



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #81

February 2024 to March 2025

Our Apologies...

My apologies for the 14-month gap since our last Post e-Newsletter. This newsletter was a great source of pride for me along with our Post website. 80 issues written over 18 years keeping all the Legionnaires of our Yorktown Post up to date on our busy Post and what it is doing in our community. I started writing this issue many times - but it is impossible to catch up on everything our Post has done in the past year. This issue will be more of a light recap of all our news to fill in our old members and educate all our new Post members - Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary about our programs. Here we go...

February 2024 saw our Post continue our long tradition of honoring the 'Immortal Four Chaplains' and remembering Post members and other veterans who had passed on during the past year. We were honored to have the participation of prominent local clergy to honor the Four Chaplains - Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am, Pastor Christopher Chantelau of Grace Lutheran Church, and Rev Oliver Offor of St Elizabeth Seton Church, assisted by our Post Chaplain Linda Defeo-Cascioli. We open our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony to all who attend to include any family veterans who passed during the past year. We were pleased to honor 25 veterans with this solemn ceremony retiring them to Post Everlasting.



The American Legion birthday is March 15th and our Post tried something new - an open house & recruiting drive for the day. We had a few local veterans come down and speak with us, but no new members came out of the day. It was a nice event

to tout our Post programs to outsiders and those Post members who don't normally attend meetings. Programs like our Veterans Commemorative Brick program where families can buy an engraved brick to honor their veteran, living or not, for just \$100 each. The proceeds of this program are then donated to local veteran related charities. Basically, honor a veteran and help a veteran at the same time! As of today, we have sold 574 engraved bricks in our plaza and have donated \$31,035 from the program out to charities by our Post. Our US Flag Retirement program - everyone drops off their worn and torn US flags into our convenient drop box in front of our Post and every June we join with the Yorktown Fire Department to ceremonially retire them by fire. Ever wonder how many flags really get dropped off and retired by us? Since 2005 over 12,000 US flags have been retired by this program!



Our Honor Flag program, where we fly veteran burial flags with ceremony at a beautiful flagpole plaza across from our Post building. The families of veterans get to see their veteran honored during the flag raising and then we lower it 3 weeks later with a bugler playing 'Taps'.



Families looking to give away these burial flags without feeling guilty can see the care and honor we give these flags as they are flown. We flew 3 veteran flags during the summer of 2024. Of course, March wouldn't be March without our Sons of The American Legion Squadron's immensely popular St Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Fundraiser 'Take Home' Luncheon. Our Squadron cooked and sold over 180 delicious meals.

May is always our busy season! Our Post conducted our annual Poppy Fundraiser at local supermarkets (Uncle Guiseppe's, Yorktown A&P, and DeCicco's Market) to fund our Post programs. We took part in the Memorial Day Ceremonies and Parade. Our Post and Sons members took the time to decorate all the veterans' graves at the Amawalk Cemetery with a fresh US flag for the holiday. Scouts took our flags to decorate the Shrub Oak Methodist Church Cemetery, Yorktown Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and East Yard Cemetery. All told over 900 flags were installed or replaced with new flags.



We also had a great day with the relaunching of our Post's American Legion Auxiliary Unit #1009. Our Yorktown Post had an Auxiliary Unit since 1930 or so, until it closed in 2005 when the final two members turned in their charter. In December our Post requested the paperwork to start an Auxiliary Unit at our Post. For those who do not know this - The American Legion Auxiliary is one of the four organizations that make up the 'Legion Family' - The American Legion, Sons of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and The American Legion Riders. The American Legion Auxiliary membership is made up of the spouses (male or female) of veterans eligible for American Legion membership; the sisters of these veterans; as well as the daughters and granddaughters of these eligible veterans. Note - the veteran doesn't have to have been an American Legion member, just eligible to be a member.

June 2024 started with our Flag Retirement Ceremony with Scouts, Sons, Post members, and the Yorktown Fire Department joining us to retire

1,700 flags that day. At the Westchester County American Legion Convention held in Ossining Post #506 our Yorktown Post was awarded the 'Outstanding Post' award for all our programs and activities. Our Post Adjutant Pat McDonough, who is also the County Membership Chair, received an award for his accomplishments in this area across the County. In September, our Post conducted our annual Veterans Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony for the 13 new engraved bricks that we installed in our Post's plaza over the past year. This ceremony was postponed since May due to delays in receiving our brick order from the vendor. To prevent this from interfering with our future Brick Dedication Ceremonies, we now cut off the new brick orders on March 15th of each year to guarantee installation by Memorial Day for our ceremonies then.

October 2024 started with our 2nd annual 'School Call' Open House event for high school students to learn about American Legion educational programs like Boys State, Empire Girls State, and the Oratorical Contest (HS Scholarship Program). Post Education Chair John Witt does everything possible to give all Yorktown HS students the information to take part in these important programs. Boys State and Empire Girls State are week-long civics programs during the summer for HS juniors (11th grade) only, and the Oratorical Contest is open to all high school students in grades 9 to 12. Each program has scholarship opportunities available. Our Post Auxiliary aided by Sons and Post members held their first event by having a table and tent at the town's Halloween Parade & Trunk or Treat event at the park across from the Post. This was a new and fun way for our Post to be seen by our community members. Plus, who does not like 20 extra grandparents handing out candy?!



This was also the month our Sons Squadron resumed their monthly Fundraiser Breakfasts held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Post. For \$12 you get a delicious meal and get to meet many

Post members while supporting our Sons' Squadron financially.

November 2024 - our Post took part in the Shrub Oak Veterans Day Parade and Yorktown Veterans Day Ceremonies at Town Hall rededicating the town memorial park as the Veterans Memorials Circle. The Town also corrected a long due oversight where one monument honoring veterans of the Korean War and Vietnam War had been installed. Now a separate monument is dedicated for the veterans of the Korean War and another for the Vietnam War veterans. During Veterans Day week US Representative Matt Lawler recognized two of our Post members as 'Veterans of the Year' for their continued service in our Yorktown community - Joao Faustino and Patrick McDonough, in a ceremony at Westchester Community College.



We also bid a fond farewell to our Post's 1st Vice Cmdr. and Hall Rental Manager Vincent Faggella and his wife, Mary, as they relocated to warmer climates. Hall rentals provide our Post with the needed funds to maintain and improve our Post building and programs. Vinnie and Bob Raphael were outstanding in this service for several years. With Vinnie and Bob stepping back from this we were worried - but thankfully Post Executive Committee member Rocco Salierno stepped up to do this vital job and will be helped by new Post member Vincent Pipolo. Thank you both for your efforts!

Our Post Holiday Party in December was the best in years with 67 people attending. Our Sons members cooked and served a wonderful meal for all, and our 'new' Auxiliary Unit members raised the roof with a full spread of decorations, games, and 'Silent Raffle' items for everyone to enjoy. Our Yorktown Post again hosted the Westchester County HS Scholarship Program's Oratorical Contest. With 39 Posts in the County Legion - only 2 students took part in this year's contest - both recruited by our Post! Once again Nia Gooden took 1st place with Shelton Joseph of Cortlandt Manor in 2nd place. Both advanced to the next level of the competition to be held in Fishkill, NY.

On February 2nd, 2025, our Post again gathered to honor the four Army Chaplains who were onboard a WWII troopship when it was torpedoed and sunk in the icy North Atlantic on 2/03/1943. These four men of faith handed out life vests to their shipmates until they ran out. They then gave up their own vests to save 4 more lives, knowing full well what that meant for them. Witnesses reported seeing the four Chaplains linked arm-in-arm with others praying as the ship slipped beneath the waves. We were assisted in this ceremony with Msgr. Giandurco of St Patrick's Church, Rabbi Weiner of Temple Beth Am, VFW Post #8328 member Michael Sheridan, and Post Chaplain Linda DeFeo-Cascioli who stood in for these Chaplains as we celebrated the lives and sacrifices of these four men of faith. We conducted our annual Post Everlasting Ceremony following this where we honored 18 veterans who passed during the past year.



That is one busy year for our Post! Add to this the 29 Rendering Honors Ceremonies we performed since last Memorial Day at the two local funeral homes to honor local veterans who have passed away. Many families are visibly touched by this salute to their veteran loved ones. In April we will begin our Honor Flag program again. Anyone with a veteran's burial flag up on a shelf that they do not know what to do with can contact us for this beautiful ceremony. We raise the veteran's burial flag in a ceremony on the beautiful plaza across from our Post. A few weeks later we lower the flag in a ceremony with 'Taps' played by a bugler.

Anyone wanting more information about this program should contact our Post Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807). Our Veterans Commemorative Bricks purchase period ended on 3/20, but you can still buy these beautiful bricks at any time for dedication next year. Anyone wishing to honor a veteran with one of these beautifully engraved bricks in our plaza should also contact the Post Adjutant. They still only cost \$100 per brick (\$90 for Post member's own brick) and can honor US veterans living or deceased. Honor their sacrifice and the proceeds go to help local veteran's charities.

Two months until our next issue...PROMISE!!

Volunteers Needed...

Our Post's Executive Committee is made up of 10 members of our Post who are elected by the membership in May of each year for one-year terms. These positions of Post Commander, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Vice Commanders, Financial Officer, and the five Committee members decide on budgets, Post rentals, maintenance concerns, fundraising efforts, public relations, and running all our Post programs. The chairpersons of our Post Committees give reports at the Executive Committee meetings to get help, seek advice, or just update the Committee on how they are doing. All this is the mundane and unglamorous business of running our Post and keeping it fiscally sound.

With 1st Vice Cmdr. Carl DiLiberto taking over as Post Commander last year, our Executive Committee currently has two open positions that need to be filled - our 1st Vice Cmdr. who has handled the Hall and Flag programs and takes over at meetings and Post events when the Commander is away. The 2nd open position is one of the Executive Committee members. We would like to have two Post Legionnaires step forward to cover these 2 Posts until we hold elections in May. Why not try one of the Posts on for size and if you don't like it, do not run for the position again in May. You can move on after learning how your Post functions in all areas while you are serving.

If you are not interested in an Officer position - our Post needs members to step up to take over in positions that our Adjutant has taken on as members in those positions dropped out of for various reasons. We need Legionnaires to take over - our Honor Flag program, our Fundraising Raffles (Memorial Day and Holiday), Holiday Party, Four Chaplains Ceremony, Post Everlasting Ceremony, our Commemorative Brick program, and our funeral home Rendering Honors programs.

Our Yorktown Post is the most active American Legion Post in Westchester County right now, but without help from an active membership these programs can, and will, come to an end.

Auxiliary Youth Event...

On Saturday, February 23, 2025 members of our Auxiliary Unit gathered in our Post Hall with a member of the Vahalla Unit #1038 and local Girl Scouts to create 'Get Well' cards for female veterans undergoing treatment in Colorado; collect non-perishable food items for donation to 'My Brother Vinny', a local veteran-support group, and to create 'Care Packages' for members of a Coast Guard unit located in New Jersey. It was a fun, craft-filled afternoon of 'doing good' things for those who have been doing good for others. Our Auxiliary Unit is always looking to grow with new members. Anyone interested in being part of the Unit and its fun work can stop by one of their meetings on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6 PM at the Post.



Post / Sons / Auxiliary Elections Begin

It is that time of the year when our Post Family (Legion, Sons, and Auxiliary) begin the process of choosing their organizations leadership for the coming 2025/2026 year. Anyone in these organizations who are in good standing with the units can contact the elected Officers about stepping up to run for any positions in the organizations. Nominations for positions will occur during their April meetings and elections follow during the May meetings. New faces bring new ideas and directions for these units to go in. This is not for a life-long commitment - just a year, so please take an interest in actively contributing to our organizations.

Friday Evening Gatherings

If you haven't stopped by your Post lately on a Friday evening during our 'Gatherings' from 5 PM to 9 PM - you are missing some fun entertainment. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Robbi Galbraith, Steve Rice, and a handful of others have stepped in to make each Friday evening something to celebrate - Valentine's Day, Birthday Night (last Friday of each month), Pancake Night, or Comedy Night. When some nights are too quiet, someone pulls out the Trivial Pursuit cards to ask questions to test how smart (or not) everyone is. Stop down some evening and socialize with our growing family of veterans, Sons, and Auxiliary members and their friends. You will leave with more friends than you came in with... guaranteed!

Happy 100th Birthday

Our Post's 'Chaplain Emeritus' Tom Einwich stepped aside as Post Chaplain several years ago after a very active career in our Post. For many years a group of our Post members have gotten together to take Tom out to lunch and celebrate his birthday each year. On February 20th we took Tom out to a local restaurant to celebrate Tom's 100th Birthday! It was great to see Tom out and about after being cooped up for most of the winter. He really enjoyed seeing everyone and catching up on all the Post news. Yorktown Supervisor Ed Lachterman and NY Assembly member Matt Slater took time to stop by to present Tom with Proclamations celebrating Tom's 100th Birthday. Now that Tom has safely hit '100', next year we can go back to having a surprise party for him!!



Post Meeting Times

At our February Monthly Meeting a few members brought up the possibility of changing our regular Post Meeting time from 7:30 PM to 6 PM for those members not wanting to drive home in the

dark winter night after the meetings. The Post agreed to discuss this subject further at our March 13th meeting, at which we changed the time over to 6 PM to hopefully draw more input from the membership. At this meeting, the discussion covered all the major points involved in making this change - one point being that our Constitution and By-Laws need to be changed for this by a vote of the entire Post. It was decided that maybe we could just change the 3 meetings in the deep winter months of January, February, and March to 6 PM meetings and continue with our normal 7:30 PM meeting times during the rest of the year. Our Post will continue sending out email announcements for every meeting with the correct times for each event to keep everyone informed about the meeting times.

Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony

On Saturday, March 29th, at 12 Noon our Post members joined with the Yorktown Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #8328, Vietnam Veterans Association Chapter 49, and Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 21 at Yorktown's Veterans Memorials Circle to commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This was the first time a ceremony has been held in Yorktown for this occasion. The date of March 29th was chosen because on March 29, 1973 the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) was disbanded, and the last U.S. combat troops departed the Republic of Vietnam. President Barack Obama proclaimed the day as Vietnam Veterans Day in 2012 to commemorate the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War. On March 29, 2027 President Trump officially recognized March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Post Cmdr Carl DiLiberto was the organizer and emcee for this year's Yorktown ceremony.

Welcome Aboard!

Its been over a year so we owe many members a nice warm 'Welcome Aboard' to our Yorktown Post #1009 - we welcome Legionnaire's Patrick Bennett, Robert Boddie Sr, Louis Cristallo, Edward Cutinello, Joao Faustino, Vincent Pipolo, Erick Ramos, William Richey, Gary Rikoon, Henry Schrot, Christopher Scaglione, Stephen Seig, Edward Simmons, and Matthew Slater. To Squadron #1009 we welcome new Sons - Jonathan

Almanzar, Michael Capalbo, Donald Heagle, and Robert Gussak.

We welcome all our new Auxiliary members into Unit #1009 - Patricia Bentivegna, Eleanore Bucciero, Jill Csordas, Teresa DeChristopher, Margaret DiBattista, Catherine DiLiberto, Maria Faggella, Jean Gorski, Mary Heagle, Linda LoBalbo, Geraldine Pipolo, Robbi Glabraith, Adele Sadak, Margaret Salierno, Susan Sepulveda-King, Lorraine Simone, Gloria Vasquez, and Constance Witt.

We hope that you all will stop in and meet your fellow Post, Sons, and Auxiliary members at a meeting, ceremony, or event to get know them better. Welcome to the 'Family'!

Honor Flag Program

Our Yorktown Post will once again restart our Honor Flag program which flies the burial flags of deceased veterans upon a flagpole at the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field Park across from our Post. Our first ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 10 AM and we will be honoring WWII Navy veteran Chet Edgar Hall. We ask all available members to be at the Post at 9:45 AM to conduct the flagraising ceremony at 10 AM. The ceremony is only 5 minutes long and is important to the veteran's families who attend.

Membership Update

OK, this is the last thing for this issue. Honest! Every year our Post strives to have 100% renewals for the membership of our Post and Sons, and now for our Auxiliary Unit as well. This is a sign of a healthy Post when members stay up-to-date with their memberships. Two weeks ago our Post sent out a 'last ditch' renewal request to the 17 Legionnaires who have not paid yet for 2025 and the 5 Sons members whose memberships are also expired. Thank you to those who have responded back by renewing already (5 Legionnaires and 1 Sons). As of today our Post is at 94.6% of our goal with 106 of 112 members renewed so far and our Sons Squadron has 21 of 26 members renewed for 80% renewals. Please renew now if you haven't already.

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

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

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|---------|-------|----|--|
| Tue | Apr | 1 | Executive Comm Mtg 7 PM |
| Wed | Apr | 2 | Auxiliary Unit Mtg 6 PM
Nominations from Floor |
| Thu | Apr | 3 | SAL #1009 meeting 7:30 PM
Nominations from Floor |
| Thu | Apr | 10 | Post Monthly meeting - 7:30 PM
Nominations from Floor |
| Sun | Apr | 20 | SAL Fundraiser Breakfast
9 AM to 11 AM. |
| Sat | Apr | 26 | Honor Flag Ceremony at 10 AM
meet at Post at 9:45 AM |
| Thu | May | 1 | SAL #1009 meeting 7:30 PM
Officer Elections |
| Tue | May | 6 | Executive Comm Mtg 7 PM |
| Wed | May | 7 | Auxiliary Unit Mtg 6 PM
Officer Elections |
| Thu | May | 8 | Post Monthly meeting - 7:30 PM
Officer Elections |
| Sun | May | 18 | SAL Fundraiser Breakfast
9 AM to 11 AM. |
| Fri/Sat | 23/24 | | 'Flags In' at Yorktown
Cemeteries Time TBA |
| Sat | May | 24 | Poppy Fundraiser at local
Supermarkets from
9 AM to 1 PM |
| Mon | May | 26 | Memorial Day Ceremonies
at 11 AM at Town Hall
monuments; Parade to follow
after |
| Mon | May | 26 | Veterans Commemorative Bricks
Dedication at 12:30 PM |

Yorktown Post #1009

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

