

Westchester Legionnaire

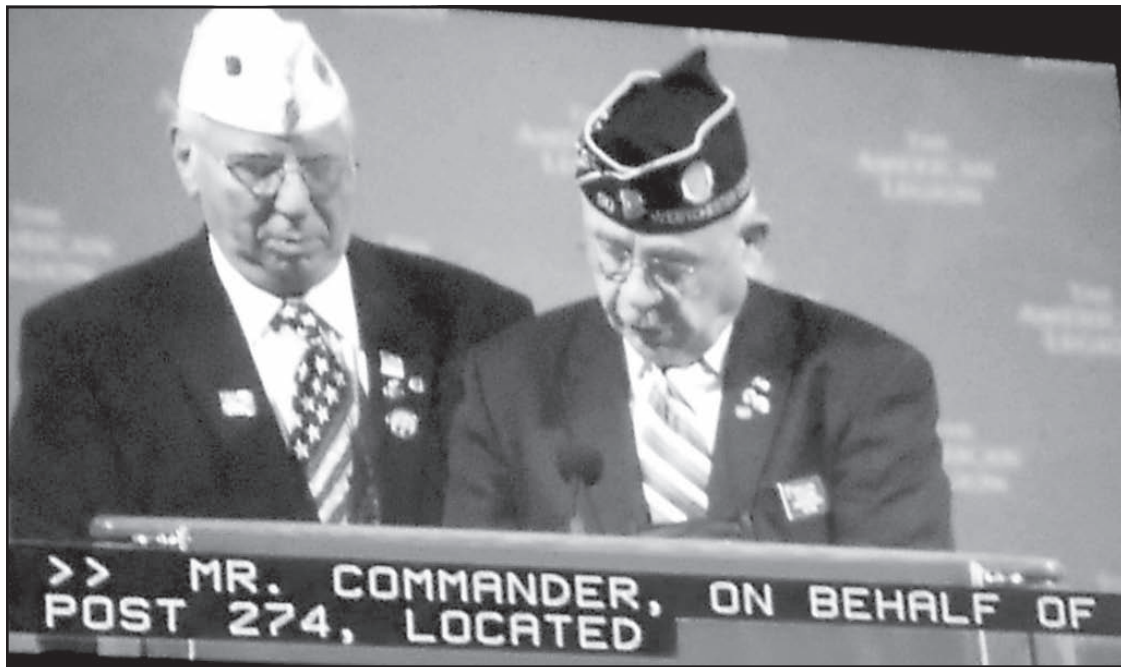


Vol. 44 No. 3

Port Chester, NY 10573

Summer 2012

\$2.00 per copy



Peekskill Post 274 Supports Comfort Warriors Program

At the National Convention, Department Master-at-Arms Richard Calbo and Past 9th District Commander Howard Heyel presented a check on behalf of Peekskill Post 274 for the Operation Comfort Warriors Program, this year in the amount of \$3,170. Afterwards, Cmdr. Fang Wong expressed his gratitude and thanks for their generosity.



American Legion Department of New York Adjutant Richard M. Pedro (left) is sworn in as past national commander by National Commander Fang A. Wong at the 94th annual national convention in Indianapolis, Ind.

Legionnaire Receives Rare Honor

Richard M. Pedro Elected Past National Commander

On Aug. 29, an Owego, N.Y., native became only the 11th person in the history of the 93-year-old American Legion to be named "Past National Commander of The American Legion" without actually serving a term as national commander. Richard M. Pedro joins legendary New Yorkers Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and longtime U.S. Rep. Hamilton Fish in receiving the rare honor.

Delegates at the organization's 94th annual national convention unanimously passed Resolution 1, which officially bestowed the

office upon the adjutant for The American Legion Department of New York.

"I am absolutely floored," Pedro said after being sworn in as a past national commander by the current Legion National Commander Fang A. Wong, also of New York. "The American Legion is a great organization; I am honored and proud to be a part of it."

Pedro became a member of American Legion Post 401 in Tioga, N.Y., 67 years ago after serving in the U.S. Navy.

While presenting Pedro a plaque commemorating the honor, North Carolina National Executive Committee member Jerry Hedrick said, "These

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James E. Koutz Elected National Commander

Laying out the challenges facing America's veterans and the faith that they can be overcome, Indiana Legionnaire James E. Koutz was unanimously elected national commander of The American Legion during the 94th National Convention in Indianapolis. And though there also are many challenges facing the organization, Koutz is convinced the Legion can handle anything that comes before it.



James E. Koutz

"The challenges that lay before The American Legion are many and serious," said Koutz, a member of Boonville, Ind., Post 200 and a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran. "But in that regard, we are no different than the men and women who came before us. I am no different than the men who have stood in my place for 94 years.

"They faced inadequate medical care for veterans, long waits for earned benefits to be paid, the absence of jobs and educational

opportunities. And they struggled to convince the nation that those returning from the horrors of war deserved the best the nation has to offer. I have heard that the defenders of liberty always should be among the first to enjoy its blessings. I endorse that thought, but I am certain that we, as a nation, have not done as good a job as we can to see that it's true."

Koutz said that helping change that is nothing new to The American Legion. But there are specific areas today that the Legion needs to be most vocal about to care for the nation's veterans and service members. "It includes opposing automatic cuts to the Defense and VA budgets that will come about if the federal government continues to fail to meet its moral and budgetary obligations," he said. "As your commander, I will fight sequestration unflinchingly and unceasingly. And I will make sure that we hold our representatives accountable for appropriate measures to prevent it."

Koutz, who was sworn in by American Legion Past National Commander Joe Frank, also addressed VA's growing backlog of claims, saying it threatens the well-being of hundreds of thousands of veterans. "We have offered solutions," he said. "We have been heard. And still the backlog persists. This is the year we break the logjam."

Koutz called for veterans preference to be enforced, that veteran-owned businesses get no less than 3 percent of all federal contracts, and that Legionnaires reach out to veterans attending college. "In every one of these instances, the key phrase is 'We can,'" he said. "I believe we can do anything we set our minds to. That was my message as a candidate, and it will continue to be my message: hope, possibility and achievement."

Koutz said that while Legionnaires do work hard at membership, they need to get the word out about the good work the organization is doing. Changing that will benefit both sides, he said. "Knowing what kind of people we are will encourage your neighbors and fellow citizens to entrust their children to our programs—to our flag education efforts, the Oratorical contests and Boys State programs,"

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DEADLINE

for the next issue of the Westchester Legionnaire is Saturday, December 1, 2012

Regular Meeting
at

William J. Boyle
Post 1030

109 6th Street, Verplanck

Wed., Oct. 10

7:30 PM

ALL LEGIONNAIRES
ARE INVITED

9th District
Meeting

North Castle

Post 1097

35 Bedford Rd., Armonk

Sun., Nov. 4

Lunch served at noon
Meeting 1 p.m.

ALL LEGIONNAIRES
ARE INVITED

Department Cmdr.
Department Pres.
Detachment Cmdr.

Legion Family Visitation
at Moses Taylor

Post 136

1 Legion Dr., Mt. Kisco

Wed., Nov. 7
6 PM • Dinner @ 7 PM

ALL LEGIONNAIRES
ARE INVITED

James E. Koutz Elected

National Commander Continued from page 1

he said. "What we do for young people has a direct impact on the kind of adults they will become."

He also called on Legionnaires to use the L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Education and Development) training program— offered by national staff—to educate new members about the Legion's Four Pillars. "That is the sense in which I will go forward from this place to speak on your behalf, to act in your best interests, and to devote every day to the welfare of our comrades," Koutz said. "I do that because I believe that in America, every day is Veterans Day. Let us celebrate it."

Koutz served in Vietnam with Company C 169th Engineer Battalion and worked for the Amax Coal Company for 21 years before retiring in 1995. He has held elected and appointed offices in The American Legion at the post, county, district, department and national levels. He was awarded the State of Indiana Council of the Sagamore of the Wabash in 1991 by former Gov. Evan Bayh and was recognized for outstanding community achievement of Vietnam veterans by President Jimmy Carter.

"I'm excited about the opportunity you've given me," Koutz said. "I'm excited about the future, and I'm excited about The American Legion."

Also elected at the convention were National Vice Commanders John E. Neylon of Twin Mountain, N.H.; Glenn A. Hickman of Grove City, Ohio; Jeanette Rae of Reno, Nev.; David R. Hall of New Haven, W.Va.; and James Hallie Holland of Aiken, S.C. National Historian Neil L. Rozier of Raleigh, N.C.; National Sergeant-at-Arms Alfonso Pulido of Griffith, Ind.; and National Chaplain Ronald L. Derrick of Rigby, Idaho were appointed to their positions by Koutz following the close of the national convention.

(From National Legion Website on 9-14-12)

It's Great to Belong to the American Legion

Westchester Legionnaire



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Paper Receives Department and National Awards

On behalf of the officers and staff of the Westchester Legionnaire, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the sponsors, contributors, and members of the Legion Family for another successful year. At the Department Convention we received First Place in Category A-1, *Past Commanders Award*;

and at the National Convention Press Association Luncheon, First Place in Category 2A, the *Emerson O. Mann Publication Award*. Editor Howard Heyel proudly accepted these awards for the Westchester Legionnaire at these two ceremonies.

Ron Rose, President

Membership Quotas

As indicated on the membership report (see page 7), the quotas for 2013 were based on

the Post totals as of Convention Call of 2012, plus one additional member. The mem-

bership committee is striving to have all posts reach 100% this year.

Donations and Volunteers Needed for Montrose 2012 Holiday Gift Shop

It's once again time to think about the families of the veterans at Hudson Valley Health Care System FDR Montrose. The annual Gift Shop sponsored by Westchester, Putnam and Rockland American Legion Auxiliary will be held again this year.

Your help and donation to this program will enable the veterans to enjoy being able to be a part of the joy of "It's more fun to give than to receive." Volunteers will visit the hospitalized veterans to

assist them with selecting a gift from the Figi's Gifts in Good Taste catalog. Their selection will be sent to their family in time for the holidays.

Please send checks made payable to ALA Unit 90, earmarked Montrose Gift Shop to: Susan Heyel, 15 York Ave., Rye, NY 10580.

If you would like to assist with this program or have any questions or concerns, please contact Chairman Sue Heyel at 914-835-2916, or by e-mail at sheyelrye@verizon.net.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct. 10, 2012	Regular	William J. Boyle Post 1030 Verplanck
Nov. 4, 2012	9th District Meeting Westchester County Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1:00 PM	North Castle Post 1097, Armonk
Nov. 7, 2012	Dept. Cmdr., Dept. Pres. and Det. Cmdr. Legion Family Visitation - 6:00 p.m. - Dinner @ 7:00 p.m.	Moses Taylor Post 136 Mt. Kisco
Dec. 12, 2012	Regular	Pelham Post 50
Jan. 9, 2013	Regular	Mamaroneck Post 90
Jan. 20, 2013	9th District Meeting Putnam County Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1:00 PM	Mahopac Post 1080
Jan. 25-27, 2013	Mid-Winter Conference	Albany, NY
Feb. 13, 2013	Regular	White Plains Post 135
Feb. 25-28, 2013	Washington Conference	Washington, DC
Mar. 2, 2013	Department Oratorical Contest Snow Date is Mar. 9	Sand Creek High School, Albany, NY
Mar. 10, 2013	9th District Meeting Orange County Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1:00 PM	TBD
Mar. 11-12, 2013	Legislative (Hill) Day	Albany, NY
Mar. 13, 2013	Regular	Yorktown Post 1009
Apr. 10, 2013	Regular with Visitations from County Aux. Pres., 9th District Cmdr. and Dept. Vice-Cmdr.	Adolph Pfister Post 1038 Valhalla
Apr. 12, 2013	National Commander's Dinner	Antun's Restaurant, Queens, NY
May 5, 2013	9th District Meeting Dutchess County Lunch at noon, Meeting at 1:00 PM	TBD
May 8, 2013	Regular	Katonah Post 1038
Jun. 1, 2013	County Convention	Sing-Sing Officers Post 1123, Ossining
Jun. 6-14, 2013	Legion College - Department of NY	Morrisville, NY
Jun. 23-29, 2013	Boys State	Morrisville, NY
Jul. 17-20, 2013	Department Convention	Niagara Falls, NY
Aug. 23-Aug. 29, 2013	National Convention	Houston, TX
Aug. 22-Aug. 28, 2014	National Convention	Charlotte, NC
Aug. 28-Sept. 3, 2015	National Convention	Baltimore, MD
Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2016	National Convention	Cincinnati, OH
Aug. 2017	National Convention	TBD
Aug. 2018	National Convention	Minneapolis, MN
Aug. 2019	National Convention	Indianapolis, IN

NOTE: All county meetings start promptly at 7:30 P.M. unless otherwise noted
All dates and times subject to change

Dispatch Going Digital in 2013

The *American Legion Dispatch* is going digital. After its Dec. 15 issue, the organization's monthly newspaper will no longer be printed and mailed. Replacing it will be a more frequent, current and timely email update and a special landing page on the national website that will be dedicated to the interests of American Legion post officers. The new landing page will feature guides and materials to help officers manage their posts, fulfill consolidated post reports, increase membership, submit award entries and communicate with National Headquarters.



To help readers understand the new format, here are some anticipated questions and answers about the coming transition:

Question: Why will The American Legion no longer print and mail the *Dispatch*?

Answer: Like other publishers, The American Legion

is looking to use its digital assets to provide high-quality information faster and more frequently. By taking away the time it takes to print and distribute a paper edition, the Legion will be able to quickly and efficiently publish and deliver news and information, as well as provide interactive forms with direct connections to National.

Question: Will the digital *Dispatch* still have the same kinds of stories and photos?

Answer: All the stories and information *Dispatch* readers have enjoyed—Dateline Capitol Hill, Taps, the National Adjutant's Message, and others will still be offered in the digital format, as will photos from national Legion meetings and events. The electronic format, however, allows the organization to present galleries of multiple photos rather than just a single picture to accompany a story. The format also invites comments and interactivity with the reader so ideas can be shared.

Question: How will I receive the online edition of the *Dispatch*?

Answer: Department leadership and post leadership will receive an e-newsletter alerting them that new *Dispatch* material is ready to be read on the new Legion.org landing page. The e-newsletter will function the same way that the weekly American Legion Online Update e-newsletter does, providing a roundup of top headlines with clickable links to the actual stories.

Question: I am a paid subscriber. Will I still have to pay for the *Dispatch*?

Answer: No, the online *Dispatch* will be free of charge to anyone who registers for it. Subscribers will have complete access to the *Dispatch* online.

Question: When does this change begin?

Answer: The new digital *Dispatch* will debut after the Fall National Executive Committee meetings in October. The printed edition will continue to appear in mailboxes through the December issue.

Question: How often will the digital *Dispatch* come out?

Answer: The digital *Dispatch* will come out at least once a month. However, before and after important meetings and events, special *Dispatch* e-newsletters will be distributed, and the landing page will be updated continuously. Special issues, for instance, will be published immediately after the Fall Meetings, Washington Conference, Spring Meetings, national convention and other activities.

Question: How will I know when the electronic *Dispatch* has been updated?

Answer: Starting next month, go to www.legion.org/media and click on "subscribe" under e-newsletters. From there, you can choose to receive an email link for the electronic *Dispatch*. The e-newsletter will be published with fresh links on a monthly basis and other times (such as Spring and Fall Meetings) as warranted.

Question: Do you have plans to eliminate the print magazine and offer only a digital alternative?

Answer: No. We know our readers and advertisers value the monthly *American Legion Magazine* in its printed version and plan to continue mailing it out.

(Reprint from August 17, 2012 issue of the *Dispatch*)

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EDITOR'S CLUB

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THRU SUMMER 2012

Martye & Tony Futia

Parker Bale

Post 1597

THRU WINTER 2013

In memory of

Deceased members of Post 1038

By PCC Ron Rose and Rosemary Rose

Robert Caldwell

Post 1009

THRU SPRING 2013

Scarsdale

Post 52

Dunwoodie

Post 1508

In memory of our deceased members

In memory of

Wilfred V. Hurley, P.C.

Post 1038

By Kathleen Hurley, Unit 1038 president

Martye & Tony Futia

Ernest Pasqua

Post 1506

In Memory of Frederick C. Schmaling

By Arline & Family

PATRONS

Single donations between \$25 and \$99

THRU SUMMER 2012

Charlotte Craven Past E. Div. Natl V.P.

Parker Bale Post 1597

In memory of

Pia Perseo Palmer

By Clifford Palmer

Mamaroneck Post 90

THRU FALL 2012

In memory of

Russ Partelow, Post 1575

From Dan Lynch and Don Gibbons

Charlotte Craven, Past E. Div. Nat'l V.P.

In memory of

John M. Barnaskey, P.C. Post 979

From Loretta Barnaskey

Francis and Ana C. Ramos-Alix

In memory of

P.C. Orsino and Rose Zulli

Post & Unit 979

From Loretta Barnaskey

THRU WINTER 2012

Donald W. Link

THRU SPRING 2013

In memory of my parents

WWII Navy veterans Osmond & M.

Evelyn Smalley

By Stephen Smalley

Civil Air Patrol, JPCS

PDC Murray Runin Fava Post 1768

James Hagele

In memory of Peter E. Joseph Post 1122

By Bernice Joseph

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List my name as a booster for one issue.

Student Veterans of America Assists Vets Going on to College

Many people who separate from military service or return back from deployments choose college as an option to solidify their future. One organization that has assisted thousands of veterans, service members, and their families is Student Veterans of America (SVA).

