



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #62

April / May 2018

Dues Increase Coming...

Our Post's dues of \$46 is the sum of the dues charged by the four levels of the American Legion - the National (\$18.50), Department of New York (\$14), Westchester County (\$6), and our Post (\$7.50). When the National American Legion increased their dues by \$5 in 2016, the Department of New York paid \$2 of their dues to reduce the increase to each NY Legionnaire to only \$3. Our Post was notified at the beginning of April that the Department can no longer cover this \$2 and is passing it on to the NY Posts beginning in July 2019.

Our Post's Executive Committee met on April 2nd to discuss this dues increase. The Executive Committee decided that the Post is fiscally strong enough to reduce our Post's dues portion from \$7.50 to \$6.50, which would reduce the dues increase down from \$2 to only \$1 to our members. We are not happy with the increase but hope this move will allow all our members on fixed incomes to continue their membership in the American Legion. Sorry for the bad news.

Poppy Fundraiser

Each Memorial Day weekend our Post conducts a Poppy Fundraiser to raise funds for our Post's programs throughout the year. Our Boys State program costs \$550 for one boy; Girls State was \$900 for 2 girls this year; our Scouting program cost \$1,200 for the two Boy Scout Troops and one Cub Scout Pack we sponsor - and we're adding an all-girls Scouts BSA Troop this Spring to our program which will further increase our costs.

Our Poppy Fundraiser is set for Saturday, May 25th, from 9 AM to 1 PM at four locations. We need Post members to volunteer to man tables at the ACME Supermarket in Shrub Oak; ACME Supermarket in Yorktown; Turco's in Yorktown; and our new location last year - DeCicco's in Jefferson Valley. We need at least four Post members at each location at all times to allow for emergencies and comfort breaks. We'll have sign-up sheets at our May 9th meeting and a reminder email will go out also before the fundraiser date to get people to sign up. Please let Adjutant Pat

McDonough (914-953-6807) know where you'd like to help out. This is not hard labor - just selling chances, collecting donations for poppies and grave-size US flags. Please help your Post with this vital fundraiser - and get to know your fellow Post members at the same time!

Memorial Day Week is a Busy One!

The week of Memorial Day is always a busy one for our Post. Right now, we have 5 separate events on our schedule for that week. To help everyone remember we are recapping them here so you know what they entail if you've never done them before. All Post members are invited to all the events listed:

****Wednesday, 5/22, 7 AM start - Somers Middle School's American Heritage/Living History Day**

This is an educational program for the students to meet and talk with veterans, first responders and distinguished guests throughout the day. Our Post members went last year and enjoyed the event and were invited back this year. You don't have to stay for the whole program, but are asked to attend the opening ceremonies at 8:20 AM. Lite breakfast and coffee is available starting at 7 AM to encourage you to miss the traffic around the school which really gets bad after 7 AM. Location: 250 Rt 202, Somers, NY.

****Friday, 5/24, 11 AM - Jefferson Village Memorial Day Ceremony**

This is a short ceremony in their main lobby on Hill Blvd and is well attended by the veterans residing in the Village and the members of our Post.

****Friday & Saturday, 5/24 & 5/25, - Cemeteries Across Yorktown**

3rd Vice Cmdr John McQuillan mobilizes local Scouts and the Post provides over 560 US flags to decorate every veteran's grave across Yorktown for Memorial Day.

****Saturday, 5/25, 9 AM to 1 PM - Poppy Fundraiser**

Another article explains this event in detail. We need four volunteers for each location

to allow for comfort breaks and emergencies. Please try to help our Post with this event.

****Monday, 5/27, 11 AM - Yorktown Memorial Day Parade**

Everyone who can march is asked to meet at Yorktown Town Hall Monument Park for the ceremonies there. We then fall out for the march down Underhill Ave to Commerce St to Veterans Road where the ceremonies are held at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field. Our Post is the sponsor of this year's parade (we alternate years with the Yorktown VFW) so if you can't march the distance maybe you'd like to go to the line-up location at Underhill Ave and Commerce St to help get the organizations lined up and into the parade? A little help means a lot!

****Monday, 5/27, 12 noon - Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony**

After the parade ceremonies we hold a dedication ceremony for the engraved Commemorative Veterans' Bricks installed in our plaza since last Memorial Day. The funds raised from this brick program are then donated to the veteran-related charities that our Post supports. Come see the fruits of this successful program help our local veterans through these gifts.

