who promotes Americanism and citizenship, a teacher who truly makes a difference. We will have three categories: Kindergarten to grade 5; grades 6 to 8; and grades 9 to 12. Judging on the Post level must be completed and sent to District by Nov. 15th and district judging must be completed and sent to me by Dec. 15th.

If applications and a list of qualifications are needed, or you have any questions, please e-mail me at dmrapp@msn.com

I have been asked by State Commander Jack Haight to work with the Ladies Auxiliary to help them raise approximately \$7,500 for the Flag Pole Project at the Sampson Veterans Cemetery. I would appreciate your cooperation by asking your Post to purchase at least four books of raffles for \$20.00. If every Post does so, we will reach our goal before the New Year. The winner will receive an antique airplane queen-size quilt. The raffle will take place in February.

Fred Schwally Buddy Poppy Chairman

Last year's total of 534,000 Buddy Poppies were ordered from the Department of New York which was 2,000 more Buddy Poppies than the previous year. At the Fall Conference in 2007, over 117,000 Buddy Poppies had been ordered. As of September 30, 2008, only 103,500 Buddy Poppies had been ordered, which is a shortfall of approximately 13,500 from last year at this time.

All funds received from Buddy Poppy distribution is to be used exclusively to assist our veterans through the Relief Fund. We are requesting your help to reach our goal of 700,000 Buddy Poppies for 2009.

The cost for Buddy Poppies remains at \$130.00 per 1,000 and you can also order a minimum order of 500 Buddy Poppies which is \$65.00. All orders need to be processed through the VFW Dept. of New York at 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204.

Remember, Buddy Poppies may be distributed for Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

James Durkin Service Officer Raffle Chairman

The Department of New York fully funds three Service Offices: Buffalo, Syracuse and New York City. The Buffalo Regional Service Office is staffed by Tom Todaro, Service Officer; Connie Williams, Claims Consultant; and Susan Darveaux, Administrative Assistant.

The Syracuse Office is staffed by Lynn Maxon, Administrative Assistant.

Our New York City Regional Service Office is staffed by Nickla Culbert, Service Officer; and Ann Marie Bernard, Administrative Assistant. These offices provide services to those who have served, those who have returned and those currently serving in our country's armed forces.

The cost to properly staff and maintain these offices, so that the staff can provide these important services to our veterans, is approximately \$300,000 per year. The Department of New York is fortunate in that we do not pay for office space, heat, lights or telephone for these offices. The cost to the Department is the salaries for our staff and supplies required to maintain the operations. The funding for these employees

Continued on Page 7

MAP Chairman's Report (continued from page 1)

This past year MAP contributed \$33,530 to seven events sponsored by Posts for veterans within our State. During fiscal year 2006-2007, MAP provided over \$634,488 nationwide in sponsorship of 234 projects.

Memorial Commendations are available through the MAP office for a service member killed in action. The Memorial Commendation comes framed and matted in the colors of the service member's branch of service and is intended to be presented to the service member's family by a VFW representative.

Operation Uplink

Through Operation Uplink, MAP provides pre-paid phone cards so service members can make that much needed call home when serving on foreign soil. Operation Uplink has connected over 8,500,000 active duty military and hospitalized veterans with their family and friends since 1996.

1,056,512 connections were made through VFW communication efforts in fiscal year 2006-2007. These include the distribution of phone cards and the Free Call days at 600+ Internet cafes in Iraq. Free Call days provide 24 hours of free calling at the cafes during holidays. I do have the scheduled Free Call Days for 2008-2009.

Both international and domestic cards are available and will provide 15 minutes of talk time and are valued at \$6.50 and \$1.50, respectively. All card requests should be made through me, your Department Chairman, and must include the unit designation, head count, and a POC. Since the program is funded solely by donations, the cards are limited to one per deployed every 60 days.

2007-2008 statistics for NY showed that 5,685 Domestic Cards were distributed with a value of \$13,897.74. In 2008, NYS Veterans placed 16,745 calls for 201,881 minutes.

