

# Ninth District Newsletter - Thunder In The East

American Legion - Department of Pennsylvania - District Nine - Frank W. Brown, Commander

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December 2019

Editor, Alan K. Smith Jr., 215-435-3118, [alpost308pa@aol.com](mailto:alpost308pa@aol.com)

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## Commander's Corner by Frank W. Brown



As another month passed. I would like to say hello to all my fellow Legionaries.

I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving. Lets make sure the Posts that still have Lottery Tickets return them. Please call me and I will pick them up.

Again I am proud to say that the District is doing well in membership. There are still a few post that need to start pushing membership. Lets start pushing the Legion Act this should help with getting membership. I would like to see every Post at 100 % by January 1, 2020.

Lets not forget about the Hospital Tour. December 11th will be at the (VAMC) in Philadelphia at 10:30 am, Delaware Valley Veterans Home at 2:00pm, December 12th will be at the Southeastern State Veterans Home at 10:00 am, Coatesville (VAMC) at 1:30pm. Please try to attend one of these visits.

I am requesting all posts to have a representative at the District Meetings. There is a lot of information to be learned. I have visited

some of the post, and they tell me they didn't know about what was happening in the District. This is because they don't send any body to the district meeting. Please try and have someone attend. We are having a Special Guest speaking Hortense Toliaferro Eastern Chair for the American Legion Women Veterans Committee.

As I said before lets not forget about the Oratorical, Essay Contest and the Keystone Boy State time is running out. We need to get to the schools and present this information. If any one needs help with this feel free to contact me.

We have lost another great legionnaire Marion Bomher has past away. She will be missed.

Mark down on your calendars that our next District Meeting is December 11, 2019 at Post 440 Newtown.

For God and Country

Frank W. Brown

9<sup>th</sup> District Commander

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## *Comments from Peter Gregory....*



**True North**

As we say every Marine is a rifleman, so we do every Navy person is a Sailor at heart. In OSC no matter if you were a doctor, lawyer, nurse or chaplain you had to learn basic seamanship and navigation. Lesson one is trust your eyes, trust what you see more than a radar screen or technology. You had to take a mechanical sextant and find True North and fix your position.

This lesson was reinforced on me just a few days ago when I tried to make the monthly District meeting. I put the address into my Google maps and assumed all I had to do was follow the directions when given. I got to the place where the maps told me I should be and I looked around and there was nothing that said American Legion Post in any direction. It was dark of course and maybe I could have navigated on line of sight, but after a frustrating time driving about I headed home.

So what was at fault? My Google skills, the technology or me? Granted I do not get down to lower Bucks that often but still I should have found it. I was lost. As we all are from time to

time. Sometimes in the Legion we lose our way. In life, career, marriage, family we lose just lose our way. We trust and assume our gear, or stuff will save us, but we fail to take our eyes away from that gear or stuff. We assume we always find our way out of the darkness and home.

Have you lost your way in life? Has your Post or program lost its way? Are you just doing through the motions in life? Well, the Good Lord I think has given us all the tools we ever need to find our ways out of the paper bags we sometimes find ourselves in. Step one is looking up and actually seeing what is around you. Step two is trust what your eyes are telling you. We all go through changes and stages in life, we all age and have different levels of energy or desire. But what does not change are the stars, Polaris, Ursula Major. They can guide us home. As in life and faith, we have our True North, our guide star to bring us home. Wise Men followed a Star and that was "Good News" indeed. In 2020 may we all find our True North when we tend to go off course and lose our way. We exist as an American Legion for one purpose and one purpose only. To serve and advocate for the veteran and their family. We are not a bar or food service, or games of chance, or Home Association. When we lose that North Star we tend to get lost and confused and of course others do too.

**Peter Gregory**  
**CDR CHC USN (ret)**

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## 9<sup>th</sup> District Meeting Schedule 2019-2020

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Post 440, Newtown

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Post 10, Ft. Washington

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Post 317, Yardley

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Post 248, Glenside

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Post 356, Narberth

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Post 255, Sellersville  
(Joint Meeting)

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
TBA (Caucus)



## 2019-2020 Legion Essay Contest

It's that time of year again. Please see the State website and review and download the information.

There are some changes this year to note.

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**Don't forget to let us know what your Post is doing. Having a special program or celebration?**

**Place your information here to  
Inform Others.**

**This Newsletter Goes to All Posts In District 9  
And Department.  
And it's Free!**

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*Merry Christmas,  
Happy Holidays,  
and a  
Happy New Year*



*From The Officers  
of The  
Ninth District*

