



Reunion-style gathering planned for nation's capital

Gala celebration set for 2018

by Kathy Le Comte



AWON members hold up gold stars during the dedication ceremony of the National World War II Memorial in 2004.

Save the date! Planning is underway for AWON's 2018 celebration. Dubbed *Honoring Their Legacy / Honoring Our Legacy*, the gathering will be held Friday and Saturday, September 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Members and guests will arrive on Thursday and depart Sunday.

The 2018 event is being referred to as a "gala gathering." Planners are calling it a gala because this will be an especially festive celebration of AWON's friendships and 25-year history. And it's not a conference, because there will be no presentations or discussion sessions, except for a board meeting. Instead, the look and feel is intended to be more like local AWON Gatherings, or a family or school reunion.

The 2018 AWON Gala Gathering will be held at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel in Arlington, Virginia - just outside Washington, D.C. The hotel is very close to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and is just blocks from the Crystal City Metro station for ease of transportation. The hotel is just outside the capital for those who want to come before or stay after the gala gathering in order to visit museums and other sites.

The preliminary itinerary calls for afternoon registration Thursday, September 27,

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AWON board meets in Indianapolis

The AWON Board of Directors met in Indianapolis in March for an in-person board meeting. The board was joined by Walt Linne and Kathy Le Comte. Director Mike Forgy was not in attendance.

In-person meetings, which are mandated by the AWON by-laws and are held during years there is not a conference, allow the board to develop or discuss in-depth issues facing the organization. The board also reviews AWON finances, sets goals, and otherwise conducts a regular meeting.

The main topics on the agenda were the 2018 AWON Gala Gathering and the AWON Archives. Sub-topics were the White House Memorial Day Breakfast, the Mid-Atlantic Air Museum's World War II weekend in Reading, Pennsylvania, and AWON downsizing.

AWON Gala planning committee members Billie Meeks and Diane Pollard presented the board a draft schedule, forms, expense rundown and questions. The group was impressed with their ideas and thorough planning to date.

Norma Nicol Hamilton and Gerry Morenski presented the board with the latest information they've collected about the future home for AWON's archivable materials. Morenski said the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, the American Battle Monuments Commission, and possibly others are interested in AWON's Father database. Hamilton then arranged a teleconference call with a representative from the National World War II Museum in New Orleans to discuss what materials the museum is interested in in general, and how they use them.

Norm Burkey reported that there are many more members interested in attending the White House Memorial Day Breakfast this year than the number of invitations AWON



Walt Linne, top right, joins the AWON Board of Directors meeting in Indianapolis in March.



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Members have until July to request their poster

Posters to go to Friends of Memorial

In 2004, in preparation for the AWON National Conference in Washington, D.C., which coincided with the dedication of the National World War II Memorial, AWON created dozens of foam-backed posters of AWON fathers from member-submitted photographs. The Father Posters were displayed in the JW Marriott hotel lobby and main

War II Memorial, in New York City for the anniversary of "The Kiss" and in Battery Park, and at a few AWON Conferences. Most recently, the Father Posters of AWON-ers in attendance were dis-

secure environment when they are not being used.

Even though these posters now belong to AWON, and thus become part of the items that AWON needs to archive, AWON is offering members a chance to acquire their father's poster. The cost to package and ship a Father Poster is around \$40, and goes up depending on what



The Father Posters displayed at the 2004 AWON National Conference in Washington, D.C.

ballroom, the conference hotel. Their presence made an eloquent and strong statement to conference attendees and other hotel guests.

For the past 13 years, thanks to some dedicated AWON board members, the large and numerous Father Posters have been stored in closets and basements, and have traveled safely to and from several events. They have been used on Memorial Day at the National World

played in the meeting room on the 2016 AWON National Conference Florida cruise.

Now, the AWON Board is partnering with the Friends of the National World War II Memorial to accept these posters. They will be used by the Friends in future Memorial Day parades and education projects. Through this partnership there will be 'faces' to the Freedom Wall - Field of Gold Stars. The posters will be stored in a safe and

area of the country they are shipped to. Because of the high cost to pack and ship a poster, the AWON board suggests members make their own poster, which would be cheaper, simpler and quicker than having the AWON poster mailed. If members still would like to have their Father Poster mailed to them, email Ed Peters at edpeters2@mac.com before July 1, 2017. The cost of packaging and mailing is at members' expense.



Chance brings together AWON logo

by Lorin McLeary

Like many AWON events, this story has an interesting and unanticipated tie-in to events of World War II.

The First Founders meeting had just taken place in Washington, D.C., over Veterans' Day weekend, 1994. One of the tasks we took on was to move AWON from a donation-based organization to a membership-based organization with annual dues.

Our founder, Ann Mix, had been working very hard and almost single-handedly since 1991, with a meager budget, to reach out to more World War II orphans. We recognized the need to produce a mailing to World War II orphans Ann had located up to that point and invite them to join AWON as members. To do this, we needed a logo and letterhead for the first membership letter, which we would have commercially printed using some of the funds donated by the First Founders.

When I returned home from the First Founders meeting I started working on a logo design. I had used a simple computer-printed star as a logo on the invitation I sent to the First Founders meeting participants, so that seemed like a logical place to start. However a beautiful, bright gold star seemed better and more expressive of our members' backgrounds. I was concerned about possible confusion with the Gold Star Mothers, so our logo needed to be more than just a star.

Our organization's name - *American WWII Orphans Network* - is too long to produce a compact logo design. It would need to be set in an arc or circle surrounding the star. However, the name did not completely encircle the star, nor did it really

fully express the nature of our organization as a good logo should.

Enter Frank Burnett, First Founder and also the individual who coordinated the local arrangements for the initial First Founders meeting in Washington, D.C. In each of Frank's email correspondence, he ended his signature with the words, *In Their Memory*. The light bulb clicked on and, as I placed Frank's words on the lower part of the circle around the star, in the right type size, it was a perfect fit and a perfect expression of the nature of AWON. With a computer-generated rough draft of the new AWON logo, I headed to the printer.



