

American Legion

Post 1758

Newsletter



January 2024

Est 1949

In this issue:

1. Next meeting
2. Upcoming Activities
2. Gay family donation
3. John Jay Basketball Honors
4. Post Holiday Party
5. Honoring fallen officer Dan DiDato
6. Oratorical
7. Internet Savings
8. Dues increase starting 2025

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 7:00PM**, at the **East Fishkill Community Center** on Rte. 82.

Meeting details will be confirmed via a call out message.

“When you get up in the morning, you have two choices - either to be happy or to be unhappy. Just choose to be happy.”

— Norman Vincent Peale

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call

988 and press “1”

or this toll-free number

1-800-273-8255

available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

Good of the Legion:

Fred Beck's name was drawn at our January 9th and he **generously donated** his winnings (\$64.00) back to the post. In February we'll start at \$0.



Upcoming Activities

Tuesday, February 13th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the **East Fishkill Community Center**

Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 PM – We Host **Dutchess County** monthly meeting at the **East Fishkill Community Center**

Saturday, March 2nd at 12:00N – **Dutchess County St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Wappinger Falls**

Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 PM - Post monthly meeting at the **East Fishkill Community Center**

Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30 PM – Dutchess County monthly meeting at the **Post 203 in Beacon, 413 Main Street**. This is Post everlasting ceremony for departed members.

Please renew your membership

Fifteen members of our post have not yet renewed their membership for 2024!

If you have extenuating circumstances and need help with your dues please reach out to Commander Reynolds

Thanks

The Gay family of Union Vale have once again donated to our Legion Post. They've held the [Guinness World Record](#) for most lights on a residential property since 2014. This year the couple displayed more than 720,000 lights all programmed to music in order to celebrate the holiday season in style. It's an impressive display.

This is the 3rd year they have generously donated to our post. If you know the Gay's make sure you thank them for their gift of \$500.00.

John Jay Basketball Honors

On January 3rd post member Len Hart was honored at the John Jay boys' basketball game.



January 11th saw **Jim Reynolds** honored at John Jay.



Holiday Party

I think the Holiday Party went well. Thanks to John Polasko for coordinating with the restaurant and decorating the tables and providing the ladies candles. Thanks also for my new Post Commanders hat with the scrambled eggs!

John's family did pretty well during the raffle, they won a box of chocolates, a poinsettia, and the \$50 Adams gift card! Other winners were Don Burns, a bottle of wine, Norm Dauerer also a bottle of wine, Fred Beck a box of chocolates, and Don Greenwood a poinsettia.



Happy 100th!

On December 14th I had a call from Owen Cottle thanking the post for the giant birthday card and the birthday cake we provided for his 100th birthday party. We also arranged for a proclamation from the County Executive naming November 17th 2023 as “Owen Cottle Day”. In addition the county assembly also sent him a certificate and their congratulations. I should have taken a picture of the documents to share with you all but I failed to do that. Owen sounded terrific when I talked to him.



Eight members of our post lined up along Lake Walton Road to pay our last respects to East Fishkill Police Officer Daniel DiDato. Thanks to Drew Bellantone, John Lyons, Fred Beck, Jim Reynolds, Jim Broughton, Bill Meyer, Kevin Hines (in FF gear) and John Call (photographer, not pictured) for honoring Officer DiDato. Tom Masch spent about 4 hours attending the services held at John Jay on Friday evening.



Oratorical Contest

On December 16th members of our post along with three Post 37 members interviewed Sarah Morgan our representative to the 9th District's Oratorical Contest. Sarah was the only contestant from the county but will not be available for the January District competition. Joining Sarah were her parents and grandparents. Thanks to post members Jeff Miedowski, Dan Oberhauser, Don Burns, Conrad Gagnon, John Polasko, and John Call (not pictured) for participating.



At our January 9th meeting our post presented Sarah with a certificate and \$200 check for representing us in the Oratorical Contest. Kevin Hathorn was on hand representing the Dutchess County American Legion with another check.



Don't forget that our Post web site (al-ny1758.org) has a wealth of information:

- *Meeting and executive board minutes
- *Newsletters
- Programs
- Photos
- * For "members only" pages you need a logon which you can obtain from web master Bill Kriebel at Historian@al-ny1758.org or 845-226-6895.

Donation

On January 9th we received a nice note from Peter and Richard Sestito thanking us for our participation in their father's funeral. Along with the note was a check for \$200.00.

Internet Savings

Member Jeff Dunay brought to our attention a government program that will save you \$30.00 per month off your internet bill. Here are the ways your household can qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):

- Based on your [household](#) income
- If you or your child or dependent participate in certain government assistance programs such as SNAP, Medicaid, WIC, or [other programs](#) (Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit)

Basically, if you have a military pension or receive disability payments from the VA, you qualify.

Applying is easy. I did it the morning after our January meeting. Start at getinternet.gov Follow instructions and you can get immediate approval. Then you take that information to your service supplier (Optimum or Verizon) and apply with them. Optimum told me it would take two billing cycles for the discount to appear on my bill.

The Affordable Connectivity Program will stop accepting new applications and enrollments on February 7, 2024. Consumers must be approved and enrolled with a service provider by 11:59 p.m. ET on February 7th to receive the ACP benefit.

Dues Increase for 2025.

The American Legion's last national per-capita dues will increase from \$18.50 to \$23.50 for the 2025 membership year. The \$5 increase will go into effect July 1, 2024.

American Legion posts are encouraged to complete a post data report in MyLegion.org as quickly as possible to increase your post dues rate, if needed. An early submission will ensure enough time for processing.

And posts should check with their respective department about their per capita dues as well.

The due increase comes at a time when the need for American Legion advocacy, expertise, influence, services and programs are needed in every corner of our nation and because of the current membership standings and economy. This is a time to continue supporting The American Legion's ability to serve veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and young people. A national \$5 per-capita dues increase can prevent National Headquarters from having to cut programs and services. The American Legion's ability to succeed over the next decade depends on positive cash flow and the ability to invest in the future.

Therefore Post 1758's dues will rise to \$50.00 per year starting in 2025. You will see the increase on your renewal notices starting this July.