



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #75

March / April 2022

## AAA Driver Safety Class

Post Cmdr. John Giacomini was talking with new Post member, John Witt, and his wife, Constance, one Friday evening during Happy Hour. Cmdr. Giacomini learned that Constance is a certified Driver Safety Instructor with AAA and teaches the classes that help to lower people's auto insurance premiums. One thing led to another, and Constance offered to hold a class in our Post Hall for our Post's members to benefit them on their auto insurance.

We have scheduled the 6-hour Driver Safety class for Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 9 AM. The cost will be \$30 per person. Any Post members and their family members interested in attending the class need to contact Cmdr. Giacomini at #914-528-5551 to register for the class. There is a limit of 40 people who can attend this class. Attendees will benefit with a discount on their auto insurance for three years or a receive a points reduction.

## Memorial Day Week Events

Yes, it does look like we will be able to resume our usual Memorial Day Week activities after a two-year hiatus. For the benefit of the new Post and SAL members who have joined our Post during the past two years we will list and explain the schedule and the events we will be taking part in.

- **Yorktown Town Board meeting on Tuesday, 5/24, at 7:30 PM** - The Yorktown Town Board has invited our Yorktown Post and Sons to the meeting to introduce our Post and our work to the community at the opening of their meeting as part of a build up to Memorial Day. We ask our Post & SAL members to try to attend in Post and SAL apparel for a high visibility display. This should only take a few minutes at the opening of their televised meeting.
- **Flags-In at Amawalk Cemetery on Friday, 5/27, at 4 PM** - Our Post enlists the help of Scout Troops to install US flags on veteran's graves in the Shrub Oak Methodist Church cemetery, the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church

cemetery, and the East Yard cemetery on Granite Springs Road. A few Scout units never re-opened after COVID closed them and our Post members have taken on the task of the replacing those flags at the Amawalk Cemetery on Quaker Church Road just north of Rt-202. We need 10 - 15 people to walk the grounds collecting the old faded and worn flags and installing fresh new ones at each of the over 400 veterans' graves there. This task only takes about an hour with enough people helping in comfortable clothing. All are welcome come help.

- **Poppy Fundraiser on Saturday, 5/28, from 9AM to 1 PM** - Our Post members set up tables at the four local supermarkets, DeCiccios in Jefferson Valley, Uncle Guiseppe's in town, and the two ACME Markets in Shrub Oak and the Triangle Center and hand out the traditional red poppies while collecting donations for our Post programs. We need a minimum of 4 members at every location to allow for breaks and emergencies. Please try to help with this key Post fundraiser. Please let Pat McDonough know if you will be able to help at #914-953-6807 and at which location you prefer to work.
- **Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 5/30, at 11 AM** - We line up at the monument park out behind Yorktown Town Hall at 10:45 AM for the short 11 AM ceremony there and then line up for the parade down Commerce St to the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field. The day's ceremonies and speeches are held there. We ask our Post and SAL members to make the effort to march in honor of our fellow veterans who never returned from America's wars and conflicts. Please wear Post or SAL shirts with grey or black slacks and shoes or dress shirts with slacks - no jeans and sneakers please! If standing or marching is uncomfortable for you - think about attending the other ceremonies at the Post following the parade where we will have seating available.

- **Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony on Monday, 5/30, at 12:15 PM** - each year our Post dedicates the new engraved Veterans Commemorative Bricks installed in our Post's Plaza since last Memorial Day and donates the funds raised from this program to local veteran's charities. We will be adding donations of \$1,400 to the over \$26,000 donated to date to our charities from this program. Join us as we honor veterans living and passed while helping veterans at the same time. Of course, if you don't have a Commemorative Brick installed in our Plaza - what a way to do some good and commemorate your faithful service to our country. Post members get \$10 off the \$100 brick price.
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## **Veterans Appreciation Day at Rye Playland**

We have learned that the annual Westchester County government's Veterans Appreciation Day held at Rye Playland each Memorial Day weekend has been postponed until later in the year. The park is now under the control of a private vendor and much of the park is undergoing needed upgrades and construction. Due to this construction the capacity of the park has been drastically reduced so Westchester County agreed to postpone this event to later in the season.

