



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Volume No. 3

Issue No.17

March / April 2016

Commander's Corner

Roger Thompson, the 23rd oldest Member of our Post, and I travelled over to the Veterans Administration at Montrose to register for medical benefits (bldg. # 3). We both agree that we were politely and efficiently received by the Staff. The place was spotless and a 2nd appointment was made *for a week later* with a Physician as well as a photograph for our ID cards. We had remembered to bring our DD-214 papers so there was no delay. We were out of the building in 30 minutes. Impressive.

Having finished with the VA we travelled to the East side of the Montrose campus and visited with Vincent Faughnan, a member of Post 1009, at the NYS Veterans Home. Vincent is a WW 2 Veteran who served in the Army under Patton as a radar and communications technician. No surprise that he went to work for Western Electric after the War. Vincent did not know we would be visiting but he immediately made us feel comfortable and we enjoyed our ½ hour of chat. Incidentally, Vincent turned 96 last week and is as sharp as a tack. A most enjoyable visit for us and I invite other members who wish to visit our "older" or infirm Post Members to contact our Post Visitation Team: Art Bortz (914-844-6645); Roger Thompson (914-621-1521) and Tom Einwich (718-530-5765). Concurrently, those wishing to be visited, please contact the above individuals also.

But back to the NYS Veterans Nursing Home. It is a beautiful fairly new facility with 240 beds for Veterans and their spouses. The place is spotless and the residents seem very happy. Vincent told us the food is good but they give you too much. Really? We also learned that a spouse of a Veteran can apply for admission even after the Veteran has passed away. Fees are \$245 per day and they accept insurance and Medicaid. Something to think about. I personally would consider residing there when the time comes. Roger feels the same way but he thinks I should go first. ☺ For more information, contact Kathleen Rivera, Director of Admissions, at: **914-788-6000** and request an informational packet or an appointment.

Gerald M. Knapp, Commander

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny...

On Sunday, March 13th, our Post teamed up with the Yorktown Lions Club, the Yorktown Leos Club, and Alliance for Safe Kids(ASK) to hold our 4th annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny. This event has become quite a 'town' event with our four organizations working together as well as Hwy Supervisor Dave Paganelli(Easter Bunny) and Councilman Ed Lachterman. We had 100 guests at each of the three separate sessions/seatings. All enjoyed a clean renovated Hall, our brand new hall chairs, and devoured a wonderful smorgasbord of food cooked by a great team of Lions.

This event is such a success due to everyone's help putting it all together. Our Post cleans and sets up the Hall the day before according to our seating diagrams. Thank you to John McQuillan, Gerry Knapp, Al Laughlin, Roger Thompson, Ken & Sue Blish, Rocco Salierno, Carl DiLiberto, Lee Defrancesco, Frank Troia, Pat McDonough, John Giacomini, Steve Rice, Joe Larsen, Bill Goss for all their help at least once and in many cases two or three times over that weekend. As our team finishes, in come the Lions' members to decorate the Hall and get packages ready for the 150 or so children attending the Breakfast. Starting at 6:30 AM Legionnaires and Lions members start arriving to cook, prep, and work to make every guest a happy one. Around 1:30 PM thanks to fresh Legionnaires we take everything down, clean-up the Post and set it up for our weekday school renter.

This event is a great public relations event for us - people see our Hall and might come back to rent it. They see and talk with our members and who knows... might become a member! After everything is all finished and put away, our Post's income from this one event is \$1,300. To put this in perspective, our Post's portion of every member's annual dues only comes to \$885 for the entire year.

Special Occasion or Event?

Our Hall is Available for Rent

Convenient Location with Reasonable Rates

Sad Farewell...

We regret to inform everyone of the passing of three of our Post's members since our last issue. In February, we lost Frank Mastro and in March, William Lenzi. Both families reached out to notify our Post of their loved one's passing and we were able to have Post members respond and perform our 'Rendering of Honors' ceremony at their wakes for our fallen brothers. In March we also lost Patrick Cavuoto, who has resided in Poughquag, NY, and was our Post Commander in 1961. Patrick's family knew of their father's pride in our Yorktown Post and asked that donations be made in his name to our Post. Our Post Executive Committee has designated some of the donations be used to purchase a Commemorative Brick in Patrick's name to be installed in our Veterans Commemorative Park as a permanent memento of Patrick's service to our Post.

