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# American Legion Post 1758 Newsletter

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American Legion Post 1758  
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1. Boys State Boys, photo
- 2. Veterans Appreciation in E.F.
- 3. Community Day Stuff
- 4. Interim (#2) Finance Officer
- 5. Donations to be made
- 6. Pot of Gold

**Food for thought:**

“There is no explanation for evil. It must be looked upon as a necessary part of the order of the universe. To ignore it is childish, to bewail it senseless.”

— W. Somerset Maugham

Our next meeting will be October 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7PM, in the Old Town Hall. We'll be having a guest speaker who may want to join our post.

**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 is on the left, Billy's on the right, and I'm in the middle. They spoke favorably of the program, and maybe we can have them back next year, as spokesmen for the program.

## **Veterans Appreciation Day in East Fishkill**

Advertising and Scheduling have pushed this off to the Spring. June 26<sup>th</sup> looks good, but I'll be calling members to see what's preferred. Having it at the Rec Area is a good idea, but the fall season of 2016 is too much of an unknown, and this year is too busy already. Schedule change works out, as Sue Serino has a dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup> at the Wappinger VFW, on School Street...at 3PM and 5PM...a Sunday. It's Post 5913. Should be good.

## **Community Day**

We met up at Hopewell Bagels at 11AM to step off at 11:30: Dan Briscoe, Danny Oberhauser, Jeff Bose and myself. We carried the colors, and Steve Shultis and Derek Staudohar--Eagle Scout from Troop 40 out of St. Columba-- carried our Manny Bacon banner. We marched to our space at booth #8, same as years past. We ate a bit, cheered the Columbiettes and their pizza sales, we chatted a lot, sold a little, but mainly...we let the town know we were there. The Community Day committee is reviewing how it went, all in all, and what we hope to do next year. In years past, there was more activity, and we took in a lot more money, but things change. And we have to keep up with what there is now. We're smart; we'll figure something out.



From the left: Neil, Jeff, Vinny, Kevin, Danny, Jim. "We manned our post all day."

## **Interim Finance Officer**

Jim Reynolds has agreed to help with the position of Finance Officer. John Lyons had other commitments. Jim, Neil, Don and I worked out a budget, and it's being put together. As soon as we attract another candidate, Jim will step down.

## **Donations to go**

It was agreed that a couple of donations should happen: Operation Comfort Warriors and Whortlekill Rod & Gun Club, \$100 each. I sent our OCW check with one from Poughkeepsie Nissan (\$250.00!) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month. I'm working on the Certificate of Appreciation for Whortlekill.

Pot of Gold

Dave Woods name was drawn for the Pot of Gold, but he wasn't at the meeting to collect it anyhow. There's now \$89.00 available for a 50/50 split with the next name drawn who's also at the meeting.

### **County Happenings:**

Oratorical—now's the time to get into the high schools. I've been in touch with John Jay High School, and as soon as their schedule settles down, I'll visit with them about the Oratorical Program. RCK is next.

Don't forget that the Moving Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will be in Carmel, 9/24 to 9/27.

## **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. Erin Clancy is the Chaplain/member at Post 1793 there. Erin is a new chaplain in Area B. He is also expanding the American Legion Chaplain Program, locally. We're about to see some changes. And they're all for the better.

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<p>One website I've spent some time in is the Dutchess County American Legion...<a href="http://aldutchesscounty.org">aldutchess county.org</a>... everything we do is detailed there...you wouldn't believe all the stuff! Check it out ! You'll be amazed!!</p>
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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.

We have a FACEBOOK page ! Go to facebook.com (or just fb.com) and type in Post 1758. Presto, you're there. It's much easier if you have a facebook id & password, but not required...

Leave a LIKE, a SHARE, a COMMENT !

The Dutchess County American Legion has a page too. By the way, the next county meeting is in Tivoli, October 21, eight days after our next post meeting.

**Senator Sue Serino**  
**Cordially invites**  
**you to a free**  
**Veterans**  
**Appreciation**  
**Pasta Dinner**

**September 27, 2015**  
**2 seatings 3pm and 5pm**  
**American Legion Montgomery Post 429**  
**6361 Mill Street, Rhinebeck, NY 12572**

**October 18th, 2015**  
**2 seatings 3pm and 5pm**  
**Wappingers VFW Post 5913**  
**8 School Road, Wappingers, NY 12590**



**Limited seats available please RSVP by September 17th for the September 27th date and October 8th for the October 18th date to Senator Serino's Office at 845-229-0106. Please bring a nonperishable food item to donate.**



Look at the photo on the right...taken in Sen. Serino's office on Legislative Hill Day, last winter. Danny, the Senator and me!

The VA is offering flu shots starting Monday the 21<sup>st</sup>. They will be at Montrose, Castle Point, Carmel, Pine Plains, Poughkeepsie, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan.

Seems like a walk-in type of plan.

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.

**And this is the letter we received, explaining the program:**

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.

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.

Respectfully,  
Brett M. White

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

Here's a statement from the gov't about "National Preparedness Month":

Every September, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency hosts National Preparedness Month. The goal is to get people thinking about possible disasters, natural or man-made, and help them prepare in advance. And this year, National Preparedness Month ends with the America's PreparAthon on September 30.

The PreparAthon helps families, organizations and communities prepare for potential hazards through drills, group discussions and exercises. If you want to participate, or learn more ways to keep your family safe during a disaster, [you can visit FEMA's site](#).

September, 2015 Newsletter

There's a Department Commander's Dinner on November 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Villa Borghese in Wappinger. At 6:30PM. The cutoff date to sign up is Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$40 per person.

See you there!

We'll be looking for Oratorical Candidates at John Jay and Ketcham. We'll choose our students by October 25<sup>th</sup>. You all know about this Oratorical thing, right? Do you have any kids or grandkids who qualify?  
Some info:

## “A constitutional speech contest”

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor [Lou Dobbs](#).

Here's a link:

<http://www.legion.org/images/legion/oratorical/oratoricalhome.jpg>

But hey, there's rewards for this :

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per

state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.  
*High schoolers under 20! Know any, willing to show a passion?*

The War Wagon at the County Fair was a success. 12 vets got a turn around the fairgrounds. Each was given a medal. I'm sure there was applause, too!

The County Legion donated \$1100 for diabetic socks at Castle Point. Burlington Coat Factory gave Past County Commander Tony Storzieri free access to winter coats last year...probably good for 2015-2016 as well!

(mind you, we all know that Post 1758 has done our fair share, but highlighting what the County American Legion does shouldn't take away from ours. I don't want anyone getting the wrong idea...we're all in this together, they know we're here, so we can afford to be gracious, despite past differences and such)

There'll be a PGA Visit at West Point, for veterans. I took notes as fast as I could and didn't get the particulars. I'll keep my ears open, and pass the info along. Sounds like a keeper.

Membership is a constant in Post life. One goal is 50% renewal by 2 weeks ago. We could be close to that. I have receipts from many of you, which I'll load into a spreadsheet for timely accounting...maybe next week...and have a better idea. The leadership has set a goal for 55% by mid-October. Have YOU renewed yet? How about it? Now's the time.

The East Fishkill Remembrance of September 11, 2001

The East Fishkill Town Hall Remembrance of September 11, 2001 was held. We had an honor guard, as did the EFPD. We all looked spiffy! We were represented by Tom Masch and Jim Broughton, who carried our flags; Danny Oberhauser and I accompanied them, then promptly exited the hall, so as not to get in the way of their mauevers. Like I said...spiffy! Althea and Vinny were there with the Band, and shot some photos. Thank you both...again!  
One of the photos is on the following page.

