HAMBURG TOWNSHIP VFW POST 1419

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 17, EDITION 11, NOVEMBER 2026

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COMMANDER'S CORNER – SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary members,

I would like to introduce myself as the commander and am humbled and honored to be chosen for this position. In 2008 after a long deployment I came into the VFW after coaching hockey across the street and ran into Jerry Welsted. He convinced me to transfer my membership to VFW Post 1419, where I have been a member since. I have gotten more involved after Amy, our former commander, who I served with, asked me to be the Senior Vice commander in 2023. I held that position for 3 years. I have also been a Director and current Vice President for HLOV for the last 3 years.

I come from a long line of veterans; my grandfather who served in WW2, my father who served during the Korean War, my uncle who served in Vietnam, and myself who served in Iraq and the Middle East. My wife served 4 years active duty in the Army and two of my sons also served in the Middle East. I retired in 2022 after 31 years of service starting off as a private in the Army and serving 19 years, eventually transferring to the Air Force and retiring as a LTC.

I hope to continue working together with all members and supporting events like the Burger Fest and Sunday Music, where together we raised over $2300 for the VFW Museum. We will be having our Christmas Party Saturday December 5th from noon to 2 pm. Please join us as we continue to grow as a family.

Sincerely,

John F. Redmond, Commander VFW Post 1419

Post Sentinel Editor's Comments

Congratulations to our new Post 1419 Commander, John F. Redmond. Assuming this position in a Post the size of ours is a huge commitment and everyone truly appreciates his service to our post. I apologize for the late delivery of this newsletter. After a vacation in Florida I returned home with a case of covid.

Email: vfwpost1419@gmail.com with newsletter comments or questions.

A Proud American, Phil Kiefer

The deadline for our next month's submissions is December 3, 2026 . All submissions should be sent via email to vfwpost1419 @ gmail.com. Thank you.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



Chaplain's Corner November 2026

November means just two months left of 2026. It also means the celebration of Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving. (Wow, one day each, do you think they could spare it? If it weren't for year-round veterans' discounts, I think I'd find no humor in that one day at all.) Those of us who have served in foreign wars I think are thankful much more than one day a year to live in and to have served such a great nation so blessed by God's grace. Sadly, many people don't have the comparisons of nations that we experienced and unfortunately, such blessings as ours are often easily taken for granted. One other thing often taken for granted is God's mercy. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. As we are giving thanks, we might also consider our ways and thank God for His mercy towards our nation and us.

I have a long military tradition in my family from the Continental Army, WW1 and the beaches of Normandy for which I am thankful. I am thankful too for each of you and to all those who bravely went before us to preserve this great nation and its freedoms and liberties. As we gather for our Thanksgiving meal, I trust your family will be inspired to thankfulness for all the blessings they have received both natural and spiritual.

I honor each one of you dear brother and sister comrade for your service to this nation as the 1% who protected the 99%. While you give thanks to God, I pray that you will also receive thanks from what should always be a grateful nation and people which is very fitting, and not just one day a year. I pray that you hear and receive these well-deserved thanks and experience the honor you warrant. We had a saying in the Corps, "To those who fought for it, freedom has a taste the protected will never know." It is only through communicating our history well to the next generation that any will even have a small taste and ensure that the veterans that come after us will also be honored, and not just one day a year. Be blessed!

Sick Call: (If I'm not told I can't know.)
Jerry Welsted
You are in our prayers!

If you wish to add yourself or someone else's name from our VFW or Auxiliary who is sick, in the hospital, or has passed, please contact Chaplain Doyle directly at 716-310-1948 trefoilbwd@verizon.net.

If you find yourself in need of conversation, comfort or spiritual advice, give him a call. Auxiliary Chaplain Terry Walker is also available for your needs. Please reach out to Terry at 716-912-6849.

NEWS FROM OUR HONOR GUARD

It is with great sadness that we laid former Honor Guard Captain Don Hancock to rest on November 19th, 2026. He will be sorely missed, and a tough act to follow. Please keep his wife and family in your prayers.



