



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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August 2019

### **Commander's Message:**

I have spent a busy month since being elected.

I attended Forest Lawn for Flag Day Ceremonies. Three Buffalo public schools participated, 54, 17, and 31. They had all their students in attendance. I got to speak to many the students. I could not believe how many students raised their hand when asked how many had a Mom or Dad who served our country.

Then came the Department Convention. Four very busy days and three great dinners. The convention finished on Saturday with the election of Mike McDermott to lead us into our 101<sup>st</sup> year. I hope when Erie County welcomes the Department Commander at his visitation all of you will join us.

Our next meeting will be held at the Jurek Post on August 15, 2019. Our guest speakers will be National Educational Institute of Growth Through Horses. This Group is very helpful in helping those with PTSD issues. Please pass this on to all Post Members so they might attend the demonstration which will be held after the Executive meeting.

**Newly elected Department of New Commander Michael McDermott being sworn in by Judge Advocate W. Patrick Falvey, as Past Commander Gary Schacher looks on.**



### **Membership – VC Paul Wackowski**

Well! another Legion year (2019 -2020] has started. There are no recent updates to report on membership numbers at this newsletter mailing. Just a few notes:

The total per capita that needs to be transmitted has risen from \$34.50 to \$36.50 as Department no longer covers \$2.00 of the last National increase.

I highly recommend that each Post use MYLEGION, a great tool for processing membership and acquiring other information such as your current roster, putting out your Post newsletter, communicating with your members, new members in Post 1 and a lot more information.

Four Posts have not picked up or made arrangements for pick up. They are; Posts 607, 1031, 1346 and 1780. I can be reached at paulwackowski@yahoo.com or 716 262 5245.

### **From Wayne Sorrentino, 8<sup>th</sup> District Membership Task Force Director**

The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Districts Membership Workshop will be held Saturday August 17, at Botts-Fiorito Post #576, located at 53 W Main St., Le Roy, New York 14482 (585) 768-2090

This workshop is open to ALL Legion, Auxiliary & SAL members. Workshop starts at 9:30 AM. A FREE lunch will immediately follow the workshop.

### **NYS Buffalo Department Convention**

Thanks go out to all who supported the convention efforts with your Ads & Boosters, and attendance, as we hosted our fellow American Legion Family members from across New York State. Special thanks to all the committee members who donated many hours to support the conventions. Auxiliary Chair Karyn Porempski, SAL Chair Timothy Van Patten II, and General Chair Jim Bojanowski.

### **Special Activities – VC Gary Wald**

Past Commander Tony Solina and I attended the Buffalo Standown in June. It was held at Key Bank Center, and the traffic was brisk. Hundreds of Vets came through the doors, and there were a lot of exhibitors. Our Erie County American Legion Table was #211 to give you a feeling for the scope of this event. There was free parking, free food, free haircuts, there was a dental booth and an eye center across from our table giving free checkups, and there were employers looking to hire Vets. A number of people visited our table to find out more about the Legion and its programs. It's something to keep in mind for next Year.

Our Calendars are on order, and should be coming in sometime in August. As soon as they come in and are ready for distribution, I'll "E" mail all who are on the "E" mail list that I put together when I was Membership chairman. Please let the appropriate person at your post know if you are already not the one responsible for calendars. We can also make arrangements in getting them out to you. I will bring the calendars to all of our monthly meetings. The sooner you get them, the longer you have to sell them. This raises some serious money for the Legion and we need your continuing support.

I'm looking forward to working with all of you. I also want to take a moment to thank our Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, for his guidance and help, and also to Commander Tom O'Connell for assigning me to Special Activities.

### **From Michael Johnson**

Our Brother Legionnaire, Billy Richards is the cover and featured in The American Legion Magazine for his attempt to break a World Record by completing 42 100-mile races in a year. Even though Islip Post claimed him in the article since he lives there, he is on our Depew Post #1528 Membership Roster.

