



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle February 2022 Editor - Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

by Cmdr. James Randle

Hope all is well in the Legion Family.

Our post had an Executive Meeting on Monday, January 10th and a General Meeting Thursday, January 20th. Sixteen Legionnaires attended.

On January 9th, the Post lost a twenty-year member, Joe Watts, at the age of 85. His service was in the United States Army – Vietnam. A wake service was on Monday, January 17, at Weigand Funeral home. On January 18th a church funeral mass service was held at Saint Aidan's.

Rockville Centre Post 303 endorses Past Post Commander Joseph M. Scarola for the high office of Commander of the Nassau County Committee of the American Legion. He has recently served as Vice Commander, Membership Officer and Adjutant of the Nassau County Committee of the American Legion.

I must update the Post Constitution and By-Laws of Williston Post No.144. The updated form was approved by American Legion Department of New York Executive Committee on January 23, 2021. The former Constitution and By-laws of Williston post 144, The American Legion, Department of New York, through the adoption of new Constitution By-Laws, are no longer effective. The last adopted Constitution and By-Laws was by members of Williston Post 144 on September 23 1991. The members were Elmo Deluca PC Chairman, George W. Dennis, Secretary, Roger Fay, Trustee, Peter Holowecki PC, PCC, PDC, Joseph Juliano PC Trustee, Thomas Melore, Judge Advocate.

The new adoption form has minor changes to the Post Blue Book Constitution and By-Laws.

1. Membership - an individual is eligible for membership in The American Legion only if the individual- (1) had served in the Armed Forces of (A) The United States at any time during- (i) the period of April 6, 1917, Through November 11, 1918; or (ii) any time after December 7, 1941.

2. A quorum shall exist of nine members of the Post Executive Committee Members change to Six members as of August 17 , 2017.

3. At all regular and special meetings of the Post  
*(continued next column)*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- February 7 Monday Executive Meeting 7:30pm
- February 8 Tuesday Boy Scouts of America Founded {1910}
- February 12 Saturday Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14 Monday St. Valentine's Day
- February 17 Thursday General Meeting 7:30pm
- February 21 Monday George Washington's Birthday  
Observed (President's Day)
- February 21 Monday Auxiliary unit Meeting 7:00pm
- February 22 Tuesday Washington'S Birthday
- March 3 Wednesday Ash Wednesday

twenty members change to ten members as of August 17, 2017 good standing shall constitute a quorum.

4. The amount of annual post dues shall be forty-five dollars (\$45.00) payable in advance on the 20th day of August of each year.

I will be filling out and handling the form according to official protocol.

Second Vice Commander Bob Guastella has a work party for setup for NYPD school. Thanks to Legionnaires Bob and Ruth Valentine, Frank Busa, Ray Cross, John Incremona, Jack Afonso, Eric Spinner, Vic Werbkay, Pete Tartaglione, Arthur Adair, Bill Lorusso, Justin Fiorella and James Randle for all their help.

Some Legionnaires helped setup and some Legionnaires helped break down we are done in fifteen minutes.

**Is your neighbor a veteran?**

**Ask if he would like to join the American Legion.**

**We always welcome new members!!!**

**Next General Meeting - - Thursday February 17, 2022 at 7:30PM**

## REMEMBERING OUR BROTHERS

by Norm Jardine



A veteran and member of Post 59 in Morristown, New Jersey, regularly places wreaths on over 750 graves in New Jersey as a part of the WREATHS across AMERICA program. His name is Jack Haren and he is a fellow alumni of Power Memorial High School, my alma mater.

Jack's dad is a veteran who fought in World War II and Korea and is buried in the Long Island Cemetery in Farmingdale. Since Jack lives in New Jersey, it would have taken him over 90 minutes to drive to Long Island. I thought it would honor his dad's service so I placed a memorial wreath on his dad's grave. Jack said he and his family were deeply touched by this action.

## JOSEPH M. SCAROLA ENDORSED FOR COUNTY COMMANDER

by Commander James Randle



Congratulations to Joseph on his unanimous endorsement. His previous American Legion service was as Vice Commander, Membership Officer and Adjutant of the AL Nassau County Committee. He has been a Legion member since 1990 in the Rockville Centre Post where he was able to innovate several new programs.

Joseph was commissioned as Ensign in the Navy in October 1965.

## FLAG ETIQUETTE HONORS OUR FLAG AND HELPS PROMOTE THE AMERICAN LEGION

by Norm Jardine



I sit on the board of trustees of the Voelker Orth Historic House Museum in Flushing Queens. When I joined the board, about 6 years ago, I noticed the US Flag as fraying. Bob Valentine was kind enough to give me 2 flags to replace it.

The first flag flew all day, lit as required by regulations. In time, like its predecessor, it had also become frayed. The Museum director, Ms. Deborah Silverfine, brought down the flag and replaced it. She gave me the frayed flag to arrange proper disposal.

Anyone can all get involved in helping out just like this. People love to see our respect for Old Glory.

## THE LONG-TIME TRADITION OF THE MILITARY BALL

The Military Ball is a time-honored tradition in the American Legion just as it is in so many parts of the active military. It is a celebration of the men and women in all branches of the Legion who work tirelessly in the interests of fellow veterans and of their local communities.

The Ball which is held this year on February 19th in the luxuriously redesigned Leonard's Palazzo in Great Neck is a get-together enjoyed for its camaraderie, sense of patriotism and pride in the accomplishments of the American Legion in Nassau County.

Post 144 will be represented by Commander James Randle and Auxiliary President Christine Horvath and others.

**AUXILIARY NEWS  
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
JANUARY, 2022**

*Chairperson Mary Ann Busa*

A member donated clothing and shoes to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island. Items worth \$210.00

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph's Indian School. The funds are used to educate and provide housing for over 200 Lakota Sioux children each year.

A member donated \$100.00 to CCFK. Winter fundraiser @NYU Langone/ Winthrop Cancer Center for Kids.

A member donated \$25.00 to St. Joseph's Indian School. The funds are used to provide housing, nutritious meals and education.

A member donated \$20.00 to St. Joseph's Indian School for Christmas Dinner.

A member donated \$50.00 to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

A member donated \$50.00 to Shriners Hospital for Children.

*I want to thank all the Auxiliary members for their continued support for the children and youth program. Without your help the program would not be a success.*

**UNIT SELECTS STUDENTS  
FOR GIRLS STATE PROGRAM**

*by Ellen Randle*

Williston Auxiliary Unit 144 eagerly takes part in the American Legion Girls State Program every Year. This year the Unit will be sending 2 girls to the Empire Girls State Program at SUNY Brockport from July 3rd until July 9th.

The Girls Staters are carefully selected through an interview process of candidates from local schools. Two young ladies were selected this year from Herricks High School. They are Reena Gupta and Hannah Rams. They are both in the top 3rd of their class and are thrilled to have been chosen.

Good luck ladies. We are sure you will love and profit from the program.

**Don't Forget, You Can Always Read  
the Sound Off Online in Full Color at  
[willistonpost144.org](http://willistonpost144.org)**

**SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT COVID,  
MEMBERSHIP, LOOKING OUT FOR EACH  
OTHER AND NOT GIVING UP**

*from an article by Department Commander Frank LaMarsh  
published in Legion New York (Winter-Spring 2022)*



“Although we are not meeting face to face as an organization, we still have much to do. Our membership team has been working extremely hard to get our numbers where they need to be, but there is only so much they can do. Much to my dismay, we have failed to reach even a single target date and we are next to last in the Northeast. It is on each of us to work together to reach our goals. Although many of our posts are closed or restricted, there are many things we can do to attract new members and retain / re-sign the ones whose membership has lapsed.

One of the easiest and most beneficial is the “Buddy Check.” A simple phone call asking, how are you doing, and can we be of assistance, goes a long way. Get out into the community and help; run a food drive or if possible, look into allowing a portion of the post to be used for COVID-19 shots or boosters. We need to let our communities know our organization is alive and well and here to help.

Let the veterans in your area know that without the strong voice of the American Legion, the benefits we receive now, or they will need in the future, would be in jeopardy.

We have a clear choice. We can sit idly by and watch this incredible organization fade away or we can build on the legacy started in 1919. We may have to change the way we do business. Just remember who we are, what we do and who we do it for. Let us not throw our hands in the air and say we cannot beat this virus. America's military has never given up and neither should we.”

**NASSAU COUNTY POSTS GATHER FOR FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY**



*Thanks to Nassau County Chaplain Eric Spinner (l) and Nassau County Commander Pasquale Alesia for the Four Chaplains Program. Chaplain Spinner, who is also Post 144 chaplain, presented a flawless program. Thanks also to Rosanne Spinner, also a Auxiliary Unit 144 member, for closing the afternoon with her heartfelt rendition of "God Bless America."*

*Once again the Legion posts of Nassau County gathered to honor the four chaplains, Reformed Chaplain Clark Poling, Methodist Chaplain George Fox, Jewish Chaplain Alexander Goode, and Catholic Chaplain John Washington. These men selflessly gave their lives so that others might live. Above the chaplains symbolically transfer their life vests in order to save others just as was done after the SS Dorchester transport was struck by a torpedo.*



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