



P.O. Box 301
Depew, New York 14043

Post Location: 85 Manitou St., Room 200
Depew, NY 14086

OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE

COMMANDER: JACOB E. SCHU

POST MEETINGS

Post meetings are held at 1900 on the second Thursday of every month in Room 200 at the Depew Municipal Building, 85 Manitou St. We invite you and urge you to attend. We are looking for new people to help out on committees and to move into Officer positions and serve on committees.

Depew Post Officers

Commander	Jacob E. Schu
1st Vice-Commander	Richard Bulman
2nd Vice-Commander	Robert Sharpe
3rd Vice-Commander	Michael Johnson
Adjutant	Richard Walczak
Finance Officer	Donald Schram
Chaplain	James Sterlace

POST NEWS

Elections for 2015—16 Officers were held at the May 14, 2015 meeting.

The following were elected:

Commander - Jacob E. Schu
 1st Vice-Commander - Richard Bulman
 2nd-Vice Commander - Robert Sharpe
 3rd Vice-Commander - Mike Johnson
 Adjutant - Richard Walczak
 Finance Officer - Donald Schram
 Sgt.-at-Arms - John Stutzman
 Chaplain - James Sterlace

Remember that any member bringing in a new member, will get \$20.00 off of their dues. The member must not be a transfer from another post but a new member never belonging to the Legion before.

The County Legion has a website and can be found at the following URL: <http://eriecounty.org>

Post 1528 will continue to support an American Legion Baseball Team for 2016.

The Post will again hold our annual Lottery, starting in February 2016. We thank Richard Walczak for again chairing this important function. Please check your e-mail frequently, as we are now e-mailing meeting minutes and newsletters to those that have them This saves postage and printing costs. If you have email and have not notified us with it, please send it to Jake Schu at jschu@depewlegion.org.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Annual Elections
- Commander's Report
- Veterans Day
- Depew Veterans Park 3" Gun project

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We thank 2nd VC Bob Sharpe for his continued attention to the updating deceased members plaque and our new Quartermaster, Wally Waiss, for keeping our inventory in check and providing food at our meetings.

It is most always the same members that get involved and make things happen. Most of these efforts are transparent to the rest of our membership and things just seem to happen. Please get involved in your post. Officers and committee chairs cannot do all of the work that needs to be done. If you can spare a little time to help, please contact that committee chair or one of our officers. Specifically, we need help with:

- The Christmas party Chair for 2015, Chet Pawlowski, needs help
- Membership always needs help
- Graves registration could use help
- Fund raising events always need help
- Work parties need a few more people. Most of the time, we rely on our retired members but we will be more than willing to schedule some efforts when those who are working can attend. Call us.
- Help with the semi-annual newsletter (i.e. an Editor)

COMMANDER'S REPORT — BY JAKE SCHU

I want to thank all of the officers and members who contributed time and effort to help with our projects and events in the past year. Our programs have been successful because of your dedication. We have attended and supported the following activities and in 2015:

- Altamont Homeless Veteran's organizations in Buffalo — supplies and clothes drive. We are continuing a clothing and donation drive for Altamont, in conjunction with the Lancaster Elks Lodge. This organization serves all of WNY. Donations for clothing, working appliances, TVs, radios, etc. can be dropped off at the Depew Municipal Building, 1st floor in a container provided for that purpose. Or bring them to a Post meeting.
- We can always use help with our events and committees. Please consider becoming active in your Post. Many are doing double duty to fill needed positions. Consider running for a post officer's position or volunteering to help one out.
- Thank You, to Wally Waiss for accepting the Quartermasters position! This new position takes care of tracking inventory for Legion hats, ties, flags, etc. He also keeps the refrigerator stocked and orders food for our meetings. It requires maybe a couple of hours a month once it is squared away and supports a very important function.
- I have attended all but a couple of Erie County meetings and attended the county convention in June as a delegate along with Don Schram. Depew was recognized as a major membership leader in the county. Way to go!!!
- At several special requests, I have created and now maintain web sites for the Erie County Legion, ECAL Veterans for Veterans organization and Hamburg Post 527, in addition to our post web site and four others. I do a

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total of eight Pro Bono sites as a give back to the community and their organizations.

