

Harvest Edition



Ira Owen Kreager

American Legion Hoopeston Post Number 384

Volume 3, Issue 4
October 2009

January - Winter
April - Spring
July - Summer
October - Fall

Note: Issues are printed as needed - so there are missing issues.

Your Editor:

We want to also thank Harry Davis for his contributions to the Legion Post. If you have a computer or if you have a friend that does, please take time out to visit our web site. Harry continues to update and expand the site. A calendar of events is available along with pictures of recent events. There are several items of interest along with other links that you might be interested in.



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From Our New Commander

From the desk of Commander Frank Rutledge:

My first three months have been fairly busy. Trying to keep this brief, I am only going to touch upon a few areas that I have had direct involvement with.

The Honor Guard has been called upon to provide services for 5 fallen comrades the past three months. Bob Duffin, chairman of the honor guard and his crew are to be commended. Bob and his crew have been summoned 16 times this year for funeral services and have also posted colors at several functions.

The building and grounds committee have been busy making improvements and repairs. Gene Hanson has taken over the reigns of this committee and has had his crew painting the ceiling in the community room (thanks to Gene Hanson for donating the paint) and thanks to a donation by the Ladies Auxiliary the crew replaced the old lighting with new fixtures.

We have done away with the old garbage dump and have replaced it with a dumpster that required some alteration to include pouring an extended pad. There is

always something that needs to be repaired - hats off to the building and grounds committee.

Ron Custer has spearheaded the Pancake Day for the past several years with those proceeds going towards repairs and improvements. Last years funds were used to replace the floor tiling in the kitchen and storage room area and will also be used to repair the crack in the community room and replace those tiles. In addition, the old garage has had an exterior facelift with the windows being enclosed and the east and west upper sides being sided.

Pancake Day will be coming up again in March. This is a project that requires countless volunteers that we extend our appreciation for their donation of time.

And lastly, Festival Gates is a major source of revenue for our club. It provides funds that pay for our insurance and taxes. To properly man the gates, not only takes a commitment from our daily chairman but all the volunteers that come together to pull it off. Due to our numbers diminishing we did seek out some outside assistance this year. A thank you goes out to the Masonic Lodge and the Jr. Women's

Club for their joining in.

Again, I would like to thank all those that helped out during the festival. As a final comment, as you can see it takes a lot of volunteers to make everything go smoothly, the fish fry crews, the steak fry crews, the bingo crews, our employees, and others. I want to thank all of you for your support now and your continued support.

Please, all of you that patronize our wonderful facility keep coming and brings your friends too!

Thank you,
Frank Rutledge

.S. Frank needs to have his picture taken so that we can all recognize him, but if you want to see him in the flesh, he's at BINGO every Thursday night!



American Legion Auxiliary

This was a busy year for the American Legion Auxiliary. Our Bake Sale was a great success at our Pancake Breakfast. We had Poppy Days in May and collected a lot of donations - thanks to everyone for working so hard. September brought the National Sweet Corn Festival beauty queens and we hosted a Queen's breakfast at the Legion.

Early Bird dinner is November 14th at 6 p.m. at the Legion and we are in need of cooks, servers and clean-up help. Please call the Legion at 283-6312 or Ginger at home 283-0109 if you can help.

Our Christmas party is December 2nd and all auxiliary members are invited. Be sure to come, this is our turn to have the men serve us! You'll hear more information on this event soon.

We are continuing the desserts-for-donations table at our Friday fish and steak fries with the profits going for sup-

plies needed at the VA hospital in Danville.

And of course, we assist the Legion with their projects - festival gates, fish fries, and Honor Guard to name a few.

If you have any questions, ideas or concerns, please feel free to give me a call at the Legion 283-6312, or at home 283-0109 or join us at our monthly meetings every 4th Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Legion.

**Ginger Colvin
President**



Fish Fry night at the Legion every Friday. Come and join us for some great food!!



SAL

Dues for 2009 are being accepted. Mail them in or come to the Early Bird on November 14th!

