



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Volume No. 3

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March / April 2017

Post Elections

At our Post's next meeting on May 11th, 2017 our membership will vote to select those Legionnaires who will guide our Post in the coming 2017-2018 year. We ask all Post members to make the effort to attend this meeting and show your support to those volunteers who will give away many hours of their time and efforts to make our Yorktown American Legion Post 1009 a place everyone can be proud of.

The candidates for 2017-2018 are: John D. Giacomini for Post Commander; William Goss for 1st Vice Cmdr; Carl Diliberto for 2nd Vice Cmdr; Craig Keitel and John McQuillan for 3rd Vice Cmdr; Lawrence Armstrong for Financial Officer; Ken Blish PPC, Al Laughlin PPC, Gerald Knapp PPC, Patrick McDonough, and Michael Marx for the five Executive Committee positions.

Come meet your fellow Post members and show your support to our elected leadership!

Your American Legion Post

Each year every American Legion Post completes an annual Consolidated Post Report telling the Legion what we've accomplished in the past year. This information is then categorized for our National Commander to use to tout how great our organization is. Tens of thousands of hours in community service added to millions of dollars in donations to veterans-related programs sounds impressive to Congress, especially when done by an all volunteer organization.

Post Commander John Giacomini and the Officers of your all volunteer Post would like to inform you of your Post's accomplishments from May 2016 to April 2017.

- **Membership** - Our Post reached 116 paid members, one more than our goal of 115 so we made more than 100%. This is one sign of a healthy Post. Great Job Membership Chairman Carl DiLiberto!
- **Fundraising** - Our Brick Program raised \$3,500 and we will be donating \$2,500 of this to local veterans-related charities on Memorial Day. Bob Burke, our tireless Coordinator of the rehabilitation of the Groveville Methodist Church Cemetery

project has raised \$5,625 for this restoration program. Our Montrose VA Food Pantry collection in October raised \$774 in 4 hours and 15 shopping carts of food!

- **Events** - Our Post took part in 38 community events this past year! Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades, presentations to other organizations, school visits, food collections, flag retirement ceremonies, Honor Flag ceremonies, our Breakfasts with Santa and the Easter Bunny which raise funds for the Lions Club & (A.S.K.) the Association for Safe Kids programs not just for us, our cemetery rehabilitation, the successful Toys for Tots collection program, returning WWII dogtags to the next of kin with the Yorktown Rotary Club,... whew!
- **Rendering Honors** - We were honored to perform 7 'Rendering of Honors' ceremonies for local veterans who have passed on to thank them for their military service.
- **Community Service Hours** - When you tally up all the hours our Post and its members performed in community service - 1,277 hours! No wonder many of us are a little tired!
- **What doesn't count?** - The 'fun' events just for our Post - Spring Brunch, Holiday Party, Summer BBQ, and the New Years Party. These may be fun for you but your Officers are working planning, setting-up, breaking down to make it an enjoyable event for our members. Also we don't count the Post clean-ups, grounds clean-ups, and maintenance tasks also done by your officers to keep the Post a place to be proud of.
- **Other tidbits** - 15 times our Post was in the local newspapers. Sometimes with full centerfold spreads of our Four Chaplains Ceremony, flag retirements, and other events. Our Post e-Newsletter, website, and Facebook page all reflect our efforts to keep veterans, our Post members, and others informed.

Easter Bunny Breakfast

Once again our Yorktown Post teamed up with the Yorktown Lions, Yorktown Leos, and the Association for Safe Kids (ASK) to present our annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny fundraising event on Sunday, March 26th. We held 3 - 90 minute seating's in our Post hall starting at 8 AM, 10 AM, and Noon where everyone enjoyed scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, hash browns, french toast sticks, and potatoes with coffee and juice for only \$10 for adults and \$7 for children. Thanks to the Leos and ASK members the children could look forward to exciting visits from costumed characters like Simba the Lion, a 'Minnion', firefighter dog, 2 princess' from 'Frozen' and of course the Easter Bunny! A wonderful breakfast with fun character visits and all the pictures you could take... it's a great deal.

This was our 4th year holding the Easter Bunny Breakfast and it is a lot of work before, during, and after the event to make it the success it always is. Many thanks go out to: Al Laughlin, Lee DeFrancesco, Gerry Knapp, Steve Rice, Roger Thompson, Carl DiLiberto, John McQuillan, Tom Brady, Larry Armstrong, Brice Fleck, John Giacomini, Rocco Salierno, Pat McDonough, Mike Acevedo and his son, Adam, for all the help that weekend. Great job everyone!

Honor Flag Program Resumes

On Saturday, 4/22, our Post conducted its first Honor Flag Ceremony after the winter weather suspended our program. Nine of our Legionnaires came together and raised the burial flag of James McKeon, a US Navy veteran who served during WWII, as his family looked on. For the past two years our Post has accepted veteran's burial flags and flown them at the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Field flagpole. We raise them in a short ceremony and after three weeks, while 'Taps' is played, we lower them honoring our fellow veterans and their military service. Many people have their relatives flags stashed in attics or closets not knowing what to do with them. This is the perfect way to honor them and to feel good doing it. There are open slots for this summer's schedule so please pass the word about this free service our Post provides.

THE AMERICAN LEGION



Fond Farewell

We are sorry to inform everyone of the passing of long-time Post Legionnaire Arthur Bortz on March 26, 2017. Thankfully someone notified our Post of his passing and we were able to have 10 Post members go to the funeral home in Mahopac to 'Render Honors' and a final salute to this veteran for his service to his country. Thank you to Ken Blish PPC, Al Laughlin PPC, Gerry Knapp PPC, Tom Brady, Tom Einwich, Rocco Salierno, Rod Leone, Carmine D'Alessio, and Pat McDonough for going the extra distance for this Legionnaire to perform the ceremony.

We remind all our members that our Post **WANTS** to perform this ceremony for every veteran in Yorktown when they pass on, not just our Post members. If anyone learns of a family who has lost a veteran, let them know your Post performs this ceremony and to contact us. The key here is contacting us. Often our Post Legionnaires pass and their families do not even think to notify us to let our members know or to request this ceremony. Please keep your families informed of what you would like when the time comes. Thank you.

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Margaret Gunn recovering from surgery; Larry Iuso is in Montrose VA Bldg 6, 1st flr, and Joseph Larsen at home after recent illness.

Boys State Program

Our Post has selected two local high school students to sponsor to the Boys State program at SUNY Morrisville, NY at the end of June. Brendan Wallace, a junior at Kennedy Catholic HS in Somers, and Thomas Barnett, a junior at Lakeland HS will attend the 5 day civics program beginning on June 25, 2017. This immersive program includes physical training by US Marines, and numerous guest speakers of Town, County, and State elected officials. The cost of sponsoring two boys costs the Post \$1,050 for tuition, room and board, and transportation up there and back. It is a big expense, but we feel the students deserve this important opportunity. This program is almost a requirement for students to obtain admission into our nation's military academies.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to support this program can send donations to our Post marked 'For Boys State program'. Thank you.

Groveville Methodist Cemetery

Last summer Yorktown resident Robert Burke mobilized a group of our Post members and other local residents to clear out the 70+ years of neglect and overgrowth to this long abandoned cemetery. Bob didn't slow down during the past winter months. This past week an engraved granite bench was delivered to the cemetery to help return it to a place of quiet reflection. (See photo below) In addition to this, Bob has a large sign in the final stages of design to identify the cemetery from the road. In his 'spare' time Bob has also been resetting the fallen and tilted headstones! We will send out a help request once the rain stops and we can join him once again in this important project.



Welcome Aboard!

We would like to send a warm welcome aboard to new Post #1009 members Thomas Connolly and George E. Kummer. We hope that you'll stop in at an event or meeting to get to know your fellow Legionnaires.

This Newsletter is FREE to anyone interested in receiving it via e-mail. Your e-mail address will only be used for OFFICIAL POST BUSINESS.

Sign up at: Post1009@nylegion1009.org

Memorial Day Parade and Events

It is mid-April and our Post is in full planning mode for the Memorial Day weekend and all the activities that we will have going on.

Poppy Fund-raiser - On Saturday, 5/27, from 9 AM to 1 PM our Post Legionnaires will be out at Turco's and the Yorktown and Shrub Oak ACME markets handing out traditional red poppies and collecting donations for our Post's programs. We need 4 volunteers minimum for each location to allow for emergencies and comfort breaks. Please try to give a few hours if you can.

Grave Decoration - On Friday and Saturday 5/26 and 5/27 Legionnaire John McQuillan will organize local Scouts to put US flags on every veteran's grave in Yorktown. This is a well-oiled operation that John has done for years and extends over 500 graves!

Memorial Day Parade - This year our Post coordinates the parade and 1st Vice Cmdr Bill Goss has done all he can but we will need extra hands at Front St and Underhill Ave to line the marchers up at 10AM. The Parade kicks off from Town Hall after a short ceremony there at 11 AM. Please form-up at 10:45 AM at Town Hall.

Veterans Commemorative Brick Dedication - Following the parade ceremonies we will conduct our 5th Annual Brick Dedication to dedicate those Veteran's Bricks that have been installed during the past year. Donations from this program will be given out at that time to local veterans-related charities.

Spring Brunch

Our Post's Spring Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 11 AM in our Post Hall. We apologize for the late notice, we have had it on our schedule since September but our Post Officer's have been busy with quite a bit over the past few months(See 'Your... Post'). The Brunch will once again be catered by Theresa Capizola and her staff. We have all thoroughly enjoyed all the food she and her staff prepared for our events last year and look forward to this event's menu. The catering is an expense, but it allows all our members to relax and enjoy themselves socializing. The price is remaining at \$7 per person this year so come down and join us for a relaxing brunch. Be sure to RSVP back to Adjutant Patrick McDonough(#914-953-6807) by May 1st, PLEASE!

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.

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
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	04/07/1

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

Do You Enjoy Craft Beers?

The Yorktown Rotary Club holds a big fundraiser, 'The Best and The Worst', a craft beer and food festival, every September to raise funds for their programs. This year they have developed an innovative way to advertise, improve their ticket sales, and help local organizations like our Yorktown Post at the same time. They have given our Post tickets to their craft beer festival held at the Yorktown Fire Department's carnival grounds from Noon to 6 PM on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Every ticket that our Post sells we will get to keep ½ of the ticket's face value as a donation back to our Post! Adjutant Patrick McDonough has 'Beer Lover' tickets available for \$45, and Non-Drinker tickets available for \$15 each. Each year several hundred people attend and enjoy this festival. People can also order tickets through a link on our Post website (www.nylegion1009.org) to a page the Rotary Club set up for ticket sales by our Post. Anyone can purchase these tickets, not just Post members, so pass the word about this

wonderful festival and help the Yorktown Rotary and our Post at the same time!

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Convenient Location with Reasonable Rates

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue May 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

**Sun May 7 Post Spring Brunch at 11 AM.
Price \$7 per person.**

**Thu May 11 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
Election of Post Officers.**

**Fri/Sat May 26/27 Decoration of Veterans
Graves**

**Sat May 27 Poppy Fundraiser at Turcos, and
ACME Supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM.
Volunteers needed!**

**Mon May 29 Memorial Day Parade - form-up
at Town Hall at 10:45 AM.**

**Mon May 29 Veterans Commemorative Park
Dedication immediately following the
parade ceremonies.**

**Sat Jun 3 County Convention at 12 noon
Mt Kisco Post #135**

Tue Jun 6 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

**Thu Jun 8 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
Installation of Post Officers.
Last meeting for Summer!**

**Sat Jun 10 Flag Retirement Ceremony at
Yorktown FD Carnival grounds
at 9 AM.**

Yorktown Post #1009

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