



The Legion-Air

Wayne Sorrentino
Commander

Tim Van Patten
Adjutant

Jim Bojanowski
Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

May/June 2016

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legion family & friends. Thank You to East Aurora Post for the excellent job on the dinner & great hospitality for our April meeting. Thank you to Doreen Cesari and her team from the Abigail Fillmore Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution for the beautiful Vietnam War Veterans' certificates and pins. If any Vietnam War (or War Era) vets do not have their certificate, please contact me and we'll get it to you expeditiously. Thank you Doreen and crew for your dedication to the mission of presenting these certificates to every Vietnam Vet.

Congratulations to our 4 Posts who are at the 100% mark (or above): ErieCo, Jesse Clipper, Depew and Tehan. Thank you to everyone for all of your efforts with membership. Keep Charging!! and don't stop now. Let's all keep working to reverse the downward membership trend. Remember to "Just Ask". Now is the time to make your final push for membership by calling and visiting every Post member who has not yet paid their 2016 dues.

I have completed 35 visitations as of today, and have the last 4 scheduled. Thank you to all of our Erie County Posts for your wonderful hospitality during my visitations. As the song goes: "Thanks for the memories" and thank you all for the support you've given me and my staff during my year as your Commander. Remember that we are here to help you achieve your membership goals.

Thanks to Hamburg, Orchard Park, Lamm, Donovan, & East Aurora Posts for sending your newsletters to me and now also getting newsletters from Grand Island and Belgium! I know great things are happening across Erie County and my staff & I would like to support your event, but we need to know about it. Newest newsletters are Eden Post, Clarence Post, Erie County Auxiliary and Troop I Post. Thank you. God bless our troops.

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

It has been a busy month. I am sad to report we lost one of our Post Commanders. He was a colorful member and had a strong belief in his Post and the American Legion. The man was Norm Bakos. We were studying ways to keep his Post #1306, East Lovejoy open. I promised Norm that I would help with his Hennepin Park Event which is held before Memorial Day. With Norm's passing, I plan to honor this promise. If you are Interested in helping, please let me know. 634-6394, nelson126@roadrunner.com, Thanks.

Membership is moving slowly. Please review your records for unpaid members. As of this writing, we are at about 92% of our goal. There is still time to move this number up. Remember in order to receive the extra bonus funding, you must have your transmittals into department Hdqtrs by 6/14. I would suggest you send the transmittal by Priority Mail. When filling it out online, type in your Email address and they will send you an email receipt when it is received. The cost is about \$6, but I think it is worth the expense if it is close and you will know exactly when it got to Albany.

As the lead Candidate for County Commander I have been out to see some of the Posts and will attempt to visit as many as possible. This will depend on how well my arm and hand heals. I have been well received at the Posts I have visited. I thank you for that. Erie County is Veterans Country. Thank you for your service!

Information Needed - Tim Van Patten

Remember to send in your Post's County delegates and alternates, \$3 per name, Department/District delegates and alternates, \$10 per name, your Executive Committee delegate and alternate, and you're Post Consolidated Reports. Also, please send in your list of new officers as soon as they are elected, along with a copy of the Post Commander's DD 214.

Memorial Day Services, Monday, May 30

Forest Lawn Cemetery. Decorate graves at 8 am followed by Memorial Service at 9:00 am.

Gold Star Mothers Mass – John Kasmer

Will be held on Saturday May 28 at Queen of Martyrs R.C. Church, 180 George Urban Blvd. Cheektowaga 14225 at the 4:00 PM Mass. Assembly at 3:30 PM in front of the church.

Boy's State - Pierre Harper Sr.

Boys' State is in full swing and I am proud to report that Erie County will be sending 35 delegates to Morrisville. I would like to thank all of the Post chairpersons for doing an excellent job of getting completed applications and selecting qualified delegates for the program this year. We will be having our luncheon on June 12th at 1 PM at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo 14207. I look forward to meeting all of the delegates and their parents. Once again, I will be stepping down after this year and I would love to turn over to an interested Legionnaire to take lead this great program. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about the Boys' State program and assuming the County Lead.

Depew Post #1528 coordinated with the Erie County Clerk's Office to host an Erie County Thank-A-Vet Program Sign Up Event. The program offers Veterans discounts for goods and services at numerous participating vendors throughout Erie County. Local organizers are pictured with Erie County Clerk Chris Jacobs.



"Thank A Vet" Discount Program Outreach Event for Erie County held at Concord American Legion Post 431, **Wednesday, May 25th**, Noon – 2 PM. All veterans need to bring their original honorable discharge papers from any branch of service of the United States Armed Forces. You must be an Erie County resident.



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

The Delta Sonic Super Kiss car wash tickets are now available for distribution and sale. I bought 100 tickets of which 50 have already been distributed to Posts, and 5 been sold. We are selling the tickets for \$10 each, rather than the \$12 previously mentioned. \$10 is easier for sellers, as a round number.

This is a new fundraising venture for Erie County. I'm asking everyone to at least give it a try. Each \$10 ticket is good for a Delta Sonic Super Kiss car wash which normally costs over \$15, including sales tax. That's a great deal for anyone who gets their car washed. The tickets are a sure thing; no hoping your number gets drawn. Anyone interested in getting tickets, please call me at 839-9109, or email at bjorzechowski@verizon.net. I have an 8.5" x 11" flyer as a hardcopy or as an MS Word file.

This will be my last article as Special Activities chair so I would like to say "Thank You" to everyone for your support during the year. It has been my honor to serve the County in this capacity and I would ask you all to please give the same level of support to my successor.

Graves Decoration – Rory Hornberger

Pick up ordered Flags at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Wednesday 5/18 from 10 AM to Noon.

Tonawanda's Post 264 is looking for members to join their marching band color guard. If anyone is interested, please contact Dave at 879-2841 for more info.

Save Sunday October 9 for the Annual 5K race to benefit Homeless Female Veterans

Saturday August 13

Hamburg Post 527 is holding their 5th Annual Golf tournament at Holland Hills Country Club. Shotgun start Noon, hole in one contest for a 2016 car sponsored by West-Herr of Hamburg. Lunch at the start, with a chicken & Rib dinner at the finish. Prizes and 50/50. Open to all. Cost \$80. Proceeds to benefit the VA Hospital and Homeless Female Veterans Transitional Housing Project. For information call Jim Koester 570-1349 or Dan Murphy 648-0792.

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

I was proud to be a part of the Boys State and Girls State orientations. I and my co-members of Erie County Women's Post #1586 provided the tuition to sponsor deserving young people in these productive Americanism programs in the American Legion Family. I also attended a Tea hosted by Hamburg Post #527 to honor Linda Miskell as her term as Erie County President comes to a close.

May is usually a busy month for all. Please make room on your calendar for Armed Forces Week activities May 1 thru 7. The Opening Ceremony is May 1, at the Buffalo Riverworks, 359 Ganson St., Buffalo at Noon.

I would also like to encourage you to attend the 5/15 Erie County Commander's Testimonial Dinner at George F. Lamm Post #622. Open bar begins at 4:30 PM and Dinner will be at 6:00 PM.

As Historian, I offer my assistance to those working on a Post Scrapbook to be entered for judging at the Erie County Convention on June 4. Please present Scrapbooks as early as possible during registration. I can be reached at 549-3803. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as an Erie County Vice Cmdr this year and I am looking forward to continuing my service next year.

Remember to bring pictures or announcements pertaining to Post activities to the County meeting to share on the Legion Activity Board. Save 9/25 for the annual Erie County Women's Corn Roast

Special recognition goes out to Ginger Lindner and The Clarence American Legion Auxiliary Post #838 who recently delivered 200 care packages with the help of 11 other Post members to the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

The Erie County American Legion Buffalo Department Convention donated exercise equipment to the Buffalo VA Cardiac Rehab Unit. Members of the Committee are pictured with Director Brian Stiller and Nurse Nicole Braun.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

May 19, Lackawanna Post #63

144 Kirby Ave. Lackawanna, NY 14218

Menu; Breaded Pork Chops, Baked Chicken, Potato Salad, Green Beans, Salad, & Dessert

Sunday May 15

Erie County Commander Wayne Sorrentino Testimonial Dinner at George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wherle Dr., Williamsville, 14221.

Open Bar Cocktails 4:30 PM, Dinner at 6 PM, Cost \$25. Ticket deadline is Friday May 6 to Suzanne Quirk, 570 Herr Rd. Angola, NY 14006. Check payable to Erie County American Legion. NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

Menu: Baked Chicken, Stuffed Beef Rolls, Salad, Lazy Pierogi, Corn, Sweet & Sour Cabbage, Mashed Potatoes, Salad, Ice Cream.

June 4, Erie County Convention

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell, 14219

Registration 8:00 - 11:30 AM

Memorial Service 9:00 AM

Convention Session Starts 10:00 AM

Saturday June 18

8th District Convention - Genesee County

Sackett-Merrill-White Post #575

21 Lake Rd., Bergen, NY 14416

1:00 PM – Convention Session Starts

Come out and support our Erie County candidate for 8th District Commander, Past Erie County Commander Jim Bojanowski

Past Commander Club pay your membership \$5 dues at the County meeting or Convention. The picnic is **Sunday June 26** at Stiglmeier Park, Shelter #8, 810 Losson Rd. Cheektowaga, 14227. Pay \$5/person by the County Convention.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org.

Erie County Office Hours

Staffed by Tim Van Patten every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.



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 May 7

Kentucky Derby Party from 4:30 pm - ?,
 Concord American Legion Post #431, 109
 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, Food & drinks.

Sunday May 8 & June 12

ALL YOU AN 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 May 8

Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet, 8am – Noon,
 Concord American Legion Post 431, Buffet
 includes: Scrambled eggs, pancakes, ham,
 sausage, home fries, white, wheat, or rye
 toast, orange juice, coffee and tea., Adults \$9,
 Children 4-9 = \$5, Toddlers 3 & under free, A
 present for Mom's.

Saturday May 14

ECAL Veterans for Veterans, Inc. will host a
 Meat Raffle at Concord American Legion Post
 #431, 109 Zoar Valley Road, Springville, NY
 14141. NOTE LOCATION CHANGE. First spin
 7 PM sharp. Door prize is an outdoor grill, a
 basket raffle also held. Refreshments & food
 will be available. All proceeds will go towards
 assisting our Veterans and Military Families.

Sunday May 15

Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St.
 Cheektowaga, 14225. Pancake Breakfast 8:30
 AM to 12:30 PM. Adults \$8, ages 5 -12 \$4, 4 &
 under free. Inc. sausage, eggs, juice, coffee.

East Aurora Post #362

Starting 5/16, and each 3rd Monday of the
 month thru September, they will be holding a
 Cruise Night. Center Rd. & Legion Dr, East
 Aurora, 14052. Starts 5 PM. Fair weather only.

Sunday June 19

Pancake Breakfast at Frank Gierlach Post
 #1320, 50 Gates Ave, Sloan, 14212 from 9 AM
 to Noon. \$5 per person.

Donovan Post #1626,

Friday Fish Fries suspended, looking for a
 caterer. Call John Stiegler Cmdr. at 982-8316.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to
thelegionair@gmail.com by June 20 for the
 July edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor