

Melvin Roads Post 1231

Post 1231 Newsletter

FEBRUARY, MARCH 2017



Upcoming Events...

February 5th
Super Bowl Sunday!

February 14th
Valentine's Day

February 18th
Cabin Fever

February 20th
Presidents' Day

March 1st
Ash Wednesday

March 3rd
Begin Fish Fry
Friday's

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Commander's Message...

Dear Legion Family:

Hello to all members of the Melvin Roads Legion family. I hope the holidays were enjoyable for all.

We had quite a few events take place since the last newsletter and I am here to let you know all were a success. As I stated, we need more people to volunteer to help run these events so that the responsibility of making them happen doesn't fall on the same individuals because that is the case now.

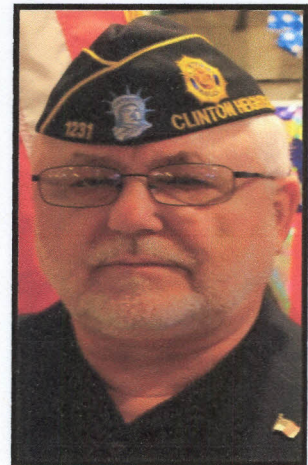
That being said, I regret to have to take this time and space to seriously point out that the Post is barely getting by and keeping our doors open is becoming more of a challenge. Some will say "we're holding our own" and in fact that is painfully true!

There are some factors that you need to know. Bingo has become our biggest source of income and we are on the brink of shutting bingo down due to the lack of volunteers to work on

Members are invited to join in for the 98th Birthday celebration of the American Legion with dinner, dancing, drinks and prizes. The date is set for Saturday evening, March 18th, here at the Melvin Roads Post. And as that weekend is the celebration of the great Irish

Wednesday nights. We need more help in assisting the chairman, selling tickets, selling pull tabs, callers and folks working the floor. This is what is needed in personnel each week: 2 persons to handle the paperwork and banking and deposit; from 5:15 to 7:45 10 persons to cover all posts; 7:15 to 10pm, 5 persons to run the games. We really need three callers to be able to always have someone available to fill that important task. And we must do all this in compliance with the gaming laws: all these persons must belong to either the Post, Auxiliary or the SONS or Riders to work bingo.

I am calling on all Melvin Roads members to please contact us and let us know that you can offer your assistance even if it is only one Wednesday a month. I have met with the President of the Board and we have discussed alternatives if bingo has to be cancelled. Legionnaires, those alternatives are not pretty. As a member of this Post who has sat on the Board and held the position of Adjutant when we were



Commander Joe Finn

financially healthy, I know the alternatives are not something to look forward to.

Joe Finn, Commander

2017 Legion Birthday/St. Patrick's Day Dinner Party Set

Saint, St. Patrick, we will also engage in the "Wearin' of the green" that same evening.

Since 1919 the American Legion has fostered camaraderie among American service members both past and present. We celebrate our commitment to help fellow veterans and our com-

munity. The birthday party helps us to look at what we have done and to look forward to what we can do next year.

Doors open at 5:30pm with dinner scheduled for 6:30pm. Tickets are \$30pp/\$50couple and available in the Post Lounge.

Melvin Roads Ladies Auxiliary...

Happy New Year! On behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary we extend these greetings for the new year. To our members, I hope one of your resolutions is to pay your dues for 2017. Our goal is 64 dues-paying members and so far, we only have 46 paid to date. If you receive a letter from National about your dues, **DO NOT SEND YOUR DUES TO THEM.** All payments are done locally. As you'll read in this newsletter, Cabin Fever is February 18th. We are looking for volunteers and food donations. We anticipate a really fun time so plan on joining in! We also need help with bingo and again, as you can read in the report on this page, bingo is a huge money-maker for the

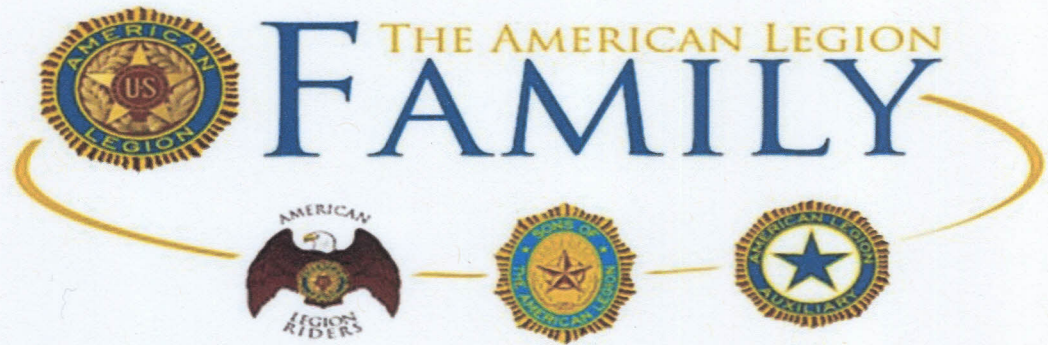
Post. We need to have auxiliary members volunteer to help with this weekly effort; if four or five more members would step forward and assist, it would mean a great deal. Some members are working every week, and we need to spread out the work-load. And Fish Fry Fridays are just down the road and we ask for your help here as well. And if you can think of any new fundraising ideas let us know your thoughts. The Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday night of the month at 7pm. We hope to see a lot of new faces there!

