



**Or Current Resident**

«AddressBlock»

**Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members,**

The American Legion is an organization of Veterans for Veterans. To fulfill our commitments to the Legion, The Post, and its members, we rely on volunteers. The active volunteers of the Post take care of the building maintenance, the Post grounds, organize fundraising events, provide coverage during hall rentals, ensure the Post is open and ready for the weekly Wednesday Yoga session and member social and many more tasks. We are working with a handful of volunteers and can certainly use more help. In addition, we try to schedule events that will bring members to the Post and enjoy the great facility we have. Disappointedly, we see very few members attending these functions. Please consider joining us when we have a function. We need your support and it is very beneficial for members to meet other members and enjoy the comradery. A calendar of events is included in every newsletter. If you have a suggestion for an event, please let us know. We hope to have an auxiliary up and running soon. The auxiliary will be able to help organize activities for the post and hopefully encourage greater participation. Make a note that the American Legion Birthday is March 21 and take a moment to reflect on what the Legion is about. The National Commander Dinner will be held at Anton's in Queens April 11. This is a major event for The NY Dept of the American Legion. Gold Star Post will be represented at that event and members are encouraged to consider attending. There are several other issues that concern to Post and we encourage you to attend to attend our meetings and remain updated about these issues. We had a few successful fundraising events in February included a very nice Super Bowl gathering at the Post. As always, please thank our veterans when you see them or meet them and consider volunteering some time to help the Post grow and to help us serve our veterans and our community.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Post activities please contact any Post officer. The newly formed Auxiliary also needs additional members. For eligibility information send an email to [goldstarpost1365@gmail.com](mailto:goldstarpost1365@gmail.com) or call the Post at 718 983 7675.

Frank Saladis – Commander

**Gold Star Post #1365 Minutes of February 8, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 by Commander Frank Saladis. Salute to the flag. Opening prayer, POW/MIA Chair placed. The roll call of officers was taken and noted. A motion by Bob Motisi to accept the minutes of the January meeting as printed in the Post newsletter was seconded by Paul Cempa and passed. New member introduced- Jerry, Navy Vet, 66-68, Reserves till 1975, Newport RI-Machinery Mate. Due to the 4 Chaplains Brunch, Commander F. Saladis made a motion to expedite the meeting agenda for a hard stop at 11am.1st -Kelly, 2nd -Motisi. Motion passed. Finance /Treasurer report: Paul Dietrich submitted a full financial excel spread sheet report prior to the meeting. The report indicated that all outstanding bills have been paid and the Post is currently in good financial condition. The report is on file in Post records. It was mentioned that the Post depends on Hall rentals for much of its revenue. Revenue generation includes fundraising events and donations. Membership: Post Renewal of Membership is a 90.3%. Members are asked to renew before Dec.31 each year. House Chair: Mark Kelly reported that a of a portion of the hall floor near the bar area will cost \$300-\$350. A faulty plug and receptacle for the ice machine caused a fire hazard. The receptacle was replaced and a Ground Fault interrupter will be installed The Post is open every Wednesday at 12 noon for Yoga and after 1pm for member socializing. . A new Wi-Fi system is being installed at the Post, compliments of the VFW. Commander Saladis recommended a recognition event for Mark Kelly for his 11 years as Post Commander. Frank LaMarsh volunteered to chair a committee to plan that event. Frank Saladis, Bob Motisi and Vanessa Tavitian will be part of the committee. The National Commanders Dinner will at Antons April 11. Frank LaMarsh and Frank Peters are co-chairs. By-Laws- Frank Peters stated that the by-laws and charter language will be read at the next meeting. A copy of the bylaws was given to F. Saladis. Auxiliary: There are 21 members in the Auxiliary. Bank account to be set up and initial meeting will be scheduled. Bell Jar: License renewed and valid until Dec. 31 2025. Bell Jar funds may be only for Post Operations expenses. A replacement machine is being researched. Unfinished Business: Certificate of Election- Has been submitted. No response yet. New Business: Commander and Spouse approved to attend National Commander's Dinner. Motion -1<sup>st</sup>-F. LaMarsh. 2<sup>nd</sup>. M. Kelly. Motion passed by vote. Battery Storge Building – Major concern for the Post. A town hall meeting scheduled for March 27 with Assemblyman Pirozzolo. The recent survey indicates that some Post property and other equipment may be required to be moved to comply with property lines. This is an ongoing issue. Gene Guerra expressed serious concern about the building of the Battery Storage facility. Moment of silence held for the victims of the Blackhawk helicopter crash. Next Richmond County meeting – Feb.21 at Cespino-Russo. Legion Birthday March 21. 12pm at Cespino-Russo. April 5- Children and Youth Brunch-Staaten. Good of the Post: Paul Cempa announced that Jackets will be ordered See him for information. Feb. 7 Post fundraiser was a success. Feb. 9 Super Bowl Sunday- Post open at 3pm.Feb.15- Post Valentines Day fundraiser. Guitar raffle winner will be drawn on February 15. Meeting concluded with retiring of POW/MIA Flag and chair, payer by Post Chaplain. Salute to the Flag. Meeting ended at 11:06am.

