



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #56

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Yorktown S.A.L. Squadron #1009 Sworn-in

It's official... our Post finally has a Sons of the American Legion Squadron! On Thursday, January 11, 2018 at our Post's regular monthly meeting, Post Cmdr. John Giacomini swore in the 12 charter members of our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009 and installed their Officers in front of their families, distinguished guests, and fellow Post members. We were honored to have Joseph Guidice Jr., Vice Cmdr. for the Detachment of NY's 1st and 9th Districts, Michael Armistead, Cmdr. of the 9th District and Squadron Cmdr. of Mahopac Squadron #1080, and several Officers of Mahopac Squadron #1080 join us for this ceremony.

Our Yorktown Squadron #1009 had its Charter issued by the Department of New York and National Headquarters, appropriately on Veterans Day - November 11, 2017. Several of our Squadron's members immediately joined our Post contingent in the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade in their first, of hopefully many, official events.

Our new Squadron has begun ordering the supplies for its meetings which they have scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM. They have also selected their leadership for the first year. Our new Squadron's Officers are: Commander - James Calbo; 1st Vice Cmdr. - Matthew Essell; Treasurer - Craig Armstrong; Adjutant - Edward Lachterman; Sgt-at-Arms - Kevin McDonough; and Chaplain - William Wienecke. It has been a long and slow process establishing this new unit but looking at the wonderful people that have come forward to be a part of it - we can see the effort was well worth it. Welcome Aboard and Good Luck - Squadron #1009!

Memorial Park and flagpole in the circle out in front of the building. Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace and the Town Board contacted our Post to have us lower the flags and fold them in a ceremony de-activating the Town's flagpole for this work. The Town then removed the three War Memorials (WWI, WWII, and Korea) from the circle and installed them in the adjacent Patriot's Park. The old Town Hall flagpole was then installed in the center area and had 6 new flagpoles added opposite the War Memorials to fly the flags of the US branches of the military and the WWII Merchant Marines. In place of the one large flagpole in front of Town Hall they had three smaller ones installed in its place.

On December 7, 2017 at 10 AM, on the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, our Post members joined in a ceremony with the members of the Yorktown VFW to activate all the flagpoles at Town Hall and in Patriot's Park. Past-Post Commanders Al Laughlin(Post #1009) and Michael O'Connor (VFW #8328) raised the US flag up in front of Town Hall and moments later the NYS and town flags were also raised by Yorktown veterans activating the flagpoles. Immediately following this everyone moved to Patriot's Park where both Past Commander's again raised an 18 foot US flag on the main flagpole as veterans, Police, and a small crowd saluted. Moments later, the flags of the US Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines were raised one at a time in order of seniority. The flags and the monuments definitely add to this overlooked park but hopefully these will make Patriots Park into a more utilized and respected Town location.

Following the ceremony everyone paused for a moment of silence to remember the lives lost in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on that date 76 years ago.

Replacement of Yorktown's Flagpoles

Just about everyone in Yorktown is aware that Yorktown installed federally-mandated handicapped parking spaces out in front of Town Hall. To accomplish they had to remove the

Veterans Hall of Fame

On November 20, 2017 our own Post Chaplain, Tom Einwich, was honored by NYS Senator Terrence Murphy and inducted into the 40th Senate District's Veteran's Hall of Fame at a ceremony at Mt. Kisco American Legion Post #136. Tom was recognized for his military service in

World War II and for his service to veterans in his work with our Post. A key speaker when our Post visited veterans residing in Yorktown's Country House, Northern Westchester Rehabilitation, Waterview and Salem Hills Rehabilitation in Purdy's, Tom speaks easily with all veterans of all eras. When we visit Thomas Jefferson Elementary School and the Yorktown Community Center's after-school program Tom is a central figure who easily talks with the kids of all ages.

Congratulations Tom on your honors, you truly deserved it!

