

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION?

It is an organization whose membership is open to all American veterans of the World Wars. It is non-partisan and non-political. It is a civilian organization — neither military nor militaristic. Its purpose is outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion which follows:

*“For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred per cent. Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our association in the great war;
To inculcate a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the Autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity
The principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”*

HISTORY OF THE ATKINSON POST

At a meeting on August 8, 1919, called by Colonel George Ross, and held in his office in Doylestown twenty-two veterans of World War I signed an application for a charter, and elected the following temporary officers: Chairman Daniel D. Atkinson; Vice-Chairman, Samuel B. Stilwell; Secretary, A. Frederick Scheetz; and Treasurer, Henry D. Livezey.

On August 20, 1919, the charter was granted, charter members being:

Percy Musgrave	Carrell N. Mattis	C. Byron Michener
George Ross	Claude S. Corson	George W. Grim
Walter Trainer	H. LeRoy Kister	Harrison Hibbard, Jr.
Ira C. Shaw	Henry D. Livezey	Ralph J. Penrose
Isaiah J. Sellers	A. Frederick Scheetz	John P. Gerhart

Robert G. Hendricks Daniel D. Atkinson Abraham N. Angeny
Samuel B. Stilwell George M. Atkinson Alfred J. Hellerman
R. Blair Myers

Another meeting was held in the Doylestown Armory on September 10, 1919, but at that time selection of the name for the post was postponed until a larger membership could be secured. Later the post was named in honor of Albert R. Atkinson, Jr., one of the four sons of the late Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Atkinson, of Doylestown, who served with the A. E. F. during the First World War, and who paid the Supreme Sacrifice on the battlefield in France.

By November, 1919, the new organization had more than 150 members, and the following permanent officers were elected: Commander, Daniel D. Atkinson; Vice-Commander, George M. Atkinson; Adjutant, A. Frederick Scheetz; Finance Officer, Rolf H. Kielland; Insurance Officer, Ira C. Shaw; and Executive Committee, Bartram H. Moore, Daniel D. Atkinson, William E. Tucker, Samuel E. Spare and R. Blair Myers.

In the beginning meetings were held in the Doylestown Armory, later in the Schabinger Building on South Main Street, and then in the K. G. E. Building at the corner of South Main Street and Oakland Avenue.

THE LEGION HOME

Finally the members began to consider the acquisition of permanent home, either through the purchase of a property or the building of a home. No definite action was taken until the spring of 1933, when it was agreed to erect a home on a tract of land between Lacey Avenue and North Street. Ground for the building was broken early in August, 1933, and its dedication took place on January 21, 1934, with Major General E. C. Shannon, Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania and Commanding Officer of the National Guard of the Keystone State, making the principal address. With the generous assistance of the citizens of the community, the home was erected at a cost approximating \$6,500, and the Post has been able to clear the entire indebtedness against the home.

With the building of the home an American Legion Home Association was formed. Its original officers were: President, Andrew H. Scott; Vice-President, Warren L. Leister; Secretary, Russell B. Gulick; Treasurer, Abel M. MacReynolds; Trustees, Charles F. Hart, William A. May, Fred J. Dietz, Herman D. Wagner, Harman Y. Cope, Paul E. Mills, David J. Windholz, Charles M. Bakely, Arthur M. Leatherman, Matthew L. Godshall and A. Russell Thomas.