



POST MEETINGS ARE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. (OPTIONAL DINNER AT 6:15)

BASEBALL SCHOLAR!



Utica Post Baseball Player Thomas DeBernardis wins national Legion scholarship. Page 4.

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OCTOBER

- 1 Dinner Dance
- 2 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 4 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 5 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 6 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm
Auxiliary, 7:30 pm
Joint Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 7 Fish Fry Friday
- 9 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 10 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 11 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 14 Fish Fry Friday
- 16 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 18 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 19 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 17 DAV, noon
- 20 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 21 Fish Fry Friday
- 23 BBQ Sunday, noon-2
- 27 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 28 Fish Fry Friday

AUTUMN FEASTS

There is a lot to savor at Utica Post 229 this autumn.

Fish Fry Fridays return in October, with an expanded menu. *See Pages 5 and 8.*

BBQ Sundays feature smokey take-outs in October and November. *See Page 5.*

Monday Night Football Treats mean you can watch the game and lick you lips over wings, mozzarella sticks and onion rings. *See Page 5.*

Thursday Lunches are back with a different menu each week. *See Page 5.*

Monthly Dinner Dances return, with roast beef on the menu for the Oct. 1st event. *See Page 3.*

Monthly Dinner Meeting honors past commanders on Oct. 6, with prime rib on the menu. *See Page 5.*



Fang Wong waves after donning the red hat of national commander at the American Legion Convention in September. Wong is past commander of the New York Department.

NY MEMBER HEADS LEGION

New York Legionnaire Fang A. Wong was elected national commander of The American Legion on Sept. 1 during the 93rd National Convention in Minneapolis.

Born in Canton, China, Wong immigrated to the United States as a 12-year-old in 1960 and became a naturalized citizen in 1963.

Wong volunteered for the U.S. Army in 1969, served 25 months in Vietnam, and retired from the Army as a chief warrant officer in 1989.

A member of Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291 in New York City, he is a former national vice commander and past New York department commander.

SIGN UP YOUNG 'GOBLINS' FOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

Post, Auxiliary and SAL members can sign up youngsters in their family for the Children's Halloween Party, which takes place Saturday, Oct. 29, from noon to 2. Ages infant to 12 are welcome.

A sign-up sheet will be in the bar area. Deadline is Oct. 22.

MEET THE JAILBIRDS

SEE PAGE 3





Jack LaPaglia

FREE DINNER, FREE DRINKS

by Jack LaPaglia
Membership Chair

Everyone who pays their dues by November 11 will be able to attend the free Early Bird Dinner on Friday, November 18. The membership team is working on a great menu because we want this to be the best Early Bird Dinner ever. Please reserve your spot by signing up at the bar or call the Post to have your name placed on the sign-up sheet or send us an e-mail (info@utica-post229.org).

Would you like two free drinks at the Post bar? If you are a current member and you bring a new member "recruit" to the post (someone who is qualified to be a member AND who completes an application form AND who pays his/her dues), then we will reward you and your new member "recruit" by giving each of you **TWO FREE DRINKS** at our bar.

We will be contacting and rewarding our 18 new members and most of their



COMMANDER'S CALL

CHRIS URBAN

The Annual Budget Ad Hoc Committee met in September; we were able to craft a budget that will allow us to increase our charitable donations for the next year. Each and every Post 229 member should be proud that we will donate over \$27,000 to more than 40 different groups and organizations. We will also help a variety of local organizations raise additional money via Fish Fries, Pasta Dinners, and other events in our building.

WE ARE TRYING hard to increase and improve our social events and I encourage everyone to come to the Post and participate in as many events as you like. Please visit our Web page frequently to find details for things that

we are actively planning/working such as Members' Chili Cook-off, Members' Chicken Riggie Contest, Monday Night Football Wings, Thursday Lunches, Monthly Dinner Dances, the Early Bird Dinner, Free Veterans Day Lunch, a Wild Game Dinner, Members' Breakfast, and much more.

The first Thursday of every month is our General Meeting at 7:30 p.m. That meeting is preceded by a delicious dinner prepared by Dwain Klatt (dinner is a steal at just \$7 for members). Our General Meetings are informative, inclusive (we make it easy for everyone to participate and contribute), they move at a brisk pace, and they almost always provide some laughs. Please consider

joining me for dinner and the Meeting on Thursday, October 6th.

