

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • August 2016

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Commander's Call

I am humbled by your interest and votes to re-elect me to serve as your Commander for a second term. I am extremely proud to lead our Post into the future. Our past elections went extremely well and we will have an extraordinarily strong team that will lead the charge regarding future challenges. The team members will perform their jobs with the leadership strengths and skills they had already accomplished in their workplace. While I thank and congratulate our new members, I must reflect back to when I first came on board and want to thank Don Rottman for the tremendous amount of leadership he provided, his strong work ethic, consistent dedication and caring for his fellow veterans, and for just being a great friend. Don has chosen to step down from Jr. Vice Commander and from the Home Association Board for a short time for personal reasons, but he will continue to provide his strong support for our Legion. We will greatly miss Don at the table, but we are confident he will be back very shortly!



While a strong team is being developed locally at the Legion, we also have a new District Commander. Last week Linda and I met with **Brent Johnson**, our new District Commander. He is excited about his new position and in the direction our Post is moving. Our post is highly regarded in many District Legion circles as our membership continues to grow and because we are very aggressive regarding steps we will be taking that will lead us to our future success. Speaking of our future, the direction our Home Association taking is really beginning to gel. I believe we took a great step forward by changing our By-Laws which now allows the SAL

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Sr. Vice Commander
AL DI LEMBO

Jr. Vice Commander
DON ROTTMAN

Adjutant
LINDA WOJNAR

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
FRANK CAPUTO

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS D.
KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS

HOME ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President
RUSS WILSON

Vice President
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary

Treasurer
ROB BUTELLI

Board Members

DAVE KRILL

JOHN DILLON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

DON ROTTMAN



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Commander's Call
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and ALA members to attend Home Association meetings. Our By-laws state that these members cannot vote, but their participation and suggestions will greatly add substance to future plans along with adding Post transparency. We also hope this change provide more immediate buy-in events and changes that we are proposing for the future. We all need to be on the same page and to all be striving toward the same goals. I want to share for those of you who may have attended these meetings in the past, the tone of the meetings are now very positive. We do not tolerate negative attitudes at these meetings. All voices are heard as long as the tone is respectful of all members. No one wants to attend a meeting if negativity prevails. The expectation is that everyone will leave each meeting with his or her dignity!

Please mark your calendars for **August 9 at 7:00 PM**. This is the date that has been selected for our **Post Officer Installation Ceremony**. Once everyone is officially in place, I will make announcements regarding our new Directors who will be taking their Posts in the Home Association. We have expanded the number of board members as were already approved in the By-Laws. A brief view of their duties and job descriptions will be shared. This is an exciting time for our Legion.

I know and understand that not everyone likes change, but continuing on the path we are on at this time will not lead us to be fiscally responsible. The Legion is a business. Like all other businesses we have overhead that must be maintained to keep this Post viable. Coming to our meetings will give you a chance to understand our funding issues, needs of the organization, and why it is so vitally important to make positive changes.

Another date to circle on your calendar is **September 3**. This is the day we have selected to honor our **World War II Era and Korean War Era Veterans**. Those of you who served in the military during the war eras (**WWII Era Dates: December 7, 1941-December 31, 1946 and Korean War Era Dates: June 25, 1950-January 31, 1955**) are invited to the dinner, which starts at **4:00 PM**. The dinner is free of charge to these Veterans. Family members who accompany our veterans will pay a nominal fee of \$5.00 for each guest. We have several Veterans who served in the military during these war eras but who felt they weren't able to attend this dinner

because they either served in countries you wouldn't think were connected with these wars or who were activated and remained state-side. All of you are welcome as well! Please plan to attend to show your support for these Veterans who gave so much for their country in times of war.

We also need volunteers to assist us in making this dinner an event these Veterans and their family members will remember for the rest of their lives. To date, there has been a vast amount of planning done by many devoted members, but our work will not be complete until September 3. As of this writing, our United States Senator Guy Reschenthaler (USN) and Representatives Rick Saccone (USAF Ret.) and Bill Kortz will also be in attendance along with various local politicians. These guests will be attending as Veterans, not as politicians. All of these veterans will be our guests. A great dinner is planned at no cost to them. Volunteers assisting us at this dinner will also be able to enjoy the dinner at no cost. Non-volunteer members and their family members will be charged \$5.00 for the dinners.

We have a great amount of future events planned in the up-and-coming year. Now is an excellent time to step up and volunteer some of your time and expertise to be an active part of your Post. We always need an extra set of hands and you will have that personal sense of accomplishment when you volunteer! In closing, I want to again thank everyone for your support, for your loyalty, and for allowing me to lead the charge as your Commander.

As always, we support our troops.
Richard J. Wojnar
Post 712 Commander

What You Might Not Know About The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies: How Morgan Road got its name. *By Craig F. Kern*

This article is a reflection about Ralph Casciello's recent burial ceremony, the sacred land that is committed to our military families and information you may not know about the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies.