Honor Flag Resumes

On Saturday, April 16, 2016, our Post resumed its Honor Flag program after suspending it for the winter due to the weather. Our first Honor Flag for this year was raised for Lester A. Cornell. Lester was a WWI Army veteran and in our conversation with his daughter, Mrs. Lois Ostling, we learned he was a long-time Post #1009 member. A quick look in the Post's lobby and we discovered that Lester was not only a long-time member of our Post... he was one of the original Charter members who started the Post in 1928!

On Saturday, May 7th at 11 AM Lester's flag will come down and Mrs. Ostling's husband's flag will be raised. Later in May her brother-in-law's flag will be raised. We are proud that this program enables her to honor the numerous individuals in her family that have served our country.



Post Updates Continue...

On Thursday, February 18th our Post received delivery of sleek new banquet chairs for our Post Hall and it's rental customers. Our old chairs were 27 years old and falling apart. This \$2,200 expense completes another huge upgrade to our Post facilities to go along with our Hall painting, new bar and Hall air-conditioners, new signage in front of the Post and just this past week the installation of a Koala Bear baby changing table in the Post's ladies room. All these upgrades have made our Post once again a place we all can be proud of. Stop in and take a look during a meeting or event and see what a difference there is in YOUR Post.

Post Spring Brunch

Get your RSVP's in ASAP! Our Post's Spring Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, May 1st at 11 AM at the Post. We once again will have the meal catered so that all our members can come and enjoy the Brunch. The menu consist of: eggs, bacon, sausage, toast, bagels with cream cheese, butter, or jelly, pancakes, home fries, and spinach and cheese quiche. The price will still be only \$7 per person to attend. We still ask those attending to bring a small dessert that everyone could enjoy at the dessert bar.

RSVP back to Cmdr Knapp (914-462-2774) or Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) by 4/25 please.

Memorial Day Events

It's only mid-April but Memorial Day events take weeks of planning to be successful. Here are our scheduled events for that weekend.

- **Decoration of Veterans Graves** - On Friday, 5/27 and Saturday 5/28 Post Member John McQuillan mobilizes local Scouts to put flags on every known veteran's grave across town.
- **Poppy Fund-raiser** - On Saturday, 5/28 from 9 AM to 1 PM we set-up tables at ACME supermarkets in Shrub Oak and Yorktown and Turcos' in Yorktown and hand out traditional red poppies in remembrance of Memorial Day. We collect donations and sell small flags for graves. We need volunteers for all three locations so please give a few hours to help the Post out. RSVP to Pat McDonough.

- **Veterans Appreciation Day** at Rye Playland - Westchester County and Rye Playland will again provide all Westchester Veterans and their families' free parking, admission, and ride wristbands on Sunday 5/29 from 11 AM to 4 PM. Contact Westchester County Veterans Service Agency or our own Rich Calbo to reserve your wristbands in advance (before 5/06)
- **Memorial Day Parade** - The Yorktown VFW is running this year's parade. We form-up at town hall at 10:40 AM for the 11 AM ceremony. Join us for the parade to Veterans Memorial Park in remembrance of those never returned from America's wars.
- **Veterans Commemorative Park Dedication** - Immediately following the parade our Post dedicates the engraved bricks that have been installed into the plaza since last year. There will be close to 420 veterans honored with engraved bricks installed in our Post's plaza since it was first dedicated four years ago. Part of our ceremony there is dispersing the money raised by the sale of these bricks to various veterans' charities. This year we will give away donations totaling \$4,700 bringing our total donations from this park to \$17,200 in four years!!

