

NEWSLETTER



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

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



Commander's Call

I wrote last month's Commander's Call prior to the Home Association meeting where members voted for board officers of the Home Association. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our new board officers. Those who stepped up to the plate to volunteer their time are: President - Bob Stoodt, Vice President - Frank Caputo, Treasurer - Bill Weikel and Secretary - Ed Harmon. The next time you see these folks at the Post, please thank them taking an interest in the future of our Post. I would also like to thank Russ Wilson, past Home Association President, for volunteering to stay in office until we completed the voting, even though his term of President was up in February 2017. Great job guys!

The second item I would like to discuss is a review of our successful Lent-at-the-Legion that ended in April. This year's Lent-at-the-Legion topped our last year's event. Thanks has to go out to everyone who made this possible. Part of our success this year was taking the lessons learned from last year and making adjustments as needed. In 2016, we got off to a slow start. We didn't know how to gauge whether we would receive public support. We also didn't advertise well until the Fish Frys were almost over. Two years ago, nay-sayers told me, "Fish does not sell here." and "We tried it before and it did not work." I then made a command decision to try it and as they say, the rest is history. We had tremendous support from our surrounding communities. Folks flooded the Post for meals. We didn't prepare for the crowds we received and we ran out of fish the first few weeks hours before the fish fry was over. I, too, planned to have dinner on Friday during Lent, but was told we were out of fish

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



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and it was only 7 PM. Looking back, I also need to thank all who volunteered when I made the suggestion to have Lent at the Legion last year. I shared our story at a district meeting and they now use this example to educate new commanders to never give up when you have an idea. I raised the bar high in 2016 and this year it was raised even higher. I challenge everyone to roll up his or her sleeves and make 2018 even more successful than this year. Again, a personal thank you to all who volunteered in order to prove to everyone that I made the right call. Thank you again for your support.

I now need to shift gears to our past Easter Egg Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt. I do not know where to start as the event was so successful. We had plenty of volunteers and everyone left with smiles on their faces. Gary Hartman and the Sons of the Legion were outstanding. The Sons made their famous "bunny pancakes" along with numerous side dishes. After everyone completed his or her meal, volunteers conducted an Easter raffle for the children. This would have been enough in itself, but then there was an awesome, super-organized Easter Egg Hunt. Gary Hartman, Commander of the Sons, and his members and volunteers never disappoint our Legion. They constantly strive to exceed the last event they had. Hats go off to them! I want to thank this year's Easter Bunny, Jewel Denne. She did an excellent job!

I want to everyone that we will be conducting the voting for legion commander and if a current officer is voted in as commander, we will be voting for that officer's position as well. One final call - anyone who is interested in becoming a

Legion officer needs to contact our Judge Advocate, Nick Krawec now. He can be reached by calling **412-877-1629**. Nick is in charge of the Nominating Committee. Voting will take place at the June Meeting.

In closing, from time-to-time I hear grumbling that other folks feel they could do a better job leading the Post into the future. For those who believe that they can do a better job, my recommendation is for these folks to do less talking about this at the bar and step up and do the right thing. Now would be the time to exchange your bar stool for the commander's chair. We need good people to lead Post 712.

I will be missing my first Legion meeting on Monday since I started my rein as commander. I am scheduled for surgery at Jefferson Hospital bright and early Monday morning. I want to thank all those who have surrounded me with their support. The tremendous success our Legion achieved over the years could not have been done without your dedication.

As always, we support our troops.

Richard J. Wojnar

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HOW TO GET A COPY OF YOUR DD214

Although it is best to have a copy of your service member's DD214 in a safe place where it can be located at the time of his or her death, here is information you can follow in the event you need an emergency DD214.

For emergency DD214 requests for funerals:

1. Call 314-801-0800 and explain you need a DD214 for a funeral service.
2. Call Department of Veterans Affairs - Pittsburgh, PA- Veteran Benefits - for funerals 800-827-1000. You will need the veteran's social security number.

For assistance, call Post Adjutant 412-616-1834.

AMERICAN LEGION PUFL MEMBERS

Each Paid up for Life member receives a permanent card from National. You will not receive an additional card from any American Legion Post.

Why become a PUFL member?

1. To avoid dues increase
2. To avoid late notices

For new, simplified PUFL program FAQs of The American Legion go to the following link for details.

<https://www.legion.org/membership/218307/new-simplified-pufl-program-faqs>

POST 712
HOME ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS 2016-2017

President
BOB STOODT

Vice President
FRANK CAPUTO

Secretary
ED HARMON

Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Board Members
JOHN DILLON

RUSS WILSON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.



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,

Thanks to all that participated in the Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast. It was a real group effort and the children had a great time. We are resting in May but in June we have two functions. Our Father's Day breakfast and pork chop and chicken dinner.

Look for more details in the June newsletter.

Gary Hartman

Commander of the SAL



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,

Thanks to Vickie Golden and her helpers for the great Children's Easter party. Nominations for officers are now being taken, please call Rose Breen if you have someone in mind. The ALA will be having a Poppy Day May 5th at Sam's Club, stop by and see us. Elections will be held on Monday May 22nd, come and cast your vote. A trip to Nemacolin Woodland Casino is planned for Sunday May 21st. Sign up envelopes are at the bar with the instructions for the trip. The deadline is May 13th for sign ups.

GOD BLESS AND PROTECT OUR TROOPS
MARY ANN MARUNICH, ALA PRESIDENT



American Legion Riders,

Hola Legionnaires.

Please join the Riders in welcoming new members to Post 712 and the Riders: **Fred Lewis, David Harris, Brittany Contreras and Loren Contreras.** Welcome to the team!

On Saturday, April 1st, a total of 67 American Legion Riders braved the cold and snow flurries to welcome home Staff Sergeant Jesse Hogan from his 4th tour in the Middle East and escort him from the airport to his home in Zelienople. A very special thank you goes out to our own Post 712 Riders who participated in the event. **Senior Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Road Captain Ken Lancaster, Senior Road Captain Dan Oeler and Adjutant Lloyd Ray.** You men rock!

Let's also thank the Riders and all members of the Post, the staff, ALA and SAL who supported Lent at the Legion by volunteering their time to ensure this event was a great success. A special thanks goes out to **Mgr. Lisa Deiley** who led the effort. The Post earned more money than in the previous Fish Fry. These well-earned funds will be used to off-set operating costs at Post 712 and to support local Veterans. When our organizations work together we can accomplish great things! Well Done Riders: **Bill and Donna Allan, Tom and Chris Bodner, John Caligiuri, John and Susan Dillon, Mike Dudenas, Jim Easley, Craig Goodwill, Ed Harmon, Kevin and Cocoa Jackson, Ken Lancaster, Jennifer Jenkins, Tom Matthews, Dan Oeler, Lee and Margie Phillips, Ted Rack, Dave Saunier, Ed Schmidt and Bill and Beverly Weikel.**

The **Post 712 Riders** are one of the largest Riders Clubs in the PA American Legion. We are a family oriented club of Brothers and Sisters, Veterans and Patriots, who believe in helping Veterans, having fun and doing works of charity; all on 2 wheels. The Riders have set a great Ride schedule for 2017; all makes of bikes are welcome. Our next meeting will be at 1900 hours, Tuesday, May 2nd. New and interested members are welcome to attend.

Adios,

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

Get to Know Your Chaplin -- Edward Hlad



Edward Hlad Family



March 2017



Can you locate our chaplin in this photo?



Edward and wife Carol



If you had a difficult time locating the chaplin, he is in the middle of the back row in the green shirt.



Swimming with the dolphins.

ATTENTION:

CANCELLATION of POST 712
VIETNAM WAR ERA VETERANS DINNER

We sincerely apologize, but the
Post 712 Vietnam Era Dinner
has been CANCELLED.

NOMINATIONS for
AMERICAN LEGION
POST 712 COMMANDER

Submit all nominations for the American Legion Post 712 Commander to Judge Advocate, Nick Krawec, Esq. Nick is the Chair of the Legion Nominating Committee. Nominations will be announced and finalized at the May 1 Legion Meeting. Please be sure your nominee is willing to serve in this position before submitting your selection. Ballot voting will take place at the June 5 Legion Meeting. ***Call Nick at 412-877-1629 (cell) to submit your nomination.***

Thank you!

TAPS



YOU WILL BE MISSED.

***Robert Schweitzel
3/2017***

***Jerome S. Olup
4/2017***

MAY YOU REST IN PEACE.