



The Legion-Air

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Commander**

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May/June 2018

Commander's Message:

We're entering a season of many patriotic celebrations. I encourage our membership to participate wherever possible. As you participate, be a good ambassador for our organization. Wear your Legion uniform or at least your cap. In conversation be sure to use our full title of the American Legion so that potential members know who we are. Don't forget to promote our associated family organizations including the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Riders. Membership is a responsibility we should all embrace.

This is also a season of evaluation and presentation of awards. On April 14, I was honored to be a member of the group who judged resumes to select the Department JROTC Cadet of the Year. On April 19, I participated in an award ceremony for the Canisius ROTC. The Erie County American Legion sponsored a Scholastic Excellence Award and a Leadership Excellence Award.

I was proud to see the Erie County American Legion Family come together on April 14 at the Meat Raffle hosted by Hamburg Post to support Greg "Doc" Gibbs, their Sons of the American Legion candidate for National Commander. There was also a strong Erie County American Legion presence at the "Remember the Iowa" Memorial Service conducted on April 19 at the Naval Park.

As we are in a period of evaluation at the close of our business year, I strongly encourage Posts to complete their Consolidated Post Reports and send them forward. These reports play a large part in award determination starting at County, and all the way to National. I know a lot of Posts are involved in many productive programs. Please take the time to record your accomplishments in your Consolidated Post Report so your Post can be recognized at the Erie County Convention on June 2.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

As of the latest 4/10 update from Department, 5 Posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 100% set for 5/2. They are Lorenzo-Burrows, Depew, Frank Gierlach, Donovan and Bennett-Wells. 10 posts have surpassed the most recent goal of 95%. We have 15 Posts that are within 10 members from reaching the 100% target, keep it up, you are so close!! Thank you all for the hard work. The County is currently at 90.58% of our goal. Please reach out to members who have not paid this or last year's dues and try to get them to renew. Every member counts. Perhaps a Post revite, or calling on members in your geographic area who belong to Post 1. This information for Post 1 members can be found on the mylegion.org website. If your Post is not registered on the site, it is worth it just to gather information on local Post 1 members to ask them to transfer to their local Post. There is a Post in the County who did just this, sending out 197 letters to local Post 1 members, and in just 2 weeks they have received 21 positive responses.

National is currently working on a program where each Posts' membership person can pay through the internet on a credit card their members' dues, which should drastically cut down on the time it takes for the records to reflect the true membership of each respective Post. Please do not be discouraged by the current slow pace of a new member or renewal currently being updated.

Finally, I would like to take this time to thank all of you for helping me to learn and grow with my position this year as Membership Chairman for Erie County, from the current Erie County staff to past Erie County and Department Commanders and all Legionnaires throughout Erie County. I hope to see many of you at Commander Quirk's Testimonial Dinner set at Tehan Post on May 19. Any questions please call/text me at 949-3341 or e-mail: fattony8705@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Commander's Message: Continued

In closing I have to send out my heart-felt gratitude to the Erie County American Legion Family for all the support and help given to me during my term as Commander. It was my pleasure and honor to be a part of this dedicated and hardworking team as we serve veterans and our community.

Memorial Day Services – Anthony Druzvik Jr.

Annual Erie County American Legion services will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Monday May 28 starting at 9 AM. Graves's decoration will begin at 8 AM.

Jesse Clipper Post #430

On Memorial Day May 28, at 11 a.m. the Post will have a ceremony at the Jesse Clipper Square on Michigan Street corner of William Street to dedicate the new Jesse Clipper Park. They extend an invitation for everyone to join this day for this momentous occasion.

Americanism - George Barton

On April 18, I attended South Park High School JROTC class and I was very impressed in the cadet's knowledge of the proper American Flag Etiquette and flag folding. We also discussed the meaning of the American flag and what the flag meant to them. On April 24, I attended Cub Scout Pack 60 at South Buffalo Charter School and discussed the meaning of the American flag and demonstrated the proper way to the fold the American flag. I hope that I may be able to attend other organizations in the future.

Graves Registration – George Barton

Flag distribution will be Friday May 11, between 1000 and 1200 hours by the garage is located at the far end of Forest Lawn Cemetery close to Canisius College and Main Street. If you cannot make that date, please let me know so that we may make other agreements. On Memorial Day Monday May 28, we will start placing flags at 0800, with our services at 0900. Several dignitaries, JROTC's programs, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and several other volunteers will be in attendance. Also flag recovery will be on Monday June 4, at 0930.

