

THE PHOENIX



For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

> **MEETING NOTES** < **MEETINGS:** American Legion Post 712 holds Monthly Meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 PM, at the Brentwood VFW, 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (PA-51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227.

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, February 18th at 7 PM. This was a bitterly cold evening which kept attendance down as is typical for January or February, but enough Members were in attendance to allow us to conduct a good meeting. The Meeting was Chaired by **Commander Lloyd Ray**. Given the cold, we choose to forego 712 Social Hour after the meeting and get home before the weather turned even worse.

Motions, Discussion & Events of Note during the meeting

- ◆ A donation \$170 to the **Thomas Jefferson High School Baseball** team in support of local area youth sports. The \$170 figure was chosen as that is the cost of a full page ad in the Baseball teams program which is available at every game.
- ◆ A donation of \$170 to the **South Park High School Baseball** team in support of local youth sports which also supported a full page ad in the SPHS Baseball program.
- ◆ Later in the month the American Legion Riders of Post 712 made a \$200 donation to **Operation Troop Appreciation**, a \$200 donation to the **Keystone Young Marines** and a \$200 donation to the **Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House**. Rider Pat Mostyn, who doubles as the Commander of American Legion Post 490 Castle Shannon, hand-delivered the donation to the Keystone Young Marines.
- ◆ Commander Lloyd Ray stated he continues to try to locate the local scouting organization and later in the month we learned Lloyd did indeed make contact with **Cub Scout Pack 562 of Pleasant Hills** and Pack Leader Dan Ricci. See Lloyd's interview of Dan in this issue of, *The Phoenix*, page 5.
- ◆ First Vice Commander John Dillon introduced a donation to **VFW Post 1810** to pay for electrical, plumbing and modernization of the of the VFW as it now serves as the home of Post 712 and the 712 Riders. In addition several other organizations call 1810 home, such as the **Disabled American Veterans, Ancient Order of the Hibernians, Multiple Sclerosis Support Group, Vietnam Veterans Inc.**, and others. See the text of the motion to be voted on during the March 2025 Meeting in this issue of, *The Phoenix*, pages 2–3.

> MEETING NOTES <



Thomas Jefferson HS Jaguars Baseball

Two Great American Traditions

**American
Legion
Post 712**

**Pleasant
Hills**



During 2024, your Pleasant Hills American Legion donated over \$12,000 to support local Veterans & Youth Programs & Volunteered over 500 hours to further assist those programs

Still Serving – We are the Legion



Helping Veterans & Strengthening Community

Join the Legion to make a difference!

412-901-0327 | USA@ALPost712PA.org

Example of the full-page ad donated to the TJHS Baseball program.

- A donation request was also received from the **Baldwin High School**. However, the Membership noted that Baldwin already has an organic American Legion, Post 935 Nix—Vogel, and it would be inappropriate of us to move into the geographic area of another Legion Post even if that area is geographically co-located in our vicinity. As such, Baldwin HS was referred to Post 935.

- Motion of 1st Vice Commander John Dillon for a donation to **VFW Post 1810 Brentwood**.

1. Motion for a significant donation to VFW Post 1810. As you may recall, a few years ago Post 712 passed a motion that any donation of \$2,500 or more must be introduced at a Regularly Scheduled Post Meeting and will be voted on at the next Regularly Scheduled Post Meeting. This allows the membership time to consider the pending donation and ensures all Post 712 funds are being used effectively, effi-

ciently and with the best interests of Post 712.

2. At the Regularly Scheduled Post Meeting on 02/18/25, First Vice Commander John Dillon voiced a proposal to donate up to \$20,000 to VFW Post 1810 to be used only for repair, maintenance and modernization within the building. John noted Post 712 would not simply hand over a donation to the VFW, but upon the VFW obtaining a written estimate of work, followed by receipts of all work performed and parts purchased, the Post 712 Executive Board approve or disapprove the expenditure of donation funds. This process ensures the donation of Post 712 funds will be used as intended. The proposal was well received.

