

# Post 880 News

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello to all of our legionnaires!!

I hope everyone is staying safe and warm with the onsetting colder weather approaching. Our upcoming months of November and January are part of our quiet season at the Post regarding events. So I would like to take an opportunity to bring everyone up to speed on changes that have been happening around our one of a kind post.



The Outdoor raffle that was rescheduled due to low ticket sales has unfortunately been cancelled due to the same reason. For those of you who have sold tickets or purchased tickets, money will be returned to the purchaser via the committee or through the bar. We apologize for any inconvenience that this cancellation will bring. We hope to get this raffle back on track for a future time.

During the month of December we had our executive board elections and new members added to the board. Congratulations to our newest board members Heidi Wysocki, Dave Wiczerzynski, and Stan Brese. The post would like to thank our former board members Ken Franz, and Dick Casseri for their dedication and countless hours and years of service to the post. Internal elections of Executive Board positions were held as well.

New updates to the post are also underway, including painting of some interior walls and doors to freshen up elements of the post. Thank you to Paul Pruchnicki for heading up our Jukebox project which has been installed in the club room. And we also have new Co-Managers of Post 880, so next time you are in the post please help welcome Dave and Kim Wiczerzynski. A special thank you to our former General Manager and Air Force veteran Bob Reed for his nearly 2 decades of service as our General Manager.

As always thank you, God Bless and God Bless America.

Cmdr. Matthew Szal

## 2024 - 2025 OFFICERS

### LEGION

Commander	Matthew Szal
1st Vice Cdr.	Stan Brese
2nd Vice Cdr.	Kyle Kulczyk
3rd Vice Cdr.	Ken Franz
Finance Officer	Heidi Wysocki
Adjutant	Dennis Stender
Judge Advocate	Paul Pruchnicki
Sgt.-at-Arms	Bob Franz
Chaplain	Jerry Kopryanski
Historian	Dennis Stender
Service Officer	Gary Sam
Public Relations	Jim Trembath

### AUXILIARY

President	Karen Ferguson
1st VP	Cindy Henry
2nd VP	Lori Ranney
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	Carol Haag
Sgt.-at-Arms	Renee Hadley-Scott
Chaplain	Karen Pruchnicki
Co-Historians	JoAnne Franz & Rosemary Peters

### SAL

Commander	Ken Szal
1st Vice Cdr.	Pat Pitillo
2nd Vice Cdr.	Mark Flowers
3rd Vice Cdr.	Charlie Kabel
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Bill Forness
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Jonathan Bauer
Historian	Dave Daurelio

### POST 880 INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Commander	Matthew Szal
President	Nancy James
Vice President	Jim Trembath
Recording Secretary	Nancy James
Treasurer	Heidi Wysocki
Board Members:	Fred Blas
	Bob Reed
	Paul Pruchnicki
	Bill Clark
	Gary Sam
	Stan Brese
	Dave Wiczerzynski

Newsletter Editor:  
Karen Ferguson  
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**LEGION MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Hello Legionnaires,

Wow, where did the year go? Before you know it, December 31st will be here and the end of our 2025 membership will come to a close. Just a little reminder ...if your 2025 dues aren't paid for by Dec.31st and you want to pay them, you will have to go to the website [myLEGION.ORG](http://myLEGION.ORG) to pay your dues. We can not do it for you. If you miss a year of paying dues, you would also be breaking up your consecutive years of service and will again start from the year 1. I would hate to see that happen to you. You still have time, but it's running short. If you need to contact me for any reason, my number is 716-597-6330.



I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Hey....you joined .....get involved

Stan Brese, Membership Chairman

**CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE**

**A Time to Think**

As the song title says "It's the most wonderful time of the year", or rather it should be! Turn on the television or social media and you're likely to find a different story. If it isn't some special report on bad news it's commercials selling the latest and greatest electronic gadgets or some salesman telling you that you would really look good in a Mercedes or some other high-end, over-priced car. But of course none of these things truly reflect the real spirit of the holiday season.



So turn off the TV! Play some Christmas Carols, read a book or better yet spend time with the people you love reliving past Christmases. Christmas is about love! Our Heavenly Father loves each one of us and to prove it He sent His only Son to save us. A wise man once said that the greatest gift we could possibly give each other especially our children is Time and Love. Take time to think about it!

Please pray for our men and women in the armed forces at this very special and holy time.

A very merry, and blessed Christmas to all Legion members, Sons, Ladies of the Auxiliary, and staff that serve American Legion Post 880.

God bless our troops and God bless America.

Chaplain Jerry K

## NEWS FROM SAL

Hello All,

Watch out everyone looks like winter is a coming. I'm not looking forward to it at all. Time to bring in the last of the firewood, make sure your liquor cabinet and refrigerator are loaded with the good stuff, and get ready to hunker down for the next 4 1/2 months.



