



AMERICAN LEGION

The Oxley Post



4637 Decatur Street
Philadelphia, PA 19136
215-332-2457



November/December 2018

Commander's Message

By: **Bruce Conklin**

They last couple months have been very busy around the post and I'd like to thank all the people who have really stepped up. A special thank you goes out to **Bob and Eileen Cummings** who organized and cooked for our Eagles-Jaguars Kegs 'n Eggs Day. Another special thanks to **Micky Hunt** and all the whole team who came in and stripped and waxed the hall floor. They did a great job! Finally, thanks to **Mike Kennedy** for running our Eagles gear raffles. As you'll see in our list of upcoming events we have a lot going on between now and year end. Please make an effort to get involved in some of our activities. We also have posted a copy of the Consolidated Post Report on our bulletin board which lists all the Legion activities our Post could be getting involved in. Please check it out and see if there are any activities you'd like to lead our efforts on. We're always looking for new opportunities and people willing to help.

Adjutant Report:

By **Jack Tomkins**

Membership: National Headquarters is now requiring each member provide their **Phone Number, Gender, Date of Birth, Email and Branch of Service** when renewing their memberships. So, if paying your dues by mail, please include this information along with your check. **(Please mail payments in c/o Post Adjutant Jack Tomkins. Dues are now payable for 2019 in the amount of \$30.** There are some members who have not paid their 2018 dues. Each of you who are in arrears have been notified in a separate mailing. You will need to pay \$30 to catch up plus the 2019 dues of \$30 (which is due now). You can also renew your membership conveniently and safely online with a credit/debit card. To pay online visit www.legion.org/membership/renewals. If you have a hardship and are unable to pay, please contact a post officer. Last month the Post was recognized for being above our membership percentage goal.

Please give a warm Oxley Family Welcome to the following new and transferring members

Mike Vokes – transferred from Post 317, Yardley, PA

Jay Hamill – transferred from Post 152, Philadelphia

Finance & Canteen Report

By **Greg Aschendorf**

On Saturday, October 20, we had a great Work Day at the club. A great group of guys came out and tackled several projects, including the massive job of stripping and waxing the hall floor – and it looks incredible! Thanks to everyone who came out: **Micky Hunt, Ed Hays, Dave Bartholomew, Tom Cheeseman, Jack Tomkins, Bruce Conklin and Brian Conklin.**

The S.A.L. gave an incredibly generous gift to the Legion to help pay off some bills. Once again, our Sons have come up in a big way to support the post. It is really appreciated. Thanks to SAL Commander Chuck Phraner and all the Sons for their continued support! For more information, come to our meetings.

Small Games of Chance

Our Pull Tab games are up and running and doing well. “Our bartenders really deserve a lot of the credit for making this work”, said **Tom Cheeseman**, Chairman of the Small Games of Chance Committee “while the games help generate much-needed money for the post, it also creates *a lot* of extra work for our bartenders and every one of them have really stepped up to make this a success.” The next time you’re at the post, try your luck and thank your bartender!

Installation of Officers Held

On September 13, the Oxley Post held its annual Installation of Officers ceremony. 5th District Commander **Ed Manko** (Post 686), along with Alternate National Committeeman **Mike Stelacio** (Post 832), 5th District Adjutant **Pat Love** (Post 396) and **Steve Krause** (Post 754) officiated over the event. Sworn in were for the 2018 - 19 term were: Commander **Bruce Conklin**, Sr. Vice Cdr. **Butch Williams**, Jr. Vice Cdr. **Bill Castillo**, Finance Officer **Greg Aschendorf**, Adjutant **Jack Tomkins**, Sgt. at Arms **John Plunkett** and Chaplain **Bob Cummings**. Following that ceremony, the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Officers were sworn in by 5th District Commander **Joe Wysochanski**. Your SAL Officers for the 2018 - 19 term are: Commander **Chuck Phraner**, Sr. Vice Commander **Ed Hays**, Jr. Vice Commander **Tom Cheeseman**, Adjutant **Bill Wasylenko**, Finance Officer **Wes Schlueter**, Sgts at Arms **Warren Schlueter** and **Mike Kennedy** and Chaplain **Justin Garsey**.

And the Winner of the Oxley Post Chili Cook-Off is...

