



P.O. Box 301
Depew, New York 14043

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Depew, NY 14086

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Web site: www.depewlegion.org

OCTOBER 2017 ISSUE

POST MEETINGS

Post meetings are held at 1900 on the **first Thursday** of every month, starting Sept. 7, 2017 in Room 200 at the Depew Municipal Building, 85 Manitou St. We invite you and urge you to attend. We are looking for new people to help out on committees and to move into Officer positions and serve on committees.

Depew Post Officers

Commander	Jacob E. Schu
1st Vice-Commander	Richard Bulman
2nd Vice-Commander	Tom Blaszkiewicz
3rd Vice-Commander	John Stutzman
Adjutant	Richard Walczak
Finance Officer	Donald Schram
Chaplain	David Hajduk
Sgt.-at-Arms	Jim Taylor

POST NEWS

Elections were held in May for the following positions:

Commander - Jacob E. Schu
 1st Vice-Commander - Richard Bulman
 2nd-Vice Commander - Tom Blaszkiewicz
 3rd Vice-Commander - John Stutzman
 Adjutant - Richard Walczak
 Finance Officer - Donald Schram
 Sgt.-at-Arms - Jim Taylor
 Chaplain - David Hajduk

Mike Johnson is currently our membership Chair and Jack Betz is our Graves Registration Chair.

Please get involved in your post. Officers and committee chairs cannot do all of the work that needs to be done. If you can spare a little time to help, please contact

that committee chair or one of our officers.

Quartermaster Wally Waiss has numerous items for sale. Contact him at (716) 681-6858. Remember, that our Post sells American Legion American flags, POW-MIA flags, ties and many other items. We get credit for this on a point system, where we get \$0.10 for every dollar we spend on American flags. If you see someone flying a flag at their business or home, try this approach:

“When your flag wears out, we would appreciate your support by allowing us to provide you with a new one. Our prices are extremely low, and your purchase helps to support our Post and the work that we do.”

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Commander’s Report*
- *Officer changes*
- *Veterans Day*
- *Lottery*
- *Membership*
- *Christmas Party*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
VETERANS DAY SERVICES	3
LOTTERY	3
MEMBERSHIP & DUES	4
JOINT VETERANS COMMITTEE	4
GRAVES REGISTRATION	4
CHRISTMAS PARTY	5
SICK CALL	5

COMMANDER'S REPORT— BY JAKE SCHU

I want to thank all of the officers and members who contributed time and effort to help with our projects and events in the past year. Our programs have been successful because of your dedication. We have attended and supported the following activities and in 2017:

- 3" M5 Gun pylon and dedication plaque has been installed. Thanks to Dick Bulman and Jim Wolfe for their assistance with this and the ongoing issue of refinishing the gun.
- Our Post, along with AMVETS Post 7275 and VFW Post 7275 participated on the first ever Depew Founder's Day event and parade on July 27th. Attendance was sparse but it was on a Thursday afternoon and AMVETS Post 14 holds bingo that day. Depew has indicated they want to make this an annual event.
- We can always use help with our events and committees. Please consider becoming active in your Post. Many are doing double duty to fill needed positions.
- I have attended all but a couple of Erie County meetings and attended a membership workshop on Sunday, August 27th along with Don Schram.
- I attended the Post Commander's meeting at the VA in Buffalo on 9/22 and received updates on what the VA is doing to become better. Very impressive advances under the new VA Secretary David Shulkin.
- I continue to support Legion websites for Post 1528, Erie County and ECAL Veterans for Veterans. The County Legion has a website and can be found at the following URL: <http://eriecountyal.org>
- I made several trips to the Erie County office to assist the county with computer issues. The county now has a new computer and updated systems.
- The website members roster is now updated to 09/14/17 and can be accessed on the website through the members only and officers only sections.
- There have been a few changes to the officers list since our elections in May. Tom Blaszkiewicz is 2nd VC, John Stutzman is 3rd VC. Chaplain Jim Sterlace asked to be relieved due to family and health issues. I then appointed Dave Hajduk as Chaplain after he offered to take over that slot and appointed Jim Sterlace as Legislative chair, as he still wants to remain active in a reduced role. Mike Johnson remains membership Chair.
- We now have at least two Executive Committee meetings every year. This is comprised of our Post officers, any Past Post Commanders who wish to attend and our Membership Chair. This year, meetings were held in February and August.
- The Executive Committee approved the officer changes as well as an update and revision to the Post Constitution and Bylaws (C&BL). This had not been done since 1991 and was overdue. The revised C&BL booklet is now printed and has been mailed to our members.
- Depew Post 1528 again did the cooking for the Special Olympics party at the Lamm Post this year. Thanks to Dick Bulman, Don Schram and Chet Pawlowski for their time and efforts. I was unable to attend as I was out of town this year. Post 1528 also donates to this event every year.
- One last thing. Remember to support the other veterans organizations in our area. We have AMVETS Post 14, AMVETS Post 7275 and VFW Post 7275 within a mile or two of Post 1528. Other Legion posts have breakfasts, dinners and events as well. If we support them, they will support us. We want to be good neighbors in our community and remember, **we are all Veterans!**

