



17 S. Washington Ave.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Fort Hill ALA E-News



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Fort Hill ALA Auxiliary Unit #376
President Sylvia Witchella

Dates of interest

- **January:** No Auxiliary meeting this month.
- **January 12:** Dale Dewey takes Cty Oratorical winner Amanda Korb to Homer H.S. for 6th District competition.
- **January 12:** Original date for the Early Bird Dinner. This has been postponed due to Oratorical competition.
- **February 4:** County Auxiliary meets in Norwich (1st Mon.).
- **February 11:** next Oxford ALA meeting, at 7 p.m.
- **February 12:** County Legion meets at Oxford Post.
- **March 6:** Oxford SAL Meets (1st Wed./monthly)
- **March 10:** (and May 10) County report due.

Successful Oratorical Contest Early Bird—Award Dinner Postponed

This is just a quick reminder about the Early Bird—Award Dinner: it has been postponed, but for a good cause. Dale Dewey, Second Vice-Commander and Chaplain, and Victor Hammond, Service Officer, both from the Oxford Legion, co-chaired both the local and county levels of the American Legion's National High School Oratorical Scholarship Program, a "Constitutional Speech Contest." They were held on Sunday, January 6, at the Oxford Academy High School auditorium. The Oxford Legion sponsored four contestants Darci Herrick, Sarah Renaud, Megan Golden, and Morgann Westcott, all seniors from Oxford Academy. The local level of judging determined that Megan Golden was in third place, winning \$50.00; Sarah

Renaud, in second place, won \$75.00; and Darci Herrick, in first place, won \$100, all from the Oxford American Legion, Fort Hill Post #376. A student from Otselic Valley C.S., Amanda Korb, received \$50 from her local South Otselic American Legion, Perry Cook Post #973. The Chenango County A.L. level of the competition required the speakers to talk for 3-5 minutes on the 22nd amendment. The judges determined that Amanda Korb was the first place winner of the National High School Oratorical Contest. Amanda received \$250 from the County Legion, and she will be advancing to the Sixth District level on Jan. 12 at Homer High School at 11:30 a.m., where multiple counties will compete. The County Legion

also awarded Sarah Renaud, in third place, \$100 and Darci Herrick, in second place, \$200. Darci is the alternate if, for any reason, Amanda is unable to continue to the next level of the competition.

The purpose of The A.L.'s Nat'l H.S. Oratorical Contest is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution and teach them leadership



Volunteers luncheon 12-8-12

Some Details from Our Last Meeting

December 10, 2012

- The Auxiliary Dept. of NY, Mid-Winter Leadership Conference 2013 will be Fri & Sat, Jan. 25th & 26th. Cost \$35 pp. + \$116/night at the Albany Marriott. The Nat'l Aux. Pres. Peggy Thomas will be there. It was voted & approved to send Sylvia (2

nights). Other Oxford Auxiliaries are invited (share the room).

- We received praise for food at the Commander's Dinner.



- Dec. 8th was the Veterans' Home Volunteers Luncheon. (This takes place after the Veterans' Home's annual Christmas party.) We served 93 people! (See picture at left.)

- Bingo- Jan. 5th at the Vets' Home. Everyone was

What Happened Since the Last Meeting...

Cont'd

invited to come help get residents down to the game room and help them with their Bingo cards. All the Counties of the 6th Dist have one day annually that they do this. (Chenango Cty's day is always the 1st Sat. of Jan.)

- Gifts were wrapped for the Christmas Basket family.
- **PRICE INCREASE**—The ALA state & nat'l dues rate, which is currently (for 2013), \$15.80, will be going up to \$17 in 2014/ annually. We currently pay \$20/yr. It was voted on (again) and approved to raise Oxford ALA dues for 2014 to \$25.

QUILTS FOR SOLDIERS – LEGION PAID SHIPPING!

Quilters on a quilting retreat – thru Diane Marvin's Sew Nice in Norwich, made 13 quilts for soldiers in Afghanistan. This was prompted by Karen Kamsoke, whose nephew Kurt Buchta is the company commander. Quilter Nancy Cody spoke to Rainy Collins-Vickers, McDonough AL Auxiliary VP who spoke to the Unit 1478 Pres. Judy Baker and she located full funding for the shipping costs between the McD and Oxford Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. Packages were due to arrive before Christmas. Quilters can contact Sew Nice 334-2477 if they'd like to help.

OTHER NEWS~

Cindy Covey, an Oxford resident who teaches the 6th grade in Afton, is having her students "adopt" service personnel overseas. They will write them letters (the old fashioned way) as a service project. **Good idea Cindy!**

Nov. 15, at the Veterans' Home, Sandra Baker, a member of the McDonough Auxiliary, was awarded the Frank J. Benenati Law Enforcement/Medical Scholarship. John Sherman made the presentation of a \$1000 award. Sandra is the daughter of Fred Baker, '12-13 Commander to the Oxford Legion and Judy Baker, '12-13 President of the McDonough AL Auxiliary.

DID YOU SEE...

The Oxford Review-Times ran an article for us in two issues promoting the RADA knives and peeler we're selling. Also, display pieces were made to put on Sunday breakfast tables. People need to be reminded that we're selling these.



The National Auxiliary has online E-News that you can subscribe to. See an issue here:
http://americanlegion.informz.net/AmericanLegion/archives/archive_1984932.html

G.I. Josh is Ready to Help Children Cope with Deployed Parents



FYI: An American Legion Auxiliary Child Welfare Foundation sponsored project—the G. I. Josh Kit. The kit contains an I'll Be O. K. storybook, carrying case and adorable "Josh" dog with his military bandana and doghouse. The message in the storybook pro-

vides coping techniques to help children through the anxious time of their parents' deployment.

\$26 per kit plus s/h. FMI visit ALA In the Know—

h t t p :
alaintheknow.wordpress.com/

The "I'll be O.K." storybook communicates coping tools to help children deal during deployment.

Remember ~ Renew ~ Reachout

Did you know that there's an Army soldier from Oxford, stationed in Alaska, that would like to hear from you? His name is Adam, his family owns Grumpy's Garage in South Oxford, and he's from the Class of '93. Visit the OxfordNY.com forum and look for "adam7476"; the post is titled "**Hello From Alaska**" under "Introductions."

- ◆ Oxford Unit 376 welcomes new

member Louise Spicer! Kudos to Louise for helping as Secretary pro-tem! Also, let's all send Barb Bogie 'back healing' and Julie Blanford 'sinus' get well wishes!

Look to the future—give some thought to the **Great Garage Sale Day** on Sat, **May 4, 2013**. Should we have a rain date? Is \$15 still a good price for a space? What should the Auxiliary be selling?

What do you think about the Sunday breakfast? The Legion is brainstorming new ideas to make it more popular.

So, did you like this 2nd Newsletter? Do you have any ideas for the next edition? Email me, Jeanie Petersen, your ALA Unit 376 Public Relations Chairman at: Events@OxfordNY.com or call (607) 843-2121.