Operation Uplink donations for the period June through September 2008 were \$20,224.50. A \$1,000 donation provides 154 VFW Operation Uplink phone cards which will provide a 15-minute call on AT&T phone banks or \$1,000 donation provides 25,000 minutes on a Free Call Day which will allow 1,667 fifteen-minute calls. This provides 91% more connection time provided for the military.

The following activities were conducted from August through September under the auspices of the Military Assistance Program. **211** Domestic phone cards and 386 International phone cards were presented to VA Hospital patients and to members of our Armed Forces. **23** of the Domestic cards were sent to service members stateside by Edna Brown, Treasurer, Mayville, VFW Post 8647 Auxiliary. On 16 August 2008, **63** of the Domestic cards were presented by Bruce and Debbie Mullenax, from Scriba VFW Post/Auxiliary 9218, and Paul Dyer, North Syracuse, VFW Post 7290, VAVS Vice Chairman, to the 403 Civil Affairs Battalion personnel from Mattydale, NY who were enroute to Iraq via two month's of training at Ft. Dix. Comrade Dyer also presented **25** domestic phone cards to the patients at the Syracuse VA Hospital. The remaining **100** domestic phone cards were forwarded to Springfield Gardens VFW Post/Auxiliary 5298 in care of Shirley Jenkins, whereby members of the Post/Auxiliary conduct entertainment, provide refreshments and present phone cards to patients at St. Albans Naval Hospital.

35 of the International telephone cards were forwarded to deployed Service members by VFW Posts/Auxiliaries. These were Albertson VFW Post 5253, North Syracuse VFW Post 7290, Constantia VFW Post 7325 and Grand Island VFW Post 9249. **351** International phone cards were also presented to the 3/10 General Support Aviation Battalion enroute to Iraq. VFW members participating in this event were Lloyd and Cindy Creeley from North Syracuse, VFW Post 7290/Auxiliary and Ron Sakonyi from Constantia VFW Post 7325. The event took place at Ft. Drum, where pre-deployment briefings were conducted for service members and their families from 9 a.m. to Noon and from 5 to 8 p.m. on 12 September.

We discussed the MAP program, handed info packets to families which included the free call dates, and presented phone cards to the service member. Additionally, communications were held with the following: Captain

Steven Raiser, Command Judge Advocate for the 369th Sustainment Brigade in Harlem, NY requested information on grants to conduct Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) activities for award ceremonies and for returning soldiers. Commander Bill Walden, VFW Post 3211, Hicksville, NY in regards to a grant in support of the 310 MP Battalion and Dan McMahon, Junior Vice Commander, Erie County Council, Grand Island VFW Post 9249 request for 25 International Cards to be forwarded to a unit in Iraq along with care packages. I am waiting for additional information prior to processing these requests.

Adopt-A-Unit

Our Adopt-A-Unit program is intended to forge a connection between VFW members and their local military community. Thanks to our Adopt-a-Unit program, Posts across the country can show support by adopting units and their families. By adopting a unit, the Post can establish and sustain a long term friendship with those serving stateside and abroad.

Posts can adopt stateside units close to their home and invite GIs over for dinner and/or games, while care packages, magazines and letters are all suitable to send to units stationed further away or overseas. Since the programs introduction in 2001, approximately 600 Post and Ladies Auxiliaries have adopted 578 units. Within our state, nine Posts out of 455 have adopted a unit.

But our efforts do not stop with military units. VFW members also remember the families left behind by offering ways to help out around the house, whether that's offering lawn care service, babysitting or free tax assistance.

Unmet Needs Program

Our Unmet Needs Program assists families of deployed or recently returned troops with grants. The funds can be used for rent, car repairs, medical expenses, infant care items and many other necessities. Since its inception in June 2004, Unmet Needs has received hundreds of requests for assistance. More than \$1 million had been disbursed to 702 families as of May 2006. This year, eight grants were given to UNMET Needs recipients for a total cost of \$13,897.74.