VETERAN'S DAY SERVICES

On **Saturday, November 11, 2017**, Veteran's Day Services will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 67 Litchfield Ave. in Depew. Post members will muster at the church at 0930. Church service at 1000, followed by the Veteran's Day ceremony outside of the church at 1100.

The Lancaster Elks Lodge will again put on a Luncheon for all Veterans on **Friday, November 10th from 1200 to 1700**. The date is on Friday this year due to another commitment for their hall on Saturday. This is a totally free event and includes food and beverages. **Depew Post 1528 will muster at the Elks at 1300 and go in as a group at 1315**. Dress uniform/caps not required but a veterans cover of some kind is preferred. Your spouse or a guest is welcome. There will be a POW/MIA ceremony performed by Post 1528, in the manner of the ceremony we perform at our meetings. The Elks are huge supporters of the VA and Veteran's activities. They also host the flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day. Let's plan to show our appreciation for this event with good attendance. This year, Post 1528 approved a donation \$250 toward this event to assist with the costs. Our own Bob Wilde is chairing this event this year. The event is now known as the Bob Sharpe Veteran's Dinner, as Bob chaired this event for many years. Bob was our 2nd VC and very active in our Post events as well as with the Elks.

THANK YOU ELKS!

Dinner will include spaghetti w/2 meatballs, chef salad, bread w/butter and deserts. Elks will also provide limited draft beer, wine, coffee, tea and soft drinks in honor of our veterans

2017—2018 LOTTERY BY RICH WALCZAK

Enclosed with this newsletter are two (2) lottery tickets. Last year we changed the ticket to make it more appealing to our members and whoever purchases them. The ticket is \$10.00, and you get two numbers per ticket. Plus, they are good for two months (February and March). This format increases your odds of winning and was very successful for the Post and our winners last year.

We ask that you purchase both tickets or sell them to a friend or family member. They also make great Christmas gifts. If you can't sell or purchase them, please return them to the Post so that we can sell them to someone else. The proceeds from this fundraiser go to support our children and youth program which is mainly our American Legion baseball team. Sponsoring a team is very costly with such expenses as franchise fees, insurance, uniforms, equipment, baseball diamond fees, umpire fees, etc. Without your support, we cannot sponsor our team.

Please return your two ticket stubs and \$20.00 to:

Depew Post #1528 American Legion

P.O. Box 301

Depew, NY 14043

If you need more tickets, please contact Rich Walczak, Adjutant at 716-472-2591 and we will be happy to get them out to you.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES— BY MIKE JOHNSON & DON SCHRAM

Last year we ended with 166 members, down from 188 the year before.

Our goal this year is 170 members, as determined by the national office. As of October 13th, we have 132 members or 77.6% of our goal and we were in 1st place in the county as of the last county meeting. Membership goals cannot be reached by one or two members working on the program. We need your help. Everyone is asked to sign up **one** new member this year.

Your 2018 dues were billed in July of this year. We ask you all to please pay your \$41.00 membership dues for 2018 if you have not done so already. There are three ways to renew; send the renewal with your renewal notice to the Post by mail, go on-line and renew at www.mylegion.org and follow the easy instructions or bring your dues to a monthly meeting, we would be glad to see you!

One last thing to our membership: REMEMBER TO GET OUT AND VOTE!

