



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #74

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## 2022 Four Chaplains Ceremony

The surge in COVID cases in town and across the state following the holiday season forced our Post to change our annual Four Chaplains Ceremony from an 'in person' event to a 'remote' video event once again. This decision was made to keep everyone involved in the ceremony safe and healthy. Normally this event has members of our Post and Sons Squadron, prominent local clergy, and members of the public taking part in it. Once again, we wanted to err on the side of caution hopefully for the last time of this never-ending pandemic.

Post Cmdr. John Giacomini and Adjutant Pat McDonough had worked hard to record parts of this ceremony in our Post Hall during last year's COVID shutdown. Pat also arranged to record the parts of the members of the clergy who take part in this ceremony every year. A few days of editing all these segments together on his laptop and our Adjutant posted this beautiful ceremony onto YouTube for all to see at anytime and anywhere around the world. Our Post has the ability with this video to explain the story of these four U.S. Army chaplains and their selfless acts that fateful night of February 3, 1943. Anyone wishing to view this video can very easily see it by going to our Post's website at [www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org). Just click on 'Post Programs' and select 'Four Chaplains Ceremony'. The link to view the video will be on this page. Hopefully we can all gather next year to honor these men of faith like we have for years until the arrival of COVID.

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## Hall Rental Discounts

Thankfully, now that all COVID restrictions have been lifted state-wide, we are beginning to experience a resurgence of families looking to rent our Post Hall for their family gatherings after two years of nothing. Thanks to the hard work and efforts of our Hall Rental Managers Bob Raphael and Vincent Faggella we will hopefully be able to accommodate as many as we can.

Did you know as a Post member in good standing in our Post or SAL Squadron that you qualify for a \$100 discount on the rental of our Post Hall for your event? If you are planning a family get together or event, our Hall could be the perfect fit. Our Hall regularly hosts events/parties for 40 - 100 people comfortably. Some of our rental options include: bar service where you can offer your guests an 'open bar' with the drinks paid for by you, or just have the bar open for your guests to purchase their own drinks. Of course, no bar service is also an option too. Recent Post upgrades allow us to offer several options to make your event even better. Our Hall has a wireless Bluetooth music system which allows you to play your own music from your phone or Bluetooth device. This can save you hundreds of dollars for a DJ for music for your event. Our Hall has a 75" flatscreen TV mounted up high on one end of the Hall that is visible to everyone. This can be used for slideshows, PowerPoint presentations, or to show videos which would make any family event special. Our new Sons' outdoor patio has picnic tables with umbrellas for relaxing outside in nice weather while enjoying the same music playing in the Hall via Bluetooth.

To find out more information about renting our Hall please call Bob or Vinnie at #302-495-9143. You will find our rental rates are very affordable, our bar prices are substantially lower than other facilities, and the proceeds of all rentals goes to maintaining and upgrading our Post building and programs. You can have a wonderful event and 'do a good deed' too!

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## Post Elections

The month of March begins our Post's annual Post Officers election cycle. At our March meeting we asked for volunteers to stand as our impartial Nominating Committee. Since no one volunteered for this duty it will fall upon our Adjutant Patrick McDonough to be the impartial screener of all candidates for elected Post positions. This election procedure allows anyone in 'good standing' who wishes to run for any position to have a fair chance at being elected. This also prevents cronyism and nepotism in selecting

members to run for Post positions. At our April meeting we will accept nominations for all elected Post positions and every candidate will be verified for eligibility. To be eligible for office a Post member must be in 'good standing'. This refers to being paid and current in their dues before the meeting. Post members in arrears in their dues are ineligible for Post office and also ineligible to vote in Post elections. Post elections will take place at our May meeting and our elected leaders will be installed during our June meeting.

At the present time we know we will need a replacement for one of our elected positions in the Post - our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr Bill Goss will be stepping down and relocating down south in the coming months. Bill handles the planning and coordination of our town's Memorial Day Parade on alternate years (odd years) with the Yorktown VFW Post. Bill has done a great job with the parade and has also been the dedicated Legionnaire coordinating our Boys State and Girls State programs. It is due to his efforts this year that our Post will send two high school girls to the Girls State program at SUNY Brockport this summer. The position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr entails the Memorial Day Parade coordination so we do hope to have dedicated Legionnaire step forward to run for this position. We will need one or two members to step up and take over the Boys and Girls State programs. If no one does, those programs could come to an end.

Of course we would love to have Post members come forward to run for any position in the leadership of our Post. New faces bring new ideas and that is always good. Afraid you won't know how to do things? That is why there are 10 people on our Post's Executive Committee. We help each other run the Post. Please come forward to take an active part in running our Post and keeping it an active and fun place to belong. Anyone with questions about any Post positions should contact our Post Adjutant Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807.

