**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS BLAZING STAR POST #1574**

**17 CANNON AVENUE**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY 10314**

**Website. http://blazingstarvfwpost1574.org/wp**

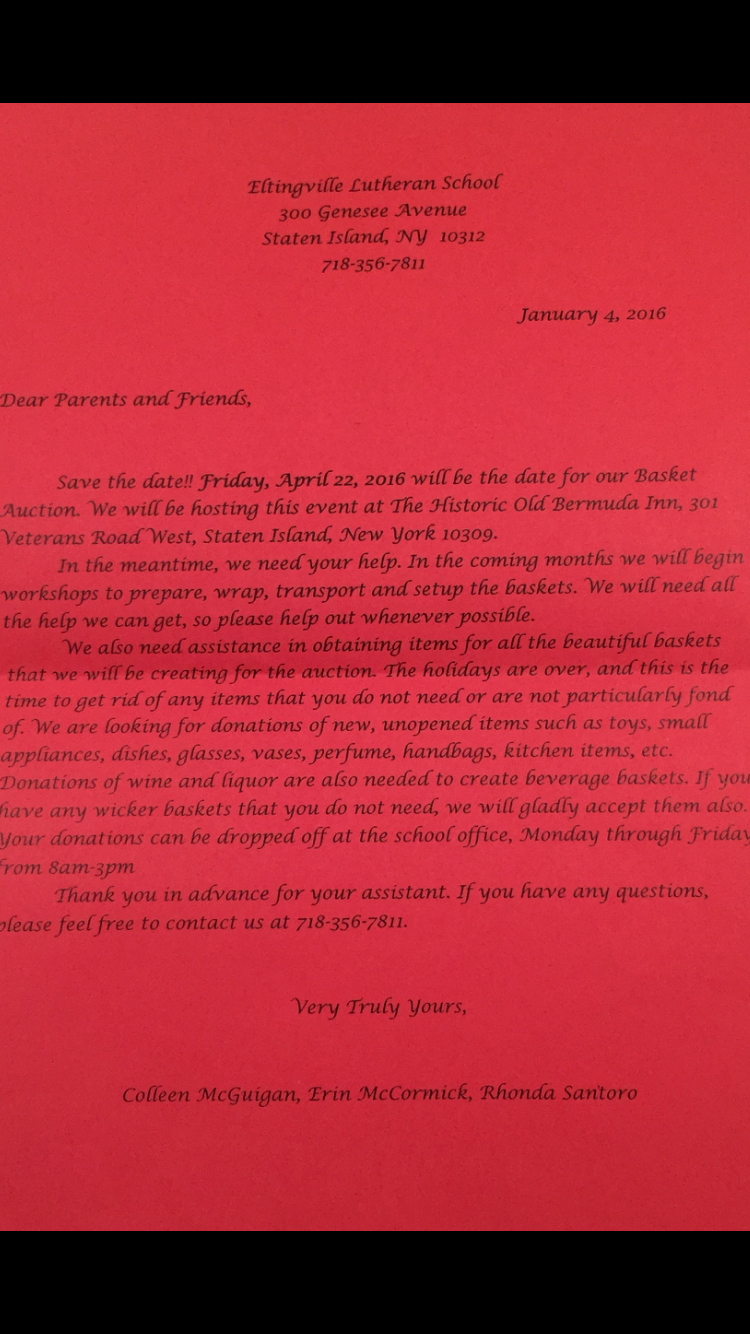
**April 2016**

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| --- |
| BLAZING STAR POST 1574 CONTACT NUMBERS  Al Porto, Commander - 718-578-1242, albert.porto38@gmail.com  Paul Dietrich, Quartermaster - 718-698-5269, paul@the-dietrichs.com  William Alcock, Adjutant - 718-698-1923 |

