

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • March 2018

puto *American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills*



Greetings from the Commander

LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
FRANK CAPUTO

1st Vice Commander
DON SMOLEY

2nd Vice Commander
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
LEE PHILLIPS

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
BILL WEIKEL

I hope you all have a very pleasant and enjoyable Easter.

I would like to share something with you all, this was passed on to me by our Second Vice Craig Kern. I'm not sure where it originated but found it worth sharing.

“ Every person that has served in the military, weather or not in combat, has learned the importance the military plays in protecting our freedom. You learn that every person on a base or in a unit is essential to completion of the units mission. If they are not needed they will not be on the manning document. Through the service of all these people we protect, support and defend our country and our way of life. It is the effort of all service personnel that insures our continued residence in the land of the free, and the home of the brave.”

God bless America and God bless our troops

Frank Caputo, Commander



Post 712 Website: alpost712pa.org

From the Desk of the Adjutant

Thad Weidmann

Our Home Association President Bob Stoodt was re-elected at our Feb meeting. He has been aggressively focusing on improving our post to make it a clean and modern looking place to allow our members to enjoy camaraderie with fellow members and have a place to call home.

Our membership doldrums are hopefully subsiding. Several members that had become dissatisfied and stopped supporting the post are beginning to give our post another look and are considering contributing their time and energy again. Our Home Association now has a full board of directors. We have volunteers that are helping to improve the Post like cleaning up our downstairs storage area and discarding old, un-needed equipment and replacing ceiling tiles in our Social Hall, eliminating the ones that had water marks. Both of these efforts have made a dramatic improvement and will help us get more revenue from hall rentals. If you're looking for something to do, consider volunteering a few hours to help your Legion. We need more volunteers for our fish fry because we are open twice as long this year. We split the revenue from the fish fry with the kitchen. This fund raiser can help us save several months of drawing from savings to keep the door open. We also need members to do things like Color Guard to honor our fellow veterans at the funeral home when they pass. Their families are very appreciative of this service we provide. In addition, we will be doing spring cleaning after the fish fry is over. If you can spare a couple hours, it would really be helpful. Plus, being active and having a sense of purpose can help improve your health. If you're not able to contribute physically because of time or health restraints but still want to help, you can make a donation to our post. The American Legion is a 501 3(c) charitable organization. Donations are tax deductible and we are tax exempt (75-402-925). Make check payable to American Legion Post 712. All donations will go toward keeping our post open and the services we provide for our fellow veterans.

We are continuing to negotiate with our vendors to upgrade our equipment:

Our new machine vendor, Jeff Hartman, replaced all of our machines and paid to install a new soft drink gun system at the bar. We have 2 new bowling machines that eliminate the complaints we had with malfunctions. We have a new juke box that includes revenue sharing from Smart Phone access. We have a new ATM that includes greater revenue sharing from usage. We also have a new Dart machine that will soon be connected to the internet to allow contests against players in other locations, along with a new pool table.

We changed our phone, TV and internet service from Verizon to Comcast, which saved us approx \$900 this year and \$600 per year after that. We also have 2 continuous monthly revenue streams so far, our leased kitchen and a weekly line dancing class.

John Dillon will be coordinating upgrading our video surveillance system when the weather breaks. As a non-profit veteran organization, several vendors are willing to give us a break on labor and equipment.

We will be installing a new bar cash register system that will allow us to better track our stock and revenue. It will also add features like being able to track chips for drinks. We are leasing to own this new system so we don't have a large initial cost to deploy.

We were able to repair our existing cash register for \$400 vs spending \$2000 to buy a new one. We will be re-deploying our old register either in the kitchen or social hall after we evaluate where it will have the most impact.

Fortunately, the stock market gave us a one year reprieve in 2017 by replacing the money we needed to draw from our savings to stay open. We are hoping to build on that by making improvements, encouraging our members to support our post by stopping in for food and beverages and by volunteering to assist with maintaining our facilities and helping with the services we provide for our fellow veterans in hospitals, nursing homes and funeral homes etc. With Donna Rottman's help making the monthly newsletter, we now reach out to over 1300 people each month including 520 'Friends' on Facebook, 198 recipients on e-mail, over 500 unique visitors to our web site and 100 paper copies at the bar.

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Lent at the Legion

Kitchen Open 12-8 PM

Take-Out 12-8 PM
(412-653-1555)



Open to the Public
No Smoking
4-8 PM

SOLDIERS PLACE

Sides

Cole Slaw	\$2
Mac & Cheese	\$3
Fries	\$3
Haluski	\$3
Stewed Tomatos	\$2
Peirogies (4)	\$3

Fish Sandwich and Slaw	\$8.95
Jumbo Shrimp and Slaw	\$10.95
Grilled Cheese Sandwich	\$4.00
Clam Chowder Soup	\$4.00

Condiments

Tarter	
Cocktail Sauce	
Ketchup	
Hot Sauce	
Extra Cheese	\$.75
Extra Bun	\$.75
Take Out Charge	\$.50

Every Friday during Lent

Article Submitted by Les Branchen

Congressman Trey Gowdy just said a few things about the military in response to the ban of transgenders. He nails it;

Nobody has a "right" to serve in the Military. Nobody!

