

AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NEWSLETTER VT, POST 91



Colchester, VT

American Legion Post 91

Mar. - Apr. 2018



Commanders Corner

Hello Legionaires

It looks like we are almost thru the worst of the winter. Soon our Snow Birds will be coming back to us. It will be good to see them all again.

We received a letter from the Post in Arcadia Florida that your donation went to. That post will be 100 years old next year. They were devastated by the hurricane which left three feet of water in the Post. The money was well received. Ray Denault delivered the check in person which was a nice touch.



Please make use of the suggestion box if you think something needs to be addressed.

I would like to thank you all for your continued membership and patronage of your post.

Frank Fenton

1st Vice Commander

Adjutants Corner

Greetings American Legion Family

“The Behavior You Walk Past, Is the Behavior You Accept”

I started to write about how as every snowy day goes by, it brings us one day closer to the nice days of opening windows and airing out our houses of the dark days of winter. I'd like to use this space to move us toward a different kind of 'clearing out the stale air and letting in the fresh'.

Unless you live under a rock, no one could have possibly missed the seeming daily barrage of complaints about sexual harassment levied against politicians and celebrities. We see these playing out on a national stage in front of us. Let's begin to think of this as how our local Posts can be poisoned by this. You've sat there, you've heard the conversation, you've rolled your eyes upon hearing the topic and the words keep on coming out of the mouths. Now you look around and see the same face on others that can hear the "innocent chit-chat" as you have on your face. The offenders don't think there is anything wrong because it's "a private conversation", but when it is over heard, it's no longer private and it's sexual harassment. Every now and then you want to say something but there is a fear of offending someone.

Part of the reason I wanted to talk of this was driven by a conversation I had with a person I've known for a good number of years. I asked if she was a legion member and she said she was a couple of years ago and dropped her membership due to being harassed at the post where she was a member. She stopped in to meet a coworker there and while she was waiting, she was angered by the way another Veteran was talking to her. She moved away to a table after telling this person he was out of line. He followed her to the table and continued. The bartender was alerted to the unacceptable behavior and did nothing. We lost another Legion member that was preventable.

Conversations that are demeaning hurts the American Legion Family. Re-read that last sentence. Yes, it hurts us all. It hurts us when we lose a member or two because they didn't like the way 'those guys' were talking and were made to feel uncomfortable. Veterans take care of Veterans. We aren't taking care of each other when we drive them away. Some would say they need to grow a thicker skin if they're going to be in here. Well we do have thicker skins than most anyone we know, but thick skins can still be cut, and the cut hurts. When an allegation gets out, we are all painted with the same big, wide brush. We are people with a military background. We are better than that! We need to set the example! We need to have the internal fortitude to say STOP IT! The best way I have heard this was from the Sergeant Major of Canadian Forces about ten years ago when he said "The behavior you walk past, is the behavior you accept."

As a fairly recent U.S. Army retiree, I can assure you all branches of our Armed Forces do not condone the "innocent chit-chat". Sexual Harassment training is a regular event among the regular and reserve forces. There are strict regulations and consequences for violations. I have been in ear shot of some of these conversations where the ones involved, didn't realize they were being heard by others. At the time a well place and subtle "At Ease" was enough of a trigger to stop the behavior. I didn't have to use my 'Sergeant's Voice' but it was enough to correct the bad behavior. You too can be the person to help stop this poison that can kill an organization. Be the person that helps to make our Post inviting and welcoming for Veterans and families.

We all know right from wrong. Let's be the reason our Posts are friendly for all visitors. Remember, "Meet Me At The Legion!"

For God and Country
Bill Schmitt
Adjutant



Auxiliary

Hi ladies, it's getting closer and closer to spring. I'm sure there are no complaints there.

Midwinter conference is behind us. Auxiliary attendance from unit 91 was I believe at an all-time low unfortunately. Maybe we should strive to try and hold it closer in winter months.

Our Dept. raffle was won by post 50. I would very much like to see our junior members become more involved and to attend meetings, you are "Our Future".

As you know we have been having a food drive for the VA clinic on Pine Street. We are going to have a raffle on (drawn 4/19). For each item you donate you will get a raffle ticket. The food need is great. We're also collecting Name Brand groceries, coupons etc. for overseas. The expiration date should be six months out Do not send if they will expire in two months as the mail system may delay the delivery that long. We will have a collection box at the club for the groceries. Oh! NO store coupons, Dollar General Big Lots etc.

We are still desperately in need of volunteers for our meals, mostly dinners which are on the third Thursday. There will be someone to help you start. I'd like to thank members that have donated winter coats for the drive that ends at the end of February. I still collect used cell phones, all year, and thank you for all of them so far. Please keep dues current also.

For God and Country

Gail Wixson, Sr. V. Pres. (355-6805)



Color Guard

The Color Guard started off the new year at a Naturalization Ceremony at Edmonds school in Burlington. As always it was much appreciated and a ceremony well worth watching. In view of the recent school tragedy we marched with flags only.

You are invited to join us this year. We are The Few, The Dazzling, The Color Guard.

For God and Country

Dennis Berthiaume

Color Guard Commander

Super Chili Bowl

The Post held a chili contest on Super Bowl Sunday with many delicious entries. Voting was by popular vote. And the winners are:

1. Bill Schmitt
2. Don Poquette
3. Joline Kinney



Join us for a St Patrick's Day celebration on Sat. March 17 from 12:00 - 3:00. There will be the traditional Irish meal (no not a six pack and a boiled potato) corned beef. We will also raffle off an Irish Basket with some Irish spirits in it so adults only. Raffle tickets sold at the event only.



Thursday evening dinners

Dinner is served every Thursday from 5:30 to 7:00

Volunteers from different parts of the Legion Family are responsible each week:

1st Thursday - The Sons

2nd Thursday - Legionnaires

3rd Thursday - The Auxiliary

4th Thursday - The Color Guard

5th Thursday - Legionnaires and Sons alternate



Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast is served each Sunday morning from 9:-00 to 11:30

Volunteers from each Legion Family are responsible for breakfast each week

1st Sunday - The Auxiliary

2nd Sunday - Legionnaires

3rd Sunday - The Sons

4th Sunday - The Color Guard

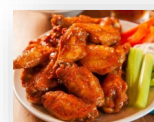
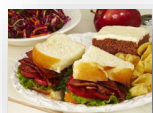
5th Sunday - Legionnaires and Sons alternate



Lunch served Monday through Friday 11:00 to 2:00

Mexican Wednesdays 5:00 to 7:00

Pub Food Fridays 5:30 to 7:00



Public Welcome

Hours of operation Mon. 10:00am-8:00pm Tues.-Thurs. & Sat. 10:00am - 10:00pm

Fri. 10:00am—11:00pm Sun. 9:30am – 8:00pm

Phone Number: 802 872-7622

E-mail address: vtalpost91@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 3560 Roosevelt Hwy, Colchester VT 05446

Kitchen and waitress staffs for Sunday breakfast and Thursday dinners are all volunteers. Please be patient, respectful and appreciative of the service they provide for the club and patrons