Donald L. Hancock, Jr.

September 7, 1949 - November 15, 2026

Yours In Comradeship,
John Arcadipane

SERVICE OFFICER CORNER

The Take Care of America's Veterans Act (TCAVA), H.R.9237 / S.4744, contains numerous provisions that would expand benefits for veterans, survivors and families, but Section 108 remains part of this legislation. The provision would reduce disability compensation for certain future veterans to help offset the cost of those expansions. With Section 108 still included, the VFW **continues** to oppose TCAVA and is asking advocates to continue to contact their representatives and tell them to vote **NO** on this bill. NY 25 Congressional Rep Langworthy (Clarence 716 547-6844) (Washington DC 202 225-3161)

Dominic Caselli
Service Officer



News From Our H.L.O.V. Board Of Directors

Congratulations to Maike Redmond and Adam Zybert on being elected officers of our H.L.O.V. Inc. board.

VFW Auxiliary News

Please welcome the following new Auxiliary members to our post:

Darbie Convissar
Lori Gawlak
Carol Kiefer

Member Recognitions

Various Post members do things for each other and our Post facilities all the time without fanfare or notice. If you would like to acknowledge someone's act of assistance or generosity in this newsletter, kindly let us know by dropping a line to VFWPost1419@gmail.com.

Veteran Programs News

NYSEG and RG&E launch outreach on bill assistance for veterans

By Jolie Jenkins

Published: Nov. 11, 2026 at 1:35 PM EST

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. (WBNG) — New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E) are launching an outreach initiative to inform veterans about programs that may help them manage their energy bills.

Kerby Sainclair, NYSEG's municipal and community relations manager in Binghamton, said one way the company supports veterans is by ensuring they know about programs that help with utility bills.

"Any customer who receives veteran's disability or survivor's pension may qualify for the Energy Affordability Program, or EAP," Sainclair said. "This program is designed to help eligible customers manage their energy bill, and enrollment is open year-round."

NYSEG and RG&E say they are working with veterans' agencies, community organizations and AVANVETS, an employee resource group at Avangrid, to connect customers with assistance.

Both utilities are trying to help people understand the application process. Customers can also seek help through the utilities' internal resources, such as an energy cost calculator, a budget billing tool and more.

"I want veterans to know that assistance may be available to them," Sainclair said.

Additionally, outreach representatives have attended statewide events where customers could ask questions, get help understanding their bills and learn about managing energy use.

"Veterans Day is a day to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good," Sainclair said. "We're grateful for their service and sacrifice, and we're here to support them as we're able to. One way that we do that is by ensuring that they have access to resources and programs that can assist them with their bills."

Customers can explore tools and programs available directly on NYSEG's website or RG&E's website.

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Ring in 2027 with us! We're throwing a huge celebration in the Oakwood Manor and you're invited to join the fun!



Don't wait until the last minute – stop by the Lounge and grab you're your tickets before they're gone. Let's welcome the New Year together with great music and even better company!

Helpful Veterans Resources:

Hover over each highlighted link below with your cursor and press the control key on your computer while "clicking" on your touchpad or mouse and you will be taken directly to the site**. For those unable to get this to work for them, the website addresses are now included for each department.**

Veterans Crisis Line: 988, Option 1
Or copy and paste this address into your web browser,
https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/

TalkSpace: Online counseling and therapy for Veterans
Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser,
https://www.talkspace.com/online-therapy/veterans

Find VA locations
Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser, https://www.va.gov/find-locations/

VA Helpful Phone Numbers
Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser.
https://www.va.gov/resources/helpful-va-phone-numbers/

NYS Dept of Veterans' Services Find Veterans Services Office
Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser, https://veterans.ny.gov/office-locations

NYS Dept of Veteran's Services
Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser, https://veterans.ny.gov/

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans: 877-424-3838 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Or copy and paste this address into your web browser,
https://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp

Vet Center Call Center: 1-877-927-8387 is an around-the-clock confidential call center where Veterans, service members and their families can talk about their military experience or any other issue they are facing in transitioning after military service or trauma and get connected to their nearest Vet Center. Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser, https://www.va.gov/homeless/nationalcallcenter.asp

Worried About A Veteran: is an online resource designed to help prevent suicide among veterans and service members. It was developed to be a family-focused resource to assist military families and caregivers with talking to a veteran or service member during a time of mental health distress. Or, copy and paste this address into your web browser, https://worriedaboutaveteran.org/

DID YOU KNOW….?

