



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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Commander's Corner

We have had a busy summer and I would like to reflect on just some of our achievements since the end of June:

- **Engraved Bricks** - We installed 62 engraved veterans' bricks bringing our total sales to date to just over 300. Quite an achievement in just 18 months. Kudos to Chairman John Gunn, Al Laughlin, Lee DeFrancesco, Pat McDonough, Roger Thompson, Frank Trioia, Rich Calbo and Cas Faughnan. New member Tom McNamee has just joined the Brick Committee as well;
- **Bob Dagnino** - who many of you know personally, has relocated to South Carolina although he continues to remain a member of Post 1009. Bob has been a great member, always willing to help with the construction and re-modeling needs of the Post. He will be sorely missed and we will leave the light on at night to guide him home if he decides to return to our Community. Before leaving, Bob made a very generous donation of \$800 to purchase some additional heater covers for the main Hall. A generous man.
- **Summer BBQ** - well, if you did not attend our BBQ this year, you missed a great party. About 75 people were in attendance, including 9 Veterans from the Country House Assisted Living Facility. Al Laughlin organized and managed the affair extraordinaire with help in the kitchen from Patricia Laughlin, Sue Blish and Barbara Knapp. On the grill were Fred Wooding and his sister Barbara who both produced the best hamburgers ever. Recognition awards were given to Members Roger Thompson and Bob Dagnino for their outstanding support of our Post. Certificates of Appreciation were given to the visiting veterans and a good time was had by all;
- **Water main pipe** - we found a puddle of water on our Post Lawn in early September which turned out to be 2 separate leaks in our copper water feed. Thanks to Tom

Brady and Al Laughlin for hand digging the ditch thereby saving us \$1200 for the rental of a back hoe;

- **Reefer Cleaning** - here was a fun job well executed by Al Laughlin, Bob Dagnino and yours truly. No one knew when the reefer was last cleaned but it sure looked spotless when we finished;
- **A/C Fencing** - Pat McDonough speaks about our new A/C equipment later in the newsletter but, I would like to thank those who worked hard in preparing the site and building a stockade fence to protect our A/C units. Kudos to Project Leader Tom Brady and his crew of Lee DeFrancesco, John Marone, Tom McNamee, Roger Thompson and Al Laughlin. Great job.
 - **Note:** The old A/C units were 26 years old and we learned from the installers that one of our units did not even provide cooling. We believe that we replaced the units in just the nick of time.
- **Visitation Committee** - Co- Chairs Arthur Bortz and Roger Thompson headed up a visit to the Country House Assisted Living Facility to honor the twelve (12) WW2 and Korean War Veterans who were unable to attend our Summer BBQ. The ceremony was held in the lounge with about 65 people in attendance. We began with the Pledge of Allegiance and admired the many Veterans standing and saluting the Flag. Art and Roger gave out the Certificates of Appreciation and both hammed up the Photo- Op. At the end, the pianist arrived on the scene and concluded our program with his beautiful, near tear jerking, rendition of "God Bless America".
- **Hall Management** - John McQuillan assumed the very important position of Hall Manager over the summer. This function is critical to the Post as we need party, business and meeting rental income to remain financially afloat. John seeks an Assistant Manager as well as Hall Monitors to oversee the parties when the Bar is not open.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the folks that helped out this summer. I hope I have not overlooked anyone. I encourage everyone to come to our meetings and bring a fellow veteran. *"Let's get involved and get 'er done!"*.

Gerald Knapp, Commander

Summer Vacation - Not Really!!

Once we finish our June meeting our Executive Committee members usually all stand down operations and get some time to relax... but not this past summer. We made a HUGE capital investment in our Post by replacing our two building's air-conditioners in August. Our old a/c's were on their last legs and costing us an arm and a leg in electrical costs. This investment will save the Post in both electrical and heating oil costs each year because they have a heating element in them. This was a huge job wonderfully handled by Cmdr Knapp, Al Laughlin, and Roger Thompson. Thanks guys! In addition to this we are upgrading 2 sections of our baseboard heating elements in our Hall to increase heating efficiency and reduce oil consumption during the winter months. Thanks again go out to Al Laughlin, Roger Thompson, and Bob Dagnino for all their work with this money-saving project for our Post!

