

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

• 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 •

February 2016

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



POST 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
BOB BLEICHNER

Judge Advocate
BOB HARTUNG

Sgt-At-Arms
RALPH CASCIELLO

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS



Commander's Call

I would like to wish everyone, and their loved ones, the happiest of New Years! In the corporate world, this is the time of year when various companies begin redefining their goals and missions for the up-and-coming year. Well, the Legion will also begin the New Year following the same principles to aid us in make good business decisions.



In the latter quarter of 2015, we discussed many issues and events for possible implementation in the very near future. The very near future is now upon us and it is time to act on our intentions. Although we have many ideas and events to implement, our first event will be our Open-to-the-Public - Lent-at-the-Legion.

Multiple meetings at the Post, along with contacting other Legions and businesses, have already taken place. I accepted an invitation to attend the Pleasant Hills Boro Planning Meeting on January 11, 2016 to explain our intentions regarding our Lenten venue, which will be Open-to-the-Public (No Smoking), as well as to discuss our long range planning that will involve the Legion in all applicable community activities. We have many ideas and plans "ready for the launch pad" and we have the right people involved to make these plans come into fruition.

I want to thank everyone who attended the January 4th. Legion Meeting. As per our newsletter announcement, we had two items to vote on (by ballots) at the January meeting. One ballot was to elect four Members-at-Large for our Executive Committee, since our By-Laws require the Legion to conduct monthly Executive Committee Meetings prior to the monthly Legion Meeting, and the second ballot was to vote on the Open-to-the-Public - Lent-at-the-Legion where we will have No Smoking from 4-8 PM during these events.

The ballot vote to make the Open-to-the-Public- Lent-at-the-Legion a Non Smoking Event passed unanimously. During my tenure as Commander, I have received numerous outside contacts who expressed that families would attend such events, but smoking became the issue. I want to thank everyone for his/her support regarding this issue. It is vital that we hold events such as these to maximize critically needed funding.

The second ballot to vote on four Members-at-Large for the Executive Committee was also conducted. The Executive Committee consists of the following mem-

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FEBRUARY 2016



CORPORATION
OFFICERS

President
RUSS WILSON

VicPresident
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary
JOHN DILLON

Treasurer
ROB BUTELLI

Board Members
DAVE KRILL
BUZ HANDSHUE
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN
DON ROTTMAN

Web Master
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

<p>HAPPY HOUR Monday thru Thursday from 4:00 - 7:00 Buckets of Beer 4 for \$7.50 (Domestics Only)</p>	<p>1</p> <p>HAPY HOUR 4:00 - 7:00 BUCKETS OF BEER ◦ POST MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>2</p> <p> Bowling PENS 7:00 ◦ RIDERS MEETING 7:00</p>
<p>7</p> <p> SLOPPY JOES AND POT LUCK BRING A DISH</p>	<p>8</p> <p> Make your reservations for Valentine's Dinner only ◦ LEGION MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>9</p> <p> Happy Hour Mon.- Fri. 4:00 - 7:00 Bucket Special</p>
<p>14</p> <p> Valentines Day FREE POOL  FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 - Close</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Happy Hour Mon.- Fri. 4:00 - 7:00 Buckets of Beer Presidents' Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p> BOWLING</p>
<p>21</p> <p>PENS - 12:30 Draft Beer</p> <p>ANNUAL CORP. MEETING 1:00 PM Regular Members</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Happy Hour 4 - 7   Buckets of Beer \$7.50 Monday thru Thursday</p>	<p>23</p> <p> 4:00 - 7:00 Bucket Special</p>
<p>28</p> <p>PENS 7:00 FREE Pool & Juke Box </p>	<p>29</p> <p>Happy Hour 4 - 7   Monday thru Thursday ◦ ALA MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>Look for these events in March ... ◦ Ham & Cabbage ◦ DJ with Cher Impersonator</p>

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FEBRUARY 2016

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

 <p>3</p> <p>BINGO 7:00 DIFFERENT FOOD SPECIAL EVERY WEEK SLOPPY JOES</p>	<p>4</p> <p>CORN HOLE</p>	<p>5</p> <p>DINNER SPECIAL STUFFED PORK <i>Pens</i></p>	<p>6</p> <p>PENS 7:00</p> <p>FREE JUKE BOX</p> 
 <p>10</p> <p>Ash Wednesday Fish Fry 4 till 8:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>CORN HOLE 6:30</p> <p>◦ ENTERTAINMENT MEETING 6:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>PENS - 7:00 FISH FRY TAKE OUT AVAILABLE</p>  <p>LENT MENU ONLY 4 - 8</p>	<p>13</p> <p>♥</p> <p>VALENTINE'S DINNER <i>(make your reservations for dinner only by Monday Feb. 8th - see Lisa)</i></p> <p>DJ Tim 8-12 ♥</p>
 <p>17</p> <p>Stuffed Shells</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PENS - 7:00</p> <p>CORN HOLE</p>	<p>19</p> <p>FISH FRY TAKE OUT AVAILABLE</p>  <p>LENT MENU ONLY 4 - 8</p>	<p>20</p> <p>PENS -12:30</p> <p>Bus Trip Coming from Dravosburg</p>
 <p>24</p> <p>HOT MEATLOAF SANDWICHES</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Happy Hour 4 - 7</p>  <p>Monday thru Thursday</p> <p>◦ SAL MEETING 7:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>FISH FRY TAKE OUT AVAILABLE</p>  <p>LENT MENU ONLY 4 - 8</p>	<p>27</p>  <p>PENS 3:00 FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 - Close</p>