Post Officer Elections

It is that time of year when our Post must choose it's leadership for the upcoming year. Normally, by the end of our April meeting we have a full list of nominees interested in elected positions - which is wonderful, it shows everyone has a strong interest in guiding our Post. At the close of business at our April meeting we had the following candidates running for Post positions:

Post Commander - No Candidate

1st Vice Commander - Bill Goss

2nd Vice Commander - Carl DiLiberto

3rd Vice Commander - Craig Keitel

Financial Officer - No Candidate

Executive Committee candidates:

Al Laughlin, PPC	Ken Blish, PPC
John Gunn	Roger Thompson
Gerald Knapp, PPC	John Giacomini
	Patrick McDonough

At this time we have no one nominated for the positions of Post Commander and Financial Officer. The reluctance of Post members to step forward is a little disheartening. Whoever steps up for these positions will make the positions their own with their own styles unlike their predecessors. Anyone with worries about messing up or failing in these positions should erase that concern from their heads. There are 9 other Executive Committee members that all work together to run our Post. They will help you learn the duties of your new position and they would never let you embarrass yourself or our Post! At our May 12th meeting we will choose our new leaders and we encourage ALL POST MEMBERS TO ATTEND THIS MEETING to let our new leaders know that we all stand with them in the year ahead.

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to extend a warm Welcome Aboard to Post #1009's newest member; Italo Dan Greco. Dan has been marching with our Post contingent for the last few Veterans' Day Parades and now will join us year round. Welcome!

Donations to Our Post

Each year our Post receives donations of various amounts from community members, organizations, and even our own Post members. We will now list all donations in our newsletter as a way of saying 'Thanks'. Our Post is an IRS authorized 501 C19 tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible.

We gratefully acknowledge the below donations to our Post and its continuing work.

Robert Gorsuch (Boys State)	\$500	01/28/16
Robert Gorsuch (Girls State)	\$500	01/28/16
Patricia & Joseph Larsen	\$100	02/06/16
Loriann & Lawrence Perrault	\$ 50	03/01/16
Bill Goss	\$ 72	03/12/16
Carmel HS FBLA Club	\$1,000	03/12/16
Pamela Guerra	\$ 50	03/16/16
Joseph & Donata DiBart	\$ 50	04/13/16
Angela M. DiBart	\$100	04/16/16
Judith & Michael Maida	\$ 25	04/16/16
Dawn & Robert Pilato	\$ 25	04/16/16

Carmel HS Donation

Several students from Carmel High School's Future Business Leaders of America class attended our Post's March meeting. The students, Gerry Hamilton, President, Michael Wilder, Program of Work Chair, and Sarah Stec, Parliamentarian, accompanied by their advisor Mrs. Mary O'Dell stood and addressed the 25 veterans at the meeting and explained what the Future Business Leaders of America is about and what their unit has been doing during this school year. While learning skills for use in their futures in the business world of today they have competed in several local FBLA events recently and achieved several honors in these competitions. When not attending these events their school's FBLA group works with community businesses raising funds to benefit a charitable organization they have selected and agreed upon at the beginning of each school year.

The reason for the visit was to explain their program and to present a donation of \$1,000 to our Post, the sum of their fundraising activities this year. How was our Post lucky enough to be selected? Mrs. O'Dell is the daughter of Post #1009 member Cas Faughnan. Apparently Cas has been twisting her ear about all the good things his Post has been doing in recent years and well, one thing led to another.

Our Legionnaires applauded the student's hard work and their generous donation. Cmdr Knapp accepted their donation on behalf of the Post and promised to keep the students informed of what good works their donation will be used for. Sitting in the front row of the Post that night was Cas Faughnan, and you never saw a prouder Papa than he was that night! Thank you Cas and Mary, and the entire Carmel HS FBLA Club!



Mrs. Mary O'Dell, Sarah Stec, Michael Wilder, Gerry Hamilton, and Cmdr Knapp (L-R)

Post #1009 Bar Business Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday.....Closed
Tuesday (2nd and 4th Only).....4:00 – 9 PM
Friday.....4:00 – 10 PM
Saturday & Sunday.....Parties Only

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Sun May 1 Spring Brunch at our Post starts at 11 AM. Cost is \$7 per person. RSVP by 4/25 please!

Tue May 3 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Sat May 7 Honor Flag Ceremony at 11 AM Meet at Post at 10:45 AM.

Thu May 12 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM Election of Post Officers

Sat May 28 Poppy Fund-raiser at ACME & Turcos' supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Mon May 30 Memorial Day Parade Form at Twn Hall at 10:40 AM

Mon May 30 Commemorative Park Dedication immediately following parade

Tue Jun 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Jun 9 Post General Mtg 7:30 PM

Yorktown Post #1009
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