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Depew, New York 14043



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APRIL 2019 ISSUE

POST MEETINGS

Post meetings are held at 1900 on the **first Thursday** of every month, 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	Jack Betz
Finance Officer	Richard Walczak
Chaplain	David Hajduk
Sgt.-at-Arms	Jim Taylor

POST NEWS

Nominations were held in April for the following positions:

Commander - Richard Bulman
 1st Vice-Commander - Tom Blaszkiewicz
 2nd-Vice Commander - John Stutzman
 3rd Vice-Commander - Jacob Schu
 Adjutant - Jack Betz
 Finance Officer - Richard Walczak
 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:

- *Officer changes*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Legion 100th Anniv.*
- *Membership*
- *DJVC*

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COMMANDER'S REPORT— BY JAKE SCHU

I want to sincerely thank all of the officers and members who contributed time and effort to help with our projects and events over the last seven (7) years. Our programs have been successful because of your leadership and member dedication. Together we spearheaded, organized, attended and supported the following activities during that time:

- We have a website since 2011, a Facebook page and we publish our newsletter in the format you see, starting from 2012. I created and currently maintain these. We started issuing printed meeting agendas and minutes in 2012 at the request of our membership. We spearheaded and dedicated a WWI monument in the Lancaster Veterans Park in 2014 that relocated the WWI plaque originally mounted on Lancaster Washington Post 283 on Legion Pkwy. We designed and commemorated Korean War and Vietnam War monuments in Depew Veterans park in 2014, including an extension of the existing pad. We relocated the 3" M5 gun to Depew's Veterans Park, including a new concrete pad and dedication plaque in 2015. The M5 Gun relocation, including engineering the current pad and move as well as the engineering for all other projects was conducted by Post 1528, in house, using the incredible talent we have in our membership. Special thanks to Dick Bulman and Bob Sharpe for their incredible support and talent! We recently secured help from Line-X in Depew to move the gun to a facility in Buffalo to be sand blasted and repainted, thanks to Jim Wolfe. This brings to fruition an effort spanning over two years. We are hopeful this process can be completed by Memorial Day 2019. Special thanks to Don Schram for his amazing efforts in securing donations for this undertaking! Our Grave Registration Project was designated at my request in 2012 as the Commander's project and has grown substantially under guidance and due-diligence from our Graves Registration Chair, Jack Betz. I reinstated Executive Committee meetings, which had not been done in many years, and 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, our Membership Chair Mike Johnson and Quartermaster Wally Waiss. Generally, these meetings are held in February and August. I requested, and we completed, a revised Constitution and Bylaws, compiled and issued in 2016, for the first time since 1991. I requested performing the POW/MIA ceremony at our meetings, complete with the ceremonial table, in 2014 and this now continues at every meeting. We also perform this ceremony annually on Veterans day at the Elks dinner. All this has been accomplished by our Post, with valuable input and effort from our members, officers and committee chairs. Last year, we welcomed VFW Post 7275 and AMVETS Post 7275 to the Depew Joint Veterans Committee at my suggestion and it has been working out great. I originally designed the DJVC logo in 2015 and then redesigned it to include the VFW logo in 2018.
- Our Post, along with AMVETS Post 7275 and VFW Post 7275 participated on the Depew Founder's Day events and parades for the last two years, for another first.
- 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 few of Erie County meetings and continue to do so as best I can.
- I continue to support Legion websites for Post 1528, Erie County and ECAL Veterans for Veterans. The County Legion website can be found at the following URL: <http://www.eriecountyal.org>
- There have been a few changes to the officers list since our elections in May. Jack Betz is now our Adjutant and Rich Walczak is now Finance Officer, as Don Schram stepped down due to health reasons but remains active. Mike Johnson remains membership Chair and Jack Betz remains Graves Registration Chair. Jim Wolfe stepped

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up and took over as Boys State Chair and, for the first time in many years, we are sending a boy to this great program. Thank you Jim!

- 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. We grilled about 140 hamburgers! Post 1528 also donates to this event every year.
- 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!**
- Lastly, I want to thank everyone for the amazing support I have received over the last seven years. After seven straight years, it is time to turn over the gavel to a new Commander. I intend to remain active in the Post and we look forward to dedicating a Middle East Conflict monument sometime in 2019. I wish our new Commander, Dick Bulman, success and know he will do a great job!

