



The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



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November 2019

Commander's Message:

Veterans Day Mass 9:30 AM will be held at St. Margaret's Church at 1395 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14216 on Sunday, November 10. Please try and arrive at the church by 9:15 AM. We will escort the Gold Star Families into the church as they arrive. They will be seated across the front row on both sides of the middle aisle. The Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL will then walk down the middle aisle and take the remainder of the reserved seats as an American Legion Family. Following the Mass, we will then attend a continental breakfast at Niagara Frontier Post 1041 at 533 Amherst Street, Buffalo NY, between Elmwood and Grant Streets.

The National Commander's visit went very well. The Commander's party was taken to see the WWI exhibit at the Buffalo & Erie County Library, where we had a wonderful lunch. If you have not seen the WWI exhibit yet, please do so ASAP, it will be taken down in a few months. The dinner was held at the Hamburg Post with over 160 guests, and we had a wonderful turkey dinner with all the stuffing, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and more. A little bird told me the caterer made nine large turkeys. Commander Oxford spoke of the importance of our Children and Youth programs, such as Boy State, Baseball, Oratorical and other programs.

Congratulations go out to the Legion Baseball State Champs from the Hamburg Post.

With Veterans Day around the corner, I would like to remind all that Junior Past National Commander Brett Reistad would like to have his Buddy Check program be continued. So, I ask each member of the American Legion in Erie County to reach out to a long-lost veteran buddy and see how he or she is doing.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings! Legionnaires

There were no new membership reports out of Department for October. I'm encouraging each Post to have a representative attend the county meetings. It would be great to meet the Membership Chairs directly. Information on membership from the Department of NY could be made available to each Post via email. We have tried to compile a list for the County, but some Posts did not list a membership chair, or if they did, there is no email information. We need your help to complete this information. Kindly forward your Posts' membership information to Paul Wackowski at paulwackowski@yahoo.com or 262-5245. [need name, e-mail address and phone number] Thank You in advance.

Are you looking for new members? Just a few suggestions; My Legion.com Post 1 report of members who have not joined any Legion Post in their community or may not be aware of a Post that they can become affiliated with. Also, veteran and community events for veterans, community newspaper ads, a Legion Post open house or a mall recruitment campaign. If anyone has any innovative ideas or suggestions, pass them along.

Veterans Day

Erie County American Legion Mass on 11/10 at St. Margaret's Church 9:30 AM Mass located at 1395 Hertel Ave. Buffalo, 14216 followed by continental breakfast at Niagara Frontier #1041.

Armed Forces Sabbath 10:30 AM Mass on 11/10 at St. Joe's Cathedral, 50 Franklin St, Buffalo.

11/11 Forest Lawn Cemetery graves decoration at 8 AM, followed by services at 9 AM.

11/2 Parade starting at 11 AM from Red Jacket & McClellan Circle along McKinley Ave. to South Park Botanical Gardens, with program at the end.

Special Activities – VC Gary Wald

The holidays will be coming up shortly, so make sure you have Calendars to use as stocking stuffers and presents. The cost is \$25 each. As of this writing there are still 9 Posts who have not yet taken any calendars to sell, and there are still 137 calendars left to be distributed and sold. Let's not lose this opportunity to get our name out there, and have a chance to win some money at the same time. Call me at 716-863-1919, or 716-655-0836 to make arrangements to get your calendars. Please leave a message if I don't answer. You can also get calendars from me at a County meeting. There's still time to get a sell out this year. The early bird winner of \$100 this year is Mark Nye, sold by Joe Cash. Congratulations!

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 Thanksgiving or December 26.

Hamburg Post 527 Cornhole Tournament

Every Saturday night there is a Cornhole Tournament at 7 PM with prizes for the winners and Chicken wings served from 7 to 10 PM. The first Saturday of the month usually has a live band as well. Something for everybody!

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.

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.

Francis Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225, is announcing our new food service. " Custom Culinary Solutions". Open 4-8 with our famous Fish Fry. Stop in for a Culinary meal, or take outs.

Hall for Rent- Available Week-ends or Week days - 40/8 Voiture 51, 810 Rein Road Cheektowaga NY 14225. Call 240-0148.



Americanism – VC Fred Pask HISTORY OF THE FLAG

The Flag was authorized by Congress on June 14, 1777. This date is now observed as Flag Day throughout America. The United States Flag is the third oldest of the national standards of the world. The Flag was first flown from Fort Stanwix, on the site of the present City of Rome NY, on August 3, 1777. It was under fire three days later in the Battle of Oriskany. It was decreed that there should be a star and stripe for each state, making 13 of both, representing the original 13 colonies. As states were admitted to the Union a star and stripe were added to the flag, as other states were added it became evident there would be too many stripes. In 1818, Congress established that the number of stripes be restricted to 13, while a star should be for each additional state. The law is still current today.

The name "Old Glory" was given to our National Flag on August 10, 1831, by Captain William Driver of the Brig Charles Doggett.

Veteran's Post Restoration would like to announce the start of our 5th project. We will be remodeling the restrooms of the West Seneca Post #735 to be ADA compliant. We received a grant from Bank on Buffalo. **Jerry Kowalski**

From Jake Schu

Access the 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 on left.

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

New York State Gold Star Mothers President Holly Baker addresses the Erie County meeting at Concord Post #431 on 10/24/2019.



Erie County Commander Thomas O'Connell presents NEF donation to National Commander James W. Oxford.



PCC Jim Bojanowski makes \$1,000 NEF donation on behalf of the Buffalo Department Convention Committee.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

November 21, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell, NY 14219

Menu: Breaded Pork Chops, Mashed potatoes and gravy, Green beans, Salad, & Cake.

December 19, Francis Donovan Post #1626

January 30 Niagara Frontier Post #1041

Sunday December 1

8th District Meeting – Orleans County

Jewell-Buckman Post #529

5 Wright St.

Holley, NY 14470

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

National Commander Dinner held Friday October 18 at Hamburg Post #527.

Many thanks for all those who attended the dinner, and supported the ads and boosters. Special thanks to the Hamburg Post #527 for hosting the event.

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 December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 22
thelegionair@gmail.com**



THE AMERICAN LEGION
The Erie County Committee
609 City Hall
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202

PHONE: (716) 852-6500
FAX: (716) 852-4664
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Saturday November 2

The ECAL Veterans for Veterans, Inc. will host a Meat Raffle at the David McKeever Post #64, 1770 South Park Avenue, Buffalo NY 14220. Doors open 6 PM, first draw 7 PM. Basket raffle and 50/50 split. Admission \$5 Donation, includes food, pop, beer & snacks. All proceeds will go towards assisting our Homeless Veterans and our Military Families.

Friday November 8

Frank Gierlach Post #1320 Meat Raffle at St. Andrews Church, 34 Francis Ave. Sloan, 14212. \$6 donation, first draw at 7 PM.

Saturday November 9

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057, will host a Meat Raffle starts at 7 PM. Donation \$5, includes sandwiches and refreshments.

Sunday November 17

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,

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.

REMINDER

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Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 11/22 for the December edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