IF YOU HAVE IDEAS for events or any kind, please contact me or send me a note.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST: we need Bingo workers. Bingo nets us about \$500 per week and we use a great deal of that income to fund our charitable donations.

Your time investment can be as little as two hours on one Tuesday per month (many of our members currently work five hours on multiple Tuesdays every month). The work is easy, but we need more folks to do it.

Remember: many hands make light work.

recruiters with two free drinks (the Commander told me that he is not eligible).

As of September, these are our membership figures: since July 1 we have renewed 288 traditional memberships, we have signed up 18 new members, and we have 49 PUFs (paid up for life) for a total of 355 memberships. Our goal this year is 659, so we are at 53.86% of goal.

Please send in your renewal as soon as possible. Remember: you can renew online with a credit card at: www.legion.org/renew.

INTERESTED IN WILD GAME DINNER?

Are you be interested in attending a Wild Game Dinner in February? The post is trying to gauge interest. If you would like to savor the flavor of wild game, please visit the Post and place your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet(s) in the lounge (or call/email and leave your name and contact info).

DONATE WILD GAME FOR WILD GAME DINNER

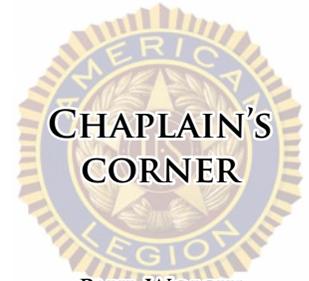
To keep the cost of the Wild Game Dinner at a minimum, the post is asking for donations of wild game from members and non-members. "We have a mechanism that will allow us to document these charitable donations and allow donors to deduct the fair market value of their donation from their income taxes," noted Commander Chris Urban. "If you or someone you know can donate wild game, please contact the Post."



Jim George



Jim Haggerty



PAUL WOJCIK

**PRAYERS FOR
AUTUMN DAYS**

God of the seasons,
there is a time for everything,
there is a time for dying and
a time for rising. We need
courage to enter into
the transformation process.

God of autumn,
the trees are saying goodbye
to their green, letting go of
what has been. We to have
our moments of surrender
with all their insecurity and
risk. Help us let go when we
need to do so.

God of fallen leaves
Lying in colored patterns on
the ground, our lives have our
own patterns. As we see the
patterns of our own growth
may we learn from them.

God of life,
you believe in us, you enrich
us, you intrusted us with the
freedom to choose life.
For all this we are grateful.

AMEN

REST IN PEACE
Morris Stauring
James E. O'Toole

SICK CALL
Roy Jensen

POST OFFICERS GO TO 'JAIL' !

Two post officers were arrested on Sept. 20 and hauled off to the pokey, but it was for a good cause -- to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Bail was set at \$1,600 each for Treasurer Jim Haggerty and Vice Commander Jim George as part of the MDA's "Executive Lock Up" fundraiser.

They were scrambling to raise the "bail," and even though the date is past, anyone can still support their efforts by leaving a check at the post (payable to MDA) or by calling the MDA at 315-451-8269 to make a credit card donation.

Be sure to mention it's in support of Jim or Jim.

DINE AND DANCE ON OCT. 1

It's time to swoon, swing and rock at the Utica Post Dinner Dance -- on Saturday, Oct. 1. It all starts at 5:30 p.m., with open bar and hors d'oeuvres. Roast Beef Buffet starts at 7. Dancing is 8 to midnight, with music provided by Al Amodio. The cost is \$22 per person. For reservations, contact event chair Rose Coniglio at 735-9091 or drop in at the post.

Future dinner dance dates: Nov. 5, Dec. 3, New Year's Eve.

DAV MEETS ON 3RD SATURDAY

Disabled American Veterans, Leo B. Wheeler/Stars and Stripes Chapter 82 meets at Post 229 at noon on the third Saturday of the month. Jerry Welpé is commander.

VVA MEETS ON 2ND MONDAY

Vietnam Veterans of America, Utica Chapter 944, meets at Utica Post 229 on the second Monday of the month at 1 p.m. Tom Buono is commander.

OFFICERS SERVE COUNTY, DISTRICT

Post Service Officer Dave Wilson, who is also county service officer, is serving as judge advocate, service officer and VA & Rehabilitation chair for the 5th District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida and Onondaga counties).

Chaplain Paul Wojcik is serving as 5th District chaplain.

MEETING DINNERS ARE \$7 FOR MEMBERS

The monthly meeting dinners (on the first Thursday of the month) are open to members of the post, auxiliary unit and Sons of the American Legion squadron at a cost of \$7 per person. To bring a guest, cost is \$10.

Reservations are required a week in advance (unless you are on the permanent reservation list). Dinner start at 6:15 p.m., with the member meeting at 7:30.

POST MEETINGS

Oct. 6	March 1
Nov. 3	April 5
Dec. 1	May 3
Jan. 5	June 7
Feb. 2	

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Oct. 20	March 15
Nov. 17	April 19
Dec. 15	May 17
Jan. 19	June 21
Feb. 16	

DEBERNARDIS EARNS NATIONAL LEGION HONOR

Thomas DeBernardis, a four-year member of the Utica Post 229 American Legion Baseball Team, has been named "Captain of the All Academic Team," receiving a national \$2,500 Legion scholarship.

The left-handed pitcher, who initially received a \$500 Utica Post scholarship, was selected to represent the Utica Post team as its applicant for the Department of New York Scholarship. Tom was one of three winners of the Department scholarship, taking the top \$1,000 prize, and advanced to represent the Department for the Northeast Regional Scholarship. Tom was awarded the \$1,000 regional scholarship, then advanced to the national level as a member of the All Academic Team and was named captain during the Legion World Series in North Carolina in August.

"Tom is just a great kid, on and off the field," Team Manager Greg Gaeta told the Observer-Dispatch. "He's just a great kid, all-around – a kid you love to coach because he loves being at the field as much as you do. He has that same passion, and he's a true student of the game. You really can't ask for a better kid."

The 17-year-old Proctor High graduate, who plans to play baseball and study communications at Cazenovia College, has helped Utica Post



Thomas DeBernardis

reach the District V finals each of the last three years, the O-D reported. The team won Oneida County and District V titles in 2010.

Off the field, DeBernardis plays the trumpet. At Proctor, he was a member of the band, president of the student council and senior editor of the yearbook.

KIDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY

The post's annual Children's Christmas Party takes place Dec. 17 from noon to 3 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be in the post lounge starting Nov. 19, with Dec. 8 as the cut-off date for reservations.

The party is for children and grandchildren, ages 0 to 12, of post, auxiliary and SAL members.

Reservations are required in order to prepare sufficient food and beverages and have enough presents available.

YOUR BLOOD SAVES

The post hosts a Red Cross blood collection station the first and third Wednesday of each month, noon to 5.

"Please come donate and save a life," notes bloodmobile chair Jim Haggerty, who announced that 125 units of blood have been collected at the post this year.

VETERANS CEMETERY

Vice Commander Jim George gave a legislative update at the September meeting, noting that a committee was formed with the help of Past Post Commander Paul Wojcik and Past County Commander John Ryan to assist State Sen. Joe Griffo with the planning and site selection of a possible veterans cemetery in this area of Central New York.

"We have been working closely with Mike Schmidt, who is the director of research and IT for Senator Griffo," he said. "...We have been meeting at the 40 & 8. If you are interested in helping, please let Paul or me know."

BID ON SNOWPLOWING

Utica Post is looking for bids for snowplowing the driveways and parking lot this snow season.

Submit bids in writing by Oct. 10 to the post (Attn. Commander, Utica Post 229, 409 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13502).

The contract will be from Oct 15 to May 31.

PITCH LEAGUE AND PINOCHLE LEAGUE?

Some members have asked to restart a Pitch League and possibly start a Pinochle League. The Executive Board thinks that these are great ideas.

If you would like to participate, please visit the Post and place your

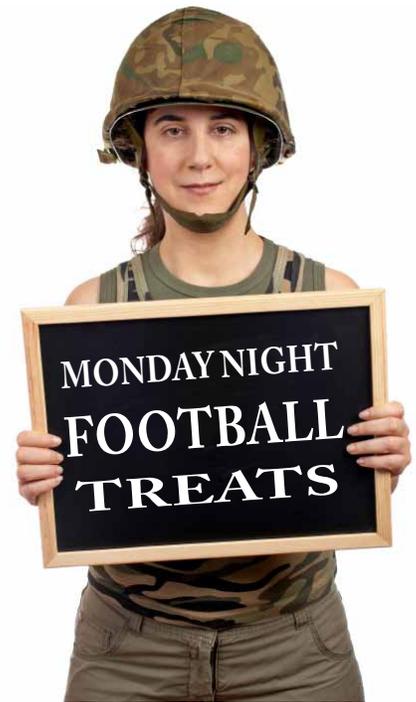
name and contact info on the sign-up sheet in the bar or contact the Post via e-mail (info@uticapost229.org) or by phone (793-9377).

As of Sept 12 there were only six members signed-up.

American Legion Utica Post 229 FISH FRY FRIDAY MENU

Every Friday in October and November except Nov. 18.
(proceeds go to local charities or local non-profit organizations)

Dinner Entrées (with fresh salad and one or two sides)	1 Side	2 Sides
12 oz. Fried Haddock	\$ 8.00	\$ 10.00
6 oz. Fried Haddock	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00
6 oz. Fried Haddock Sandwich	\$ 6.50	\$ 8.50
10 oz. Baked Cajun Catfish (spicy)	\$ 8.00	\$ 10.00
6 oz. Fried Shrimp	\$ 9.00	\$ 11.00
6 oz. Fried Scallops	\$ 9.00	\$ 11.00
16 oz. Fried Seafood Platter (Haddock, Shrimp, and Scallops)	\$ 12.00	\$ 14.00
Dinner Specials (with fresh salad only... half-portions are half price)		
12 oz. Baked Haddock over Greens	\$ 13.00	
12 oz. Baked Cajun Catfish over Gumbo (spicy)	\$ 13.00	
12 oz. Seafood Scampi over Linguine	\$ 13.00	
Soups (with fresh salad and crackers only)	8 oz.	12 oz.
New England Clam Chowder	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00
Seafood Gumbo (spicy)	\$ 5.00	\$ 7.00
Kids Meals (with fresh salad and one or two sides)	1 Side	2 Sides
8 oz. Chicken Tenders	\$ 6.00	\$ 8.00
6 oz. Fried Haddock Sandwich	\$ 6.50	\$ 8.50
Sides (also available separately for \$2.50 per serving)		
6 oz. Cole Slaw	8 oz. Baked Potato	
6 oz. Mac 'n' Cheese	6 oz. Hush Puppies	
6 oz. French Fries	6 oz. Fresh Salad	



Members can watch Monday Night Football at the Post and munch on chicken wings, mozzarella sticks & onion rings, reported Vice Commander Jim George.

“The menu may expand in the future based on participation,” he said. “The prices are \$4.25 for an order of 10 wings with celery & blue cheese, \$3.50 for 6 mozzarella sticks with dipping sauce, and \$2.50 for an order of onion rings with dipping sauce... The hours are 5 p.m. till we run out. We could start orders earlier if requested.” Jim is the volunteer cook.

THURSDAY LUNCHES AT POST

Thursday lunches are back and the menu will change weekly, Vice Commander Jim George announced.

Post caterer Dwain Klatt “will be cooking for those and I will assist as needed,” he said. “None of the lunches will cost more than \$5.”

It kicked off with pulled pork sandwiches, burgers with fries, and chili, he said, noting: “Again, the menu will vary week to week.”

TAKE HOME AND SAVOR THE TASTE OF BBQ

You can savor the taste of autumn barbecue every Sunday in October and November, thanks to the post’s caterer, Dwain Klatt.

So come down to the post on Sunday afternoons (starting at noon and ending at 4 or when sold out) and order BBQ dinners to take home.

“This is REAL BBQ-- it’s all about the smoke,” Commander Chris Urban notes.

Choose from one of two meats and one side for \$8, or 2 sides for \$10. Meat choices could be chicken or ribs, chicken or pulled pork, and chicken or brisket.