Founded in 2008 by student

veterans, this organization has more than 500 chapters at higher educational institutions in the U.S. and overseas. While the bulk of these chapters reside at public universities and community colleges, SVA also has a strong presence among Ivy League institutions and other private colleges, including

for-profit institutions. There are even virtual chapters for students attending online programs.

According to their website (<http://www.studentveterans.org>), the mission of the organization is "to provide military veterans with the resources, support, and advocacy needed to succeed in

higher education and following graduation."

Returning to civilian life for any military member can be a confusing or even a traumatic experience, but the complications of registering, navigating, and establishing a routine around a college education can be overwhelming. Most veterans admit they felt more at home in the military, even in combat, than they did when they first arrived at the institution of choice. Thanks to SVA, many are made aware of the student veteran organizations even before they arrive on campus so the contacts are made and the camaraderie of a common military experience lays a great foundation for getting acclimated to college life.

Thousands of student veterans will be storming college campuses over the next few years. Currently

more than 800,000 are enrolled in higher education using the post 9/11 GI Bill, and that does not include those veterans and service members using other financial sources to obtain their chosen credential. Student Veterans of America provides a valuable resource to these students by helping to orient, encourage, and provide support from transition to graduation and beyond.

SVA also advocates for issues and legislation related to veteran employment. The theme of their last annual conference, which took place in Las Vegas, was "Combating Veterans Unemployment."

More information on the organization can be found at <http://www.studentveterans.org>.

[Source: Military.com Dr. Randy Plunkett article 6 Dec 2011/ FROM RAO BULLETIN - Friday, Sep 14, 11:32 a.m.]



Westchester County American Legion Family Joint Visitation Dinner Honoring

Dept. Commander Timothy S. Van Patten
Department President Sally Johnston
Detachment Commander John J. Knapp

Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Moses Taylor, Jr. American Legion Post 136
1 Legion Drive, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549

\$30.00 per person

Open Bar 6:00–7:00 P.M.

Tap Beer - Wine - Soda on Tables
Dinner at 7:00 P.M.

Port Chester Post 93
78 Pearl Street

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNERS

Varied Menu Includes but not limited to:

- Roast Loin of Pork
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Checks payable to: Westchester County American Legion
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Westchester delegation to the national convention in Indianapolis, Ind. with the Malins and National Commander Fang and Barbara Wong. From left, Howard Heyel, Ann Malin, MaryAnn & Richie Calbo, Fang & Barbara Wong, and National Commander's Aide and Photographer Doug Malin.



At the National Convention

Richard Calbo & Howard Heyel on the big screen at the national convention which ran from Aug. 24-30.

POST NOTES

Yorktown Post 1009

We finished up our 2012 business year with by reviving our Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 16 with the assistance of the Yorktown Fire Department and local Boy Scouts. We retired more than 700 U.S. flags in this moving ceremony and everyone involved left that day planning on doing it bigger and better for next Flag Day.



Our Post started up a fun new event over the summer. We had a group go up to the Hudson Valley Renegades AA Baseball game in Dutchess County. Sixteen people attended the game on Aug. 9 and received free team baseball caps, saw our Post welcomed on the field in left field, and the Renegades team donated \$3 back to the Post from every ticket sold to the Post. Look for this event again next summer. We already plan on doing it one time each in July and August. Look for those dates and come join us for the games.

It is sad for us to report that Post #1009 Legionnaires Allan Egan and Dominick Otice were called to their Final Post. Our best wishes and prayers go out to their families.

Our Post would like to welcome new Post members Roger Thompson, John Vaughan, Vincent Andreozzi, Patti Smith, Frank Troia, William O'Reilly, and Charles Smith. We hope to see you at our events and meetings getting to know the rest of our Post family. We encourage all our members to join us at any of our events and support the Post and its work. Put these dates on your calendar: 11/11 2 p.m. - Veteran's Day Parade at Lakeland High School; Breakfast with Santa on 12/2 at Post; Four Chaplains Service on 2/03 at 2 p.m.; Breakfast with Easter Bunny at Post on 3/10. Hope to see you all there. Thank you all for your service.

Submitted by Patrick McDonough, Adjutant

Support Your Legion Newspaper
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<p>Anthony T. Fava Post 1768 <i>Meets 3rd Tuesday in the evening</i> Memorial Room • City Hall Mount Vernon, NY</p>	<p>Gilbert Rauh • Post 1574 Garrigan Avenue Thornwood, NY Meeting: Every 4th Tuesday Commander: Drew McFadden</p>	<p>Frank A. Rea • Post 1163 <i>Meets Third Thursday 2:00 PM</i> Homefield House 911 Sawmill River Road John Grabowicz Adjutant Pat Viggiano Commander</p>
<p>Spencer Kelly Post 267 <i>Meeting 1st Wednesday of every month</i> Tarrytown, NY</p> 	<p>PELHAM POST 50 <i>Meets 4th Monday of Every Month Except July, August and December</i> Pelham Town House Box 293, 20 Fifth Avenue Pelham, NY 10803</p>	<p>WHITE PLAINS POST #135 <i>"Veterans Serving the Community"</i> 57 Mitchell Place Executive Meeting Meets 1st Tuesday Regular Meeting Meets 2nd Tuesday Lounge OPEN DAILY 9:00 a.m.</p>
<p>DUNWOODIE POST 1508 20 Ridgewood Avenue Yonkers, NY 10704 <i>3rd Thursday of the month</i> Commander - Anthony Penna Adjutant - John DeMeo 1st Vice Cmdr. - John Cipriano Treasurer - Frank Scaramuzzo, Sr.</p>	<p>Yorktown Post 1009 "GOLDEN POST" 235 Veterans Road, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598 914-962-2843 <i>Business Meeting - 2nd Thursday</i> Lounge Open Monday-Friday from 4 to 11 p.m.</p>	 <p>North Castle Post 1097 Armonk, NY Meeting 3rd Tuesdays Lounge Open 4 p.m. Daily HERE YE!!!</p>
<p>DONALD W. KONRAD POST 1954 <i>Regular meeting every 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m.</i> Homefield House Saw Mill River Road Yonkers, NY 10701 914-968-0236 Commander Eli Vetrano 1st Vice Commander Nick Stilo 2nd Vice Commander..... Robert Tolli Adjutant..... Jeff Scharfman</p>	<p>LARCHMONT POST 347 <i>The Garden Spot of Westchester County</i> Regular Meeting - 3rd Tuesday of the Month Lounge Open: Mon. thru Thur. 3-9 p.m. Fri. 3-11 p.m. • Sat. Noon-9 p.m. • Sun. Noon-7 p.m.</p>	<p>Parker Bale Post 1597 Old Albany Post Road, Crotonville Lounge Hours: Mon.-Fri. 3:00-11:00 Sat. 1:00-12:00 Sun. 12:00-7:00 Meetings: 3rd Sunday of month 1:30 p.m. "The Sports Post"</p>
<p>LeRoy Gregory Post 979 Town of Eastchester, NY 40 Bell Road, Scarsdale, NY ***** <i>Post meets 2nd Monday of the month 8 p.m.</i></p>	<p>Adolph Pfister Post 1038 Valhalla, NY <i>"The Best Post by a Dam Site"</i> Regular Meeting - 4th Thursday of the Month at 7:30 p.m. Commander Philip Adimari Adjutant Ed Burke</p>	<p>Ernest Pasqua Post 1506 Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the month at the Chas. M. Bajart, Jr. Post 1122 840 McLean Avenue, Yonkers</p>



**National Commander
Fang A. Wong**

'Remember the Date'

National Commanders Report to Convention Delegates

An election for new national commander of The American Legion was looming when current National Commander Fang A. Wong took to the state Aug. 30 to deliver his report to convention delegates. However, it was another election that Wong mentioned during that report.

"The date that I want you to remember is Nov. 6," Wong

said. "As American citizens, and especially as Legionnaires, we have a duty to vote. Many men and women—indeed, our comrades—have died to protect this right.

"We choose no sides, endorse no candidates and support no political parties. We have Republicans, Democrats and Independents in our ranks and in our leadership. Our founders—including the

son of President Theodore Roosevelt—were adamant that The American Legion be nonpartisan. Our agenda is simple: take care of veterans, national defense, our youth and America."

Wong said that while there are struggles facing veterans—citing the VA claims backlog, the unemployment rate and homelessness as examples—it still is a good time

to be a member of The American Legion.

"These tough issues...are why we need an American Legion," he said. "We are as relevant as ever, and many of these problems could have been avoided if only our nation's leaders would read and heed our resolutions and legislative testimony."

One of the key roles of the Legion, Wong said, is helping the newest generation of veterans. "We are in a unique position to help the young men and women who are returning from war," he said. "They respect us because we are their fellow veterans and know what they are going through.

"I want all these young men and women to join The American Legion, but the way to do it is not to greet them with a membership application the moment they return home. They are not familiar with our history of service, nor can we expect to be their top priority at this point in their lives. Most young veterans are more interested in job and college applications than with Legion applications. Membership is our lifeblood, but service still remains our very top priority."

Jobs, education and family are the key to attracting those members, Wong said. He praised the Department of Defense for its Legion-supported efforts to make it easier for veterans with military training to be credentialed in similar fields in their civilian careers. He warned that deep defense cuts could lead to more unemployment.

Wong said that veterans make great students and that the Legion will continue to lobby on their behalf when it comes to education benefits. And Legion programs like The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, Temporary Financial Assistance and the Family Support Network are important in providing for the families of America's service members and veterans.

"These, along with our other great programs, are the foundations that will make the young veterans of today the Legionnaires of tomorrow," Wong said.

Wong said that by providing service, younger veterans will eventually join. But in bringing new members in, the Legion can't forget about its current members.

"We can, and we must, do better recruiting new members and, most importantly, retaining existing members," he said. "(Direct-mail solicitation) is doing fine, but it's the traditional members that stay and participate in our programs."

Wong said he'll always remember his year as national commander.

"This year has been incredibly good to me," he said. "It was humbling to be the national commander on the 10th anniversary of the worst day in American history. As a New Yorker, a retired soldier and a Legionnaire, I will never forget 9/11."

(From National Legion website on 9-18-12)

