



17 S. Washington Ave.

American Legion Auxiliary

The Fort Hill ALA E-News



Oxford, New York 13830

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July 4, 2013



Fort Hill ALA Auxiliary Unit #376
2013-14 President Jeanie Petersen

Dates to remember

- **July 8:** Happy Birthday to Robin (Simons) Reynolds
- **July 18-20:** Annual ALA Convention –Niagara Falls.
- **July 26:** Ice Breaker for Blackhawk Alumni outdoors. 5 PM -? Legion event, but ALA helps.
- **July 28:** ALA works Sun. Bkfst
- **July 31:** Deadline for mbrshp at the \$20 rate.
- **Aug. 1:** Membership rates are \$25 now.
- **Aug. 3:** Post 189 ALA Garage Sale, 9-1
- **Aug. 6-11:** County Fair, Norwich. County Legion booth needs help from units 9:30 AM—dark.
- **Aug. 4:** President Obama's b'day
- **Aug. 12, Special ALA mtg. with Legion Family at 7 PM**
- **Aug. 25:** ALA works Sun. Bkfst.
- **Sept. 2:** Labor Day Mon.
- **Sept. 9:** County ALA meeting at 6:30 PM. Bring dish to pass.
- **Sept. 16:** Oxford ALA mtg., 7 PM
- **Sept. 22:** ALA works Sun. Bkfst.
- **Oct. 5:** Veterans Appreciation Day in Sherburne (Cty ALA), Noon-3 PM
- **Oct. 5:** *Special event (TBA)
- **Oct. 14:** Oxford ALA mtg., 7 PM
- **Oct. 25:** Harvest Dinner (hours TBD. 4:30 - 7 PM?).
- **Oct. 27:** ALA works Sun Bkfst.

Year Ends Successfully and New Plans are Brewing!

Greetings! I wrote this on the back, but I don't want you to miss it... we're having a **special meeting** at our regular time, but next month— **Aug. 12, 7 PM, at the Legion.** (Details on pg. 2) Please come.

The 4th Great Garage Sale Day and Bake Sale, was held on May 11th in lots of rain, but people came out steadily for used housewares – hawked expertly by Roberta Knoll (who could 'sell snow to Eskimos'). Desi Wallace's patriotic face painting was another big draw, and wonderful baked treats were managed expertly by Barb Bogie. Eileen's colorful poppy display was in Desi's tent and it looked terrific! **Many hands pitched in and made this really Great! Kudos everyone!** In addition,

the children's 1st poppy coloring contest was won by Julien Smith (age 6). The next morning, Mother's Day, Sylvia and Sue made sure everything was sold from the bake sale at the breakfast. What a fantastic job!!!

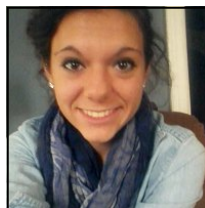
Next was the Memorial Day Parade in Oxford –which was really memorable. 89-year-old vet Bud Mohr joined us and so did our first "Miss Poppy," 11-year-old ALA Junior, Allison Beckwith. Two other poppy ambassadors were Lacey Charles, also a Jr ALA mbr, and our Girls' State delegate, Lorrin Parks. Lorrin and Lacey handed out paper poppies along the parade route in exchange for contributions. Miss Poppy, President Sylvia, and Secretary Barb rode in Haley Witchella's VW which was decorated with big red

paper poppies. Allison sang at the Riverview Cemetery ceremony and at the NYS Veterans' Home service. It was great!

At our last meeting, June 10th, we voted regarding our meeting day. It stays on 2nd Mondays at 7 PM.

The new 2013-14 officers were installed by President Sylvia. They are Jeanie Petersen (yours truly) - President; Cindy Hubschmitt-1st Vice President; Louise Spicer-2nd Vice President; Barbara Bogie-Secretary; Dessera Wallace-Treasurer/Mbrshp; Lillian Quinn-Chaplain; Julie Blanchford-Sergeant-at Arms; and Roberta Knoll –Historian /Field Service/VA & R.

Youth News



Lorrin Parks, Oxford ALA's
2013 Girls State delegate

Oxford Academy jr, Lorrin Parks, our ALA 2013 delegate is back from the 72nd annual Empire Girls State. She was there with 300+ girls, from all over

the state, in Brockport for a weeklong workshop focused on leadership and the American political process. U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand spoke at Empire G.S. on Mon. 7/1. See speeches here: <http://www.empiregirlsstate.org/blog> Lorrin said, "I had an amazing time, not only did I make many new friends but I also learned a lot about our government. It was an experience like no other!" Lor-

rin has been invited to say a few words about her time there at our Mon., Sept. 16th meeting.

Unrelated News:

Membership rates go up on Aug. 1st! If you haven't paid yet for 2013, do so right away at the \$20 rate. On Aug. 1, it's \$25. 2014 is \$25 for all of us.

