



SOUNDOFF

January-February 2023

*George P. Vanderveer
Post 129 American Legion
(Established 1919)
2025 Church Road
Toms River, NJ 08753*

George P. Vanderveer Post 129 American Legion

COMMANDERS MESSAGE

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Hanukkah and a very Happy New Year. The winter is upon us, and we all need to be careful and make sure we are ready for the long cold weather to come.

We have had a very successful 2022 and are hoping to move into the new year with the same momentum. There will be new projects coming in the following months, we will be renovating the Hall, making repairs to the heating and air conditioning systems and electrical work in the Canteen.

I would like to thank everyone who works so hard to make our Post a success every day. I would like to give a special thanks to Vice Commander Phil Jones who works seven days a week to take care of our Posts paperwork. Dale Harpe, John Holterman, Frank DelNerro, Ken Benner, Eric Inauin, Bob Jorge, and Ed Rutzler who all work every day to get our Post ready for daily business. It takes us all to make our Post what it is.

Let us all try to be kind and helpful this coming year and treat each other like the brothers and sisters we truly are. In closing, I would like to say God Bless America, God Bless the American Legion and God Bless our Post.

For God and Country
Pete Chafatelli Commander

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

As we start another year, I hope everyone had a joyous and blessed holiday season and that this new year will be a safe and healthy new year for all.

As of December 14, 2022 we have 1167 paid members at 70.64%. We have 485 more to go to hit our goal of 1652. Please send in your dues. There are a few ways to do this. If you go to legion.org you can pay your dues on line and receive your membership card within a few days, or mail to the post.

I wanted to thank all the members that have sent in their 2023 dues so far. Your support helps keep us a strong voice on capitol hill to address veteran's issues and to keep the VA doing the right things for our veterans. Just a reminder, our membership year starts on July 1st. All members should have their dues paid by February 1st.

ARTICLE X, SECTION 7 OF OUR BYLAWS STATES

A member whose dues for the current year have not been paid on or before January 1st, shall be classed as delinquent. If his or her dues are paid on or before February 1st, they will be automatically reinstated. If any member is still delinquent after February 1st, membership shall be suspended from all privileges. If a member is still under such suspension on June 30th of such year, their membership in the American Legion shall be forfeited. A member so suspended or whose membership has been so forfeited may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the post and payment of current dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs. Provided, however, that the National Department may wave the provisions hereof, upon payment of dues for the year in which reinstatement occurs, with
(continued page 2)



MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

(continued from page1)

payment of dues by reason of active military service.

So please send in your dues to support this great organization. Remember we are "veterans strengthening America." We cannot do this alone. We need your help to support all the great programs that the American legion runs to support our veterans, their families, and the community in which we live,

By keeping our membership numbers up we will continue to have a strong voice in Washington and on capitol hill to address the needs of our veterans. As you know, membership is the life blood of this great organization. As we enter another year of service to our communities, state & nation, let us keep our legacy moving forward. This year National is pushing **(be the one)** focusing on breaking the chain on veterans' suicide. If we all try one of these three things, we can make that difference.

To ask veterans in your life how they are doing

To listen when a veteran needs to talk

To reach out when a veteran is struggling

It just takes one to help save a veteran's life, you can be that one. To learn more go to:

betheone.org

This year please remember buddy check and reach out to our members that we haven't seen in a while and give them a call to see if they're okay or if they might need anything or just to offer words of encouragement. During these trying times, this ties in with **(be the one)** this is what we do, veterans taking care of veterans. Please stay safe and be well.

For God and country
Rich Godfrey
Department of New Jersey
Membership Chairman

SERVICE OFFICER

I would like to take a moment to say Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters of our Post 129.

In these times of need all around us please remember to reach out to a Post friend you have not seen in a while **(Be the One)**. Call and say hello, make sure everything is all right in their life. Ask, are they sick, hungry, or worrying about bills. After you reach out if you feel that someone or even you might need some assistance, please notify me that I should reach out.

You can leave a message at the Post for me. Send me an email at cbrigno@gmail.com or even call my cell at 973-714-0674. Any of our legion family in need of assistance should know the Legion has their back. We still have our food box to the right of the front door to help our brothers and sisters in need. Again, I want to wish all a Healthy and Happy New Year!

Carl Brignola
Service Officer
Vice Commander



FINANCE OFFICER



Happy and Healthy
New Year to All.

A brand-new year is a time for reinvention for many. You have heard the term "New Year, New Me." And 2023 is not any different. However, before we all go and try to reinvent ourselves let us look at who we are and why we are here.
I Am A Veteran.

Back in 2002, Andrea Brett of

the Brett Family created this poem to honor our military veterans. After each show, Andrea would visit with veterans and listen to their stories and could feel the love they have for their country and the pride they have in their service. She was always surprised by how so many average people had such amazing and often heroic stories to tell. The words in the poem are symbolic of the experiences that you and all veterans have to talk about.

So, if you are looking for a "New Me," do not forget to thank the old you for who you were and who you are today. You are a Veteran.

The Financials

American Legion Post 129 has had a good year financially. The Canteen, Gaming, and Bingo were on track and helped make the budget committee look like fortune tellers.

Because of the strong year we have had, the exec team has initiated a program to pay down the mortgage on the building at an accelerated pace. As long as we can sustain the pay-down we will shave years off of the payback and thousands of dollars off the interest.

Our strategic plan has kicked in. Plans to remodel the Hall are in the works. New sheds have been installed, and new bar stools are being ordered for the canteen. The parking lot has been re-sealed and painted and the new digital sign has been installed.

Finally, I would like to recognize, (without naming names because you know who you are) all of you who have put so much time and effort into making Post 129 the Post that it is today. Your pride in your service and self and love for your country and post shows brightly.

Respectfully submitted by:
Ralph Wolff, Finance Officer

I AM A VETERAN

You may not know me the first time we meet
I'm just another you see on the street
But I am the reason you walk and breathe free
I am the reason for your liberty
I AM A VETERAN

I work in the local factory all day
I own the restaurant just down the way
I sell you insurance, I start your IV
I've got the best-looking grandkids you'll ever see
I AM A VETERAN

I'm your grocer, your banker
Your child's schoolteacher
I'm your plumber, your barber
Your family's preacher
But there's part of me you don't know very well
Just listen a moment, I've a story to tell
I AM A VETERAN

I joined the service while still in my teens
I traded my prom dress for camouflage greens
I'm the first in my family to do something like this
I followed my father, like he followed his
I AM A VETERAN

Defying my fears and hiding my doubt
I married my sweetheart before I shipped out
I missed Christmas, then Easter
The birth of my son
But I knew I was doing what had to be done

I served on the battlefield, I served on the base
I bound up the wounded
And begged for God's grace
I gave orders to fire, I followed commands
I marched into conflict in far distant land

In the jungle, the desert, on mountains and shores
In bunkers, in tents, on dank earthen floors
While I fought on the ground, in the air, on the sea
My family and friends were home praying for me

For the land of the free and the home of the brave
I faced my demons in foxholes and caves
Then one dreaded day, without drummer or fife
I lost an arm, my buddy lost his life

I came home and moved on
But forever was changed
The perils of war in my memory remained
I don't really say much, I don't feel like I can
But I left home a child, and came home a man

There are thousands like me
Thousands more who are gone
But their legacy lives as time marches on
White crosses in rows
And names carved in queue
Remind us of what these brave souls had to do

I'm part of a fellowship, a strong mighty band
Of each man and each woman
Who has served this great land
And when Old Glory waves
I stand proud, I stand tall
I helped keep her flying over you, overall
I AM A VETERAN

AUXILIARY MESSAGE

As of this writing we will have had a wonderful holiday season with our families and friends. I hope that you all have a happy and healthy new year as well.

We are getting into the time of year where we are going to be doing some new and exciting fund raisers. Our Second Vice, Shea has a project in the works, and she will be looking forward to letting you know.

Our Psychic Fair is coming up in February and we are looking forward to seeing you come out and support our auxiliary. Who knows what your future will tell.

If you have not paid your dues, please get them in. They are \$35.00 as of this writing. If you have any questions, please contact our Membership Chairman Carol Rutzler.

As we go into this new year let's, please check up on each other and offer support and a shoulder or an ear to our sisters and brothers. As a line in our obligation says, "let us ever be watchful." Let us help each other and offer a hand. Encourage a friend or an auxiliary member to come to a meeting, offer them a ride if they do not have one. Remember there is no 'I' in team.

Let us make this new year a big success!

For God & country
Pam Bowen
Unit president

On December 11, 2022, at 1:00pm at Post 129 the winning American Legion Auxiliary 50/50 raffle ticket for \$5000 was drawn by Mr. Marty Vavra.

The winners are the following: Lisa A. Mayer, Bernice Cloos, Patricia Corbin, and Donna Schwartz.

Congratulations to all.
Jane Keely

Thank you to all who are supporting the 2023 Appeal of the Children and Youth Fund at Post 129. None of your donation go to salaries, marketing expense or expense accounts. All of your donations goes toward the children and youth in our community.

With your help, the Post 129 Children & Youth Fund has been able to fund most of our youth organizations in our community which include Boys State, Girls State, our champion Legion Baseball team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, the elementary school coloring contest, the Gold Star family's Christmas party, the high school oratorical contest, Harbor House, the people's food pantry, Easter Seals (handicap young adults), and the Toms River High School North R.O.T.C. program. We also support our National American Legion Charity, "The Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA)."

Thank you,
Eric Inauen, Chairman, Children & Youth Fund

DIAMOND CLUB MEMBER

(\$500 or more)

Pete Chafatelli
Eric & Linda Inauen
Carl Kling
Joe Navarra
Thomas J. Schnackenberg
George Strasle

PLATINUM CLUB MEMBER

(\$250 to \$499)

Joseph M. Berardo
Francis G. Canning
David & Patricia Corbin
Dennis Cusack
Jersey Coast Appliance
Randy J. Saltzman
Ralph E. Wolff

GOLD CLUB MEMBER

(\$100 to \$249)

Chris Armstrong
Armstrong Electric LLC
Mark Attias
Debra S. Basquez
Linda Barbalinardo
Anthony Bartolomeo
Louis Brooker Jr.
Robert Carr
John Castellano
Richard Davis
Kenneth Ernst
Peter Giraldo
Glenn & Linda Grimley
Henry J. Halm
Alfred Harbord
William Ippolito
Robert C. Keating
Dorothy Kendall

Stephen Klusas
Gary Laudisi
Pat & Lynn Laudisi
John McGovern
Laurinda & Raymond Miller
Henry Mitschele
Michael & Mary Nagel
Anthony Nascimento
Ken & Tina Newman
Daniel Nolan
Anthony J. Petrocelli
George Preiser
William G. Prince
Edward Sain
Brett W. Sabio, CPA-PFS
William Salmon
Larry Smith
Wayne Snow
Albert J. Stahl
Thomas Tiedemann
Tin Can Sailors of NJ
Gerd Trommer
Thomas Warren
Nicholas Zubkow

SILVER CLUB MEMBER

(\$50 to \$99)

Dolores Adams
Kenneth Adams
John Byrne
Joseph T. Cascamo
Richard Corkery
Adrian T. Corrigan
Gary A. Crane
Vito M. Cutone
Ann Dacunto
Daniel Declet
John Dorrity
John Dowling
Uwe Gymnich
Alexander Haak
Conrad L. Hagemann
James & Sue Harvey
Judith Holmes
Al Karpinski

Michael & Linda Kilmurray
James Loper
Robert Mauro
Gail S. Marciniak
Michell Merker
Andrew Milligan, Jr.
Hervey Mobus
Lloyd Mullikin
Vincent Noto
Albert R. Novick
Joseph Pannachio
Bill Peterson
Vello Prima
Frank & Marie Pucher
James Racz
Clifford Robbins
Lori Vasquez
Martin Vavra
Michael Warren
John Weimmer
John J. Wilson

BRONZE CLUB MEMBER

(\$25 to \$49)

Veronica Babeu
Ted Bessler
Geraldine L. Binder
James Brooks
Richard Burke
Stanley Checkowski
Eugene Clause
Richard Cohan
Joseph E. Coughlin
George Dabinett
George Decker
Emilio De Rissio
James DeStaso Jr.
Robert DeVita
Alberto Dianda
Jack Doonan
Donald Donatiello
Joseph Donato
Julia Dowd
Sandy Fabio

