



Nassau County Legionnaire



Volume 84

February 2008

No. 8

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COMMANDERS REPORT

William Harms, Commander

The month of January has been a busy one. Congratulations go out to the winners of the County's annual Oratorical Contest, Stanley Soman and Christopher Mirasola, and to all the contestants, who participated and did a wonderful job with their orations. Each and everyone were winners. Many thanks go out to the Wantagh Post #1273, Glenwood Landing Post #336, and the Edwin Welch, Jr. Post #1132 for hosting this years contests.

By the time that you receive this newsletter the Mid-winter Conference will be over and I hope that all , who attended bring back to their Posts, the valuable information that they received , while attending the various lectures.

Our Division Commanders are preparing for the soon up-coming Division caucuses, for the slate of Officers for 2008-2009. Remember it is of utmost importance that every Post have their chosen delegates present at these caucuses, and to be present at the County convention in June

Membership is still coming in and Nassau county is currently in 8th place in the Department and the 10th District is in 2nd place. Let's keep up the great job all the Posts are doing and: "LET'S MAKE NASSAU GREAT IN 2007-2008"

In closing, on behalf of our family, Betty and I would again like to thank all our friends who were there for us at a most difficult time when she lost her mother. Your calls, cards, generous donations, and just being there were and are appreciated more than we can put into words. It's times like this that you realize we are a "Family"

REMINDER: 4 Chaplains Ceremony- Feb 3rd, 2:00 P.M.

Temple Judea of Manhasset

333 Searingtown Road

Manhasset, N.Y.

FIRST DIVISION REPORT

Gus Lanzo, Commander

Happy New Years to the Legionnaires and their families of Nassau County's First Division. We want to start this year off right and strive to get all our posts to 100% membership as well as recruit more members, especially younger veterans that are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. We need to ensure that they are aware of the benefits of the Legion.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday February 19, at RVC Post 303 located at 197 Maple Ave in RVC.

Remember to support our troops that are in harms way and to always welcome all our new members.

SECOND DIVISION REPORT

Andy Booth, Commander

I hope that all is well. As Commanders it is hard to help all the posts that are in the 2nd division. As commander I try as to do what is best for all of you.

All I ask is that you try to make one or two meetings with the 2nd division.

If you would like to have the 2nd division meeting at your post, JUST ASK.

It is important that all the members in the 2nd division get all the information that is needed.

If you can't make that meeting try to make the county meeting. After the meeting I will sit and talk to any POST COMMANDERS OR MEMBERS.

"YOU CAN'T GET HELP IF YOU DON'T ASK"

THIRD DIVISION REPORT

Joe Glovack, Commander

Now that the New Year 2008 has gotten underway, we can concentrate on our Membership Renewals again! The Third Division is doing a fine job. As of Jan. 10, 2008 we are leading the other 2 County Divisions with a score of 86.60%. Fantastic! There are three Posts that only need one more for 100%! Only two Posts are below 80%! Bravo and keep it going. Where we are lacking is with the PUFLs payments!!!

Commanders, I hate to say this BUT, PUFLs should be the First thing any of us do at the start of a new membership year!!!! It is for the good of the LEGION and YOUR POST! This should not be an issue at this late stage of the membership year, especially since it involves such a small amount of funds. Thank you all for your efforts.

On February 19 please reflect on the Battle for IWO JIMA!!!

GOD Bless our U.S. MARINES, and remember always how bravely they fought, where “*UNCOMMON VALOR WAS A COMMON VIRTUE*”.

In GOD We Still Trust and Don't Press One For English!!!

Legionnaire of the Year

Joseph P. Slattery Jr., PCC ,Chairman, 516-433-4227

Commanders: Last call, you all. Now is the time for all Commanders to come to the aid of their Posts.

February is your last full month to select and honor a member of your Post as “Post Legionnaire of the Year” and enter your selection in the County level Program. March 1st. is the County deadline for nominations.

If you haven't done it by now, you have almost run out the clock. BUT... It's still not too late. So, this snowy weekend, take the time to do your job. Have your Post make the selection at this months Post meeting and then formally write up the resume and cover form. Follow the strict guidelines and send it to me before the deadline. (Additional copies are available here tonight)

You owe it to your Post to nominate your member who is always there for the good of the Legion and your Post.