- After this newsletter goes out each month, we receive some email delivery-failure messages such as “Your message couldn't be delivered to “whomever” “Their inbox is full, or it's getting too much mail right now”, and “There was a problem delivering your message to “whomever”. See the technical details below.” So when these messages are received a decision has to be made to stop sending these people a newsletter or look for an alternate email address. The second option is always tried first. We look for a member’s close relative to send it to such as a spouse, parent, child, brother or sister so they might share our news with their loved one. This is how someone that isn’t a member of Post 1419 may receive it. And, we always say to these people that if they no longer wish to receive a newsletter to let us know at VFWPost1419@gmail.com and their email address will be removed.

- All Post 1419 members, in good standing, are eligible for discount pricing when renting our facilities. This includes the Oakwood Manor Banquet Hall (seats up to 276), The Degal Room (seats up to 75), and our post lounge (seats up to 144). If members are interested in discussing the possible rental of these facilities for your event, please call our Post at 716-

- All of the “previous month’s” Post Sentinel Newsletters are archived on our Post website at vfw1419.org. If you missed one you can check it out there.

DOWN THE ROAD

A Soup – A – Thon in planned for 2027 after the NFL season comes to an end. Comrade Tony Coppola will be the Chairperson of this event. The last time we held one we had a huge crowd and everyone had a great time. If anybody would like to assist Tony, please contact him at 716-335-8506. More information to come after a firm date is set.



Dig out your favorite recipe or plan a new one.

Our Post 1419 is always accepting new VFW Auxiliary members. Many people do not know the eligibility requirements for membership into the Auxiliary so it is outlined just below. An application is just below this page. Applications are also available behind the bar at our Post. But if your neighbor is interested in joining or a family member stops over and you are talking about it, you can simply print out the application below and hand it to them.

Please make sure all of the following fields are completed on each application:
• Applicant's Name (spelled correctly) • Address • City, State, Zip • Date of Birth • Gender • E-mail
• Auxiliary Post Name and Post Number • Kind of Membership (annual, life, etc.) • Post Address • Post Phone
• Post Affiliated or Non-Affiliated • Relationship • Veteran (name) • Post Number (if applicable)
• Name of campaign ribbons or medals • Foreign Service dates • Service Location
• Applicant's signature and date • Signature line following the Obligation

One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and veterans service organizations (VSOs) is our eligibility requirements. Proof of the veteran's service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. Proof of the veteran's honorable service in any foreign war, insurrection or expedition (as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces - Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard) may be determined through careful examination of a Separation Document (DD214) or if a DD214 is not available, then it should be reflected by one of the following:

• a VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States ● receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earnings Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces ● or service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

Performance reports, travel orders, medical orders, medals reports, morning reports, assignment listings, buddy affidavits, and letters from a foreign war zone may also be reviewed if a (DD214) is not available. For veterans pre-1946, a report of their discharge listing the medals and decorations that were earned is acceptable proof.
For soldiers currently on active duty, they will not have a DD214. In those cases, the appropriate orders showing overseas deployment to a qualifying area, or awarding of an authorized campaign medal, or a LES showing hostile fire/imminent danger pay will suffice to prove eligibility. The local VFW Auxiliary's Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person at the time a person is accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility will help avoid future concerns.
Information on a VFW-eligible veteran service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at: • Phone: 1-866-272-6272 • Online: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 1-816-561-8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.

