



The Legion-Air

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April 2019

Commander's Message:

I hope everyone is enjoying the slow change to warmth and daylight.

I am beginning my Post visitations in April and although I have the information on Posts that attended meetings in February and March, I still need information on the other Posts, if you would like me to come by for a visitation. I will need: Post name; Meeting day and time; & Contact. Please e-mail me the information to: fattony8705@yahoo.com or call/text: (716) 949-3341. Thank you.

Several other Legionnaires from this County and I attended Hill Day in Albany. We were able to make contact with a lot of the representatives but not all of them as we need greater participation in this effort. The larger our group is, the better the chance we will have our collective voice heard.

Friday, April 5 is the beginning of the New York State Gold Star Mother's Convention with Erie County's own Holly Baker serving as the current President. That evening, at the Millennium Hotel (near the Walden Galleria Mall), is their Memorial Ceremony at 7:00 PM. Please, if anyone is able to attend, do (and wear your American Legion caps). Let us show a strong American Legion presence while we honor real American heroes.

All Posts should have received by now a letter from the District about the 8th District Golf Tournament. It will be held on Friday June 14 (the day before the 8th District Convention) down at a Vineyard Golf Course in Fredonia. It is just \$60 dollars a golfer, which includes green fees, golf cart, and a steak dinner with prizes after. Anyone and everyone are permitted to partake, bring three of your friends or family members, and have a good time out there while we raise some money for our District's Children & Youth's fund. The POC is Stan Kawski at 792-9462.

5/25 Gold Star Mother's Mass – John Kasmer

4:30 Mass at Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish.
Reception to follow at Matthew Glab Post #1477.

Membership – VC Gary Wald

Continue to market our name as much as possible by wearing clothing with Legion logos, and by sending in articles to the B's & Pennysavers announcing events at your Posts for free in the Community events sections of the Papers. Keep getting our name out there. As the largest wartime veterans group in the country, we can make a difference. Congratulations for making and exceeding 100% to Jesse Clipper Post, MJ. Brounshidle Post, and Depew Post.

From Wayne P. Sorrentino, District Director

Thank you all for the dedicated work you've been doing for membership, including our Post leaders who have already achieved 100% or better. Remember our NY goal is to get above 100K members again by the end of this membership year. Please ask your friends, neighbors & anyone you see with a military-style ball cap or jacket patch (who turns out to be an eligible veteran) to join our great organization.

The new "Process Membership" tab is available on National's website to allow Posts to renew one or multiple members at one time, or to add a new member or two, and then pay by e-check. Please give "Process Membership" a try and give me your comments on the ease of use, any difficulties experienced, etc. If your Post does not have access to mylegion.org, please contact me and I'll help you through the relatively easy registration process. National has offered to provide our Posts with a \$5 incentive for bringing back into the organization and paying 2019's dues for those members who've had their memberships expire during 2014, 2015 or 2016. If you need help getting the list of these past/expired members, please ask me and I'll gladly send it to you as an Excel spreadsheet. The \$5 incentive offer runs through May 8, 2019, so the time to start is NOW!

I will work with you to a MINI-REVITE in your Post. Help is available if you only request it...

Celebrating 100 Years of Service

The American Legion celebrated its 100th Birthday the week of March 15 – 17th, 2019. As Commander of the Milton J Brounshidle American Legion Post 205, we are also celebrating our 100th year of service as Proud Members of Americas Original Veteran Service Organization. Chartered by the US Congress at the conclusion of the War to End all Wars in 1919, your American Legion has been the leading advocate for all veterans. Working with Congress to establish the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that service members receive proper care as well as having established the original GI Bill affording returning veterans the opportunity to better themselves and this country. I recently had the pleasure of attending a dinner recognizing the American Legion Department of New York Commander Gary Schacher. Gary has the distinction of being first Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Veteran to achieve this level of Office in New York State. The dining room was filled with Veterans from all eras of service: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam, Grenada, Libya, Panama, The Gulf War, Bosnia & more recently Veterans who have served in the Global War on Terror in Iraq & Afghanistan. This distinction struck me as a symbolic passing of the torch, a Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom has been elevated to lead NYS American Legion into the challenges of its Second Century of Service. As I looked around the room, I saw something much more important. Regardless of Era or Branch of Service what I saw was a continuing commitment to service in support of the four pillars of which the American Legion was built upon; *Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth programs*. As a Veteran of Bosnia, Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) & Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF/Afghanistan) I would like to extend an Invitation not only to the recent Veterans of the Global War on Terror but to any and all Veterans of Qualifying service to join your local American Legion Post as we deploy into its second Century of Service.

Since joining the American Legion, I have rediscovered a Continued Sense of Service and Esprit de corps with Fellow Veterans that I had not experienced since my retirement from service. My only regret being having waited ten years to join this Great Organization.

In Continued Service for God & Country, Ted Balbierz, Commander, Milton J Brounshidle #205



Special Activities – VC Thomas O’Connell

I want to thank all those who helped sell the 866 Calendars. I do have 48 available but we are still missing 86 calendars. I will be contacting the Posts or individuals who still have outstanding calendars that were not turned in. I congratulate David McKeever Post 64 for selling the most calendars 94, a big thank you. Thanks also to Tehan Post #1449 who sold 91. One Legion member is responsible for selling 112 calendars. Congratulations Tom Dienzer.

Boy’s State – VC Thomas O’Connell

By now, I should have received all of the information for the Boys who will be attending this year’s program. Next step for Boys State will be the information breakfast on Saturday June 8. Please make sure your Boy is informed of this. The Boy State Delegates are asked to check in by 9:30 AM. Mom, Dad, Sister, Brother, & Post Legion representative are all invited. The delegate will make sure you are served, after he checks in. We ask that each delegate call Post 1041 at 875-9276 and let us know how many will be attending with him. Post 1041 address is 533 Amherst, Buffalo, between Elmwood and Grant, right next to Wegmans. Breakfast will be served at 10:30 AM., with French toast, sausage, scrambled eggs, and home fries. The boys will serve the meal and help with clean up. This will be casual dress.

South Buffalo Auxiliary Unit #721 will be holding a Cinco De Mayo on Wednesday May 1st from 4 - 7 PM. \$10 all you can eat.

David McKeever Auxiliary Unit #64

23rd Annual Peggy Sopko Memorial Benefit for Cradle Beach Saturday April 6th from 2-6 PM. Donation \$25 includes a sheet of tickets and your choice of Chicken or Roast Beef dinner. Basket donations would be greatly appreciated.

Armed Forces Week

Opening ceremony will be at Riverworks on Sunday May 5 at noon, the luncheon will be Thursday May 9 at Salvatore’s, Cost \$30, the Ball will be held Saturday May 18, Cost \$50. Contact John Kasmer for tickets at 634 – 1128.

NYS Senator Chris Jacobs honored County Sgt-at-Arms Joe Cash as Veteran of the month at Orchard Park Post in March.



Hill Day with (L to R) Art Forman, John Miga, Bill Miskell, NYS Senator Tim Kennedy, Tom Deinzer, Tony Solina, & Jim Bojanowski



Legion Baseball Alumni, 2019 HOF inductee Lee Smith at American Legion Weekend in Cooperstown with National Cmdr. Brett Reistad and NYS Cmdr. Gary Schacher



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

April 25, East Aurora Post #362

2 Legion Drive, East Aurora, NY

Menu: Boneless Breaded Porkchops, Cheesey Potatoes, Salad, Vegetable Coffee & Dessert.

May 16, Iroquois Post #1587

June 1, Matthew Glab Post #1477

Erie County Convention

Please support the convention with your ads and boosters.

Sunday April 7, 8th District Meeting at 1 PM

at Hendershott-Manness VFW Post #374

550 Main St. Arcade, NY. 14009

Americanism – VC George Barton

I thank all Vietnam War Veteran's for your service to our country. When you returned from the war, you did not receive the welcome home that you should have received. Those who did not return, we will remember forever. The National Vietnam War Veterans Day is celebrated each year on March 29. More than 8.7 million American's served in the Vietnam War, and more than 58,000 were killed in action. 1,600 soldiers still remain unaccounted.

Graves Registration – VC George Barton

New flags have been secured from the County and the City of Buffalo by our County legion Office. Thanks Jim. Flag request forms have been sent to all the Posts and are due back to the County office by April 26. Flag distribution, at Forest Lawn Cemetery Garage on May 17.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org



**SUBMISSIONS
For the May/June
"The Legion-Air"
Due April 26
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Sunday April 7

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.

Sunday April 28

Milton J. Broushidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, 14217, is having a Pancake Breakfast from 9 AM to 1 PM. Adults \$7.50, children 12 & under \$5, under 6 free.

Saturday May 4

ECAL Veterans For Veterans, Inc. will be hosting a Meat Raffle at the Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst Street. Doors open at 6 PM and Raffle will begin at 7 PM. \$5.00 donation will include beer, pop and pizza. All proceeds will go towards helping our Homeless Veterans. We will also have a basket raffle. Call Anne at 592-3756 or Kathy at 822-6121 if you have any questions.

South Buffalo Post #721 located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving dinners every Monday night 5 – 8 PM. Wed. April 10 & 24 – Taco night 5 – 7 PM.

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 – Sat.

Francis Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225 will be having our famous Friday fish fry 4-8, join us 4/26 for rock'n music by Crash Cadillac 8-11.

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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 4/26 for the May/June edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