But the story doesn't end here. Harvey, the local printer and a well-known character in my town, was immediately interested in our project.

When you think about it, there are many shapes, designs and proportions for stars. Which one should we use for our logo? Harvey had a suggestion. He said to me, much to my surprise, "My brother was killed at Anzio, and I think I may have the gold

star flag that my mother hung in the window after she got the news. I'll see if I can find it and bring it in so we can take a look."

He found it and brought it in, and I could see immediately that the star on the small flag was the perfect proportion for the AWON logo. The star on his mother's gold star flag is the one we used as the model for our AWON logo.

After the issue of the star shape and proportion was resolved, we worked out the remaining technical details. We decided to produce the star in foil-embossed gold, and the type would be in blue (process blue for the printers and designers reading this). The AWON logo was born.

Editor's note: The 25th Anniversary of AWON series will continue in the April issue of The Star.

AWON Connections

Pictures and Stories of Members
Gathering Around the Country



Pat Armstrong, Penny LeGrand and Dianne Baczynski spent some "girl time" together in Tucson in early April. *Dianne*



Meeting up in Phoenix in March, from left, were AWONers Barry Barr-Finch and Dianne Baczynski, Judy Greenberg, Tom Brewer, Gail Burke and John Baczynski, during the annual Barr-Finch and Brewer trek to the city from Seattle. *Dianne*

...Meeting, from page 2

traditionally has been given. Burkey said he has not yet received any information from the White House about a breakfast this year. He said notice is usually very short. He said if there is a breakfast, and if AWON is invited, AWON attendees will be selected in the order in which he received requests.

Burkey then mentioned that the World War II Weekend event that AWON has had a presence at for years is coming up, June 2-4, in Reading, Pennsylvania. He and Linne both noted how well the event is put on, and how AWON has enlightened the public - through the AWON photo albums and answering questions - about our fathers.

Jerry Pinkerton gave a detailed financial report, and then discussed some of the long-term and legal issues that will need to be dealt with when AWON eventually suspends operations.

The Star • April 2017



AWONers Jerry Pinkerton, left, and Montie Monzingo, right, participated in the annual Gainesville, Texas Medal of Honor parade in April. They belong to the North Texas Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard. Jerry and Montie portray soldiers from the American Revolution. Gainesville's Medal of Honor Host City program honors the nation's history, military and veterans. Since 2001 it has hosted almost half of the country's Medal of Honor recipients. Montie will present the AWON wreath in Margraten on Memorial Day this year. *Jerry*

...Gala, from front page

with a casual reception in the evening.

A board meeting will be held in the afternoon on Friday, September 28, with a semi-formal reception in the evening.

On Saturday, September 29, attendees will board buses for three off-site activities.

First the group will travel to Arlington National Cemetery to lay a wreath at the tree and marker that was dedicated by *No Greater Love* in 1991 - the event that started AWON. Everyone then will re-board buses to travel to the Tombs of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington, to witness the changing of the guard ceremony. Afterward the group will return to the hotel for lunch on their own. After lunch the group will reboard buses and head to the National World War II Memorial on the Mall to hold a ceremony in remembrance of our fathers.

Saturday evening will begin with a cash bar on the hotel terrace, followed by a banquet. The evening will be capped off with a night-cap reception. Other details are still being planned.

No events are scheduled for Sunday, September 30, but it is hoped attendees will use the day to explore the nation's capital on their own, or to spend more time with their AWON friends.

All plans are preliminary as much depends on availability and permissions. The gala planning committee requests no-commitment pre-registration starting now, to help determine hotel rooms, group rooms, buses and other planning needs. Contact gala committee member Penny LeGrand at penylg11@gmail.com if you plan on attending. See page 7 for details.

The AWON Board of Directors considered several cities for the 2018 gathering and settled on Washington, D.C., for its significance to AWON.

The first gathering of AWON's founding members took place in the nation's capital at the *No Greater Love* tree dedication in 1991 for the children of war dead. It was the seminal event that created AWON. AWON then returned to the capital in 2004 for the four-day dedication and celebration of the National World War II Memorial. AWON Founder Ann Mix was the instigator behind the idea of the Wall of Freedom - Field of Gold Stars in the memorial. For those efforts, Mix was seated among other dignitaries at the dedication, with former

presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, U.S. Senator Bob Dole, newsman Tom Brokaw, and actor Tom Hanks, among others. AWON members raised more than \$41,000 for the memorial, and AWON mem-



Top: AWON Founder Ann Bennett Mix, in yellow, on the dais of dignitaries at the dedication of the National WWII Memorial. Bottom left is former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, and bottom right holding a binder is NBC News' Tom Brokaw. Below: gold stars left by AWONers at the Wall of Freedom.



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Welcome New Members

Janice Crandell-Powers, IL, dau of ILT Leonard J. Crandell, Army Air Corps
Arthur Kirby, MN, nephew of PFC George F. Ballauf, Army
Susan Cullen Schwartz, MO, dau of ILT Myles B. Cullen, Army

(new members since the January issue of *The Star*)

...Gala, from page 6

bers were recognized and honored by being seated among veterans during the ceremonies. So, it was fitting to select Washington for the Gala Gathering. No other place holds as much significance to AWON as the nation's capitol.

The planning committee and the AWON Board of Directors hope that all members will strive to attend the 2018 Gala Gathering. Reserve September 28-29, 2018 on your calendar now. More information will come in the next *Star*.

