

NEWSLETTER



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

American Legion • Post 712 • Pleasant Hills



LEGION OFFICERS
2016-2017

Commander
RICHARD J. WOJNAR

1st Vice Commander
FRANK CAPUTO

2nd Vice Commander
CRAIG KERN

Adjutant
THAD WIEDMANN

Finance Officer
BILL MARTINIS

Service Officer
DON SMOLEY

Chaplin
EDWARD HLAD

Judge Advocate
NICHOLAS
D. KRAWEC ESQ.

Sgt-At-Arms
STAN TUMAS

Commander's Call

Well, I believe it is time to turn another page in my book of life and close this chapter. By that I mean it is time to pass the leadership baton on to our newly elected commander, Frank Caputo. Frank has the dedication and a very deep knowledge of legion requirements that will lead our legion into the future. I really need to thank our Board and Officers for their continued support, knowledge, and for being there when I needed them. They are, from right to left, our Chaplin Ed Hlad, Finance Officer Bill Martinis, Adjutant Linda Wojnar, Commander-Elect Frank Caputo, Second Vice Craig Kern, Judge Advocate Nick Krawec, Service Officer Don Smoley and Sergeant-At-Arms Stan Tumas.



We have made tremendous progress and success during my tenure as commander which I will briefly explain as I go along. While our internal projects are important we must never forget that we must adhere to the core competencies of the national legion charter. After all if there is no legion none of us will be here. The legion is built on four pillars.

Pillar One: Veteran Affairs, **Pillar Two:** Security. **Pillar Three:** Americanism, **Pillar Four:** Children & Youth Activity's. Each of these pillars have many sub-divisions and I purposely steered our legion not only to meet these requirements but to far exceed them. Our endenavors not only made the district attention but section and national as well. One of our events made it all the way to the Pennsylvania Senate!

Just to name a few, were a complete streamlining of our membership process. When I began my tenure, potential members complained that it took months to receive their membership cards and now they receive them almost immediately. Another area I dealt with were the annual dues of our regular members, the ALA and SONS. I believed that some paid too much so I leveled the playing field and now we all pay the same amount. Our constant membership drive was all over the map when I began and Linda completely revamped the process and we attained 100% completion in our first year, very rare with a post of our size. Our Community Awareness Projects were also a huge success. We collaborated with numerous Eagle Scout projects both here at the post as well as local cemeteries. Operation Helping Hero's was just another of our huge successes. As you know we teamed up with the West Jefferson Hills PTA and Elementary School in order to help our veterans at the Southwestern VA Center while creating *Operation Helping Hero's*. When the smoke cleared we delivered a van full of supplies that carried the VA Center through the winter. While it is honorable to give to various veteran agency's we must never forget our own veteran's. There are many programs out there most of which will never benefit our own veteran's as they will never qualify. I have always been a proponent that charity begins at home. Another milestone was our Oratorical Achievement Award which we awarded in the Thomas



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Jefferson High School Auditorium that over 300 parents and contestants attended. The teachers, along with the guidance counselors were so impressed that they asked that we continue the same process over the coming years. Another project was our World War II Era/ Korean War Era Veterans Dinner, talk about success! Linda took on the project and devoted numerous hours in order to make the dinner the success it was. We have received numerous emails and phone calls from the attendee's as well as their family members. Most of the families stated that this was one of the classiest events they have ever attended and a huge thank you for recognizing their veteran.

So, as you can clearly see, not only did we achieve tremendous accolades over the past two year's but we are leading the pack of all legions. We could not have achieved these benchmarks without the help of our volunteers so please accept my deepest gratitude.

Internally I created the Lent-At-The-Legion which is still a main-stay at our post regarding a steady funding stream during Lent. As a spin-off from Lent-At-The-Legion we created an extended non-smoking Friday night dinners which remain open to the public and also remain a steady fundraising stream. There are many more accomplishments that were attained but these were the highlights.

Again, I ask everyone to please support our new leaders as they need the help of all our members. I realize that everyone has very busy schedules but please allot one hour a month to your legion. Our regular post meetings are held at 7pm on the first Monday of each month and we even feed you just for your attendance.

