



The Legion-Air

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Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



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March 2019

Commander's Message:

I hope everyone and your property made it through this recent wind storm unscathed. This past month was an eventful one. Erie County hosted the Department Leadership, led by Department Commander Gary Schacher, on Saturday 2/16. We started off by giving them a tour of the WWI exhibit at the Central Library downtown. As the Commander is a big military history buff, the choice to go there was very well received. We also had Channel 4 there for the tour as well as the formal announcement from the Visit Buffalo & Niagara Falls tourism people regarding the Department Convention coming to Buffalo this July, celebrating our 100th Anniversary.

That night, Hamburg Post #527 hosted the dinner. It was very well done and as always, Erie County came out in force. I thank everyone who supported the visitation. Following this, I hosted a hospitality room at the hotel the Leadership Team was staying at. I would like to thank everyone who stopped by. As for myself, I made it out to 7 of the 8 counties for the visitations. It certainly improved my winter driving skills.

We have Hill Day coming up in March, I hope everyone has safe travels to and from Albany and that we let our collective voices be heard loud and clear for issues affecting our veteran brothers and sisters!



Membership – VC Gary Wald

As of this writing and the most current Department data I have from 2/27, 15 Posts need less than 10 members to reach 100%. It's now crunch time. Please turn in everything you have as soon as possible. If you're one of the Posts who need one or two members to reach 100%, why not check up on any members who may be ill, down on their luck, or maybe out of town until spring. It might be a worthwhile investment for the Post to purchase a couple of memberships to help your own members out. You might also give the gift of membership to any of your members relatives who may be deployed and will be missing Easter with the family this year. Remember, the American Legion has a foreign presence in approximately 17 countries, so a gift of membership might help ease the pain of some of those deployed, and from being away from loved ones during the holidays.

From Wayne P. Sorrentino, District Director

Thank you for all of the work you've been doing for membership. Erie County in the #3 spot for the District, and the #17th spot for Department overall. Remember our overall goal is to get the Department above 100K members again. 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 web site to allow New York Posts to pay online. Give it a try! 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!

Department Leadership Visitation – Sue Quirk

The visit to Erie County was successful and they had a comfortable and informative experience. This was due to the hard work of many members of the Erie County American Legion Family. The tour and lunch at the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library went smoothly due to the input of Jim Bojanowski and Cmdr. Tony Solina. Coverage by Channel 4 News brought public attention to the visit and the Department Convention scheduled in July.

The American Legion Family at Hamburg Post #527 hosted a wonderful dinner. The Erie County American Legion Family Team did a superb job with all aspects of the Department Visitation. I was proud to be part of the team.

Many thanks go out to those who bought ads and boosters as well as attending the dinner.

World War I Library Display Tour (L to R), Department Commander Gary Schacher, Erie County Commander Anthony Solina, 8th District Commander John Miga, and Department V.C. Thomas Schreck.



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.

5/25 Mother's Day Mass – John Kasmer

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



Special Activities – VC Thomas O'Connell

We presently have sold on record 836 calendars, 164 short of our goal for 2019. I have 26 returned calendars in hand, so we are missing 126. Do you have unsold calendars? If so, please turn them in as soon as possible. If sold, and you have them in your hands, they do not count until I have them in my hands. To the Post members and big sellers, I thank you so much. I am still accepting sold calendars. Let's find those 126 unsold so we can hit 1,000 calendars sold.

Boy's State – VC Thomas O'Connell

I have set the Informational Breakfast meeting for June 8, 2019 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, located at 533 Amherst St. Buffalo. All Post Commanders and Boy State Chairpersons with their Boys State Candidate and his family are invited. Please make sure your Boy is informed of this meeting/breakfast. The Boys should report to the Post by and check in by 9:30 AM. Breakfast will be served at 10:30 AM. After breakfast, the Boys will introduce themselves, their family, and the state the Post that is sponsoring them. We will then have a guest speaker and remarks from Erie County Commander Anthony Solina. Breakfast will be French toast, scrambled eggs, and home fries. The boys will serve the meal and help with clean up. This will be casual dress.

NYS American Legion Championship Results WNY Maritime Charter School held in Cicero, NY. Submitted by Tim Winterhalter.

The team set new records and we had a few personal bests. Peter Musilli shot a new school record of 511 (out of 600) and finished in 9th place. He did finish in FIRST PLACE for the prone position getting 192 out of 200 points. Sydney Slazak shot a personal best of 478 and finished 2nd for first year shooters in NYS. Lourdes Alfonso shot a personal best as well (446) and finished 4th for first year shooters. Our first team (Musilli, Conway, and both Slazaks) beat the record we set last week (1937) with a new record of 1956. Overall, we finished third in NYS.

2019 Buffalo July Department of New York Convention – Jim Bojanowski

Our team of volunteers recently assembled 1,900 envelopes that were mailed to all Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Riders in New York State containing information on our upcoming convention and asking for support of our Ad and Booster Program Book. Hopefully, all of you can help us by taking and an Ad/Boosters. We will soon be reaching out to the local business community also for their support, if you have a recommendation of someone we should contact please email or call the County Office with that information as soon as possible.

World War I Library Display Tour (L to R), Overall Convention Chairman Jim Bojanowski, Legion Rider Director Bob Wallace, Department Commander Gary Schacher, Department President Marie Mock, Auxiliary Convention Chairperson Karyn Porempski, SAL Detachment Commander James Coates, and SAL Convention Chairman Timothy Van Patten II.



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.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

March 28, McKeever Post #64

1770 South Park Ave., Buffalo 14220

Menu: Roast Beef, Chicken, red potatoes vegetables, salad and desert, coffee and tea

April 25, East Aurora Post #362

May 16, Hamburg Post #527

June 1, Matthew Glab Post #1477

Erie County Convention

Please support the convention with your ads and boosters that are being mailed out to each Post.

Albany Hill Day 3/11 & 12

Commander Anthony Solina will lead the Team of Jim Bojanowski, Tom Deinzer, Art Forman, Bill Miskell, Joe Porempski, and Sue Quirk as we visit our area NYS Senators and Assembly representatives in Albany.

Baseball Hall of Fame 3/29 & 30

Visit the Cooperstown Hall of Fame for half price on these two days as The American Legion celebrates Military Veterans that are Hall of Famers.

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



**SUBMISSIONS
For the April
"The Legion-Air"
Due March 28
thelegionair@gmail.com**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
The Erie County Committee
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Buffalo, NY 14202
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Friday March 15

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225, is having a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner along with their regular Friday night service, Music too.

Saturday, March 16

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2075 Electric Ave. Blasdell, 14219, is hosting a health screening event provided by Life Line Screening. Appointments must be scheduled ahead of time. The number to call is: 1-800-718-0961.

Sunday March 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,

Sunday March 31

Milton J. Brounshidle 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.

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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 3/28 for the April edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