What makes people think the Military is an equal opportunity employer? Very far from it.

The Military uses prejudice regularly and consistently to deny citizens from joining for being too old or too young, too fat or too skinny, too tall or too short.

Citizens are denied for having flat feet, or for missing or additional fingers. Poor eyesight will disqualify you, as well as bad teeth.

Malnourished? Drug addiction? Bad back? Criminal history? Low IQ? Anxiety? Phobias? Hearing damage? Six arms?

Hear voices in your head? Self-identify as a Unicorn? Need a special access ramp for your wheelchair? Can't run the required course in the required time?

Can't do the required number of push-ups? Not really a 'morning person' and refuse to get out of bed before noon?

All can be reasons for denial.

The Military has one job. War !

Anything else is a distraction and a liability.

Did someone just scream "That isn't Fair"? War is VERY unfair, there are no exceptions made for being special or challenged or socially wonderful. YOU change yourself to meet Military standards.. Not the other way around.

I say again: You don't change the Military... you must change yourself. The Military doesn't need to accommodate anyone with special issues. The Military needs to Win Wars.

If any of your personal issues are a liability that detract from readiness or lethality... then we thank you for applying and good luck in your future endeavors".

Who's next in line?

POST 712
HOME ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS

President
BOB STOODT

Vice President
FRANK CAPUTO

Secretary
ED HARMON

Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Board Members

DAVE BILSKI

ROB BUTELLI

BOB BRANCHEN

JOHN DILLON

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.

Events coming to the Legion:

St Patrick's Day party March 17th.
Open at 10 AM.
Green Beer, DJ, Buffet and Prizes.

The Children's Easter Egg Breakfast and Hunt will be on March 24th starting at 9:00 a.m.

June 4th veterans from Southwestern Vet Center

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Sons of the Legion,

March 24th, the sons will be cooking pancakes and sausage for the children. Ten and under are free and over ten is a \$3.00 donation. An egg hunt will follow the breakfast.



Sunday May 20th is the next Hoagie Sale \$8.00 each or 3 for \$22.00.

Thank you,

Gary C Hartman

Comander if the SAL

SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
MIKE HAVERTY

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO



Auxiliary Corner,

Thank you to all the Ladies that have been helping with the fish fry. We have been having a great bake sale and many of you have been donating some delicious items to be sold for our care in helping the Veterans. The *Children's Easter Egg Breakfast and Hunt* will be on March 24th starting at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up at the bar so we can prepare. We will be working with the Sons and the Post to give the kids a great party. We need help. See Gary, Frank or Mary Ann to let us know what time you can be there. Mark June 4th as the date the Veterans hospital residents will be coming to the Post. Dee has agreed to help us prepare for it and we give her a big hand. This is a very exciting time for them as our Post has always been one of their favorites.

GOD BLESS AND PROTECT OUR TROOPS

Mary Ann Marunich

ALA President

**Our Next Meeting
March 26**

ALA OFFICERS

President
MARY ANN MARUNICH

1st Vice President
DONNA McCRUMB

2nd Vice President
VICKY GOLDEN

Secretary
MARGARET PHILLIPS

Treasurer
ANNE GIOVANNITTI

Chaplain
BARBARA TERIHAY

Sgt-At-Arms
ROSE BREEN

Sgt-At-Arms
DONNA ROTTMAN

Sgt-At-Arms
PAT O'TOOLE



American Legion Riders,

G'Day Legionnaires:

The Riders had their first meeting of 2018 on February 6th and started the year off right by donating **\$5,000** to the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House. On-hand representing the FoPFH was Post 712's own, Mr. **Jim Bruder**. Also present were **Bill Melilli and his son, BJ**. Bill and BJ own, The Gun Rack, in Belle Vernon, PA and partnered with the Riders to sponsor a gun raffle to raise money for the Pittsburgh Fisher House. The Riders and The Gun Rack each donated a gun, both Springfield .45 caliber, Model 1911 pistols, to be raffled off, with all proceeds being donated to the Fisher House. Thank you to Bill and BJ for your partnership and thank you Jim for the great work you do. And in keeping with Rider traditions of good food, good friends and camaraderie, the donation ceremony and meeting were followed by a catered meal presented by Joe and Dee from the Soldier's Place Restaurant. Joe and Dee prepared homemade meatball hoagies that were simply delicious and were very reasonably priced. It was a great evening.