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## Our Busy SAL Squadron

Just over a week ago the dedicated members of our Sons of The American Legion Squadron held their St Patrick's Day Corned Beef & Cabbage 'Take Home' Luncheon on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Under Chefs Rob DelBalzo's and Ed Lachterman's supervision and guidance a reefer full of corned beef was cooked and 85 loaves of Irish soda bread baked in our Post's kitchen the Thursday before this event. They didn't do it alone - thanks go out to: John Lembke and Eric DiBartolo for their very long

shift that day along with Dean Jenard, Paul Martin III, Matt Essell, and Jason Poland. This was a tremendous feat of cooking. On Sunday, 3/13, the food was prepared, packaged, and served to the customers from 12 noon to 3 PM and more thanks go out to: Rob DelBalzo, Ed Lachterman, their assistant sous chef Fred Kanter, Jay Gussak and his son Robbie, Paul Martin III, James Calbo with his broken foot, Tom Diana, Matt Essell and his daughters, Julia & Erica, and Craig Armstrong. Their efforts ensured delivery of 190 hot and delicious meals and soda bread. Outstanding job again everyone!

This isn't all our SAL Squadron has been up to. They submitted a request through the NYS Legion to have 500 military 'challenge coins' minted to sell as a fundraising program. The coin was designed by our resident SAL artist, Paul Martin III, and identifies our SAL and Post with their respective emblems. There is also the image of the Pines Bridge Monument on one side to celebrate our first local veterans as well as make it attractive to everyone in town. This coin design was formally approved by the NYS Legion and will be hopefully minted and delivered early in May. Depending on the final production costs they are looking to sell each coin for \$10 - but SAL #1009 and Post #1009 members will get a discounted price of hopefully \$5 each.

Our Sons Squadron also designed a plastic license plate to advertise our SAL's and Post's existence. Many Posts have these license plates and Legion members often trade plates with other Posts when they stop in for a visit. The SAL plate has the Post's name and number with the emblems of the SAL and American Legion flanking an image of the Pines Bridge Monument, again highlighting our town's earliest veterans. The pricing for the license plate will be the same as the challenge coin - \$10 each with a discounted price for our SAL and Post members. We hope these also will be available for purchase before Memorial Day.

Our SAL Squadron will also begin their Officer election cycle at their April meeting. They follow the American Legion cycle - accepting Officer nominations in April and holding elections in May. Elected Officers are then installed in June. Ed Lachterman, the Adjutant of the Squadron has informed us that he will be stepping down from his position in June due to other commitments. Ed is the first Adjutant of this Squadron and has done an amazing job with everything he has touched over the past three years. Thank you Ed!! We ask our SAL members to consider becoming an active member in your Squadron. New faces bring new ideas and directions.



Paul Martin III, Ed Lachterman, Fred Kanter, and Chef Rob DelBalzo are way too happy for 8 AM on a Sunday but are ready to prepare 190 St Patrick's Day meals!

## Buddy Checks

In Mid-February Post Legionnaires Linda DeFeo-Cascioli, John Scavarda, Tom Brady, and our Adjutant Pat McDonough began our first attempt at conducting the Buddy Checks. The American Legion has been reporting great successes with this program across the country. We have all read about the program in the Legion magazine for about two years now. It took several months to get volunteers to kick this program off. I guess that military training in 'not volunteering' transfers well into civilian life! It takes an outgoing person to take a list of people you've never met and just call them on the phone out of the blue. Our Buddy Check team also wanted to be ready for any member needing help with anything. We created an information page with a list of the local food pantries, the names and contact info for the Legion Service Officers with the Westchester County Veterans Service Agency in White Plains, a list of the services provided by Yorktown with contact information for - rides to doctor appointments, senior lunches delivered to your home, and the Senior Nutrition and Wellness programs. We even listed the Post events coming up in case members just wanted to stop in and socialize after a long COVID isolation. Our team met with a lot of 'no answers' and unreturned calls which is expected, but many who answered were pleased at what we were doing. A 2-minute Buddy Check call often became a 10-minute conversation. Most didn't need anything but appreciated the call. Several apologized for not attending meetings but explained that they cared for spouses or others with illnesses. Two members inquired about getting replacement DD-214's for their records and we helped them with the forms there. We are still working our way through our 114-member roster -

so we look forward to talking with you if you haven't received a call yet.

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## Commemorative Brick Report

This is the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since we started the Commemorative Brick Program. Initially we thought it would be a short-term project. It has continued each year and by Memorial Day we will have 538 engraved bricks installed in the park. The concept has been, and is still, to support Veteran Organizations. So also, on Memorial Day we will have donated \$28,235 to 12 different organizations. We currently support two local groups: My Brother Vinny, run by Paula Miritello which provides furnishings for veterans in their homes. The other group is United for the Troops. Jim Rathschmidt and his group supplies Care Packages containing items not normally accessible to active serving troops.