- I was the Parade Marshall for the Memorial Day parade. All went well.
- The Depew Joint Veterans Committee (DJVC) 3” M5 Gun project is almost complete and the rededication ceremony is on Saturday, 10/24/15 at 10:00 AM in the Depew Veterans Park on Terrace Blvd. This has been a long struggle and a very challenging project, starting back in April. There were numerous volunteers and businesses that contributed to bringing this to fruition. I hope to see you at the ceremony. This is truly a feather in our collective caps! I especially want to thank Dick Bulman, Bob Sharpe, Jim Sterlace and Tom Nowak (AMVETS) for their involvement and support.
- Our annual Christmas Party will again be held at the AMVETS Post 14. They changed caterers but guarantee that the meal this year will be as good as in the past. The party will be Thursday, December 10, 2015, starting at 6:00 PM. Costs to yet be determined. Mark your calendars. We will need help to go out into the community and request donations for gifts for this. Please contact Chet Pawlowski at (716) 393-3489 if you can help.

VETERAN’S DAY SERVICES

On Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Veteran’s Day Services will be held at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 67 Litchfield Ave. in Depew. Post members will muster at the church at 0930. Church service at 1000, followed by the Veteran’s Day ceremony outside of the church at 1100.

The Lancaster Elks Lodge will again put on a Luncheon for all Veterans on Veteran’s Day from 1400 to 1800. This is a totally free event and includes food and beverages. Depew Post 1528 will muster at the Elks at 1400 and go in as a group at 1415. Dress uniform/caps not required and your spouse or a guest is welcome. There will be a POW/MIA ceremony performed by Post 1528, in the manner of the ceremony we perform at our meetings. The Elks are huge supporters of the VA and Veteran’s activities. They also host the flag retirement ceremony on Flag Day. Let’s plan to show our appreciation for this event with good attendance. Our own 2nd VC Bob Sharpe chairs this event for the Elks.

THANK YOU ELKS!

Dinner will include spaghetti w/2 meatballs, chef salad, bread w/ butter and deserts. Elks will also provide limited draft beer, wine, coffee, tea and soft drinks in honor of our veterans



Operation Iraqi Freedom—
2003

USMC 2nd Marine Division
2nd Tank Battalion, Delta Co.

Operation Desert Storm

These were all local guys

SEMPER FI!

POST 1528 GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT— JACK BETZ, CHAIR

We thank long time member Jack Betz for doing a spectacular job on this project. Jack has been very busy redoing the records for five cemeteries that reside within our membership area, as well as locating graves that were not listed as veterans. This was and remains a huge task, as the electronic records we had were fragmented, repetitive and somewhat inaccurate. Jack created a spreadsheet that can be sorted in any way you need, to compile lists of our veterans graves. This record is a “living document”, in that it will constantly change and require updating.

This info will be shared with AMVETS and the VFW when complete. He has contacted the local cemeteries and has made great progress in this effort. **Thank you** to Jack for this incredible effort!

If anyone has information that may be pertinent, or wishes to assist, please contact:

Jack Betz at: 716 684-5526, email: jxb73@hotmail.com; or

Jake Schu at: 716 440-3302, email: jschu@depewlegion.org

MEMBERSHIP & DUES— BY 3RD VC MIKE JOHNSON

At the 2015 American Legion National Convention, a National per capita dues increase of \$5 was approved, raising the National dues from \$13.50 to \$18.50, effective January 21, 2016. Department will be absorbing \$2, resulting in an overall increase of \$3 to our members. Posts will also be able to earn an additional \$1 back per regular member paid upon achieving membership equal to their 2015 total (166 for 1528) plus 5 additional members. PUFL members will count toward achieving this incentive total; however they will not qualify to get \$1 back. All transmittals received at Department as of January 21st will be processed according to \$18.50 National per capita and \$14.00 Department per capita. Post 1528 has not changed our Post dues amount in many years and sees a need to do so, based on our current economy. At this time, we will raise our Post dues by \$1.00, starting in 2016. This will put the Post 2016 dues at \$41.00 for annual membership. So, if you want to get the current rate, renew now! Benefits of the annual dues include the American Legion magazine and, most importantly, helps us support our returning veteran's and their families. Thanks to Don Schram and Commander Schu for their assistance.

