



THE PHOENIX

For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

> MEETING NOTES <

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**
4. **John Caligiure**

Appointed Officers

Adjutant—**Terry Choate**

Chaplain—**S. Coville-Cook**

Judge Advocate—
Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr— **Don Rottman**

Web—**Thad Weidmann**

Editor—**John Dillon** “Top”
USA@ALPost712PA.org
412-606-8812

MEETING SCHEDULE: American Legion Post 712 holds our Monthly Meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (Rt 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW Post 1810).

All Members and Perspective Members of the American Legion Post 712 Family are Welcome to attend Monthly Meetings — This includes Veterans, Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)!

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on May 21st at 7 PM. The Meeting was Chaired by 1st Vice Commander *Lloyd Ray*. We had a great turnout and a strong meeting with much accomplished including nominations for Officers to be voted on during the Post Meeting on June 18th.

- ◆ Post 712 Bylaws dictate four positions must be determined by a vote of the Membership. Those four positions are: **Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander, and Finance Officer**. All other positions are determined by appointment of the Commander. The Appointed Officers include: Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Service Officer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Exec. Committee and Historian.

**712 Night
@ Texas
Road-
House**

**Tuesday
June 4th
3—8 PM**

**TRH will
donate
10% of
your bill to
Post 712**



***Bring a flyer & show when paying
Tuesday, June 4th, 3—8 PM
Pleasant Hills TRH—See yinz there!***

> MEETING NOTES—ELECTIONS <

- ◆ **Post 712 Elections will be held during the June 18th Meeting.** Nominations were required to be submitted during the May Meeting. Per Post 712 bylaws, the Nominations are now locked. The Post 712 Nomination Committee consists of the Finance Officer as the Chair (*Thad Weidmann*) & the 2nd Vice Commander (*John Dillon*) with guidance provided by the Judge Advocate (*Nick Krawec*).

The Nominees and there current positions

- Position of Commander

Dave Halpern, Commander

Lloyd Ray, 1st Vice Commander

- Position of 1st Vice Commander

John Dillon, 2nd Vice Command.

- Position of 2nd Vice Commander

Don Smolley, Member

- Position of Finance Officer

Thad Weidmann, Finance Officer

- The Adjutant will cast a single vote for John, Don and Thad, who will be voted into Office based on uncontested raced.

- During the June Meeting, Per by-laws, a written vote will be conducted for the Position of Commander.

- You must be present to vote unless a Voting Member is hospitalized, a member of the Active Duty Force or a Reservist or Guardsman serving on temporary Active Duty.

- Conduct of the Vote: At the Meeting, the ballots will be collected and counted by 3 Legionnaires who are not candidates for any position on the ballot.
- **Absentee Ballots** must be requested in writing. Absentee Ballots must reach the Post or Judge Advocate no later than 5 PM on the date of the election. Those eligible to request an Absentee Ballot are Legionnaires who are hospitalized, members of the Active Duty Force, or a Reservist or Guardsman serving on temporary Active Duty. Eligible Members may request Absentee Ballots by e-mail at *USA@ALPost712PA.org*, by mail at *American Legion Post 712, 610 Old Clairton Rd, Pittsburgh, PA 15236*, by phone or text message at *412-901-0327*, by the Post 712 FaceBook page at *American Legion Post 712—Virtual*, by the Post 712 website at *ALPost712PA.org* or by contacting the nomination Committee or Judge Advocate; *Thad Weidmann, John Dillon, 412-606-8812, Nick Krawec*.
- All Officers will assume their 1 year term effective August 1st, 2024.

> PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES <

- This year we have **three proposed bylaw changes the membership must address thru a simple vote of members present at the June 18th Meeting.** Each of the proposed edits were presented by 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon.
- 1) **ARTICLE V—OFFICERS, SECTION I:** Additional requirement to Post Bylaws to require all new-term Officers, elected and appointed, to produce their *DD Form 214, Record of Service*, to the incoming 1st Vice Commander and Judge Advocate (John made this proposal on behalf of the membership as we recently learned of a member who was not eligible for membership in the American Legion, though who had been a Legionnaire with Post 712 for years. That person is no longer permitted membership with Post 712). The DD214 will not be retained by the Post, merely inspected for verification of membership eligibility. If the 1st Vice Commander and/or Judge Advocate are not available, the 2nd Vice Commander and if needed, the Adjutant will inspect the form for verification of eligibility for membership. The 1st Vice Commander and the Judge Advocate or replacements, must present their own DD-214's to the incoming Commander and Adjutant for verification of eligibility.
 - 2) **ARTICLE V—OFFICERS, SECTION II:** Clarification of Post Bylaws that depict, "*The Post Adjutant, Post Chaplain, Post Judge Advocate, Post Historian, Post Service Officer, Post Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms and such other officers as the membership of the Post shall have determined, shall either be appointed by the Post Commander with the concurrence of the Executive Committee or elected as determined by a majority vote of the members of the Post*". John opined the wording is not specific as to what actions and what processes determines when these officers must be elected or appointed and by what mechanism such determination is made. John therefore seeks to clarify the wording: "*The Post Adjutant, Post Chaplain, Post Judge Advocate, Post Historian, Post Service Officer, Post Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms and such other officers as determined by the Post Commander shall be appointed by the Commander and approved or disapproved by the Membership present at the meeting thru a simple majority yeah or nay vote of hands shown. The Commander will not vote. However, in the event of a tie between yeah and nay votes, the Commander will cast a vote to break the tie.* **NOTE:** American Legion bylaws for the Department of Pennsylvania require only the Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and the Finance Officer to be elected.

> PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES <

3) **ARTICLE XI— HOME ASSOCIATION, SECTION 8 and SECTION 9:** Dissolution of the Home Association. As the Post no longer hosts a Canteen, the need for a Home Association has come into question. Currently, there are no Officers serving on the Home Association Board, nor has there been since selling the property at 650 Old Clairton Road. Further, the Home Association has conducted no actions since selling said property. The 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon noted dissolution of the Home Association should be considered through an open discussion with the Finance Officer and subsequent vote by the membership. Any funds remaining in the Home Association bank account are to be assumed by the Post per bylaws and the Post will continue operations of Post activities unabated. John noted vigorous discussion should precede the vote to ensure the leadership charts the smoothest course forward to conduct operations in support of Veterans and the community.

> APPOINTED OFFICERS <

- ◆ **APPOINTED OFFICERS:** Prior to August 1st, the incoming Commander will solicit and name volunteers to assume the Appointed Officer positions to include Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Sergeant(s)-at-Arms, Historian, Parliamentarian, Executive Committee and any other position consistent with American Legion bylaws. While many of the currently serving Officers will undoubtedly be invited to serve during the 2024-2025 term and continue their great work, we are always looking for Legionnaires willing to step up and help carry the load. There are many open positions as Appointed Officers and Committee Leads and Members. Many positions do not require significant time or resource commitments and are a great way to actively participate in the running of Post 712 and supporting the Membership while learning the ropes of American Legion Leadership. Put your knowledge, experience and expertise to great use in supporting Veterans!

> PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP <

- ◆ Legionnaires: Only those members whose dues are paid for 2024 are afforded the privileges of membership. Those privileges include the ability to serve as an Officer, to serve on a Committee and to vote in Post elections. Each Legionnaire is a valued Brother or Sister, but please pay your dues and jump in to the Legion as your participation is essential to continue the great work we have started this year.

