



The American Legion – Patchogue Post 269
Post Office Box 457
Patchogue, New York 11772-0457

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The American Legion

Patchogue Post 269

Post Office Box 457
Patchogue, New York, 11772-0457



News Letter

2015
June - September



For God and Country





Patchogue Post 269

Corner of Baker Street & South Ocean Avenue (631) 475-3822

POST BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

Chris Conlon James Ward PC John Matuszak
1st Vice Jonathon Ralph PPC Tom Bergin PPC George Egan
Tres. Craig Munn Adjutant Pauline V. King

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Commander John Matuszak
1st Vice Commander Jonathon Ralph
2nd Vice Commander Tom Bergin
Adjutant Pauline V. King
Finance Officer Craig Munn
Chaplain Rev. Robert Hansen
Historian Jose J. Bou
Judge Advocate Eileen Derbyshire
Sgt. At Arms Joseph Meiselbach
Membership Craig Munn
Service Officer George Egan
House Chairman Craig Munn
Bar Chairman Joseph Gallagher
Bar Manager John Matuszak

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2015-2016

President Patricia Bergin
1st Vice President Carole Bruggemann
2nd Vice President Beverly Matuszak
Secretary Nicole Murch
Treasurer Peggy Dolcimascolo
Chaplain Cathy Beer
Historian
Sgt. At Arms Veronica Bergin

SAL OFFICERS 2015-2016

Commander Bill Dolcimascolo
1st Vice Commander Daniel Halliwell
2nd Vice Commander Tim Mullally
Adjutant Joseph Gallagher
Finance Officer Craig Munn
Chaplain Joe Murch
Sgt. At Arms Paul Plesh

Commanders Corner

Comrades

We have been very busy these past few months, getting ready for Memorial Day and Installation of Officers. I want to thank everyone who voted in the slate. This promises to be a great year. We have a strong group including up and coming 1st Vice, who has since joining has said to me, I didn't join to sit back, I joined to help to keep this Post strong and he has. Jon Ralph said to me at his first meeting when he joined, that he would like to do the newsletter, then he took over the responsibility of redoing our Facebook Page. All news that you find in the newsletter can be found on the Facebook page. Thanks Jon.

I was away for a few days on 4th of July, for a deserving rest and 1st Vice did a great job in filling in for me. We had a barbecue after the parade with help from the VFW. Thanks to everyone who showed up. I understand it was great.

While away in Vermont I met the Commander of the Post in Wardsboro and they have only 42 members. On the subject of membership, we have some members who have not paid their 2015 dues. Those who haven't, please contact Comrade Craig Munn. We are now into the new membership year and I would like to finish this up as soon as possible. Mailings are going out soon from National. We need the renewal application to make it easier for us to keep track.

In August we will be having a Veterans appreciation barbecue tentatively set for August 22nd. Information will be coming and if at all possible we will need some sort of a head count. Chairman for the affair will be P/C Tom Bergin, so you can contact him. Hope to see more of you at upcoming meetings.

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY
JOHN MATUSZAK
COMMANDER – POST 269**

Auxiliary Corner

Auxiliary News

Auxiliary Unit #269 would like to welcome two new members, Kristen Suriano and Christina Mohr.

Special thank you to Peggy Dolcimascolo, Kristen Suriano and Carole Bruggemann for representing the Unit at the Patchogue St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 22, 2015. Patchogue Post and Auxiliary marched in the Patchogue Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2015. The Parade ended with a very moving ceremony in front of the Post. On July 4, 2015, we marched in the 4th of July Parade in Patchogue. The starting point for this parade was WEST Avenue and Main Street and ending at Ryder Ave. & Main Street. Step off was scheduled for 10:30 AM. We met at the Post at 9:30 AM and the DAV Van was there for those who were unable to march.

May was a busy month for the Auxiliary. We had a "Pasta Dinner" fund raiser which was held at the Post on Friday, May 8, 2015. Thank you to all the ladies who cooked and to all the Post and Unit family members that attended. The next day, Saturday, May 9, 2015, was the County Auxiliary Memorial Service at Amvets Hall in East Islip. We distributed Poppies throughout the community during the month of May in order to replenish our VA&R funds.

At our Unit meeting in May, we elected Officers for the 2015-2016 Auxiliary year.

2015-2016 Officers:

President: Pat Bergin	1 st VP: Carole Bruggemann
2 nd VP: Beverly Matuszak	Secretary: Nicole Murch
Treasurer: Peggy Dolcimascolo	Sgt. at Arms: Veronica Bergin
Chaplain: Cathy Beer	

2015-2016 Executive Board

Sharon Murch	Arleen Gebert	Christina Mohr.
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Installation of Post and Auxiliary members was held on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at the Patchogue Post which was followed by a great dinner. One of the many highlights of the evening was the dessert cake which had a picture of the Post Building as a decoration.

For God & Country

Pat Bergin, Auxiliary #269 President

Echoes From The Heart

In our daily lives we live by measurements. For example, we measure time in seconds, minutes, hours, days, and years. We measure distance in inches, feet, yards, and miles. We measure liquid in ounces, pints, quarts, and gallons. My thought is how do we measure up as a man. I'm not talking about height or weight. I'm thinking more on the line of our individual contributions to humanity.

I have not met anyone who is not proud of their time in the service. You all answered the call while our nation was at war. You served and were fortunate to return. As you know many did not. We all believe we measured up to what was expected.

Once we were discharged, we did find we were a different person than years earlier. We were not only older, but acquired knowledge and I hope some wisdom.

There is no visual measurement we can apply to our lives. We all, as individuals, have to look inside ourselves to find if we used this knowledge and wisdom to help others less fortunate. Have we fulfilled our individual obligation to the Community, State, and Nation? Are we satisfied with our personal commitments or have we sat on the sidelines without lifting a finger?

