



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #60

November / December 2018

Veterans Day... A Busy Time

It's much like the 'Circle of Life' with our Yorktown Post... the more people see our members at events; the more people ask us to participate in other events - where more people see us then the cycle repeats again! All told our Post took part in 8 different events during Veterans Day week.

We started off the week on Monday with our annual visit to Thomas Jefferson Elementary School where we talked with the students while they all made Veterans Day cards for local veterans. This event has been put together by Post member John Gunn for the past 7 years and this year he took along Tom Einwich, Rocco Salierno and Pat McDonough to talk with the students. This was educational on both sides!

On Wednesday, Tom Einwich, Rocco Salierno, and John Gunn were invited and travelled down to the Bronxville Library to speak with young children there about Veterans Day for an hour or so. It was Thursday, November 8th, when our Post returned to Salem Hills Rehabilitation in Purdy's to take part in their Veterans Day Ceremony and the recognition of their resident veterans. This was our third year going back there and we've gotten to know their residents, veterans, and staff and they truly enjoy our visits. Thank you to Tom Einwich, Rocco Salierno, and Pat McDonough for making this visit such a success.

Friday, 11/09, was a busy day... the NY Presbyterian Hospital on Rt-202 invited our members to attend an early (7:30 AM) ceremony and light breakfast. It was a small ceremony, but everyone flocked around our Legionnaires to thank them for participating in it. Thanks to Al Laughlin, Vincent Faggella, Tom Brady, and Lee DeFrancesco for taking part in this ceremony. At 10 AM our Sons' members conducted a Veterans Day ceremony at Yorktown's Country House. Ed Lachterman, Squadron Cmdr James Calbo and his fiancée, Colleen, Paul Martin, and Post member Pat McDonough marked the day with the residents and veterans there. They held a wreath-laying ceremony followed with a few remarks remembering Armistice Day, the day when the guns of WWI finally went silent. Later that afternoon the Jefferson Village Association

conducted a Veterans Day Ceremony which was attended by over a dozen of our Post Legionnaires and Town Officials.

Of course, on a very brisk, Sunday, November 11th, our Post attended VFW Post #8328's 11 AM remembrance ceremony which marked the end of World War I at Town Hall's monument park. Our Post had 15 Legionnaires and 5 SAL members in attendance for this ceremony. Thanks to Legionnaires: Terry Deveau, Lee DeFrancesco, Rich Calbo, John Gunn, Carmine D'Alessio, Carl DiLiberto, Rocco Salierno, Tom Brady, Al Laughlin, Steve Rice, Ken Blish, Tom Einwich, Vincent Faggella, Larry Armstrong and Pat McDonough and to Sons': James Calbo, Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, Bill Gerhardt, and Larry Armstrong. At 2 PM that afternoon our SAL member Paul Martin organized and launched the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade from Lakeland HS. Paul emceed the ceremonies at Hart Library and did an outstanding job across the board! Thanks Paul! Our Post had 16 Legionnaires - John McQuillan, George Hansen, Rocco Salierno, Tom Brady, Al Laughlin, Ken Blish, Vincent Faggella, Gil Kaufmann, Mike Laughlin, Terry Deveau, Italo Dan Greco, Larry Armstrong, Patrick McDonough, Neil Gross, Bob Kohl, and Rich DeSilva take part in this event as well SAL members - Paul Martin, James Calbo, Gary Raniolo, Ilan Gilbert, Ed Lachterman, Bill Gerhardt, and Matt Essell.

You'll notice a lot of these events had the same people taking part in them. We would love to have new people join us in our visits to the schools and senior homes. Let Pat McDonough (#914-953-6807) know if you'd like to be on these visits.

Post Holiday Party

Our Post Holiday Party was held on Sunday, December 16th at 1 PM and it was a resounding success with 71 members of our Post family in attendance. That's the highest turnout in over 20 years! There was a wonderful luncheon prepared by Theresa Capizola with Penne Vodka, chicken parmesian, roasted potatoes, sausage & peppers, meatballs, pork loin with saurkraut, mixed vegetables, and salad - which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. All afternoon people were stopping at

various tables and catching up with people they hadn't seen in awhile. Maryann Calbo and her granddaughters enlisted a few members into singing the 12 Days of Christmas and some holiday games. Before the afternoon was over we held the drawing for our Holiday 50/50 Raffle. John Scavarda, a Post member, was the lucky winner of the \$311 prize which we're sure was helpful right before Christmas. Congratulations John, and thank you to everyone who attended the party and participated in the raffle. You all made this event the success it was! See you next year.

Sad News...

