



Nassau County Legionnaire



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COMMANDERS REPORT

MARCH STARTED WITH THE ANNUAL VISIT TO ALBANY FOR HILL DAY. ALONG WITH 10th DISTRICT COMMANDER KEN CADIEUX, PCC BOB ROBESCH AND PAST COUNTY PRESIDENT CAROL HASSETT, AFTER ATTENDING THE BREAKFAST ON "THE HILL", WE VISITED NUMEROUS LEGISLATORS TO PROMOTE THE LEGISLATIVE GOALS OF THE DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS NASSAU COUNTY.

THE 2nd, 3rd AND 1st DIVISION CAUCUS WAS WELL ATTENDED, THANK YOU TO ALL OUR LEGIONNAIRES WHO ARE CONTINUING TO SERVE ON THE COUNTY STAFF.

ON MARCH 10th THE STAFF AND I ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THE NASSAU COUNTY AUXILIARY, THANKS FOR THE INVITE PRESIDENT YVONNE. ALWAYS REMEMBER BEHIND EVERY STRONG LEGIONNAIRE IS A STRONGER AUXILIARY MEMBER.

OUR RESCHEDULED COUNTY MEETING WAS HELD ON THE 18th, AS THE FOURTH FRIDAY WAS GOOD FRIDAY. I REALIZE THIS MAY HAVE BEEN AN INCONVENIENT FOR SOME, HOWEVER, AS IT SAYS IN OUR PREAMBLE "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY".

STEVE McMANUS
COUNTY COMMANDER

ROBERT ROBESCH NOMINATED

AT THE COUNTY MEETING ON FRIDAY, MARCH 18th ROBERT ROBESCH WAS NOMINATED TO BE PLACED ON THE DEPARTMENT LIST FOR THE POSITION OF DEPARTMENT COMMANDER. IF ACCEPTED HE WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO RUN SOMETIME IN 2020. "CONGRATULATIONS BOB"

1st DIVISION REPORT

Dennis C. Dietrich

Our continued GOAL is to keep membership as our number one priority. All Posts should be at 90%.

The First Division Caucus was held on March 16, 2016 at 7:30 P.M. at Massapequa Post 1066, 66 Veterans Blvd. Massapequa

The following Legionnaires were nominated from the 1st Division Caucus for 2016-2017.

1. *Adjutant - Joseph Brunner*
2. *Treasurer - Robert Guarneri*
3. *Membership Officer - Dennis Dietrich*
4. *10th District Sgt at Arms - William Harms*

The County Convention will be held on June 3rd and 4th at Levittown Hall. Please try to attend both dates.

I would like to thank all who supported me this year. I am looking forward to serving our great organization in the coming year.

CORRECTION

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIOR

I APOLOGIZE TO THE MERRICK POST, ON MY LAST REPORT I STATED THAT THE MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED \$500.00 TO THIS PROGRAM. THE LEGIONNAIRES OF MERRICK DONATED \$1,000.00

OUR DONATIONS TO THIS PROGRAM HAVE SLOWED A LITTLE, HOPEFULLY WE CAN PICK IT UP AGAIN. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OUR GOAL \$6,000.00 BY THE COUNTY CONVENTION, WHICH ONLY AVERAGES \$1.00 PER MEMBER. WE ARE ALREADY HALF WAY THERE.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

FOR GENERATIONS, THEY'VE WAITED. UNCLAIMED, FORGOTTEN, SILENTLY OCCUPYING THE SHELVES OF MORTUARIES AND STATE HOSPITALS ACCROSS THE UNITED STATES.

THE CREMATED REMAINS (CREMAINS) OF VETERANS, MANY INDIGENT, MANY MORE FORGOTTEN THROUGH LOSS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO REMEMBER THEM.

TODAY THE MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - CALLED MIAP FOR SHORT IS SEEKING OUT WHAT COULD BE POTENTIALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF UNBURIED VETERANS WHO SERVED IN WARS THROUGHOUT THE PAST CENTURY.

THEIR STORIES HAVE BEGUN TO EMERGE FROM THE SHADOWS OF SOCIETY'S FORGETFULNESS.

THE AMERICAN LEGION, PARTNERED WITH MIPA, WANT TO SEE THEM HONORED AN GIVEN A FINAL RESTING PLACE.

WE ON LONG ISLAND HAVE BURIED OVER 100 OF THESE FORGOTTEN VETS AND WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR MORE UNCLAIMES ASHES STORED IN FUNERAL HOMES FOR YEARS BECAUSE THEY WERE UNCLAIMED.

SOME HISTORY

IN OREGON 3500 CREMAINS. MANY OF THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN PATIENTS IN THE STATE HOSPITAL, WHICH WERE PUT IN COPPER, QUART SIZED CANS AND STACKED ON A SHELF IN A BASEMENT STORAGE ROOM.

ONE THOUSAND OF THOSE FORGOTTEN SOULD ARE EXPECTED TO BE VETERANS. THE FINDINGS SPAN THE YEARS FROM 1890 TO 1971, AN ERA THAT BEGINS WITH THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR AND ENDS WITH VIETNAM.

IN MICHIGAN THEY ARE WORKING TO IDENTIFY 350 SETS OF CREMAINS RECENTLY DISCOVERED. IN RENO 34 UNBURIED VETS RECENTLY WERE DISCOVERED. IDAHO ALONE HAS FOUND AND INTERRED 91 VETS.

CARILLION DONATIONS

OUR GOAL IS \$15,000.00

We have received the following additional donations this month to replace the Carillion at the L.I National Cemetery at Farmingdale.

Nassau County A.L.	500.00
Merrick Post	500.00
Island Park Post	500.00
Roosevelt Post	100.00
Charles Wagner Post	100.00
Victor Murtha Post	100.00
Holms Service Station	100.00
Walker Funeral Home	75.00
Mr & Mrs Demeth	25.00
James Randle	10.00
Total to Date	4710.00

We wish to thank those who are helping us to replace the worn out Carillion that has played for over 40 years. The original unit was donated by the AMVETS but they were unable to find the funds to replace it. All the Veterans organizations are being asked for donations to replace it with a new unit. The cost would be \$15,000.00 and we would have to get a maintenance contract on the unit as required by the VA.

Please make all check payable to LINCMO, Inc. and send to me:

Ken Cadieux
121 Powell Avenue,
Rockville Centre, NY 11570

Remember to ear mark your check for the Carillion



The 46th Annual Nurse's Training Ball

WE WILL BE SPONSORING NINE (9)
NURSING STUDENTS THIS YEAR
THANKS TO OUR LEGION SPONSORS
QUENTIN ROOSEVELT POST
PLAINVIEW POST
MALVERNE POST

DATE AND TIME

Sunday, Afternoon, May 1, 2016
1:00 to 5:00 P.M.

PLACE

Malverne American Legion Post # 44
240 Franklin Avenue,
(South of the Southern State Parkway)
Malverne, N.Y. 11565
516 - 599-8645

MENU

Baked Virginia Ham Dinner with trim-
mings
Free Soda - Coffee and Cake
Wine and Mixed Drinks at Legion Prices
Music and Dancing
Car Fare \$25.00 per person

FOR QUESTIONS OR INFOR- MATION CONTACT

FRANK COLON, Jr.
85 Cleveland Avenue,
Rockville Centre, N.Y. 11570
516-766-6563

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

WARNING !

This information has been sent from the National Adjutant via the National Judge Advocate.
Question: Can the American Legion become involved in partisan political activities ?

IT MAY NOT !

This is made crystal clear by 36 US Code 21706 (part of the American Legion Corporate) Charter) which states:

“The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seekin public office or preferment”

The American Legion takes positions on issues and lobbies for veteran's benefits and a strong America. This is clearly permitted. What is not permitted is the endorsement of any candidate or the donation of funds by the American Legion to a candidate. The American Legion takes positions on issues and its members being citizens need to be informed on the issues. Hence, American Legion Programs such as candidates nights are fully authorized as long as all candidates are invited on the same terms and conditions. It would be illegal to invite the one you support with advance notice, but the one you oppose with no notice at all. When Legionnaires wear their pins and hats to political rallies, the media often to reach the wrong conclusions. This can be very embarassing to the Legionnaire. Hence, we normally recommend that Legionnaires not wear their caps to partisan politican rallies. There is no rule against doing this so long as the Legionnaire makes it clear there is no endorsement.

Likewise, we recommend that Legion publications not accept paid political ads. However, if they do, the paid political advertisements must be made on the same terms and conditions for all candidates and should be labeled “Paid Political Advertisement” at both the top and bottom.As noted above, those who violate the partisan political activities prohibition put the Legion charter of their post at risk as well as it's tax exempt status

Recap - March 12, 2016 Day at the Races

Mary Norris - Co-Chair

We had a total of 43 residents and patients from Building 92, the Men's Ward in Building 8 from Building 6. Normally there would be 18 to 21 patients. Saturday's attendance was a record breaker!

