

# NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

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

January 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



By the time this newsletter comes out we will be saying farewell to year 2015, while welcoming in the New Year 2016. Although we have made great progress, now is not the time to let off the gas since we are just getting started.

We will begin 2016 with all hands on deck while ***"continuing our positive can do attitudes"***. We face challenges in all phases of life. In my current position, my philosophy is to face them head-on while making the best decisions regarding the welfare of the Legion. Although it seems much longer to me, I have only been in the Commander position for a little over four months. My Commander's Call this month contains several important items that are a must-read for everyone: my decision-making methodology - expectations I believe you expect of me, the value I place on all groups within the Legion, my expectations of you, and new ideas to increase revenue that are absolutely crucial to keep the Legion generating the necessary funds to sustain our Post. Your vote is needed at the next Legion meeting (January 4, 2016) to initiate the components that are required for "open-to-the-public" events to be implemented.

Leadership is what you expect of your commander. As I had said in prior newsletters, I am no stranger to leadership. My decisions are based primarily after answering the following two questions:

1. Have I carefully and thoughtfully evolved at the decision(s) - taking into account the moral, legal & ethical factors, any precedence that would/will be set as a result of the decision, pros & cons, and potential/expected complaints I may/will receive from making the decision;
2. Will I avoid second guessing my decision(s) – avoiding decision-making remorse - the day after the decision goes into effect?

With my numerous years in various workplaces making higher-level decisions that affect thousands of employees, I know I will not please everyone. As you can see by the questions above, I make decisions slowly – *after gathering all of the facts, after speaking with past leaders of the Post, after speaking with others in similar situations outside of our Post, and especially after making as many personal observations as I can until I am quite comfortable with my decision(s)*. Once I answer these questions to my satisfaction, I then move forward with my decisions, not looking back, but standing up and taking personal responsibility for the decisions I have made.

*continued on page 6*

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



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><b>HAPPY HOUR</b> MONDAY to THURSDAY 3:00 - 7:00 BUCKETS OF BEER 4 for \$6.75</p>		<p><b>ASH Wednesday</b> February 10</p> <p><b>WATCH for our</b> LENTEN SPECIALS FRIDAY FISH FRY</p>
<p>3</p> <p><b>STEELR GAME</b> 1:00 <b>SEAFOOD SURPRISE</b> <b>BEER SPECIALS</b></p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>HAPY HOUR</b> 3:00 - 7:00 <b>BUCKETS OF BEER</b> ◦ <b>POST MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Bowling PENS 7:00 ◦ <b>RIDERS MEETING</b> 7:00</p>
<p>PENS 7:00</p> <p>10</p> <p>Wild Card Play Off Specials FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 - Close</p>	<p>11</p>  <p>◦ <b>CORP. MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>12</p>  <p><b>Happy Hour</b> Mon.- Fri. 3:00 - 7:00 <b>Buckets of Beer</b></p>
<p>17</p> <p>Divisional Playoff Specials</p> <p>PENS 3:00 FREE Pool &amp; Juke Box</p> 	<p>18</p>  <p>3:00 - 7:00 <b>Bucket Special</b></p>	<p>19</p>  <p><b>BOWLING</b></p>
<p>24 / 31</p> <p>Championship Series Specials Free Pool 4 - 8</p> <p>FREE POOL</p> 	<p>25</p> <p><b>Happy Hour</b> Mon.- Fri. 3:00 - 7:00 <b>Buckets of Beer</b> ◦ <b>ALA MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p>PENS 7:00</p> <p>26</p> <p><b>Come paint with us</b> <b>a beautiful winter</b> <b>scene. 6:30-9:30 \$25</b> <b>sign up with</b> <b>bartender</b></p>

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## JANUARY 2016

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

<p><b>BINGO 7:00</b> <b>DIFFERENT FOOD</b> <b>SPECIAL EVERY WEEK</b></p>		<p><b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> <b>KITCHEN CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> PENS 7:00 FREE JUKE BOX </p>
<p>PENS 8:00 <b>6</b>  Shredded Beef Sandwich</p>	<p><b>7</b> CORN HOLE 6:30 ◦ <b>ENTERTAINMENT MEETING</b> 6:00</p>	<p><b>8</b> DINNER SPECIAL <b>FISH STUFFED W/ CRAB MEAT</b></p>	<p>PENS 7:00 <b>9</b> Wild Card Play Off Specials FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 - Close</p>
<p><b>13</b>  Lasagna &amp; Salad</p>	<p><b>14</b> GAME NIGHT LCR (Left, Right, Center) UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER RE-GIFT PARTY</p>	<p><b>15</b> DINNER SPECIAL <b>LIVER &amp; ONIONS</b> PENS 7:30</p>	<p><b>16</b> DIVISIONAL PLAYOFF SPECIALS FREE POOL 4:00 - 8:00 FREE JUKE BOX 4:00 TILL CLOSE</p>
<p><b>20</b>  Kiebasa &amp; Kraut</p>	<p><b>21</b> CORN HOLE 6:30 PENS 7:00</p>	<p><b>22</b> DINNER SPECIAL <b>SHRIMP STUFFED WITH CRAB</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> PENS 12:30 SPOONWOOD STATION 8:00 - 12:00 WINGS 7:00 - 10:00</p>
<p><b>27</b>  Tacos</p>	<p><b>28</b> GAME NIGHT CARDS &amp; DICE ◦ <b>SAL MEETING</b> 7:00</p>	<p><b>29</b> DINNER SPECIAL take out available CHICKEN ROMANO</p>	<p><b>30</b> FREE JUKE BOX </p>