Honor and recognize that special Legionnaire. You'll be glad you did. This Program is a great way to inspire and motivate others to get involved in you Post activities. Any questions give me a call or better yet email me at docjoepc@yahoo.com.

NASSAU 500 REPORT

Robert Fountain, PCC

The 200 numbers have been warm the past week. Winners have been 233, 250, 266 and 280.

Winning Post so far this month was Mineola Memorial, their forth win to date.

Leading for the \$ 100.00 prize is Charles Wagner with 13 wins followed by Wantagh with 8 wins.

MIA/ POW REPORT

BOB FOUNTAIN, PCC CHAIRMAN

China will allow operations in May or June at a B29 crash site in the area of Dandong, where they expect to retrieve three sets of remains.

North Korea will let us know at the end of January when we can start operations in that country. This all will depend on North Korea's disclosure of their nuclear operations.

WINAL Rehab Report

County Meeting January 18, 2008

Don't forget you can fill your prescriptions, check the status of your prescriptions and receive all lab tests results by going on line to My Healthe Vet.

The VAMC at Northport has a Mini Med School and it is being offered to Veterans on Thursdays. If interested contact Terry Laberdee. RN, Educational Services at the VAMC Northport.

If you haven't already done so please make sure you make your appointment to have your Mammography done soon.

If you know of someone who is in need of Nursing Home Care please contact the Long Island State Veterans Home in Stony Brook, Fred Spanga, Director.

God Bless America.

For God and Country and The American Legion,

Arlene Howard PCC Chairman

New VA Call Centers

An increasing trend in business is to reduce the work force in one location by moving similar tasks to a specialized center. The "help desk" for many products may even be relocated out of the country, and the business success of these techniques is moving into modern government. Last August the VA created a 24/7 toll free line that connects to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. This Rochester, NY based operation 1-800-273-8255 provides a quick way to find help if the depressed veteran does not have a local mental health care provider.

For general information or for information about the status of a claim, the VA has been recommending that veterans call 1-800-827-1000. Although the number uses a 1-800 exchange the person who answers after several automated prompts was working at one of 59 local VA Regional Offices. By March 2008 all calls formerly directed to the New York Regional Office will be directed to one of 9 call centers around the country. The New York Regional Office receives 12,000-14,000 calls a month that are handled by 10-12 individuals. By March, these twelve VA employees will be able to work on other tasks, such as the claims back log. Use the services of an accredited service officer to handle your claim and avoid the aggravation of calling the VA whenever

possible. The Nassau County Veterans Service Agency number is 516-572-8462 and a human being answers the phone M-F 9am -4:45pm

CONVENTION REPORT COUNTY MEETING

To all Convention Committee Members:

The convention meeting will be held

Date: Wednesday February 6th , Time: 8 p. m.

Place: Plainview Post #1812

115 Southern Parkway

Plainview NY

Phone #931-7030

As this is our first meeting please try to attend as we have many items to discuss. If you need to contact me my phone # is 938-1373.

Arlene Howard, PCC

REHABILITATION REPORT

Frank Colon, Chairman

The New Year started off with a lot of fun and good company with the veterans at the Northport The contributing Posts, Plainview #1812, William Clinton Story #342 and Baldwin #246 went all out to make the veterans have a good time and feel good about themselves. Many thanks to all of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who participated. We really missed the William J. Longuet # and New Cassel Memorial #1861 Posts.

The following Posts make up Team #6 whose visit is on February 9th 2008, Building #92 at 1:30 Young Simmons #1765, North Bellmore #1749, Cathedral #1087, Rockville Centre #303, Manhasset # and Aviation #743. Please remember your \$50 donation if you do attend and \$100 donation if cannot. Also, if you cannot attend, please let me know in advance at my home number above. donations are for the toiletries, socks, t-shirts and other items for the veterans along with cant coupon books for the winners of the races conducted. Again, call me with any questions.

Membership Report

Please get your PUFL's into County. Any Posts needing assistance please call me at my home number above. I will answer your questions as best I can and help you to my best ability.

LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

County Meeting January 18, 2008

Received donations this month in Memory of Louise Fierro from the Eagle Avenue School Sunshine Club and from the Law firm of William C. Morrell. Mrs. Louise Fierro was the Mother of Betty Harms and Mother-in-law of our Nassau County Commander Bill Harms.

Please keep those donations coming in. Remember all I ask is a \$1.00 a member.

