



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #67

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Stay Home, Stay Safe...

We hope this finds all our Post family members - Legionnaires and Sons', your spouses and families, healthy and safe. This pandemic has turned our entire world upside down and very quickly at that. In my case, I came home from work one day and that evening my job called saying to stay home for the next two days. That was 50 days ago! These past few weeks we have all had to self-isolate in our homes and to learn 'social distancing' while shopping and everything else we do. It is easy to get a little down with all the isolation and negative news on TV. Everyone just needs to remember to keep a sense of humor during this difficult time. Step back and enjoy a little chuckle at some of the changes you now see every day. In the 'good old days' if you wanted to buy permanent markers, box cutters, or cigarettes at a supermarket you went to the Customer Service desk and needed to show ID. Could you ever have imagined that toilet paper would have been added to this list? Just going into a bank today can bring a chuckle or two. In the 'good old days', I think everyone would have felt alarmed at the sight of a person in a mask walking into a bank we were in. Today, we have changed that fear to appreciation that the person is being safe and considerate of their fellow customers in the bank! Now that is funny!

Our lives will return to a new 'normal' in time slowly. We will once again get to see our friends and families up close. We will be able to travel again and walk in parks with others, without feeling afraid. Until that time comes, we just need to learn new ways to do what we used to do before. Our members who really miss our Happy Hour social time at the Post bar on Friday evenings should take a lesson from SAL member Craig Armstrong and his Dad, Post Financial Officer Larry Armstrong. Craig stopped by his parents on one Friday night to enjoy a beer with his Dad just like at Happy Hour! In the picture here, you can see they maintained their social distancing! Now that's 'thinking outside the box'! Great job Craig and Larry!

Stay home, stay safe, and we will see you all real soon!



Our Post Shut Down

Our Yorktown Post has been shut down since March 11, 2020 to save our members and customers from possible exposure to this COVID-19. It was a tough but serious decision that had to be made. We knew this shut down obviously would effect our Post financially, and Post Cmdr. John Giacomini and Financial Officer Larry Armstrong immediately instituted a freeze on all routine Post expenditures. Our Post income has been reduced to zero since the shut down with 8 Hall rentals being cancelled under these NYS PAUSE emergency restrictions. Unfortunately, our Post still has to pay our monthly electrical, cable, phone, insurance, and oil bills while we are closed. Our Post Executive Committee has already begun fiscal planning for the rest of 2020 to keep our Post safe and open.

Gov. Cuomo's NY PAUSE restrictions are currently in effect until at least May 15, 2020. This means that our Post Executive Committee meeting on Tuesday 5/05; our SAL meeting on Thursday 5/07; and our Post monthly meeting on Thursday 5/14, are CANCELLED. Our Post's annual Spring Brunch which was scheduled for Sunday, May 17, at 11 AM, will be POSTPONED, until we know whether group events will be permitted under lesser restrictions.

Memorial Day Events...

Memorial Day is only a month away right now, but no one knows what we will be able to do on that normally very busy weekend. The NY PAUSE restrictions are in place until May 15th, and

more than likely they will be extended even longer because of the number of infected in Westchester County.

Some events we are normally involved with each year have already been cancelled. The **Somers MS Living History Day on 5/19**, and our annual visit to **Yorktown HS's Band classes on 5/21** have been CANCELLED due to the closing of all schools due to the virus. Our annual visit to the **Salem Hills Rehabilitation in Purdys** will be POSTPONED due to the fact that nursing homes are closed to all visitors due to the current virus threat to their highly vulnerable residents.

Our Post was scheduled to conduct our **Poppy Fundraiser** on Saturday, May 23, 2020, in front of four local supermarkets to raise funds for our Post's programs. We will POSTPONE this vital event to later in the year when people are out shopping at the supermarket more comfortably than they are today.

'FLAGS IN' at Yorktowns cemeteries is always coordinated by our 3rd Vice Cmdr John McQuillan utilizing local Scout Troops to do the legwork. Our Post has ordered the flags for the over 625 veterans graves across Yorktown already. All Scouting programs were suspended when the schools were closed for the virus, so we may put out a call for Legion and SAL volunteers to help with this important mission. This activity will be outdoors and everyone will be spread out to maintain social distancing requirements. This may take a little longer this year due to our older legs! If everything else is cancelled for Memorial Day - at least every veteran's grave will get a fresh flag.

Commemorative Park Dedication

Our Commemorative Brick Dedication ceremony will be POSTPONED until later in the year when we are able to host a proper dedication ceremony with a group of people. Our Brick Chairman John Gunn was really looking forward to officially installing this year's 23 new bricks into the plaza. These bricks helped John and the Post to attain the milestone of 500 engraved bricks in our plaza! This is quite an achievement and it is due to John's dedication and hard work that we have achieved this significant mark. 500 bricks at \$100 each is \$50,000 John has brought into the Post. About half of that went to the engraving of the bricks. As of last Memorial Day this fund had allowed your Yorktown Post to donate \$24,135 to

our veteran-related charities in the past 6 years. That is a lot of thanks we owe John!

Boys State & Girls State

Our Post had selected one young man, Daniel McKenna, from Iona Prep HS to attend the American Legion Boys State program at SUNY Morrisville, NY at the end of June. In April our Post was notified that the state Boys State program had to be cancelled this year due to the Corona virus restrictions. This program has 1,000 young high school juniors attending a week-long civics program at the college. There is no way to keep this many students and adult staff safe with this virus pandemic going on. It was the only logical option for such a large program. Our Post feels badly that Daniel will miss out on this important program. We will provide him with a letter for his school records certifying him as a selected candidate for the program.

Our Post had selected one young lady, Emily Attinger of Walter Panas HS to attend the Girls State program at the College of Brockport - SUNY during the last week of June 2020. The program normally has 300 attendees each year and at this time the coordinators are trying to adapt it so that it can be attended remotely on-line via computer. This way the girls can still get most of the material without being confined with 300 other students and staff while the virus is active in N.Y.

A big 'Thank You' goes out to our 2nd Vice Cmdr Bill Goss on all the work he did all year contacting local schools about these programs and screening the Post's candidates. This year Bill had the undesirable job of having to explain the cancellations and changes to these highly motivated high school students. Thank you Bill for all your hard work!

Post Elections

Normally in April our Post would be holding nominations for Post Officer and Executive Committee positions with the elections being held at our May meeting. The Department of New York American Legion has suspended their Constitution & By-Laws requirements for Post Officer nominations, elections, and installations until such time that NY PAUSE restrictions allow for Post meetings to conduct this important business. All elected Post Officers will continue in their positions until Post elections can be held.

Elected Officers at the County, Department (state) and National levels are elected at their respective conventions which are held once each year. Since the County, Department, and National Conventions have been cancelled for 2020 due to the COVID-19 virus, all elected Officers at these levels of the American Legion have been extended through 2021.

SAL #1009 News

Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron had purchased some 90 lbs of corned beef and was set to hold their 2nd annual St Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon on 3/15 when our Post closed on 3/11. Obviously, the food couldn't keep and they managed to sell some of the food to people to cook at home which helped reduce their 1st loss on any event. The funds raised from this event and their monthly breakfasts is for the veteran-related charities they support each year.

On Monday, March 8th, our SAL Squadron hosted the 9th District Sons of the American Legion meeting at our Post. This group consists of the representatives from the 5 counties making up the 9th District - Rockland, Westchester, Putnam, Orange, and Dutchess. About 20 Legion members from Posts and Counties around us were in attendance and had a proactive meeting followed by lunch supplied by SAL #1009.

The state-level Detachment of New York Sons of the American Legion has informed us that all elected SAL Officers will continue in these positions through 2021.

We'll Be Ready...

Closing a non-profit like our Yorktown Post even temporarily is scary. Will we re-open? Do we matter in the community? Yes, is the answer to both questions. Our Yorktown Post will open and be better than ever! Thanks to tireless volunteers like 3rd Vice Cmdr. John McQuillan, our Post sports beautiful, newly waxed floors in the lobby, Hall and bar! Our kitchen has a fresh new paint job thanks to John as well! Thank you John!

Our Post may be closed but we are still operating. Our flag drop-box has been filled several times with old, worn flags for retirement. Four times we have provided two-man details to veterans being interred at local cemeteries, since wakes and funerals are now cancelled. Lastly, to boost the mood of those passing by our Post we have two new banners displayed out front -

"Yorktown Strong!" and another "Thank you to Health Care Workers and First Responders". Our Post building sports new red, white, and blue rope-lighting across the front of the building. This and our beautifully painted front door are lighted from 7:30 pm to 2 am every night. This is what an American Legion Post that matters should look like!

Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle

Our Post will continue its tradition of running a Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle this year. The proceeds of the raffle will help our Post during this trying time as we work to keep our Post strong and viable. If you have taken part in this raffle in the last two years, we will mail you out a book of chances automatically. If you do not get one, call Pat McDonough to request one, or additional books. Please try to support your Post by buying a book of 12 chances for just \$10 or sell them for \$1 each. Thanks.

Yorktown's Memorial Day Parade

This year's Yorktown Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled under an abundance of caution during this COVID-19 pandemic. We knew this would happen and are not surprised by the cancellation. It would be ludicrous to believe the NY PAUSE restrictions would be lifted on May 15th and then anyone would allow a thousand people or more to gather for a parade in the middle of Yorktown ten days later. This cancellation is to keep everyone safe.

Obviously, every veteran wants the sanctity of Memorial Day to be recognized and honored by all Americans, even under these virus restrictions. How can we do both safely? How about a 'Reverse Memorial Day Parade'? In other words, have everyone follow printed directions and drive a route discovering and learning about Yorktown's veterans memorials and monuments? Our Yorktown Post hopes to publish directions on paper, and a downloadable version from our website, for residents to do a driving tour of these memorials and monuments across Yorktown. We'd really like to have one or two Legionnaires or SAL members at each stop for two hours on Memorial Day from 10 am to 12 noon only as a visible Honor Guard (standing or sitting) drawing attention to the monument to those passing by.

Social distancing rules would remain in place to keep everyone safe. Hopefully, families in cars would drive by and read the directions learning all about the history of Yorktown's veterans and their sacrifices throughout history. We are putting the tour together as we write this and hope to get the directions and information out to everyone and the press. The list of monument locations on this tour will be:

- St Marys' Church - WWI monument
- Lakeland HS - Vietnam monument
- Hart Library - Honor Roll monument WWII/Korea/Vietnam
- First Presbyterian Church cemetery - Revolutionary War monument
- Yorktown HS - Vietnam monument
- Mildred E. Strang MS - Vietnam monument
- Town Hall Monument Park - WWI, WWII, Korea & Vietnam, Blue Star, and David Fahey Memorial Tree monuments
- Battle of Pinesbridge monument - Revolutionary War monument
- Yorktown Post #1009 Veterans Commemorative Park - monument to all veterans

If any Post members (Post or SAL) would be interested in being at one of these locations for the two hours from 10 am to 12 noon on Memorial Day please let Pat McDonough know (914-953-6807). We haven't decided yet on doing the manpower at these locations but would like to know if we could cover all the locations before making this decision. Thank you!

Post Membership Renewals

Our Post Membership Chairman, 1st Vice Cmdr. Carl DiLiberto reports that as of April 22nd our Post has 116 paid-up members for 2020. This is short of our 2020 goal of 123 members. Every year we strive to get one more member than last year. Some organizations print the names of those delinquent in paying their dues to kind of shame them into paying. Our Post doesn't think that way. Our Yorktown Post is proud of all the work we do each year across Yorktown and we're thankful and proud of those Post members who support us in this mission. Thank you to the below

Legionnaires for supporting your Post with your dues this year. If you don't see your name below, that means we have not received your American Legion dues yet. Post dues are accepted right up until Memorial Day.

Anthony Amendola - Vincent Andreozi - Charles Angelillo - Rito Arroyo - Edward Augustine - Ray Barry - William J Bertram - Jacob K Blish Jr - Thomas A Bodkin - Steven Bonifacio - Thomas Brady - Irving M Breitbart - Joseph R Calabrese - Richard F Calbo - Robert Caldwell - Vincent R Caporale - Richard J Cariello - Renato Carrazzone - John C Cerar - Thomas V Connolly - James P Cronin - Robert J Dagnino - Carmine DAlessio - John C De Luca - Daniel J Denisco - Richard DeSilva - Terrence DeVeau - Marco DiBernardo - Salvatore DiCioccio Jr - Carl T DiLiberto - John A Divernieri Sr - Edward Donovan - William Dunphy - Thomas F Einwich - Albert Eisenfeld - Vincent Faggella - Arnold C Folberth Jr - Michael C Foley - Carmine Furci - Frank R Galella Jr - Anthony M Galleno - John D Giacomini Robert P Gorsuch Sr - Joseph M Giordano - David Goldberg - Robert P Gorsuch Sr - William A Goss - Anthony L Grasso - Italo D Greco - Paul L Grettler - Neil S Gross - John A Gunn - Saul B Gussak - George Hansen - Robert E Hecker - Mark E Hembury - Jose Hernandez - William Horan - James W Howard - William M Howard - Enzo Iannozi - Robert A Ireland - Lawrence V Iuso - Frederick S Jaeger - Mark K Johnson - Gilbert E Kaufmann - John J Kearney - Joseph Klausz - Gerald Knapp - Robert L Kohl III - George E Kummer - Albert I Laughlin III - Michael Laughlin - Consolato J Leonardo - Corrado J Leone - Mark E Levandoski - Daryl L Lindholm - Patrick J Mc Donough - Thomas McGoldrick - Thomas J McNamee - John T McQuillan Jr - Edward F Miraglia - Albert Morales - Francis Moran - David Moskowitz - Thomas A Mullaney - Henry E Nurse - Daniel G Ort Jr - Albino L Paccioretti - Frank Panebianco - George Personick - Joe Pettit - Lawrence J Qualter - Robert Raphael - William A Raymond Jr - Stephen J Rice - Donald W Roberts - Samuel E Sadak - Rocco Salierno - John Sambuco - Rev Thomas P Sandi - Angelo N Santorelli - John Scavarda - Samuel W Schatz - Edward J Schmidt - Evan L Schwerner - Peter A Simone - Vincent J Stack - William Stump - Roger E Thompson - Frank Troia - John P Vaughan - Joseph Vogliazzo - John F Weis - Ernest F Wieting - Frank J Wolf