**Calendar Events**

Calendar of Events for 2016:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Event** | **Location** | **Time** | **Remarks** |
| 16 April | Safe Disposal Event | Midland Beach Parking |  |  |
| 7 May | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 14 May | Poppy Distribution | Shop-Rite | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 26 May | St Adalberts Ice Cream Social | St Adalberts | 1200 | 718-442-2020 |
| 27 May | Poppy Distribution | SI Ferry | 0700-1000 | Volunteers Needed |
| 27 May | Poppy Distribution | Refinery | 1100-1300 | Volunteers Needed |
| 28 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 29 May | Poppy Distribution | Stop and Shop | 0900-1500 | Volunteers Needed |
| 30 May | Memorial Day Ceremonies | Travis and Oceanview | TBA | To Be Announced |
| 4 June | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 9 July | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 6 August | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1000 |  |
| 7 September | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 5 October | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 2 November | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |
| 7 December | Blazing Star Post Meeting | Gold Star Post | 1300 |  |



**Membership**

1. Consider Life Membership. You save money over the long run and eliminate the need to renew yearly. Below are the membership rates for Life membership and Installment Plan Life Membership.

**Age attained             Payment in Full             Installment Plan Option                               
 on Dec. 31st                       Total:                   Initial Fee:        11 payments of:**

Through Age 30               $425.00                $45.00                $38.64

31-40                                  $410.00                $45.00                $37.27

41-50                                  $375.00                $45.00                $34.09

51-60                                  $335.00                $45.00                $30.45

61-70                                  $290.00                $45.00                $26.36

71-80                                  $225.00                $45.00                $20.45

81 and over                        $170.00                $45.00                $15.45

2. New Member. Abe Sheinwald. Welcome!!!

3. Dues Renewal Reminder:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Cassar, Joseph S | Current Until | 5/20/2016 |
| Eans, Ernest | Current Until | 5/5/2016 |
| Leunes, Peter | Current Until | 6/17/2016 |
| Pizzini, Denny | Current Until | 5/7/2016 |
| Robinson, James A | Current Until | 4/8/2016 |

3. Unfortunately the additional accidental death/dismemberment insurance that our post had for all of it’s members was discontinued by the insurance provider and currently there is no replacement. The effective date of this action is May 11 2016. We have asked headquarters to notify us if a replacement carrier becomes available but as of this time, membership coverage will end on May 11th of this year. This applies to the additional accidental death and dismemberment insurance only which was totally funded by Blazing Star Post for our members.

**Service Officer**

1. Veterans are encouraged to enroll in the VA health care so they are on record should they ever need it.  No cost to apply.  Apply on line at [www.va.gov/healtheligibility/vfw](file:///C:\Users\Albert\Documents\VFW\Newsletters%202011\www.va.gov\healtheligibility\vfw) or call 1-877-222-8387.

2. Tri-Care Dental. Tri-Care dental isn't free. You must enroll to be covered. Tri-Care dental web site, [www.trdp.org](blockedhttp://www.trdp.org)   
Delta Dental Tel #. 888-838-8737. The Tri-Care number for NY, is 1-877-874-2273.

3. DD Form 214 website. http://vetrecs.archives.gov. If you need assistance, contact the post service officer, Paul Dietrich.

4. Survivor Outreach Services. The website has a lot of information for those left behind when a service member or veteran passes. <http://www.sos.army.mil/> or <http://www.westpointmwr.com/acs/survivor_outreach_services.html>

7. To someone going through a difficult time, one simple act has the power to make a difference. Reach out to veterans and service members in your life today – let them know they’re not alone. Find out how you can make a difference <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ThePowerof1.aspx>.

9. NY State Creates Mobile App for Veterans to Access Services. There's a new mobile app designed to help New York's veterans access state and federal services. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the creation of the application Thursday. It's compatible with Apple and Android products and has help for veterans looking for information on health care, jobs and benefits. The program also locates the closest state veterans' affairs office. Cuomo says the app is an example of how technology can be used to improve the delivery of state services and programs. The program was developed by the state's Division of Veterans' Affairs.

