



**American Legion** Est. 1949  
**Post 1758**  
**Newsletter**  
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**American Legion Post 1758**  
**Facebook.com/Post 1758**

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**Food for thought:**

*‘Complaining not only ruins everyone else’s day, it ruins the complainer’s day too. The more we complain, the more unhappy we get.’*

— *Dennis Prager*

*(on his 3<sup>rd</sup> marriage, so he spreads the joy)*

*Our next meeting:  
14 February 2017  
@ 7PM, in the Old  
Town Hall. **County  
meeting is in E. F.  
Community Center on  
15 February. See you  
for dinner @ 6:30PM.  
Will be a GREAT  
meeting!***



**Our Meeting**

January’s meeting had 16 of us there ! News all by itself is that the Finance Audit was conducted, and successful. Everything balances!

## **Pot of Gold**



The Pot of Gold got larger, and the winner was Ted Corrozza. But, Ted wasn't at the meeting, so \$16 stays in the pot, which should be \$48 now. That's great!

## **Facebook Pages**



*Go to [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) (or just [fb.com](https://www.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...*

*Lance has been busy, improving the account, and it's got more likes than you could imagine. He's also busy on a Twitter account, and you can find it with "@AL Post 1758". We're publishing donors to our Boys and Girls State Programs.*

## **Newspaper Articles**



*This month, Lance will send a number of articles to the three local news publications. I've received many photos from our various exposures, so we have a lot to say, publicly. Lance is our Media Relations chairman.  
More on these later.*



### ***Our Post Programs***

Clothing donations

Sims Podiatry Donation, 4 January 2017:

Jim Broughton, Jim Reynolds, John Call and Commander Burns helped yesterday in transporting over 750 items of clothing and shoes to Castle Point. These items were collected by Sims Podiatry and given to us for the Vets that use the Castle Point Clothing Store.

As this was the second time, Reynolds knew how much Sims might have. This time they had more! We filled his full size SUV, Broughton's smaller SUV and the backseat and trunk of Burns' car. When they got to Castle Point the men were able to use the Castle Point canvas rolling laundry baskets and piled them as high as they could and it still took 5 trips with each basket in addition to hand carrying some items. One man could not have done this alone! Believe it! This was a good workout for these 70+ year old guys. Value of donation was \$2250, approx.. 750 items.

*Point raised: VAMCCP works with local charities who can distribute overflow donations. Apparently, if there was too much to store on site, the clothing locker arranges with other distribution points to make sure the needy are helped.*



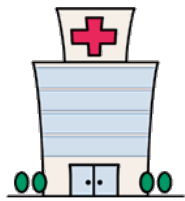
***Oratorical Competition***

*The Zone Oratorical Contest will be 12 February 2017 at Rockland County Community College in Suffern, NY at 2PM. It will pit our 2 ladies from John Jay High School against the best available entries from 1<sup>st</sup> District.*



### **Boys State & Empire Girls State**

*We already have one entry for Girls State: Jenna Drummond, the Junior from John Jay, who's also in the Oratorical Contest. She is in the top 18% of her class, so she's more than qualified. I've sent out notes to Jay and Ketcham to ask for candidates for Boys State. We'll see if there's any way we can hurry the High Schools' easy going schedule. Next week, we'll begin soliciting donations.*



### **Illness in the Post**

Could it be? Could we all be healthy? Well, there's a bout of "stomach bugs" making the rounds, keeping the unlucky ones off the streets for a day or two. And there's the usual cold symptoms that hang around two or three months. But, we have fairly good weather so far...

### **Advertising our Post**

There's an award to be had, at Department. Every time we have an Eagle Scout Court of Honor, Department wants to know. They track these things. I went to more than a half dozen last year, and submitted a number of articles, copying the Department BSA Chairman, who keeps track.

I say this, not for anything personal, but rather for Post awareness. It's good for these accomplishments to be noted. That way, our Post is fresh in their minds as something serious, with a can-do attitude. I make a lot of the sub-Department meetings, and our Post is noted for doing a lot of different things. Gotta get out there, make some noise. Facebook and now, Twitter are going to improve on all that.

### ***John Jay High School***

The school gave us the two girls for Oratorical...Jenna Drummond and Anusha Nambiar. It was about a month late, and we had to scramble at the competition. We didn't hold the Post or the County Contests, as there were only these two girls.

I don't think it's the fault of the individual posts...it's the schools. They just don't see a reason to hurry. Or we need to get on the administrations. The post commanders I speak with, as County Commander, don't get any response from the schools. Much like Ketcham. I asked if I could speak at their study halls, and I got a "YES!!", but no schedule. So no presence at Ketcham.