DEPEW JOINT VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

The Depew Joint Veteran's Committee (DJVC) met October 24th to discuss planning for Veterans Day. The AMVETS Post 14 will be lead for services held. 2017 DJVC officers are:

Chair: Martin Bugaj AMVETS

Vice Chair: Jim Taylor, AMVETS/AM. Legion

Secretary: Peter Riester Sr., AMVETS/AM. Legion

Treasurer: Don Schram, AM. Legion/AMVETS

Parade Marshall: Jacob Schu, AM. Legion/AMVETS



POST 1528 GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT— JACK BETZ, CHAIR

Jack has been very busy redoing the records for our deceased veterans that reside in the five cemeteries under Post 1528's jurisdiction. This task includes compiling cemetery records, fragmented and incomplete records that are over 100 years old. Since volunteering in 2015 date Jack has over 3,000 hours and has walked over 46,000 grave sites and identified more than 3,800 veteran's graves. The following is a breakdown by cemetery: Lancaster Rural: 85% complete 19,200 sites; 700 veterans / St. ADALBERTS: 20,100 sites; 1,688 veterans / St. AUGUSTINES: 5,330 sites; 603 veterans / Sacred heart: 1,340 sites; 167 veterans / St. MARYS: not surveyed; 611 veterans. There are also approximately 500 graves that have not been verified as veterans. Jack will be posting a list in a future news letter asking for your help to identify these veterans so they can be added to our data base. As always, if you know of a veteran that may be buried in one of these cemeteries, please contact Jack so that he may follow up on that person and add them to our data base.

If anyone has information that may be pertinent, please contact Jack Betz at: 716 684-5526, email: jbetz@depewlegion.org

LEGION BASEBALL— BY WALLY WAISS— BASEBALL LIAISON

The 2017 team showed a vast improvement from the 2016 season. Our Post team finished with a 15-5-0 record and enabled us to finish in first place in a tie with Grand Island in a coin toss. We made the playoffs, won two and lost two games. However, playoff wins by Grand Island earned them the right to represent District 8 in Utica. The season also witnessed our center fielder L.G. Castillo being drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in the MLB draft. Prospects for 2018 have a bright outlook because of the experience of the past season and my complements to Coach Sekuterski for his time and efforts in molding a great team. We will continue to play our home games again at Losson Field in 2018. My thanks go out to the Town of Cheektowaga Recreation Department for the use of Stiglmeier Park. Thank you all for keeping baseball alive in WNY. As reported on the American Legion magazine for October, Post 40 from Henderson, NV won the series title.

The plaque that was mounted behind home plate at Dawson Field for over 20 years and was dedicated to Past-Commander August (Gus) Hein, was removed and is now mounted on a wooden backer at our Post, soon to be mounted on the display wall

DEPEW POST 1528 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Post 1528 will again have our Christmas Party at AMVETS Post 14 on December 14th. We are keeping the Christmas party on the 2nd Thursday of December to be consistent with AMVETS Post 14 scheduling. We thank Chet Pawlowski, Jim Sterlace, Don Schram and Jim Taylor for their continued help with this event. If you have never attended this, please do. You will find it a great evening with great food and company. As costs have risen for food and beverages. Cost this year will be \$20/member, \$40/member & spouse or one guest and \$25 ea. for any additional guests. Please contact Chester Pawlowski at (716) 393-3489 for reservations.

The party starts with an open bar from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with dinner at 7:00 PM. The party will be catered and the menu will be a family style sit down dinner, with pork chops, turkey w/all the trimmings, mashed potatoes, salad & desert. Special arrangements will be made for glucose intolerance, etc. if you inform Chet of this requirement. Anyone that has attended knows that the food is great and no one goes home hungry. There will also be gifts handed out by drawing throughout the evening. Chet is heading up the gift procurement. Anyone who can assist or knows a business, etc. that could donate a gift, please contact us.

SICK CALL

Please call Jacob Schu at 440-3302 or David Hajduk at 681-4939 if you know of a member who is ill or has passed away. Also, please pass this information on to the Webmaster, that it can be posted on our web site.

Sick call: Chester Zwolak, Joe Jay

Joe Jay is at Fr. Baker's manor, 6400 Powers Rd, Orchard Park, NY 14127 (716) 667-0001 and would like visitors

Passed since May 2017: None