



LAKE ONTARIO POST 313
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

January 31, 2015

Dear Veterans and Friends,

We had a good turn-out for our January meeting and discussed changes to the VA Health benefits, including the new Veterans Choice Card. The Choice Card allows veterans to elect to receive care outside of VA when they qualify for the program based on their residence being more than 40 miles from the closest VA health care facility or when wait times for VA health care exceed 30 days. If you did not receive a card or want to check on your eligibility, call 1-866-606-8198 or go to www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

We also discussed what we could do to help repair the damage to the Veterans Memorial. The Village of Youngstown is collecting funds to assist in fixing the \$6,670 worth of damages to the memorial and offering a \$500 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the persons involved. All four schools in the Lewiston-Porter School District are selling red, white, and blue wristbands with all proceeds going to the memorial fund. John MacArthur wrote a nice article on behalf of the Post that appeared in the Niagara Gazette and Lewiston-Porter Sentinel.

The Post will be providing a \$500 scholarship again this year to a senior at Lewiston-Porter High School. All applicants must be a relative of a United States military veteran. Applications are available in the High School Guidance Office or online from our website.

We are also starting a Military Lecture Series that will be open to the public. The series will include veterans talking about their military service and briefings on military history. Ed Jackson will be our first speaker discussing the Civil War 1st Artillery Regiment (Light) Battery M which was organized in Lockport. Most of the men came from the northern part of the county (Porter, Wilson, and Newfane areas). Stay tuned for the date and time.

We reviewed our 2014 expenses showing \$14,511 in deposits and \$14,329 in expenditures. Sixty percent of our expenditures are for Post operations to include insurance, gas, electric, water, mowing, cleaning, supplies, and VFW fees. We also provided a \$500 scholarship to a Lew-Port senior, and made donations to the Sampson Veterans Memorial, Youngstown Summer Concert Series, Youngstown Lions Club Golf Tournament, and the Lew-Port History Club (veterans dinner). Last year we hosted four dinners for veterans and friends, held Memorial and Veteran Day ceremonies, and supported the WNY Heroes Christmas toy drive. Our income included over \$1,400 in poppy donations, \$800 from renting the hall, \$1,295 from members and friends during our annual fund drive, and \$3,250 in donations from local corporations and the Town of Porter. Thank you to Greater Niagara Mechanical, Inc. for their \$500 donation in December.

We currently have 85 members attached to our Post (down from 100 last year), including 9 members with unpaid dues. You can pay dues directly to the VFW by mail or online, or through the Post. Also, consider becoming a Life Member.

The Post will host its annual St Patrick's Day Dinner on Monday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. The corn beef and cabbage dinner will cost \$15 per person. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to Gary Zanardi at 628-0440 by March 6.

The Village of Youngstown will be hosting a St Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14, at 11:30 am. The parade will proceed down Main Street, from Himan Street to Lockport Street. For members interested in marching in the parade, we will meet at the Post at 10:30 that morning.

This will be followed by the Youngstown Lions Club "Cash Bash" taking place from 3 to 6 pm, at the Youngstown Red Brick School Village Center gym. Tickets are on sale for a donation of \$20. The drawing will see eight cash prizes offered: two \$500 awards and six \$300 prizes to a lucky winner over the course of the afternoon (the winner need not be present to win.) All proceeds from the "Cash Bash" will benefit the Youngstown Lions Neil Riordan Scholarship Fund and the Lions Screening Eyes Only (SEE) program.

Upcoming Events:

- February 9 (Monday), 7:00 pm: Regular Post meeting.
- March 9 (Monday), 7:00 pm: Saint Patrick's Day Dinner, cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m. RSVP to Gary Zanardi at 628-0440 by March 6.
- March 14 (Saturday), 11:30 am: Youngstown Saint Patrick's Day Parade, meet at the Post at 10:30 am.
- March 14 (Saturday), 3:00-6:00 pm: Youngstown Lions Club Cash Bash, Red Brick School Gym
- April 13 (Monday), 7:00 pm: Regular Post meeting, nominations for Post officers.

Lance Dickinson
Adjutant