2018 Gala Gathering

No-commitment Pre-registration

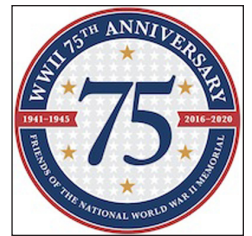
For planning purposes, AWON would like to know those who plan to attend the 2018 Gala Gathering, Sept. 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C. **There is no commitment.** Please send the following information to Penny LeGrand by **June 1**:

- Name
- Number of guests
- Wheelchair needs (for buses)

Email or mail Penny LeGrand at pennylg11@gmail.com or 11231 N. Platte Dr., Oro Valley, AZ 85737

AWONers sought for DC panel discussion for teachers, July

In July, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will host their second annual teachers conference. This year's theme is "WWII: The Transformation of America." Presentations will cover the African-American experience, the Filipino-American experience, FDR's leadership, military and naval leadership, and the Battle of the Atlantic, to name just a few. The conference also will include a World War II veterans discussion panel, which was well received at last year's conference.



Expanding on the success of the veterans' panel, this year planners would like to include a moderated, one-hour, panel discussion with three to four AWON members reflecting on their experiences and journeys.

"It would offer very powerful lessons for our teachers and others in our audience," states Holly Rotondi, executive director of the Friends.

The panel discussion would take place at 1:45 p.m., Friday, July 28, 2017, at the Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center in Washington, D.C. More information about the conference is posted at <http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/resources/2017-teachers-conference>

If you are interested in participating on the AWON panel, contact Rotondi at hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org.

Helps families, government find the missing **Group taking on MIA cases in Europe**

by Marilyn Rustand Lieurance

Is there a soldier in your family missing somewhere in Luxembourg, Germany, or France from World War II?

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is a federal agency tasked with searching for MIAs/POWs. They are based in Hawaii, and as I understand it, they have mainly focused on the Vietnam MIAs. Their mission is to bring home 250 MIAs each year from all wars. Currently, there are 19,000 missing World War II Americans in Europe, so this shows the scope of their work.

The WWII Battlefield Research and Preservation Group (WW2BRPG) is an organization that helped me locate the crash site where my dad's B-17 came down near a small German village. My story is in the October 2016 issue of *The Star*. Although my dad was not MIA but instead KIA, going to the site of the crash and speaking with people in the village who actually saw the

crash answered many questions I had, and brought an unexpected closure.

The mission of WW2BRPG is in research and preservation, and after helping me find my dad's crash site last year they have a solid interest in helping AWON members who have MIAs in the European Theater of Luxembourg, Germany, and France.

Their work is extensive, extremely thorough, and very professional. They research military archives, sometimes on both sides of the war. They look over casualty questionnaires from survivors, Missing Air Crew Reports, and both private and diary accounts of a battle. When possible, residents still living in a nearby village to the battle are interviewed and can help pinpoint an exact location of a crash, or the route soldiers traveled after leaving a village. Discovered debris tells the story of what that soldier's duty was.

As information is gathered a picture of what happened comes together, and both a specific area and direction is discovered. Documentation is recorded, photos and GPS readings are taken, and a search is launched. When evidence suggesting human remains is found, the DPAA will be notified and they in turn will send in a team for follow-up and recovery. The WW2BRPG will then write a full report of the case.

It should be made clear that WW2BRPG is not replacing the work of the DPAA, but instead they are doing groundwork, researching from a depth and expertise most of us wouldn't realize is possible.

Remaining 2017 Family Update Meetings

April 22	Kansas City, MO
May 20	Syracuse, NY
June 21-24	Washington, D.C.
Aug. 10-11	Washington, D.C.
Sept. 9	Detroit, MI

Family Updates are tailored to meet the needs of attendees representing losses from all conflicts. Register early so that analysts may prepare to discuss your specific cases. Go to: [//www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/](http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Family-Events/) for more information and to register.

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Honor Your Father with an AWON Tribute



S1c Albert M. Cervenak

An AWON Tribute is a great way to honor and preserve your father's memory. Just write your father's story in 500 to 1,100 words, and submit it and a jpeg image of him in uniform (or the best photo you have), to Nancy Sue Johnson at janceysue@gmail.com.

If you don't know how to start, look at any of the nearly 200 AWON Tributes already posted on the AWON website, such as the one written by Pat Cervenak Albani for her father, pictured here.



Your AWON Tribute will be posted on the AWON website and preserved for posterity in the AWON database.

...MIA cases, from page 8

Currently, WW2BRPG is working on the case of another soldier missing in Europe. I have tracked down the family of this soldier, and they had all but given up ever knowing what happened to their older brother, who went missing during World War II. With WW2BRPG now on the case, they have a renewed hope of having their questions answered and their brother found and brought home.

When Patrick Murphy, president of WW2BRPG, told me he is willing to take on more cases, I told him of my intent to write an article in *The Star*, and he is welcoming of it.

If you are interested in taking the next step for your loved one who went missing in Luxembourg, Germany, or France, feel free to contact me at mlrustysgirl@yahoo.com and I will be happy to put you in touch with WW2BRPG.

Seeking answers about draft process, training

AWONer Laura Smail Sims is wondering if anyone could answer some questions about her father's military service.

"I have the letters from basic training at Ft. McClellan, Alabama, and then from Italy, but nothing in between," she writes. "I know he was in North Africa for a short while, but I don't know about the ocean passage and what he did there.

"Since he was a replacement infantryman, he didn't even know his unit assignment until his first encampment in Italy. He was assigned to Co. A, 133rd Inf. Regt, 34th Inf. Div. ("Red Bulls"), 5th Army."

If your father served with the 34th Division, trained at Ft. McClellan, was an infantry replacement, or was from Ohio, Sims would like to hear from you. She also needs background information about the draft process in Ohio and the basic training selection process. Contact her at lss827@gmail.com.

