



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #55

September / October 2017

Sons of the American Legion Yorktown Squadron #1009

About two years ago, then-Post Cmdr Gerry Knapp started holding informational meetings with the idea of organizing a unit of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) at our Post. Gerry recognized that our Post members, while the most active in Westchester County right now... are not 'Spring chickens' anymore and younger blood is needed to keep things going at our now successful pace. Younger veterans are not joining the Legion like in eras gone by until they are secure with jobs and homes. They won't have time or energy to spare to be active in the American Legion. Under Cmdr John Giacomini this S.A.L. initiative continued and on Monday, October 23, 2017 our Yorktown Post filed an application for a Charter with the Department of New York to form a Sons of the American Legion Yorktown Squadron #1009. We welcome aboard: Paul Martin III, Craig L. Armstrong, Lawrence Armstrong, James Calbo, Matthew Essell, Dennis Frasene, William L. Gerhard Jr., William A. Goss, William M. Goss, Ed Lachterman, Kevin McDonough, and William L. Wienecke to our expanded Post Family. The 12 members forming this Sons Squadron charter group are all descendants of US veterans who were members of, or eligible to be members of the American Legion. Of these 12, 4 are sons of Post members, 2 are Post members (Dual members), and 10 are members new to our Post family. We hope that everyone will welcome the members of our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron and their families into our Post family and our activities.

Our plan is to have this new Sons Squadron march in the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade and introduce them publicly to Yorktown that day.

American Legion Auxiliary

At the American Legion Family Membership seminar on October 15th at Mt Kisco Post #136 the Legion talked about increasing Post membership all over. The Sons of A.L. (SAL) talked about keeping the lines of communication open with their Sons Squadrons all over to help each other

out. When the American Legion Auxiliary representative got up, she publicly asked the other rep's about their Posts. 280 Legionnaires? 80 Sons members? No Auxiliary in your Post? That means 360 men and no women interested in doing things in your Post?! Daughters, wives, grandmothers, and mothers of veterans can create a fun and strong Auxiliary Unit in every Post and keep your Post from looking like an all-male, leave-the-women home kind of place.

Our Post had an Auxiliary Unit which closed around 2004 when it was down to only 2 active members. At that time our Post was down to 8 Legionnaires attending our monthly meetings and our bills were being paid out of our reserve funds. Those were tough times... we are now one of the most active Posts in Westchester County without the benefit of a Sons Squadron or Auxiliary Unit to help. Imagine the possibilities for our Post and its activities if two new units took part in them with fresh new faces and ideas! Hey... just a thought.

Field Home Fall Festival

For the past 4 years our Post has set up and manned a table at the annual Field Home Fall Festival. It's a wonderful Fall day with Yorktowners strolling through with their families. For us it's a day to sell a few raffle tickets, explain our many Post programs to people who are unaware of them, and possibly meet a few veterans who might like to join our Yorktown Post. On Saturday, September 23, 2017 from 10 AM to 4 PM we did this in beautiful weather. Thank you to: Tom Einwich, John Giacomini, Lee DeFrancesco, Al Laughlin, Tom Brady, and Pat McDonough for helping that day! We educated quite a few people about our Honor Flag program, Commemorative Bricks, and our Hall rentals. Many people know more about the American Legion and our programs because we were there.

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Convenient Location with Reasonable Rates

On Friday, September 8, 2017 our Post continued its long tradition of conducting the flag-raising to open the 2017 Yorktown Grange Fair. Thank you to: Al Laughlin, Lee DeFrancesco, Larry Armstrong, Steve Rice, Tom Einwich, Tom Brady, John McQuillan, Dan Denisco, Ken Blish, Terry Deveau, Gil Kaufmann, John Giacomini, Carl DiLiberto, and Arnold Folberth for keeping this tradition alive. Some special thanks go out to Post member Dan Denisco's extra effort in attending this event. Dan must plan things around his wheelchair accessibility and the rolling grassy areas were certainly daunting. Luckily Dan could maneuver around OK. Rumor has it he is thinking of going with a larger-tracked rear tire next year and staying around for the tractor-pull competition! Great job, Dan, it's always a pleasure having you in our ranks!



Town Hall Flagpole Ceremony

On Friday, September 29th at 9 AM, at the request of the Yorktown Town Board, our Post lowered and folded the flags of our nation, state, and town in a short ceremony taking the flagpole in front of Town Hall out of service. The town is moving the flagpole and 3 veteran's monuments located there to the adjacent Patriot's Park and installing federally-mandated handicapped parking in their place. We thank: John Giacomini, Al Laughlin, Rocco Salierno, Tom Brady, Frank Troia, and Tom Einwich for taking the time out of their day to help with this service for the town. We will keep everyone informed when the monuments and new flagpoles for all the military branch flags are installed and construction is complete at the updated Patriot's Park.

Welcome New Post Members

In our last issue we informed everyone that our Post had reached out to 69 local Legionnaires who were in NY's Post #0001 asking if they would like to join our Yorktown Post. As we go to press we have had 9 take us up on our this offer. We welcome: Steven Bonifacio, William Dunphy, Paul Eiseman, Francis Moran, Thomas Mullaney, William Howard, Joe Pettit, William Raymond, and Danial Ort Jr. to the ranks of our Yorktown Post #1009!

We would also like to welcome aboard our newest members to the American Legion and our Post: John Sambuca, Michael Foley, and Thomas Bodkin. One note - Thomas Bodkin has also jumped in as the new Scoutmaster of our new Post-sponsored Boy Scout Troop #1776 as well.

We hope that all of you will join us for an activity or event, or two, so that you can get to know your fellow Post members and enjoy all the good work our Post does in our community. A warm welcome aboard to ALL of you!!

Veterans Day Parade

Don't forget!! The Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade is on Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 2 PM. We form-up at 1:40 PM at Lakeland HS in the driveway closest to St Elizabeth Seton Church. We ask ALL POST LEGIONNAIRES and new SONS MEMBERS to make the effort to come and march with us to honor all veterans that day. Please wear Post attire, if you have it, or neat clothing. We march .7 miles to the Hart Library where the ceremonies are held. It is during these ceremonies that our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron will be introduced for the first time. Come and show your support for our newest Post members 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 and Craig Keitel recovering from pneumonia.

Post Holiday Party

It may seem like a long time away but the holidays are fast approaching. Our Post Holiday Party is set for Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 1

PM in our Post Hall. We are keeping the price at \$7 per person but we ask everyone to bring a small dessert for the dessert table that everyone can sample. This table really has become quite a treat for everyone. We will once again be catering this event so RSVP's are REQUIRED by 12/10/17 to Adjutant Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807, or to post1009@nylegion1009.org.

The menu includes: Penne Vodka, chicken parmesian, chicken francese, pork loin with saurkraut, roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, bread & butter - so save the date. Note: all events are open to Legion and Sons members and their families.

Montrose VA Food Pantry Collection

On Saturday, September 30, 2017, in a pouring rain, our Post began its 11th annual food collection to benefit the veterans who rely on the food pantry at the Montrose VA Healthcare Facility. The rain didn't dampen our spirits and we had 21 Legionnaires and two highly motivated grandsons set-up collection tables at the ACME Supermarkets in Shrub Oak and Yorktown. Duncan and Tycho Force, grandsons of our Financial Officer Larry Armstrong, came to help us out in full 'uniform', wearing Post sweatshirts and baseball caps! They joined our Legionnaires as we asked customers entering the ACME stores to pick-up an item or two to donate to the Montrose VA Food Pantry and the veterans who rely on it.

Once again our members got to witness the generosity of our fellow Yorktowners. Some people gave one item, others brought out shopping carts ½ full and took 2 small bags out to keep for themselves and donated all the rest. Many donated and thanked us for doing this collection! This was our 11th year conducting this very necessary collection which resulted in 15 carts full of food and \$912 in cash donations collected in only 4 hours!