Mid-Winter Conference Agenda

January 25-27, 2013

FRIDAY			SATURDAY (cont'd)		
TIME	COMMITTEE	ROOM	TIME	COMMITTEE	ROOM
6:30 pm	Membership Special Mtg.	Kings St. 2 & 4	1:00 pm	Oratorical Committee (Zone/District Chairmen)	High St. 30
7:00 pm	Finance Baseball Convention Legion Riders Bowling Rehabilitation Legislative Historians SAL Advisors	Orange St. 156 Orange St. 5 Orange St. 9 Kings St. 6 & 8 Orange St. 7 High St. 24 Town Hall High St. 20 High St. 26	1:30 pm	Internal Affairs SAL Advisory, Constitution & By-laws	Orange St. 5
9:30 pm	WELCOME RECEPTION Compliments of The Desmond & The Department of New York	Orange St. Courtyard	2:00 pm	Homeland Security FSN/H2H****	Shaker Room Orange St. 111
			2:30 pm	Boys' State Exec. Session	Town Hall
			3- 5 pm	Compliance	King St. 2,4,6,8
			3:30-4:40 pm	AL College Faculty	Orange St. 7
			5:00 pm	Scouting	High St. 30
			5:00 pm	Public Relations (2 – 2:40) PR Tools, Speeches, News Releases	High St. 20
			6:00 pm	Americanism	Town Hall
			7:00 pm	Special Projects Defense of Veterans' Memorials, Blood Donor, Golf	High St. 22
			8:30 am	Back to God	Shaker Room
			9:00 am	Roman Catholic Mass Ecumenical Service	Orange St. 5,7,9 Shaker Room
			9:30 am	BAND CONCERT & RECEPTION	Orange St. Courtyard
			10:30 am	DINNER	King St. 2 - 8
SATURDAY			SUNDAY		
7 – 9 am	BREAKFAST BUFFET	Orange St. Patio	7 – 9 am	BREAKFAST BUFFET	Orange St. Patio
8:15 am	Department Executive	Town Hall	8:30 am	General Session	King St. 2 – 8
8:30 am	SAL Executive	High St. 26	8:30 am	SAL Executive	High St. 26
8:30 am – 12:30 pm	VA Medical Wellness Testing	King St. 2	10:30 am	Press Association	Shaker Room
9:00 am	Membership Legionnaire of the Year	King St. 4, 6, 8 High St. 30			
	Public Relations (9:00 – 9:40) American Legion Press Association	High St. 20			
	ROTC-JROTC	Orange St. 111			
9:30 am	Americanism Baseball, Education & Scholarship, Bowling, Scouting, Oratorical and Baseball meet after joint meeting. Convention Contest Advisory, Mid-Winter Conference, Distinguished Guests, Resolutions Rehabilitation	Orange St. 5, 7 Shaker Room High St. 24			
10:00 am	Junior Shooting Sports Law & Order Public Relations (10 – 10:40) Newsletters & Post Publications	High St. 22 High St. 28 High St. 20			
11:00 am	Protocol Public Relations (11 – 11:40) Webpage & New Media	Orange St. 9 High St. 20			
12:00 pm	Boys' State	Town Hall			
12n – 2p	LUNCH BUFFET	Orange St. Patio			
1:00 pm	Public Relations (1:00 – 1:40) Being interviewed by the media Children & Youth Economics Employment, Veterans Preference, Energy & Conservation SAL Workshop National Security Foreign Relations, Law & Order, MIA Liaison, ROTC Advisory	High St. 20 Orange St. 9 High St. 28 High St. 26 High St. 24			

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE COMMITTEE	
Donald G. Duncan	Thomas E. Tracy
Chairman	Vice Chairman
MEMBERS	
Robert Purzycki, Gerald Perry, Harvey Martel	
Watson Olsiewski, Russ Hoyer, Henry Rosenzweig	

Plan Ahead for Mid-winter Conference

Set for January 25-26, 2013

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York Mid-winter Conference is set for Jan. 25-26, 2013 at the Albany Marriott.

The Anna Schultz Award for attendance will be given to the Unit with the most first-time attendees at the Mid-Winter Conference.

For a Unit to be eligible, the Unit president must attend (although not be a first time attendee herself).

The Bishop Pine Award will be given to the district with the highest percentage of goal into the Department Office 10 days prior to Mid-Winter Conference (\$50 award).

Poppy Usage Contest

The Poppy Usage Contest will be held at the Unit and Department levels only. There will not be a National poppy contest at the Washington, D.C. Conference. Departments are responsible for collecting money from Unit contests and will write National Headquarters one check by June 1, 2013. All money raised from poppy contests will be given to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, and Departments raising the most money will be recognized in national communications. Please refer to the Poppy Usage Contest How To sheet for more information.

The Poppy Usage Contest will be part of the Awareness Assembly this year. Voting and judging will be by photo submission. Each Department may submit only five entries of creative designs. The entries are designs of your choosing using official American Legion Auxiliary poppies and may be of the following nature: wreaths, centerpieces, corsages, tray favors, etc.

An 8x10" color photo should be brought to the Department Mid-Winter Conference in January for judging. Please include on the back of the entry the following: member name and address, Unit name and number and Department name.

Public Relations

Bring a Poster to Mid-Winter Conference: Once again there will be a Public Relations Poster Contest at Midwinter Conference. Pick one function that your unit has sponsored (since May 2012). The function should have invited the community to participate and it should have focused positive attention on the American Legion Auxiliary. The poster should clearly describe (in photos, graphics, words) the purpose of the event. Use pictures, graphics, etc. to decorate your poster and make it attention getting. The poster must be on a standard poster board no larger than 22" X 28" and no smaller than 8 1/2 X 11. On the back of the poster place your unit's name, number, county and district. Include the name of the chairman of that particular function. Posters must be dropped off for judging (site to be announced) by Friday night at 7 p.m. Winners will be announced at the luncheon on Saturday. Each member who attends the Mid-Winter Conference will receive a cutout as a newspaper in their registration packet and the poster with the most ballots will be declared the winner. There will be a gift for the winner.

Legionnaire Receives Rare Honor

Continued from page 1 your country and The American Legion. We know that you will continue to serve The American Legion and all of us will continue to be far better because of it."

