



# The Phoenix

Post 712

Issue 2024-4

April 2024



## American Legion Post 712

Monthly Newsletter for Post 712

Facebook **American Legion Post 712—The Virtual Post** | [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org) | 412-901-0327

**NEXT MEETING**— Tuesday, April 16th, at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (Rt 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (VFW Bldg). ***See you there!***

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## — MEETING NOTES —

**Do you have a hard time getting to Post Meetings but want to stay informed? If so we have three recommendations for you:**

1. Have the Newsletter delivered to your inbox. We will send the newsletter to Post Members, Riders, Sons, ALA, and friends of Post 712. **Send us an email with your name to [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org)** and tell us to include you on the distribution list for, *The Phoenix*, our monthly newsletter.
2. Post 712 has a **new Facebook Group**. *Like and Follow* us. You will find us by searching Facebook for, **American Legion Post 712—The Virtual Post**, or by typing our URL address, into your web address bar, **[www.facebook.com/groups/806838798145070](http://www.facebook.com/groups/806838798145070)**
3. Bookmark our webpage. The webpage is not updated daily as is Facebook, but it will keep you in the know. **[www.ALPost712PA.org](http://www.ALPost712PA.org)**

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**P**ost 712 held its regularly scheduled Meeting on the third Tuesday of the month, March 19, 2024, at 7 PM. The Meeting was held at the Brentwood VFW at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15227.



**F**irst Vice Commander Lloyd Ray chaired the meeting and kept the positive momentum rolling. The Meeting lasted about 80 minutes and was followed by an enjoyable social period in the bar for pop and snacks or your drink of choice.

**C**hief Operating Officer (COO) Sherry Einhaus from **Operation Troop Appreciation** (OTA) attended the Meeting and accepted a donation of \$1,100 from Post 712 to OTA. Post 712 presented the check to Sherry and took a moment for a photo opportunity. Sherry thanked the Membership and explained the mission of OTA in supporting local Veterans and Active Duty Military. Sherry noted that OTA recently purchased and moved into a new location on Pennsylvania Ave in West Mifflin and OTA is working to bring the facility up to standards for a grand opening.

**M**ary Ann Marunich, **P**resident of the **ALA**, briefed the Membership on ALA activities. Mary Ann stated the recent planned trip to **Southwestern Veterans Center** was called off at the request of the Retirement Home Staff due to a virus that was active at the Center. The trip will be rescheduled. Typically the ALA provides donations of clothes and comfort items to the Veterans and sets up a snack bar and Bingo game or similar activity when they visit. Mary Ann invited Post Members to Volunteer to assist during the next visit, to which several Members pledged their support (I volunteered on one of these outings during 2023 and had a wonderful, and fulfilling experience). We'll let you know when the next trip is planned—I'll see you there!

The ALA will be selling Poppies at **Sam's Club in West Mifflin** on May 24th and again on September 7th, from 9 AM-3PM, and invited the Membership to participate with the ALA.



**Welcome new Member Ann Guttendorf (U.S. Army).** Ann was at the meeting and had a chance to interact with some of the Membership. It's great to have you on-board. Hooah!

**Do you know of a Veteran, school or scouting organization that needs a sponsor?** If so talk to Vice Commander Lloyd Ray or any Officer as Post 712 may be able to help with sponsorship. This is a great opportunity to support your kids or your grandchildren's teams and events—Veterans, take advantage of the offer!

**Vice Commander Lloyd Ray** brought up the idea of conducting a raffle, a **Meat Raffle**. Such raffles have a history of success and during these times of rising costs having your freezer stocked full of meat from a butcher shop would be a great prize to win. The intent is to keep the ticket price low, such as \$5, to encourage easy sales and to give the winner something that is really worth winning. A motion was made and passed and Lloyd is now researching the matter more thoroughly.