After the food was picked up by the food pantry van, Adjutant Pat McDonough stopped on his way home at Yorktown Pasta & Pizza at Rt 202 & Rt 118 to pickup some lunch. Pat has been picking up the pizza there for our Post meetings and has gotten to know Joe, the owner, a bit. Joe saw the Post jacket and shirt and asked what we've been up to. Pat explained what we had done and why. Joe said he hadn't been aware that this was going on today and before Pat knows it... Joe tosses \$50 to Pat to be put in the

collection for the pantry!! New Total - \$962 in four hours! Our Post has learned over the many years we've done this collection to make our donation check out to the Food Bank of Westchester for the exclusive use of the VA Montrose Food Pantry. When we do this the \$962 we donate becomes 4X the amount in buying power for the pantry. This means our cash donation was actually \$3,848 for the pantry!!

Don't forget... if you have the occasion to stop in Yorktown Pizza & Pasta - be sure to thank Joe and the staff there for their generous donation!



A True Legion Family – (L-R) Tycho Force, his Mom - Kim, brother - Duncan, Grandpa - Larry Armstrong, and Uncle - Craig Armstrong (future SAL member).

Post Programs Recap

Our Post has several programs unique to our Yorktown Post that many of our newer members and certainly most of our new SAL members might not even know about. This is a short recap for everyone's re-education:

Veterans Commemorative Brick program -

We sell engraved Commemorative Bricks which we install in our Post's park out front. It is not a memorial park, but a *commemorative* park, so veterans living, or not, can have their brick installed. Bricks can be bought throughout the year but are dedicated each year in a ceremony on Memorial Day. Bricks are \$100 each, but Post members get \$10 off of their brick. The funds raised after brick engraving expenses are donated to local veterans-related charities. In the 5 years of this program we have donated over \$20,000 to these charities. Bricks sold = donations to veterans' charities, so think about a brick for yourself and pass the word about this important program to others.

Honor Flag program -

Our Post will fly the burial flag of any US veteran at the flagpole at Jack DeVito Veterans

Memorial Track & Field across the street from the Post. We raise the flag in a ceremony and fly it for 3 weeks (weather depending) with the flag of their branch of military service below it. We lower it in a ceremony with the playing of Taps. Families are invited to attend these ceremonies to join us in honoring their loved one's service. The flag can be returned to them or added to our Flag Retirement Ceremony each Flag Day in June.

Hall Rentals -

Our Post is lucky enough to have a Hall for members to rent with a full bar and kitchen available. Post members and SAL members, in good standing, receive \$100 of the Hall rental charge of \$400. The member must be the one named on the rental contract and must be present for the event for the discount to occur. Call #302-495-9143 and talk with Sam our Hall Manager to arrange for a rental.

Post #1009 website -

Our Post has been a leader in the local American Legion with a website for our Post for almost 10 years. Members can read old Post e-Newsletters, view photos of past events, see the schedule of Post events and find out information about different programs - all in one place (www.nylegion1009.org).

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

Veterans Day Visits...

Our Post's has been invited to visit both Waterview Hills and Salem Hills Rehabilitation and Nursing care locations in Purdy's on Friday, November 9th at 2:30 PM to mark Veterans Day for the veteran residents there. If anyone would like to join us let Pat McDonough(914-953-6807) know and we can carpool over. Remember, these were the nice organizatiins who made donations to our Post this past Spring.

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 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.

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------|----------|
| 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 |
| Salem Hills Rehab Ctr | \$200 | 07/19/17 |
| Mary & Edward Donovan | \$1,000 | 08/05/17 |
| Patricia & Joseph Larsen | \$100 | 08/20/17 |
| Jean/William Dunphy | \$ 30 | 09/12/17 |

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

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Wed Nov 6 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
*****Note day change due to Dept Cmdr's Dinner on Tuesday!*****

Thu Nov 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Sat Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall at 11 AM by VFW Post #8328.

Sun Nov 12 Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak. Form up at 1:40 PM at Lakeland HS.

Sun Dec 3 Breakfast with Santa Fund-raiser with Yorktown Lions. Details TBA.

Tue Dec 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Sun Dec 17 Post Holiday Party (Meeting Cancelled) \$7 per person RSVP's REQUIRED by 12/10.

Sun Dec 31 New Year's Eve Dinner & Dance at our Post. Details TBA.

Tue Jan 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Yorktown Post #1009

235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598
(914) 962-2843 www.nylegion1009.org