



AMERICAN LEGION

The Oxley Post

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November/December 2019

IMPORTANT NEWS

Meeting Night Changes

After further discussion, it was decided to move the Legion Family Meeting (the combined meeting of Legion, Sons and Auxiliary) to the **FIRST MONDAY** of the Month at 7PM. The Legion Board will meet immediately after the Family Meeting.

The Regular Legion meeting remains on the **Third Monday** of the Month at 7:30 PM.

Due to Veterans Day the Sons of the American Legion will be moving its regular meeting to **Sunday, November 17th** at 1PM. December's meeting will be held as usual on the **Second Monday (Dec 9th)** at 8PM

Commander's Message

By: **Bruce Conklin**

First, I apologize for my frequent absence lately as I have been ill for the last couple of months. Our people been operating at a great tempo despite a setback in the form of a theft. This incident is sickening. To the scum that stole from us I hope you are caught and punished - that is all I have to say. On that note I will ask you here to refrain from gossip and conjecture about who the perpetrator is etc. This sort of behavior is poisonous. Man has been advised to avoid gossip from at least the time of the Old Testament and gossip has caused damage in relationships here in our own group... please help us quell these rumors and gossip and let things work out - hope for a good result from our cameras and those of our neighbors.

I want to thank everyone for the day to day help you provide to the post. Greg, Shelly, Tommy, Bob, Bill, Dave and Chuck, to name some of our lynchpins. I appreciate all of your support and positive contributions. Keep an eye to our future please!

Sick Call: Please keep the following members in your prayers: **Paul Palmer, Francis Dufner, Bruce Conklin, Bill Castillo & Jake Pielacha.** If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Jack Tomkins at 215-280-2033.

Post Everlasting: Sadly, we must report the passing of two of our comrades, **Joe Mullen** and **Ray Fontaine.** Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Happy Birthday: Please join us in wishing a Happy Birthday to the following Oxley Family Members.

**Gerard Beaver Nov 3; Joan Hunt Nov 7; Ed Pekala Nov 8; John Etsell Nov 11
Giacamo Bruno Nov 14; Raymond Delmont Dec. 17; James Gourley Dec. 29;
Happy Belated Birthday to Bill Castillo October 20**

Adjutant Report:
By: Jack Tomkins

Membership: A new year has begun for the American Legion and it's time to send in your **2020 dues**. We're off to a great start with almost 63% of our members being paid. Our goal is that we get to 100% by December 31st. If you don't pay by that date, you are in arrears and cannot be served in the canteen. If you haven't yet paid, please take just a few minutes to send in a check for \$30. You can also pay safely and conveniently online with a credit or debit card by going to www.legion.org/membership/renewals. For your convenience and to get the most recent information for our records, please fill out and return with your dues. Please call me at 215-280-2033 if you have any questions. **Please mail your 2020 payments to the post in c/o Adjutant Jack Tomkins.**

As discussed in our September newsletter, Congress passed and the President signed the LEGION Act into law. This bipartisan bill declares that the United States has been in a state of war since December 7, 1941 and as a result opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans who were previously unable to join the American Legion. So please reach out to other veterans you know and talk to them about joining the Oxley Post.

Please give a warm Oxley Family Welcome to the following new and transferring members: Ronald Weitman, John Haverty, Charles Hulitt and Kenneth Himes.

Canteen Report:

By: Greg Aschendorf

The last couple months have been pretty good at the post with the return of the football season and the beginning of dart season. In addition to our regular Friday night "Luck of the Draw" we are now hosting seven dart teams! As reported earlier, we've been awarded a very significant grant from Home Depot to remodel our hall and kitchen. Right now we are planning out the work and if all goes well we'll be completed by Christmas! We'll be needing a lot of help to get everything done. No particular skills are required. If you're able to even give a few hours, please let me know.

At the same time, Mural Arts Philadelphia is preparing to renovate the mural on the front of our building. (The mural will not be changed, just refreshed). The original mural was done in 2003 and weather has taken its toll. Work is expected to begin any day now and should be completed before Veterans Day. Finally, thanks to the Glazers Local 252 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, we'll be getting new windows installed in the Hall! This work should also be completed in November.

In addition to these big projects there are always a list of things to do (light maintenance) so we are re-starting our post 'work days'. We'll be holding these on Sundays (Nov 10th & 24th and Dec 1st & 8th) at 10:30. Please try to come out and give an hour or two to help the post.

One last item... we're thinking about opening up the post at noon on Fridays. Please let me know your thoughts.

So, there is certainly a lot going on at the post. Please stop by to check out our progress and support your post!

News from the Sons



The Sons of the American Legion meets on the second Monday of the month at 8PM, please make an effort to attend. Our 2020 dues of \$25 are now due. You can drop them off at the post, or mail them in. Please clearly mark on the envelope Attn: Bill Wasylenko, Adjutant

**Every Wednesday Night at the Post
Longboard Shuffleboard "X"s.
No teams, No long-term commitments, just fun with friends!**

2nd Annual Oxley Post Chili Cook Off

Help us celebrate Veteran's Day with our 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off. The competition is open to all Oxley Family members. Competitors will be judged by a panel of celebrity judges and the winner will compete in the 5th District Cook Off on November 16th at the Bridesburg Post. Full rules are available at the Post. There is also a "People's Choice Award".



\$5 Tasting Fee. Judging begins at 6:30. For more information, contact Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607

KARAOKE at the Oxley Post

On Saturday, November 2nd at 7PM, Northeast Philly's own Harry "O" will make his return to the Oxley Post. Come out and sing the night away. There is No Cover charge. Please help spread the word and come out to support your Post.