Of course, we may receive more invitations to participate in other events so check our Post's website calendar for up-to-date information.

Post Shirts & Jackets

It is only in recent years that our Post has moved more towards wearing identifying Post clothing instead of the American Legion's traditional blue blazer, white dress shirt with a tie, grey slacks, and dress shoes at events and ceremonies. We thought we could still look good with our jackets with embroidered Post logos on the back, golf shirts, and grey slacks while being comfortable too! Many of our Post members have purchased these items of Post apparel and this makes quite an impression when 15-20 veterans in uniform walk into a veteran's wake, community event, or ceremony.

We represent the American Legion when we attend events and need to present a neat, professional appearance. That is why we ask for members to wear Post attire at events or ceremonies, if you have it, or appropriate attire - NO JEANS, SNEAKERS, ETC. Our Post meetings and work parties are fine for the more casual wear.

Our Post has restocked with Post shirts available for purchase before Memorial Day. We have sizes (M - 4XL) on hand and the cost is only

\$25 each. We have a few Post sweatshirts available for \$30 each (sizes L, XL, and 2XL). Our Post baseball caps are \$15 each. The traditional American Legion uniform caps (\$59) and Post jackets (\$57-59) require ordering through a vendor and take 3 to 8 weeks for delivery. Anyone wanting any Post apparel can contact Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807).

Remember... you don't need to be in uniform attire just neat appropriate attire to stand with us at any events!

Post Elections

At our April General meeting our Post proceeded with our Post election process - accepting nominations from the floor for our Post's elected positions. Dave Moskowitz, of our Nominating Committee, reported that all Officers and Executive Committee members said they were willing to serve for one more year. One exception was our 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders who wish to swap positions for next year. The floor was opened for further nominations from the membership with no further submissions. The nomination process was closed and our slate of Officers running for the 2019/2020 year was read out by the Adjutant - John Giacomini for Commander; Carl DiLiberto for 1st Vice Cmdr.; Bill Goss for 2nd Vice Cmdr.; John McQuillan for 3rd Vice Cmdr.; Larry Armstrong for Financial Officer; Al Laughlin PPC, Ken Blish PPC, John Gunn, Rocco Salierno, and Pat McDonough for the 5 Executive Committee positions. The election for these positions will take place at our May 9th meeting. Please try to attend and help choose the path your Post takes for the next year.

Spring Brunch...

Our Spring Brunch will be held on Sunday, May 19th, 2019 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 the rush of Memorial Day weekend. The price is still only \$10 per person for a great catered meal with wonderful company for the afternoon. RSVP to Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807, or email post1009@nylegion1009.org before 5/12 (Mother's Day). We hope to see you all there!

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Memorial Day 50/50...

With this issue of our eNewsletter we are sending out our Memorial Day 50/50 raffle tickets. Its only \$1 a ticket, or a book of 12 for \$10. The proceeds help the Post with any expenses incurred during our Memorial Day events. If you don't receive a book in the mail in the next week, contact Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) to get a book sent out. If you can sell more than 1 book, Pat can send you more books to sell. In the past several years the prize has been between \$380 and \$647! The big key to winning this raffle is... 'you have to be in it to win it'!

Welcome Aboard...

We wish to offer a warm welcome aboard to our newest Post member Joseph M. Giordano who came over from Somers Post #1505. We hope that you will join us in taking an active part in running your new Post and hope to see you at our events. It's a wonderful 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: Marge Gunn recovering from sick in the hospital and Peggy Salierno recuperating from hip surgery.

Honor Flag...

On Saturday, April 13th, 2019, a group of 16 Legionnaires met at the Post and filed across the street to the gazebo at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field to raise the burial flag of Post member Joseph Larsen. The short ceremony with his family and fellow Legionnaires in attendance honored Joseph's service to his country. Below Joseph's burial flag flies the US Navy flag showing the branch of service Joe served with during Korea. At the base of the flagpole is a certificate identifying the veteran being honored with their flag flying above to all using the park. After three weeks our Post will once again meet and lower his flag as Taps is sounded. We will fold his flag and return it to his family or hold it to include it in our Post's Flag Retirement Ceremony in June.

Please join us at 10:45 AM on Saturday, May 4th, as we meet at the Post before walking over to raise fellow Legionnaire Lee DeFrancesco's Honor Flag in honor of his military service.