Through Unmet Needs, the VFW can provide grants up to \$2,500 to eligible service members and their families. Since the program began, Unmet Needs has assisted 1,146 families facing a hardship due to deployment or military service with \$1,640,308 in grant funds. For fiscal year 2006-2007, Unmet Needs assisted 355 families in grants totaling over \$562,000.

VetJobs

MAP has also partnered with an online job bank, VetJobs, designed specifically for veterans and employers seeking veterans. Resumé assistance and job listings are two key areas on this site. Tips on interviewing skills also are available. VetJobs offers this service free to veterans and their spouses.

Since the operation began in 1999, more than 80,000 Vets and their spouses have posted resumé; and 30,000 of those have found jobs through the Web site.

**Melvin Garrett
State Judge Advocate**

Comrades, since the last published article much has happened in the way of amendments to the Bylaws, problems in our Posts and changes in leadership on different levels of the organization.

Example: Article 1 Members, Sec.109 Right of Appeal – Now includes the District Commander in the loop. Some Post officers and members are not following the oath of obligations and the provisions of the Congressional Charter in respect to their offices. The change in leadership, if elected, or if it should occur during the ensuing year, is spelled out in the VFW Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

We are also experiencing many violations regarding the correct operation of the Post. It is extremely important that those comrades elected and appointed familiarize yourselves thoroughly with your duties.

We had many OTI's around the Department this year. I hope you took advantage of them in your area. As inspections take place, we need to know if there is a problem festering in the Post that should be addressed. Please don't sweep it under the rug, it could come back to haunt you in the future.

Don't forget to order a copy of the 2009 Congressional Charter from our National Headquarters; it will be very useful. After many warnings and continued violations, charters are being revoked for non-compliance of the Bylaws. They are not being returned, except on special consideration by National Headquarters. Call someone if you are having a problem, we are here to help you!

**Wilbur Gray
Department Bowling Chairman**

The 4th annual Veterans of Foreign Wars, mixed bowling tournament, will be hosted by Alburn VFW Post 1975 and its Ladies Auxiliary. The Post tournament director is Mel Spurling and co-director is Martha Baird. All bowling events will be held at the Polish Falcon Lanes, 75 Pulaski Street, Alburn, NY.

This tournament may consist of any combination of eligible Posts, ladies and men's auxiliaries. You must have a paid up 2009 membership card and your card will be checked at the time you bowl.

The dates and times for the "doubles and singles" will be: Saturday, April 25th and May 2nd, 2009 at 11:00 and 3:00 p.m. ALL "team" events will be on Sunday, April 26th and May 3rd, 2009 at 10:00 and 1:00 p.m. Each team must report to the lanes 45 minutes prior to their time to bowl for their lane assignments.

The Alburn Post will be hosting dinners and music on Saturday night. Come and enjoy the weekend they have planned for you. You may even bowl a 300 game.

A good rule of thumb is if you've made it to 35 and your job still requires you to wear a name tag, you've made a serious vocational error.

