



COTTREALL-WARNER, POST 942

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Officers:

Commander:
Jeff Jolley

1st Vice:
Dan MacDonald

2nd Vice:
Gordon Clarke

3rd Vice:
Don Linborg

Adjutant:
Staci Sukhenko

Treasurer:
Al Gubiotti

Sgt. At Arms:
Al Mikolajko

Historian:
Herb Gauch

Chaplain and
Service Officer:
Gordon Clarke

Bar Manager:
Ted Sykes

Membership:
Gordon Nenno



Legion Family,

January is here and wow our post home looks amazing. Thank You to our Home Corp for all their hard work coordinating the hall renovation.

Our Veterans Day annual ceremony was held on November 11th. We will always remember the sacrifices that our Veterans have made.

December 7th, was National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Thank you to all our many volunteers that helped or participated in both ceremonies.

I hope everyone has a Happy New Year! This is the season of giving and simple acts like saying hi and engaging in conversation can mean so much. Please remember, "Be The One!"

<https://www.legion.org/suicideprevention>

For God and Country Jeff Jolley, Commander

Upcoming Events 2024

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Group</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Jan 3	6:00 pm	Home Corp	Home Corporation Meeting	American Legion
Jan 9	8:15 pm	Riders	Legion Riders Meeting	Brimont Bistro
Jan 11	5:30 pm	Ex Committee	Executive Committee Meeting	American Legion
Jan 11	7:00 pm	Legionnaires	Legion Post Meeting	American Legion
Jan 19 - Jan 21	All Day	Conference Attendees	Mid-Winter Conference	Albany, NY
Jan 25	7:00 pm	SAL	SAL Meeting	American Legion
Feb 6	8:15 pm	Riders	Legion Riders Meeting	Brimont Bistro
Feb 7	6:00 pm	Home Corp	Home Corporation Meeting	American Legion
Feb 15	5:30 pm	Ex Committee	Executive Committee Meeting	American Legion
Feb 15	7:00 pm	Legionnaires	Legion Post Meeting	American Legion
Feb 22	7:00 pm	Auxiliary	Auxiliary Meeting	American Legion
Feb 29	7:00 pm	SAL	SAL Meeting	American Legion
Mar 2	4:30 pm	All	Auxiliary Corned Beef Dinner	American Legion
Mar 6	6:00 pm	Home Corp	Home Corporation Meeting	American Legion
Mar 10	12:00 pm	Delegates	7 th District Meeting	Marion Post #1430
Mar 12	8:15 pm	Riders	Legion Riders Meeting	Brimont Bistro
Mar 14	5:30 pm	Ex Committee	Executive Committee Meeting	American Legion
Mar 14	7:00 pm	Legionnaires	Legion Post Meeting	American Legion
Mar 21	7:00 pm	Auxiliary	Auxiliary Meeting	American Legion
Mar 28	7:00 pm	SAL	SAL Meeting	American Legion

MEMBERSHIP

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism. If you are seeking information, please contact the individuals below:

- **Legion** - Staci Sukhenko (585) 281-2042
- **Auxiliary** - Anne Leckenby (585) 943-0746
- **SAL** - Ned Stromfeld (585) 872-9190



If you haven't paid your 2024 dues, please do so as soon as possible. We have approximately 347 members paid. That's 81.07% of our goal of 428. **You can pay on-line now at:** <https://www.legion.org/renew>

We already have 105 that paid on-line for 2024. The portion of the dues that are due to the Post will be credited to our Post by the Department of New York.

Remember, if you paid your 2024 dues and have your 2024 card, you are paid; disregard any renewal notices from National.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



TWO TRADITIONS, ONE WISH.
PEACE ON EARTH.

*If you know of
a Legionnaire that
is currently sick
or recently
deceased, call
Chaplain
Gordon Clarke
At 585-978-0429.*

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

AUXILIARY UNIT 942



The Legion Auxiliary continues to support our active duty and veterans during this holiday season.

The annual **Harvest Pork Dinner** was a big hit. All that could be heard was the smacking of lips enjoying their roast pork loin, parmesan potatoes, green beans, squash, red cabbage from local farms, and homemade applesauce. Not to mention all the desserts! 150 dinners were sold in a little over an hour. Thank you everyone who volunteered their time to make this a successful event.

The **Children's Christmas Party** was held on Saturday, Dec 9th. Santa was there with the Auxiliary Elves handing out gifts to 27 children. There was also children's entertainment and cookies served.



This year the Auxiliary decorated a tree at the **Webster Museum's annual Festival of Trees** event.

The tree was decorated with poppies and information to educate on the story of the poppy. Individuals were able to stop by the Webster Museum to vote on the best tree.



The **Webster Wreaths Across America** was held on Dec 16th. It was powerful to see around a thousand volunteers from the community place over 1,300 wreaths on veteran graves in the 3 Webster cemeteries. I was able to participate in the Webster Wreaths Across America this year to remember and thank our veterans. It was an honor to be able to place a wreath on a veteran's grave and say his name.



AUXILIARY UNIT 942 *Continued...*

In the month of Dec, the Auxiliary sent 6 holiday **care packages** overseas to deployed service men and women. Sending a little bit of home to the ones who will not be able to be here and to thank them for their service.

Mark your calendars! The ALA will be hosting their **Annual Corned Beef Dinner** on Saturday March 2nd from 4:30-7pm (or until it's sold out).

Remember the ALA monthly meetings are held on the **Third Thursday** of each **month** for the months of August, September, October, November, February, March, April (traditionally -- an Auxiliary "Birthday" dinner at Proietti's) and May. No meetings in the months of January, June, July and December. Meetings start promptly at 7pm.

Stay Safe and Warm this Winter Season!

For God and Country, Amy VanDerwerken, Auxiliary Unit President

SONS OF THE LEGION



I want to start by wishing you all a happy and safe new year!! The Sons rounded out 2023 by breaking the \$7,000 donation mark. We have plenty of opportunity to keep this up as we push to the summer season.

Please check to verify you have paid your 2024 membership dues... You must have a 2024 card to enter ANY American Legion Post. (\$20 for 2024)

Our monthly meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the FINAL Thursday of each month. Please try to attend and stay informed.

Thank you for your time, Nate Burdick, Commander Squadron 942

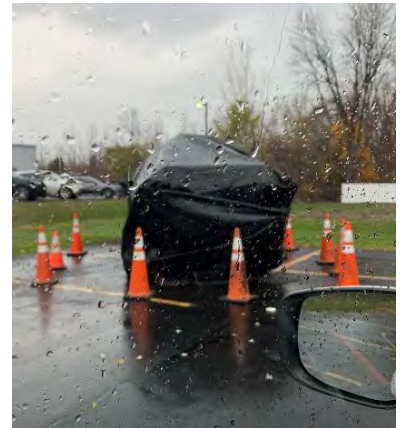
Legion Static Piece - M706 Armored Truck

As some of you have noticed, there is a black tarp outback. The Legionnaires applied for a static piece years ago through U.S. Army Tank Automotive and Armaments Command when Greg Cody was the Post Commander.

We got word a few months ago that one was available. Greg jumped at the chance to get us our vehicle. The piece we acquired is an **M706 Armored Truck**, sometimes referred to as the Cadillac Gate Commando.

The piece traveled from Virginia to Webster on Nov 17th **Al Gubiotti** and **Tony Terra** met the truck deliverer and the wrecker to have it safely placed in the back corner of the post. A special shout out to Tony for taking lead and covering the vehicle as some of the pieces weren't properly installed.

Greg Cody inspected the vehicle. There is some rust buildup as it was left outside. Greg cleaned out the leaves and securely tied it down for the winter. In the Spring, we will remove any surface rust, apply treatment, a protectant and then prime and paint it. Greg has already started on the hatch and panel door.



If you would like to help with the restoration, we are looking for volunteers. Do you have any experience with rust removal or painting? Let Staci Sukhenko know and she will work with Greg to get a team together in the Spring.

LEGION RIDERS



Riders' meetings are on January 9th, February 6th, and March 12th at the Brimont Bistro at 8:15 pm.

On May 4th the Riders will sponsor **Raleigh's Ride**. A Facebook Page will be up soon. The ride will go to Eldred WW2 Museum, then overnight in Olean.

This is a sponsored ride. **Riders will pay \$25 to join the ride**. People can donate any amount to sponsor the ride. Checks can be made out to **Post 942 Legion Riders** and **mailed to Greg Cody at 27 Martin St Webster NY 14580**. All donations of **\$40 or more** will receive an **event shirt**, please provide the name and address to receive the shirt. Cut-off to receive shirts is April 15th.

Funds raised will go to the Museum and K9s for Warriors. All names of donors will be listed on the Facebook page along with the name of their beloved passed pet. The Bistro and Sue Ayotte will cover the cost of t-shirts; that means 100% of donations goes to the two charities. Preserving true American History, saving K9s, and helping Veterans!

Sportsman Raffle tickets are on sale now, Raffle will be May 18th at Post 942.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining the Riders, contact Greg Cody at 585-750-1490.

COLOR GUARD



Our Color Guard performs many times each year at special events like Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor Day. We are looking for volunteers to participate in the Color Guard and Rifle Squad.

If you enjoy displaying your patriotism and hearing applause, this is for you! Post 942 provides all the uniforms except for a pair of black slacks and black shoes; you only need to be a member of The American Legion Post 942 and be willing to get involved. If interested in joining the Color Guard, contact **Brian McCoy at 585-704-3935**.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER - CHRISTMAS IN THE MILITARY

If you served overseas or even stateside, odds are you missed being home for the Holiday. Beginning in 1941 and continuing for nearly 50 years, Bob Hope brought his variety show to Military camps and ships in war zones to entertain troops in all branches with song, dance, comedy, attractive stars and people in the news.



He discovered early on that audiences appreciated jokes about their locale and the elite. The strategy worked especially well when he teased soldiers about their bases and skewered their officers.



Hope said he gained more from the experience than he gave. "I hate war with all my guts Hope told a crowd in 1971, but I admire the guys with guts enough to fight them when they have to be fought." Believe me when I say that laughter up at the front is a precious thing - precious to those grand guys and gals who are giving and taking the awful business that goes on there... There's a lump the size of Grant's tomb in your throat when they come up to you and shake your hand and say "Thanks". Imagine those young folks thanking me! Look what they're going through for me and for you - Bob Hope 1944



Hope received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Johnson in 1969. "Thanks for the memories, Bob". Oh, in case you were wondering Christmas was declared a Federal Holiday on June 26, 1870, Santa was thrilled 😊 **HOPE YOU HAD A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Herb Gauch, Post Historian

2023 PEARL HARBOR CEREMONY

I attended the Pearl Harbor ceremony on December 7th with a large group of Post 942 members. The members of the Post had the honor of presenting the flags for all the service branches.



The gathering was made up of Americans that included legionnaires, veterans, civilians, politicians, law enforcement and active-duty personnel who came together to remember the attack on Pearl Harbor - "the day that will live in infamy".

This gathering was held at the Rochester Yacht Club where speeches were made, a wreath was laid into the water and the sound of the 21-gun salute filled the air. This was followed by a somber moment where all in attendance pondered the sacrifice that took place so long ago.

This event is one that ties Americans together.

As I grow older, I find myself realizing what this country really means to me. Serving her was an honor and living with all the freedoms she freely gives to me has made my life rich. However, there is still work and duties to be done. Remembering those that gave their lives must never be forgotten and remembered by ceremonies like the Pearl Harbor ceremony. When Americans come together to honor those that made the ultimate sacrifice only good can prevail.



A special thank you to Greg Cody for his hard work, dedication, and his focus on the small details that made this ceremony memorable. His efforts truly were a tribute to those that sacrificed everything for their country.



God Bless America! Phillip Rosini

SHOOTERS SPORTS CLUB

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition.

Who Can Participate?

In shooting sports, you don't have to sit on the sidelines: Anyone 12 - 18 years old can participate. Physical ability and size are no match for mental toughness and discipline in this co-ed skill sport. **Note:** You **DO NOT** need to be a member of the American Legion to join this club. **Please let anyone who is interested know of this opportunity.**

What Will We Do?

You'll practice and study with Legion Post 942, but get to compete as an individual. All participants start with rifle safety and fundamentals. The Legion prides itself on safety. You'll learn the right way to handle, load, aim and fire a pellet sporter rifle. Then you will develop your skills, set personal goals and work to achieve established performance standards. Lastly, you will compete in the NYS American Legion Sporter Rifle and Precision Rifle Competition, from there it moves onto National.

How Much Does It Cost?

Post 942 will lend participants gear, including rifles, and equipment. There is no registration fee and costs are covered by the Post.

When Can I Start?

Meetings will be held **Monday Nights, October - February at 7pm** at **Post 942** located on 818 Ridge Road, Webster, NY

If you have questions, contact **Tony Gross** at **585-281-7815**.



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

What is Wreaths Across America? It is a nationwide organization that has a goal of placing a Veteran's wreath on every veteran's grave site in America. This wonderful event gives communities across the nation to gather to pay respect and to teach our children to remember those that served and sacrificed for this country.

