



## George F. Johnson, American Legion Post 1700

305 Maple St., Endicott, NY 13760-4022

(607) 785-1700



Commander Joseph N. Irons called the regular meeting of George F. Johnson, American Legion Post 1700 to order @ 1900hrs, Tuesday October 5, 2010. Colors being in place, all members rendered a "Hand Salute" and recited "The Pledge of Allegiance". Chaplain Robert Hunt gave the "Opening Prayer", followed by the members whom recited "The Preamble of the American Legion".

**Roll Call:** Commander Joseph N. Irons: present, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: Ron Reece present, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Robert F. Wood: present, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Deb Roehm: present, Chaplain Bob Hunt: present, Historian Ray Beebe: excused absent, Treasurer Charlie Verno: present and Sgt-at-Arms Gary King: present. Past Post Commanders present: Ray Nabinger 1982-1984, James Davis 1990-1992, Phil Dillenbeck 2004-2006, Bob Wood apologized to Phil stating that his recognition and attendance for past Post Commander was not in the last Post Minutes, and Rob Jensen 1997-2002. Past County Commanders present: Ray Nabinger 1984-1985. Past District Commanders present: Rob Jensen, 2003.

**Reading of the Minutes:** Adjutant Bob Wood read the September 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 minutes. Motion made by Rob Jensen with correction to his year as District Commander from 2002 to 2003 to accept the minutes as read, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ray Nabinger, all in favor, motion carried.

**Membership/Treasurers Report:** Membership Chairman Charlie Verno reported 256 paid members as of 10/05/2010 for \$2,214.59. Commander Irons said that he is the County Membership Chairman, and looking at the membership for other Posts in the state, the average membership is around 76%. Deposit had 74% but have small membership that consists of couples. The least amount of members is Maine with 9% with about 100 members. Post 1700 is around 67% membership and the county as a whole is doing well. Bob Wood brought up that the annual state convention seating arrangement is based on percentage of membership by each county. He noted that Broome County was in the last row because of poor membership.

Motioned by Bob Hunt to accept report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Davis, all in favor, motion carried.

**Back to God:** Chaplain Bob Hunt reported: Ray Beebe in hospital last week with chest pain, was sent home. Carol Bernette in General Hospital in the rehab unit. Please keep them in mind.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Americanism:** Ray Beebe excused absent, nothing to report.

**Baseball:** Ray Beebe excused absent, nothing to report.

**Boys State:** Ed Cunningham absent, nothing to report.

**Historian:** Ray Beebe excused absent, nothing to report.

**Junior Shooting:** Rob Jensen reported that he has 23 members in the club. Air rifle team is young after losing may top notch competitors due to age last year. Might have enough to sent two teams to Nationals.

**Honor Guard:** Jim Davis reported that the Veteran's Day Parade on 11/11/10 will be at night, line up behind the M&T Bank at 6:30 pm, parade will be at 7:00 pm ending up at the monument. Meeting will be at the monument at 11:00 AM on that day. Post 82 will be hosting ceremony.

**Scholarships:** Jim Davis reported that all scholarships are taken care of, give to the right colleges.

**Oratorical:** Barb Beebe excused absent but conveyed to Commander Irons to announce, that on December 4th which will probably, be at Post 89 in Vestal. Reason being that they have a podium and if we have it here, we would have to build one or get one from someone. Measurements are 7 feet by 4 feet by 1 foot high. She also said that she needs judges, escorts, or to work behind the seine. She also visited Maine Endwell, Union Endicott and Ross Corners Christian Academy with the paperwork

**House:** Bob Haynes absent, nothing to report. In response to Ray Nabinger's suggestion at the last Post meeting, Commander Irons commended Bob Haynes on doing an outstanding job on building the deck extension and adding a ramp to it.

**Kitchen:** Bob Haynes absent, nothing to report.

**Law & Order:** Ray Beebe excused absent, nothing to report.

**POW/MIA:** Barb Beebe excused absent, nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Ray Nabinger reported that he has had no response from the Maloney Band and he tried tonight before coming to the meeting. Ray talked with Debbie Roehm about having a meeting soon to get a fundraiser started for the Continentals and also for the post's Honor Guard to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> Goodwill Days at Alexandria Bay. Charlie Verno, treasurer said the post has no money to give; it would come from the Bell Jar fund which is controlled by the board of directors. Ray understood that but wants to start fund raising now then later see if what amount of money will be needed. Then will ask the board when that time comes. Ray also stated that he is still going to give the Maloney Band till next post meeting for a response to post's proposal on fund raising and attending the event.

Department Commander will be visiting Broome County on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Post 89 in Vestal will

serve lunch, Post 1254 in Binghamton (Grace & Clinton St) will do the dinner.

**New Business:** Nominations for Board members will be taking place from now and the following two meetings. Ray Beebe, Gary King and Charlie Verno terms are expiring after December. January will be the elections to fill those vacancies.

