



Nassau County Legionnaire



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Commander's Message

On January 3rd I attended the Nassau County American Legion Oratorical Contest at the Glenwood Landing Post and on Wednesday, January 15th I was asked to speak before the Glen Head/Glenwood Landing Business Association. The topic of my speech was "How the Nassau County American Legion Helps Our Returning Veterans". On Saturday, January 18th I attended the 10th District Oratorical Contest at the Malverne Post and on Thursday, January 23rd I spoke at a meeting of the Locust Valley Rotary about the role of the American Legion. At this meeting I spoke about the Vet Dog Program, which is one of my projects this year. From January 24th-26th I attended the Mid-Winter Conference at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Department Judge Advocate Charlie Mills reported that the Department Executive Board approved that all future By-Law changes must be sent via e-mail to Department. Remember, the By-Law changes have to first be approved by the Post and then sent to County Judge Advocate Mike Miller, PDVC. Mike Miller must approve the By-Law change and then he must send it to Department via e-mail. One copy must go to the Department Adjutant James Casey and another copy must be sent to Department Judge Advocate Charles Mills, PCC.

Just a reminder, that on Saturday, February 1st at 10 am, we will be having the Zone Oratorical Contest at the Elmont Memorial Library in Elmont and on February 2nd at 2 pm, we will be holding the Nassau County Four Chaplains Ceremony at St. Mary's Church, 110 Bryant Avenue, Roslyn.

Hill Day will be from March 17th to March 18th. Our Adjutant John Hassett, Adjutant will be sending out a letter in February about Hill Day. our Sgt. at Arms, Bill Ost, PCC will be handling the hotel reservations. We will be at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany. John Hassett, Adjutant and Bill Ost, PCC will be coordinating this effort. Our Legislative Chairman, Reggie Butt Jr., PCC will be leading the delegation to Albany.

Please be advised that the Housing forms for the July 2014 Department Convention at the Desmond Hotel in Albany will be available at our County Meeting on Friday, January 31st. You will receive the forms from our Treasurer, Steve McManus. Hand in your forms to me as soon as possible, so we can get our first choice which is the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Remember that our Treasurer, Steve McManus must sign your Housing Forms.

I will be working with our Membership Officer, Frank Neal to help him reach our target dates. We all should make a concerted effort to bring in new members and to retain those members we already have. We need your help.

In addition to the above, I am still working on my three projects for the year.

Vet Dog Project, Flags Over Nassau and Starting New Posts at College Campuses in Nassau County.

1st Division

Good Evening My Fellow Legionaries,

Now that were thru that major Polar Vortex, let's hope for some warmer weather before the next storm hits us. I would like to remind all post membership officers to be diligent and getting your membership percentage up. If you have not received dues or heard from your members, please reach out and see if they are doing well or if they simply forget to get their dues in. Also, please remember to check your PUFL members there are still a large amount of outstanding dues. On a sad note, I would like to pass my condolences to the Andrew Fatscher Post of the passing of VC Tom Danza. I grew up in Valley Stream and Tom was one of my training officers when I joined the Engine Company 3 of the Valley Stream FD, he was a great person and will be missed by all. Until next month, please be careful.

Joseph Brunner, 1st Division Vice Commander

2014 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The American Legion Family of over 200 thousand members urge the Governor & Legislators to move forward on the legislation listed below to provide our Veterans with the assistance they earned through their service to God and Country.

In 2014 we will enlarge our scope of support to include Legislation that reflects the immediate needs of our Veteran population to include JOBS, SUICIDES & HOMELESSNESS.

We have a Bill that addresses jobs sponsored by Senator Ball & Assemblyman Ortiz; and endorsed by Governor Cuomo on 01/08/14.

