

# NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555

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

July 2016

## American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



### LEGION OFFICERS

Commander  
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

Sr. Vice Commander  
AL DI LEMBO

Jr. Vice Commander  
DON ROTTMAN

Adjutant  
LINDA WOJNAR

Finance Officer  
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer  
FRANK CAPUTO

Chaplin  
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate  
BOB HARTUNG

Sgt.-At-Arms  
RALPH CASCIELLO

Sgt.-At-Arms  
STAN TUMAS



### Commander's Call

I hope this month's newsletter finds everyone in good health and in good spirits as we head into summer and savor our 2016 Penguin Stanley Cup Winners! While everyone is enjoying his or her summer, we're busy working behind the scenes at the Post in order to keep up with the changes that are taking place now and those that will be taking place in the upcoming months at Post 712. So that items of interest don't get lost in the Commander's Column, I have chosen to separate Items of Interest in the newsletter. In this newsletter, I will have three Items of Interest to discuss and share with you. I hope you will find these additions to the newsletter beneficial to you. In the first paragraph of my Commander's Call in the September 2015 newsletter, I listed some of the areas that are vitally important to me, and I would like to expand upon a few of them in this newsletter. Let me first talk about the chain of command here at Post 712. You will notice the words "Home Association" being used in this newsletter, our meetings, Facebook, website, posting boards in the dining area of the Post, and in our daily conversations. It's come to my attention that members do not have a clear understanding of the operational hierarchy at this Post – who's in charge of whom. To address this issue, at the Home Association Meeting on June 13, formerly known as the Corporation or "Corp" Meeting, we discussed this name change. This change mirrors the National American Legion, State American Legion, our Legion By-Laws, and the name used by other Legions. **For further information and details, see Item of Interest #1 in this newsletter.**

The Home Association has a Board of Directors who are responsible for overseeing committees and carrying out specific job descriptions, much like the Legion officers do on the other side of the house. At this time there are several positions open in the Home Association. It is critical that these positions be filled by Legionnaires now. This Post is too large for only the Commander and the President of the Home Association to run. Things are falling through the cracks! More information will be shared expanding upon the chain of command once we have all of our Directors on board. At that time we will provide a brief review of their responsibilities and duties. **For further information and details, see Item of Interest #2 in this newsletter.**

Another goal of mine is to increase transparency. I believe every member should be aware of all of our plans and goals. It's very important for members to understand what is written in the By-Laws of their organizations. For example, the Home Association By-Laws state that the SAL (Sons of the American Legion)



*continued on page 6*



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



## HOME ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

President  
RUSS WILSON

VicPresident  
DAVE PETERSON

Secretary  
DAN MACK

Treasurer  
ROB BUTELLI

Board Members

DAVE KRILL

JOHN DILLON

RICHARD J. WOJNAR

LES BRANCHEN

DON ROTTMAN

Web Master  
THAD WEIDMANN

Newsletter Design  
DONNA ROTTMAN

Check us out . . .  
See what is new every day!  
Website [alpost712pa.org](http://alpost712pa.org)

# July 2016

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday



## BALLOT VOTING - JULY MEETINGS

*Legionnaires, please attend the following two meetings in July.*

*Your votes are very important.*

*Legion Meeting - Voting on Legion Officers - July 5, 2016 at 7:00 PM*

*Home Association Meeting - Voting on Open Board of Director Positions  
and By-Laws Amendments - July 11, 2016 at 7:00 PM*



