

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



Commander's Call



By the time you read this article, I am hoping each of you had a very Merry Christmas and experienced the best possible way of ushering in the New Year. We have great ambitions in the year ahead, which I'm sure will come with some twists and turns, but I feel confident we have the right people to take on any challenges.

Let me share a December update of events with you. First, I'll discuss the Children's Christmas Party. What a party! We received many positive comments from the folks attending the event. We are still continuing to receive calls and emails telling us they welcomed the additions to the treat bags and meal selection that added to the huge success of the event. I want to thank those who left very positive remarks in my suggestion box. The event began with a frigid ice storm; however, those who trudged through the freezing temperatures and icy roads were treated to a warm meal that was second to none. I want to thank our loyal and faithful volunteers who participated in this event. I want to extend a special thanks to Lisa as she created magic from the kitchen by herself. As the children entered the Post, they were greeted with a warm welcome and offered a choice of treat bags. The treat bags contained the same contents, but the exterior of the bags were different (snowmen, reindeer, etc.). Each bag was filled with a coloring book, crayons, candy cane, apple, banana, M&M candy cane, crackers and more.

The meal began with ambiance from Christmas music. Our very special guests, Santa and Mrs. Claus, arrived once the meal was underway. Santa listened to the children's wish lists and issued a gift to each child. After Santa left to return to his elves and toy shop to prepare for his Christmas journey, Mrs. Claus visited with children and their family members at each table. A beautiful winter wonderland cake was cut into slices and delivered to the guests. As the children departed, they were asked to grab handfuls of their favorite candy. I really want to thank all of the volunteers of Post 712 who worked the event. This year, gifts for the children were purchased by the ALA and the Legion. Besides our faithful

LEGION OFFICERS 2016-2017

Commander
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

1st Vice Commander
FRANK CAPUTO

2nd Vice Commander
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
LINDA WOJNAR

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
DON SMOLEY

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS



continued on Page 2

Commander's Call continued from Page 1

Legion volunteers, we had the addition of Lynn Caputo who assisted Santa and Mrs. Claus with the gift delivery as well as taking on many other duties prior to and following the event. Thank you so much, Lynn! I also want to extend a sincere thank you to Greg Nuss for providing the magic of Christmas for us at the Christmas Party and for his assistance with the meal preparation.

On December 19, Post 712 Legion representatives had the honor of visiting the Jefferson Elementary School (JES) to collect hundreds and hundreds of dollars' worth of critically needed supplies for delivery to our 247 Veterans at the Southwestern Veterans Center. This event, coined "Operation Helping Heroes", was sparked by Mimi Haley, our Community Organizer and social member of Post 712, who made this event possible. She coordinated the event with the West Jefferson School District, Jefferson Elementary School PTA Representative, Holly Wik, and the Principal, Mr. Very, his staff, and honorary soldiers – the children – of Jefferson Elementary School. Our special soldiers, over 650 children, were the ones who did all the leg work. They took a handout home to their families and together with their families carried supplies to school that would make this delivery special for our Veterans at any time, let alone at Christmas time – a time for giving. American Legion Post 712 salutes everyone who was involved in this special tribute to our Veterans.

Once we gathered the supplies, we then departed to the Southwestern Veterans Center where we were greeted by their Commandant, Richard Adams, and their Therapeutic Activities Director, Chris Veitch. We pushed cart after cart of supplies into the Southwestern Veterans Center. We take for granted all of the luxuries we have and use on a daily basis, but we need to remember these (and other) veterans do not have the same experiences each day. What is incidental and trivial to us is actually viewed as a gold mine to them. While it is very worthwhile and commendable to give to various charities, we must never forget that charity begins at home. We are the lifeline to our veterans.

We ended the year with positive, memorable events and we are in the planning stages of a few events for 2017 that have not been considered or executed in the past. Vietnam Era Veterans, please be sure we have your current phone number and email addresses. We are planning a very large tribute to our own Vietnam Era Veterans in June. You won't want to miss this event.

In closing, I want to thank our District Commander, Brent Johnson, for attending our December Legion Meeting. He told Legion members in attendance that evening that we were one of the most aggressive and most accomplished Legions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This was such a comfort to hear. All that we have done this past year has not gone unnoticed.

Our Legion is being considered for an American Legion Excellence Award. This award is one of the Legion's highest awards. There are numerous requirements that must be achieved to be a candidate for this award. Some of those requirements include: exceeding membership goals, involvement in youth activities, scholarships, community activities, and much more. I am proud to report that we currently meet, or exceed in some instances, these requirements. We are a qualified candidate for this prestigious award.

We have a great deal to look forward to in 2017. I want to end my article by saying we must recognize we can't be where we are, accomplish what we've done, or move the Legion forward in 2017 without the "engines of the Legion" – our volunteers. I thank you for your past, present, and future service as Post 712 volunteers. Please accept my sincere gratitude and thanks for all that you have done and will continue to do for the Post in the future.

As always we support our troops.
Richard J. Wojnar

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017

To All Members of Post 712 Organizations:

Please consider paying your dues today.

Key cards will be turned off as of February 1, 2017.

X X X

Note: All door locks at the Legion will be changed on Thu 1/5/17 and that anyone needing a replacement key should see Lisa or Thad.

2017 Membership Information

From the Post 712 Adjutant

To avoid receiving late notices and reminders from National, you can pay your 2017 dues early by mail to Post 712, online at <http://www.myLegion.org>, or you can pay your dues at the bar.

Please record your phone number on your dues renewal slip or on your check when you pay your dues. It is vital for us to have your most current information on file.

As of December 12, the State has recorded 705 Legion members who have paid their 2017 dues to Post 712. This takes us to 84% of our Legion members who have paid their 2017 dues so far. Please pay your dues as soon as possible so that we reach the target dates National has set for our post.

Dues are \$30.00. Please make your check payable to: **American Legion Post 712.**

Thank you in advance!



POST 712
HOME ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS 2016-2017

President
RUSS WILSON

Vice President
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary

Treasurer

Board Members

DAVE KRILL

JOHN DILLON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

FRANK CAPUTO

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.

BOB STOODT

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Service Officer: **Don Smoley 412-655-1668**

- Contact for information about the rights, benefits, and programs for veterans and their families.
- Assistance with claims - forms or other questions concerning our members
- Members who are in need of VA Services who are having difficulty getting appointments, etc.
- Notification of death of members – Requests for Funeral Details/ Services

Adjutant: **Linda Wojnar 412-616-1834**

- ALL LEGION CORRESPONDENCE (parade requests, community day events, mail regarding ALL Legion business, community requests, etc.)

- Membership – New and Transfers – Verification of DD214's for Post 712
- Requests for Color Guard/ Requests to be on the Color Guard

Home Assoc. Magr: **Thad Weidmann 412-512-1301**

- Social Membership – New and Renewals
- Key Cards for access to Post 712 and Key Card issues (cards don't work etc.)
- New and replacement Key Cards are \$6.00

Home Assoc. Kitchen &

Bar Manager: **Lisa Deiley 412-758-9116**

- Downstairs Room Rentals/Catering, Consider having your next event at Post 712.

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017



SAL OFFICERS
2016-2017

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO

Sons of the Legion,

Hoagies Sale is January 15th.
Orders due by the 12 of January.

Price is \$8.00 a piece or 3 for \$23.00.

See bartender for envelopes and after completing your order,
put your envelope in the bucket that will be by the front door.

Hope everyone had a great holiday season.

Commander of the Sons
Gary Hartman



ALA OFFICERS
2016-2017

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 a Happy New Year. Now is the time to prepare for the coming months. Thanks to the Legion Riders for inviting us to a great party. A special thanks to Thomas Jefferson Middle School for the drive they had for the veterans at Southwestern Hospital. They had so many items that they shared them with the homeless veterans. The toys left over from the children's party were given to a family in McKeesport that suffered from a devastating fire. Another special thanks to all the ALA members and post members who attended our Christmas party with the vets. Keep up the good work.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops
Mary Ann Marunich, ALA President



American Legion Riders,

Merry Christmas American Legion Family! As we close the book on 2016 we see the Riders had a very good year with allot of great works of charity through donations of our time and funds and allot of camaraderie with our brothers and sisters in the American Legion Family. Best of all, we rolled up allot of 2-wheel fun mileage on the back of our bikes!

The Riders recently took up a clothing drive to benefit the Veterans and Seniors of the Pennwood Nursing Home. We placed an emphasis on cold-weather clothing to help the citizens stay warm during the frigid Pittsburgh winter. **Rider Melissa Stefanic** walked point on this mission and on December 16th she, **Dave Saunier and Road Captain Bob Stefanic** delivered the clothing to the Director of the facility. This was a great event as we helped these Seniors and brightened their day to make sure they knew they are not forgotten. Great Initiative Melissa and well done Dave and Bob!

On Saturday, December 17th the annual laying of wreaths for the Christmas season was conducted at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies and concurrently all across America. This annual event, sponsored by the Wreath's Across America Project, provides wreath's to be laid on the graves of Veterans for honor and remembrance. This type of event takes a tremendous amount of people-power; which the Riders were honored to provide. **Thank you Senior Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Jeff Jackson, Larry Jageman, Ed Schmidt, Chaplain Mark Smith and Deputy Treasurer Bill Weikel** for volunteering your time on an icy morning for this noble event and leading the way in remembering and honoring our Veterans.

Hooah!
Top



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 • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017

January 2017

ROOM RENTAL

Contact Lisa

412-758-9116

Consider having
your next event at
Post 712

- Wedding & Baby Showers
 - Graduation
 - Birthday
- Group or Work Parties
 - Craft Sales
- Group Meetings
 - Wakes

Special Discount Prices
for all Members

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>1</p> <p>STEELERS 1:00 KIELBASA & KRAUT SANDWICHES will be available at bar.</p> | <p>2</p> <p>POST MEETING 7:00</p> | <p>3</p> <p>RIDERS MEETING 7:00</p> <p><small>BOWLING</small></p>  |
| <p>PENS 1:00</p>  <p>8</p> <p>1/2 OFF NACHOS</p>  <p>FREE POOL 4 - 8</p> | <p>9</p> <p>HOME ASSOCIATION MEETING 7:00</p> | <p>10</p>  <p>F P R E E P O P C O R N</p> |
| <p>SAL 15</p> <p>HOAGIE SALE</p>  <p>FREE POOL 4-8</p> | <p>16</p> <p>PENS 7:00</p> <p>DRAFT SPECIAL</p> <p>1/2 OFF NACHOS</p>  | <p>17</p>  |
| <p>PENS 12:30</p>  <p>22</p> <p>FREE POOL 4-8 \$1.00 HOT DOGS</p> | <p>23</p> <p>ALA MEETING 7:00</p> | <p>PENS 7:00 24</p>  <p>\$1.00 HOT PRETZELS</p> |
| <p>FREE POOL 29</p> <p>4-8:00</p>  | <p>30</p>  <p>F R E E P O P C O R N</p> | <p>PENS 7:00 31</p>  |

Check us out . . .

See what is new
everyday. . .

-on-

The web site:

alpost712pa.org

-on-

Facebook:

[AmericanLegion
Postsevenonetwo](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPostsevenonetwo)

• • •

Web Master
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design
DONNA ROTTMAN

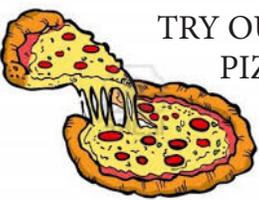
THE ABSOLUTE
DEADLINE FOR
ARTICLES IS THE
20TH OF EACH
MONTH

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017

January 2017

NO SMOKING
during the Friday
Dinners 4-8:00 pm

| Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|
|  <p>4 Guest BINGO Caller HAM & BEAN SOUP</p> |  <p>5 TRY OUR PIZZA</p> | <p>6 DINNER SPECIAL MEATLOAF, MASHED POTATOES, GRAVY, SALAD & ROLLS</p> |  <p>7 FREE POOL FREE JUKE BOX</p>  |
| <p>11 HOT SAUSAGE SANDWICHES PENS 8:00</p> |  <p>12 PENS 7:30 CORNHOLE 6:30 BUCKET SPECIAL</p> | <p>13 DINNER SPECIAL CHICKEN ROMANO BAKED POTATO SALAD & ROLLS</p> | <p>14 CHUCK CORBY 8-12 WINGS & APPETIZERS 7 - 10:00 PENS 7:00</p> |
|  <p>18 BINGO BEEF STEW</p> |  <p>19 KITCHEN GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE</p> | <p>20 DINNER SPECIAL PORK CUTLETS POTATO PANCAKES SALAD & ROLLS</p> | <p>21 JUSTIN KUZELMAN 8-12:00 WINGS & APPETIZERS 7-10:00</p> |
| <p>25 MEATBALL SANDWICHES</p> |  <p>26 PENS 7:00 CORNHOLE 6:30 BUCKET SPECIAL</p> | <p>27 DINNER SPECIAL CRAB CAKES BAKED POTATO SALAD & ROLLS</p> |  <p>28 FREE POOL FREE JUKE BOX</p>  |