All work and no play make anyone a dull boy! Our Post bar now sports two new 30" flat-screen TV's for our bar patrons and members to enjoy. The new TV's are more energy efficient and easier for all to see than the old projection TV that was in the bar. The old TV is now in our Hall and we hope to arrange to watch some football games in there on Saturdays this fall. All this work was done to save the Post money, increase services to our membership, and keep this Post a source of pride to all its members.

Summer Lions' Concerts

Every summer the Yorktown Lions' Club presents a series of 6 free concerts at the Veterans Memorial Park for our community. This summer our Post #1009 had a tent with a table at the concerts to advertise our Post and programs to Yorktown residents. This was our first time trying this and we'd like to thank Cmdr Knapp, Al & Pat Laughlin, and everyone who helped man the table during the concert series.

Blood Drive at Our Post...

Blood. Everyone has all they need - until there's emergency! That's when the need for a ready blood supply and blood donors is so important. Normally blood supplies go down during the summer months and holiday periods when the needs(accidents) increase and blood donations are decreased because of vacations.

One dedicated Post member, Bob Dagnino, thought our Post should step forward and help our community with its blood supply needs. On Saturday, July 12, 2014 our Post teamed up with the American Red Cross of Westchester County to hold a blood drive in our Post Hall. From 10 AM to 3 PM members of our Post and the community stopped by and made donations of blood to help out. A goal of 25 donations of blood was set and surpassed! We finished off the day with 30 blood donations collected. This was great team effort to help our Yorktown and Westchester Community. Thank you to Bob for all his consciencious hard work setting this event up for the Post. Thank you to Al Laughlin, Frank Troia, Cmdr Knapp, Carl DiLiberto, Tom Brady, and Lee Defrancesco for their help that day. Also a great thank you to the American Red Cross for all they do every day! Look for this event again next year and ask your family members to stop in and make a donation to help us to do even better next time!

Yorktown Grange Fair Flag-raising Ceremony

Each year our Post continues its long tradition of opening the Yorktown Grange Fair with a flag-raising ceremony. This year 17 Post Legionnaires took a few minutes out of their day to stop by and perform this important ceremony and open the Fair for the weekend. Thanks to: John Marone, Arnold Folberth, Lee Defrancesco, Ed Augustine, Marco DiBernardino, Pat McDonough, George Hansen, Arthur Bortz, Roger Thompson, Vincent Andreozzi, Ken Blish, Gerry Knapp, Tom McNamee, Carl DiLiberto, Al Laughlin, Tom Brady, and John Giacomini for keeping this tradition alive. We even took a nice group photo afterwards and have it on our website.

Welcome Aboard...

Our Post would like to give a warm welcome aboard to our newest Post members:

Oswaldo Rodriguez, Alexander Nardone, Roy Sokol, and Charles Angelillo. We hope that you'll come join us at some of our meetings or events and get to know your fellow Legionnaires. New faces bring new ideas and we welcome all members input on improving our Post and its operations. Welcome to our Post family and we hope to see you soon.

Food Collection for the Montrose VA Food Pantry...

On Saturday, October 4th, 2014 from 9 AM to 1 PM our Yorktown Post will once again hold a food collection to benefit the veterans who rely on the Montrose VA Food Pantry to survive. This is our 8th year conducting this important collection and everyone leaves with a warm feeling after we fill the Montrose Food Pantry van. Our Legionnaires set up tables in front of the A&P Supermarkets in Shrub Oak and Yorktown and collect non-perishable food items for just 4 hours that morning. We ask people entering to pick-up an item or two to donate to the veterans using the VA Food Pantry. The real story is when they come out of the store. People come out with bags and carts of food to donate for the veterans. Many donors tell us stories of their family members who have served, or are serving now. This really is a 'feel good' event and we hope everyone will help with this work that morning or come by and help with a donation.

If you haven't signed-up to help out for this collection please give Adjutant Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) a call to see where you can help. We need a minimum of four people at each location to allow for emergencies and comfort breaks. More is always better and it gives every member a chance to get to know their fellow Post members. We ask everyone to wear Post identifying attire if you have it, or just neat clothing. Hope to see you there!

Yorktown Street Fair & Festival...

