

Post 880 News

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hope everyone enjoyed the summer, and enjoys the fall weather to come.

I would like to thank everyone that volunteered to make our Eden Corn Festival a success.

The emergency generator is on site but more parts are on order. The installation work is scheduled with the electrician but he has a backlog of work that needs to be completed..

We are waiting for estimates to move the kitchen swing door, which will give us more room for 2 more deep fryers in the kitchen.

November 5th we fall back to Eastern Standard Time, that's an extra hour of sleep!

November 11th is Veterans Day. We will be having a service in the banquet hall at 11:00 AM. A luncheon will be held after the service provided by the Auxiliary. We are hoping for a good turn out from members and the community to honor our veterans.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving. Be responsible.

Election of E-Board members will take place at our next meeting on Tuesday, October 3.

Next post meetings are: November 7th & December 5th.

Outdoor Gear & Meat Raffle December 9th Doors open at 4:30, First Drawing at 5:30

If anyone is interested in serving as a post officer, now is the time to get acquainted with the position you'd like to run for next March. It's never too early to start learning about the different positions held by our officers.

As always, we are always looking for new members.

God bless America, God Bless our Military and most of all God Bless our Families!

Jim Blidy,
Post Commander



2023 - 2024 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 | Paul Pruchnicki |
| 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 | 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. | Chuck Danzi |
| Finance Officer | Mark Sisti |
| Adjutant | Bill Forness |
| Sgt.-at-Arms | Scot Christiansen |
| Chaplain | Wayne Mintz |
| Co-Chaplain | Jonathan Bauer |
| Historian | Dave Daurelio |

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

2024 MEMBER DUES

Legion Dues are \$46
Check payable to Post 880
Leave at the bar or Mail to
2912 Legion Drive
Eden, NY 14057

Auxiliary Dues are \$40
Check payable to ALA Unit 880
Leave at bar or mail to
Cindy Henry
7180 Gowanda State Road
Eden, NY 14057

Sons Dues are \$30
Check payable to SAL Squadron 880
Leave at bar or mail to
2912 Legion Drive
Eden, NY 14057

AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

Hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful summer we had and hope it continues right through the fall!

We had a successful Corn Festival selling wine and frozen slushies. The Sons generously donated a refrigerator to us that we used in the barn and it kept the wine cold and the slushies frozen so we were very grateful for that. I was able to borrow a large cooler that we used in the tent and that also worked out for us. Thank you to all who helped out this year. We will tweak a couple minor things but overall everything worked out well.

We hosted the veterans from Eden Heights at our Post for a pizza party in September and the guys really had a nice time and looked forward to the afternoon outing.

The Auxiliary will provide lunch after the ceremony on Veterans Day, Saturday, November 11. We will serve roast beef sandwiches and need members to provide salads, side dishes and desserts. Dishes served hot need to be dropped off at the Legion by 10 am.

We will send a care package to any local military personnel who will not be home for the holidays. If you know of someone, please send me their name and address by November 1 so that we can plan accordingly. Care packages will be sent out in November so that recipients receive them in time for the Christmas holiday.

At our September meeting we discussed the upcoming holiday events. Our Christmas dinner for Auxiliary members will be on Wednesday, December 6. Dinner order forms will be available soon. Our Christmas party for the local BOCES children will be on Tuesday, December 12. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that we will NOT host a Christmas dinner for the senior citizens this year.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10.

For God and Country,

Karen Ferguson
Unit President



Thanks to our members and members of the community who very generously made donations to replace the flags that were ruined earlier this year by the windstorm that whipped through town.

Jim Ranney from the Captain John Levulis Foundation made a donation of \$2,250 and the Boy Scouts also presented a check for \$2,000 for flag replacement.



On June 21 there was a rededication ceremony at Russell Salvatore's Patriots and Heroes Park. Legion member and Purple Heart recipient Jim Trembath was present along with his wife, Sharen. Also in attendance was Commandant Ken Blachura Marine Corps League Bett- Toomey detachment 216, who is also a member of Post 880 American Legion. Ken is pictured here with Russell Salvatore.

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Loving and Forgiving

Several years ago I saw a framed print of a quote that really made an impression on me, It read:

"People will forget what you said,

People will forget what you did,

But people will never forget how you made them feel!"

Trying to live within the parameters of these words is very difficult only for the fact that we are human! Many times our words and actions lead to hard feelings even between the best of friends. Sometimes the hardest thing for some people to do is to say "I'm sorry" and perhaps even more difficult, to say "I forgive you"! These two phrases are the key to making others never forget how you made them feel.

Since this newsletter will cover the months of October and November I just want to remind you to remember our veterans on Veterans Day November 11th. Please pray for all of them especially those that are currently serving in our armed forces.

God bless each of you, your families and all that serve our Post and their families.

Chaplain Jerry K.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Outdoor Gear & Meat Raffle
rescheduled to

Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Tickets available at the bar or contact Karen Ferguson and she will mail them to you.

We are in need of items for the basket raffle. Baskets can be dropped off at the Legion. If you prefer to donate a gift card, please give it to the bartender and tell her it is for the Outdoor Gear & Meat Raffle

We need our members to support this event by either purchasing or selling tickets to make it successful.



NEWS FROM SAL

Hello All,

I hope you all had a great summer. I know I did. The fall season is upon us so now we turn our attention to our beloved Buffalo Bills and Buffalo Sabres.

We had our annual Cornfest Clam Stand, Dunk 'em Booth, and Post Golf Tournament recently. Our turnout for both events was very good, and our volunteers did a tremendous job as usual. All 4 days of the Corn Fest were really quite perfect weather wise. And the overall attendance seemed to be heavier than last year. I take my hat off to all of our volunteers and say "thank you very much."

Chairman Mark Flowers said our golf tournament went smoothly as usual. Even with new management at the golf course things still were quite uneventful, even though the weather wasn't the best, I believe a good time was had by all. A big thanks to all that helped especially the Post 880 Ladies Auxiliary. And a big thank you to all of our sponsors. We couldn't have done it without you!

Our next event will be Breakfast w/ Santa. Event details will be coming shortly. As per usual, many volunteers will be needed not just the event but to help in decorating the hall. Our Post utilizes the hall for many different events for the Christmas time. We always receive many compliments for the job we do decorating it. But the decorations don't go up by themselves. Many hands are needed. So please help the Post out and lend a hand.

The holidays can be a most difficult time of the year for many. Please reach out to a neighbor, friend, or relative and let them know they are not alone. I believe we are here to help our fellow man. Like the saying goes, "reach out and touch someone."

That's all for now.

May God bless you, our military, and our country.

Kenneth D. Szal
Commander Squadron 880



SAL Cmdr Ken and Suzie spotted making their rounds at the Eden Valley Golf Course.





The Captain John J. Levulis Memorial Foundation thanks all the participants, volunteers and supporters who made the first annual Captain John Levulis Golf Tournament a success. Featuring more than 100 golfers, the tournament was held Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 at Concord Crest Golf Course. In addition to numerous hole sponsors and donations, the Sons of the American Legion Post #880 sponsored the golfer beverage cart. The cart provided golfers with refreshments at no additional cost while on the course. Proceeds from the tournament support the

Foundation's charitable actions which include student scholarships, Hometown Heroes Banners, Flags Along Main Street, a service dog for a WNY veteran, service member care packages, Save the Sullivans and donations to the Eden-North Collins Food Pantry.

Kathryn Allen is the Community Outreach and Senior Advocate for [caring.com](https://www.caring.com) and provided the following information that many of our members may find helpful:

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, there are over 18.2 million veterans aged 65 and above, many of whom require long-term care. Unfortunately, navigating the intricacies of available benefits can be daunting, particularly for retired veterans in their elderly years.

To address this issue and assist senior veterans and their families, they have created a comprehensive guide that explains various VA benefits, focusing on those applicable to seniors. This guide offers valuable insights into utilizing VA benefits to meet long-term care needs. It outlines eligibility requirements and provides a step-by-step application process to determine available options for financing their healthcare needs.

You can access their guide: <https://www.caring.com/caregivers/veterans-benefits/#va-benefits-explained>

Calendar

October

- 3 - Post Member Meeting
- 9 - Columbus Day
- 10 - Auxiliary Member Meeting
- 18 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 31 - Sons Meeting
- 31 - Happy Halloween!

November

- 7 - Post Membership Meeting
- 7 - Election Day
- 11 - Veterans Day Service at 11 am
- 14 - Auxiliary Meeting
- 15 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 23 - Happy Thanksgiving
- 28 - Sons Meeting
- 30 - Decorate Hall for Holidays



You never know who you'll see at the Eden Corn Festival - past post commander Harry Rudy was in town and met up with President Karen at the wine stand!

Sick Call

*Janice Johnson
Ed Travis*

In Sympathy

*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*