



Nassau County Legionnaire



Volume 92

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No.5

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I have been attending various legislative breakfasts this month. There is an urgent need for us to reach out to our local legislators in many areas; we have a loud voice. We have over 5000 veteran members. With the rate of 22 a day committing suicides, we need to be able to talk to our Legislators and have a crisis center created at the VA Hospital at Northport and run by veterans, so our veterans can communicate one on one and receive guidance. No veteran should be turned away, seeking medical help, if he doesn't have the proper paperwork.

As a reminder the visitation of Department Commander, John Sampson takes place on November 5, starting with breakfast and ending with dinner at the Edwin Welch Post. If you have not already bought your tickets through Frank Colon, time is drawing to a close.

On November 6, 2016, the UVO ceremony at Eisenhower Park takes place commencing at 10:00 am where we will have a color guard. We will also have a color guard at the Long Island National Ceremony later that day at 2.00 pm. Hope you all will be able to attend.

As a reminder, the Standdown takes place at the Freeport Armory on November 22, 2016. Volunteers are needed.

Frank Neal
Commander, Nassau County

FIRST DIVISION REPORT Al Ficalora, Commander

October was a busy month for the first division, I met with most of the Commanders of my sixteen Posts. I handed out the rest of the Directories and the Adjutants Guide Books. I explained the importance of remitting their dues and following the goals outlined by dates and percentages in memos that were previously distributed. I also asked that they not forget to keep their PUFL payments up to date.

I asked them for dates and times that would be convenient for me to attend their monthly meetings. On September 27th, together with Commander Frank Neal and most of the County Staff, I attended the installation of the Glenwood Landing Post 336 Officers.

1st Vice Report (cont)

On September 30th my post held a dinner honoring WW-II and Korea Veterans, Commander Frank Neal was our D.J. On October 2nd, I attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Williston Post 144, an informative event that was run by Reggie Butt, PCC. The attendance was a little disappointing. On October 18th, I covered the 10th District Meeting held at Hempstead Post 390. I also attended the Merrick Post Installation of Officers with the County Commander.

SECOND DIVISION REPORT

"Thank you for calling the Veterans Suicide Hotline. All our operators are assisting other people. Stay on the line. If this is an emergency, our next appointment is December 15th." This is not an actual recording, but the message is the same as John Okula understood. John, a 34 year old married Navy veteran took his own life on October 15th. He realized that he needed help to fight the demons of PTSD by having enrolled in a program at the Northport VA, where his wife and family reported strides in his improvement. His life seemingly back on track. Okula, having graduated with a degree in education from Old Westbury College, secured a teaching job in Delaware.

All was not right, the demons returned and he reached out to the VA in the Delaware area. John was told the earliest appointment to see someone was in December. Unfortunately, he chose a different solution to his problem. I don't know the names of the other twenty one veterans who enjoyed a similar fate that day or their circumstances. Even one is not acceptable. John Okula's blood is on the hands on the VA and our incompetent government. 150 men per week, over 8000 a year. We can do better. We must do better.

In other matters, Reggie Butt, Jr. put together a successful legislative breakfast at the Williston Post. Among the political guests was Congresswoman Kathleen Rice (the former Nassau County D.A.) You may remember her appointment to Gov. Coumo's three person "Moreland Commission" to investigate State corruption, only to resign amid questions regarding her own finances. (cont pg 2)

2nd Division Report (cont)

Congresswoman Rice was grilled about the Veterans Administration. She admitted some mistakes had been made by the administration. My take "If you can find a doctor, you can keep calling him for an appointment.

Unfortunately I had to miss the 10th District meeting at the Hempstead Post as my post had scheduled the installation of officers at our regular meeting on the same night. Great to have a full roster of men to fill all the posts.

The delivery of the Directories is still a work in progress. still a few to go. Call me at (516) 420-8584 to make it happen. Also get your transmittal forms in. Don't be MIA.

I attended the Aviators Post 743 luncheon at the Greenvale Townhouse Diner for their regular meeting. Dr. Arnold Katz, PC and Adjutant Gordon Mulch taking minutes. A pleasant surprise being joined by Commander Neal and Bob Robesch, PCC, who is also an aviator - Navy Veteran.

