



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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September 2017

Commander's Message:

I was happy to see some Sons attended the August County Meeting. I repeat Tim Van Patten II's invitation for Legion Delegates to bring interested Sons to future County Meetings. It's a great way for the Sons and Legion to share information and strengthen American Legion Family bonds. There were also Auxiliary members in attendance. They are also welcome to future meetings.

Summer is a time of reorganization following conventions and installation of newly elected officers. I thank those who have taken county chair positions and Posts who have offered their hospitality to host county meetings. Their extra efforts allow us to carry on our programs to benefit veterans and the community. I attended the District Reorganization Meeting on July 30. Many Erie County Legionnaires accepted positions at the District Level. I extend my thanks to them for taking on that additional responsibility.

Our County investment committee met on August 11. Investments were redistributed to meet established guidelines. Investments remain strong and are earning respectable returns.

At the Erie County Fair, the Erie County American Legion had a booth in the Historical Society Building, with the title "American Legion, 100th Anniversary." The booth generated a lot of interest as demonstrated by many spectators stopping and reading the literature displayed.

8/13 Veterans' Day at the Fair. The 8th District and Erie County planned to share a tent in the infield. Unfortunately a miscommunication resulted in the tent not going up. However, McKeever Post generously allowed Erie County and 8th District to share their tent. I can't thank McKeever Post enough. They truly demonstrated the act of veterans helping veterans. As Erie County Commander I had the honor of being on the reviewing stand during the parade. I was very proud to watch Erie County American Legion Color Guards and Units pass in review.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

We should have the Department Post membership goals for the 2017-2018 American Legion year in September. This is when we will know what it will take to reach 100% ! Department has just started to process transmittals. With some of the office attending the National Convention, updates will be delayed into September.

Please keep sending in the transmittal forms to Department so we can stay on track locally. Also, we need to make sure our members get their membership cards promptly and their local checks cashed. If you run out of transmittal forms (I have run out myself) go to the Department website and you can print copies off as a PDF towards the bottom right of the site's membership page. I do have postage paid envelopes for the transmittals left. Post 1659: I still have your membership cards. E-mail me at: fattony8705@yahoo.com or call/text me at 49-3341 to arrange the pick-up of the cards. Thank you.

New York delegation marching in the Reno National Convention parade led by Department Commander Rena Nessler.



Commander's Message: (Continued)

They looked impressive and professional.

As we end summer, a brief reminder of expected attire at county meetings; at a minimum, business casual attire, collared shirt, slacks, and the Legion cap, Staff will be expected to wear blue jacket, white shirt with tie, gray slacks, and cap, Staff attire would be expected for anyone scheduled to give a report.

I, along with a good-sized delegation from Erie County traveled to the National Convention in Reno, NV, 19-24 August. A group of 24 Legionnaires and Auxiliary enjoyed an Erie County Breakfast Caucus in the Peppermill Hotel where the Department of NY was housed. Two historic events of note took place at this convention. On August 23rd President Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act on the convention stage. A first. Another first, was the election of Denise Rohan as the first woman National Commander of the American Legion. Both occasions are indicative of continued progress in the American Legion as we approach our 100th Anniversary.

In parting, I'll repeat the new National Commander's Rohan's motto, which is in line with the Erie County philosophy, "Family first."

Erie County Commander Sue Quirk attending the National Convention sessions with Kathleen Garvey, Ron Danielewicz, and Jim Bojanowski



Wednesday October 18 Hamburg Post Casino Trip, Seneca-Niagara. Check in 7:30 AM for Danish and coffee. Bus leaves Post at 8:30 AM. Leaves Casino 2:30 PM. Cost \$26 per person. Incentives \$26 free play, \$5 toward food. Requires Valid license or ID. 50/50 on bus. Pizza and wings back at Post 527. Contact PC Pat Nealon 649-0992, or 262-6301.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

Calendars for 2018 are in and ready to be sold. Our goal 1000 calendar sold. It seems to me a very easy project if each Post would take 30 calendars to start with. Please contact me at [716-867-5730](tel:716-867-5730) and I will be glad to drop them off to you. Just think for a \$25 investment you get 365 chances over a year to win. There are \$25 Days, \$50 Days and several \$100 days each month. Guaranteed \$ 1,000 each month for twelve months from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. Now, so you know there is an early bird drawing on October 27, 2017 for all calendars sold and the name stub for that calendar turned in by October 26, 2017.

Americanism – VC George Barton

I will be sending letters to schools and Boy Scout troops indicating my interest in sharing information on Flag etiquette and any topic on Americanism. Remember September 12, is primary election day, please get out and vote. It is your right to vote and if you want to see change, or you want things to stay the same, then you must vote. If you do not vote, then you have no right to make any complaints.