Lori A. McFarland
President

SONS News...

2017 is the 40th anniversary for our Sons Squadron. We are planning an event to celebrate this important occasion. Watch this newsletter and our website (www.melvinroads1231.org) for more information. If any member want to help with the planning of the anniversary or run for a Squadron office, please contact me at my email (below) or come to any monthly meeting, the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

Kevin Harrington
Commander
(KevinMRSQ1231@aol.com)



Veterans' Day November 2016

Veterans' Day 2016 saw many events that brought honor to our veterans. As always the **Interact Club of Columbia High School** offered a ceremony at the grave of Melvin Roads and then hosted a breakfast for the 12 veterans that attended this event.

And in like fashion, the students of **Doane Stuart School** also held a veterans day ceremony and laid a wreath in memory of our fallen heroes.

And we thank Ed Pratt, Bob Doherty, Chris Hagen and Hugh Blake for sharing their remembrances of their Vietnam experience on this 50th anniversary of that conflict.

Several dignitaries graced our formal ceremonies that afternoon, including Congressman **Paul Tonko**. Supervisor **Jack Conway** offered a word of encouragement and a representative from Assemblywoman **Kathy Marchione** read a proclamation. A buffet was offered throughout the afternoon by our staff.

From the Riders...

We remind our members that our monthly meetings are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of every month, gathering at 7pm. We're planning our Blessing of the Bikes on May 20th, and our annual Poker Run in September (date yet to be determined).

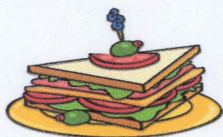
Steve Shannon
Riders' President

Bingo Report

Bob Doherty, Bingo Chair, at the January meeting of the Post presented the **final financial figures for Bingo for the year ended December 31, 2016.** In all there were 5,946 players at the 50 Wednesday night Bingo's held in 2016. Added to an opening balance of \$1,412, total receipts were \$173,686 and from that amount \$134,200 went toward prizes. Bingo equipment, licensing and other fees added up to \$6,990 which left a net profit of \$32,495 for the year. Of that amount, **\$33,223 in Post bills were paid from the bingo profits just last year.** A closing balance of \$930 was recorded.

It has been said so many times but again, **our Post would not survive without bingo.** We need volunteers. Come and give us a hand any Wednesday!

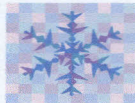
*Having a family get together in the future?
Or maybe a wedding or baby shower?
Or looking for a venue for an after-funeral gathering?*



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

Cabin Fever 2017

Let's have a Pajama Party! That's the theme for this year's Cabin Fever set for Saturday, February 18th. From 1pm to 6pm, The Ladies Auxiliary and the SONS of Melvin Roads Post will be hosting what promises to be a fun-filled afternoon. Food, Soda, Draft Beer is included (1 to 5pm) (Cash bar). Music by Brian will be offered from 1 to 5 as well. There will be a 50/50, Chinese auction, games of chance throughout the afternoon. Cost is \$10pp for members of any legion post (up to February 11th). Day of the event, \$15. Non legion members pre-sale cost is \$15 (until February 11th), Day of the event, \$20.00. Tickets are now on sale in the lounge! So get out your flannel jammies and join in the fun. 50% of the proceeds will be put toward sending a veteran on a Patriot Flight.



2016 Breakfast with Santa another success

Our own resident "Santa," Bob Doherty, has sent along his report for this year's annual Breakfast and Pictures with Santa. Held the second Sunday of December, over 90 children (and 10 dogs!) had their pictures taken with Santa, Mrs. Claus and assistants, Ms. Elf (Leslie Millhouse) and Rudolph (Christy Doherty). Over \$450 was turned over to the Post by Santa, just from the picture taking. Thanks go out to our photographer Ed Pratt for donating his services and camera and tripod at no cost. Our patrons were very pleased with the 4x6 color photos.

The SONS along with the Ladies Auxiliary did a great job with the breakfast buffet. We had a huge crowd and they were able to feed everyone! Word is they grossed over \$1,000 for the breakfast. Next year's event is on the schedule already for the second Sunday in December. Mark your 2017 calendar now and hope to see you there!

Chaplain's Corner...