**Employment and Education**

1. Looking for a job? Need quality employees? USE VETJOBS! [**www.vetjobs.com**](http://svarialce.vfwemail.org:81/CT00004002MzA1OTA1NDk=.HTML?D=2011-08-26)

2. Vets looking for jobs, the website: 100000jobsmission.com. Go there to apply and search for available jobs specifically held for veterans.

3. New initiative called the We can't wait program plan helps ex GIs get civilian credentials/licenses for skills learned in the military. For info: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/veterans_report_5-31-2012.pdf>

Bottom of Form

5. Job info. Seeking Video grapher / Editor. Experience required. Working knowledge of Panasonic AG-HMC 150 Camera. Proficient in use of Final Cut Pro editing. Must have a vehicle. Forward contact info and resume to [SIVidher@Aol.com](mailto:SIVidher@Aol.com).

6. Intern for NYPD. INTERESTED IN INTERNING FOR NYPD? Intern for 13 weeks from May - September 2016.  College undergrad or graduate. Please contact Police Officer Soto ([jason.soto@nypd.org](mailto:jason.soto@nypd.org)), Police Officer Belle (david.belle@ny[pd.org](http://pd.org/)) or Officer Diaz (natalia.diaz@n[ypd.org](http://ypd.org/)) Phone: [718-920-1202](tel:718-920-1202).

7. Job Opportunities for Veterans and their families. The Center for Human Resources, Social Security Administration, asked me to share these vacancy announcements with you for qualified veterans.  Veterans may provide a copy of their DD214, VA disability letter, resume and unofficial college transcripts. If they only have a DD214 they may still qualify under the Veterans Recruitment Authority based on their dates of service or medals.

* Contact Representative GS-5 for the ODAR Rochester Hearing Office - [SN-1627304-NY-MJB-16-005](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/429652600)

 Contact Representative GS-5 for the ODAR White Plains Hearing Office - [SN-1626227-NY-MJB-16-004](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/429651800)

* Claims Specialist GS-7 for NYC Metro Area - [SN-1638675-NY-BC-16-006](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/431281000)

 Claims Specialist GS-7 for Long Island  -  [SN-1641120-NY-BC-010](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/431282200) Freeport Field Office, Freeport, NY; Melville Field Office, Melville, NY; Mineola Field Office, Mineola, NY; Patchogue Field Office, Patchogue, NY; Riverhead Field Office, Riverhead, NY; West Babylon Field Office, West Babylon, NY

* Claims Specialist GS-7 for  Upstate NY-  [SN-1640478-NY-KM-16-009](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/431283100)

Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, Dunkirk, Geneva, Greece, Oneonta, Queensbury, Rochester, Utica and Syracuse.

* Claims Specialist GS-7 for New Jersey-  [SN-1640477-NY-KM-008](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/431282500)
* Northern NJ offices:  Clifton, East Orange, Hackensack, Hoboken, Jersey City, New Brunswick, Newark, Newton, Parsippany, Paterson, Somerville, Springfield Ave (Newark), Union Township and Woodbridge. Southern NJ offices: Brick, Bridgeton, Cherry Hill, Egg Harbor, Glassboro, Mount Holly, Neptune, Rio Grande, Toms River and Trenton.
* Claims Specialist GS-7 for  upstate NY -  [SN-1640210-NY-BC-16-007](https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/431281700)

Monticello, NY, New Rochelle, NY, Newburgh, NY, Peekskill, NY, Poughkeepsie, NY, West Nyack, NY, White Plains, NY Yonkers, NY

8. Employment Opportunities in Healthcare for Veterans and their families. We are recruiting for hospitals and nursing homes throughout Staten Island!! Do you have the prior experience, qualifications and desire to work in the Medical field?

Physician’s Assistants, EMTs, Lab Techs, Direct Care Counselors, MRI Techs, Food Service Workers, Housekeepers

Social Workers, Registrars. Many other positions are available!!! If you are interested, please forward your resume to:

Peter Romano – Email: [promano@edsisolutions.com](mailto:promano@edsisolutions.com) or call 718-285-8431. *All positions require previous experience*

*Some also require certifications and/or licensure.*

9. The *Office of Human Resources* (OHR) at **Queens College** seeks an HR *Benefits Specialist* professional. The Benefits Officer administers all employee benefits programs available to QC employees and retirees. Some of the types of benefits managed include health insurance benefits, retirement benefits, tax-deferred annuity plans, the NYS deferred compensation, FSA program, New York’s 529 college savings program, life insurance, long term disabilities insurance, buy-out program, transit benefit program, welfare fund benefits, catastrophic sick leave, dedicated sick leave, FMLA, PPL program, Travia benefit and Worker’s compensation plans. For application information and more details, go to [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu/) and click on “employment,” then “Search job listings,” then “More options to search for CUNY jobs,” and search by the  Job Opening ID # 14724. Click on the “Apply Now” button, and follow the instructions. AA/EOE/IRCA/ADA

\*\*Resumes should be forwarded directly to;[veterans@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:veterans@qc.cuny.edu) inbox once online application has been completed.\*\*

10. **2016 Hiring Our Heroes – New York, NY** *A Free Hiring Fair for Veterans,* **HIRING FAIR: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP: 8:30 a.m. EMPLOYER BRUNCH & LE** *Transitioning Service Members, and Military Spouses* **69th Regiment Lexington Avenue Armory 68 Lexington Avenue & 26th Street, New York, NY 10010**

**April 21, 2016.** The **Workshop** for job seekers focuses on resume writing, tips for successfully navigating hiring fairs, military skill translation, and interviewing. The **Brunch and Learn** presentation for employers focuses on best practices for recruiting, hiring, and retaining veterans and military spouses. For registration questions, please email kpoynton@uschamber.com or call 202-617-6806

General

It is with utmost pleasure that we announce this year's winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the state of New York is Ms Elizabeth Campbell from St Adalberts School here on Staten Island. Your post sponsored Ms Campbell for this program. Ms Campbell is the lead for the hometown heroes vet interviews and books at St Adalberts and her application is enroute to VFW National Headquarters for consideration on the national level. Recently we've sent info you on how to call for an interview. If you have not yet done so please do so.

1. Staten Island University Hospital's Military Appreciation Program. This program entitles active duty members and veterans free parking 12 times per year at the SIUH parking lot. Call 718-226-4325 for an application.

2. The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to the following personnel. Returned

home are:

* **Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Vernon T. Luke**, 43, On Dec. 7, 1941, Luke was assigned to the USS Oklahoma when it was attacked and capsized after suffering multiple torpedo hits.
* **Marine Corps Sgt. John C. Holladay**, was lost fighting in the Solomon Islands on July 20, 1943. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Marine Raider Battalion, 1st Marine Raider Regiment.
* **Army Air Forces Flight Officer Dewey L. Gossett**, was lost over Italy on Sept. 27, 1943. He was assigned to the 527th Fighter Squadron, 86th Fighter Group, 12th Air Force.
* **Army Cpl. Davey H. Bart** was lost fighting in North Korea on Nov. 2, 1950. It would be later confirmed he died in captivity. He was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division,
* **Army Pfc. James M. Smith**, 19, In February 1951, Smith was assigned to Company K, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and was supporting the South Korean Army in attacks against the Chinese People’s Volunteer Forces. On February 12, the Chinese counterattacked. Smith was reported missing in action after the battle..
* **Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond K. McMillian**, Virginia, was lost fighting in South Korea on Feb. 12, 1951. It would be later confirmed he died in captivity. He was assigned to Medical Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.
* **Army Pfc. Aubrey D. Vaughn**, was lost fighting in North Korea on April 23, 1951. It would be later confirmed he died in captivity. He was assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment, 5th Regimental Combat Team.
* **Navy Ensign Lewis S. Stockdale**, 27, On Dec. 7, 1941, Stockdale was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which suffered multiple torpedo hits as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor..
* **Army Pvts. John H. Klopp,**25, and**Earl J. Keating**, 28, In December 1942, Klopp and Keating were assigned to the Anti-Tank Company, 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd Infantry Division, when their unit was involved in intense fighting in what is present-day Papua New Guinea. On Dec. 5, 1942, Klopp and Keating died repulsing a heavy Japanese attack, and were buried by fellow soldiers within the American perimeter.
* **Army Cpl. Davey H. Bart**, 18, Company K, 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, when lost fighting in North Korea on Nov. 2, 1950. It would be later confirmed he died in captivity.
* **Army Sgt. 1st Class Raymond K. McMillian**, 20, Medical Company, 3rd Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, when lost fighting in South Korea on Feb. 12, 1951..
* **Army Cpl. Eldon W. Ervin**, 21, Headquarters Battery, 57th Field Artillery Battalion, 7th Infantry Division, when lost fighting in North Korea on Nov. 28, 1950..
* **Army Air Forces 1st Lt. Frederick W. Langhorst**, 1130 Army Air Force Base Unit, Air Transport Command, when lost over India on July 17, 1945.
* **Army Sgt. 1st Class Alan L. Boyer**, 22, Command and Control Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group, when lost in Laos on March 28, 1968.
* **Navy Chief Petty Officer Duff Gordon**, 52, On Dec. 7, 1941, he was assigned to the battleship USS Oklahoma, which suffered multiple torpedo hits as it was moored off Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
* **Marine Corps Sgt. John C. Holladay**, 31, Company B, 1st Marine Raider Battalion, 1st Marine Raider Regiment, when lost fighting in July 1943 as part of a joint U.S. Army-U.S. Marine Corps battle against Japanese positions in the invasion of New Georgia Island, British Solomon Islands.
* **Army Sgt. Wilson Meckley Jr.**, 22. In November 1950, he was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, and was assembled with other soldiers into the 31st Regimental Combat Team, historically known as Task Force Faith. During a fighting withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir, he would be reported missing on Dec. 2.
* **Navy Fireman 3rd Class John H. Lindsley**, was lost on Dec. 7, 1941, while assigned aboard the battleship USS Oklahoma in Pearl Harbor.
* **Army Cpl. Dennis D. Buckley**, was lost fighting in South Korea on Feb. 13, 1951. He was assigned to A Battery, 15th Field Artillery Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division.

3. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency is seeking the public’s help to find and encourage more MIA families to donate a DNA sample to help speed the identification process of recovered remains. Currently, 89 percent of the Korean War’s 7,800 MIAs have a family reference sample on file, 84 percent for the Cold War’s 126 MIAs, and 81 percent of the Vietnam War’s 1,600 missing. But for World War II, it’s a dismal 4 percent of the 73,500 who are still missing. Each military service and the State Department has a service casualty office that can explain how to donate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Army: 800-892-2490 | Navy: 800-443-9298 | State Department: 202-485-6106 |
| Marine Corps: 800-847-1597 | Air Force: 800-531-5501 |  |

4. Free parking for veterans at Richmond County Medical Center. Veterans can park for free in the visitors parking lot where tokens are required. Stop at the main reception desk or security post, show proof you are a veteran (drivers license with vet on it, retired ID card, VA card or similar) and they will give you a free token for the parking lot. Get it on the way in as the reception/info desk is not manned all night. Use the token to exit the lot. Saves you $4 per visit.

5. Women of Achievement. Diane Hesterhagen, principal of St. Adalberts, is in the running for the Staten Island Advance's Women of Achievement Award. Support her as she has supported veterans by voting for her online at woa@siadvance.com.

6. VFW essay contest themes for 2016-2017 are as follows: Voice of Democracy - “MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA” Patriot’s Pen - “THE AMERICA I BELIEVE IN”

The student entry deadline for 2016-2017 will be November 1, 2016 for both contests.

