



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #64

August / September 2019

American Legion Membership Updates...

On July 30, 2019 the Charter of The American Legion was updated when Congress approved, and President Trump signed into law the L.E.G.I.O.N. Act. This Act changes the periods of membership eligibility for the American Legion from the 7 recognized war-time periods - WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Grenada, Panama, and the Gulf War/War on Terror that were previously authorized by Congress. Now, the periods of membership eligibility have been simplified to include WWI, and all US veterans that have served honorably since December 7, 1941 up to the end of the War on Terror as determined by Congress. Why the change? The American Legion found that 12 unrecognized war periods in which U.S. military personnel were put in harm's way, resulting in approximately 1,600 members of the Armed Forces being killed or wounded. This change allows those veterans who served during these periods of unrecognized conflicts to be able to join the American Legion and our work in our communities. The L.E.G.I.O.N. Act - Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service - recognizes these veterans service to their country.

This change effects all three branches of the American Legion Family. Obviously, it welcomes a new group of veterans to membership in the American Legion. The male descendants of these newly eligible veterans are now also eligible to join the Sons of the American Legion. The spouses of these newly eligible veterans are also now eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

The American Legion Auxiliary also had its Charter updated during the 2019 American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis. The word "wives" was replaced with "spouses" to reflect the changing world of the U.S. military. Today, 10% of all active duty military personnel are female and this change allows their spouses to take part in the mission of the American Legion with their families too!

We look forward to including these long over-looked veterans and their families in our American Legion Family.

Post Summer BBQ

On Sunday, August 18th, 2019 our Post held our annual Summer BBQ in our Post Hall. We were pleased to see 56 people in attendance. It was an enjoyable afternoon of small talk and catching up with everyone after our Summer break. The food was prepared by Theresa Capizola and was summer-time delicious! One new thing that we had for the BBQ was more than our usual 50/50 drawing. The first prize was the 50/50 which SAL Cmdr James Calbo won and donated back to the Post. Thanks James! Then we had 2nd through 15th prizes drawn from the 50/50 tickets for 14 bottles of liquor that were donated. While it seemed that some tables came out clear winners, everyone was laughing about who bought their tickets before and after those winners!

During this BBQ our Post took a few minutes to honor a young woman, Beth Regan, who most of you remember for her efforts to organize a wonderful send-off for a local WWII veteran. This veteran had passed recently with no living family to attend his funeral. Beth organized an online campaign to have people come and attend the funeral of decorated WWII US Marine Robert Graham. She was very successful in this effort and over 200 people attended including veterans, Police Departments, Fire Departments, and members of the community. Unfortunately, Beth is now working in North Carolina and was unable to attend our BBQ. Fortunately, her mother and father, Sue and James Regan, attended in her place and 'Face-Timed' Beth the proceedings live on their phone from our Hall! Our Post had requested recognition through the Department of New York American Legion for Beth and were pleased to present her with the Department's 'Red, White, and Blue Award'.

In addition, our Post presented Beth via 'Face-Time' with the first-ever 'Liborio DeFrancesco Award' for her service to America's veterans. This award was created with the support and recommendation of Post member Ed Donovan and his wife, Marie, in honor of recently passed Post Legionnaire Liborio 'Lee' DeFrancesco. Beth was presented with a beautiful plaque and an accompanying check for \$500! This

was a great way to recognize Beth and honor Lee at the same time.

Fundraising News

In order for our Yorktown Post to run our programs we are constantly keeping an eye open for new types of fundraising. We reported recently that the Stop & Shop Supermarket in Somers had selected our Yorktown Post to receive the funds raised by the sale of their re-usable shopping bags during the month of May. \$1 of each \$2.50 sale price is given to the local charities selected by each store. In mid-June we received a donation check for \$166 from this wonderful program. We sent a thank you letter explaining what their funds would be used for - Scouting, Honor Flag ceremonies, Boys & Girls State programs. A week later the same store selected us again to receive the donations raised during the month of August! In Mid-September the Stop & Shop located in Peekskill's Beach Shopping Center selected our Post to receive the donations from the sales of these re-usable shopping bags they make during the month of October! This week ACME markets notified us that we will receive the proceeds of their version of this reusable bag sales program from their Mohegan Lake, Shrub Oak, and Yorktown stores. If you need one of these shopping bags please try to purchase them at these stores. They have supported us and they are supporting other local charities also with this fundraising operation. Thank you Stop & Shop!