3

FREE  
POOL  
4-8



4



5



10

FREE  
POOL  
4-8



11



12

TRY A CONEY  
ISLAND ROOT BEER



17

FREE  
POOL  
4-8



FREE POPCORN

18

TRY A MIKES HARD  
BLACK CHERRY  
LEMONADE

19



24

31



25



26


















NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## July 2016

Friday Dinners  
Non-Smoking  
OPEN to the  
PUBLIC

Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

INSTALLATION OF POST 712 OFFICERS (Legion, SAL, ALA and Legion Riders) Date: August 9, 2016 Time: 7:00 PM  LEGION PICNIC - AUGUST 20 <sup>TH</sup>		1  MUSHROOM SWISS BURGERS	2   FREE POOL 4-8  FREE JUKE BOX 4-CLOSE 
6   Riders Meeting 7:00	7   CORN HOLE WILL BE BACK IN SEPTEMBER	8  REUBENS	9   FREE POOL 4-8  FREE JUKE BOX 4-CLOSE 
13   PIRATES  \$1.00 DRAFTS EVERY PIRATE	14  TRY A SEAGRAMS CALYPSO	15  FISH STUFFED WITH CRAB MEAT	16   FREE POOL 4-8  FREE JUKE BOX 4-CLOSE 
20   BINGO 7:00  SUMMER BINGO Sauerkraut & Kielbasa	21   HAPPY HOUR  HAPPY HOUR MON. THRU THURS 4-7 BUCKET SPECIAL	22  CABBAGE ROLLS, MASHED POTATOES	23  FREE POOL 4-8   FREE JUKE BOX 4-CLOSE 
27   FREE WIFI	28   Sons Meeting 7:00  \$1.00 DRAFTS EVERY PIRATE GAME	29  CHICKEN PARM OVER PASTA	30  FREE POOL 4-8   FREE JUKE BOX 4-CLOSE 



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



## 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,

Air Force Captain Karen Bucher has completed her residency at Elgin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. She is the daughter of our auxiliary member, Anne Giovannitti. Doctor Bucher will be assigned to Jacksonville Air Force Base in Arkansas. Congratulations to the entire family. Kylee McCaffery one of our juniors received the Rotary Club's award as The Seventh Grade Student of the Year. Kylee's grandparents are Gail and Greg Nuss and have reason to be proud. I gave two Americanism Awards to two outstanding students, Eliana Morano and Hadley Horensky. All three attend Pleasant Hills Middle School. Congratulations to all three and they will certainly have bright futures. Thanks to our manager Lisa for a great Memorial Day celebration. The table setting was great and the food was good as usual. Thanks to all the ladies who helped with poppies, it was the hottest day of the year and we had a very nice amount to spend on our veterans. Our meetings are always the fourth Monday of the month so please attend on July 25th as we have a few surprises for you.



Kylee McCaffery

God Bless And Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich, ALA President

Next Meeting  
July 25

## Sons of the Legion,

I would like to thank all the workers and everyone that attended our SAL Father's Day Breakfast. It was huge success.

We do not have anything planned in July, but I would like to remind you that the Legion picnic is on August 20th. You will be able to pay your annual dues and if paid at the picnic, you will receive a \$5.00 discount.

Again, we like to get feedback on what you like or do not like at our functions. So if there is something we can do to improve or add, please let us know.

Thank you,  
Commander of the SONS,  
Gary Hartman



## SAL OFFICERS

Commander  
GARY HARTMAN  
Sr. Vice Commander  
DON W. GOULDER  
Jr. Vice Commander  
DON J. GOULDER  
JAMES CHRISTOFEL  
Finance Officer  
RICHARD HARTMAN  
Chaplin  
AL DANKO  
Sgt.-At-Arms  
TIMOTHY MOWRY

# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



President  
JOHN DILLON

Sr. Vice President  
KEVIN JACKSON

Vice President  
BILL ALLAN

Secretary  
SUSAN DILLON

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

Assistant Treasurer  
BILL WEIKEL

Adjutant  
LLOYD RAY

Chaplain  
MARK SMITH

## American Legion Riders,

Greetings American Legion Family. The events of **Memorial Day** were truly inspiring and the Rider's participation in the events of the day was magnificent. The Rider's had 24 bikes that volunteered for the remembrance ceremonies commencing at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery and culminating at Post 712. In addition to the Riders, the Post Color Guard was at its finest looking dress right dress down the line. We must also note the contributions of the staff of Jefferson Memorial for their efforts in honoring our Veterans on Memorial Day. Thank you one and all who took the time to remember and pay tribute to our brothers and sisters. Though they are no longer with us, we remember.

Please join The Riders in welcoming *four new Riders* to the Club. They are **Larry Jageman** (U.S. Navy), **Paul Marthinsen** (U.S. Army), **James Stefanic** (U.S. Army) and **Samuel Stefanic**. Sam is currently serving as an active member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve. Thank you one and all for your service past and present! And Remember, the Riders have two overriding rules: The first rule is to *conduct acts of charity and do good things for Veterans, Service Members and their families* and the second rule is to *ride bikes and enjoy life!*

On June 25th the Rider's leave for a 2-3 night trip to the Gettysburg National Battlefield. This is an annual club ride we take to get away and have a little fun. Big Thanks to Vice President **Kevin Jackson** who plans the route and logistics of the ride every year. The Gettysburg Ride will be followed by the Foxburg Winery Ride on July 23rd. On this ride Chaplain **Mark Smith** hosts the Riders at his home and then we all head out to the winery for a terrific lunch and, of course, buying a few bottles of wine!