Thank You and God Bless America

For God and Country and The American Legion

Arlene Howard PCC Chairman

“HOMELAND SECURITY”

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC CHAIRMAN

Homeland Security is everyone’s job. Volunteer in your community, offer the use of your Post in times of emergency. Be ever watchful and alert, as veterans we can still be of service to our country. The training we received while in the service can be every helpful and make a difference in times of emergencies.

Homeland Security is not only about Terrorism, it covers disasters such as, floods, hurricanes, train derailments, fire, snowstorms etc. Watch for suspicious activity...if you see something, say something. During this holiday season we should be more alert as everyone will be preoccupied with shopping and partying. The bottom line is “ALWAYS BE ALERT AND IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”.

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

There is no activity ongoing for Boys’ State Program at this time. I should be getting the packets and the County quota the week after the Mid-Winter Conference. All post Boys State chairman should be contacting their respective schools for possible candidates. We held the price at \$350 per boy and unless something drastic happens at the meeting during the Mid-Winter Conference it will be \$350. I expect a quota of 40 boys again this year. If your post can not get a boy and you still want to sponsor one or two let me know and I will check other sources to get boys for you.

CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

I received a check for \$238.50 and I asked to treasurer to split it between the NEF and the Legacy Scholarship \$119.25 and \$119.25 respectively. I will ship the cell phones I have collected this month on Monday if I get at least 50 phones. Bring the cell phones to the county meeting or if you have a large amount I will come to you to get them.

Scouting News from the American Legion

If your unit is sponsored by the American Legion now is the time to start collecting data for the 2008 Contest for the American Legion Pack, Troop or Crew of the year.

Due to the difference in the Boy Scout and American Legion Fiscal Years I will need your units form by December first 2008. Forms may be downloaded from the Department of New York web site.

Please contact me at edt351@aol.com if you have any questions.

Edward R. Sholander, Chairman

SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON ACTIVE DUTY

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

If anyone knows of a service person in Iraq or Afghanistan please contact me with the name and address and I will send items to them. I shipped eleven (11) packages to the 3-17 CAV on the 13th of December and they received them and distributed the items by the 23rd of December. I received a letter from the Commanding Officer and one from the Chaplain which I will read tonight. I will be preparing some more boxes to ship out in February. The address for the group we have adopted is:

**CPT Erik J. Wright
3-17 CAV
Unit 43418
APO AE 09322-3418**

This unit has been in Iraq for about 6 months. The packages must be addressed to an individual and that person then distributes the items. This unit is a Blackhawk Helicopter group out of Ft Drum, NY.

CHAPLAINS CORNER

Bob Pachas, Chaplain

We regret to inform you of the passing of PDVC Jack Bland. Jack was a long time member of the Carle Place Post .

We also mourn the passing of Shirley Graven, Adjutant from the Bellmore Post.

Our condolences to their families.

TO: Legionnaires, County Staff, Past County Commanders, Auxiliary members and S.A.L. Members.

SUBJECT: Military Ball/Post Commanders Night

The Military Ball and Post Commanders Night are being combined into one function this year, so I am announcing that the Forty-Seventh Nassau County Military Ball and Thirtieth Post Commanders Night will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2008, at the Stuart Thomas Manor, 2143 Boundary Avenue, Farmingdale, New York, 11735, from 5:30 PM to 11:00 PM. The evening will begin with a Cocktail Hour with hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, followed by a full course dinner. With unlimited name brand liquor, and music for your listening and dancing pleasure. Tickets are \$52.00 per person. Make check payable to NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION, and earmark it for the Military Ball/Post Commanders Night. Cutoff for tickets is FEBRUARY 9, 2008. If your Post should have more than one table, and would like to setup the seating for each table, send the names of the people at each table and I will assign the ticket numbers to them. A copy of this letter and pageant form can also be found on the Nassau County website (nassaulegion.org). **PLEASE RETURN THE PAGEANT INFORMATION FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK TO:**

Anthony L. Paternostro, PCC
Military Ball/Post Commanders Night Chmn
137-24 250 Street, Rosedale, New York 11422-2110

Veteran Asking for Bone Marrow Donor

George Fehlker a disabled Vietnam veteran and volunteer driver for the Nassau County Disabled Veterans Transportation Program is seeking a bone marrow donor for his daughter Karen. Anyone who can share the "Gift of Life" with Karen is urged to contact Viri Pettersen at: vpetersen@rvcschools.org.

