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The American Legion

Henry J. Sweeney Post 2 – 251 Maple Street – Manchester, NH 03103 - (603) 623-9145

POST 2 FAMILY NEWSLETTER NO. 51 ISSUE: March 2013

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Legion Family who has been supportive during my term as Commander.

It has been an honor to serve and participate in most of the functions during the year and I plan on still being actively involved after my term as Commander is over in April. I would ask that more members of the Post, whether it be Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons, participate in the respective General Meetings. Your voice needs to be heard. With everyone's support, we can remain the best.

Elections will be held at the March General Meeting. Please come out and VOTE! God Bless America.

Gregory Hunt  
Commander

SR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Legionnaires,

I hope this news letter finds you all in good health. By the time you read this we will be well on our way to spring and the Blizzard of 2013 will be just another memory. Nominations and election of officers will be upon us, I encourage all to participate. Membership is a hot topic at Legion conferences, and is the concern of all Legionnaires "Every Legionnaire is a recruiter". Talk to that young veteran in the neighborhood or in your church, (you can recognize him/her by the sticker in the window or the veterans plate on their vehicle) about the American Legion and the four pillars of service "Defense, Veterans, Youth and Patriotism". You will learn they share the same values. We need to grow our younger membership to keep this great organization viable.

**Saturday night dances:** Leo has devoted a great deal of time and energy to this endeavor! Let's support him and the post so we can continue this outstanding tradition.

**New Hampshire Military Ball:** Here is an opportunity to get out and mingle with the troops and a great experience. On March 16, 2013 at the Radisson in Manchester at 6:00 Dinner and Dance to the sounds of the US Air Force Band of Liberty "AFTERBURNER". Dress is Formal Military or proper civilian attire. The theme this year is "A Look Back" and attendees are encouraged to wear uniforms from previous eras. Music from the past will be featured. Tickets are \$75.00 per couple. Contact me at 603-512-2793 if you are interested or want more information.

**Color Guard Unit:** I would be willing to train a Drill Team/Color Guard composed of any members of the American Legion Family. Anyone interested in forming a joint Legion/SAL/Auxiliary Color Guard Drill Team let me know. If there is enough interest we can get together and organize the unit and set up the training calendar. We could then compete at the convention, and march in the parades.

Thank you for all you do,

Daniel Beliveau  
Senior Vice Commander  
603-512-2793

"We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm."

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HENRY J. SWEENEY POST NO. 2  
AMERICAN LEGION  
125 MAPLE STREET  
MANCHESTER, NH 03103-5401



VOTE - VOTE - VOTE

At the February general meeting, a slate of candidates was nominated for various Post positions. Ballots will be available at the Post from noon till 7 pm, on March 26th. You must be a current post member in order to vote, so remember to bring your membership card. Space on the ballot will be provided for write-in candidates. If you're a member of the Post, please take the time to vote.

THE LIST OF NOMINATED CANDIDATES FOLLOWS:

COMMANDER	Daniel Beliveau
SR VICE COMMANDER	William Whitmore
JR VICE COMMANDER	David Quinn
FINANCE OFFICER	Charles LaVeille
CHAPLAIN	Alan Heidenreich
SGT. AT ARMS	Sharkey Madden
JUDGE ADVOCATE	David Nixon
EXECUTIVE BOARD	
Vote for 4	David Quinn
	Joe Dutile
	Leo Cote
	William Whitmore
CANTEEN COMMITTEE - VOTE FOR 3	
	David Jobin
	Michael Lopez
	William Whitmore
CONVENTION DELEGATES - VOTE FOR 8	
Bill Morin	Leo Cote
Charles Clough	Gail Prince
John Cashin	Ron Lemay
Sharkey Madden	Paul Porter
Alan Heidenrieck	David Jobin
Robert Watson	Michael Lopez
James Tierney	

VA NEEDS READING MATERIALS

The VA needs reading materials for the waiting rooms. Sweeney Post would like to put together a magazine drive during the month of March to donate to the VA for the waiting rooms. Magazines should be of general interest such as People, Time, Field & Stream, etc.

INTERNET AND EMAIL HAPPENINGS

The Post has been sending out a series of “eBlast” messages to all members that we have an email address for. What is an “eBlast” you say, well it’s simply an email notification of upcoming events, meetings and other items of interest. In these days of being very conscious of costs, this is an effective and easy way to stay in touch with our members.

So if you haven’t been receiving “eBlasts”, just let us know what your email address is, simply send us an email at [post2news@sweeneypost.org](mailto:post2news@sweeneypost.org) and we’ll take it from there and get you on-board.

This edition of the newsletter is the first one that is being electronically mailed to our entire email list. It is a standard PDF document that you print out if you’d like a hard copy or you can simply file it electronically to keep this and future editions readily accessible. Current and past newsletter editions are also posted on our web site, [www.sweeneypost.org](http://www.sweeneypost.org).