3. The Back Story: VFW Post 1810 is now our home. The VFW has never asked us for rent and allows us free reign of the building during our meetings. Our Membership has been welcomed into the VFW as VFW Regular Members and VFW Social Members, and we all remember from our own experiences at Post 712 how expense upkeep on a building this size can be.

> MEETING NOTES <

3. Continued: The bones of the building are good and the parking lot and roof are new. However, the interior of the building looks like an NCO Club from the 1960's. Electrical work is needed, plumbing work is needed, and painting and modernization of the interior of the building are needed.

4. The VFW does not charge rent or a usage fee to any tenant organizations and about 5 – 7 groups meet there including Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans Inc, Ancient Order of Hibernians, and others. All will be asked to support the upgrade and modernization process.

5. The work being planned includes electrical work to replace existing lighting and replace outdated switches and connectors, which will be performed by our own 712 American Legion Rider Pat Mostyn. Plumbing with focus on the Men's bathroom in the Canteen primarily. Painting will be completed by Volunteers though funding is needed for paint and supplies. Operational purchases such as new ceiling tiles and similar devices to modernize the interior are also on the table; all of which will be completed by volunteers. However, the interior will retain a patriotic theme as a building for Veterans.

6. Recap: Donation of up to \$20,000 for upgrades to electrical, plumbing, painting, ceiling tiles, and modernization. The donation funds will only be approved on an individual basis per project and funding will be provided at the conclusion of the project or during normal billing cycles as funds may be required in advance for parts and supplies. This ensures the donation funds are used for substantial improvements to the facility as intended.

7. The motion will again be discussed and voted by the Membership at the Regularly Scheduled Meeting on Tuesday, March 18th, at 7 PM, at our standard meeting location, VFW Post 1810. If anyone would like to talk to John about the motion, you may reach him at 412-606-8812.



**South
Park HS
Eagles
Baseball**

**American
Legion
Post 712**

**Pleasant
Hills**



Two Great American Traditions

During 2024, Pleasant Hills American Legion Post 712 donated more than \$12,000 to support local Veterans & Youth Programs and Volunteered over 500 hours to assist those programs

Still Serving – We are the Legion

Example of the full-page ad donated to the SPSHS Baseball program.



Helping Veterans & Strengthening Community

**When you're ready to be a difference maker – Call Us
412-901-0327 ||| USA@ALPost712PA.org**

> COMMANDER'S MESSAGE <

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires,

This month, I want to highlight the important role our Post plays in supporting the community. Most of you are already aware of the numerous organizations we've assisted, and I'm pleased to share that we've reestablished a connection with the Boy Scouts—more on that later.

However, you might be surprised to learn that reconnecting with them wasn't as simple as it sounds. In today's digital age, the internet is filled with outdated and inactive websites, making it a challenge to find reliable information. I also reached out through what I thought were direct connections, but unfortunately, I received no response. Ultimately, I was able to attend a Scout meeting and make the connection in person.

Looking ahead, my next challenge is to establish ties with the Girl Scouts. Here's where I need your help: if you know how to contact the local Girl Scouts, please reach out to the Post via phone or email.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that we are committed to supporting local organizations that are important to you and your families. If your family or friends are involved in any community fundraisers or events, please send the details our way. It won't cost you anything, and we're happy to provide support at any level we can.

Looking forward to connecting with YOU!

Your Commander,
Lloyd Ray

[Lloyd as Veteran of the Game at PNC Park on May 29, 2024, with brother & Legionnaire Irv Ray.](#)



> INTERVIEW—CUB MASTER DAN RICCI <

Cub Scout Pack 562—Pleasant Hills

American Legion Post 712 is now lending it's support to Cub Scout Pack 562, which is stationed in Pleasant Hills.

The Post will be providing financial support to the Cub Scouts for a variety of purposes, whether it's helping to fund specific activities or assisting families pay for Cub Scouts membership dues.

Dan Ricci, Cub Master for the pack, said it was "awesome" to have another community organization lending its support to the Cub Scouts. He said in the past the troop has had to be "strategic" in what activities they can do with the scouts, and the additional funds will provide them with a lot more "leeway" in terms of what service projects or major events they can do. This is especially important as Pack 562 has recently undergone many leadership changes, as pack leaders followed their kids in the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts.