– Dennis Miller

**Verl Ringgenberg
Department Boy Scout Chairman**

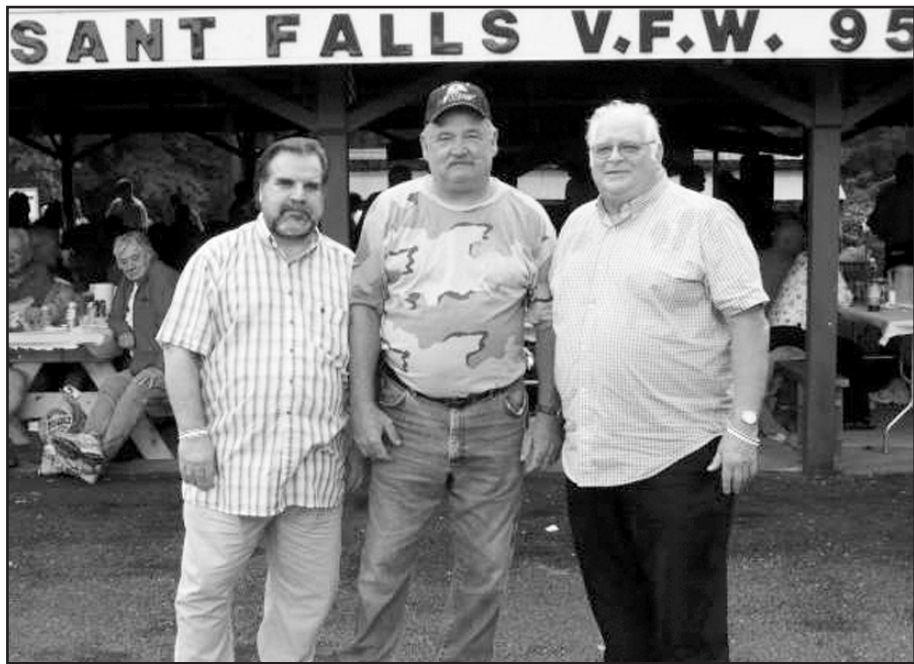
Eagle Scouts, Venture Silver Award recipients or Sea Scout Quartermasters who have risen above their peers in exemplifying the exceptional qualities of that rank, are eligible for a \$5,000.00 1st place scholarship and a \$3,000 2nd place scholarship to be awarded by National VFW. In addition, the Department of New York VFW will award the state winner \$250.00, an Eagle jacket and an invitation to the Department Convention in June.

I have notified all 21 Boy Scout Councils in the State of the existence of the scholarship by letter or e-mail and asked them to disseminate the information to their Troops.

Details, eligibility requirements, entry forms and instructions may be found on the National VFW Web site www.vfw.org, and in the 2008-2009 Program Guide, pages 33 through 35.

It is imperative that the Posts are aware of the program and are ready to answer all questions when approached by the Scout or his parents. It costs nothing to sponsor a scout, except a little time and effort by a Post. This is a great Community Service project and chance to publicize the VFW Programs and Image. Please note that a Post can only submit one entry. Multiple entries are to be judged by the Post, and the winner forwarded to me. Ensure that all required material is included with the entry.

Posts are to submit all entries directly to me to arrive prior to the 1 April Deadline. DO NOT SUBMIT ENTRIES TO DEPARTMENT. My phone number is: 845-887-3025 and my address is: Verl Ringgenberg, PO Box 33, Hortonville, NY 12745 Also, my e-mail address is: vringgenberg@hvc.rr.com



L-R: Sr. Vice Commander Allan Davenport, Post 9593 Commander Bob Proniske and State Commander Jack Haight.

Stuyvesant Falls Memorial VFW Post 9593 hosts an annual clam bake that is the largest in the area and is so well known that the tickets are gone shortly after they are put out to sell. This year, both top officers in the Department of New York attended the clambake and took a moment out to pose with the Post Commander.



Members of the VFW Post 9263 marched in the Cow Harbor Parade.

Department Quartermaster (continued from page 4)

The Post Commander is directed to sections 708 of the National Bylaws and the Manual of Procedure, which prescribes the procedure for the Incorporation of Units. It shall be the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure full compliance with both sections, and to ensure that all state requirements for annual filing, fees, etc., are met in a timely manner.

The Post Officers should obtain current copies of the podium edition of the national Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual. Copies of the 2009 revised edition of the Congressional Charter and Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual are available through the VFW Emblem and Supply Department, National Headquarters. The 2009 revised edition reflects the amendments adopted by the 109th National Convention, which became effective on September 20, 2008.

Post Commanders are reminded that Section 709, Manual of Procedure-Control of Units, requires that any activity, unit- or club-sponsored, conducted or operated by, for or on behalf of a Post, County Council, District or Department shall be at all times under the direct control of such Post, County Council, District or Department and that all money, property or assets of any kind must be placed in the care and custody of the respective Quartermaster. All Commanders should ensure that all provisions of Section 709 are enforced.