Al St. Jacques, Jr. Vice President VFW Auxiliary, Post 1419 2985 Lakeview Rd. Hamburg, N.Y. 14075, 716-345-4948

Eligibility Requirements for VFW Auxiliary Membership:
Members must be at least 16 years old. Those eligible are:

• Husband/Wife	**• Widower/Widow**	**• Father/Mother**	**• Sons/Daughters**
• Brothers/Sisters	**• Grandfathers/Grandmothers**	**• Grandsons/Granddaughters**	

of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Those eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostle fire or imminent danger pay. Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW eligible veteran. Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant. Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting: National Archives and Records Administration Phone: 1-866-272-6272

Please note: You can join with a Lifetime Membership or Annual Post Membership are also available at $40 per year for the first year and $35 per year thereafter. The cost of these annual memberships does not appear on the application below. If you are interested in the annual plan, simply select that plan in section "H" below. Checks can be made out to VFW Post 1419 Auxiliary. Applications, military records and checks may be dropped off to any bartender on duty or mailed to our Post address – Attention Auxiliary.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H,I. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section B,F,G.

A *APPLICATION INFORMATION*

Name ☐ Female ☐ Male

Address Date of Birth / /

City State ZIP Phone ( ) - Email

B

Auxiliary Post No. City State

☐ New Member ☐ Transferring Member ☐ Rejoining Member *(Prior Member ID Number)*

☐ Member at Large in Department of ☐ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

C

(Transfer only information) ☐ **ANNUAL TRANSFER** ☐ **LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER**

Member ID Previous Auxiliary ☐ Paying ☐ Nonpaying

D

☐ **POST-AFFILIATED** *(*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)*

I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)

VFW Membership ID VFW Post (Must be same as B)

E

☐ **NON-AFFILIATED** *(*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)*

I am the (Relationship) to (Eligible Veteran* Name)

Name of campaign ribbons or medals:

Dates of Service: to Foreign Location:

F

Recruited/Recommended by: Recruiter Member ID

Check one: Aux ☐ VFW ☐

G

Investigating Committee Signatures

1 X 2 X 3 X

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. ☐ Rejected ☐ Accepted Meeting Date Obligated Date

H

☐ Annual Membership ☐ Life Membership ☐ Check here if this is a gift *(Membership card will be sent to Treasurer and not member.)*

Payment Method and Amount: Cash ☐ _____ Check ☐ _____ Credit Card ☐ _____ ***

****If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days or otherwise the application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.*

Phone _____ Email _____

I **OBLIGATION** *In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise.I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.*

Signature X Date

(Must be signed by all members.)

By filling out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of e-mails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephone dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt-out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES

Life Membership fees are not refundable.

Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	$253
21-25	$242
26-30	$230
31-35	$219
36-40	$213
41-45	$201
46-50	$196
51-55	$184
56-60	$173
61-65	$161
66-70	$150
71-75	$132
76-80	$109
81-85	$86
86-90	$69
91 and over	$58

Revised January 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

VFW Auxiliary

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Members of the VFW Auxiliary are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat.

For more than 100 years, we have been serving veterans, the military, their families and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.

Personal Benefits

Veteran & Military Support – Anyone with a heart for veterans can count their membership as an important way to stand with veterans and the military community on Capitol Hill and in local legislative battles affecting them.

Networking – Through local and national events, members have the chance to meet people from all walks of life and many career backgrounds, creating a vast network of people who are passionate about veterans, active-duty military and their families.

Friendships – The camaraderie gained from serving together for a cause that is close to everyone's heart leads to lifelong friendships and a strong network of support.

Personal Fulfillment – Longtime volunteers will be the first to tout the benefits of serving others and the sense of personal fulfillment it brings. The organization offers multiple avenues for service, such as hospital volunteering and the adoption of military units.

Personal Growth & Development – We offer multiple ways for members to acquire skills, such as leadership, fundraising, event planning and community outreach.

Cancer Grants – After one year of continuous membership, members who are battling cancer may be eligible for a grant to help cover expenses.

Service Benefits

VFW National Veterans Service – A network of highly-trained professionals are available to identify the benefits you may be eligible for and assist you in filing a claim. These services are available at no cost to veterans and their dependents.

Insurance Benefits – The VFW Auxiliary sponsors discounted policies for life, health, accident, long-term care and dental, along with many other benefit plans.

Discount Shopping – Get access to discounts on products and services that are important to you – including local offers!

VFW Store – A wide variety of VFW Auxiliary and other patriotic products are available at www.vfwstore.org.

816-561-8655 • www.vfwauxiliary.org • Facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary

MEMBER OWNED BUSINESSES

When possible, please consider supporting our Veteran- and Auxiliary-owned businesses.



If you know of anyone who is interested in holding a meat raffle fundraising event, contact Kara Siulc at 716-316-4938 or Heather Strebel at 716-863-2811.

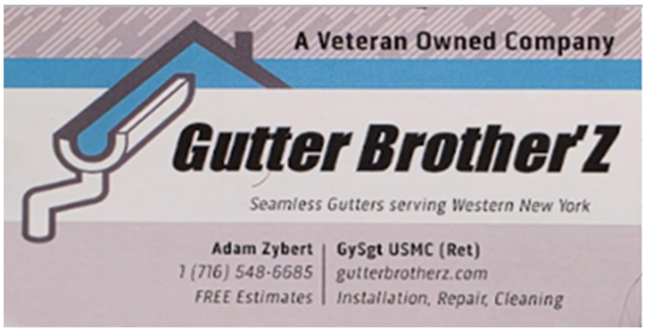
Hkevents716@gmail.com.



For all your professional landscaping needs, call Bryce Beeman at 716-255-8921.



For all your travel needs, call Kara at 716-316-4938



Call Adam at 716-548-6685 for any gutter work including installation, repair and cleaning.

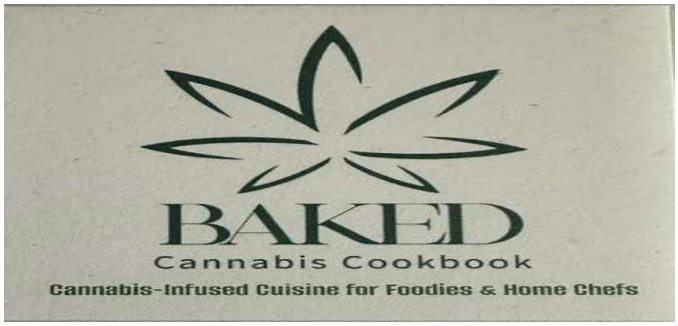


For general bookkeeping and accounting services, contact Matthew Ortiz at 716-983-2452

IF YOU ARE A POST 1419 MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING, HAVE A BUSINESS OF YOUR OWN AND WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION OF OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER, CONTACT PHIL KIEFER AT

vfwpost1419@gmail.com





Our Post's Kitchen Is Open



Wednesdays and Saturdays
Kitchen Hours: 4 to 8 pm





Join us for fresh hand cooked homemade favorites

And great dinner specials



Fresh hand cooked food homemade favorites, and great dinner specials!

First Saturday of Each Month will be Sing-it and Wing-It for our karaoke night

Wednesday and Saturday Dinner Specials

Fresh Food • Homemade Favorites • Big Portions

Drop-off Catering Available!

Questions ? Contact **Pam Gibbins** at 716-238-6210

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Corporation Meeting 7:00 PM	3 Post Meeting 7:00 PM	4	5 Christmas With Santa 2:00 PM **Karaoke** 7:00 p.m. "Sing-It-Or-Wing It" 12 Wings for $15
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	14	15	16 Honor Guard Meeting 7:00 p.m.	17	18	19
	21 Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 p.m.	22	23 Line Dancing At Oakwood 7:00-10:00 p.m.	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Party @ the Oakwood Manor Doors Open @ 8:00 PM . Tickets on sale at the post bar.		