Due to the Independence Day holiday, the Rider's July meeting has been moved to 1900 hours, Wednesday, July 6th, at our regular location of Post 712. Topics for the meeting will include continued planning for our August 14th Ride in support of the Pittsburgh Fisher House and election of Officers.

Hooah,  
Top

**July Meeting**  
Moved to 1900 hours  
**Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

Commander's Call... continued from page 1

and ALA (American Legion Auxiliary) members "...shall not be eligible to attend Home Association meetings..." The National and State Legion By-Laws Guidelines do allow for these members to attend these meetings. **For further information and details, see Item of Interest #3 in this newsletter.**

Shifting gears, I want to speak about our post finances. The finances that were going in a positive direction from the Lent-at-the-Legion Fish Frys is now heading steeply downhill. The fish fry monies have dried up and we need firm plans to increase our fund raising activities. We are in a serious corner and we have absolutely no alternatives, but to immediately alter our course of action! This is why we need everyone's support. We have made great strides over the past eight months at our Legion meetings, changing the mindset the "Post will only last 20 months, 19 months, 18 months, etc. expressing a lot of "doom and gloom" at the meetings or at the bar to a culture that is more positive and optimistic. If there has been any noticeable changes in these areas, it is a tribute to our members and volunteers who care deeply to keep this Post viable so that they can continue to come and have a good time, enjoy comradery, and share a reasonably-priced meal.

For those of you who have attended past meetings where ideas weren't welcomed, maybe some of yours, and where the tone of the meeting was very negative, these things have changed. No one, including myself, wants to spend an evening where following the meeting you feel "that was a waste of time" or "feel that your ideas were ripped to shreds" leaving you to think you will never say anything again at another meeting or even worse you won't attend any more meetings. I encourage you to attend our meetings and judge for yourself. Our Home Association meetings are productive, but not as productive as we will be beginning in July.

A lot of thoughts are shared and actions are taken at our meetings. Now, more than ever, we need you to attend our meetings. As with our volunteers who have multiplied significantly this year, we can't do it without you. We can't make the critical changes that are desperately needed at the meetings without you. I give you my word everyone will be treated with dignity and respect at all of the meetings at Post 712.

When you attend the meetings, come with ideas, but if you can, do your homework. Come with facts and figures. Tangible data speaks volumes. You are entitled to your opinions, as we all are, but be respectful if someone sees another side of how you are thinking. Sometimes we may even reach a point where we respectfully disagree and that's OK, but "respect" is the key word.

Each member in our Post chooses to be a member. Each member also pays his or her dues. Recruiting new members is key, but keep in mind retaining members who have belonged here for years is the other key to success.

Ok, now I want to briefly touch on another area - the Suggestion Box. I am pleased that it is being used as much as it is. I have received many positive remarks and suggestions along with two unfavorable remarks as to my leadership. First, I am glad that the favorable remarks far outweigh the negative remarks. Second, please remember that it is easy to lead

any organization when everything is going extremely well - from finances to morale; however, when expenses outweigh the money we have to pay for them and when the morale is rock bottom, it is much more difficult to lead. Rest assured every decision I make is for the betterment of the Legion and not something that I just wanted to do. Every decision I propose is voted on by our members. I made some hard choices over the past eight months, but they had to be made for the welfare of the Post.

On the positive side, a few remarks that were left in the suggestion box quoted my newsletter's Commanders Call Section. This is great news as two of the numerous goals I wanted to accomplish this year was to get everyone to read the newsletters and use the suggestion box. It looks like it is working so please keep reading and keep your comments and suggestions coming! All I ask is that before you write any negative remarks, answer the questions: "What have I contributed? Have I volunteered?"

In closing, please plan to attend and support the Home Association picnic in June and the Legion Picnic in August. Linda and I will miss the June picnic since we will be on vacation. Please mark these dates on your calendar.

Our regularly scheduled Legion Meeting will fall on July 4th, so the meeting will be on **July 5th.**

As always, we support our troops.  
Richard J. Wojnar  
Post 712 Commander



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

## ITEM OF INTEREST #1: Who's In Charge?

Taken verbatim from the Amended By-Laws of Pleasant Hills Post, Inc., "Pleasant Hills Post, Inc. is synonymous with the term "Home Association" as defined in the Pennsylvania American Legion Constitution and By-Laws." To many folks, when they hear the term "corporation", they think that all other entities within the Post (Legion, SAL, Legion Riders, etc.) fall under the umbrella of the corporation. This is not correct.

