



**American Legion
Post 903
Mount Pocono PA**

**Next Meeting
March 11th
27 Fairview Ave
Mt. Pocono PA**



NEWSLETTER




**Monroe County PA
Joint Veterans
Honor Guard**

**All Meetings, Legion
SAL, Honor Guard & Aux-
iliary will be on 2nd
Thursday of Month**

February 2021

American Legion Post 903
 CommanderCharles Hamberger
 Adjutant.....Al Compoly
 Phone:570-269-2971 or 570-369-3727
 E-Mail:charlesd.hamberger@gmail.com
 Meetings:6 Pm, 2nd Thursday of the month.
 Meeting Location:..... 27 Fairview Ave Mt. Pocono
 Web site:.....americanlegionpost903.com
 Web Site / Facebook AdministratorsPaul Compoly & Al Compoly
 Newsletter: Editor:Al Compoly: eagle55@ptd.net
 SAL Commander:Paul Compoly (Contact 570-406-8102)
 SAL Commander E-mail:stroudsburg99@yahoo.com
 Facebook:.....Sons of the American legion squadron 903
 Auxiliary President.....Lorna Ofarrell -MacIntire
 E-Mail: goplofarrell@aol.com

Monroe County PA Joint Veterans Honor Guard
 Commander:Charles Hamberger
 Facebook / Web Page Administrator.....Paul Compoly
 Honor Guard Web Page: <http://monroecountyhonorguard.com>
 The Joint Veterans Honor Guard was Certified by the Department of Defense on April 11, 2011
 The honor Guard is a 501(c)(19) - Veterans Organization as indicated by the IRS
 American Legion Post 903 is a 501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt Organization as indicated by the IRS.



Up Coming Events

Next Meeting. The next American Legion / Honor Guard meeting will be on Thursday, March 11th. 6 Pm at 27 Fairview Avenue, Mount Pocono, PA.

Media Event, Thursday February 11th. We will be having a media event on Thursday, February 11th at 25 Fairview Ave Mt Pocono to announce the plans for the Church, which will become a Veteran Museum, and the rectory which will become offices and transitional housing for homeless Veterans. All Legion Members and those in the Honor Guard are welcome to attend, the event will start at 10Am.

St Patrick's Day Parade: The St Patrick's Day Parade has been cancelled.

Veterans Day Parade: Planning for the Veterans Day Parade is underway. The location of the parade has not been finally set as it may take place again at the raceway, or it may once again take place in Stroudsburg. The theme of the parade will be honoring the Black Horse 11th Armored Calvary Regiment with our own DB Bennet as Grand Marshall.

Up Coming Events

We do not have any upcoming events scheduled for ceremonies or events, but the Honor Guard is doing Military Honors for those Veterans who have passed on as we are informed by Funeral Homes and or Families.

The following is a list of potential ceremonies that may or may not take place depending on any restrictions at the time. This will be updated monthly.

St Patrick's Day Parade: Sunday March 21st, Stroudsburg (CANCELLED)

Vietnam Veterans Day, Monday, March 29th-Court House Square, Stroudsburg.

Law Day: 1st of May, Stroudsburg Court House, (Date not confirmed)

Armed Forces Day: Saturday, May 16th, Tannersville War Memorial.

Memorial Service: May 28th, Tannersville Memorial (Jr. High School)

Flag Replacement: Various Cemeteries, Saturday May 29th (Date is not confirmed)

Mt Pocono Fly in Breakfast Memorial Day Event: Sunday, May 30th, Mt Pocono Airport

Memorial Day Service: Monday, May 31st, Tannersville Memorial.

Flag Day: June 14th, Whitestone Care Center (Date not confirmed)

POW / MIA Recognition Day: Friday, September 17th. Wilkes Bare VA or at the Tannersville Memorial.

Vetstock Event: October, No date or venue indicated at this time.

Lyons Wreath Laying: Saturday November 13th, Pocono Lake Cemetery, (Date not Confirmed)

Up Coming Events Continued:

Veterans Day Parade: Sunday, November 7th or 14th (date not confirmed) Pocono Raceway, (Venue not confirmed)

Veterans Day Ceremony: Thursday, November 11th, Tannersville Memorial

Flag Replacement: Saturday November 13th, Various Cemeteries, (Date not confirmed)

Wreaths Across America: December 18th, Delaware Water Gap Cemetery.

Note: Military Funerals take precedent over any scheduled ceremonies or events.

GRANTS: American Legion Post 903 recently applied for several grants. The first grant was from the COVID (CARES Grant). Organizations affected by Covid closures which include non-profit fund raising activities that were cancelled, could apply for the grant. We are happy to announce that our post received \$8,937 from this grant.

The second grant we have applied for is the Veteran Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$49,000. This grant will be used to help with the renovation of the rectory. This grant will not be awarded until sometime in April, so we will not know until then if we will be awarded any monies.

We have also applied for the LSA grant (Local Share Account) which comes from 2% of gaming facilities revenue to support community efforts. Since many gaming facilities have been closed, the amount of money available may be limited.

Renovation update: We have removed all of the dead trees that were on the property in Mt Pocono, and what a difference that has made.

In March we expect contractors to begin working on the Church Roof which will be a red metal roof.

Donate a \$1000 to the Legion Building Fund and receive a Free Rustic Flag worth over \$125.

Just a reminder, Anyone who donates a thousand dollars to American Legion Post 903's building Fund will receive a Free customized rustic flag which is made by our Adjutant Al Compoly. The Flag will be customized to the branch of service you served in or you can simply choose a regular or Betsy Ross Flag. Below is a samples of the Flag.



Membership Dues:

If you have not paid your dues for 2021, please consider paying them so that we can be at 100%

That also includes the Auxiliary and SAL as well.

You can mail in your dues to our PO Box 580, Mt Pocono PA 18344, or you can pay them on line at Legion.org.

Thanks !

Homeless Veteran Update:

OPERATION CHILLOUT (Homeless Veteran Outreach) Last fall, the VA awarded over 400 Million dollars in Grants to SSVF (Supportive Services to Veteran Families) to prevent and help Homeless Veterans. In Monroe County, the organization that was awarded a grant to cover this area was "Commission on Economic Opportunity of Luzerne County" SSVF will help homeless veterans find housing, pay for security deposits, and sometimes a month or two of rent until they get back on their feet. The phone # is 570-826-0510 or you can email them at ceonortheastpa@gmail.com

Sick Call / Deceased



Please pray for and check on any of our Legion & Honor Guard members & their families who may be sick or are feeling anxious or depressed during this difficult time. See if they need anything or if you can run any errands for them, shovel snow etc. I'm sure that would be greatly appreciated.

New Members: We would like to welcome all of our new members to both the legion and the Post. Presently we have over 60 members and hope that we will continue to grow. If you know anyone who is interested in joining please contact Charlie Hamberger or Al



What is the significance of the gold fringe which we see on some United States flags?

Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 that it was officially added to the national flag for all regiments of the Army. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. It is considered that fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only. (Military tradition) The courts have deemed without merit and frivolous, lawsuits that contend that the gold fringe adorning the flag conferred Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction.



Troop Train Wreck: - A Home Front Tragedy, Another 911 tragedy !

Last week we were sitting in a meeting at Senator Mario Scavello's office when this gentleman came in with a Veterans Hat on and started to tell us this story about a train wreck he was in on the way to training with the National Guard during the Korean War. He said that since he was kind of small, they asked him to try and crawl inside the wrecked train car to see if anyone was alive. Dempsey (Veterans Name) was in the first car of the train and even though his car was damaged, no one was hurt. The last car of the train was demolished. This is the story at the time:

National Guard units across the United States were federalized during the weeks and months immediately after war broke out on the Korean peninsula. World War II veterans found themselves on the way to yet another distant battlefield, and guardsmen with little or no combat training were assigned to military bases near and far from their homes for accelerated courses in warfare. Wives and children, mothers and fathers, and family friends gathered on hometown streets for tearful farewells to the townsmen who were so abruptly and unexpectedly called to active duty because of the new war now raging in the Far East. Once their

training was complete, no one was sure when they would be with their loved ones again. But at least they would be safe at the training camp and in Germany. At least they would not be casualties of the war in Korea.

In the communities of Carbondale, Honesdale, and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, no one watching train "PX5444 West" chug down the tracks could predict the great tragedy that awaited the guardsmen of the 28th Division just one state away and less than one day after they pulled out of the Wilkes-Barre train station en route to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Although the guardsmen did not serve in Korea, many of the soldier passengers on PX5444 West nevertheless became Korean War casualty statistics when the troop train they were riding in was struck by the Spirit of St. Louis in the early morning hours of

September 11, 1950.

39 Guardsmen died, 33 were injured.





American Legion Post 903 Family needs you. Are you eligible. Legion, Sons & Auxiliary. Call Charlie Hamberger at 570-269-2971



OPERATION CHILLOUT is an all-volunteer outreach dedicated to ending to the crisis of homelessness for veterans, men and women throughout New Jersey and parts of NE Pennsylvania & Rhode Island: Phone 570-369-3727



Veterans needed for the Monroe County Honor Guard.

Call Al at 570-369-3727 or E-Mail eagle55@ptd.net at

American Provincial Flag Company



Makers of Rustic American Flags
eagle55@ptd.net (570) 369-3727

SMP Computers

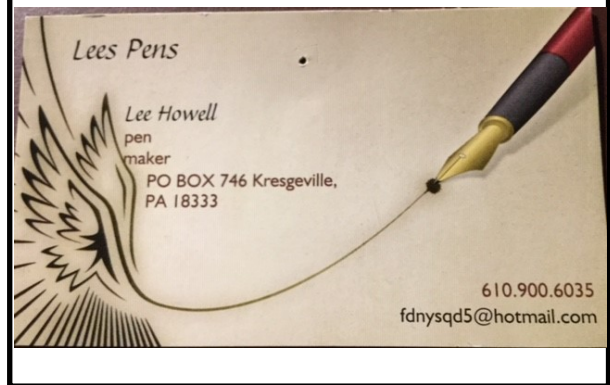
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Tobyhanna, PA 18466

All Computer Repairs.



State Representative Jack Rader
Is Proud to Support American Legion Post 903
Visit either our Blakeslee or Effort Offices
For Veteran assistance

Blakeslee location: 395 Route 940 Suite 104

Effort Location: 2785 Route 115 Suite 103

Blakeslee: 570-643-7683 Effort: 570-620-4341