We have requested our Legislators to sponsor legislation to address Suicides & Homelessness

JOBS

PROVIDES A PREFERENCE IN STATE CONTRACTS FOR SERVICE DISABLED VETERAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES

A5872 – Ortiz - 01/14/14 – Amend & Recommit to Governmental Operations, Print # 5872a - S2803-A BALL – 01/13/14 – Amend & Recommit to Veterans Homeland Security & Military Affairs – Print # 2803B

This Bill would establish a program to provide a state contract preference for service disabled owned small businesses

SUICIDES – A Bill is being solicited

HOMELESSNESS – A Bill is being solicited

MILITARY SERVICE CREDIT

A4936 Cusick – 01/08/14 – Referred to Governmental Employees – S4380-A Maziarz – 01/08/14 - Referred to Civil Service & Pensions

Currently members of the retirement system are able to buy back their time from five years of service to two years per Chapter 548 of the NYS Laws of 2000. However, Chapter 548 did not include the same criteria for veterans who wish to buy back their military time as they currently must have FIVE years of service to be eligible for credit under Chapter 548.

FREE HUNTING, FISHING & TRAPPING LICENSES

FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBERS

A6011 Giglio – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation - S3900 Young – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation

Free hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to

residents of New York State who are active duty members of the US Armed Forces regardless of where said person is stationed.

WAIVES CERTAIN FISHING AND HUNTING FEES FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES IN ACTIVE SERVICE STATIONED WITHIN THE STATE

A1294 Zebrowski – 01/23/14 Amend & Recommit to Environmental Conservation - S1102 Maziarz – 01/08/14 Referred to Environmental Conservation

This act establishes that members of the US armed forces in active service who are stationed within New York State and active members of the state militia; may receive certain licenses, such as fishing, trapping, small and big game free of charge. For residents who are blind, fishing licenses may be obtained free of charge.

VETERANS' ORGANIZATION REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

A2283 Lavine – 07/31/13 Signed CHAP. 283 - S936 Martins – 07/31/13 Signed CHAP.283

Per NYS Laws, veterans' post buildings are exempt from real estate and school taxes. Presently, most posts support their charitable, educational, and veterans' programs by renting space in their buildings. However, if the renter/tenant is not an exempt entity, the rental portion is taxable. This taxation has a devastating effect on the posts' maintenance and programs. To correct this situation, The American Legion Family urges the NYS Legislature to enact legislation exempting Veterans' Organizations from ALL real property and school taxes.

VETERANS' CEMETERY BILL

Provides for the Establishment & Operation of State Veterans Cemeteries by the Division of Veterans' Affairs. Ball - 04/01/13 - Senator Ball has added an item into the budget authorizing the creation of a NYS Veterans Cemetery through the Federal VA Program. A HUGE SUCCESS!

RELATES TO A PROGRAM FOR VETERAN SPEAKERS IN CLASSROOMS TO SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY

A1601A Colton – 07/31/13 – Signed CHAP.283 - S5030 Carlucci – 07/31/13 – Signed CHAP.283

The purpose of the bill is to create a veteran speaker education program with NYSDVA, specifically, the bill would required NYSDVA, in consultation with the Director of the New York State Military Museum and Veterans resource center, to develop an informational pamphlet to be distributed to school districts which would provide a general overview of the program and a list of available veteran speakers who are willing to discuss their military experiences.

COUNTY LEGIONAIRE OF THE YEAR

Nomination packets were distributed to those Commanders or Commander's Representatives at the December meeting. The remainder were mailed the following week to the individual post commander at the address listed in the County Directory.

It is now the end of January and I have not received ONE nomination. The proverbial CLOCK has started to tick.

Louise M. McCann, Program Chair

CELL PHONE COLLECTION

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

A shipment of cell phones is being prepared, I have approximate 55 phones plus what I received tonight. They will be shipped on Monday or Tuesday. The check will be sent to us in about 30 to 45 days, when it comes in the treasurer will be directed to split it between the NEF and The Legacy Scholarship Programs.

The recycling program has expanded and it now includes these items:

cell phones	cell phone accessories
iPods and MP3 Players	handheld game systems
GPS handheld units	laptop computers
E-readers	portable hard drives

Keep collecting any of the above, bring them to the County meeting or if you have a large amount call me to arrange a drop off or pick up.

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

This Year's Boys State will run from 27 June 2014 (Friday) until 03 July 2014 (Thursday). The Friday start is due to the Regents Exams being given up till the 25th of June, school ends on 27 June. I have booked the two buses (two – one way trips) with an increase this year of only \$25 each trip. The cost of Boys State was set at the Mid-Winter Conference and there was not increase this year. An increase will be made next year and the year after. The cost to the posts is \$450, \$350 to the Department and \$100 for the bus transportation. The web site for the boys to submit the application and copy all the other forms will be available on 7 February 2014. The letter to all the posts will be mailed out the beginning of next week. Post Chairman should be contacting the schools and setting up interviews, then when you select our delegates they can proceed to complete the application process. The post should interview each boy not the school. The school only recommends the boys to be interviewed by the post.

Recap of "Day at the Races"

MARY NORRIS, CO-CHAIR

Participants - Team #5:

We want to recognize Post #101, William J. Longuet (Westbury) and William Clinton Story, Post #342 (Freeport) for coming out to help with the races. The weather was extremely poor that Saturday. The rain came down in torrents and driving was difficult.

A special "thank you" also goes to The Commander and Members of Post #101; for handing off a "truckload" of personal care and comfort items. Command Basacchi and I have made arrangement to drop the items off with Kenny Cadieux.

Some of the items that were donated:

- 37 - Crocheted Leg Afghans (36" x 36") – Donated by a woman whose legally blind. She will only accept yarn for her time and effort;
- 10 – Fleece Throw Blankets (50" x 60");
- 28 - Shampoo bottles – sample size; 10 – Conditioners– sample size; 27 – Bath Bars – small size and 83 – Body Lotions – sample size.

The next date for Nassau County American Legion "Day at the Races" is Saturday, the 8th of February. The following Post are reminded to be out at building 92, Northport at 1:30pm:

A reminder phone call will be made to each Post the Wednesday before Saturday the 8th.

Please bring a \$50 check to off-set operating cost with you on the 8th. If Post is not attending, send a check for \$100 to County. Checks are to be made out to Nassau County American Legion and on memo line mark "Rehab/Day at the Races."

MILITARY BALL / POST COMMANDERS

THE DEADLINE FOR PURCHASING TICKETS FOR THE BALL WAS FEBURARY 1, 2014. TO DATE WE HAVE ONLY SOLD 102 TICKETS. IF YOU LOOK AT THE BUDGET LINE FOR THIS EVENT WHICH IS PART OF THE COUNTY'S INCOME. THE GOAL IS TO SELL AT LEAST 256 TICKETS. HOPEFULLY WE WILL MEET THIS GOAL. IF ANYONE HAS A PROBLEM PLEASE CALL ME AT 516-766-6563. LET'S MAKE THIS GOAL AND EVERYONE HAVE A GOOD TIME AT LEONARDS.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

January has been very slow in receiving transmittals, so if you have any that you are holding, send them in. Our goal for February 10th is 85% and as of January 15 we are at 82% .

PUFL letters have been sent out to to the post that have not paid.

Make the check payable to Nassau County American Legion and send to me

Frank Neal
295 Crowell St. Hempstead NY 11550.

During the next month we're putting together a membership workshop make plans to attend. date to be announced later.

Yours in comradeship Frank Neal County
Membership Officer

Law and Order Report

To date, there have been two Law and Order Programs. First was the Nassau Police Post # 1050. Due to being away, I was unable to attend. I made arrangements with Past County Commander Frank Colon Jr. to take my place but unfortunately he had a family matter come up so he was not able to attend either. I would like to thank the Police Post for having a successful program as I know they have done in the past.

