



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #54

July / August 2017

Don't Forget Craft Beer Festival

Our Post still has a bunch of tickets left for sale for the Yorktown Rotary Club's 'The Best and The Worst' craft beer and food festival on September 9, 2017. While the ticket price may seem steep at \$45 each for drinkers and \$15 for non-drinkers - half of each ticket sold is donated back to our Yorktown Post! That means you are helping our Post with a \$22.50 donation and can enjoy all the food, beer, and entertainment at the craft beer festival for \$22.50, or for only \$7.50 for non-drinkers. Every little bit helps an organization like ours survive and we hope that everyone will pass the word about this deal and buy their tickets through us to help support our mission. You can even go to our website (www.nylegion1009.org) to order your tickets online (an additional fee occurs). See or contact Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) for your tickets. Anyone can purchase these tickets, not just Post members, so pass the word about this wonderful festival to family and friends and help the Yorktown Rotary and our Post at the same time!

Post Summer BBQ...

On Sunday, August 20th, our Post members joined us for our annual Summer BBQ. This event is a relaxing event to get our members together during the summer before we start our busy event schedule again in September. We had 53 people come down to enjoy a delicious BBQ fare catered by our Post's bar manager, Theresa Capizola! We have gone to catering this event so that every member gets the chance to sit and enjoy the conversation. You really can't beat the conversation, food, and delicious dessert smorgasbord for the easy price of only \$7 per person.

Cmdr. Giacomini took a few minutes to welcome everyone back from their summer travels and to recognize a few members for their tireless service. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Sam Schatz and John McQuillan for all their recent work for the Post. Sam is our Hall

Manager (photo below), who is constantly showing our Post Hall to prospective renters and his success has helped our Post raise funds for many needed upgrades and repairs to our Post building. John McQuillan, our 3rd Vice Cmdr., spent a portion of his summer sanding and painting our Post railings and Hall entryway sidewalk to give us better 'curb-appeal'. John also polished and buffed our Hall's floor to a brilliant shine adding to our appeal to people who wish to rent our Hall. Cmdr. Giacomini pointed out to those present that our Post was awarded "Most Outstanding Post" in Westchester County at the County Convention in June due to all the work our Post members do in and for the Post. Great job everyone!



Yorktown Grange Fair Flag-raising Ceremony

Each year our Post continues its long tradition of opening the Yorktown Grange Fair with a flag-raising ceremony. This year the ceremony has been changed to 5 PM on Friday, September 8, 2017. We ask all available Post Legionnaires to come down for this quick 5-minute ceremony opening the 2017 Grange Fair. Please arrive by 4:45 PM and tell the attendant at the entrance that you are from the American Legion to do the flag ceremony and you will be able to park for free.

THE AMERICAN LEGION



National Parks Passes

Our apologies for the delay in getting this out to all you. Post member Don Roberts had sent me a note about this for the newsletter a while back but due to layoffs in staff here at the newsletter we are a little behind on reporting 'breaking news'!

The National Parks Service has lifetime Senior Pass for US residents aged 62 years and older, which had cost only \$10 since 1994, but thanks to Congress the price will be raised to \$80 on August 28, 2017. Despite this increase it still is something to avail yourself of. This pass bought once allows you and three other adults free admission to over 2,000 recreation sites managed by the National Parks Service, US Fish & Wildlife, and four other Federal agencies. These passes can be obtained at any Federal recreation site. For more information, you can check out nps.gov. Thank you, Don, for the helpful tip and I apologize for the delay in getting it out to everyone.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

On Saturday, June 10th, 2017 our Post joined once again with the Yorktown Heights Fire Department and some local Boy Scouts in conducting a reverent US Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Fire Department's carnival grounds. How many flags do we retire at this ceremony? This year there were just over 500 flags retired. We revived this ceremony to dispose of all the worn cemetery flags that are replaced prior to Memorial Day and all the flags people drop off at the Post during the year. With our new Flag Drop-Box out in front of our Post allowing 24 hr dropoff service we have a constant flow of worn flags arriving weekly. Thank you to Carl DiLiberto and Al Laughlin for their dedication in folding every flag dropped off throughout the year! Thank you to John Giacomini, Carl DiLiberto, Al Laughlin, John McQuillan, Terry Deveau, Rocco Salierno, Tom Brady, John Gunn, Roger Thompson, Tom Einwich, Lee DeFrancesco, Larry Armstrong, and Pat McDonough for their help making this event a success again this year.

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Convenient Location with Reasonable Rates

Food Collection for the Montrose VA Food Pantry...

On Saturday, September 30th, 2017 from 9 AM to 1 PM our Yorktown Post will once again hold a food collection to benefit the veterans who rely on the Montrose VA Food Pantry to survive. This is our 11th year conducting this important collection and everyone leaves with a warm feeling after we fill the Montrose Food Pantry van. Our Legionnaires set up tables in front of the ACME Supermarkets in Shrub Oak and Yorktown and collect non-perishable food items for just 4 hours that morning. We ask people entering to pick-up an item or two to donate to the veterans using the VA Food Pantry. The real story is when they come out of the store. People come out with bags and carts of food to donate for the veterans. Many donors tell us stories of their family members who have served, or are serving now. This really is a 'feel good' event and we hope everyone will help with this work that morning, or come by and help with a donation.

If you haven't signed-up to help out for this collection please give Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) a call to see where you can help. We need a minimum of four people at each location to allow for emergencies and comfort breaks. More is always better and it gives every member a chance to get to know their fellow Post members. We ask everyone to wear Post identifying attire if you have it, or just neat clothing. Hope to see you there!

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Margaret Gunn recovering from surgery.

New Post Fence

Many of you have already noticed the beautiful new wooden fence installed along the top of the wall between our property and the medical building next door (see photo). This was a project by Matthew Colalillo, a local Boy Scout, working to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in Scouting. Matthew planned the project, asked for input from our Post, raised the funds for it, and enlisted the help of his fellow Scout Troop members to complete it. Our sincere

thanks go out to Matthew and everyone who helped him with this project. This fence was a necessary upgrade to our Post property because of the problem of people cutting through our yard day and night as a shortcut to the neighborhood behind the Post. In the past people have fallen in the dark off the wall into the medical building parking lot which could easily have ended badly for them and our Post.



Donations from Far and Near

Our Post has been very fortunate in recent months to be the recipients of generous donations to our Post and its work from places far and near.

On Monday, July 17, 2017, Cmdr John Giacomini, Post Chaplain Tom Einwich, and Pat McDonough were invited to a BBQ at the Salem Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center in Purdys. During the afternoon's BBQ our members walked around the dining room chatting with the residents there bringing a few smiles to their faces. Director Christine Bockis explained that back in May their Center had joined in fund-raising with the Waterview Hills Center next door for the benefit of our Yorktown Post. During the BBQ(see photo) Ms Bockis announced to the attendees that their fundraising efforts had raised \$200 and then presented our Post Commander John Giacomini with this donation check for our Post's programs. Thank you to Christine Bockis and everyone at Salem Hills Rehabilitation and Healthcare!

We have also been extremely fortunate to receive generous donations from within our own Post #1009 family. Thank you to Patricia and Joseph Larsen for the donation of \$100 and a very big Thank You to Post Legionnaire Edward Donovan and his wife, Mary for their extraordinarily generous donation of \$1,000 to our Post and its work. Thank you to all of you!



Field Home Fall Festival

Our Post will have a table at the Field Home Fall Festival up on Catherine St off Rt-202 on **September 23rd, 2017 from 10 AM to 4 PM** to advertise our Post and its programs. This is usually a wonderful Fall day with vendors from all over town represented and our members answering questions and selling raffle tickets. We need at least 4 volunteers for the entire day but if we break it up into two, three hour shifts it could be easier. If you can do 10 AM to 1 PM, or 1 PM to 4 PM please let Pat McDonough(914-953-6807) know.

Welcome Aboard...

We wish a warm welcome aboard to our Post's newest members: Michael Foley and John Sambuca. We hope that you will take the time to stop in and meet your fellow Legionnaires at a meeting or Post event and become an active part of our Yorktown Post #1009 family!

This Newsletter is FREE to anyone interested in receiving it via e-mail. This saves the Post the expense of printing and postage. Your e-mail address will only be used for OFFICIAL POST BUSINESS. Sign up at: Post1009@nylegion1009.org

Bar Update...

Our Post's experiment to try craft beers on tap at our Post bar continues to be successful. We have had Sam Adams Summer Ale for a while now and just added Stella Artois on tap for the next few months. We plan to switch an Octoberfest

beer for the Sam Adams starting in September. Come down on a Friday night Happy Hour and have a taste!

Donations to Our Post

Each year our Post receives donations of various amounts from community members, organizations, and even our own Post members. We will now list all donations in our newsletter as a way of saying 'Thanks'. Our Post is an IRS authorized 501 C19 tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible.

We gratefully acknowledge the below donations to our Post and its continuing work.

Sandra & Fred Ingerman	\$ 25	01/13/17
Vincent Stack	\$ 30	01/18/17
Gladys Duval	\$ 25	01/18/17
Diana & David Mabey	\$ 50	01/19/17
John Giacomini	\$ 30	02/23/17
Janet Hecken (LNVU)	\$500	03/05/17
Tom Brady	\$ 55	03/13/17
Robert Burke (LNVU)	\$100	03/17/17
Pamela Guerra	\$ 50	04/07/17
Tom Connolly	\$ 78	05/15/17
Waterview Hill Rehab Ctr	\$500	06/09/17
Linda/Jeffrey Gold	\$ 25	06/21/17
Matthew Colalillo	\$ 25	07/10/17
Mary & Edward Donovan	\$1,000	08/05/17
Patricia & Joseph Larsen	\$100	08/20/17

****LNVU marked donations are specific donations to our cemetery rehab project and not to the Post.*

Membership...

Carl DiLiberto, our Post Membership Chairman did a wonderful job last year enabling our Post to take home a '100% Membership Renewal' award from the County Convention. This award is recognition that our Post membership is still growing even as we experience Post members passing on, or just moving on to other areas of the country as their lives dictate. In recent years our Post has done well just by bumping into prospective members during our Post or community events without adopting a formal recruitment program. This year, Carl and Adjutant Pat McDonough have pitched the idea that if we did an active membership recruitment drive and increased our Post's membership with a

bunch of new faces - new ideas and talents would come along with them - helping our Post improve in ways we can't even imagine! With that in mind our Post will be reaching out to 70 local veterans that are living in our area and already are members of the American Legion. These are members of the New York State Post who most likely joined the American Legion in response to a promotional mailing. With no contact with a local Post they probably only think of the Legion in terms of a magazine subscription, unaware of the enjoyment and camaraderie of being part of an active local Post. Hopefully, a few of these Legionnaires will join us in our work here in Yorktown and those new faces with their new ideas will make us better and stronger than ever. Stay tuned for further updates.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue Sep 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Fri Sep 8 Grange Fair flag-raising Ceremony. Meet at 4:45 PM.

Thu Sep 14 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Sat Sep 23 Field Home Fall Festival - 11 AM to 4 PM. Volunteers needed.

Sat Sep 30 VA Food Pantry Collection at both ACME Supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers needed!

Tue Oct 3 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Oct 12 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Tue Nov 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Nov 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Sat Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall - 11 AM. Form-up at 10:45 AM.

Sat Nov 12 Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak. Form-up at 1:30 PM at Lakeland HS.

Yorktown Post #1009

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