We would also like to thank the Yorktown Lions Club who made a \$1,000 donation to our Post in July to help support our Post's programs. This was an extremely generous donation from their hard work fundraising. Thank you! Another big thank you goes to the members of our Sons of the American Legion Squadron #1009 who donated \$500 in June to our Post programs. Finally, a special thank you to Ed and Marie Donovan for their donation of \$1,000 to our Post to enable the creation of the Liborio DeFrancesco Award.

All of these donations allow our Post to continue our present programs, and give us the freedom to develop and begin other programs in our community. Thank you all once again!

World T.E.A.M. Bike Ride

On Sunday, September 29th, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, our Post once again manned a 'rest-stop' along Commerce St in Yorktown for a group

of adaptive veterans and first responders who were doing a group bike-ride from Tarrytown through Yorktown to West Point. We set-up our tent, some tables and chairs and served sandwiches and drinks to the riders. All told almost 20 riders stopped and enjoyed the break provided by our Post. Thank you to Post members Carl DiLiberto, Al Laughlin, John Giacomini, Bob Raphael, Tom Brady, Pat McDonough and SAL members James Calbo and Paul Martin.



Our Food Pantry Collection is Back!

For 10 of the past 11 years our Post has conducted a food collection to benefit the Montrose VA Food Pantry at 2 A & P Supermarkets in Yorktown. Last year, under new ownership of ACME they insisted upon numerous stipulations before they would allow us to conduct this collection. We missed the window to do it as a result. This year we returned and after three attempts to secure permission - we were granted it. On Saturday, October 5th, 2019 we will once again man tables outside the Yorktown ACME Market and the Shrub Oak ACME Market from 9 AM to 1 PM to collect food donations to benefit the veterans-in-need who rely on the Montrose VA Food Pantry to survive. We need a minimum of four volunteers for each location to allow for comfort breaks and emergencies. Please try to help with this vital event. During these four hours you get a good chance to chat and get-to-know your fellow Post members as well.

Please let Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) know which location you wish to volunteers at so we know who is coming and where we need more help. Thank you in advance for your help!

2020 Dues Now Due

Everyone should have received their 1st two dues renewal notices in the mail from National HQ's by now - one in July and one in September. We have 73 Legionnaires who have renewed already - and we thank you for your continued support! 53 of our Post Legionnaires have not yet renewed... won't you drop a check payable to Yorktown Post #1009 for \$47 into the mail and save the Legion the cost of mailings reminding you that your dues are needed? We thank you in advance for your continued support!

Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron begins collecting their 2020 dues at their October monthly meeting. All are welcome to drop a check payable to SAL #1009 into the mail to the Post, or attend that meeting to get your new 2020 membership card. SAL dues remain the same for 2020 at \$20 for the year for members, and \$12 for members under 18 years old, and dual-members of the Post.

SAL News...

Our Squadron began the year with discussions of other ways of fundraising to allow them to help veterans-related charities. They raised some good suggestions and will research them further. In the meantime, they committed to continuing holding their popular Fundraiser Breakfasts on the first Sunday of October, November, and December from 9 AM to 11 AM. These breakfasts are a wonderful event and at \$8 per person - they are a great deal too! Come, stop in, enjoy a nice breakfast, and meet your fellow Post members and others in attendance. Hope to see you there.

SAL Cmdr James Calbo also unveiled the SAL #1009's new t-shirts (\$10) and baseball caps (\$14) which are now available for purchase. These will allow the Sons to be recognizable and advertise their unit at events that might stain their dress shirts.

Welcome Aboard...

We wish to offer a warm welcome aboard to our newest Post members - Peter Simone Sr. and Edward Miraglia who joined us over the Summer. We'd also like to welcome new SAL #1009 member Dean Jenard who joins our SAL unit

from a Connecticut SAL unit. We hope that you all 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: Gil Kaufmann is in a long-term fight with an illness; Larry Luso is back home after a stint in the hospital; Gerry Knapp PPC is recovering from surgery. Our best wishes for speedy recoveries to all!

Grange Fair Flag-raising

On Friday, September 6, 2019 our Post continued our long tradition of opening the annual Yorktown Grange Fair by conducting the opening flag-raising ceremony. Thanks to Legionnaires Al Laughlin, Larry Armstrong, Don Roberts, Ken Blish, Rocco Salierno, George Hansen, Vincent Faggella, Steve Rice, Tom Einwich, John Gunn, Terry Deveau, and SAL members Larry Armstrong, Ed Lachterman, James Calbo, and Paul Martin for helping to continue this long Post tradition.

