

Post 880 News

COMMANDER'S CORNER

To post members: We need phone or cell numbers to update our contact list.

Tuition assistance applications are available in club room and due back NO later than March 1st, 2023.

Winterfest weekend is February 3,4,5 and most of the activities will be on Legion Grounds. Help will be needed for setup and change over each day in banquet hall.

March Madness Mar. 4th & basket raffle Karen Ferguson has the tickets, you must get them from her.

Handicap ramps to come in the Spring.

Eden Athletic Association activities will take place on Legion grounds and barn this summer due to construction at school.

Music on Main St. will also be on Legion grounds and in the barn if raining, also due to construction at school.

Membership Dues for 2023 are due, please send renewals to the Post or drop off, so cards are promptly returned.

Next Post meetings are Feb. 7th, Mar. 7th, and April 4th. Mark your calendars. Come and find out what's going on at YOUR POST!

Don't forget, 4/2/23 Breakfast with Easter Bunny 10:30AM. to 12 Noon.

And as always, God Bless Our Troops and Your Loved Ones.

Cmdr. Jim Blidy

Delivering Christmas Cheer

Over \$700 in cash and gift cards and a few gifts were collected from our Legion Family members for the family we sponsored. The generosity of our Legion members made for a very nice Christmas for this family.

Thank you.

On December 2 Auxiliary President Karen Ferguson delivered a care package to the Travis family. She learned that Legion member Ed Travis was at the Batavia VA for an extended period of time so the Auxiliary decided to make up a gift box that included a hand-crocheted lap blanket and a Buffalo Bills knit hat for Ed, and gift cards from Tim Hortons and Sunoco to assist his wife, Nancy in making the trip back and forth to Batavia. Fortunately, Ed returned home to Eden just in time for Christmas!



2022 - 2023 OFFICERS

LEGION

Commander	Jim Blidy
1st Vice Cdr.	Bob Weisedel
2nd Vice Cdr.	Vinny Skoczylas
3rd Vice Cdr.	Ken Franz
Finance Officer	Bob Reed
Adjutant	Bill Clark
Judge Advocate	
Sgt.-at-Arms	Bob Franz
Chaplain	Jerry Kopryanski
Historian	Dennis Stender
Service Officer	Dick Casseri
Public Relations	Jim Trembath

AUXILIARY

President	Karen Ferguson
1st VP	Cindy Henry
2nd VP	Lori Ranney
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	Grace Yingling
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
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Joe Tutuska
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Wayne Mintz
Co-Chaplain	Jonathan Bauer
Historian	

GUESTS AND BOOSTERS

President	Bill Forness
Membership	Paul Marcin
Secretary/Treasurer	Jeff Winter

Karen Ferguson
3099 Milford Terrace
Hamburg, NY 14075
716/870-2857
KJFERG59@GMAIL.COM

ELECTRIC MOBILITY CHAIR

If you are in need of an electric mobility chair please contact Paula Fiorella at 716-725-4089.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

A Time for Prayer

It seemed like most of the country stopped for minutes on the evening of January 2, 2023. Damar Hamlin, a football safety for the Buffalo Bills had suffered a heart attack on the field. In a matter of minutes the entire stadium grew silent as people of every race and creed bowed their heads in silent prayer regardless of team allegiance. In an ironic way it reminded me of the morning of September 11, 2001. Thousands of people died when the World Trade Center buildings were destroyed. The nation was silent. People prayed openly in the streets, shedding tears and embracing each other.

It seems like tragedies bring out the true spirit of humanity....a unity among people of every color, race or religion. The truth is we DO NOT need tragedies to bring us to prayer. We can, and should pray each and every day. We do not need to be in a church! We can pray wherever we happen to be....stopped at a signal, going for a walk, sitting alone at home. We can pray for those who are sick, the lonely, our family and friends. Don't forget our troops!

Whatever we pray for, our final prayer should always be, "Thank you Lord for all my blessings!"

God bless you, your families and our troops,

Chaplain Jerry K



NEWS FROM SAL

Hello All,

We are about 1/2 way through this tough winter season, so keep your head up, the sun is on its way. We also have our annual gun raffle coming up this May 6. The gun raffle will be held at our post, from 4-8pm. Tickets are only \$20.00 and our prize list is better than ever. Our co-chairs, Mark and Noelle Sisti, have worked extremely hard to make this one of the best raffles around. Tickets are available behind the bar at the Post, or give us a call and we will get them to you. We are in dire need of volunteers for this event, so please give me a call and I'll let you know how you may be able to help.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will April 2, from 10:30-12:30. Bring the family and enjoy a good breakfast and have the little ones visit with the Easter Bunny. This function is always a lot of fun. So put this date on your calendar and stop on down.

