



# SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SQUADRON 903

## NEWS & CURRENT EVENTS

**Volume 1 Issue 1**

**Fall 2019**

### Upcoming Meeting

**American Legion,  
S.A.L, AUX  
October 10th 2019  
6:00 pm**

### Upcoming Events

**54th Annual Barrett  
Township Halloween  
Parade  
October 27th 2019  
2:00pm - 4:30pm**

### Officers

**Commander  
Paul Compoly**

**Vice Commander  
John Jennings**

**Adjutant  
John Jennings**

**Finance Officer  
Tom Bowditch**

**Sergeant at Arms  
Stephen Stack**

**Chaplin  
Simon Castro**

**S.A.L Advisor  
Tom Bowditch**

### Flag Retirement Bin

American Legion Post 903 was recently looking for a collection bin to collect retired flags. Our Post contacted Joel Podelsky who is the Territory Manager for Planet Aid in Fair Field NJ. Joel informed us they needed to have a meeting and get approval from the plant manager first. Planet Aid approved the decision to have a collection bin donated to our Post. Once we received the bin members of American Legion Post 903 cleaned and painted the bin Red, White and Blue. Barrett Signs in Cresco PA installed the decals and Eds Auto Service & Towing delivered the bin to our Veterans Memorial on route 611 in Tannersville. During our Patriots Day Ceremony on Sept 7 2019 Post 903 unveiled the bin to Joel, who absolutely loved the idea of what it was going to be used for and loved the way it looked. If you any have old, tattered, faded American Flags you can now drop them off at our Memorial and they will be properly disposed of .



Joel Podelsky with Tom Bowditch

### Commanders Corner

Since this is our First newsletter for our Squadron I figure I start out with introducing myself. My name is Paul Compoly, I'm currently your Squadron commander. I became a member of the Sons of the American Legion in 2016. I was appointed to the Commander position August 2017. I gained my eligibility through my father who is a United States Air Force Vietnam Veteran. I'm also a member of Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard.

In the three years that I have been Commander of our squadron, we have doubled in size. And we need more local members to get involved. There's a lot of work that needs to be done. The main goal of the S.A.L is to Support our Veteran's. A few of our Veterans live alone and have no one to talk to. They are always looking for a companion someone they can talk to. Someone who'll listen and lot of our Legion Post Members have physical health issues and have a hard time completing the simplest of task. We need more of our younger members to start lending a hand and get involved. We can always find something for you to do.

My phone is always on for those that are interested in getting more involved.

Paul Compoly S.A.L Squadron 903 Commander



### Membership Renewal

For those that haven't paid your dues yet. The new membership cards are in which means its time to renew your membership. Our current membership dues are as follow \$8.00 for members under 18 years of age and \$15.00 for members 18 and over. There is two ways you can pay your dues. You can either send a check to the 359 lower lakeview dr East Stroudsburg PA 18302 or visit our website americanlegionpost903.com click the donate button at the top of screen when your redirected to the PayPal put SAL dues in the special instruction box. If you're sending a check please make out to "SAL Squadron 903". Once we receive your dues, we will send out your membership card.



### **Bipartisan LEGION Act passed by the Senate**

A bill expanding membership eligibility for The American Legion passed on June 11 by unanimous consent in the Senate. The Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — also known as the LEGION Act — is a bipartisan effort introduced by Sens. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., and Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C.

Because The American Legion’s membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. The act expands membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans who have served in unrecognized times of war since World War II.

The LEGION Act was a focus of American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad’s Feb. 27 testimony before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs. He called on Congress to take action amending the charter, thereby giving tens of thousands of veterans access to American Legion benefits and programs they are not currently eligible for.

“Nearly 1,600 brave American men and women were killed or wounded since World War II, while defending our nation during times not officially recognized as periods of war by the U.S. government,” American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad said during his testimony. “These veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods.”

When the LEGION Act was introduced Feb. 14 in the Senate, Sinema said, “The American Legion provides critical resources to our veterans, but currently, only veterans who served during formally recognized conflicts can belong to the Legion. That restriction leaves out thousands of former American servicemembers who signed up to defend our country. Our legislation rights this wrong and ensures veterans have the opportunity to join the American Legion.

### **Operation Chillout Fundraiser**

One of our American Legion Members United States Air Force Veteran and Operation Chillout Member Albert Compoly Jr. recently started making rustic American Flags as hobby during his retirement. For those that don’t know 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 North East Pennsylvania. Every year Rick Defino owner of The Original Pocono Pub off of route 611 in Bartonsville PA holds an annual fundraiser and auction in August for the North East Pennsylvania Operation Chillout Chapter. This year Albert graciously donated two of his handmade flags for the auction, needless to say the flags were a hit. For more information on how to purchase one of his flags you can find his contact information at



Tracy Gunther & Albert Compoly

American Provincial Flag Company <https://www.Provincialflag.com>

## **Flags of Our Past**

### **WHISKEY REBELLION**

With every newsletter I will post a unique American Flag that you may or may not have seen. I Will also post the story behind the flag . This newsletter I decided to go with the Whiskey Rebellion Flag due to the fact our Post decided to put it on the new trailer not a lot people know about this flag nor do they know the history behind it.

The years after the founding of the United States of America were not as simple as many might have you believe. Money was scarce, and the fledgling nation was trying everything it could to establish itself as an authoritative force. The first real test for the newly formed government was known as the Whiskey Rebellion. At the time, nearly 25 percent of the country’s distilleries were owned by just 1 percent of the population. Because whiskey was so



easy to transport, and because it was a commodity that almost everyone needed, it was often considered equivalent with cash. The United States government, under the instruction of then Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton,

imposed an excise tax on all distilled spirits. The goal of the tax was to help reduce the incurred debt from the American Revolution, but many farmers and distillers saw the tax as no different than the British taxes from which they had recently freed themselves. Tax collectors were sent throughout the country to collect from those who used spirits as a medium for trade, but many of those producers had no interest in paying the taxmen. Several tax collectors were even tarred and feathered by angry mobs of citizens. The height of the rebellion came about in 1794, when large groups of protesters destroyed the home of John Neville, his district’s excise inspector. It was in the time leading up to these rebellions that the first examples of the Whiskey Rebellion Flag began to fly. Just as rebels in the American colonies had elected officials to represent them during the Revolution, members of the Whiskey Rebellion formed their own assembly to better represent the interests they felt were being ignored by Congress. The Whiskey Rebellion Flag, with its 13 stars surrounding a majestic eagle carrying a red and white striped banner, came to be the icon of those Americans trying to defend themselves. While historians argue over who created the design, it has been agreed that this flag was one of the most important symbols in our nation’s history. It was only used briefly, but those who stood beneath it hoped to leave behind a stronger legacy, one that portrays a sense that the people of the United States won’t let the government take advantage of us. The Whiskey Rebellion Flag not only represents the fiery nature of the American people, but it shows how the government can’t be trusted with its power. The sparks that led to this rebellion were of the same flint as those that triggered the American Revolution. To this day, the Whiskey Rebellion flag is seen as a reminder that we must remain vigilant against an oppressive government overtaxing its citizens for the sake of a balanced budget.

Source <https://www.americanflags.com>

## Local Partners and Support

This section is to give shout out to all the local companies that have helped and continue to help us out. If I missed anybody please contact me and I will be sure to include your business in the next newsletter

Barrette Signs 569 Pleasant Ridge Rd. Cresco PA (570) 595-211

Steele's Ace Hardware 2823 Route 611 Tannersville, PA 18372

Ed's Auto Service & Towing 206 Sterling Rd #1006, Mt Pocono, PA 18344

SMP Computers 552 Main St, Tobyhanna, PA 18466



### **VETERANS NEEDED!!**

**TO JOIN MONROE CNTY JOINT VETERNAS HONOR GUARD**

**CONTACT TOM BOWDITCH**

(570) 595-7145

TBOW49@AOL.COM



## Barrette Township Halloween Parade

The 54th annual Barrette Township Halloween Parade is right around the corner we are looking for some of our locals members to get involved. If your interested in getting involve and being a part of the parade please contact me so that I can get a head count.



Mario and Luigi during last years Halloween parade

## Social Media

For those that don't know we are on Facebook you can follow us at the following pages

American Legion Post 903

Sons of the American Legion Squadron 903

Monroe County Joint Veterans Honor Guard

## Contact

Tom Bowditch American Legion Post 903 Commander

Home Phone (570) 595-7145

E-mail [tbow49@aol.com](mailto:tbow49@aol.com)

Paul Compoly S.A.L Squadron 903 Commander

Cell Phone (570) 406-8102

E-Mail [salsquadron903@gmail.com](mailto:salsquadron903@gmail.com)

