

# NEWSLETTER



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

*American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills*



## *Greetings from the Commander*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rich and Linda for all their work during the last two years.

As I enter my second month as your Commander I see many challenges ahead but I know that if we work together we will overcome them. It takes more than just the officers to make sure the post runs smoothly. One way to find out what's going on, other than the newsletter, is to attend the monthly meetings, even if you can only attend several a year. We have important issues that come up and we look for input from the floor, remember this is your post. We have motions made from the membership that require the taking of a vote. This is the time to voice your opinion, either pro or con, not after the vote has been taken.

Several times a year members of the post attend functions at the Southwest Veteran's Hospital. They are usually organized by the ALA. If any of you have the time to attend one of these functions the vets would love to see you. They appreciate just having someone to talk to.

Lastly don't forget our Gun Bash coming up on November the 18th. Tickets are available at the bar to buy and to sell. The day of the event we need volunteers to help pull this off. There will be a sign up sheet at the bar.

### LEGION OFFICERS 2016-2017

Commander  
FRANK CAPUTO

1st Vice Commander  
DON SMOLEY

2nd Vice Commander  
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant  
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer  
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer

Chaplin  
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate  
NICHOLAS  
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms  
STAN TUMAS

God Bless our Troops and God Bless America

Frank Caputo,  
Commander



## VAN T. BARFOOT DIED...

*Submitted by Commander Frank Caputo.*

Remember the guy who wouldn't take the flag pole down on his Virginia property a while back? You might remember the news story several months about a crotchety old man in Virginia who defied his local Homeowners Association, and refused to take down the Flag pole on his property along with the large American flag he flew on it. Now we learn who that old man was.

On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Edinburg, Texas. That probably didn't make news back then. But Twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, near Carano, Italy, that same Van T. Barfoot, who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set out alone to flank German machine gun positions from which gunfire was raining down on his fellow soldiers. His advance took him through a minefield but having done so, he proceeded to single-handedly take out three enemy machine gun positions, returning with 17 prisoners of war.

And if that weren't enough for a day's work, he later took on and destroyed three German tanks sent to retake the machine gun positions.

That probably didn't make much news either, given the scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after serving in Korea and Vietnam, a well-earned Medal of Honor.

What did make News...? Was his Neighborhood Association's quibble with how the 90-year-old Veteran chose to fly the American flag outside his suburban Virginia home? Seems the HOA rules said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted bracket, but, for decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21 foot flagpole were "unsuitable".

Van Barfoot had been denied a permit for the pole, but he erected it anyway and was facing Court action unless he agreed to take it down.

"In the time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue to fly the American flag without interference." As well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a notion to contest him further, they might have done well to read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it indicates Mr. Van Barfoot wasn't particularly good at backing down.

*See photos of Van Barfoot, contact Frank Caputo at [fdcap@verizon.net](mailto:fdcap@verizon.net)*

## 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 412-512-1301.

## 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 Website**

***alpost712pa.org***

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## SOCIAL HALL

- Reserve our social hall for your next special event (Members \$125, non-members \$175) for 4 hours.
- Large room holds up to 100 people.
- Private entrance with wheel chair access from back of building.
- Three different exits for safety.
- Free parking on side and rear of building.
- Create your own atmosphere with our soft dimmer controlled lighting or bright florescent lights.
- Climate controlled heat and Air Conditioning.
- Wood dance floor.
- Tables and chairs available to be set up to meet your event plans.
- Large buffet style food area with outlets for food warmers.
- Separate Bar & Refreshment area.
- Dedicated rest rooms.
- Food and soft drinks may be brought in or catered.
- Alcohol, if desired, must be ordered from one of our waitresses or bartenders (\$10 per hour, minimum 4 hours). Alcohol prices included on rental agreement.
- Walk-in cooler space available, if needed.

