



## *The Legion-Air*

**Anthony Solina**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

February 2019

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

I hope everyone is having a great start to their 2019! Best wishes to you and your family.

First off, I apologize for having to cancel this month's meeting, between the snow, the wind chill and extreme cold, it was the correct decision. Hopefully next month, will see much better weather conditions.

This past month we had the Ad/Booster envelope stuffing party for the Department Convention we are hosting in July. I would like to thank all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and SAL members who helped us stuff nearly 2,000 envelopes.

I returned from the Mid-Winter Conference with some good information gleaned to take back to my Post and Erie County which was well represented there as we are every year. We appeared to have some good success in both the Auxiliary hotel and ours selling the pins, raffle tickets and booster sheets for the convention. A sincere thank you to my Vice Commander Tom O'Connell for all his assistance in unloading my truck and helping me in setting up my hospitality room. It was nice having everyone stop by and enjoy themselves at the room.



### **Membership – VC Gary Wald**

According to the 1/16 Dept. totals, we have 5 posts between 90 - 100%, 15 posts between 80 - 90%. A total of 10 posts have already captured the 2/6 goal of 85%. Erie County membership stands at 82.1% of goal, with 4,966 members. Erie County is holding 17<sup>th</sup> place out of the 63 Counties in Dept. of NY. The other large counties with goals of over 4,000 members (Suffolk, Oneida, and Nassau) presently hold 20<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, & 24<sup>th</sup> place respectively.

Do not hesitate to use the free community events sections of your local Bees, and/or Penny Savers to promote events, membership rallies, or extending invitations to new members. Also, remember those newspapers when you may wish to pay for an ad. They do an excellent job of getting the word out to the public and their ads are very reasonably priced. Keep up the good work and keep the drive alive!

**Erie County Commander Anthony Solina presents a donation to the leading candidate for Department Commander Mike McDermott. Back row (L to R) Wayne Sorrentino, Al O'Donnell, Timothy Van Patten, Jim Bojanowski, and John Siefert.**



## From Wayne P. Sorrentino, District Director

Thank you for all of the work you've been doing for membership. Thank you to our Post leaders who have already achieved 100% or better. Please do all you can, personally, to stop the backsliding. Canada County is still tops in the District and 4th place overall. Erie County in the #2 spot for the District, and the #17th spot for Department overall. Remember our goal is to get above 100K members again by the end of this membership year. Please ask your friends and neighbors to join our great organization.

The new "Process Membership" tab is available on [national's web site](#) to allow New York Posts to renew one or multiple members at one time and then pay by e-check or credit card. The current process is for national to update Department once per month (around the 15th of the following month) with these renewals, much like the updating for regular individual online renewals. Please give "Process Membership" a try and give me your comments on the ease of use, etc. If your Post does not have access to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), please contact me and I'll help you through the 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. This offer runs through May 8, 2019, so the time to start this is NOW!

**Wayne Sorrentino with 8<sup>th</sup> District Oratorical winner Melissa Barnosky of Orleans County, and 8th District Commander John Miga.**



## Special Activities – VC Thomas O'Connell

I am a little down as this paper goes to press. I have to report that we have only sold 815 calendars. Last year we sold 915 so we are down a lot. The other problem is, I only have 26 calendars on hand so where are the rest? Please if you have calendars turn them in to me ASAP. Please call me 716-867-5730. Calendar numbers will not count until they are in my hands. So, if you sold them and are holding them, you may have to pay the prize if there is a winner.

## Boy's State – VC Thomas O'Connell

The program will run from June 27 to July 2, 2019. At this time, no one has applied for a spot on the Department website yet for going to Boys State. We only have 37 spots, so we need to get the boys and get their applications in as soon as possible. Remember before sending, make sure to the print the application. Also remember all forms must be the 2019 form. The physical must have been done after 7/2/18. If I can be of any help please call me at 716-867-5730.

Please start interviewing candidates now. 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. Information is also now online at the Department website. <https://nylegion.net/boys-state/>

## Scholarships

The Erie County and PNC Michael Kogutek Scholarships applications have been mailed out to all High Schools and the Posts. Please help support these scholarships with a donation forwarded to the Erie County American Legion office. Room 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202.

Part of the Albany Team selling Buffalo Department Convention material; Seated (L to R) Nelson Oldfield, John Siefert, and Joe Cash. Standing (L to R) Jim Bojanowski, Tom Deinzer, Anthony Solina, and Suzanne Quirk. The tables were also staffed by Bill & Linda Miskell, Anne Baglio, Kathie Renner, Karyn & Joe Porempski, Marty Moot, Al O'Donnell, Tom O'Connell, Liz Cash, Barb McCarthy, Marlene Oldfield, and Michelle Bojanowski.



**Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

**February 28, Newcomb-Long Post #928**

7353 Erie Rd., (Route 5) Derby, 14047

Menu: TBD

**March 28, McKeever Post #64**

**April 25, East Aurora Post #362**

**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. Donations to their projects can be made that night after the conclusion of their speeches.

**Albany Hill Day 3/11 & 12**

**Join us as we visit our area NYS Senators and Assembly representatives. If you plan on attending, please notify the County Office for scheduling purposes.**

**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](http://eriecountyal.org)**



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the March  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due February 28  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



**2019 Buffalo Department of New York Convention Committee**

**Thanks go out to our team of Volunteers who are hard at work!**

- CHAIRMAN James Bojanowski
- VICE CHAIRMAN Joseph Porempski
- TREASURER Marty Moot
- SECRETARY Suzanne Quirk
- ADVISOR Timothy Van Patten
- BADGES/PINS Tom Deinzer
- BOOSTERS Diane Steward/Tom O'Connell
- COMMANDER'S DINNER Timothy Van Patten
- HALLS/CONCESSIONS Gary Wald/Jerzy Folta
- HOUSING William Miskell
- INSURANCE James Bojanowski
- LEGAL Kathleen Garvey
- PACKETS Nelson Oldfield
- PARADE John Kasmer/John Siefert
- PARADE REG. Joe Cash/Joe Orzechowski
- PROGRAM BOOK/ADS Wayne Sorrentino
- RAFFLE Peter Hurd/Tony Solina
- SAL CHAIRMAN Timothy Van Patten II
- SECURITY/FIRST AID Jerry Simoneit
- SPECIAL ACTIVITIES Art Forman
- TRANSPORTATION Alwin O'Donnell



**Department American Legion Family  
Leadership Team Erie County Visitation  
Saturday February 16 at Hamburg Post.  
Payment due in the office by 2/8**

**Friday February 15**

Donovan Post, 3210 Genesee St.  
Cheektowaga, Sweetheart Dinner and Dance  
Dinner 4-8 PM, Steak and Shrimp \$13.95  
The Linda D Show from Crash Cadillac, 8 -11  
PM. Singing all the Oldies!

**Sunday February 17**

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.

**Saturday February 23**

Hamburg SAL Squadron 527 is holding a  
Chiavetta's BBQ Chicken dinner from 2 – 6  
PM, Cost \$10. 2 Memorial Dr., Hamburg,

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

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

**FJ Donovan Post #1626**

Dave's Kitchen now serving a full menu, Fish  
Fries and weekly specials. Fridays 4-8 PM.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 2/28 for the  
March edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)

