By Paul Golluscio

Greetings to all for a happy and safe New Year. It was wonderful to have our first board and general meetings with some new faces on our executive board and board of directors. Of course, notwithstanding old faces (like mine) continuing to be a voice in our great neighborhood. As the New Year comes in, I would like to remind everyone that yearly dues are due (no pun intended). After much discussion on the subject, the board has decided to raise the dues to $100 yearly. Although it has been noted that this is a 100% increase, keep in mind it has been about 30 years since the last increase, so I think it is fair. Please write a check to LPCA and drop it off at Ed-die Toth’s mailbox at 3210 Glennon Place.

By Tony Salimbene

I got this closet of an office, right next to a giant oil burner, where I can close the door and eat some sort of sandwich, closing out not entirely the noises of a busy human services program. When I take a break I get a chance to check the weather and the day’s headlines on my computer. Sometimes there’s sensational crime or the upcoming elections. But all too often there’s coverage of our troops deployed in the Middle East. They don’t have the luxuries I take for granted every day.

First it was the TV, and now it’s the computer, that brings the war closer to home. However, the sanitized photos do not reflect the “hours of boredom punctuated by moments of sheer terror” our troops experience as they serve and give more than their best, again for a cause we may tend to doubt. As I tearfully watched the coverage of the service for the young NYPD detective killed in action by cowards, on his third tour, I didn’t doubt his heroism, dedication, honor and professionalism. As his son saluted the casket, I hoped he would always remember what a great dad he had, taken too soon. We will remember! As members of the American Legion, we understand what signing up for the military means, from cook to general, especially during a time of international conflict. We know you can be honored for life during your first week of basic training. We sometimes criticize the self-esteem educational programming and the support of children in need.

BronxWorks welcomes the Hance Family Foundation

On Christmas Eve, the Hance Family Foundation came to the BronxWorks Classic Cornerstone Community Center for a special Christmas event. More than 250 BronxWorks children from the Bette-axis, Classic, and St. Mary’s Cornerstone Community centers, as well as children from the Jackson Avenue Family Residence, joined the holiday festivities.

The gymnasia-was decorated like a Winter Wonderland, and hundreds of toys were placed on top of tables so children could hand-select gifts with volunteers.

The event was a collaboration of efforts between BronxWorks, NYCBA’s (New York City Housing Authority) Community Programs & Development Office, and the Hance Family Foundation and their team.

Before the gifts were selected, all in attendance were treated to an energized performance by the BronxWorks Classic Steppers, a children’s step team whose mission is to raise awareness against gang violence. Santa even dropped by to spend time with the kids and posed for pictures while one of Santa’s elves handed out presents.

“It makes us feel spectacular. It’s Christmas Eve, we all sacrificed time with our friends and families, to give to people who maybe wouldn’t be able to get gifts if we weren’t here. And you’ll see over 200 kids come through this building, all of them with smiles on their faces. It’s a spectacular and rewarding feeling,” says Warren Hance, co-president of the Hance Family Foundation.

The Hance Family Foundation was created in honor of three sisters, Emma, Alyson and Katie Hance. The girls died in a tragic car accident in 2009. The Hance Foundation honors the lives of the three beautiful sisters by ensuring healthy, happy and safe children through innovative self-esteem educational programming and the support of children in need.

The NPC and the FDNY joined the BronxWorks Staff, and the Hance Family Foundation volunteers to give out toys on Christmas Eve.

By Al Belfiore

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Activities at the civic in January are as follows:

- Tuesdays at 7:30 a.m. - Yoga;
- Wednesdays at 7 p.m. - Yoga;
- Thursdays at 11 a.m. - Senior Zumba; 8 p.m. - Zumba;
- Friday, January 8 - Bunko Night (girls night out) at 7:30 p.m.;
- Friday, January 15 - card night at 8 p.m.;
- Friday, January 22 - Octoberfest (classic German food);
- Friday, January 29 - Meditation at 7 p.m.

In addition, we will be hosting a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 7. More about this event in a later article. Last, but not least, Friday, March 11 will be our annual St. Paddy’s Day Party. Thank you for reading.

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In honor of our heroes, let’s begin the New Year right by focusing on the four pillars of our organization dating back to the founders of 1919: veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, 100% Americanism and children and youth. Our young heroes and their brave families deserve it, let’s not let them down!

Happy New Year! Our next meeting is the third Sunday, January 17 at 11 a.m. at American Turners.

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