## BOWLING BEGINS SEPTEMBER 19



IF YOU WOULD  
LIKE TO BOWL

CALL CHERYL  
412-498-1546

## LEGION PUCK BOWLING LEAGUE START DATE:

Tuesday, September 19, 2017.

The League plays every other Tuesday  
through March, 2018.

**TIMES:** 6:30 PM & 7:15 PM on a  
rotational schedule

**DUES:** \$5/week (to cover prizes)

The League is looking for new members.

Please contact Cheryl Haberstock  
412/498-1546 or

[evacheryl@hotmail.com](mailto:evacheryl@hotmail.com)

at your earliest convenience as teams  
will soon be organized,

**LEGION PUCK BOWLING LEAGUE**

Put this date  
on your calendar  
**November 18**  
**GUN BASH**

POST 712  
HOME ASSOCIATION  
OFFICERS 2016-2017

President  
BOB STOODT

Vice President  
FRANK CAPUTO

Secretary  
ED HARMON

Treasurer  
BILL WEIKEL

Board Members

JOHN DILLON

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.

## Future Legion Events

September 21  
**SAL Steak  
Dinner**

September 29  
**Matt Tichon**

October 12  
**Chuck Corby**  
**Hoagie Sale**  
October 15

**Halloween  
Dance**  
October 28

November 18  
**GUN BASH**



SAL OFFICERS  
2016-2017

Commander  
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander  
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander  
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant  
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer  
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin  
AL DANKO

## *Sons of the Legion,*

Our annual Steak Fry will be held on Thursday, September 21st from 5PM to 8PM. We will be serving T-Bone steaks along with baked potato, vegetable and salad bar. Price is \$15.00.

However, we are giving everyone that signs up at the bar before September 15th, a discounted price of \$14.00. So sign up early and save a buck!

### *Upcoming events*

Hoagie Sale – Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

*Next meeting – Thursday, September 28th*

Gary C. Hartman

Commander of the SAL



ALA OFFICERS  
2016-2017

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

## *Auxiliary Corner,*

Thanks to all the ladies who made it through the bad weather to attend the campfire at Southwestern Veteran's Hospital. Thanks to our Commander Frank and his daughter Lynn for bringing their puppy out for the enjoyment of the Veterans. Ed Remdicz enjoyed the camaraderie with Frank and Chuck Giovannitti. The ***Sharing and Caring Boat Ride is on September 5***, leaving Station Square at 11am and returning at 2pm. ***The Veterans from Heinz Hospital*** will be coming to our post on ***September 25<sup>th</sup>*** for a luncheon and a little Bingo playing. Volunteers are needed. Donations of side dishes and desserts are needed as well, see Mary Ann.

***Next meeting is September 25 at 7:00 pm.***

God Bless and Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich

ALA President



## *American Legion Riders,*

Greetings Legionnaires:

The Riders conducted a Benefit Ride for the Veterans Place on Washington Boulevard, the Valor Foundation and Post 712 on August 6<sup>th</sup> and it was a great success. Thank you to all Riders who helped in the planning, set-up and logistics of the ride, the after-ride party, dinner, American auctions, raffles and 50/50. We collected nearly overwhelming donations to aid Veterans in need in the Greater Pittsburgh area. We are still tallying donations and paying bills, but expect to be able to donate proceeds in the neighborhood of \$10,000; WOW!!! All that fun and money to help local Veterans in need ... Incredible!

The ride was police escorted for a 90-mile round trip of 60+ bikes from the parking lot of the Kurt J. Lesker Co. in Large, PA to Laurel Hill State Park and then back to Post 712 for good food, good drinks and great fun. All ride attendees received a commemorative pin and the pleasure of a safe ride through the rolling countryside of the Laurel Highlands ... And, I am happy to report all ride participants adhered to that age-old motorcycling wisdom to, “keep the shiny side up.”