### ***Membership***

*We all know how hard it is to get reliable numbers from National or Department, since their computer systems are hand fed. According to our Membership man, we're at 96% !! Our transfers from Post 0001 are still held up, with a Department promised that things will open up and get moving soon.*

*Everyone:*

*Renew your membership as DUES ARE DUE NOW!*

*Renew as soon as you can. **Please!***



*Boy Scouts and Venture Crew*

Full range at Whortlekill on 1/8. The range could handle 7 kids---6 showed up for air rifle practice with 50 rounds. One of our guys says his grandson is 14 and wants to sign up. The next event was on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Dan and I did a Court of Honor...Dan did another, solo.



## *Holiday Party*

A good time was had by all. We had over thirty guests. The food was even better than it was last year. A bit more festivity will have to be worked in for the 2017 Christmas Party. We'll have to do some advance planning. For 2016, the cost to the post was \$176, including refunds. That worked out well!

# Miscellany



...what next?

AND at Castle Point, there was a Town Hall, all about rumors and what the administration says has been going on, and will be, into the future. First off, Castle Point was built in the 1920's, Montrose in the 1940's. Both are in the middle of multi-million dollar renovations, improvements and additions. Vets travel was discussed, how it will change and how it can improve. More clinics were mentioned, as we're a vast county.

Here's my notes, from the Post meeting's minutes:

Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Castle Point (VAMCCP): 12 January 2017

- Multi-purpose room
- about 125 attendees, all organizations, all over MH valley
- Sue Serino was late, but had rep there from the start
- reps from Maloney's office, Gillibrand's, T. Murphy, Chris Ferrall, County Supervisor's Office, Vets care orgs.
- Chico, Jacquema, Jim Metrando, Tony Aras, Tom Wholrab, Frank Gilner also there.
- No plans to outsource; more and larger clinics planned, no closures.
- next town hall at Montrose, 6 April: Bldg 15, Rm 16
- many improvements on both campuses, mostly Montrose, following \$300K in 'in-kind' donations to Montrose
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center in the Hudson Valley in top ten in service; Dental area being renovated; Rest Rooms being renovated both campuses; urgent care at CP done with phase 01.

*More FYI:*

Vinny has remarked on his 46 years service to the American Legion. At first chance, we'll give him a Congratulations Plaque ! The December 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor ceremony was a success! We had colors, a Firing Squad, and even a drill instructor. One question is how often we should do things like this. One member suggested commemorating Large Events from WW2. We are going to have to discuss it during the year. We have some old 1903 Springfield rifles that are largely unserviceable, so the idea is to ship them off to a part of the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

Ever hear of the SAL? That's SONS OF THE (AMERICAN) LEGION. They're part of the family. They were busy in upstate, near Buffalo. I'll include a little blurb about them getting donations, then going shopping in Walmart for a bunch of OCW supplies:

*Legion, SAL Bring \$6,000 Worth of Comfort Items to VA Vets*



Members of the Legion and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) went shopping with Operation Comfort Warrior (OCW) Program Director Bruce Drake before Christmas to purchase \$6,000 worth of comfort and recreational items for veterans at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. The shoppers included Canandaigua Post 256 Commander Don Grundke, whose post secured the OCW grant; SAL Detachment Commander J. Bruce Ruthven; Rena Nessler, leading candidate for department commander; Jim Coates, Detachment Vice Commander for Districts 7 & 8, and Gabe Cinquegrana, Detachment PR chair and Canandiagua Squadron 256 OCW liaison.

As the Canandaigua Daily Messenger put it: "If you were out shopping in Canandaigua Wednesday (Dec. 21) and you saw a group of American Legion members filling carts – seven overflowing carts at Walmart alone – you witnessed shoppers on a key mission."

As the shoppers and their goods filled the Voluntary Service office at the Canandaigua VA, Cinquegrana told the newspaper that a number of programs at the VA would receive the items. The programs serve vets in numerous areas including hospice care, recreation, various therapies and homeless outreach.

"All the shopping was done locally at stores including Seager Marine, Roseland Bowl Family Fun Center, Canandaigua Theaters, Lowe's Home Improvement, and Bed Bath and Beyond," the paper reported.

"Cinquegrana said veterans were asked about their needs and encouraged to 'think out of the box'. While many purchases were ordinary items such as paper products, blue jeans, bed pillows and cleaning products, there were electronic devices like the iPod Shuffle, appliances such as a microwave and mini-refrigerator, and recreational equipment that included water tubes."

Drake noted that this was the second OCW grant allocated in the Department of New York in 2016, and the first benefiting the Canandaigua VA.

Well, it's a bit more than a couple of lines...but it's good reading.

**COUNTY MEETING is at OUR COMMUNITY CENTER ON**

15 FEBRUARY...6:30PM. Come on down!