We have supported these groups and others because they depend on these funds to continue their missions. For us to continue the donations, we must continue selling bricks. Our Post has been generous in our support of selling bricks, but there are always veterans we know of who can be acknowledged for their service with a brick indicating their service. Men and women relatives, neighbors or just friends who you didn't think might be veterans. Ask the question! Are you a veteran? We are all members of the Brick Committee so let's go continue this fundraiser which is so important to the Yorktown community.

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## Vietnam Veterans Day

We received this invitation from NYS Sen. Pete Harckham's Office

### Join me for Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29

I invite you to join me for a special daylong visit to Albany on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Tuesday, March 29.

We will kick off the day by meeting for breakfast in Yorktown at 8 a.m., followed by a trip to the State Capitol and a schedule of events throughout the day, the highlight of which will be a reading of special New York State Resolution honoring those who served our country. The visit is scheduled to conclude at 4 p.m. for the return trip.

Please note, government buildings in Albany require proof of vaccination for entry.

To RSVP or if you have questions, please contact my office at (845) 225-3025.

## Other Bits of News...

- **Spring Brunch** - Our Post is planning on holding its annual Spring Brunch on Sunday, 5/15 at 11 AM now that COVID has retreated. An announcement will come with more details.
- **Memorial Day Prep** - Our plans are to hold our Poppy Fundraiser on Saturday, May 28 from 9 am to 1 pm as we have in the past. We already have the poppies and are ready to go. An email will give details as we get closer.
- **Grave Flags** - Last year supply-line delays prevented our delivery of US flags to decorate every veteran's grave for Memorial Day. We couldn't perform this vital task until late in June. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr John McQuillan ordered our flags very early this year and we already have them in the office, We stand ready to decorate every veteran's grave in Yorktown for Memorial Day once again. Look for the announcement on when and where.
- **Honor Flag program** - We were unable to conduct our Honor Flag Ceremonies due to COVID restrictions during 2020 and 2021. We plan to restart conducting this ceremony hopefully in April when the weather permits us. Join us as we raise the burial flags of veterans who have passed and give them a final salute at the new flagpole and plaza across from the Post. Announcements will be forthcoming. We also need someone to help with coordinating this wonderful and touching program.

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## Protect Yourself From Cyber-Crime

Many 'non-techie' people just read their emails and answer them without really 'looking' at their emails. In today's world - everyone needs to know a little more about emails and Cyber-crimes. In recent weeks the Veterans Administration as well as The American Legion's Departments of New York, California, and Colorado have all had problems with 'phishing' which is this type of crime. Criminals create emails looking just like the official ones from these agencies. There is usually a link on the email that it asks you to click on and verify your information. Clicking on that link can install a program on your computer and cause havoc with your emails or damage your computer so you

can not access anything on it without paying a "ransom" to the sender first.

To avoid this everyone should remember two things - first, look at the email address of the sender on all emails to see what the legit ones look like. A 'phishing' email may look right until you look at the sending email address more closely. Major companies, government agencies, and even little Posts like ours have their own identifiable email addresses that end with: '@citbank.com'; '@va.gov', '@legion.org', and ours '@nylegion1009.org' at the end. If you receive an email that looks just like it's from the VA or your bank - look at the sending email address - if it ends with "@china.ztz" or just a "@Gmail" then the email is not from that institution. Don't open it or click on anything on it. Just delete it. What security conscious bank would have their emails using a common 'Gmail' account? Answer - NONE!

The second thing to remember is that NO COMPANY OR BANK IS GOING TO EMAIL OR CALL YOU ASKING YOU TO PROVIDE ANY SECURE INFORMATION! If you receive one of these suspicious emails just delete it and call the institution by using the number on your bank card or look it up on line or elsewhere. Don't call the phone number listed on that suspicious email. The bad guys sent that phone number with all the other fake information - why trust it?

### Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue	Apr	5	Executive Comm Mtg	7:00 PM
Thu	Apr	7	SAL #1009 meeting	7:30 PM Officer Nominations from floor
Thu	Apr	14	Post Monthly meeting	- 7:30 PM Officer Nominations from floor
Sun	Apr	24	SAL #1009 Fundraiser Breakfast	from 9 AM to 11 AM
Tue	May	3	Executive Comm Mtg	7:00 PM
Thu	May	5	SAL #1009 meeting	7:30 PM Election of Officers
Thu	May	12	Post Monthly meeting	- 7:30 PM Election of Officers
Sun	May	15	Post Spring Brunch	at 11 AM

### **Yorktown Post #1009**

235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598  
(914) 962-2843 [www.nylegion1009.org](http://www.nylegion1009.org)