While there are so many people to thank for their donations, time and effort, which I will be doing in the coming months, a few heavy lifters come to mind immediately. **Senior Road Captain Dan Oeler** who planned the ride route, and stop location along with scouting the route and coordination with Police Departments, was great. As was **Party Committee Chairperson Chris Bodner** who worked with Lisa and the staff of the Post to plan the menu and events of the party – Great Job! **Secretary Susan Dillon** not only kept the paperwork straight, but also put together the vast majority of American Auction baskets which received so much praise for their appeal and quality. **Treasurer Beverly Weikel** handled a ton of money by the bucket-full and did not misplace a dime, kept early registrations straight and even sold raffle tickets at the party. **Senior Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner** had his hands in several different pots to include coordinating with Police Departments for support and aiding Dan in scouting the route. **Adjutant Lloyd Ray** accepted the mission of finding commemorative pins for all participants and they were a BIG hit. **Chaplain Mark Smith** coordinated with the Lesker Company which was critical for their support and their parking lot to line up all the bikes for the start of the ride ... And your Ride Blessing worked Chaplain! **Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon** once again loaned the Riders his truck to serve as a follow vehicle and snack truck keeping all participants safe and well hydrated.

A great many Riders went out in the community seeking donations for the event. Three of our Riders just crushed it by the number and value of donations they obtained. HIGH 5's to **Rider John Caligiure, Rider Larry Jageman** and **Tom Bodner**. John and Larry were especially through the roof. The efforts of these three Veterans were the single largest reason we were able to raise so much money to help our local Vets. Words cannot express the gratitude we have to these men nor the good their efforts will realize in the community. WOW!

Also, a BIG thanks to the crew at Post 712 who prepared the Post and parking lot for the party. This includes **Lisa and Leah**, the Post looked great and the food was delicious, and the entire staff who handled the onslaught of over 115 hungry people with speed and friendliness. Leah's chicken received rave reviews and was my personal favorite. Also, **Don Rottman** for assuming

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President  
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President  
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President  
BILL ALLAN

Secretary  
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LLOYD RAY

Chaplain  
MARK SMITH

Treasurer  
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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

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the duties of a traffic cop and parking the bikes and John Caligiure, who despite a bad ankle hobbled around to help get things done. Thank you, **Rider Ted Rack**, for once again donating the signage as you do every single year! Also, thanks to **Rider Jim Christofel**. One of the police escorts broke down within a mile of Post 712. Jim Volunteered to trailer the Police bike back to North Fayette and missed all the fun. Class act Jim! Though the silver lining for Jim is he has pretty much guaranteed himself to never get a traffic ticket in North Fayette or McKeesport! More to follow about the Ride in coming months.

Gun Raffle: And congrats to lucky Tom Benjamin Bodner, who won the gun raffle of a Colt 1911 M45A1 and supplies valued at over \$2,000. Tom mentioned including the gun in a memorial to his Dad, who carried a Colt 1911 during WWII. Nice!

It has been a busy month. The Riders spent the weekend of July 14 – 16 at Geneva on the Lake, OH, taking in the sights and participating in the Roar at the Shore Motorcycle Rally in Erie, PA. Roar at the Shore was a great event with vendors and representatives from all over the Country setting up their stands for review. If you have never been to Geneva on the Lake, it is a throw-back to the 1950s with a main strip located next to the lake with every manner of arcade, bar, restaurant and novelty shop you would expect from a lake-side resort. Thank you, **Senior Vice President Ken Lancaster**, for taking point and setting up this ride.

And a special message to the Riders; thank you to all my Brothers for your support to my family and I this past month. They know why.

You can check us out on our Facebook page, American Legion Riders Post 712 or [www.facebook.com/groups/516028081916303/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/516028081916303/) or email us at [Post712Riders@comcast.net](mailto:Post712Riders@comcast.net).

Next Riders meeting has been rescheduled to avoid interference with the Labor Day Holiday. Next meeting is at 1900 hours, Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, at Post 712. See you there.

The Riders are Oscar Mike!

Top

**Congratulations**  
on your  
**fantastic ride!**

