



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #59 July / August / September/ October 2018

## Membership Update...

Thank you to all the Post members who read the article in our last issue about responding when you get your first renewal notice in the mail. This saves the American Legion and our Post the time and expense of several renewal mailings. As this issue goes to print (finally) our Post has 75 members who have paid for 2019, and 52 members who haven't renewed yet. 12 members pay online through the National American Legion website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) which is a quick and easy way to renew. If you can't find your last renewal form you can just send a \$46 check for your 2019 dues to the Post with a note saying it's your dues payment and we'll mail your new card out to you.

We'd also like to welcome aboard our two newest members to Post #1009 - Bob Raphael and Sal DeCioccio. Bob has already jumped in assisting with our Hall Management and Sal is one of the Boy Scout leaders in the new Troop #1776 our Post sponsors. Obviously, our Post was extremely lucky on both counts to get such highly motivated Legionnaires! Welcome aboard!

## Rendering Honors to Deceased Veterans

For many years our Post has performed a 'Rendering of Honors' ceremony at local funeral homes, when requested, as a final salute to those veterans who have passed on. This is a ceremony which must be requested by the family or the funeral home for the us to perform. We can not conduct this final salute without the permission of the grieving family. Most of our Post members are familiar with this ceremony but most other veterans are totally unaware that this ceremony is available for their final plans. In an effort to expand the awareness of this ceremony our Post has talked with both local funeral homes to re-aquaint them with this service that we offer. Literally, one day after meeting with one funeral home their Director mentioned this ceremony to a veteran's family and found they were thrilled to have it done for their father - a veteran. We put the call out for Post members to assist with this

ceremony and 14 Post Legionnaires and SAL members performed this final salute for a grateful family. Please mention this ceremony in your circles of friends to get the word out about it. We want to honor our fellow veterans and their service to our country.

## National Purple Heart Day

On Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 our Post members attended the Yorktown Town Board meeting held that evening at Hilltop Hanover Farm. That date was National Purple Heart Day and the Town Board had scheduled a presentation to recognize local recipient's of the Purple Heart. Each combat-wounded veteran was called forward and presented a certificate from the Yorktown Town Board, in addition they received certificates presented by County Legislators John Testa and Michael Kaplowitz, NYS Assembly member Kevin Byrne, and NYS Senator Terrence Murphy's office. This was nice recognition for these distinguished veterans and 17 members of our Post were present to show support for them that evening. Thanks to John Giacomini, Al Laughlin, Pat McDonough, John Gunn, Carl DiLiberto, Rocco Salierno, Lee DeFrancesco, Tom Einwich, Frank Troia, Tom Brady, Tony Grasso, Niel Gross, Gil Kaufmann, Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, Paul Martin, and James Calbo for coming out that hot humid evening for this important event.



Our Post Legionnaires and Sons members outside the Hilltop Hanover Farm on National Purple Heart Day.

## Post Summer BBQ

We had 45 Post family members attend our Post's annual Summer BBQ at the Post on Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. This is just a nice relaxing event where everyone can sit and catch-up with old & new friends before our Post's schedule starts up and makes us all a little crazy. Thank you to Theresa Capizola for her wonderful spread of burgers, hotdogs, sausage & peppers, salads and all the fixin's which was delicious! A good time was had by all, and after the 50/50 drawing - Lee DeFrancesco went home a little happier than everyone else! Join us next year for the BBQ - you can't beat it for only \$1 a person.

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## Yorktown's 230<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parade

Our Post took part in Yorktown's 230<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parade on Sunday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We had a nice group turn out to march even though many members were away on vacation that week before the schools started up again. We marched from Lakeland HS to just past the Hart Library to a light, but enthusiastic crowd. The day also had tours of historic homes, tours of the local farms, and following the parade there was 6 hours of concerts at the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Field. A wonderful fireworks display ended the concerts and the Town's Birthday bash that evening. Thank you to John Giacomini, George Hansen, Don Roberts, Italo Dan Greco, John McQuillan, Dave Moskowitz, Bob Raphael, Larry Armstrong, Pat McDonough, Tom Einwich, Rich DeSilva, Frank Troia, Neil Gross, Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, and Paul Martin for taking the time to join us in the parade that day.



Our Post Legionnaires with members of the Yorktown VFW and the Military Order of the Purple Heart following the Yorktown Birthday Parade.

## Yorktown Grange Fair...

Our Yorktown Post has a long tradition of opening the annual Yorktown Grange Fair with a short flag-raising ceremony. On Friday, September 7, 2018 at 5 PM 12 members of our Post continued this tradition of raising the flag to open the Fair. Our own Cmdr Giacomini stepped up when no emceeing was available to welcome everyone to the 2018 Yorktown Grange fair and open the Fair as well! Excellent job, John! Thank you to those members who kept this long tradition alive by helping with this event.



