

AMVETS POST #897 NEWSLETTER

149 LAKE AVE | BLASDELL NY | 14219
(716) 821-1689

FEBRUARY 2026 / MARCH 2026



**2025-2026
POST OFFICERS**

Commander
Sabrina Cartagena

1st Vice
Colton Marinelli

2nd Vice
Chris Drzal

3rd Vice
Joe Donovan

4th Vice
Daniel Lehmann

Finance Officer
Ken Constable

Provost Marshall
Austin Crowell

Adjutant
Joe Ashman

Judge Advocate
Larry Lauber

Chaplain
Keith Clark

Service Officer
Paul Barner

Trustees
Gary Cawthard
Greg Pencek
Gary Wachowski
Howard Ehrenheim

MEETING SCHEDULES

Exec Board Mtg
2nd Wed at 6:30pm

Southtowns Mtg
2nd Wed at 7:00pm

General Body Mtg
2nd Wed at 7:30pm

Ladies Auxiliary Mtg
1st Wed at 7:00pm

Sons Meeting
3rd Wed at 7:00pm

Riders Meeting
2nd Sun at 12:00pm

Juniors Meeting
2nd Sun at 11:00am

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Dear AMVETS Family,

As we move into February and March, I want to personally thank each and everyone for their continued service, participation and support of our mission of Veterans Serving Veterans. We remain committed to serving our veterans and community. Your dedication keeps Post 897 strong and active. Some upcoming important dates are as follows:

- Feb 2 US Army Nurse Corps established 125 years young
- Feb 3 Four Chaplains Day (commemorates 4 chaplains who gave life jackets to others when their ship sank in WWII)
- Feb 8-14 National Salute to Veterans Patient Week- encouraging visits and support, honor our veteran patients
- Feb 13 Marine Corps Woman Reserves 83 years young
- Feb 28 Persian Gulf Ceasefire day 35 years young
- March 29 Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day

The annual AMVETS Post 897 Scholarship application is included within this newsletter. Additional applications may be picked up in the Club Room. The completed Scholarship application must be received at AMVETS Post 897 by July 1st.

I encourage members to attend monthly meetings and get involved when you can. Any questions or concerns my phone number is 716-520-7016 or my email scartmart@aol.com.

Yours in AMVETS,
Sabrina Cartagena, Commander
AMVETS POST 897



EVENTS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEBRUARY 2026

- AUXILIARY Basket Raffle.....1/31 - 2/14
- JUNIORS Sponge Candy P/U.....8
- Valentine's Day.....14
- RIDERS Basket Raffle.....15 - 28
- Kids Easter Egg Hunt Sign-up...2/15 - 3/19
- President's Day.....16

- Ash Wednesday (Fish Dinner).....18
- RIDERS Chili Cook Off.....28

MARCH 2026

- SONS Basket Raffle.....1-14
- AUXILIARY Basket Raffle.....15-28
- St. Patrick's Day.....17
- Workers Party.....21
- Kids Easter Egg Hunt.....28



The AMVETS Family - Building Today's Success on Yesterday's Sacrifice

WE LOVE OUR
Volunteers



POST 897
5th Annual Worker's Party



21

MARCH 2026
5PM-7PM

FOR OUR 2025 VOLUNTEERS

* REFRESHMENTS * OPEN JUKE BOX *

SIGN-UP AT THE POST
DURING FEBRUARY

DAILY BUCKET SPECIAL

4 CANNED BEERS - \$10

5 SELTZERS/VODKA CANNED DRINKS - \$15



Ray Metty Memorial
AMVETS POST 897
149 Lake Ave | Blasdell NY



75¢ CHICKEN WINGS
THURSDAYS
4PM - 9PM

DINE-IN ONLY
FULL MENU AVAILABLE



ASH WEDNESDAY FISH DINNER

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Post 897



FEB 18TH / 1:30 - 7:30 PM
(8 EVERY FRIDAY 4 - 9 PM)

Battered or
Breaded
\$16
Broiled +\$1

**DINE IN OR
TAKE OUT**

All Dinners Served
with Mac-Salad,
Coleslaw, and
Choice of French
Fries or Potato
Salad & Bread

149 LAKE AVE | BLASDELL NY
716-821-1689



A WORD FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER

AMVETS Members -

It's past time to pay your annual AMVETS Membership dues. Our membership year runs from September 1st thru August 31st each year.

Please make immediate payment by either coming into the Post and paying the on-duty bartender (you will get a receipt) or mail your dues to my attention to AMVETS Post 897, 149 Lake Ave, Blasdell, NY 14219.

Yours in AMVETS,
Colton Marinelli, 1ST VICE

A WORD FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Dear Auxiliary Members -

Our February meeting will be 2/4/26 at 7:00 pm and our March meeting will be 3/4/26 at 7:00 pm. Please join us at our monthly meetings!

The Auxiliary has a basket raffle from January 31- February 14 to benefit PAWS with a Cause. This organization trains service dogs for disabled Veterans and community members.

We will hold another basket raffle March 15-28 to benefit John Tracy Center (JTC). JTC services children and families with hearing impairments. As always, the Auxiliary thanks you for your support.

Yours in AMVETS Auxiliary,
Janell Ashman
President

A WORD FROM THE RIDERS PRESIDENT

Nominations of Officers starts at our February meeting. Must be present to accept nomination. Thank you to Larry Lauber for stepping back into the Treasurer position. Glad you are feeling better. Thank you to Glenda for filling in as Treasurer while Larry was sick. It takes a group effort to be successful and I appreciate everyone in this Group. You all continue to contribute to making this, not just successful but fun too. I look forward to another trip around the sun with the members of 897 Riders.

CHILI COOK OFF Saturday February 28th. Tickets available at the bar or see a Rider Member. Sign Up to make Chili. Must buy a ticket to enter.

Yours in AMVETS,
Chris Drzal, PPC2, Riders President

A WORD FROM THE 2ND VICE COMMANDER

AMVETS Family -

Looking forward to a great 2026.

Let's start with Kids Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 28th. Sign Up in the club room February 15th to March 19th. We will be shopping on Saturday March 21st. Looking for volunteers to help on March 21st and March 28th. Let me know if you want to help.

Yours in AMVETS,
Chris Drzal, PPC2, 2ND VICE

A WORD FROM THE 3RD VICE COMMANDER

AMVETS Family & Friends -

Thank you all in your participation in the post lotto tickets, I would ask if you do not want to receive any lotto tickets in with your newsletter please let us know or mail them back with a note stating you do not want to receive any. Also please try to have your tickets in by the first day of that month. All payments to any winners will be sent out within the first week of the next month reason being is that sometimes we have people winning more than once in the same month and with the cost of stamps and checks it will be done at that time, thank you again for your support.

Yours in AMVETS,
Joe Donovan, 3RD VICE

A WORD FROM THE JUNIORS PRO

Hello AMVETS Family -

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. The Junior AMVETS are looking forward to 2026 and all that a fresh new year has to offer.

Thank you to everyone who ordered sponge candy, your orders will be available for pickup on Sunday February 8th from noon until 2 at the Post.

As we continue to learn about our American flag, we will be looking for some COTTON flags to learn how to fold them and then retire them. If you are replacing your cotton flag, please consider donating it to the Juniors.

Happy Birthday to Elizabeth on February 5th, Layla on February 21st and Jaelynn on March 7th.

Don't forget we still have our candy bars for sale at the bar.

Layla Weiskerger,
Junior AMVETS 897 Secretary/PRO
National Junior PRO

A WORD FROM THE SOUTHTOWNS PRESIDENT

Greetings AMVETS Family -

There's so much going on at your Post. I encourage everyone to come out and join the fun!

A couple of items for everyone's attention:

- **Pull-tabs:** While we appreciate everyone that plays and contributes in this fashion, please understand that it's always "drinks first" at the bar. The bartenders will make sure all players are taken care of, please be patient.
- **Snacks:** The snack rack is an Auxiliary fundraiser. Please do not grab a bag of snacks from the rack...the bartender is responsible to serve you the snacks and to collect your money.

Please continue to support your Post and events. Hope to see you soon!

Yours in AMVETS,
Joe Ashman, PDC, PPC3
Southtowns President

AMVETS OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Nominations for AMVETS officers will begin at the Wednesday, February 11th meeting. The meeting begins at 7:30pm. If you plan on running for office, you must be a member in good standing, and present at the meeting to be nominated and accept the nomination. Nominations will be held again during the March & April meetings. Any required election(s) will take place during the May meeting.



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from the moment you start planning!**

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apawlowski@dreamvacations.com
resortsorports.com



AMVETS RIDERS POST 897



Annual Chili Cook-Off!!



Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

Try some great chili and vote for your favorite!!



\$5.00 a Ticket



Don't forget to enter your chili, 3 prizes will be awarded.
Sign up sheet and tickets behind the bar.

Proceeds benefit your local soup kitchen.

Thank You for Your Support!!

* 149 Lake Avenue, Blasdell, NY 14219 *

SNEAKER'S Restaurant



**205 Martin Avenue
Blasdell, NY
825-9247**

Fish Frys - Wings - Pizza - Lunch Specials

CRD HOME IMPROVEMENT

KITCHEN & BATH REMODELING/
TILE/WINDOWS/SIDING/
DRYWALL/PAINTING/PLUMBING/ELECTRICAL/
FRAMING/DECKS/FENCES/ROOFING
DUMP TRAILER / DEBRIS REMOVAL FOR HIRE
STONE/DIRT/MULCH DELIVERED & SPREAD
SHRUBS TRIMMED/INSTALL NEW

CHRISTOPHER DRZAL

716-392-3567
christopherdrzal@aol.com

VETERAN - USMC
NO JOB TOO SMALL!!!!

