



P.O. Box 301
Depew, New York 14043

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

APRIL 2016 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
Sgt.-at-Arms	John Stutzman

POST NEWS

Nominations for 2016—17 Officers were held at the April 14, 2016 meeting and elections will be held at the May 12th meeting. Nominations were held and made for the following positions:

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

The Post again held 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 notices

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.

We were proud to endorse 3rd VC Mike Johnson for Erie County Vice-Commander at our February meeting. Mike has done a great job as Post 1528 Membership Chair and 3rd VC. Our delegates will throw our support behind Mike at the Erie County convention in June. Due to our membership increase, we now get three delegates vs two.

I thank 2nd VC Bob Sharpe for his continued attention to the updating deceased members plaque and Wally Waiss for taking on the Quartermaster job. We

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Annual Nominations and Elections*
- *Commander's Report*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Depew Veterans Park 3" Gun project*
- *Membership*
- *Baseball Report*

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also are very fortunate to have Jack Betz step up and take over as graves registration chair. This is a huge effort and Jack could always use help.

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:

- Membership always needs help
- Graves registration
- Fund raising events always need help, **especially the poppy drive**
- 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)

Adjutant Rich Walczak asks us to remember that our Post sells Legion American flags, POW-MIA flags and many other items. We get credit for this on a point system, where we get \$0.10 for every dollar we spend on American flags. If you see someone flying a flag at their business or home, try this approach:

"We see you are flying the American Flag . We just wanted to stop by and say 'thank you' for flying the flag. We are from your local American Legion Post, and we help serve our community.

When your flag wears out, we would appreciate your support by allowing us to provide you with a new one. Our prices are extremely low, and your purchase helps to support our Post and the work that we do."

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—2016:

- 3" M5 Gun relocation and rededication on October 26, 2015. This was a joint effort by the DJVC, spearheaded by Post 1528's Monument Committee and Commander Tom Nowak of AMVETS Post 14. Post 1528 Monument Committee is Dick Bulman, Bob Sharpe and myself.
- 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.
- I have attended all but a couple of Erie County meetings and will attend the county convention in June as a delegate along with Don Schram and one other person. As our membership exceeded 166 now, we get a third delegate for the convention. If you are interested, contact me. You or your alternate MUST attend.
- I will be the Chairman for the Memorial Day services. Please turn out and spend part of your day honoring those who have fallen. If you cannot march, we will get you a ride.
- I continue to support Legion websites for Post 1528, Erie County and ECAL Veterans for Veterans. The County Legion has a website and can be found at the following URL: <http://eriecounty.org>
- It was suggested that we form a call list for wake services and events. This is a great idea and is in progress. If you can help with this, please let us know. It does not take much time, does not happen very often and would be very effective. Contact Jim Sterlace or Jake Schu if you can help.

POPPY DRIVE

Our annual poppy drive days are May 13th and 14th this year. We need volunteers for both days and will again be doing four banks. Shifts are 0900—1100, 1100—1300, 1300—1500 and 1500—1700 Friday; and 0900—1200 Saturday. To fill all of the shifts with one person at each location, we need at least 16 Friday and 3 Saturday. Last year, several members did multiple shifts to cover all slots. If we can get more people, we can shorten shifts and expand to additional locations. **Thank you** to 2nd VC Bob Sharpe for chairing this committee again this year! This is our main fund drive and is the main financial support for the post and our activities.

Please contact Bob Sharpe at 683-7284 or Jake Schu at 440-3302 to sign up. Thank you!

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

On Saturday, May 28, 2016 Memorial Day Services will be held at Lancaster Rural Cemetery at 0900 sharp. We need to be there by 0845 to assemble.

