



American Legion
Post 1758
Newsletter

Est. 1949

www.4ever66/legionpost1758

January 2016

American Legion Post 1758
[Facebook.com/Post 1758](https://www.facebook.com/Post1758)

Post Office Box 92
Tel.: 845-309-2149

Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
email: ALPost1758@aol.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Next Meeting
2. Food for Thought
3. Vets Appreciation Day
4. Pot of Gold
5. County News
6. Facebook Pages
7. Newspaper articles
8. Our post Programs
9. Oratorical, 2016
10. Scouting News
11. News from our Jan. mtg

Food for thought:

“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”

— **Albert Einstein**

Our next meeting will be February 9th, at 7PM, in the Old Town Hall. We should be seeing new faces there.

Veterans Appreciation Day in East Fishkill

Advertising and Scheduling have pushed this off to the spring. Early June is the planned timeframe.

We'll have to wait and see what the organizers come up with, but it's gonna be a good one. Hopefully, all the veterans within the county come out for this, even the crabby ones. A good time should be had by all.

Pot of Gold

Howie Yeoman's name was drawn for the Pot of Gold, but he wasn't at the meeting to collect it. There's now a rollover of \$18i.00 available for a 50/50 split with the next name drawn who's also at the meeting.

County News

--Membership is moving along. Our numbers are unknown at this time. We're probably above 85%. We await the Adjutant's report at the February meeting.

--The County Commander has been approached by the National Guard for interest in a seminar on Emergency Preparedness. While we had limited turnout for our Hopewell Junction seminar (less than 50 people for a town our size...), it WAS an outstanding lesson in getting ready for whatever may come our way. What stuck with me was the need to keep cash on hand, as ATMs crumble in times of power outages. I'll be contacting the Guard to see if there can be a seminar given during a county meeting, which will mean shortening the presentation.

--There is a Handyman Project available for veterans needing help with home repairs. Sears has been a Project Partner for 9 years. Lowes and Home Depot will also cooperate if approached; they also offer grants for Posts; Home Depot offers Gift Cards. Single Day projects are preferred. Let me know if you know of a need anywhere. The Legion Auxiliary has been reaching out to Castle Point as well as the Veterans homes and apartments, helping those in need or in rehab...or in the VA care on a long-term basis.

--Estimates on homeless veterans are 18,000 in Dutchess, and 24,000 in Orange. Limited volunteer manpower makes assistance difficult.

--Department Commander's visitation, which includes a tour and dinner, is under consideration for condensing. The proposal suggests consolidating the visits to Orange, Putnam and Dutchess into one. In this situation, all Department Commanders...Legion, SAL, Auxiliary would tour the counties in one multi-day visit. For 2016, it's planned that November 8, 9 & 10 will include tours, and the dinner will be on the 9th in Dutchess County, in a venue large enough to accommodate all three counties' worth of staff.

County News, con't

--John Conto is Chairman of the Children and Youth Committee. He spoke recently about donating money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation, listing the reasons for selecting this particular charity. Each post is asked to donate to this cause. I neglected to raise this issue at the last Post meeting, but will do so at our February meeting. Any member wishing to donate on his own can send the donation to:

Children and Youth
American Legion Post 1949
POB 654
Wingdale, NY 12594

-- Advise me if you're going to donate on your own...the CPR (Consolidated Post Report) that each post completes should include all donations to Charity, even your own donations. BTW, I'm going to complete the 2016 CPR this month, so e-mail me your info. If you don't, I'm going to estimate each member's contributions, based on what I know about your community involvement. Each one of you does an awful lot more than you're really aware of. But I'm the only one who'll know what and how much I attribute to each one of you in the CPR.

--Erin Clancy, our County Chaplain, has been busy, working as the County Chaplain Coordinator. Area A Chaplain is Mike Athanas, Area B is Erin, Tom Davis is Area C, and Hank Barker is Area D Chaplain. They each cover 3-4 posts within the county.

There have been many prayer requests in the county. Our post had one request from a local family who had a deceased relative from PA. We had a good showing, and Norm reminded us how to march. We performed the non-member ceremony, and the family was very grateful.

Facebook Pages

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! Anyone can post photos to share!

Newspaper Articles

I've submitted a lot of our activities to local news outlets, and so far, most have printed. The only ones yet to print are my recent submissions.

