

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

• 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills, PA 15236 •

September 2015

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



POST OFFICERS

Commander
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Sr. Vice Commander
AL DI LEMBO

Jr. Vice Commander
DON ROTTMAN

Adjutant
BOB ESSEY

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
FRANK CAPUTO

Chaplin
BOB BLEICHNER

Judge Advocate
BOB HARTUNG

Sgt-At-Arms
RALPH CASCIELLO

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS



Commander's Call

Everyone needs to know the direction that American Legion Post 712 will be taking moving forward so that this information could be shared with all members. In this month's *Commander's Call*, I will address the Installation of Officers, the Legion picnic, and briefly discuss some of the topics that are vitally important to me when leading and guiding Post 712 into the future. Some of these areas, but not limited to, are as follows: chain of command, delegation, open communication; transparency, military protocol and procedures, timeliness, customer service, accountability, dependability, honesty, loyalty, and feedback.



First, I would like to thank everyone who attended the *Installation of Officers' Ceremony* on August 4. Congratulations extends to John Dillion, our new Riders' President, for being elected to his new position. I would like to recognize the SAL and ALA officers for their continued dedication and support for another year. I stated in my installation speech, American Legion Post 712 is on the move – and the journey is just beginning!

On August 15, the day of the *Legion picnic*, I arrived at the legion at approximately 7:50am. When I arrived, the first thing I noticed was the volume of Legion volunteers who had already assembled and loaded several trucks and vans with tables and chairs, meisters and sodas, grills and propane tanks, food and utensils, office supplies and many more items. Within 10 minutes, there was a caravan of vans and trucks heading to Jefferson Park, the location of the picnic. It was obvious the volunteers present had done this before since the process was seamless with no down time.

We arrived at the pavilion and everyone went in separate directions and knew exactly what they needed to do next. The picnic was a huge success because of the volunteers and members who stepped up to the plate and made it possible. After everyone left, members cleaned the area even better than when they had arrived. The tables were moved, the floor hosed down, and all garbage was bagged and removed. All this was completed without one complaint. To me, this was amazing, simply amazing! A huge thank you must go out to everyone involved.

Moving on to some of the *leadership topics* that are of extreme importance to leading Post 712.

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CORPORATION OFFICERS

President
RUSS WILSON

VicPresident
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary
BRIAN DAETWYLER

Treasurer
ROB BUTELLI

Board Members

DAVE KRILL

BUZ HANDSHUE

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

DON ROTTMAN

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Rider's Meeting Sept. 1 - 7:00 pm
Post Meeting Sept. 8 - 7:00 pm
Corp. Meeting Sept. 14 - 7:00 pm
SAL Meeting Sept. 24 - 7:00 pm
ALA Meeting Sept. 28 - 7:00 pm

SEPTEMBER KITCHEN SPECIALS

Sept. 4... Bacon Burgers
Sept. 11... Shrimp w/ Crab Stuffing
Sept. 18... Stuffed Pork, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Sept. 25... Chicken Romano

We are **not** affected by the road closure at this time.

BOWLING
begins
September 22nd

Every **THURSDAY** in September
Bucket of Beer Special
from 4:00 - 8:00

CORN HOLE
starts
September 24th

Hot Sausage Sandwiches with Chips \$4.75.

September 26th
the band
Majestics
will be here
from 8:00 - 12:00

EVERY
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
from 4:00 - 8:00pm
FREE POOL
and
Bucket of Beer Special

Thank you Lea for helping me make salads for the picnic.



Check us out... see what's new every day!

Web site: ***alpost712pa.org***

Facebook: ***Americanlegion.Postsevenonetwo***

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ALA OFFICERS

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,

The ALA gives a warm welcome to our new commander, Rich Wojnar. We look forward to working with you for the good of the Post 712. We are happy to hear our former commander, Carl Anderson is now at home and on the road to recovery. The Caring and Sharing boat ride is on September 8th and we still need volunteers. This is a fun trip on the Gateway Clipper that the veterans really enjoy. If you can come and help a vet please see me before September 1st. This is always a good chance to meet and greet the veterans that we support at Southwestern. They will be coming to our post on October 13th and we need help on that day as well. We will need side dishes and desserts. There will be a sign up sheet at the bar. Please sign up. We also need help taking care of them. Our next meeting is September 28th and we hope to have a good attendance. Don't forget our flea market on September 26. You can begin to bring in items for the Flea Market about two weeks before (make sure that items are clearly marked that they are for the ALA's flea market). *Do **not** bring in furniture or clothing.* Leave all items piled neatly in the basement. And thank you in advance for your donations. One more thing. Have you noticed the wooden military bracelets that are being worn by some of our members? They are our latest fund raiser for our 712 ALA. The bracelets have all the military branches represented including the POW-MIA logo. See me for your bracelet, they are only \$5.00 each.

God Bless and Protect Our Troops
Mary Ann Marunich
ALA President

Volunteers needed
for the
"Sharing & Caring"
boat trip
September 8th
(one caregiver for each vet)
Sign up with Mary Ann



September 18
National POW/ MIA
Remembrance Day

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SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDERju-
tant
JAMES CHRISTOFEL

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO

Sgt-At-Arms
TIMOTHY MOWRY

Sons of the Legion,

The SAL will be calling bingo for the Legion starting September 16th at 7pm. Card cost is \$1.00 for the first card and \$.50 for all other cards. Hope to see the loyal players and some new faces this year. We will be having a super bingo sometime this fall.