Cub Scouts Pack 562 operates out of Pleasant Hills Church, and perform projects in the Pleasant Hills and Jefferson Hills neighborhoods primarily. A major focus for the pack is taking care of the Pleasant Hills Arboretum, where the group frequently does weeding and trail clean-up work. In addition, Ricci said the pack does "odds and ends" work around the community, such as planting saplings and other forms of landscaping.

An organization with a history going back more than a century, Ricci said the Cub Scouts helps teach kids about leadership, dedication and time management. A particularly important lesson, he feels, is that some projects may take a long time and require a lot of effort, but are still worth doing. "There's very little instant gratification (in scouting), which I think goes a long way," he said.

That is not to say scouting is all hard work, however. Ricci said the modern Scouts have merit badges for just about every activity there is, from traditional camping and knot tying skills, to even computer skills. There's also the summer camps and the popular pinewood derby races. "If there's an activity you like, there's an award for that," he said.

Cub Scouts Pack 562 meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Pleasant Hills Church. If anyone is interested in signing up a family member for scouts, they can either attend a meeting or visit beascout.org to find their local troop.

Cub Scouts runs from Kindergarten through fifth grade, transitioning to Scouts BSA (formerly known as Boy Scouts) from sixth grade until they reach the age of 18.

By Commander Lloyd Ray

> 712 Donations During < 12-Month Revolving timeframe

During 2024, **Post 712 donated in excess of \$12,000** to local organizations in support of Veterans and Youth and we have **volunteered over 519** hours of work to local non-profit organizations and community projects.

We are American Legion Post 712

- Thomas Jefferson Junior Football League, \$300 (2024)
- **Thomas Jefferson High School Baseball, \$170 (2025)**
- Thomas Jefferson High School 5K For a Cure Race, \$200 (2024)
- Thomas Jefferson High School Theater, \$100 (2024)
- Thomas Jefferson High School Band, \$500 (2024)
- American Legion Post 490 Castle Shannon, \$400 (2024)
- American Legion Post 940 West Brownsville, \$100 (2024)
- **American Legion Post 380 Dravosburg, Honor Guard equipment (2025)**
- **American Legion Post 701 White Oak, Honor Guard equipment (2025)**
- South Park High School Football, \$100 (2024)
- South Park High School Soccer, \$95 (2024)
- South Park High School Basketball, \$95 (2024)
- **South Park High School Baseball, \$170 (2025)**
- Brentwood VFW Post 1810, \$4,400 (2024)
- **Operation Troop Appreciation, \$1,200 (2025)**
- **Veterans Place of Washington Blvd, \$1,200 (2025)**
- Pleasant Hills Volunteer Fire Company, \$100 (2024)
- Pennsylvania American Legion Hurricane Relief Fund, \$500 (2024)
- Volunteer as Veteran of the Game (5) with the Pittsburgh, Pirates (2024)
- **Volunteer at Operation Troop Appreciation (2025)**
- Volunteer at National Cemetery of the Alleghenies (2024)
- Volunteer at cemeteries to prep graves for Memorial Day (2024)
- Volunteer at Pleasant Hills Community Day (2024)
- Volunteer at the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall (2024)

What's going on in your neighborhood? How can we help?



LEGIONNAIRE

TAPS

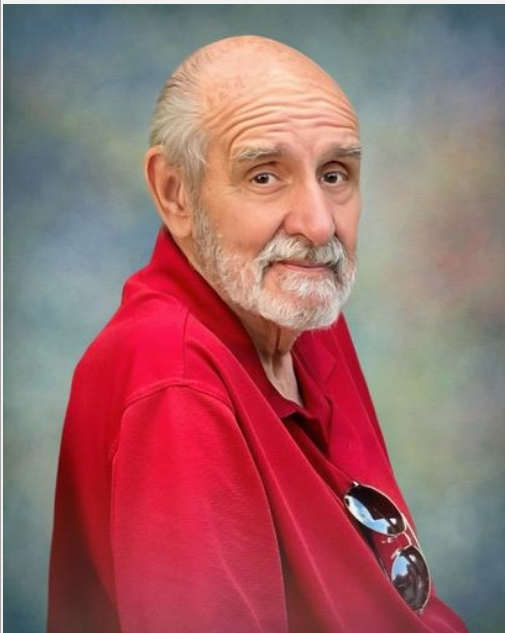
(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman Sadie Colbert/Released)