*"Pleasant Hills Post, Inc. is a subordinate unit of the Pleasant Hills Post 712 and is obligated to operate under the Constitution and By-Laws of the National and State American Legion." So what does this mean? It means the Legion runs Post 712. The buck stops with the Commander. The Post 712 American Legion is in total control of the Home Association. This being said, it is important for the Legion and the Home Association to both direct their efforts so that everything they do and every decision they make is made for the betterment of Post 712.*

Both the Legion and the Home Association carry a significant amount of responsibility and accountability that affect and determine the outcomes of the Post on a daily basis. We must all work in harmony, capitalizing on our prior experiences and expertise to guide Post 712 to be financially stable. There is much work to do before this becomes consistent. We are out of options. Some changes we have made must be put in place immediately, while following the By-Laws as they were written in the Home Association will seem like more changes but they were already established, but not followed.

## ITEM OF INTEREST #2: Home Association Board of Directors: Open Positions, Legion Officers: Open Positions, Legion Meeting: July 5 (Tues.) Home Association Meeting: July 11 (Monday)

To vote members to the Board of Directors we need members to attend our meetings. If you are interested in applying to be on the Board of Directors, please let me (Commander) know so that your name could be placed on the ballot for the next Home Association meeting in July. I would like you to think about sharing your expertise with us by stepping up to become a Board Member.

We are also voting for Legion Officers at the July 5 Meeting at 7:00 PM.

Let's have a Board and Officers who play upon their strengths. We have vacancies that need to be filled in our next meetings (July 5 and July 11).

We need leaders who believe they can make a difference and who are willing to share their expertise. We need your help. To our Legionnaires, your vote is very important to us.

## ITEM OF INTEREST #3: SAL and ALA Members Proposal at Next Home Association Meeting

For the betterment of Post 712, one change I (Commander) will propose at the next Home Association Meeting on July 11 will be to amend these By-Laws to say the SAL and ALA Members shall be eligible to attend the Home Association Meetings. It is important for these members to understand that although they may not vote on any motions or vote in any elections held at the Home Association Meetings, their input is invaluable and their contributions will be insurmountable. Communication is key when changes are being proposed. Hearing first-hand discussions offers our members increased transparency and immediate access to the reason for actions taken at the Post.



## Veterans' Roll Call

**Thomas Smearcheck, MSGT AFR (Ret.)**  
**. . . Finally Retired**

My first memory of the military was listening to my Dad talk about his WWII submarine encounters. That was just enough to encourage me to enlist in the Navy shortly after graduating high school. At age 20, I enlisted in the Navy SEABEES. I began my training at Gulf Port, MS. I spent my next 8-9 months in Guam updating their infra-structure. After my enlistment ended I joined the US Navy Reserves where I served for 4 years. Years later, from 1982 through 2007 I served as a Medic with the 911th Air Force Reserves, Pittsburgh.



In 2003 I felt an additional call to duty. I volunteered and served as a Medic from 2003-2004 supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. I was stationed at Camp Wolfe, Kuwait. Wounded from Iraq were airlifted to our base. We served as a staging area until the wounded were again transported to Ramstein AFB, Germany. I worked the 7 PM - 7 AM shift 6 days a week. In



## *American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills*

2006-2007 I again decided to volunteer and serve with Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom. My new duty station was at Camp Ali Al Salem, Kuwait. The base was 23 miles from the Iraqi border. This time I was in charge of 15-20 Medics on a 12 hour daylight shift, 6 days a week. Our wounded were transported to the hospital at Ramstein AFB, Germany or Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



After 30 years combined military service, I retired from the Air Force Reserves in November 2007. It was an honor and a privilege to serve this wonderful country of ours. I hope I have honored the memory of my Dad, my Uncle John, and my father-in-law. He was a twice-wounded Army Sargeant who humbly received the Silver Star, Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts, (a quadripelagic for a year), numerous Oak Leaf Clusters, and served in 8 invasions.



Today, after 30 years of service with the state, I am finally retired. December 31, 2014 was my last day as a Charge Nurse at Southwestern Veteran's Center, Pittsburgh. I am now devoting my time to my family. My tomato patch, my catch-and-release fishing, and my wife's Honey-Do List are now long-over due priorities.



