



American Legion
Post 903
Mount Pocono PA
Next Meeting
June 11th
Heritage Center
Pocono Twp



Monroe County PA
Joint Veterans
Honor Guard

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

NEWSLETTER

May 2020

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:..... Pocono Twp. Heritage Center
 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
 Auxillary 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.



In Remembrance



Tom Bowditch 1949-2020

As most of you know, our Illustrious and well liked Commander of American Legion post 903 and Commander of the Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard passed away on February 23rd, 2020. Tom was a proud Veteran who served in the United States Army National Guard and worked for the NJ Police Dept. of East Orange.

He is going to be sorely missed, RIP Tom.

Up Coming Events:

The following events are still scheduled but are subject to change due to the COVID-19 Virus.

May 23rd, Friday, Replacing flags at the cemeteries. 10 Am at the corner of Sullivan Trail and Rt 715.

May 24th: (Memorial Day Weekend) Rotary Fly in Breakfast at Pocono municipal airport, 8 Am to 2 Pm. Honor Guard will provide Memorial Day Service, Rifle Volley and TAPs.

May 25th (Memorial Day) Memorial Day Service at the War Memorial. 11Am to 2 Pm, Service at 1 Pm.

Events that were cancelled due to COVID-19 but may be rescheduled later in the year.

March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony at the Court House.

March 22nd, St Patrick's Day Parade in Stroudsburg.

April 30th, Law Day, Monroe County Court House.

COVID-19 Virus

The COVID-19 Virus has devastated this country in terms of individuals getting sick, the economic impact it has taken upon our small businesses as well as the Social impact of not being able to be with each other at social events. All the VFW and American Legion posts are all closed and many of their events have been cancelled.

Even though we have been ordered to stay home except to purchase necessities, that does not mean our Post is dormant. We are planning events when we are told it is safe to do so, we will keep you abreast of all new developments, and we can still communicate through our Facebook Pages and Web sites.

So until them, stay safe and contact some of our older members who may be having a difficult time as a result of the Virus.

Possibly our New Post Home & Veteran Museum



Right before the COVID-19 Virus hit this country, we met with Mario Scavello at a church in Mt Pocono that was up for sale. Tom Bowditch, before he passed, was also hoping that we could obtain the property as American Legion Post 903's new home. The Property not only includes the Church, but the rectory as well. Money was already appropriated by the state for this property. Three other projects were slated for this property, but all three fell through for various reasons.

We met with the realtor as well as the Pocono Economic Development Commission all on the same day to sign the papers. Mario had to schedule a meeting in Harrisburg to change the scope of the project in order to get the money released. The money also included funds for repairs. The plan is to make the Church a Veteran Museum and the Rectory as office space for the Post, Honor Guard and Veteran groups and house veterans on a temporary basis who are homeless. (continued on next page)

(New Post Home Continued)

When the Virus hit, things had come to a stand still, so we are hoping to pick up where we left off once the Virus has subsided. Our original time frame was to have everything completed by the end of April.



Sick Call / Deceased



**Tom Bowditch (Commander Post 903)
1949-2020**

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 Compoly

Legion Dues

If you haven't paid your dues yet, you can do so at our next meeting or you can pay them on line at "members.Legion.org"

Remembering Tom



Tom was an inspiration to all that knew him. He was tenacious at times, but was all heart in everything he did. He had the inspiration and foresight to create the only Department of Defense Certified Honor Guard in the County.

When the state was considering moving our beloved War Memorial for a major DOT construction project, Tom was right in the thick of things, telling the state in no uncertain terms that project was NOT coming through here. Tom went all the way to the governor's office to stop that from happening.

Our New Commander, Charles Hamberger said, "Ask him for a dime, he will give you a dollar. Ask for a coat, he will give you the coat and his shirt. That's who Tom was,"

Tom loved the War Memorial in Tannersville, and without his tireless efforts, the War Memorial would not be in the beautiful condition it is today. We hope to continue what Tom started with constructing a Fire, police and EMS tribute at the War Memorial in the future. Tom, "your watch is completed Sir, Job well done my good and faithful servant !"

Happy Easter / Passover



On behalf of the American Legion Post 903, the Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard, the Auxiliary and the SAL, we would like to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday !

Operation Chillout Update



Operation Chillout is celebrating it's 20th Anniversary this year on December 21st. Each year OCO has a big fund raiser in August, but due to the COVID-19 virus, that event has been cancelled this year along with the annual Fish & Chips dinner scheduled in May.

Even with the Virus, Operation Chillout continues to help homeless veterans on a daily basis. We are averaging at least one emergency call per day during the pandemic. We are still planning our summer campaign of passing out water and T-shirts to the homeless and various agency. For more information you can go to operationchillout.org.

Fund Raising

The Legion & Honor guard are soliciting ideas for future fund raising events. Once we are able to safely get back out there, were going to have to hit the ground running. Not only will we need to raise funds at our normal events, but if we are successful at purchasing the church in Mt Pocono, we will need to raise funds AND get volunteers to help with renovations and the building of our Veteran museum. Contact either Charlie or Al for any ideas you might have.





American Legion Post 903 Family needs you. Are you eligible.
 Legion, Sons & Auxiliary. Call Tom at 570-595-7145
 tbow49@aol.com



OPERATION CHILLOUT is an all-volunteer outreach dedi-
 cated to ending to the crisis of homelessness for veterans, men
 and women throughout New Jersey and parts of NE Pennsyl-
 vania: Phone 570-369-3727



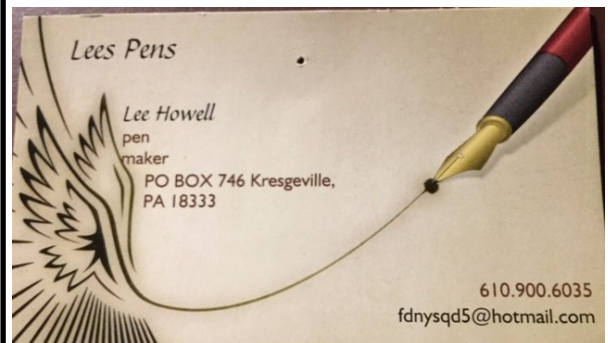
Veterans needed for the Monroe County Honor Guard.
 Call Al at 570-369-3727 or E-Mail at eagle55@ptd.net



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

SMP Computers
Computech
570-218-9664

Drop off location: 552 Main St.
Tobyhanna, PA 18466
All Computer Repairs.



Put your add here. Contact Al Compoly
(eagle55@ptd.net)Your info. \$75 a year.
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