

Harry N. Cutting

Post 59 American Legion Family

Waterbury, Vermont

March 2010

Legion

Hello Fellow Legionnaires. There's a lot to cover so let's get with it.

The Auxiliary gave the Legion and Sons a birthday dinner February 27th. I would like to thank the ladies for the dinner and their gift. The turn out was very disappointing: we had more Department officers than we had members and there was only SAL commander Paul West present. The Department Commander Royal E. Sheeley and his wife, Senior Vice Ed Brown and his wife, Third District Commander Rick Gray and his wife, County Commander Larry Cayia and his wife, State Chaplain Kenneth Coonradt and his wife, State Sgt-At-Arms George Miller were there. These officers traveled some distance to make it for this. I was supposed to give out 47 certificates for years of service. Instead I announced the members that were present:

Sgt-At-Arms Charles (Butch) Allen 31 years, Adjutant Don Gamble 28 years, Historian Richard Gray 24 years, 2nd Vice Gary Sweetser 20 years, Commander Gary Cromie 9 years, Chaplain Earl Stowe 7 years, member Robert Jones 7 years. Out of the 47 certificates only 1 was handed out to Gary Sweetser 20 years; there were 9 5-year, 12 10-year, 3 15-year, 7 20-year 1 25-year, 7 30-year, 2 35-year, 4 40-year, 1 45-year (Leon H. Parks), and 1 50-year (James P. Boyce).

Post 59 needs the help of our members. We have a lot of troops on



active duty. They are serving for all of us. Now we can continue serving by helping their families and our community. We have a busy spring ahead of us.

Our Legion baseball team needs some support. *(See the flyer in this newsletter.)* And for all the parents that supported this program back in the fall, I hope you will support the team like you said you would. We are having our 8th annual Calcutta. This is how the post raises the money to support this program. *(See the flyer in this newsletter.)*

This is on Saturday April 24th. April is the month that officers are nominated. If you are interested in helping Post 59 and the community, this is a way to make this happen. There are several offices that will be open. April 13th is the meeting for nominations. Elections will be at the May 11th meeting. You can be nominated from the floor or by signing a nomination sheet that will be posted at the club.

Offices: Post Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sgt-At-Arms, Chaplain, Service Officer, Historian, Judge Advocate.

I will close this letter with a list of reminders:

1. Support your Post (Volunteer)
2. Support Legion Baseball (Volunteer)
3. Post Calcutta April 24th
4. Post Elections May 11th (Volunteer)
5. Memorial Day May 31st (Volunteer)
6. Flag Day June 14th (Volunteer)

For God, Country and our Veterans,
Gary Cromie, Commander

8th Annual Calcutta

Saturday, April 24th

**Top Prize \$3,000 with
minor payouts totaling
\$2,000**

**Purchase your ticket
now!**

For God, Country and our Veterans

Adjutant's Corner

Membership If you just look at the bottom line, we've had a fairly good year for membership. Last year, we had 308 members. Our goal this year was negotiated down to 300. As of early March, we had 303 paid members for 2010 – 100.1% of our goal, but 5 short of last year. Thanks to all of you who joined or “re-enlisted.”

Post Everlasting Since July, we've lost 8 members to Post Everlasting. They are: Darrell Ames, Leonard W. Baker, Walter E. Broadwell, Carrol Cromie, Robert Irons, Reginald Irwin, Phillip Kaiser, and Freeman White.

Addresses needed There are also 11 on the “can't find 'em” list – moved with no current forwarding address from the Post Office. If you know where they are, please let us know. They are: Mark Anderson, Jonathan Bruce, Linde R Emerson, Sidney Griggs, Stewart Jarvis, William Mobus, Lloyd Phillips, Richard Roessler, Robert Whiteman, William Wolfe.

Elections Elections for 2010 are coming soon. First nominations are scheduled for April, elections in May (nominations from the floor are accepted, but the nominee must be present to accept or decline before votes are cast). Installation of next year's officers will be held in a joint meeting on June 8, All offices are open, but known projected vacancies are for 1st Vice Commander and Adjutant. Is it time for you to step up and run for an office? Fresh ideas and energies are always welcome.

Don M. Gamble
Adjutant

Auxiliary

As we come into the “winter doldrums” the Auxiliary remains very busy. The 11th annual “USO Show” was very successful - - raising nearly \$3,000. Half of these proceeds will go to the American Legion Department of Vermont, half to your unit, and \$200 to the national USO.

Soon to be upon us are nomination and election of officers. As dedicated Auxiliary members, we should step up to the plate and become involved in our Auxiliary - - whether it be volunteering at our weekly Bingo function or filling the role of an officer. It takes more than 2 or 3 members to participate to make our Unit successful. Working with teamwork is a great way to show your loyalty to the Auxiliary and enjoy fellowship and camaraderie with your fellow members.

National Auxiliary President, Rita Naverotti, will be at Vergennes Post #14 on Friday, March 12. Several of our Auxiliary members will be traveling there to meet her. A luncheon will be served here at home, at Post #59, on Thursday, March 25 as the National American Legion Commander Clarence Hill will be visiting. Anyone wishing to help at this function should contact Terri at the Post.

Kathi Farringer, Unit President

SAL Trivia Question:

Where did this saying come from and what is it's original meaning:
“Mind Your P's and Q's”

The answer will be publicized in the next newsletter. Please submit your answer to the SAL suggestion box downstairs. We will draw a winner for a token prize for those who answer correctly.

SAL

Hello to all of Post, Unit, and Squadron 59!

The Sons of the American Legion brought back monthly Friday night suppers at the downstairs bar. The first event took place on January 22nd; our second supper took place on March 5th.

Food, music, a raffle and a whole lot of laughs filled the post and we generated proceeds to further support our troops, children and youth. For a \$7 donation no one went away without being filled with food and fun! Check the post calendar for our monthly Friday night suppers. As the seasons change so will our fare. Soon enough the grill will be going on those balmy, sunlit evenings. We really hope you'll join us for a good cause and great time.

Reminder: the “new” SAL Suggestion Box is downstairs and we encourage all to use it. Again, what would you like to see on our menu, and your thoughts and ideas about fund raising and post events /opportunities!

Membership target for the year is 208. As of 3/3 our adjutant recorded 209 paid SAL members! Just over 100% with 23 new Sons on board! We still have members that haven't renewed. Come on by, pay your dues and reap the benefits of being part of a great post.

It is time too for all of the SONS to remember what the American Legion and our Post stands for: the purpose of supporting our Veterans, Communities and Children and Youth. It is a great purpose that takes time and energy to successfully contribute to these causes as our

SAL Continued

entire post has. Participation in post events of all sorts is good, but we truly need a boost in attendance from members at large. Please look to volunteer some time at post events and take part in of the great things we do. (Including the 1 to 1.5 hour monthly meeting on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm – PLEASE).

On that note, a reminder that it is that time of year for officer elections. A Squadron 59 nomination sheet is posted downstairs. Prior to the May

election night, nominations for an office can be signed onto this list downstairs. Prior to the May election night, nominations for an office can be signed onto this list. The list is taken to the election night meeting. If there are people who want to run for office who do not sign on the list, they can “run from the floor” during the election night process.

Come out and run and help us drive the SAL program. We need you!
Offices: SAL Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Sgt-At-Arms, Chaplain, Historian.