2016 AWON FINANCIAL REPORT

	Actual '13	Actual '14	Actual '15	Actual '16	Budget '17
Budgeted Operating Income:					
Membership Dues	\$16,110	\$15,790	\$13,460	\$14,406	\$12,500
Bookstore Income (net)	2,000		1,500		
Interest				567	600
	18,110	15,790	14,960	14,973	13,100
Non-Budgeted Operating Income:					
Conference Net Income	5,000		2,748	6,500	
Donations	680	825	805	1,026	700
Miscellaneous			17		
	5,680	825	3,569	7,526	700
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	23,790	16,615	18,529	22,499	13,800
Designated Purpose Income:					
Margraten Funds	1,560	9,148	2,850		
Wreath Income	1,539	1,000	2,051	4,889	500
TOTAL DESIGNATED INCOME	3,099	10,148	4,901	4,889	500
TOTAL INCOME	26,889	26,763	23,430	27,388	14,300
Operating Expenses:					
Newsletter	6,605	5,301	5,089	4,561	5,000
Newsletter Editor				3,600	3,600
Telephone and America Online	862	456	301	66	100
Postage and Shipping	25		106		50
Insurance & State fees	550	637	540	540	700

Above is AWON's summary financial report for 2013-2016 and the approved budget for 2017. The summary report includes income from all sources, and expenses, by category. Beginning in 2015 a financial report was published to provide financial information for the membership. Following are some comments and explanations:

The Board approved offering multi-year dues payment options in 2012. As expected, later years' dues renewals have decreased. Additionally, overall membership has been trending downward slightly every year.

Most Bookstore income comes from sales at the National Conference. Space and logistics at the 2016 AWON National Conference Florida cruise did not accommodate the bookstore so no income from the Bookstore is budgeted.

The AWON National Conference net income usually is received in the year following the conference, however it was received in 2016 due to extraordinary efforts by the Conference co-Chairs. Conference registration fees were lowered starting in 2012 to a level to cover convention costs. Planning is underway for the 2018 AWON Gala, to be held in Washington, D.C., in September 2018.

With the adoption of the AWON Memorial Day Wreath Program, the Wreath Coordinator transferred remaining wreath funds to the AWON General Fund. Wreath collections in 2016 exceeded costs by more than \$2,000. End of year wreath funds of \$13,823 are sufficient to cover wreath program costs for several years, so there will be no solicitation for wreaths in 2017.

Newsletter costs have decreased due to more *e-Star* subscriptions and culling of addresses that once received a free issue yearly. Beginning in 2016 the AWON Board of Directors determined to contract with *The Star* editor so that AWON could continue to use her expertise.

AWON pays the expenses of its Founder when she attends AWON national conferences. She did not attend the last two conferences. Board members receive reimbursement of expenses to attend in-person board meetings in off-conference years, as required by AWON bylaws.

2016 AWON FINANCIAL REPORT

	Actual '13	Actual '14	Actual '15	Actual '16	Budget '17
Regional AWON Coordinators		70			250
Database Manager	3,334	2,344	3,709	1,440	3,000
Database Supplies	269	219	107	190	250
WP Listserv Donation	350	500	500	500	500
Website	900	723	900	900	1,000
Conference Expense (founder)					
American Legion Donation	500	500	500	500	500
Archives	68	2,663	85	85	350
Supplies-Indy office	91				100
Membership Outreach and Care	412	37	183	411	500
Off-Year Board Meeting	4,549		6,732		7,000
Tax Return and Treasurer		50	522	565	700
Conference advances	2,902		2,000	50	4,500
BOD Election		721			
Database webpage design		3,825	3,420		
Other		12			350
	21,416	18,058	24,694	13,408	28,450
Designated Purpose Expenses:					
Cromarty Margratten Fund			1,135	425	
Margratten Bench		5,185	6,813		
Wreath Expenses	315			2,852	3,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,731	23,243	32,641	16,685	31,450
INCOME OVER					
(UNDER) EXPENSES	\$5,158	\$3,520	(\$9,211)	\$10,703	(\$17,150)

AWON gives donations to westpoint.org and the American Legion for providing to AWON at no cost its Listserv and Indianapolis office space and services, respectively.

The AWON Board of Directors continues to investigate options for the archiving of AWON hard copy and digital records. Expenses in 2014 were for the board's archive project leader to meet with other archivists. The 2015 in-person board meeting was held in Boston so that the board could meet with a potential provider of archival services.

The AWON member who previously donated the preparation of AWON's non-profit tax return retired, so beginning in 2015 AWON has paid an outside individual to prepare the return.

There was no Board of Directors election in 2016 and one is not anticipated in 2017.

In 2014 the board authorized an upgrade to AWON's database in order to store Father Tribute text and images from the AWON website. The upgrade was completed in 2015.

At the end of 2016 AWON had accounts totaling \$88,285, including \$13,823 designated for the AWON Memorial Day Wreath program.

AWON currently enjoys sufficient financial resources to operate, thanks to the generosity of the membership; however, the AWON board wishes to remind members about AWON's future financial needs. AWON has reached the point where many services previously provided by volunteers out of necessity require outsourcing. This includes but is not be limited to AWON's tax return, database management, and the newsletter editor.

Additionally, costs will continue in order to maintain the AWON database, and there may be significant costs associated with archiving AWON's records at a repository to be accessible by researchers. Some funds may be needed to subsidize costs of the 2018 Gala. All of these issues may require more financial resources than the current decreasing annual membership and attendant dues, both multi-year and annual, can sustain.

Includes tours, photos, battles, military units

Updated Italy guide comprehensive

by Laura Smail Sims

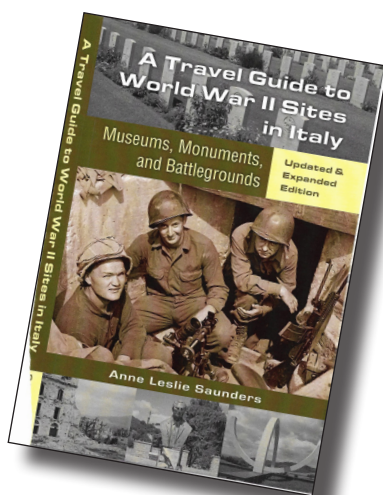
Travelers to World War II sites in Italy will be interested in Anne Leslie Saunders' new and revised edition of *A Travel Guide to World War II Sites in Italy*, published in December 2016 by Travel Guide Press in Charleston, South Carolina.

