
Harry N. Cutting

Post 59 American Legion Family

Waterbury, Vermont

May, June, July 2015

COMMANDER

Some of you may be aware that I've had the opportunity to be your Department of Vermont, Commander for a 2nd year. I'm excited about this opportunity, however it's an indication that legionnaire's are not stepping up to the plate and climbing the ladder to "Department Commander". Stub Sherman and I share the honor of representing Waterbury Post #59 as Past Department Commander's.

Waterbury Post 59 hosted our 1st American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, March 3rd at the Post home. The event ended with thirty-five (35) donors! YEA! Great start folks, with Friday being "Good Friday". I believe we can increase the number of donors at our next event, Friday, May 29th from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM, at the Waterbury Post home. Please consider participating.

You may know that we had "Elvis" in the house last month. Donnie (Elvis) did an excellent job at getting the crowd involved in the event.



I believe every lady attending did get a yellow scarf as a gift. I think we under charged, based on other organizations hosting Elvis. Most charge \$20, we charged \$8. We may need to adjust the cost of the event.

We paid \$600 for the two-hour show.

Post 59 has been getting live music for a couple of months. We want to continue do this. The cover is generally \$5, and has been open to the public. We'll keep you posted!

On Saturday, May 9th, Waterbury Post 59 will be hosting my Commander's Testimonial. This is an opportunity to "Roast & Toast Commander Rick!" I've asked Madam President Pricilla, Lyndon Post 30 to join in the celebration. The event will start with a social at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 6:00 PM. Dress is casual, followed with live music, "The Adams Band", Oldies but Goodies will be played, all for \$20 dollars. Call the Post after 3:00 PM for reservations, 244-8144. The doors will be open to the public around 7:30 PM with a cover of \$5.

I'm pleased to announce that Post 59 will sponsor two (2) young adults from Waterbury

to attend the Law Order Cadet Program, Pittsford, Vermont, in June. Vermont is one of a few states that have a Law Order cadet Program. The Department can send 28 students each year. It is the Vermont Police Academy's policy on the number of students they can handle. If you have a junior in high school, he/she may consider applying next year? The information about all American Legion Programs is mailed to each high school in Vermont.

The Executive Board has agreed to sponsor four (4) applicants for Vermont's Conservation Camp Program this year. Applicants are required to apply on line in order to attend the training. (Vermont Department of Wildlife site.) If you are from the Waterbury area and wish to attend, please complete the application. Call the Post home and let us know that you've applied, 802-244-8144. Time may be running out.

Waterbury Post elections are held each May. We are always recruiting eligible veterans/legionnaire's to attend the Post meeting (2nd Wednesday, 7:00 PM). Please join us for election night Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 PM at your American Legion!

Waterbury Post 59 will be hosting the annual "Flag

Saturday May 9

TESTIMONIAL RICK GREY

State Commander

&

PRISCILLA KLEESPIES

State President

Social 5:00

Dinner 6:00

Dance to The Adams Band

Day" Ceremony on Friday, June 12th, 5:00 PM at Rusty Parker Park. Flag Day is June 14th each year. If you have a flag to be retired, please drop by the Post home. We will take care of your flag. Be sure to get a new flag ready early for Memorial Day though! ☺

Be Prepared: The Executive Board recently met and voted to increase the Legion dues this year to \$35, effective the 2016 membership year. I believe our last increase was about 18 years ago when National required a \$5 increase? Dues around Vermont vary from \$30 to \$40. I have a bad feeling that National is considering raising the dues again as well. We currently charge \$30 with \$27 going to Department and National HQ. You can see that the Post only gets \$3 per member. ☺

Hope to see you at some of

the events. Be safe in your travels as we head toward summer. Melting snow may push the water level up. I'd like to "Thank" every veteran for their service!

For God and Country,
Regards,
Rick Gray
Commander, Post 59
522-7770

ADJUTANT'S NOTES

Welcome Spring! It is time to start spring cleaning and look forward to the summer, and summer 2015 looks to be full of activities at your Legion. The Officers of Post 59 have been busy planning many events with elections and a Calcutta in April, Commander Dick's testimonial in May, and the Legion Convention in June. We continue to have live music every weekend, so please come on out and support your Legion and the many great bands that are in the area when they are scheduled. If you have comments or suggestions for what you would like to see, then you can always join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm for Post meetings or feel free to e-mail us at alpost59@comcast.net. Membership renewal for 2015 is going well, but 53 members have still not paid their dues with 1 July being the deadline before we start

membership for 2016. We have had 219 people renew/join at the Post and 27 people have used www.mylegion.org to renew online. Those folks that haven't gotten around to renewing yet can pay their dues at the Post during business hours, or pay your dues in your pajamas this way at www.legion.org, click where it says going to the Legion website and paying online. To renew "members", and then click on "renew membership" under the quick links.

On another membership note, congratulations to Leon Parks for 50 continuous years as a member of the American Legion!

The effort to streamline communications is going great, and we now have over 100 people signed up for the paperless newsletter. If you haven't done so yet, then please sign up for our electronic version of this newsletter by sending an email to legionpost59vt@googlegroup.com or chriswood0869@gmail.com We are NOT doing away with the paper version of the newsletter, so if you prefer this format then it will still be around.

The google group is also being used to send out regular updates in an attempt to keep everyone up-to-date on events at Post 59. Things

can change fast, and we don't want you to miss anything going on at your Post! See you there.

Chris Wood, Adjutant
chriswood0869@gmail.com

1st VICE COMMANDER

It has been a rough winter and now spring is here. Your Post has a number of events coming up for the spring and summer. The monthly events can be found at www.alpost59vt.us. On Friday 3 April your Post held a blood drawing and collected 35 pints of blood. The next blood drawing will be 29 May from 10am – 3pm. You can call me at 802-879-4838 or 802-658-6400 to register for a preferred time slot.

If you know a Veteran or surviving spouse who needs help let Sam Miller know. The Veteran does not have to be a Post member. We are here to help. If you have not renewed for this year, please send in your renewal form to the Post. You can renew online at www.legion.org.

For God and Country,
Gene Sweetser
1st Vice Commander

FLAG DAY CEREMONY
5:00
Friday, June 12
Rusty Parker Park

SERVICE OFFICER

THE BIG CHANGE

There is a big change taking place at the VA and it is best taken advantage of with a computer. If you do not have a computer, please remember there is one for members downstairs at Post 59. If you need help getting started call me and I will be glad to help. Forms for claims are being simplified and are available online at <http://www.va.gov>. Go online and become familiar with the VA website.

If you are in the VA health system and live 40 miles or more one way from a VA clinic or cannot get an appointment within 30 days, you will be able to schedule an appointment with a non-VA doctor or other health provider. Call toll free 1-866-606-8198 to get started. Note that Waterbury is less than 40 miles from the Burlington VA Clinic at Lakeside Avenue but nearby towns are more.

As part of the VA's full-scale transformation, these new changes will:

- Streamline the benefits process, making it faster and easier;
- Use standardized forms to file disability claims and compensation appeals; and
- Establish a new *intent to file* a claim process.

There are special VA programs for those with diabetes, dental problems or who are overweight. One of the newest programs is a free application that will run on your own iPhone or computer to help you reduce weight. Go to VA.gov and search for "Move!Coach". You do not have to be in the VA health system to get some of this program.

The Department of Defense is contacting Service members and Veterans who may have been exposed to warfare agents such as mustard agents or sarin in Operation Iraqi Freedom. If you were exposed and have not been contacted, call their hotline: 1-800-497-6261. Veterans who may have been exposed can get a free VA Gulf War Registry exam.

Military service My HealthVet users who are registered as a 'VA Patient' can also see information from your VA and/or DoD records: Prescription history. VA patients: you can make your Personal Health Record (PHR) even more beneficial by upgrading to a Premium Account. This level gives you full access to My HealthVet features, including Secure Messaging with your VA health care team. When you download your data with the VA Blue Button, you can also view information that VA/DoD has added into your health

record, which can include your complete VA health records. Special ID authorization is required to be listed in the HealthVet system.

Combat Veteran Authority

Many Veterans are not aware that they may already be eligible for VA health care under the "Combat Veteran Authority." Under this provision established in 2008, Veterans who served in a theater of combat operations any time after November 11, 1998, and were discharged or released from Active Duty on or after January 28, 2003, may waive the income eligibility requirements to receive VA health care anytime up to five years after the date of discharge or release.

