



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

# FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP



Photos by Eileen Bowes.



## COMMANDER'S CALL

LARRY WEIBEL

### Ending 2024 with Holiday Cheer

The Post hall was full of Christmas cheer on Dec. 14 as children were treated to a party with Old Saint Nick himself. There were treats, snacks, gifts and a candy cane lane

that led to Santa himself.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Auxiliary, SAL and Post who made this a very special day.

### LEGION & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

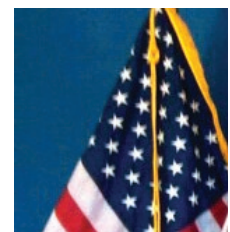
1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (2/6)  
Dinner, 6:30; meetings, 7  
*Call the Post to make dinner reservation.*

### TUESDAY BINGO STARTS AT 6:15

Volunteers are needed.  
*If interested, please call the Post and leave your name and number.*

### FRIDAY SPECIALS

Fish fry and other specials on Friday evenings.  
See weekly menu at [facebook.com/UticaPost229](https://facebook.com/UticaPost229)



## Scholarships Awarded to 2 Students

Utica Post 229 awarded scholarships of \$1,000 each to Emma Soron and Julianna Vetter in January, Post Commander Larry Weibel announced.

Emma Soron came under her

grandfather's membership and is attending SUNY at Cortland.

Julianna Vetter came under her grandfather's membership and is attending the University at Albany.

## Oratorical Prize Awarded

Utica Post 229 awarded \$300 to its 2024 Oratorical Contest participant, Pietra Van der Werff, reports Ora-

torical Chair Ed Jackson. She lives in Blossvale and is 10th grader in the Camden school district.

## Membership Chair Retiring

After having served Utica Post in every capacity, rising through the chairs to Commander and beyond, serving actively for more than 40 years including Membership chairman since the early 90's, I have decided to resign that position effective June 30, 2025. I would like you, the members, to know

that it was my honor signing your cards and processing your memberships, seeing the familiar names of so many dedicated members throughout the years. I thank you all.

**Total to date is 217 pd. members, for 68% of goal.**

-- Jack LaPaglia



## FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK

I said a Valentine prayer and asked the Lord to fill your heart and bless your soul with the precious gift of love.

I asked for sincere love, the kind that's meant to stay just like the generous love He gives to those He touches each day.

I prayed for love for family and for each cherished friend then I asked the Lord to give you His love that knows no end.

Respect the old when you are young.  
Help the weak when you are strong,  
Confess the fault when you are wrong.  
Because one day in life you will be old,  
weak, and wrong.

Those we love are never more than a thought away. For as long as there is a memory, they are with us forever.

There are friends and there are families and there are friends that become families.

I finely know why they call me a grown up. I groan every time I get up.

At my age happy hour is a nap.

**RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**  
Online renewal is fast, convenient and safe. [CLICK TO BEGIN](#)

MYLEGION.ORG SHOP ONLINE FIND A POST CONTACT US FAQ SIGN IN

AMERICAN LEGION ABOUT ADVOCACY MEMBERSHIP & SERVICES GET INVOLVED

HOME / RENEW MEMBERSHIP

**RENEW YOUR AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP**

**RENEW TODAY**

**It's easy to renew your American Legion membership.**

**Go to:**  
**<https://www.legion.org/renew>**



DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY



## HEATHER HAGGERTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

### Qualifications

1. Open to anyone who is a member or a direct descendant of a member, in good standing, in the American Legion Utica Post 229, American Legion Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion. (For example – spouse, parent, grandparent, child, brother, sister)

2. Has graduated or will be graduating from high school within 3 months of receiving the scholarship or has received his/her high School Diploma or his/her GED.

3. High School seniors, adults wishing to attend college, and those students currently in college may apply.

4. Fill out application - available on-line at [www.uticapost229.org](http://www.uticapost229.org)

5. Recommendation from one teacher (students only) or one community leader; i.e. clergyman, businessman, leader of non-profit organization, supervisor.

For further information call Ginger Pieloch at 315-735-5596 or e-mail: [dpieloch@roadrunner.com](mailto:dpieloch@roadrunner.com)

## UNIT MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of January 13, we have 125 paid members, for 73% of goal.

As of January 1st, all members not paid for 2025 have become delinquent. This means you are not entitled to access the post unless your dues are paid ASAP. This includes those who work at the post in any capacity, whether it be in the kitchen, in the lounge, or on the floor at Bingo.

Signs have been placed throughout the post informing members coming in that they will be asked to show their 2025 membership card before purchasing beverages at the bar.

In addition, if the Department of NY has not received your 2025 payment by April 1st, your information on the new roster will not show you paid for 2025, and you will lose all continuous years. To avoid having to rejoin the unit, please pay your dues NOW.

*Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPaglia*

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

Per Constitution/Bylaws and Standing Rules, this is the time of year where typically a Nominating Committee is formed to nominate members for office for the new Auxiliary year of 2025-2026.

Elected offices of President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer are open for nomination.

Anyone interested should inform our current president, Dorothy Bailey.

Our Oneida County President, Kara Smith, is planning an informational meeting to answer questions on this or any other subject relating to the Auxiliary. She will let us know the date as soon as her schedule allows. It would benefit all members to attend this important meeting, as it will affect the future of this unit.

We will keep you updated on the date.

*Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPaglia*

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

First Call is a 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.  
U.S. Postage  
-PAID-  
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.*

---



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

As a New Year begins, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our members for your hard work, dedication, and the spirit shown throughout the past year.

Our Auxiliary Unit has accomplished the following:

- \$1,000.00 - Oneida County V&R Committee for Christmas shopping for all areas' Nursing Home for Veterans
- \$1,000.00 - Syracuse VA Hospital Gift Shop
- \$1,000.00 - Post 229 projects
- \$875.00 - Feed Our Vets (food, & personal hygiene products)
- \$325.00 - Veteran's Outreach (clothes, textiles, and kitchen appliances)
- \$250.00 - Sleep in Heavenly Peace - sleepwear, clothing, & blanket
- \$100.00 - Children's holiday parties
- \$500.00 - Scholarship
- Water bottles to ARC
- Seven members participated on Veteran's Day
- Michele donates her time and money daily to feed veterans at our Post, and at the children's holiday parties
- Members visit home bound, hospitals, sending get-well cards, and flowers
- Members attending wakes, funerals, sending sympathy cards, and food donations
- Members donated time at bingo
- Members attended county meetings and hosted county meetings twice at our Post

Thank you for all that you have done!

*Yours in service.*

---

**EDITOR:** ROBERT STRONACH. SEND NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PHOTOS TO [FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG](mailto:FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG).