



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

Issue #84

June, July & August 2026

Post Updates...

Happy Summer to everyone! We hope that everyone has enjoyed their time off. It seems nowadays that our Yorktown Post never sleeps anymore. While we do not schedule meetings during July and August to give our Post, Sons, and Auxiliary Officers some 'down time', there is always work being done.

In June our Post received a major beautification thanks to our Sons Squadron and a generous neighbor. The old wooden fence along the top of the wall bordering the medical building next door was becoming an eyesore from both directions. In May, Hudson Valley Community Management, who handles the property next door, contacted us with an offer to split the cost of replacing the fence with a new white picket fence. Thankfully, our Sons Squadron stepped up to fund the Post's end of the cost to beautify the Post's patio area which is dedicated in memory to SAL member Tom Diana. Thanks to the help of Hussein Khoder from Hudson Valley Community Management and our Sons members our patio is looking more beautiful than ever this summer.

Another beautification effort came from Scout Isabel H. from our Post-sponsored Scout Troop #202 in the form of an Eagle Scout project. Our Post had planned long ago to put a bench near our Veterans Commemorative Park for visitors to sit and relax while visiting their engraved bricks installed there. This month thanks to this Eagle Scout project our Post has two new wooden benches installed adjacent to the park's plaza. Part of this project included the planters around our Post's patio getting new colorful plantings which really dress this area up now. Thank you, Isabel, and Troop #202!



Help Wanted...

Our Yorktown Post is one of the most active American Legion Posts in Westchester County and everyone in our community witnesses us in action through our Post's programs. Families of veterans see us perform our Rendering Honors Ceremonies at funeral homes for all veterans that have passed. Local Scouts and the Yorktown Fire Dept see us during our Flag Retirement Ceremonies. The Yorktown community sees us at the annual Grange Fair, the Memorial Day and Veterans Day Parades, our Oratorical Contest and Four Chaplains Ceremony each year.

We lost a very active Post Executive Committee member last November. John Witt was our Education Chairman, and his job was to contact the local high schools that our Yorktown students attend - Lakeland HS, Yorktown HS, Walter Panas HS, and Kennedy Catholic HS to speak about our high school education programs. He got the word out about the Boys State program, Empire Girls State program, and our recently revived American Legion Scholarship program, known as the Oratorical Contest. Thanks to John's tireless efforts our Post has been able to sponsor students to all three programs successfully each year. Most Posts today have only one of these programs active in their Post. John did most of the leg work and our Post Adjutant would help with the final effort to get all the paperwork done for the deadlines and assisted John in running the Oratorical Contest. With John gone, these programs are being run by our Post Adjutant along with the 17 other jobs he has! Our Post has a choice - to stop the Boys State and Oratorical programs or have one or two members step up to help and learn how to run these wonderful programs with our Adjutant.

At the present time our Post is running without anyone in the position of Post Commander. Carl DiLiberto PPC did two years in the position and wasn't looking to make the position a lifetime commitment, so he didn't run for another term. Our Post will run with our Post Executive Committee making the policy decisions and our Adjutant Pat McDonough and 1st Vice Cmdr. Vincent Pipolo doing the day-to-day Post management decisions. Any Post member can step forward to

fill the open position of Post Commander for the remainder of the term of office, just an approval vote by our Executive Committee is required for this to occur. The term of office is until June 2027.

Wouldn't you like to help your Post? No one is trained when they become Commander or an Executive Committee member - it's a job you learn while doing it, and you have the Executive Committee to help you with knowledge and advice. Why doesn't someone else on the Committee just step up to fill the position, you may ask? Great idea, except that in our very active Post every EC member already has several jobs. 1st Vice Cmdr. Vinnie Pipolo and EC Rocco Salierno are our Hall Rental Managers and setup the Hall for our rental events; 2nd Vice Cmdr. Robbi Galbraith manages the bar staff, handles liquor orders, and all our Friday Happy Hour activities as well as works with the Auxiliary Unit; 3rd Vice Cmdr. John McQuillan is our Scouting coordinator and organizes graves decoration; EC Steve Rice handles the Post's beer ordering and is a member of the Hall setup/cleanup team for our rental events. Steve also helps everyone on Friday nights and at every event the Post runs. The Adjutant has too many jobs to count - Post newsletter & website, Post apparel, Health Dept rep, Fire Inspection rep, Sales Tax rep, Sons Squadron liaison, Four Chaplains coordinator, Post emails and announcements, Rendering Honors coordinator, as well as our building custodian. If one of us took on the Post Commander position - the Post would suffer from the loss in the other jobs, we all handle daily.

Anyone interested in helping your Post in this position should speak with the Post Adjutant - formally or informally.