> POST 712 CALENDAR <

- ◆ Tuesday, June 4. **Post 712 Evening at Texas RoadHouse** (Pleasant Hills restaurant). See flyer in this newsletter and on our Facebook pages ***
- ◆ June 5. **Riders Meeting** at Castle Shannon American Legion Post 490.
- ◆ June 15. **Touch A Truck**. 169 Wright Brothers Dr, Moon, PA 15108. Meet local Service Members and explore hands-on Military Aircraft and equipment. This event is free and fun for all ages.
- ◆ June 17. **ALA Meeting**.
- ◆ June 18. **Post Meeting and Elections**. Also, vote on bylaw changes.
- ◆ June 20. **Riders trip to Foxburg, PA**.
- ◆ June 25—30, **Flying Legends of Victory Tour 2024**. B-25 *Maid in the Shade* and B-17 *Sentimental Journey* visit Allegheny County Airport. Flights and Walk-thru Tours available. Let's plan on picking a day to attend together!
- ◆ July 13. Riders sponsorship and participation in the West Brownsville American Legion **Ride to Combat Autism in Military and Veteran Families**.
- ◆ August 10th, Saturday. **Pleasant Hills Community Day**, Noon—10 PM. Post 712 will set up a stand. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day.
- ◆ August 28-September 1, **The Vietnam Traveling Wall** at Frick Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Sponsored by Gallagher's Pub and Operation Troop Appreciation.
- ◆ September 13-16, **Riders Gettysburg Trip**. Riders and invited guests are welcome to attend. Some people will be following the motorcycles in cars. Contact John Dillon for details, 412-6060-8812.

OPPORTUNITY: Operation Troop Appreciation meets every Tuesday to pack Care Packages for Service Members deployed overseas often where no PX/BX facilities are available. OTA also prepares Welcome Home packages for local Veterans in need. If you would like to volunteer from time to time contact John Dillon, 412-606-8812. You do not have to jump tall buildings in a single bound or run faster than a locomotive.

- ◆ **Sponsorships!** You know, we keep trying to give away money to support the community and seem to be having a tough time doing it. Don't be shy. Do you know of a worthwhile community activity for Post 712 to sponsor. It may be an event to support Veterans, to sponsor a youth team, to sponsor a scouting program, or to do a good deed. Be a hero to your kids, grandkids, or neighbors and talk to an Officer about Post 712 sponsoring a worthwhile event or program.



Legionnaire Loren Contreras and family serve as Veteran of the Game and Flag Presenters at the May 6th Bucco Game—Well Done Team Contreras!!!



1st Vice CDR Lloyd Ray, 2nd Vice CDR John Dillon & Adj Terry Choate place flags on the graves of



Veterans on May 19th in preparation of Memorial Day





1st Vice Commander Lloyd Ray and the Ray family support and participate in the Thomas Jefferson High School 5K For a Cure Team Cassidy Run at South Park on May 19th. Lloyd won first place in his age group.



Legionnaire LTC (Retired) Nick Edinger briefs visitors during a Travel Back to Vietnam event comparing his experiences of his tour of duty in Vietnam with his return visit during 2023.



1st Vice Commander Lloyd Ray and Legionnaire Irv Ray on the field at PNC Park as served as the Veteran of the Game and Flag Presenter for the Buc's May 26th game against the Braves.

(The Pirates asked Operation Troop Appreciation to identify Veterans to serve as Veterans of the Game. Those individual Veterans were selected based on the volunteerism with OTA and there dues being paid for 2024).



2nd Vice CDR John Dillon, ALA Member Susan Dillon, 1st Vice CDR Lloyd Ray, & Executive Committee Member John Caligiure, assist John who serves as Veteran of the Game and Flag Presenter at the Bucco game on May 22.



POST 712 OSCAR MIKE

RECOGNITION, SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

May 2024

- ◆ Thomas Jefferson High School 5K Race for a Cure—Team Cassidy. Post 712 previously donated \$200 to support this event to aid TJHS and Cassidy, a student who is battling brain cancer. In addition, On May 19th, 1st Vice Commander Lloyd Ray rolled out to support this event with the Ray family and even ran the 5K race with his granddaughter. We're told Lloyd got out to a fast start but as all great Grand-pap's know, ended up with his granddaughter passing him in the home stretch for the Ray family win. Though Lloyd did take first place for his age group—Way to go Lloyd, you still got it!
- ◆ National Poppy Day: May 24th, Thanks to the ALA for selling Poppies at Sam's Club in West Mifflin.
- ◆ **Memorial Day**
 1. Remembrance Ceremony at the grave of USMC Private First Class John D. Kelly, Medal of Honor Recipient of the Korean War. B July 8, 1928. D May 28, 1952, Hill 104. Buried at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery.
 2. Remembrance Ceremony at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery Veterans Section, with Guest Speakers, including State Representative Andrew Kuzma and Dayna Brown from the Friends of the Fisher House of Pittsburgh, Choir compliments of the Thomas Jefferson High School Choir.
 3. Flag Raising Ceremony at the Pleasant Hills Community Flag, Bill Green Shopping Center, Route 51.
 4. Remembrance Ceremony at Thomas Jefferson High School for graduates of Thomas Jefferson High School graduates who were Killed in Action.
 - 5. Visit to the Residence of Whitehall for a Flag Raising Ceremony, and walking and talking with the residents.
- ◆ Donated \$100 to Operation Troop Appreciation
- ◆ Donated \$100 to Veterans Place of Washington Blvd
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation

What did you do on Memorial Day?

POST 712 OSCAR MIKE

RECOGNITION, SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

April 2024 (con't)

- ◆ Paper Shredding Event: On April 27th, Guardian Storage of Bethel Park sponsored a free paper shredding event. Thanks to 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon and ALA Member Susan Dillon for hauling 7 boxes of outdated Post 712 and membership records to this free, professional shredding event for proper destruction.

May 2024

- ◆ In recognition of Military Appreciation Month, The Pittsburgh Pirates named a Veteran of the Game and Flag Presenter for each home game during May. Of the 15 home games Post 712 members were recognized during five of those games with an on-field, pre-game ceremony. Each Veteran received 4 tickets to seats at the Home Plate Club and were treated to a gourmet dinner at a private, in-stadium restaurant. Each Veteran also received a game jersey with their name on the reverse along with other gifts during this unique experience. Thank you Veterans for representing Veterans & Post 712 and thank you for your service!

May 6th Legionnaire Loren Contreras May 8th Legionnaire Nila Porter

May 12th Legionnaire Pat Mostyn May 22nd 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon

May 26th 1st Vice Commander Lloyd Ray

- ◆ Pittsburgh Pirates Game—On May 6th, Post 712 members Nick Krawec, Terry Choate, Lloyd Ray, & John Dillon along with their guests attended the game with complimentary tickets from the Pirates and Operation Troop Appreciation to cheer on Loren and the Bucco's.
- ◆ Travel Back to Vietnam with Lt. Col. (Retired) and Post 712 Legionnaire Nick Edinger. Nick presented slides from his visit to Vietnam during Dec. 2023 and compared Vietnam then and now from his tour of duty during the war. Very interesting presentation and great job Nick!
- ◆ Placing Flags on the Graves of Veterans in preparation of Memorial Day. On May 18th Post 712 partnered with VFW Post 1810 to place flags on the graves of Veterans at 5 local cemeteries. Thank you for volunteering your time to honor our fallen Brothers Judge Advocate Nick Krawec, Adjutant Terry Choate, 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon and 1st Vice Commander Lloyd Ray.

POST 712 OSCAR MIKE

RECOGNITION, SPONSORSHIPS, DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERING

January 2024

- ◆ Volunteered at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies as part of the Wreath's Across America Memorial Program
- ◆ \$1,200 Donation to Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard to support local Veterans housing, skills, and life training (Equal to our 2023 donation of \$1,200)
- ◆ \$200 Donation to Brentwood VFW Post 1810
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation

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 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
- ◆ Plaque of Appreciation presented to Castle Shannon American Legion Post 490 by the 712 Legion Riders in appreciation of continuing support
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation

April 2024

- ◆ \$200 Donation to *5K For a Cure, Team Cassidy*, sponsored by Thomas Jefferson High School, in support of a student who is battling brain cancer
- ◆ Volunteered at Operation Troop Appreciation (multiple opportunities)
- ◆ Donated \$100 to Operation Troop Appreciation
- ◆ Donated \$100 to Veterans Place at Washington Boulevard

> American Legion Post 712 <

> AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 <

To enhance the **American Legion Family of Post 712**, all Members and Perspective Members of Post 712, of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), of the Chapter 712 Legion Riders, and of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) are welcomed and encouraged to attend Post Meetings. Join us for a meeting and social hour afterwards. Have a little fun!