Erie County Education Awards- Art Forman

To all Erie County Past Commanders and Posts, please support our annual Education Award Program by sending in your donation to the County office. Scholarship application is posted on the Erie County website.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

Wow what a year. When my wife and I picked up the calendars at PCC Paul Stewards house, I thought oh my what did I get into this year? I think there were 10 boxes. I said Paul how many calendars? There were 1,000. I was thinking maybe I will get 600 sold. Well, as of last night, I announced the count. 915 calendars sold. A special thank you to the seller of the most calendars, close to 300. Thank you to Tom Deinzer. To Commander Sue, I want to say thank you for my appointment and let you to know it has been an honor and pleasure to serve with you.

Boys State - VC Tom O'Connell

A big thank you goes out to all of the Posts who sponsored a boy(s) to Boys State this year. With permission from Ann Brown, we are sending five over our quota of 37. That's right, forty-two boys will be taking the bus trip on June 24 to Morrisville College. To make sure every boy understands what they have to do and when, we will hold a casual luncheon on June 10 at Niagara Frontier American Legion Post 1041 at 533 Amherst in downtown Black Rock right next door to Wegmans. The boys must report by Noon ready to serve Mom, Dad, Brothers and Sisters plus the Post Commander and Boys State chairman from the Post that sponsored them. The lunch will be served at 1:00 PM. We ask that the boys call and let us know how many are coming with them so we order enough food for everyone. See you there, I want to say thank you to Commander Sue for my appointment as Boys State chair for Erie County. The boys will return Friday night 6/29, at Post 1041 around 11:00 PM. Any questions, call me at 867-5730.

PNC Michael J. Kogutek Scholarship – Jim Bojanowski

Application is posted online at the Erie County website for two \$1,500 scholarships. Donations to continue this scholarship, can be sent to the Erie County Office.

Gold Star Mothers Mass – John Kasmer
 Saturday May 26, at St. Gregory the Great Church, 5:30 PM Mass on Maple Road, 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221. A light reception will be held at the Church immediately after Mass.



Paperwork DUE – Jim Bojanowski

- Consolidated Post Reports - MAY 16
- Committee Chair Reports - MAY 18
- County Delegate & Alternate Forms with \$3.00 check per name - MAY 25
- Delegates & Alternates request for Department & 8th District with \$10 check per name - MAY 25
- Officer Certification Form - JUNE 8
- Executive Delegate & Alternate - JUNE 8
- National Delegate request - JUNE 29

New York State Gold Star Mother President Holly Baker with Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk at the USS Iowa Memorial Service at the Buffalo Naval Park.



USS Iowa Memorial Service



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM
 Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

May 17, Hamburg Post #527

2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, 14075
 Menu: Ham, potato, veggies, and dessert

June 2, Iroquois Post #1587

Erie County Convention
 12987 Route 438
 Irving, NY 14081
Memorial Service 9 AM
Convention Start 10 AM
Registration from 8 AM to 12:30 PM

Saturday June 16

8th District Convention
 John J. Welch Post #381
 923 Niagara Ave.
 Niagara Falls, NY 14305
 11:00 AM – Nominating Committee Meeting
 1:00 PM – Convention Start
 Registration 10 AM to 1:30 PM

Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk Testimonial Dinner Saturday May 19

at Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2075 Electric Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219. Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cost \$30. Ticket deadline is Friday May 11. Send to Anthony Solina, 20 Miller Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219. Make check payable to Anthony Solina.
NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

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



SUBMISSIONS
For the July
"The Legion-Air"
Due June 20
thelegionair@gmail.com



Wednesday May 9

Past Commanders Club meeting at the 40 & 8 Chateau, 810 Rein Rd. Cheektowaga, starting at 7 PM. Send your \$5 dues payment to Ron Danielewicz, 66 West Main St. Lot #1, Corfu, NY, 14036.

Sunday May 13 & June 10

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.

Wednesday May 23

George F. Lamm Unit 622, Casino trip to Seneca Niagara. \$31 includes \$25 free play and \$5 food credit. Leave Post at 11 AM, leave Casino at 5 PM. Call Debbie at 836 – 9617.

Monday May 28

Frank Brink Post #607 Chicken Dinners from 11 AM to 2 PM. \$10 at the Holland Community Center, attached to the Post, Legion Drive, Holland, NY 14080. Take out only.

Saturday July 28

Flea Market at Matthew Glab Auxiliary 1477, 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, Tables \$15 each. Info/ table rental call Denice 348-8568

Sunday September 23

ERIECO Annual Corn Roast at the Lamm Post Grove from 1-5 PM. \$12, corn on the cob, hot dogs, salads, desserts, coffee, tea, and beer.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Sun, Mon, Tues, for Taco's, Wed. is 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday nights, is steak night. Fri. nights, fish fries/specials, Sat., pizza & wing's and sandwiches available. Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.

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 6/20 for the July edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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