



Melvin Roads American Legion

Post 1231 Newsletter
FEBRUARY/MARCH, 2015



Commander's Message...

Happy New Year
Legion Family,

I would like to start this newsletter in wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. We have many activities coming up to help chase away those winter blues; I hope we see you at them. Please check out the calendar and our website for more information.

We have had some enhancements made to the Lounge area over the last month - new lighting and additional TV's over the bar area. Currently we are working on a small expansion by the pool table and replacing the carpeting. Please stop by and check out the new look, I think you

will be pleased.

With this brutally cold winter we're having, no one wants to leave the warmth of their homes; I know I would rather stay inside next to my woodstove. We have some very dedicated members who have been braving that bitter cold to work Bingo every week - thank you all!! But we still need help on Wednesday nights. Please consider volunteering once a month or as often as you can to help continue this fruitful endeavor.

As a reminder, if you haven't already done so, please send in your 2015 Post Dues. The campaign to collect them is in full swing and your assistance in getting them in is greatly ap-



Commander Beverly Baker

preciated.

The Post meeting is the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and the Board of Directors monthly meeting is the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. We need everyone's voice to be present as we make decisions for the good of the Post.

As always, I look forward to working with the Post Family and serving our Veterans.
Bev Baker

Upcoming Events:

Super Bowl Sunday
February 1st

Ash Wednesday
February 18th

First Fish Fry Friday
February 20th

Cabin Fever
February 21st

Legion Anniversary
St. Patrick's Day Dinner
March 14th

Bloodmobile
March 20th

Palm Sunday
March 29th

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Major Renovations Made In Heroes' Lounge!

If you haven't been to the Post recently, you are in for a pleasant surprise! Major renovations are underway and Phase I is just about complete.

The most significant upgrade is the 6 new HD TV's over the bar area of our Heroes' Lounge. Thanks go out to Steve Shannon and Ross Wilbur who worked on the installation with the assistance of the guys from Exchange TV, a local vendor we were pleased to do business with. Bob Do-

herty worked on the pricing for us.

New ceiling lighting has also been installed in the Lounge by Ross, Steve and Gary Noesen. Pricing and shopping for these new lights was carried out by Steve and Leslie Millhouse. In the Banquet Hall, Ross and Gerry Bolduc repaired the sliding room dividers.

The staircase going down to the meeting rooms has been

eliminated and the shuffle board will be placed on this new floor space giving us more room for tables in the Lounge. We thank Steve, Ross, Rick Carbone and John Alexander who worked on this labor intensive project. And say "good-bye" to that carpet! We are always grateful for the assistance Terry Reilly lends to any of our efforts.

This is just Phase I. Watch for more improvements for our lounge and banquet hall.

The **Ladies Auxiliary** meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm. New members are always welcome.

The **SONS** invite all interested sons or grandsons of veterans to join SAL. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm. Starting Friday, February 20th, the SONS will have their annual **Lenten Fish Fry Fridays** from 5 to 7pm at the Post. Mark your calendars now!

The **Riders** meet the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. *Note that this is a change from the third Tuesday.* The Riders are planning a **Poker Run this Spring**. Watch for details in the April May newsletter!



Did you know.....

There is **line dancing** each Monday 7-9pm at Melvin Roads! Cost is \$25 for four weeks; \$8 to drop in for one evening. Call Cheryl DeRusso for more details at 462-7006.

If you are planning your estate, consider including Melvin Roads Post 1231 in your remembrances. We are a 501 (c) (19) charity per the IRS.

Heroes Banquet Hall Taking Reservations for 2015

With all the activity going on at the Post, we don't want anyone to forget that Melvin Roads Heroes' Banquet Hall has many open dates in 2015 to hold any kind of gathering. This January, we provided a venue for two weddings (see photo!) and several more are scheduled.



budget. Give Leslie a call today at 462-7006.