There is great personal satisfaction in helping others. I would like you to do a heart and soul search and grade yourself. On a scale of 1 to 10, where do you stand?

If you grade yourself below eight, then you have failed. But the good thing is you still have time to improve. Everyone's time and talents are different. There is someone, somewhere out there who can use your help. This is not a competition, except with yourself. Let's see if you can measure up as you once did while serving our Great Nation.

For God and Country,
Tom Bergin, 2nd Vice Commander

Community Activities

On Sunday, March 22nd, the Post participated in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Patchogue. We had a very good turnout.

Commander John Matuszak and 1st Vice Jon Ralph attended the Air Force Junior ROTC awards dinner and presented awards to two cadets.

Tom Bergin has been working hard on getting donations from various organizations for the DAV to purchase a new van. George Egan is representing the DAV for this very worthy cause. Tom and George have managed to raise several thousands of dollars in this effort. Our Post has contributed \$500, and thru the efforts of Tom and George, they have gotten significant contributions from other American Legion Posts and Divisions.

In preparation for the Memorial Day ceremonies, members of our Post along with members of VFW Post 2913 and AmVets Post 111 did the "Flags In" placement of flags on the graves of departed veterans in order to recognize their sacrifices and service.

The annual Memorial Day Parade was held on Monday May 25th. Our Post had a very good turnout, and there were a lot of people who turned out to view the parade. It was a very big success.

We joined with the members of VFW Post 2913 and two US Army active duty soldiers to lead the parade.



June marks the end of another school year. We have been presenting awards at Bay Avenue Elementary School, Medford Elementary School, River Avenue Elementary School, South Ocean Middle School, and Saxton Middle School.

Recent Events

It is sad to report that John W. Knoth passed away on March 12th. Ceremonies were held on March 16th in conjunction with VFW Post 2913.

George Wilson passed away on April 30th. The Post Everlasting ceremony was held on May 10th.

Frederick Hollmann passed away in May. The Post Everlasting ceremony was combined with VFW Post 2913 and AmVets Post 111 on May 22nd.

At the monthly membership meeting on May 11th, the new slate of officers for the Post were elected. Congratulations to all of the officers who were elected to serve.

2015-2016 Officers:

Commander John Matuszak	1st Vice Commander Jon Ralph
2nd Vice Commander Tom Bergin	Adjutant Pauline King
Finance Officer Craig Munn	Service Officer George Egan
Chaplain Rev Robert Hanson	Sgt At Arms Joe Meiselbach
Judge Advocate Eileen Derbyshire	Historian Jose Bou
Membership Craig Munn	

2015-2016 Executive Board

Chris Conlon	James Ward
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The installation dinner was held on Saturday May 30th. The new officers for both the Auxiliary and the Post were installed. The supper was very good and the cake was a big hit.



The July 4th Independence Day Parade was held on Saturday July 4th. The parade started at 10:30. We had many members from the Post there. We want to thank David Mann for calling cadence as we marched. It worked out extremely well. After the parade, we had hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill at the Post. It was a very enjoyable day. It was gratifying to see all the people who turned out to watch the parade.

Upcoming Events

On Saturday August 22nd, we will be giving a Veterans Appreciation Barbeque. It will be held at the Post from Noon till 4 PM. We will have hamburgers, hot dogs along with soda, beer, and wine. We encourage all veterans to come down and enjoy a good time. If any veteran needs assistance in getting to the Post, let us know and we will do our best to make arrangements.

General Information

The new membership year starts in July. If you did not renew for the 2014-2015 year, it is not too late. Your membership is vital to allowing all of us, yourself included, to continue to provide help and assistance to Veterans, their families, and the Community. If you know of anyone who has not yet paid their dues, we would ask you to please remind them how important it is.

We are always looking for new Veterans to join us at the Legion. If you know any qualified veteran who is not yet a member, please take a few minutes to see if they are interested in joining our Post and encourage them to do so. The success of our Post is directly related to our members, so your support is critical to us.

If you have ideas for fund raisers or ideas for increasing our membership, please let us know. All ideas are greatly welcomed.

Post Membership Meetings

Membership meetings are held at the Post on the second Monday of the month at 8 PM. The next three monthly meetings are: June 8th, July 13th, and August 10th.

Board and Officers meetings are held at the Post on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 PM. Members are welcome to come and listen.

Auxiliary meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month.

The Dugout at the Post

The Dugout is open Fridays from 7-11 PM and Sundays 3-6 PM. Drop in and hang out for a while for some drinks, conversation, and friendship. Don't forget, it really is YOUR POST, so come in and visit with friends.

Newsletter and Social Media Contact

We are continuing to post events, information, photos, and other information online to our Facebook page. The URL for our page is: <https://www.facebook.com/American.Legion.Post.269> You can get photos of the Post and pictures from various events by looking in the Photos section of the page.

Given the importance of officer nominations in March and April, officer elections in May, and Memorial Day, we have decided to change the publication to a true quarterly schedule. This way we can have the initial slate in the April edition and results in the July edition.

The newsletter and Facebook page are produced by Jon Ralph. Call 631-654-5735, 631-235-7537, or email jralph@optonline.net with any comments, questions, or suggestions. Remember, this isn't my newsletter, it's YOURS!!!!, so if there is something you would like to see included, tell us.

The American Legion Patchogue Post 269

WANTS YOU



To Join Us Now

Ask your: **Father, Father-in-Law, Brother-in-Law**
A Friend or Associate

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ D.O.B. _____

Annual Membership Dues is \$40, Signature _____

Fill out the Application and Mail it along with your Dues and a copy of your DD-214 form to The American Legion, Patchogue Post 269, P.O. Box 457
Patchogue, New York 11772-0457, Attn: Craig Munn