



SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle December 2019 Editor - Dan Roper

COMMANDER'S REPORT

Commander James Randle

Happy New Year! How often we hear and say this greeting during this season despite all our problems and troubles. We should be thankful for our blessings. Nevertheless, we help each other in our troubles and trials through our volunteer efforts and our donations. This is the American way.

On December 5th members of the Auxiliary and post helped at Northport VA Medical Center Christmas Gift Shop for the veterans, sharing some stories and participating in their memories. With Frank and Mary Ann Busa, Eric and Rosanne Spinner, myself and Ellen Randle, Nellie Matthews, and other members of the Legion Family from Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The post needs help with setup on Wednesday 10:00am and break down on Thursday at 1:00pm. Notify 2nd Vice Commander Bob Guastella when you can help or just come.

It is that time of year again for nominations. Please step up and take on a position. At the February General Meeting a nominating committee will be appointed, names will be taken for county caucus and convention. The post is still participating in the collection of cellphones, eyeglass and stamps. The post should support National Emergency Fund, Scholarship Awards.

This year since May we lost legionnaires to the Commander of us all! Bill Burlingame, Richard Hursch, Bob Newbert, Frank Piccione and Brian Dyke. May they all rest in peace.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 1 Wednesday, Happy New Year 2020
- January 5 Sunday, Boy Scout Troop 201 Eagle Scout Court of Honor, 2:00 pm
- January 6 Monday, Executive Meeting 7:00pm
- January 16 Thursday, Post General Meeting
- January 21 Tuesday, Auxiliary Meeting 7:30pm
White Elephant
- January 21 Tuesday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 24-25 Mid- Winter Conference - Albany
- January 31 Nassau County Meeting - Baldwin 7:30pm

WORKERS' PARTY

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Commander Randle congratulates Alan Reardon, the recipient of the prestigious Legionnaire of the Year Award



Bill Lorusso (l.) and Eric Spinner (r.), our Post 144 Legion Riders at the Workers Party



Commander Randle and Chairman Don Sassano present Life Membership Award to Bob Guastella and Bob Mitchell.

Next General Meeting - Thursday, January 16, 2020 7pm

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Commander James Randle

It is with great sadness that our post has had to inform the membership of the passing of Legionnaire Brian Dyke. He served us as our chaplain and was the person that authored this column each month. He worked faithfully at his job and always delivered all of the news about the post membership, both good and bad.

Brian just recently became a grandfather again and was very proud of his two new boys. We published a photo of them both just a few months ago. Let us remember Brian as a Legionnaire who stood up to every challenge that life threw at him in order to fulfill his responsibilities and was a good and loving family man.

Rest in peace, Brian.

The following is Brian's column, sent in on December 20th:

Frank Piccione, 23 year Legion member and U.S. Army veteran of World War II passed away on December 5, 2019, at the age of 98. Post members participated as Frank was buried with full military honors at Holy Rood Cemetery. Frank will be remembered next Memorial Day at the Post Everlasting Service.

Fred Santopetro is doing fine and wishes all members a very Merry Christmas.

If you know of any member who is hospitalized or has a serious illness, please let either the Commander or myself know so we can be in touch with them.

During this holiday season, please remember in your thoughts and prayers all of our service men and women who are away from their loved ones as they work so hard each day to protect us and keep us safe and free. May God bless them and return them safely to their families.

Merry Christmas, happy holidays, and a happy and healthy New Year to all.

POST GETS NEW WEBSITE

by Dan Roper

Thanks to new member Eric Spinner our post now has joined the modern world and has a new website that is up and running at www.willistonpost144.org. The website is just waiting for our member contributions of photos and information about our post. Hopefully, we will receive member input that will help illustrate the great activities we are involved with and also provide our Legionnaires with the official source of activity and contact information for everything that occurs at the post.

Should you have any information that you believe might be of interest to the post please submit it to the webmaster, Eric Spinner, at ericmaven@gmail.com. Eric will determine what to post on the site and where and how much space to allot to each submission. Of course, our new website is our window to the community so please remember that anything that we put on the website reflects on our post and the American Legion.

Thanks again Eric for your efforts. We are all looking forward to checking in on the site frequently. I think this will help us all keep closer in touch with our great post.

WORKERS' PARTY

This Year the post again celebrated our workers by hosting the annual Workers Party. It was well-attended and we all enjoyed a delicious sit-down dinner.

