

# UNIT 376 E-NEWS



# American Legion Auxiliary

Fort Hill ~ Unit 376  
PO Box 832, Oxford  
NY 13830-0832

From Jeanie Petersen, Membership-Treasurer-Publicity Chairman

Events@OxfordNY.com

September 18, Air Force Birthday, 2019

Hi ALA-ers,

This is a long newsletter – sorry folks- I have a lot to report! As I mentioned last month, we're into a new year...2020... and we've been accepting dues for a month now. If you haven't paid, you can do so by credit card online, mail a check, or pay cash at the Legion bar (just ask for a receipt). This is my job folks;-) **Incentive:** If you pay before Veterans Day (11/11), you will be an "Early Bird." You are eligible to go to the free Early Bird dinner at the Legion on Saturday, November 16th. (Date confirmed) FYI- **Friday, September 20 is National POW/MIA Recognition Day**, (the third Friday of September, annually). The POW/MIA Empty Chair is at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States.

On this annual day of recognition, light candles to show them we care and light their way home. Lay wreaths. Relay stories of those that returned recently and those that have not. Recite the POW/MIA table ceremony - place some around businesses and restaurants. Proclamations. Tie yellow ribbons around trees. It's who we are. It's what we do. It's why we matter. American Legion Auxiliary. Work together as a family with your schools and communities.



2019-20 National President  
Nicole Clapp.



2019-20 Department  
President Linda Tome



2019-20 Sixth Dist. President  
Sophie Liberatore.

While our main focus is always *how can we help Oxford?*, it is important to remember that our unit is part of the bigger picture (of Auxiliary). We have to stay connected, keep up-to-date, and sometimes pitch in to help the higher levels.

I went to the first meeting (of the fiscal year) of the Chenango County ALA, held on Sept. 9 (a week later due to Labor Day) at the Frank H Arnold American Legion Post #348, in New Berlin.

(For the requested "covered dish", I, representing our unit, brought a broccoli-cheddar quiche that was well received. There was a very nice variety of food including desserts.)

Wow! What a surprise! CCALA President Joy Lawrence presented me with a 2018-19 Public Relations award plaque from the ALA Dept. of NYS for the best publicity on all ALA programs! What an honor! I'm not even sure how I got this, but I suppose someone noticed my articles and newsletters (?). Since

my PR is reflective of the Unit, I feel the award should be for the Unit, and go up in the Post 376 dining room – if there's room.



Chenango County ALA President Joy Lawrence presented Jeanie Petersen with a PR award from the Dept. of NY.

At this same meeting there was discussion about the upcoming 6th D. Fall Conference which will be held in Norwich on Saturday, Oct. 12th. These Conferences can take place all over the 6<sup>th</sup> district so having it this close to Oxford is kind of remarkable! I hope some of you plan to go. It's a show of support for the organization and representing our County, and you will probably learn something new about the Auxiliary, its mission, and what the higher levels are doing to support it.

The special guest will be **2019-20 NYS ALA President Linda Tome**. Her fundraising project is **Stop Soldier Suicide**, a very important cause. There's a \$5 registration fee for the Fall Conference. There is also a lunch for \$15 but you do not have to stay for the lunch.

For "Conference Call" info and registration it's on our website to print [PDF at <http://oxford-ala.chenango.org/>]. The (Friday) night before is "Fun Night" which will be held at the Sherburne Post 876 and there are raffles, food, maybe some sort of games, and a lot of getting acquainted with members from other units of the district. Do you know how BIG our 6th District is? There are 10 counties in the district: Broome, Chemung, **Chenango**, Cortland, Delaware, Madison, Otsego, Schuylar, Tioga, and Tompkins. While this number is not an **actual** count, the membership objective for 6<sup>th</sup> D. is 4,749. (District membership has to be close to that.) That's a lot of members!

FYI- All units have been kindly requested to bring one bag of red, white and/or blue candy to the next CCALA meeting (in S. Otselic) for the Fall Conference and they would like a platter of finger foods for the Fun Night event at the Sherburne Post. 6<sup>th</sup> D. President Sophie Liberatore (from Norwich Unit 189) attended the County meeting along with her 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Ida Knapp. Ida talked about membership incentives with clever camera-related naming themes. (The Dept Pres. used to work at Kodak.) Sophie had just returned from the **National ALA Convention in Indiana!** (Deb Benedict of Unit 876/Sherburne also went to the Nat'l Con.) Sophie got to meet the 2019-20 National ALA President Nicole Clapp, and she brought back autographed photos of the National President -one for each Unit to display. She was very impressed with President Clapp who had been in the ALA since she was a Junior. The photo will look nice on the Post wall.



CCALA meeting Sept. 9 in New Berlin.

One other important thing mentioned at the County meeting- you remember I mentioned in the last newsletter, anyone can join the Legion now who has honorably served/ or is serving in the US Military. No more ineligibility dates. Well, **Mary Lou McAvoy** couldn't attend the County meeting



2019-20 CCALA Membership Chair, ALA Unit 189 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, and **Post 189 Legionnaire!**

because... she was being sworn in as a Legionnaire that night (9-9-19)!!! *She didn't think this would happen in her lifetime!* You may know Mary Lou- -she's been in the ALA for many years. She's been ALA President of Norwich Unit 189, the CC ALA Treasurer (for 20 years) and Membership chair, and has chaired numerous fundraisers. Mary Lou served in the Air Force right out of high school. (It was after Korea and before Vietnam.) She went to personnel school and did clerical work helping soldiers with proper placement. She had lots of responsibilities, but said it was "*really rewarding*"... and she "*loved it!*" (In Basic Training they put her thru the gas chamber with teargas too! She did **not** like that part.) Now Mary Lou is a dual-member... Congratulations Mary Lou!!! (BTW- This year, National is waiving their \$12 portion of ALA dues for dual members.)