For God and Country,
Sam Miller, Service Officer
Telephone: (802) 244-1484
LSamMiller1@gmail.com

LEGION RIDERS

Hello from the Legion Riders Group! Wow, what a winter! The weather is finally warming up, and we are looking to get in some miles on two or three wheels. Interested in becoming a Legion Rider? We continue to look for more members to join us, so please spread the word to eligible members that like to ride. Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month just before the E-

Board meeting. When the weather is right we will incorporate a ride into the meeting agenda, and these will usually be short trips to area legion posts or other local places.

If you would like to be a member of the Legion Riders Group then contact Chris at 802-793-4904, e-mail chriswood0869@gmail.com or visit us at Post 59.

Chris Wood, President
Legion Riders

MEAT BINGO

Wednesday, **May 6th**
5:00 Doors Open
6:00 Games Begin

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

With the changing of sessions, closing one year and starting another, comes officer elections for each branch of the American Legion, (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL).

It is a pretty simple process to nominate or be nominated for one or more officer positions. From April 7th through May 5th – election night, all paid Squadron 59 Son's are eligible. Simply look for the nomination list posted downstairs on the wall and add yourself or someone you believe will work to represent our Squadron and Post to

fulfill our purpose of supporting Veterans, Americanism, Children & Youth, and Community Service.

- Write your nominees first and last name down on a line associated with the position you are nominating them for. You may nominate yourself or other Squadron 59 members.
- For those who are nominated and decide not to run for an office simply cross a line through your name on the nomination sheet and initial it. You can only cross yourself off a nomination sheet, not other nominees.
- The final list will go to election and the nominees will be openly voted on position by position; any eligible squadron member in attendance can run for a position by being nominated “from the floor” during the election itself.
- After the May election a notice of the newly elected officers will be posted and the Son’s of The American Legion District Commander will ratify them in their accepted positions during an officer installment ceremony to take place in June.

The 8 offices are:

Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance, Sgt @ Arms, Chaplain,

and Historian.

Current officers are listed on the main information board downstairs across from the pool table. **All** offices are open for election.

I can only encourage your interest and involvement to serve our Post Family, minimally to voice your support for officer nominees you want to see help drive Squadron and Post activities. I hope to see new and varied nominees volunteering to serve our Post Family and our Community!

As the election process moves forward we continue to try and bring cheer to the Post whilst fundraising for future Veteran, Youth and Community sponsorship. The very day after the election dust settles, Wednesday May 6th, we will hold our Squadron’s 2nd MEAT Bingo! That’s right, MEAT Bingo. Our 1st go at it was extremely well received and we are continually being asked when we will do it again. Easter’s over, Mother’s Day is on the horizon, the ball fields are being filled and it’s time for *Spring Chill’n & Grill’n!* It’s time for **Meat Bingo!**

Look for the flyers and we’ll look for “you & yours” in the upstairs hall on May 6th.

- Doors open at 5:00 p.m. Game 1 of 22 for a bag of meat starts at 6:00 p.m.

- The Kitchen will be open to purchase light dinners.
- Game 21 will be a cash 50/50.
- Game 22 will be our grand finale game for a whole Prime Rib Roast!

Come on out on this “Hump Day” evening to play for a little fun and MEAT your neighbors!

Remember, the FIRST Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. (18:00 hrs.) is our Squadron SAL Meeting. The May 5th meeting is Squadron Officer election night.

I look forward to seeing you at our Post and at our Post events!

For God, Country, our Veterans, and Community!
Bless Us All,
Tom Burrows, Commander
The Sons of Post 59

AUXILIARY

Happy Spring!

We are working very hard to update and acquire everyone’s e-mail. I have contacted those who have included an e-mail with their membership renewal/application but many of them are no longer active. If you could please e-mail me with your current e-mail address and I will add you to the list.

Gray.rani@gmail.com

We send out:

- the monthly minutes of the last meeting

- the monthly treasurer's report
- monthly information about events and upcoming programs

Our goal is to be able to save money and to be able send out the bulletins/newsletters via e-mail. I will be sharing them with other members of the auxiliary and with whoever does the bulletins/newsletters. (If you do not want me to share, then let me know and I will keep them myself and send you the information via me only.)