Memorial Day Activities

Our Post started the Memorial Day weekend the way every American should - decorating veteran's graves in the Amawalk Cemetery with US flags on Friday, May 22nd at 3 PM. 3rd Vice Cmdr. John McQuillan each year arranges for the Scouts to decorate the veteran graves in the 1st Presbyterian, Shrub Oak Methodist, and East Yard cemeteries on Saturday morning. Our Post took over decorating the Amawalk Cemetery during COVID and our members have decided to keep this tradition each year. Our thanks go out to - John McQuillan, Rocco Salierno, Steve Rice, William Richey, Carl DiLiberto PPC, Catherine DiLiberto, Robert Garofalo, Patrick McDonough, John Giacomini PPC, Tom Brady, Aiden Murphy, and Don Heagle for helping with installing almost 600 flags in that one cemetery.



On Saturday morning from 9 AM to 1 PM our Post conducted our Poppy Fundraiser to collect donations to fund our Post programs. Teams set up in front of 3 local supermarkets - Uncle Guiseppe's, Yorktown ACME, and DeCicco's in Jefferson Valley to hand out the traditional red poppies and remind everyone of the real reason for Memorial Day. We thank: Carl DiLiberto PPC, Patrick McDonough, William Richey, Steve Rice, Terry Deveau, Rich Calbo, Larry Qualter, Ernesto Abreu, Rocco Salierno, Vincent Pipolo, John Giacomini PPC, Don Roberts, and Sons members Anthony Guiliano, Paul Pitrello, Don Heagle and possible new Sons member Adan Abreu! Our Auxiliary Unit members took over after us and did the same poppy fundraising that afternoon to fund their programs. Thanks go out to - Lorraine Simone, Mary Heagle, Connie Witt, Sue King, Peggy Salierno, Serafina Mastro, Margaret Battista, and Teresa DeChristopher for giving up their afternoon for this.

On Memorial Day Monday our Post Family members (Post, Sons, and Auxiliary) attended the ceremonies at Veteran Memorials Circle behind Town Hall. Following the ceremonies we marched down to our Post area in the Memorial Day Parade. We continued our tradition of conducting our Veterans Commemorative Brick Dedication Ceremony to dedicate those new bricks we have installed since last Memorial Day. Our Post presented donations from these brick sales to 'My Brother Vinny' (\$600) and 'United for the Troops' (\$600) which brought our Post's total donations from this Brick Fund to over \$33,000!

Thanks to all who took part in the day's events - (Post) Tom Brady, John McQuillan, Carl DiLiberto PPC, Terry Deveau, Rocco Salierno, John Giacomini PPC, Steve Rice, Don Roberts, Aiden Murphy, Ital Dan Greco, Patrick McDonough, Robert Boddie, and Robbi Galbraith. (Sons) Ed Lachterman, Paul Martin III, Don Heagle, Matt and Karl Essell, Craig Armstrong, Jay Gussak, Fred Kanter, William Gerhardt, James Calbo, Paul Pitrello, and James Byrne. (Auxiliary) Constance Witt, Lorraine Simone, Sue Sepulveda King, Mary Heagle, Robbi Galbraith, and Serafina Mastro. Yes,

that is correct... we had 31 Post Family members take part in the day! Great job everyone!

Honor Flag Program

Our Yorktown Post finds veteran casket flags, neatly folded by military Honor Guard, dropped off in our Flag Dropbox for retirement quite often. Often enough that we revived our Honor Flag program to ceremonially raise and fly these burial flags with the veteran's family present at the beautiful Veterans Plaza across from our building. These flags are raised in a short ceremony with our Post Family members lining the plaza saluting as the flag is raised. After three weeks, we all return to salute as their flag is lowered and our bugler plays 'Taps'. The flag is folded with respect and presented back to the family. Most times the family presents it back to us to retire at our annual Flag Retirement ceremony each June.

While the flag is flying over the park, it is flown with the flag of the veteran's branch of service just beneath it and a sign in the display case attached to the flagpole identifies the veteran being honored. This is a simple way for families to honor their veterans one last time and they cannot thank us enough for conducting this beautiful ceremony.



On June 6, 2026, our Post honored Post Legionnaire John Witt by flying an Honor Flag to recognize his service to his country, community and the Post. Connie, his wife and Auxiliary member, took part in the service for John. On June 20, 2026, our Post honored Post Legionnaire Antonino Fama by flying an Honor Flag to recognize his service to his country, community and the Post. His wife, Maria, and his family were present for the raising and lowering of Antonino's flag.

Please pass the word about this ceremony. Many in our community are unaware of this way to honor their loved one and dispose of a US flag they may have nowhere to keep any longer. Contact the Post Adjutant for more details.