MEMBERSHIP & DUES— MIKE JOHNSON, CHAIR

Our goal this year was 181 members, as determined by the national office. **As of this date, we have 191 members or 105.52% of our goal!** Membership goals cannot be reached by one or two members working on the program. Your 2019 dues were billed in July of this year. We ask you all to please pay your \$41.00 membership dues for 2019 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!

If you have paid your dues and receive a second notice to pay, DO NOT pay again. The second notices go out before the paid dues are recorded and cause this issue every year. Dept. and our post keeps trying to negate this but it still sometimes occurs.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

On Saturday, May 25, 2019 Memorial Day Services will be held at Lancaster Rural Cemetery at 0900 sharp. We need to be there by 0845 to assemble. Please take time to attend this salute to those who gave their all for our country. Immediately following this service, we will decorate graves by placing flags on all veteran's graves at St. Adalberts and St. Augustine's cemeteries. If you can, please make time to attend these services. The more members we get, the quicker we can place our flags. On Memorial Day, May 27, 2019, there will be a combined service at 0930, at the Vine Wesleyan Church, followed by a parade to the Veteran's Park. Assemble at 1015 at the Post after the church service, parade at 1030. We look forward to having the Depew HS marching band with us this year. Hot dogs and refreshments will be at the Depew fire hall on Meridian St. following the ceremony. We will pick up flags on Tuesday, May 28th. Meet at St. Adalberts at 1000.



AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY

This year commemorates the 100th anniversary of our organization. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization. Focusing on service to veterans, service members and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-profit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at over 2 million in 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico and the Philippines. Over the years, the Legion has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. Following is a chronology of significant dates in Legion history:



anniversary of our organization. by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic service to veterans, service mem- evolved from a group of war- one of the most influential non- Membership swiftly grew to over across the country. Today, mem- more than 13,000 posts world- 55 departments: one each for the

1919

March 15-17

Members of the American Expeditionary Force convene in Paris for the first American Legion caucus.

May 8-10

St. Louis Caucus. "The American Legion" is adopted as the organization's official name. The Legion's draft preamble and constitution are approved.

June 9

The National Executive Committee adopts the Legion emblem.

Sept. 16

Congress charters The American Legion.

Nov. 10-12

First Legion convention convenes in Minneapolis. The Constitution and preamble are adopted. Delegates vote 361-323 to locate the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis, instead of Washington. A resolution is passed in support of Boy Scouts of America. *Today, the Legion is the chartering agency for more than 1,700 Scouting units made up of approximately 64,000 youths.*

We urge all members to go to www.mylegion.org and sign up as a member. It is free and you can access many areas of the Legion's website, including on-line membership renewal.

POST 1528 GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT— JACK BETZ, CHAIR

Jack has completed grave registration work on 4 of the 5 cemeteries under Post 1528's jurisdiction. This task includes compiling cemetery records, fragmented and incomplete records that cover deceased Veterans from the Indian Wars to present service. In the past 4+ years since volunteering Jack has spent over **4,500 hours and has walked over 46,000 grave sites and identified more than 4,700 veteran's graves.** The following is a breakdown by cemetery: LANCASTER RURAL: 100% complete 19,200 sites; 806 Veterans; St. ADALBERTS: 100% complete 20,100 sites; 2,092 Veterans; St. AUGUSTINES: 100% complete 5,330 sites; 603 Veterans; Sacred heart: 100% complete 1,340 sites; 165 Veterans. These 4 cemeteries are now on a maintenance schedule where Jack will contact them monthly to update our files. Jack will be starting this month to survey St. MARYS: 0% complete 11,300 sites; 610 Veterans. 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

DEPEW JOINT VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

The Depew Joint Veteran's Committee (DJVC) met March 18th and on April 15th to discuss planning for memorial Day. American Legion Post 1528 will be lead for services held. 2018 DJVC officers are:

Chair: Dennis Zimny, DAV 203

Vice Chair: Jim Taylor, AM. Legion 1528/ AMVETS 14

Secretary: Peter Riester Sr., AMVETS 14/AM. Legion 1528

Treasurer: Don Schram, AM. Legion/AMVETS 14

Parade Marshall: Richard Bulman, AM Legion/ AMVETS 7275



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, Leo Rybak

Passed since May 2018: Richard Karen