Don’t forget to go to the Post website to see other Post related information as well as the **Post Calendar** of upcoming events and meetings. It’s easy, quick and always available wherever you have an internet connection.

As always, please don’t hesitate to send us your suggestions and comments as they relate to the web site and eBlast messages. We do like to hear from you.

HONOR FLIGHT NEW ENGLAND

Notice to all: KOREAN WAR VETERANS

Honor Flight New England is now accepting applications from those veterans for travel to Washington DC to visit the war memorials.

Applications are at Sweeney Post #2 or contact direct at: PO Box 16287 Hooksett, NH.03106

603-518-5368 - 1-877-WW2-Vets

[www.HonorFlightNewEngland.org](http://www.HonorFlightNewEngland.org)

Bob Patrick

AUXILIARY NEWS



"Bee there for our veterans" is the Auxiliary theme this year and many members have been there assisting with the Auxiliary programs. Thank You!

Elaine Smith, Membership Chairman, announced we have almost reached our 100% membership goal. Please renew your Auxiliary membership as soon as possible.

Sue Bessette managed the kitchen crew with monthly breakfasts and dinners. Commander Greg Hunt is close to achieving the "omelet specialist" title, Mike Tenzar also assists.

Marilyn Cashin was our Children's Christmas Party chairman and was assisted by many elves and Bill Morin as "Santa". Colleen Mudge baked and donated 150 sugar cookies decorated by the children with Paula Earnshaw's assistance.

Eileen Byrne was taking care of the veterans at the monthly VA Bingos and organized the Christmas celebration which included music by the "Strummers", ice cream sundaes, and personalized Christmas cards with money enclosed for each veteran attending. She appreciates all the assistance from the Auxiliary crew.

Pat Bryan and Mary Steele were busy filling gift bags to go to the veterans residing at the Liberty House. A warm hearted "thanks" to them.

Several Auxiliary members attended the dinner for our National President Peggy Thomas held at Jutras Post. The Sweeney Auxiliary presented her \$100 for her project. Thank you Commander Greg Hunt for also attending.

Special thanks to Joe Dutile and his auxiliary wife for assisting with the decorations and set-up for the Valentine dinner and raffle assistance. The balance of the Entertainment Committee is unofficially AWOL, but they do an outstanding job year round, the snowstorm altered their presence. "Thanks" to them.

Our next Auxiliary dinner will be in May but please join us for any of the scheduled dinners and support the Legion family. Sue Bessette has a sign-up sheet for kitchen help, if you would like to prepare, serve, or clean-up.

Special thanks to Carol Boyle and Pam Gallagher who have retired from serving at the monthly breakfasts. Enjoy retirement.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is March 19th at 7 pm, Please join us and voice your concerns. Let's continue to have a good year.



Yours in Service  
Jan Michon  
Unit 2 President

MARCH UPCOMING EVENTS

3/10/13 Auxiliary Breakfast 7:30 am - 11:00 am

3/16/13 St. Pat's Dinner Dance 6:30 - 7:30 pm  
Music by Manchuka \$12.50 per person

3/24/13 After Parade Party Lunch available  
Entertainment by Hibernians and Step Dancers



**MILITARY MAGAZINE GAINING IN POPULARITY**

Since the Military Magazine appeared in the bulletin of the Sweeney Post #2 American Legion it has been published in many new outlets.

The Union Leader published the article in the editorial page in the July 11, 2012 issue. Following that, I went to a hearing at City Hall and signed up to speak that night. Before I was called to speak I had the City Clerk Matt Normand pass out American Legion bulletins to the Aldermanic Board and his honor Mayor Ted Gatsas. Before I spoke I told all the city officials to pick up the bulletin and turn to page 5 and they could follow me on the topic. I told them both the libraries were enrolled and they would receive this magazine monthly for life.

I proceeded to visit the St. Augustine and St. Catherine rectory. I showed them the article and they agreed to make all their parishioners aware at the next Sunday's mass. The Bishop was also visited and he would do the same.

Attorney Jim Normand has put the article on Facebook.

A complimentary copy is available by calling 1-800-366-9192 for you to peruse through at your leisure.

Respectfully yours in comradeship  
M/Sgt Lionel Leblanc, USAF Retired  
Lifetime member Sweeney Post #2

**NEW FLOOR RENOVATION**

In keeping with our reputation of being the best Post in town, we have embarked on a major renovation of the building. All the flooring throughout the building, including the function hall with a new dance floor, is being replaced with a combination of carpet and tile. The project should be completed by the end of March 2013.

The officers of this Post are committed to making this a comfortable and inviting experience for all of our members whenever you visit. We are open everyday Mon-Sun @11:00 AM, and remember we are smoke free.