Commander Irons requested nominations for the next election. Phil Dillenbeck nominated Gary King, Dave Williams, Debbie Roehm and Ray Nabinger, all accepted their nominations. Commander Irons repeated three times if there were any other nominations to the board. Nominations were closed for this meeting but will be opened again for November and December's post meetings. Casting of ballots will be the day of the post meeting for January from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Health Fair will be at the post on October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Open to all legion members, active duty members and their families. The VA, Vets Center, West Endicott Fire Department, UVES, Endicott Police, Red Cross, Office for the Aging will be represented.

Dave Williams asked if the kitchen will be open for dinners this Friday, Ron Reece said no, the following Friday will start October 15<sup>th</sup>. Bob Wood said there was a meeting last week conducted by Sharon. It was explained that each team that cooks would be responsible to have their own team of waitress, prep people, and dishwashers. A listing of volunteers was given out so there should be no problems with getting a team together. If there are any questions or problems that may arise call Sharon for help.

Debbie Roehm asked if there is a listing of veterans that we can contact for membership? Ray Nabinger said that there is a Post 1 that distributes names to each county. Commander Irons said that he will check it out on the NYS Legion website for information. Debbie suggested that we have an open house, invite the veterans from the Post 1 listing. Maybe give them a coupon for a free dinner or breakfast to get them decide if they want to join our post.

New Years Party planning meeting on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm here at the post. Everyone is invited to attend, give ideas to do at the party.

Pitch Tournament on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> here at the post. \$20.00 per team of two people will be charged. Sign up sheet is at the bar. Has had the tournament a couple of times with good turnout. Some usually will bring some type of food to snack on.

Halloween Party for children under the age of ten on Saturday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Sign up sheet is in the bar area.

A Christmas Party for children will be take place sometime in December. Date will be forth coming with sign up sheet in the bar area.

Dave Williams wanted nominate Maggie Gagliardi for an Outstanding Achievement Award to be presented by the Post for 15 years of service. She has brought is thousands of dollars to this

Post from her work on turkey raffles, breakfasts, pig roasts, Christmas parties and many other events that she has volunteered for. Dave Williams made motion to have the Post present her with an Outstanding Achievement Award for all her hard work. Debbie Roehm 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

The annual Turkey & Ham Raffle will be on Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Games of chance and 50/50 will be ongoing.

Gary King wanted to know if there was a membership committee if so who is the chairman? Commander Irons said that Charlie Verno is in charge of membership but there is not a membership committee. Asked Charlie if a committee could be set up for that, Charlie was receptive to the idea. If anyone was interested in helping form a membership committee, stay after the meeting to make yourself known to Debbie Roehm.

**Correspondence:** There will be a Binghamton Senators Hockey Military Appreciation Night at the Broome County Memorial Arena on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM. Ticket prices will be \$15.50 for a side seat, \$14.50 for an end seat. Each ticket will include a hotdog, soda and a 10% discount coupon for Senators merchandise. There will be a group recognition during the game. Contact Joe Irons or Kelly Fisher for reservations by November 1<sup>st</sup>. Information will be posted on the bulliten board.

Received a thank you card from AJ Vetanza for sponsoring him to attend Boys State last June. The experience allowed me to further enhance my desire in joining the military and increase my knowledge of state government. My memories will never be lost. Thanks again.

Adeline Butler, chairman of the Bath VA Committee sent the post a thank you. Thank you is a little phrase but still it is meant to show your kindness is appreciated more than you know.

Meals on Wheels gave examples of people receiving meals from them and the assistance that they get for their social needs. There are approximately 200 people in western Broome that receive two meals a day from MOW. They organization is funded by donations and grants. Many seniors and handicapped neighbors depend on Meals on Wheels in order to remain in their homes as long as possible. Susan Jacobs Director asked for consideration for any donation to MOW.

First Annual Memorial Illumination, sponsored by the Binghamton Civil War Society and Round Table. It is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, which begins next year. There will be a candle lighted on Civil War veterans in three local cemeteries. The lighting of these candles is a commemoration of the sacrifices by these soldiers on the many civil war battlefields. Sponsorship for one of these candle for \$18.61 from any individual, company, organization. This will be taking place on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 10:00 pm. The cemeteries will be Chenango Valley Cemetery on Nowland Rd., Hillcrest, Floral Park Cemetary, Johnson City and Spring Forest Cemetary, Megatt St., Binghamton.

**For the Good of The Legion:** Commander Irons announced the County Meeting would be Monday October 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm at Post 1390, Maine on Route 26.

Rob Jenson announced that Doug's Fish Fry would be at the Cooperative Extension on Front St., Binghamton this Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds will be for the shooting sports program.

Commander Irons recognized Jerry Connady transferring from Post 89 and Jerry Robinson who is a new member of Post 1700. All members welcomed them with applause.

Chaplain Bob Hunt gave the "Closing Prayer" and Commander Joseph N. Irons gave his "Closing Remarks". Meeting adjourned by Commander Irons at 1749 hrs.

For God and Country.

*Robert F. Wood*

Robert F. Wood. Adjutant