Our Post roster has 118 names on it most years. Legionnaires join our Post and when people move - some transfer their membership to Posts in their new locations. Some remain Post #1009 members as a sign of loyalty to their 'home' Post. Our Post keeps all members, near and far, up-to-date with this e-Newsletter - keeping them linked to their Post. Sometimes we get little notes back updating us on their activities. One such member was Veronica 'Vera' Dapson, who moved south over 10 years ago but we'd get updates from her or her daughter, Debora. A few years ago we published a photo of Vera riding in her local Veterans Day Parade as an honored WWII veteran smiling wearing her Post #1009 uniform cap! Recently she was honored at a local event for her military service at the wonderful age of 99. Sadly, we were informed that Vera passed on in mid-November. Regrettably, our Post also learned of the passing of fellow Post #1009 Legionnaire Paul Eiseman in early December. Our Post was unable to render a final salute to these Legionnaires because their services were outside of the area but we will honor them at our Post Everlasting Ceremony in February. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Our Post also wishes to express our sincere condolences to Post Legionnaire Ed Augustine and his family on the passing of Ed's wife, Marion. Please keep their family in your thoughts and prayers.

Veterans Commemorative Bricks

Our Post began offering for sale Veterans Commemorative Bricks in our Post's plaza 6 years ago. This was a wonderful way for families to

honor their veteran loved ones as well as raise funds for our Post to donate to local veteran-related charities. To date, this program has sold 472 of these beautifully engraved bricks which has enabled our Post to donate over \$22,200 to help some wonderful charities! Unfortunately, unless we keep talking this program up at our meetings and events people forget about this important program. Sales have dropped to low levels this past year and that means our donations will also not be as helpful to our charities because brick sales = donations to our charities. Pass the word to families and veterans you know who might wish to be a supporter of this program while recognizing their veteran's service. Please remember... it's a COMMEMORATIVE brick, not a memorial brick and many of our living Legionnaires have their bricks on display in the plaza. Our Post members also receive \$10 off the order of their own personal brick. Pamphlets are available in our Post lobby or you can print an order form from our Post website at www.nylegion1009.org. Any questions? Reach out to Chairman John Gunn at #914-455-0096.

Membership Updates...

2nd Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto updated the Post's Executive Committee on the new online membership reporting system that the American Legion has rolled out. In the past our Post received our member's membership renewals and then forwarded them with the dues to the Department of New York (State-level Legion). From there the Department would send them up to National HQ's where the dues would be credited, and each member's record updated to show 'paid' for the year. This process often took 4 to 6 weeks to complete from the date the Post received it from the Legionnaire. Due to this delay members would often end up receiving another renewal notice in the mail 4 to 6 weeks after they had paid their dues already... not the best customer service!

In late December NY Legion Posts were invited to streamline this process by doing their membership renewals online. Carl reported that now the Post receives member's renewals and we enter them in the computer directly. New members can be added through this new process too. Once we get a batch of renewals, we 'send' them electronically online with an electronic funds transfer (EFT) of the dues directly to National HQ. This new processing is completed in just 5-8 days! This should save the Legion a bunch

of money in unnecessary printing and mailing of renewal notices.

As of this printing our Post has 112 Legionnaires who have paid their 2019 dues and 13 left who still haven't renewed yet. Take a quick look in your wallet - if you have a 2018 card there, you are one of those final few we hope will renew now.

Four Chaplains Ceremony...

Our next Post event will be our annual Four Chaplains Ceremony which will be held on Sunday, February 3rd, 2019 at 2 PM in our Post hall. This ceremony honors the dramatic story of 4 US Army Chaplains on board the US troopship, Dorchester, in February of 1943. At 12:55 in the morning of February 3rd the troopship was torpedoed while crossing the icy North Atlantic and sank within 20 minutes. During these critical few minutes these four Chaplains, each from a different faith and background, calmed their shipmates and handed out life-vests. When they ran out of vests - they gave away their own knowing full well the cost of this action. Of the 902 persons onboard that night only 229 survived the sinking. Survivors told of the four Chaplains linked arm-in-arm on the deck of the ship leading their shipmates in prayer as the ship slipped beneath the waves. This four brave men of faith were nationally honored with a Congressional Medal, a postage stamp, and many monuments and stained glass windows across the country. As time passed, people forgot the story of these inspirational men and their actions. Local monuments are still located at Belmont Park in Queens and at the plaza at Grant's Tomb in Manhattan as well as a stained glass window at West Point. Join us for this short, multi-media, remembrance ceremony as The American Legion and our Post work to educate all veterans and our community of the story of these Four Chaplains. We hope to see you all there.

2019 Post Everlasting Ceremony

Each year immediately following the Four Chaplains Ceremony our Post conducts our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony. This short ceremony is our final goodbye to those Post Legionnaires who have passed on during the past year. We invite their families and fellow veterans to attend as we retire their membership cards by fire and

render a final salute. In recent years we have opened this ceremony to allow non-Post members in attendance to add their veteran loved one's name to those being honored.