We are planning a seminar by New York State Racing and Wagering at the Legislative Conference on Saturday afternoon. Details to be announced in the conference package. This will be an open forum for VFW and Ladies and Men Auxiliaries members. Please plan on attending.

I value the support I have received from the Department Line Officers, the Council of Administration, the Past State Commanders and Comrades of the Department of New York during my tenure as State Quartermaster. I pledge my continued service to the Officers and members of the Department of New York. 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. I am at headquarters on Tuesdays and Fridays at 518-463-7427 or anytime by e-mail at qmnyvfw@msn.com



The trip to the Washington, D.C. War Memorials was sponsored by State Senator Serphin R. Maltese on Sunday October 12, 2008. Pictured, (L-R): Korean War Veterans PJ Donnelly, Bill Kennedy-PPC, Richie Pado (WWII Bronze Star Recipient), Tony Lombardo, Commander Jerry Sisco, Pedro Nieves, and Gene O'Neil gather in front of the Korean War Memorial to pay tribute to fallen comrades and the lasting bonds forged in combat, which will never be forgotten.

Lake Chautauqua Memorial VFW Post 8647, along with its Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries, raised \$3,200.00 from the 9th annual golf tournament. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

VFW Post 2670 in Geneva, NY donated and presented an American Flag to the North Street Elementary School in Geneva.

Sgt. James F. Carty VFW Post and its Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting Windham Swing Canteen – a WWII-style Victory Days dance on Saturday, November 8, 2008.

VFW Post 16 in Rochester received the 2008 National Outstanding Community Service Award at the VFW National Convention in Orlando, FL for the second consecutive year.

VFW Post 2913 received a Certificate of Appreciation for "providing outstanding support for the soldiers of HHC, 5th Bn, 158th Aviation Reg. Task Force Ready, 12th Combat Av. Brigade."

VFW Post 502 members of the Ritual Team now have new uniforms thanks to Auxiliary President Williams.

Trees for Troops

On behalf of our military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait, we are again asking for contributions to purchase Christmas trees, lights, ornaments and Menorahs that will be sent to our military personnel in harm's way at the above-mentioned locations.

The donation for each tree with the appropriate lights and decorations is \$25.00. You may fund as many trees as you would like, and no donation is too small. Working together, we can make the holidays a little more enjoyable for those fighting far away from home.

Please be generous in your donations. **ALL donations** must be received by **November 30, 2008**.

Checks or money orders should be made payable to: Proctor-Hopson Post 1896 (Mark in the memo: Trees For Troops) and **mail to:** Ben Thompson, PSC, 119-26 204TH Street, St. Albans, NY 11412. For additional information: 718-527-6532 or Thompsonbl@state.gov

William Schmitz Department Surgeon

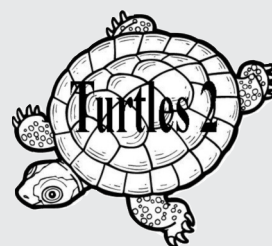
Well, it's time for that long awaited flu shot at your local VA facility. You might also consider getting a pneumonia shot – it protects you from about 80% of the strains that could cause funeral arrangements to be scheduled.

Our Ruth Bauer Fund for organ transplant recipients has \$26,673.00 in the bank. If you are a candidate for a transplant, a member or family member of our VFW, please apply. You could receive up to \$2,000.00. We have had only one application this fiscal year, which was approved.

The Emergency Relief Fund has a balance of \$3,556.15. We received about \$2,800.00 in donations. We have had three applications, of which two were approved and one was denied. Applications for both funds are available through Dept. Headquarters, or simply contact me. PLEASE consider making a motion at your Post to donate to these funds.

Your District Commanders received CDs on the New GI Bill, and information on all five NYS Veterans Homes. I would encourage you to put your VFW hat on and schedule a visit. I meet regularly with VA Directors and staff. If you have any problems or concerns, please contact me. I might be able to help.

