



Yorktown e-Legion

Yorktown American Legion Post #1009

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From the Adjutant...

This year our Post received a few complaints from members who have paid their dues and then a few weeks later received a notice from National HQ saying that they haven't paid their dues. The National American Legion does all local Posts a favor by mailing out the dues renewal reminders to all Legionnaires to prompt them to **renew before December 31st when every Legionnaire's membership expires.** 60 days after they mail one reminder, they mail the next reminder if their National HQ database shows no payment yet. Some members pay immediately when they receive the reminder and others put it aside until a later date. This whole time the clock is ticking away. When you pay your dues it comes to our Post in the mail. Please bear in mind that our Post Officers are all volunteers... they stop in to take care of their duties once or twice a week. (Except for John McQuillan who is God's gift to this Post and it seems is at the Post every day without fail!) Sometimes it takes a week or two before it is forwarded from the Post to the State Legion where they are processed and then sent to the National Legion HQ. This process could take up to six weeks from the time you receive your reminder in the mail until the National database reflects your payment. Unfortunately, what happens right around this six week mark is the National HQ begins printing out those reminders from the most up to date info they have... which may not show your payment yet. This is why you may receive a dues notice even though you've paid your Post dues. We apologize for this confusion. Some of our members have even paid their dues a *second time* because of this. Post Financial Officer John McQuillan keeps impeccable records and our Post immediately returns this second payment back to our members and explains the mix-up.

We are grateful to all our members who reliably renew their memberships every year. If you renew when the October renewal reminder is sent out you will never have a lapse in your membership and it will reduce the number of reminders that you receive. Less reminders will help reduce the chance of this confusion

occurring. Thank you all for your membership and understanding.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

On Sunday, March 24th our Post and the Yorktown Lions Club will once again team up to run a 'Breakfast with the Easter Bunny' in our Post Hall. We enjoyed great success with last year's breakfast and expect the same or better for this year's one. We had a sell-out crowd for the only seating we held last year and had to turn people away. This year we plan on at least two 90 minute seatings at 8 AM and 10 AM and if we get enough interest we will add a third one at 12 noon. Save the date and make reservations early so you and your grandchildren don't miss the fun! Reservation information will be coming soon.

Veterans Commemorative Park

On February 3rd our Post announced its plan to renovate the memorial area surrounding our Post's flagpole with a new Veterans Commemorative Park. The old grey stone plaza we have now will be taken up and replaced with a beautiful plaza paved with red bricks. While the brick plaza would be wonderful in itself we wanted this park to be special to everyone in Yorktown. Our plan is to give our members and local Yorktowners the opportunity to permanently commemorate themselves, friends, or other loved ones who served with honor in the US military at any time in history. For the donation of \$100 anyone can have a beloved Veteran's name and military service engraved into one of the bricks. Family and friends can honor Veterans still serving today or those who served our country long ago. These Commemorative Bricks will be installed into the plaza for all to see and remember. The Post's plan is to have the construction this spring and dedicate the park on Memorial Day 2013. To have a Commemorative Brick engraved and installed in the plaza just complete the order form and return

it to the Post with payment BEFORE APRIL 1ST, 2013 for installation for this Memorial Day. We will continue to accept orders after this deadline and the bricks will be installed into the plaza as we get them. On each succeeding Memorial Day we will hold a ceremony to dedicate those bricks installed during the year. We know that as people see these Engraved Bricks in the plaza they will want to add their loved one's name to this Veterans Commemorative Park for all to see and remember.

Funds raised will be used to guarantee the care and upkeep of the Park as well as allowing us to make donations to The Wounded Warrior Project, Operation Comfort Warriors, The Fischer Houses, Montrose VA residents, and our Yorktown Community Programs. So buying a brick will help these projects and commemorate those patriots that should never be forgotten.

Our Post Chairman for this program is Legionnaire John Gunn (914-214-8684). If you have any questions you can talk with him or any Post Officer. Please pass on word of this program to all Veterans in Yorktown.

Four Chaplains Ceremony

On Sunday, February 3rd, our Post continued its annual tradition of honoring the four US Army Chaplains who perished on the US troopship *Dorchester*. The story of these men of faith is a true American tale to be proud of. Four Chaplains raised and ordained in different faiths joined the Army to help the war effort during World War II. In February 1943 they were enroute to France, along with 900 soldiers in the North Atlantic when a German torpedo struck their ship. As their damaged ship began to sink these Chaplains handed out lifevests to their shipmates. When they ran out of lifevests they took off their own vests and gave theirs to save four more shipmates. 700 men died that night. Those who survived told of the four brave Chaplains who gave everything they had to those of every faith that night. In their final moments these Chaplains were seen linked arm in arm with those onboard leading them in prayer as the ship sank into the sea. 70 years later this story still moves people and rightfully so. No religion was put above another that night and these men calmed and inspired their brothers in their time of greatest fear.

Our Post's ceremony this year drew 100 people from Yorktown and Mahopac. We were privileged to have members of Yorktown's VFW

Post #8328, Yorktown Supervisor Michael Grace, Councilman Patel, Yorktown Justice Salvatore Lagonia join us in celebrating these men's sacrifice. 2nd Vice Commander Gerry Knapp couldn't be topped and was outstanding as Master of Ceremonies for the afternoon. The Boy Scouts from Troop #164 took part and presented the Colors to open the ceremony. Once again we were honored to have Mother Claire Woodley-Aitchison of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Rabbi Robert Weiner of Temple Beth Am, Msgr Thomas Sandi from St Elizabeth Seton Church, and the Rev. John Bourcet representing each of the four Chaplains during the ceremony.

If you missed it this year... remember the story and join us when we celebrate these heroes next February. You'll leave inspired by their example.

Spare a Visit?

Long time Post member Fred Ducady is presently at the NYS Home over at the Montrose VA Campus. Fred has dedicated a huge amount of time and physical effort to our Post over the years. He personally mowed the grass around the Post for years. We last saw Fred at our Post Summer BBQ back in August where he showed he still has his devilish sense of humor and critiqued the way we cut the grass nowadays!! He would love to see some of you if you can spare the time for a visit.

Post #1009 Upcoming Events

Tue Mar 5 Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Mar 14 Post General Meeting 7:30 PM

**Sun Mar 24 Breakfast w/ the Easter Bunny
Join us for a fun breakfast at the Post.**

Tue Apr 2 Exec. Committee Mtg 7:00 PM

Thu Apr 11 Post General Meeting 7:30 PM

Sun Apr 24 Post Spring Brunch 2 PM

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