Our Post Legionnaires and Sons members standby awaiting the Grange Fair Flag-raising Ceremony.

## Frauds and Scams

Our Post received a small package from the US Postal Service Inspection Service with several pamphlets warning that senior citizens and military veterans have a higher instance of being defrauded or scammed through various online and mailing scenarios. We are scanning and emailing these pamphlets with our e-Newsletter, and printing and mailing them with our paper e-Newsletter for all of you to read and then pass on to others who could benefit from the information.

## Yorktown Fall Festival

Our Post manned a table with our tent at the Yorktown Fall Festival(formerly the Field Home Fall Festival) on September 22 from 11 AM to 4 PM. We do this each year to explain to passersby what the American legion is and what we do in the community. It was beautiful Fall day and thanks to Al Laughlin, John Gaicomini, Tom Einwich, Carl DiLiberto, Lee DeFrancesco, Bob Raphael, and Pat McDonough, we had a nice,

social, outdoor event. We met some possible new members for the Post and the SAL Squadron and explained our other programs to everyone who stopped by.



Our Post Legionnaires set up shop at the Yorktown Fall Festival.

## Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Al Laughlin and Michael Laughlin who are both recovering from recent surgeries, and Dennis Frasene recovering from sick.

## Face of America - Liberty Ride

Back in August our Post learned about a group - World T.E.A.M. that was organizing a bicycle ride taking veterans and others on a challenging ride from Tarrytown to West Point. This ride had stops at their sponsors locations in Tarrytown, Mt Kisco, and Yorktown so they could let their sponsors see their group in action. 2nd Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto knew the most about this event from a fellow VVA member who would be riding in it and stepped up to coordinate our Post's involvement with the event. On Saturday, 9/29, at 10:30 AM, 18 members of our Post and SAL Squadron met up at our Post and took a short walk around the corner to the Northern Westchester Hospital building on Commerce St next to Starbucks where we met a truck from the ride with rest-stop supplies. It took only a few minutes with 18 workers to set-up a rest-stop with tables, chairs, food, snacks, bottled water, and energy drinks in the parking lot across from the building. About 20 minutes later we were all out in the street looking up the block anticipating their arrival. That many people looking in one

direction caused people driving and walking by to stop and ask what was going on. No one knew that injured and uninjured veterans were coming through on a 59 mile ride to West Point. Minutes later 2 motorcycles leading the riders turned the corner and everyone started clapping and cheering - it was a touching sight. Most riders were on regular bicycles, but a few adaptive veterans were hand-peddalling bikes modified for them to use easier. Follow-up vehicles with medical personnel and a van from a bike shop brought up the rear. Our Post members handed out food and drinks and talked with the riders for about an hour. One rider, a double-amputee, was US Army Colonel (retired) Greg Gadsen who played Army football at West Point before being injured by an IED in 2007. Since retiring he has taken up acting and played the double-amputee Army veteran who helped save the world in the 2012 movie "Battleship"!

After the rest-stop the riders mounted up and departed in a group, once again to cheers from people lining the street watching them line up. After we reloaded the truck with the leftover supplies - we all went home a little better for the whole experience. Thanks to all who made this a event a success - Carl Diliberto, Tom Einwich, John Giacomini, Lee DeFrancesco, Frank Troia, Ton Brady, Ken Blish, Al Laughlin, Rocco Salierno, Rich Calbo, Larry Armstrong, Larry Qualter, Bill Goss, Pat McDonough, Steve Rice, Bob Raphael and SAL members James Calbo and Craig Armstrong.



Our Sons and Post Members set-up the 'rest-stop' in minutes and now await the arrival of the riders.

**Special Occasion or Event?**  
**Our Hall is Available for Rent**  
 Post Members Enjoy Discounted Rentals



SAL member Craig Armstrong helps get everyone ready for departure.



World T.E.A.M riders resume their ride to West Point from their Yorktown rest-stop.

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## Donations...

We would be remiss if our Post didn't take the time to publicly thank those people and organizations who have recently made extremely generous donations to our Yorktown Post and our mission. In August our Post received a donation of \$1,000 from Post member Edward and Mary Donovan. We also were the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from the Yorktown Lions Club. We are awestruck by the generosity of them both. Thank you!