**APATHY**

*"SCIENCE MAY HAVE FOUND A CURE FOR MOST EVILS; BUT IT HAS FOUND NO REMEDY FOR THE WORST OF THEM ALL - THE APATHY OF HUMAN BEINGS."*

That quote from a famous American kind of sums up what we as a Legion family are experiencing here at Sweeney Post. For any organization to stay viable and healthy people have to take an interest and become involved. Not only is Sweeney Post a very active member of this community it's also a business enterprise that generates more than a 1/2 million dollars in revenue a year. Decisions have to be made everyday concerning this enterprise, therein lies the problem. We have fewer and fewer people stepping up to help make the critical decisions that are needed to guide this organization.

It's never a good idea to have a very small amount of people, consistently making these decisions. Input from the membership is truly needed, contrary to the popular idea that "we know who runs this place why get involved", that is not true, the reason it seems that way is nobody wants to step up and get involved or the "apathy" factor.

There is an election coming up on Tuesday March 26th for the Legion and on Monday March 18th for our Sal Squadron, show up and get involved!

PS: The quote was from Helen Keller



**VA MEDICAL FACILITY ISSUE**

As all of you Veterans in NH are aware we have no full service VA hospital in our State. We have heard this drum beat for many years and we as NH Veterans need to keep this issue in the forefront with our elected officials. Regardless of your party affiliation or your like or dislike for our current slate of officeholders in Washington a unified voice is what they need to hear.

I am currently the American Legion 1st Congressional District Legislative Liaison, in this capacity I have had the opportunity to meet and discuss this issue with Josh Denton, the Veteran's point of contact in Congresswomen Carol Shea-Porter's office. Josh is an Iraqi Veteran and very understanding of the problem we face here in NH regarding the VA and the lack of services we receive. I feel one of the major problems for Veterans is being shipped out of state for treatment. One answer to this would be to have some type of reciprocal agreement with other medical facilities in NH.

What really got me started on this subject was a recent editorial on 1/23/2013 in the Foster's Daily Democrat, a Dover NH newspaper. The editorial was lambasting Congresswoman Shea-Porter's efforts in trying to increase medical care for NH veterans. They were of the opinion it is not needed or deserving, the exact quote is "We don't pretend our surveys would please straight-laced statisticians, but the opinions offered surely call into question Shea-Porter's crusade to spend and/or misdirect precious health care dollars on behalf of deserving veterans".

So this attitude of "spending and/or misdirecting precious health dollars" on NH veterans is something I have never heard anyone say before and truthfully it hurts. When you and I put on that uniform and made that commitment to defend our country and possibly die doing it, we expected to be treated with dignity and respect, and if we are due medical care we should get it, at home not in another state.

So how do we move forward? In my conversations with Josh Denton the most powerful tool without exception is the written letter. That's right, not an e-mail, or sitting at the local Post grousing about it.

The saying that "the pen is mightier than the sword" could not be more fitting. Listed below are the local addresses for our Congressional delegation. Please write to your representative today and express your thoughts about any personal experiences you may have had with the VA system or why we need improved medical care for our veterans in NH.

Respectfully,

Bill Whitmore  
Legislative Liaison Congressional District #1

**Congressional Delegation Contact Information**

**Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter**  
33 Lowell Street  
Manchester NH 03101

**Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster**  
18 North Main Street, Fourth Floor  
Concord NH 03301

**Senator Jeanne Shaheen**  
1589 Elm Street, Suite 3  
Manchester NH 03101

**Senator Kelly Ayotte**  
1200 Elm Street, Suite 2  
Manchester NH 03101

**ADJUTANT**

Post records. If you change your address, phone number, or have an email, please call 623-9145 or email [almpost2@comcast.net](mailto:almpost2@comcast.net) and let us know. We try and keep our records up-to-date and the only way we can is with your help.

As always, we are looking for new members, so if you know anyone sign him/her up. I want to thank Gail Prince who has taken on the work of finding women veterans, please help her, this is a big job. Remember if we stand together, we can do anything. Membership is **every member** of the Post, remember someone asked you to join, now it's your turn to ask someone.



WOMEN VETERANS:  
STAND AND BE COUNTED

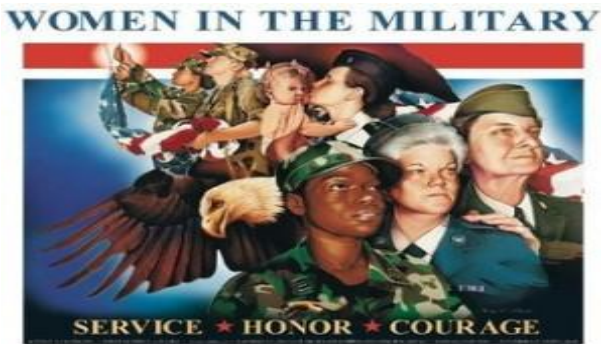
Like you, I am a US veteran who honorably served her country and now proud to be a participating member of the veteran community here in the greater Manchester area. Oh yea, I just happen to be a woman veteran just like I happened to be a woman Airman...but an Airman first. The purpose of this letter is to hopefully motivate you to become more active in veteran activities...we need you. You the veteran. You the woman.