I really do not want to end on a low note but we all have been saddened by the death of one of our bartenders Debbie Hromanik. She was more than a bartender as Debbie was a very talented artist as well as a dedicated Legion Rider. Debbie will surely be missed and may she rest in peace. God bless each and every one of you.

As always, we support our troops.

Richard J. Wojnar
Commander

ATTENTION:
POST 712 VIETNAM WAR ERA
VETERANS DINNER
has been cancelled!

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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CAPUTO's CORNER

I would like to thank everyone that participated in our Memorial Day ceremonies. I would also like to thank all who showed up for our Flag retirement service. We had a nice showing from Boy Scout troop 1843 and we even had a young Cub Scout from Pack 712. The post meeting will be held as usual the first Monday of July. A couple of dates to keep open are **July 2nd**, we will be having a Poppy sale at Kenneywood Park. Meet at the post at 8:30 AM, we will probably stay till about 1 PM. June 25 through July 4th is "*Celebrate America at the Park*". Vets get in for free and their guests get in for \$22.00. **November 18** we will be having our Gun Bash. Tickets are on sale at the bar, if you can help out by selling any tickets leave your contact information with the bartender. We will need a lot of help the day of the gun bash, please keep this date open.

Future Legion Events

Sunday June 25th
American Legion District
36 Meeting 1:30 PM

Tuesday August 1
Installation of Officers

Saturday August 26th
Legion Picnic.

Join us at the Legion . . .

- * to root for Pirates with game Beer and hot dog specials
- * enjoy Nachos + the drink of the day.
- * Wednesdays BINGO at 7 PM with a different sandwich featured each week. Bring a guest, join in the fun with our new Blower Machine & Digital Display.
- * Thursdays are Thirsty with the bucket special from 6-8 PM
- * Fridays we have Kitchen Specials from 4-8 PM. Open to the public. No smoking from 4-9 PM
- * Saturdays & Sundays have Free pool 4-8 PM & Free juke box. 4-Midnight
- * We have leagues for pool, bowling, corn hole and golf. If you would like to join any of these, let the bartender know and someone will contact you.
- * Enjoy a friendly visit alone or with your friends. We have pool, bowling and corn hole in addition to bingo, internet juke box (that you can program from your smart phone), Blotto daily number & games like LRC (Left, Right, Center).
- * If you're hungry, enjoy our free popcorn every day, sandwiches on Wed. before BINGO, different full meals open to the public with no smoking on Fri. meals at half time of select Steelers games or order from our bar menu.
- * View future events in our Newsletter, Facebook Photo Album section or on our web site alpost712pa.org. Browse through our Post pictures for your friends and family in our Facebook Photo section. We have loaded over 650 pictures so far.
- * Contact Lisa Deiley (412-758-9116) or ask the bartender for details about hall rentals for your special occasion.

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.

RUSS WILSON

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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,

The SAL would like to thank everyone that participated in our Father's Day breakfast. We had a good turn out and I would like to personally thank all the volunteers that made this event fun and thanks for the hard work.

Commander,

Gary C. Hartman Commander



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,

Our deepest sympathy to Deb Hromanik's family. She was a fantastic person and will be missed. Congratulations to one of our Juniors, Kylee McCaffery who was awarded the ALA Americanism award at Pleasant Hills Middle School. Congratulations also go to Marissa Molnar on winning the past presidents award of a \$500.00 scholarship. Both girls make our unit proud. We are having a campfire at Southwestern Veterans Center on July 26th and we like to have a good showing from our Post. We leave the post at 6:00 p.m. and return at 9:00 p.m. Don't forget installation on Tuesday August 1st. I would like to thank all my Unit members for the support and trust you have given me this past year. We are known to be one of the best Units in the state and we will be stronger in the next year. THANK YOU

God Bless And Protect Our Troops

Mary Ann Marunich, ALA President



American Legion Riders,

Greetings Legionnaires:

We bow our heads and remember with fondness and respect our sister **Rider Debbie Hromanik**. Deb was a tough person with a gentle soul. She worked as a bartender at Post 712 and rode motorcycles, yet she painted and donated her time to teach troubled Veterans to paint as a form of self-expression and as a coping mechanism. Her contrasts are what made her unique and are why we loved her. Rest in Peace Deb.

