



The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

July 2019

Commander's Message:

Wow, Thank you to all members for supporting me at the 2019 County Convention. I am so proud to be the County Commander.

You know for the first time the County President and Commander have something in common. Rosemary and I have been married for 46 years making us the first couple to be President and Commander, in Erie County.

My first county meeting will be held July 25, 2019 at the George F. Lamm Post. Dinner will follow the executive meeting at 6:30 PM. This meeting will be Legion causal. Please set aside time so you can attend.

County Commander Post visitations will start soon. Please call me and let's make a date. My phone number 716-867-5730.

I would like to make this the year that we add 1,000 new members to our family ranks. The Legion family is made up of the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Let's work together and make this the best year for our family.

Commander Tom O'Connell installs the new Officers of Concord Post #431.



Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Wow!, time has gone quickly as we are at the end of the 2018 – 2019 Legion membership year on June 30 2019 and a new Legion membership year 2019 – 2020 starts on the next day, July 01 2019. Currently, I'm working with Gary Wald in making the transition of membership. To date we have not received the final membership report for all County posts from the Department of New York. That should be available by the next County meeting in July 2019.

I have received new membership cards for the upcoming Legion year 2019 – 2020. Any Post Membership Chairperson or Post Representative interested in picking up your post membership cards may do so by calling me at 716 – 262 – 5245 to make arrangements as such. They will also be made available at the next County meeting on July 25.

From Wayne Sorrentino, 8th District Membership Task Force Director

The 7th & 8th 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.

Honor Guard – John Kasmer

We need 5 new members. The uniform is grey pants, blue blazer, white shirt, and black tie. We perform the rifle salute at military funerals when requested by the family. We will make sure you are properly trained. We do not march in parades. If interested in becoming a member of the Erie County Honor Guard, call John Kasmer at 716-634-1128

2019 Erie County Newly Elected Officers

Commander Thomas O'Connell
Niagara Frontier Post #1041

Vice Commander Gerald Wald
East Aurora Post #362

Vice Commander Paul Wackowski
David McKeever Post #64

Vice Commander Fred Pask
L.L. Tillman Post #900

Finance Officer Joseph Porempski
Kensington Post #708

Sergeant at Arms Joseph Cash
Orchard Park Post #567

Legionnaire of the Year
Wayne Baumgartner
Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

8th District Newly Elected Officers

Commander William Miskell
Hamburg Post #527
Erie County

Vice Commander Ken Barnes
Stephen Sikora Post #1322
Erie County

Many thanks to the Delegates and Alternates
who attended these respective conventions.

**Commander Tony Solina receives the Michael
Kogutec PNC Scholarship from District
Commander John Miga, with judges Jim
Bojanowski and Marty Moot.**



Americanism – VC Fred Pask

As chairman of Americanism, I along with Commander O'Connell will attempt to disseminate "The principals of Americanism" to as many school districts as possible. Historical content is vital to understand how Americanism arose as a founding PILLAR of what would become the nation's largest veteran organization (The American Legion). Americanism came about from the concerns of returning WW1 Veterans regarding "the public understanding and appreciation of the American identity." The American Legion founders were early and firm in opposition to anti-democracy ideologies (Fascism, Nazism) they had fought "to make the world safe for Democracy" to the founders the best kind of "ISM" is Americanism. They later took a hard stand against Racism. Excerpts from "The Definition of Americanism" by Jeff Stoffer 1/22/2019

Boy's State – Thomas O'Connell

Thanks go out to all who helped get the 42 boys who will attend this year's class. This year's program is underway as this newsletter is being prepared.

Our attendees pictured below.



The Past County Commanders welcomed the new Erie County Commander to their ranks. Front row (L to R) Marty Moot, Tom O'Connell, Bill Miskell. Second row (L to R) Tony Solina, Tim Van Patten, Wayne Sorrentino, Al O'Donnell, Jim Bojanowski & Tom Deinzer. Picture taken by Sue Quirk.



Commander Tom O'Connell "hangs" Jr. Past County Commander Toy Solina's name on the PCC plaque at the City Hall Office.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Dress for the two summer meetings is Legion Casual.

July 25, George F. Lamm Post #622

962 Wherle Dr., Williamsville, NY, 14221

Menu: Outdoor BBQ in the Grove.

August 15, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672

NYS Department Convention – Buffalo NY

Join us as the local committee has worked very hard to host our visitors across NYS for our 100th Anniversary Convention that will have special related events. Sessions will begin at 9 AM mornings at the Hyatt Hotel Thursday 7/18 – Saturday 7/20,

Bring out your Color Guard for the Friday 6:30 PM parade that will start in front of the Convention Center on Franklin St. and end in front of the Hyatt Hotel. We would like to have a great contingent of Erie County march in the parade. Fall in with Erie County if your Post is not marching.

Weather permitting, there will be a live Horse demonstration of the use horses in treatment of Veterans mental health. The demonstration is at Canalside at 3 PM on Friday 7/19.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org

Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 Am to 12:30 PM



SUBMISSIONS
For the August
"The Legion-Air"
Due July 26
thelegionair@gmail.com



Sunday July 28

Chicken BBQ from 2:00-6:00 PM. \$10.00
Benefit Baseball Team.at AJ Jurek Post
#1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051

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.

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

Paperwork DUE – Jim Bojanowski

Remember to send in your new Officer
Certification Form, Executive Delegate &
Alternate, & National Delegates and
Alternates.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to
thelegionair@gmail.com by 7/26 for the
August 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