Please take time to attend this salute to those who gave their all for our country. Immediately following this service, we will decorate graves by placing flags on all veteran's graves at St. Adalberts and St. Augustine's cemeteries. If you can, please make time to attend these services. The more members we get, the quicker



we can place our flags. On Sunday May 29, 2016, we have been asked to lead a flag raising ceremony at Westwood Park for the Lancaster/Depew Baseball league. We did this last year and this year will be even bigger. Please plan to attend if you can. On Memorial Day, May 30, 2016, there will be a combined service at 0930, at the Vine Wesleyan Church, followed by a parade to the Veteran's Park. Assemble at 1015 at the Post after the church service, parade at 1030. Hot dogs and refreshments will be at the Depew fire hall on Meridian St. following the ceremony.

MEMBERSHIP & DUES— BY MIKE JOHNSON

Fellow Legionnaires, I am happy to report that our Post has exceeded our Membership goal for 2016! We currently are at 175 Members which is 103.6% of our goal! We are poised to reach our achievement of 105% of goal for three years running! 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. We currently have 19 new Members with more to come! 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. Another reason for our Post's success in membership is we just held two successful recruitment drives at TOPS at Transit & Rehm and TOPS D&L Plaza. Thank you to all who manned the recruitment tables for these events! Your efforts have provided us with contact information for 15 potential new Members. Please keep recruiting. Remember, if you recruit just one new Member and re-instate a previous Member or recruit two new Members before the end of June, you will earn the Department Commander's Pin. You all probably know of at least one veteran or active service member who is not a member of the Legion. Get an application to them and have them join us. Your 2017 dues will be billed in July of this year. I would ask you all to please pay your \$41.00 membership dues for 2017 as early in July or August as possible. The sooner membership dues are received, the sooner we reach our Membership Goal! I appreciate in advance your help in this. May God watch over and protect our men and women in uniform, be with all Veterans, and bless the United States of America!

DEPEW VETERAN'S PARK 3" M5 GUN PROJECT

The rededication ceremony was held on October 26, 2015 and we had a great turnout for it; AND it did not rain! Donations of time and effort by numerous people brought this to fruition, including Lancaster Plumbing – John Detzler - Owner, Luke Orlando – Operator - Excavation, Post 1528 member Daniel Rinow – Site Preparation & Trucking, Great Lakes Concrete – Bernard DiPizio and Family – Materials, Stone, Mesh & Concrete, Joseph Marino, Joseph Dennis Jr., John Powell and David Powell - Concrete Forming, Pouring & Finishing, Lancaster Elks Lodge 1478 for putting on a great brunch afterward. All this was AT NO COST to the committee or the Village of Depew. Also, monetary donations were made by Legion Post 1528, AMVETS Post 14 and DAV Post 203.



DEPEW JOINT VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

The Depew Joint Veteran's Committee (DJVC) met March 15th and again April 12th, to discuss planning for Memorial Day events. The next meeting was be April 14th at Depew Post 1528. The next meeting is May 10th at AMVETS Post 14. This year, American Legion Post 1528 will be lead for services held. 2016 DJVC officers are:

- Chair: Jacob Schu, AM. Legion/AMVETS
- Vice Chair: Dick Bulman, AM. Legion/AMVETS
- Secretary: Peter Riester Sr., AMVETS/AM. Legion
- Treasurer: Don Schram, AM. Legion/AMVETS
- Parade Marshall: Don Schram, AM. Legion/AMVETS



MILESTONES— BY JAKE SCHU

A few years ago, it was my pleasure as Commander to present long time member Henry Wick with his 50 year service certificate. This year it was again my pleasure, along with Service Officer Don Schram, to present two other Post members with service certificates. Wally Weiss received his 50 year service certificate and Leo Rybak received his 70 year (YES 70 years!!!) certificate. THANK YOU to both men for their long time service to the American Legion. We are honored by your membership!

Leo Rybak is a WWII veteran and was a charter member of Post 1528 in 1946, the year I was born. He was Commander of our Post in 1949. Leo is still active, attends meetings, handles the flag details on Memorial Day weekend and is always willing to help out whenever asked.

Wally Weiss is a Vietnam veteran and transferred to our post in 1998 from Post 622. Since, he stepped up to fill our baseball team liaison position a few years back and again in 2015 to fill our Quartermaster position. Wally also attends meetings and helps out in numerous other ways as well, including providing food at our meetings.

When you see these amazing men, please take a moment to congratulate them and thank them for their service!

FLAG DAY

Just a reminder that Flag day 2016 is Tuesday, June 14th. Depew Post 1528 will again be assisting the Lancaster Elks Lodge and Boy Scouts with their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony. This is held in the evening at 6:00 PM and we urge anyone interested to take part in this solemn ceremony. Our 2nd VC Bob Sharpe chairs this event for the Elks and we are fortunate to have numerous Post members who are Elks. The Elks and American Legion work closely with each other on numerous veterans projects and we thank them for their continued support.

POST 1528 GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT— JACK BETZ, CHAIR

Jack has been very busy redoing the records for five cemeteries that reside within our membership area. This a huge task, as the electronic records we had were fragmented, repetitive and somewhat inaccurate. St. Adalberts has no electronic records and St. Augustine's gave us printed hard copies that had to be reentered.

This info will be shared with AMVETS contacted the local cemeteries and has date, Jack has walked over 15,000 veteran's graves. This information was with pictures of each veteran's grave.



this and his grandson, Kyle Thompson, has well over 150! Our Commander issued a letter of recommendation for Kyle to apply for a Legion Auxiliary scholarship based on this effort. Jack and Marie Schu also received certificates from the Erie County Legion for their efforts on the project.

and the VFW when complete. He has made great progress in this effort. To total grave sites and identified over 1500 then compiled into a spreadsheet, along Jack personally has over 1,000 hours in on

If anyone has information that may be pertinent, please contact Jack Betz at: 716 684-5526, email: jxb73@hotmail.com; or Jake Schu at: 716 440-3302, email: jschu@depewlegion.org

LEGION BASEBALL— BY WALLY WAISS— BASEBALL LIAISON

Post 1528's baseball team will again play in 2016, as voted on by the membership at our September 2015 meeting. Wally Waiss has agreed to again handle team management for 2016, along with Head Coach Tony Sekutowski. **Thank you both!**

Check the calendar on our web site for the schedule as it becomes available. The coach and team will be working on a team fundraiser, possibly a meat raffle. This is yet to be determined. I have attended Legion baseball meetings with our coach and things look good from the District standpoint. One glitch is that we are in the process of determining where we will play. Depew schools has not committed to us as in the past, so the venue may change. We are currently in the process of nailing that down. We also have a game on July 4th that we have no field to play at, as the schools and Cheektowaga park staff are not working that day. The team has filled almost all positions for this year and the coach is optimistic about the 2016 season.

RUN FOR THE FALLEN—GOLD STAR MOTHERS FLAGS

Post 1528 will sponsor a flag for the Run for the Fallen, hosted by the AMVETS. The run will take place over three days and cover 143 miles, starting in Syracuse and ending in Albany. Fallen warriors will have a marker placed every mile, that will be collected by the veterans running in the event. The event starts June 10th and goes through June 12th and there are over 300 fallen to be honored. The event starts with presentations to gold star mothers with flags sponsored in the event. For those moms who cannot attend; or choose not to, flags will be presented by the sponsors at another time. Depew Post 1528 is proud to be a sponsor for LCPL Eric J. Orłowski, USMC of Depew, who was the first area Marine killed in Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. We will present his mother Kathy with this flag at a future, mutually agreed time. We thank Post 1528, Commander Jacob Schu and Finance Officer Don Schram for their donations to this very special event.

SICK CALL

Please call Jacob Schu at 440-3302 or Don Schram at 668-8734 if you know of a member who is ill or has passed away. Also, please pass this information on to the Webmaster, that it can be posted on our web site.

Sick call:

George Kaczmarek
Chester Zwolak

Passed since May 2015:

Roger J. Amadori
Robert J. Klein
Jim V. Longobardi Sr.
Norman R. Meyer
Henry S. Wick
Gary Wyzykowski
Emil Zynda