From the sad news of loss to the uplifting news of welcoming our newest member, **Army Veteran Patrick Mostyn**. Pat is the Junior Vice Commander of American Legion Post 490, but will ride with the Post 712 Riders as 490 does not have a Riders Club. Welcome Pat!

The Riders would like to congratulate the winner of the Gun Raffle conducted on May 20th. The winner was chosen based on the PA Daily Lotter Pick 3 Evening number of 553. The winner, who asked his name not be printed in the newsletter, won a Springfield M1A Match Rifle with a walnut, glass embedded stock and various accessories. The rifle is a throwback to the M-14, which many of our readers are very familiar with! Thanks to **Sr. Road Captain Dan Oeler, Secretary Susan Dillon and Treasurer Beverly Weikel** for walking point on the raffle.

Also on May 20th, which was Armed Forces Day, the Riders conducted a Fun Ride to the Bentleyville area for lunch and camaraderie. With a stop at Bud Murphy's Pub in Connellsville, the Riders put about 125 miles on the bikes. Thanks to **Vice President Bill Allan** for leading the ride! Good times. In fact, this was so much fun we all got together again on June 10 and Bill led us out for a scenic ride to Ohio Pyle and Bud Murphy's again.

Thank you to the following Riders; **Sergeant-at-Arms Tom Bodner, Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms Ed Harmon, Larry Jageman and Deputy Treasurer Bill Weikel**, who volunteered with Post 712 on May 24th to place Flags at the grave sites of U.S. Veterans in preparation of Memorial Day Remembrance Events. The lineage of Veterans in Western Pennsylvania is a long and proud line dating back to the Revolutionary War. Thank you for remembering those whom we lost.

Memorial Day remains a solemn and humbling occasion. The Riders and the Post 712 Honor Guard participated in Remembrance Ceremonies at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery, The Cloverleaf Memorial, West Jefferson High School and at Post 712. A very special thanks to the 17 Riders who participated in this Day of Remembrance and especially to the Riders who pulled double duty and served on the Honor Guard Rifle Team to conduct the 21 Gun Salute: **Loren Contreras, Sr Vice President Kevin**

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

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Jackson, Brian Kohl, Adjutant Lloyd Ray and Stanley Weaver. Well done Riders!

Next Riders meeting has been rescheduled to avoid interference with the Independence Day Celebration. Next meeting is at 1900 hours, Thursday, July 6th, at Post 712. See you there.

The Riders are Oscar Mike!

Top

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American Legion District
36 Meeting 1:30 PM

Tuesday August 1
Installation of Officers

Saturday August 26th
Legion Picnic.

TAPS



You will be missed.

PAUL E. TIMMEMANN
5/2017

May you rest in peace.



8th Annual Ride for Veterans

Veterans Place



American Legion Riders Post 712 (Pleasant Hills)

When: Sunday, August 6, 2017
Kickstands Up: 10 AM (Registration 9 AM)
Starting Point: Kurt J. Lesker Company
1925 Route 51
Large (Jefferson Hills), PA 15025
Ride Location: Laurel Hill State Park
Finish: American Legion Post 712

We Ride Rain or Shine

www.VeteransPlace.org
945 Washington Blvd.
PGH, PA15206
Accepting Donations

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Robert John Stoodt

Graduated from Baldwin Whitehall High School in 1968. I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps from 1968 to 1972. My first duty station was the Republic of Vietnam 1969-1970. I achieved the rank of Sargent there.

After the service I worked as an instrumentation technician for a chemical company for over thirty years. I have been retired for six years.

I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1987. I became a Life member of the VFW in 1988 and Commander of VFW Post 1810 in 1990-91. I was Commander of VFW Post 6664 from 2001 to 2004. I was an All State Commander for all four years that I was Commander. I became Commander of District 29-Department of Pennsylvania 2005-2006.

I became a member of the American Legion in 1988. In 2017 I became the President of the Home Association for Post 712. I am also a member of Vietnam Veterans, Inc. and the Marine Corps League Chapter 1138. I joined Disabled American Veterans in 2015 and became Commander of Col. S D Foster Chapter 76 in 2017.