Alan Reardon was awarded the Legionnaire of the Year Award for the continuous work he has done as our legal advisor.

Bob Guastella and Bob Mitchell were recognized with the Life Membership Award. If you attend our general membership meetings you should be aware of the many tasks these two Legionnaires undertake, Bob Guastella with keeping the post in tip-top condition and Bob Mitchell with caring for our finances and grant money.

We are indeed fortunate to have these Legionnaires as members of the post. Thanks, guys.

VISIT A NATIONAL PARK THIS SUMMER?

Something you should know if you are vacationing in a National Park this summer is that you may be eligible for a pass that allows free entry. Disabled veterans can get a free lifetime pass. The passes provide free entrance to more than 2,000 national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, and other federal recreational areas. The passes can be acquired at any national park that usually charges an admission fee. More information about the passes along with additional discount information can be found at www.nps.gov/findapark/passes.htm.

**Our new website is
under construction at
www.willistonpost144.org
Please check it out.**

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our "Holiday" meeting was held on Tuesday, December 17th, presided over by President Christine Horvath. With one less week between Thanksgiving and Christmas, many members were not in attendance. However, the ones there enjoyed the two Christmas tree cakes, one white and the other chocolate, decorated with green icing. Yummy!! Thanks to the "Elf" that baked them.

We had our gift exchange where everyone participating was given a number and when the numbers were called randomly, they picked whatever they wanted from the gifts on the table. Everyone was pleased with their pick of the gifts.

Gail Cinelli, Community Service Chair, has asked for our cooperation on the following:

There are many activities that we do in our lives that contribute to Community Service by demonstrating compassion for those who serve our country and the community we live in. Donations made to our Fire Depts., food given to food pantries, etc. are just 2 of the examples that count as community service. Please let me know at our monthly meetings or email me at september946@aol.com (in the subject line please put: ALA Community Service). As I am new to this position, you can go back to September and report anything from then to December and then regularly. Thank you.

Ellen Randle, Girls State Chair, reported that interviews for the 2020 candidates will begin in January/February.

Dianne Karl, Education Chair, reported that the scholarships out will be due in January/February so there is ample time to make sure everyone is complete. Please continue to report Stop & Shop purchases and Box Tops for Education on products.

Mary Ann Busa reported that the toys donated last month were delivered and will be distributed this month.

We welcomed two new members this month: Donna Biolsi (sister of Ellen Randle) and Jeanne Occhiogrosso. Look for their picture at the end of this column.

Sue Otto, Emergency Fund Chair, stated that to look for your donation letter in January. Please be as generous as possible. This fund helps other ALA members.

Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Our "White Elephant" meeting. Please bring in new or gently used items. Maybe you received something for the holidays which you really don't know what to do with, bring it here and someone may take it home. Enjoy pizza while you shop.

Sunday, March 29th - Chinese Auction - Needed: filled and empty baskets, items to put into baskets.

Merchant letters will be available at the January meeting so you can ask stores where you shop for a donation. Please bring the baskets in to the January meeting. Thanks.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, OUR VETERANS AND OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Left to right: Donna Biolsi, Ruth Valentine, Membership Chair, Jeanne Occhiogrosso and President Christine Horvath



White Elephant Meeting

Don't Forget

Tuesday

January 21st

Chinese Auction



POST FLAG PROGRAM



On Friday evening, December 6th, Post 144 got together with the Williston VFW Post 1688 to go to the East Williston Village Hall and provide a flag etiquette program to the youngsters from Cub Pack 8. It was an honor to be invited and the Cubs loved it.



We performed a flag-folding ceremony and discussed flag handling and how to display the flag under several different situations.

The Cubs were enthusiastic and participated with the vets in a question and answer session. In all, the evening was very enjoyable and we hope to return again sometime.



(photo top left) Legionnaire Bob Valentine assists Cub Scouts with proper folding

(photo top right) Cmdr. Busa (l.) Peter Antonicelli in background, Color Guard Bob Valentine with American flag and Cmdr. Randle with Post 144 colors

(photo left) Cubs and Scoutmasters, vets l. to r. are Peter Antonicelli, Bob Valentine, Cmdr. Frank Busa, Cmdr. James Randle and Ruth Valentine. Dan Roper was the photographer. Also present was Frank Oliveri.



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