Although a few other such travel guides exist, including Chuck Thompson's *The 25 Essential World War II Sites, European Theater* (2nd edition, 2007), and Saunders' first edition, published in 2010, this updated book is unique in that it describes 19 tours of World War II monuments, cemeteries, and battlegrounds in various regions of Italy, from Sicily to Trieste, all personally visited by the author, except for three separate cemeteries. Each tour requires one to twelve days to complete, depending on the number of sites the traveller wants to visit in that area.

This revised edition has been expanded from the previous one to include tours of more sites throughout Italy, photographs, and excerpts from *Random Notes of an American Prisoner of War*, the journal of Donald Wafu who spent months in Italian POW camps. The first chapter gives a brief history of Italy from 1914-1945 and describes how events

in the Italian campaign evolved. The following two chapters discuss the U.S. 7th Army and the British 8th Army in Sicily, respectively. Chapters discussing the armies as they moved through southern Italy, Cassino, Anzio and Nettuno, and Rome, follow.

Sites devoted to the U.S. 5th Army in Tuscany and from the



Gothic Line northward are presented, as well as sites specific to the U.S. 10th Mountain Division in the Apennines. Activities of the British 8th Army in the North are presented in four chapters. The book concludes with descriptions of sites in Bologna, Felonica and Trieste. Each of the chapters provides travel notes and directions for that particular location in Italy, accompanied by the historical context of the war activity that occurred there, followed by information on specific battlefields, monuments, and museums in the area.

The book notes most of the commonwealth cemeteries in Italy, varying in size but not design. Also described are the two permanent World War II cemeteries of the United States - the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery at Nettuno, and the Florence-American Cemetery and Memorial near Florence - three cemeteries of Poland, two of France, one each of Brazil and Greece, and four of Germany. Italian soldiers were usually buried in municipal graveyards. A major omission, in my opinion, are the sites honoring the U.S. 34th "Red Bull" Infantry Division, such as the Gothic Line Memorial Park near Vernio. The author promises to cover these in a subsequent edition of the guide.

A unique feature of this edition is that the GPS coordinates are identified for each site, making it easier for the traveller to locate them. For those of us who identify with visual cues, I personally would have liked to have maps in each chapter, with each site identified on the map.

Of course, a small book cannot adequately cover all the war sites in Italy. This guide, however, provides a vast amount of unique information for the traveller who is interested in visiting many of the World War II sites from the Italian campaign. Available from Amazon. (ISBN 978-1540566041)



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



BOOKS

Authors in **bold** are orphan or family members • Items marked with an asterisk (*) include P&H

____ *A Bit of Earth*
by **Wendy Crisp Lestina** **NEW!!** \$13.95

____ *K.I.A.: An Orphan's Search for His Father Through the Fog of War*
by **Patrick Audinet** **NEW!!** \$10.00*
All proceeds from Audinet book benefit AWON

____ *The Beauty of What Remains: Family Lost, Family Found*
by **Susan Johnson Hadler** **NEW!!** \$15.00*

____ *In Search of A pilot: Hanford "Rusty" J. Rustand*
by **Marilynn Rustand Lieurance** \$7.00*

____ *My Father: More than a Picture, a Beer Bottle and a Flag*
by **Jerry W. Pinkerton** \$12.00*

____ *The Measure of a Man: My Father, the Marine Corps, and Saipan*
by **Kathleen Broome Williams** \$28.00*

____ *The Lost Submarine: A True Story of Love and War*
by **Nancy Kenney** \$16.00

____ *"Daddy's Gone to War": The Second World War in the
Lives of America's Children*
by William M. Tuttle Jr., PhD \$30.00

____ *In My Father's Words: Letters From a WWII Soldier*
by **Bill McElvain** \$16.00

____ *Farebersville 1944*
by **Jeff Wignall** \$18.95

____ *A Soldier's Daughter*
by **Lois Brown Klein** \$17.00

____ *The Ordinary Infantrymen: Heroes Then, Heroes Again*
by **Imogene Woods** and Twelve WWII Infantrymen \$15.00

____ *Full Fathom Five: A Daughter's Search*
by **Mary Lee Coe Fowler** \$29.95

____ *Love Always, Ben*
by **Huey Tyra**, nephew **REDUCED!** \$2.00

____ *Sporty Course (bomber pilots)*
by Col. Jack Swayze \$10.00

____ *The Hotton Report (about The Battle for Hotton)*
by Robert McDonald \$13.95

____ *World War II: A Legacy of Letters - One Soldier's Journey*
by **Clinton Frederick** \$26.95

____ *An 8th Air Force Combat Diary*
by John A. Clark \$49.95

____ *When I See a "Forty and Eight" ... I Remember World War Two*
by Lt. Col. Jacques Adnet USAF (ret.) **REDUCED!** \$5.00

____ *In Their Memory: American WWII Orphans Network*
by Turner Publishing Company
Standard Book was \$49.95 **REDUCED!** \$10.00
Leatherbound Book was \$79.95 **REDUCED!** \$25.00

____ *The Fighting Tigers: The Untold Story Behind the Names on
the Quachita Baptist University WWII Memorial*
by William Downes \$24.95

____ *The War Journey of Major Damon "Rocky" Gause*
foreword by **Damon L. Gause** \$21.95

____ *No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son's Journey to
Normandy*
by **Walter Ford Carter** **REDUCED!** \$18.00