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## **Post and SAL Elections**

At our Post's May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting our Post conducted our election of Post Officers for the coming business year. At the meeting our Post members elected John Giacomini as Post Commander, Carl DiLiberto as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr, John McQuillan as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Cmdr, Lawrence Armstrong as Financial Officer, and elected Ken Blish PPC, Al Laughlin PPC, John Gunn, Rocco Salierno, and Patrick McDonough as the Executive Committee members. We wish them well and hope they keep us on the road to success.

Our SAL Squadron conducted their Officer elections at their May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Their members elected James Calbo as Commander, Matthew Essell as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr, Craig Armstrong as Financial Officer, Jay Gussak as Adjutant, and Rob DelBalzo as their Sergeant-at-Arms. Our SAL unit enjoyed a very successful year this year and we wish them all the best in the coming year.

## **Post #1009 License Plates and Challenge Coins**

Our Sons Squadron has created and received 50 Post/SAL #1009 plastic license plates showing the Pinesbridge Monument and the SAL and Legion emblems. These plates will identify the vehicle and its occupants as supporters of our Yorktown American Legion and are quite eye-catching to see. These can be bought from the SAL #1009 members or our Post Adjutant for only \$10 each. We will arrange to have some available at the Post bar for purchase there as well. You can email the Adjutant to arrange to come down to the Post to pick one up.

Our SAL members had also designed and had approved by the National American Legion Adjutant a Post/SAL #1009 challenge coin. Our Sons Squadron ordered 500 of these challenge coins for our SAL and Post members as well as community members to purchase and be proud of. The challenge coins have Yorktown's Pinesbridge Monument superimposed over a silhouette of NYS with a star showing our community's location in the state. The obverse side has the SAL and Legion emblems a US flag with our #1009 identifier around the border. The coins just arrived last week and will be now available. The price for these coins will be \$10 each to non-Post and SAL members and only \$5 for our Post and SAL members. They can be purchased from key SAL members and our Post Adjutant.

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## **Welcome Aboard!**

Our Post wishes to extend a warm 'Welcome Aboard' to our newest Post Legionnaires - Edward Jorde, John Witt, and Thomas Figlioline. We hope that you will take an opportunity to stop in at one of our events and get to know your fellow Post members.

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## **Westchester County American Legion Convention**

The Westchester County American Legion Convention will be held at the Katonah Post #1575 located at 136 Jay St, Katonah, NY. The convention begins at 12 noon with the signing-in of delegates and guests. The meeting begins at 1 PM. This event is open to all Legionnaires in the County and there is a nominal \$5 charge at the door for the food and refreshments served. If anyone is interested and

wants to know more about the convention, feel free to contact Post Adjutant Pat McDonough at #914-953-6807.

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## US Flag Retirement Ceremony

Our Post will join with the Yorktown Fire Department in conducting our annual US Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM. The ceremony will be conducted at the Yorktown Fire Department Carnival Grounds behind the firehouse on Commerce St. Each year our Post collects anywhere from 800 to 2,000 worn and torn US flags in all sizes from a few inches in length to over 25 feet in length in our Flag Dropbox out in front of the Post. This short ceremony with the playing of Taps allows us to retire these well-used flags in an honorable manner. The ceremony only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and the remainder of the hour is used to continue to feed the worn flags to the Fire Department, who place them into the fire while keeping the fire manageable. The ceremony is open to anyone who wishes to attend and learn about this respectful way to retire our nation's ensign. We ask our Post and SAL members to wear Post/SAL shirts with black or grey slacks and shoes for the ceremony.

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## Farewell...

We are sad to inform everyone of the passing of Post Legionnaires Ray Barry and Jose Hernandez. Ray was a dual-member with the VFW Post #8328 next door and was more active over there. Jose had only recently joined our Post. We only learned of his passing this past week, when we arrived at the funeral home to perform our Rendering Honors Ceremony for him and his family. Please keep these Legionnaires and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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## Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle

We apologize... we are very late in sending the Memorial Day 50/50 Raffle tickets out this year to our Post and Sons members. Our Post Adjutant had a run-in with COVID and was out of action for a week and then was away for another week before getting back to getting this Post raffle running. Please try to support your Post by buying/selling the book of chances you are sent. Additional chancebooks can be requested from the Adjutant if

you want more. All tickets must be returned by Memorial Day to be included in the drawing. The prize has been \$380 to almost \$500 each year - so it is a nice windfall for some for some lucky winner.

