



THE PHOENIX

For the American Legion Family of Post 712

American Legion Post 712

Elected Officers

Commander—Lloyd Ray

1st Vice Commander—
John Dillon

2nd Vice Commander—
Don Smoley

Finance—**Thad Weidmann**

Appointed Officers

Adjutant—Terry Choate

Chaplain—**S. Coville-Cook**

Judge Advocate—
Nick Krawec

Svc Ofcr— **Don Rottman**

Sergeant-At-Arms—
Tom Bodner

Executives-at-Large

1. **Susan Coville-Cook**

2. **Nick Krawec**

3. **Don Rottman**

4. **John Caligiure**

Web—**Thad Weidmann**

Editor—**John Dillon**

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)!

During the July 2024 meeting, Post 712 voted to renew our donation to the Veterans Place of Washington Blvd of \$100 per month for a total of \$1,200 annually.

Post 712 held our regularly scheduled Meeting on August 20th at 7 PM. The Meeting was Chaired by Commander *Lloyd Ray*.

- ♦ Also approved was a \$95 donation to the **South Park High School Soccer** program (not to be confused with the SPHS Football program that we sponsored last month) thru a half page ad that will display in scorebooks available at all home games. *Go Eagles!* (see add on the next page in this newsletter).

> MEETING NOTES <



American Legion Post 712 – Virtual

Helping Veterans & Strengthening Community
Sponsorships, Donations, Volunteering, Camaraderie

412-901-0327 ||| USA@ALPost712PA.org
FB American Legion Post 712 – Virtual

*When you're ready to be a difference
maker – Call Us*

Still Serving – We are the Legion



- ♦ **Operation Troop Appreciation (OTA)** is asking for Volunteers for Friday, August 30th for both indoor work and outdoor work. The indoor work includes packing boxes of CARE supplies for Troops overseas. The outdoor work includes yard work and cleanup. I already know some members of Post 712 are rolling out to volunteer. If anyone else would like to volunteer to assist OTA you may do so by contacting John at 412-606-8812 or contact Sherry from OTA directly at 412-973-1831. Tell her you are a member of American Legion Post 712.
- ♦ **Tee-Shirts.** We still have Post 712 Tee-Shirts for sale sizes Small to 3XL for only \$15 each. Shirts will be available at the Post Meeting and by calling 412-606-8812. Cash or checks from members are accepted.
- ♦ We are able to deliver the tee-shirts to you if you buy 2 or more shirts and live in the area. Call 412-606-8812 to arrange for a delivery.

Legionnaires:

- 1. The August meeting for American Legion Post 712 will be held the third Tuesday of the Month**
- 2. The meeting is at 7 PM on August 20th, at VFW Post 1810 Brentwood**
- 3. The address is 3801 Saw Mill Run Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15227**

**Your attendance and participation
is requested**

**Have a say in your Legion.
Guests & perspective members
are welcome**

> Legion Tee-Shirts <

We have Post 712 Patriotic T-shirts **only \$15 each**. Adult sizes **Small to 3XL**. The shirts are 100% light-weight cotton, Fruit of the Loom with screen printing. The reverse displays the iconic images of 9-11 & the obverse displays the American Flag.



**Pick up a shirt
for yourself &
others \$15**

**For Shirts
412-606-8812**



> Raffle Winner <

The Lucky Winner of the **August 10th Raffle** is an employee of the Kaminski Eye Care Clinic in Bethel Park.

The winning # was 649

We thank the **Kaminski Eye Care Clinic** & their employees for supporting Veterans and for supporting American Legion Post 712.

And Post 712 would like to thank and recognize **Terry Choate** who sold the winning ticket & a **huge thanks to Susan Dillon** of the Riders who volunteered her time and efforts to run the Raffle as the Project Officer. You guys Rock!!! Volunteers!!!