Special thanks goes to Westbury Post 101, Commander Vincent Ciantro and his members for bringing crocheted Lap Blankets made by a Ms. Rose Andrews. Ms. Andrews is legally blind and accepts no money for her efforts. Also, Tom and I want to recognize Posts 4, 449, and 1273 for coming to help. This program would not be the success it is, without the help of our Legion Members.

The following Post are on the schedule to help out on the 9th of April:

Team #7 - Please be at Bldg. 92 at 1:30pm
East Rockaway #958 Floral Park #334
Hempstead #390 Manhasset #304
North Bellmore #1749 William Clinton Story #342
Young Simmons #1765 Howard Van Wagner #962

Any Post who cannot come out when scheduled this year, you're invited to help out on the 2nd Saturday of each month for April 2016 and May 2016.

HISTORIANS REPORT

JAMES RANDLE, HISTORIAN

TO ALL POST HISTORIANS OF NASSAU COUNTY, YOUR POST HISTORY BOOK, POST NARRATIVE AND SCRAPBOOK HISTORY FOR 2015-2016 MUST BE FINISHED BY FRIDAY MAY 27th THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE COUNTY AT MALVERNE POST 44.

THE BOOKS WILL BE JUDGED AT THAT TIME AND AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN OUT AT THE 98th ANNUAL NASSAU LEGION CONVENTION BEING HELD AT LEVITTOWN HALL ON JUNE 3, 2016.

THIS WILL FULFILL YOUR DUTY AS AN OFFICER AS POST HISTORIAN. IF ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL ME.

1-516-270-3876
106 ROSE LANE,
NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040

Mar 18, 2016 - VAV's Report

Rep Robert Reahl, PCC 516-681-5545

Dep. Rep William Harms, PCC 516-795-3679

VETEARN'S AT NORTHPORT
VA NEED OUR HELP

The VAV's would like to thank the following
Posts and Legions Since last month

For their greatly needed Donation to help the
Vets at Northport VA Hospital.

To get needed items the VA does not pay for.

REMEMBER YOUR DONATION GOES

100% TO THE VETS

TOTAL FOR 2014 -2015 \$2435
CAN 2015 -2016 TOP LAST YEAR

Victor Murtha Post 972 \$100

TOTAL \$1975

PLEASE DONATE as ever little bit helps:

Make the check to: -VAV's Executive Board

& Mail it to the Vic Pres of the Exc. Board

Robert Reahl, PCC

69 Hope Drive Plainview, NY 11803-5646

National Emergency Fund

Winter is just about over and we are all looking forward to the balmy days of spring and summer. Unfortunately, for some parts of the country, the end of winter means flooding from the snow melt. When flooding does happen, the National Emergency Fund stands ready to help the Legion family members get back on their feet. As of 2015, the fund has disbursed grants in excess of \$8.5 Million and there will not be a slowdown in grants this year.

So far this year we have only collected \$1,775 which is far behind last year. I realize that there are many charitable causes which are begging for your money but the NEF is the best example of Veterans helping Veterans. Please try to make a contribution before the Legion year is over.

Send your checks, payable to the Nassau committee, earmarked NEF, to my attention at;

94 Netherwood Dr. Albertson, NY 11507

Thank you for your continued generosity

Bob Robesch, PCC

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

The Boys State is scheduled for 26 June thru 2 July at SUNY Morrisville. The fee this year will remain at \$450 (\$350 for the program and \$100 for bus transportation). The packet send to all posts details all the necessary information needed to sponsor a boy(s) for this worthwhile program. If you are sponsor a boy(s) please sent me the check made out to Nassau County American Legion and earmark it "Boys State". All completed application with required forms must be back to me by 20 April. If we are late submitting the application there will be an additional fee of \$150 per boy. If you need help with the applications or conducting the interviews please call me for assistance. The orientation will be on the 1st of June at the Williston Post #144 at 8 P.M., Post Commanders and Boys State Chairman are invited to attend. Please consider sending a boy or more to this worthwhile program. If you cannot afford to send a boy please make a donation to the program so that we can pick up boys who would not be able to attend. The candidate that you sponsor must be completing his junior year and will be returning to school for at least one semester. He must be in the top 50% of his class and should be active in school and or civic programs. Nassau County's quota is 50 boys. The buses have been reserved and there is no price increase. Have the Post Boys State Chairman start on the program now, if he has any questions call me at 516 922-7135 or 516 512-0244.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE

WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF VICE COMMANDERS, FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND DIVISIONS. ANYONE INTERESTED SHOULD IN THE POSITION SHOULD LET THE COMMANDER KNOW AND HAVE A MEMBER OF HIS OR HER POST NOMINATE THEM AT THE COUNTY CONVENTION. WE HOPE THAT SOMEONE WILL STEP UP AND FILL THESE POSITIONS SO THAT THE DIVISIONS CAN BE REPRESENTED. AT ALL COUNTY FUNCTIONS.

GET ACTIVE !

TROPHIES AND AWARDS

JAMES RANDLE, CHAIRMAN

I MUST KNOW BY MAY 15TH TO ORDER PLAQUES TO BE GIVEN OUT AT THE 98th NASSAU COUNTY CONVENTION ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd AND 4th AT LEVITTOWN HALL.

THE CHAIRPERSON ON THE PUBLICITY, REHABILITATION, SCOUTING, SCHOLARSHIP, LAW AND ORDER, LEG IONNAIRE OF THE YEAR AND HISTORIAN, HAVE ASKED ME FOR PLAQUES IN THE PAST.

THE CHAIRPERSON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SPELLING.

PLEASE CALL ME AND PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PHONE NUMBER SO I CAN CONTACT YOU WITH ANY QUESTIONS.

JAMES T. RANDLE, CHAIRMAN
106 ROSE LANE,
NEW HYDE PARK, NY 11040
E-MAIL: jtrandle46@gmail.com
1-516-270-3876

OPERATION COMFORT WARRIORS

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

Why Are the Younger Veterans Avoiding the Veteran Service Organizations?

Before I researched why the post-Vietnam generation of Veterans were not joining Veteran Service Organizations (VSO), I asked myself, "Why wouldn't veterans want to be around other veterans?" Truly, participating in a VSO provides a unique opportunity to serve our community with people from all walks of life, and also offers the opportunity to share the bond and camaraderie that melds us together as proud United States Veterans.

After months of research, most of which involved visiting many VSOs in several states, the answer became obvious: In all of the VSOs that I had the pleasure of visiting, I found that VSOs are standing by and waiting for this younger generation of veterans to just walk in and join like their fathers and grandfathers before them. And this appeared to be the "marketing strategy" to bolster membership in many, if not all, of the VSOs. Many VSOs rely solely on their names to entice these young veterans to show up and join, and most have a marketing campaign that hasn't quite made it into the 21st Century. And quite frankly, some of the messaging is a little misleading. For example, I remember getting a package from a VSO that looked like an official government envelope until I opened it and discovered much to my dismay that this official-looking correspondence was in fact a membership package. I thought the BOLD RED ink demanding some type of action was a little over the top. When I read "send money along with application and you will receive a multi-tool with your new membership", I decided to throw the whole envelope away.

The current VSO image and what the younger veteran generation think about local VSOs is real; they see a building with a couple windows, a dimly lit smoke-filled room with a pool table or darts with "Bingo Night" being boldly advertised as the biggest event happening at that particular location. How do we get the younger veterans to be part of that? The answer is we don't. WE MUST CHANGE. The thought that eventually the younger veterans will join because they are missing the camaraderie is a false notion. There are too many newer and younger VSOs that have popped-up in the recent years for them to join leaving a vast number of VSOs competing for membership from a much smaller pool of veterans.

The one positive aspect from the VSOs, one that no one can take away, is that they have held firm in the support of the various veteran issues in Washington, D.C. for decades, and have dedicated much of their efforts in resolving very troubling veteran issues involving the Veterans Administration that have surfaced in recent years.

The more established veteran service organizations have a voice with the Congress and President regardless of the dominant political party. Senators, Representatives, and Presidents have made speeches at VSO national conventions because politicians know that they need the support of these Veteran Service Organizations. Politicians listen to them because of the membership numbers which unfortunately are declining.

What positive actions can the VSOs take to build membership? After talking to Desert Storm, OEF and OIF veterans over the past 9 years, I suggest the following 12 common sense steps to appeal to that younger generation of veterans who are the very life-blood of the existing VSOs:

Be honest and transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger veteran generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know about your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.

Treat all veterans equally. Both men and women have served honorably in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking, and has no room in today's VSO.