DINNER MEETING TO HONOR COMMANDERS

Past post commanders will be honored at the post dinner meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6. Dinner starts at 6:15, with the general membership meeting getting under way at 7:30. Menu includes prime rib, twice-

baked potato, salad and dessert. \$7 for members; \$10 for guest. Reservations are required a week in advance (unless you are on the permanent reservation list). Past commanders are asked to wear their red shirts.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

“We’re looking for a few good men, including switch-hitters” for the Color Guard, Past Post Commander Tony Palladino announced at September’s membership meeting.

“No experience necessary. We’ll train you.”

Anyone interested may leave name and contact info at the post (call 793-9377 or email info@uticapost229.org).



WONG URGES LEGIONNAIRES TO WELCOME YOUNGER VETS, OFFERS SERVING WITH P.R.I.D.E

As a Vietnam veteran, Fang Wong remembers how veterans of that war were treated when they returned home. It’s those same veterans’ responsibility to ensure a similar homecoming doesn’t await the men and women who are defending America.

That was part of the focus of Wong’s acceptance speech in Minneapolis Sept. 1 after being elected The American Legion’s national commander for 2011-2012. The New York Legionnaire and member of Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291 in New York City said the future of the organization depends on welcoming younger veterans into the fold, as well as advocating on their behalf.

Wong presented a list of priorities for the year.

- **Membership**, with a focus on raining and leadership.

- **Job Training and Employment**, as returning vets “deserve the full support of our nation.”

- **Health Care**, staying “on top of both DoD and the VA to ensure medical facilities are well-staffed and funded” and continuing “to focus on women veterans programs and issues.”

- **Military Families**. “The Family Support Network is one program we perform very well at almost any level, to help the families of those who defend our freedom.”

- **Veterans Benefits**. “We



Fang Wong

must stand strong against any disproportional cutback of services and benefits to the veterans’ community.”

- The Flag Amendment “to protect Old Glory from physical desecration.” “Let’s push for the long overdue passage of this bill during this Congress.”

Wong said his projects this year will be the Child Welfare Foundation and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. He also presented his theme for the year - “We Serve With PRIDE” (People-Research-Ideas-Develop-Execute) - and his membership incentive program. Any Legionnaire who signs up, transfers from DMS, or renews a combination of eight Legion members will receive a “Super Eight” eagle PRIDE pin.

BINGO REPORT

Date	Income	Prizes	Expenses	3%	Profit
06/07/11	\$2410.00	\$1905.00	0.00	15.15	489.85
06/14/11	2850.00	2597.00	0.00	7.59	245.41
06/21/11	2804.00	2032.00	0.00	23.16	748.84
06/28/11	2809.00	1959.00	25.00	24.75	800.25
07/05/11	2955.00	2016.00	0.00	28.17	910.83
07/12/11	3244.00	2059.00	0.00	35.55	1149.45
07/19/11	3353.00	2572.00	*642.40	4.16	134.44
07/26/11	3375.00	2074.00	*393.70	27.22	880.08

BINGO WORKERS

- Albert Alteri.
- Jim Haggerty.
- Tony Palladino.
- Stu Bailey.
- Frank Jakubowski.
- Dan/Virginia Pieloch.
- Steve Campese.
- Al/Peggy Kohler.
- Scott Sebastian.
- Phil Capraro.
- Jack LaPaglia.
- Steve Terzini.
- Frank Cassella.
- Rich Maloon.
- Chris Urban.
- Chuck Dailey.
- Dave Manore.
- Paul Wojcik.
- Pat Dodge.
- Jim McGuire.
- Jerry/Grace Welpe.
- Jim George.
- Tom O’Toole.
- Vin Zaleski.

CALLERS AND CASHIERS ARE NEEDED!

JUNE DONATIONS: Children’s Miracle Network \$100, Utica Unit \$75.

JUNE EXPENSES: Feher (trash) \$188.41, First Call (PJ Green) \$483.01.

JULY DONATIONS: Utica Unit \$75.

JULY EXPENSES: Feher (trash) \$187.08, *\$642.40 Bingo Supplies (Clemente), *\$393.70 Bingo license renewal & Clemente.



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GAIL GRECO



Kris Nelson

AUX PROJECTS WILL ATTRACT VOUNTEERS, SAYS NAT'L PRESIDENT

Kris Nelson, of Baxter, Minn., was elected national president of the American Legion Auxiliary during the organization's 91st National Convention in Minneapolis Aug. 26 – Sept. 1.