> Pleasant Hills Community Day <



August 10, 2024 marked **Community Day for Pleasant Hills** and Post 712 was on-site and represented in Mowry Park by several people including Commander **Lloyd Ray**, 1st Vice **John Dillon**, 2nd Vice **Don Smoley**, Adjutant **Terry Choate**, Rider **Susan Dillon**, and **Nancy Choate**.

Special thanks to Legionnaire & Rider **John Caligiure** who loaned his Harley Davidson motorcycle for part of the Post 712 display. The bike garnered allot of



attention from passers-by as we knew it would. The event was a great success and allot of fun for all who attended! **Maybe**, just maybe, next year we will resurrect the tradition of Post 712 selling beer at Pleasant Hills Community Day as in the old days!!!

> CALENDAR <

♦ **Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, Friday, Oct 18, 9-11**

Jefferson Hills Borough Complex, 925 Old Clairton Road, Jefferson Hills

Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel residing in the 39th Legislative District are invited by **Rep Andrew Kuzma** to attend a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast to be recognized for their service and dedication to our country. The event will include a free breakfast and speeches by **Dr. Todd DePastino**, founding director of the **Veterans Breakfast Club**; and retired **Brigadier General Dave Papak, U.S. Marine Corps**. Each Veteran is welcome to bring a guest. Please register by visiting www.RepKuzma.com/events or by calling Rep Kuzma's district office at 412-382-2009. Space is limited, signup early.

♦ **Paper Shredding Event, Saturday, September 28, 9—11**

Baldwin High School Parking Lot, 4653 Clairton Blvd, Pgh, PA 15236

ID theft is the fast growing crime in the world and responsible for millions upon millions dollars of theft annually. Do not keep old records lying around. If you have boxes of papers to dispose of bring them to the Shredding Event to ensure they are destroyed and disposed of correctly to protect your sensitive information such as social security number, date of birth, account numbers, and even your address. Bring up to three boxes of documents for free shredding. Remove documents from binders.



Senator Jim Brewster and **Representative Nick Pisciotano**

present a **FREE**

SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday • September 28 • 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Baldwin High School Parking Lot • 4653 Clairton Blvd. • Pittsburgh, PA 15236

WHAT TO BRING: All documents you no longer need that contain personal information including Social Security, credit card, and bank account numbers. Also bring credit card statements and applications, bank statements, cancelled checks, income tax forms, insurance records, medical and retirement/pension fund information. **PAPER ONLY PLEASE. NO BINDERS, BINDER CLIPS OR BOOKS.**

Accepting Items for the
Greater Pittsburgh
**community
food bank**

Non-perishable food items only.
No glass please. A donation is
not required to participate in
the Shredding Event.

***This event is for individuals
only, no businesses please.
Three (3) box limit per car.***

Paid for with Pennsylvania Taxpayer Dollars

For more information, contact Kathy Jo Osman in Sen. Brewster's office at 412-664-5200 or at Kathy.Osman@pasenate.com

Consumer fraud and identity theft are a significant concern. To raise awareness and to promote prevention, we are hosting a shredding event to give individuals the opportunity to have unneeded documents destroyed **FREE** of charge. Document shredding will occur onsite with the shredded paper later to be recycled.



> Military & Patriotic License Plates <

By John Dillon

The PA Dept. of Transportation is debuting a new license plate during 2025 that showcases Pennsylvania as the birthplace of America. The new plate features the Liberty Bell and the text, **LET FREEDOM RING**.



If you would like to explore purchasing this license plate, or any one of the dozens of Military and Patriotic license plates available from the DOT, visit their web page at www.dmv.pa.gov. I was actually surprised to see how many novelty plates are available from the DOT.

But first ... A word about REAL ID—

Beginning **May 7th, 2025** Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license/photo ID card or another form of federally accepted identification such as a passport or Military ID, to board a domestic flight, enter a federal building or enter a military installation. Now is the time to get your REAL ID,

don't wait until the last minute or you may be sorry you did.