We are pleased that Leslie Millhouse has agreed to become our hostess now that Ginny Brockley has retired. Leslie is more than happy to speak with anyone about plans, not only for a wedding, but any type of banquet, large or small. We have hosted small family gatherings for events such as baptisms, birthdays, reunions. Our location is ideal for after funeral meals as well. Our Chef Caitlin Morris is ready to assist with a menu to please your pallet and

St. Patrick's Day Legion Anniversary Dinner Set for March 14th

Believe it or not, plans are underway for the annual St. Patrick's Day/Legion Anniversary Dinner here at Melvin Roads. The date is March 14th with a cocktail hour from 5:30 to 6:30pm. Dinner 6:30 sharp! We'll be serving corned beef and ham as our entrées. Tickets are \$30pp or \$50/couple. Draft beer and soda are included in the ticket price. Music and

Thursday's Pub Poker Tour



Melvin Roads Post is hosting an **Ultimate Pub Poker Tournament** on Thursday evenings. This venue is one of several throughout the Capital District and is meeting with good success. The Ultimate Pub Poker Tour is a network of free-to-play No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em tournaments hosted by area pubs and taverns. Players pay nothing to participate in the tournaments and cannot be charged an entry fee, cover charge, drink minimum or any other type of fee to participate. Registration is at 6pm; play begins at 7pm. Bar fare is available as is the assortment of drinks and beverages served in our lounge. **Join In!**



Bingo Report

Dan Holmes has submitted the **annual report for bingo activities for 2014**. Gross receipts were \$158,393; prizes awarded, \$121,400; fees and bingo supplies/equipment \$5,691; and bills paid out on behalf of the Post \$32,313.90. As of December 31st, 2014 there was a balance of \$2,827 in the bingo account. We continue to need volunteers to assist each Wednesday evening.

Just as we were about to go to press with this newsletter, Marc Peluso, Manager of our Melvin Roads American Legion Baseball Team sadly informed us that there will not be a baseball program this year. We'll have more details in the next issue of this newsletter.

Annual Cabin Fever set for February 21st



As the song goes, "Baby, its cold outside!" But at Melvin Roads, we've got an answer for the winter blues. Cabin Fever 2015! February 21st is the date when all are welcome to join in an Hawaiian Luau right here at the Post. Time is 12N to 6pm. Food, soda, draft beer is included in the price (cash bar) from 1-5pm. Music will be provided from 1-5 by one of our favorite DJ's, Brian. There will be games of chance, a Chinese auction and other offerings during the course of the day. The charge for Legion members from any Post is just \$10 (until 1/31st), \$15 at the door. Non members, pre-sale price is \$15 (after 1/31, \$20). So get out that Hawaiian shirt and head on down for a Saturday of fun, food and entertainment!

A letter from Bob Doherty

To the Melvin Roads Post Family,

I would like to thank the membership of Melvin Roads and the entire Post family for the opportunities offered to me over the past 40 years both as a member and as a leader of this great Post. This, my last duty as President of the Board of Directors is both very painful but joy-filled as well. Painful because after being involved for so many years it is difficult to let go. Joyful, because I can see that some things I have attempted to accomplish over the last five or so years seems to be coming to fruition especially the uniting of the Melvin Roads. With this renewed sense of family, I believe the Post will be able to continue to grow and prosper once again. That will happen if more and more family members get involved. There are new "younger" faces at the helm and they will need lots of support. Please step forward and volunteer your time and talents; there's plenty to do! In closing, again, I thank everyone for their encouragement and support.

Bob Doherty

Celebrate Super Bowl Sunday at Melvin Roads Post February 1st

Super Bowl XLIX is set! The New England Patriots will be playing the Seattle Seahawks at 6:30pm, February 1st at the University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Arizona. All are invited to join in the festivities that mark Super Bowl Sunday right here at Melvin Roads Heroes' Lounge! With our 9 HD TV's, you can enjoy the game from beginning to end in our renovated space. There is no cover charge. You are invited to bring along a pot luck dish to share. There will be drink specials: \$1.50 for domestic draft beer; \$2 for domestic bottle beer and \$2 for well drinks. And remember we always have Quick Draw, Bell Jar and our pool table available.



