

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 17, EDITION 04

Inside this issue:

- Commander's Corner
- Newsletter Introduction
- News from our Auxiliary
- News from our Honor Guard
- Chaplain's Corner
- Service Officer Corner
- News From HLOV Board
- Volunteer Jobs Needed
- Post members' businesses
- Some fun ideas for members
- A quote or factoid from Debbie Baker
- Summer Band Series
- The April 2026 calendar
- Posters and Pictures
- HLOV Directors Visitors' Meeting Rules and Guidelines

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

Kudos

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt a success — we had over 240 people in attendance! We couldn't do this without our wonderful volunteers: Debbie Baker, Paula Bucci, Tony and Evelyn Coppola, Pat Fest, Phil and Carol Kiefer, Tina O'Neil, Betty Sattler, Bryce and Morgan Beeman, Shirley Strebel, Al St. Jacques, Marge St. John, Joe and Stacy Suto (Co-Chairs), and Diane Wesp. Your time and dedication are deeply appreciated. Thank you to all of you who also made a monetary donation, that assisted in buying breakfast items, plastic eggs and the fillers.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Needs

Joint Meat Raffle — Friday, May 15 Post and Auxiliary will be hosting a joint meat raffle in Oakwood Manor. **Doors open at 6:00 p.m.; first spin at 7:00 p.m.** Tickets: \$15. Sponsor a meat raffle round for \$100 or donate gift cards for raffle prizes — contact me for details. Volunteers needed: ticket sellers, raffle prize table, door greeter, set-up, and clean-up. This fundraiser supports community events including Trunk or Treat, the Children's Christmas Party, and next year's Easter Bunny Breakfast. Bring family, friends, cash and a cooler for your winnings! Contact event co-chair Heather Strebel at 716-863-2811 or co-chair Kara Siulc and Heather at Hkevents716@gmail.com.

Annual Poppy Drive - Friday, May 22-24, 8:00 a, - 4:00 pm. Location: Walmart on Southwestern Boulevard (outside Grocery, Main, and Garden Center doors). Please sign up for at least a one-hour shift (more available). Sign-up sheets are posted on the lounge bulletin board. If you cannot stand long, you may bring a chair and a table. All donations go to the Post/Auxiliary Relief Funds to help veterans and their families. Poppies and collection cans will be available prior to Memorial Day weekend. Please return donations and any leftover poppies to the post. For any questions contact the committee chairperson, John Redmond at 716-863-3911.

Memorial Day Ceremonies

Saturday, May 23 at 9:30 a.m. - Lakeside Cemetery: wreath-laying, 21-gun salute, and taps at the Field of Valor.
Monday, May 25 at 2:00 p.m. - Post Ceremony followed by a light lunch. Please attend to honor our fallen and support these important services. See flier below.

Commander's Corner Continued:

Other Notes

In house scholarship open to all seniors in high school. Must be a relative of a veteran: grandkids, sons, daughter, nephew, cousins etc. Must be related to a member of our post in good standing. Please reach out to me for an application, or applications can be found behind the Post bar. Deadline is April 20 the .

West Seneca West Graduates: If you are a graduate who is currently serving or has served in the Armed Forces, your service can be recognized on a plaque in the new Veteran's Hall at West Senior. Contact Joan Lindy at (716) 903-1486 or complete the WSW Alumni Veteran's Form. WSW Alumni Veteran's Form

Desert Shield/Desert Storm Memorial Dedication — Saturday, October 24, 2026 in Washington, D.C. If you're interested, contact me for details on the ceremony, lodging, and travel.

Newsletter improvements are underway. We are updating member contact information so everyone can stay informed.

Recognitions

April 5 — Gold Star Spouses Day, April 14 — Happy Birthday, Air Force Reserves, April 23 — Happy Birthday, Army Reserves. April is Month of the Military Child — honoring the resilience and sacrifice of military families.

Quote

"The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender or submission." — John F. Kennedy
Wishing you and your families a wonderful Easter!

In Comradeship,

Amy Owczarczak, Commander VFW Post 1419

AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com (716-432-0829) Commander Contact

Contact Us: Post phone (716-648-2618) VFW1419.org (Website)

vfwpost1419@gmail.com (For Newsletter Correspondence)

HAPPY SPRINGTIME



NEWSLETTER INTRODUCTION

My name is Phil Kiefer and I am an auxiliary member of Post 1419. Starting this month I will be compiling our Post Sentinel newsletter. So that this and future newsletters reach as many members as possible, a significant amount of time was spent to clean up our directory. We all know that over the years people move, change email and home addresses and some women change their last names. Together, these life changes affect communication in an organization. So there will be many of you who are receiving this newsletter for the first time. To those members we say, "Welcome to our Newsletter group." We will continue to clean up our directory to get it right because we want everyone to know what is going on. With any good volunteer organization trying out new ideas and working to make old ones better, there are three important things to remember. There has to be a good plan or idea, valued members who volunteer for something that they like to help with and then good communication. Contact me at vfwpost1419@gmail.com with newsletter questions.

POST SENTINEL NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Deadline for article submission is the **FRIDAY AFTER THE POST MEETING**. It is very important that all articles are submitted by the due date.

The Deadline for our next month is May 8, 2026. All submissions should be sent via email to :
vfwpost1419@gmail.com

NEWS FROM POST 1419 AUXILIARY



The Auxiliary will be holding its annual nominations and elections at our meeting on Monday April 20, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Please see Amy's, Commander's Corner write-up about our annual Poppy Drive and sign up to volunteer, along with her Memorial Day Ceremonies information below on flier.

Katy Blaskzkiewicz
Auxiliary President

WE STILL WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS



HONOR GUARD

Hi everyone. Hope all is well. Here it is April and spring. It's been a long and cold winter. Looking forward to warm weather. Some things to cover so I'll get right to it. On June 27th, 2026, the Honor Guard is having their annual fundraiser at the post so come in and purchase a ticket. Tickets are \$15 and this will get you a great dinner, beer and some fun. We will have prizes to give away, away, a 50/50 and we will be also doing the drawing for firearms that are raffling off. Tickets for the firearms are at are \$10 which gives you two drawings and the first winner gets their pick of the rifles. To let you know what we are raffling off, one of the rifles is a Benelli 12 gauge shot gun. The other is a Heritage stainless steel .357 lever action rifle. Come on in and get your tickets and support your Honor Guard. The other thing I would like to touch on is something I mentioned in past reports that we are looking for members to join us as an auxiliary type member. You would be helping us out at our ceremonies that we perform. We are looking for members so if you are interested get ahold of John Arcadipane or myself at 716-830-4237. Well that's all I have for now so I'll be signing off and as always, God Bless America, our troops who are now serving and those who did serve. But let's not forget our brothers and sisters who gave the ultimate sacrifice. May they R.I.P.

Yours in comradeship,
Don Hancock
Honor Guard Capt.

Picture of Raffle prices below



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Sometimes I feel like Jessie White who portrayed the Maytag repairmen on old TV ads. No one ever called on him, so he coined his self-descriptive phrase of "The loneliest man in the world" - for me not because I'm lonely, but because so many of our members rarely utilize me. There are so many members who could use or might desire a prayer, a phone call, or perhaps even a visit, or communion, but if no one tells me, I won't know. Yes, many of you have your own priests or pastors, but I'm still your chaplain if you need me. If there are prayer needs that you would like shared, we can put them on the "Sick Call" list and if not, you have my confidentiality if you desire it. I do not have all the answers but know the Man who does, and I do know that prayer is effective. Many of you are aware of the ongoing need for prayer for Jerry Welsted, Patrick Bapst and Jeff Dinan. Additionally, please add Don Hancock to your prayer list with thanksgiving for recent improvement he has experienced. In these difficult and dangerous times where our brave troops are deployed in harm's way, please pray for their safety, protection and safe return home in victory. For the families of the precious treasure, the men and women we have recently lost, please pray for healing, peace and provision for their survivors and friends. For them and for all of you I pray that:

Numbers 6:24-26 (NKJV), *"The Lord bless you and keep you;*

25 *"The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;*

26 *The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace."*

Praying too that you have a joyous celebration of the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ and His victory over death and the Hell.

Brent Doyle

716-310-1948

trefoilbwd@verizon.net

Thank you Brent for your prayers and words of inspiration. Fellow members, we will now be rolling in our "Sick Call" and prayer list into this Chaplain's Corner section. If you wish to add yourself or someone else's name from our Post or Auxiliary who is sick, in the hospital, or has passed, please contact Brent directly. If you find yourself in need of conversation, comfort or spiritual advice, give him a call.

[Auxiliary Chaplin Terry Walker is also available for your needs. Please reach out to Terry at 716-912-6849.](#)

SERVICE OFFICER CORNER

The VFW commends VA for rescinding its interim final rule that would have changed how disability ratings are evaluated, a move the VFW warned could unfairly reduce benefits for disabled veterans. More than 20,000 public comments were submitted urging the policy's withdrawal after widespread concern from veterans and service organizations. VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore thanked VA Secretary Doug Collins for listening to veterans and reversing what she called an abrupt change with potentially unintended consequences. While praising the decision as a significant step forward, the VFW pledged to continue working with Congress and VA to ensure future policy changes prioritize transparency, meaningful veteran input and the protection of earned benefits.

Dominic H. Caselli
Service Officer

NEWS FROM HLOV BOARD OF DIRECTORS



At our Wednesday April 1, 2026 director's meeting, we welcomed our first open post member visitors. I hope to see more faces at our next meeting on May 6, 2026. HLOV director's meeting rules and participation guidelines posted at end of newsletter.

Joseph P. Suto, Jr.
President, HLOV Inc

Home of Hamburg Township VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As a volunteer organization we count on our members for assistance in various ways. We are a large post with 600 members and our needs are ongoing, but typically only require small amounts of your time. Even though many have moved over the years, we still have 518 members living in WNY close to our post within a short drive. Please scroll through our monthly postings to see what available jobs you would be able to help us out with. It's a good way to work with friends or make new ones.

- One of our most important needs is for members to work setting up tables & chairs for events at our Oakwood Banquet Facility. We then tear it down, do some light cleaning and set back up for a new event. We probably average 1 to 2 events per week. Each work session is about 45 minutes. We run 2 crews. The morning crew starts around 11:00 but is flexible. The evening crew meets sometime after dinner. We **give all workers free drink chips to use at our post bar**. This is not heavy work and averages 3 or 4 people. If you can help out please contact Don Welsted at 716-308-1528 or Bryce Beeman at 716-255-8921.
- We are also in need of 2 people to do an occasional "handyman" job here & there. Examples might be 2 of our current needs to repair the door of our Community Food Pantry & replacing about a dozen floor tiles in our bar area. These jobs are light in nature and one & done. We hire contractors for major HVAC work or construction. If you can help out please contact Don Welsted at 716-308-1528 or Chris Hull at 716-462-2195.
- Please check Commander's Corner & Honor Guard sections in this newsletter for volunteers needs they have coming up..

POST 1419 MEMBER OWNED BUSINESSES

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



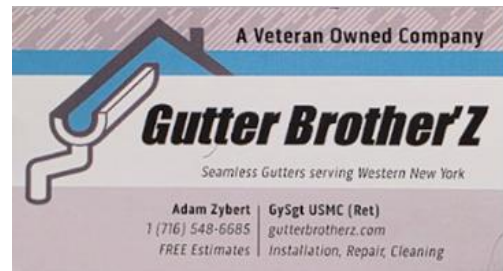
If you know of anyone who is interested in holding a meat raffle fundraising event contact Kara Siulc at 716-316-4938 or Heather Strebel at 716-863-2811.
hkevents716@gmail.com



Call Bryce for all your professional lawncare and landscaping needs 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 & 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 716-868-0804.

SOME FUN IDEAS FOR OUR MEMBERS

Members often express ideas of things we could do for fun. Are you interested in joining a **post 1419 softball team?** **Contact Adam Zybert at 843-441-3676.** Have any other activities you would like to do? Start a corn hole league, a pinochle group, a book club, bird watching, hiking group? We have people interested in participating in a trivia contest group on Thursday nights, but just need a coordinator. Contact **Stacy Suto at 716-998-6999** and she can help get you in touch with someone to assist you in getting things up and going. We can take your ideas and post them in our next newsletter. And place a sign-up sheet at the post and advertise on our FB page. The important thing is somebody has to start the ball rolling. Is that person you?

CRIBBAGE ANYONE????

There is a Cribbage Club that meets at our Post the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesday each month from September through May. If anyone is interested in joining in, contact Robyn Boldt at 716-648-1830 for more details.



QUOTE OR FACTOID FROM DEBBIE BAKER

"Change hurts. It makes people insecure, confused, and angry. People want things to be the same as they've always been, because that makes life easier. But, if you're a leader, you can't let your people hang on to the past". Richard Marcinko (US Navy Seal)

YOUR NEW FUN ACTIVITY ADVERTISED HERE

SUMMER BAND SERIES

We are excited to announce that this summer we are in the process of booking bands to play outside every Sunday afternoon during June, July and August. That's 14 Sundays of music! Each will be playing for 3 hours from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM. When the schedule of bands is finished soon, we will share this list with you. So please look at your calendars of your summertime Sundays and plan on stopping by for a hot dog, hamburger, music on the patio or in the gazebo and some fun in the sun.



We have a large list of bands we are contacting but, if you have a name and contact info of a good smaller band you would like to recommend contact Phil Kiefer at 716-868-0804 or Amy Owczarczak at 716-432-0829. No extremely loud all rock bands please. Hard booked to date are Major Thirds, David Adrian and Argyle Street Band.

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Food 3-8 PM Cribbage 5:30-9:00PM Corporation meetings 7PM	2 Post meetings 7 PM	3	4 Karaoke 7PM to close
5	6	7	8 Food 3-8 PM Cribbage 5:30-9:00PM	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Food 3-8 PM Cribbage 5:30 to 9:00 PM Honor Guard meeting 7 PM	16	17	18
19	20 Auxiliary meeting 7 PM Yearly Elections will be held at this meeting.	21	22 Food 3-8 PM Cribbage 5:30-9:00 PM	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Food 3-8 PM Cribbage 5:30-9:00 PM	30		

★ ★ ★ ★ **SUPPORT OUR** ★ ★ ★ ★
HONOR GUARD!

FUNDRAISER EVENT



★ ★ **HELP US HONOR OUR VETERANS WITH DIGNITY & RESPECT** ★ ★ ★

**DINNER COMES
WITH YOUR TICKET**

GUN RAFFLE & 50/50 DRAWING



★ ★ ★ **PROCEEDS SUPPORT UNIFORMS, EQUIPMENT & TRAVEL** ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY, JUNE 27TH, 2026 ★ **STARTS AT 2:00 TIL ??**

★ ★ **VFW POST #1419 • 2985 LAKE VIEW RD, HAMBURG, USA**

★ ★ **TICKETS \$15 SOLD AT THE BAR** ★ ★

JOIN US & SUPPORT OUR HONOR GUARD!

FIREARMS RAFFLE

GIVEN BY VFW POST #1419 HONOR GUARD

ENTER TO WIN!



FIRST WINNER GETS CHOICE!

TICKETS: \$10 A TICKET

JUNE 27, 2026 AT FUND RAISER

WINNERS NEED NOT BE PRESENT

VFW POST 1419



**Karaoke
Night**

Wing It & Sing It

Saturday, April 4th

Karaoke starts at 7 PM - ?

Food served 6 PM to 10 PM

Jumbo Wings 12 for \$15

**Loaded Large Nachos &
Homemade Cheese Sauce**

Or

**1 lb Bavarian Pretzel
with Homemade Beer Cheese,
Webber's Mustard or
Honey Mustard!**

All Sharable at \$15!



**2985 Lakeview Road, Hamburg
Open to the Public!**

VFW 1419 & AUXILIARY MEAT RAFFLE



**FRIDAY
MAY 15,
2026**

**6PM - DOORS OPEN
7PM - FIRST SPIN**

OAKWOOD MANOR

2985 Lake View Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075

\$15 ADMISSION

For Tickets:

Heather (716)863-2811
hkevents716@gmail.com

Tickets also available at the Bar in the Post Lounge

*Bring your own singles, snacks,
and a cooler for your winnings!*



WHO IS THAT HOLDING THIS CUTE BABY?



HAMBURG VFW POST 1419

2985 Lakeview Road, Hamburg

Memorial Day
CEREMONY

Monday, May 25th at 2:00 PM

*We remember those who made
the ultimate sacrifice*

All are welcome



Light lunch will be served after the ceremony



Rain or Shine



1 8 0 0

HLOV Inc. Director's Meeting Update

Beginning April 2026

A Message from the President

Fellow Members,

One of the most important responsibilities we share as an organization is ensuring transparency, communication, and trust among our membership. Our strength has always come from the dedication of our veterans, Auxiliary members, and supporters who care deeply about the success of Hamburg Lakeshore Overseas Veterans, Inc.

With that in mind, the Board of Directors has taken a step to further strengthen that connection by providing additional opportunities for members to observe the work being done on behalf of our organization.

Beginning in April 2026, members of HLOV Inc., VFW Post 1419, and the Auxiliary will be invited to attend select HLOV Inc. Board of Directors meetings as observers.

These open meetings will take place during the following months each year:

April • May • July • August • October • November • January • February

Members attending will have the opportunity to observe Board discussions and gain a better understanding of the planning, operations, and stewardship involved in managing HLOV Inc. and the Oakwood Manor facility.

Please note that members attending will do so as observers, and participation in Board deliberations will remain limited to the elected Directors in accordance with the organization's governance structure.

The Board believes this initiative will enhance communication between HLOV Inc., VFW Post 1419, and the Auxiliary, while continuing to uphold the responsibilities entrusted to the Board of Directors.

Meeting dates, times and rules are attached and will be posted on the Lounge bulletin board.

Thank you for your continued support and for everything you do to keep our organization strong.

Respectfully,

Joseph P. Suto Jr.

President

Hamburg Lakeshore Overseas Veterans, Inc.

HAMBURG LAKESHORE OVERSEAS VETERANS, INC.
Home of VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary
2985 Lakeview Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075
Phone Number (716) 648-2618



HLOV Inc. Directors Meeting Rules and Participation Guidelines

(Including VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary Attendance)

1. Purpose of Directors Meetings

Directors Meetings of Hamburg Lakeshore Overseas Veterans (HLOV) Inc. are held to conduct official organizational business, ensure responsible governance, and support the mission and operations of the Corporation the first Wednesday of every month except on legal holidays which fall on or celebrated on Wednesday at 7pm, in the DeGal Room.

2. Eligibility to Attend January, February, April, May, July August, October, and November,

- Attendance at Directors Meetings is limited to:
 - Current HLOV Inc. Directors and Officers
 - Invited guests approved by the President or Board
- Members in good standing of:
 - HLOV Inc.
 - VFW Post 1419
 - VFW Post 1419 Auxiliary

All attendees must have dues paid and remain in good standing.

3. Role of Non-Director Attendees

Members of VFW Post 1419 and the Auxiliary may attend meetings as observers unless specifically recognized.

- Non-Directors do not have motion request or voting privileges.
- Attendance does not grant authority over Board decisions.
- Observers wanting to provide input shall indicate by standing. When recognized by the President, shall state their name, affiliation, and may speak for no longer than three minutes on

HAMBURG LAKESHORE OVERSEAS VETERANS, INC.
Home of VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary
2985 Lakeview Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075
Phone Number (716) 648-2618



any one subject. The President will give the floor to the speaker in order of appearance.

4. Conduct and Decorum

All attendees are expected to maintain respectful and professional behavior.

- The following are required:
 - No interruptions while a Director has the floor
 - No side conversations or disruptive behavior
 - Respectful language at all times
 - Adherence to the authority of the presiding officer

Any attendee acting inappropriately may be asked to leave at the discretion of the President.

5. Speaking Privileges

Only Directors may participate in discussion unless:

- The Chair opens the floor for comments
- A member is specifically invited to speak on a relevant topic
- A designated public comment period is provided

Comments must remain brief, respectful, and related to agenda items.

6. Executive Session

The Board may enter Executive Session at any time to discuss confidential matters, including:

- Personnel issues
- Legal matters
- Financial or disciplinary concerns

HAMBURG LAKESHORE OVERSEAS VETERANS, INC.
Home of VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary
2985 Lakeview Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075
Phone Number (716) 648-2618



- Sensitive organizational business

During Executive Session, only Directors and authorized individuals may remain in the room.

7. Agenda and Meeting Structure

Meetings will follow an established agenda and be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, unless otherwise directed by the Board.

- Agenda items should be submitted in advance
- The President maintains control of meeting flow
- Motions and votes are restricted to Directors

8. Confidentiality Expectations

All attendees must respect the confidentiality of Board discussions.

Certain topics discussed during meetings are not to be shared outside the meeting without Board approval.

9. Removal or Restriction of Attendance

The Board reserves the right to restrict attendance or remove any individual who:

- Disrupts the meeting
- Violates conduct expectations
- Breaches confidentiality
- Is not in good standing

10. Adoption of Rules

These rules are effective upon approval by the HLOV Inc. Board of Directors and may be amended or restricted by HLOV Inc. at any time.