A myth: If I'm a diabetic, I can drink alcoholic beverages as long as I cut back on food. WRONG!! Alcohol converts to sugar in the body. You should have no more than TWO drinks per day and a balanced healthy diet is part of good health. Please be wise and stay healthy.



PLEASE REMEMBER
Article Deadline For Next Issue:
JANUARY 15, 2009

PLEASE don't wait until the deadline to send your article. I will be setting up the paper as I receive the information from officers, chairmen and Posts.

Sr. Vice Commander Davenport Congratulates Auxiliary 1314 on 80th

Pictured, L-R: Goldie Simmons, Sec./Treasurer Judy Snow, President Carol DeAngelo, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Allan Davenport, Past District 3 Commander Arnie Anderson, Past District 3 President Helen Anderson and Post Quartermaster Randy Staats.

On February 25, 1928 the Ladies Auxiliary to VFW Post 1314 was instituted and has remained active since that date.

The delayed celebration of their 80th anniversary was held on October 4, 2008 at American Legion Post 184 in Hudson, NY. Sr. Vice Commander Davenport was amongst the 40-50 people who came to offer the Auxiliary congratulations and take part in the festivities.

Goldie Simmons, who is in the picture to the left, is the Auxiliary member with the most active years.

Art Hanley Gold Chevron Journal Chairman

Each year the Department of New York sells ads in a Journal for the Gold Chevron Ball. The monies raised are used to pay the Department Service Officers and the members of their staff.

Last year gross receipts for the GCB Journal were \$13,605, an increase of 8.3% over the previous year. However, this is not enough! The income generated by three districts actually declined by 13.6%, 32.8% and 41.5%. It is a sad commentary that comrades and sisters cannot get out and sell an ad or two to support those veterans who need the help of the Department Service Officers and their staffs.

Most of the income generated by the Journal came from ads purchased by Posts, Auxiliaries, Councils and Departments. While I do not want to discourage purchasing of ads from within the VFW, we need to promote sales of ads to commercial advertisers. Taking money from one pocket to put it in the other seems silly. Each Post and Auxiliary needs to reach out to those with whom they do business, as well as businesses

within their communities. If you have a Post home, who do you buy your heating oil from, your canteen supplies, your insurance? Ask them to purchase an ad and go into the local grocer, auto dealer, barbershop, etc. and do the same.

As an added incentive to bring in more commercial ads, the committee voted that for each commercial ad a Post or Auxiliary sells, they will receive one entry into a drawing for \$100. The size of the commercial ad sold does not matter. Each ad sold will equal one entry. The drawing will be held during the Department meeting in February.

Please get out there and sell the ads. Remember that the VFW motto is **"To Honor the Dead by Helping the Living."** Explain to those whom you approach what the Service Officers do to help the vets. I know they will be generous; they just need to be asked.

If you have any questions or need my help, please e-mail me at AHANLEY@VFWPOST672.ORG or call me at 914-261-4721.

Service Officer Report (continued from page 4)

and supplies comes from our dues and the annual Service Officers Journal and Raffle.

We thank those who so generously donated over \$1,300.00 in Prizes for this raffle. \$250 In Memory of Neil "Cuddles" Connolly-The Connolly Family; \$200 In Memory of "Richard Gross, Past Monroe County Commander"-District 8; \$200 "Veterans Yet to be Severed" Canandaigua VAMC-Post 7414; \$100 In Memory of Jonathan Looten-Jack and Charlotte Haight; \$100 In Memory of Harold M. Burke, Sr.-PSC Hal and Carol Burke; \$100 In Memory of Art Koch, Jr.-PSC Art and Brenda Koch, \$100 In Memory of James A. Bassett-Edward Bassett; \$100 In Memory of Frank Leavor-Harold and Christine Leavor; \$100 For God and Country-Karl Rohde and Charlie Miller; \$100 In Memory of Ralph Fields, KIA WWII-Jim and Paul M. Fields; \$100 In Memory of Lyle Yonge, MIA,

Korea-Cindy and Skip Campbell; \$100 In Memory of James Reape-Jane Reape.

