



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

# FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

SEPTEMBER 2024

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP



**Sam Falvo & Paul Wojcik chat with Assemblywoman Buttenschon at the county convention.**

## UTICA POST AT COUNTY CONVENTION

CHADWICKS -- Before the Oneida County Convention got underway at Clonan Post 1000 on Saturday, June 8, members of the Legion Family and color guard gathered across the street at the Willowvale Fire Company to welcome runners in the NY Run for Fallen Heroes.

As New Hartford Post 1376 color guard came to attention and Legionnaires rendered salutes, the runners circled around the contingent, then formed up in a line and snapped

to attention as they read the names of fallen warriors – with one of them holding a tiny flag aloft for each name and then lowering it. Once the ceremony was over, convention attendees returned to Clonan Post. Among the attendees were Utica Post 229 members, including Commander Larry Weibel, First Vice Commander Bob Stronach, Second Vice Commander Ed Jackson, Third Vice Commander Sam Falvo, and

*Continued on next page.*

### LEGION & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (9/5 & 10/3)  
Dinner, 6:30; meetings, 7.

### TUESDAY BINGO STARTS AT 6:15

Volunteers are needed.

### FRIDAY SPECIALS

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



## COMMANDER'S CALL

LARRY WEIBEL

### Utica Post Active on Other Levels

While at the American Legion County Convention in June, we were pleased to see county scholarships awarded to two students that Utica Post sponsored. Our Post had a good representation there.

Several of our officers also attended the 106th Department Convention in Niagara Falls in July. Auxiliary Unit 229 also sent a contingent to the Auxiliary Convention, which ran concurrently with the Legion's.

Our new Department Commander is Keith Koster of Saratoga County.

# UTICA POST AT COUNTY CONVENTION

*Continued from previous page.*

Chaplain Paul Wojcik.

County Commander Mike Wakefield called the convention to order, with the advancement of colors, Chaplain Roger Perry's opening prayer, and the singing of the national anthem by New Horizons barbershop quartet.

Memorial Service Strikes Chord

Then came the memorial service for Legionnaires who died in the past year. It struck an emotional chord with special guests. Coming on the heels of the 80th anniversary of D-Day, State Sen. Joe Griffo said it was important to remember the sacrifices made and went on to thank veterans for not only their military service, but for serving their community as well.

Both Assemblywoman Marianne Buttenschon and Sheriff Rob Maciol said the service was especially meaningful because it included the name of her father, William Goodman – who also was the sheriff's mentor. Goodman had been a long-time public servant and member of Whitestown Post 1113.

Another guest was Sitrin Healthcare Vice President Jackie Warmuth, who heads the Sitrin Military Rehabilitation Program. The rehab program, she explained, provides an array of free

therapy services for veterans, thanks to donations from the community and The American Legion.

Commander Wakefield took the opportunity to present her with two checks for the program -- \$628 from Oneida County American Legion Committee, raised during its monthly meetings, and \$750 from his own Clonan Post's fundraising.

There were brief remarks by Legion Family leaders from the 5th District as well as the county, and then annual awards and recognition filled the balance of the meeting before the election of 2024-2025 officers took place.

## Scholarships Among the Awards

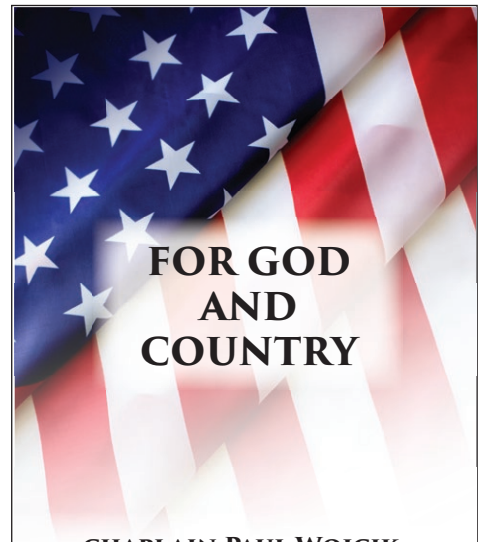
Scholarships of \$500 each were awarded to four high school students, including two sponsored by Utica Post 229. Those two were:

- Emma Solon, who received the Russell Myers Memorial Scholarship.
- Julianna Vetter, received the Horace L. Moore Memorial Scholarship.

## Election of Officers

The convention concluded with election and appointment of officers.

Mike Wakefield was re-elected county commander.



**CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK**

I ask for Your Devine intervention to foster unity and harmony among us. May misunderstanding and conflicts be replaced with understanding and empathy. Infuse our interactions with respect and compassion.

## NOTE FOR TODAY

Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts. (Winnie the Pooh)

Last year I joined a group for procrastinators; we haven't met yet.