A good time was had by all on Sunday, October 21st, for the first ever Oxley Post Chili Cook-Off. There were 6 contestants and a great crowd to try some really incredible chili. **Joe Arrison** won a tight contest to claim the title of 2018 Oxley Champion. **Wes Schlueter** won the People’s Choice Award. Next up: on November 4th at 4PM, Joe will take on the winning chilis from across the 5th district in the District Chili Cook-Off Championship. Come on out and cheer Joe on as he competes to be named District Chili Champion. Thanks to everyone who came out but especially our cooks: **Joan Hunt & Barb Hays**, **Chrissy Canal**, **Brian Conklin** (who, by the way, moved the day before and *still* made a pot of chili!) **Manuel Mapes**, **Wes Schlueter** and **Joe Arrison**. Special thanks to our celebrity judges: **City Councilman Bobby Henon**, **Mission BBQ** **Community Ambassador Shannon Spurduto** and **SFC John Werzler from Post 178**.

Kylie Menow lands lead in St Hubert’s Production of “The Little Mermaid”

Kylie Menow, daughter of Ladies Auxiliary Secretary **Nicole Menow** and granddaughter of Legion Sr. Vice Commander **Butch Williams** and Ladies Sr. Vice President **Noreen Williams**, won a tough competition to play the lead in St. Hubert’s High School’s production of “Little Mermaid” later this month.

Kylie, a senior at St. Hubert’s, is now hard at work, balancing her academic studies, rehearsals and looking into colleges. Many of us in the Oxley Family have had the pleasure of hearing her sing as part of last year’s Memorial Day ceremonies when Kylee sang the National Anthem acapella at four cemeteries. We knew great things were in store for her. The show will be held at St. Hubert’s High School on Friday November 30th and Saturday December 1st at 7:30 and Sunday December 2nd at 2PM. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the school. Kylie, the entire Oxley Family wishes you the best. “Break a leg!” “BRAVO ZULU”

We’re Here to Help!

The Oxley Post family is continuing an initiative begun last year that would match up our members who are in need of assistance with those who might be able to help. Some possible examples would include rides to the doctor, snow shoveling etc. (although we will try to accommodate any request). If you are in need of assistance or would be willing to help out, please give **Bruce Conklin** a call at 215-495-9912.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Nov. 3: Halloween Party 8 til' Midnight

Sun., Nov 4, 2AM: Daylight Savings Time ends. Set clocks BACK one hour.



Sunday, Nov 4: Veterans Parade will be stepping off at Noon from 16th and JFK Blvd. All Legions will be marching as one unit. All marchers need to go through security at 20th and JFK then muster at 16th St. For more information call Bruce at 215-495-9912 or visit the parade webpage at phillyveteransparade.org.

Sunday, Nov. 4: 5th District Chili Cook-Off Championship 4 – 7 PM. Chili cook-offs have been held across the district and on Nov 4th each post champion will put their chili up for District bragging rights! Stop by to try all the entries and cheer on our Oxley Champ **Joe Arrison**.

Tuesday, Nov. 6: Election Day

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7:30: A.L. Board and General Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 10: Marine Corps Birthday – Come out and have a cold one with your Marine Buddies. “*Semper Fi*”

Sunday, Nov. 11: Veterans Day. Our Service at the Post will begin at 6 PM. Cowboys vs. Eagles 8:20 PM

Monday, Nov. 12, 8 PM: S.A.L. Meeting

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10 AM: Work Day at the Post. There are always things to do. Come out and give a hand for an hour. No special skills necessary. For more information, contact **Greg Aschendorf** at 215-970-8035.

Thursday, Nov. 22: 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 make a 'reservation'.

Saturday, Dec 8, 3 PM: Army vs. Navy Game. Stop in for free draft beer and hot dogs during the game.

Monday, Dec. 10, 8 PM: S.A.L. General Meeting

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

Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 AM: Work Day at the Club.

Sunday, Dec 16, 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!**

Monday, Dec. 24 , Tuesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Post Hours TBA

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

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; Wes Schlueter Nov 9; John Etsell Nov 11
Jack Bruno Nov 14; Pete Pytrysson Nov 30; Raymond Delmont Dec. 17; James Gourley Dec. 29;**

(Editor's Note: We don't have everyone's date of birth and very few for our Auxiliary or Sons' members. If you haven't filled out a contact information sheet (below) please do so and return to the post and we'll be sure to get you on the B-Day list!)

Taps

On the last Thursday of each month at 2PM, Washington's Crossing National Cemetery, in Newtown, Bucks County, holds a ceremony for all veterans who have died during the month but had no one attending their burial. The ceremony includes full Military Honors and a folded flag is presented to a volunteer on behalf of those who died. Everyone deserves to have someone at the end; to have their name spoken and their lives and service honored and memorialized. The cemetery is located at 830 Highland Rd., Newtown, PA

Honor Flight Philadelphia honors our own Ed Conlon

By Wes Schlueter, Past Commander, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 133

Wow! Monday, October 1st... what a rewarding day! I had the honor of being guardian to Korea War Veteran, Mr Ed Conlon on Honor Flight Philadelphia. The day began at Flourtown Country Club at 7AM, along with 49 other WWII and Korean War Veterans. We boarded the buses en route to Arlington National Cemetery and Washington D.C. to tour all monuments and memorials.

The entire trip was police escorted from start to finish from Pennsylvania to Washington D.C and back. Rock Star treatment for our Heroes! All meals were provided along with a never ending supply of snacks and drinks throughout the day.

On the trip home the buses pulled into the PA Welcome Center on I-95 to a welcoming contingent of approximately 40 motorcycles and 14 police and fire vehicles to escort our heroes home. I-95 was **completely closed down** to give our veterans the presidential treatment. On every overpass, firemen in dress uniforms on top of fire trucks with flags flying high, saluted as the heroes on the buses went by.

At this time I took the opportunity to look at the faces of these veterans... the expressions on their faces and the tears in their eyes were priceless.

Upon disembarking the buses our heroes were thanked for their service with hugs and handshakes from about 70 residents, legionnaires and boy scouts all waving flags as they were escorted down a red carpet to a sit-down dinner.

Mr. Conlon, sir, thank you for allowing me to share your memories, your military experiences and your friendship. This experience with you I will always cherish!

Editor's Note: Since 2006, The Honor Flight Network, is a nonprofit organization created to honor America's WWII and Korean War veterans by transporting them to Washington DC to visit war memorials free of charge. Since then almost 300,000 veterans from 42 states have been flown to Washington. If you know of a World War II or Korean War Veteran who might be interested in being honored or for more information contact Wes Schlueter or visit their website at honorflightphiladelphia.org

Good News out of Washington... seriously!

Defense Authorization Act expands benefits for disabled vets.

In August, President Trump signed the "John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act" for FY 2019 which includes provisions expanding benefits for disabled veterans and their caregivers.

Beginning in January 2020, Purple Heart recipients and service-connected disabled veterans and their caregivers will be authorized to use base commissary stores as well as Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) facilities. Also, totally disabled veterans will be eligible to use space-available ("Space-A") travel.

Largest VA Budget Ever Passed

The Department of Veterans Affairs fiscal 2019 budget was signed into law on September 21, providing an increase of more than 6% and driving total agency spending over \$200 billion for the first time.

The bill includes \$1.1 billion for the start of a VA electronic health records overhaul and \$400 million for opioid abuse prevention. It also provides \$1.75 billion to fund VA Mission Act, passed earlier this year. That legislation dramatically increased the Department's community care programs, expanding veterans ability to access private health care at taxpayer expense. The money needed to fund that law had stalled negotiations on the budget bill for months. As a short-term fix, lawmakers shifted money from other VA accounts to cover that fiscal gap.

Sick Call: Please keep the following members in your prayers: **Bill Bieringer, Peter Pytrysson & Paul Palmer.** We also have good news to report... as you may know **George Busch** has been battling prostate cancer. At our October meeting, George announced that he is now cancer FREE! Prayers are answered. If you know of someone who should be included on the sick list, please contact Jack Tomkins at 215-280-2033 or Bob Cummings at 267-471-9607.

Did you know....

Lowe's and Home Depot offer 10% discounts to military and veterans.

Lowe's has the more inclusive offer. **All** honorably discharged veterans are eligible for a 10% discount *all the time*. You have to register online at Lowes.com and the discount will be linked to a MyLowes loyalty card.

Home Depot offers a 10% discount year round for all active duty, reserve, retired and disabled veterans (with proper ID) *All veterans* will be given a 10% discount on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day. (Check with your store for details or restrictions.)

Source: The Military Wallet By Ryan Guina (Sept 14, 2018)
<https://themilitarywallet.com/home-depot-lowes-10-military-discount/>

Chaplain's Corner By: Bob Cummings

To our Jewish Comrades celebrating Hanukkah

During this festival of lights, May you be blessed with joy, good health, success, peace and joy. *"Hanukkah Sameach!"*

A Christmas Prayer

By: Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Remembering Billy Oxley

November 11 marks the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day – the end of World War I - and it's appropriate that we commemorate the event. Of the 4.7 million men who served in the United States armed forces in World War I, there were an estimated 360,000 casualties including 116,000 dead and 204,000 wounded. The US lost more personnel to disease (63,114) than to combat (53,402), largely due to the influenza epidemic of 1918. One of those who died in battle was our post's namesake, William Oxley, age 19, died August 2 during the Battle of the Ourcq. (The Ourcq is a tributary river of the Marne River located approximately 55 miles northeast of Paris).

Research conducted in 2011 by our own **Wes Schlueter, Mike Kennedy** and other members of the Sons discovered a letter written by Oxley's Company Commander which was subsequently reported in the September 28, 2011 *Northeast Times*:

Oxley was killed by a series of three bombs in an overnight German air raid while he and fellow American troops slept in the woods. In all, six were killed and 25 injured.

"William was one of my best men, a brave scrapper and always ready to give everything he had, no matter what was required of him," E.J. Stackpole Jr., captain of the 110th Infantry, wrote in an Oct. 30, 1918 letter to Oxley's father, Joseph.

Stackpole explained in the letter that, on July 30, 1918, the Americans "cleaned the Germans out" of a certain wooded area. Oxley and the captain were in the leading wave during the engagement, and a German machine gunner was about to shoot Stackpole at close range. Oxley picked him off with his rifle.

"Consequently, I owe my life to your boy and I'll never forget that," the captain wrote, as he recovered from gunshot wounds to his legs at an American Red Cross hospital in Paris. "You may well be proud of your son's record and the sacrifice he and you have made for our country."

68th Anniversary of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir Remembered

Let us also remember those who fought and died at the Chosin Reservoir November 17 – December 13, 1950 when the American X Corps, outnumbered by more than 4 to 1 was attacked by 10 Chinese Divisions in the early days of the Korean War. By the end of the battle, U.S. Marines suffered 836 dead and around 10,000 wounded. The Army had 2,000 dead and 1,000 wounded. The Chinese had the most catastrophic losses. Six Chinese divisions were completely wiped out. Of the ten that attacked, only one would ever see action again. Though the exact numbers are not clear, historians estimate Chinese losses anywhere from 30,000 to 80,000 killed. The numbers of Chinese wounded may never be known.

“Retreat Hell! We’re not retreating, we’re just attacking in a different direction.”

Major General Oliver P. Smith USMC, Commanding 1st Marine Division

Oxley Post to help Hurricane Florence Victims

As you may have seen in the October 24th edition of the *Northeast Times*, the Oxley Post is helping to lead the way to help the victims of Hurricane Florence. From now until November 18th, we are collecting non-perishable food and new toys which will be delivered to Hurricane Florence Victims in North Carolina. “We’re just trying to help people whose lives have been turned upside down. If we can relieve the burden on families as Christmas approaches and help create some sense of normalcy, then we will have accomplished our mission,” said Commander **Bruce Conklin**. The supplies will be distributed through local veteran organizations in the flood zone and through the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Donations can be dropped off at the post or at DogGoneClean pet grooming salon (owned by **Kristy Theurer**, daughter of **Wes Schlueter** and new advertiser in the Oxley Post!)

The Oxley Post on Facebook

Thanks to the efforts of **Chrissy Canal** we’re now have an official Facebook page. Please “like us” to get up to date information on everything going on at the post! Jack Tomkins and Chrissy will be providing regular updates.

Contact Information:

In order to improve our communications, we’re asking **all Oxley Family** members to please fill out the following contact information form. If you already send one in, there is no need to fill this out.

✂ -----
Detach Here

Name: _____

I’m a member of: American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Sons of the American Legion (Check One)

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Do you use text messaging? Yes No Email (if used): _____

Are you on Facebook? Yes No

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It takes 4 rolls of stamps to send out the newsletter. If you'd like to donate stamps to help offset our cost we'd be happy to accept them!

We hope you have enjoyed this issue of the Oxley Post. This is *your* newsletter: if there are things you'd like to see included, please let us know. In order to make this successful, we will need help and support. With a distribution of almost 400 households, we need help with distribution – that is folding, labeling, stamping etc. **Finally, in order to offset the production and mailing cost, we are selling advertising space. If you know of a business that may be interested in advertising, please let us know.** Our introductory rate is \$100 for a business card sized ad for one year. If you're interested in helping in any of these areas, please let me know. Thanks.

rhcumings@gmail.com Bob Cummings
 (267) 471-9607



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