**Pleasant Hills Community Day 2024** will be Sunday, August 10, 2024 and will be held in Mowry Park as usual.—SAVE THE DATE—Post 712 will have a stand set up for Community Day and will be asking Members to take an hour or so to Volunteer with the Post Officers to staff the stand. More to follow as the date draws nearer.

**Second Vice Commander John Dillon** floated the idea of **selling Post 712 patriotic t-shirts** at events such as Community Day. The shirts are not only patriotic and comfortable to wear, they also have the benefit of advertising for Post 712 to help get the word out that just because we sold the building does not mean there is no longer a Post 712. There was interest among the Membership so John will do some research and report on his findings.

**John and Adjutant Terry Choate** are working on an idea for a, ***Dinner with the Legion*** event at **Texas Roadhouse** in West Mifflin/Pleasant Hills. This would be a similar event to the event held by the Riders during November 2023 in which the Legion advertises to raise awareness of the event and receives a percentage of sales from the event. Terry has point and is working the issue.

Post 712 has a **new Facebook Group**—"**American Legion Post 712—The Virtual Post**". We have added the phrase, "The Virtual Post" to our Group to highlight that we are not sitting around a building talking about old times and whiling away the days. Post 712 is a dynamic organization that is growing to support Veterans in need and our local community. Though, once in a while of course, we'll still sit around talking about the old days when we were in Service as one of the benefits of the Legion is to be with your Veteran Brothers who understand what you went through!

# 712 IN ACTION

## SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

### January 2024

- ◆ National Cemetery of the Alleghenies Clean-up. Post 712 and friends volunteered at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies as part of the Wreath's Across America program.
- ◆ \$1,200 Donation to Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard to support local Veterans housing, skills, and life training. Equal to our 2023 donation to VP which was also \$1,200.
- ◆ \$200 Donation to Brentwood VFW 1810 by the Chapter 712 Legion Riders.

### February 2024

- ◆ \$170 Sponsorship to Thomas Jefferson High School Baseball Team.
- ◆ \$100 Sponsorship to Thomas Jefferson High School Theater for their production of *Beauty and the Beast*.

### March 2024

- ◆ \$2,000 Donation to Brentwood VFW Post 1810 for building improvements.
- ◆ \$1,100 Donation to Operation Troop Appreciation (OTA) in support of programs to help local Veterans and Service Members.
- ◆ Wooden Model Cobra Attack Helicopter, made in Vietnam, approx. 2 feet long, Donated to White Oak American Legion Post 701 to accompany the full-size version previously displayed at Post 712.
- ◆ *Plaque of Appreciation* presented to Castle Shannon American Legion Post 490 by the Chapter 712 Legion Riders in appreciation of continuing support.

**We'll say it again — Do you know of a Veteran, school or scouting organization that needs a sponsor?** If so Post 712 may be able to help with sponsorship. This is a great opportunity to support your kids or your grandchildren's teams and events—Veterans, take advantage of the offer!

# WELCOME & THANKS

## Welcome New Members

◆ **Ann Guttendorf (Army)**

## Thank You for Donations

Many thanks to those who donated. Donations ranged from \$25—\$100!

**Brian A. Griffin  
David Cherpak  
Ronald Gault  
Gary C. Dunsey  
Greg J. Felix  
Richard J. Terrick  
Sal Calo  
Raymond J. Ratay**

**James M. Mader  
Edward F. Hlad  
Daniel E. Capp  
John G. Danscak  
Kenneth A. Wincko  
Charles J. Marwood  
Elmer F. Falcione  
Nicholas R. Edinger**

## Thank You for Volunteering for Special Projects & Research

**Tom Bonura  
Terry Choate  
Ed Harmon  
Lloyd Ray  
Bill Weikel**

**John Caligiure  
John Dillon  
Nick Krawic  
Thad Weidman**

**Follow our Facebook group,  
*American Legion Post 712—The Virtual Post***

# 712 – TAPS

We have turned a corner to become a Virtual Post and are once again active participants in our community though not all of our Membership are with us. We pause to remember those we lost during the preceding 3 years. We remember the fallen as our neighbors, our friends, and our brothers—

<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>	
<b>Melvin Cheran</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>Ronald A. Lichalk</b>	<b>1/22</b>
<b>John Coll</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>Robert A. Tetzlaff</b>	<b>4/22</b>
<b>Rocco R. Jannetti Jr</b>	<b>1/21</b>	<b>Robert K. Lonergan</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>Edward H. Arnold</b>	<b>2/21</b>	<b>Walter C. Lostetter</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>Donald E. Marsteller</b>	<b>3/21</b>	<b>William C. Wolf</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>Joseph W. Booth</b>	<b>7/21</b>	<b>Ronald C. Yochum</b>	<b>5/22</b>
<b>James Warden</b>	<b>9/21</b>	<b>Edward R. Cherepko</b>	<b>6/22</b>
<b>Melvin Achtzehn</b>	<b>11/21</b>	<b>Ronald K. Cywinski</b>	<b>7/22</b>
<b>John P. Ward</b>	<b>11/21</b>	<b>Joseph Zipfel</b>	<b>7/22</b>
<b>Earl Fairman</b>	<b>12/21</b>	<b>Arthur R. Cipriani</b>	<b>8/22</b>
-----		<b>Lloyd T. Smoyer</b>	<b>8/22</b>
		<b>Joseph Weiss</b>	<b>8/22</b>
		<b>William T. Bittle</b>	<b>9/22</b>
		<b>Robert A. Griger</b>	<b>10/22</b>
		<b>Ronald W. Waldo</b>	<b>10/22</b>
		<b>Richard C. Weigold</b>	<b>11/22</b>
		<b>Ronald P. Bauman</b>	<b>12/22</b>
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# 712 – TAPS

**2023**

<b>Larry Metz</b>	<b>2/23</b>	<b>Thomas E. McMonagle</b>	<b>8/23</b>
<b>Anthony Consales</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>Frank Scharbo</b>	<b>8/23</b>
<b>David W. Ford</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>Nicholas F. Brietic</b>	<b>9/23</b>
<b>John P. Naschi</b>	<b>3/23</b>	<b>William Byers Sr.</b>	<b>10/23</b>
<b>Ronald C. Lewis</b>	<b>4/23</b>	<b>Anthony J. Canavan</b>	<b>11/23</b>
<b>Kenny Ulrich</b>	<b>5/23</b>	-----	
<b>Frank A. Gnazzo</b>	<b>6/23</b>		
<b>John R. Bozek</b>	<b>7/23</b>		
<b>Delbert C. Keener Jr.</b>	<b>7/23</b>		





# KEVIN KORDZI M. ED

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY TOP

### VETERANS PLACE OF WASHINGTON BOULEVARD

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of speaking with **Kevin Kordzi, M. Ed, the Executive Director of Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard** for his insight into supporting local Veterans in need. To begin with, Kevin very heartily thanked the Membership of American Legion Post 712 for our donation of \$1,200 during 2023 and our current donation of \$1,200 during 2024.

Before our discussion I reviewed the Mission Statement of Veterans Place which was found to be simply worded and to the point – *The Mission of Veterans Place is to empower veterans' transition from homelessness to home, ending the cycle of homelessness, and to assist all at-risk veterans to become engaged, valuable citizens who contribute to their communities.*

As to background, Kevin was previously a Board Member, though accepted the role of Executive Director during November 2023. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Development followed by a Master of Education degree in Counselor Education from Penn State University and has a tremendous breadth of experience he brings with him to Veterans Place. His previous roles include Case Manager and Clinical Supervisor for Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services; Street Level Drug and Alcohol Counselor in New Kensington; and one of his first rolls was a Direct Care Provider at Mars Home for Youth also in Butler County

- When asked to tell us about Veterans Place (VP) Kevin noted three key operational venues in which VP helps Veterans in need.

1. Kevin stated there are about 750 Homeless Veterans in Allegheny County and a key first step is to **find and offer Vets access to services**. To do this VP drives to various homeless camps throughout the County and will pick up Homeless Veterans and transport them back to VP for a solid breakfast and lunch. VP works with these Vets to ensure they connect with the Veterans Administration and also provides training opportunities for skills such as resume writing.



2. For Homeless Vets who are committed to rejoining mainstream society, VP provides **Transit Housing** on-site in the form of a 52-bed unit complete with a partnership with the Allegheny Health Network (AHN) Street Medicine Team. The average stay for occupants is 7-8 months during which formerly Homeless Vets are getting healthy, improving life skills, and preparing to re-enter the workforce. It is also a time when these Veterans can start saving money for rent once they leave VP.

3. The third key area of aid is **Workforce Development**, during which Vets receive training and familiarization in skills to help them get and keep a job. Kevin noted the average hourly rate for Veterans in the program is \$17.85, which is a livable wage and enough for these Veterans to get back on their feet and keep moving forward.

During 2022 VP Fed 9,434 meals for Veterans and families and served over 800 Veterans all while preparing and placing 97 Veterans in sustainable employment. Further, 100% of Veterans in the Workforce Development program did attain sound employment.

When asked, what's next for VP? Kevin stated VP is in the process of expanding especially in transitional housing as when asked, Veterans report one of the greatest aspects of VP is they feel safe there. Currently VP has plans to build a 3-story building on-site to increase transitional housing. Kevin also noted a need to support female Veterans with children as many of these Veterans fall through societal cracks though they are frequently the persons with the greatest need.



To close out the discussion, Kevin was asked what message he wanted to leave with the Post 712 Membership, to which he again thanked the Membership for their recurring donations and noted the most important message is for the Membership to become familiar with the great work of Veterans Place and their mission to aid Veterans. In doing this, getting the word out, the potential to positively impact Veterans increases exponentially. Kevin also invited the Post 712 Membership to visit Veterans Place to tour the facilities and see up close for themselves the great work being done to help Vets in need – to which your Officers of Post 712 will explore putting a trip together for the Membership.

# POST 712 DONATES \$2,000 TO BRENTWOOD VFW POST 1810

Post 712 donated \$2,000 to VFW Post 1810 through a Membership vote, as part of VFW's Spring initiative. Both organizations got together at the VFW meeting on March 12th, 2024, during which the presentation was conducted. Most people do not realize **VFW 1810 hosts several organizations** within the building and is an anchor in the local Veterans Community. In fact, many members of Post 712 are dual members of VFW Post 1810.

Representing the Legion were **dual members** John Dillon, Nick Krawec, Dave Masslon, Thad Weidman, and Terry Choate, of which Thad and Terry made the presentation to VFW Post Commander Chuck Beattie. The donation was a way for the Legion to show their appreciation for the courtesy and camaraderie received from VFW 1810 and will be used for interior renovations.



We previously talked about the unforeseen benefit of Post 712 being a **Virtual Post** allowing us to maximize helping Veterans and supporting the Community. Though, even with this tangible benefit there is no way around the fact that when we hold a meeting or just want to get together as a group, we need a facility large enough to accommodate everyone.

This is where VFW Post 1810 stepped up as a partner and graciously allowed Post 712 to conduct Monthly Meetings and Social Events. Legion Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month. The Regular Meeting convenes at 7 PM. There's plenty of parking so c'mon down and join us.

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO RETURN PHOTOGRAPHS TO PAST COMMANDERS

The Committee is pleased to report we have found nearly **all** Past Commanders or family members and were able to return all photos except six (6). As you recall the Membership voted that photos of Past Commanders should be returned to those persons or their families as a memento of their service to Post 712. The overwhelming response from Past Commanders and their families has been extremely positive and thankful to the Membership of the Post.



