

# Post 880 News

## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Spring is just around the corner, hope everyone is healthy.

Post Meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 PM. Last meeting was Nov. 3, 2020.

Post Restoration update - last meeting was in November, hopefully this program will start up again and get repairs to our post.

Also looking ahead, we are hopeful to plan our 100th anniversary in October 2021.

Post dine-in and take out are starting to pick up. Please be patient for your orders. We can only handle so much in the kitchen.

Daylight Saving Time is March 14th, that means SPRING AHEAD!

Please stay healthy and safe.

God Bless You, God Bless Our Military

Jim Blidy,  
Post Commander



For the past several years we have awarded tuition assistance checks to the children and grandchildren of eligible members of Post 880. Unfortunately this year we are unable to provide this assistance due to financial constraints placed on the Post from our limited hours of operation in 2020. If things continue to improve, we will present scholarships in June to deserving Eden High School graduates.

## THANK YOU FROM THE KITCHEN

As you know we are open for dine-in and takeout. Our hours are Tuesday - Thursday from 3 - 9 pm, Friday from 11 am-9 pm and Saturday from noon-9 pm. We remain closed on Sunday and Monday. We appreciate everyone's support and apologize for the long wait times that guests have been experiencing. Our kitchen is small and limited as to how much we can prepare at a time. We are doing our best to keep up with orders. Now especially during Lent, we have seen a big uptick in business. We ask for and appreciate everyone's patience and look forward to serving you.

## 2020 - 2021 OFFICERS

### LEGION

Commander	Jim Blidy
1st Vice Cdr.	Bob Weisedel
2nd Vice Cdr.	Nancy James
3rd Vice Cdr.	Ken Franz
Finance Officer	Bob Reed
Adjutant	Bill Clark
Judge Advocate	Heidi Wysocki
Sgt.-at-Arms	Bob Franz
Chaplain	Jerry Kopryanski
Historian	
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.	Bob Reed
2nd Vice Cdr.	Mark Flowers
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Joe Tutuska
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Wayne Mintz
Historian	Larry Clerc

### GUESTS AND BOOSTERS

President	Bill Forness
Secretary	Mary Ann Clerc
Membership/Treasurer	Jeff Winter

**Karen Ferguson**  
3099 Milford Terrace  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716/870-2857  
[KJFERG@ROADRUNNER.COM](mailto:KJFERG@ROADRUNNER.COM)

## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

### Spring - A Season of Hope

As I write this reflection, there are 27 days until the first day of Spring, a season of HOPE. We hope for racial equality, peace in our nation and families and especially an end to the pandemic. This past year has certainly tested the patience of even the most hopeful people.



In Romans 5:3-5 St. Paul says that we can rejoice in our sufferings because we are people of hope. We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.

As the snow melts and the trees and flowers begin blooming we realize that this is a time for renewal. A time to renew our hope in God and know that no matter what, God's got this!

I want to take this time to wish all of you and your families a very happy, healthy and holy Easter. Please remember to pray for our country and the men and women of our armed forces.

God bless you and your families.

Chaplain Jerry K.

The Post is having another monthly raffle based on the NYS evening number drawn during the month of April. Tickets are \$5 each for a chance to \$50 daily and \$100 if your number is drawn on Easter Sunday, April 4. Tickets are available at the Post. Proceeds from this fundraiser will be used for our building and operations expenses. Thank you for your support.

## NEWS FROM SAL

Hello All,

As we shovel, snow blow, and plow ourselves out from under this last winter blast, we must remind ourselves that we have plenty to be thankful for. Unlike our brothers in Texas there was no widespread power outages or lack of drinkable water. People often mock us for our weather, but it is not often that our regular routines are disrupted for days and sometimes weeks while things get back to normal. We don't have to rebuild or relocate after one of these major storms that recently hit us. So try to be upbeat and positive while we dig our way back to normalcy.