The winter month's bring many different moods. The shorter days with less sunlight, the gloomy weather, and burden of extra outerwear can lay heavy on our hearts. But regardless of the date or season, each of us might commit ourselves to looking beyond the darkness and realize what our gift of faith offers. Recognize all the good that surrounds us; the beauty of the landscape, the crispness in the air, the star-lit nights that seem to sparkle ever more brightly at this time of year. And lest we overlook them, how often each day someone sends a greeting our way, a smile, a courtesy, a compliment. All is not doom and gloom, if only we would look up and see the positives in life. Keep the faith!

The 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.

Handsome Melvin Roads Glassware now available on sale

The Post has ordered a number of pint-sized beer glasses with the Melvin Roads logos embossed on the side. They are really nice. You can pick one up at the Lounge. The cost is \$4.50 per glass, or glass with a domestic \$5.50 or import \$7.00.



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

Michael Sciarrino
Alicia Howard
Robert Kleamoviich
Caroline Cleveland
Glen Roberson

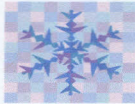
May They Rest In Peace:

Frank J. Gregoli
Maude E. Maloney
(Ladies Auxiliary)

200 Columbia Turnpike
Clinton Heights
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Phone: 518-462-7006
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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, on Fridays 11:30am to 2pm
And Bar Fare Mondays,
Wednesday thru Friday 5-8pm!*

Melvin Roads Post 1231 Newsletter

February/March 2017

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: melvinroads@nycap.rr.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.
- CONCERNS-U** has sent a thank you note to the Post acknowledging the donation of 6 large turkeys for their Thanksgiving baskets.
- The **Thanksgiving raffle**, incidentally, was another success. \$514.50 was raised for this event.
- A **word of thanks** is extended to Cheryl DeRusso and Leslie Millhouse for putting on a buffet at the Post on Thanksgiving Day itself.
- The Post received a thank you letter from the **VA Hospital** for our donation of \$100 to their holiday fund. And the **Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Project** acknowledged our donation toward the Monument to be placed in Lafayette Park, Albany.
- The **Queen of Hearts** continues to be a big hit at the Post. Drawings are every Sunday afternoon. Until the Queen is "hit" the jackpot climbs weekly!
- A generous donation toward the Donnelly Scholarship has been received by the **Rossello family**, in memory of Tony.
- A donation has also been received by the Albertine family, in memory of Paul. This too has been added to the principal of the **Donnelly Scholarship**.
- Been to the Post lately? Stop by and **check out our new additions**, a brand new juke box (great sound!), and our newly installed padded benches!
- The Post has sent along a \$100 donation to the **Greenbush Garden Club** in appreciation for their efforts on behalf of the Piersall Memorial Park.
- For the December Holidays we had a



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

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>National Freedom Day</i> 7:30pm Bingo	2 <i>Ground Hog Day!</i>	3 <i>Music in Lounge</i>	4
5 <i>Super Bowl Sunday</i>	6	7 <i>Ladies Auxiliary Meets at 7:00pm</i>	8 <i>Boy Scouts Founded in 1910</i> 7:30pm Bingo	9	10 <i>Music in Lounge</i>	11
12 <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> <i>Sons meet at 7:00pm</i> <i>Post Meets at 7:30pm</i>	15 7:30pm Bingo	16	17 <i>Music in Lounge</i>	18 <i>Cabin Fever</i>
19	20 <i>Presidents' Day Observed</i>	21	22 <i>Washington's Birthday</i> 7:30pm Bingo	23	24 <i>Music in Lounge</i>	25
26	27	28 <i>Shrove Tuesday</i> <i>Riders Meet at 7:00pm</i>				

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 7:30pm Bingo	2	3 <i>Fish Fry Friday</i> <i>Music in Lounge</i>	4
5	6	7 <i>Ladies Auxiliary</i> <i>Meets at 7:00pm</i>	8 7:30pm Bingo	9	10 <i>Fish Fry Friday</i> <i>Music in Lounge</i>	11 <i>Purim Begins</i>
12 <i>Girl Scouts Founded</i> <i>in USA 1912</i> <i>Daylight Saving Time</i> <i>Begins</i>	13	14 <i>Sons meet at 7:00pm</i> <i>Post meets at 7:30pm</i>	15 7:30pm Bingo	16	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <i>Fish Fry Friday</i> <i>Music in Lounge</i>	18 <i>Legion Anniversary</i> <i>Dinner/St. Patrick's</i> <i>Celebration</i>
19 <i>Iraq War Began 2003</i>	20 <i>First Day of Spring</i>	21	22 7:30pm Bingo	23	24 <i>Fish Fry Friday</i> <i>Music in Lounge</i>	25 <i>Wedding in Hall</i>
26	27	28 <i>Riders Meet at</i> <i>7:00pm</i>	29 7:30pm Bingo	30	31 <i>Fish Fry Friday</i> <i>Music in Lounge</i>	