

Happenings

Membership Chairman Dennis Madden Receives Department Award



Dennis Madden, 1st Vice Commander and Membership Chairman of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Department of New York Commander V. James Troiola for achieving over 100% of the Post's membership goal by December 31st 2010. The Post has consistently exceeded its membership goals over the last six years, nearly doubling its membership over that time period. The award was presented by County Commander Bob Bruggemann at the February 4th meeting of the Suffolk County American Legion. Needless to say, we are all very proud of Dennis and all he has accomplished in these few past years!

Post 1244 Hosts High School Oratorical Contest. On January 8, we were proud to host the Suffolk County High School Oratorical Contest at our meeting hall at St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus. Seven students from high schools in Suffolk county participated.

The purpose of the contest is to develop knowledge and an appreciation of the Constitution of The United States on the part of high school students. The students were all very well prepared, knowledgeable and passionate about their subject. The top prizes were awarded as follows:

- 1st Place. Katherine Kruck of St. Pius V School in Melville, sponsored by Greenlawn Post 1244.
- 2nd Place. Danielle Haley of West Babylon High School, sponsored by Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634.
- 3rd Place. Schuyler Berland of Half Hollow Hills High School, sponsored by Northport Post 694.

Many thanks to our volunteers: Charlie Armstrong, Donna Boyle, Ed O'Shea, Fran Hubbs and Madelaine Santo. Special thanks to our judges Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Suffolk Legislator Steve Stern and Past Department Vice Commander Arthur Laufer.

Election of Officers

We will hold our annual election of officers at our next meeting, April 13th, 2011. Please contact our nominating chairman Tom Freeman at 516-524-0708 if you have any questions. Installation of Officers will be May 11th.

American Legion Auxiliary News



I would like to begin by saying it is indeed a privilege for me to serve as the first President of the newly chartered Greenlawn American Legion Auxiliary to Post 1244. At this printing, the Auxiliary has passed their first year Anniversary. Thanks to our membership of 23 members, we are thriving and have been able to support so many Veteran programs. Our ladies have given their time, energy and finances to further our goals and ideals concerning our role in the community, to Post 1244 and, most importantly, our responsibilities to the Veterans.

Over the past year we have attended Memorial ceremonies standing very proudly alongside the Post Officers and members, marched in the Memorial Day Parades and distributed poppies. Most recently, we collected coats and donated them to needy Veterans, collected new clothing and donated them to the Veterans Home in Yaphank as Christmas presents, and participated in the Christmas stocking program for the service men and women in Iraq, donating 23 stockings as well as monies for the mailing.

Several members proudly volunteered at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and for our Flag sale, we were able to sell 27 flags honoring 911 heroes. These are just some of what we have been able to do collectively as an Auxiliary.

Once again on April 16, 2011 at 7 pm, we will hold our second Dance and Chinese Auction Raffle Fund Raiser to be held at the St. Joseph Knights of Columbus Hall, Greenlawn, New York. Tickets can be gotten from Commander Bob Santo or call Fran Hubbs 631-423-1176. We appreciate your help and support to make this affair a huge success once again.

As an Auxiliary we thank Commander Bob, his officers and members for their help and support. We look forward to working and supporting Post 1244 in all their future programs.

Fran Hubbs, President

Happenings

Boys State Delegates Selected



L-R: Cmdr. Santo, Boys State Chairman Charlie Armstrong, Ryan Finn, J.P. Letourneau, Alex Kazerouni and Principal Dr. David Bennardo

Boys State Chairmen Charlie Armstrong and Ed O'Shea have announced their selections for our sponsored Boys State candidates for 2011. Harborfields High School juniors Alex Kazerouni and Ryan Finn were selected as delegates with J.P. Letourneau as an alternate.

Boys State is a program of The American Legion developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of Government; that the individual is an integral part, and commensurately responsible, for the character and success of his government. Boys' State is easily classified as a Leadership Action Program wherein qualified male high school juniors participate in a practical government course designed to develop in the young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of Government and to impress upon them that their Government is just what **THEY** make it.

If you would like more information as to how you or your organization or business can sponsor a boy for Boys State, please contact Charlie Armstrong at 917-337-2234.

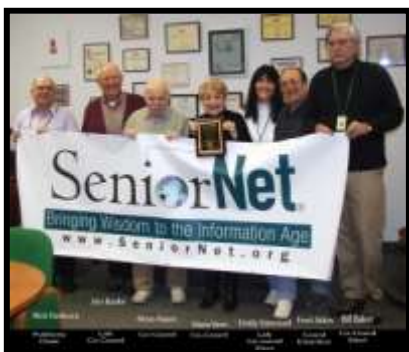
LEARN OR SHARPEN YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS

BY ALLEN SCHWARTZ

SeniorNet

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and You!