Westchester County American Legion MEMBERSHIP REPORT Department of NY 2012-2013

Report # 3

AS OF: 09/17/12

POST NAME	POST NO.	2012 TOT. Note 1	PREV. RPT'D	THIS REPT	REPORT TO DATE	DEPT & COUNTY GOAL PERCENT	LAST POST TRANSMITTAL TO DEPT.
POSTS WITH 15 TO 49 MEMBERS							
ARDSLEY	458	27	0	26	26	28 92.8571%	1/12/2012
DUNWOODIE	1508	19	17	1	18	20 90.0000%	8/1/2012
BUTLER JOHNSON	520	17	0	15	15	18 83.3333%	1/18/2012
FRANK A. REA	1163	38	0	31	31	39 79.4872%	12/19/2011
LEROY GREGORY	979	47	30	7	37	48 77.0833%	8/30/2012
HAWTHORNE	112	44	31	3	34	45 75.5556%	9/11/2012
ROBERT F. CRANDALL	129	10	9	1	10	15 66.6667%	8/31/2012
NORTH SALEM	1866	19	5	8	13	20 65.0000%	8/8/2012
LEONARD S. MORANGE	464	15	1	9	10	16 62.5000%	8/1/2012
BRIARCLIFF MANOR	1054	23	9	6	15	24 62.5000%	8/28/2012
PEEKSKILL	274	43	21	6	27	44 61.3636%	8/28/2012
JOHN DUNBAR	1125	11	0	9	9	15 60.0000%	9/13/2011
ADMIRAL FARRAGUT	1195	30	15	2	17	31 54.8387%	8/31/2012
ERNEST PASQUA	1506	28	15	0	15	29 51.7241%	8/17/2012
ALAN F. WAITE	299	6	8	4	12	26 46.1538%	8/1/2012
NEPERA PARK	1509	6	0	6	6	15 40.0000%	9/13/2011
SAMUEL H. DOW	1017	43	0	16	16	44 36.3636%	9/11/2012
RICHARD SOMERS	1505	28	0	8	8	29 27.5862%	6/29/2012
ANTHONY T. FAVA	1768	7	0	4	4	15 26.6667%	1/18/2012
COOK	321	14	0	3	3	15 20.0000%	5/8/2012
DONALD M. KONRAD	1954	30	0	3	3	31 9.6774%	2/23/2012
JOHN B. WINTERS, JR.	1734	8	0	1	1	15 6.6667%	6/14/2012
FANCHER NICOLL	77	28	0	1	1	29 3.4483%	5/8/2012
CARLE ANDERSON	559	18	0	0	0	19 0.0000%	1/24/2012
SING SING CORRECTIONAL	1123	22	0	0	0	23 0.0000%	3/2/2012
ADMIRAL FARRAGUT	1195	35	0	0	0	35 0.0000%	2/17/2012

POSTS WITH 50 TO 99 MEMBERS							
ADOLPH PFISTER	1038	79	59	7	66	80 82.5000%	9/11/2012
GILBERT RAUH	1574	64	31	10	41	65 63.0769%	9/11/2012
FOX - EKLOF	505	50	23	5	28	51 54.9020%	8/3/2012
DOBBS FERRY	1048	62	17	15	32	63 50.7937%	9/11/2012
PARKER BALE	1597	55	19	4	23	56 41.0714%	8/28/2012
WILLIAM J. BOYLE	1030	51	3	7	10	52 19.2308%	8/1/2012
RYE	128	73	2	8	10	74 13.5135%	8/28/2012
SPENCER KELLY	267	51	1	4	5	52 9.6154%	8/1/2012

POSTS WITH 100 TO 299 MEMBERS							
SCARSDALE	52	112	67	7	74	113 65.4867%	9/7/2012
NORTH CASTLE	1097	102	50	15	65	103 63.1068%	8/30/2012
OSSINING	506	150	84	9	93	151 61.5894%	8/28/2012
PORT CHESTER	93	168	72	32	104	169 61.5385%	8/28/2012
LARCHMONT	347	156	82	10	92	157 58.5987%	9/11/2012
KATONAH	1575	100	37	22	59	101 58.4158%	9/7/2012
MAMARONECK	90	129	52	23	75	130 57.6923%	9/7/2012
MOSES TAYLOR	136	280	107	24	131	281 46.6192%	9/7/2012
PELHAM	50	127	43	3	46	128 35.9375%	8/17/2012
YORKTOWN	1009	114	5	23	28	115 24.3478%	9/7/2012
NEW ROCHELLE	8	171	5	13	18	172 10.4651%	8/1/2012
WHITE PLAINS	135	153	2	14	16	154 10.3896%	8/1/2012

POSTS WITH 300 OR MORE MEMBERS							
CHARLES N. BAJART, JR.	1122	462	169	22	191	463 41.2527%	8/15/2012
TOTALS =		3290				3,383	
PREVIOUSLY REPORTED =		1091					
MEMBERS IN THIS REPORT =			447			(1,845)	
MEMBERSHIP TO DATE =				1538		SHORT	
2013 CTY & DEPT. CMDR'S PERCENT =						45.46%	

Note 1: Per American Legion Guidelines - Posts must maintain a minimum of 15 members in order to retain their charter.

Please notify DEPARTMENT of any discrepancies you may find. This Report is as of: 9/17/12.

OSSINING Post 506
 American Legion
 58 South Highland Ave., Ossining, NY
 Meetings: Club Bar
 Exec. - 2nd Tues. Open from
 Reg. - 4th Tues. Mon.-Sat. 3-10
 8:00 P.M. Sun. 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

POST 8
 AMERICAN LEGION
 112 North Avenue - New Rochelle
 Mon.-Thurs. 1 p.m.-10 p.m. Saturday & Sunday
 Friday 1 p.m. to 12 a.m. Noon to 12 a.m.

Moses Taylor Jr. Post 136
 Regular Meeting Club Lounge Open:
 2nd Mon. - 7:30 P.M. 12 noon - 10 p.m. Mon. - Thurs.
 Executive Meeting 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Fridays
 4th Mon. - 7:30 P.M. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat. & Sun.
 Mount Kisco • 914-241-0136

From the Shores of the Hudson
DOBBS FERRY POST 1048
 "Westchester Action Post"
 Continued Success to the Westchester Legionnaire
 Commander William Florin Adjutant William Rizzuto

WILLIAM J. BOYLE Post 1030
 Commander Sean O'Mara
 Meeting: Noon on the 4th Wednesday of the month
Verplanck, NY 10596

Mamaroneck Post 90
 189 Prospect Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY
 Chartered July 7, 1919
 Meeting 2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 7 p.m.
 Club Lounge Open Daily at 2:00 p.m.

Rye Post 128
 Meets 3rd Thursday of Every Month
 Rye Recreation, 281 Midland Ave.
 George Szczebra Robert Marrow
 Commander Adjutant

BRIARCLIFF MANOR Post 1054
 Meets 4th Wednesday at the Fire House
 P.O. Box 239
 Briarcliff Manor • New York

FOX-EKLOF • Post 505
 Croton-on-Hudson
 Meetings
 Every 4th Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.
 at the Harmon Firehouse

WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

Ossining Post 506

The meeting was called to order in the prescribed manner by Commander John Venturina at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance was taken. A quorum was present.

The adjutant read the minutes from the June meeting, the County Convention. The minutes were approved.

The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Fred Wooding discussed the Commander's Dinner scheduled for Sept. 30.