The Sons have their annual Breakfast with Santa on Sunday, December 8, from 10:30-12:30. Handcrafted pancakes with savory breakfast sausage, delicious orange juice and coffee are included for a nominal fee of \$3 for children and \$4 for adults. Santa will be there and maybe Mrs Claus too. Every tyke walks away with a stuffed animal and a visit with Santa. We will be decorating Thursday November 5 at 6pm. Decorating our hall is a gigantic undertaking and much help is needed. Please make every effort to stop in and lend a hand. The hall looks fantastic when we are done and is used many groups throughout the Christmas season. And the way the children's faces light up when they walk into the hall for breakfast with Santa is absolutely priceless.

Our regular Santa is unable to help this year so we are in search of a Santa. We have his outfit, we just need the right person to fill it. Contact the post is you would like to volunteer.

Be safe and have a great Christmas and holiday season.

May God bless you, our military, our post and the United States of America.

Kenneth D. Szal



On Veterans Day Post 880 held its annual service. SAL Commander Ken Szal spoke about the plaques that will be displayed in the new Memorial Hall. (See application on back page of newsletter) Sgt at Arms Bob Franz paying respect to the POW Missing Man table. Auxiliary President Karen Ferguson thanked veterans for their service and sacrifice. Also pictured is Post Commander Matt Szal.

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

After our November meeting members helped pack 11 care packages for our local military personnel who will not be home for the Christmas holidays. Thanks to MaryAnn Clerc for delivering the boxes to the post office for us. Thanks also to the Captain John Levulis Foundation for paying the postage to mail the boxes. I've already heard back from 2 of the recipients and they were grateful that we remembered them.



Members also wrapped gifts after the meeting for the children who will be coming to our BOCES Children's Christmas party on Tuesday, December 10. Debbie Holscher and Rosie Peters are chairing this event. Help will be needed beginning around 8:30 am. We'll serve pancakes and sausage and hand out gifts and treats to the children.

I received many compliments on our luncheon after the Veterans Day service. There was a very nice variety of food and desserts. Thanks to those who brought dishes and to those who helped serve and clean up afterward.

I also want to thank those who donated cash and gift cards to the family we are sponsoring this year. I will deliver them to the school to be given to the family next week.

I have tickets for our annual March Money Madness FUNdraiser event that will be on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Tickets are still only \$10 and make a great stocking stuffer. Please contact me if you would like some.

Just a reminder that we do not have a meeting in December so our next meeting is on January 14, 2025.

As this year comes to a close, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year!

For God and Country,  
Karen Ferguson, Unit President



## American Legion Post 880 Memorial Hall Plaque Purchase Order Form

Post 880

Date

Point of Contact: Ken Szal

Phone: 716-498-0560

Email: [Hawkiken@aol.com](mailto:Hawkiken@aol.com)

Make checks payable to: AMERICAN LEGION POST 880

Memo: MEMORIAL HALL

# \$35

Donation per plaque

**Your Contact Name**

[Name]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP]

[Phone]

[Email]

**Comments or Special Instructions**

Military Branch:

Name:

Dates of Service:

**\*Please return all completed forms and payment to the bar staff at American Legion Post 880**

If you have any questions about this purchase order, please contact  
Ken Szal at the contact information above

Memorial Hall is located at Newell Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr Eden, NY 14057. Our goal is to convert our red barn into a shrine memorializing our United States Military Service Members. We will be attaining this goal through the purchase of plaques, donations, grants, and fundraising events. Memorial Hall 880 will feature names of not only local heroes but those from near and far. The renovation will be a unique addition to Post 880 along with the posts other attributes and make this a must-see destination throughout our community, WNY, and country wide.

## Calendar

### December

- 3 - Legion Member Meeting
- 4 - Corn Hole League
- 5 - Decorate Hall for Christmas
- 7 - Pearl Harbor Day
- 8 - Breakfast with Santa
- 10 - BOCES Children's Christmas Party
- 11 - Corn Hole League
- 14 - **Outdoor Gear Raffle - CANCELED**
- 14 - Wreaths Across America
- 17 - Auxiliary Members Christmas Dinner
- 17 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 18 - Corn Hole League
- 24 - Christmas Eve - Post closing at 6 pm
- 25 - Merry Christmas!
- 31 - New Year's Eve

### January

- 1 - Happy New Year!
- 7 - Legion Member Meeting
- 14 - Auxiliary Member Meeting
- 15 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 28 - Sons Member Meeting

### *Sick Call*

*Larry Clerc  
Ed Travis  
Grace Yingling*

### *In Sympathy*

*Neil Curtin  
Janice Johnson  
Dick Scott  
Jeff Winter (death of mother)*

*For illness or death notification, please call:  
Legion Contact Gary Sam 716-548-9232  
Auxiliary Contact is Karen Pruchnicki 716-380-4410  
SAL Contact is Jonathan Bauer 716-514-3892*