

ROCKLAND / ORANGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE U.S.A.

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WILFRED BANK ORANGE COUNTY POST #413
Newburgh, New York 12550

PFC FREDERICK HECHT POST #425
Spring Valley, New York 10977

PFC IRVING ZUCKERMAN POST 758
Monroe, New York 10950

LTS ISRAEL SCHWARTZ/THEODORE KERCHMAN POST #720
Nanuet, New York 10954

PFC ANDREW GOLDSTEIN POST #731
Orangeburg, New York 10962

LT. WALTER LIPMAN / M. SGT. MAX ERLANGER POST #756
New City, New York 10956

Comrades

Our next meeting will be held at the Nanuet Hebrew Center, March 28, 2013 at 7:30 pm. Please notify your fellow comrades.

It is springtime in New York. It is my favorite time of the year. That is because of the great youth that I had. It was the peaceful years after the Korean War and prior to the Vietnam War. Thoughts were of baseball – playing for the Police Athletic League in the Bronx. And also watching the local Castle Hill Little League play games. The star of the League was a Polish boy by the name of Ed Kranepool. There was winning the Softball championship at Castle Hill Beach Club and the team being treated at Jahn's Ice Cream Parlor to their "Kitchen Sink" There were those great Yankee, Dodger World Series games. And there was Sandy Koufax of the Dodgers, who would not pitch in the World Series on Yom Kippur. There was the start of Elvis, Drive in Movies and convertible cars. On the television the very popular military show Was Sergeant Bilko. It was the light hearted stories of a motor pool in the peacetime army.

I lived in a neighborhood that had just about every ethnic group. I did not know of any prejudice. That was a great era for all of us. Can we ever expect in our remaining life time or in the lifetime of our children and grandchildren to have that kind of peace.

My parents talked very little of the friends and relatives they lost in Europe not too many years earlier. My father, who was awarded The Bronze Star under Patton's Army rarely spoke about the prison camps he took part in breaking up. Who knows how many members of his own family were in them. Our family talked little about the Air Raid Shelters being built in public schools and other government buildings, or the atom bomb tests being conducted by the Chinese, the Russians and our own government. I didn't understand when we heard on the radio that radioactive clouds would be passing over the New York area in a day or so.

Many of our comrades had passed away these passed few years. Many of natural causes as they lived a full life. But many have passed away much too early in many cases due to the fallout from the radioactive clouds. And when I became a soldier in 1966 and went to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, a naïve young man, for the first time in my life I was called a "kike" and a "Heb." I was called some other things as well, I will leave that to your imagination. Today antisemitism is as prominent and as dangerous as it was back in the 1930's. And nuclear bombs are being fine tuned and aimed right at Israel and the United States, as our (many) enemies are getting ready for perhaps another holocaust.

While I hoped when I finished serving, my children would not know of war. However my son Greg would serve 4 years in the Marines, which included a tour in Iraq.

Here in March of 2013 The Jewish War Veterans fight for Veterans Rights – for better health care for our seniors and for those just returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, for better educational benefits and for employment for those newly homecoming veterans. We send “gift-paks” to those still on the front lines and visit and support those in VA Hospitals. The good times are not with us this spring, not entirely anyway. And myself and my fellow comrades of the Jewish War Veterans are in a sense, still soldiers.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY, 2013 MEETING

The meeting of the Rockland/Orange District Council of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA was opened by Commander Joel Hershkowitz at 7:40 pm on February 28, 2013 in the Nanuet Hebrew Center in New City, New York. The members in attendance were:

Ian Berkowitz – Post 413

Alan Moskin – Post 756

Mort Sanders – Post 756

Joel Hershkowitz – Post 720

Orrin Getz – Post 720

Commander Hershkowitz then requested a moment of silence for the passing of member Al Schroeder.

Commander Hershkowitz requested that \$100.00 be provided to sponsor the meeting of Post 1 that should occur on November 24, 2013, which is over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Commander Hershkowitz recommended that the Rockland/Orange District sponsor a lunch on Sunday June 9, 2013 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Suffern, New York for outgoing National Commander Shelly Ohren. The lunch should cost \$32.00 per person plus a 20% gratuity. Since about 100 people are expected to attend the lunch to overall cost was estimated to be about \$4000.00. It was, therefore, suggested that the charge to attend the lunch should be \$50.00 per person.

Al Moskin suggested that Jerry Alperstein be contacted about the lunch. Also, a \$500.00 deposit would be required to send into the Crowne Plaza to confirm the reservation for June 9th.

This year the Jewish War Veterans would again be marching in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Pearl River on Sunday March 17, 2013. Commander Hershkowitz stated that only the banner would be carried in the parade and not the flags.

Commander Hershkowitz mentioned that this year there should only be a small mailing of items to the troops in Afghanistan. He also mentioned that the Rockland/Orange District should do this mailing on its own and not with the Kosher Troops.

Ian Berkowitz recommended that we must get the necessary information from Bill Farber as to where to get the items for the mailing and to where they should be sent. Ian also mentioned that he had \$325.00 in excess funds received for gift packs and that he will provide to the Rockland /Orange District Council.

Commander Hershkowitz then mentioned that there was a need to finalize the date for the annual District Council convention that is normally held in the New City Jewish Center near the end of April.

Then there was discussion among the members present of the issue of the reimbursement of the members who will be attending the Jewish War Veterans National Convention. Last year, \$600.00 was provided to each member attending the convention regardless of the number of days the member actually attended the convention. It was felt that a better system of reimbursement was required and that this matter required further discussion at a future meeting of the District Council.

Ian Berkowitz then mentioned that he was working on the deactivation of the Newburgh Post due to the loss of members and the post members' lack of interest in the holding meetings.

Quartermaster Orrin Getz then presented the financial report. The total assets of the District amounted to \$36,712.93.

Orrin Getz then reported on the meeting of State Senator David Carlucci's Veterans Advisory Committee held in the VFW Hall in Suffern, New York on February 14, 2013. Two major issues discussed at the meeting were the veterans' problems with PTSD and finding employment.

The meeting was closed at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Orrin Getz, Quartermaster

We have a number of important items on the March agenda. They include but not are limited to: The R/O Convention, April 28; The Mickey Marcus Commemoration at West Point, May 5; The Celebrate Israel Parade, June 2, the Rockland/Orange Concert, The New York State Convention, The National Convention, Post 413, Yom Ha'Shoah Ceremonies and much more.

It is springtime in New York. I will be watching the World Baseball Classic finals this weekend. Our friends from Japan, The Dominican Republic, The Netherlands and Puerto Rico are playing. Sandy Koufax is out in Arizona working with the young Dodger pitchers. Looking forward to viewing the movie "42" about Jackie Robinson, coming out next month. We are marching in the Pearl River St. Patrick's Day Parade, supporting our Irish friends. My old neighborhood taught me well. Hope to see you at our next meeting, March 28 at the Nanuet Hebrew Center. Have a good Passover.

Respectfully submitted

Joel Hershkowitz
Commander