If you know how to get in touch with these Past Commanders or their families' please let us know or provide our contact information to them.

Email [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org)  
 Phone 412-901-0327  
 On Facebook as *American Legion Post 712—Virtual*



**William S. Hoop 1952-1953 &  
 1959-1961**  
**Thomas Tindall 1968-1969**  
**Jack Sabina 1970-1972 &  
 1978-1979**

**Rege Donnelly 1991-1993**  
**Robert Burch 1993-1994**  
**Dave Prop 1994-1995**

*We thought we had a lead on finding the family of Rege Donnelly, but it fizzled out.*

# COBRA ATTACK HELICOPTER

Members of Post 712 visited Post 701 – White Oak to present a model of a Cobra Attack Helicopter. The model is about 2 feet long, made of wood and is marked, “Vietnam.” The model was displayed in Post 712 for years.

Post 701 Commander Glenn Lynn received the model from 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon. When Post 712 sold our building it was Post 701 that worked with the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive & Armaments Command in Detroit, MI, to take possession of the real Cobra that was previously displayed in front of Post 712. It wasn't long before we realized the model should stay with the Post that has the actual Cobra.

The Post 712 contingent traveled to Post 701 to enjoy the Fish Fry and present the model Cobra. Remember a **Legionnaire may visit any Legion at any time, just have your up-to-date Legion ID card with you.** With that thought in mind, consider a visit to 701 to enjoy the food or just check out the new display area of both the real and model Cobra's. The Post 701 address for your GPS is 2813 Capitol St, White Oak, PA.



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 712

## VIRTUAL

### Elected Officers

Commander—

Dave Halpern

1st Vice Commander—

Lloyd Ray

2nd Vice Commander—

John Dillon

Finance—

Thad Weidmann

Sergeant-at-Arms—

Tom Bodner

Executives-at-Large

1. Susan Coville-Cook

2. Nick Krawec

3. Don Rottman

### Appointed Officers

Adjutant—Terry Choate

Chaplain-S. Coville-Cook

Judge Advocate—

Nick Krawec

Svc Officer— Don Rottman

Webmaster-

Thad Weidmann

*The Phoenix* Ed—

John Dillon

USA@ALPost712PA.org

### POST 712 MEETINGS

- ◆ The 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227 (VFW blding).

### Contact American Legion Post 712

- ◆ USA@ALPost712PA.org
- ◆ 412-901-0327
- ◆ Business Office: American Legion Post 712, 610 Old Clairton Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236
- ◆ Facebook: *American Legion Post 712-Virtual*
- ◆ Website *ALPost712PA.org*

### Membership Requirements

- ◆ Having served at least one day on active duty since December 7, 1941
- ◆ Having served honorably
- ◆ Copy of DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- ◆ Call or email for more information
- ◆ Annual Dues = \$37.00

We are the new Post 712. Members and prospective Members are encouraged to attend!

# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

## CHAPTER 712

### Elected Officers

Director—

Lloyd Ray

Assistant Director—

John Dillon

Treasurer—

Beverly Weikel

Secretary—

Susan Dillon

Chaplain—

Mark Smith

### Riders Meetings

- ◆ The first Wednesday of the Month at 7 PM.  
The next Riders Meeting is on April 3rd
- ◆ At 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (Rt 51), PGH, PA 15227 (VFW Bldg)

### Contact the Riders

- ◆ 412-606-8812
- ◆ [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org)
- ◆ FB [American Legion Riders Chapter 712](#)
- ◆ Mailing Address

American Legion Riders Chapter 712  
American Legion Post 712  
610 Old Clairton Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15236

### Membership with the Riders

1. Be a member of the Legion Family, Veteran, SAL, or ALA
2. Own a motorcycle, trike, Can-Am or similar vehicle (750cc or above)
3. Be licensed & have valid insurance
4. You do not have to be a Member of Post 712, you may be a member of any Post and join the Post 712 Riders