Erie County Commander Sue Quirk hosted a breakfast at the reno National Convention. Also pictured, Kathleen Garvey, Tom Deinzer, John Kasmer, Debbie Kasmer, Art Forman, Al O'Donnell, Peter Hurd, Jim Bojanowski, Cmdr Sue, and Ron Danielewicz.



Special Olympics Picnic – Wayne Sorrentino

Will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 in the Grove on Sunday, September 17, from Noon to 4 PM. 962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville, NY 14221. We expect to have Voiture 51 of The 40 & 8 Society bring out their train and offer rides. Depew Post #1528 will do the cooking. Music by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors for your dancing pleasure. Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit will attend. All Legion Family Volunteers are encouraged to attend by 11:30 AM to sign in and get your job assignment(s). Thank you in advance for your continued support of this very worthwhile annual event. If you are so inclined, you can also support us financially by sending your check to the County's City Hall Office, earmarked "Special Olympics 2017".

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

October 23, 2017 – October 29, 2017

Call for your FREE tickets, don't wait for the week of the festival. Sunday, October 29 at UB Center of the Arts will be the Gold Medal **Art Exhibit and Creative Writer's Meet & Greet** from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Gold Medal Winners LIVE stage performance from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The stage performance MC is a million selling, Grammy nominated, Country music star Michael Peterson. The NVCAF is sponsored by the VA and The American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is in charge the Hospitality room that we will take care of for 8 days from 9am -11pm everyday. In the hospitality room we will have Karaoke, ice cream social, jam sessions, caricaturists, magicians, and more. Please call Pam at the VA 716-862-6814 and order your tickets for you, family and friends. They will be sent to you in September. The Stage Performance is AMAZING and you won't want to miss it. The UB Center of the Arts has 1744 seats that we need to fill (hopefully). Please order your tickets and invite family, friends, cousins, etc. It is open to everyone. If you would like to volunteer for this week long festival or any questions please call Anne Baglio at 716-432-1354 or email ambaglio@verizon.net. Still in need of volunteers. Donations being accepted for Festival, please send to VA WNY Healthcare System, attn. Mark Francis, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo NY 14215.

Erie County Office Hours

Staffed by Jim Bojanowski every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 7:30 am to 12:30 pm, excluding holidays.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

September 28, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672

655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051

Menu: Chicken BBQ, Potato, Vegetable

October 26, Thomas E. Tehan #1449

November 30 Troop I Post #655

Wednesday September 20 PCC Meeting at

Donovan Post, starting at 7 PM.

Sunday October 1, 8th District Meeting - Allegany County

Morrison-Hayes Post #702

36 Jefferson St.

Wellsville, NY 14895

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

National Commander Denise Rohan Testimonial Dinner Friday October 13

To be held at Wheatfield Post #1451, located at 6525 Ward Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132. No further details at this time.

VA Western New York Healthcare System

will host a community mental health summit Thursday, September 7, with registration beginning at 8 a.m. The event takes place in Freedom Hall, Room 301 at the Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo, NY.

USS The Sullivans DD-537/DDG-68 is having a reunion 9/20 to 9/24, 2017 at the Millennium hotel. Contact Hal Burke at (708) 387-7779, or sullydd-537@att.net for detailed info.



**SUBMISSIONS
For the October
"The Legion-Air"
Due September 29
thelegionair@gmail.com**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
The Erie County Committee
609 City Hall
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202
PHONE: (716) 852-6500
FAX: (716) 852-4664
e-mail: veteran14202@verizon.net



Saturday September 9

Iroquois Post # 1587 Fall Festival Parade starting at Noon. 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14202. If your Post is marching, please contact Bud Thomson at 255-2623.

Sunday September 17

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to 12:30 PM. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$8, children under 12 \$4, under 5 free.

Saturday September 23

ERIECO Women's Post Corn Roast at George F. Lamm Post Grove. 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221. 1-5 PM. All you can eat, beer & pop. \$12. OK to pay at the door.

Sunday, September 24

Hamburg Post Pancake breakfast served 9 AM to Noon, \$6 per person, children 8 and under are free. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee or tea. Benefits Post Scholarship Fund. 2 Memorial Drive - Off Evans St.

Wednesday September 27

Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, NY 14218 is hosting a CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ, 1/2 chicken, 2 sides, roll & butter, coffee or pop, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Eat in or Take Out. \$10.00 donation

Hamburg Post Spaghetti Dinners start on Sept. 14. Served on Thursdays 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8, half order \$6.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Mon. & Tues. Taco's, Wednesday's, 65 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday nights, is steak night. Friday nights, fish fries and specials, Saturday, pizza & wing's and sandwiches available, along with regular menu.

East Aurora Post #362, third Monday of each month thru September, cruise nights starting at 5 PM, totally free family night.

FJ Donovan Post #1626, Fish Fries, Friday's 4-8 PM, Szaras Catering.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 9/29 for the October edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor