



American Legion Auxiliary

Fort Hill ~ Unit 376
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March 8, 2017 Unit 376 E-News

Hi ALA Members,

Happy International Women's Day!

I want to thank those of you who responded so quickly to my dues reminders. We are swiftly catching up to the number we were at last year! We have a ways to go to meet our goal of 207, but at National ALA, we're at 169 (or 82%) and counting. I'm going to mail another batch of (at least 9) renewals by Friday so hurry up and get in your dues!!! Our Unit gets compared at each monthly County meeting. Last time we were in last place.:-) We can't have that happen again – our pride is at stake! [Right now, the Dept. website hasn't been updated. You can check it here: http://www.deptny.org/?page_id=3892 It shows Chenango County as 38th in the State, with 82.62% but it's probably higher now.] You know, you can easily *pay online if you have a credit card.

(*Simply go to the national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org. On the homepage, log-in to the "Members Section". (You'll need to create your free log-in if you haven't already done so, and it only takes a few seconds). Then in the Members Section click the "Pay Dues" button.)

Speaking of websites, you know we have a website here: oxford-ala.chenango.org , but did you know that the Post 376 Legionnaires have a website now? It's an easy name to remember, oxfordlegion.com !

Have you missed paying back membership dues but you'd like to get those years inbetween back? You can pay back dues. We changed our policy. Our Unit is not asking for their \$8 of the membership. That means, instead of \$25/year, you can pay \$17 per back year to make your years continuous. One thing I just found out – back Junior dues can also be paid at the rate of \$5/year. (We have not raised our dues for Juniors in many years.) We have only a few Juniors and, unfortunately, no program for them to speak of. They can go online to earn badges though. We do have Jr's who volunteer to serve Sunday breakfasts, and they can distribute "In Memorium" crepe paper poppies in the Memorial Day parade, for donations. We even have a Poppy Princess who rides in the parade.

Did you receive the Oxford school district newsletter, the [Blackhawk Bulletin](#) yet? They ran the article on our Legion's 3 Boys' State delegates. Look for the big word "*Congratulations!*"

We're in the process of selecting our **2017 Unit 376 Empire Girls' State** delegate. Empire Girls State will be held July 2 – 8, 2017 at SUNY Brockport.

♣♣♣ March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, and everyone in the area becomes Irish for a day and celebrates the "Wearin' o' the Green!" The Fort Hill Post is no exception, but the Legionnaire's are planning an exceptional **St. Patty's Dance Party**, 3/17 from 6 – 10 p.m. they will have Irish pub fare, Irish specialty drinks, and music by "Ultrasound DJ" – Hugh Becker. Hugh is an Oxford Academy graduate, Class of '78; in the Army Reserve, and is a US Mailman. I also hear that he's a very good DJ! There is a \$5 cover charge. (21+ yrs. only) This is a fundraiser for the Building Fund – please support your Post! ♣♣♣



The **American Red Cross** is back at the Fort Hill Post 376 for another blood drive on this Saturday, March 11, 2017, from 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. It's faster to have an appt. but they do take

walk-ins. Visit the website: <http://www.redcrossblood.org/FMI/> to find a location near you. *"It feels good to be a part of helping to save lives!"* Future 2017 blood drive dates at Post 376 are: 5/13, 7/8, 9/9, and 11/4. Dates and the location are subject to change – please confirm.

A NOTE FROM GAIL MCGOVERN, President and CEO, American Red Cross

It's been a tradition since World War II to designate March as "Red Cross Month." This month we put a special focus on honoring and celebrating the everyday heroes who help us fulfill our mission and embody our Fundamental Principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality. Since our founding by Clara Barton in 1881, the Red Cross has brought help and hope to people in need – no matter their nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or politics. We truly would be unable to carry out this vital work without the support of heroes like you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Our next ALA meeting will be: Tuesday, **March 14th, 2017**, at 7 p.m. New members are certainly invited. After reports are read, we will discuss Girls State, our Easter fundraising idea, our calendar of events, Memorial Day poppy promotion and distribution, a Poppy Princess, and more.

The Chenango County ALA meeting will

(unfortunately) also be on Tuesday, **March 14th, 2017**, at 6:30 p.m. (Officers have to attend our meeting so I don't know that we'll have representation there.) The reason they are holding their meeting on the following Tuesday is because it's the Legion's 98th birthday. Every year in March (since 3-15-1919), members of the ALA and the Legionnaires from the County come together to have a dinner and piece of birthday cake. (This is the County Legionnaire's usual meeting date. The groups have their 2 meetings separately.) The '16 Empire Girls Staters from the County attend a small ceremony and share their experiences in EGS. Location: Sherburne Legion Post #876, 15 S. Main Street, Sherburne. (Picture shows 2015 delegates who were at the meeting last year.)



The Care Package items for Oxford resident and Post 376 Legion member, Rob Thompson have been (as of 2/22/17) on route to Kuwait. Sergeant Rob is with the 1156th Engineer Company, NY Army National Guard. His wife Jess (in the photo with their kids) coordinated shipping with the Red Cross in NYC. People were very generous! It should take approx. 2 weeks for the boxes to arrive (...maybe today, March 8th?)

Play Pitch? Winter Pitch Tournaments are held at 1 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month (Jan. 14, Feb. 11, etc.). It's a great time and the public is welcome! Come and enjoy an afternoon of conversation, good food, and cards at Post 376. Come a little earlier than 1 p.m. to sign up.

\$10/team, 50¢/up. Only even number of teams allowed. Play 10 games to 11. 100% payback.

If you're looking for new checks, I saw some that were extremely patriotic at ChecksInTheMail.com. They have some sales right now on their homepage, go to- "Personal Checks" then "Patriotic" see Homefront Girl Heroes, Proud of our Soldiers, and more. Here's a direct link- <https://secure.checksinthemail.com/c/personal-checks/patriotic/17> I think they're quite reasonable, but

I always order when there's a sale. I don't have stock in the company; just thought you might like these.

Hey, there's a wind warning tonight for all of central New York and the northern tier of eastern Pennsylvania. HAZARDS...Strong gusty winds...West 15 to 25 mph, with gusts up to 45 mph through midnight tonight. Stay warm and safe.

If you see or hear about something you'd like me to share in the next newsletter, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Jeanie

(Petersen)

ALA Unit 376

Membership-Treasurer-Publicity

If you need to call the Post: (607) 843-8166.

P.S. – A warm "Happy Birthday" to all you March ALA babies: like our *2016 Girls' State citizen*... Lacey Hathaway...who just turned 18!, (and the others who are more than 18...) Shannon Blanford, Crystal Dibble, Donna Fletcher, Bernice Hovencamp, Jean Ryan, (new member) Paula Schoelier, Catherine Smith, and Denise Wolfe.

Let's not forget Post 376 Commander Darlene Ardron who celebrated her (blankety-blank) birthday on March 6th.

There are 30 Unit member's profiles that have no birthdays entered. Send me your birth date if you should have been included. We'll get you next time.