Barbara Farley
Tom Field
Andrew C. Flora
Thomas Gallagher
Karen Germaine
Joseph Gonnello
Frank Good
Patricia A. Gorka
Arthur M. Grembowicz
Michael J. Guerrieri
Ken & Wanda Hart
Peter C. Hibbard
George R. Heppler
Joseph Hreben
Lenny Inzerillo
Robert Jacobs
Walter E. Jansson
Gary W. Johnson
Albert Kobular
Donald Krebs
Timothy Krohn
John Lawson
Donald P. Listing
Thomas Lucia
Paul Lukeman
Ralph Maratea
Joseph Mastromonaco
Thomas Meehan
Glenn P. Morehouse
Gerry & Eileen Mulligan
Robert Ohle
William Opp
James A. Pecora
Thomas E. Porpora
Louis Pratola
Robert F. Riehl
Nicholas Rinaldi
Vincent E. Rizzi
Girolamo J. Roselli
Joe Salman
Phillip F. Simon
Edward Smith
Gavin Stobie Jr.
Louis Vitolo
Ronald P. Voicheck

DONORS

Kenneth Amemdola
Renee Berube
Maryanne Cameron
William Davison
William R. Hambor
Bartley Hill
Steven Mack
John Montebianco
Leo J. Poznanski
Louise Robbins

CHAPLAINS REPORT

Michael Schaffer

The months of October, November and December have been outstanding for the Food Warriors. We have raised over \$11,000 and we have delivered over 23,000 lbs. of food.

I had two ride-a-longs to visit the program, PDC Ray Miller and Post 348 Adjutant Kerri Long. They both helped unload the truck at the warehouse, and then to the pantry to see the operation. In addition, Kerri accompanied me to the commissary where we picked up a \$3,100.00 order with a \$300.00 discount.

With the help of my fellow food warrior Mr. Ralph Wolff, the Post 129 finance officer, we delivered 2,100 lbs. of food from the FUL-FILL Food Bank.

On November 17, 2022, there was a distribution to 150 active-duty families of everything needed to prepare a complete Thanksgiving dinner, from the turkey, to stuffing, mashed and sweet potatoes, string bean casserole, and pumpkin pie fixins. There were many tears of joy and prayers. A most amazing day!

During the holidays, the donations are always wonderful, and I could not be more thankful, but the need remains the same and the donations slow down after the first of the year. Please keep in your heart and mind these warrior families and if you would like to donate or organize a food drive, please contact me.

In November I met with the new Salvation Army Major, Jeffery Basset, he has blessed us by coming on board as the keynote speaker for the 4 Chaplains Ceremony on Feb 5th at the Chapel of the Air at 2:00 p.m.

I attended a veteran homeless seminar in Atlantic City hosted by the DMAVA N.J. This is where I met the national policy manager

and discussed food insecurity on the base now called the JOINT BASE – MDL FOOD CRISIS. Food insecurity in the active-duty military is now being considered a matter of National Security by American Legion National Headquarters.

November 5th I was blessed to do the invocation and benediction for the National President of the Auxiliary at the New Jersey Vietnam Memorial and Museum.

Thursday, November 10th I did a live interview about food insecurity and attended the Ocean County College Veterans Day event. On the 11th I attended the Veteran's Day events at the Post and the parade.

On November 13th I was invited to attend the Veteran's Day luncheon at Post 348, they started a food drive and made cash donations. To date over 2,000 lbs. of food.

On Monday, November 14th with the help of Commander Barry of Post 504, the Christa McAuliffe middle school in Jackson held a food drive and collected 1365 lbs. of food. Kids helping kids. Outstand Commander Barry, thank you!

On Wednesday, November 16th I was invited to participate in a veterans townhall held by Congressman Kim.

Saturday, December 3rd attended the DEC meeting in Trenton at the War Memorial.

On December 17th I will be offering the opening prayer for Wreaths Across America at the Riverview Cemetery.

I was also involved with Mr. Greg Wareham, Your Mortgage Guy, with the production of a 1-hour Podcast about military food insecurity, along with Charline Neigel of Keller Williams Realty, who sponsored the program.

For God and Country

CANTEEN NEWS

Eric Inauen

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our POST 129 MEMBERS

We had another great turnout for the Army-Navy Game on Saturday, December 10th. Army winning in double overtime was unbelievable. Both teams played their hearts out. They are our Military and they performed above and beyond. They made everyone at Post 129 extremely proud.

Our bartenders, who worked double shifts that day, were Lori, Danielle, and Shea. Like always, they make it look easy, even when serving Post 129's specialty drinks like Candy Cane Martini's and Mistletoe Margaritas. Add our other Bartenders, Robin, Rocky, Carol Ann, Donna, Joe, Rob and Jessica and you can understand why we have the best Canteen in

the State.

You can check them out in the picture taken with Santa by our POW Christmas Tree in the Hall. A special thank you to our Bar Manager, Bob Joerg, for playing Santa for the Gold Star Families Christmas Party and the Auxiliary Children's Christmas Party.

UPCOMING EVENTS: The SAL will be hosting its Annual Comedy Show on Saturday, February 11th. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. They will go on sale January 1, 2023, in the Canteen or you can contact Rocky Lucia at 917-417-4818. Doors open at 6PM and the show starts at 7PM. There will be a cash bar and \$2.00 Miller Lite and Coors Lite pint draft beer. There will also be snacks at all the tables and a 50/50 raffle. Comedy is provided by "Ginger Ninga Productions." Ryan's Catering will be offering a

regular menu in the Canteen, for those who would like to dine before the show.

This year **SUPERBOWL SUNDAY** will be on February 12th. We will be offering discounted food specials. ALL DRAFT PINT BEER (foreign and domestic) will be \$2.00. There will be free giveaway at the end of each quarter.

As always, The Canteen opens at 11AM everyday of the week. Closing time is 10PM, Sunday through Thursday and Midnight on Friday and Saturday. Ryan's Catering offers lunch and dinner Tuesday through Sunday from Noon to 7PM. On Friday and Saturday, the kitchen closes at 8PM. Lunch is offered on Monday from 11AM to 5PM. Ryan's Catering's Saturday Night Specials offer 2 salads, 2 entrees (you can mix and match) and 1 shared dessert for \$25. Try to beat that at a restaurant.

MOST OF THE GREAT BARTENDERS OF POST 129 CANTEEN



Our Canteen offers 9 beers on tap: Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Bud, Bud Lite, Michelob Ultra, Stella, Pabst, Yuengling and Shock Top. In bottles, we also offer Corona & Corona Lite, Heineken & Heineken Lite, Coors Lite, Miller Lite, Bud, Bud Lite, Michelob Ultra and Guinness in cans. Our non-alcoholic beer is Coors Cutters Edge.

Remember, a Legionnaire in good standing can invite and sign in 9 guests, who do not have to be veterans. Auxiliary and SAL Members may sign in 1 guest. We have live bands every Friday and Saturday Night starting at 7PM. So, stop by with your friends and enjoy the Food, the Music, the TVs, and most of all the FUN.

When you support Post 129, you support the greatest Post in the USA.

SAL MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone! 2022 has been a very interesting year. Great things like business coming back, flourishing, and getting back to some normalcy. With the good comes the sad things with sorrow and loss of members. We grieve and continue to pray daily, and we always make it through. Our squadron had a very good year, and we are looking to continue and build into 2023 by running our annual events and assisting the legion family (legion, auxiliary and riders) as best we can. That is what we do!

We had a busy December. We hosted our 12th annual POW/MIA Tree Lighting Ceremony which, again, was well attended and well received. We also hosted our annual Army/Navy game party in the Canteen which is always a blast! We had a bunch of giveaway raf-

fles and 50/50 and the bar was full all day. I would like to thank everyone that participated in the POW/MIA ceremony. This is always a true legion family effort. A special shout out goes to the auxiliary for always going above and beyond for this event by decorating the beautiful tree, being part of the program and assisting at the front door checking people in. We are grateful for your assistance. Also, thank you to everyone that helped with the Army/Navy game party. Especially members from my executive board and members that helped from morning until evening. You are the best. Thank you to the "dynamic trio" of bartenders that worked the Army/Navy game and keeping everybody in the Canteen happy. You are truly the best. Finally, a HUGE thank you to Bob Joerg, 1st Vice Commander of SAL, Past Commander of SAL, and current Bar Manager for getting us so many goodies for the gift raffle. This annual event would not be as successful without your contribution.

Looking forward, our next event will be our annual comedy show on Saturday, February 11th. Doors open at 6pm and the show starts promptly at 7pm. The tick-




ets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. This show sells our every year so make sure you get your tickets in advance. The flyer will be circulated soon, and you can contact me for any questions for further information.

MEMBERSHIP! Your 2022 membership cards will expire on January 31st. If you have not already, please renew so your post privileges do not get revoked. We are doing well so far with renewals but have a long way to go to reach and exceed last year's total membership. If you know someone eligible to sign up, please send them our way. You can renew by either coming to the post and leaving your dues with the bartender, mail in your dues or, most conveniently, going online to www.salpost129.com to renew. Membership is our lifeblood and is everyone's responsibility. Let us keep us the largest squadron in New Jersey.

As always, thank you so much for your support and we wish you nothing but the best in 2023.

For God & Country,
Rocky Lucia
Commander, Squadron 129



◀ December		January 2023					February ▶
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
						1 NEW YEARS DAY 	
2 NEW YEARS DAY (OBSERVED) 	3 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	4	5	6	7	8	
9 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	10	11 SAL MEETING 7 P.M.	12	13	14	15	
16 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY 	17 BOARD TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	18	19	20	21	22	
23 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						

JANUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, January 6TH **DJ LOUIE**
 Saturday, January 7TH **LENNY DAVIS BAND**

Friday, January 13TH **WILD ROSE**
 Saturday, January 14TH **DECOY**

Friday, January 20TH **JUKEBOX GOLD**
 Saturday, January 21ST **SOUND MATTERS (NEW)**

Friday, January 27TH **BROTHER PETE (NEW)**

Saturday, January 28TH **STEVE & DEBBIE**

BE SURE TO CHECK FOR LAST MINUTE CHANGES
 AND/OR CANCELLATIONS.
 UPDATED LISTS ARE POSTED ON THE BULLETTEN
 BOARD IN THE CANTEEN

Entertainment is scheduled from 7 to 10 p.m.
 Time, Venue, and band subject to change.

January		February 2023					March
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
		1 NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY	2 GROUND- HOG DAY	3 FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY	4	5 Four Chaplains Ceremony Chapel of the Air 2 p.m.	
6 GENERAL MEETING 7 P.M.	7	8 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA FOUNDED (1910)	9	10	11 SAL COMEDY SHOW	12 SUPER BOWL SUNDAY	
13 AUXILIARY MEETING 7 P.M.	14 ST. VALENTINES DAY	15 SAL MEETING 7 P.M.	16	17	18	19	
20 PRESIDENTS' DAY 	21 BOARD TRUSTEE MEETING 7 P.M.	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY 	23	24	25	26	
27 RIDERS MEETING 7 P.M.	28						

FEBRUARY ENTERTAINMENT

Friday, February 3 rd	SURE CATS
Saturday, February 4 th	WILD ROSE
Friday, February 10 th	DJ 2 TONES
Saturday, February 11 th	WATERFRONT
Friday, February 17 th	DJ LOUIE
Saturday, February 18 th	STEVE & DEBBIE

Friday, February 24th

BROTHER PETE

Saturday, February 25th

JUKEBOX GOLD



Members of American Legion Post 129

Greetings! We hope this letter finds you well and getting back to as normal as possible in the aftermath of the Covid Crisis. The children in Toms River and our surrounding communities are now back in school with NO MASKS. Virtual Learning turned out to be disastrous, with so many children falling behind. So, it is great to see them back to school and getting caught up.

Your American Legion has been embracing the emphasis on "Legion Family." Currently, we are attempting to expand our Children & Youth Programs and facilities. This year, we had to tear down our decaying wooden playground in the Picnic Grove. This is where we can use your help.