Do You Feel The Pride?

Our Yorktown Post has been working with a winning formula for the past 9 years or so. We are very visible in our community and are easily contacted via phone, email, or letter.

In June we were called by a Somers newspaper regarding the closing of the Somers VFW Post, the Legion Post, and the Jewish War Post there. It was sad way to find out about these closings. In September a Post member relayed a message that a member of the Elmsford Legion Post was asking what to do with their Post's bank accounts, since they haven't been active in a couple of years. We contacted the County American Legion Membership Chairman and he reached out to their final 9 Post members, who never attended any meetings, and they hope to try to revitalize their Post to try to save it. We were recently contacted by the Garden Club of Yorktown who wants to donate a Blue Star Memorial to the town. They asked if we could help them arrange a ceremony and dedication for November 11th and we agreed. Salem Hills Rehabilitation in Purdys called us again to come

visit around Veterans Day and be a part of their honoring of their veteran residents there. Their local Legion Post there is not active. We have done this the past 4 -5 years with a few Post members and their veterans love it. We do too! On two upcoming back-to-back weekends have us helping adaptive veterans on a bike ride with a 'rest-stop' manned by our Post members and conducting a food collection for the veterans relying on the Montrose VA Food Pantry. Our SAL members visit with the veterans at the Country House in Yorktown each Friday morning bringing companionship to those who have served and outlived their families.

This summer our Post has been visible with our Honor Flag Ceremonies at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Field. During this ceremony we raise the burial flags of our fellow veterans up the flagpole there with their family present. Our Post members salute as the flag is raised. Three weeks later as their flag is lowered, our bugler plays Taps as we salute. People all around the park stop and witness this ceremony and talk with us afterwards learning more about the ceremony. We have done this 7 times this summer with 11 to 26 Post members attending each time.

Since June our Post has been called 8 times by a local funeral home to conduct our Rendering Honors ceremony veterans who had passed. Each time our Post answered this request with 9 to 15 Post members filing in to offer this final salute to these veterans as their families watch with pride.

If you have never taken part in any of our Post's ceremonies or events, don't let that stop you from coming to your first. We explain everything each time before we begin, so that we all know the ceremony. This is done so that we all look uniform and the ceremony looks impressive to the families.

YOUR Post is the strongest its been in years, even decades, because of all this visible activity. Everyone we encounter sees the pride our Post members display in everything we do large and small. Please join us for some events and enjoy our Post's pride first-hand!

Upcoming Things...

NYS Sen. Pete Harckham's next Veterans Advisory Council meeting is on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM at Peekskill American Legion Post #274 - 136 McKinley St, Peekskill, NY. Food and refreshments will be available. Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant is

once again offering a free dinner for a veteran and guest on Veterans Day (11/11). RSVP's are REQUIRED to #914-218-3968.

November seems a long way away but it's coming fast. Save the dates - Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak is on Sun. 11/10 at 2 PM. We form-up at Lakeland HS driveway at 1:40 PM and walk to the Hrt Library for the ceremonies there.

On Veterans Day, Mon 11/11 at 11 AM the VFW conduct a ceremony at Town hall marking the end of WWI. Keep an eye out for a Blue Star monument dedication at Patriot Park behind Town Hall for that day or that weekend. Its still in the planning stages right now.

On Veterans Day, 11/11, from 6:30 - 8:30 PM, all veterans with a guest can enjoy a free dinner at Cortlandt Colonial restaurant compliments of ASAP Mortgage. You must RSVP for this dinner to #914-218-3968.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Tue Oct 1 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Oct 3 SAL #1009 meeting 7:30 PM**
- Sat Oct 5 Montrose VA Food Pantry Collection - 9 AM to 1 PM at both ACME Markets.**
- Sun Oct 6 SAL Fundraiser Breakfast at Post 9 AM - 11 AM**
- Thu Oct 10 Post Monthly meeting - 7:30 PM**
- Sat Oct 12 Honor Flag Ceremony - Meet at Post at 10:45 AM to walk over.**
- Sun Nov 3 SAL Fundraiser Breakfast at Post 9 AM - 11 AM**
- Tue Nov 5 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Nov 7 SAL #1009 meeting 7:30 PM**
- Sun Nov 10 Veterans Day Parade in Shrub Oak - Form-up at Lakeland HS at 1:40 PM**
- Mon Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony at Town Hall at 11 AM**
- Thu Nov 14 Post Monthly meeting - 7:30 PM**

Yorktown Post #1009

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