For her project as national president, she has initiated a campaign to increase membership and volunteer capacity among a younger generation.

"Through mission delivery, the American Legion Auxiliary will become so appealing to people who care about veterans that our membership will increase," Nelson said. "We need to refocus how we do things and create opportunities for the younger generation that are meaningful and that they are able to work into their schedules. We must encourage and support new ideas of mission delivery projects and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Members,

October is Breast Cancer Month. Let us not forget our yearly Mammogram. Please take time to make your appointment today.

At our October 6th meeting we will honor our Past Presidents.

BINGO! BINGO! BINGO! If you have some free time come and help in the kitchen. We still can use a few dependable people on Tuesday nights. Call Rosaria Haggerty at 866-5950 or Theresa Jensen at 735-8247.

The Children's Halloween Party will be Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 12:00 PM to 2 PM. A sign-up sheet will be in the bar area. Ages birth to 12 are welcome. Once again our lovely Auxiliary members will use their talent when baking cupcakes for the party.

Yours in service.

opportunities that women of all ages can participate in."

Nelson also encouraged convention delegates and attendees to spread the Auxiliary's word. "We can only increase our membership and volunteer capacity if community members know who we are and what we do," she said. "Asking community members to join you in Auxiliary service projects will give them hands-on experience, will let them see and feel how our service projects make life a little easier for our veterans, military and their families."

CULTIVATE NEW ATTITUDE, URGES NY PRESIDENT

Ann Geer of Unadilla, elected New York president in July at the Department Convention, noted in her acceptance speech:

"We accomplish our work at the grassroots level, working in our communities, serving our veterans and our children. It IS who we are. It IS what we do.

"... I believe that every member is important, that every member brings something special to the

LOVE BEYOND COMPARE

I went into the church today
To pray on bended knee
And when I spoke in prayer
to God

I know He answered me.

He banished all my doubts
and fears

And told me what to do
Though not a word He
spoke aloud

His thoughts were loud and
true

I felt His presence there
with me

He dispelled every care
I felt His warmth envelope me
With love beyond compare

By Dolores Karides

SYMPATHY

Evelyn Muench



Ann Geer

American Legion Family. So let's *Cultivate a new attitude*. Let's plant the seeds of change, let's *dream, believe, and succeed* in it. That is our goal for this coming year."

**Utica Post #229
The American Legion
409 Herkimer Rd.
Utica, NY 13502**

First Call is a monthly publication of Utica Post 229 American Legion, 409 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13502, whose mission is to serve veterans, members and local communities. Yearly membership includes First Call, published 10 times a year.

**Non-Profit Org.
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Utica, NY
Permit
No. 566**

Since its founding in Paris in 1919, The American Legion has been an advocate for America's veterans, a friend of the U.S. military, a sponsor of community-based programs for young people and a spokesman for patriotic values.

FISH FRIDAYS RETURN

FISH FRY, SHRIMP, SCALLOPS, CAJUN,
PLUS SOUPS AND DINNER SPECIALS

Fish Fry Fridays return to Utica Post 229 with an expanded menu in October and November, running 4 to 7 p.m. each Friday (except Nov. 18), Post Commander Chris Urban announced.

The menu features fried haddock, fried shrimp, fried scallops, baked Cajun catfish, fried seafood platter, chowder and gumbo soups, plus such specials as baked haddock over greens, baked Cajun catfish over spicy gumbo, and seafood Scampi over linguine.

All the dishes come with a fresh salad. Half portions are available as well as kids' chicken tenders and fried Haddock sandwich. Side dish options include cole slaw, mac'n'cheese, French fries, baked potato and Hush Puppies.

MENU AND PRICES - PAGE 5

POST MEMBER ELECTED STATE D.A.V. COMMANDER



Frank Cassella

Utica Post member Frank Cassella has been elected New York commander of the Disabled American Veterans for 2011-2012.

A 1968 graduate of Herkimer High School, he joined the Mohawk Police Department in 1973, later transferring to the Herkimer Police Department. He earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from the University of Northwest and retired from law enforcement after 32 years.

Cassella served as master of Herkimer Masonic Lodge, and is a past commander of both Utica Post 229 and Leo B. Wheeler/Stars & Stripes D.A.V. Chapter 82.