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## Post Holiday Party

Save the date and pass the word... our Post's Holiday Party is scheduled for Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 1 PM at our Post. It may seem early to be mentioning it but hey it's November already! This will be a catered event so that we can all hopefully sit and relax before the madness of the Holiday season takes over. The price is only \$10 per person for a wonderful meal and great company! It is open to all our Post and SAL

members and their families. We ask that all attendees bring a small treat for the dessert bar. This can be anything and everyone gets a kick out of trying all the different treats. RSVP back to Pat McDonough(914-953-6807) by December 9th PLEASE.

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## Post Holiday 50/50 Raffle

Yes, it is that time of year when the holidays are getting closer and we'd all like a little extra money to use for whatever. Our Post will be mailing out our Holiday 50/50 Raffle tickets to everyone in the next week or so. Each ticket is only \$1 each or the whole book of 12 costs only \$10. Last year's prize totalled \$394 and was won by our own Post member Steve Rice. The key to winning this is... you have to be in it to win it! If you don't get a book of tickets in the mail please let us know and we'll deliver them right away to you. Tickets need to be returned by 12/16 - that's the date of our Holiday party when we draw the winning ticket. Help support your Post and maybe win some holiday cash while you're at it!

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](mailto:Post1009@nylegion1009.org)

## Veterans Week Events

Veterans Day Week has become one of the most busiest weeks for our Post and its members. Many organizations reach out to us to help them honor their veterans, and to honor us as well. Here is the schedule of events for the week - please try to attend some of them as a few of us going to all of them is not a good scenario.

**\*\*Thursday, 11/08, Salem Hills Rehabilitation Ceremony at 1:30 PM in Purdys** - We have been invited back for our third year to visit the veterans residing there and to assist in recognizing their military service. We say hello to everyone and then pass out certificates to the veterans thanking them for their service. This is a simple and easy hour-long event where the people love to talk with us. If anyone can make this event let Pat McDonough know(914-953-6807). Pat can drive up to 6 people over from the Post in his van and back.

**\*\*Friday, 11/09, NY Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital Ceremony at 9 AM at Rt-202 in Cortlandt Manor** - We have been invited to attend a flag-raising ceremony there from 9 AM to 10 AM. Meet in the Main Lobby at 9 AM. There will be a flag-raising and a small ceremony followed by a light breakfast in the lobby immediately following for all veterans who attend. A hospital Vice President wishes to hand out pins to all veterans attending.

**Friday, 11/09, Country House Wreath Laying Ceremony in Yorktown at 10 AM** - Some of our SAL Squadron members led by Ed Lachterman have been visiting with the veterans residing there at the Country House (2000 Baldwin Rd, Yorktown, NY) on Friday mornings from 10 AM to 11 AM. All members are invited to stop in and help with the ceremony and have short visit with the veterans there.

**Saturday, 11/10** - Nothing planned... enjoy the day off!!

**Sunday, 11/11, Yorktown Town Hall Monument Park Ceremony at 11 AM** - The Yorktown VFW Post #8328 will conduct a short ceremony at 11 AM marking the end of 'The Great War'(WWI) on Armistice Day at 11 AM on November 11, 1918. All veterans are invited to attend.

**Sunday, 11/11, Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade at 2 PM in Shrub Oak** - The Parade starts at 2 PM from Lakeland HS and proceeds down to Hart Library where the ceremonies are held. Form-up at Lakeland HS at 1:40 PM in the driveway closest to St Elizabeth Seton Church. All Post members and SAL Squadron members should try to attend.

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## **Sons of The American Legion Squadron #1009 News**

Our Sons of The American Legion Squadron will celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> birthday on Veterans Day. They are getting to know each other better and are getting stronger in the process. Its only November and they have already passed 100% of their membership goal of 12 members! At their October meeting they had a prospective new member walk in and join them that night. We wish a warm welcome aboard to John Lembke, who qualified for membership through the service of his father, Clinton R. Lembke.

The Squadron's members have been joining our Post members at our Post's events in recent month's like: the Liberty Bike Ride where Craig Armstrong, Larry Armstrong, James Calbo, and Bill Goss(the big one!) helped out; Yorktown's

Birthday Parade - Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, Paul Martin, and Larry Armstrong marched; the Grange Fair Flag-raising - Paul Martin, Matt Essell, James Calbo, Ilan Gilbert took part; and when our Post 'Renders Honors' at funeral homes to veterans who have passed - Ed Lachterman, Paul Martin, James Calbo, and Larry Armstrong stood with us. Their participation has been noticed by our own members and others too. Two photos of our Squadron members participating in the Memorial Day Parade in Yorktown ended up being on the front page of the NYS SAL Newsletter!

