



American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758,
www.4ever66/legionpost1758

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Our next meeting will be February 10th at 7:00 PM at the **Old East Fishkill Town Hall**, Rte. 52, next to the Police Station. Please try to attend.

Holiday Party at Castle Point

January 4th was the Holiday Party at Castle Point, for the Vets living there. Even though it was a tad late, Santa was there, as well as a lively DJ who led the party in holiday and old time songs. Jacquemae Perrotta has the photos being processed now. Each vet got a two dollar bill as a gift, as well.

Membership

As of the County Meeting on the 20th, we're at 91% of our total membership. Our adjutant has sent out letters asking the other 9 or 10% to consider sending in their dues, so their membership is active.

Remember that if you wish, you can renew on line at <http://www.legion.org/renew>
Just git 'er done!

The County still has several Posts in danger of being reassigned if they don't attract new members.

Sons of the American Legion, Boys State, Oratorical, Scouting

Hyde Park is starting an S.A.L. Squadron, and anyone who has an interest in that direction, see our Commander for further information.

Boys State—the county offers that riding up with the candidate from Orange County would cut expenses.

Oratorical—the county candidate (Sarah Velardo...family originally from Hopewell...brother Steven sponsored by Post 1758) placed 2nd in the 9th District. She will be at Lehman College on this coming Feb. 8th, competing in the Zone Oratorical challenge.

Scouting Venture in NYS—members to Cicero with National targets; will shoot .22's as well; 2 Eagle Scouts, one coming.

Americanism at Work

A Sgt. Lopez of the USMC in Orange County suffered a devastating house fire recently. Our County Commander went to the "go fund me" website to donate a little, and found the website closed after 17 days and \$16,156 pledged. That's a really good thing !!

The July Americanism Convention will be in Buffalo...apply to attend by April.

Another note on the Holiday Party: Cdr. Parnell (Multipurpose room at Castle Point named for him) was from Orange County, KIA 12/1948; Vets received present of a Canteen Card as well as the Jefferson Bill.

Area D, Ways & Means...Montrose & Castle Point: Burlington Coat Factory donated 70 coats for the vets; more drivers and handicap spaces.

School Tax Veterans' Exemptions

The Veterans' School Tax Exemption in the Arlington School District has hit a major snag---it's been blocked by their Board. There's a major effort to raise the issue in the minds of the residents. This could involve a letter writing campaign. Whatever it takes, it's shown that there is no community resistance to this exemption, which is only a small percentage discount off the total school tax bill. The Wappinger Central School District passed it, as have other municipalities.

Come to a Post meeting, get involved !

Good of the Legion

Bob Logan's name was pulled for Pot Of Gold Drawing at our January meeting. Bob donated his winnings back to the post and next month we restart at "0". Thanks, Bob!



Post 001 Recruiting Effort

We've been talking about membership for a while now, and we're moving on the Post 001 activity. We've created a mail merge of the entire listing with a recruiting letter. We should be doing a mini-mass mailing within the week.

Many Legion members sign up with the Department or National, not being aware of the benefits of local membership.

Remember, being locally affiliated doesn't mean getting roped in to volunteering. You'll only do what you wish...but we'd still love to see more faces at the meetings. If you know anyone Post 001 affiliated, see if you can chat 'im up.

Suggestion made to use local tax report to contact local vets to join.

Training

As an American Legion Post, we have members sign up, then we wonder why the blank stare. It's because there's no familiarization "course" or "class" or even a "handout" provided. I don't think it's unusual for training to begin once a member assumes a post position.

That's wrong.

A proposal making the rounds is to suspend the monthly meeting a few minutes, and discuss part of a pillar. What's a pillar? It's what the Commander had a problem remembering all four of, at the last meeting. There are four pillars defining the American Legion:

National Security, Veterans Affairs & Rehab, Americanism, Children and Youth.

Let's pick one and talk it over a few minutes.

Wake Break, Volunteer Hours Report, Soda/Beer can tabs

Our Sergeant at Arms has applied for two dates at the Westbound Rest Area on Interstate 84. The dates are April 18 and May 9, as of this writing.

For National Headquarters bookkeeping, we all need to log in our volunteer hours in the community. Any time you spend doing Legion work is volunteering. Any Church work, too. Drop the Commander an email or snail mail with your info. For USPS mail, the address is : 50 Carroll Dr., Wappinger, 12590

Save your pull tabs from soda and beer cans. Toni Huston at Blodgett Library in Fishkill collects them for the Shriners. There's a red deposit container in our meeting hall, near the flag, on the floor. Many delicatessens have donation containers on their counters, as well.