The Sons have a full calendar planned for this year. We have tentative dates for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, our annual Gun Raffle, the Post 880 Golf Tournament, and the Corn Festival. Let's hope this virus is contained and the government lets us conduct these activities so we may get back to the way things used to be. Stay tuned for more information as we navigate 2021.

Chef Jack and his kitchen staff have really upped their game as business remains brisk at the Post. The food quality and variety seem to be at its best this year. Next time you see them tell them thanks and keep up the good work.'

Speaking of hard work, our post commander, Jim Blidy, is a non-stop, post first kind of a guy. He is truly a great commander and should be commended for his service to his country, and his service to our Post. Thank you Commander for all you do.

That's all for now. May God bless our troops, our Veterans, and may God bless the United States of America.

Cdr. Kenneth D. Szal  
Squadron 880

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy.

Our March Money Madness FUNdraiser will take place on Sunday, March 14. Unfortunately this year we will not be able to host it in person. We will pull all 400 numbers and record them and then notify the winners by phone. The winners will be posted on the Legion's website, [post880.com](http://post880.com) on the evening of March 14. Checks will be mailed out to winners promptly. Thank you to all who purchased and sold tickets for this event.

I received a letter from Erie County Auxiliary President Rosemary O'Connell informing me that we need to hold our election of officers at our March meeting rather than in April because County needs our list of new officers by April 15. That being said, if anyone is interested in running for office, please contact our nominating committee: Barb Levulis at 716/982-9883 or Lori Ranney at 716/649-0574 and make your intentions known. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, March 9. Executive board meets at 6:30 followed by our regular membership meeting at 7:00 pm. Masks are required.

I hate to be a nag.....but, we still have some members who have not yet renewed their 2021 membership dues. Please get them paid ASAP. Dues are \$30 and checks should be made payable to ALA Unit 880 and either left at the bar or mailed to:

Cindy Henry  
7180 Gowanda State Road  
Eden, NY 14057

Some of you may have received a notice from National advising you to pay your dues. If you already paid them and received your 2021 membership card, please disregard the notice from National. When we receive your dues payment our membership chairman notifies Department in Albany and then Department notifies National but there seems to be quite a delay in the timeliness from when Department notifies National.

Please stay safe and healthy.

For God and Country,

Karen Ferguson  
Unit President



## M-1 Carbine Rifle Raffle for 2021

So - did anyone notice the error I had in the last newsletter? I stated we raffled an M-1 Garand Rifle this past October and that we are raffling another one in October 2021. I mistakenly referred to the one we are currently raffling as an M-1 Garand but it is actually an M-1 Carbine as clearly stated on the ticket.

My apologies for any confusion. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the bar.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 880**

**100th ANNIVERSARY  
M-1 CARBINE RIFLE  
RAFFLE**

**Saturday, October 2, 2021**

American Legion Post 880  
2912 Legion Drive • Eden, NY 14057  
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

**DONATION \$5.00**

**FIRST PRIZE**



As Is / Previously Owned

**D-Day Commemorative  
M-1 Carbine Rifle  
- OR -  
\$750 CASH**

**SECOND PRIZE  
\$500.00 CASH**

**THIRD PRIZE  
\$250.00 CASH**

Note: Winner must pass the NICS background check - or the \$750 prize will be substituted.

No. 1971



Longtime Post 880 Chaplain Ron Smith turned 87 on January 22 and his family arranged for a surprise drive-by parade to wish him a Happy Birthday!



## Calendar

### March

2 - Post Membership Meeting

9 - Auxiliary Meeting

14 - March Money Madness - winners will be posted on website in the evening

17 - St. Patrick's Day  
Post Executive Board Meeting

30 - SAL Meeting

### April

2 - Good Friday

4 - Easter Sunday

### ***Sick Call***

*Joe Laud  
Robert Robertson*

### ***In Sympathy***

*Tom Ratajczak (death of wife)*

*For illness or death notification, please call the  
Post at 992-3304 or Dick Casseri at 549-4975  
Auxiliary Contact is Karen Pruchnicki 380-4410  
SAL Contact is Wayne Mintz 575-4045*