A word about the Board of Directors...

With the departure of not only Bob Doherty but Patsy Cherubino and Tony Rossello Sr. over the past year, there is a tremendous void on the Board of Directors whose serious task is to oversee the daily operations of the business and the policy end of the Legion Post. On the Board now are Ed Pratt, George Basher, Ross Wilbur, Herb Bauer and Beverly Baker (by virtue of her office as Commander). **There are two vacancies on the board.** Last year the Post voted to bring to the Board table as advisory members, representatives from the Auxiliary, Riders and SAL. Merry Beth Scott, Kevin Harrington, and Kevin DeRusso hold those positions respectively. But those two voting vacancies need to be filled. If you are a veteran member in good standing and would be willing to serve, please speak to anyone named here.

Chaplain's Corner... from Brother Robert

Heavenly Father...grant to all of us the vision that is motivated by love. "Bandits attack a man on a road, rob him, beat him and leave him for dead. A priest and then a levite come upon him but pass him by lest they become 'impure' from contact with the dead. But he is not dead. The priest and levite miss this as they kept their distance. But a Samaritan comes along, sees the man is still alive and tends to his wounds. He brings him to an Inn and takes care of whatever expense is needed to tend to his wounds. Love helped this man see where others did not. Today those in our medical profession 'see' the wounds and heal our broken bodies. Grant us all that vision!"

Those who serve... and served



In each newsletter we are proud to publish the names of those from our community who are currently serving in the military services. *If you know of anyone else or if you know what follows is incorrect, please notify us; we have eliminated several names as no input has been provided. Again, if you can help us, please do!*

Vincent Catalfamo, Grant S. Staats, George Corbari, Alicia Howard, Chris Whalen, Scott J. Collins, Josh Spath, Nick Monuteaux, Robert Kleamovich III, Sean Markham, Joshua Stickle, Michael Sciarrino, Alicia Endres, Jarrod Dolan, Derek Mazurek, Keenan Krenzer, Jake Schultz and Mark Becker who has just been deployed to Afghanistan.

May They Rest In Peace...

**Edward Secor John P. Keegan
Henry K. Carroll**



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**

*Lunch is now being offered at Melvin Roads
Heroes' Lounge, Wed—Fri, 11:30am to 2:00pm
Bar Fare Too! On Wed, Thurs, AND Fri 4-7:30pm!
And Now Bar Fare on Sunday!*

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Post News Notes.....

- SONS Commander Bill Baker reports that on December 23rd, **Squadron 1231** and members of the Security Services Unit of the NYS Education Department in Albany distributed thermal underwear and insulated socks to the Stratton VA Hospital for the benefit of local homeless veterans assisted there.
- Melvin Roads Post continues with its **lunch menu 11:30AM to 2PM, Wednesday thru Friday**. We offer an exceptional menu with specials every day! The price is modest and as always, bar drinks are available. **We also offer bar fare Wednesday thru Friday from 4pm to 7:30pm and now we offer bar fare Sundays!**
- Members are requested to **submit their email address to the Post** so we can send along notices and this letter: melvinroads@nycap.rr.com
- Melvin Roads Post was honored to once again host the **Rensselaer County Visitation Dinner** January 22nd.
- Melvin Roads has a fantastic **Web Site!** Take a look at it and see all the information that is available to the Post Family members:

Melvinroads1231.org
- There is a **Bloodmobile** scheduled here at Melvin Roads on Friday, March 20th. Watch for details in the Post Lounge and local media.
- Veteran and Post Member Nicole Iannotti spoke to the Post membership at the January meeting and indicated that she would be more than happy to talk with anyone who has questions about **social security**. You can reach Nikole at (518) 724-5004 ext. 214.



**Melvin Roads Post 1231
200 Columbia Turnpike**