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| **Happy December everyone!**  **Hard to believe that it’s December already and Christmas is a few weeks away. Before you know it, we’ll be seeing the year in review lists and thinking about our New Year’s resolutions. When you’re out shopping, throw an extra something in your cart for the soldiers! And please remember that not everyone comes home from Christmas. And as always, “God bless our troops!”.** |

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**ur Monthly Meeting was be held at our building (4281 Rte. 50, Wilton) on Monday, December 3rd at 6:30 pm. The Board of Director’s meeting will be on Wednesday, December 5th. Anyone interested in helping our deployed soldiers or volunteering, come on down! We can always use the help!**

***Package Update:***

Our busiest season for sending packages is happening right now! Operation Adopt a Soldier sends hundreds of packages a year overseas to deployed military men and women. And it costs over $15 per package so we’re also looking for donations! Are you thinking of a donating before the end of the year? Please do! We not only welcome monetary donations but food, snacks, books, and personal products!

***November’s happenings:***

On November 11th, Operation Adopt a Soldier held it’s Honor Our Veteran’s Brunch at Fortunes’ Restaurant at Saratoga Casino and Hotel. What an awesome time it was. Over 300 people came and enjoyed great food, racing, gambling, 50/50’s and over 50 awesome raffle baskets. Everyone has loads of fun - our race sponsors, attendees, and the volunteers that make OAS great. And best of all – Operation Adopt a Soldier received some much-needed funds, just in time for our Christmas pack ups! A Big thank you to our sponsors!

***December’s Events:***

15th Christmas Eve Road March

Cool Insuring Arena, Glens Falls

The 15th Annual event to show support for military personnel serving overseas begins at 9am at the Cool Insuring Area (Civic Center). After some brief remarks from Sgt. 1st Class Arthur Coon, the march will go up Glen Street, turn right on Garrison Road, another right on Bay Street and then back to the arena. The route is about 4 miles. Please come out and support our troops!

***Year in Review:***

Well, it’s hard to believe that the end of 2018 is here. And what a year it has been! We’ve had tons of events and have helped more soldiers than you can possibly know. The year started out slow, as most do with not much going on in January.

In February, OAS held its 15th Anniversary Party at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga. Senator Jim Tedesco and Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner both presented Chairman Cliff Seguin and President Gordon Dilmore with an award. Everyone had an awesome dinner with a signature drink. Then there were raffles, silent and live auctions, and 50/50’s. Everyone had a wonderful evening and OAS had lots of fun.

March was quiet.

In the beginning of April, we had Bowl for our Soldiers, in Granville. People came out in support, bowled, and had fun. And at the end of April we took three buses to Turning Stone Casino. Lots of fun was had on the trip out with Bus Bingo and What’s in your Purse/Wallet games. There were winners. There were losers. And then, it was back on the bus for the trip home. A great day was had by all.

May had us helping a Veteran that reached out to us. He and his family had purchased a home, but before they received a COA a little work needed to be done. Materials were purchased and then the veteran was in a car accident which resulted in a broken back. OAS helped to complete a railing system on the homes deck, and a few other small things. Then it was Memorial Day, and we were at the Saratoga National Cemetery to help place over 14,000 flags upon the graves. That’s right. Every grave. Every man, every woman who has served, received a flag. It didn’t matter if he or she had died yesterday, last week, last year, twenty years ago or a hundred. They all were honored.

*In June we had our Annual Golf Tournament at Airway Meadows in Gansevoort. Unfortunately, not many people showed up to golf, but those that did, had a wonderful day filled with rounds of golf and a great meal afterwards.*

*And on to July. On July 7th, we set up at table at Wilton’s Parkfest at Gavin Park. We had lots of informational pamphlets to hand out. On July 23rd we had our 5th Annual Skeet Benefit Shoot at Hudson Falls Fish and Game. And it rained. So, the crowd was down. Those who did show faced off to shoot skeet, trap and five stand. Assembly woman Carrie Woerner even came, shot trap, and can’t wait to return in 2019. At the end of the day, we enjoyed a nice barbeque of hot dogs and hamburgers. Then the winners of the Mossberg Patriot 30-06 and .17 HMR Henry Goldenboy riffles were drawn. Everyone had a great time and are waiting for the next shoot.*

*In August, of course, we were at the Washington County Fair. Our booth was across from the 4-H building. We sold lots of tee shirts, sweatshirts, hats, box sponsorships, and of course, face painting. Lots of face painting. And we were able to connect with hundreds of people to let them know about our organization and our events.*

*September was hopping! The ninth of the month saw us up in Granville at the Phil Hoyt concert in the park. Phil puts on an amazing show filled with music, food, and a big wheel truck! By the middle of the month we were on two buses headed to Mohegan Sun in Connecticut. On the way we played bingo, and the game, “What’s in my purse/wallet”. And boy, was that fun! Sides of the bus received points for each item that they found. The winning side receive an extra ticket for the prize envelopes. Darn, were we busy!*

*In October, we held our Harvest Event. The most important fund raiser we have. Our first weekend went great. We had awesome weather and hundreds of people came out in support. The second weekend not so well. Friday night went well, but by Saturday, it was rainy, cold and had the possibility of snow. So, the hayride was cancelled, but the gym was ablaze with kids, games and lots of food. big thank you to all our volunteers and the families that rode through our displays. We couldn’t do it without you.*

*November was here before we knew it. And our Honor our Veterans Brunch was next, which happened on Veteran’s Day this year. Our two biggest fund raisers are back to back. The nice part, this year we had a week’s break in between them. So, back to Casino Hotel and Raceway. This time at Fortunes restaurant. Over 300 people came to enjoy the harness racing, buffet brunch, raffle baskets, and 50/50’s. We had awesome sponsors and had lots of fun handing out the raffles. Can’t wait until next year.*

*And then there’s December. The holidays. Thanksgiving is over. Christmas is coming. Not much going on this month except packaging up hundreds of boxes to ship overseas to our deployed soldiers. Don’t forget the Sgt. Coon’s road march on Christmas Eve day. And as you start to think about your Christmas shopping and holiday parties, please, remember. Not everyone comes home for Christmas. And that is why we do what we do. And as Cliffs says, “Until they all come home.”*

***Save the Dates:***



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**Annual Golf Tournament**

**Save the Date ~**

**June 1, 2019**

For details call Tim at 518-791-5270 or email [ratherbgolfing247@roadruner.com](mailto:ratherbgolfing247@roadruner.com)



***Ways to Donate:***

Want to Donate? Listed below are several easy ways.

We are always in need of items to send overseas. Done with the new book? Cleaning out your kitchen cabinet of impulse buys? On a diet for the new year? Consider donating them to OAS. A few of the many items that are requested by our soldiers stationed overseas: toothpaste, wet wipes, lotions, books, stationary, hard candy, deodorant, chaps tick, spaghetto’s, razors, gum, journals, pens, magazines, Q-tips, sun screen, band-aids, trail mix, etc. See our website for a detailed list.



* Amazon Smile: Shop on Amazon Smile (smile.amazon.com) and they will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization selected by you. And remember in November Amazon starts their Black Friday Deals!
* Drop us a Check in the mail. Our address is:

Operation Adopt a Solder

4281 Rt. 50

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

* Gather food, personal products, books, and DVDs from your friends and coworkers and drop them off at our building. For a complete list of items needed go to our website.
* GE Matching Gifts Program: Available to GE employees and retirees in their personal donations to charities. Donate $25 or more and then register your gift on the matching gifts web site that is available via GEBENEFITS.COM under the additional benefits heading. First timers must register their email address and receive confirmation. Forward this to Cliff at [wiseeagle1@yahoo.com](mailto:wiseeagle1@yahoo.com) and he’ll watch for your check. Not computer savvy? Then call 1-800-305-0669 and have your SSo# ready to register by telephone.

## **Volunteer**

Bored with life? Feel like you should be giving back? Then look no farther! We are always looking for volunteers to help with our events and pack ups. Don’t have time? Then donations are always good too, lol! Each package we send overseas costs of $15.00 in postage. Yes, $15!! Then multiply that by the number of packages we send. Cost of doing “business”. And Yikes!! So, every dollar counts!

Just hit up our improved website,

[www.operationadoptasoldier.org t](http://www.operationadoptasoldier.org/)o donate or learn how to volunteer!

And remember!

You can always follow us on Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat or Find Us on Instagram!

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