We have several events coming up that I am sure are going to be included somewhere in this newsletter.

Unit #59 has been working extremely hard raising money for our programs. We held our annual USO Show donating \$1,530 to The Vermont National Guard Charitable Projects, \$200 to the National USO, and kept the remainder for Unit #59 programs.

We have been holding monthly bingos. They started out slow, but seem to be picking up. The last bingo will be held on May 3, 2015. We could use some help if you find that you are available that day....either donating something for the kitchen or volunteering to help; either in the kitchen, calling or on the floor. Call Bella Preedom for further

information: 802-244-8404.

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have completed our annual reports and have sent them in to the Department Chairmen. Hopefully we will receive some awards for all our efforts at the Department Convention June 25, 26 & 27, 2015 in Ludlow, VT.

I have just received the Credential Form for delegates and alternates for the convention. If you would like to be put on the list, please contact me and I will get your information. I will bring the form with me to the May meeting, so you can sign up there. The form is due into Department Headquarters by June 12, 2015.

BINGO SUNDAY

May 3rd !!

Doors open at 11:00

Quick games at Noon

Regular games at 1:00

Lunch & snacks available

We will be looking for anyone who might be interested in holding an office for Unit #59 for 2015-2016. The president and treasurer's positions are open. A nominating committee will be put together at our April meeting. In May we will have the elections and in June these officers will be installed. If you are

interested contact me . . .
(802-244-3664)

For God, Country and our Veterans,

Rani Gray – President
Unit 59

FROM THE BAR....

Hi All,
I just want to thank everyone for a wonderful winter; despite the bitter cold and snow we were very busy. We have a lot of fun activities coming up, so check your attached calendar! The Queen of Hearts pot is getting big, so come on down every Tuesday at 6:30 for tickets and the drawing.

Thanks to the Redneck Horseshoe League for another 10 weeks of entertainment and fun!

If you would like updates on all of the events happening at the Post, please join our Face- book group or send an e-mail to alpost59@comcast.net. You can also call 244-8144 for info or to save a date for your own personal functions, but you may want to hurry as we are booking up fast.

Thanks again for all of your support, and HAPPY SPRING!!!

See you soon,
Tammy & Crew

POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Bingo 11:00	4	5 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	6 SAL Meat Bingo 5:00	7 Texas Hold'em 7:00	8	9 Rick Gray & Priscilla Kleespies Testimonial 5:00
10	11	12 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	13 Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 7:00	14 Texas Hold'em 7:00	15	16
17	18	19 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	20	21 Texas Hold'em 7:00	22	23
24	25 <i>Memorial Day (Observed)</i>	26 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	27 Legion Riders 5:30 E-Board Meeting 6:30	28 Texas Hold'em 7:00	29 Red Cross Blood Drive 10:00 to 3:00	30 Memorial Day Celebration
31						

JUNE 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	3	4 Texas Hold'em 7:00	5	6
7	8	9 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	10 Installation of All Officers; Legion & Auxiliary Meetings	11 Texas Hold'em 7:00	12 Flag Day Ceremony 5:00 Rusty Parker Park	13
14 <i>Flag Day</i>	15	16 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	17	18 Texas Hold'em 7:00	19	20
21	22	23 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	24 Legion Riders 5:30 E-Board Meeting 6:30	25 Texas Hold'em 7:00	26	27 Post Closed for NQID <i>(Not Quite Independence Day)</i>
28	29	30 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	Department Convention June 25-27, Ludlow VT			

American Legion Post #59
P.O. Box 417
Waterbury, VT 05676

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JULY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Texas Hold'em 7:00	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>
5	6	7 SAL Meeting 6:00 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	8 Legion & Auxiliary Meetings 7:00	9 Texas Hold'em 7:00	10	11
12	13	14 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	15	16 Texas Hold'em 7:00	17	18
19 Auxiliary 8 & 40 Meeting	20	21 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	22	23 Texas Hold'em 7:00	24	25
26	27	28 Queen of Hearts Drawing 6:30	29 Legion Riders 5:30 E-Board Meeting 6:30	30 Texas Hold'em 7:00	31	

Check with the Post (244-8144) alpost59@comcast.net or the website (<http://www.alpost59vt.us>) for more information.