SAL will be cooking for the Steeler afternoon games. The first game is September 20th which is a 1pm game. We will serve a main course, sides, salad, bread and dessert at every meal. Cost \$8.00. Food will be served at half time for the 1pm games and for the later afternoon games dinner will be served at 3:30. Eat, drink and cheer for the Steelers at the Legion this season!

Thank you,
Commander of the SONS,
Gary Hartman

Bring a Friend
September 16

An illustration of two bingo cards and several bingo balls. The cards are labeled "BINGO" and have numbers on them. The balls are colorful and have numbers on them, including a prominent red ball with the number 21.

\$1.00 for the first card
.50 each for additional cards

**Eat,
drink and
cheer for the**

Steelers

**at the
Legion
this season!**

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President
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President
BILL ALLAN

Sr. Road Captain
DAN OELER

Road Captain
STEVE HORVATH

Road Captain
DAVE PETERSON

Road Captain
DAN TILLERY

Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms
TOM BODNER

Sergeant-at-Arms
ED HARMON

Treasurer
MIKE DUDENUS

Adjutant
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain
MARK SMITH

American Legion Riders,

Greetings American Legion Family. It's been an exciting month for all of us, so let's catch up on what the Riders have been doing. After the swearing-in ceremony on August 4th, the Riders had a fun run to the Foxburg Wine Cellars on August 8th. About 20 bikes ran over to Mark and Pat Smith's house for a morning get together with home-made muffins and fusion water and then on to the Winery where we had lunch on the banks of the Allegheny River and participated in a wine tasting event ... which of course, was closely followed by a wine purchasing event for the Riders, lol. And just in case you're wondering; yes, it is tough to carry multiple wine bottles on a motorcycle; but leave it to the Riders, we figured out how to do it! Special thanks to Smitty and Pat, both of whom are very gracious and giving persons.

The big news was our annual run, which was conducted on August 16th to benefit the Pittsburgh Fisher House. We had about 40 bikes attend a 140 mile romp through the winding roads of the Laurel Highlands. Special thanks to Dan Oeler and Tom Bodner and all the Road Captains and Riders who helped select and scout the route. It was great! We had three stops along the way; the Donegal and Conellsville American Legions and Laurel Hill State Park. The weather was perfect and Tom and Dan arranged for police escorts much of the way. We finished up at the VFW and earned allot of money for the Fisher House. Special Thanks to all the Riders, ALA and Sons who donated their time, efforts and money to make this ride happen. You are special people.

I encourage all of you to follow the escapades of the Riders on our Facebook page which you can find by simply doing a search on Facebook for: [American Legion Riders Post 712.](#)

Hooah,
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Commander's Call

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Communication is **THE** most important key to any successful organization. I am suggesting one easy way to improve communications – set aside one day a month – to attend the meeting of your own particular group (Legion, ALA, SAL, Riders). I am in the process of acquiring current phone numbers and email addresses of all Board members and all officers within Post 712. I am looking into the addition of a “Hot Board” to be placed in a central location for everyone in Post 712 to view. The purpose of this communication board will be to pass along information that we may receive on the spur of the moment or even more importantly for events that have been planned months ahead that need volunteers. For example, there is a sign-up sheet at the bar asking for volunteers to attend the *Clairton Sportsman Club* who has an event with the *Paralyzed Veterans of America* on September 5. How many members knew that sheet was there? A box for your suggestions regarding the Legion is in the process of development. Timeliness responding to communication, whether it be a phone call, email or verbal request, is also expected. Not returning communication within a reasonable time frame is unacceptable.

Military Protocol and Procedures includes following the Chain of Command. I am a big proponent of delegation. It would be impossible for an organization as large as this Post to operate without delegating duties and assuring communication occurs in a timely manner. Officers will be expected to relay key information to their members in a timely manner.

Hold your officers accountable. I plan to instill more military ceremonies at the Legion to respect and honor our past comrades and/or key military dates. The next ceremony will be held on September 18, which the National POW/ MIA Remembrance Day Celebration. Please plan to attend. When we have a ceremony outside of the Post, everyone inside the Post at that time will be asked to step outside in order to respect the ceremony. Ceremonies are usually short and the American Legion is military driven. When food is offered following a particular event, no one will be served until the folks who have worked the detail have been served. More information regarding expectations honoring traditions will be shared in upcoming newsletters.

Customer Service is critical to showing our members they are valuable to our organization. As previously stated, timeliness of responses to requests, questions, changing addresses as members request and adding a personal touch to welcome new members (a phone call to welcome new members, etc.) is what may set us apart from other Posts. This is an informal way to increase membership and also let our members know how valuable they are to us. Feedback, and a timely response, is another way we know if we are heading in the correct direction or if we are swaying off course.

When organizations openly communicate and share information in a timely manner, members can see the organization is transparent and has a vested interest in their members. This, in turn, should increase loyalty, dependability, a sense of comradery, and promote a climate to provide honest and valuable feedback. I plan to run a very transparent ship as we are all heading toward the same goal, and that goal is to make our Post strong and successful.

I will, and always have been, loyal, dependable, and honest. I expect nothing less in all of our officers and in our interactions with our members. I pride myself on being very approachable. I appreciate any criticism, good or bad, as I will make our Post the best Post in our District. Please inform me of any and all ideas you may have regarding the Post.

Again, thank you for your continued support. Being your commander is a great honor to me.

As always, we support our troops.

Richard J. Wojnar

September 26th
the band
Majestics
will be here
from 8:00 - 12:00