This year our Post will be honoring Post #1009 Legionnaires: Allan Abrams, Veronica Dapson, Paul Eiseman, Thomas Hauser, Joseph Larsen, Robert Miller, Robert E. Piersall, Charles C. Smith, and Frank Tempestilli. Please join us for this solemn final salute to these veterans.

Welcome Aboard...

We wish to offer a warm welcome aboard to the newest members of our Yorktown American Legion Post - Tom Maffucci, William Horan, and William Stump. Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron also welcomes aboard new members John Lembke and Jay Gussack to their ranks.

We hope that all of you will take an active part in running your Post and hope to see you at our events. It's a great way to get to know everyone.

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post family members who are out sick or on the mend in your thoughts and prayers: Dennis Frasene and Bob Kohl. Lee DeFrancesco we've just learned is in Hudson Valley Hospital and would love some visitors.

Town & Post History

We recently cleaned out 30+ years of clutter in the Post's office to make it more 'user friendly' for the Post and Squadron Officers to do their various jobs and paperwork. In this clean-up we found a framed page from the NY World newspaper with a handsome group photo of Boy Scouts, Post #1009 Legionnaires, and the owners of Amawalk Nursery. The photo was at the presentation of a 40' Norway Spruce by our Yorktown Post to the new Westchester County Civic Center before its opening in 1930. No little feat there. There is no identifying date or individual names with the page. On December 20, 2018 the Yorktown News had a full page article by Monica Doherty about the Amawalk Nursery and it's owner, Evelyn Smith and manager, Clarence Murphy - a Post #1009 founding member! The article reported how the Nursery donated the 1st living national Christmas Tree to Washington, DC

which was lit by President Woodrow Wilson at Christmas of 1924. The article also mentioned that the nursery provided trees to places near and far. One place mentioned was the terrace of the new Grand Central Station where the Nursery donated two trees on behalf of our Yorktown American Legion Post #1009 for that occasion.

These are the earliest Post photos and stories we have found to fill in our 'lost' Post history. If anyone has any stories, articles, and photos - or knows anyone who might have some please let Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) know about them.

Sons of The American Legion Squadron #1009 News

It is hard to believe that our SAL Squadron is only one year old. The first few months were spent setting up banking, a Constitution & By-Laws, and just learning how to run a meeting. Since September they have already planned, organized, and run two SAL Fundraiser Breakfasts and would have run a third except for a weather cancellation. These Breakfasts are enabling them to raise funds for the veterans-related charities they have chosen to support. They have also sort of adopted the veteran residents at the Country House on Baldwin Road. They stop and visit every Friday morning at 10 AM for an hour or so of chewing the fat. SAL member Ed Lachterman started this program and with fellow Sons' Paul Martin and James Calbo visit there each week. One day they even arranged for a field trip out to Putnam County Veterans Park with them to see the travelling Vietnam Wall which was on temporary display there. For Veterans Day they arranged for these veterans to attend and ride in the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade in an open-car train! All this activity has increased their visibility and increased their membership with new members John Lembke and Jay Gussack joining their merry band of members! Welcome aboard!

Changes to STAR Program

According to the NYS Dept of Taxation and Finance - New for 2019, if you're applying or reapplying for the Enhanced STAR exemption, you must enroll in the Income Verification Program (IVP). You only need to enroll once, and you'll receive the exemption each year, as long as you're eligible.

Additional benefits include:

- the comfort of knowing you can't miss the renewal deadline—because it doesn't apply to you, and
- privacy—you'll no longer need to share your income tax returns with your assessor's office.

In the first year, your assessor will verify your eligibility based on the income information you provide. In the following years, Dept of Taxation will verify your income eligibility. You will not need to reapply for the exemption or provide copies of your tax returns to your local assessor.

Note: Dept of Taxation will **not** disclose your income to the assessor. We will only disclose whether your income satisfies the income eligibility requirement.

Already in the Income Verification Program? You don't need to take any action to continue receiving the Enhanced STAR exemption. The Tax Department will contact you if it needs additional information. If you are also receiving the senior citizens exemption, you will still need to annually reapply for that benefit with your assessor.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Sun Feb 3 Four Chaplains Ceremony begins at 2 PM at Post. Open to the public.**
- Sun Feb 3 Post Everlasting Ceremony Immediately follows the Four Chaplains Ceremony. Open to the public.**
- Tue Feb 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Feb 7 Sons of A.L. meeting 7:30 PM**
- Sun Feb 10 SAL Fundraising Breakfast - 9 AM to 11 AM. \$8 per person.**
- Thu Feb 14 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM**
- Tue Mar 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Mar 7 Sons of A.L. meeting 7:30 PM**
- Tue Apr 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Apr 4 Sons of A.L. Mtg 7:30 PM**

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