



MELVIN ROADS POST 1231 NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

Commander's Message...

Upcoming Events...

February 16th
Cabin Fever

March 6th
Ash Wednesday

March 16th 2019
Legion's 100th Anniversary Dinner

May 11th Blessing of the Bikes

May 25th Memorial Day Parade

September 14th
Poker Run

November 9th
Comedy Night

Dear Legionnaires:

First I would like to thank the Auxiliary, SONS, and the Legion Riders for their help with Breakfast with Santa! Unfortunately, the worker bees have shrunk in number and each of the entities at Melvin Roads are having trouble getting helpers for their fund-raising efforts. When we all help, we can accomplish much. Coming up is Cabin Fever and the 100th Birthday of the American Legion and St. Patrick's Day Dinner. This is the only dinner this year at Melvin Roads; we will not have an installation dinner for the new officers which is usually held in June.

I would like to say something about MEMBERSHIP. The American Legion year runs from July 1st to June 30th. The 2019 cards had been sent out to those that have paid this year's dues. No new cards come out in January but reminders to those who hadn't paid yet might get a notice. The

cards for the new year are printed in April and we get them locally in early July. Going through our records, I notice that there are over 30 members that have the wrong number of years recorded on their card; we are fixing this and hope to have all the 2020 cards with the correct years.

To get back to the late notices, unfortunately there is a serious lag time between when we send your paid dues in and the time it gets recorded. For the January reminders, the cut off is October 19th 2018 at National. If your membership update was received after October 19th, you probably received a "past dues" reminder. The Post has no control over this time lag.

We are sending out this newsletter before the postal service increases the cost of non-profit mailings. While they did not eliminate non-profit mail, the



Commander Hugh J. Blake

cost has gone up. We send the newsletter out via email and we'd appreciate having yours on record so we can save on the snail mail postage.

We wish everyone a safe and prosperous new year. Hoping to see more at our monthly meetings, I am

Hugh Blake, Commander

Legion 100th Anniversary/St. Patrick's Dinner March 16th

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The American Legion was founded in March 1919 in Paris, France by U. S. World War I military personnel stationed there. These veterans were dedicated to four pillars of service and advocacy: veterans, military personnel, youth and patriotic values. Current national membership is about two million veterans. The Legion has been instrumental in the creation of a number of major institutions of American Society including

the formation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, creation of the US Flag Code and passage of the GI Bill.

We invite all members past and present as well as the general public to our centenary anniversary here at Melvin Roads. We always hold this anniversary dinner in conjunction with the St. Patrick's Day celebration. This year our Chef Al Pollock will put on a grand Irish dinner. Besides the door prizes, we will have a

Chinese auction of gifts and baskets from local businesses. We expect to have over fifty prizes to auction off. As usual we will have a St. Patrick's Day theme. The date is Saturday evening, March 16th with a cocktail hour from 5:30pm to 6:30pm with dinner being served at 6:30pm. Music and dancing will be from 8:00pm to 11:00pm. Tickets are \$30 each or \$50 per couple. They will be available at the bar in our lounge after February 16th, 2019. Reservations must be made by March 13th!

**SONS PRESENT
SILHOUETTES TO POST**



From the Sons....

Members of our SONS Squadron,

At the January meeting of the SONS, Dom Indelicato displayed the silhouettes of the soldier in solemn thought for a departed comrade (above). The work was then brought into the Post meeting and presented to the membership. This work of art will grace the grounds of the Post once the weather has cleared. SONS please plan on attending the monthly meetings the first Tuesday at 7:00pm.

*Kevin Harrington
Commander
(kevinmrsq1231@aol.com)*



Ladies Auxiliary...

Dear Auxiliary Members,

Hope all is well with you. Your 2019 dues are due; remember if you did not pay your dues by December 2018, you are no longer a voting member and until your dues are paid, you cannot vote so please get your dues in asap. I hope you had a wonderful holiday, new year is upon us with new and exciting adventures. February is Cabin Fever and we are going to have a Paint and Sip fundraiser; more information to follow. Reminder that meetings are the first Tuesday of the month, and county meetings are the second Tuesday of each month. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Yours for the auxiliary,
*Loxi A. McFarland
President*

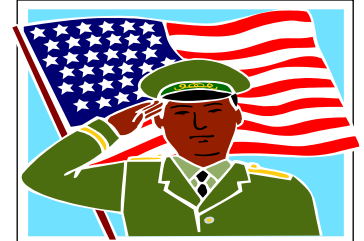
From the Riders....

Riders,

We have three dates for you to put on your calendar; we will have the blessing of bikes on Saturday, May 11th, and a poker run scheduled for September 14th. Our Comedy Night is November 9th. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month here at the Post. We're always looking for everyone's participation and assistance to make our programs run smoothly.

*Steve Shannon,
Riders' President*

Be sure to watch for Al's meal specials coming up for Super Bowl Sunday, Valentine's Day and Lent/Easter.



Bingo Report

Melvin Roads Wednesday night bingo has been doing very well. Attendance has been up substantially and consistently. **For the fourth quarter of 2018**, there were 1,305, players (we had 149 players October 3rd!). Gross income was \$41,121; prizes and expenses totaled \$30,744 leaving \$10,417 available for paying post bills.

Bingo has paid \$34,609 on behalf of the Post for the fiscal year 2018!

We are in critical need of volunteers to help with our bingo operation on Wednesday evening. We cannot understate how important having a full crew available to make our bingos go smoothly. We have a reputation for a very well run bingo program—probably the reason our attendance is up! Please consider giving a hand on Wednesdays! There are two shifts, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and from 7:30pm to 9:45pm. Help is needed for both shifts.



On December 9th, the Post held another successful Breakfast with Santa. Many volunteers from the Auxiliary, SONS, Riders and Post made this the great event that it was. Our Thanks!