DONATIONS: \$5.00 PER TICKET OR 6 TICKETS FOR \$25.00. The drawing will be at the Legislative Conference on Sunday evening, February 22, 2009, immediately following dinner. On behalf of our Department Service Officers and the Veterans that they serve, our sincere thanks for your support.

Editor's Note: Due to the reduction in the size of the newspaper by four pages at the Fall Conference in October, space is very limited. Therefore after consulting with Commander Haight, it was decided to reproduce only one ticket in the newspaper for people to copy to make six tickets. Other tickets are available from chairman James Durkin at: 585-455-5047.

Service Officer Raffle

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony

Mr. Peter Tollis of Lima, NY was recently honored at a POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the Bath VA Facility in Bath NY. Pete was among 23 other former POWs living in Western New York that were saluted for their service to their nation as POWs. The ceremony took place September 19, 2008.

Mr. Tollis was a B-24 pilot during World War II, who was shot down by German fighters. Although he bailed out, he got tangled in power lines about 20 feet off the ground and was injured when he dropped to the ground. Mr. Tollis was subsequently captured and turned over to the SS, Hitler's Elite Guard.

Although the SS starved the flyer while in solitary confinement, they eventually relinquished him to the Luftwaffe, the German Air Force.

Mr. Tollis was then shoved into a boxcar with 40 other airmen, dined on black bread and water, stopped at Berlin which was under RAF attack, and then arrived with fellow prisoners-of-war at Stalag Luft I, at Garth, Germany where he spent the next 16-1/2 months.

The Lima man was finally liberated by Russian forces in May 1945 and flown to France and then the United States by the U.S. Air Force.

Peter Tollis is a member of Lima Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 26.

Newspaper Article Submissions and Deadlines

The dates below are firm and final article deadline dates:

January/February Newspaper –
January 15, 2008

April/May Newspaper –
April 15, 2008

Looking for VFW-oriented newsworthy articles from each level of our VFW Organization which would be of interest to our members. Examples include: VFW-sponsored functions, VFW individuals receiving or presenting awards, VFW community service projects, VFW youth activity awards, etc.

Keep it simple: I prefer that news articles be e-mailed with a picture of the event attached to the e-mail, so everything comes at once.

Please submit a "short" article in MS Word. Due to space limitations in the paper, all articles are subject to editing.

When sending a picture with your article, please make sure the picture is in .jpg picture format and add it to the e-mail as a separate attachment. **Do not include the picture in your MS Word document.** The picture you send can be fully captioned with names and description of event, at the top of the MS Word document or in the e-mail.

Please do not e-mail your article for publication in .pdf format.

Finally, it would be helpful if the person sending the news article provided their name and a phone number, in case there are any questions.

ALL ARTICLES AND PICTURES SHOULD BE E-MAILED TO:

Arnie Anderson
E-mail: ATAnderson@fairpoint.net
(the above e-mail address is for Overseas Veteran Newspaper information ONLY!)

E-mail Subject line should have:
Post number – or – Overseas Veteran Article

Flag Disposal Ceremony



Pictured, L-R: Bing Reaves (VFW National Recruiter), Commander Jack Haight and George Whitfield (8th Dist. Commander).

On October 11th, Patchen-Briggs Post 307 and Pennington-Moye Post 9251 were joined by Dept. Commander Jack Haight for a flag disposal ceremony in Rochester, NY. Members of all area veterans' organizations and civic leaders also participated.

Bing Reaves and George Whitfield are members of Pennington-Moye Post 9251's Buffalo Soldiers.



Pictured on the left is Past Commander-in-Chief George Lisicki and on right is Department of New York Sr. Vice Commander Allan E. Davenport.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR!!

