

happy new year



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

JANUARY 2024

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP



These volunteers helped make sure the Children's Christmas Party was a success. More than 70 kids got treated to food, fun, gifts and a chance to chat with Santa.

LEGION & AUXILIARY JAN-FEB MEETINGS

1st Thursday
(Jan. 4 and Feb. 1)
Dinner, 6:30; meetings, 7.

TUESDAY BINGO STARTS AT 6:15

Volunteers are needed.
Please consider helping
out once or twice a month.

FRIDAY FISH FRY

The Post now offers fish
fries and other specials
every Friday evening.
See weekly menu at
facebook.com/UticaPost229



COMMANDER'S CALL

LARRY WEIBEL

Wishing you happiness throughout the new year

As we all contend with our New Year's resolutions, please consider supporting your American Legion Post. In fact, why not become a little more active !

We have added more activities, such as Friday Night Dinner Specials and occasional weekend live entertainment. We can always use volunteers for our outreach to help and/or honor veterans. Our Tuesday night bingo could use a couple of extra hands as well.

In 2024 I hope to see more members taking advantage of the benefits of the Post. Please don't hesitate to stop in and chat.

HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETERANS

By Oare' Beyah, Auxiliary Unit 229

As an Auxiliary Chaplain dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of African American veterans, I am excited to extend an invitation to a special event in celebration of Black History Month. This event aims to pay tribute to the remarkable service and sacrifices made by black veterans, both deceased and living, from the Utica area.

Their service to our nation is deeply appreciated, and we would be honored to acknowledge and recognize their contributions at this event (*details to come*). Their presence would

significantly enrich our commemoration and serve as a testament to the bravery and commitment of African American veterans throughout history.

To ensure that names and ranks are properly acknowledged during our event, kindly provide me with those details at your earliest convenience. Send to oarebeyah@icloud.com.

Matthew 25:21 (NIV): "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

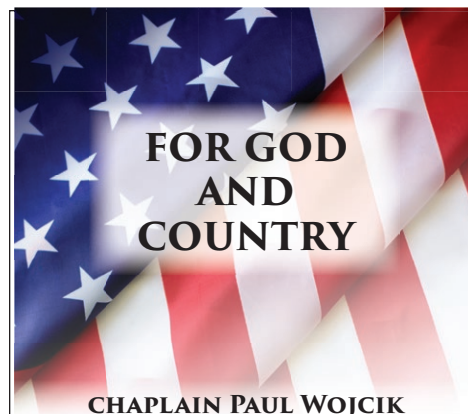
February, 2024

Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of "Negro History Week," the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month.



National Commander Daniel Seehafer spoke at an October wreath-laying ceremony at the unique African American Veterans Monument in the Buffalo Naval & Military Park. Photo by Lauren Petracca/The American Legion.



CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK

As we start the New Year, dear friends, always remember the star that shone so bright and cast its glow throughout the earth especially for you and me. May you have joy and laughter, good luck, good health, and may God's peace always be with you. Share the joys and fears that come along your way and ask that He be your guide through this and everyday. Always keep the faith and share the love throughout the holidays.

I am blessed to have my family and friends in my life. I am thankful for every day I have been given. I thank God for every day and for all of you.

Remember, never approach a bull from the front, a horse from the rear, or an idiot from any direction.

IT'S EASY TO RENEW AT LEGION.ORG

If you pay your dues online at legion.org/renew, you are processed immediately.

There's a delay if you send dues to the post, where they're processed and sent to Department, which in turn sends them on to National.

If you know someone who wants to join The American Legion, that's easy, too -- at legion.org/join.

-- Jack LaPaglia, membership chair



DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

At January's meeting I am highlighting some of our accomplishments throughout 2023. You are the reason for the success of everything we do.

- Achieved 100% membership
- We presented the National Youth Hero Award
- Helped out at children's Easter & Christmas parties
- Involved in a historical event of the unveiling of a new street sign in Utica named Revels & Gibson Way
- 250 lbs of clothing to Clothes for Homes sponsored by Veteran's Outreach
- Food donation to Veteran's Outreach
- Gave two ROTC scholarships, the Heather Haggerty scholarship, and the Celeste Haggerty-Aney Award

- We attended Unit and County meetings
- Hosted County Spring meeting & again this April
- Participated in Memorial and Veterans Day events
- Poppy Committee

There were many other donations and services that were provided throughout the year.

As we turn the calendar to February, I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our community, children & youth, and veterans. But it is only with your help that we can continue to be successful in 2024. Let us continue to be involved!

Yours in service.

AUXILIARY UNIT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We would like to wish you all a very Happy, healthy New Year.

Members paid to date: 117.

Percentage of quota: 63.5%

Memberships are coming in slowly this year. Even though we are over halfway there, we have a long way to go before June. The Auxiliary supports Legion projects, helping our local veterans in many ways -- through giving physical help to them, and donations to the Veteran's Outreach, its food pantry, our hospitalized and nursing home veterans,

our Children/Youth program, community service to our needy citizens, scholarships to our members' children and grandchildren, Empire Girls State for high school juniors, our active military, and many other causes that the American Legion supports.

We (all of us) cannot accomplish this mission for which the Auxiliary was founded, without membership. It is essentially the lifeblood of any post and auxiliary unit. Please renew and continue to show your support to the

men and women who gave so much for us.

As a side note, there is a wealth of educational resources online for anyone wishing to learn about our mission at deptny.org. All our programs are listed and so much can be learned about the American Legion Auxiliary. Please take this opportunity to read and truly understand how important your membership is!

Yours in service
Rosetta LaPaglia

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

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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.

EARLY BIRDS ENJOYED FREE DINNER

The Post held its annual Early Bird Dinner on Dec. 2nd for those members whose dues were paid by Thanksgiving.

After appetizers, dinner cooked by Michele was delicious, and much appreciated. Everyone enjoyed the Chicken Francaise, pasta sides, greens, salad, and rolls. Coffee and dessert were available. Christmas music played, and the tree was lit. All in all, it was a very

enjoyable evening.

Much appreciation goes to Commander Larry Weibel for his immense help throughout the evening, and to the waitresses, who worked diligently to please the diners.

Most of all, thank you to all who renewed early.

-- Jack and Rosetta LaPaglia
Membership chairs

BE THE ONE

EDITOR: ROBERT STRONACH. SEND NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PHOTOS TO FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG.