



The Legion-Air

**Suzanne Quirk
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor**



thelegionair@gmail.com

April 2018

Commander's Message:

I was proud to be a part of the well-rounded group that represented Erie County at Legislative Day in Albany on the 13th of March. In addition to me, our delegation included Dennis McCarthy, Bill Miskell, Jim Bojanowski, Joe and Karyn Porempski, Tony Solina, Tom O'Connell, Wayne Sorrentino, Tom Deinzer, Art Forman and Terry Stillwagon. We visited the offices of ten of our area legislators, including Senators Kennedy and Gallivan. (Pictures in the newsletter) The topics discussed covered treatment of PTSD and TBI, suicide prevention, Boys State, property tax exemptions, homeless vets in NYS and increasing availability of counselors hired by the VA in NYS. It was my experience that we were well received and engaged in an informed dialogue.

The American Legion is not the only Legion Family member anticipating a centennial birthday. The American Legion Auxiliary will celebrate its birthday on April 10th, having received their charter in 1919. The American Legion Centennial Celebration is actually a family affair.

I would like to announce that the Testimonial Dinner as I leave office as your Erie County Commander has been scheduled for May 19th at the Tehan Post. A letter with additional information will be circulated soon.

In closing, I would like to extend my wishes that everyone had a Happy and Holy Easter and/or Passover Celebration.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Official guidelines are now posted on the County website. <http://eriecountyal.org/> It is time to start creating your nominations from your Post that must be received by April 9. Send to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main St. Williamsville, NY 14221.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

As of the latest update from Department, which came out on 27 March, 8 posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 95% set for 4 April. 19 posts have surpassed the most recent goal of 90%, but not the County; which is currently just 13 members shy of the 90% 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.

Lorenzo-Burrows, Depew, Frank Gierlach and Bennett-Wells Posts have all hit their 100% goal. Keep on charging! We have 11 Posts that are under 10 members away from reaching the 100% target. Keep it up, you are so close!! Thank you all for the hard work.

National is currently working on a program where each Posts' membership person can pay through the internet on a credit card, their members' dues. This 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 being updated to your lists.

Have a great month and I look forward to seeing many of you at our next County meeting at East Aurora Post on the 26th.

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.

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. Earmark check for Scholarships. Scholarship application is posted on the Erie County website.

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.

Past Commanders Club is looking for new members and the Club is willing to help your Post resolve issues. Please send in your \$5 dues payment to Ron Danielewicz, 66 West Main St. Lot #1, Corfu, NY, 14036. The next meeting is Wednesday 5/9 at the 40 & 8 Chateau, 810 Rein Rd. Cheektowaga, starting at 7 PM.

Hamburg Post Spaghetti Dinners served on Thursdays, from 4:30 to 7 PM. Meatballs, salad, and bread. Coffee \$.50. Full order \$8, half \$6. April 29 is the last dinner of the season.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Sun. Mon. & Tues. for Taco's, Wed. is 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thur. 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.

The South Buffalo American Legion Auxiliary Unit #721 will be serving Taco's in our downstairs club room on Wednesday April 11th & Wednesday April 25th from 5-7 PM. Soft Shell Tacos are \$3 each, hard shell 2/\$3, Nachos & Cheese \$1.50 and Nacho Supreme \$2.50.

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.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

I want to thank all who helped in selling calendars. It is great when you see so many Veterans working together to help make our projects a success. If you should want one or two calendars please feel free to call me at 967-5730. This year we have sold 885 calendars. I also still have Delta Sonic car wash tickets. For \$10 you get a super kiss wash and within five days a second wash.

BOYS STATE VC Tom O'Connell

April 2, 2018 was the date I need all the paper work and the check for your Boys State candidate. We have 23 boys as of today, so we have more room. Contact me at 867-5730. The boys will leave on June 24 from Niagara Frontier Post 1041 at 8 AM. The Post is located at 533 Amherst Street. All Boys must check in between 7 and 7:30 AM. Coffee, Tea, Milk and soft drink plus donuts will be available for the boy's family and Post representatives.

Americanism: VC George Barton

The National Vietnam War Veterans Day was celebrated on March 29. Between November 1955 and March 1973, more than 8.7 million American's served in the Vietnam War, and more than 58,000 were killed in action. The Defense Department Agency states, 1,600 soldiers still remain unaccounted for. For those 7 million plus that did return, they are finally receiving their proper benefits and health care. I thank all of you that served in the Vietnam War and Happy Vietnam War Veteran's Day.

Graves Registration: VC George Barton

Thanks to Adjutant James Bojanowski for taking care of the legwork to obtain funding for new flags for Memorial Day. 3,500 flags have been ordered thru the Erie County Veteran's Service Agency. We will again be receiving a \$4,000 check from the Buffalo Mayor's Office to purchase flags. Post flag requests were mailed out, and are due to the Office by Friday April 20. Flag distribution will be at Forest Lawn Cemetery by the garage on Friday May 11.

Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk led a delegation to Senator Patrick Gallivan's office during the March Hill Day visitations.



Jim Bojanowski, Dennis McCarthy, and Bill Miskell with Senator Tim Kennedy on the Senate Chamber floor.



2018 Buffalo VA Creative Arts Festival with refreshments by the Erie County Auxiliary, with Jim Bojanowski, Amelia Parrish, Stefanie Baxter, Kay Warren, and Anne Baglio.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

April 26, East Aurora Post #362

1 Legion Drive, East Aurora, NY 14052

Menu: Boneless Pork Chops, mashed potatoes, veggies, and dessert

May 17, Hamburg Post #527

June 2, Iroquois Post #1587

Erie County Convention

Please support their program book with your ads and boosters.

Sunday April 8,

8th District Meeting - Cattaraugus County

Little Valley Post #531

Erie St., Little Valley, NY 14755

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk Testimonial Dinner Saturday May 19

at Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449. Cost \$30.

Cocktails (2 free drinks) at 6:00 PM, Dinner at

7:00 PM. Send reservations to Tony Solina by May 10, at 20 Miller Ave., Blasdell, NY 14219.

No payments 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 May/June
"The Legion-Air"
Due April 27
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 April 14

Hamburg Squadron 527 is sponsoring a Meat Raffle to support National SAL Candidate Greg "Doc" Gibbs. First raffle at 7 PM. \$5 admission includes, beer, pop, & hot dog.

Saturday April 14

Wrestling at Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., 14225, bell time at 7 PM. VIP \$14, adults \$12, Kids, 12 & under \$10. Extra \$2 the day of event. Call 896 – 3346.

Sunday April 15

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.

Sunday April 22

Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates Ave. Sloan, 14212, Spaghetti Dinner, Noon – 5 PM, \$8, under 12, \$5. 896-2954.

Saturday April 28

721 Auxiliary is sponsoring a Meat Raffle. First spin at 7 PM. \$5 Admission includes: door prize, refreshments, snacks and food.

Sunday April 29

George F. Lamm Unit 622 Western Hoe Down, 962 Wherle Dr., Williamsville, 14221, \$20 pp includes includes roast beef, salads, beer, pop, & wine. Food 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Music by Ghost Riders 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Call Debbie at 836 - 9617

Monday May 28

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

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 4/27 for the May/June edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