*Having a family get -together
in the future?
Or maybe a wedding or baby shower?
Or looking for a venue for an after-funeral
gathering?*



*Look no further than
our own Melvin Roads
Heroes' Banquet Hall
For all your catering needs
For further information, call our hostess
Leslie Millhouse
518 462—7006*

Paul Donnelly Scholarship

Melvin Roads Post annually offers a \$500 scholarship to prospective high school graduates. Applicants must be in their second semester of their senior year of high school and a child or grandchild of an active member [dues are paid up through the award year] of Melvin Roads American Legion Post 1231, the Auxiliary or Squadron. Applicants must either have been accepted at an accredited two or four year institution of higher learning, or have formally applied to such an institution. If an acceptance letter has not been received by the submission date of the application, then such an acceptance letter must be in the hands of the committee before an award is made. A check in the amount of \$500 will be prepared on or before August 1st of the award year and will be payable in the name of the institution of higher learning and the name of the recipient. The scholarship committee will review the applications submitted and determine the awardee. A completed application must be mailed to Melvin Roads Post 1231, 200 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144 by midnight May 31st of the award year. Applications are available at the Post.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(The following is provided by George Basher, on behalf of the Board of Directors):

The Board of Directors extends to everyone a Happy New Year! The Lounge and Hall continue to be busy with a variety of events and our dining business continues to grow. All of this has led to a successful 2018 for the Post thanks to the efforts of a good number of members and friends of Melvin Roads.

Please remember this is a membership driven organization and we ALWAYS are in need of additional help and talent. This is YOUR American Legion Post. As we begin the new year I'd like to suggest some ways those of you reading this can continue to be of service to our fellow veterans and the community:

- Stop by the Post for dinner occasionally if you can—the food is terrific and reasonably priced.
- Consider running for a Post Officer position or a seat on the Board of Directors—we have elections coming up in the spring and are in need of more people on our team.
- Let us know if you have a professional skill you'd be willing to share—we always are looking for legal, financial, engineering and management help. For everyone we always need help with Bingo.
- If you're doing estate planning please consider Melvin Roads as a worthy organization to support.

Thanks as always to you—our members and fellow veterans. We've served the community and our fellow veterans for seventy-seven years and want to continue this exemplary service on behalf of our family and friends!

Cabin Fever Set for February 16th

With the winter months taking their toll, it's time for Cabin Fever! February 16th is the date set for this annual break-the-doldrums gathering. The theme this year is Halloween! So get out that costume you thought you'd never wear again and dress up for this fun afternoon. Dress-up is optional but, why not? The time is 1:00pm to 6:00pm. A buffet will be served during the course of this time together. And to make the event even more appealing, there will be games-of-chance available, as well as a 50/50. The cost has been set for \$15 for members of the Post—veterans, auxiliary, SONS, Riders—and \$20 for non-members. Tickets are available at the Post lounge. Let's plan on seeing you in disguise on the 16th!

Pub Poker every Monday and Thursday Eve, 6PM!

Boys' State 2019

Application forms for participation in the 2019 New York State Boys' State program are now available. High school students completing their junior year are eligible to apply. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Commander Blake by calling the Post at 518 462-7006 and request sponsorship. The necessary paperwork is available on line but a potential candidate needs the okay from the Post to complete the application. Further information is online by going to the Department of New York American Legion at nylegion.org and clicking on to the Boys' State field.



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 of the United States. *If you know of anyone else or if you know what follows is incorrect, please let us know:*

Vincent Catalfamo
George Corbari
Scott J. Collins
Ty Harrington
Jim Rosencrans
Mark Becker
Dan Yates, Jr.
Michael Burdette
Daniel Richardson
Spencer Boyd

Alicia Howard
Robert Kleamoviich
Glen Roberson
Paul Bednarczyk
Jason Dringus
Keenan Krenzer

May They Rest In Peace:

Past Commander
Lawrence E. Taylor Sr.

James M. Handford

Melvin Roads Post 1231

200 Columbia Turnpike
Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Phone: 518-462-7006
Fax: 518-462-5250
E-Mail: melvinroads@nycap.rr.com
commandermelvinroads@gmail.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 being offered at Melvin Roads
Heroes' Lounge, on Fridays 11:30am to 2pm.
Bar Fare and Specials are available on
Monday thru Friday evenings, 5-8pm!*

Melvin Roads Post 1231 Newsletter

February/March 2019

Post News Notes.....

- Members are requested to **send their email address to the Post** so we can send along notices as well as this newsletter. Send that information to: commandermelvinroads@gmail.com.
- **Pub Poker** is held every Monday and Thursday evenings here at the Post. There is no admission charge! Our regular food menu is available.
- The **Queen of Hearts** continues to be a big hit at the Post. We've changed the date/time of the weekly drawings; they are now held Wednesday evening at 7:25pm, just before bingo begins! Until the Queen is "hit" the jackpot climbs weekly!
- Monthly, the Town of East Greenbush holds their **Honor-A-Veteran**

Ceremony. Watch for the monthly recognition by going to the East Greenbush Town website.

- **Dues notices** have been mailed from National; members are requested to send in their \$45 to Melvin Roads Post for 2019. Please note that of the \$45 dues payment, \$32.50 of that goes to the Legion State Department programs while an additional \$1.50 goes to County Legion programs. That leaves \$11.00 for our Post. In January the State share of your dues has increased to \$34.50 leaving just \$9.00 for the Post. As of January 2019 Melvin Roads has 81% of its members pay their 2019 dues.
- **Note Well: Dues for 2020 will be mailed this coming July.**
- We will be holding **Fish Fry Fri-**

days during the Lenten season. The regular menu will also be available those evenings.



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