

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter June/Summer 2013



Commander's Message

Upcoming Events:

- June 1st Installation Dinner
- June 5th, Executive Committee Meeting
- June 6th, Awards Nite at Columbia
- June 20th, Flag Retirement
- June 23rd, Boys' State Departure
- SONS Jim Williams Race at Lebanon Valley
- July 4th National Holiday
- July 5th Blood Mobile

Dear Legionnaires:

I hope this newsletter finds all of you well and enjoying the great spring weather.

To begin, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who took the time to respond to the recent survey I sent out to all the members. I received back many good ideas as to what we should be doing to improve what is happening here at the Post. Among some of the ideas that caught my eye is that we

need more volunteers to work on any number of our fund-raising projects. The cost of paying outsiders to work for the Post has cost us quite a bit; with more of our members volunteering we can cut much of that cost.

If you can give us some of your time for bingo on Monday nights and other Post fundraisers it would be greatly appreciated.

In closing, I've enjoyed being your commander and working with all the members who are so active.



Have a great summer and be sure to stop by the Post once in a while to say "hello".

Patrick J. Vallee, Commander

Inside this issue:

Auxiliary, SONS, Riders	2
Installation Dinner Chaplain's Corner Flag Retirement Baseball Team	2
Board of Directors Special Meeting	3
Those who serve...	3
....And Served	3
Other News Notes	4

Post Officers Elected for 2013-2014

The Melvin Roads Post held their annual election of officers on the second Tuesday of May. Voted into office were: Pat Vallee, Commander, 1st Vice Commander Beverly Baker, 2nd Vice Commander, Michele LaRock, 3rd Vice Commander, Ruth Leeson. For Treasurer, George Basher. For the two open positions on the Board of

Directors, Ed Pratt and Todd Wiley were re-elected.

County Delegates for the State Convention are: Todd Wiley, Beverly Baker, Michele LaRock and Pat Vallee. The nominations committee was headed up by Rich Bender who was assisted by Bob Doherty, Patsy Cherubino and Randy

LaFromento.

As a Post we thank these members for selflessly offering to run and hold an office. Re-elected Commander Vallee expresses his gratitude to all who volunteer at the Post not only by holding an office but by becoming involved in so many of the activities at MR.

The Ladies Auxiliary's Poppy Drive is underway! You should have received an envelope in the mail soliciting donations for this most worthy cause. Please respond soon. Outgoing President Linda Doherty has expressed her thanks to all of her officers for their support over the past three years. Auxiliary members have assisted the Post and Sons with fundraisers and offered a hand with Auxiliary programs such as Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for local military families, sending care packages to our troops overseas and the poppy drive. Linda asks, "Please support our new officers by attending the Sept 3rd meeting."

On Tuesday June 25th at Lebanon



Valley Speedway **SONS' Jim Williams** will be in the Waste Management & Sayer's Auto Wrecking's "EVE OF DESTRUCTION" which features a school bus race, Trailer Race, Roll Over Madness, 4-Cylinders, Purestocks, Reverse Race, Extreme stunts & carnage PLUS much, much more! Gates Open @

5pm, Carnage @ 7pm. Jim states "It is always an exciting and fun time; please come". SAL members will be at the track to cheer him on and to also enjoy the evening's festivities. Join us to support one of our own!

(The listing of the newly elected officers will appear in the September issue.)

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Recently we had studies of loving one another as you would love your God. Please remember how important it is to reach out to each other with that touch of God's love. Recently, I was at "The Blessings Of The Flags" to be placed on light poles along Route 9 in Colonie as part of the "PLEASE REMEMBER ME PROGRAM". While there my thoughts were on the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice and the Gold Star Mothers who sat before me with prayers for all. This Memorial Day let us all remember those who made this ultimate sacrifice and GOD BLESS ALL VETERANS BOTH NOW AND ETERNALLY.

Br. Robert-Francis Matthews, FSD

FLAG RETIREMENT SET

Melvin Roads Post will hold their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony on Thursday evening, June 20th, 6PM behind the East Greenbush Town Hall. All members are encouraged to attend. All torn or worn flags should be brought to the ceremony for retirement that evening.

MR BB Season Set

Melvin Roads American Legion baseball team once again has a full roster of players and ready to play, notes Marc Peluso, Manager. The season begins June 2nd at Saratoga. The first home game will be on Tuesday, June 4th at 6PM. Home games are played at Legion Field, located at the end of 787 and Southern Boulevard, just across the street from FBI Headquarters.

Again, Melvin Roads has been invited to play in the Coopers Cave Tournament, July 9th thru 14th. The schedule is posted on the board in the Lounge.

Installation Dinner set for June 1st

The **Annual Installation and Service Awards Banquet is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 1st.** All newly elected officers for the Post, Board of Directors, Ladies Auxiliary, Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion will be installed during the formalities of the evening. Service Awards will be presented to those who have continuous service to the Legion; Certificates and pins will be presented to several members who have 25, 40 and 60 years of continuous membership. Hor'doeuvres will

be served at 5:00pm which includes bread and cheese, a vegetable tray and dip. A fresh ham dinner served family style will commence at 6:00pm. Beer and Soda are free in the Hall. Tickets are \$18 and may be purchased at the Post Lounge during working hours through Saturday, May 25th. Life Members and Past Commanders are entitled to one free ticket for themselves. Entertainment will follow in the Lounge following the ceremonies.