Lenten Special
 ...Every Friday

TAKE OUT AVAILABLE
 412-653-1555



- * PUBLIC INVITED
- * NO SMOKING
- * OPEN HOUSE 4-8
- * SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL VETERANS

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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,

Thanks to Russ Wilson for the donations for veterans box that is in the entrance way. Please try to fill it as the vets are in bad need in this cold weather. They need gently used outerwear badly. I can take them anything you can spare. Our last trip to Southwestern is still being talked about. They had 36 vets at the bingo. Thanks to everyone that found time to go. We will be having a Bingo Party there again on March 14th. Try to fit it into your planning book now. Three of our ladies were in the hospital this month so please get some cards out to Carol Vangura, Marg Anderson and Chris Mates. Hope they are all home and doing well. Our "ham and cabbage" dinner will be on March 12th and again we will be having a DJ. The county meeting is on Saturday, February 6th and our state president will be there and we would like a big attendance. Our next meeting will be February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

God bless and protect our troops.
Mary Ann Marunich
ALA President

**Next Meeting
February 22nd
at 7:00 p.m.**



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

Sons of the Legion,

We are sad to say that the Steeler season is over, but would like to thank everyone that helped or attended the games.

The month of February for the SAL is very quiet but the Legion is having several events that need your support. Hope to see SAL members participate at the Legion Fish Fries and other events that will be going on at the Legion.

Reminder the SAL meetings are the last Thursday of every month. Hope to see more members attend.

Gary C. Hartman
Commander of the SAL

Check us out. . .
see what's new every day!

Web site: alpost712pa.org
Facebook: [AmericanLegion.Postsevenonetwo](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion.Postsevenonetwo)

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President
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President
BILL ALLAN

Secretary
SUSAN DILLON

Sr. Road Captain
DAN OELER

Road Captain
STEVE HORVATH

Road Captain
DAVE PETERSON

Road Captain
DAN TILLERY

Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms
TOM BODNER

Sergeant-at-Arms
ED HARMON

Treasurer
MIKE DUDENUS

Assistant Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Adjutant
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain
MARK SMITH

American Legion Riders,

Greetings American Legion Family. Only one more month until March and the weather turns for Riding Season. I can't wait.

We all know Rider Deborah Hromanik is a great painter who shares her talents to help those of us less skilled in the fine arts to learn to paint. However, did you know that on January 17th Deborah visited the Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard to hold a painting session to benefit the Veterans Place and Veterans with PTSD? Deborah volunteered her time, effort and resources to benefit local Vet's in our area. What a great way to start off the New Year. Thank you Deborah. Well Done!

Congratulations to Ed Schmidt who was voted-in as a Rider during the January meeting. Ed is a great guy who has teamed with the Riders in the past to support Veteran's causes. It's great to have you on-board!

The Riders will conduct Club Rides during May thru October during 2016; though we tend to have allot of unofficial rides beginning as early as March. Mark your calendars for Sunday, August 14th, as the Riders will hold our annual Benefit Ride on this day. The Ride will take us through the winding roads of the Laurel Highlands to the Flight 93 National Memorial and will be led by Senior Road Captain Dan Oeler. Construction on the Memorial is now completed. This Ride will mark the 15th Anniversary of the attacks against our Nation; and most importantly, the heroism of those who fought back.

The Riders will also participate in Rolling Thunder, the Annual National Ride of the American Legion to Washington D. C. during the Memorial Day weekend in remembrance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Another great Ride will take us for a long weekend to Gettysburg, led by Senior Vice President Kevin Jackson. The Gettysburg Ride is always a favorite.

The February meeting of the Riders will be held at 1900 hours, Tuesday, February 2nd. All members and perspective members are encouraged to attend. Those interested in joining should call President John Dillon, 412-606-8812 for more information.

Hooah,
Top

Mark your calendar
Annual Benefit Ride
Sunday, August 14th

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Commander's Call continued from page 1 . . .

bers: Commander, First Vice and Second Vice Commanders, Adjutant, Treasurer and a minimum of four Members-at-Large. I would like to take this time to congratulate our new Members-at-Large: Frank Caputo, Service Officer, Don Smoley, Thad Weidmann, Corporation Manager, and Frank Koval. This steering committee is extremely important to the success of your Legion. They will provide the necessary guidance and support in order to make your Legion move forward in a positive direction.

We had a great showing of members at our January meeting and this is exactly what we need at all future scheduled functions. Our monthly Legion meeting is the appropriate forum where ideas and concerns should be voiced with others. This meeting is the place where ideas can and do turn into actions. Our Legion Meeting is the first Monday of each month. We are currently conducting a membership drive. I am happy to report that we are "leading the pack" in regards to other Legions. District 36, our District, set the February 1 membership goal (for 2016 dues to be paid) at 91%. We passed the 91% goal in the latter part of December, 2015. I would like to thank all members who contributed to the 91% and would like to encourage those of you who have not paid to do so as soon as possible.

I would especially like to thank any members who have recruited new members in 2015 and would like to challenge all members to at least recruit one person to join our Post in 2016. To clarify, dues for each year are due on the first day of the New Year (January 1).

For us to exceed these membership percentages that the District has set, we instituted several changes with memberships this past quarter. I personally send a thank you letter to all of our Legion members when they renew their dues, whether you renew in person, online or by mail. For members who have been with us for extended periods of time, I write a note at the bottom of your letter to acknowledge your extended years of service at the Legion. I have received numerous positive comments from members who have received my letters and notes, but I want to tell you my words are not idle words. I sincerely do appreciate your allegiance and continued support of this Legion. I intentionally hand write your name in your letter and end by personally signing my name to let you know you are not just a number to me.

The adjutant has made and will continue to answer your calls and emails, make phone calls and send emails to members who have not yet renewed their dues and to welcome all new members and transfers of the Post. We do need your current phone number and email address written on your membership renewal forms to update our records. The purpose of calling all new members of the Post is to improve our customer service and to inform new members of their eligibility to join either the SAL (Sons of the American Legion), ALA (Legion Auxiliary), or Legion Riders.

If you need assistance obtaining a DD214 or with completing the paperwork, please call the adjutant at 412-616-1834.

In closing, I look ahead to a heavy-activity event filled and profitable New Year. I cannot do it without your "can do" support.

As always, we support our troops!

Richard J. Wojnar



Membership Information from the Adjutant:

Thank you to ALL members who have paid their 2016 dues. Annual dues are due on or before the first day of the New Year. If you receive a payment reminder notice from National and you have your 2016 membership card from Post 712, please disregard that notice.

For those members who have not paid their 2016 dues, key cards will be temporarily suspended until your dues have been paid.

For those members whose last year of paid membership was 2014, you still have time to renew your dues. If you pay your 2015 and 2016 dues, your years of service with the Legion will continue. If you choose to pay 2016 (without paying 2015 dues), your years of service with the Legion will revert back to 1-year.

Remember, you can pay your dues at the Legion (bar area), by mail, or online at mylegion.org.

Thank you!

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Listen Up.....

from our Sr. Vice Commander

In today's world there is one fundamental and meaningful difference in various veteran's organizations. It's not the size or number of memberships or officers, although the more members the better, or is it just product mix. This difference runs much deeper here at Legion Post 712, we will not be pushed, propelled or pulled into any activities that will be detrimental to our post or the members therein, and we strive to be the best! This is an American Legion Post 712- not a club.

This philosophy permeates throughout our entire organization, our sense of responsibility covers pride and membership commitment along with esprit de corps. Gentlemen front and center, you have permission to come aboard, attend our meetings and voice your opinions. Can we count on you? Remember opportunity does not work by remote control.

Sr. Vice Commander
Al Di Lembo

Dear Regular Members,

We will conduct our Annual meeting on Sunday, **February 21, 2016 at 1:00 pm** at The Post. We will review the financials for 2015 and project, set goals for 2016. We will conduct our annual elections for the Board Members and Officers. We have a lot of great ideas for 2016, we need your input. I urge all regular members to attend. Food and one free drink will be served after the meeting. Please support your post.

Thank you,
Russ Wilson
President, Board of Directors

CPR Classes are filling up fast ...

Call 412-616-1834

Next class . . . March 9, 2016

to be held at the Legion Post 712.

...

Class Date: March 9, 2016 Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$10 Per Person

Class Size: Minimum 6 - Maximum 12

call 412-616-1834 or sign up at the bar

TAPS



With Honor and Gratitude
We Remember . . .

ROBERT BOOTAY
2/2015

May you Rest in Peace my Friend.

VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION



Saturday, February 13th
Dinner 5:00 until 7:30



Prime Rib \$16.95
Shrimp (5) 13.95
Chicken Romano 12.95

*All Dinners Come with Soup, Potato,
Dinner Rolls and Dessert!

Please Make Reservations for
Dinner Only by Monday, February 8th



Music to Dance by DJ Tim
8:00 Until 12:00



OUR HEROES . . .

Captain Al Dilembo

1943 - 72 Years

American Legion Post 712 Sr. Vice Commander

Late at night as I wander through the hallways of my mind, I, too, have some thing to pass on the next generation. I consider myself luckier than the generation today. I am too old for the modern world anyway. It's too late for me to change at my age. It's a blessing just to be alive. I still have gripes of course, but in my overall contemplative moments my mind is one of thanksgiving. Looking back when the richness of life lay in fond memories of a growing up boy and flying the world was a different place. I often recall many funny things along with those of my tragic service days. Thoughts that still linger and will never be forgotten.

Veterans

Why write about them at this hour? Why open the door of a room sealed off in my mind for many years? I choose to walk among my buddies of the past, for we shared many thoughts of the war. I laughed, cried, and drank with them till dawn many times. There was never an official history written of them. No anthologist ever brought back the full savor if their ignorance, valor, or their ultimate skills. The Gulf between veterans of today and their sons was fought in a more complex war which was simply unfathomable. But I write of all ranks, enlisted, commissioned, pastors, rabbi's and priests, who many times without the benefit of artillery, tanks and air cover, charged into enemy positions where they were cut down like new mown hay – badly wounded or died without help. I have avoided as much as possible the traits of professional historians, who would instantly recognize me as an armchair imposter, but I must occasionally sketch the big picture and can only hope that readers will find my words designed to be read and remembered, and not studied. World War II, like all others was a matter for laughter and tears, sometimes too deep for sorrow or tears. We shall never forget these men for they have many untold and unforgettable memories. Today young men lacking wisdom to grasp the tragedy of war, often lack a mature grasp of danger. Only years later will they come to understand, only then will they wake up in a cold sweat, remembering what, like animals, they did without fear. We were the willing, led by the unknown, doing the impossible, for the ungrateful. We have now done so much, for so long, for so many with so little. We can now do anything with nothing.

We, as older veterans, cannot repay those of today who still engage the enemy on foreign soil, for our country and the great nation we have inherited. Remember those who have given all. They no longer share the seasons with their loved ones, hear the laughter of little children, or see and relax with friends. Remember we, too, shall be part of history and the Internet. But, for a lighter side of my service while as a cadet pilot, I wrote this article (**Caught Ya**) for the Military Officer Magazine.

TV

Caught Ya

An aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps suspects his roommate is stealing from him and comes up with a creative — and embarrassing — way to prove it.

Tell Your Story

Submit your service-related adventures (or mishaps) by email to encore@moaa.org or by mail to Encore Editor, 201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314. All submissions will be considered for publication.

Back in the early 1940s and the days of my flight training as a cadet pilot in the Army Air Corps, life moved at a very fast and regimented pace based on the systems at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

In advanced flying school, cadets were billeted two cadets per cubicle with two beds, two small dressers, two small desks, and one large closet. All uniforms hung neatly and in order to wear. All pockets were sewn shut.

To clear my eardrums while flying at high altitude, I developed a habit of chewing Beech-Nut Chiclet gum. Many times while at class or work, in rank, or during close-order drill, I was caught chewing gum like a contented Jersey cow and given demerits or gigs.

As a reward on Saturday after dress parade and room inspections, instead of going on open post, I walked off my demerits. Walking off demerits consisted of wearing full dress uniform and white gloves and carrying a Springfield rifle while walking at attention for one hour for every three demerits. I usually had 15 to 20 demerits for the weekend, so good-bye open post.

I kept my gum in my dresser drawer with my neatly rolled socks, but for some reason, my supply kept going down. The box was nearly empty, so I asked my fellow cadet roommate from Virginia if he had borrowed any. He sheepishly said no and walked away.

A few days later, as I was going to the PX, I noticed a small display sign for Feen-A-Mint. For those who do not know, Feen-A-Mint is a laxative tablet that looks similar to Chiclet chewing gum in size and color. A light went on in my mind; I purchased a box and went back to my cubicle at cadet quarters. I emptied the Chiclets from their container and replaced them with the Feen-A-Mint tablets and then returned the package to its usual place in my dresser drawer.

I waited that evening for the culprit who was taking my gum to reveal himself through the agony he would experience from the laxative.

I was awakened that evening by groans and moans from my roommate, who kept getting up and going to the latrine. I asked him what the problem was, and he said it was the GI food, but I knew differently.

On the following day, after some questioning, he admitted to the theft. It became a big joke, and we both laughed until we almost cried. No one ever took my gum again. *wo*

— **Alfred A. Dilembo** is a retired Army captain. He lives in Pittsburgh. For submission information, see page 18.