If you have questions on specific roles, or want more information on the election process, please check with your officers. If unsure of how to reach them, start with me, your 2nd vice – Tom Burrows at 802-522-7664 and I’ll help in any way I can. Remember, this is about helping others, fun along the way, and supporting each other

**SAL next monthly meeting:
Tuesday, April 5th, 6 p.m.
in the upstairs hall.**

Tom Burrows
2nd Vice Commander

POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 House Committee Meeting 6:30	2 SAL Meeting 6:00	3 WII Bowling 6:30	4 Texas Holdem 7:00	5 SAL Supper \$7 DJ George & Ginger	6 Super Bingo Benefit Cal Ripken Baseball
7 USO Party Bingo 6:15	8	9 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00	10 WII Bowling 6:30	11 Texas Holdem 7:00	12 Phil ‘N the Blanks 7:30–11:30	13
14 Bingo 6:15	15	16	17 St Patrick Day Dinner WII Bowling 6:30	18 Texas Holdem 7:00	19 Scouts Pine Wood Derby Practice DJ George & Ginger	20 Super Bingo Relay for Life
21 Bingo 6:15	22	23 E Board Meeting 6:30	24 WII Bowling 6:30	25 National Commander Dinner Texas Holdem 7:00	26 Scouts Pine Wood Derby Race DJ Buffer & Karen	27 Private Party
28 Private Shower Bingo 6:15	29 Revitalizing Waterbury Meeting	30	31 WII Bowling 6:30			

POST 59 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Art of Action Texas Holdem 7:00	2 Art of Action DJ George & Ginger	3 Art of Action
4 HAPPY EASTER Legion closed	5 Art of Action House Committee Meeting 6:30	6 Art of Action SAL Meeting 6:00 Nominations	7 Art of Action WII Bowling 6:30	8 Art of Action Texas Holdem 7:00	9 Art of Action DJ Buffer & Karen	10 Art of Action
11 Art of Action No Bingo	12 Art of Action	13 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 Nominations	14 Art of Action WII Bowling 6:30	15 Art of Action Texas Holdem 7:00	16 DJ George & Ginger	17
18 Private Party Bingo 6:15	19	20	21 WII Bowling 6:30	22 Texas Holdem 7:00	23 SAL Supper \$7 DJ Buffer & Karen	24 CALCUTTA 6:00
25 Bingo 6:15	26	27 E Board Meeting 6:30	28 WII Bowling 6:30	29 Texas Holdem 7:00	30 DJ George & Ginger	

MAY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Private Party
2 Bingo 6:15	3 House Committee Meeting 6:30	4 SAL Meeting 6:00 Elections	5 WII Bowling 6:30	6 Texas Holdem 7:00	7	8 Private Party
9 Bingo 6:15	10	11 Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 Elections	12 WII Bowling 6:30	13 Texas Holdem 7:00	14 Private Party	15 Private Party
16 Bingo 6:15	17	18	19 WII Bowling 6:30	20 Texas Holdem 7:00	21 SAL Supper \$7	22
23 Bingo 6:15	24	25 E Board Meeting 6:30	26 WII Bowling 6:30	27 Texas Holdem 7:00	28	29
30 Bingo 6:15	31 Memorial Day Celebration					

Reminder

Installation of Post, Unit, and Squadron 2011 officers will be held at a June 8th joint meeting. Please be there.

Looking for Volunteer work?

Do you enjoy “America’s Pastime”?



The Legion post is looking for volunteers to help with the 2010 Waterbury Post 59 Legion Baseball team. We are looking to make a team effort to provide local young adolescents with the ultimate experience of competing in the U19 (*under 19*) Vermont State Legion Baseball League. There are many things that are needed to run a baseball program -- some of them cost money, and others cost time and commitment.

We are looking for

Field Maintenance Committee

(to stay in touch with the Recreation Department to make sure the minimum is done and the field is prepared for game day by 4 pm)

Player Recruitment Liaisons

(contact players from Harwood, Stowe, Lamoille and Peoples Academy high schools to participate in Legion baseball)

Fundraiser Coordinator (acquiring business donations)

(committee is responsible for organizing fundraisers, developing a structured plan for fundraising, and building positive interactions among businesses for donations)

.... And much more!!!!

..... even a couple of hours here and there would be helpful!