Breakfast with Santa Fundraiser

On Sunday, December 3, 2017 the Yorktown Lions Club and our Post teamed up to host our annual Breakfast with Santa fundraiser in our Post Hall. It seems everyone around us is copying the success of this Breakfast. This year alone similar breakfasts were held in Mahopac and Cortlandt Manor as fundraisers for other organizations. The attendance at the three seatings wasn't over 300+ like in past years but we still served over 220 people that morning. All these customers left with big smiles and fun memories. During each seating costumed characters like 'Elmo', 'Frosty the Snowman', 'Mickey and Minnie Mouse', and Santa and Mrs. Claus visited the children for photos and everyone's delight! This popular fundraiser exposes our Post to several hundred visitors in one day who might remember us when looking for a Hall for a family event.

It takes a lot of work to pull this off every year and our thanks go out to all who helped with set-up, serving, clean-up, and breakdown: Post members - Roger Thompson, Ken & Sue Blish, Tom Brady, Al Laughlin, Lee Defrancesco, Rocco Salierno, John McQuillan, Pat McDonough, Don Roberts, Gerry Knapp, Frank Troia, Steve Rice, Sam Schatz, and our new SAL members - Kevin McDonough, James Calbo, Matt Essell, and Ed Lachterman.

Of course, this event wouldn't even be an event were it not for the dedication and hours of work by The Yorktown Lions Club and especially Maria Marks (the master-mind behind it all) and those wonderful men cooking for 220+ people - Bill Marks and Steve Rice. Great job everyone!!

Post Holiday Party

On Sunday, December 17th, 70 members of our Post family came together for the Post's Holiday Party. This was the largest Holiday Party in more than two decades! The mild weather brought many of our old-time members out for the party and they were joined by some of our new S.A.L. and Post members. Many of our Post members are just too busy to attend monthly meetings or to see how successful their Post is doing with other events. Everyone attending the Holiday Party could clearly see one noticeable change in our Post events... the crowd that now attends. With our Post family expanded with our new S.A.L. Squadron members plus the addition of over a dozen new Post members this year, we really have a nice crowd at our parties now. All our old and new members enjoyed meeting and chatting with each other through the afternoon. Theresa, and her staff, Lauren and Rebecca, prepared a delicious buffet and everyone followed that with a trip, or two, to our famous dessert bar. It was a wonderful way to come together and relax during the holiday season. Don't miss all the fun next year!

Near the end of the party we drew the winning ticket for our Post Holiday 50/50 Raffle. The prize was \$394, and it was won by Post member Steve Rice. Steve donated the prize back to the Post! Thank you so much for your generous donation, Steve!

Membership Update...

Personally... I think Membership Chairman Carl DiLiberto deserves a raise. Since September, our Post has added 15 new members! Our final roster last year had 118 paid Legionnaires on it - so in effect we've had a 12% uptick in membership in our Post this year. Carl has done a great job and deserves a raise... maybe 12% to match the increase? Of course, Carl is a volunteer like all of us so 12% of zero, is still zero - but I think he'll appreciate getting the raise!!

Don't forget, your 2017 membership card and membership expired on 12/31/2017 and your 2018 dues are now due. Please try to pay during January so we can turn our volunteer man-hours to other Post projects. As we go to print we have 18 members not paid for 2018 yet. Are you one of them? Contact us if you are not sure, or just send a check for the \$46 dues to the Post with your name and address. 21 of our Post members have

renewed and paid online this year, if that is easier for you. Our goal each year is to show the country that 100% of our members support our Post by renewing their membership. Help us and the American Legion by renewing your membership. Thank you! (And let's get Carl that raise!!!)

Veterans Day Activities

Our Yorktown Post now takes part in a wide variety of activities during Veterans Day week. Post members spent the morning of 11/09 visiting with the students at Thomas Jefferson Elementary school talking to them about veterans Day. Thank you to John Giacomini, Tom Einwich, Bob Kohl, and Pat McDonough for going there this year. On veterans day, 11/11/2018 at 11 AM a group of our Post members and other veterans attended the VFW Post #8328 ceremony at patriot's park remembering all who have served our country. Later that day a nice group of 11 Post members attended the Veterans Day event over at Jefferson Village. Thanks to John Giacomini, Rocco Salierno, Carl DiLiberto, Al Laughlin, John McQuillan, Lee DeFrancesco, Larry Armstrong, John Gunn, Pat McDonough, Tom Einwich, and Robert Kohl for going to this. From there four of our Post members (Carl DiLiberto, Tom Einwich, John Giacomini, and Pat McDonough) took part in a ceremony later that day at Salem Hills Rehabilitation in Purdys. Their Director Christine Bockis put together a wonderful program recognizing the service of the veterans residing there and we were honored to be a part of it. We also snuck next door to visit with the veteran residents at neighboring Waterview Rehabilitation also in Purdys on our way out.

On Sunday, November 12, 2018 our Post had 20 Legionnaires and 8 of our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron members take part in the Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak. This was the first public appearance of our new Sons unit and they really seemed to enjoy being a part of it all. We keep getting more invitations to participate in more local events and ceremonies but we need Post members to let us know if they would be active and take part in them. Let Pat McDonough know if you'd like this type of work.

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Margaret Gunn who is doing well on

the road to recovery, and Larry Armstrong and Steve Rice who are both recovering from recent surgeries.

Four Chaplains Ceremony

Don't forget we have our Four Chaplains Ceremony scheduled for Sunday, February 4th, 2018 at 2 PM in our Post Hall. We understand that it's Superbowl Sunday, but you'll be home by 4 PM guaranteed, and feeling better for the experience! This Ceremony is done to honor the four US Army Chaplains who were lost on February 3, 1943 when their troopship, the USS Dorchester, was torpedoed and sunk during the night in the icy North Atlantic. These four chaplains - one a Catholic, one Jewish, one a Methodist, and the last Episcopalian handed out life-preservers to their fellow shipmates. When they ran out - they gave up their own vests to save four more soldiers knowing full well their fate was sealed by this action. As their ship slipped beneath the waves, survivors recalled seeing the four chaplains praying, linked arm-in-arm with those still onboard. This ceremony remembers them for their faith and sacrifice.

The Ceremony is open to the public and we are honored to have four local religious leaders standing in for the Four Chaplains - Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am, Rev. Dan O'Brien of Calvary Bible Church, Pastor Christopher Chantelau of Grace Lutheran Church, and Fr. John Wilson of St Patrick's Church. Please try to attend.

Post Everlasting Ceremony

Immediately following the Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 4th, 2018, our Post will conduct a Post Everlasting Ceremony to remember those Post Legionnaires who have been lost in the past year - Arthur Bortz and Rev John Bourcet. We open this ceremony up to anyone attending who wishes to honor a lost loved one who was a veteran as well during the ceremony. This is our last salute to these veterans as they go to 'Post Everlasting'. Light refreshments are served following the ceremony. Please join us for this final salute.

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Post Members Receive Substantial Discount



Cmdr. Giacomini swears-in the new members of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009.



Tom Einwich accepts NYS Sen. Terrence Murphy's induction into the Veteran's Hall of Fame



New Squadron #1009 Cmdr. James Calbo accepts the Squadron's flag from Detachment of New York Vice Cmdr. Joseph Guidice Jr.



Our Yorktown Post members and Yorktown VFW Post members after activating the flagpoles at Patriot's Park.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Thu Feb 1 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM
- Sun Feb 4 **Four Chaplains Ceremony**
Post Hall at 2 PM.
- Sun Feb 4 **Post everlasting Ceremony**
Immediately following
Four Chaplains Ceremony.
- Tue Feb 6 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Feb 8 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
- Thu Mar 1 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM
- Tue Mar 6 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Mar 8 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
Form Election Committee
- Sun Mar 25 **Breakfast with Easter Bunny**
Fund-raiser with 8 AM,
10 AM, and Noon seating's.

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