



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #57

January / February / March 2018

Our Apologies...

Please forgive the delay in getting this issue out to everyone. This is the 57th issue of this e-Newsletter and the editor has had quite a bit going on in recent weeks. Apparently many of our members do actually look forward to reading it... one member, Bob Dagnino down in SC, called to catch-up by phone and see if he missed an issue! It was great talking with you Bob!

Four Chaplains Ceremony

The story of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains is a poignant one. Four US Army Chaplains onboard the US troopship Dorchester in the North Atlantic destined for Europe in the winter of 1943. While they were asleep in their bunks on the bitter cold night of February 3, 1943, their ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat. In the confusion following the attack these four Chaplains handed out life vests to their fellow shipmates until they ran out. To save four more men they gave up their own vests - knowing full well the price of their actions. 20 minutes after the torpedo struck, the Dorchester went down. 902 men were on board when the attack occurred and only 230 survived that night. The survivors told of seeing these four Chaplains, linked arm-in-arm, praying with their shipmates as their ship slipped under the icy North Atlantic.

These four Chaplains - John Washington, a Catholic priest; Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister; Alexander Goode, a Rabbi; and George Fox, a Methodist minister were recognized for their heroic actions following the war with the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, and a special Medal for Heroism. The story of the Four Chaplains was quite well known across America for some time. In 1948, a 3-cent first class stamp was issued with their likenesses on it. Their images were immortalized in stained glass windows in many chapels, including one at the Pentagon. Plaques and monuments were dedicated across America including one at Belmont Racetrack in Queens and another at Grant's Tomb in Manhattan. Unfortunately, most Americans today are unaware of this inspiring story and the

American Legion is committed to educating today's generation on this wonderful story.

Our Yorktown Post was pleased to have four prominent local clergy members stand-in for the Four Chaplains during our ceremony on February 4, 2018 - Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am, Rev. Michael Cobb of Yorktown United Methodist Church, Pastor Christopher Chantelau of Grace Lutheran Church, and Rev. John Wilson of St Patrick's Church. The ceremony also blossomed this year with the wonderful voice of Alyssa Martin who sang the National Anthem and Amazing Grace. We also were joined by the students of Mildred Strang Middle School's Living History program wearing their 1812 military uniforms. The students presented our nation's Colors to open the ceremony guided by their teacher, Chris DiPasquale. We were pleased to have joining us in the audience that day; Town Supervisor Ilan Gilbert, Town Councilman Vishnu Patel, and Yorktown Judge Gary Raniolo, along with members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and members of our new Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009.

Following the ceremony our Post was recognized with a Proclamation by NYS Sen. Terrence Murphy's office thanking us for continuing our long tradition of honoring these men. The presentation to Cmdr. Giacomini was made by Christopher Arnold, a member of Sen Murphy's staff.



Attendees at our Four Chaplains ceremony included veterans, local students, and members of the public.

Post Everlasting Ceremony

Each year immediately following the Four Chaplains Ceremony our Yorktown Post takes a few minutes to remember our Post Legionnaires and local veterans who we have lost in the past year. The Post Everlasting Ceremony was designed as a final salute to our Post Legionnaires that have passed away during that past year. In recent years, our Post has opened this ceremony to all attendees of the ceremony if they wish to include their veteran loved ones lost in the past year. This has always been a wonderful finish to the afternoon. Our Post performed this final salute for Post Legionnaires - Rev. John Bourcet, Arthur Bortz, and Henry Landi. We also included veterans, Micheal J. McGee, Richard Farrell, Micheal J. Fevola, Paul R. Martin Jr., and Charles Chantelau in the salute. Each year we learn wonderful stories about these veterans as they are included in the ceremony. Pastor Christopher Chantelau, who never had heard of the Four Chaplains Ceremony or this ceremony, added his grandfather - Charles Chantelau, to the names honored. Following the ceremony we learned that his grandfather had served as a Chaplain during WWII.

Updates Keep Coming...

If you haven't stopped by *YOUR* Post in awhile - you should stick your head in for a quick visit soon to keep up with the stream of updates at the Post. During the last week in January we had the floor in the lobby retiled replacing the old crumbling floor that was there. This is the first part of the Post people see when entering the building and the brand new floor is definitely an eye-catcher now! Add to that a nice new wax job to it thanks to Post members Al Laughlin, John McQuillan, and Lee DeFrancesco and we now have that 'Wow' factor that impresses our visitors.

Stop in some Friday evening between 5:30 and 8:30 PM and check out the friendly crowd at the Post bar enjoying a little food and some good company. We keep listening to our customers and one of their requests has been to keep trying new things. With this in mind, our bar now has quite a variety of beers on tap - Budlight, Coors Lite, Stella Artois, and for March we now have Guinness on tap as well! The Guinness was a big hit last year for St Patrick's Day so we brought it back again. We invite all our members to stop in and get to see and know your Post and enjoy the benefits of membership.

Remember... as Post members you enjoy a \$100 discount off renting our Post Hall for family events and parties.

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Convenient Location with Reasonable Rates

Sons of the American Legion

Our new Sons' Squadron #1009 welcomed aboard two new members into the unit this month. Judge Gary J. Raniolo and Town Supervisor Ilan Gilbert began the process of joining the Squadron when they attended our Four Chaplains Ceremony in February and are now full-fledged members. Welcome aboard!

The members of our SAL Squadron have fully taken over the reins of their unit and are already guiding it in the right direction. At their February meeting Squadron Cmdr. James Calbo guided the membership in the writing of their Squadron's Constitution & By-Laws. At their March meeting the membership voted to approve the document unanimously. This is an important step in organizing and protecting their Squadron's future endeavors. Many of the Squadron's members have already ordered and received their new uniform caps to look sharp for the Memorial Day Parade and other upcoming events.

