



RAYSON-MILLER POST 899

Quarterly Newsletter

January - April 2023



This is the quarterly newsletter of the Pittsford American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899. This newsletter is meant to keep members that have not been able to attend regular meetings up to date with what your Post is doing and has plans on doing to continue to uphold the four pillars of the American Legion; Veterans, Youth, Defense, and Americanism.

Comments, suggestions and articles are welcome!

Please send to our main email at RaysonMiller899@gmail.com

Commander's Message

By Al Herdklotz

Greetings to the members of Post 899. This is the 1st of our new Quarterly Newsletter. and, I might add, the last that I will writing as Commander. As of 30 June I will be handing over the reins to your next Commander. It has been a long run of 10 years which I thoroughly enjoyed and I hope that I have served the Post "adequately". I will still continue to run the Tuesday morning breakfast, and I hope more of our members would consider joining us. We have but two events annually, Pittsford Paddle & Pour and the Food Truck Music Fest, from which we basically use

the profits for operating our Post. I strongly encourage those that don't usually participate to consider doing so as it would make it easier on the few that do (it actually leaves one with a good feeling). Well, enough harping-I thank each and every member for their support and friendship-it has made our Post what it is today. We have more people attending our meetings than most Posts with a much larger membership. Remember, this is a member run organization and WE have done great.

Thank you one and all-may God bless you.
Al Herdklotz, Commander

New Branding for American Legion



American Legion now has a branding logo to be used for marketing type functions like website, social media, promotional advertising, fundraising, event signage, casual apparel, etc

The original emblem is to be used for legal documents, financial reports, uniform caps, history books, flags, formal government communications, etc.



For full detailed information visit:
legion.org/brand

American Legion Membership: Dues

by: Lou Pepin, Treasurer

I'm in my tenth year as Group Administrator for our Post, and over that time I've observed that the annual dues renewal process is confusing for many, including me. I sought help and contacted Cassi Harden the Department Membership Coordinator with the American Legion Department of New York, asking for clarification on two key points: how does the Legion define Membership Year and when are renewal notices sent out to the members?

The first is simple. The Legion membership year starts 6 months prior to the actual calendar year. Take the 2023 Membership year for example. The 2023 membership year began on July 1, 2022; it will end on June 30, 2023.

The dues renewal notice subject is a bit more complex. All members who renew annually vs. those who are Paid Up for Life members, or those who renew annually online, receive their renewal notices by mail in late June or early July. The expectation is that each member will send in their renewal dues (\$50) to the Post, before August 15, a date that is critical to the schedule. Meeting this date gives the Post's Group Administrator sufficient time to clear the payment and transmit \$39 dues share to the Department, by September 7. The Department in turn must transmit to National their dues share (\$18) by the September 14

cutoff date - yes, the Post's share is only \$11 per member.

So basically, if the dues are submitted late such that the Post receives the payment after August 15, your dues will still be processed, but you

will probably receive a second dues renewal notice which you can then ignore. If the dues are not submitted until after the second renewal notice, that will be on another schedule with its own cutoff dates. These late renewal notices can occur at least four times if their respective critical dates are not met.

If you're not sure if you paid your dues, check to see if you received your current membership year card, or contact us at the Post Voice Mail, 585-789- 1538 or you can always send an email to the Post at: RaysonMiller899@gmail.com to inquire.

This is enough on Legion Membership dues for one newsletter. Next quarter I will cover other topics such as the 'grace period' for years of service continuity (the number shown on your membership card), and how to pay your dues online at: myLegion.org



2023 Poppy Drive

by: Danny Barnes, Sgt @ Arms and Poppy Chair

We have already started putting together all the "behind the scenes" artwork for table set-up displays, website header and Facebook header artwork that will announce our month of May 2023 Poppy Drive.



Our plans so far are to have our normal location table set-ups at; YMCA, Pittsford Dairy and Powers Farm Market. Depending on the number of volunteers to staff tables,

we may be adding an additional table this year. More information coming soon on that.