CHILDREN and YOUTH
Willibe Wilson, PCC Chairman

The Easter party that's sponsored by The Nassau County American Legion and the Nassau County American Legion Auxiliary for the resident of S.C. 0. has been change to March 29th, the Saturday after Easter. It will be held at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, 113 Glen Cove Avenue Glen Cove, New York. We will provide a bus to supplement their vans to insure that all residents are able to attend. The time of the party is 11:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

We will provide a Buffet Lunch which consists of Southern Fried Chicken, Baked Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli in Cheese Sauce, Fried Rice and Tossed Salad, for dessert there will be soda ice cream and cake. We will have a D.J. and music from the beginning to the end plus a magician show.

This program is well worth the effort. My annual appeal letter will be in the mail by late December and I really need your help When you receive this letter please mail Your check to me Willibe Wilson 37 Continental Place, Glen Cove, New York 11542-2948. Make all checks payable to the Nassau County American Legion Committee, earmarked Children and Youth.

Before you know it will be time to fill out the Consolidated Post Report Form. Plus a Form For judging the Nassau County Children & Youth Awards, NOW is the time to record your Children & Youth activities.

VA Surveys Burial Program

During January and February 2008 the VA will conduct a through the mail survey of how well they are administering the Burial Benefits Program. 38,733 surveys will be sent to veterans and next of kin in two parts. The second letter received will contain a questionnaire that is to be returned a few days later. This will not be done by phone.



We honor all
who serve



New Flag Disposal Alternative

Nassau County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi has announced that worn and unserviceable American flags will receive proper and private disposal at the Nassau County Fire Service Academy. Chief Instructor John Brown says the facility, located at Administration Building "A" 300 Winding Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11804, will accept large quantities of American flags collected by veterans' organizations for burning by county fire personnel. Veterans organizations can deliver the flags between 8 am and 10 pm M-F for storage pending an annual safe and appropriate ceremony.

Nadine Bruh-Schiffer, Director of Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale reported that due to space and other limitations, LINC is not currently accepting American flags for disposal and is very appreciative of the Nassau Fire Academy's offer.

Private individuals should continue to dispose of worn American flags by placing them in receptacles located in front of many VFW and American Legion Posts throughout the county.

Heroes

Since 2003, the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency has helped hundreds of homeless and needy veterans find shelter, food, jobs, training or regular income. We did this without beds, food, jobs, money or teachers, but with several very good friends and organizations working with us. The Salvation Army's Veterans Residence at the Northport VA Medical Center Campus (mailing address: PO Box 300, Building 11, East Northport, NY 11731) gives veterans a place to stay while they undergo a number of VA rehabilitation programs. United Veterans Beacon House PO Box 621, 146 Fourth Avenue, Bay Shore, NY 11706 maintains a dozen transitional homes for veterans on Long Island and helps veterans find work. Island Harvest, 199 Second Street, Mineola, NY 11501 has supported our 7 Homeless Veterans Stand Downs with tons of supplies.

This month we are losing a great supporter of veterans in need. Carol Krishnamoorthy, LCSW Social Work Section Chief and Coordinator of the Northport VAMC Homeless Veterans Program, will be retiring after a 24 year career with the Department of Veterans Affairs. We will miss your tough heart.

JOBS FOR VETS

Two business owners have contacted me lately expressing a strong desire to hire veterans.

Mike Reali, owner of Eagle Sanitation, is looking for Class B drivers to work 5 days a week in his private sanitation company in West Babylon. This is a union job. Call 631-491-1311

The Asplundh Tree Experts Company, with 40,000 employees nationwide, is looking to hire veterans on Long Island and nearby areas. Must have a CDL or be able to get one. Climbing experience is a plus. Pay can range from \$17 to \$35 per hour. Call 631-205-9323.

VA Expands Adaptive Housing Help

New VA Secretary Dr. James B. Peake announced in January new rules for the Specially Adapted Housing Grants Program that will aid the most seriously injured of our new veterans. Under the old rules seriously disabled veterans must own and have title to a house in order to apply for one of two programs that they could use only once. The new rules permit the qualifying veteran to apply up to three times, as long as the total amounts stay within specified limits. They may also be used in a family member's home where the veteran is temporarily living. The grants are used for modifying a home to provide a barrier-free environment for the severely injured veteran.

