

County Legion Urges UMT In Session at Millerton

Enactment of universal military training legislation was urged last night by Dutchess County Legionnaires at a county meeting which was highlighted by a transcribed address of National Commander George N. Craig. Attended by more than 200 Legionnaires from 18 Dutchess county posts, the meeting was held outdoors at the Millerton Rod and Gun club in Millerton.

Tracing American Legion demands and support for Universal Military training since World War I, Dutchess County Commander Paul S. Samuels said that the issue of universal military training would be dead if it were not for the unrelenting efforts of Legion spokesmen in Washington who have compelled Senate hearing for reconsideration of what he termed America's most important defense measure.

Commander Craig's address emphasized the fact that The American Legion was already mobilized. "There are no ex-servicemen in The American Legion" he said in urging immediate curtailment of governmental expenditures in all fields that do not make a direct contribution to national security and which may be postponed without injury to the welfare of the people. He emphasized that The American Legion, through its executive committee, had thrown overboard for the present crisis, all advocacy of any new veterans' pension legislation and that no additional benefits under the GI bill of rights would be asked, except to make them applicable to men fighting in Korea.

Explaining that universal military training did not require the immediate drafting of men, he emphasized that with war inevitable, training would ensure the return of men in service. In war the trained live, he said, the untrained die.

Legionnaires were urged by Commander Samuels to appeal to their representatives in Congress to urge the immediate enactment of UMT legislation.

THE MEETING WAS OPENED by Commander Richard Tanner of Millerton post, which with its auxiliary played hosts for the county Legionnaires. Dutchess County Sergeant-at-arms James R. Brown Sr., presented the colors and was assisted by the augmented Dutchess County color guard which included Robert L. Hicks, Francis J. Magurno, Albert J. Switzer, James Cruthers, Edward Wansy and Bugler Albert H. Payne Jr.

County Commander Samuels extended the courtesy of conducting the meeting to Vice Commander William J. Meyers, a member of Millerton post, who in turn introduced Vice Commanders Norman F. Craft, William T. Miller and John H. King. The vice commanders acted as liaison for the reporting committee chairman.

Committee chairmen reporting included Walter Henion, Americanism; Martin Berry, resolution and special blood bank committee; Paul Badger, aviation; Reginald E. Cotton, Boy Scouts; Benjamin Gasser, Boys' State; Col. Thomas J. Whalen, national security, and John J. Kelly, convention housing.

Past Commander Howard M. LeRoy presented the department commander's membership trophy to the Dutchess county organization and placed it in the custody of Pleasant Valley post until the next county meeting scheduled to be held at Pawling on Sept. 18. Commander LeRoy said that the trophy would be placed in the custody of the various posts between county meetings in the order of percentages over quotas and that Pleasant Valley post had the largest percentage gain in membership for 1949 in Dutchess county.

After the meeting, refreshments were served by members of the Millerton post auxiliary. Those assisting included Mrs. William F. Becker Jr., Mrs. John Parsons, Mrs. Wil-

liam Bradley, Mrs. Richard Tanner and Mrs. Donald Bishop.