Flag Retirement Ceremony

At 9 AM on Saturday, June 13 2026 our Yorktown Post joined with the Yorktown Fire Department, VFW Post #8328, and local Scouts to conduct our annual Flag Retirement ceremony at the YFD Carnival Grounds. This is a solemn and fitting ceremony to retire the worn and torn US flags we collect all year in our Flag Dropbox out in front of our Post building. There were close to 2,600 flags retired during the ceremony. Thank again to the YFD, VFW, and Scouts from our Post sponsored Troop #202 for the help with this program. Thanks to - Carl DiLiberto PPC, Vincent Pipolo, Don King, Tom Brady, Terry Deveau, Steve Rice, Robert Garofalo, Patrick McDonough - SAL members Paul Martin III, Don Heagle - Auxiliary member Mary Heagle.

'School Call' Open House

Our Post will continue with John Witt's creative 'School Call' event and hold this high school programs Open House at our Yorktown Post at 1 PM on Sunday, October 25, 2026. For this event we invite past participants who have attended the week-long civics and government programs of Boys State and Empire Girls State to speak about their experiences attending them. In June our Post sponsored two HS Junior boys and our Auxiliary Unit sponsored 2 Junior girls to attend these incredible programs. The candidates for these programs all came out of our 'School Call' day event.

The other program we highlight during the 'School Call' is the American Legion Scholarship Program - A Constitutional Speech Program. Since being revived 3 years ago, our Post has had two students progress all the way up to the state championship contest collecting scholarship money at each step along the way.

Pass the word about our 'School Call' event to anyone in Yorktown who might be interested in these programs.

Yorktown Grange Fair Opening

Our Yorktown Post #1009 has a long tradition (70+ years) of conducting the Yorktown Grange Fair's opening flagraising ceremony. We have been invited to continue this tradition on Friday, September 11, 2026 at 3:45 PM. We ask all available Legionnaires, Sons members, and Auxiliary members to join us for this short ceremony. Just get there for 3:45 PM and tell the people at the entrance you are with the American Legion for the flagraising ceremony and you can enter for free. Since the day is also the Day of Remembrance for the 9/11 Memorial - we expect there to be a ceremony included marking the 25th anniversary of that fateful day. Please try to attend. We will send out an email reminder a few days prior as well.

Senior Resource Fair

On Friday, September 18, 2026, from 10 AM to 2 PM NYS Sen. Pete Harckham will sponsor a Senior Resource Fair at the Jefferson Valley Community Center, 3500 Hill Blvd, Yorktown Hts. The event is FREE and open to all in the community. Pass the word about this event.

Walk to End Alzheimers

Two years ago, the Westchester County American Legion had a guest speaker from the Alzheimer's Association give a presentation. It was eye-opening to say the least. The 2 counties in the US that have the highest diagnoses of Alzheimer's are - #1 the Bronx; and #2 Westchester County! If you take a moment to sit and think - you will realize that we all know someone living with Alzheimer's. Maybe you haven't seen a friend in a long while - often they can't go out and socialize due to the 24-hour, 7 day a week, burden of caring for a loved one diagnosed with this disease.

Since many Legionnaires in the county knew someone diagnosed with this disease - the County American Legion formed a team and have taken part in the Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's for the past two years. So, save the date! Sunday October 4, 2026, at Westchester Community College, 75 Grasslands Rd, Valhalla, NY 10595 will be the walk. 11 AM is the registration and 12 Noon is the opening ceremony and walk start. Want to donate but not walk? We have attached a poster

here with a scannable QR code to register or donate to the American Legion Team for the walk.

Our County American Legion Team had only 6 members walk last year but raised over \$2,500 for the walk. Let's see if we can top both of those numbers this year. If you are not tech savvy - contact Post Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) to use alternate means to donate to support the Team.

Sons Update

Our Sons of the American Legion Squadron may be small but they think BIG! Their Veterans Tribute Banner program has grown exponentially for them and they have had to change the program to accommodate this growth. There are 83+ banners all around town now on Commerce St, Underhill Ave, and East Main St in Shrub Oak. While the banners are only hung from May to November - some of the original banners have faded or become unpresentable after 6 years of display so new policies went into play this year to maintain the beauty of the banners.

The Sons moved way from their monthly fundraiser breakfasts this year and tried something new - football nights at the Post. One Giants game, one Jets game, and then the Conference Championship games - food and fun all in one event. Our Sons are planning the 1st game night for October 18th. They want to do both Giants and Jets 1 PM games at the same time - details to come in September.

On Memorial Day our Sons Squadron presented donations from their year-long fundraising efforts to their charities - 'My Brother Vinny' (\$750), 'United for the Troops' (\$750), 'Tunnels to Towers' (\$500), St Marys Food Pantry (\$350), and the Yorktown Youth Center (\$350). Great job done by the Sons members this year!

Sick Call

Please send happy thoughts to our Post members who are ill or recovering from illness - Fred LoBalbo and Tom Brady.