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SUPERBOWL PARTY FEBRUARY 5

VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE FEBRUARY 11



**WE NEED
YOU!**

**RECRUITING –
POST 712 NEEDS YOU:**

We are currently looking for individuals with leadership experience who are willing to serve on various positions in the Home Association – from president on down. All applicants who are interested *must notify* **Thad Weidmann,** Home Association Manager, ***tweidmann@aol.com*** or call 412-653-1555 *before the January 9, 2017 Meeting of the Home Association.* **Thad will discuss the qualifications needed with you.**

Voting for Home Association Officers and Executive Committee Members will take place during the February 2017 meeting. Please plan to attend.

**AMERICAN
LEGION PAID
UP FOR LIFE
PROGRAM
(PUFL)**

- You may choose 12 monthly installments
 - No more renewal notices
 - Avoid future dues increases
- Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card National. For more information about the PUFL program, call customer service at (800)-433-3318.

**RECRUITING FOR POST 712
COLOR GUARD MEMBERS**

If you are interested in serving as a member of the Post 712 Color Guard, please call the Post adjutant at 412-616-1834 so that she has your most recent contact information. A list is being compiled at this time for those members who would be available to participate at various events (i.e. parades, Memorial Day services, events at-the-Post, etc. This includes Legion, SAL and ALA (flag bearers or rifle team). John Dillon, President of the Legion Riders will be notified of these events as well.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

From the Post 712 Adjutant

As a courtesy to our active duty members who belong to Post 712, we will pay your dues as long as you remain on active duty.

All we ask in return is for you to notify the Post adjutant in July or August each year that you remain on active duty to assure we pay your dues on time.

We have received several calls saying a family member has been on active duty and his or her dues have not been paid. If the adjutant has not received notification as described above, the dues will not be paid. There is no other way for us to find out a member remains on active duty unless the member or his or her family notifies us. The best way to assure she receives your notification is to call the adjutant (412-616-1834).

We thank you for your service, want you to be safe, and would appreciate if you would let us know if you ever need any assistance. We are here for all of our active duty members and for our veterans. We thank you for your allegiance to the American Legion.

**RENEW YOUR LEGION
MEMBERSHIP ONLINE**

- Submit payment of your annual membership dues;
- Eliminate paper renewal notices by setting your account to have your notices delivered via email;
- If you are already paid for the current year, you can set your account for automatic future renewals using your credit/debit card;
- Have your Legion membership card readily available when you log in online;
- The Post receives reimbursement in a timely manner—within 30 days and receives credit immediately toward our membership goals;
- Excellent way to avoid numerous PAST DUE Notices;
- Access the following website to renew your membership online:
<http://www.legion.org/renew>

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2017

Tribute to Mrs. Claus

Post 712 Salutes You for Your Years of Service-

Mrs. Claus has received orders from Santa Land that she will be reassigned next year. Let's hope she can get her orders changed before December 2017.

Mrs. Claus is going to take some time off. With all the new toys she has to help the elves learn how to make them. I'm sure going to miss her. Mrs. Claus was a big help to me. Some children were afraid and she would whisper to them and they would come to sit on my lap. I really enjoyed working with Mrs. Claus at the American Legion Christmas Party. Together we made a lot of children happy. I will miss her while she works with our elves, but I'll be back in the North Pole as soon as my work here is done.

Love you Mrs. Claus and I will see you soon!

Santa



Southwestern Veterans Center
Commandant Richard Adams on far left
Chris Veitch, Therapeutic Activities Director on the far right



Post 712 Legion Members and Jefferson Elementary School (JES) in Jefferson Hills, PA Team-up for Veterans Day "Operation Helping Heroes".
Commander Richard J. Wojnar and Legion officers from the Pleasant Hills American Legion Post 712 visited the Jefferson Hills Elementary School on December 19, 2016 to accept donations the students and staff collected for the Veterans and their spouses at the Southwestern Veterans Center as a Veterans Day tribute – "Operation Helping Heroes".

A special thank you must be sent out to Mimi Haley, Holly Wik, PTA Representative, Principal, Mr. Very, the students and their families of JES, PTA, and staff for their dedication to Veterans and for being a part of a very special community service project on Veterans Day. Following the visit to JES, the donations were delivered to the Southwestern Veteran's Center.