Post 129's plan is to replace the playground, establish a portable play, and craft area, along with games for our children. These would be utilized during our many picnics and special events. Members would then be able to bring their Children and Grand Children, who would now have something to do. The cost for both would be about \$20,000.

Your donations will also continue to support our Children & Youth Programs and Organizations which include Boys State, Girls State, our Legion Baseball Team, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, the Elementary School Coloring Contest, the Gold Star Family's Christmas Party, the People's Food Pantry, Children's Harbor House, Autistic Children and the Toms River High School R.O.T.C. Program. We also support our National American Legion Charity, "The Children's Organ Transplant Assn. (COTA)."

Your Post, also, supports the Auxiliary with their "Children's Backpack & School Supply Program." With the current inflation, it is getting harder and harder for parents to afford to give their children the school supplies they need to succeed.

As you can see, your Post has its work cut out for it. This year, Post 129's goal is to raise \$30,000. To our donors, who graciously gave to our Children & Youth Campaign last year, we would like to say, "THANK YOU." Post 129 is asking all our members to take up the mantel and continue to support us in our endeavor to improve the lives of our Children & Youth. None of your donation go to salaries, marketing expense or expense accounts. **ALL OF YOUR DONATION GOES TOWARD THE CHILDREN & YOUTH IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

Also, when you donate to the Children and Youth campaign, your name will be listed as such in our SOUNDOFF and on our Legion Website to acknowledge your support of the children.

No donation is too small. For your convenience, you can donate by check (payable to American Legion Post 129 Children & Youth), or with the use of your credit card or PayPal. If you donate by credit card, please print your credit number, the expiration date, your 3-digit code and the type of card. If everyone contributes, the Legion Family can significantly impact the Children and Youth Pillar for our Post and our community. Remember, Post 129 is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization, and your donation is 100% tax deductible.

Please DO NOT send cash through the mail.

POST 129 thanks you in advance for your continuing support of the American Legion and for your belief in building a better future for our children.

Pete Chafatelli
Post 129 Commander

Eric Inauen
Chairman, Children & Youth Fund

Name (Print) _____ Membership #Number _____
Address City/Town _____ Zip _____
Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Diamond Club Member \$500.00
☐ Platinum Club Member \$250.00
☐ Gold Club Member \$100.00

☐ Silver Club Member \$50.00
☐ Bronze Club Member \$25.00

☐ One Time Donation ☐ Monthly Donation
Amount _____

Ways to Donate:

Check _____ • Online at ALPOST129.org

Credit Card # _____ Code _____

Authorized Signature _____

I would like to make a gift in the amount of \$ _____

All donations are tax deductible.

RIDERS MESSAGE

Happy New Year to All the American Legion Family.

Hope everyone had a safe & healthy Holiday Season.

Toms River Halloween Parade was a fun time had by all the Legion Family. The Riders were able to attend with several motorcycles with costumes. It was a great night!

The Toms River Veterans Day Parade was also attended by several Riders joining in the parade, following all who were marching from Post 129. Then was closed with Ceremonies at Post 129.

The Riders have been busy preparing their motorcycles for the winter. Surely will be looking forward to warmer riding weather.

In the meantime, the Riders will be discussing and planning the events for 2023.

Our meetings are held on the Fourth Monday of the month. EBoard meetings are @ 6:00PM and General Membership meetings @ 7:00PM.

The Riders are looking towards another great year of helping Post 129 achieve their success for 2023.

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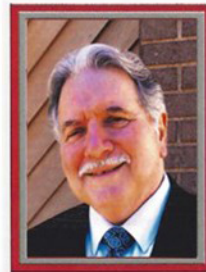
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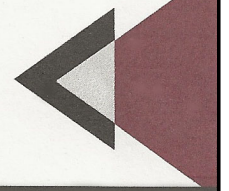
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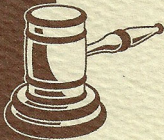
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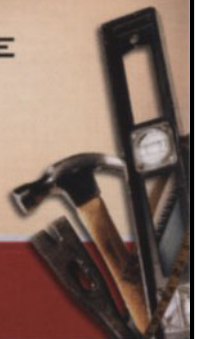
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