Welcome to SeniorNet at the Family Service League, Long Island: An award winning chapter with 125 volunteers, two learning centers, and a curriculum of 30 courses providing classroom training, seminars, and homebound virtual training for adults 50 and over.

SeniorNet's National mission is to provide seniors with education and access to computer technology. There are Learning Centers throughout the United States and the world; established in 1986, over 1,000,000 seniors have been trained. Courses are specifically designed for seniors and are taught by caring volunteer instructors and coaches.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- Applicants for all courses need to join SeniorNet National. Fees: 1 year \$40; Renewal \$30.
- Courses vary from 2 to 8 sessions of 2.5 hours, average cost \$40.
- See ad page for all contact information or call Allen at 631-807-1303.

"You Earned It" by Donna Boyle, Post Service Officer



HELP FOR THE ONES YOU LEAVE BEHIND

No one wants to think about their own mortality but you must in order to care for your family. This article is to assist those you must leave behind.

The anxiety and fear of the unknown is an unpleasant experience. Add to that the exhaustion that dealing with your funeral has caused and that many families are simply overwhelmed. Completing the numerous claims forms for VA survivors' benefits is difficult but important.

Without the veteran's form DD 214 or Discharge Certificate, a funeral director cannot get a place of burial for the veteran in a National Cemetery such as Calverton, render military honors or have or the Nation's Flag to be presented to the next of kin at the time of burial.

To help them and ensure they have all the necessary details for filing a claim, please compile these documents:

- Your DD214 or Discharge Certificate
- Your VA claim number
- Your Social Security number
- Government life insurance policy
- A copy of your marriage certificates
- A copy of any divorce decrees
- A copy of each child's birth certificate
- A copy of any adoption order
- Your birth certificate to determine parents' benefits



That way they will only have to obtain your death certificate

Your family should know where to go for help. I suggest obtaining a copy of "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" (An informative pamphlet) in addition any VA service representatives can answer questions about benefits eligibility and application procedures. Contact the nearest VA benefits office at 1-800-827-1000 for help.



World War II B17 "Yankee Lady" Raffle



One again, we will be raffling off a ride on the vintage "Yankee Lady" a WW II Flying Fortress. Chances are still available for an opportunity to win a flight on May 28 from Republic Airport. The drawing will take place at our monthly meeting on May 11. This is the major fundraiser for all of our American Legion programs. We urge all of our members to sell a few to family, friends and co workers. It's a great way to help our Post and to let others (especially fellow veterans) know who we are!

Tickets are only \$5 each or 6 for \$20. For tickets or information, please contact Bob Santo at 631-673-8704 or 516-458-7881.

Thank you for supporting your American Legion Post!



Vice Commander's Call to Members



On Saturday, January 8th, 2011, this Post had its most recent opportunity to shine, and shine we did ! Two of our brothers, John Caldarelli and Allen Shaw, officiated at the burial of 20 unclaimed veterans from various locations in NYC, at Calverton National Cemetery. No need to describe the day as you have all seen media coverage or viewed it on the computer, but I am here to tell you, yet again, what a magnificent ceremony it was and how well the entire event was reviewed.

You have heard me say often, that you belong to the "little Post that could, and did", or that you belong to the fastest growing Post on the island, all of which is true. You "could" belong to a larger Post, for sure, but you are here. You "could" belong to a more active Post, perhaps, but you are here. You "could" belong to a more charitable Post, but that would have to be debated and we certainly do our fair share. You "could" belong to a more "Veteran issue oriented" Post, but I don't REALLY think so. But THIS is the Post that helped those Veterans get the honor they so richly deserved, ... not without help ourselves, but it is done.

In all the events we have attended, I have never been so proud to wear the Greenlawn Post cap as I was that cold, Saturday morning. Bob and I have received many accolades over the past few years, but none have meant more than the remarks about that day in January. This **IS** what we do. Veterans helping veterans and THAT is why we are ALL here !

Dennis Madden

Welcome New Members of Post 1244!

Gary Carroll, Mike Broderick, Eric Fauser, Frank Harnos, John Hulyo,

Joseph Lynch, Jack Petracca, Milan Rigel, Andrea Romano, Domenick Savino and Peter Valle

Congratulations

It is our great pleasure to announce the birth of Anthony Adrian Corrente, 8 lbs 4 ozs, born on 2/17/2011, to Mr and Mrs Tony Corrente. Tony is past Commander of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1244. Mother and son are doing well and are at home. Congratulations to Tony & Damaris !