Oldies Night at the Oxley Post

Break out your bobby socks, poodle skirts and BrylCream on Saturday, November 30th, for Oldies Night from 7PM – 11PM. Music by Dagwood's Pub DJ Jen Blaze. Food will be provided. No Cover.



Oxley Post Raffle!

In cooperation with Delia's Gun shop, we are raffling off a new Radical Arms AR-15 with red-dot sight and in-stock battery storage; ambidextrous safety and full-length rail system. Tickets are \$10 each and the drawing will be held on Veterans Day, November 11th. Anyone purchasing a ticket must be at least 18 years of age and must be eligible to own a firearm. Tickets are available at the post. This has the potential of being an incredible fundraiser for the post. Please consider purchasing a ticket or better yet, take 5 or 10 and sell them to friends. For more information contact **Ed Hays or Bob Cummings**.

9th Annual Christmas Toy Drive

Once again, we, along with the Bridesburg Post #821, are collecting new, unwrappd toys for children of all ages to be distributed at St Christopher's Hospital for Children. We will be collecting toys until December 13th. Delivery will be held on December 14th. Toys can be dropped off at the post during regular hours. For more information, contact Gary Roman at 215-749-0756

Wall of Faces UPDATE- We're almost there!

As reported in previous editions, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has undertaken a project to gather pictures of everyone whose name is memorialized on the wall in an effort to preserve their legacy for generations to come. You can see the collection at <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/> The PA Department of Veterans Affairs (DMVA) is trying to help get photos of everyone who died from Pennsylvania. **When we first reported on this story last March, there were 11 veterans whose photos had not been identified. Today, that number is down to ONE – MSgt Matthew Harris, Jr.** If you served with MSgt Harris or know him from the neighborhood and have a photo let us know and we'll help put you in touch with the VVMF. You can also help by spreading the word to your friends, family and coworkers. Let's do our part to help honor on of our own!

Wall of Faces – Missing Photo

MSgt. Matthew Harris, Jr. (DOB 4/1/1931) The career of Air Force non-commissioned officer, a 1948 graduate of Overbrook High School had served in Japan and Morocco, among other places before being assigned to the 33rd Air Force Dispensary in Vietnam in February 1965. The 34-year-old medical service technician died in Saigon on May 28, 1965. He was survived by a wife and a son.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov 3: Veterans Parade will be stepping off at Noon from 16th and JFK Blvd. All Legions will be marching as one unit. There will be a float available if you'd like to attend but can't make the walk. Also, arrangements are being made to have a bus take any interested members to and from the parade. If interested, call Bob Cummings for details. All marchers need to go through security at 20th and JFK then muster at 16th St.

Monday, Nov. 4: Oxley Family Meeting 7PM followed by A.L Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 5: Election Day

Sunday, Nov. 10: Marine Corps Birthday – Come out and have a cold one with your Marine Buddies. “*Semper Fi*” Post Work Day 10:30 AM

Monday, Nov. 11: Veterans Day. Our Service at the Post will begin at 6 PM. Our 2nd Annual Oxley Post Chili Cook Off 4PM

Saturday, Nov. 16: 2nd Annual 5th District Chili Cook-Off Championship 4 – 7 PM. Chili cook-offs have been held across the district and on Nov 16th each post champion will put their chili up for District bragging rights

Sunday, Nov. 17, 1 PM: Due to Veteran's Day, the Sons of the American Legion will be holding our November meeting at 1PM – before the Eagles vs Patriots tailgate party.

Sunday, November 17th 12PM: Eagles Tailgate Party Catch all the action when the Eagles take on the Patriots on our giant 10 foot screen. The SAL will be firing up the grill and there will be games and drink specials. The party starts at noon and runs throughout the game (Kickoff at 4PM)

Monday, Nov. 18, 7:30: A.L. General Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 24th, 10:30 AM: Post Work Day

Thursday, Nov. 28: Thanksgiving. The Post will be open from 3PM. We will be serving Thanksgiving dinner to veterans who have nowhere to go. If you'd like to donate a dish, please call **Shelly Teesdale** at 215-870-6998. *We need a hard head count!* If you plan on attending there will be a sign-up sheet posted in the canteen. If you know of a veteran who would like to come or need more information, please call Shelly to reserve a spot

Saturday, Nov. 30, 7PM – 11PM. Oldies Night at the Oxley Post! Come join us for a great time with great music provided by Dagwood's Pub DJ Jen Blaze. Food provided by Legion Auxiliary. No Cover

Saturday, Dec 14, 3 PM: Army vs. Navy Game. Stop in for free draft beer and hot dogs during the game.

Sunday, Dec 1, 10:30 AM: Post Work Day

Monday, Dec. 2, 7PM: Oxley Family Meeting, 7:30 A.L. Board Meeting

Sunday, Dec 8, 10:30 AM: Post Work Day

Monday, Dec. 9, 8 PM: S.A.L. General Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 13, 7:30: A.L. Board and General Meeting

Sunday, Dec 15, 1PM – 4PM: Annual Kids Christmas Party. We are looking for donations for crafts for the kids, snacks, juice boxes etc. Please call Shelly 215-870-6998 to coordinate. **Please be sure you bring a wrapped gift for Santa to present to your child!**

Tues, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve The Post will be open from 3PM - ?

Tues., Dec 31, 8-?? Ring in the New Year with our “Come-as-You-Are New Year's Celebration” Bring a dish.

We're taking orders for Oxley Golf Shirts. The shirts are maroon and are fully embroidered with the Oxley Logo an American Flag on the left sleeve and the POW/MIA Logo on the right sleeve. The cost is \$30. Makes a great Christmas Gift!