

NEWSLETTER



Ph: 412-653-1555 • 650 Old Clairton Road, Pleasant Hills • January 2018

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



LEGION OFFICERS

Commander
FRANK CAPUTO

1st Vice Commander
DON SMOLEY

2nd Vice Commander
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
THAD WEIDMANN

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
LEE PHILLIPS

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
BILL WEIKEL

Greetings from the Commander

Merry Christmas to everyone and to all a very happy New Year.

We had another successful children's Christmas party. Thank you to Mary Ann and the ladies of the Auxiliary and thanks to Lisa for a job well done.

Don't forget our Friday night dinners and our Wednesday evening Bingo that will start up again in January. Come out to relax and enjoy the fellowship with the other Bingo players as the Magic Number and the cover-all pot grows.

I know it's hard to believe that in a little over month we begin another year of Lenten fish fries at the Legion. We will looking for volunteers to help make it a successful season.

As always, God Bless our Troops and God Bless America

Frank Caputo,
Commander



From the Desk of the Adjutant

Thad Weidmann

If we're going to make our Legion prosperous again, we need to think 'Outside of the Box' for ideas.

Our primary snow removal provider, Aaron Hilpert, demonstrated that type of thinking on Dec 12th. His truck broke down while on his way to salt our lot and he was waiting for a tow truck to arrive. We tried calling our backup provider, but he was in Mount Lebanon and couldn't get here. Aaron tried calling some of his friends in the business, but they refused to come down our driveway because it was too icy. The situation appeared to be hopeless. When the tow truck driver arrived and put Aaron's truck on his flatbed, Aaron ask the tow truck driver to back down our driveway while Aaron threw salt from his truck while on top of the flatbed. This made it safe for the tow truck driver to back down the icy driveway and allowed our patrons to be able to leave.

We have a lot going on at the Legion.

Another 'Out if the Box' idea Home Association President, Bob Stoodt, is pursuing is to lease our kitchen for a flat monthly rate. The kitchen has been very labor intensive and time consuming with some weeks being outstanding and others losing money once overhead and occasionally low attendance were factored in plus only having one day a week that we were selling dinner food. We are hoping to have a steady revenue stream from the kitchen and, hopefully, have additional days with dinner food, wings etc. and also more bar food without causing the bartender to leave the bar to make it.

In addition, Bob Stoodt is coordinating transforming our Social Hall from a meeting room to a banquet hall to, hopefully, get more hall rentals. He moved all of the wall plaques up to the bar area and had the walls painted with 2 coats of paint.

Lisa Deiley is working with Bridget Kellerman, Tom Bodnar and Ed Harman to clear out the room next to the Social Hall. They are putting usable items in our new store room, created by the partition Dan Bilski built for us, and discarding items that are no longer

needed. The idea is to make this area an annex to the Social Hall that can be used for registration for training sessions, distributing gifts, food etc.

Bob Stoodt is also working with our new Bar Manager, Debra Michalski, to coordinate changing vendors for our pool table, juke box and bowling machines. The new vendor is also going to pay for some bar improvements like new soft drink guns. We would like to thank our previous vendor, John Mooney, for his years of service with us.

Bob also asked Dan Bilski to give us an estimate on what it would cost to build a glass partition between the bar and dining area to give us smoking and non-smoking areas with the ability to see any entertainment from the non-smoking area.



***We are ready. . .
Let the games begin!
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***Post 712 Website:
alpost712pa.org***

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***Wreaths
Across America
See story
on Page 5 . . .***

POST 712
HOME ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS

President
BOB STOODT

Vice President
FRANK CAPUTO

Secretary
ED HARMON

Treasurer
BILL WEIKEL

Board Members

JOHN DILLON

NICK KRAWEC, ESQ.



In attendance were: Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Rider Chris Bodner, SAL Jim Christofel, President John Dillon, Secretary Susan Dillon, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Rider Dave Harris, Rider Larry Jageman, Sr. Road Captain Dan Oeler, Rider Lee Phillips, Rider Margie Phillips, Rider Ted Rack, Adjutant Lloyd Ray, Rider Ed Schmidt, Road Captain Bob Stefanic, Rider Melissa Stefanic, Deputy Treasurer Bill Weikel and Treasurer Beverly Weikel.

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Sons of the Legion,

SAL OFFICERS

Commander
GARY HARTMAN

Sr. Vice Commander
DON W. GOULDER

Jr. Vice Commander
DON J. GOULDER

Adjutant
MIKE HAVERTY

Finance Officer
RICHARD HARTMAN

Chaplin
AL DANKO

*There was no article
submitted by the Dec. 20th deadline.*



Auxiliary Corner,

ALA OFFICERS

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

Hope you all had a good holiday season and will be ready to start a Happy New Year. Many thanks to all that helped with our projects this year. We are a strong ALA.