Respectfully Submitted: Vanessa Tavitian for Frank LaMarsh, Adjutant

Gold Star Post Website - [www.goldstarpost1365.org](http://www.goldstarpost1365.org)

**American Legion Services for Veterans**  
<https://nylegion.net/programs-services/>

Veteran Benefits Specialist, NYC Department of Veteran Benefits Services: 1 Centre Street, Suite 2208 New York, NY 10007 646-799-2743 [jiliss@veterans.nyc.gov](mailto:jiliss@veterans.nyc.gov)  
<https://www.legion.org/suicideprevention/256277/risk-ny-veterans-get-major-boost-american-legion>

**Military Liaison Services** 251-73 Jericho Turnpike Bellerose, New York, 11426 516-821-5140 Our mission is to connect Veterans with our care coordination team who will help them access our healthcare services. Email: [militaryservices@northwell.edu](mailto:militaryservices@northwell.edu) Web: [Northwell.edu/veterans](http://Northwell.edu/veterans)

**Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)** – VA Life Insurance Center - 800-669-8477 8:30am-6:30pm EDT

**DD214 forms** Please ensure that you have a copy of your DD-214 on file at the Post.

**Membership 2025-** Membership cards are available and you can renew at a meeting or by mailing your dues to the post. We are currently at 90.6% with 277 renewed. 2024 Membership expired 31 December 2024. Renew as soon as possible to reinstate your benefits.  
The following members have not renewed as of this date, if you know one of them please remind them to renew as soon as possible: Akinniyi, Baronick, Bogan, Brown James, Camenares, Cardenas, Cisternino, Civiletti, Coakley, Coakley, Cobbs, Coughlin, Cristadoro, Draper, Grizzuti, Hannan, Koop, Londono, Mareta, Miranda, Moore, Moran, Pena, Picone Sr, Reilly, Rodriguez Frank, Santiago, Savino, Scaturro, Shafi, Sinclair, Valdez, Welsh, Wright.

We encourage you to recommend Legion membership to Veterans you know. Post 1365 would like to see our membership grow. We especially would like to see young veterans join us. Please help promote the Post as an ambassador for the American Legion.  
Visit [legion.org/renew](http://legion.org/renew) or [legion.org/join](http://legion.org/join) : <https://www.legion.org/membership/260621/american-legion-multiyear-membership-here>

**Sons of the American Legion** – For membership send an email to: [goldstarsal1365@gmail.com](mailto:goldstarsal1365@gmail.com).

**This Month’s Donations to support the Post** Donations: Grimes, Cempa, Motisi, Tague, Dietrich, Cassar, Stallone, Ventura, Muszel, Van Pelt, Buttermark, Saladis, Scott, B. Rodriguez

**Final Honors:** Fellow Legionnaire, David (Dave) Poplaski. Gold Star Post performed our traditional Ceremony at Cherubini McInerney Funeral Home on Feb 14. Please honor our members by attending the Post ceremony offered to the families of our members who have been called to Post Everlasting

**Sick Call** – Joe Modzelewski, Harold Bregman, Joseph Marrone,

Veteran Liaison at Borough Hall – [bbeale@strenslandusa.com](mailto:bbeale@strenslandusa.com) 718-816-2062

**Important item:** The Post Defibrillator, courtesy of the Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, is now active and registered for use

Veterans Benefits Information  
<https://department.va.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Federal-Benefits-for-Veterans-Dependents-and-Survivors.pdf>



- Important Military Dates in March**
  - **March 3: U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday.**
  - **March 15 – American Legion Birthday**
  - **March 13: K9 Veterans Day.**
  - **March 25: Medal of Honor Day.**
  - **March 29: Vietnam War Veterans Day.**

**Next Meeting: Saturday March 8 10am**, Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014 Passcode: 963247 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVlNeDgwM2FKTG11bJlQUkFydUNXQT09>

**Important Dates and Events: Veterans Yoga- 12 noon -1pm Every Wednesday**

The Post is open every Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm (or later depending on attendance).

March 2- St Patrick’s Parade – Forest Ave

March 8 – Dedication of the Firepit Eagle Scout Project -2pm

March 15 – American Legion Birthday

March 17 – St Patrick’s Day

March 21 – Richmond County Meeting – Cespino-Russo Post 10am

March 27 – Town Hall Meeting to Discuss the Battery Storage Project and its impact on the community 7pm. Hosted by Sam Pirozzolo

April 4 - 12 noon – Children and Youth Brunch at Staaten, \$65

April 11 – National Commanders Reception – Anton’s, Queens - \$100

May 10 – **Big Apple Honor Flight: Mission #5**

May 24 – Annual Post Memorial Day ceremony 11am (Set up May 23 9am)

July 4 – Annual Travis Parade

July 14 – Military Appreciation Day at Ferry Hawks Stadium

Online Legion Updates and Information

<https://www.legion.org/>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcqzQXKWpSBTMvkWKJtrcDgcTPKJnB>

**Boys State** - <https://boysstateny.org/>

Congratulations Paul Cempa – Great Grand Dad a third time – baby Girl!

**The Food Pantry Ft. Wadsworth needs help:**

I hope this finds you well. We have an URGENT need in the Craig Newmark New York Tri-State Chapter. As you know the [price of eggs](#) has skyrocketed and is anticipated to remain high for all of 2025. We are already at a point where the cost of eggs is breaking our budget and we need your help. Please consider a donation to keep pantry stocked with this essential item and please **share this with your friends, family and colleagues**. Thank you for your support! -Erica Newhouse, Executive Director, Craig Newmark NY Tri-State Chapter, delivered by CSX.