The Morgan farm was located in Cecil Township, North Central Washington County, Pennsylvania is almost within walking distance of the Allegheny County line. Generations of the Morgan family raised their crops and families here, but today the only reminder of that family is the sign where the township road intersects with the Washington Pike: Morgan Road.

Today, Morgan Road is the only access to The National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. On rolling farm land 292 acres has been dedicated and reserved for the burial of our veterans. The first burial was in August, 2005, and today more than 13,000 people are buried here. Not all of those who are buried are veterans. Some of them are spouses and a few of them are dependent children of veterans. This is sacred ground!

In school, we learned a poem that began: *"In Flanders field the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row..."* Each time that I visit the National Cemetery the military precision with which every head stone is placed reminds me of that poem. The sheer number of head stones is overwhelming. From every angle the straight lines from several views is spectacular, but the vast number of headstones is mind boggling.

On days when interments are taking place the garrison flag is at half-staff. When the interments for the day are complete it is raised to full-staff. To facilitate those who visit, a computer locator is avail-

able which will supply a printout of the section and grave number to assist finding the person they are seeking to locate. The branch of the service to which each veteran belonged usually supplies personnel to fold and present the flag to the family, but I have had to assist on occasion.

On June 29, 2016, Ralph Casciello of our Post 712 was interred at the National Cemetery. His service was, in my opinion, how it should be done. A priest of his denomination performed a "blessing service" at the funeral home. The flag which sat in the casket at his left shoulder was draped on the casket before we processed to the cemetery. The legionaries of post 712 acted as pall bearers. Our Chaplain Ed Hlad delivered a prayer. The Brentwood VFW performed their interment ceremony which included a rifle salute and the playing of taps. Two United States Army sergeants folded the flag, and presented it to his niece.

On June 30, 2016, I participated in the interment of three veterans. Each veteran received the same final service. On this day the VFW rendered their burial service, a rifle salute was fired, taps were played, and the flag draping the casket was folded. If family or friends were present, it was presented to them. For one veteran, religious rites were performed. For the others, we had no information of the veterans' religious affiliation so only silent prayer was said by those present.

This year alone, along with our fellow legionaries Harry Klose, and Dave Park, I have participated in over 20 interments. Many of the veterans we inter are homeless, or indigent - some have no family or friends. These are the veterans that break my heart. I wonder WHY, where is the family, but I am honored that I can do this small service to remember the veteran, and his service to our country. We welcome any one that would like to join us.



National Cemetery of the Alleghenies is located
1158 Morgan Rd, Bridgeville, PA

SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
JAMES CHRISTOFEL

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO

Sgt-At-Arms
TIMOTHY MOWRY

Son's of the Legion,

Installation of Post 712 Officers for Legion, SAL, ALA and Riders will be on Tuesday August 9th at 7 PM.

Our Annual Picnic will be at Jefferson Park on Saturday, August 20th from 12-5 PM with food, beer, games and DJ Tim. Cost \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

ALA OFFICERS

President
MARY ANN MARUNICH

1st Vice President
DONNA McCRUMB

2nd Vice President
VICKY GOLDEN

Secretary
LEIGH ANNE CASTANET

Treasurer
ANNE GIOVANNITTI

Chaplain
BARBARA TERIHAY

Sgt-At-Arms
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms
PAT O'TOOLE

Auxiliary Corner,

Thank you to the Post for the generous check that they gave to me for the purchase of socks for the troops. I also want to thank the members who donated the items put in the veteran's box in the lobby. As soon as we have collected everything it will be picked up and sent to the troops that are deployed. Leigh Anne and I attended the convention in Harrisburg and picked up some new ideas that will be discussed at our meeting, July 25. We also went to the opening of the Legion's Convention and as usual it was very moving. Don't forget Installation on August 9. Gretchen is our new historian and this will be her first installation. The picnic will be on August 20th and it is the time to pay your dues. Please do not pay them online or by mail. **CASINO TRIP** A trip to Nemaconn Woodlands Casino is being planned for September 17th. Details will be posted soon and envelopes will be available to be filled in and left at the bar for Vicky Golden, the trip is \$40.00 and we will receive offers from the casino.

The next ALA meeting is August 22nd.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops.

Mary Ann Marunich
ALA President

Gather items** for the ALA Flea Market SEPT 24

** You may bring your items to the Legion after September 3rd. Please no furniture or clothes. Baby clothes are accepted.



President
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President
BILL ALLAN

Secretary
SUSAN DILLON

Adjutant
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain
MARK SMITH

Treasurer
BEVERLY WEIKEL

Deputy Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms
TOM BODNER

Sergeant-at-Arms
ED HARMON

Sr. Road Captain
DAN OELER

Road Captains
KEN LANCASTER
BOB STEFANIC
DAN TILLERY

American Legion Riders,

Salutations American Legion Family. Congratulations to the newly Elected Officers of the Riders for 2016 – 2017: **President John Dillon, Sr. VP Kevin Jackson, VP Bill Allan, Secretary Susan Dillon, Adjutant Lloyd Ray, Chaplain Mark Smith, Treasurer Beverly Weikel, Deputy Treasurer Bill Weikel, Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Sr. Road Captain Dan Oeler and Road Captains Ken Lancaster, Bob Stefanic and Dan Tillery.** Thank you all for stepping up and accepting the reigns of leadership!

During June the Riders travelled to Gettysburg where we spent a long weekend in this historic town nestled in the fields south of Harrisburg. About 24 bikes rode to see the sights, to revel in the ride and to enjoy the camaraderie that is the Riders Family. We had a great time, dined in historic restaurants, toured the battlefield and museums, relaxed pool side and enjoyed the ambiance that is Gettysburg, PA. Thanks to **Sr. VP Kevin Jackson** for setting up this event. **Kevin leads by example.**

Congratulations **Sons** and **ALA** who are now able to attend **Home Association** meetings. This change brings the Home Association back into line with National and Department by-laws of the American Legion and most importantly, allows all members of the American Legion Family to not only attend, but to also participate and be heard in matters pertaining to the business side of how Post 712 is operated. And a special thanks to **Commander Rich Wojnar** who spear-headed the effort to have the by-laws changed to the benefit of all members of the American Legion Family of Post 712. **Great Initiative Commander!**

Voter Registration: Please register to vote in the upcoming Presidential elections. The right to vote and the peaceful transition of power is the very foundation of the Freedoms that American men and women have fought and died for during the preceding 250 years. Exercise your right and honor the Veterans who fought for them on your behalf.

The next Club Ride is during July, to the scenic Foxburg Winery led by **Chaplain Mark Smith.** More to follow on this in our next edition.

*The next Riders meeting is
Tuesday, August 2nd,
at 1900 hours at Post 712.*

Hooah,
Top

August 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

POST 712



Jefferson Park

August 20, 2016

Cost: \$5.00 - Cover
\$20.00 - Family

Check us out . . .

See what is new
everyday. . .

-on-

The web site:

alpost712pa.org

-on-

Facebook:

[AmericanLegion.
Postsevenonetwo](http://AmericanLegion.Postsevenonetwo)



Web Master
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design
DONNA ROTTMAN

<p>CORN HOLE and BINGO Return in September!</p>	<p>1 POST MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>2 RIDERS MEETING 7:00</p>
<p>7 FREE POOL & JUKE BOX</p>	<p>8 HOME ASSOCIATION MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>9 INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS</p>
<p>14 RIDERS RIDE FOR THE FISHER HOUSE and THANK YOU DINNER FOR VOLUNTEERS</p>	<p>15 TRY A mike's hard black cherry lemonade</p>	<p>16 FREE POPCORN EVERYDAY</p>
<p>21 FREE POOL & JUKE BOX</p>	<p>22 ALA MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>23 GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE</p>
<p>28 FREE JUKE BOX & POOL</p>	<p>29 TRY A MOSCOW MULE!</p>	<p>30 CREAMSICLES \$2.75</p>

August 2016

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 <p>3</p> <p>\$1.00 DRAFTS FOR EVERY PIRATE GAME</p>	 <p>4</p> <p>DAY SPECIAL \$2.75</p>	<p>5</p> <p>SHRIMP SCAMPI OVER PASTA</p>	<p>FREE POOL 6</p>   <p>& JUKE BOX</p>
 <p>10</p> <p>BANANA HOT PEPPERS</p>	 <p>11</p> <p>WE HAVE WI-FI</p>	<p>12</p> <p>STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY</p>	<p>FREE POOL AND JUKE BOX 13</p>  
<p>SUMMER BINGO</p>  <p>17</p> <p>HAM SALAD OR CHICKEN CROISSANTS w/ FRUIT</p>	 <p>18</p> <p>SPECIAL \$2.75</p>	<p>19</p> <p>ITALIAN HOAGIES</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>LEGION PICNIC</p>
 <p>24</p> <p>STRAWBERRY DAIQUIRIS</p>	 <p>25</p> <p>SONS MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MEATLOAF MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY</p>	<p>FREE POOL & 27</p>   <p>JUKE BOX</p>
 <p>31</p> <p>PARTY WITH THE CREW!</p> <p>Captain Morgan® SPECIAL</p>	<p>NOTES: Corn Hole Returns in Sepetember SEPTEMBER 24TH FAMILY FEUD NIGHT. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PLAYING, PLEASE LET BARTENDER KNOW.</p>		

Friday Dinners - NON Smoking - OPEN to the Public

POST RUMORS

It has come to my attention that there is a rumor circulating around the Post, about my resigning my position as Junior Vice-Commander and my seat on the Home Association Board. The reason is I have some personal issues that I must take care of.

I have all the confidence in the world in Rich Wojnar, as our commander. He has done a remarkable job in his first year and I'm glad he has accepted a second term.

Very few people like change. But change is necessary if we want to maintain the high quality of our post. The people who write anonymous letters of protest or sit at the bar over a beer, complaining about the way things are being run, does nothing to help our post. I wonder if these people ever did any volunteering to help the post or even attend a meeting.

I was humbled by the people that approached me to run for commander, thank you for your confidence. I could not begin to do what our commander and his wife, Linda, do for our post. They have basically put their lives on hold to save and improve our Legion. They cannot do it alone.

Our post is lucky to have not only a good commander, we have other good leaders in John Dillon, president of "The American Legion Riders", Gary Hartman, president of the "Sons of the Legion and Mary Ann Marunich president of the "Ladies Auxiliary". We have a great nucleus of leaders. *What they need now is our support.*"

Just because a veteran receives his/her discharge does not mean service to his country or community should end. Veterans and their supports give back every day. Our legion is a perfect example of these special people. Giving of their time and energy is not only satisfying and enjoyable but personally rewarding.

Have you ever volunteered for a trip to the VA to play bingo with less fortunate veterans or preformed a funeral detail? How about doing dishes once every 6 or 8 weeks, to save the post much needed money! How about recruiting new members? The list goes on. We have one of the best Posts in Allegheny County-- *let's work together to keep it that way and move forward.*

I will continue to volunteer when possible and help out where ever I can. The camaraderie and friend ships I have enjoyed since being a member is priceless.

Sincerely, Don Rottman

INSTALLATION OF POST 712 OFFICERS

(Legion, SAL, ALA and
Legion Riders)

Date: **August 9, 2016**

Time: 7:00 PM

2017 Membership Information

From The Adjutant

You can pay your 2017 Legion dues (\$30.00). To the late notices and reminders from National, you can pay your dues early by mail, online at MyLegion.org taking dues to the Post (bar area) or paying at the Legion Picnic on August 20. Please write your phone number on your renewal slip when you pay your dues. It's very important for us to have your most current information on file. Although dues are due on January 1st each year, paying your dues early avoids all the reminders. You are welcome to pay your dues at the picnic on August 20th for \$30.00 cash or check. Thank you in advance!

AUGUST 14, VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

Any member of Post 712 who volunteer his or her assistance at Post events in any way from September 2015 – present time (ex. placing flags on graves, Lent-at-the-Legion, funeral detail, etc.) are asked to join us for a Volunteer Appreciation Day on August 14 (in combination with the riders run). You know who you are!!! The dinner is free to volunteers. Family accompanying members will pay \$5.00 at the door. The time will be 4:00 PM. Thank you in advance for all that you have done for the Post. We can't do it without you!!!!!!



**Caputo's
Corner**

*from Frank Caputo,
Post Service Officer*

- We will resume CPR classes at the post on Wednesday September 14 from 6 to 8 PM. Cost is \$15.00 per person and includes infant CPR and obstructed airway. Sign up at the bar, class size limited to 15. Family members and friends are invited to attend.
- We have a boy scout who is working on his Eagle Scout project. He is collecting socks, t-shirts, stamps, writing pads, toothpaste, tooth brushes, soap, combs and snacks. The items collected will be taken to the homeless veteran shelter on August 14. There is a collection box by the dart board, please be generous.

**WWII/KOREAN War Era
Veteran's Dinner**

When: Saturday, September 3, 2016

Where: Post 712

Time: 4:00 PM

Post 712 will pay for the dinner for each WWII and KOREAN WAR ERA VETERAN. Each guest will pay \$5.00 for their meal at the time of the event. Please RSVP by August 1.

Call Post Adjutant at 412-616-1834 or send an email to adjpost712@verizon.net.

There are several Legion members whom we do not have their war era or military service branch in their records. If you served in either of these eras: Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946 (WWII ERA) or June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955 (KOREAN WAR ERA), you are invited to the dinner. All we ask is that you RSVP by August 1.

**POST 712
ANNUAL PICNIC**
Jefferson Park
August 20, 2016

Time: 12:00 - 5:00
Cost: \$5.00 - a Person \$20.00 - Family
Games for the kids and Corn Hole for the adults

D.J. Tim

*Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Potatoe & Pasta Salads
and Beer*

TAPS



PAUL M SHATTING
4/2016

JOE DORKO
9/2015

WILLIAM WALZ - no date

JACK R SCHU
4/2016

ROBERT J. CAMPAGNA
7/2016