Another special someone who has been "pitching in" for years at our Oxford Post is 32-year ALA member Julie Blanford. Julie organized volunteers for the Sunday breakfast, washed the dirty kitchen dishcloths/aprons/ potholders, cooked, cleaned, and much, much more "...in the spirit of service, not self!" She has "retired" from the Auxiliary and we have some "big shoes" to fill. Julie is now focusing on her family and some much needed R&R. All the best wishes to you Julie!!! Please stay in touch so we know how you're doing. We miss you already!!!

● **MEETING: Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2019, 6:30 p.m.** Our 2nd meeting of the (fiscal) year. NOTE: Due to a conflict, we will be meeting at the **Oxford Memorial Library!!!**

*Come to a meeting and share your thoughts and ideas!*

● **EVENT: Friday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>** (same night as the Fun Night), our Unit is having our big, annual **Harvest Dinner**. This is for our "Finch Book and Education Fund". Money is donated each year for the Primary School to buy books for the children. \$10 for dinner and we promise you'll be stuffed! Many of you help make this possible with your donations of pumpkin or apple pies or sweet (quick) breads. We will be looking for your help again – please. Like to bake and never donated before? We'll let you know by email what we're looking for.



The **Legion's Sunday Community Breakfast-** (*since 1994*) has to raise their rates (just .50¢). This increase will be on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>. Seniors- 62 years & older \$7; Adults- 13 to 61 years \$8; All Firemen -- Thank You! \$7; Juniors- 6 to 12 years \$6; Children 5 to 2 years \$2; Children under age 2- Complimentary; Re-Orders – Complimentary; and Take Outs - \$8.

The Breakfast longevity has/does depend upon help from volunteers like **you**. If anyone wants to help out or knows of an organization (adult or youth) that can volunteer, please contact Jan. Everyone loves the breakfast but no one has the time to help. (Dining room servers are especially becoming a major issue on 2nd and 3rd weeks of the month.) What if no one helped? = No more Breakfasts. That would be sad.

FYI--American Red Cross Blood drive dates at Post 376 for **2020** are (always the 2nd Saturday of every other month): Jan 11, Mar 14, May 9, July 11, Sept 5, and Nov 7, from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

● **MEETING: Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m.** The next CC ALA meeting will be held at the Perry Cook American Legion Post #973, 618 Valley View Rd, South Otselic, NY. Dinner will be provided. All 2019-20 CCALA future meetings will be at 6:30 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (but not in Jan, July, Aug). (Desserts/dinners at 6:30 p.m./ business meeting begins at 7 p.m.) Any member can go to this meeting.

● **UPCOMING EVENT:** The Chenango County American Legion Auxiliary's 7th annual "Thank You Veterans" (complimentary) luncheon will be on **Sat., October 5th, 2019**, noon to 3 p.m.– Sherburne Post #876, at 15 S. Main Street. Tel: (607) 674-9201. Guest speakers are planned.

● **UPCOMING EVENTS** also on **Sat., October 5<sup>th</sup>**- Promote Oxford Now (PON)'s OXtoberfest, a fun Fall Festival. This is quite the event! At 9 a.m., they're having an "AW5K Race - Amelia's Voice" – The 5k will benefit the "Amelia Wakefield Scholarship Fund" at the Oxford Academy School and also to the "Help Restore Hope Center for Domestic Violence" in Norwich NY. Other activities start an hour later in LaFayette Park: kids events, free massages, a scarecrow contest, bake sale, raffles, vendors, musical entertainment, painting by Ryan Warner, and much more all day.

Also **October 5th** is St. Paul's AppleFest 9-2. They will also have vendors, bake sale, pumpkin painting, and raffles. Their kitchen will be open for a hearty lunch.

Still **October 5th** -Tim & Tim will have a Chicken BBQ available by the band on the park, and it's to benefit Band Boosters. (Tim and Tim will be back at the Legion on Oct. 19 cooking up their delicious chicken to benefit the Lion's Club!)

And last but not least, on **Sat., October 5<sup>th</sup>**, our own ALA member, Dessaray Wallace, will wed Ron Charles. Send them all your best wishes for a long and happy marriage!

● **EVENT:** Dept. of NY Commander's Visitation Dinner - Fri, **October 25**. (More later.) Mike McDermott-Cmdr.

● **EVENT:** The Early Bird dinner will be on Sat., **November 16**, 4:30 to 6 p.m. (cocktail hour: 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.) Veterans Day (the dues deadline, 11/11) is the anniversary of the official end of World War I (in 1918). Contact the Post 376 for reservations. You must RSVP the Post at (607) 843-8166.

A special shout out to Mary Crosier in FL – "**Hi!**" Mary is a 32-year ALA –PUFL- member that I lost touch with when she moved. Long story short, I tracked down her granddaughter via Facebook who texted Mary who contacted me. Years ago, Mary was the NYS Veterans' Home administrator. She saw the ALA members helping the vets in the Home and was inspired to become a PUFL. She was eligible by her husband, Lee, who had been in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. So glad to "meet" you Mary!

Thank you again to member Marie (& Todd) Hall / Ye Olde Shanty for donating a bottle of NYS Bully Hill Wine for the 6<sup>th</sup> D. raffle basket!

Please visit our website for more news – [oxford-ala.chenango.org](http://oxford-ala.chenango.org)

Best wishes,

Jeanie (Petersen) Unit 376, Membership-Treasurer-Publicity

[Events@OxfordNY.com](mailto:Events@OxfordNY.com) ; (607) 843-2121

P.S.– Check out Chenango County Legion's website: [ChenangoLegion.org](http://ChenangoLegion.org)