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



## 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,

Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to a Happy New Year. The soup cook off went well. Everyone's entry was delicious. It was hard to pick the best but the vote was a tie between Rose Breen and Leigh Ann Castanet with Donna McCrumb a close third. The Children's Christmas Party went well and they all seemed to enjoy it. They liked their gifts and the food. I was not able to go to South Western Veterans Hospital for our Annual Christmas Party with them but I was told that it was a very enjoyable night for all that attended. We had a lot of help in preparing gifts for the children and the vets and it was well worth seeing so many happy faces. I want to thank Frank Caputo who donated so many items for both parties. He gave so much that we were able to take many items to the homeless veterans shelter. Our meetings are always the fourth Monday of the month and our next one is January 25th, 2016. We hope to see a lot of new faces there. We have a lot of plans for the coming year and would welcome any new suggestions. Happy New Years to all.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich,  
ALA President

Next Meeting  
January 25, 2016



## 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,

Hope everyone had a great Holiday and enjoyed family and friends. This year the SONS donated \$400.00 to the American Legion's tree for kids who are less fortunate and we were also able to donate \$500.00 to U.S. Marines – Toys for TOTS. We were able to donate this money because of the events we had and the SONS thank you for attending and participating in our functions.

Steeler game coming up:  
Sunday, January 3rd 1:00PM game  
Seafood Surprise

**Reminder - pay dues before New Year's Eve and save \$5.00.**

Gary C. Hartman  
Commander of the SAL

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



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,

*HAPPY NEW YEAR American Legion Family.*

*The Riders formed during 2009 so we figured it was about time to stage our 5-year celebration: John Caligiuri was recognized for excellence in obtaining the most donations in support of our annual ride to benefit the Fisher House. Hooah JC! Bill Allan was recognized as our Charter President and Tom Bodner as our Charter Road Captain. Bill received our first 2009 Sign-In sheet nicely framed and Tom received our first 2009 Meeting Minutes nicely framed. The Riders also recognized Charter members with a bottle of champagne and a heartfelt thanks: Bill Allan, Tom Bodner, John Dillon, Robert Gibson, Ed Harmon, Tom Matthews, Dave Saunier and Mark Smith. These Brothers reconnoitered the trail for all of us to follow – Mission Accomplished!*

*And what about Airborne Ed Harmon who built a magnificent Riders decoration which we have all seen in the dining room of the Legion. This eye-catching display is a great example of esprit for our Veterans and for our entire Legion Family. Airborne Leads the Way!*

*On December 12th the Riders volunteered by supporting the laying of wreaths at the Cemetery of the Alleghenies. The Wreaths Across America program partnering with local organizations laid 230,000 wreaths at National Cemeteries across the Nation. Well done to Mission Commander Tom Bodner and Ken Bell, Jim Christofel, Ed Harmon, Jeff Jackson, Dave Saunier, Ed Schmidt, Mark Smith and Bill and Beverly Weikel. Your commitment to remembering and honoring our Veterans humbles us all!*

*The Rider's Christmas Party was on December 5th at the Legion. The Post is a superb venue to throw a party and this year's party set records for fun and fellowship. Special thanks to Committee Lead Susan Dillon and Bill Allan, Donna Allan, Tom Bodner, Chris Bodner, John Caligiuri, Ed Harmon, Jim Harmon, Beverly Weikel and Bill Weikel. You guys rock!*

*I would like to thank the following Riders: Bill and Donna Allan, Tom and Chris Bodner, John Caligiuri, Mike Dudenus, Ed Harmon, Steve Horvath, Lloyd Ray, Dave Saunier, Ed Schmidt, Mark Smith, Stan Weaver and Bill and Beverly Weikel ... They know why.*

*Hooah,  
Top*

**Happy  
New Year**

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Commander's Call continued from page 1...

Every group within the Post is important to our success as a whole: Legion, (Sons of the American Legion) SAL, (American Legion Auxiliary) ALA, Legion Riders, and Social Members. If we can recognize all of our groups publicly for our members to see, what better way can we showcase our accomplishments internally?

