



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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Veterans Day Events



When most people think of Veterans Day they think of a quiet little National Holiday with a handful of small villages putting on parades and remembrance ceremonies honoring their veterans. A few years ago our Post members probably thought the same about it but not anymore. It seems that the more active and visible our Post and its members are in and around Yorktown - the easier it is to find us and ask us to participate in events. We were involved in 7 separate events during Veterans Day week this year!

At our Post's regular meeting on Thursday, November 10th, 3 representatives of the Daughters of Liberty gave a short presentation about their organization. Following this they presented all Viet Nam era veterans with a 50th Anniversary Commemorative pin. 15 of our Post members received these pins that evening recognizing their service during that conflict. Thank you to 2nd Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto for putting this together for our Viet Nam veterans.

At 9:45 AM on Veterans Day our Post was joined at the Country House Senior Residence on Baldwin Rd. by Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace and Councilman Ed Lachterman as we conducted a flag folding ceremony. Following the ceremony we presented the veterans residing there with certificates from our Post thanking them for their military service. Supv. Grace and Councilman Lachterman presented them with similar certificates from the Town. This was the second year we did this recognition of the veterans there and they really were touched by the attention they receive. Thanks to Al Laughlin, Gerry Knapp, Roger Thompson, Joe Larsen, Tom Einwich, Frank

Troia, Tom Brady, and Pat McDonough who helped make this event a success.

From this we rushed to town hall for Yorktown VFW Post #8328's ceremony marking the end of World War I at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. This small ceremony is almost exclusively attended by veterans only and our Post had a nice sized group in attendance (see photo above).

After the ceremony 10 of our Post members headed over to the Northern Westchester Rehabilitation over on Lexington Avenue to make a short Veterans Day presentation to the veterans staying there. Again our Post presented certificates to these veterans recognizing their military service. Thanks to Lee Defrancesco, Tom Einwich, Al Laughlin, Roger Thompson, John Gunn, Gerry Knapp, Mike Laughlin, Frank Troia, Rocco Salierno, and Pat McDonough for making this a success as well.

On Sunday, November 13, our Post marched in the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade and we thank everyone who came out for this. We had 20 members there which made for a good showing for the crowd. We are the largest veterans' organization in the parade and if we fail to make a good showing... this parade can become a thing of the past like it has in many other towns. Please try to join us next year for the parade if you can.

Our Post was also involved in two school visits for Veterans Day as well. For the past 6 years Post member John Gunn has coordinated several of our members visiting with the students at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Jefferson Valley. Thanks to John Gunn, Bob Kohl, Tom Einwich, Gerry Knapp, Pat McDonough, and Tom Brady for going and speaking with the students there. They love having us visit each year because we talk with them not to them. That week our Post was sent a package of beautiful handmade cards from 5 & 6 year old students at Valley Garden Day Care Center for Veterans Day with a generous donation from the school. Cmdr John Giacomini and Pat McDonough stopped by and visited the school and these students to thank them for their beautiful cards and their donation. The boys and girls were very enthusiastic about our visit and had many great questions for John and Pat. We may add this

school to our list of schools we regularly visit because of their enthusiasm!

Pasta Dinner Fundraiser

On Friday evening, November 18, 2016, our Post teamed up with the Yorktown Lions Club to hold a Pasta Dinner Night in our Post Hall. We had 2 seating's where for only \$12 per person you enjoyed a salad, bread, pasta, Mac & cheese, dessert, and a glass of wine or beer. Not a bad deal eh? We last tried this about 4 years ago and learned a lot that first time which helped us this time. Both seating's were mostly full and each of our organizations have benefitted from the funds we raised. Once again many thanks to Lions Club member Maria Marks for all her planning and organizing and to her husband, Bill, for doing the cooking with Steve Rice who is a member of both organizations!

Breakfast with Santa

On Sunday, 12/04, our Post joined with the Yorktown Lions, Yorktown Leos, and the Association for Safe Kids (ASK) to hold our very popular Breakfast with Santa fundraiser. We held three seatings for close to 100 people each at 8 AM, 10 AM and 12 noon. 300 people came and enjoyed a wonderful buffet breakfast of scrambled eggs, French toast sticks, potatoes, hash, bacon, and sausage and got to take photos with several costumed characters like Frosty the Snowman, a Minion, Elmo, characters from the movie 'Frozen', and of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus!

This event takes a lot of work from set-up to clean-up and we wish to thank our set-up crew: Al Laughlin, Rocco Salierno, Don Roberts, Lee Defrancesco, Ken Blish, John Giacomini, Sam Schatz, Bill Goss, Pat McDonough, Gerry Knapp, Vincent Andreozzi. Our breakfast work crew: Al Laughlin, Gerry Knapp, Steve Rice, John Giacomini, Lee Defrancesco, Ken & Sue Blish. Our breakdown and clean-up crew: Rocco Salierno, Vincent Andreozzi, Lee Defrancesco, John Giacomini, Pat McDonough, Al Laughlin, and Ken and Sue Blish.

Special thanks again go to Yorktown Lions Maria Marks for her organizational skills and Bill Marks and Steve Rice for their amazing cooking of all the food for 300 people. This event could never happen without their avid participation.

Post Holiday Party

On Saturday, December 10th, 51 members of our Post family came together at our Post's annual Holiday Party. For a few hours everyone relaxed and caught up with each other before the holiday season took over our lives. We continued our new tradition of catering the event so everyone could sit and enjoy the afternoon. The meal of roast pork loin, chicken parmesian, pasta and salad was wonderful thanks to Theresa Capizola and her staff. You can't beat the meal and the company for only \$7 per person so look for this again next year.

Holiday 50/50 Raffle

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Post's Holiday 50/50 Raffle. The Westchester County American Legion used to run a raffle just before Christmas each year and each Post that took part in selling their raffles would get a portion of the proceeds. This year our Post started our own raffle to supplement our Post's income and to allow us to continue to improve our Post's infrastructure. This year's raffle sold 716 tickets with \$681 in income, minus \$137 in expenses (tickets/postage/envelopes) gave us a pot of \$544. The Holiday 50/50 Raffle winner was Chris Sabatino of Pleasantville who received half of the pot which was \$272.

Monthly Meeting Change

Thanks to the efforts of our Post's Hospitality Committee consisting of Lee DeFrancesco, Tom Brady, and Terry Deveau we have enjoyed coffee and a light snack after our monthly meetings for the past few years. This gives our members the chance to socialize and get to know each other for a few minutes before heading home. Our regular meeting attendance has stayed around 21-23 members every meeting since this started and the feedback has been very positive about it.

At our January 12th meeting Cmdr Giacomini is going expand upon this and have pizza and tap beer available at 7 PM for members who wish to come early and socialize before the meeting starts. This will be an experiment for our January and February meetings to see how the membership makes use of it versus the cost of it to the Post. This is just another reason not to be

a stranger at YOUR Post on meeting nights. We hope to see you there!

2017 Membership Update

Every year 2nd Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto expends a great effort to help our Post achieve 100% membership renewals. This is a sign throughout the Legion that our Post is a healthy one replacing lost members and bringing new ones onboard. As this issue goes to press we have 108 Post members renewed already for 2017 but we still need those final 8 who have 2016 membership cards in their wallets to send in their dues. Our Yorktown Post is one of the most active Posts in Westchester County. Last year our Post took part in 35 events and we are on par with doing more than that by this coming Memorial Day of 2017. We hope that you all take pride in all our Post has accomplished recently and hope that you will pass the word about us to your fellow veterans. New members bring new ideas and often new ways to improve what we already are doing well. Thank you for your continuing support of our Post.

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to send a warm welcome aboard to new Post #1009 members Stephen Mihalchik and William Reidell. We hope that you'll stop in at an event or meeting to get to know your fellow Legionnaires. When you stop by maybe you'll find an activity or program in the Post that you'd like to be a part of.

Four Chaplains Ceremony

Our Post has a long tradition of holding a ceremony each February to remember four US Army Chaplains who gave their lives to save others onboard a torpedoed troopship in the North Atlantic during WWII. These four chaplains, their ship torpedoed and sinking, handed out lifevests to their fellow shipmates. When they ran out of lifevests they gave their own vests away to save four more men knowing full well the price of their actions. As their ship slipped beneath the icy waves of the North Atlantic that night witnesses reported seeing the chaplains, each raised in a different faith, linked arm-in-arm praying with their shipmates. This is a wonderful story that should never be forgotten.

On Sunday, February 5th, 2017 at 2 PM our Post will conduct our annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at the Post and we hope that you will join us as we remember these valiant men of faith and duty. Light refreshments will be served following the ceremonies.

Post Everlasting Ceremony

Immediately following the Four Chaplains Ceremony on Sunday, February 5th, 2017 our Post will conduct a Post Everlasting Ceremony to render a final salute to our Post members who have passed on during the past year. We will retire by fire the membership cards of Post members: William Lenzi, Anthony Marzo, Salvatore Pugliese, Vincent Faughnan, Henry Whitaker, and Winfred Lollar. Those attending the ceremony will also have the chance to name veterans they know who have been lost in the past year and we will include these veterans in our ceremony. Join us as we remember these Legionnaires and veterans.

Veterans Hall of Fame

On November 17, 2016 Post member Roger Thompson was inducted into NYS Sen. Terrence Murphy's 40th District Veterans Hall of Fame at a ceremony at the Mt Kisco American Legion Post. Roger was recognized for his military service, his 60 years of service to Yorktown as a volunteer firefighter, and his many years of service to his community with the Yorktown Lions Club and our Yorktown Post #1009. Roger had a great crowd there that night supporting him from the Yorktown Fire Dept, the Lions and our Post. Congratulations Roger... it's an honor you richly deserved!



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.

Enzo Iannozzi	\$ 23	05/13/16
Al Laughlin	\$346	05/31/16
Marco DiBernardo	\$ 50	06/09/16
Daphne Daddino	\$ 46	07/19/16
Robert Burke	\$350	07/26/16
Robert Burke	\$275	08/25/16
Enzo Iannozzi	\$ 30	09/09/16
Ed Lachterman	\$200	09/16/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$175	09/26/16
Robert Burke	\$100	10/06/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$4,200	10/31/16
Learning Garden Day Care	\$200	11/14/16
Linda & John Hanley	\$ 25	12/06/16
Naomi & Charles Klatzko	\$ 20	12/12/16
Crum & Forster (LNVU)	\$100	12/12/16
Mary & Rich DeSilva	\$100	12/14/16
John Gould	\$100	12/19/16
Juanita & Mario Maltese	\$ 50	12/19/16
Francis & Lou Mendez	\$100	12/31/16

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

New Years Eve Party

What did you do to ring in the New Year this year? Did you stay at home? Or did you travel somewhere and worry about the drive home with all those drunks on the road? For the second year the Yorktown Lions and our Post teamed up and held a New Years Eve Party at our Post. 65 people came and for only \$65 each enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner, dessert, tap beer, house wine, soda and champagne toast with a great DJ providing the dance music. By now everyone should know about Yorktown's New Years Eve celebration. They have a lighted ball suspended by a crane that is lowered at midnight to usher in the New Year. That is then followed by a 10 minute professional fireworks display! Guess where all that is done? Right next door to our Post! Our party attendees stepped outside a few minutes before midnight and took in the festivities and then came back in for more dancing until 1 AM. Our Post hall was decorated in high-class style for the Party thanks

to Maria Marks' planning(Gee, where'd we hear that name before!) and all the Lions' and Legionaires' help, especially Louise Giacomini who spent hours making the the Hall's set-up and decor shine! Mark your brand new 2017 calendars today with a note to make your reservations for next year's Party around 12/15 so you won't miss out on the fun!



Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue Jan 3 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Jan 12 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Sun Feb 5 Four Chaplains Ceremony at 2:00 PM.

Sun Feb 5 Post Everlasting Ceremony Following Four Chaplains Ceremony.

Tue Feb 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Feb 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Mon Feb 13 Yorktown Chamber of Commerce Mtg hosted at our Post

Tue Mar 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Mar 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Sun Apr 2 Breakfast with Easter Bunny

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