



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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December 2018

Commander's Message:

I hope everyone had a happy and filling Thanksgiving. Thank you for understanding the reasoning behind me missing some meetings this past month due to the birth of my daughter, Alessandra. Sleepless Nights!

On November 3rd, I had the honor of attending a Veteran's Day ceremony at a rehabilitation facility in the city for their veteran patients. They all seemed moved by the County being there and we were treated with much respect and gratitude by the staff. After that, I headed to Brounshidle Post for their 2nd annual open house event. Many veteran groups were there to help their community's veterans as well as securing some new members for their Post.

I would like to thank everyone for attending the Veteran's Day Mass held on the 11/10 at Our Mother of Good Council Parish in Blasdell along with the reception at Tehan Post. The Gold Star parents were extremely touched by the service and what we do.



The following morning was our annual Veteran's Day ceremony at Forest Lawn. The kids worked hard decorating the graves of over 7,000 veterans. It was pretty cold so it was much appreciated that everyone stuck to their allotted times for giving their remarks. Following that, I attended and gave some remarks at the Cheektowaga Veteran's Day ceremony.

Membership – VC Gary Wald

Our membership team has been doing a great job and our present hurdle is to make 75% membership by December 5. As of 11/14/18, Department says we need 370 more members county wide to reach this December goal. In order to stimulate increases in membership above and beyond what our most recent membership goals are for the year, National has increased incentives to Departments and extended some to Posts. Post Commanders, Post Adjutants, and Post Membership chairs should also be looking into recruitment awards that can be found on the Department of NY Website. Your Post will receive \$5 for every expired member who renews from 2014, 2015, and 2016 for 2019. These expired members can be found on MYLEGION website.

I wish all a wonderful holiday season, and ask that you give the gift of Legion membership to someone currently serving, or recently discharged. It could provide them with a sense of family away from home.

Commander's Message: (Continued)

All these ceremonies are consistently well put together with nice attention to detail and are the sort of things that are essential for our youth to attend to help them gain an understanding of what it has taken and will take to continue to secure freedom. I also want to share something. In a Virginian town that has a Sunday farmer's market. The local American Legion Post began setting up shop there this past April and managed to sign up 60 new members through the markets' season. They have already restarted some programs, they were about to cut. Their Sons and Auxiliary have begun to swell again as well. The whole 'Family' push has worked out tremendously for them (they even started a Rider's program out of this). I encourage Posts to contact the head of their local farmers markets' about putting up a tent and perhaps duplicating that Posts' model.

Americanism – VC George Barton

On Saturday November 3, I attended a Veteran's Day ceremony with Erie County Commander Anthony Solina and Aide Paul Wackowski at the Buffalo Center of Nursing and Rehab. This ceremony was designed to honor veteran's that are residents in the facility and included an honorary flag in a display case that was flown over the Capital Building in June 2018. The veterans were also honored with a Certificate of Appreciation by Erie County Government.

Veterans Day – George Barton

On Sunday November 11, the Erie County American Legion had their annual ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery. South Park, McKinley and Hutch Tech High Schools JROTC, along with Maritime Charter School and other youth organizations were in attendance for the ceremony. Decoration of 7,000 graves was completed, followed by the annual ceremony. The recovery of the flags was completed on Monday November 12, by 22 students from Hutch Tech and McKinley High Schools JROTC and Maritime Charter School.

JR Shooters – Tim Winterhalter

The Maritime School, sponsored by Orchard Park Post, shot a new record recently scoring 1905, breaking the old mark of 1897. Dan Moran shot a 508, just one-point shy of the individual record.

On Friday, November 9, Newell-Faulkner Post #880 Commander Jim Blidy presented the American Flag to Southtowns Catholic School during their annual Veterans Day Celebration.



Special Activities – VC Thomas O'Connell

With the calendars in the hands of the Posts, we now need to get them sold. They make great Christmas gifts. Please sell your calendars and get the returns to me ASAP. I also have Delta Sonic Car Wash coupons for sale.