This year Webster was again on a mission to have this dream become a reality. It all took place on Dec 16th with an army of volunteers ready and willing to remember our veterans. Living up to this mission to increase the number of grave sites, Webster Rural cemetery was added to the list placing 557 wreaths, along with Union Hill cemetery that placed 68 wreaths. Webster Union, where this mission started last year, had 725 wreaths placed this year on veterans' graves. A total of 1350 wreaths were placed in all three cemeteries.



Before the wreaths can be placed, the 1350 veterans' grave sites need to be identified and marked with a red flag. This allows the placing of the wreaths a much easier and faster task. This, however, takes a group of people to follow maps and find headstones all over the cemetery. On Dec 2nd a small group of volunteers and veterans took their maps in hand and searched out each designated grave, marking it with a small red flag.



The marking of 1350 graves and the laying of the wreaths does not happen by magic. It takes an army led by a general whose spirit is driven to ensure all veterans are remembered for their service with a veteran's wreath. *Continue on Next Page...*



WREATHS CONTINUED...

This general is Cherie Wood, a lovely lady who is driven by a force that has embraced all those that know her. Cherie is the daughter of a veteran who makes it her mission to be present at every step of the way in this journey to make sure that those that served are not forgotten.



On a personal note, I had the pleasure to work with two individuals finding and marking graves sites at Webster Rural cemetery on a rainy and dreary day. They never served but gave me the opinion that they needed to help in some manner to show they cared and wanted to honor those that did serve. I was overwhelmed and honored to work with these Americans. It gave me a sense that even with all the division in our country, there is still a small piece of us that has a place in our hearts for those that served and the price it cost for our freedom.



Veterans need to support this effort next year and every year to make sure this event lives on. At some point in this life there may be an individual looking down at your resting place laying a wreath on your grave and thanking you for your service and sacrifice.



God Bless America ~~ Phillip Rosini

FREE RTS BUS PASSES FOR VETERANS

Veterans Outreach Center is proud to provide bus passes to veterans completely free of charge. The passes can be used on any RTS bus in Monroe, Livingston, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, and Wyoming counties and are good for three years.

Eligibility Requirements: Must be a veteran, Must provide a copy of your DD214, Must provide a valid photo ID, Must not have been dishonorably discharged, Must complete VOC intake process. **Process to Acquire a Free Bus Pass:** 1) Contact VOC to schedule an appointment. Call their main number at 585.546.1081 or complete the [Need Services form](#) at <https://veteransoutreachcenter.org/rts> 2) Visit Veterans Outreach Center at 447 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620 to have your photo taken and be issued your bus pass.

2024 Blue Star Mothers NYS Baby Shower

Honoring Military Families!



Who: Active Duty, Veterans and Military Spouses of Active Duty & Veterans who are expecting or have children up to 6 months old.

When: May 5, 2024 between 11:00am - 1:00pm.

What: Beautiful gifts for you and your baby including baby clothing, handmade outfits, diapers, baby supplies, and much more.

FREE for the first 20 women to register!!!

Where: American Legion Cottreall-Warner Post # 942
818 Ridge Rd Webster, NY 14580

To register / additional information contact:

Baby Shower Committee Co-Chairs:

Amy VanDerwerken and Jill Harris

email: 1VP.NY8@BlueStarMothers.US



HOME CORPORATION

Happy New Year from all of us on the Home Corporation Committee. The last few months we've been finishing up the summer and fall tasks, and prepping for the upcoming winter. Or maybe just the cloudy rainy season?

Wharram Lawn and Landscape made three trips to the Post in November as part of our contract with them. They performed a fall clean up, blowing the leaves out of the landscaping and lawn areas, and vacuuming them up for removal. We would like to thank them for the nice job they did for us again this year, and we will be seeking a bid this winter for 2024 lawn care services.

Jeremy Crombach with PerfectACut Lawn and Tree will be our snow removal service team again this winter. They took good care of the Post last year with the snow removal and salting, and offered us the same rates as last year. Maybe if we get some snow soon, we can put him to work.

One of the last remaining pieces of the Hall renovation is the replacement of the two old windows on the south side of the building. Wonder Windows was not able to perform the work during the time frame in October when the majority of the renovation work was performed, but we officially have that scheduled to be done in January. Once the new windows are in, we can finish things up with new curtains.

Submitted By: Chris Jolliff