We are planning numerous "open-to-the-public" events in 2016, such as "Lent-at-the-Legion". We need our communities to see what we are doing and what we are made of as well. We are moving from the perception that Post 712 is a place to get "cheap beer in a country club atmosphere" to what we really are all about and that is "to continue serving our communities while honoring our past and present members and veterans, in general".

Having a third party represent your complaints is hearsay, to me. I have more respect when individuals who have complaints come to me himself or herself and tell me of your complaints. In my past postings I have asked everyone for their support, since tough decisions will need to be made for the betterment of our Post. I come to you again asking for your backing as we enter a new year. The support I speak of is regarding our up-and-coming - open to the public events. The first open-to-the-public event being **Lent-at-the-Legion**. I will be beating the bushes seeking volunteers to work the event (prep work, taking orders, filling orders, cooking, etc.) in order for it to be both successful and profitable. In order for our Post to survive we need to refocus and gear-up to meet the ever changing needs of society and realize that their needs may not mirror ours. This does not mean we have to totally revamp the Legion, but to just get with today's times. With your assistance, Lent-at-the-Legion will be extremely profitable. We drastically need those profits the keep our ship afloat. Being open-to-the-public will mean that we will need to stop smoking while the event is held. The hours for the indoors no smoking will be from 4pm until 8pm. We will put our heads together to identify an outdoor smoking area for that time frame. Your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

Having limited no-smoking hours for different events is not earth shattering news. It was done in the past. Recently, there were limited no smoking times posted for the First Responder event that was held in November. We will be voting on the open-to-the-public events we are planning to have beginning in February at my next meeting, which will be held on Monday, January 4, 2016. Please plan to attend this meeting and future meetings if time permits.

The absolute bottom line is that we need to plan several large events, such as these. Our post's future is hanging in the balance. I am asking you to step back and look at the bigger picture and that is where we all need to make decisions to keep our Post financially sound. Therefore, I am asking for your dedicated support. Only you can make this happen. Only you can assure that we will continue to have such a great place to feel at home and continue our camaraderie to serve our fellow veterans.

As always we support our troops.

Richard J. Wojnar  
Commander

January 23, 2016



**?? ? CPR Class ? ? ?**

Call 412-616-1834  
by January 20, 2016  
to see if there is enough  
people to have a class  
at the Legion.

...  
Class date, time, and cost will be  
announced in the next newsletter  
if enough people call.

## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

**Regular Legion 2016 Membership is considered late if not paid on or before 12-31-15**

- \$25 if paid on or before 12-31-15
- \$30 if paid on or after 1-1-16

## Key Cards

- \$5 if paid on or before 12-31-15
- \$6 if paid on or after 1-1-16

Post 712 Adjutant

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES 2015



*This one is for you.*



*The Post Commander asked Ed Harmon to keep up the Harley board for a few more weeks.*



*Members and guests had a really good time.*



*Busy, busy, busy*



*I'll sit here and watch.*



*Retired Marine David Luikart picked up donations for Toys for Tots*



*A frequent party visitor!*



*Playing games with Rose*

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Check us out. . .

see what's new every day!

Web site: **alpost712pa.org**

Facebook: **Americanlegion.Postsevenonetwo**

## Members At Large Vote January 4, 2016

At the January 4, 2016 Legion Meeting, there will be a vote to add four members At Large to be a part of the Executive Committee. If you would like to add your name to the ballot or if you have any further questions, please call the adjutant at 412-616-1834 by December 30.

The Executive Committee will consist of the following:

- Post Commander
- Two Post Vice Commanders
- Post Adjutant
- Post Finance Officer
- Even Number of Members At Large (at least four)

If you are a current Legion Officer and do not see your title listed above, you may elect to add your name to the ballot for a vote to be one of the members At Large. Please call the Post Adjutant by December 30.

*The Executive Committee will meet monthly, immediately prior to the regular monthly meeting of the Post.*

**LOOK for . . .**  
**"Our Heroes"** Article  
in February  
newsletter  
that will feature  
**Al Dilembo,**  
Post 712,  
Vice Commander.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP

Post 712 is considering sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop.

Any of our members with sons, or grandsons, between the ages of 10 and a half and 17 that are interested in joining please contact Post Service Officer

Frank Caputo by email at [fdcap@verizon.net](mailto:fdcap@verizon.net).

We need a minimum of 5 boys and 5 adults to start. It's a great way for your sons to experience camping, learn outdoor skills, earn merit badges and provide service to the community.

## TAPS



*With Honor and Gratitude  
We Remember. . .*

**CHUCK HOLZER**  
**11/2015**

*May you Rest  
in Peace my Friend.*