How do I get a REAL ID? If you received your first PA Drivers License after September 2003, you may be able to apply online. If not, like me, you will have to visit a PennDot Center. I recommend the Bridgeville Center as the closest and the lines are normally not long, 1025 Washington Pike, PA-50, Bridgeville, PA 15017. Yes, you will have to pay for a REAL ID, the fee is about **\$60.50** (nothing is cheap anymore!).

OK, vanity plates, check out a small sampling of PA DOT vanity plates available on the following pages.





There are dozens more Military plates available from DOT. They all cost different amounts, but you should **plan on paying about \$40 for a Military plate**. If you need help ordering online call the 1st Vice Commander at 412-606-8812 and he will assist you with computer access.

> CHARTERS OF FREEDOM <

By John Dillon

It's a presidential election year and we have been hearing allot about what America is and what America should be from all political parties and the talking heads on TV. The *Charters of Freedom* are the Founding Fathers thoughts on what we as the unified Nation of the United States, should be. You may not be familiar with the phrase, *Charters of Freedom*, though you have certainly heard of the documents that constitute the *Charters of Freedom*. Those documents are the *Declaration of Independence*, the *Constitution of the United States* and the *Bill of Rights*. Have you ever actually read the *Charters of Freedom*? If so, it was probably a long time ago when you were attending high school. We will present the *Charters of Freedom* in the coming months for your review and information.

But first, if you're wondering what the American Legion position is pertaining to the election, the Legion is a-political, though we do highly encourage you to vote. Voting is the most patriotic statement you can make and is the very basis of why we served, to protect and enforce the manifestation of the *Charters of Freedom*—free elections. Remember your Oath of Enlistment, which has not changed since 1962 and is only slightly changed from the original oath of 1789, you swore allegiance not to the President, or the people, nor a political party, and not even to our Country, but to the *Constitution of the United States*. Consider voting as not only a right, but a duty as your continued service to our Nation.

Oath of Enlistment

I _____ do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.

(Title 10, U.S. Code; Act of 5 May 1960 replacing the wording first adopted in 1789, with amendment effective 5 October 1962)

> DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE <

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

The Declaration of Independence continued

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harrass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

The Declaration of Independence continued

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

The Declaration of Independence continued

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our Brittish brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which, would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor |||

> 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 the upcoming Post Meeting. Join us for a meeting and social hour afterwards. Have a little

Contact the Legion

USA@ALPost712PA.org

412-901-0327

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

Facebook: *American Legion
Post 712-Virtual*

Website: *ALPost712PA.org*

712 MEETINGS

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

Would you like to be involved? Commander Lloyd Ray is looking for good people who want to give back to assist with the daily operations of American Legion Post 712. If many people do a little then no one has to do a lot, especially where paper-work associated with the American Legion is concerned. Call Lloyd at 412-901-0327 or attend a Post Meeting to explore opportunities that are open and available.

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 donations, sponsorships and volunteering, improving our community and aiding non-profit organizations. Join us—Attend a meeting.



The American Legion Family

Legion Riders

OFFICERS

Director—John Dillon

Assistant Director—Pat Mostyn

Road Captain—Chuck Durney

Treasurer—Beverly Weikel

Secretary—Susan Dillon

Adjutant—Lloyd Ray

Chaplain—Mark Smith

MEETINGS

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

MEMBERSHIP

1. Be a Member of the Legion Family, Veterans, 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

Sons of the AL

Annual dues for the Sons of the American Legion are only \$9. Membership for the SAL includes all male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the SAL.

Legion Post 490

Are you looking for a great place to hang out? If so, try **American Legion Post 490 in Castle Shannon**. It's close and it has the same great vibe of all American Legions. It's located at 1008 Castle Shannon Blvd, Pgh, PA 15234.

Canteen Hours for Post 490

Monday and Wednesday 2—7 PM

Tuesday Closed

Thursday & Friday 2 PM—Close

Saturday 1 PM—Close

Sunday 12—7 PM

Parking is in the back. Make sure you take your Legion membership card as proof of American Legion membership is required for entry.