The Children's Christmas Party was enjoyed by all. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Pat O'Toole and Greg Nuss) were perfect in their roles. The children colored and signed Christmas Cards for the veterans at Southwest Veteran's Center.

Our ladies and a few gentlemen filled bags and wrapped gifts for the children.

Thank you in advance to all that helped fill the veteran's bags and attended their Christmas party at the center.

Bingo returns on January 10th.

Next meeting is January 22, 2018.

Happy New Year to, all and God Bless and Protect Our Troops.

Mary Ann Marunich, ALA President



American Legion Riders,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Legionnaires:

2018 is upon us as a brand-new year and an opportunity for each of us to be more involved, more active and to live the life of the person we want to be.

The Riders closed out 2017 by doing our part to help Junior Enlisted Service Members to get home for the holidays. The Riders donated \$381 to the Armed Services YMCA Operation Ride Home. The YMCA, who, along with their corporate sponsor, Jack Daniels Distillery, provide money to Enlisted Services Members in the grades of E-1 through E-4 to travel home for the holidays to be with loved ones. The money is used for gas or plane tickets, or bus and train tickets and Operation Ride Home picks up all or part of the expense as is needed by our Junior Enlisted War Fighters. Thank you, Riders, and thank you to all of our Service Members for protecting Liberty and Freedom, and for protecting each and every one of us.

On December 16th the Riders participated in the Wreath's Across America volunteer effort. This was a wonderfully humbling, yet gratifying day. The annual event conducted at National cemeteries across the Nation was held locally at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies during which we, and several hundred other volunteers, laid wreaths on the graves of our Veteran brother's and sister's in a show of respect and honor; for all will know, they are not forgotten. A very special thank you to the 18 Riders who gave their time and efforts to remember. Though of course no Rider outing would be complete without good food and camaraderie to close the event out and this event was no exception as the Riders gathered for a meal together following the wreath laying.

Thank you to all who participated in the Wreath's Across America wreath laying ceremony: **Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Rider Chris Bodner, SAL Jim Christofel, President John Dillon, Secretary Susan Dillon, Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Rider Dave Harris, Rider Larry Jageman, Sr. Road Captain Dan Oeler, Rider Lee Phillips, Rider Margie Phillips, Rider Ted Rack, Adjutant Lloyd Ray, Rider Ed Schmidt, Road Captain Bob Stefanic, Rider Melissa Stefanic, Deputy Treasurer Bill Weikel and Treasurer Beverly Weikel.** Your spirit honors those who have gone before us!

Big Ups to **Sr. Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner and Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon** who volunteered to clean out the basement of Post 712. Must be something about being a Sergeant-at-Arms just makes these fella's want to take out the trash. In addition to sprucing the place up they found several items that had been misplaced and made the Legion better for all of us. Rumor has it they found General

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Washington's wooden teeth, but that's one rumor I'm not ready to believe.

On Christmas the Riders will hold our final Gun Raffle of 2017. The lucky winner is based on the 7PM drawing of the PA Daily Lottery and will win two, not one, but two Springfield 1911, .45 caliber pistols. One of the pistols is a standard carry pistol, however, the other pistol is a Commemorative which depicts the Soldier's Cross in black on a handle of white. Someone will have a very merry Christmas indeed. This specific gun raffle is raising \$5,000. **The Rider's, along with our partners at The Gun Rack in Belle Vernon, PA, will donate the entire \$5,000 to the Friends of the Pittsburgh Fisher House.**



Merry Christmas

As we know, the Fisher House supports Veterans in need of medical treatment and their families by providing free housing and food, and often free travel, to the Vet and his (or her) family. The Fisher House is associated with the Veterans Administration, though is not a funded department of the VA. Our local Fisher House is located in Oakland adjacent the VA Hospital.

For those not familiar with the Soldier's Cross; the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross is a symbolic cross typically depicting an inverted rifle with a battle helmet atop the rifle. It is used to represent a Service Member who has paid the ultimate sacrifice in battle and is a very powerful image to any who have served.

You can check us out on our Facebook page, *American Legion Riders Post 712* or www.facebook.com/groups/516028081916303/. The next Riders meeting is at 1900 hours, Tuesday, February 6th, 2018. See you there.

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year!**



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Children taking their turn with Santa during the Children's Christmas party.



Mrs. Claus had bags with oranges, candy, and toys.

Each child received a personalized gift wrapped toy from Santa.



Ladies from the Auxiliary were busy passing out coloring pages and cards for the kids to sign and give to the veterans in the hospital.



There was plenty of pizza and smiley cookies to go around. A good time was had by all. Merry Christmas.