We are already planning for the upcoming Yorktown Street Fair & Festival which is set for Sunday, October 12, 2014 from 10 AM to 5 PM right in front of our Post Hall. We need plenty of volunteers for this event because we have just about everything going on that day. Our Post donates the use of our Hall to the Yorktown

Chamber of Commerce for them to hold their FREE Senior Luncheon for the benefit of our fellow Yorktowners. While that is going on we are out in front of our Post building selling raffle tickets, pitching Legion membership, selling flags and pins, and we have our grill going cooking burgers and hot dogs for sale to Fair attendees. It is a lot of work but we always have a lot of fun talking with everyone coming in and out of the Post. This day lets many people who don't know anything about the American Legion see us helping our community, our Post and fellow veterans - all in one place!

Please help us for the day or half the day to make our Post shine in the eyes of all Yorktowners. Volunteers can see John McQuillan or Pat McDonough (914-953-6807) to help out that day. Remember... many hands make for light work!

Membership Thoughts

We'd like to let everyone know that our Post has a new Membership Chairperson, John Marone. Care to guess who his new assistants are? ALL OF YOU!! Every member of our Post is tasked with advertising and recruiting veterans from our community into our Post. Why should you do this?! There are many Posts in Westchester County and across the country whose membership consists of 80-90% WWII veterans. These Posts didn't offer a warm welcome to newer, younger veterans when they came home from their service. Now those aging Posts are reducing their activity and are in real danger of collapsing from the lack of new members. Our Yorktown Post is lucky to have a broad mix of war eras in our membership today. We have 22 members from WWII, 29 served during Korea, 63 during Vietnam, 6 during Grenada/Lebanon, 2 during Panama, and 4 during the Persian Gulf/ War on Terror period. Our Post has embraced new ideas from our younger members and we function better because of these ideas like our website, E-Newsletter, and WiFi service at the Post. While we modernized to attract younger veterans we never forgot our older members during these updates. Our e-Newsletter is mailed to our non-email using members and we still have our 'Current Events' board on the wall in the bar where our upcoming events are posted for all to see without a computer.

Our Yorktown Post is now involved in so many activities each year that there is literally something for everyone's interests. While we are

at these events or our meetings there is information to benefit veterans of all eras exchanged. How many learned about Yorktown's school tax exemption, the property tax exemption, and veterans discounts at local stores while at our meetings or in a discussion after a parade? How many of us learned something we didn't know at the Veterans Town Hall Forum last April at our Post? This is why we exist as a Post, to help our fellow veterans. While food and donations are part of it the exchange of vital money-saving or life-saving information is also part of it. This is the original 'networking' that everyone re-invented with their computers. Talk with veterans about our Post and ask them to come try us on for size. You enjoy what you have here this Post... we think they would too!

Sick Call

Please keep the following Post members in your thoughts and prayers for full recoveries from their illnesses; Fred Versaci, Win Lollar, Pat Culhane, and Renato Carrazone. If you know them well enough for a visit I'm sure they'd appreciate that too!

Post Attire

Last Fall our members requested something warmer than our Post shirts for doing work in and around the Post in cooler weather. The sweatshirts we ordered were hugely popular and sold out every time we ordered. If anyone wants to order a Post Jacket(\$56), or a Post shirt(\$25), or a Post sweatshirt (\$30). Please let Adjutant Pat McDonough know by our October meeting so we can get orders in before the cold weather sets in. Post uniform caps(\$50) will also be ordered if you want one.

Worn Flag Drop-Off Box

We have retired just over 1,300 worn and torn US flags at our Flag-Retirement Ceremony just in the past three years. Do you know how we get them? People tie bags with flags to our doorknobs, they drop them off at the bar, they leave them in boxes at our doorstep, they drop them off with us at other events across town.

One of our new Post members. Carl DiLiberto, is looking to have a drop-off box in front of our Post where these flags can be deposited by the public 7 days a week, 24 hours a day safely and respectfully. If anyone has any

contacts, or ideas, on how to get a retired US mailbox, UPS, or FedEx box donated(or really cheap) for this use please let Carl, Cmdr Knapp, or Pat McDonough know. Thanks.