The second Program was held by the Baldwin Post #246. Their program again went very well. To them I give my thanks for their invitation.

In the up coming weeks I will be attending the Malvern Post #44 and the Manhasset Post #304 Law and Order Programs. Hopefully I will be hearing from other Posts. If a Post has had a Program, please let me know so I can get you The Program Report so you can get credit and I can file these reports with District and Department.

To all Posts, I thank you for all you do. God Bless you, and God Bless America.

Ronald Sabo

Law and Order Chairman Nassau County

"LEGISLATIVE REPORT"

REGINALD BUTT, CHAIRMAN

New York State Governor has signed into law, that Veterans' are now eligible for Property Tax Exemption for School Taxes'. For the VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SCHOOL TAX, it must be approved by the local school board before it is given. The bill number is S1199 and is combined with A565, it was signed on Dec. 18, 2013. Remember, each School Board must approve the exemption for that school district.

On the federal side there is an ACTION ALERT. Please contact your congressman/women and your Senators, ask them to support and sign on to bill S.1950, Veterans Health and Benefits and Military Retirement Pay Restoration Act of 2014. This bill is the most comprehensive Veterans' legislation to be introduced in decades, and includes a full repeal of the recent military retiree COLA reduction that penalizes working-age military retirees and their families already impacting the morale of our nation's military and veterans' community. This legislation marks a critical test for Congress and the White House as to whether the breach of faith, which cuts to military retirement represent, is remedied and elected officials are reminded of their promises not to balance the budget on the backs of military men and women, veterans and their families This bill also expands and improves health care and benefits to all generation of veterans, it also allows all generations of veterans to access family caregiver benefits and provides appropriations to ensure veterans' monthly compensation and pension, to include GI Bill and other education payments, are protected from future budget battles.



COUNTY REHABILITATION PROGRAM

POST TEAMS SCHEDULE 2013 - 2014

TEAM #6: FEBRUARY 8, 2014

YOUNG SIMMONS #1765
NORTH BELLMORE POST #1749
CATHEDRAL POST #1087
ROCKVILLE CENTRE #303
MANHASSET #304
AVIATORS # 743

TEAM # 7: MARCH 8, 2014

NEW HYDE PARK ERNIE PYLE #1089
ANDREW FATSCHER # 854
LYNBROOK # 335
JAMES F. BRENGEL # 456
CHARLES A. FOWLER # 160
WILLISTON # 144

TEAM # 8: APRIL 12, 2014

MINEOLA MEMORIAL # 349
LEVITTOWN #1711
FRANKLIN SQUARE # 1014
BELLMORE # 94
VICTOR MURTHA # 972
EUGENE S. SMITH # 175



QUESTIONS ?

WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE DRAGON BOAT PROJECT

WHY DON'T THE COUNTY ADVISORY MEETINGS START AT 7:30 PM INSTEAD OF 7:00 PM

WHY ARE THERE NO REPORTS FROM SOME DIVISION VICE COMMANDERS IN THE FLYER

WHY ARE THERE POSTS WITH NO MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS FOR 2014? DOES THE MEMBERSHIP OFFICER OR THE VICE COMMANDERS CONTACT THOSE POSTS TO FIND OUT WHY ?

WHY HASN'T THE WEB SITE BEEN UPDATED ?

NORTHPORT VAMC VETERAN CAREER PREPARATION

Job Development Support & Services for Veterans

79 Middleville Road, Northport, NY 11768 Building 5, Auditorium

FRIDAY MARCH 14, 2014 9AM-2PM

Please call to register for workshop: Wendy Robertson 631-261-4400 ext. 7239

One-Stop Employment Center

FRESH START FAIR

PREPARATION WORKSHOP

For individuals who are facing employment obstacles due to a previous conviction.