Donald W. Rottman

February 4, 2025

Service Officer & Executive Board

American Legion Post 712



On Tuesday, February 4th, at the age 78, Donald Rottman of Whitehall, formally of Jefferson Hills, peacefully passed away and was reunited with his wife, Donna.

Don was the son of the late Edward and Dorthy (Steinback) Rottman, Beloved husband of the late Donna J. (Edmunds) Rottman, Treasured father of Denise (Michael) Weidmann and Happy Pappy of Allison, Adam, and A.J. Weidmann, Cherished brother of the late Linda Delbusso, and brother-in-law of Joe Delbusso, David Edmunds, and Carrol Rearick.

He was an employee at Mesta Machine Co before retiring as co-owner at D&R Graphics. Don proudly served in the Vietnam War (1966-67) as a radioman with the United States Army. He was a part the 4th Infantry Division.

He had a passion for a broad range of auto racing, from local racing to NASCAR and Indy. His main interests included helping veterans and stamp-collecting. His biggest thrill was watching his grandchildren grow and succeed. Don always made Christmas special for those around him in his "Santa hat."

Don loved his daily phone calls with his daughter, Denise, and spending time with her husband and their children. He was a caregiver to his wife Donna during her long battle against Parkinson's Disease. He was a tough guy with the biggest heart.

He was involved in many organizations and local municipalities to worldwide veteran's organizations (LM: American Legion, VFW, VVI., Combat Infantry Assn, 4th Infantry Assn, and DAV; Former Councilman of West Homestead). During his time, he was a core team member responsible for the building of the Vietnam Memorial on the North Shore and was very involved in the American Legion Post 712.

> American Legion Post 712 <

> AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 <

We Are The Legion

Post 712 is building a legacy of camaraderie and service. Supporting Veterans and Youth through sponsorships & volunteering, improving our community and aiding non-profit organizations.

Elected Officers

Commander—**Lloyd Ray**

1st Vice Commander
John Dillon

2nd Vice Commander
Don Smoley

Finance

Thad Weidmann

Appointed Officers

Adjutant

Ann Guttendorf

Judge Advocate

Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr

Don Rottman {RIP}

Chaplain

Susan Coville-Cook

Executives-at-Large

1. **Nick Krawec**
2. **Don Rottman {RIP}**
3. **John Caligiure**
4. **Susan Coville-Cook**

Webpage

Thad Weidmann

Newsletter & FB Page

John Dillon

412-606-8812

USA@ALPost712PA.org

American Legion

Membership Requirements

- ◆ Having served at least one day on active duty since Dec 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
- ◆ 412-901-0327 | USA@ALPost712PA.org
- ◆ American Legion Post 712, 610 Old Clairton Rd, Pgh, PA 15236

Sons of the American Legion Program Membership Requirements

- ◆ Male of any age
- ◆ Parent or Grandparent served in the U.S. Military and were eligible for American Legion Membership (Served at least one (1) day on active duty during World War I or any time from December 7, 1941 to date (Includes adopted sons and stepsons)
- ◆ Provide DD214 of Veteran
- ◆ Yes, Post 712 does have a SAL Squadron. Annual dues are \$9. Give us a call

American Legion Riders Membership Requirements

- ◆ Be a member in good standing with the American Legion, the SAL or the ALA
- ◆ Be the legally registered owner (or spouse) of a motorcycle
- ◆ Be properly licensed and insured as required by law
- ◆ Riders Chapter 712 meet the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7 PM.
- ◆ Annual dues are \$5. Give us a call