



American Legion

HATFIELD POST 933

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HATFIELD, PENNSYLVANIA 19440-0421

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MAY/JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 01	American Legion Post 933 Meeting	1900-2000
MAY 01	Home Association Meeting	2000 hrs
MAY 02	Memorial Day Parade Planning Meeting	1830-1930
MAY 16	Memorial Day Parade Planning Meeting	1830-1930
MAY 20	POST CLEAN UP!	0800 hrs
MAY 25	American Legion Riders Meeting	1900 hrs
MAY 27	Place Flags on Veterans Graves	0800 hrs
MAY 29	MEMORIAL DAY (Parade)	0900 hrs
JUN 05	American Legion Post 933 Meeting	1900-2000
JUN 05	Home Association Meeting	2000 hrs
JUN 14	FLAG DAY CEREMONY	1900 hrs
JUN 22	American Legion Riders Meeting	1900 hrs

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

I will begin by that I hope all of our Members enjoyed a solemn, blessed and Holy Easter. Our weather has been all over the place and I am hoping for some steady sun with less rain for us all to enjoy soon.

Our membership numbers are looking better but I still need to ask all members to pay their dues so we can get to 100%.

As a Veteran with two years in Vietnam, I enjoyed celebrating National Vietnam Veterans Day with three friends that were

in the war with me. There were good memories and bad memories we talked about, unfortunately the bad will always outweigh the good.

We are working hard on organizing and preparing for our annual Memorial Day Parade beginning at the Veteran's Memorial in Hatfield at 0900 hours on May 29th. It's going to be another great day of remembrance for our Post families. After that we will celebrate National Flag Day on June 14th. I am hoping you will all be able to join us on both of these important dates.

We had our first session of training on CPR and using our new defibrillator (AED) machine. The trainer was able to show us how to use the machine and how important it was to be timely when a person needs it. Just another way we are showing members and their families that they are our first priority in every situation.

In closing, let us remember that as Veterans we received training and experiences that few Americans have. Let us always be brothers and sisters that want to help whenever and wherever we can. May God continue to Bless all of us and our great country, America!

**Michael Lewis
Commander**

And this note from the American Legion Riders Commander, Gerry Galinski “The American Legion Riders is accepting new members. If you're a Legionnaire or a Son of the American Legion and have a motorcycle please consider joining. Our meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month. You're welcome to come to a meeting and check us out!”

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome more new members since November 2022: **Thomas Brown, John Samacia, Steven Gambone, Robert Stone, David Armstrong, Shane Watts, Paul Hyslop, Robert Fulmer, Robert Chiarlanza, Paul Dooley, and Glen Austin** are new to our American Legion family. Please be sure to welcome them when you see them.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We are preparing for the busiest month of the year for us! Memorial Day is not just an event, it is our time to reflect on the veterans that passed before us and place a flag on their graves as a small token of our remembrance of the sacrifice they made by serving our county; we then honor them with a parade in their memory. Remember that while BBQs are nice, never forget the real reason for this day off from work we get to spend with family and friends. We are preparing for this sacred time by preparing to welcome the public to our Post on the 29th of May by having a Post Clean-Up event on the 20th of May at 0800-1200? The more volunteers we get the quicker we all get to go home! Then on the 27th of May we place flags on Veterans graves in cemeteries around our area. On Memorial Day we'd like to invite everyone to come out and cheer us on as we march in the Annual Hatfield Memorial Day Parade at 0900! We start with a short ceremony at the Hatfield Veterans Memorial monument in front of the old train station at the intersection of Broad Street and N. Market Street and East Lincoln Avenues, where we place wreaths in front of the monument, the 71st Re-enactors then fire a musket salute, and we change out the flag on the pole. Then the parade begins! If you'd like to help plan for this event please contact Lauren at lauren.sendelgrant@gmail.com, or just come to our next planning meeting which is on 02 May, 2023 at 1830hrs at the Post, we can use all the help we can get.

Don't forget to bring your worn and tattered flags for disposal by June 14th, FLAG DAY. We will have our annual ceremony honoring the flag and our country and then burn all the tattered flags we've collected over the last year. Please come out and join us.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Please Contact Laureen Sendel-Grant, or Barry Forgeng if you need help with your VA benefits!! Laureen's email is laureen.sendelgrant@gmail.com and Barry's is Bforg001@gmail.com. There are two of us who can try to help you with your benefits issues. Neither of us are officially trained yet, but we have lots of contacts we can go to and try to get you answers.

We have Applications for Admission to a PA State Veterans' Home. I know this is a last resort for everyone, but as we age and are left to fend for ourselves this might be an option that everyone wants to keep in their back pocket! Contact me if you want to fill one out or know of someone who needs to take advantage of this benefit.

American Legion Heroes! If you've heard of the Hometown Heroes Program, then you'll know what I'm talking about when I tell you that we are going to start hanging banners from the light poles on our property for those Legionnaires that no longer live near their hometowns. The same company that puts together the banners for the Hatfield and Lansdale Hometown Heroes Program has agreed to make banners for us that will say American Legion in the place of the hometown. They

will cost the same as the Hatfield and Lansdale banners at \$130 each. Please see the attached flyer and fill out the application form, there will also be packets printed and placed in the foyer of the post, if you're interested and still have questions, please contact Ann Scheuring at heroes@verizon.net. **THIS IS ONLY FOR MEMBERS WHO'D LIKE THEIR BANNERS HUNG AT THE HATFIELD AMERICAN LEGION, please don't let Preston and Jim's faces be the only ones out there!** When speaking to Ann please let her know that.

Do you know the widow of a Navy Vietnam Veteran? If the Veteran served in the Republic of Vietnam or on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles off the shore of Vietnam or Cambodia between January 9th 1962, and May 7th 1975, then they may be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is a benefit paid by the USDVA and includes monthly compensation and Healthcare coverage.

Please have her contact an American Legion Department Service Officer at: the Philadelphia Regional Office-215-381-3032; the Harrisburg Regional Office-877-720-8387; or Wilkes Barre Regional Office-570-821-2526

Also, this one's important, Montgomery County has rental assistance money available for Veterans, call 211 and ask for rental assistance through the Montgomery County ERUC "Your Way Home". They can give up to 15 months of rental assistance money! They have

money that they have to use, or it goes back to the state! Take advantage of this valuable benefit!!

We will continue to announce that Post 933 has 15 burial plots remaining in Whitemarsh Memorial Park (WMP) for the use of our Veterans. If you'd like to learn more about these plots and get an estimate for how much burial in the WMP might cost, please reach out to Tom Harwick or myself. Unfortunately, these plots will be given away on a "first come, first serve" basis.

Also, again, if you donate blood regularly or even just occasionally, please keep track of your donations and let me know, just send me an email. We get credit in our yearly Post Consolidated Report to the Department and National for pints donated! Platelets count too!

ADJUTANT'S REPORT

THANK YOU everyone for helping us achieve 100% membership renewals in 2022! And I want to thank everyone who have already renewed their Membership for 2023, but if you haven't renewed your membership yet, please do so now. For those of you who still haven't renewed your membership please see the bartender for an envelope to submit dues as an alternative to mailing them. Also, unfortunately the Department of PA continues to send out renewal requests to people who have ALREADY PAID their dues, if you've paid your dues, then IGNORE these notices.

I want to inform everyone that if you have achieved 50 years membership in the

American Legion (that means you've paid for your 50th year), then your membership is free for every year after 50! Our Post covers this cost for you. Don't roll your eyes folks, we have about 10 members currently receiving this benefit!

Also, one of the benefits of attending our monthly meeting is that sometimes we have special guests! Last month we had visitors from TNB Giving Back, a non-profit that collects money for Veterans and First Responders in need. We were pleased to welcome Robert and Matthew Dager, who founded this 501(C)3 organization. Matthew served 8 years in the Army and retired as a Staff Sergeant. They are hosting a golf outing on September 11th and wanted our support. We are sponsoring a hole in their tournament and encourage all of you who like to smack the little white ball to consider participating in this 9/11 Memorial Golf outing at the Pine Crest Country Club. We have posted their flyer on the bulletin board next to the boiler room by the back entrance.

The Gold Star Mothers are also hosting another Golf Tournament this year on September 9th at the Wedgewood Golf Course, 875 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg, PA. Please go to their website at: <https://northpenngoldstargolfouting.org/contact-us> to sign up for this event.

That's two great organizations you can golf with in September, and all for a good cause!

The few Officers that serve on the boards that keep this Post running are doing a huge

service for ALL our members, but we continue to need volunteers to step up and help us keep things going. Many hands make light work, when we don't get volunteers, it makes it more difficult for the rest of us. PLEASE STEP UP! Contact the Commander or me if you're interested in filling a vacancy or just helping out.

SICK CALL

Tracy Cook stay posted for when he returns home soon!

Deceased Members: NONE, Praise be!

Please keep these Veterans and their families in your thoughts and prayers. If you know of someone who is ill, hospitalized or has passed, please notify me ASAP so that we can coordinate the appropriate support for the Veteran/family members.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE AND EMAIL INFORMATION:

1. **Medical or Mental Health Emergency**---Call 9-1-1 or go to nearest emergency room.
2. **24-Hour Medical Advice**---610-384-7711, Press 3.
Urgent Care Eligibility Verification---1-833-4VETNOW or 1-833-483-8669.
3. **VA Urgent Care Support Line**---1-866-620-2071.
4. **MISSION Act Benefits**---610-384-7711, Option 6.

5. **Veterans Crisis Line (Suicide)**---1-800-273-8255, Press 1. Confidential Chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or Text 838255. 24 Hours a Day/365 Days a Year.
6. **White House VA Hotline**---1-855-948-2311. 24 Hours a Day/365 Days a Year.
7. **VA Healthcare Benefits**---1-877-222-8387.
8. **VA Benefits**---1-800-827-1000.
9. **MYVA311 (other):** 1-844-698-2311, if you don't know who to call.
10. **Coatesville Primary Care Clinic**---24 Hour Call Line 610-384-7711. Press #1 for Refill Medications, Press #2 for Schedule or Cancel an Appointment, Press #3 to Speak to a Registered Nurse for Health-Related Concerns.
11. **DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Chapter 25:**
<http://www.davmembersportal.org/chapters/pa/25/default.aspx> ; email: davchapter25@outlook.com; phone: 610-657-7754
12. **Senator Casey, Washington, DC** - 202-224-6324
13. **John Fetterman, Washington, DC** - 202-224-4254
14. **National Service Officer Hot Line** - 888-604-0234, M-F, 9-4PM. To call about your claim.

15. VA Life Insurance: 1-800-669-8477

16. Philadelphia VA Med Center: 1-800-949-1001

17. Willow Grove Outpatient Clinic:
215-823-6050

18. Spring City VA OutPatient Clinic:
610-948- 0981

19. Gulf War/Agent Orange Helpline: 1-800-749-8387

Please submit any announcements
or items for the newsletter to
Lauren Sendel-Grant, Editor.
Requests must be received by the
15th to be in the current edition.