As of the writing of this article the first two days of Lent at the Legion have been completed. The Riders volunteered to support Ash Wednesday and the first Friday of Lent by working at the Post to help with the odd jobs of cleaning tables, taking out the trash, serving as the host/hostess and just generally being there to help. The reason we do this is that Post 712 and the Soldier's Place Restaurant share the profits from Lent at the Legion, which aids greatly in the financial support of Post 712. A tremendous Thank you goes out to the Riders and friends who came out to support **Lent at the Legion: Bill Allan, Donna Allan, Tom Bodner, John Caligiure, Loren Contreras, John Dillon, Susan Dillon, Mike Dudenas, Ron Dulak, Ed Harmon, Dave Harris, Kevin Jackson, Larry Jageman, Ken Lancaster, Rob Mansberry, Ann McCullough, Larry Murin, Lee Phillips, Margie Phillips, Melissa Stefanic, Bill Weikel and Beverly Weikel**. And of course, having worked up an appetite with all of that volunteering, each night the Riders ended the evening by sitting down and enjoying a meal of fish or shrimp together. The meal was scrumptious and the camaraderie of doing our good deed of the day and being with friends is always great.

The Country lost another member of, The Greatest Generation, when on February 12th Mr. Thomas Oeler passed away. Mr. Oeler was the father of Riders Air Force Veteran Dan Oeler and the grandfather of Riders Active Duty Air Force Airman Tim Oeler. During WWII Mr. Oeler was assigned to the 826th Amphibian Tractor Battalion which saw action in the Pacific Theater including at the invasion and battle of Leyte and the Luzon battles and campaign under General Douglas McArthur. Something I did not know was that the invasion and battle of Luzon was the largest US campaign of the Pacific War and involved more US troops than any other invasion during WWII except of course for D-Day itself. Rest in Peace Sir.

I sometimes hear people mistakenly refer to the American Legion as a bar, a club or a restaurant. These people are wrong. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the Nation's largest wartime Veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

Continued on next page

President
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President
KEN LANCASTER

Vice Presidents
BILL ALLAN
KEVIN JACKSON

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 Captain
BOB STEFANIC

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The ten clauses of the American Legion Preamble clearly define what the American Legion is and our beliefs. As one might expect from a 99-year old document, the wording is dated, though the mission is clear.



For God and Country, we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

1. To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.
2. To maintain Law and Order.
3. To Foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism (Americanism is the ideals of freedom, justice, individual rights and unfenced-in opportunities).
4. To preserve the memories and incidents of our Associations in the Great Wars (in all wars).
5. To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to community, state and nation (To give back, to be an active member and to aid those Veterans and persons in our communities who are less fortunate).
6. To combat the autocracy of the classes and masses (in defense of democracy).
7. To make right the master of might (Our Veterans must be the masters of might as they have already stood in opposition to dictators and despots who have wanted to make their might the master of right).
8. To promote peace and good will on earth.
9. To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.
10. To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness (to join together with our fellow Veterans, our Brothers and Sisters and celebrate our service to Nation and support one another in times of hardship, to be a Band of Brothers).



The wording is a little awkward for 2018, but the message is clear; make a difference in your community, be part of the solution and not part of the problem.

The Riders will conduct another gun raffle to be drawn on May 19th; Armed Forces Day. We will donate \$1,000 of the proceeds to the Post 712 Veterans Fund. It is important that all groups within Post 712 and all individuals give back to Post 712 to ensure the Post remains an active and vibrant place for Veterans and Patriots to meet, greet and enjoy life.

You can check us out on our Facebook page, *American Legion Riders Post 712*.

The next Riders meeting

is at 1900 hours,

Tuesday, March 6th, 2018.

See you there.

Top

Around the Legion . . .

The legion is not open to the public except for special events, we are required to sign them in as guests and expect them to join following their third visit.

Keycards for members who haven't paid their dues were deactivated on 2/1. Dues must be current to win the daily Blotto drawing.

Visit our website for info about renting our Social Hall for your next special event. Special Discount Prices for Members. Contact Debbie Michalski (412-616-1834).

Future Events coming to the Legion:

St Patrick's Day party March 17th. Open at 10 AM. Green Beer, DJ, Buffet and Prizes. The *Children's Easter Egg Breakfast and Hunt* will be on March 24th starting at 9:00 a.m.

We have pool, bowling and corn hole in addition to bingo, an internet juke box (that you can program from your smart phone), Blotto daily number and other games like LRC (Left, Right, Center).

If you're hungry, our 'Soldiers Place' kitchen is open daily Wed-Sun for members.

SOLDIERS PLACE

KITCHEN SCHEDULE

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 <i>Fish Fry</i>	3
				KITCHEN OPEN 12-8		
4	5 6 CLOSED		7	8	9 <i>Fish Fry</i>	10
				KITCHEN OPEN 12-8		
11	12 13 CLOSED		14	15	16 <i>Fish Fry</i>	17
				KITCHEN OPEN 12-8		
18	19 20 CLOSED		21	22	23 <i>Fish Fry</i>	24
				KITCHEN OPEN 12-8		
25	26 27 CLOSED		28	29	30 <i>Good Friday Fish Fry</i>	31
				KITCHEN OPEN 12-8		

KITCHEN OPEN 12 TO 8