



The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor

NYALPA
Member

thelegionair@gmail.com

December 2019

Commander's Message:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all American Legion Family members a very Happy and full Thanksgiving.

Next, I would like to ask how each Post of the Erie County gets very important information if you do not send a representative to the monthly county meetings? I wonder where the representative is from Alden, Lackawanna, Lorenzo-Burrows, West Seneca, Newcomb-Long, Bennett-Wells, Francis Lombardo, Grand Island, Jessie Clipper and Four-Star American Legion. So, I ask that every Erie County Post start sending at least one representative to bring back to your Post meetings a report on what is going on. Not just County, but information that each Post has an opportunity under the Good of the Legion report which is when your representative can add on special events at your Post.

The Red White and Blue Gala sponsored by the WNY Hero's was held on Friday November 8th, what an event! Hundreds of baskets, wonderful dinner and great comradeship. Thank you to Ted Balbierz Post 205 Commander for planning our evening.

Our next meeting will be held at the Donovan Post on Thursday December 19, 2019. Since the County Auxiliary President and her staff will be in attendance it would be a great time for all Post representatives to be in attendance to hear what the Auxiliary is doing also.

I want to thank all Legion Family members who attended the Veterans Day Mass at St. Margaret's and the Veteran's Day Service and Flag Decoration at Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Thank you to Ron Cook Jr., Commander of Iroquois Post #1587 for the invitation to attend their Post meeting. I also thank Commander Ted Balbierz for invitation to the third annual Open House and also their Post meeting at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

As of this newsletter, there has not been an update on a New Members report from Department. The last communication dated 10/25/19 stated that they are still working on a new member column for their next report. There are still a few Posts that have not forwarded their membership chair's information; Chair's name, phone number and e-mail address. I'm hoping to have a complete list by the Department's next report so as I'm able to e-mail it to each Post.

With the upcoming holidays, it'll be a busy time of the year. Each Post is encouraged to renew membership for their current members and recruit new members. Let's not forget potential members in Post 1. These are Department members that can be transferred into your Post.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Let's not forget to appreciate and give thanks for what we have and be mindful of those Veterans that are less fortunate.

Special Activities – VC Gary Wald

I tallied up everything received at the County Meeting, and we're exactly halfway there. All County Posts currently have a total of 453 calendars in their possession, I have 47 calendars left to distribute. Please bear in mind that calendars can also be sold in early 2020, but I must record the purchase before they are eligible. If you have some calendars remaining in January, and someone is teetering on the edge to purchase or not to purchase, give them a discounted price in January of \$23, and in February of \$21. They will have lost any winning numbers that they had up to the date of purchase, but there are still plenty of days left to win. Just make me aware of what the calendar numbers are until you can get me the stubs. Please contact me at any time and we can make arrangements to pick-up or get you more calendars. Thank you, and I wish all of you a healthy and safe holiday.

Erie County Commander Thomas O'Connell giving his 2019 Veteran's Day remarks at Forest Lawn Cemetery.



Americanism – VC Fred Pask

HISTORY OF THE FLAG - Part 2

The United States Flag is unique in the deep and noble significance of its message to the entire world – a message of national independence, of individual liberty, of idealism and of patriotism. It symbolizes national independence and popular sovereignty. It is not the flag of a reigning family or royal house, but of over 280 million free people welded into a nation. It incarnates for all mankind the spirit of liberty and the glorious ideal of human freedom, not the freedom of unrestraint or the liberty of license, but a unique ideal of equal opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, safeguarded by the stern and lofty principles of duty, of righteousness and of justice, and attainable by obedience to self-imposed laws. Floating from the lofty pinnacle of American idealism, it is a beacon of enduring hope, like the Statue of Liberty, enlightening the world to the oppressed of all lands. It is the sign made visible of the strong spirit that has brought liberty and prosperity to the people of America. The American Legion "Americanism Manual"

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.

Hamburg Post 527

Spaghetti Dinners. Served on Thursdays, 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8.50. Half order \$6.50. No dinners on 11/28 or 12/26.

Francis Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225, New Chef- Custom Culinary Solutions, every Friday from 4-8 PM. Fish Fry's and Awesome Dinners. Live Music- Friday 11/29 "The Good Guys Band" 8-11 PM, 12/13 " Karaoke Nite!" 8-11 PM

South Buffalo Post #721

located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving Spaghetti Dinners the first Monday of each month from 5 – 7 PM.

Veteran's Post Restoration - Jerry Kowalski

South Buffalo Post #721 - Remodel restrooms to ADA accessibility, and for exiting the building. Estimated Cost \$100,000. Received NYS Grant thru Assemblyman Michael Kearns.

FJ Donovan Post #1626 - Repaired electrical panel, replace outside lights with LED lights, new electrical wires to restrooms, upgrade electrical outlets and timers around Post. Cost \$10,000. Funding by selling Flags at the Auto Bureau.

F. Gierlach Post #1320 - Build Handicapped accessible restrooms & interior route addition. Estimated Cost \$90,000. Funded by Russell Salvatore, \$50,000 to complete the project.

West Seneca Post #735 - Make building entry accessible, with sidewalk and ramp. Enlarge restroom area to make it ADA compliant. Estimated Cost \$100,000. Received Grants from Bank on Buffalo for \$20,000 and the Wendt Foundation for \$25,000. Labor was donated. This Next project, Matthew Glab Post #1477 - in 2020.

Dept. Leadership Visitation – Anthony Solina

The Dinner honoring Department Commander Michael McDermott, Department President Linda Tome, and Detachment Commander Dennis George will be on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. Letters will be going early December for reservations and to support our program booklet with ads and boosters. Contact me if you want a room at the Hampton Inn, located off the West Seneca exit of the I-90. Rates are \$104. E-mail fatony8705@yahoo.com. Room reservation deadline is January 15.

**Brounshidle Post Commander Ted Balbierz
with Medal of Honor Recipient David Bellavia.**



**Iroquois Post 1587 Commander Ron Cook Jr.
attended a White House Native American
Veterans Support Conference with Vice
President Mike Pence.**



**Special thanks go out to Brounshidle Post
Historian Derrek Sansone** who gave an
excellent presentation at the Tehan Post County
Meeting on the current project to build a World
War I Memorial in Washington DC.
You can donate online at;
<https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/>
By mail, The Doughboy Foundation
Donation Dept.
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW #123
Washington, DC 20004
Or by working with Brounshidle Post #205.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

December 19, Francis Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225

Menu: Roast Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, Sweet
Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Spiced Apples,
Chef Salad, Roll & Butter, Cake & Ice Cream.

January 30 Niagara Frontier Post #1041

February 27 Matthew Glab Post #1477

Sunday December 1

8th District Meeting – Orleans County

Jewell-Buckman Post #529, 5 Wright St.

Holley, NY 14470, NOON - Membership Mtg.

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Mid-Winter Albany Conference 1/24 – 1/26

Desmond reservations, 1/25 Dinner now open

Editor's Note:

Many thanks to the WNY Maritime NJRTOC
who assisted the four Legionnaires present to
pick up the 7,000 decorating our Veterans
graves at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/19.
Present were Thomas O'Connell, Wayne
Sorrentino, Gary Wald, and Jim Bojanowski

FYI To receive an email copy of the monthly
newsletter, please send a request email to the
Erie County Office at
veteran14202@verizon.net. The last print
edition of The Legion-Air will be December
2019. Only by special exception, will a
newsletter be mailed at first class postage.

**Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**



**SUBMISSIONS
For the January
"The Legion-Air"
Due December 20
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Wednesday December 11

PPC Christmas Party at Kiebzak's, 38 Crocker St. Sloan. \$25/couple. Cash Bar 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM. Contact Gary Kruger 681-1585. Mail to 35 Claude Dr. Depew, NY 14043.

Sunday December 15

Breakfast with Santa at Newell-Faulkner Post #880, Eden, NY. 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Pancakes, Sausage Coffee and Juice. Adults \$3.00, Children \$2.00

Sunday December 15

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051, 8 AM - 12:30. Fresh, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$8,

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Department Visitation Dinner

REMINDER

The last print edition of The Legion-Air will be December 2019. To receive an email copy of the monthly newsletter, please send a request email to the Erie County Office at veteran14202@verizon.net. Only by special exception, will a newsletter be mailed at first class postage.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/20 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



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



THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