____ *D-Day + 60 Years: A Small Piece of Airborne History*
by Jerome J. McLaughlin \$25.00

____ *They Also Served: Women's Stories from the World War II Era*
by Jeanie Sutton Lambright
NEW PRICE!! hardcover \$20.00 softcover \$10.00

____ *Finding Billy*
by **Diana Thompson Dale**, niece \$16.95

____ *Father Found: Life and Death as a Prisoner of the Japanese
in World War II*
by **Duane Heisinger** \$13.95

____ *Shobun: A Forgotten War Crime in the Pacific*
by **Michael J. Goodwin** \$19.95



AWON BOOKSTORE

Price List / Order Form



CD / DVD

____ *Leather and Strings*
by Mark LaPointe, grandson of Sgt William G. Aubut
featuring *Somewhere in Germany*, written and sung by Mark
at AWON's 10th conference memorial service \$6.00

____ *Letters of Love and War* (CD for Mac or PC)
by 1LT John and Betty Peirson \$19.44

____ *AWON 2004 Conference & WWII Memorial Dedication*
(VHS) **REDUCED!** was \$5.00 \$ 3.00*

____ *We Speak Their Names: A Tribute to Our Fathers* (VHS)
produced by Patrick Tierney and **Terry Boettcher**
REDUCED! was \$15.00 \$ 3.00*

____ *AWON 2000 Conference: Journeys - Finding Our Fathers*
(VHS) by Justin Taylan was \$15.00 \$ 5.00*

____ *Sleep My Sons: The Story of the Arisan Maru*
by **Shawnee Brittan** **REDUCED!** was \$30.00 \$20.00*

AWON Logo Products

Close Out on the following AWON merchandise:

____ Sweatshirt \$45.00
only two left: one white 2XL, one blue 2XL
____ Golf shirt ____ white ____ blue \$35.00
only three left: one white XL, two blue XL
____ 20th Anniversary Logo T-shirt (navy) \$20.00
only three left: blue 2XL

____ Hat \$15.00
____ Scarf (royal blue fleece) \$15.00
____ **AWON 20th Anniversary Totebag** **REDUCED!*** \$5.00
* small, P&H included
____ Tote bag (large) \$20.00
____ **20th Anniversary Garden Flags** \$15.00
without holder

AWON Gold Star crystal pendant (no chain included):

____ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/8" (28mm) \$10.00
____ Gold Star crystal pendant 1 1/2" (40mm) \$20.00

____ *AWON lapel pin \$10.00
____ Gold Star earrings \$20.00
____ *AWON button (2 1/4 inch) \$3.00
____ *AWON lanyard and name tag/ticket holder
(4" x 6") blue with white lettering \$6.00

____ *AWON note cards w/envelopes (pkg. of 20) \$20.00
____ *AWON bookmarks
(circle amount: 1/\$1.00, 5/\$3.00, 10/\$5.00)

____ *AWON auto magnet \$6.00
____ *AWON holiday ornament \$10.00

The Star NEWSLETTERS

____ * Individual issues \$2.00 includes P&H
____ * All archived issues: \$35.00 includes P&H
____ * Special! Most recent five issues: \$7.50 includes P&H

Ordering Information

Postage and handling: \$8 for each item. Items marked with an asterisk (*) include P&H. For multiple purchases:
Up to \$40: \$10 P&H \$40-\$60: \$12 P&H Over \$60: \$15 P&H Washington State residents add 7.8% sales tax.

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Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Total Enclosed: _____

Send check or money order to:

AWON Bookstore

5745 Lee Road

Indianapolis, IN 46216

email: bookstore@awon.org

For more information and color photos go to: www.awon.org/bookstore/bookstore.html

AWON remembers brother, mother

Kenneth Robert 'Bob' Caine, 73, of Bridgeton, NJ, passed away on March 12, 2017.

He was born June 4, 1943, the son of PFC Robert C. Caine and Harriet A. Jagers Caine. He was the brother



Bob Caine

of AWONer Lyndal Kellogg Caine. Bob was a machine operator for many years, and enjoyed antique cars, collecting model trains, and being a CB radioman. He is survived by his wife, Jennie Caine; brother, Lyndal; and many nieces and nephews.

Lillie Young Kunz, 96, of New Berlin, IL, passed away March 5, 2017. She was born on January 10, 1921, and was retired from the State of Illinois Department of Revenue. Lillie was involved with the Sangamon County Fair for over 30 years and enjoyed ceramics, baking, wood-working and genealogy. She was preceded in death by her first hus-



Lillie Kunz

band, Louis R. Kunz, who was KIA February 26, 1945, and buried in Margraten, Netherlands. She visited her husband's grave for the first and only time on Memorial Day, 2011 at the age of 90 (see September 2011 issue of *The Star*). Lillie also was preceded by her second husband, Edwin J. Kunz; her daughter, Barbara Humphrey, daughter of Louis; a granddaughter and a great-grandson. She is survived by four children, AWONer Louis J. (Linda) Kunz, son of Louis, and Joseph Kunz, Sue (Kenneth) White, and Charles W. (Trudy) Kunz; 12 grandchildren; and numerous great- and great-great-grandchildren.

Join AWON on Facebook

If you are not already aware, AWON has a Facebook page.



It is a closed group, so everyone must be "approved" to join. All AWONers are welcome to join, "approval" just keeps interlopers from getting in. Currently there are 240 members to the group.

AWON also has a ListServ, which is email-based. The ListServ and Facebook page are both "AWON-approved" social networking options.

If you'd like to join the AWON Facebook page, search for "AWON" and then click the "join" button.