Boy's State – VC Thomas O'Connell

will be held June 27 to July 2, 2019 at SUNY Morrisville. Please start interviewing candidates now. Information packets were handed out at the County meeting to the Posts present. Make sure you only use the 2019 paperwork. Completed forms must be returned to the County Office by the end of March. Cost will be \$450 this year which includes the program, transportation, and the luncheon.

Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

Deadline for application has passed and again this year, we have no Erie County contestants. The 8th District Oratorical Contest will be held at M J Brounshidle Post #205 on Sunday 1/13 starting at 1 PM. Please show your support.

Armed Forces Sabbath - Wayne Sorrentino

The Mass at St. Joe's Cathedral, was held on Sunday 11/4 and was celebrated by Fr. Mike P. Zuffoletto, CDR, USN (Ret.) Chaplain Corps. We had color guards from the Sea Cadets, the Maritime Charter School and Niagara University ROTC.

South Buffalo Post #721 located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving dinners every Monday night, 12/3, 10 & 17.

Hamburg Post 527 Spaghetti Dinners every Thursday from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8. half order \$6. Chicken Wings on Saturdays.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057, Wednesday 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday steak night. Friday night fish fries and specials. Saturday pizza, wing's and sandwiches. Regular menu also Wed.-Sat. Go to kitchen link, www.post880.com.

American Legion members from Jesse Clipper Post 430 were among those who helped break ground for a Buffalo Memorial that will pay tribute to African American veterans. (L to R) are: Rev. Eugene L. Pierce, Past Post Commander; Perry Civils, Post Sgt.-at-Arms; Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski; Post Commander Paulette Woods; WWII Veteran Paul Woods, WWII Memorial Coordinator; State Assemblywoman Chrystal Peoples-Stokes; Henry Curtis, Past Post Commander; and Deacon Michael Davis, Post Chaplain.



U.S. Congressman Brian Higgins presented Vietnam War Commemoration Certificates and Pins to members of American Legion Jesse Clipper Post 430. Members honored were: (L to R) Donald Paulk Membership Recruiter, Perry Civils Sgt.-at-Arms, Rev. Eugene L. Pierce Past Post Commander, Congressman Brian Higgins, Peter Stokes, Richard Hill 2nd Vice Commander.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

December 20, Francis Donovan Post #1626

Menu: Roasted Turkey, Stuffing, Sweet Potatoes, Spiced Apples, Salad, Christmas Cake & Ice Cream.

January 31, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

February 28, Newcomb-Long Post #928

Mid-Winter Albany Conference 1/24 - 26

Department American Legion Family Leadership Team Erie County Visitation Saturday February 16 at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, NY 14075.

We will be hosting Department Commander Gary Schacher, Department President Marie Mock, SAL Detachment Commander James Coates, and Legion Riders Director Bob Wallace. Cash Bar Cocktails at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. Cost is \$32, payable by Friday February 8. No sales the week of the dinner, or at the door. Please also consider an Ad for \$15, and/or sign the booster page for \$1. Ads and boosters due to the office by Friday January 26. Donations to their projects can be made that night after the conclusion of their speeches.

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 January
"The Legion-Air"
Due December 21
thelegionair@gmail.com



Saturday December 15

Newell Faulkner Post #880 2912 Legion Dr, Eden, NY 14057, is holding a Meat Raffle starting at 7 PM.

Saturday December 15

VA Sled Hockey team is holding a Meat Raffle at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, starting at 6 PM.

Sunday December 16

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.

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Ticket deadline is Friday February 8. Ad/Booster deadline is Friday January 26.

FJ Donovan Post #1626 at 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225, Dave's Kitchen now serving a full menu, Fish Fries and weekly specials. Fridays 4-8 PM.

A Very Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone in our American Legion Family!



Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/21 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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