



# Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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## From the Post Adjutant...

This past Father's Day weekend I attended the Department of New York's 3 day Management Seminar called 'Legion College'. From arrival at noon on Friday until Sunday at noon the program pushes you through 10 classes and 2 presentations on numerous American Legion subjects and topics. The College was a great learning opportunity to learn about the American Legion from the classwork material and in talking with the other Legionnaires attending the course from Posts large and small all across New York State. Adjutant's Duties, Officer Responsibilities, Public Relations, Color Guards, Compliance, and Service Officers were some of the subject material covered during the weekend. Every Legion Post deals with these areas in their daily operations but each Post does them a little different than the next one. Some Posts have 20-25 members and others have 600-700 Legionnaires so obviously the ways they do things can vary drastically.

I found it personally satisfying to learn that our Yorktown Post is already doing several of the things the College was stressing, like getting our accomplishments into local newspapers for people to see, creating a website for veterans to quickly find and learn about the Post, and publishing a Post newsletter to keep our members informed and linked to their Post. This put our Post ahead of a lot of other Legion Posts who do one or two, but not all three things.

One of the other classes exposed an area that our Yorktown Post has a major weakness in - recruiting and developing our Post Officer corps. Most Posts bring in new prospective leaders as the Sergeant-At-Arms or 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander where they learn that job and see how the Post runs. Each year they step up to a new position, take on fresh responsibilities, and gain more knowledge of the Post's operations and Legion policies. Hopefully, when they reach the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander—they are fully aware of all aspects of their Post's business affairs and can fill in for the Post Commander in an emergency. Logically they would then move

up to take over the duties of Post Commander the following year.

Our Post hasn't followed this formula in quite a few years and it shows. Post Commander Al Laughlin is in his third year as Post Commander after 8 years as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr. Ken Blish, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Cmdr is finishing his third year in that position after an unbelievable 8 years as Post 1009's Commander. This coming June Cmdr Laughlin will step down to a much needed rest in an advisory position as will Ken Blish. Both of these Past Post Commanders will still remain as valuable information resources to help their successors and our Post but someone else needs to take a turn guiding the direction of our Post for awhile.

How can we get the Post back on the right track? We need to have more members become involved at the Executive Committee level of the Post. Our Committee meetings are open to all and we welcome our Post Legionnaires to attend them. The decisions made at these meetings are the day to day bill paying, parade planning, BBQ planning, organizing sessions for our Post events. I encourage you to volunteer to co-Chair an event and see how everyone pulls together to get things done. While you're helping out with the event you'll be learning how the Post runs and what American Legion policies we are following. Taking these steps will ensure our Post continues to be active with a knowledgeable membership providing solid leadership for the future. We ask all members to please think about this and talk with myself or Commander Laughlin about serving as an Officer in our Post.

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## A Trip to See the Renegades

Our Post doesn't hold regular meetings during July and August because of everyone's vacations and schedule conflicts. During a Post survey last year we found that our membership desired having more social events during those summer months. On Thursday, August 9<sup>th</sup> a group of our members and their families travelled up to Dutchess Stadium to attend a Hudson Valley Renegades baseball game. The

Post arranged a deal where everyone received free Renegades' baseball caps and the Renegades donated \$3 from every ticket our supporters bought back to the Post. Our group of 16 people enjoyed the evening's game and it was a nice turnout for our first attempt at this type of outing. We were even given a warm welcome on the stadium's centerfield screen! We're thinking of doing this once in July and again in August next summer. Come join us for some fun.

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## Post Summer BBQ

We had 48 people attend our annual Post Summer BBQ on Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather cooperated with sun and pleasant temperatures and we moved the tables and chairs outside to make a picnic of it. We had long time members and several of our newer members and their families come together and enjoy the afternoon of camaraderie and conversation. Cmdr Laughlin presented Fred Ducady, one of our World War II veterans with a certificate honoring him for his service to his country during the war. Marcia Matten was also recognized for her tender touch in keeping the planter boxes in the Post's front yard looking wonderful. Marcia's caring work has given our Post it's special 'curb appeal' to everyone who passes by. Thank you, Marcia!

Join us next August for the BBQ, remember... it's free to Post members and their families.

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## Grange Fair Flag-Raising Ceremony

It has long been a tradition that our American Legion Post #1009 opens the annual Yorktown Grange Fair with a flag-raising ceremony. On Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, we continued that tradition with Cmdr Laughlin, Ken Blish, Vincent Andreozzi, Lee DeFrancesco, Ed Augustine, Fred Wooding, Pat McDonough, Frank Troia, and Marco DiBernardo performing the ceremony. Thank you to those members and to the Grange Fair for keeping this patriotic event a part of the Fair's opening ceremonies.

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Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
~ Margaret Mead

## Welcome Aboard!

We wish to welcome aboard to our Post's newest members, John Vaughnan and Roger Thompson. We hope that you'll feel a welcome part of our Post family and we hope to see you at some of our events and meetings. Welcome Aboard!

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## Sad Farewell...