**Kevin Jett
President**

What's New

Website

www.hoopestonlegion384.org

Make sure you check it out. Harry Davis, one of our new board members, has been putting in lots of hours to keep our Website up to date.

Look at the BINGO page for the latest big winner, or tell your friends they can fill out their application on the website, print it and send it in.

From the Website you can look at a calendar of events for the year. Check it out.

**Chicken BBQ and Dance
November 7th**

Scott Brown and his crew have again volunteered to cook chicken on the open pit.

Give mom a night off and come up to the Post Home to eat. 1/2 chicken either plain or barbequed with sides. A limited number of chickens are cooked - so come early before they run out. \$8 ea. from 4pm to 7pm.

After the meal, stick around at 9pm and enjoy the music and maybe have a dance or two. Back by popular demand, we will feature the same D.J. that performed after the last barbeque.

Coming Events

Veteran's Day

November 11th (Wednesday)

Last year we changed our venue to have Veteran's Day Services at the High School auditorium. Things went so well that we are going to have it there again. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 A.M. and will be hosted by the American Legion, VFW, and The Hoopeston Area Schools. A special slide show is being prepared and will be shown during the services. Special parking arrangements have been made for veterans and senior citizens in the area closest to the school. Come to the Post Home after the services for free chili and potato soup.

Veteran's Day Chili

November 11th (Wednesday)

As is the post home tradition we will have free chili and potato soup. The Legion post will open immediately following the services and will serve until 3 P.M.

Early Bird

November 14th (Saturday)

Annually we reward those members that pay their dues in a timely manner. If you have paid your dues or pay your dues the night of the dinner you will be in store for a great meal that consists of turkey, ham, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll and dessert. This is also an evening of relaxation and an opportunity to socialize with your fellow members. The meal will be served at 6 P.M. If by chance you are not able to attend and would like a meal for

yourself and spouse – please call the post home at 283-6312 to make arrangement for meals to be delivered. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary that contributes their time to prepare and serve the Early Bird meal.

Auxiliary Christmas Party December 2nd (Wednesday)

A time for the ladies to be treated to a meal and some Christmas cheer. This is the payback for the ladies cooking for the guys. Always a fun time – free meal cooked by the guys and a visit from Santa. There is an unusual twist to this gift exchange – you must attend to get into the fun.

Thursday Evenings Bingo

Tired of staying at home on Thursday night. Why not try out bingo at the Legion. We average anywhere from 80 to 100 players weekly with payouts being determined by the number of players, typically \$40-\$50 per game. We start selling cards at 6 P.M. and start playing at 7 P.M. Usually we conclude prior to 9:30 P.M.

Friday Nights

Fish Fry and Steak Fry

Thanks to the many volunteers our kitchen facility serves food on Friday evenings. The 1st Friday of each month is Steak Fry with the remaining Fridays' having meals that feature Fish (Icelandic Cod) along with other entrée's. Other entrée's include chicken and shrimp, along with other items. The meals are reasonably priced –

the kitchen opens at 5 P.M. and closes at 8 P.M.

Next Pancake Day

March 20, 2010 (Saturday)

If you have not been to the Legion Pancake Day then you are in for a treat. It has been acclaimed as being the best Pancake Day in the area. Not only pancakes, but sausage, biscuits, eggs, gravy, and drinks. Ron Custer chairs this project and is always looking for volunteers. Ron also piggybacks this great project with the American Legion Raffle. Great prizes and lots of them

Gifts to Yanks

As the holiday season arrives we ask that you open your hearts and your wallets to assist us with a very gratifying and worthwhile project.

Last year our post home was one of the top 10 contributors in the state of Illinois. All the money is spent locally for veteran's that are in either the V. A. or other facilities (nursing homes – hospitals). The funds go towards buying general hygiene items, underwear, robes, house slippers, etc.

Annually we put up a net in the bar area; as well as, sending out reminders to our post contributors.

