



THE PHOENIX

For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

Elected Officers

Commander—**Dave Halpern**

1st Vice Commander—
Lloyd Ray

2nd Vice Commander—
John Dillon

Finance—**Thad Weidmann**

Sergeant-At-Arms—
Tom Bodner

Executives-at-Large

1. **Susan Coville-Cook**
2. **Nick Krawec**
3. **Don Rottman**
4. **John Caligiure**

Appointed Officers

Adjutant—**Terry Choate**

Chaplain—**S. Coville-Cook**

Judge Advocate—
Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr— **Don Rottman**

Web—**Thad Weidmann**

Editor—**John Dillon “Top”**
USA@ALPost712PA.org
412-606-8812

> MEETING NOTES <

MEETING SCHEDULE: American Legion Post 712 holds our Monthly Meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd (Rt 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW Post 1810).

All Members and Perspective Members of the American Legion Post 712 Family are Welcome to attend Monthly Meetings — This includes Veterans, Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Legion Riders, and American Legion Auxiliary (ALA)!

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on June 18th. The Meeting was Chaired by 1st Vice Commander *Lloyd Ray*. We had another strong meeting continuing to build for the future. Following the standardized portion we held elections. Congratulations to the four officers elected to these key positions. Their terms will run from August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2025:

- ◆ **Commander-elect Lloyd Ray**
- ◆ **1st Vice Commander-elect John Dillon**
- ◆ **2nd Vice Commander-elect Don Smoley**
- ◆ **Finance Officer-elect Thad Weidmann**

> TEXAS ROADHOUSE EVENT <

- On Tuesday, June 4th, Post 712 partnered with Texas RoadHouse to host *Post 712 Nite at TRH*. The event raised money for Post 712 to support Veteran and Youth programs in the Community and gave members and friends the opportunity to get together to socialize, have some fun, and of course ... to eat some well prepared steak dinners!

Special thanks to the Legionnaire Family who came out to staff the Information Table—Terry Choate, John Dillon, ALA Susan Dillon, Nick Krawec, Lloyd Ray, and Bill Weikel. Texas RoadHouse donated 10% of everyone's tab who displayed a Post 712 flyer while paying their bill. The event was a great success with the money already in the bank ready to sponsor and



support Veterans and Youth and our next event being planned.

⇒ **And a very special thanks to all of you who came out to enjoy good food, good company. and support our community through Post 712.**



Fort Bragg Rechristened Fort Liberty

DoD Mandate to Cease Honors to the Confederacy

Ongoing Series in *The Phoenix*, Article 3 of 9

As we have noted, the Department of Defense ordered the Army to rechristen all Posts and Forts named in honor of Confederate Generals to a name in keeping with the appropriateness of society today. All renaming had to be completed by January 2024. To accomplish this mission each Post formed a naming committee of Soldiers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Officers and developed recommendations that were eventually whittled down to one name.

Fort Bragg, established during 1918 as an artillery training area, is named in honor of Confederate General Braxton Bragg, who, somewhat ironically, was not well liked in his time and was often accused of subpar performance on the battlefield. Though as one of the largest military forts in the world and home to the Special Operations Command (SOC), the 18th Airborne Corps and the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg has become a well known name throughout the world as the Fort to call when freedom is challenged. The 18th Airborne Corps serves as freedom's 9-1-1.

Fort Liberty is the only one of nine forts rechristened that was not named in honor of a person, but is named instead after a value—Liberty.

Garrison Commander Colonel John Wilcox said in a statement, *"Liberty is about changing the narrative a bit about who we are, but it is not about forgetting who we are or what we've done."* ... *"It is about dedicating time and effort to honor those who have made sacrifices along the way."* COL Wilcox closed by noting, *"Liberty lives here. It is part of our ethos and it's part of who we are."*

Did you know Army forts were named after Confederate Generals during the early 1900's as a demonstration of reconciliation to southerners in an effort to rally the Nation to fight as one during WW I?