Every Friday in. February

2/7 - 2/12 - 2/21 - 2/28

Featuring:

- How to fill out an Employment Application
- Help with Resume Development
- Interviewing Skills Review
- Prepare for March 18 Fresh Start Job Fair and Beyond

Advance Registration Required

Contact: 631-853-6600

TO PREVENT FRAUD NEW CARDS WILL BE ISSUED BY NORTHPORT TO ALL WHO ARE REGISTERED THERE DUE TO THE NEW CELL PHONES THAT CAN SCAN THE BAR CODE ON THE CARD WHICH INCLUDES YOUR S/S NUMBER.

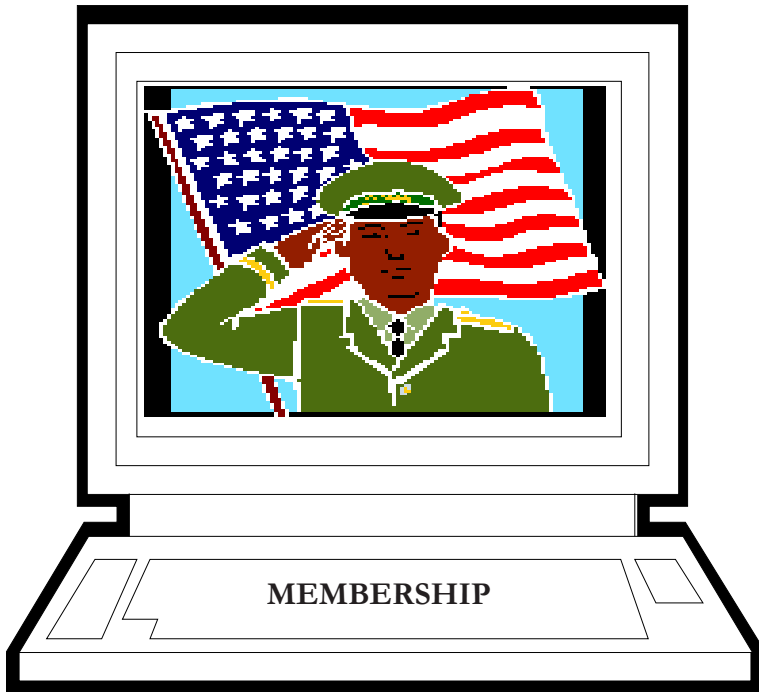
NO ONE FROM QUEENS MAY USE THE NEW VALLEY STREAM CLINIC UNLESS THEY TRANSFER THEIR RECORDS TO NORTHPORT HOSPITAL

BOB REAHL, PCC, REP

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 - 2014

FEBRUARY	2	FOUR CHAPLANS CEREMONY - (SEE INFORMATION ON PAGE 2)	2:00 PM
	22	MILITARY BALL/POST COMMANDERS NIGHT - LEONARDS GREAT NECK	1 - 5 PM
	28	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - PLAINVIEW POST COUNTY MEETING	7:15 PM 8:00 PM
MARCH	2	40/8 NURSES TRAINING BALL - MALVERNE POST	1 - 5 PM
	17-18	HILL DAY IN ALBANY	
	28	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - PLAINVIEW POST 7:00 PM COUNTY MEETING - (10TH DISTRICT VISITATION) 8:00 PM	7:15 PM 8:00 PM
APRIL	11	NATIONAL COMMANDERS VISIT/DINNER ANTUN'S RESTURANT	8:00 PM
	25	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - PLAINVIEW POST COUNTY MEETING	7:15 PM 8:00 PM
	23	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - PLAINVIEW POST COUNTY MEETING	7:15 PM 8:00 PM
MAY	25	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT EISENHOWER PARK	10:30 AM
	25	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES - L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY	2:30 PM
JUNE	6	NASSAU COUNTY CONVENTION - LAVITTOWN HALL	8:00 PM
	7	NASSAU CONVENTION RESUMES - ELECTION OF OFFICERS	9:00 AM