CHILDREN and YOUTH REPORT

COUNTY ORATORICAL PROGRAM

We had a great oratorical program in spite of a late start.

We mailed the material directly to the schools instead of having the Posts deliver it to the Schools. As a result of the mailing had two Schools in the contest who were never in it before.

We had 12 contestants from 6 High Schools.

The schools were : Douglas MacArthur, Hicksville, Holy Trinity, Manhasset, Oceanside and Sewanaka.

The Posts that sponsored the students were: Charles Wagner, Elmont, Manhasset, Oceanside and Wantagh.

We had an six outstanding Judges including Agnes Murtha whose husband Joseph brought this program to life in Nassau County.

We will be giving each contestant a Certificate of Participation and a US Saving Bond depending on their position in the contests.

We will send two contestants to the District final with the hope one will go forward to Department and National.

The financial statement will reflect we went over the budget of \$600.00

I will recommend to the Finance Committee they increase the budget to \$700.00 for the year 2009.

Finally I wish to commend the three Posts that hosted the contests. Edwin Welch Jr Post Glenwood Landing Post and the Wantagh Post. They were most cooperative and the members of the Post assisted in the program and they did not charge for the refreshments

Respectfully Submitted

William A. Baxter, PCC Chairman

At this time I would like to thank the Howard A. Van Wagner Post # 962 for there donation made during the month December.

The Easter party sponsored by the Nassau County American Legion and the Nassau County American Legion Auxiliary for the resident of SCO Family of Services, formally St. Christopher Otilie of Sea Cliff, New York is March 29th the Saturday after Easter. It will be held at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club, 113 Glen Cove Avenue Glen Cove, New York. There will be eighty children plus twenty staff personal to manage and care for the children. We will transport the children, this means hiring a school bus, SCO will transport the children that's in need of a wheelchair, this will insure that all residents are able to attend. The time of the party is 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We will provide a Buffet Lunch which consists of Southern Fried Chicken, Baked Macaroni and Cheese, Broccoli in Cheese Sauce, Fried Rice and Tossed Salad, for dessert there will be Soda, Ice Cream and Cake. We will have a D.J. and music from the beginning to the end plus a magician show.

-This program is well worth the effort and your monetary help is really needed. My appeal letter_ and the _ Children & Youth form for the County awards has been mailed, please response as soon as you possibly can.

Earmark all checks Children and Youth, made payable to the American Legion Nassau County Committee mail to me Willibe Wilson 37 Continental Place Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542-2948.

Before you know it will be time to full out the Consolidated Post Report Form. Plus a Form For judging the Nassau County Children & Youth Awards, NOW is the time to record your Children & Youth activities

Willibe Wilson, PCC Children & Youth Chairman

Respectfully submitted,



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



NASSAU COUNTY FOUR CHAPLAINS
BACK TO GOD SERVICE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2008



DATES TO REMEMBER

FEB	3	SUN	FOUR CHAPLIANS - BACK TO GOD SERVICE TEMPLE OF JUDEA IN MANHASSET 2-4 pm.
	12	TUES	LINCOLNS BIRTHDAY - FLY YOUR FLAG !
	18	MON	PRESIDENTS DAY - FLY YOUR FLAG !
	19	TUES	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING EDWIN WELCH JR., SEAFORD 8PM
	22	FRI	WASHINGTONS BIRTHDAY - FLY YOUR FLAG !
	22	FRI	COUNTY MEETING AT WILLISTON POST 144 8 PM
	23	SAT	MILITARY BALL & POST COMMANDERS NIGHT STUART THOMAS MANOR
MARCH	17-18		HILL DAY - ALBANY
	22		CHILDREN & YOUTH EASTER PARTY - BOYS & GIRLS CLUB , GLEN COVE 11:30 - 3 PM.
	25	TUES	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - EDWIN WELCH, JR. POST SEAFORD 8 PM
	28	FRI	COUNTY MEETING - WILLISTON POST 144 - 8 PM

DIRECTORY CHANGES - PLEASE NOTE!

William Baxter, Judge Advocate - has moved back to his old address: 64 Beechwood Ave.,
Manhasset, N.Y. 11030 627-0511

John Marino, PCC, Change of Phone # 586-5992

If the Post has a street address and a P.O. Box Number - Do not use the Street Address only the P.O. Box #.