Previous Name	Location	New Name
Fort A.P. Hill	Virginia	Fort Walker
Fort Benning	Georgia	Fort Moore
Fort Bragg	North Carolina	Fort Liberty
Fort Gordon	Georgia	Fort Eisenhower
Fort Hood	Texas	Fort Cavazos
Fort Lee	Virginia	Fort Gregg-Adams
Fort Pickett	Virginia	Fort Barfoot
Fort Polk	Louisiana	Fort Johnson
Fort Rucker	Alabama	Fort Novosel

> POST 712 CALENDAR <

- ◆ June 25—30, **Flying Legends of Victory Tour 2024**. B-25 *Maid in the Shade* and B-17 *Sentimental Journey* visit Allegheny County Airport. Flights and Walk-thru Tours available. Let's plan on picking a day to attend together!
- ◆ July 13. Riders sponsorship and participation in the West Brownsville American Legion **Ride to Combat Autism in Military and Veteran Families**.
- ◆ July 16. **Post Meeting** at 7PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW)
- ◆ July 30. **National Night Out**—Pleasant Hills, one of the largest NNO's in the greater area. 7—8:30 PM.
- ◆ August 10th, Saturday. **Pleasant Hills Community Day**, Noon—10 PM. Post 712 will set up an information stand and have items for sale to the public. Volunteers will be needed throughout the day.
- ◆ August 20. **Post Meeting** at 7PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW)
- ◆ August 28-September 1, **The Vietnam Traveling Wall** at Frick Park in Mt. Pleasant, PA. Sponsored by Gallagher's Pub and Operation Troop Appreciation.
- ◆ September 13-16, **Gettysburg Trip**. Riders and invited guests are welcome to attend. Some people will be following the motorcycles in cars.
- ◆ September 17. **Post Meeting** at 7 PM at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA 15227 (Brentwood VFW)

We've spent much of June standing down from a very busy May and Memorial Day events and simultaneously gearing up for Pleasant Hills Community Day and National Night Out. Join our team and get involved a little or a lot.

- ◆ **Sponsorships!** You know, we keep trying to give away money to support the community and seem to be having a tough time doing it. Don't be shy. Do you know of a worthwhile community activity for Post 712 to sponsor. It may be an event to support Veterans, to sponsor a youth team, to sponsor a scouting program, or to do a good deed. Be a hero to your kids, grandkids, or neighbors and talk to an Officer about Post 712 sponsoring a worthwhile event or program.

> PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES <

- This year we had **three proposed bylaw changes for the membership to address thru a vote at the June 18th meeting**. Those proposals and outcomes are presented for your information.
- 1) **ARTICLE V—OFFICERS, SECTION I**: Additional requirement to Post Bylaws to require all new-term Officers, elected and appointed, to produce their *DD Form 214, Record of Service*, to the incoming 1st Vice Commander and Judge Advocate (John made this proposal on behalf of the membership as we recently learned of a member who was not eligible for membership in the American Legion, though who had been a Legionnaire with Post 712 for years. That person is no longer permitted membership with Post 712). The DD214 will not be retained by the Post, merely inspected for verification of membership eligibility. If the 1st Vice Commander and/or Judge Advocate are not available, the 2nd Vice Commander and if needed, the Adjutant will inspect the form for verification of eligibility for membership. The 1st Vice Commander and the Judge Advocate or replacements, must present their own DD-214's to the incoming Commander and Adjutant for verification of eligibility. **Update—This proposal passed unanimously.**
 - 1) **ARTICLE V—OFFICERS, SECTION II**: Clarification of Post Bylaws that depict, "*The Post Adjutant, Post Chaplain, Post Judge Advocate, Post Historian, Post Service Officer, Post Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms and such other officers as the membership of the Post shall have determined, shall either be appointed by the Post Commander with the concurrence of the Executive Committee or elected as determined by a majority vote of the members of the Post*". John opined the wording is not specific as to what actions and what processes determines when these officers must be elected or appointed and by what mechanism such determination is made. John therefore seeks to clarify the wording: "*The Post Adjutant, Post Chaplain, Post Judge Advocate, Historian, Post Service Officer, Post Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms and such other officers as determined by the Post Commander shall be appointed by the Commander and approved or disapproved by the Membership present at the meeting thru a simple majority yeah or nay vote of hands shown. The Commander will not vote. However, in the event of a tie between yeah and nay votes, the Commander will cast a vote to break the tie.* **NOTE**: American Legion bylaws for the Department of Pennsylvania require only the Commander, 1st Vice Commander, 2nd Vice Commander and the Finance Officer to be elected. **Update—This proposal passed unanimously.**

> PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES <

3) **ARTICLE XI— HOME ASSOCIATION, SECTION 8 and SECTION 9:** Dissolution of the Home Association. As the Post no longer hosts a Canteen, the need for a Home Association has come into question. Currently, there are no Officers serving on the Home Association Board, nor has their been since selling the property at 650 Old Clairton Road. Further, the Home Association has conducted no actions since selling said property. The 2nd Vice Commander John Dillon noted dissolution of the Home Association should be considered through an open discussion with the Finance Officer and subsequent vote by the membership. Any funds remaining in the Home Association bank account are to be assumed by the Post per bylaws and the Post will continue operations of Post activities unabated. John noted vigorous discussion should precede the vote to ensure the leadership charts the smoothest course forward to conduct operations in support of Veterans and the community. **Update-This proposal was tabled.** Ongoing research established the HA is currently committed to a binding agreement with our bank and to dissolve the HA at this time would result in the loss of revenue from interest earned on a Post investment. Further, it was noted that a vote may not be needed to dissolve the HA once all HA commitments are satisfied, as this decision may simply be the purview of the Commander. And lastly, there was consideration given to maintaining the HA for possible future use. Stay tuned—more to come.



Are you on Facebook?

So are we! *American Legion Post 712, Pleasant Hills - The Phoenix*

Join the Post 712 Facebook Group to stay in the know about what's going on and future events. This is a public group so you can invite your friends and family members to join.

In addition to posting the monthly newsletter to Facebook, we post updates. For example, did you know the Vietnam Traveling Wall will be here during August? Or that the Flying Legends of Victory B-17 & B-25 Tours will be at Allegheny Co. Airport during June 25—30? Like and follow us on Facebook, we're, ***American Legion Post 712, Pleasant Hills—The Phoenix***

> American Legion Post 712 <

> AMERICAN LEGION POST 712 <

To enhance the **American Legion Family of Post 712**, all Members and Perspective Members of Post 712, of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), of the Chapter 712 Legion Riders, and of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) are welcomed and encouraged to attend Post Meetings. Join us for a meeting and social hour afterwards. Have a little fun!

Contact the Legion

USA@ALPost712PA.org

412-901-0327

Business Office—American
Legion Post 712, 610 Old
Clairton Rd, Pgh, PA 15236

Facebook Group:
***American Legion Post
712, Pleasant Hills—The
Phoenix***

Website: ALPost712PA.org

712 MEETINGS

The 3rd Tuesday of the
month at 7 PM, at 3801 Saw
Mill Run Blvd, Pgh, PA



Membership Requirements

- ◆ Having served at least one day on active duty since December 7, 1941
- ◆ Having served **honorably**
- ◆ Copy of DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- ◆ Call or email for more information
- ◆ Annual Dues = \$37.00

Who We Are

We are the *New Post 712* building a legacy of camaraderie, service and honor. Supporting Veterans and Youth through sponsorships and volunteering, improving our community and aiding non-profit organizations.

Join us to build your legacy. New Members Welcome!

EMAIL ADDRESS — Do you have an email address? If so, please ensure we have your email address to keep you in the know with important information, such as the monthly newsletter.

Email your name to Post 712 at
USA@ALPost712PS.org and we will add you to our distribution list.

> The American Legion Family <

Legion Riders

OFFICERS

Director Elect—John Dillon
Assistant Director Elect—Pat Mostyn
Road Captain Elect—Chuck Durney
Treasurer Elect—Beverly Weikel
Secretary Elect—Susan Dillon
Chaplain Elect—Mark Smith
Adjutant Elect—Lloyd Ray

MEETINGS

The first Wednesday of the Month at 7PM. The next Riders Meeting is July 10th at 3801 Saw Mill Run Blvd, PGH, PA 15227 (VFW bldg.). All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Be a Member of the Legion Family, Veteran, SAL or ALA (Spouses welcome also).
2. Own a motorcycle, trike, Can-Am or similar vehicle.
3. Be licensed and have insurance.
4. You may be a member of any Legion Post and still join the Post 712 Riders.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Top at 412-606-8812
- ◆ USA@ALPost712PA.org
- ◆ *American Legion Riders Chapter 712* on Facebook

ALA

OFFICERS

President—Mary Ann Marunich
1st Vice President—Donna McCrumb
2nd Vice President—Carol Stoodt
Treasurer—Eileen Halpern
Secretary—Chris Bodner

MEETINGS

The third Monday of the month at 6PM.
The next ALA Meeting is at the Post 712 Business Office, 610 Old Clairton Rd, PGH, PA 15236. All are welcome!

MEMBERSHIP

1. Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of the American Legion; and/or
2. female descendants of men or women who served during 1917/1918 and any time beginning December 7th, 1941 to the present: and/or
3. female descendants of men or women who died in the line of duty or who received an Honorable Discharge; or
4. Female Veterans w/Honorable Discharge.

CONTACT

- ◆ Call Mary Ann at 412-330-7863
- ◆ Snookie1938@aol.com