I am happy to report that our Post exceeded our Membership goal for 2015! We ended the year with 166 Members which is 107.1% of our goal! We beat our goal of 105% for this year. Thank you all for making this possible through your diligence in keeping your dues current.

Another very important piece that made this possible was recruitment of new Members for our Post. Welcome to all the new Members who have joined us! We hope you will be as active as you can in supporting our Post's and the American Legion's missions. We have a lot of current military members who have joined us. We thank them all for their continued service to our Nation!

Fellow Legionnaires, please keep recruiting! Remember, if you recruit just one new Member before the end of June, you will earn the Department Commander's Pin for Recruitment. I know that you all probably know of at least one fellow veteran or active service member who is not a member of the Legion that you could recruit. Get an application to them and have them join us!

DJVC DEPEW VETERAN'S PARK 3" M5 GUN PROJECT

The Depew Joint Veterans Committee (DJVC) undertook a project to move the existing 3" M5 Gun memorial from the current location at Litchfield and Terrace, to the Veterans Park. The committee is made up of Tom Nowak (AMVETS), Jake Schu, Dick Bulman, Bob Sharpe and Jim Sterlace. American Legion Post 1528 lead this effort and did all of the survey, engineering, layout and supervision. We also obtained the services of numerous volunteers and local businesses to perform the work and provide the materials required for this effort. The committee started the process to move this artifact in October of last year and finished it in October of this year. There was much ado about this from a few local residents and informational meetings were organized and held to inform residents of our intention and purpose for this move. The Village Board unanimously approved the move on June 24, 2015 at a regular board meeting, still over the objection of some residents. The meeting was well attended and we had our County Commander, Wayne Sorrentino, there as well. This was a big win for veterans! Following that, work was commenced in earnest. A commemorative plaque was designed by Jake Schu and subsequently approved by the DJVC. We then commissioned it's production. I cannot express enough our thanks to all of the volunteers and local businesses for stepping up to provide the manpower, material and support required to relocate and rededicate this artifact; and especially the committee for the many personal hours put into this. This project was completed with no cost to, and no assistance from the Village of Depew, other than their approval to move it. The plaque cost is \$387.00 and an anchor bolt was \$6.53 (donated by our commander). We originally budgeted \$2,000 for the pad and \$500 for the plaque. WAY TO GO EVERYBODY!!!



Let's see a great turnout for the ceremony. Several dignitaries will attend as well.

LEGION BASEBALL— BY WALLY WAISS

Post 1528's baseball team will again play in 2016, as voted on by the membership at our September meeting. I again agreed to again handle team management for 2016, along with Head Coach Tony Sekuterski. The team did not have a very good season this year, due to multiple reasons. However, Coach Sekuterski tells us that 2016 should be a much better season, as he has already recruited 16 of the 18 man roster. The coach also stated that, with the younger players getting more experience, things should be looking up for 2016. Coach Sekuterski turned over \$280 to the Post, as a surplus from the fund raiser held earlier in the year. This was after the \$580 team insurance policy was also paid from this fund raiser. Keep up the good work coach and thank you for your efforts. Please consider attending the next fund raiser this year. It really helps our bottom line.

SICK CALL

Please call Jacob Schu at 440-3302 or Mike Johnson at 570-1246 if you know of a member who is ill or has passed away. Sick call:

George Kaczmarek
Gary Wzykowski

Also, please pass this information on to the Webmaster, that it can be posted on our web site.

Passed since October 2014:

Casimer Cybulski
Raymond Hohl
Richard Musielak
Norman Smith