Our annual Post Golf tournament will be Friday, August 25. Stay tuned for additional information as it becomes available.

The Sons are trying to get more members involved in our meetings and our events. Our dedicated members, that we rely on for the day to day operations, are getting older and Father Time is catching up to some of us, making us less productive than we once were. So please lend a hand if possible.

That's all for now.

May God bless our Post, our past and present military, and the good old United States of America.

Kenneth D. Szal
Cdr, Squadron 880



The kids all enjoyed visiting with Santa at the pancake breakfast on Dec. 11

FREE YOGA CLASSES FOR VETERANS

Village Yoga and Wellness located at 141 Pine St., Hamburg offers a variety of classes, styles and instructors. The owner, Beth Licata Cooke, previously volunteered her expertise to veterans at the VA before opening her own studio.

Yoga is proven to aid in treating trauma, anxiety, PTSD and more. (and it's fun!)

Village Yoga won Best in WNY two years in a row.

[Veterans Always Free](#)

More information can be found at
villageyogawny.com

AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone had good holidays despite the weather. I'm beginning to think White Christmas is overrated!

We had a few events in December leading up to Christmas and I thank those of you who volunteered and helped at our Sr. Citizens Christmas Dinner and the BOCES Children's Christmas party. We could have used more help as we are all getting older and speaking for myself, I don't have the energy to do what I did 30 years ago!

We had a discussion and preliminary vote at our January meeting to increase our membership dues from the current \$30 to \$40 for 2024. All members must be notified of this increase so we will have a final vote at our February 14 meeting. The increase is needed because the amount that we must pay to Department will be increased by \$8 from \$20 to \$28 leaving us with only \$2 per member if we do nothing.

We are visiting with the vets at Eden Heights on Thursday, February 9 at 1:15 pm.

Our annual March Money Madness FUNdraiser will take place on Saturday, March 4, 2023. We need to sell 400 tickets by then so please help us out by purchasing or selling tickets. Those of you who took tickets to sell, please be sure to turn in the stubs and payment as soon as possible and if you have any unsold tickets, we need them returned as well so that someone else can buy or sell them. Basket raffle items are needed too so please consider making up a basket or donate a gift card to a store or restaurant. The NYS Liquor Authority forbids us from raffling alcohol so please keep that in mind when making your basket. Also, we need handheld or single serve desserts such as cookies, brownies or cupcakes to serve that day. They can be homemade or store bought.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

For God and Country,

Karen Ferguson, Unit President



Post 880 was awarded a \$30,000 grant as part of the Main Street Grant that assists businesses in the Town of Eden with upgrades and renovations. This is a 50/50 matching funds grant. Pictured above is Bob Reed, Finance Officer, Eden Town Supervisor Melissa Hartman, and Post Commander Jim Blidy.

The children from Erie BOCES had a fun time at their Christmas Party including a visit with Santa



Thanks to Boy Scout Troop 603 for their help serving at our Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. They did a great job!





Members of Post 880 helped lay wreaths at Eden Evergreen Cemetery



Auxiliary and Sons help decorate the hall for Christmas events.



Calendar

February

- 3 - 5 - Winterfest many events taking place at the Post including South City on Friday, Feb. 3 from 8 - 11 pm
- 7 - Legion Member Meeting
- 14 - Auxiliary Meeting
- 15 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 22 - Ash Wednesday
- 28 - Sons Meeting

March

- 4 - Auxiliary's March Money Madness
- 7 - Legion Member Meeting
- 14 - Auxiliary Meeting
- 15 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 28 - Sons Meeting

April

- 2 - Breakfast with Easter Bunny and Easter Egg Hunt
- 4 - Legion Member Meeting
- 9 - Happy Easter!
- 11 - Auxiliary Meeting
- 19 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 25 - Sons Meeting

Sick Call

*Joe Laud
Ed Travis*

In Sympathy

*Linda Amarosa-Schaefer
Maryann Clerc (death of mother)*

CORRECTION: Last newsletter mistakenly stated Pat Puckhaber's father had recently passed away but it was his brother who passed

*For illness or death notification, please call
Legion Contact Dick Casseri at 549-4975
Auxiliary Contact is Karen Pruchnicki 380-4410
SAL Contact is Wayne Mintz 575-4045*