### **From Jake Schu**

You can access the PCC meeting schedule and other links, activities and notices by going to the Erie County American Legion website. For PCC events and meetings, choose the Bulletin Board and Events Listings link to the left of the home page. Just scroll down until you see the link listing to the left.

The Home page link is <http://eriecountyal.org>



### **Americanism – VC Fred Pask**

The definition of Americanism (noun) as per the Merriam-Webster dictionary:

1. A characteristic feature of American English especially as contrasted with British English
2. Attachment or allegiance to the traditions, interests or ideals of the United States.
3. A: A custom or trait peculiar to America  
B: The political principles and practices essential to American culture

The political principal of America is Democracy which is defined as:

1. Government by the people (Rule of the majority)
2. Government in which the Supreme power is vested in the people an exercised by them directly or indirectly through a system of representatives, usually involving periodically held free elections.
3. A political unit that has a democratic government

### **Special Olympics – Wayne Sorrentino**

The Picnic will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 in the Grove on Sunday, September 15, starting at noon. We continue to plan for a much better and bigger turnout than last year. Depew Post #1528 has agreed to do the cooking. Music will be by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors for your dancing pleasure. The Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit will attend since there's no Buffalo Bills home game that day. All volunteers from The American Legion Family are encouraged to participate and sign in by 1130 hours. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this very worthwhile annual event. If you are so inclined, you can also support us financially by sending your check, payable to "Erie County Committee of The American Legion" to their City Hall office: 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202, earmarked "Special Olympics Picnic 2019". Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated and allow us to continue this great tradition. Thank you.

**Ted Balbierz drives 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Bill Miskell, Erie County Commander Tom O'Connell, and Erie County President Rosemary O'Connell in the Department Convention Buffalo parade.**



**Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski leads the County of Kogutek at 2019 Boys State.**



**2019 Boys State assembly singing the Alma Mater Boys State Song.**



**Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

**Dress for the summer meetings is Legion Casual.**

**August 15, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672**  
New & Smith Rds., Swormville, NY 14051  
Menu: Tim's Famous BBQ Chicken

**September 26, Troop I Post #665**

**October 24, Concord Post #431**

**Erie County Fair Veteran's Day – 8/11**  
10:00 AM – Catholic Mass  
11:30 AM – Memorial Service  
1:00 PM – Parade Starts  
Stop by Commander O'Connell's Tent

**National Convention – August 24 – 29**  
**Celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at American Legion Headquarters City in Indianapolis, Indiana.** County office will be closed for attendance by staff.

**FYI** To receive an electronic copy of the monthly newsletter, please send a request email to the Erie County Office at [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net). You will get the newsletter quicker than thru the US Postal mail and you can always retrieve a copy from your files when needed.

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)**  
**Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 Am to 12:30 PM**



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the September**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due August 19**  
**[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



**Eden Corn Festival, Aug. 1st. to 4th,  
located on the American Legion Grounds.**

**Sunday August 18**

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,

**Thursday August 29**

Honor our Veterans information booths at Sloan Griffith Park 4:30 - 9 PM. Fireworks.

**Sunday September 22**

Annual ERIECO Corn Roast will take place at the George F. Lamm Post #622, in the Grove, from 1-5 PM. Tickets are \$12 per person and will be available at the door. Included is corn-on-the-cob, hot dogs, salads, desserts, coffee, tea, pop, and beer.

**Saturday September 28**

Jesse Clipper Post #420, 100th year dinner & music at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. \$55/person. For tickets call 986-1025

**South Buffalo Post #721** located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving dinners every Monday night 5 – 8 PM.

**Francis Donovan Post #1626**

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225 serves our famous Friday fish fry 4-8, join us. On 5/3 Midlife Crisis Band, 5/17 Rockabilly Steve.

**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](http://www.post880.com).

**Paperwork DUE – Jim Bojanowski**

Remember to send in your new Officer Certification Form, Exec Delegate & Alternate.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 8/19 for the September edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