Our Volunteer Sign-up for Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays at table locations will be handled through Sign-up Genius allowing everyone to see what dates, locations and time slots are open. We will be asking for volunteers to staff the tables from 10am to 2pm as we have found these hours offer the most traffic. *However*, if you would like to work a different time slot all you need do is call me. We are hoping for a very successful Poppy Drive this year that surpasses all previous years!

Honor Flight Rochester

by: Bill Rahn, Adjutant

Morry Goldman of Honor Flight Rochester attended our March General Meeting and presented the Post with a plaque for the contribution we made via our 2022 Poppy Drive. The plaque was presented to Commander Al Herdklotz and Poppy Chairman Danny Barnes.

Rayson-Miller Post 899 has supported Honor Flight Rochester through donations from its Poppy Drive since 2020.

Morry also encouraged all veterans to sign up for this trip. You may also be able to travel with friends as on the application form it asks if there is anyone in particular you would like to travel with.

A number of our members have already been on the Honor Flight and can't say enough good things about it. "A trip of a lifetime" some said!



Dear Veterans, Members of the Family and Friends,

I am delighted to have our own local newsletter! I am sure it will enrich each of us and our Wonderful Pittsford Community by sharing our thoughts of the past service of members and our activities.

Happy Spring and God's Speed!

*One of the newest and younger member,
Ret. Maj, USAF Catholic
Chaplain
Mitchell Zygodlo from St. Louis
Church/School and Saint's Place*



The Post Canteen

by: Lou Pepin, Treasurer

Did you know your Legion Post has a canteen? You didn't? Well, it does, but you may know it by another name, the Tuesday Morning Breakfast which has been operating for several years. Maybe some of you have even seen or read the advertisements in the local print and digital media.



The canteen's location is in the lower level of the Village Hall, our Post Home, and service is between the hours of 8 to 10 am. Al Herdklotz and Dean Taylor manage the operation, with frequent guest chef appearances by Kevin Williams, not to mention the occasional helping hands during the cleanup.

This weekly event features a breakfast line and eggs to order, and best of all it's a free will offering. About that last part. I'm told it takes about \$100 per week to keep that chow line in supplies. The event is well attended, and you would expect there would be no difficulty in collecting more than enough to cover the expenses. But according to Dean and Al, "That's not always the case. Think about what it would cost to have that same breakfast at a local restaurant". Come and check out this Canteen. Enjoy the food and the camaraderie – but please be generous.

The POW/MIA Flag

by: Jim Donsbach

At each Rayson-Miller Post 899 monthly meeting, we honor the memory of POW/MIA combatants twice, once at the beginning, and once at the end of the meeting with our salute to the POW/MIA table. Do we really understand the significance of this salute and, in particular, the evolution of the flag that stands for these exceptional individuals?

Even though the POW/MIA flag and table are present at all American Legion posts, the Rayson-Miller Post takes an opportunity to recognize the special group of POW/MIA service members by promoting the history and meaning of the flag designed in their honor. Post 899 members through the partnership with Thornell Road Elementary School ensure the importance of the flag with young students. Displaying the Posts POW*MIA flag as part of classroom presentations helps to make the sacrifices of POW/MIA individuals better understood.



The POW/MIA flag was conceptualized and designed in 1971, through the efforts of Mary Hoff, whose Navy Commander husband was shot down during the Vietnam War. Mrs. Hoff campaigned for a flag that would honor the memory of POW/MIA combatants, such as her

husband. Over time, the display of the flag grew and eventually was endorsed by the United States Congress.

The graphic features on the flag, the gaunt silhouette, the prison watchtower, the barbed wire, and the slogan are details that reflect survival under harsh conditions but pointedly express, “You are not forgotten.” The flag stands not only as a symbol for the POW and MIA combatants, who wait and feel pain but also for their families and friends, who experience the waiting and fates unknown.