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**  
**INSTALLATION**  
**of POST 712 OFFICERS**  
(Legion, SAL, ALA and  
Legion Riders)  
Date: **August 9, 2016**  
Time: 7:00 PM

## WWII/ KOREAN WAR VETERANS' DINNER

**When:** Saturday, September 3, 2016

**Where:** Post 712 **Time:** 4:00 PM

Post 712 will pay for the dinner for each WWII and KOREAN WAR VETERAN. A nominal fee will be charged for any guests. More details regarding the cost associated with guests' dinners to follow in the August newsletter. The date of the RSVP will also be listed in the August newsletter.

Call Post 712 Adjutant at 412-616-1834 or send an email for any questions to [adjpost712@verizon.net](mailto:adjpost712@verizon.net)



## BALLOT VOTING JULY MEETINGS

Legionnaires, please attend the following two meetings in July.

*Your votes are very important.*

- (1.) Legion Meeting – Voting on Legion Officers - July 5, 2016 at 7:00 pm.
- (2.) Home Association Meeting – Voting on Open Board of Director Positions and By-Laws Amendments - July 11, 2016 at 7:00 pm.



## 2017 Membership Information

*From The Adjutant*

Beginning July 1, you can pay your 2017 Legion dues (\$30.00). To avoid late notices and reminders from National, you can pay your dues early by mail, online at [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org), taking dues to the Post (bar area) or paying at the Legion picnic on August 20. Please write your phone number on your renewal slip when you pay your dues. It's very important for us to have your most current information on file. Although dues are due on January 1 each year, paying your dues early avoids all the reminders. Thank you in advance!

*A special  
THANK YOU to  
Dennis Yerkey  
for the signs.*



## All Military Active Duty, Reserves & Veterans

**Ride a Gateway Clipper Fleet**  
**One Hour Sightseeing Cruise or**  
**Evening Sightseeing Cruise**  
**MONDAY thru FRIDAY**

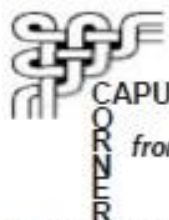
**June 6 through October 21, 2016 for FREE!**

Any family members that join you (up to 8 people) will receive their Sightseeing tickets at half price!

Please call the Gateway Clipper at (412) 355-7980 or visit [www.gatewayclipper.com](http://www.gatewayclipper.com) to check cruise times and availabilities. Your valid Military or Veteran I.D./papers will need to be presented at the Ticket Office on the day of the cruise to receive this special offer!



# American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



CAPUTO's  
from Frank Caputo,



- Kennywood Park offers a military discount to all active duty military and veteran's. You have to show your ID such as a VA card, retired card, active duty card or driver's license with a flag on it. An all day pass is discounted from \$44.99 to \$21.00 and for seniors it is discounted to \$16.00. A night rider pass starting at 4:30 is \$16.00 and \$11.00 for seniors. These prices are good for everyone in your party.

- I am looking to add to my funeral call out list. If you would like to serve on this committee please let me know by leaving your name and phone number at the bar or by calling the post and leaving your information. We need to honor our veteran's by making a visit to the funeral home and showing our respect, the entire service lasts about 10 minutes.

- Save the date, **Saturday September 17th**, Post 712 will be hosting a blood drive in cooperation with the Central Blood Bank. More information to follow in next month's newsletter.

## THE FINAL SALUTE

Since joining Post 712 I have held several positions and worked on various committees. But the most satisfying to me is being on the Funeral detail. We visit the surrounding funeral homes to pay our last tribute to our service men and women. It is an honor to give the deceased the final salute and the playing of Taps. The satisfaction and comfort we give to the family of the veteran. Another benefit is the men who I serve with on the Guard are all good men. Sometimes we get

very short notice of the death and the arrangements. We had a service on Father's Day and had a very good turnout for the Honor Guard. The men take pride in giving a final salute to a fallen service member. It is an honor to serve with these men. Why don't you consider joining this detail? It is very rewarding and you cannot believe the pride you feel after the ceremony.

Don Rottman  
Jr. Vice Commander

*With Honor and Gratitude  
We Remember...*

**Member  
of  
Post 712  
for**



*Ralph Casciello*

*May you rest in peace my friend.*

## TAPS



**LAWRENCE L PATTON**  
5/2016

**WILLIAM DATIG**  
6/2016

**RAYMOND BUNCHEK**  
6/2016

**RALPH CASCIELLO**  
6/2016

**DAVID A MERENICK**  
6/2016