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American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758
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“There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.”

Niccolo Machiavelli

(I don't know about anybody else, but this quote is all about me.)

Our next meeting will be September 8th, at 7PM, in the Old Town Hall. We'll be having a guest speaker who may want to join our post.

Bike Riders from Oregon

Three bicyclists and a Vietnam Vet cycled their way across country since mid June, aiming for the 9/11 Memorial in NYC. Danny & I heard this at the convention, so we began checking in late July. Danny addressed the Fishkill Town Board meeting on 8/5 to prepare the town board for this event, and got an okay. He also arranged for the Hyatt House hotel in Fishkill to put up the bikers and their spotter, Patricia Vollner overnight of the 14th of August, and to have the welcoming ceremony on their property across from WalMart.. Julia from the hotel, and her staff did all they could to make it a memory for all, Doug McHoul agreed to provide a limo to take all 5 out to dinner at Locanda on Main Street in Fishkill, his treat. Shop Rite donated water and granola bars for the bikers, and the Hyatt donated water and string cheese bars. Danny & I visited various car dealers on Route 9; Danny is checking on their generosity. Any money donated goes right to the Operation Comfort Warriors program the Legion sponsors. Our post is good for \$100. Their goal was \$11K, they're over \$20K now. At the celebration, Janice Ragazzo read and presented Proclamations to the group from Sean Maloney; Nelson Rivera did the same on behalf of Marc Molinaro; Bob LaColla, Fishkill Town Supervisor did the same thru Doug McHoul, himself a contributor.

I was really hoping that some of the news people present would summarize the event in a media report. The Beacon Free Press focused on the riders and their experiences and the Journal relied on a brief by Nelson. I have a lot of photos by Althea Richards, and I'll see if I can copy in a handful here.

The Boys State Graduates

Sean Grogan and Billy Smart both attended the Morrisville Boys State Program in June. They both attended our August Post meeting, and spoke of their impressions. Sean brought his parents Tom & Denise Grogan, and Billy came alone. Both boys we really impressed, mostly with the discipline, even though they are both very respectful. The county had a June meeting, dedicated to all the Boys and Girls Staters in the county. There were 14 of each group. Billy brought his mother, while Sean had a prior commitment. Two very fine boys, and fine families.

Veterans Appreciation Day in East Fishkill

Danny, Don and I had a meeting in the new Town Hall with Janice Ragazzo and Gina Gruppo, about a brunch or luncheon for all the vets within the town. It's an opportunity, no strings attached, and we don't have to do all the work.

The plan is: Sunday, November 8th at the EF Community Center, time TBA. Either a Brunch or lunch. Janice Ragazzo is an organizer who gets things done. She and Gina are doing the advertising, planning, arranging, and our post was called for advice. Gina has secured the town tax rolls, listing the vets. She was thinking of using RSVP. She was also thinking of welcoming each vet with a personalized scroll. Just ideas. I'll see what Gina has come up with, as soon as she's back from vacation. Stay tuned.

Venture Club Gun Locker

Dan Briscoe bought a gun locker for use at Whortlekill, for \$149.00 from WalMart. There was a hassle over the tax exempt feature, so Dan got a special ID card for us to use there.

Community Day Arrangements

I'll be calling on both Gina and Neil to see what's what.

Interim Finance Officer

John Lyons has agreed to help with the position of Finance Officer.

Donations to go

It was agreed that a couple of donations should happen: Operation Comfort Warriors and Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, \$100 each.

Pot of Gold

The Adjutant didn't get the name which was drawn for the Pot of Gold, but he wasn't at the meeting to collect it anyhow. There's now \$72 available for a 50/50 split with the next name drawn who's also at the meeting.

County Happenings:

County Officers Installed on 8/19 County meeting, Bruce Donegan, up from Florida, did the installing.

Oratorical—now's the time to get into the high schools. Info coming to posts this month.

Moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be in Carmel, 9/24 to 9/27. Jim Reynolds sent out a notice that it'll be there:

**The Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall at Putnam County
Veterans Memorial Park
201 Gypsy Trail Rd
Carmel, NY 10512**

September 24 to September 27, 2015

Staging for escort to the park is at 3:00 PM on September 23rd. Meet at the Northbound rest area on I-684.

Help in setting up the wall 8:00 AM on the 24th

Opening Ceremony 7:00 PM on the 24th

Closing Ceremony 12:00 N on the 27th.

Names read 24 hrs a day.

Other Posts:

Leroy Campbell Post in Stanfordville (Bangall) is going to be reinstated. Aaron Clancy is the Chaplain/member at Post 1793 there, and says the next meeting is Sept. 1, 2015. Their Community Day is on the 19th, like hours, and they are looking for help, as well as a Color Guard, which they will have. Aaron is a new chaplain in Area B.

Post 260 and post 739—Millbrook and Pleasant Valley—will combine next month and the emerging post number is 739.

Mike Davey is leaving the area and his post as county treasurer. John McNair from Pleasant Valley will replace him.

Rhinebeck Aerodrome is offering free tours for vets, Sept 5 & 6, by Aaron Clancy.

Stars & Stripes on the Walkway Over the Hudson is seeking donations to help their monthly flag raising, and in addition, they also supply flags to local veteran heroes families. I need to become better informed about this, and will be by September's newsletter.

Dutchess County Fair offers the WarWagon, free rides for vets. Call Melanie at 876-5637 to sign up.

It's raffle time again! I have 7—seven—sheets of 8 raffle tickets each. I need to give them out to willing members. You can sell them at \$5 each, or 5 for 20 dollars.

Call me at 309-2149 and I'll get you a sheet or two.



Sean Grogan, his parents and Kevin Hathorn...at the August meeting. Jim Reynolds wasn't quick enough to get out of Althea's way.



Taken at St. Denis Cemetery, May 16, 2015 at 10AM. Bob Logan & I had just finished placing flags there. We've had other photos from the Memorial Day timeframe, but not the flag alignment. Jim's idea to place the flags in a row in the same places looks good.

Here's the 5 Oregon trekkers, including Chris & Pat; then the whole entourage, including police escort!



Brief speeches...



Judy D'Alessandro from Hyatt House...the hostess.



Janice Ragazzo represented Sean Patrick Maloney in giving Congressional Proclamations to the group.



Nelson Riviera represented Marcus Molanaro, Exec. of Dutchess County



Doug McHoul, representing Fishkill Supv. Bob LaColla, awards the team with recognition for a job well done. Doug was also responsible for the limo ride and the Laconda meal, as well as Cracker Barrel offers.



Grace Morea, from Beacon Post 203 Ladies Auxilliary, sings "God Bless America" to open the ceremonies. T'was beautiful !



Thanks to Althea for a candid photo of more of our guests, coming from all over to help celebrate !



Silly us...we never got the names of I think these guests are from the Friends of the Fishkill Depot.



This photo shows, from the left: Boy Scouts, the Oregon Crew, the Hyatt House Staff, and Doug McHoul.

From Jim Reynolds, via Yahoo:

I have scheduled the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program for Friday, October 9, 2015 at 7:00PM The program will be held at the East Fishkill Community Center at 888 Rte 82, Hopewell Jct.

Hello. As a New York State Army National Guard officer and a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, I am writing to you to tell you about the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program. We would like to have an event at your post to educate your members and their families about preparing for disasters.

The program presents citizens with the knowledge and tools to prepare for emergencies and disasters, respond accordingly, and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions. We work with experts from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) and local emergency management personnel, and are holding classes statewide with the goal of teaching 100,000 New Yorkers.

The program was designed by DHSES and covers a broad range of emergency preparedness topics, like developing a family emergency plan, stocking up on emergency supplies, and registering for NY-Alert, the free statewide emergency alert system. Participants will receive a training certificate and a wallet-sized "Z-Card" with emergency preparedness information and how to make an emergency preparedness kit.

There is no charge for this training. Each event is usually 1.5 hours and there is a Q&A session at the end of the presentation for attendees to ask more specific questions that are more relevant to their local area or organization. We have had the pleasure of preparing both small and large groups in the last year and are proud to say that there are now over 30,000 New York State citizens trained in how to properly prepare, respond, and recover to a wide range of disasters that New York could possibly face.

This can benefit your post by involving your members and their families. If you take advantage of this opportunity, they will learn how to help themselves, their family, their neighbors, and their community. Being proactive in anticipating and preparing instead of reactive in a difficult situation can make things much easier and provide a sense of safety and control during the response and recovery from very traumatic events.

The only cost for being prepared is a small amount of time—it's a free state program. The cost for being unprepared can be a far greater amount of time, money, and stress.

Please let us know if you would like to sponsor one of these events at your post, or if you have any further questions. We look forward to hearing back from you and being given the opportunity to continue helping our state to be prepared, safe and working together in the good times and the bad. Please visit the website below for more information. Thank you.

www.prepare.ny.gov

Respectfully,
Brett M. White

This is real and it's important. The Community Center will hold many people, so there's no reason why we, as a town, can't try to fill it. Hope to see you there.