

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

August 30, 2020

Hi ALA-ers,

I hope this (long) newsletter finds you well and enjoying these last weeks of summer. Just when it seemed as though this brutal heat would be with us forever, we've seen a few glimmers of relief and signs that fall is on its way. (Personally I'd like it to stay hot longer... but without the storms.)

This pandemic, described as **the worst public health crisis in a century**, is all around us, and is sometimes hard to believe. I look forward to the day that we can all say "We lived through it and now... its history!" That day will come sooner if everyone heeds health precautions. Regarding America's virus response, Colleen Kraft, assoc. CMO at Emory Hospital in Atlanta said, "I lived through 9/11 and invading Iraq and tying the yellow ribbon around the tree and coming together for our country; I was never prepared for the public to be resistant to health interventions." –From a National Geographic article. (Interesting article - link is at the end of this.)

2021 ALA dues renewals... we've gotten started! If you haven't paid, you can do so by credit card online, mail a \$28 check [to the ALA address, not the Post], or pay cash at the Legion bar. (Yes, the **Post 376 bar is open** Wed. – Sat. from 2:30 - close. Sunday open 2:30 - 6 p.m. They're closed on

Mondays and Tuesdays.

At Post 376: Shuffleboard and pool playing is available (with stipulations) in the bar. **Current paid up membership cards are required for admission!**

Members have asked if it is safe/good to pay dues online. The answer is a resounding **"YES!"** It used to be slow for the unit to get their (\$8) portion of the dues, but not anymore. They've improved their system. This is actually *faster for you!* Here's how: click on <https://www.alaforveterans.org> . Either log-in (if you've registered before) or click "Sign up" to create a User Name and Password. Once you've logged in, click "**Pay Dues**", and enter your credit card info. You will receive a confirmation email with a printable membership card. I've been doing that for the past few years and have never had a problem with it. National mails you your actual membership card. (If you've paid, and you lose this card, just tell me because I have cards for all members. I can mail you the one I have.)

Pay dues online: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/>

1. Please log in or create an account. Passwords are case sensitive. Use of the ALA Portal is limited to active members. Members must log in to the member portal in order to pay their dues. The "Pay Dues" button will appear next to the welcome message once you log in.

User Name:

Password:

[Forgot Password?](#)

[Sign up](#) if you don't have an account.

2. You are now logged in. Click on "Pay Dues".

Welcome Your Name

[My Profile](#) [Pay Dues](#) [Log Out](#)

Not related to Covid in any way--

It is my sad duty to report that we lost one of our members (I was late to learn)- Diana Roach-Rojek, 5-07-20. She was an Honorary Life Member of Unit 376, with 45-years of membership. Diana, of Oxford, helped start and run one of the largest Facebook Groups in Central NY, Chenango County Scanner Nerds, with over 20,000 members for eight years. Diana loved animals and was a huge animal rights advocate. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to All Animals Matter, Inc., PO Box 369, Oxford NY 13830.



Carol J. Johnson – Past Dept. President.

Another ALA passing was Carol Johnson, 5-31-20. Carol, from Unadilla, was not a member of our Unit, but frequently visited our Post when she was touring with the Dept. - all 62 counties. She was a 67-year member of the ALA Department of NY, Dept. president 2007-8. She served her Unit as president, held every office and served on all committees. In lieu of flowers please send donations to the NYS Vets' Home of Oxford NY, Recreation Department. Carol was the 6th D. Field Service rep. at the Vets' Home where she volunteered for over 40 years and where she established the **Freedom Room** as her President's Project in 2007-8. This beneficial space, still used frequently today, has a wide variety of soothing items to help calm the residents dealing with sensory challenges such as dementia. (Carol's name is on the Room's door.)

I am happy to report that we have two new Unit members! Please welcome Jazmine Brooks and Valerie Nazel! They are eligible granddaughters of veterans.

There are NEW membership eligibility guidelines. You can join if you are a mother, daughter, sister, grandmother, granddaughter, self - female veterans who have served, male or female spouse. Time period: April 6, 1917 – Nov. 11, 1918 and any time after Dec. 7, 1941. (It seems that the Equal Rights Amendment has come full circle – allowing men into the ALA!)

As declared Oct. 11, 2019, by the ALA's National Executive Committee, to keep in compliance with IRS regulations, no great or great-great granddaughters are accepted in the ALA. (Current memberships who were accepted in the past can remain as long as their dues are kept current.)

Hip Hip Hooray!!! The US celebrates a landmark centennial - the **19th Amendment - Women's Right to Vote!** The 19th Amendment's adoption was certified on **August 26, 1920**: the culmination of a decades-long movement for women's suffrage at both state and national levels. The National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), led by Carrie Chapman Catt, supported the war effort (WWI), making the case that women should be rewarded with enfranchisement for their patriotic wartime service. NAWSA sponsored all-female medical units during the war (seen at right), sending dozens of doctors and nurses to serve at field hospitals on the front in France. When these women returned home, they found themselves waging another war: **against the deadly influenza pandemic of 1918.**



Due to the uncertainty surrounding the current pandemic, it has been difficult to plan our events in advance.

Our "Early Bird" Dinner* dues paying Incentive: Pay before Veterans Day (11/11/20), and you will be an "Early Bird." Regarding this, Post 376 Cmdr. Ardron stated, "We held a Board meeting 8/03/2020, and have decided to hold off making a decision [about holding the EB dinner] until a further future date. We don't know what the guidance will be for COVID-19. As soon as we know, we will let all of our members know."

This includes the Legion's Sunday Community Breakfasts, Veterans Day ceremony, 6th D ALA Fall Conference, Harvest Dinner, etc., etc. Everything is in limbo. We will email you with up-to-date news.