# LEGION FAMILY SUPPORTS WARRIOR RETREAT

On the weekend of July 26-28, Sitrin Military Rehab program sponsored a Warrior Retreat Weekend, Paul Wojcik reports. Post 9/11 veterans were invited along with their families. Many events were scheduled including a welcome flag raising, volley ball tournaments, fishing derby, drone volley ball, target shooting, and many other events.

"It is interesting to note dinner Friday was sponsored by Clear Path for veterans, and lunch Saturday was sponsored by Holland Patent Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. We are proud to be a part of this program and give to those veterans who have served recently and gave so much."



# DUES NOW \$50

In the first batch of renewal notices sent by Department, there was a misprint, stating that dues were \$45. This is incorrect. Dues, as of July 1, 2024, are \$50.00. The next batch of renewal notices being sent out in September should have the correct amount. I spoke with Cassi at Department HQ and notified her of this misprint. She will make sure to correct it.

-- Jack LaPaglia





DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

### VA&R

Our Unit donated \$500 to *Feed Our Vets*. We took a tour and were impressed by how organized they are. Before we entered the building, we asked the veterans if we could take their picture. We explained who we were and why we donated to *Feed Our Vets*. Everyone was cooperative and thanked us for helping them.

Donated food was plentiful, but personal items were scarce. This will be a good project, and we will discuss it at our September meeting.

### COUNTY MEETING

County President Kara Smith asked us to host the county meeting at our Post on Saturday, Sept. 28. Anyone interested in attending and having lunch needs to register with Rosetta LaPaglia @ 315-797-8653 by Sept. 25. Meeting follows noon lunch. This is an opportunity to meet our new county president.

### STRONG MISSION

Utica Unit has a strong mission of doing what's right and we all share one goal, service to our children & youth (through our scholarship & Care Net programs), community (food, clothing, and houseware donations), and our



**Pam Vogel presents \$500 check to Joe Ancona at Feed Our Vets.**

veterans (Feed Our Vets, Veterans Outreach, Poppy mailings, attending veterans funerals, visiting and sending get well cards, Christmas, Memorial Day and Veterans Day).

It's often not easy with the same individuals donating time and talents. Yet, time and again they rise to the occasion meeting our community needs. Let's get together and participate!



**Veterans gather at "Feed Our Vets".**

## AUXILIARY UNIT 229 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The new Auxiliary year is in full swing. I have the 2025 membership cards available for renewals and am now collecting dues. They are still \$35.00 and can be paid in one of several ways. A check may be written to Unit 229, ALA, and mailed to Utica Unit 229, c/o Rosetta LaPaglia, 409 Herkimer Rd, Utica, NY 13502. Dues may also be paid directly online at [www.alaforveterans.org/renew](http://www.alaforveterans.org/renew). Instructions are easy to follow.

You can pay dues by calling National Headquarters at (317) 569-4570. Have your membership ID ready and

someone will be happy to assist you; OR stop in and pay at the post. I know many members pay with cash at the bar and this may be easiest for you, but please remember that our bartenders are not responsible to take care of your dues. So just be sure to PRINT your name legibly on a sheet of paper along with your money and ask them to put it in the office for me to pick up. Thank you everyone for your continued support of our veterans and programs!

*Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPaglia, Unit 229 Membership chair*

**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.*

## HEATHER HAGGERTY SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The 2024 Heather Haggerty Scholarship recipient is Julianna Helen Renee Vetter, daughter of Marc and Jennifer Vetter, and granddaughter of Joseph and Sharon Gagnon. A graduate of New Hartford High School, she is heading to the University of Albany to pursue a BS degree in biology. Julianna is an avid runner and has competed in several Boilermaker and Heart Run and Relay races in the area. Since she was eight years old, she knew that she wanted to be a veterinarian. As a

young child she would set up a veterinary hospital in her bedroom and perform "surgery" on her stuffed animals. After earning her degree at University of Albany, Julianna plans to attend veterinary school. Her goal is to have her own practice and make a difference in the lives of animals and their families. She hopes to make veterinary medicine more affordable for the average person and give all pets a better quality of life.

### 2014

Daniel B. Cornman  
Jordan Elizabeth  
Christensen  
Danielle Marie Nowak

### 2015

Gabrielle Sinnott

### 2016

Julia Gabrielle Bora  
Kyle Valente

### 2017

Luke Bushey  
Taylor Oliver  
Amanda Fridley

### 2018

Eileen Bowes  
Alice Olivia Wilde  
Caitlyn Dooley  
Ali Collins  
Anthony Giglio

### 2019

Jessica Crane

Russell Connor Evans

### 2020

Nicholas Weibel  
Kristoffer Larsen

### 2021

Joshua Dziekan

### 2023

Michael Vetter

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