

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 17, EDITION 07

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I would like to start by thanking the following individuals who assisted with our Poppy Drive: John Arcadipane, Katy Blaszkiewicz, Connor Columbo, Pat Fest, Don Hancock, Travis Hayes, Rebecca Goodbrand, Lori Gawlak, Bob Lillis, Gary Mosier, Joe Suto, and Diane Wesp. Thanks to their efforts, we were able to collect more than \$3,000 for our Post and Auxiliary Relief Funds. These funds are used to assist veterans in need. Thank you as well to everyone who generously donated.

I would also like to introduce your Post officers for the 2026–2027 year:

Amy Owczarczak, Commander
Connor Columbo, Senior Vice Commander
Bryce Beeman, Junior Vice Commander
Brent Doyle, Chaplain
Gary Mosier, Quartermaster
Ed Cudney, Russ Deveso, and Judd Wright, Trustees
Joe Suto, Adjutant
Bob Lillis, Surgeon
Brian Deeds, Judge Advocate
Diane Wesp, Officer of the Day
Don Hancock, Guard
Dominic Caselli, Service Officer

If you have any old or tattered American flags, we now have a brand-new Flag Retirement Drop Box located in our vestibule, generously donated by Michelle Boice. I would also like to thank Mark and Lisa Malvin for the beautiful 250th Anniversary placard that is now displayed above our jukebox in the Post lounge.

Due to the Fourth of July holiday weekend, our Post meeting, which is normally held on the first Thursday of the month, has been moved to Wednesday, July 1, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will immediately follow the Corporation Meeting, which will be held at 6:00 p.m.

I would also like to welcome Shawn Berg to Post 1419. Shawn is a new member who proudly served in the United States Marine Corps.

Military holidays and observances in June include D-Day (June 6), Women Veterans Day (June 12), the U.S. Army Birthday (June 14), Flag Day (June 14), Juneteenth (June 19), and National PTSD Awareness Day (June 27).

"When we honor our flag, we honor what we stand for as a Nation—freedom, equality, justice, and hope."
— Ronald Reagan

Don't forget that our Music on the Patio concert series begins on Sunday, June 7. Stop by to enjoy some great music, a hot dog or hamburger, a cold drink, and time with friends. If the weather does not cooperate, the performance will be moved indoors.

On Sunday, June 21, during our Music on the Patio event from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, the Erie County Office of Veterans Services will be distributing Farmers' Market Coupon Books to veterans or their spouse.

Each coupon book is valued at \$50 and may be used at participating local farmers markets.

Limit one coupon book per household. Coupon books will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last.

In Comradeship,

Amy Owczarczak, Commander
Hamburg VFW Post 1419
AmyOVFW1419@hotmail.com
(716) 432-0829

Post Sentinel Editor's Comments

Hello fellow VFW Post 1419 and Auxiliary members,

I wish to acknowledge the following Auxiliary members for their volunteer ship:

Bill Harris – Bill saw our newsletter's volunteer section in a previous edition and responded to our need for help setting up for events at our Oakwood Banquet Facility and is now a team member for this critically important job. Thank you Bill.

Al St. Jacques and Bill Frake – These gentlemen volunteered to help us out with our Music On the Patio Concert Series running for 12 Sunday afternoons this summer. Thank you Al and Bill. If you are able to attend any of our concerts be sure to say hello to them. They will appreciate it.

As everybody knows, we are a large organization with many moving parts that together provide for our members' collective enjoyment. I have heard some refer to what we are as a "club" of sorts. And, we organize and implement activities not only for ourselves but also for our community. It is often times impressive for me to witness all that goes into the successful operations of VFW Post 1419. It requires much coordination and expense. We need to appreciate the amount of time our board members devote to these efforts. And there are a group of other members who do so many things that make our post run smoothly you would be amazed at their devotion. More on this point later. Anything at all you are able to contribute to your post is very much appreciated. Two hours of your time per month working on something that you are good at or like to do, could make a world of difference for us. It may be as simple as working at home on your computer. What I am leading up to is this. We have many members who want to get more involved, but don't know how to do it. That is fair enough. You can't volunteer for something you don't know about. I am going to try my best to keep everyone informed of our needs and ideas of things you might be able to help out with. I am also going to challenge all of our directors, individual board members and supervisors to think about what they could use help with. Let me know what you have and I will post our needs in this newsletter. Additionally, some of you have talked about great ideas of your own that you want to pass on to somebody. So, here is what I propose we try.

If you have an idea of a new activity you want to suggest, or a different way to approach an existing activity, write down your thoughts. Prepare a proposal including as much detail as you are able to collect. For example: How many people would be needed to run the activity? Would you be able to oversee it's operation yourself? If not, what involvement would you yourself be able to provide? Is your activity a one-time event or does it run weekly/monthly? Would there be a cost to our post? If so, how much? Could there be an activity fee that those who participate pay themselves? If your idea involves a large purchase, could we apply for a grant as a not for profit entity? If so, research what grants are available and include as much information about this as possible.

So now, what do you do with your proposal? Send it to me at this email: vfwpost1419@gmail.com. I will pass all of your ideas on to a board member for review. Please keep in mind that many of our directors and board members have jobs outside of post positions and like yourselves, have families. A good idea that our board votes in favor of and can be implemented quickly at minimal cost may get up and running in little time. Others may take several weeks, months or even a year if it is seasonally related. But if it is approved, let's get it on the agenda.

And finally, to get back to the devotion of some of our members, I would like to propose something myself that I will write up and present to our board. I think it would be nice if we could recognize certain individuals for their selfless contributions. Maybe on a quarterly basis we could celebrate the people that make VFW Post 1419 a great place to be a member of. More on this in our next newsletter.

A Proud American,

Phil Kiefer

POST SENTINEL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

The Deadline for our next month is Thursday July 2,2026. All submissions should be sent via email to :

vfwpost1419@gmail.com



Hi everyone!!

Just a short message this month so I'll get right to it. A reminder of the Honor Guard's fund raiser is in a few weeks on June 27th so make sure you set the date and get your tickets if you already haven't. Also along with that get your tickets for the drawing of the Blackstone grill and our fire arms raffle. don't miss out.

Tickets for the event and the drawings are at the bar and we thank you for your support. That's all I have for this month so hope to see you at the fundraiser.

Yours in Comradeship,

Don Hancock

Honor Guard Capt.



NEWS FROM POST 1419 AUXILIARY

To "blow your own trumpet" means to boast or proudly talk about your own achievements, talents, and successes. It implies you are highlighting your own accomplishments rather than letting someone else praise you. Also known as Patting oneself on their own back.

I am very happy to say that my close group of Auxiliary Members, that come to meetings and volunteer their services, never ask for praise and never expect it either. Taking this time to

Thank Mary Dinan and Pat Fest in their never-ending assistance in shopping and preparing food for Memorial Day. Special thanks to Terry Walker for cleaning up after the event and making sure everything was put away and tidy. For all of you that donated a dessert thanks to you too. Without your support and assistance none of this would be possible.

That being said, last month's Newsletter improperly reported the Auxiliary Officers for the upcoming year. Melanie King is our Senior Vice President, Al St.Jacques is our Junior Vice, our Secretary and Historian is Kara Siulc, Treasurer is Gloria Duman, Trustees are Heather Strebel, Marcia Kieffer, and Joann Eagan, Guard is Jane Tupis, Conductor is Chris Wright, Patriotic Instructor is Mary Dinan and our Chaplain is Terry Walker. All officers will resume their roles on July 1st at which time I hope to have our Program Books for the upcoming year. We will assign programs to members as they see fit to handle.

At this time, I would like to extend a special thanks to Heather Strebel who for the last several years has made sure that all year end reports were filed on time. In the past I was traveling to the Fort Myers Library, filling out the reports myself and sending those reports via US Postal Service. Heather has saved me a great deal of aggravation and time in assuming this responsibility for me. THANK YOU SOOOO MUCH HEATHER!!!

One more thing before I close. Our Auxiliary Member Michelle Boice has purchased and donated the US Flag retirement box now in the Post Foyer. Michelle was not asked to purchase the box nor has she requested reimbursement for doing so. Many thanks to Michelle for her selfless donation.

None of the above have ever BLOWN THEIR OWN TRUMPETS.

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS;

Katy Blaszkiewicz, President



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain's Corner June '26

Every time we enter the Post there are two phrases, really one, on our Veterans of Foreign Wars emblem on the outside glass entrance doors that I'd be willing to bet that many of us have never seen. It is hard to consider what we haven't seen or heard. I only noticed it myself at the dedication of the food pantry box when a VFW banner was displayed as a backdrop. We all get a pass on probably not knowing what the phrase is because most depictions of our emblem omit the phrase. The two phrases that are really one are "Pro Deo" and "Pro Patria" (Latin) – For God and For Fatherland. Part of our membership ceremony involves a verbal commitment to God as part of that ritual. Unfortunately, I don't recall ever hearing it when a new member joins the VFW. We do however applaud. (Eye roll.) Perhaps, we need to return to our roots in this divisive time in our nation and world that we might consider the meaning and depth of our membership.

Since the 1950's we have been dissuaded of the Judeo-Christian roots of this nation. The first English translation of the Bible printed in the U.S. was printed in the Capital. Inscribed on a plaque upon the top of the Washington Monument are the Latin words, "Laus Deo," Praise God! The U.S. Constitution contains nothing concerning a separation of church and state. That phrase has been mischaracterized having been excepted from a letter by Jefferson concerning the intrusion of the state into the church meaning that there is a wall keeping the state out of the church.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" – Psalm 33:12a. Progress is good but perhaps in our fundamental values we could find blessing in being a bit old-fashioned. We exist as VFW member for God and country! Be blessed!

Don Hancock is nearing the end of his treatment schedule and pressing on. Gerry Welsted was greeted as the bar emptied out to say "Hi" Thursday night when Debbie took him out for a ride and brought him to the Post. Recently he was able to write his name with a little assistance and was able to receive communion last week. Patrick Bapst is still baffling the doctors with the abscess he has been dealing with, but his hemoglobin levels are on the rise, and he is trusting the Lord. Please keep these brothers in your prayers.

Brent 716-310-1948 trefoilbwd@verizon.net

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 Brent directly. 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.

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 over 500 members living in WNY close to our post within a short drive. Please scroll through our monthly postings to see what available jobs you might be able to help us out with. It's a good way to work with friends or make new ones.

- Looking for a person to help report in this newsletter a recap of the previous month's activities. The ideal candidate should like to take good pictures (better than me) and attend some of the month's events for this purpose and act in the capacity of a reporter. Pictures and notes will be given to the newsletter editor and shared with our webmaster, Carlos Ortiz, so that he can put everything up on our website and Amy so she can post on FB.. An example would be to stop into one of our weekly line dancing classes held every third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 P.M. in our Oakwood Manor Banquet Facility, take some pictures and write up a few sentences on the happenings. In this example you would need only visit one time.
- We need another volunteer to assist with our hot dog cart at the Hamburg Burgerfest on Saturday July 18th. If you can help fill a shift please contact John Redmond at 716-863-3911.

- Our need continues 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 30 to 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. We understand if you have reluctance to commit to something ongoing which may interfere with your daily schedule. The way this job works is that all members in this group have their names and phone numbers on file with the Oakwood Banquet Facility set-up supervisor. As set-up and tear down work becomes available on the calendar the supervisor sends a group text. Each person responds with their availability. Some people may have a doctor's appointment on that day and time or something else that prevents them from helping out. That is not a problem and it happens all the time. So you would not have to make every set-up. We just need a larger group so that the same people don't have to do it all the time. If you can help out please contact Don Welsted at 716-308-1528.
- We are looking for someone who can assist with signage for our Post and the events we operate. Our electronic sign at the road has reached the end of its life cycle and will need to be replaced at a large expense. Until that time comes, do you have a family member, friend or yourself, who can make lawn signage at a reasonable price to our post? Having signage made at a printer is expensive. Any temporary solutions or assistance in this area that someone could offer is appreciated. Contact the newsletter editor at vfwpost1419@gmail.com with anything you can offer.
- We are in need of 1 or 2 people (maybe do it with a friend), to do an occasional "handyman" job here & there. These jobs are light in nature and one & done. They are the type of things you do at home. We hire contractors for major work such as HVAC, concrete, roofing, parking lot sealing etc. So we are not asking anybody to do that type of work. If you can help out please contact Don Welsted at 716-308-1528 or Chris Hull at 716-462-2195.
- It may sound too early to think about a New Year's Eve Party, but last year the committee overseeing this event started planning around this time. Band availability is the important component to this. In 2025 we had a 5 person committee and I believe there are 3, including myself who will not be doing it this year. So we need a few people to step up and form a committee. Contact me at vfwpost1419@gmail.com and I'll put you in touch with other volunteers. Please know that if we have a NYE party this year it will need to be a self funded event entirely. In other words, a band, food etc would need to be paid for by charging each attendee an admission fee. And, whatever is proposed as the agenda for the party will still need to be presented to our board for final approval. Write up your proposal bullet pointing all aspects of the NYE party and email it to
- vfwpost1419@gmail.com. I will then submit to our board for review.

Our Summer Concert Series, Music on the Patio, kicked off on Sunday afternoon June 7th and it was a beautiful day. The duo group Friends, played very relaxing and enjoyable music from our gazebo. If possible, we will probably have solo artists and duos set up there. For our scheduled trios and larger bands, we will set them up on our patio. And as planned, if the weather does not cooperate, the bands will set up and play in our lounge.

On Sunday June 14th, we are pleased to have the 3 member band Major Thirds playing for us from 2:00 to 5:00. Stop by with some friends or family members and grab a hot dog or hamburger while enjoying one of the best bands in WNY.

Amy has small flags to pass out in celebration of Flag Day for June 14th which is a nice touch.



VFW Post 1419 Summer Concert Series Presents

The *Major* Thirds

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

The Acoustic Project (TAP) in Harmony
Journey with us as we pay homage to bands from the 60's to the 90's. This is not your average acoustic act!

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026
2:00 – 5:00 PM

 **2985 Lakeview Rd.
Hamburg, NY 14075**
On our patio (weather permitting)
otherwise in our Post Lounge

*Bring your friends,
Bring a chair*
and have a great time!

 **HOT DOGS AND HAMBURGERS AVAILABLE**

 **DRINKS FROM OUR BAR**

NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINKS ALLOWED

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.



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.



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



Helpful Veterans Resources:

Hover over each highlighted link below and press the control button on your computer and "click" and you will be taken directly to the site.

[Veterans Crisis Line](#): 988, Option 1

[TalkSpace](#): Online counseling and therapy for Veterans

[Find VA locations](#)

[VA Helpful Phone Numbers](#)

[Dept of Veterans' Services Find Veterans Services Office](#)

[NYS Dept of Veteran's Services](#)

[National Call Center for Homeless Veterans](#): 877-424-3838 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

[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.

[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.

DID YOU KNOW....

- 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.
- There are over 6,000 VFW Posts worldwide with 957,000 members as of 2023.
- VFW Post 1419 has approximately 355 veteran members which is 60% of our total Post membership.
- There are over 3,500 VFW Auxiliary Posts across the United States with close to 470,000 members.
- VFW Post 1419 has approximately 228 Auxiliary members which is 40% of our total Post membership.

" Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail,"

Emerson

Ralph Waldo

Submitted by Debbie Baker



MUSIC = *on the* = PATIO



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

★ Hosted by VFW Post 1419 ★

WHERE & WHEN

— VFW POST 1419 —



2985 Lakeview Rd
Hamburg, NY 14075



EVERY SUNDAY

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

★ **FREE EVENT** ★

OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC!



SEATING:
Bring your
own chair
or blanket!



FOOD:
Hot dogs and
hamburgers
available for
purchase.



DRINKS:
Strictly NO
outside alcohol
permitted.

★ WHAT TO KNOW ★

★ GREAT MUSIC ★ GREAT FOOD ★ GREAT COMMUNITY

★ SUMMER LINEUP ★

6/7/2026	— Friends
6/14/2026	— Major Thirds
6/21/2026	— David Adrian Solo
6/28/2026	— Rockabilly Steve & BR3
7/5/2026	— Bob James Solo / Bob James
7/12/2026	— Jay MacDonell Trio
7/19/2026	— Brothers James
7/26/2026	— Argyle Street Band
8/2/2026	— Blues Infusion
8/9/2026	— Eliza & The Fishercats
8/23/2026	— Billy Bob Duo
8/30/2026	— Crash Cadillac

This is going to be one fun day!!! We have the BBQ running from 1:00 to 4:00 and The Jay MacDonell Trio playing in our **Summer Concert Series** Music On The Patio from 2:00 to 5:00. Put July 12th on your calendars so you don't miss a great afternoon. Please try and support this fundraiser as it is important for us to help fund our VFW account. If you are unable to stay for the MacDonell Trio band playing this day, you can just drive through the Chicken BBQ line, pick up your food without even getting out of your car and take it home. Thanks for your support.

CHIAVETTA'S

CHICKEN BBQ FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JULY 12TH

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
(PRE-SALE MUST BE PICKED UP BY 5:00 PM)

HAMBURG VFW POST 1419
2985 LAKEVIEW ROAD,
HAMBURG, NY

PREPAY ONLINE:
<https://square.link/u/gSGDE04?src=sms>

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VETERANS!

★ **\$16** PRE-SALE | **\$18** DAY OF ★

Meal INCLUDES:

- CHIAVETTA'S 1/2 BBQ CHICKEN DINNER
- SALT POTATOES
- BAKED BEANS
- DINNER ROLL W/ BUTTER

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT HAMBURG VFW POST 1419

★ **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS AND COMMUNITY!** ★

Chicken BBQ pre-pay \$16.00

July 12 Chicken BBQ Fundraiser



Chicken BBQ pre-pay

July 12th
Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
Hamburg VFW Post 1419
\$16.00

★ ★ ★ ★ 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**

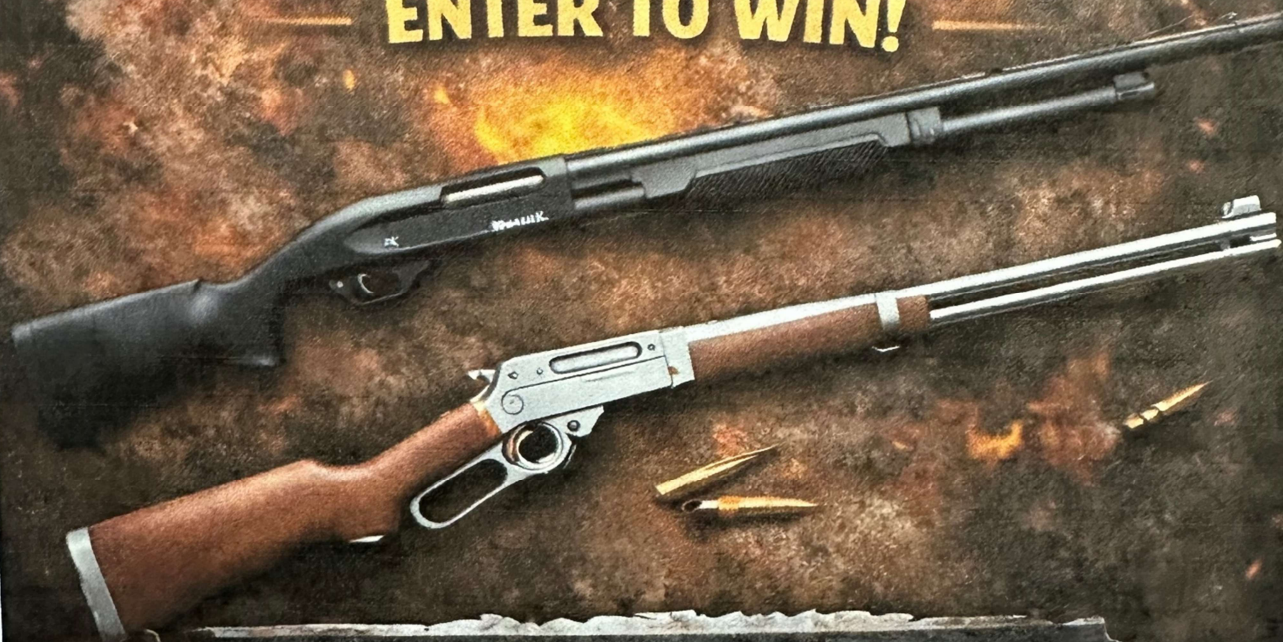
★ ★ **TICKETS \$15 SOLD AT THE BAR** ★ ★

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

June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Corporation Meeting 7 PM			Karaoke 7 PM- Close
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Friends play 2 – 5 PM						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Major Thirds Plays 2 – 5PM	Auxiliary Meeting 7PM		Honor Guard Meeting 7 PM	Post Meetings 7 PM		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
David Adrian Solo plays 2 – 5 PM						
28	29	30				
Rockabilly Steve & BR3 plays 2-5PM						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Corporation Meeting 7 PM	2 Newsletter Submission Deadline	3	4 Karaoke 7 PM- Close
5 Bob James plays 2 - 5PM	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 POST CHICKEN BBQ by Chiavettas, Jay MacDonell Trio plays 2-5 PM	13 Auxiliary Meeting 7PM	14	15 Honor Guard Meeting 7 PM	16 Post Meetings 7 PM	17	18
19 Brothers James plays 2 - 5 PM	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Argyle Street Band plays 2 - 5 PM	27	28	29	30	31	