Upon my return home to Manchester after many years in our USAF, I discovered I missed the camaraderie of others with shared experiences...something my local friends/family could not relate to. But given the number of veteran groups in this area I had to choose the best fit for me. I was already aware of the American Legion had a proven "woman friendly" track record, so that narrowed down my search. I then ultimately decided upon the Sweeney Post because they are the largest and most recognized in the state, most involved in veteran activities, and primarily because they welcomed me with open arms from the very beginning. It has proven a wise choice for me as I've made many new friends and they have guided me in ways to help fellow Vets not as fortunate.

Unfortunately, our woman veteran count in the Post is pitifully low and I am initiating a campaign to change that. In speaking to various women, I've learned that many believe the Post is just a "good old boys" club. All I know is that when I joined the military in 1979 the same was said...we changed that. We fully integrated into our military (we broke down segregation through proven competence) and now thanks to many of women are now empowered to serve in every branch in all combat roles. I am now asking you to do the same for our Sweeney Post, we can make a difference again. And, I believe our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan need us to update the various programs available. Women do bring a different perspective to issues and those perspectives are being sought out by the supposed "good old boys" in the Sweeney Post.

I am requesting you help me improve upon our Post operations and consequently make a greater difference in the lives our local veterans through the already established and highly regarded Manchester Sweeney Post (now no smoking). Please contact me by email at [gailey56@aol.com](mailto:gailey56@aol.com) or 623-9145 if you know of any woman veteran and I will personally introduce them into the Post.

God Bless America  
Gail M. Prince, Colonel, USAF (ret)  
Member, Manchester Sweeney Post



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Sweeney Post will again award a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to one young woman and one young man who will graduate from an accredited New Hampshire high school in 2013. Applications maybe obtained at all five Manchester High Schools, Sweeney Post 251 Maple St, or call Joe Dutile Scholarship Chairman at 622-2285.

Applications must be mailed and received no later than April 15, 2013.



BILL ROY, THANK YOU!!

For the first time in many decades Henry J. Sweeney Post is being represented on the National level by a member of our Post. Bill Roy is currently serving in the position of Alternate National Executive Committeeman, Bill has been serving in this position since 2011 and is up for re-election in 2013.

Attaining this office is a real tribute to his dedication and commitment to the American Legion. Bill started his climb through the ranks right here at Sweeney Post in 2003 as Jr. Vice Commander, became Post Commander in 2005, continuing in the District from 2004-2006 as Vice-Commander and Department Vice Commander in 2007 and culminating in 2009 with him being elected Department Commander.

The above is just a small part of Bill's Legion resume, when asked what his most memorable experiences with the Legion have been he responded with this statement. "There is so much that has been memorable, from helping Veterans at the Veterans Hospital, Veterans Home, as a Service Officer helping a Veteran obtain what that person is entitled to in getting benefits, Legion Baseball, Boys State etc. all have been quite memorable. To be frank, the most memorable part of my Legion experience is to work with such dedicated members and it is an honor to be part of that team".

So the next time you see Bill give him a thanks for all he does for Veterans and the American Legion.



ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE

LET'S DANCE

Come and enjoy yourself to an evening of dancing in a **SMOKE FREE** environment every Saturday night from 7:30 to 11:00 pm to a live band. You can check on which band is playing by calling Sweeney Post (623-9145) or go on the internet [www.sweeneypost.org](http://www.sweeneypost.org).

Any American Legion member and guest is encouraged and welcome to attend. A small cover charge of \$5.00 is collected at the door. Where else can you have a great night of dancing with a live band, dancing to your favorite tunes, in a **SMOKE FREE** environment.

Leo Cote  
Chairman Entertainment Committee



March	2	Bushwhack	
	9	The Visitors	
	16	Manchuka	St. Patrick's Day - Baseball
	23	Bert Scott Band	
	30	Fred Manzi Trio	
April	6	Bushwhack	
	13	The Visitors	Roast Turkey - Legion
	20	Bert Scott Band	
	27	Trilogy	
May	4	Bushwhack	Chicken Cordon Bleu - Aux
	11	Manchuka	
	18	Bert Scott Band	
	25	Fred Manzi Trio	
June	1	Bushwhack	Chicken BBQ - Aux and SAL
	8	The Visitors	
	15	Ten and Out	
	22	Fred Manzi Trio	Baseball Fundraiser
	29	Bert Scott Band	