St. Patrick's Day Parade a Blast!

On March 13th, a contingent of Post 1244 stepped off as part of the Huntington St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was an almost perfect early Spring day. The crowds were, as usual, very enthusiastic. We were proud to be joined by members of the American Legion Riders, Patriot Guard Riders as well as members of The Blue Knights police motorcycle club.

Our newly acquired 1952 3/4 ton weapons carrier, dubbed "Cpl. Bill" in honor of the late Bill Polakos, was a hit with the parade watchers. Thank you, Joe Pipia for taking the wheel for us and providing veterans the chance to take part who other wise would not have been able to march. John Caldarelli also provided comfortable rides for two of our most senior World War II veterans.



Old Glory Flag Box on the Move Again

Our unique Old Glory Flag Box continues to visit the schools in the area this school year, receiving many no longer serviceable flags from students and their families. This year, we were invited to have Old Glory visit schools in the Elwood and Huntington School Districts. The Flag Box was the brainchild of Vice Commander Dennis Giunta. He has been ably assisted the past four years by Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong.

We believe this is the only mobile flag collection box in the United States.

Old Glory Flag Box has also spent time this year at St. Paraskevi Greek Shrine and Ready Riders Motorcycle Outfitters in Dix Hills. Plans are for the box to spend some time at the South Huntington Library this summer.



Dennis Giunta and Charlie Armstrong

Commander's Corner



Little Red School House Update.

We are scheduled to meet later this month with Legislator Steve Stern and Parks Commissioner Joseph J. Montouri to tour the former Elwood Schoolhouse. The school, now part of the Suffolk County Department of Parks, is scheduled to be renovated and will serve as a historic site and the home of the American Legion Greenlawn Post and the Greenlawn Civic Association and Elwood Taxpayers Association. Several hundred thousand dollars have been allocated for its renewal.



Bob Santo The schoolhouse first opened its doors in 1915, and was the primary education center in Elwood until it was replaced in 1955 by the Cuba Hill School, later renamed James H. Boyd High School in honor of Elwood School District's first Superintendent. The building is located on the south side of Cuba Hill Road near Elwood Road.

We are proud to have been selected as co-stewards of this fine, historic building from Long Island's past and we look forward to the day in the not too distant future we can once again open its doors to the community.

Our History.

This month, we celebrate the 68th anniversary of the founding of our Post on March 15, 1943. Over the years, as one generation of Legionnaires after another came along and passed away, most of the history of the post and its members has been lost. Nothing is known of the WW I veterans who founded our post in the midst of a new world war. They had fought WW I to be sure that such a war would never happen again. Very little has survived of those who came along in the ensuing years.

Last year, I stopped into the office of the Greenlawn Centerport Historical Association to see what record they had of our post. The only thing in the file was a program from the 1954 Memorial Day Commemoration. That was a let down! From now on, we will submit each issue of The Greenlawn Bugle to the Historical Association which will archive them for posterity. If some of our more senior members have photos or other memorabilia of the Post they could share with us we would be very grateful.

The Historical Society is organizing an effort to record the military histories of our members and other veterans affiliated with Greenlawn and Centerport and will be creating a display at Suydam House for this coming Memorial Day. Memorabilia, uniforms, photos and other items are being sought for this exhibit. If you would like to participate, please call 631-754-1180 or you can call me at 516-458-7881. I hope all of our members will take advantage of this opportunity so that **"you will not be forgotten."**

Bob Santo

In Memoriam

We mourn the passing of Damon C. Argento who passed away on March 14, 2011. Damon is the son of Chris Argento, Legionnaire and American Legion Rider. Damon was a much admired physician's assistant and was a true patriot. He will be missed by his family and his many friends.

Taps Has Sounded

Robert W. Michta. August 15, 1928 - January 4, 2011. United States Army. Korea

Martin F. Westrich. June 12, 1927—February 24, 2011. United States Army. WW II

The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, Inc. For information on how you can support the Greenlawn Bugle and our Post, please contact Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

Our mailing address is PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740

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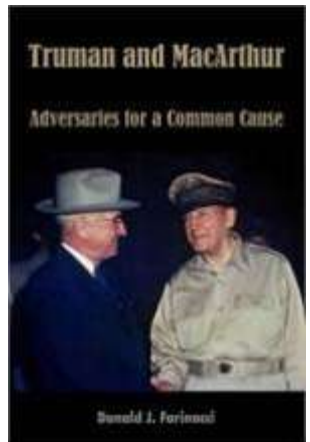
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