



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

Est. 1949

Oct - Nov 2014

American Legion Post 1758,
www.4ever66/legionpost1758

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Our next meeting will be January 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend. We have a 50-50 awaiting!

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.

- Edmund Burke

Important Notice

Please note the restaurant that we are having our holiday party at has a new owner and there will be a name change. Now named Lombardi's vs. Lillanna's.

Address is: 2425 Route 52 Hopewell Junction, NY

Membership

We received an award ribbon for having 105% of our 2014 membership target. Now the 2015 membership renewal notices are out and we've already added two new members. Welcome aboard to:

William Harmonay and Sachin Sekhri.

Nonetheless, get those renewals done as soon as you can. Send a \$40.00 check to PO Box 92, here in Hopewell.

Remember that if you wish, you can renew on line at <http://www.legion.org/renew>

Several bib scarfs and shoulder cords purchased by the post and lent out for parade use have not been returned. Please return these to the post or if the recipients wish to purchase them the cost is \$7.00 for the scarf or \$8.00 for the cord. If in doubt, see post treasurer Dan Briscoe to see if you've paid for these items.

Special Military Social Security Rate

Under certain circumstances, military veterans who served between 1940 and 2001 can be credited for **special extra earnings** for Social Security purposes.

These extra earnings may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Depending on the length and time frame of military service, some veterans may find that the benefit increase may be minimal. These special extra earnings are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings are **not** granted for inactive duty training. Note: Social Security cannot add these extra earnings to your record until you file for Social Security benefits.

Here's How It Works

The information that follows applies **only** to active duty military service earnings from 1940 through 2001. This program adds to your overall income factor and may have little effect on your actually monthly Social Security benefit, as the increased earnings does not equate to an equal increase in monthly benefits. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited:

Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

Service in 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay. **Note:** The increased earnings does not equate to an equal increase in monthly benefits.

Service in 1940 Through 1956

If you were in the military during this period, including attendance at a service academy, you did not pay Social Security taxes. However, your Social Security record may be credited with \$160 a month in earnings for military service from September 16, 1940, through December 31, 1956, under the following circumstances:

- You were honorably discharged after 90 or more days of service, or you were released because of a disability or injury received in the line of duty; or
- You are still on active duty; or
- You are applying for survivors benefits and the veteran died while on active duty.

You cannot receive credit for these special extra earnings if you are already receiving a federal benefit based on the same years of service. There is one exception: If you were on active duty after 1956, you can still get the special earnings for 1951 through 1956, even if you're receiving a military retirement based on service during that period.

Contacting Social Security

- <http://www.ssa.gov/ww&os2.htm>
- Call the toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213.
- "TTY" 1-800-325-0778.
- Call or visit your local Social Security Office.

As part of a Veterans Day tribute, Troop 82 of E. Fishkill presents a remodeled Veterans Park to the Town of East Fishkill, much to the pleasure of the Manny Bacon Post 1758 of the American Legion. The Park received a new sign, pruned shrubs, and improved floral layout. The crowning touch was a new American Flag, donated by Post 1758.



Rededication of Veterans Memorial in East Fishkill by Boy Scout Troop 82, applauded by American Legion Post 1758, represented by Dan Briscoe and Kevin Hathorn, 11/11/2014.

On Oct 22, 2014, Kevin Hathorn presented Mark Oberhauser, owner of the In & Out Deli, on New Hackensack Rd, a letter of gratitude for outstanding service to our Legion Programs.



On Oct 27th, Dan and Kevin discussed American Flag topics, including Flag Folding, with Pack 127 Cub Scouts at Van Wyck Jr High, at the request of Eileen Thomas.



On Nov. 9, we celebrated Veterans Day at Stewarts and Florys on Rte 82, as well as the Convenient Mart on Rte 52. Joining the effort was Jim R., Neil K., Bob L., Joe G., Cosi, Danny, John P., Don. The Commander was shuttling from site to site, so he didn't join in all the fun. Thanks to these guys and the generous public, over \$1700 was raised to help fund our efforts to support the four pillars of the American legion.



The Stewarts Boys



The Florys Boys

Our Holiday Party will be at Lombardi's, at the Lilliana's location on 52, down the street from Our meeting place, almost across the street from the Shell Station. The date is 11/30/2014 !!

Tickets are \$35 per person, or more exactly, \$70 a couple. You don't need to give your order right now, you just need to get your money in. You can call me on my cell, 845-264-5159, and we can arrange a money transfer.

ORATORICAL

The candidate is Claire Huston, a local high school student is our candidate. Claire is a Senior at Poughkeepsie Day School. Our Oratorical Officer is arranging for Claire to speak at the post after Thanksgiving, then proceed to the County level. The first place winner at the National level is awarded \$18000 scholarship over four years; second and third places receive \$16,000 and \$14000 awards, respectively.

Thanksgiving Meals for those who can use some help—Jim Reynolds purchased two meals for 2 needy families, and will see that they are delivered and received. The meals contain everything to make a holiday meal.

At our Nov. 11 meeting, we had a visit from the County Commander, Wayne Southworth.

Some topics discussed include:

Distribution of the County-wide Directory

The Charlotte, NC National Convention, and the resolutions passed there;

Department Commander's Dinner at Coppola's in Hyde Park (6:30PM, 30 per person);

Declining membership numbers; younger members need recruiting, keep posts alive and lively;

Due to post inactivity, there will be some consolidation of posts (combining) throughout the county;

ALEI, the American Legion Education Institute: for \$4.95, one can get an education on the legion, like how, when, where and why;
American Legion College at Morrisville, a 2-3 day course on the Legion;
PTSD and returning veterans issues, including hyperbaric chamber treatments thru the VA Medical system;
Town Hall meeting at VAMC, Castle Point, date to be assigned
Our shooting and scouting program was praised;
Younger veterans sought; issues brainstormed at meeting Tuesday evening—
Mark Baaden suggested local cable programming and TV spot addressing younger vets health and emotional issues; going up to county level;
George deChamp is chairman of American Legion College, and provided literature

Jim Reynolds has ordered poppys for next year.

At the Rhinebeck Post, on Dec. 3, 2014, there will be scouts recognition.

Neil has addressed a Veterans Day Recognition for 2015. A parade is planned, music and speeches. With good planning, it'll be knockout!

Jim Broughton has been making the food & grocery pickups at Adams Fairacre Farms, and hand delivering everything (keeping a total of what's delivered, and the estimated cost...) to the Food Pantry at VAMC, Castle Point. Good show, Jim !

Jim will be in Florida from January through March, so we'll need someone to come forward with an offer to help the program; that is, pickup, estimating and logging, and delivery.