



American Legion DCAL Newsletter

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Some Old News for New timers...JUST A REMINDER HERE:

We have a **web page**, designed by County Adjutant Mike Davey. The web address is: www.aldutchesscounty.org

Our most recent meeting...DCAL = Dutchess County American Legion

On January 17th, Lafayette Post 37 hosted the monthly DCAL meeting. It was a really crappy night out, so we had only 10-12 members there. The dinner was great: Nate Grant was the chef, and Jacquemae put out all the food and drinks for everyone. We had no quorum, so we didn't vote on anything.

Our next meeting

The February meeting is the 21st, at Post 1758, the Manny Bacon Post in Hopewell Junction. It's on Route 82, east of the village. It's across from McHoul's Funeral Home. It's really easy, and there's plenty of parking. We will be having a guest speaker: Julie Diddell, from the Friends of Griffin's Tavern. We'll also be talking about the national Commander's Dinner on April 13th, in Springfield Gardens, NY.



CPR forms are due May 1st. Post adjutants should all go online and complete the forms.

When you calculate volunteer hours, remember travel time for all your members who participate.

It's not just American Legion activities that count; it's any volunteer activity benefitting community or veterans. Consider hours at meetings, writing newsletters.

Thoughtful Mind

“Develop an attitude of gratitude, and give thanks for everything that happens to you, knowing that every step forward is a step toward achieving something bigger and better than your current situation.”

— **Brian Tracy**

Patient Transport Vans for Castle Point

There are currently 6 vans at Castle Point for patient transport to VAMC at Castle Point, West Point and Montrose. 1 is down for repair. Of the 6, three are over 100,000 miles, and 3 are over 10 years old. The DAV works with Ford Motor Company for a discount to drive van prices to \$68000 each. The DAV offers to pay half the bill for each van.

Post 1758 has proposed a \$1000 contribution.

Oratorical Contest...February 4th

Two students from John Jay were in the District Oratorical Contest. They were in last year's contest as well. Anusha came in 1st, and Jenna placed 2nd. Each will receive an award: \$600 and \$400.

The Zone Competition will be February 4th, at the Haverstraw town Hall....the doors will open at noon, and the contest will begin at 1:30. Zone cash prizes are \$800, \$600, \$300 and \$300. Department 5 prizes range from \$6000 down to \$2000 scholarships over 4 years.

There should be contestants from the 1st and 9th districts competing.

One way to get there:

Take the Palisades to exit 13, making a left onto route 202. At the 3rd traffic light, at the Chase Bank, make a left. The town hall is on Rosman Rd, across from ShopRite. It's in Garnerville.

Dinner Theatre for Veterans

A couple of months ago, a letter was sent to the Highland VFW, inviting veterans and their guests to the Clove Creek Dinner Theatre in Fishkill.

The Clove Creek is at 18 Westage Business Center Drive, Suite 7.

The invitation includes a 3-course dinner and the show, without charge. The theatre recognizes the veteran before the show, with thanks for serving our nation.

Felicia DiNonno extended the invitation at 845-202-7778. Call her for information and tickets.

One show per week is set aside for this invitation.

The VA Clinic on Route 55

There is an expansion planned: increasing footprint from 1800 sq. ft. to 6500 sq. ft., and will include more space for veteran-only parking.

Membership Info

At the January County meeting, we discussed membership dues and what happens to them. In a December report, it shows that out of \$40 paid by a member, \$6.50 stays with the post. \$14 goes to Department, \$18.50 goes to National, and County gets a buck. Some posts charge less than the \$40 renewal fee.

Boys State

We reported on upcoming dates with respect to the 2018 Boys State Program. The most important one is May 1st, which is the application deadline. There were a lot of questions, so we spent some time on it.

You can access all the necessary 2018 information at:

nylegion.net/boys-state.

There's a full description of the program: requirements, activities, oversight, and benefits.

Castle Point Celebrations

Veterans Village and Day Room—Pernell Christmas Party; Cookies and flowers for hospitalized women vets. Cost for coupon books was \$60. Another celebration is planned for the 4th of July. I think the USO will show up for memorial Day as well.

Veterans Care

Post 1466, led by Al Stortini, is continuing to work with VA Doctors, posing questions and looking for answers.

National Commander's Dinner at Antun's

Friday the 13th of April will be a hot time in the old town! I've reserved two tables of 10 seats each. \$65 a head for a fine night!
It's good for patriotism, both for America and the American Legion. We have to show some! We have 8 folks coming, plus the Layayette Post. I'm getting on the phone soon. We need to talk.

St. Patrick's Day