They have begun organizing their own events like the recent SAL Fundraising Breakfast on Sunday 10/21 from 10 AM to 12 Noon. They did the cooking, serving, and clean-up while trying to raise funds for the charities their Squadron has adopted - My Brother Vinny, United for the Troops, the Montrose VA Food Pantry - which our Post supports. They also chose to support the Hudson Valley Honor Flight and the Military Order of the Purple Heart as well. It is tough to raise funds when you are a small organization of only 12 members. We all know that you never get 100% membership assistance or else we'd have 118 Legionnaires at all our events! With only 12 members, it is tough to run a breakfast and cook and serve with only 5 or 6 members there working. It will take a little while and the help of our Yorktown Post family to get this Squadron running completely unassisted. As a new unit these members are in a learning curve - learning all the things many of our regular Post members have no clue of. How to operate the commercial stove and grill? Where are the cooking utensils? How many tables are needed for an event for 65 people?... and much, much more. With this event they learned about planning an event and working together for a common cause.

For their first attempt, the breakfast went very well with approximately 50 people attending (mostly Post members supporting them - thank you!). Thank you to Sqdn Cmdr James Calbo, his fiance, Colleen and daughter Angelina, Maryann Calbo (Auxiliary Unit #1038), and Ed Lachterman for their hard work in the kitchen, and to Ilan Gilbert, Paul Martin, Gary Raniolo for their service skills and Rich Calbo(Post 1009) working the door. It was learning process for the SAL members and our Post members that we have to do a little more work perfecting but not bad for a first time! The Squadron is already looking to do it again with another Fundraising Breakfast set for November 18<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 11 AM. The price is the same \$8 per person so put it on your calendar and we'll see you there!

# Thanks...

From Military.com, here is a list of businesses with discounts offered to Veterans on Veterans Day in thanks for your military service:

**Great Clips** – On November 11, veterans and current military members can visit a Great Clips salon on November 11 to receive either a free haircut or the free haircut card to use at a later date. Non-military customers can purchase a service on Veterans Day and get a free haircut card to give to a veteran you know. Haircuts are redeemable until Dec. 31.

**Home Depot** – Home Depot offers a 10% discount to all veterans on November 11. Home Depot offers the 10% discount year-round to for active duty and retirees.

**Lowes** – Lowes offers a 10% discount year-round to all veterans who register with them as rewards members.

**Sport Clips** – Participating locations are offering veterans and active duty service members free haircuts on November 11.

**Applebee's** – Veterans and active duty military receive a free meal from a limited menu, on November 11.

**Buffalo Wild Wings** – Veterans and active duty military personnel receive one small order of wings and a side of fries for free on November 11.

\*NEW\* **California Pizza Kitchen** – Veterans and active military receive a complimentary entrée from a special menu on November 11.

\*NEW\* **Chili's** – Veterans and active military service members get a free meal on November 11.

\*NEW\* **Dunkin' Donuts** – On November 11, veterans and active duty military receive a free donut at participating locations.

**Friendly's** – Veterans and active military get a free breakfast, lunch or dinner from a limited menu on November 11.

**Golden Corral** – Golden Corral Restaurants' Military Appreciation Night free dinner will be available on November 12, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Military retirees, veterans, active duty, National Guard and Reserves are all welcome.

\*NEW\* **Little Caesars** – Veterans and active military members receive a free \$5 Lunch Combo from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 11.

\*NEW\* **Red Robin** – Veterans and active duty military get a free Red's Tavern Double Burger with Bottomless Steak Fries on November 11.

**Ruby Tuesday** – Veterans, active duty and reserve service members get a free appetizer on November 11.

**Wild Wing Cafe** – Veterans eat for free all day from select items on November 11 at participating locations.

## Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Tue Nov 6 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Wed Nov 7 County Legion Dinner for Department Commander Visit at Mt Kisco Post at 6 PM. Reservation required.**
- Thu Nov 8 Salem Hills Rehab Ceremony at 1:30 PM. RSVP to Pat McDonough for ride over.**
- Thu Nov 8 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM**
- Fri Nov 9 Flag-raising at Hudson Valley Hospital at 9 AM with Breakfast.**
- Fri Nov 9 Country House Wreath Ceremony at 10 AM.**
- Sun Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall at 11 AM.**
- Sun Nov 11 Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak at 2 PM. Form-up at Lakeland HS at 1:40 PM.**
- Sun Nov 18 SAL #1009 Fundraiser Breakfast in Post Hall. 9 AM to 11 AM. \$8 at the door.**
- Tue Dec 4 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Dec 6 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM**
- Sun Dec 16 Post Holiday Party at 1 PM. RSVP required by 12/09 to Pat McDonough**

## Yorktown Post #1009

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