Update posts with free WIFI, offer video gaming like an XBOX or PlayStation 4, and install flat screen TVs, and select programming, such as sports programming, that would appeal to all veterans

I know the more seasoned veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. But we should never think that the younger generation is any different. As a leader, I've always welcomed new ideas from everyone, and the younger veterans are full of ideas-just as we were at that age. You should embrace their energy and let them share their ideas about improving your post; you will be pleasantly surprised with the innovative ideas that they come up with. Be open to these new ideas.

Welcome all veterans into your post. When you see someone new walk in, welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of your post and have found a new family and friends.

(Continued on next page)

Nassau County Rehabilitation ProgramPost

1:45 TO 3 pm

Team # 8 – April 9, 2016

EAST ROCKAWAY # 958
FLORAL PARK # 334
HEMPSTEAD # 390
MASSAPEQUA # 1066
NORTH BELLMORE POST #1749
WILLIAM CLINTON STORY # 342
YOUNG SIMMONS #1765
HOWARD VAN WAGNER

Team # 9 – May 14, 2016

CARLE PLACE # 1718
CHARLES A. FOWLER # 160
EDWIN WELCH, JR. # 1132
J. FRANKLIN BELL #81
LAWRENCE/CEDARHURST #339
MINEOLA MEMORIAL # 349

IF YOUR POST CAN NOT MAKE YOUR SCHEDULED DATE, CONTACT CO-CHAIRPERSON MARY NORRIS AT CELL # 287-3569 . ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A \$50 CHECK TO OFF-SET OPERATING COST. IF NOT ATTENDING, SEND A CHECK FOR \$100 TO COUNTY.



(VSO 's Cont)

And don't criticize the way they look now or their time in service. If you're welcoming, we may overlook the stale beer smell and nicotine stained walls and windows and stay for a while.

Keep your meetings short and to the point. If you have younger veterans at your post, assign them a task during the meeting and ask them to work with the membership and complete it. Get them involved in the administration of your VSO and encourage their involvement. The younger generation, especially the millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for the VSO leadership to mentor those younger veterans. Be patient. Some of these young veterans suffer from a malady of challenges, such as Traumatic Brain Injury.

Turn your post into a place where veterans can network with the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, your local college Veteran's Representatives, or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings. Don't be afraid to work with other veteran organizations within your community. Build a strong support network for all veterans. If you have a post close to a military base, begin working with the base transition office or AW2/AF2/USMC Wound Warrior Regiment or the Navy's Safe Harbor Program. These once flourishing programs have had their share of budget cuts, but the mission remains the same. This is where VSOs could make a positive impact with the base leadership as well as the surrounding veteran population. Introduce yourself and your post to your local Guard and Reserve centers. Most of the members live, work, and shop in your community. Sign up for and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans. Talk the talk and walk the walk.

DONATED ELECTRIC SCOOTER GIVEN TO
NEEDY VET.

A DONATED SCOOTER WAS PRESENTED TO A NEEDY VETERAN FROM FREEPORT. IT WAS PICKED UP AND DELIVERED BY OUR NASSAU VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND KEEP THE ITEMS COMING FOR OUR BROTHER & SISTER VETS !

NASSAU COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE
121 POWELL AVENUE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758
PERMIT # 8

MEMBER
National American Legion Press Association
New York State Legion Press Association



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

DATES TO REMEMBER - 2016

MARCH	29	10TH DISTRICT MEETING - QUEENS - BENJAMIN MOORE POST	8:00 PM
APRIL	3	UVO MEETING - CRADLE OF AVIATION	9:10 AM
	15	NATIONAL COMMANDERS VISIT/DINNER ANTON'S QUEENS VILLAGE \$65.00 P.P.	
	22	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - MALVERNE POST	7:30 PM
		COUNTY MEETING	8:00 PM
MAY	1	UVO MEETING AT CRADLE OF AVIATION	9:30 AM
	1	NURSES TRAINING BALL - MALVERNE POST 44	1-5:00 PM
	27	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - MALVERNE POST (10TH DIST VISIT)	7:30 PM
		COUNTY MEETING	8:00 PM
	29	UVO MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT EISENHOWER PARK	10:30 AM
	29	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE AT L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY	2:30 PM
JUNE	3	COUNTY CONVENTION - LEVITTOWN HALL	8:00 PM
	4	COUNTY CONVENTION - ELECTION OF OFFICERS	9:00 AM