Our Post family has bid sad farewell to Legionnaires Allan Egan and Dominick Otice who have gone to their Final Posting. We also extend our best wishes to Steve Rice and Thomas Northey on their recent losses. Please keep these Post members and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

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## Pasta Dinner Night Returns

On Saturday, September 29, we will again team up with the Yorktown Lions' Club and host a Pasta Dinner Night at the Post. We will hold three seatings for this dinner. There will be a reduced-price 'Earlybird' seating from 3:30 PM to 5 PM where adults can eat for \$10, kids aged 4-12 will be \$6. Two later seatings will be from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM and then another from 7:30 PM to 9 PM where adults can eat for \$13 and kids aged 4-12 for \$8. Kids under age 4 can eat for only \$2 at ALL SEATINGS. All tickets will be sold IN ADVANCE ONLY! No tickets will be sold at the door! To purchase tickets contact Maria Marks at [maria.yorktownlions@yahoo.com](mailto:maria.yorktownlions@yahoo.com) or call her at (914)962-9390.

Come out for a delicious pasta dinner with the family and support your Post and the Lions' Club work in Yorktown. Print up a few copies of the poster on the back page of this newsletter to tell your friends and neighbors about it too!

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## Yorktown's Street Fair and Our Post Open House...

This year's annual Yorktown Street Fair and Festival is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup> from 11 AM to 5 PM. Each year during the Fair we have an 'Open House' for people to come and see the Post and learn about our organization. We fire up our BBQ to grill and sell hot dogs and

hamburgers to the public that day. Last year we donated our Post Hall for the Yorktown Chamber of Commerce's Free Senior Luncheon during the Fair as a way of giving back to our community. The Yorktown Chamber has already inquired about teaming to do it again this year.

This is a day that we need volunteers to help everywhere. We need people to man the membership table, help at the grill, and sell raffles as well as set-up and clean-up the Post Hall before and after the Fair. Please save the date and help make your Post shine during this event. A few people signed-up at our September meeting but we still need more help. Please contact Pat McDonough (914) 953-6807 or at [post1009@nylegion1009.org](mailto:post1009@nylegion1009.org) to volunteer for this or any event.

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## Fahey Memorial Plaque Dedicated

On Sunday, August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Town of Yorktown dedicated a memorial plaque in Patriot Park behind Town Hall to honor the supreme sacrifice of Army SPC David Fahey Jr. Our Post's Color Guard was center stage during the ceremonies and we wish to extend our thanks to Legionnaires Fred Wooding, Al Laughlin, Bill Lewis, Pat McDonough, John Gunn, Gerry Knapp, Frank Troia, Joe Larsen, Gerry Knapp, Lee Defrancesco, John Marone, Ken Blish, Mike Laughlin, Jim Guerra, Terry Deveau, John McQuillan, and Mark Levandoski for taking the time out to make this ceremony a memorable one for David's family.

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## Montrose VA Food Pantry Collection

This October 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 1 PM we will again set-up tables and donate a few hours of our time to help those veterans in need who rely on the Montrose VA Food Pantry to survive. Each year we set-up tables in front of the local A&P Supermarkets and collect the food items as the people exit the stores. Sometimes it's one item, sometimes it's half a shopping cart of food happily handed over with a wonderful story of their time in the service or a story about their Dad, or brother, or someone who was in the war. These endearing conversations and the knowledge that 100% of what we collect goes directly to helping veterans in our Westchester

community sends us home a little tired but with a warm feeling inside after the collection. We need volunteers for the Triangle Center A&P and the Shrub Oak A&P that day so if you can spare a couple of hours to help those veterans in need please contact Pat McDonough (914)953-6807 to sign up and help.

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## Toys For Tots Program Needs Volunteers

Bill Lewis is a long time member of our Yorktown Post and the area coordinator for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program in Westchester and Putnam counties. Each year Bill and his elves go around to local businesses and pick up donated gifts for needy kids in our local community to make their Holidays a little brighter. Bill has put out a request for volunteers to help at the Toys-for-Tots table at Toys-R-Us in Jefferson Valley and at the Jefferson Valley Mall. Volunteers don't have to be Marines, just caring individuals who can spare a few hours helping. Bill will have the tables open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 AM to 8 PM; Sundays from 11 AM to 5:30 PM. If you can donate some time to help call Bill at 845-528-7987 or e-mail him at [blbb64usmc@yahoo.com](mailto:blbb64usmc@yahoo.com).

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## Westchester County Legion

Our Post is fortunate to get updates about what the Westchester County American Legion is doing around the County from Rich Calbo, the County Judge Advocate, and Fred Wooding, the County Sgt-at-Arms every month at our meetings. But what do the Posts do that don't have members on the County Executive Committee? How do they find out what's scheduled or planned in the County? The new County Commander John Venturina and Pat McDonough are working on a way to get this information out to all Westchester County Posts and Legionnaires. We have set-up several pages on our Post website for the County's use. One lists all the County's Posts and contact information for veterans to find and reach out to them. Now there is a schedule of the County's meetings and events displayed for Legionnaires from all Posts to see and use to get more involved in the County's work. Take a look at these pages and let us know if we're going in the right direction. All comments are welcome.

# American Legion & Yorktown Lions



## PASTA NIGHT

September 29, 2012

American Legion Post 1009

235 Veterans Rd, Yorktown Heights

Three Seatings

Early birds 3:30pm-5:00pm Adult \$10. Kids 4-12 \$6

5:30-7:00 & 7:30-9pm Adult \$13. Kids 4-12 \$8

All seating kids under 4 \$2.

**All Tickets sold  
in advance**

**No Tickets sold at the door**

To purchase Your tickets call

Maria Marks @ 914-962-9390 or

Email [maria.yorktownlions@yahoo.com](mailto:maria.yorktownlions@yahoo.com)

Pasta  
Meatballs  
Salad