Sons of The American Legion Squadron #1009 News

Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009 also proceeded with its Officer election process at their April meeting. At the end of this meeting the nominations for Squadron Officers was closed with their candidates - James Calbo for Commander; Matt Essell for 1st Vice Cmdr; Ed Lachterman for Adjutant; Craig Armstrong for Financial Officer; William Wienecke for Chaplain; and Jay Gussak for Sergeant-at-Arms.

The Squadron has kept up its busy schedule with another successful breakfast in April. They have two more fundraising breakfasts on May 5th and June 2nd from 9 AM to 11 AM at the Post. These breakfasts are open to the public and all are welcome to come and enjoy a good meal and support the veterans' charities they are donating to this year.

I'd like to add a correction here from the last issue... in naming all the people who worked and helped at the Sons' St Patrick's Luncheon in March, I accidentally omitted two hard-working people - Jay Gussak and his son, Robert, who helped make the day the success it was. My apologies for the mistake.

100th Anniversary Baseball Caps...

The Department of New York American Legion has had special baseball caps made up commemorating the American Legion's 100th Anniversary. They are selling them for \$10 each and our Post thought we'd make a group order to save the shipping and handling for everyone. Anyone who wants to get in on the order please let Pat McDonough(914-953-6807) know. We will place the order right after the May 9th Post meeting. Payment will be taken on delivery.

Our Post's Annual Report...

Each year at this time every American Legion Post submits their annual Consolidated Post Report. This is a recap of all the accomplishments

of your Post that the National Headquarters tallies and reports through out the following year to Congress and the public to show what the Legion has done. Millions of dollars in donations and thousands of hours donated... these are some of the dozens of things tracked each year.

Our Post's report reflects that we have a strong and active Post in many areas of the report. The first indicator of a strong Post is the membership total. Our roster of 121 is up from last year's 118 and is a sign of a healthy and growing Post. Note: out of the 46 Post in the County - only 6 have rosters greater than 100 members - and we are the only one right now with 100% renewals (102% technically!). Our Post took part in 26 Community Events this year. We were in 8 newspaper articles and one cable TV show. Last year we provided 2 Funeral Honors and this year due to our new relationship with Yorktown Funeral Home, we have provided 17 Funeral Honors this year. That is an 850% increase in this area! We are sending one boy to Boys State and 2 girls to Girls State. With our sponsorship of one Cub Scout Pack, 2 Scouting Troops of boys, and one of girls coming online - we support 100 youths in Scouting! We take part in Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day, and Four Chaplains programs. In all, our Post members contributed 730 hours of community service this past year. Great job and thank you to all our Post members!

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Thu May 2 Yorktown Holocaust Remembrance Service in our Post Hall - 7 PM. Open to the public.
- Sun May 5 SAL Fundraising Breakfast - 9 AM to 11 AM. \$8 per person.
- Tue May 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu May 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM Election of Post Officers
- Sun May 19 Post Spring Brunch - 11 AM. Price \$10 per person. RSVP by 5/12.
- Wed May 22 Somers MS Living History Day. 7 AM breakfast; 8:15 AM opening ceremony.
- Fri May 24 Jefferson Village Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 AM.

Last Minute News...

In celebration of National Volunteer Week, on Thursday, April 25th, the VA Hudson Valley Health Care System (VA HVHCS) hosted its annual awards luncheon to recognize the efforts of VA volunteers. At this luncheon Maryann Calbo, the wife of Post member Richie Calbo, was named the VA HUDSON VALLEY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR! Many of us know Maryann as the lady trying to get people up and singing or answering trivia questions during our Holiday Parties and Spring Brunches. Both Maryann and Rich are volunteers at the Montrose VA Campus. Congratulations Maryann!!

- Fri/Sat May 24/25 Decoration of Veterans graves across Yorktown by Scouts with flags from Post.
- Sat May 25 Poppy Fundraiser at 4 local Supermarkets (ACME, Turcos, DiCicco's) from 9 AM to 1 PM. Volunteers needed!
- Mon May 27 Yorktown Memorial Day Parade Form at Yorktown Town Hall Monument Park at 10:40 AM. Parade at 11 AM.
- Mon May 27 Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony at Post At 12 noon.
- Sun Jun 2 SAL Fundraising Breakfast - 9 AM to 11 AM. \$8 person.
- Tue Jun 4 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Jun 6 SAL Sqdrn #1009 meeting at 7:30 PM. Installation of Officers.
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- Thu Jun 13 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM Installation of Officers.
- Sat Jun 15 US Flag Retirement Ceremony at Yorktown FD carnival grounds at 9 AM

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