There is a Post 899 and a Pittsford community connection to the meaning of the POW/MIA flag. While I was an active duty medical corpsman, I was assigned to meet with returning Vietnam POWs as they assimilated back to civilian life. Some of these service members had been in captivity for several years. Additionally, a Pittsford native, Colonel Larry Perrine, a military pilot, was shot down during the Vietnam War. He was designated as MIA for over 40 years. His name appears on the Pittsford Veterans Monument across from the Post 899.

Presentations by Post 899 members, such as those to the students at the Thornell Road Elementary School have included information about the flag and other facts that give perspective and create lasting awareness. For example, there are 1,581 remaining unaccounted for MIAs from the Vietnam War. This is more than the number of students (1,200 est.) enrolled in the two Pittsford public high schools.

The POW/MIA flag recognizes the sacrifices made by service members and their families and friends. The flag reminds these impacted individuals that, “You are not forgotten!” and also adds meaning to the expression of gratitude that we often hear,

“Thank you for your service!”

Have an idea for an article?

If you have an idea for an article you think the Post Members would be interested in, we encourage you to submit it to us. We are always looking for suggestions for articles or topics you think your Post should look into. Contact information is on the last page of this newsletter. Thank you!



Paddle & Pour - May 27, 2023

This year's Paddle & Pour event will take place on North Main Street. The stage and beer/wine tent will be on the canal bridge. The Village parking lot will be housing the children's activities. The food service runs from 12pm to 10pm the day of the event.

While Rayson-Miller's booth location could be right in front of the Village Hall, we still are facing challenges. The Village Hall parking lot will be set up with the Children's Activities, therefore we will have limited access to the shed the day of the event.

Other considerations are the Memorial Day Parade

and Post reception that we will also be preparing for and of course our month long 2023 Poppy Drive. All events where we require volunteers.

Stay tuned to your emails from the Post as the Event Committee works through the process to determine if we should do this event or come up with a different way to raise money for the Post's operating budget.

If you have any thoughts on this subject or have any suggestions for a different type of fundraiser, please email your suggestions to:

RaysonMiller899@gmail.com

James Edgar McGurn

Jim passed away on February 16, 2023 at the age of 91. Jim was a veteran of the United States Navy and member of the Pittsford American Legion Rayson-Miller Post 899 for 23 years. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Rita Dorothy Keefe McGurn and his children, Jane (Stan) Sweet, Anne (Craig) Reed, Heather (Mickey) Zollo, Charlie (Debbie) McGurn. He is also survived by nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

In 2015, Jim was proud to join fellow veterans for Honor Flight Rochester Mission 44. He was very grateful for the experience.

A service was held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 1:00pm at the Richard H. Keenan Funeral Home 7501 Pittsford-Palmyra Road, Fairport, NY 14450. Friends wishing may donate to the Rayson-Miller Pittsford American Legion Post #899, 21 N. Main St., Pittsford, NY 14534 or the National Warplane Museum, PO Box 185, 3489 Big Tree Ln., Geneseo, NY 14454.

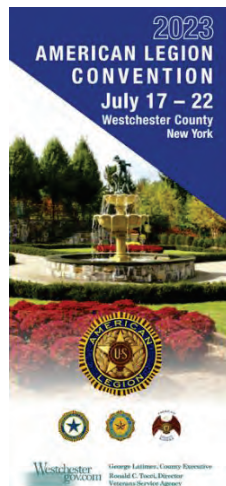


Obituary supplied by the family.- for full obit visit the Richard H Keenan Funeral Homes website.

American Legion - State Convention

by: Bill Rahn, Adjutant

The 2023 American Legion State Convention will be held July 17-22. Anyone interested in attending, check out the bulletin board at the post for details or visit: nylegion.net/news-events/department-convention/



Comments, suggestions and articles are welcome!

Please send to our main email at.....

RaysonMiller899@gmail.com

Rayson-Miller Website Address.....

www.raysonmillerpost899.org

Rayson-Miller Facebook page web address.....

www.facebook.com/RaysonMillerPost899

Rayson-Miller's answering service phone number....

585-789-1538