We now have Queen of Hearts at the Post!

Editorial: Y-O-U are needed; it's now or never!

This past April, the Board of Directors called a meeting of the leadership of the Melvin Roads Post family, the Ladies Auxiliary, SONS and Riders, in order to present a thorough financial statement of the year 2012. In short, the business end of the Post lost over \$21,000 in the last calendar year. This takes into consideration all of the income and expenses realized from Bingo, Bell Jar, Quick Draw, Banquets and the day to day operation of our Lounge. ***There is no doubt that dramatic changes are going to have to be made in the near future, or the Post will be out of business in less than two years.***

The Board is prepared to make several changes as suggested in the recent survey in an attempt to secure the future of our Post. Things will change but there is a crying need that must be met or nothing will save our programs. What is lacking is.... Y-O-U!

Melvin Roads is the largest American Legion Post in Rensselaer County; we have 407 members on our books, 86% of whom have paid their dues for 2013. This is an excellent annual response on behalf of the membership, but sadly the involvement ends there!

What is especially troubling is the lack of participation in the life of the Post. The last three Post meetings barely met the minimum (15) to hold a meeting; the January meeting could not conduct business because not even that number was attainable.

In May a new slate of officers was elected for the Post and again, quite frankly, if it were not for those who have held office and agreed to run again, there would be no one running. The Post Officers as well as the Board of Directors, hear the rumblings that it is the *same persons running everything*. Well that's because no one else will! We who do "run everything" take pride in this Post. If it were not for these faithful few, Melvin Roads would already be closed.

You have read time and again, that we need workers for Bingo. This is a labor intensive effort every Monday night, and quite frankly the same persons volunteer week in and week out and they are burned out because so few volunteer to help.

No doubt you've driven by the Post during the day, and even most evenings, when there are only three or four cars in the parking lot. Even

though we are open to the public, we virtually do not make ends meet six of the seven days of the week (Friday evening usually draws a crowd). As you read this, ask yourself, when was the last time you even the darkened the doors of the Post no less attended a meeting or volunteered to help.

Keep in mind our volunteers are just that, volunteers. No one gets paid, no Post Officer, no Director, no Bingo worker (the list goes on). Our reward in the pride we take in our Post and programs.

So this is a call to action. If you want to see Melvin Roads Post thrive in the future, then Y-O-U need to get involved; it's now or never.

The members of the Board of Directors are: Tony Rossello, Sr., President, Patsy Cherubino, Vice President, Ed Pratt, Secretary, George Basher, Treasurer, Bob Doherty, Building Chair and Todd Wiley, Bar Chair, and Pat Vallee Commander.

Those who serve....

In each newsletter we are proud to publish the names of those from our community who are currently serving in the military of the United States. If you know of anyone else or if you know what follows is incorrect, please email us at

melvinroads@nycap.rr.com:

Robert Brockley

**Vincent Catalfamo
George Corbari
Alicia Howard
Chris Whalen
Scott J. Collins
Glenn Robinson
Danielle Richardson
Caroline Cleveland
Josh Spath
Nick Monuteaux
Robert Kleamovich III
Jim Rosencrans**

**Glen Stagnitta
Brittany Hellwig
Justin Edberg
Kyle Anderson
Mark Becker
Grant Staats
Michael Burdette
Spencer Boyd
Matt Raymond
Sean Markham
Joshua Stickle
Michael Scirrino**

Rest In Peace:

Carol Gardinier

of the
Ladies Auxiliary

200 Columbia Turnpike
Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Phone: 518-462-7006
Fax: 518-462-5250
E-Mail: melvinroads@nycap.rr.com

**Honoring the men and women
of the United States Army,
Navy, Air Force,
Marines, Coast Guard,
Merchant Marines**

**Look! We're on the web at :
www.melvinroads1231.org**

Melvin Roads Post 1231 Newsletter June/Summer 2013

Other Post news notes:

- A great big **THANK YOU** is extended to everyone who helped on the **Elvis dinner and show**. It was a whopping success. The Ladies Auxiliary raised \$1,620.50 (not including the proceeds from the back bar of \$429.25)! It was the volunteer effort of so many that made this the success that it was. And also, we want to thank all those that attended our **Kentucky Derby Day**. A score board was made by Bev and Cheryl, and Bill Baker was our griller for the day. So many brought in dishes to pass; thanks again. We're planning on other days like this so watch for details.
- We are looking at having a Melvin Roads Post gathering at a game of the **Valley Cats** this summer. If interested, please speak to or call Bob Doherty at 477-6604.
- Our **banquet hall** has many open dates for gatherings. Call our hostess Ginny Brockley (527-4278) for further information.
- Starting in the fall there will only be four issues of **this newsletter** published (rather than five): September thru November, December thru February, March thru May and June/Summer.
- A **bloodmobile** is scheduled at **Melvin Roads Post, July 5th from 1PM to 6PM**. Our goal is 16 pints. If you are a blood donor, we invite you to schedule an appointment now at 1-888-454-1019.



**Melvin Roads Post 1231
200 Columbia Turnpike
Rensselaer, New York 12144**