Any male who is the descendant of a U.S. war-time veteran is welcome to come check out this new Squadron. Their meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny Fund-raiser

This was the 5th year our Post teamed up with the Yorktown Lions Club to hold our annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny fund-raiser. It really is a wonderful event where families with young children come and enjoy the delicious meal prepared by our wonderful chefs - Bill Marks, Steve Rice, and Gerry Knapp, consisting of french toast sticks, scrambled eggs, potatoes, hash, and both pork and turkey sausage and bacon. After the delicious meal several special costumed characters join the crowd and pose for free photos with the kids. This year we had Elmo, Cookie

Monster, Mickey and Minnie Mouse, SpongeBob Squarepants, and finally the Easter Bunny himself(herself?) come and spend some time with the families there. In 90 minutes everyone gets a great meal and live entertainment, all while supporting the charities of the Yorktown Lions and the American Legion! Now you can see why these breakfasts have been such a success in Yorktown.

Of course, putting on one of these events takes a lot of time and hard work - from the Lions' Maria Marks' unparalleled organizing and planning skills, to the cooks getting a meal for 170 people ready, to all the Post members who took some time to set-up, serve, help-out, breakdown and clean-up for this event. We send our grateful thanks to: Mike Foley, John Gunn, Tom Brady, Gerry Knapp, John Giacomini, Ken & Sue Blish, Pat McDonough, Rocco Salierno, Carl DiLiberto, Al Laughlin, Lee DeFrancesco, John McQuillan, Steve Rice, Roger Thompson, Frank Troia, Sam Sadak, and our Son's Squadron members Ed Lachterman, Dennis Frasene, and Craig Armstrong.

Post Officer Elections...

It is that time of year again when we begin planning for our Post's future with the election of Post Officers for the coming year. At our April 12th meeting we will accept nominations for these positions and at the end of that meeting the slate of all candidates for all positions will be set. At the Post's May 10th meeting we will conduct our election of Post Officers for the coming 2018-2019 year. Please attend these meetings and choose the direction you wish your Post to take for the future.

Is Winter Over Yet?!

While we may have had a mild winter to start, the month of March sure has taken revenge on everyone, our Post included. The March 2nd storm knocked out power to the Post for 5 days resulting in our basement flooding and damaging our boiler. That storm also knocked down our Post sign out front and tilted our new fence. It would have been a quick fix to bring someone's generator down to the Post to pump out the water but unfortunately we were all using them to keep our homes livable. The power finally returned and we pumped out the basement and repaired the boiler... just in time for the 12" snowstorm that knocked power out for two more days. When power was finally restored that time the power

surge damaged our phones and beer cooler to a tune of over \$1,100 when added with the earlier boiler repairs. It was an expensive and labor intensive month for our dedicated members who checked on the Post thrice daily to keep damages to a minimum.

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Dennis Frasene and Arnold Folberth. Margaret Gunn is recovering daily from her surgery.

Spring Brunch

Our Spring Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 6th, 2018 at 11 AM in our Post Hall. This event is open to our Post members and SAL members and their families so come join us for a relaxing meal before Mother's Day and the rush of Memorial Day weekend. We needed to raise the price to \$10 per person this year because all of our costs have increased in the past few years. Even at this price this is still a great catered meal with wonderful company for the afternoon. RSVP to Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807, or email post1009@nylegion1009.org before 4/29. We hope to see you all there!

Welcome Aboard

We wish a warm welcome aboard to new Post members: John Diviernieri Sr., Vincent Faggella, and Robert J. Howie. We hope that you'll join us for some of our Post activities and get to know your fellow Legionnaires. We have plenty of activities in our schedule which you might find interesting and we hope to see you soon.

Honor Flag Program

Our Post's Honor Flag program accepts US veteran's burial flags for flying upon the flagpole at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park. Many families have these folded flags on shelves, in attics, and closets, and don't really know what to do with them. Our Post will conduct a short ceremony with the family present, if they wish, as we raise their 'Honor Flag' up the flagpole. A sign

will be placed at the base of the flagpole identifying the veteran being honored in this way. After three weeks being flown aloft the flag is lowered and folded in a ceremony and 'Taps' is played. The flag is then returned to the family, or held by the Post until our flag retirement ceremony in June - whichever the family chooses.

Pass the word on this memorable program to all you know. Last year we only had a few flags flown after having two years of full schedules. For more information call 2nd Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto at #914-510-2975.

Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle

In the next two weeks our Post will mail out our annual Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle tickets to our members. Please try to take part in this important fundraiser for our Post. The past few years the prize has been over \$400, so as they say... 'you have to be in it to win it'! If anyone can sell more than the one book we send out please contact Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807.



Some of our hardworking volunteers at the Breakfast – (L-R) Roger Thompson, Pat McDonough, Cmdr. John Giacomini, Lee DeFrancesco, & unidentified guest.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue Apr 3 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Apr 5 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM

Thu Apr 12 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM
Nominations for Post Officers.

Tue May 1 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu May 3 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM

Sun May 6 Post Spring Brunch 11 AM at
Post. RSVP by 4/29.

Thu May 10 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Fri/Sat 25/26 Decorate Yorktown cemetery
graves w/flags.

Sat May 26 Poppy Fund-raiser at ACME
Supermarkets & Turco's from
9 am to 1 pm.

Mon May 28 Memorial Day Parade - form at
Town Hall at 10:45 AM.

Mon May 28 Veterans Commemorative Park
bricks dedication following parade.

Yorktown Post #1009

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



The families always love the visits from the costumed characters like Elmo, Cookie Monster, SpongeBob Squarepants(above), and the Easter Bunny(below).