Navy Unit Awards

It is not uncommon to see a DD-214 form from a potential member that doesn't reflect any qualifying awards. If you have access to the Internet, you can check eligibility. All you need to know is what unit the potential member was assigned to and when, along with the name of the ship or boat he/she was assigned to. There may be some former Navy people who are eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and not know it.

The Navy has a Web site that has information on Navy unit awards. It is an alphabetical listings of ships, units and shore activities which have received awards and the dates earned. There is also a listing of units from the other branches that have received Navy awards. To access the information, please follow the steps below:

1. Go to www.navy.mil
2. At the Web site, select "Site Index"
3. The Site Index is an alphabetical listing. Either select the letter "D" or scroll down to the "D" section. Select "Directives, Navy"
4. Then select "Navy Directives Index"
5. There will be a box with the word "SEARCH" in it. Below that, there will be a listing of tables. Select "Table 6. OPNAV 1640.7A to 1740.4A"
6. Next, select "1650 Unit Awards"
7. Follow the instructions on the screen

If you know of a similar Web site for the Army and Air Force, please let me know so that we can share that information.



Pictured, L-R: Post 672 Sr. Vice Commander Steve Mattson, QM Lou Gasparini, Krista Gabarro, Past Post Commander Art Hanley, Trustee John Santorelli and Anna Eisenstein.

Two years ago, Krista Gabarro and Anna Eisenstein, students at Carmel High School, attended a monthly meeting of Brewster Post 672 and presented their vision for a handicapped-accessible nature trail. The trail would be located on land owned by the Putnam County Land Trust in the Town of Southeast. They presented us with a bold vision that they planned to accomplish over the next two years.

The final goal was a trail where persons without fine motor skills, using walkers and even those who were in wheelchairs could commune easily with nature. Mapping out the location was easy. Once they did that, however, it was an uphill climb. Sweat equity clearing the underbrush, moving rocks and fallen trees to insure that the path would be wide enough to accommodate two wheelchairs passing each other along with pull-off areas, although exhausting, was relatively easy. The difficult parts were fundraising, getting services donated and assuring that the trail was ADA-compliant.

With a projected budget of \$15,000 looming over them, the young women showed us their vision for the **Lindera Loop Trail**. Bringing with them photos of the area, both before and after their initial clearing efforts, along with enthusiasm and a drive to succeed that was apparent to all of the members present, they asked for our financial help. Post 672 donated \$2,500 – the first donation they received.

After two years of fundraising, donated labor and hundreds of hours of sweat equity on the part of the two young women, the trail was dedicated on September 20, 2008. The trail is open to the public and is a beautiful walk for those without handicaps and opens a world of nature to those who heretofore have been unable to navigate a walk in the woods.

Post 672 salutes Anna and Krista for giving the residents of Putnam the first handicapped accessible trail in the county. At the dedication, Krista and Anna presented a certificate of thanks to VFW Post 672.

District 2 at Castle Point

District 2 VFW conducted their 59th annual visitation to the Castle Point VA Hospital on Sunday, September 14, 2008. The parade of Posts and Auxiliaries with their Color Guards from the nine counties were joined by the Walker Valley Marching Band and the Maybrook Boy Scout Troop 236 Band, who provided lively marching music and several musical renditions.

The District was welcomed and thanked for their support and volunteer service by Acting Director Robert Walton. Verl Ringgenberg, PDC introduced special guests Dept. Sr. Vice-Commander Allan Davenport and Dept. Ladies Auxiliary President Cindy Campbell, both of whom addressed the gathering.

President Cindy presented a check from the State Auxiliary to the Volunteer Service Patients Program. Following the remarks by District 2 Commander Charles Fleiger and District 2 Ladies Auxiliary President Betty Ringgenberg, Norma Yonchik of Allan Milk Post 7276 Ladies Auxiliary presented a \$200.00 check to the VA outpatient oncology Department.

Visitation and distribution of canteen booklets to patients of the hospital and nursing home followed a luncheon for participants and patients.

**Dedicated to Serving Our
United States Military
and Our Veterans!**

**In God We Trust!
God Bless America!**