Post Summer BBQ

On Sunday, August 16th, 2026, at 1 PM our Post held our annual Post Summer BBQ for our Post Legionnaires, Sons, and Auxiliary members and their families. This free BBQ is our way to get everyone together for a relaxing afternoon of

conversation and camaraderie before our meeting and events schedule begin in September for everyone. We had over 40 people attend and enjoy the afternoon of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, and desserts. Everyone gets a chance to catch up with what has been going on over the summer months and we learn what our first events that we have coming up soon. Thank you's go out to our cooks - Bob Boddie and Matt Essell, our decorating and setup and cleanup people - Robbi Galbraith, Steve Rice, Patrick McDonough, Terry Deveau, Bill Richey, Teresa DeChristopher for all their hard work putting a pleasant afternoon gathering.

Lions Concert and Fireworks

The Yorktown Lions Club runs a wonderful concert series on Sunday evenings at the Jack DeVito Field across from our Post. The final concert in August was this past Sunday 8/23, and it was their Veterans Appreciation Night with fireworks. The weather at the start of the day wasn't looking too promising but we have some dedicated Post Family members who came down and set up our tent and a table and gave out information about the American Legion and our programs. Thanks to their efforts several veterans learned about the Honor Flight program and picked up registration forms to apply for the next free one-day whirlwind flight and tour of Washington, DC which is free for veterans. Thanks to Rocco and Peggy Salierno, Robert and Rita Garofalo, and Don and Sue King for handling this special event.



American Legion Post #1009

Schedule for 2026-2027

August	11	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	12	Wed	County Legion Meeting at Post #1009 – 6:30 PM
	16	Sun	Post Summer BBQ - 1 PM
September	1	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting -- 7:00 PM
	3	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	4	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	10	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM
	11	Fri	Yorktown Grange Fair Flag-raising Ceremony at 3:45 PM
	16	Wed	Birthday of The American Legion
October	1	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	2	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	6	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	8	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM
	13	Sun	SAL 1009 Sunday NFL Football Games at Post #1009
	25	Sun	‘School Call’ – Student Programs Open House at Post at 1 PM
November	3	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	5	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	6	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	XX	Wed	TJ Elem School Vets Day program – 9 AM
	8	Sun	Veterans Day Parade – Lakeland H.S. Form-up at 1:30 PM
	11	Wed	Veterans Day Ceremony at Veteran Memorials Circle – 11 AM
December	12	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM
	1	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	3	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	4	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	5	Sat	County Oratorical Contest at Post #1009 at 1 PM
	13	Sun	Post Holiday Party 1:00 PM (Post Meeting Cancelled)
January	5	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	7	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	8	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	14	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM
February	2	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	4	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM
	5	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM
	7	Sun	4 Chaplain’s Service 2:00 PM with Post Everlasting Ceremony following
	11	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM
March	2	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	4	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM – form Election Committee
	5	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM – Form Election Committee
	11	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM - form Election Committee
	17?	Wed	SAL St Patrick’s Day Fundraising Luncheon

April	1	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM – Officer Nominations from Floor
	2	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM – Officer Nominations from Floor
	6	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	8	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM - Officer nominations from floor
May	4	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	6	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM – Election of Officers
	7	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM – Election of Officers
	13	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM - Election of Officers
	28/ 29	Fri/Sat	Decorate Yorktown Cemetery graves w/ flags
	29	Sat	Poppy Fundraiser at ACME Supermarket, DeCiccios & Uncle Guiseppe's From 9 AM – 1 PM
	31	Mon	Memorial Day Parade; Sponsored by Post; Form at Town Hall at 10:45 AM
	31	Mon	Veterans Commemorative Park Dedication following parade
June	1	Tue	Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 PM
	3	Thu	SAL Squadron meeting – 7:30 PM – Installation of Officers
	4	Fri	Auxiliary Unit #1009 meeting – 4:00 PM – Installation of Officers
	10	Thu	Post General Meeting – 7:30 PM – Installation of Officers; Last meeting for Summer
	12	Sat	County Legion Convention at 12 Noon at Ossining Post 506
	XX	Sat	Flag Retirement Ceremony w/YFD at 9 AM?





Now is the moment we've been waiting for. With new treatments emerging in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia, now is the time for hope. Now is the time for action.

Help us keep the momentum going in your community at the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's®, the world's largest fundraiser to fight the disease.

JOIN OUR TEAM Westchester County American Legion Family

Westchester Community College
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, NY 10595
Sunday, Oct. 4 @ 11 a.m.

Scan the QR Code
to register or visit
westchesterwalk.org



WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

 AMERICAN
LEGION
FAMILY

For more information,
contact Steven Felsenfeld
sfelsen16@aol.com