So far, we've appeared in the Hornet--2 articles—the Southern Dutchess News, Poughkeepsie Journal. Usually, there is one file for the text and one or more for photos. I just submitted an article on the District Oratorical on the 16th, but embedded the photos within the article. Let's see who prints this one.

It seems to take me a half hour or more to put it all together, typing the story, then picking the photos to cut and paste...and then, identifying everybody. See the next article, next page...

Our Post Programs

9th District Oratorical Competition

The 2016 American Legion Oratorical Competition began for Post 1758 on 5 December 2015. There our two contestants began their 10-minute oratories on a particular amendment and clause in the U.S. Constitution. These two students were Vivek Hazari, representing Roy C. Ketcham High School, and Amy Zhou, from John Jay. Amy came in first at the post level, and Vivek was still eligible for the County Competition, at Post 37 in Poughkeepsie, on 19 December.

They were joined by Sarah Velardo, a home school student, and she placed 2nd to Amy's first place finish. At the District competition, held in Beacon, NY on 16 January 2016, competing were Amy Zhou, Melissa Denizard and Melissa Woodford. Sarah was ill, and did not compete. The three ladies gave their oratories, and then were assigned topics they had to speak on, for a period of three minutes. Amy was eliminated. The winners were the two Melissa's, with Woolford finishing first. This competition covered five counties within the 9th District: Dutchess, Putnam, Westchester, Orange and Rockland. There was representation from all of these counties from the various arms of the American Legion: The Legion Auxiliary leadership was there, even on a state level, as well as several officers from each level of membership. The photos below reflect this attendance. The next competition is the Zone Level, and will be held at the RHO BLDG, 5 Club House Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980 Saturday February 6, @noon.



County Commanders Dale Cusack, Maureen Morgan, Wayne Southworth and 9th District Commander Bob McGuirl



District Oratorical Committee, 16 Jan, 2016



9th District Contestants Oratorical, 16 January 2016
Melissa Woodford (New City), Amy Zhou (E. Fishkill),
Melisia Denizard (Spring Valley)



Jerry Oser, Orange County Adjutant;
9Maureen Morgan, Rockland County Commander



Jan Mahoney, Dept. Auxiliary President

Boys State-- three boys are interested from Ketcham. Another contacted me a few weeks ago in John Jay, and I left the forms with the Guidance Office. He has completed the forms, and will follow through. Chances are pretty good, we'll be canvassing businesses in the area for donations to help fund the attendees. We'll discuss it at the next meeting.

Scouting News

Dan Briscoe reports an Eagle Court in Lagrangeville on 10/3, with Reese Ragusa being noted. The 26th had another court, but I didn't get the name. Included are two photos of earlier 2015 Eagle Courts: Dan Briscoe, in January, with Brian Kusior; Neil Klock with Eddie Miller. With Dan being off the streets for a while, I've been going to Eagle Courts Of Honor. I'll post the reports after this one about last year's events.



News from our last Post Meeting

We had our Post meeting on the 13th, a Wednesday, since we went up to the Arlington Middle School for a School Board meeting, held on Tuesday. The meeting attendance was 13 members. We usually have 17-20. It was a really good meeting, as we accomplished an awful lot. We had a number of motions pass:

1. St. Jude collection, timed with WRWD telethon, not on website as yet...should be Saturday, March 5th ...(last year, it was Fri, 3/6 and Sat, 3/7)...2016 is a leap year, so it's 2 days earlier than it was last year.
2. Donations: Friends of Fishkill Supply Depot, \$100

Patriot Paws, \$100

Wreaths Across America, \$75

Holiday Meals \$120 budgeted

3. Post Imprinted Patriotic Cards (Sympathy, Appreciation, Birthday and Thank You) 50 pcs for \$48
4. Fruit Baskets approved for Dan's and Don's wives; Jim delivered them.
5. MidWinter Convention in Albany: approved 2 nights in one room

We discussed Boys' and Girls' State candidates for this year...Camille Secor has been put in touch with Charlotte Mayville of the Legion Auxilliary; three boys from RCK high school need contact to ensure applications completed correctly; fourth boy, from John Jay, will submit his application early in February.

See you at the Post meeting. And then, hopefully, at the county meeting. That's the 9th and the 17th, the Old Town hall and then the new Town Hall. The county meeting starts at 6:30 with dinner, 7:30 without. A full crowd would be great!