The Commander declared that the main purpose of this meeting was the reorganization of the committees of the County. The final results of these discussions and appointments is a list of the committees for the next fiscal year which are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Larchmont Post 347

The meeting was called to order in the prescribed manner by Commander John Venturina at 7:45 p.m.

Attendance was taken. The adjutant read the minutes from the Aug. 8, 2012 meeting at Ossining Post 506. The minutes were approved.

The Commander introduced Albert Bender, commander of Larchmont Post 347, who welcomed all to the Larchmont Post. Bob McGuirl introduced Harry Engstrom, commander of Pelham Post 50.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. Committee reports followed.

Membership: Bob McGuirl made reference to the recent membership workshop. He advised that his main concern is the retention of new members who are more often faced with family obligations and possible financial hardship. He advised that it is the goal of National that each Post add at least one member to its present membership. He advised that the 9th District ranks 6th in the NY Department and that many vets are joining the Legion by signing up online and then are assigned to the Department "Post 1."

Howard Heyel advised that the 9th District organizational meeting would take place on Saturday, Aug. 11 at the Beacon Post 203 at 10 a.m.

Richard Calbo discussed the recent Department Convention, the new Commander, Timothy S. Van Patten, the upcoming National Convention, and next year's Department Convention in Niagara Falls.

Howard Heyel announced that Peekskill Post is donating \$3,170 to Operation Comfort Warriors.

Vice Commander Scott McGuirk reported on the installation of officers at New Rochelle Post 8 on Saturday, Aug. 4. Don Ford advised that he will conduct the installation of officers at several Posts.

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

The Commander announced that the visitation schedule for the Department Commander will be discussed at the September meeting.

The Commander called upon the Ossining Post Commander and gave him a Certificate of Appreciation for the outstanding services performed by Post 506 over the past years.

The chaplain offered prayer in memory of the recently departed Legionnaires, followed by a moment of silence. The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott McGuirk
Adjutant

Wednesday, September 12, 2012

To date there are about 17,000 vets in "Post 1" awaiting to be transferred to local Posts.

Bob reminded all of the next barbeque at Montrose scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 16 at Chalet 6 for 80 patients.

Richard Calbo discussed American Legion College and advised the online applications should be ready soon. He discussed the Mid-Winter Conference and the sign up for housing. He asked Posts to consider giving awards to non-Legionnaires who are helpful in their communities such as firefighters, police and EMS personnel and active volunteers.

Fred Wooding reminded members of the Commander's Dinner scheduled for Sept. 30.

Richard Calbo reported on the National Convention and the new National Commander, Jim Koutz. President Obama submitted a 5-minute recorded video speech. Governor Romney attended the convention and gave a well-received 20-minute speech. It was a proud moment when he and Howard Heyel stepped onto the stage to give Commander Fang Wong a check for \$3,170 to Operation

Comfort Warriors from Peekskill Post 274.

Richard Calbo advised that Ken Kraetzer of the Sons was planning an event at an Army football game on Oct. 27 and was reserving a section for Legionnaires at \$25 a ticket. Legionnaires will be asked to wear their Legion hats.

Pat McDonough spoke about the creation of a website for County and all the Westchester Posts. The website will list all posts with contact information as well as all upcoming events.

Bob McGuirl then discussed recent violent events in the Middle East that took place on Sept. 11, 2012.

The Commander called upon Larchmont Post Commander Albert Bender and gave him a Certificate of Appreciation for the outstanding services performed by the Post over the past years.

The chaplain offered prayer. The meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott McGuirk
Adjutant

BUTLER JOHNSON POST 520

Commander - Arthur J. Deangelis
PO Box 216, 12 North Stone Ave.
Elmsford, NY

Scarsdale Post 52

*Meets 1st Wed. monthly at Noon
at Ciao Restaurant in Eastchester.*

Thomas V. Adamo Emanuel P. Caras, P.A.
Commander 914-472-6639 Adjutant

Charles N. Bajart, Jr. Post 1122

Yonkers, NY
Executive Committee: First Thursday • Post Meetings: Third Friday
Building opens: Monday - Friday 1 pm
Saturdays, Sundays & Holidays 12:00 Noon
Beverages Available

Katonah Post #1575 American Legion

Rt. 22, just south of Rt. 35

Open 12 pm to 8 pm - 7 Days
Meets First Thursday of the month at 6 pm

Adolph Pfister Unit 1038 Valhalla, NY

The Best "Dame" Site by a Dam Site"
Regular Meeting - 3rd Thursday of the Month at 7:00 p.m.
President Kathy Hurley Secretary Fritzi McClintock

Peekskill Post 274

American Legion • 936 McKinley Street

*Meeting 2nd Tuesday of the Month
at 7:00 p.m.*

914-739-1441

EARN BIG MONEY!

for your post, auxiliary or squadron with the
Westchester County American Legion Holiday Special Fund-Raiser
Participate in the County

"Holiday Special Fund-Raiser"

1st Prize - \$1,000.00

2nd Prize - \$500.00 • 3rd Prize - \$250.00

This raffle is for the benefit of the participating Legion Post, Unit, Squadron and the Westchester Legionnaire paper.

50% of all sales by the Post go directly to the Post, Unit, Squadron with no expenses.

50% (less expenses) goes towards the continued publication of the Legionnaire paper. Both deserve your full support. Please do your best.

DRAWING: All ticket holders are invited to the drawing at Moses Taylor Post 136, Sunday, December 2, 2012, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Raffle to take place at 3:00 p.m.

The Legionnaire paper needs funds now, so early returns will be most appreciated. Posts, Units and Squadrons are urged to make this their Major Fund-Raising Project. Add your own incentive awards.

Tickets will be distributed to all respective organizations shortly.

Make checks payable to: Westchester Legionnaire.

Mail your money and stubs to: Richard Calbo, 61 Helmlock Circle, Peekskill, NY 10566

Additional tickets are available from Rosemary Rose at 914-946-4261.

