



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #73

September / October / November / December 2021

2022 Dues Now Due

Carl DiLiberto, our Post's Membership Chairman, reports that our Post has 97 Legionnaires who have already paid their dues for 2022. Thank you to all who have done so! Of course, this also reminds us that 27 Post Legionnaires have not yet renewed their memberships for 2022. All 2021 American Legion memberships expire on December 31st so if you haven't already, we ask that you send your dues in now to avoid missing any issues of The American Legion magazine or other benefits. Dues can be mailed to the Post, or you can renew online at Legion.org if that is easier.

Our Sons Squadron has 18 of their 25 members renewed so far. We ask our Sons members to mail-in, or drop-off, your 2022 dues to the Post. Matthew Essell, our SAL Membership Chairman will mail out your new membership card to you once your dues are received.

Every year our Post and Sons Squadron strive to get 100% of our members to renew their memberships. This is a point of pride when we see ALL OUR MEMBERS continue their support of our Post and its programs.

Membership News

Membership is an all-year endeavor for our 1st Vice Cmdr Carl DiLiberto and Post Adjutant Pat McDonough. From July 1st when our National HQ's mails out the first membership renewal reminder to all Legionnaires... to Memorial Day when our final paid membership count for the year is recorded - these guys are working and talking up American Legion membership. To get an early jump this year our Post sent out recruitment letters to Legionnaires living in the Yorktown area that are in NYS's Post #0001. This is the 'holding Post' for all new Legion members who respond to a mailing to join The American Legion. Our letters introduced our Yorktown Post and our programs to these Legionnaires and asked them if they would like to transfer into our Yorktown Post. This appeal resulted in 6 new members transferring into our Post in September. Welcome aboard to - Stephanie

Allen, Sal Caiazza, Dominick Derobertis, Antonio Fama, John Infelice, and Victor Vincenzi.

During October and November, we had 6 more veterans seek out and join our Post. Welcome aboard's go to - James Felakos Sr, Dominick Savino, Robbie Galbraith, and Linda DeFeo Cascioli. Our SAL Squadron also welcomes aboard new member Terrence Murphy.

We hope all our new Post and SAL members will take a little time and attend a Post/SAL function, or two, (or ten!) and get to know their fellow Post members

Rendering Honors Ceremony

Most of you see the numerous emails we send out requesting Post members, both Legion and Sons, to take part in our 'Rendering Honors' Ceremony for deceased veterans at local funeral homes. What started as an occasional ceremony once in a while has become a staple of our Post's programs. Both of Yorktown's funeral homes offer our ceremony to the greiving families of veterans that come to them for service. If you haven't attended one of these ceremonies you may wonder if this ceremony is important. Most American Legion Posts no longer perform it - mostly due to a lack of members willing to give up their time to offer it. Our Post is very fortunate in having a solid group of volunteers willing to come forth to perform these ceremonies.

In November, our Post lost two Post Legionnaires - Gilbert Kaufmann and Micheal Laughlin. The call went out to our membership for volunteers to Render Honors for these veterans and Post members. 21 members took part in one ceremony and 16 in the other. The families couldn't stop thanking us for doing this ceremony for their loved one.

Did You Notice?

Our Sons of The American Legion Squadron has been busy during this past year even with COVID trying to hinder them. Did you notice the 49 Veterans Banners hung along Commerce St around Memorial Day? Later in the Fall some of the

banners were moved and hung along Veterans Road and Underhill Avenue, with some going up on the north side of town before Veterans Day. They could be seen along East Main St in Mohegan Lake and by the Hart Library. These banners honor local veterans and look sharp wherever they are displayed thanks to the Yorktown Parks and Rec and Highway Departments who hang them for us!

Did you notice the displays of U.S. flags that popped up around town starting in July? The photo's below show these flag displays - around the flagpole across from our Post building; along the pathway in Railroad Park on Commerce Street by the Pinesbridge Monument; along Rt-118 in front of the new Caremark building; along the curve of East Main Street in Shrub Oak by the John Hart Library; along Rt-202 in Downing Park opposite the 1st Presbyterian Church; and also along the driveway up into the new Granite Knolls Sports Complex on Stoney Street. These are wonderful patriotic displays of our nation's flag all around town and they are the work of our Post's Sons Squadron with the Yorktown Parks and Recreation Department. For a \$100 donation one flag on one pole will be marked and dedicated for any person - a veteran, first responder, or just a patriotic loved one identified by the donor. These flags will be flown from Memorial Day to Veterans Day to honor them.