If you are interested in helping out with this program, please contact Justin Bissonnette at 238-9150 or email jbissonnette@cssu.org

Mission Statement: The Waterbury Post 59 Legion baseball team is an Under-19 program that strives to provide local young adolescents with a high quality experience in baseball, while incorporating the values entrusted by the American Legion. All athletes who participate in the program will learn leadership skills in the game of baseball that they can carry into their adult lives.

8th Annual Calcutta

Sponsored by American Legion Post #59

To Benefit

American Legion Baseball & Children & Youth Programs

Pay Out – Top Prize: \$3,000

Minor Pay Outs totaling - \$2,000 as follows:

1st Ball Drawn - \$100

20th Ball Drawn - \$200

40th Ball Drawn - \$200

60th Ball Drawn - \$200

80th Ball Drawn - \$300

103rd Ball Drawn - \$400

104th Ball Drawn - \$600

105th Ball Drawn - \$3000

TICKETS: \$100 each = Includes dinner for two, Calcutta and dancing.

Only 100 Tickets Will Be Sold
(Five Balls will be raffled that night)

Saturday, April 24th at Waterbury American Legion
Cocktails: 6:00 Diner: 7:00 Calcutta & Dancing to Follow

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS NOW

(All tickets must be paid for in advance!)

For Tickets Contact: Terri Christie 578-6622 or Legion 244-8144

Please reserve one ticket in my name, I will pick up at the door.

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Make Check Payable To: American Legion Post #59

PO Box 417

Waterbury, VT 05676

SHAME ON US!!

An open letter to Post 59 Legionnaires and Squadron 59 Sons of the American Legion

So where were you between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Saturday February 27th?

Butch Allen, Gary Cromie, Don Gamble, Rick Gray, Burt Green, Robert Jones, Gary Sweetser, Earl Stowe, and Paul West were where they should have been. They were at the annual birthday party the Auxiliary holds to honor the Post and Squadron. So were the Department Commander and his wife, the Department Senior Vice Commander and his wife, the Department Chaplain and his wife, the Department Sergeant-at-Arms, the Third District Commander (Rick Gray) and his wife, the Washington County Commander and his wife – in short, we had more guests than members. Embarrassing doesn't begin to describe it!

Some of you were home ill or in the hospital, or had a death in the family. Some had conflicting family commitments (e.g., a grandson's birthday). Some were in Florida or other warmer climes. Some are in Afghanistan. O.K. – those are good reasons not to be able to attend. No problem.

But, at least 20-40 of you were downstairs at the bar. (I don't know, and don't really want to, and haven't looked at the sign-in list, but you know who you are.) Special shame on you – you obviously had the time and opportunity to come upstairs to honor your post and state commanders.

We like to brag on this organization as a "Legion family." Apparently a lot of that is just lip service. If you're one of these, well just pucker up those lips and KMA. (If you think I'm angry and disappointed, hooray, you got the clue.)

How long has it been since you gave any serious thought to what a privilege and honor it is to have honorably served our country in the uniform of one of the armed services during a time of conflict, or to be the son or grandson of one who has done so? How often do you think about what the American Legion stands for, what it does for our veterans, or what this post/unit/squadron does for our veterans, children and youth, and community?

To my mind, there are three events per year when we should have maximum attendance and participation:

- (1) November, when the post and squadron host a birthday party to honor the Auxiliary for their contributions to our joint efforts;
- (2) February, when the Auxiliary returns the honor to the post and squadron;
- (3) May, when we elect officers for the coming year.

That's about 6-9 hours per year - - if you can't make them all, then at least make one or two. If that's too much to ask, then just maybe you don't really deserve the privileges accorded to you.

Some numbers: of 303 post members, only eight showed up. Where were the other 295? Of 203 squadron members, only 3 showed up (and two of those were dual members). Where were the other 200?

Shame on most of you. Shame on all of us. It was a truly humiliating night. We were individually and collectively disrespected and dishonored.

Don M. Gamble
Legionnaire, Post 59 member