So Many Ideas ... So Little Time

I haven't even been officially your president for a month, but the wheels are turning!

One of the first ideas I had was to get together with the Legionnaires and the SAL and PLAN to have an **Open House**. That's (partly) why we're having a **special meeting** at our regular time, next month— **Aug. 12, 7 PM, at the Legion**.

I know we could easily have a joint Open House, but timing is really the issue. Sept. 21, (3rd Sat. of Sept.) would be ideal. If anyone is interested in hearing more details, jot me an email. I have a whole sheet of thoughts. Do you

have ideas for hors d'oeuvres? What about things we should promote? My goal is for us to work hand-in-hand with the "Legion Family," presenting a united front to the public. Advertise what we ALL do and maybe even sign-up some new members. I spoke with Oxford Historian, Vicky House, about putting some info together about the Legion building - this house has an interesting past too!

If you have any ideas on what you think we should be doing (events, movie nights, parties, promotions, etc.), please email me or preferably bring your ideas to the next meeting.

★ *Some of us have been discussing an Oktoberfest; an "**Oxtoberfest**." Let's talk about that at the August 12th meeting too. It will make the Legion bar very busy!

★ GREAT IDEA: Julie Blanford has a beautiful quilt she is willing to donate for a fundraiser raffle. (Price Chopper offers **free** raffle ticket printing for nonprofit/civic orgs. We need these PDQ!)

National ALA wants us to have a PR plan that includes a budget. Read the full report here: http://alaintheknow.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/pr_investinunit.pdf

I can do a lot of PR ideas for no co\$, but I DO think we need a gen'l annual budget—a project in the works. How about a unit "Wish List?"

★ Think about it; what would be great for us to have or to do for the community?

Financial Reminder - Our dues amount should be in the "Standing Rules" (not Constitution) so policies can be changed often. How do we do this?

RE: Harvest Dinner, I'd like to say that funds are for the "**Sally Finch Book and Education Fund**." That way if we want to use any add'l \$ for another good educational cause, we can. We can vote on this. \$8 new price or no "Seniors?" 4-5 PM take outs.

County & District News

The CC AL is participating at the **County Fair in Norwich, Aug. 6-11**. They need volunteers from all Aux units to help sell ice and water. 9:30 AM-dark. contact Hank Burnor 843-7742.

The CC ALA is planning a **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon** in Sherburne on Sat., Oct. 5th, noon-3 PM. **Each Unit should get info out to their area**. They'll have hand-outs for programs (things the VA offers like counseling) and job info. They will get a "Thank you for your service" certificate. (I'm

making). More on this at the next County meeting. 9/9 at 6:30 PM in Sherburne.

The Norwich Post 189 ALA was inspired by our event and they're having a "Giant Garage & Craft Sale" on Aug. 3, 9-1, at 29 Sheldon St. in back pkg. lot. We should check it out!

At the District, Carol Johnson talked about volunteering at the Vets Home. Maybe we can get a calendar of their events.

**Alumni Ice Breaker is
Friday, July 26,
starting at 5 PM!**

Also, Sylvia said the V.H. gift shop needs help on wknds too. 2 hrs. would help.

Ann Gere mentioned the distribution of poppy seeds ~part of "**Poppy Fields Across America**." Re: these seeds, I emailed Page's Seeds co. in Greene to see if they'd sell these "Flanders field" (or Shirley) poppies (Papaver rhoeas) in packets with a

Legion image on it. I got no reply. Perhaps no one got the email? Americanmeadows.com is one of many seed co.s that has them in bulk, 1 LB. for \$32.95. All you need are some little envelopes, a scale, and some colorful labels. All Units in

Remember ~ Renew ~ Reachout

the County could distribute them just like the paper poppies (for donations).

Speaking of paper poppies, due to the shortage, they can now be made by anyone. I suggested (a great idea from my husband Roy) that Boy and Girl Scouts of Chenango County be asked to make them. They could be paid just like we have been paying for them from Veterans. It keeps the money in the county; helps us and helps them!

Any thoughts on the Sunday breakfast? How about a bkfst card to punch for a 10th one Free? Brainstorm new ideas. Also, new grill people are needed.

★ Reminder: the **Oxford Alumni Ice Breaker!** It's Fri, July 26, 5 PM till! Auxiliary is cooking, can you help? Sausage & peppers, salt potatoes, etc. Let me know. Could we have a flyer for everyone by then? Hank said we could have a flyer at the County Fair too.

I want to hear everyone's thoughts/ideas for our unit. My view is, if we have to fund raise, let's make it FUN!!!

FYI: Our unit was #3 in the Cty for paying dues. Not bad. Can we be #1 in 2014?

So, did you like this 4th Newsletter? Any ideas for the next edition? Email me, Jeanie Petersen, ALA Unit 376 Pres & PR chairperson at: Events@OxfordNY.com or call (607) 843-2121.