Anyone wishing to order one of these flags at either of these locations can do so at any time through our SAL Squadron.



Post Apparel

With COVID shutting everything down over the past year our Post held off on re-ordering our Post apparel items. Shortly, we will restock our Post shirts to always keep a supply on hand for our members at just \$25 each. If anyone wishes to order a Post sweatshirt (\$30), Post jackets (\$72), or

a Legion uniform cap - please contact Adjutant Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807.

Veterans Day Week

Our Yorktown Post is one of the most active Posts in Westchester County and we were glad to see things return to normal with our scheduled events for Veterans Day. During that week our Post took part in:

- **Veterans Day Ceremony on 11/11 by VFW Post #8328** - this ceremony was widely attended and was held at the Pinesbridge Monument in Railroad Park as the new location. Local elected officials, members of the community, other veterans organizations, and 13 Post and 7 SAL #1009 members were in attendance.
- **Veterans Day Ceremony on 11/11 at The Country House** - Our SAL members Ed Lachterman, Paul Martin, Bill Goss, Matt Slater and Post member Pat McDonough conducted a short service for the residents there for Veterans Day. At the ceremony representatives from Home Depot presented a check to our SAL Squadron for \$2,000 in support of their 'Fields of Honor' program. Our SAL bought all the flagpoles, flags, and hardware to fly these flags across town honoring veterans and others while also beautifying the town. This donation will help to cover these costs in the future.
- **Veterans Day Program at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School on 11/10** - Post member John Gunn and Cmdr John Giacomini returned to this school to visit with the students there after not being able to visit last year due to COVID. Last year our Post had recorded a video in place of visting the students. This year only two people were permitted to visit for everyone's safety. Thank you John and John!
- **SAL #1009 Veterans Day Breakfast** - Our SAL members held their monthly Fundraiser Breakfast a week earlier on 11/14 from 9 AM to 11 AM to offer a FREE breakfast to all veterans that morning before the parade. Over 65 people came and enjoyed a nice social event and a delicious meal. Thanks to our SAL Squadron help that day - Paul Martin, Ed Lachterman, Bill & Kim Goss, Micheal Grace, Tom Diana, Matt Slater, Matt Essell and his daughters Julia & Erica, Fred

Kanter, Dean Jenard, Jay Gussak, and James Calbo.

- **Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade** - On Sunday, 11/14, SAL member Paul Martin was able to resume his organizing the Veterans Day Parade. The Parade stepped off from Lakeland HS at 2 PM and ended at the Hart Library where the ceremonies were held. The Mohegan Lake Fire Department, Scouts, elected officials and civic groups were all happy to be doing 'normal' things again at the parade. It was great to see Post members Dave Moskowitz, Rocco Salierno, Al Laughlin, George Hansen, John McQuillan, Carl DiLiberto, John Giacomini, Bill Goss, Vincent Faggella, John Scavarda, Bob Raphael, Tom Brady, Italo Dan Greco, Rich Calbo, John Gunn, Ken Blish, Bill Weinecke, Jay Gussak, James Calbo, Matt Essell, Michael Grace, Ed Lachterman, Matt Slater, Tom Diana, Gary Raniolo, and Pat McDonough take part in this event.
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Post Holiday Luncheon

On Sunday, December 12th 40 people attended our Post's annual Holiday Luncheon in our Post Hall. This was an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon of catching up with old friends and making some new ones. Everyone enjoyed the traditional Christmas music playing through our Post's new sound system and got a kick out of the Yule Log burning in the fireplace on our 75" TV at one end of our Hall. There was plenty of tasty food prepared and served by Theresa and Lauren Capizola. This was a pleasant afternoon of socializing before the craziness of the holiday season kicked in.

Holiday 50/50 Raffle

Each year our Post conducts a Holiday 50/50 Raffle in conjunction with our Holiday Luncheon. We did so again this year but added an extra week for people to return their tickets back to the Post safely. This was done to deal with the delays in mail and other deliveries due to COVID.

We mailed out 1068 chances to 86 Post and SAL members for this raffle. We received back 1008 chances with \$844 in income. Thank you to the members who added a little something to their envelopes to cover the raffle expenses - your donations covered all the expenses and added \$30+ to the pot as well! The total pot was \$874.45 and

the prize was half of that \$437.23. The winning ticket was drawn at the SAL Fundraiser Breakfast on 12/19 and the lucky winners were Carol & Ed Lachterman! Ed, who is the Adjutant of our Sons Squadron, was busy in the kitchen cooking for the 53 people who came down for the Breakfast like he does every month for the SAL. Carol and Ed donated \$200 of their prize back to the Post. Thank you both for that! We also thank everyone who took part in the Raffle!

Four Chaplains Ceremony

The next Post event after the holidays will be our Four Chaplains Ceremony on Sunday, February 6, 2022 at 2 PM in our Post Hall. Right now, our plan is to return to our traditional 'in-person' ceremony for this event after having to create a video ceremony for YouTube last February because of the pandemic.

We conduct this ceremony each year to educate the public and our members about the supreme sacrifice of these four WWII US Army Chaplains. These 'Immortal Chaplains' were onboard a US troopship crossing the icy North Atlantic in February of 1943 when their ship was torpedoed and sunk. In the 20 minutes before the ship sank these brave men of faith handed out life-vests to their shipmates. When they ran out of vests, they gave up their own vests to save four more soldiers. As the troopship slipped beneath the icy waves these Chaplains were seen linked arm-in-arm calming and praying along side those still on the deck.

Hopefully we will have COVID cooperate and allow us to once again tell this true and moving story about the bravery and faith of these wonderful men.

Post Everlasting Ceremony

On Sunday, February 6th our Post will conduct our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony following our Four Chaplains Ceremony. This short ceremony is a final farewell from our Post to those Post Legionnaires who have passed during the past year. We will include the Legionnaires that we were unable to honor last year during the COVID shutdown. Please join us as we retire the membership cards of: Gilbert Kaufmann, Michael Laughlin, John DeLuca, Carmine D'Alessio, Angelo Santorelli, Albert Eisenfeld, Renato Carazzone, Joseph Vogliazzo, and Anthony Galleno during this ceremony.

Thank You!

Most of our Post members are familiar with the eyesore of a wall partition our Post uses to close off half of our Hall for our daytime school renter. Those who attend our Friday evening Happy Hour gatherings have had to look at the ugliest side of it while socializing at the tables and chairs in the rear of our Hall.

Well, thanks to the artistic talents of our 2nd Vice Cmdr Bill Goss and his lovely wife, Kim, our Post has a new patriotic-themed partition wall. Thank you Kim and Bill!



Post #1009 Upcoming Events

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| Tue | Jan | 4 | Executive Comm Mtg | 7:00 PM |
| Thu | Jan | 6 | SAL #1009 meeting | 7:30 PM |
| Thu | Jan | 13 | Post Monthly meeting | - 7:30 PM |
| Sun | Jan | 16 | SAL #1009 Fundraiser Breakfast | from 9 AM to 11 AM |
| Tue | Feb | 1 | Executive Comm Mtg | 7:00 PM |
| Thu | Feb | 3 | SAL #1009 meeting | 7:30 PM |
| Sun | Feb | 6 | 4 Chaplains Service at 2 PM with | Post Everlasting Ceremony |
| Thu | Feb | 10 | Post Monthly meeting | - 7:30 PM |
| Sun | Feb | 20 | SAL #1009 Fundraiser Breakfast | from 9 AM to 11 AM |
| Tue | Mar | 1 | Executive Comm Mtg | 7:00 PM |
| Thu | Mar | 3 | SAL #1009 meeting | 7:30 PM |
| Thu | Mar | 10 | Post Monthly meeting | - 7:30 PM |

Yorktown Post #1009

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