Contact the Legion

USA@ALPost712PA.org

412-901-0327

Business Office—American
Legion Post 712, 610 Old
Clairton Rd, Pgh, PA 15236

Facebook: *American Legion
Post 712-Virtual*

Website: *ALPost712PA.org*

712 MEETINGS

The 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw
Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA

Military Etiquette

Officer: Do you have
change for a dollar?

Soldier: Yeah

Officer: Is that how you
speak to an Officer? Now
lets try that again! Do you
have change for a dollar?

Soldier: *No Sir!*

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

Who We Are

We are the *New Post 712* building a legacy of camaraderie, service and honor. Supporting Veterans and Youth through sponsorships and volunteering, improving our community and aiding non-profit organizations.

Join us to build your legacy. New Members Welcome!

What's the difference between Memorial Day and Veterans Day?

Much has been written trying to answer this question. Though I believe the answer is straight forward. On Memorial Day we honor our dead, those men and women who never came home. It is a day of solemn remembrance and honor to those who gave all. On Veterans Day, we celebrate our Veterans one and all, those men and women who stood up to be counted and defended our Nation against all enemies foreign and domestic. We salute one another and revel in the camaraderie of being a Veteran.

> The American Legion Family <

Legion Riders

OFFICERS

Director—Lloyd Ray
Assistant Director—John Dillon
Road Captain—Chuck Durney
Treasurer—Beverly Weikel
Secretary—Susan Dillon
Chaplain—Mark Smith

MEETINGS

The first Wednesday of the Month at 7PM. The next Riders Meeting is May 1st at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, PGH, PA 15227 (VFW bldg.). All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Be a Member of the Legion Family, Veterans, SAL or ALA (Spouses welcome also).
2. Own a motorcycle, trike, Can-Am or similar vehicle.
3. Be licensed and have insurance.
4. You may be a member of any Legion Post and still join the Post 712 Riders.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Top at 412-606-8812
- ◆ USA@ALPost712PA.org
- ◆ *American Legion Riders Chapter 712* on Facebook

ALA

OFFICERS

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

MEETINGS

The third Monday of the month at 6PM. The next ALA Meeting is May 20th at the Post 712 Business Office, 610 Old Clairton Rd, PGH, PA 15236. All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion; and/or
2. female descendants of men or women who served during 1917/1918 and any time beginning December 7th, 1941 to the present: and/or
3. female descendants of men or women who died in the line of duty or who received an Honorable Discharge; or
4. Female Veterans w/Honorable Discharge.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Mary Ann at 412-330-7863
- ◆ Snookie1938@aol.com

> Final Countdown <

Do you know someone in the Legion, Sons, or ALA who has not provided Post 712 with an **email address**? If so, encourage them to submit their email address to **USA@ALPost712PA.org** so we can include them on our email distribution list rather than having to send them information thru snail mail. E-mail is faster and free. Snail Mail is expensive and every dollar we spend is money that could have been spent on Veterans, Youth, or Community Programs—Thanks!

Why did you join the Legion? It probably had something to do with that feeling you had in the Military of camaraderie and being part of something bigger than yourself. You may have even wanted to find an avenue to give back somehow to your Community, Veterans and Youth. **So here's your chance.** The doors are open and Post 712 is the perfect vehicle for you to achieve these goals as we are focused on camaraderie, supporting Veterans and giving back. All we need to complete the circle is you! Attend a meeting. Attend an event. Attend a volunteer opportunity. Become part of something bigger than yourself and make a difference standing shoulder to shoulder with your fellow Veterans. **Next meeting is Tuesday, June 18th, at 7 PM.**

I am very happy to report the **Son's of the American Legion** or SAL is standing up with Officers and an agenda. Do you know someone interested in belonging to the 'Son's'?

Eligibility—All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion. Male descendants of Veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917 thru November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941 to date, or who died subsequent to their service at any time, who served honorably, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of the American Legion (In short, a male descendent of a Service Member who served honorably is eligible for membership).

MEMORIAL DAY—The Phoenix will publish a special Memorial Day edition to highlight the activities of Post 712 and the Riders in the coming days. Look for it in your email inbox.