★ **Chicken BBQ: Sat., Aug. 29, 2020, 8 a.m.** - Chicken BBQ & Bake Sale, at the American Legion Post 376, to benefit the Oxford Garden Club, \$7.00 per half, starting at 8 a.m. till gone!

★ **MEETING: Tues., Sept. 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.** - Our 1st meeting of the (fiscal) year. *Come to a meeting and share your thoughts and ideas! Please wear your mask.*

Your 2020-'21 Unit officers held their positions; they are Jan Pollard - President; Louise Spicer - First Vice; Christine Gregoire - Second Vice; Trudy Huggins - Secretary; and Jeanie Petersen - Treasurer-Membership Chairman. Chaplain: Louise Spicer; Sgt-at-Arms: Terrill Sutton, Historian and VA&R – Roberta Knoll.

Wed. Aug. 19 - There was a Take-Out Turkey & Biscuit Dinner - and it was a sell out! The Pre-Ordered dinner included potatoes, veggies, and dessert. (Desserts were donated.) Pick ups were from 4-6 p.m. This was a fundraiser for the Legion.

★ **TAKE-OUT DINNER: Wed., Sept. 23, 2020, 4 p.m.** Another Take-Out Dinner, pre-order (call the Post at [607] 843-8166), is planned (menu to be announced). We will need desserts for this too. Pick ups from 4-6 p.m. This is a fundraiser for the Legion.

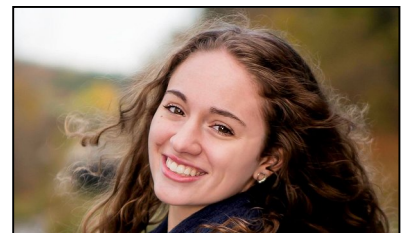
It's too early to say, but the ***Early Bird Dinner** in November might be take-outs by pre-orders too.

The two 2020 Oxford Academy 8th Grade students with the highest Social Studies averages are **Ava Benjamin** and **Ethan Hodge**. They each received a \$25 cash award from the ALA Unit 376.

Our two 2020 Empire Girls' State delegates are: **Samantha Emerson** and **Emma Hodge** with alternates **Audrielle Clark** and **Brooke Moore**. They didn't get to go to SUNY Brockport but did have an online course. (All are Oxford Academy High School Juniors.)

Jadyn Munson is our 2020 ALA Unit 376 Scholarship winner. She will receive our \$500 scholarship. Jadyn, the Oxford Academy Class of 2020 Salutatorian, was eligible for the ALA scholarship through her grandfather, Steven F. Munson, an 18-year American Legion member of Post #259 in Oneonta. He is a US ARMY, Vietnam era veteran.

Jadyn will be going to SUNY Broome Community College majoring in engineering science this fall. Ultimately, her goal is to get a Biomedical Engineering degree. She hopes to work with prosthetics to help people, who have lost limbs, regain mobility.



Like you've heard from the CDC and WHO, wear a mask (2-3 layers), social distance *at least* 6' apart, wash hands, don't touch your face, and get tested if you have symptoms. We'll get through this. The **Summer Saturdays, Oxford Farmers' Market**, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., is doing a very good job at following these guidelines. They have chain dividers, people wearing masks, and other precautions.

It's held Saturday mornings, rain or shine. Oxford Farmers' Market vendors, who are also **ALA members** you may know are: Dianne Lewis, Lillian Quinn, and Lori Jeffrey. (Lori is now vending from her home in Oxford.) See the exhibitors list, what they do, and how to contact them here: <http://oxfordfarmersmarket.org/vendors>

Do you shop at Maines, Food and Party Warehouse? (1018 Front Street, Binghamton. foodandparty@mainesfood.net) Maines has a GiveBack Program that is free to join and would benefit the "**American Legion Fort Hill Post 376**" by giving them 5% of your total spending – at no cost to you (as long as all shoppers have a min. \$500 in cumulative purchases every 6 months). All you have to do to help is apply for a **MaineSaver GiveBack** card. Show your card when you shop and you have made a donation to help our Legion Post.

Personal note: I self-quarantine; staying home - gardening keeps me busy. Does anyone know how to keep yellow jackets from eating apples? They've destroyed all my apples right on the trees. How are you doing? I'm here if you want to talk/email.

Good news from USAA Insurance Co.: COVID-19 is threatening our country's health, economy and social stability. We know that military families, in particular, are facing urgent and unique challenges. To support the military community and help mitigate the pandemic's impacts, USAA is donating \$30 million to two dozen nonprofit organizations to offer relief and support. The **Military Family Relief Initiative** will help military aid organizations provide zero-interest loans and emergency grants to eligible service members, guardsmen, reservists and their families.

Here's the NatGeo link-- https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/08/the-path-out-united-states-coronavirus-mess-choose-to-take-it-cvd/?cmpid=org=ngp::mc=crm-email::src=ngp::cmp=editorial::add=SpecialEdition_20200828&rid=354DAB9AC539A7B8FE0FF83AE4512D6C

Here's another link to the Suffrage article from NYT – loads of wonderful pictures too!
https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/08/17/us/suffrage-movement-photos-history.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20200818&instance_id=21370&nl=the-morning®i_id=58720888§ion_index=1§ion_name=big_story&segment_id=36386&te=1&user_id=354dab9ac539a7b8fe0ff83ae4512d6c

Best wishes,

Jeanie (Petersen) Unit 376, Membership-Treasurer-Publicity
Events@OxfordNY.com ; (607) 843-2121

P.S.–For more info – oxford-ala.chenango.org

Also check out Chenango County Legion's website: ChenangoLegion.org