County Holiday Raffle

Our Post is again taking part in the Westchester County American Legion Holiday Raffle. Half of the raffle sales generated by our Post is returned to the Post for our programs. Please support your Post and the County Legion and take a chance to win the \$1,000 first prize, \$500 2nd prize, or the \$250 3rd prize!! If you don't receive the raffles in the mail soon and wish a book of tickets let Adjutant Pat McDonough know and we'll send get a book out to you. Of course if anyone can sell more let us know as well! Keep in mind that you have to be in it to win it!

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

- Sat Oct 4 VA Food Pantry Collection at A&P supermarkets from 9 AM to 1 PM**
- Tue Oct 7 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Thu Oct 9 Post General Meeting 7:30 PM**
- Sun Oct 12 Yorktown Street Fair 11- 5 PM**
- Sat Oct 18 Honor Flight departure**
- Tue Nov 4 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Sun Nov 9 Veterans Day Parade 2 PM
Meet at Lakeland HS at 1:40 PM.**
- Mon Nov 10 TJ Elem School visit @ 9 AM**
- Tue Nov 11 Veterans Day Ceremony
at Town Hall - 11 AM**
- Thu Nov 13 Post General Meeting 7:30 PM**
- Tue Nov 18 Presentation at Murphy's
to D.A.R. @ 12 noon**
- Tue Dec 2 Executive Comm Mtg 7:00 PM**
- Sun Dec 7 Breakfast w/ Santa @ 8 AM**
- Sun Dec 14 Post Holiday Party
(Meeting cancelled)**

Yorktown Post #1009

235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598
(914) 962-2843 www.nylegion1009.org



Above – At our Summer BBQ WWII veterans were recognized for their military service. Post member Tom Einwich is presented award (left) by Arthur Bortz and Roger Thompson. At right - Country House resident and Post member Vincent Faughnan is recognized.



Above – Marguerite Robinson WWII Navy Veteran from Country House is recognized at our BBQ. At right Arthur Bortz, Roger Thompson, & Cmdr Knapp visited the Country House and recognized veterans there who couldn't attend our BBQ.



Above – Tony Marzo, 101 years young, and a Post Member is recognized at left and George Paven, Korean era veteran is presented his certificate by Arthur and Roger at the ceremony during the visit to the Country House.

| Committee / Position | Chair(s) | Team Member | Team Member | Team Member |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adjutant | Pat McDonough | | | |
| Americanism | (Open) | | | |
| Bar Manager | Al Laughlin | | | |
| Blood Drive | Bob Dagnino | (Open) | | |
| Brick Program | John Gunn | Richard Calbo | Lee DeFrancesco | Tom McNamee |
| Building Manager | Al Laughlin | Roger Thompson | Tom Brady | John McQuillan |
| Chaplain & Funeral Svcs | Rev. Bourcet | Assistant (Needed) | | |
| Cooking | Al Laughlin | Pat McElvaney | Rod Rodriguez | Fred Wooding |
| Financial Secretary | Pat McDonough | Assistant (Needed) | | |
| Fundraising / Entertainment | Richard DeSilva | Assistant (Needed) | | |
| Gaming Manager | John McQuillan | | | |
| Grounds Manager | Al Laughlin | Marcia Gorsuch | Bob Gorsuch | |
| Hall / Bar Committee | Al Laughlin | Pat McDonough | John McQuillan | |
| Hall Manager | John McQuillan | Asst Manager (Needed) | | |
| Hall Monitors | Richard DeSilva | CC Smith | (Open) | (Open) |
| Honor Flag Program | Carl DiLiberto | Tom Brady | Frank Troia | |
| Honor Flight Coord. | Gil Kaufman | | | |
| Hospitality | Lee DeFrancesco | Tom Brady (Co-Chair) | Terry DeVeau | Marina Gunther |
| Membership | John Marone | | | |
| Parades | Fred Wooding | | | |
| Publicity | (Open) | (Open) | | |
| SAL Coordinator | Asst Manager (Needed) | Asst Manager (Needed) | | |
| Sales Tax and 990 Coord. | John McQuillan | | | |
| Scouts Coordinator | John McQuillan | Assistant (Needed) | | |
| Service Officer | Bob Gorsuch | | | |
| Veterans Tax Exemption (Yorktown SD) | Gil Kaufmann | Don Roberts | | |
| Veterans Tax Exemption (Lakeland SD) | Assistant (Needed) | | | |
| Visitation | Art Bortz | Roger Thompson | Cas Faughnan | Marina Gunther |