



**Smith-Pletcher Post 779
American Legion
2928 Penn's Valley Pike
Centre Hall, PA 16828**

Newsletter - September 2009

This newsletter is being mailed to all first class members of American Legion Post 779 located in Old Fort. Currently the Post has 260 first class members, as always we are in need of more members to take an active role in managing the Post's activities and serving the Community. The newsletter will also be posted on our website post779.org.

2010 memberships are due now. Everyone who pays by the end of December will be an early bird. A special early bird party will be held the first Saturday in February. We already have more than 170 early birds.

The Post has voted to pay all dues for our WWII vets. If you are a WWII vet and receive a renewal notice in the mail, send it back with a note telling us that you are a WWII vet. Our records are not complete with respect to the war era our members served in. The Post also pays the dues for all members with 50 or more years of continuous membership, for members on active duty and for Post Officers. If you receive a renewal notice and are in one of these categories, please return it with a note.

COME TO THE NEXT POST MEETING

The Post membership has been growing in recent years and we are the top third class Post in Pennsylvania for new membership. The Post is involved in a number of community activities and we would like you to become more active in working with us. The Post has a new website (post779.org). Visit it for the latest updates on what we are doing. We have elected officers for the coming year and Jim Hafer has been elected Commander. We are continuing our negotiations with Penn DOT regarding a turning lane on RT 45 west of the RT 144 intersection. Penn DOT will be taking about 6,000 square feet (.149 acres) to widen RT 45.

Letter from the Commander

Fellow Legionnaires, My name is Jim Hafer and I am the new Commander of Smith-Pletcher Post 779. I have been a member of Post 779 for seven years and a lot has happened during those years. We had a major renovation of the Post building, increased membership, (last year we were the top third class Post in the state for new members), gave out thousands of dollars in scholarships and donations to local charities. The Post worked with the Centre Hall-Potter Township Youth baseball group to improve the youth ball fields located on Post property behind Snappy's. These are the nicest youth ball fields

in the area and are heavily used. Post facilities are available to area non-profit organizations free of charge. The Red Cross uses the Post for blood drives, and your Post does the Memorial services for the Center Hall area, insuring veterans graves are marked with the American Flag and a fitting ceremony is held to honor their service and sacrifice. The Post has also agreed to donate land to the Township and Penn Dot to provide a park and ride facility on the property adjacent to Magistrates Office.

What we have not done very well is to get YOU involved in YOUR Post. After all it is your Post, brought together by our mutual service to our country, and as such we need to rekindle that spirit of togetherness. I would like to invite you to an American Legion Dinner held in YOUR honor, so you can once again join fellow Legionnaires and renew that sense of comradeship we once had. The dinner will be on September 19 starting at 18:30. The evening will allow me to introduce myself and the other officers of your Post, allowing you to catch up on old friendships or make new ones. We will honor some of the members for their service over the years, I will hold a POW/MIA service where we will learn what the POW/MIA table stands for and our commitment to a full accounting of those still missing.

In closing, I dedicate myself to having a more active Post, where members can attend meetings and help with ensuring that Smith Pletcher Post 779, Department of Pennsylvania continues to be a Post that helps the Veterans and the community, has the respect of its membership, and where you can join other veterans in celebration of our achievements throughout the year.

I look forward to seeing you in September, and at future Legion events. I would also remind you the Post meetings are held at 7 PM on the 4th Monday of the month and all Class A members are welcome.

Jim Hafer,

Post Commander

ADJUTANT'S CORNER – Dave Putnam

It is that time of year again. The first round of notices has been sent for 2010 dues. Some people wonder why they get a renewal notice in July when their dues are paid up until December 31. My answer is that is just the way the Legion does it. If they wait until January to send out the notices, everyone would be delinquent for some time. Some people have just gotten around to paying their 2009 dues.

Every time renewal notices are sent out I get several calls asking “Why do I get a renewal notice from Headquarters a month after I have paid my dues?” Part of the reason is that I only do them every couple of weeks or so. When you pay your dues they are mailed to the Post. It may be a week or two until they are picked up for processing and it may take another week or two to get it done. The checks are then taken back to the Post for processing by the Treasurer. It may take a week or two for this process to be finished if the Treasurer is off hunting in Colorado or if it is deer season or some other season. Once the Treasurer mails the cards to Harrisburg, they have to be transmitted to Indianapolis where the renewal notices are generated. The notices are generated about a month before they are sent out, so you can see it is pretty common for people to get a notice long after they have written a check to pay for their dues. The system could be more efficient and I do try to get the cards out faster at the end of the year when the key cards are changed.

**THE VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE AND OYSTER FEED WILL
BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 11 AT 6:00 P.M.**

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

POST MEETING	Meetings are the fourth Monday of every month
POST 779 AUXILIARY	Meetings are the fourth Monday of every month
CLUB 779 MEETING	Meetings are immediately following the Post Meeting
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION	Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS	Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month
CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS	Meetings are the first Monday of every month
HOME ASSOCIATION	Meetings are the first Monday of every month

STARTING TIME FOR THE MEETINGS IS 7:00 P.M., AT THE POST HOME. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT THE POST AT 364-9416. SOME MEETING DATES MAY BE ADJUSTED FOR GRANGE FAIR AND DEER SEASON.

Check the events calendar on the website post779.org for the latest updates on meetings and times.

POST 779 AUXILIARY

The Auxiliary has been busy this past year. They have revitalized the annual Chinese Auction, held bake sales and supported a number of Post events and projects. They have donated more than \$4,500 dollars to local and Legion related national charities. Some of the causes they supported locally included: the Post 779 Scholarship fund, the Penn's Valley Christmas basket project, the Club 779 Veterans Court yard project, the Penn's Valley B-B gun team, the Centre Hall-Potter Township Library, and the Penn's Valley High School. They contributed to a number of local fundraisers for families in need and sponsored Christmas for a local veteran who was deployed to Iraq. Statewide and nationally, they contributed to The Great American Bake Sale, the USS Hornet fund, sponsored a cruise for disabled veterans, and contributed to the Scotland School for Veterans Children and the Hollidaysburg Veterans Home. The Auxiliary has a great core group supporting these efforts and they can always use more help. The meetings are held concurrent with the Post meetings at 7PM on the Fourth Monday of each month. If you are new to the Post, encourage your spouse to become active in the Auxiliary.

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