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## Positions Open...

Our Post has enjoyed great success with honoring local veterans both living and deceased while raising funds for veteran-related charities through our Commemorative Brick program. We have honored deceased veterans with their families present by flying the burial flags of these veterans on the flagpole at Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park across from our Post. We have been able to send several high school boys and girls to the American Legion's week-long civics Boys State and Girls State programs. Our town is one of only a few in the county that still conduct a Memorial Day Parade. In case you did not know... this parade is organized by the Yorktown VFW and our Post on alternating years, not the town.

Why mention all this? Recently, we lost our Parade and Boys and Girls State Chairman Bill Goss when he moved down to Florida. We wish him all the best in retirement there. Our Honor Flag program has not run in two years due to the COVID shutdown, and the Chairman coordinating it stepped down. Our Commemorative Brick Chairman, John Gunn, has been running the program for over 10 years and would like to step aside but does not want to see the program stop due to no one to run it.

If a handful of Post and SAL members would step forward and fill these key positions with these programs, it would ensure that they will continue for many years to come. None of them are full-time positions. The Parade Chair cranks up around February to arrange for the permit and send invitations out for the Parade in May - then the VFW does it the following year. Boys and Girls State are programs that slowly start up in October and are locked up by April. The Brick program is sporadic during the year unless you wish to invigorate the sales program. The orders come in and we place the orders in March and install the bricks in April/May. The Dedication Ceremony is held on Memorial Day, then it begins again. Anyone interested in stepping forward for one of these programs can contact the Post Adjutant (#914-953-6807).

**Special Occasion or Event?**  
**Our Hall is Available for Rent**  
Post & SAL Members enjoy discounted rate

## Post #1009 Upcoming Events

### Memorial Day Week Schedule

- Tue May 24 **Yorktown Town Board meeting at 7:30 PM.** Our Post and Sons will be recognized as part of the town's Memorial Day build-up.
- Fri May 27 **'Flags-In' at Amawalk Cemetery at 4 PM.** Join your fellow Post members as we replace the worn and torn US flags on all veteran's graves there. Wear comfortable clothing and family are welcome to help.
- Sat May 28 **Poppy Fundraiser at local supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM.** We need volunteers to help hand out traditional red poppies and collect donations at four locations across town - DeCiccios in Jefferson valley, Uncle Guiseppe's Market in Yorktown, ACME Market in Shrub Oak and ACME Market in Triangle Center. Contact Adjutant Pat McDonough at (#914-953-6807) before that day to sign up and help.
- Mon May 30 **Memorial Day Parade at 11 AM at Town Hall** - we meet up at monument park behind Yorktown Town Hall at 10:40 AM. There is a short ceremony there at 11 AM and then we line-up and march to Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Park for the ceremonies there. Please wear dress shirt and slacks or Post/SAL shirts and grey/black slacks and shoes. No jeans or sneakers please.
- Mon May 30 **Brick Dedication Ceremony at 12:15 PM at the Post.** We dedicate those bricks installed since last Memorial Day and donate the funds raised to local veteran-related charities. Over \$26,000 has been donated since the program started.
- Wed Jun 1 **6-hour Driver Safety Class at Post Hall at 9 AM for Post/SAL members.** Pre-registration is required. No walk-ins permitted.
- Thu Jun 2 SAL #1009 meeting 7:30 PM Installation of Officers.
- Tue Jun 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM
- Thu Jun 9 Post Monthly meeting - 7:30 PM Installation of Officers.
- Sat Jun 11 **Westchester County American Legion Convention at Katonah Post #1575 at 12 noon.**
- Sat Jun 18 **Flag Retirement Ceremony at 9 AM at Yorktown FD Carnival Grounds**
- Sun Jun 19 SAL #1009 Fundraiser Breakfast from 9 AM to 11 AM

\*\*\* There are no meetings scheduled during the months of July and August to give our Post and SAL members a break for the summer. The Post Executive Committee meets in August to begin planning the next year's schedule.

Tue Aug 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM

**Yorktown Post #1009**  
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