A Facebook inquiry from the widow of Carl Anspake requesting Flag placement at his gravesite in St Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale will be honored on Veterans Day. Carl was a member of the Bellmore Post for many years. We were happy to add his name to the list for the cemeteries other than national.

HISTORIANS REPORT

James Randle

The elections are over and installations have taken place. We are in a new Legion year and I hope that a Post Historian has been appointed in all Posts.

I know every Post Commander receives a "Legionnaire" Newsletter. This is an open letter to the Post Historian. The Post Narrative, Pictorial (scrapbook) and History yearbook of your Post is important for your Post History for the ones who come after we are gone. The Officers Guide on page 147 to 156 "post Histories", contains the basic instructions. Next month I will bring a post history book to the County Meeting on Friday, November 18 and I will explain and try to answer any questions at 7:30 before the County Meeting. If I can be of any help, please give me a call. e-mail: jtrandle46@gmail.com
516-270-3876

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

As of October 11, 2016 Nassau County Membership was at 61.44%. By November 14, 2016 all Posts should be at 65%.

All Posts should be sending in their membership transmittal forms as soon as possible. To receive credit faster for your Post you can send the transmittal forms to the State by regular mail.

Please send in your PUFL's as soon as you can. Send \$1.50 for each PUFL member to me @ 1414 Amend Drive, North Merrick, NY, 11566. Make checks out to Nassau County American Legion, Earmark PUFL's.

If you need forms you can download them from NY Legion.net. If you need anything, please call me at 917-699-0603.

Dennis C. Dietrich

L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY REPORT

The new President of LINCMO is our own Frank Colon Jr. Many changes are being made in Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale. because of storm damage to the trees some had to be removed and this created burial plots for 20 more graves. A new section of land is being donated and it will provide additional grave sites as well as additional columbariums for the internment of ashes of our veterans. Paths through the Cemetery will be built with benches and veterans monuments around the Memorial Garden. because of the delay with completion of the work being done on the main building the temporary office will remain in the trailers set up by the main road and the new Carillion may not be installed until after Veterans day.

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

For this Year's Boys State will run from 25 June 2017 thru 01 July 2017. The price for Boys State will remain the same, the only question is the cost of the buses which I will find out in the next two weeks. I am going to get two quotes this year for the buses and will go with the cheaper of the two. Start your planning now and make sure you put it in the post budget. I believe we will be tasked with a quota of 50 again this year. The Boys State Web site with this year's application will be available and up and running on 1 February 2017.

Legislative Program

Reginald Butt, Jr. PCC

This year's Legislative Breakfast was held on Sunday morning 2 October 2016, at the Williston Post #144, 730 Willis Avenue, Williston Park, NY. This was a working breakfast and the Legislators made their presentation while the breakfast is served. Breakfast was eggs, bacon, sausage, potato, rolls and coffee cake, coffee, tea and orange juice. The cutoff date for tickets or reservations was 28 September 2016. There was a raffle with first prize a basket of wine and other prizes of bottles of liquor. All prizes were donated to the raffle. This breakfast is tasked with raising \$800, which we did not make due to the lack of support of the County Legionnaires. We sold only 69 tickets which means we also then sold less raffle tickets. All the Legislators and the Veterans court judge were well prepared and their presentations were very informative. The lack of support from the Legionnaires and posts was an embarrassment, this was the time to face our Legislators and show our support for the veterans' programs. Besides the small amount of tickets sold, requests for tickets or reservations came in after the cutoff date, up to the day before the event. The cutoff date is set so we can tell the caterer the number of people he will be feeding. Help with veterans' programs and affairs is every ones' job and this was the time for us to push the Legislators for help in the many veterans programs. The financial report was turned in to the Treasurer and the Finance Committee. The bottom line was we made \$517.17, which was shy by 282.83 of the budgeted \$800 we were to make

PROTOCOL COMMITTEE

REGINALD BUTT, JR.

The proper Legion Cap Etiquette states that the cap should be removed and placed over the heart during the playing of the National Anthem and recital of the Pledge of Allegiance. In 2008 Section 9 of Title 4, United States Code was amended that members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the hand salute. However it did not address salutes during the national anthem. The American Legion has opposed the saluting of the U.S. Flag when it is being raised, lowered or is in passing by those who are not in uniform. At its National Convention in Phoenix, the Legion passed a resolution against the practice, saying that it "causes confusion leading to breaches of flag etiquette with regard to proper conduct during the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance". Furthermore, the Legion is concerned that salutes from veterans and service-members out of uniform will be imitated by the general public as the proper way to honor the U.S. Flag and /or national anthem. The Legion's Americanism Commission offers this advice: "The law does allow veterans to render the right hand salute, but does not mandate it. If you feel uncomfortable in any situation where the flag is being raised, lowered or is passing in review, the traditional right hand over the heart - with the hat removed - is still a viable and very respectful alternative to the new law".

Traditionally, members of veterans' service organizations have rendered hand-salutes during the national anthem, and at events involving the flag, while wearing their organizations official headgear.

The Flag Code of the United States directs that during the recital of the Pledge of Allegiance those persons saluting will remain silence. So the Legion removes the cap and places the cap in the right hand over the heart which is a form of respect and salute.

JAMES McLEAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY

THE DONATIONS FOR THIS GREAT FUND HAVE FALLEN OFF AND THIS COLLECTION IS OWNED BY US AND HOUSED AT HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY. PLEASE HELP TO SUPPORT THIS GREAT PROJECT

WILLIAM DAVISON, CHMN

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

REGINALD BUTT, JR.

The Constitution & By-Laws Committee will meet in November and December to address a change to the Constitution & By-Laws. At the Department Convention in July 2016 changes to the Department Constitution were passed. These changes change the term Rehabilitation to Veterans Services. This will be the pending changes to the County Constitution & By-Laws that will be addressed.

CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

I received a check for \$17 from the recycling center. When the check was given to the Treasurer he was asked to split it between the NEF and the Legacy Scholarship programs. I shipped 249 phones this month, their value is \$63.00 and the check should arrive after the 1st of November. Any monies received from the Recycling Center is split between the National Emergency Fund and the Legacy Memorial Scholarship fund. On Wednesday 21 September 2016, I received a phone call from the Oyster Bay Civic Association who had a box in the local post office. The gentleman who was running this program took ill and is now in a nursing home. The box has not been emptied in about 5 years. They called me and asked if I would take them. I picked up the box and emptied it, there was 229 phones and 2 cameras along with a lot of trash in the box. These 229 phones plus the 20 I received from the members made up the 249 that I shipped out.

The recycling center accepts the following devices: smartphones, cell phones, handheld gaming systems, tablets, i-pods and i-pads as well as any chargers or accessories that come with these devices. They can no longer accept laptops, portable CD players/drives or digital cameras.

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.

LET'S GET THOSE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS IN TO DEPARTMENT. DON'T USE THE PRE-PAID ENVELOPES AS THEY ONLY DELAY THE PROCESS. SEND THEM FIRST CLASS MAIL.

October 8th, 2016 Day at the Races

We were pleasantly surprised to learn that the regular staff had the weekend for Columbus Day and the Coast Guard Auxiliary Band was on the Recreation Schedule to perform.

The Band set up in the Front Atrium and that's where we brought the patients to, who were willing to come out to listen instead of the horse races.

A total of 22 residents/patients attended the performance. Members from the Williston Post 144 and Auxiliary and Post 175 helped serve the snack and soda after the concert finished. We were set up on a single small table in the hallway and logistics made it a little difficult to serve snacks. No personal care bags were handed out to residents.

We did meet a Seaman Cadet from the Merchant Marine Academy and while shopping at the local grocery store, connected with a youth group from Northport High School. Both have been mailed letters of introduction and requesting their help. Follow-up calls to happen next week.

Our next date for the Races is Saturday, the 12th of November, starting at 1:30pm:

Team #3 – Building 92, 60th Boulevard, Northport
Aviators #743, Howard van Wagner #962, James F. Brengel # 456, North Bellmore Post # 1749
Oceanside Memorial #1246

Any Post that cannot come out when scheduled, you're invited to help out on the 2nd Saturday of each month from November 12th 2016 through May 14, 2017.

WE COULD USE A FEW GOOD WHEELCHAIRS EITHER ELECTRIC OR SELF PROPELED. IF YOU KNOW OF ANYONE WHO HAS ONE THEY WISH TO DONATE TO A NEEDY VET LET ME KNOW.

**KEN CADIEUX
516-238-7001**

American Legion Expands Get Out The Vote Program

The American Legion has announced plans to close its three national headquarters offices on Nov. 8, 2016, to give employees an opportunity to vote, help others get to the polls and volunteer in local, state and national elections.

State American Legion departments are also encouraged to join the national efforts so all American Legion employees nationwide have the day to participate in the election process. Additionally, The American Legion is encouraging all of its members to participate in the organization's Get Out The Vote program by volunteering at local polls or by helping their fellow citizens cast their ballots. The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. The American Legion does not show preference for or against any particular candidate or political party.

Since its inception in 1920, The American Legion's Get Out The Vote program has encouraged Americans to exercise their right to vote and help others understand the importance of the electoral process. The program suggests activities on how American Legion posts can increase voter turnout and serve as a resource on Election Day. This program urges Legionnaires, posts, districts and state departments to volunteer in their communities by calling at least five friends to remind them to vote, provide rides to and from the polls if necessary, and use social media to share information about poll locations and times.

"Every election is important, and The American Legion believes voting in our country's elections is among the truest expression of Americanism," American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt said. "As veterans, we fought and served to preserve the republic we cherish. As American Legion members, we can aid the political process while staying nonpartisan by taking a lead in our communities to educate, inform, vote and volunteer."

ELMONT POST FOOD DRIVE

On Saturday, 15 October 2016, I met with my volunteers from the North Hempstead AARP and conducted a food collection at King Kullen in Garden City Park. The food and supplies from this drive, which is designed specifically to stock the 'VetMart' pantry at the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency (VSA), collected 1,650 pounds of non-perishable food, paper goods and toiletries to supply the veterans who visit the VSA. This event is now scheduled to be repeated twice annually.

I have also started another part of this food drive has been started with the cooperation of the North Hempstead AARP and the Greater New Hyde Chamber of Commerce. With their assistance, I have placed collection boxes at fourteen additional locations as of 23 October for ongoing collection at least through mid-November. Some of those locations have already agreed to keep the boxes on an ongoing basis beyond that period.

Finally, a box has been placed at the Cancer Center for Kids located at Winthrop Hospital, and Northwell Hospital may also take a box soon.

Eric Spinner



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

VAV's END OF YEAR Report
FOR 2016 - 2017

Rep Robert Reahl, PCC 516-681 -5545
Dep. Rep William Harms, PCC 516-795-3679

VETEARNS 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

TOTAL FOR 2015 -2016 \$5200

CAN 2016 -2017 TOP LAST YEAR

October 28 **Total \$ 0000**

2016 - 2017 GRAND Total \$0000

PLEASE DONATE as ever little bit helps:

DO NOT MAKE CHECK OUT
TO THE COUNTY AS IT
WILL NOT GET TO VETS

Make the check to: -
VAV's Executive Board

&

Mail it to the Vice Pres of Exc. Board

Robert Reahl, PCC

69 Hope Drive Plainview, NY 11803-5646

U.V.O. VETERANS DAY SER-
VICES

EISENHOWER PARK

VETERANS PLAZA

OFF PARKING FIELD #6

10:30 AM NOVEMBER 6th

COLOR GUARDS WELCOME

PROGRAM LASTS ABOUT 1
HOUR

DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS DINNER

I WANT TO THANK ALL THE POSTS,
UNITS, AND SQUADRONS WHO PURCHASED
TICKETS AND WILL ATTEND OUR DINNER
ON THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER AT THE
SEAFORD EDWIN WELCH, Jr POST FROM 6 TO
10 PM.

ONCE AGAIN NASSAU COUNTY CAME
THROUGH IN MAKING THE BUDGET LINE
FOR SUPPORTING OUR PROGRAMS. I AM
LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL
THERE.

FRANK COLON, Jr. CHAIRMAN

MILITARY BALL/POST CMDRS NIGHT

THE BALL WILL BE HELD ON THE 18TH
OF FEBRUARY, 2017, FROM NOON TO 5 PM AT
LEONARDS OF GREAT NECK. THE COST WILL
BE THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. THERE WILL BE
A COCKTAIL HOUR, MUSIC AND DANCING
AND OUR PAGEANT OF PAST COMMANDERS,
UNITS, SQUADRONS AND COLOR GUARDS. I
AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR SUPPORT
AND HAVING A GREAT TIME FOR ALL. COME
ON OUT AND ENJOY A NICE AFTERNOON
WITH YOUR FELLOW FRIENDS AND VETER-
ANS.

FRANK COLON, JR. CHAIRMAN

L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY
VETERANS DAY SERVICES
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
1:30 PM
COME ON OUT AND JOIN
YOUR FELLOW VETERANS
AND THEIR FAMILIES AT
YOUR NATIONAL CEMETERY
IN FARMINGDALE YOU'LL
BE GALD YOU DID.

Nassau County Rehabilitation Program
Post Teams Schedule 2016 – 2017

Team # 3 – November 12, 2016
AVIATORS # 743
JAMES F. BRENGEL # 456
NORTH BELLMORE POST
OCEANSIDE MEMORIAL # 1246

Team #4 – December 10, 2016
CATHEDRAL POST #1087
MALVERNE #44
MERRICK # 1282
NASSAU POLICE #1050
NEW CASSEL MEMORIAL #1861
NEW HYDE PARK ERNIE PYLE #1089

Team #5 – January 14, 2017
(LIU) ADMIRAL CONOLLY #2014
ANDREW FATSCHER # 854
EAST MEADOW MEMORIAL # 1082
ELMONT # 1033
PLAINVIEW # 1812
ROBERT H. SPITTEL #1285
BALDWIN POST 246

Team # 6 – February 11, 2017
ARCHIE McCORD # 86
BELLMORE # 944
GLENWOOD LANDING #336
JOE MURPHY #1957
LEVITTOWN #1711
PORT WASHINGTON # 509

Team #7 – March 11, 2017
CHARLES WAGNER POST #421
HUGH C. NEWMAN III #449
MANHASSET #304
QUENTIN ROOSEVELT #4
WANTAGH # 1273

Team # 8 – April 8, 2017
EAST ROCKAWAY # 958
FLORAL PARK # 334
HEMPSTEAD # 390
MASSAPEQUA # 1066
NORTH BELLMORE POST #1749
WILLIAM CLINTON STORY # 342
HOWARD VAN WAGNER POST

Team # 9 – May 13, 2017
CARLE PLACE # 1718
CHARLES A. FOWLER # 160
EDWIN WELCH, JR. # 1132
J. FRANKLIN BELL #81
LAWRENCE/CEDARHURST #339

IF YOUR POST CAN NOT MAKE YOUR SCHEDULED DATE, CONTACT 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.



SAL Squadron #44 President John Hassett Jr. and Squadron members Frank Colon & John Hassett III and Auxiliary member Abigail Hassett presenting Squadron member Edward Mangano with his SAL cap, also in the photo is Ralph Esposito, County Service Officer.



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

	28	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - HEMPSTEAD POST COUNTY MEETING	7:30 PM 8:00 PM
NOV	6	UVO VETERANS DAY SERVICE - EISENHOWER PARK	10:00 AM
	6	VETERANS DAY SERVICE - L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY - FARMINGDALE	1:30 PM
	18	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - HEMPSTEAD POST COUNTY MEETING	7:30 PM 8:00 PM
	22	UVO HOMELESS VETERANS STANDDOWN FREEPORT ARMORY	9:00 AM
DEC	4	UVO MMEETING - CRADLE OF AVIATION	9:30 AM
	11	LINCMO MEETING 11:30 AM - NOMINATION OF OFFICERS	11:30 AM
	16	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - HEMPSTEAD POST COUNTY MEETING	7:30 PM
JAN . 2017	1	HAPPY NEW YEAR	
	3	1st competition <u>ORATOIRICAL CONTEST</u> at Hempstead Post 390	
	5	2nd Competition <u>ORATOIRICAL CONTEST</u> at Elmont Post 1033	
		Regards, Cynthia Stewart 516-474-3404	

MEMBERSHIP