If you have a little extra and want to share – send your donation to Hoopeston American Legion, Attn: Gifts to Yanks, P. O. Box 432, Hoopeston, IL 60942. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

What We Have Done This Quarter

Festival Gates Labor Day Weekend

This is what pays for our real estate taxes and our insurance. The Hoopeston Jaycee's have solicited our services for the past several years to assist them with the National Sweet Corn Festival by supplying the manpower to take money for entry into the park. We would like to thank everyone that took time out to help us this year. Mark it on your calendars for next year.

Texas Hold'm

One of our newest additions to the activities at the post home is a game called Texas Hold'm. A poker type game that has caught on nation wide due to the television. We obtained a license and had our first tournament the later part of last year. The events for this year ended Sunday, October 18th. Paul Ziemnisky is chairing this project, so if you have questions contact him.

Honor Guard



Hi from Bob Duffin. It is a great privilege to be in charge of what I feel is a very elite group of men and women. In the tradition of showing our respect to fallen comrades we try to ensure that their final moment of glory does not go unnoticed. In addition, we are pleased to have been called upon to post colors for numerous events in town and in the surrounding area.

Let me assure you that we always have room for another member. Contact me at your convenience if you are interested.

2009 has been a very busy year, but it has also been a year in which we have seen just how much "ceremony" means to members both still with us and for some that have fallen. I would like to thank all of those members of the Honor Guard that have unselfishly given their time this past year.

Bob Duffin
Honor Guard

Post Home

Hours of Operation

A very difficult decision was made earlier this year. In efforts to contain day-to-day cost it was decided to close the facility on Monday and Tuesday. Our hours of operation are still dictated by the attendance of our members. We open Wednesday thru Saturday at 3 P.M. and remain open as long as there are customers to justify remaining open. We will be closing early on Christmas Eve and will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. We will open at 11 A.M. on Veteran's Day. Thank you for your patronage.

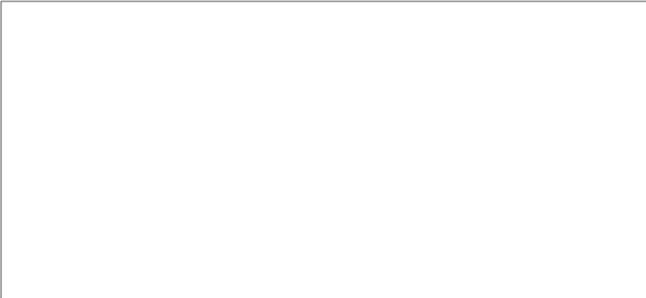
Meetings

Due to our closing the post home on Monday and Tuesday's both the Legion general meeting and Ladies Auxiliary meetings have been changed to Wednesday. We have also changed the start time to 7 P.M. Legion meetings will be conducted on the 1st Wednesday of each month and the Ladies Auxiliary will conduct their meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month. Guest are encouraged to attend.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB:
www.hoopestonlegion384.org

*****Calendar*****

November

4th-Weds.: Legion Meeting 7pm
 5th-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 6th-Fri.: Steak Fry
 7th-Sat.: Chicken BBQ and Dance
 11th-Weds.: Vet Day Service and Free Chili
 12th-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 13th-Fri.: Fish Fry
 14th-Sat.: Early Bird - Dinner 6pm
 19th-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 20th-Fri.: Fish, Steak & Shrimp
 25th-Weds.: Taco Night
 26th-Thurs.: Thanksgiving—Legion Closed
 27th-Fri.: Fish & Pork Chops

December

2nd-Weds.: Aux. Xmas Party
 3rd-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 4th-Fri.: Steak Fry
 10th-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 11th-Fri.: Fish Fry
 17th-Thurs.: BINGO 7pm
 18th-Fri.: Fish & Ribs
 23rd-Weds.: Aux. Meeting 7:00pm
 24th-Thurs.: No BINGO
 25th-Fri.: Xmas Day—Legion Closed
 31st-Thurs.: No BINGO
 January
 1st—Fri.: Kitchen Closed