7. The VFW National Home for Children will be celebrating its 91th year of service to military and veteran’s families.

The families living there have a real chance to rebuild their lives. They receive case management services, which includes one-on-one support and assistance with creating and achieving family goals, on-site licensed child care, life skills training, tutoring and other educational services, all of which are designed to provide them with the tools to create a lasting life and home for their children once they leave here. As we enter 2016 the VFW National home will be celebrating its 91th year. The project for our 90th year is to move the National Home museum to a larger building. Anyone who has been to the museum knows that it has limited space for all the displays and photo that have been collected over the years. The museum will be moved to a newly renovated space that is handicap accessible and conducive to protecting photos, information and artifacts, displaying and showcasing the history of the Home in a new, modern way with interactive information, videos and exhibits and that includes the history of the past couple of decades. We will actively include the participation of alumni for this special project and plan to use volunteer services via the university and other resources to assure the project is done well. The projected goal for the museum project is $130,000. The second project that we are under taking at the National Home is the restoration of the Homes pond. The pond was built in 1957 and has been used by the residents and for fishing tournaments. The pond has become over grown and is being choked off. It needs to be cleaned out. The funds have been started by some Past National Presidents and work has been started and will be hopefully completed this coming spring. Donations are still need to complete this project. Mark your donation for the museum or the pond restoration. The VFW National Home for Children has a new website [www.vfwnationalhomeforchildren.org](http://www.vfwnationalhomeforchildren.org). It is a interactive website. Please visit the new website there is a lot of information on the home and the events at the home. To reach the Military and Veteran Family Helpline, call 800-313-4200 or e-mail [help@vfwnationalhome.org](mailto:help@vfwnationalhome.org). You can now get e-mail from the home and information is posted on the homes web-site. [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org) The VFW National Home for Children also can be found on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. Keep up with your National Home by reading all the events and news on the website.

8. UPDATE on VEA Bill 2016. Despite promises from Gov. Andrew Cuomo and two members of the legislative majority conferences, an expanded pension credit for public workers with "peacetime" military service failed to be included in the soon to be enacted state budget

10. GM Military Discount. Sign in or register at [gmmilitarydiscount.com](http://emails.generalmotors.com/r?2.1.3Lq.2lk.12Uz4q.DcG5ge..H.PwLI.21Lm.bW89MSZrPU1STV9lbWxfVlBQX01BTV9BbGxfUmVnXzA0MTY%5fDVBSIbW0) Select "Obtain Authorization" from the Program menu and follow the prompts Print your authorization number and take it to your participating GM Dealer along with a copy of your current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), Retiree Account Statement,† or your discharge papers (e.g. DD-214).\*\* In honor of Military Appreciation Month, we're offering these exceptional savings to all Veterans too, through 5/31/16.

**Items of Interest**

Anybody who's ever worked in a bureaucracy (large OR small) will understand this. Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount. However, in business we often try other strategies with dead horses, including the following:

1. Buying a bigger whip.

2. Changing riders.

3. Saying things like "This is the way we always have ridden this horse."

4. Appointing a committee to study the horse.

5. Arranging to visit other sites to see how they ride dead horses.

6. Increasing the standards to ride dead horses.

7. Appointing a tiger team to revive the dead horse.

8. Creating a training session to increase our riding ability.

9. Comparing the state of dead horses in today's environment.

10. Change the requirements declaring that "This horse is not dead."

11. Hire contractors to ride the dead horse.

12. Harnessing several dead horses together for increased speed.

13. Declaring that "No horse is too dead to beat."

14. Providing additional funding to increase the horse's performance.

15. Do a CA Study to see if contractors can ride it cheaper.

16. Purchase a product to make dead horses run faster.

17. Declare the horse is "better, faster and cheaper" dead.

18. Form a quality circle to find uses for dead horses.

19. Revisit the performance requirements for horses.

20. Say this horse was procured with cost as an independent variable.

21. Promote the dead horse to a supervisory position.