# RIDE AND EVENT CALENDER

- ⇒ **Monday, May 27th, 2024**— Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremonies and Events. Details to follow.
- ⇒ **Thursday, June 20th, 2024**—**Foxburg Club Ride** beginning at 10 AM to Foxburg, PA for a trip to the Foxburg Winery and the homemade chocolate store. Club Rides are free for Members and Friends, just a day of riding. Lunch will be at the Allegheny Grille which is located on the shores of the Allegheny River near the Winery. Smitty will lead this Annual Ride. Empty your saddle bags and bring spare towels (to pack the wine bottles you buy). Details to follow.
- ⇒ **Saturday, July 13th, 2024**—**West Brownsville American Legion Riders Chapter 940 Ride for Autism**. The 11th Annual Ride during which the 940 Riders partner with ACT (Autism Care Today) who receive all proceeds. Proceeds used to directly support Military families impacted by Autism. **The 712 Riders are not only participants but are also sponsors of this ride.**
- ⇒ **Tuesday, August 6, 2024**—National Night Out. Details to follow.
- ⇒ **Saturday, August 10th, 2024**— Pleasant Hills Community Day.
- ⇒ Other Rides and events being planned—stay tuned ...



**Still Serving...  
And Riding!**

**American Legion Riders**

# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

## POST 712

### Elected Officers

President—  
Mary Ann Marunich  
1st Vice President—  
Donna McCrumb  
2nd Vice President—  
Carol Stoodt  
Treasurer—  
Eileen Halpern  
Secretary—  
Chris Bodner

Check us Out!

Members and prospective Members are encouraged to attend!



### ALA Meetings

- ◆ The 3rd Monday of the month at 7 PM
- ◆ At the Post 712 Business Office conference room at 610 Old Clairton Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

### Contact ALA Post 712

- ◆ Contact Mary Ann for more information  
412-330-7863  
Snookie1938@aol.com

### Save the Date

- ◆ May 24th & September 7th—Poppy Sales at Sams Club in West Mifflin
- ◆ August 10th—Pleasant Hills Community Day with Post 712 to host a display.
- ◆ Volunteers Welcome for all events — The more the merrier

**AMERICAN  
LEGION  
AUXILIARY**



# THE LAST PAGE

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## ADVERTISE IN *THE PHOENIX*

Would you like to be associated with the American Legion and reach several thousand Customers in the form of Legionnaires and their family and friends in the South Hills area? All thru multiple advertising channels including Facebook, the internet, *The Phoenix*, word of mouth, and direct email from Post 712? All while supporting Veterans, Youth, and the local Community thru Post 712?

Of course you would, so consider a Sponsorship of Post 712 thru, ***The Phoenix***. Business or personal messages may be posted and are guaranteed to be displayed for **three monthly editions of the newsletter or 90 days**, whichever is longer, plus will be included on multiple Facebook and internet sites and will be directly emailed to Legionnaires and there family and friends thru *The Phoenix*.

- ◆ **Full page x 3 months = \$75 (7.5" wide by 9.5" long)**
- ◆ **1/2 page x 3 months = \$40 (7.5" wide by 4.75" long)**
- ◆ **1/4 page x 3 months = \$25 (3.75" wide by 4.75" long)**

Contact for details, 412-901-0327 or [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org).

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## *THE PHOENIX* WELCOMES GUEST CONTRIBUTORS

Do you have a story to tell from your days in uniform? Would you like to share your experiences with the VA? How about sharing stories about what's going on locally within the community such as Veteran and Youth programs. Family Members, would you like to share news of a relative who served in the Military and deserves public recognition? If you would like to share your thoughts with the Post 712 Family call or email John at 412-901-0327 or [USA@ALPost712PA.org](mailto:USA@ALPost712PA.org).