2018 Gala Gathering No-commitment Pre-registration

For planning purposes, AWON would like to know if you intend to attend the 2018 Gala Gathering, Sept. 28-29, 2018, in Washington, D.C. **There is no commitment.** If you intend to attend, please email or mail Penny LeGrand the following information by **June 1**:

- Name
- Number of guests
- Wheelchair needs (for buses)

Email or mail to Penny LeGrand at pennylg11@gmail.com or Penny LeGrand, 11231 N. Platte Dr., Oro Valley, AZ 85737-6520

Margraten adoption program offers Commemoration Certificate to families

by Ton Hermes, Chairman
Foundation for Adopting Graves,
American Cemetery - Margraten

The Foundation for Adopting Graves at the American Cemetery in Margraten has welcomed many AWON members over the past years, always escorted by AWONer Gerry Morenski. Many of you have made a connection with a Dutch citizen who adopted the grave of your beloved one in Margraten.

To visualize this special connection we have issued a Certificate of Commemoration especially for family members of soldiers buried in Margraten. This certificate visualizes the relationship with the adopter in honouring together an American liberator. Knowing that there are people in Margraten that care and place flowers every now and then provides comfort. Commemorating together makes sense, and the relationship between the adopters and next of kin is important.

Adoption means caring for an American soldier that participated in the liberation of Europe. That soldier fought for our universal values of freedom, equality and fraternity. Adopting an American soldier might lead to more tolerance, to a willingness to fight for the common values in our society, and a willingness to defend ourselves against old and new threats.

How do we prevent alienating ourselves from our universal values? By not forgetting, by realizing the value of remembering.

Without the remembrance of World War II, and also of the events that lead to this war, we do not fully realize where a sneaky process of intolerance can lead; an incontestable campaign of lies, a slow process of dehumanization of deviant people.

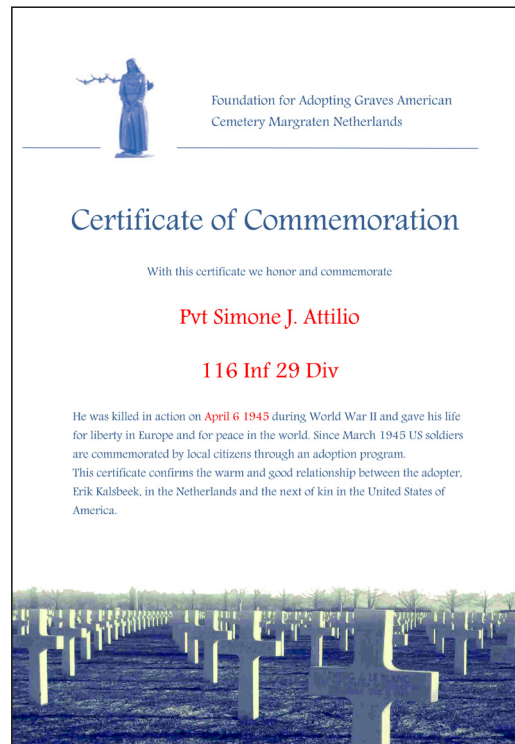
It is not only the rhetoric of the extreme right or left that causes a collapse of society, but the indifference of people. That is the biggest challenge we have to cope with: indifference. Awakening is necessary, and adoption is a perfect medium in a personal perspective.

Our American liberators were not indifferent or aloof. They enlisted to fight the Nazi regime. By adopting a grave or a name of an American soldier, we show our respect for his or her willingness to act, for the fact that he or she did not look the other way and was not indifferent. This underscores the importance of adoption in the world of today. This is the message every adopter should propagate: do not be indifferent.

This message is worthy to be spread, it is important for it to reach more and more people, and for it to inspire

and motivate them in their daily life. The sacrifice made by our liberators gains value over the years. They deserve that. They gave their life for us!

If you wish to get in touch with the adopter of your beloved one, and if you would like to receive a Certificate of Commemoration, please contact us with your personal details and the name of the soldier buried in Margraten at: request@adoptiegraven-margraten.nl.



AWON Board Business 20 December 2016

Financial Report: As of November 30, AWON has \$81,000 in cash, including \$13,700 restricted for wreaths. Year-to-date operating income is \$13,900 and operating expenses are \$12,000. Reimbursements for Memorial Day wreath purchases totaled \$2,852. Year-to-date dues receipts total \$13,000, and interest income totals \$520.

AWON Archives: Norma Nicol Hamilton has completed an article for *The Star* about personal memorabilia and archives. The board talked about the Pritzker Military Museum in Chicago. Hamilton contacted AWON member **Sharon Estill Taylor** about her contacts with the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. Hamilton plans to contact the museum's Steve Watson to discuss possible interest in AWON's archives. Hamilton is working with AWONers **Ruthie Joyce**, **Sharon Connor**, **Walt Linne** and **Ann O'Connor**.

Orphan Umbrella Group: Norm Burkey has written

an article for the Korean War orphan's newsletter to see if there is any interest in collaborating with other organizations. He will also investigate all Gold Star organizations to see if there is general interest.

In-Person Board Meeting: Norm contacted Walt Linne regarding the use of the American Legion facilities for the in-person board meeting in March in Indianapolis.

AWON By-laws: The newly-amended bylaws will be sent to each board member to update their board manuals.

2018 AWON Gala: After much discussion, the board decided not to hire an outside company to plan the 2018 AWON Gala but instead use AWON volunteers.

ABMC Presence: The board discussed the idea of AWON having some kind of permanent presence at every ABMC visitor center. **Gerry Morenski** will check with ABMC to see what is allowed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be January 17, 2017.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

REMINDERS

- **Tell AWON when you head to or from your winter home**
- **Tell AWON when you move or change your email**
- **Make all checks payable to AWON**
- **Print clearly**

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

AWON Board Business 17 January 2017

Financial Report: As of December 31, AWON had \$88,300 of cash. Year-to-date operating income was \$22,500 and operating expenses were \$13,400. Dues receipts for the year 2016 were \$14,400. Year-to-date interest income was \$566. Expenses for the year were substantially less than budgeted. Income exceeded

...continued on page 18

Guidelines for Submitting Material for Publication

- Topics considered for publication in *The Star* include, but are not limited to, unit reunions, visiting battle or crash sites, cemeteries, ceremonies, seeking or finding families and veterans, poetry, etc.
- Email copy-ready articles and photos to the editor in Word, WordPerfect, RTE, formats, or in the body of an email. High resolution jpeg, bitmap, gif or tiff images are preferred. Text and photos also can be mailed. Photos returned upon request.
- Please keep text to one page (500 to 1,000 words),
- Preference is given to material written by and about AWON members.
- Authors retain copyright to published original writing. Permission to reprint should be obtained from the author by contacting the editor.

Kathy Le Comte, Editor
1004 Williams Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 414-1400 (cell)
johnkath5@comcast.net

**Deadline for the
July Issue
is June 1**

...Minutes, from page 17

expenses by \$10,100, compared to the budgeted excess of expenses over income of \$6,300. This is due in part to newsletter expenses coming in \$1,400 less than budgeted. Also, there were no board of directors election costs, which was budgeted at \$800. Database manager expenses also were \$1,600 under budget, and AWON didn't incur the Founder's expense for attending the 2016 AWON National Convention.

AWON Archives: **Norma Nicol Hamilton** contacted **Ruthie Joyce** and **Sharon Crowley Connor** regarding forming a task force for the AWON Archives.

Orphan Umbrella Group: **Norm Burkey** is still contacting all Gold Star organizations to see if there is general interest in collaboration.

ABMC Letter: **Gerry Morenski** is working with **Kathy Le Comte** to write a letter to ABMC regarding AWON having a permanent presence of some type at their cemeteries.

History IT: **Norm Burkey** and **Ed Peters** will meet with the competitors of History IT and will give a report at the March in-person board meeting.

2018 Gala: **Diane Pollard** and **Billie Meeks** gave a lengthy report on the 2018 Gala Celebration. They are waiting for some responses before more details about hotels can be decided.

March Meeting: The board discussed possible hotel and meeting space for the March in-person board meeting in Indianapolis, IN. **Gerry Morenski** will contact **Kathy Le Comte** to have a notice published in the January issue of *The Star*.

Meeting Schedule: The board approved a proposal to go back to meeting every other month and for the Executive Committee, consisting of the officers, meeting when necessary prior to the full board meeting.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be March 24-25, 2017, in Indianapolis, IN.

Bonnie Oates, Secretary

This is a condensed version of the minutes. For the complete minutes, visit awon.org.

American WWII Orphans Network

Application, Registration & Renewal Form

- ☐ I would like to become a member
☐ Register my father/family member and me only
☐ Renew my membership

Information about You

(please print clearly)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____ (home, work, cell)
E-mail _____

Do you prefer to receive *The Star* electronically? Y N
(Checking Y means you will not receive a copy in the mail. You will receive an email notification to read your copy online.)

Renewing members may skip to Dues Options

Relationship to Serviceman _____
Your Date of Birth _____
Where did you hear about AWON? _____

Information about WWII Serviceman

Be as complete as possible. If you do not have some information, leave it blank and we may be able to find it. Do not delay mailing application for lack of information.

Name _____
Last First M.I.
Birth Date _____
Date of Death _____
Place of Death _____
Where Buried _____
Military Unit _____
Service Number _____

Additional details about serviceman's death or service: (rank, medals, etc. Add additional sheet, if necessary.)

Home Town and State _____
Wife's Maiden Name _____

Names and addresses of your siblings with same father, and/or additional family members:

(Please include information on another sheet, if necessary.)

Membership Levels

Any child of a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine, who was killed, remains missing in action, or who died in the line of duty or later died of wounds or injuries sustained during World War II, is eligible to join as an **Orphan Member**. Any direct relative is eligible to join as a **Family Member**. Any individual, including friends of those killed in World War II, those who wish to participate in AWON activities, or organizations with an interest in and compatible with AWON's purposes and goals, are eligible to join as an **Associate Member**.

Check Your Membership Category:

☐ Orphan ☐ Family ☐ Associate

Dues and Donation Options

Basic annual membership dues are \$25. Sponsor, Gold Star and Multi-year memberships also are available. Circle your option and total below:

	1 Year	2 Year	3 Year
Basic	\$25	\$48	\$70
Sponsor	\$50	\$96	\$140
Gold Star	\$100	\$192	\$280

Would you like to include a donation for:

AWON Memorial Day Wreath Fund? \$ _____

AWON General Fund? \$ _____

Total Dues and Donations Enclosed: \$ _____

AWON is a humanitarian, nonprofit, nonpolitical, public service organization under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Federal Tax code (EINB #91-1538912). Membership is not required to register in our database.

**Make check payable to AWON and
mail it and form to:**

Jerry Pinkerton
AWON Treasurer
2848 Woodside St. #401
Dallas, TX 75204

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The Star

"Breaking Down the Wall of Silence"

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Indianapolis, IN 46216
www.awon.org



AWON Mission

To locate and bring together sons and daughters of those who died or are missing as a result of American involvement in World War II, honor the service and sacrifice of our fathers and provide information and support to these people who were orphaned by the war.

AWON Directory

Address Corrections

Gerry Morenski dbmanager@awondb.org

Archives

Ann Whelan O'Connor awolaojr@earthlink.net

Norma Nicol Hamilton rlhnnh@comcast.net

Bookstore

Walt Linne bookstore@awon.org

Dues

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Judy Geis Hoffman jghoffman@satx.rr.com

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Regional Gatherings Project

Barry Barr-Finch barrfinch1@gmail.com

The Star

Kathy Le Comte johnkath5@comcast.net

Washington, D.C. Liaison

Lee Mathis jlee123@verizon.net

Website

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