

M.O.P.H. NEWSLETTER



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Good Morning Fellow Purple Heart Comrades,

How are you this lovely day? First and foremost I would like to preface this newsletter with the hope that all of you faired o.k. with hurricane Irene. I have heard some had loss of power for several days and flooding—I certainly hope you are all well.

Well here it is August already—we have survived a very wet summer, an earthquake and a hurricane—so look out here comes a Newsletter!

As I have in the past, I will start with a review of all we’ve done since the last letter, so that all you *couch potatoes* can see what “we few-we active few” have accomplished.

I would like to start off with our Induction of Officers—your Chapter 700 representatives are as follows:

- Commander—Terry Calandra
- Senior Vice Commander—Ron Adams
- Jr. Vice Commander—Richard Zuschlag
- Finance Officer—Jay Hunter
- Assistant Finance Officer—Jacki Ceaser

NOW HERE IS WHAT YOU MISSED!

April—2011

In early April we attended Volunteer Appreciation Lunch/Dinners at The Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital in Glen Gardner, The Hunterdon Care Center in Flemington and at the Care Center of Brakley Park in Phillipsburg.

Followed by attending the Annual George Washington Dinner in Woodbridge. A few of us also attended a Navy Band concert at the Phillipsburg High School.

In addition in April we had our yearly induction of officers—please see notation above as to who your Chapter 700 representatives are.

May

In late May members provided a program for the Veterans and other residents at Forest Manor in Hope, NJ and Memorial Day Programs at the North Warren High School in Blairstown, the Del-Val High School in Frenchtown and the Voorhees High School in Califon.

Patriot Hunter was the key-note speaker at the Memorial Day celebration at High Bridge, then for the Parade at Phillipsburg, we had 10 members marching, plus 5 of our chapter participants.

Wreaths were placed on the Purple Heart Memorial Stones at Belvidere, Flemington and Phillipsburg and flowers were placed on the graves of 20 of our departed members.

June & July

In June we participated with the ladies of the Daughters of the American Revolution (i.e. DAR) in their formal flag disposal program on Flag Day at Whitehouse Station. The ladies provided a very nice program. Actually “we” do little more than just attend.

On the 4th of July we were in the Lebanon parade, since the 4th fell on a Monday, thus producing a 3 day week end, membership participation was “thin” but with 5 chapter participants and ATV, and our trailer, we provided a respectful showing.

Following Lebanon parade in the morning several of us participated in the Washington parade that afternoon.

August

Our BIG yearly event was The Warren County 4H/Agricultural Fair, July 31 through Aug. 6th. We had seven full days, from noon to 10 pm. Seven members, Ron Adams, Richard Betts, Terry Calandra, Jacki Ceaser, and Joe Diaz, Jay Hunter and Adam Macklow and some of our loyal participants spent hours in the booth.

Special attention must be acknowledged for two – Ron who attended, usually opening the booth and closing it in the evening, but a special thanks to Ron’s daughter Rhonda who spent 11 to 12 hours each day, helping her father opening and closing and on several occasions opened the booth herself.

Despite the weather, we had 2 rain days; I feel we did very well – possibly 2 new members and a very respectful dollar collection. I feel the fair is a gold mine, despite our weak economy.

The fair usually has an outstanding attraction, for the last few years it was an Elvis Presley tribute artist, Ryan Pelton. Ryan is a huge Veteran advocate donating his personal out of pocket money to build a house for a homeless veteran. We missed Ryan this year – I heard he performed at the Gilbert’s Fair in Lehigh PA – hopefully he will come back to Warren County in the near future. Our main attraction was a visit of 2 former Big League Baseball Players, Steve Braun and Ralph Citarella. Steve had a professional career as a ball player of 15 years and as a coach of 10 years. He played 5 years (1972 to 1976) with the Minnesota Twins, 2 years with the Seattle Mariners, one year each with Kansas City royals and the Toronto Blue jays, then 5 years with the St. Louis Cardinals. He hit .302 in 1975, and had a major league batting average of .271. He was ranked 10th on the all time pinch hitter list.

Ralph Citarella was a pitcher, played with the St. Louis Cardinals 1983 & 84 with an earned run average of 1.63, then with the Chicago White Socks, 1985-1987 with a ERA of 3.67. Both of these fellows spent an entire evening with us, signed many autographs, met with and posed for a number of pictures. Two fine individuals, made our booth real popular for few hours that evening.

August continued

We had other celebrities stop by, not quite as outstanding as the previous noted ones. The fair Queen and Princess visited as well as Rodeo Barbie. I personally enjoyed an evening dinner with Barbie again this year.

Last year we participated in the “Victorian Days” event in Belvidere. This annual event is scheduled for September 10th and 11th this year, and I assume we will again participate, and in the October Fest at Mountain Lake in October.

So What's Next

There will be Veteran Day Programs at South Hunterdon and Belvidere High Schools plus community events throughout our area that we attended last year. We have scheduled a fund drive at the Phillipsburg Mall on Saturday December 17th, then our annual Christmas visits to the “Homes” in Hunterdon and Warren. There are 22 Homes. Last year we visited 274 Vets. I believe our gift has been selected, so the early stages of the Holiday Season have begun.

The for-going represents the “plus” side of our events, but unfortunately we did lose 4 members during the last few months - William Hickey, George Wyker, William Schwede and Paul Stillman. These heroes will be missed, may they now Rest in Peace.

I'm sure everyone has read of the forthcoming closing of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital in Glen Gardner. Hagedorn is one of the 12 homes in Hunterdon that we visit at Christmas. I personally have visited Hagedorn for 18 years at Christmas, and occasionally for special events. The Veteran population has varied each year from 16 to 30, with 2 Lady Veterans. I will miss several personal friends.

The loss of the 4 members noted, reduces our membership to 68 with 10 members living out of NJ (Florida, Montana, Georgia) we have only 58 New Jersey residents. With regards to participation to any event, 12 is the absolute number we can expect – where is everybody?

Other than our Sr. vice Commander, there are 10 members with a Phillipsburg address. Each one was advised of the Warren County Fair and asked to visit our boot to get acquainted, I did expect on or two of those strangers to stop by, But 100% “No Shows”

Where is everybody?

Big changes are being discussed and are probably in store for us relative to our trailer, that unit currently enables us to store all our equipment – flags, banners, stones etc in one place and be able to relocate setup and eventually clean up at event sites

So what is new/forthcoming?

Our Senior Vice is actively pursuing an alternate way of establishing a fund drive ‘collection’ arrangement while still retaining the above noted storage and move-ability features.

That's all for now. Do come, attend a meeting—see meeting schedule on front, express your ideas and offer suggestions.

Hope to see you! Richard Betts

Microsoft Chapter 700

Terry Calandra

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IMPORTANT MEETING NEWS AND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Upcoming events –
September 10& 11th—Victorian
Days

Dec 17th—Fund Drive

Christmas Gift Deliveries

Christmas Annual Dinner

Meetings held at the VFW Post 5119 in Glen Gardner
7:00 pm, the first Thursday of the month, with the ex-
ception of September

September 8, 2011

October 6, 2011

November 3, 2011

December 1, 2011—Christmas Dinner

January 5, 2012

February 2, 2012—no meeting

March 1, 2012—no meeting

April 5, 2012

May 3, 2012

June 7, 2012

July 5, 2012