



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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October 2019

Commander's Message:

It was a very busy month for all of us. I would like to start with several requests. While in Indianapolis for the National American Legion Convention I talked to Legion members from all over the country. It seemed they all said the same thing. No one comes to meetings and membership is going down. So, let's make the membership of the Erie County Family the first to enlarge our ranks. With the help of the Legion Act signed into law anyone who served and was honorably discharged from December 7, 1941 until well into the future can be signed into the Legion. This also means that the Auxiliary and SAL can sign up more members.

Veterans Day Mass 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 Veterans, Auxiliary and SAL will then walk down the middle aisle and take the remainder of the reserved seats as a family. Following the Mass, we will then attend a continental breakfast at Niagara Frontier Post 1041 at 533 Amherst Street, between Elmwood and Grant Street.

Our Adjutant emailed to most of us the petition, given to us at the Special Olympics Picnic by Stephanie Ball. Her request was about NFTA Paratransit continues to be cut out of the NFTA budget. We need them restored and improved. There are bills in the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate. Please in addition to signing the petition please contact your assembly person and state senator today. Mail completed petitions back to her at 29 Lew Ann Dr. Depew, NY 14043

Veterans Day Parade to be held on November 2, starting at 11 AM, from the roundabout on Red Jacket and McKinley Avenue to the Golf Course at the Botanical Gardens. For information please call Vets Herd at 901-0773.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

As per the October County meeting, there was no report from the Department of New York on the breakdown on post membership numbers as far as on line renewals National, number of regular members, life members, honorary members etc.

However, Department did publish percentages of goals and when they are to be achieved: 50% by 9/4, 55% by 10/2, 63% by 11/7, 75% by 12/4, 80% by 1/8/20, 85% by 2/5, 90% by 3/4, 95% by 4/1 and 100% by 5/6, 2020.

I'm encouraging as many Posts that are not using MYLEGION website to so, it's a great tool. Aside of processing your membership renewals quicker, you will have the ability to receive current post member rosters, and keep members informed by a Post newsletter. It identifies Post 1 members that can be transferred to your Post, Publications and Pamphlets containing information on Legion Officers, manuals and Ceremonies Auxiliary SAL and various other topics. To coin a phrase 'Army Strong'. How about "Legion Family Strong" by membership. The new address to mail in your renewals the "Old Way" is now DEPT of NY, 1304 Park Boulevard, Troy NY 12180.

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.

Special Activities – VC Gary Wald

As of the October Newsletter last year, all 1,000 calendars were out for sale at this time, and the year before only 300 remained to be distributed. As of this writing, only 15 Posts have taken 460 calendars leaving 540 calendars yet to be distributed among 20 more Posts. This is an average of approx. 30 calendars per Post. My Contact Info is 655-0836, Cell 863-1919, "E" mail gwald10@aol.com, and mail to Gary Wald, 10 Balcom Dr., East Aurora, NY 14052. You may send stubs and money directly to my home. I can pick up returns, if needed. The early Bird Drawing will be held on October 25, for stubs collected up to Oct. 24. I will collect the stubs that you have at the 10/24 County Meeting at Concord Post and have the winning ticket pulled on 10/25. The calendars make great gifts, and they are terrific advertising. There is a winner a day from \$25 to \$100. It costs you less than \$.07 a day to participate. You may also learn a little about history. Thank you for your support.

Hamburg Post 527 Spaghetti Dinners. On Thursdays, starts Sept. 12th from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8.50. Half order \$6.50.

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 dinners every Monday night 5 – 8 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.

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>



Americanism – VC Fred Pask

As FLAG DAY June 14, 2020 approaches, now is the time all American Legion Posts should be planning a ceremony for the retirement of old, damaged, or otherwise unserviceable American Flags. They should develop a program whereas they can collect these flags for proper disposal as per the Flag Code (Title 36, U.S. Code, Chapter 10, Sections 173-178) including section 176K on Disposal of Unserviceable Flags. The American Legion's Ceremony is a dignified tribute to the US Flag and its symbolism and is both legal and proper. It is an effective instrument for promoting enhanced respect for the US Flag. Follow the entire ceremony as it appears in the "Manual of Ceremonies". Your use of the ceremony on an annual basis will enhance respect to the flag in your community and provide a much-needed service to those who have flags needing to be retired.

Special Olympics – Wayne Sorrentino

The Special Olympics Picnic was held at the George F. Lamm Post Grove on Sunday, September 15. Depew Post #1528 did the cooking of 120 hamburgers. Salads and beans provided by Lamm Post Auxiliary member, Theresa English. Kitchen servers were from Erie County Auxiliary. Music was donated by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors. The Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit attended. Volunteers from The American Legion Family, included District Commander, Bill Miskell and County Commander Tom O'Connell and members of his staff. Thank you to our 28 volunteers for your assistance to make this a special day for our 64 special guests. Thank you also to Lamm Post for donating their Grove for this event. If you are so inclined, you may support us financially by sending your check, payable to "Erie County American Legion" to 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202, earmarked "Special Olympics Picnic 2019". Thank you to Glab Post, ERIECO Post, Don Schram, Lackawanna Post & Depew Post for their financial assistance. Much appreciated. See you next year!

On 9/9, the 3rd annual Tee It Up For The Troops event was held at the Wanakah Country Club. The event benefits the men and women who have been wounded and injured in the defense of our freedoms. Newell-Faulkner Post #880 Honor Guard was performed the 21-Gun Salute for the opening ceremony, with Medal of Honor Recipient David G. Bellavia as the guest speaker.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

October 24, Concord Post #431

109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141

Menu: Stuffed pork chops, Mashed potatoes, Corn, Winter squash, & Ice cream sundaes.

November 21, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

December 19, Francis Donovan Post #1626

Sunday October 6

8th District Meeting – Allegany County

Morrison-Hayes Post #702

36 Jefferson St.

Wellsville, NY 14895

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

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

Cash bar Cocktails at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM.

Purchase \$30 tickets at the County Office by Friday by Friday 10/11. No tickets sold the week of the dinner, or at the door. \$15 Ads and

\$1 Boosters due by Wednesday 10/2.

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 November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 25
thelegionair@gmail.com



Erie County Commander Tom O'Connell with the attendees of the Special Olympics Picnic with Chairman Wayne Sorrentino overlooking.



The Legion-Air received 2nd place from the National Press Association at the convention.





THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Saturday October 12

Orchard Park Post #567 celebrating 100 years old with a Dinner-Dance, \$50 pp. Contact Bob Davis at 812-3947. All Welcome

Sunday October 13

Hamburg Post 527 Soup-A-Thon, 1 to 5 PM, Taste all the Homemade Soups for \$7 Bread, butter, and crackers included. There will also be a Theme Basket Raffle.

Saturday October 19

Newcomb-Long Unit #928 at 7353 Erie Rd. Derby, 14047 is sponsoring a suicide awareness/prevention seminar from 2-4 PM.

Sunday October 20

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 October 26

Niagara Frontier Auxiliary's 12th Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, 14207, starting at 6 PM. \$25 donation, includes Theme Auction, 50/50, Beer, Pop, Food, ticket sheet, and Jazz Music. Featuring an autographed oil painting of Buffalo Sabres Jack Eichel. Donations needed. Contact Pat at 875-9894 or the Post 875-9276.

Sunday October 27

At 2 PM, Special Vera Bradley n' More Bingo, sponsored by Matthew Glab Post Auxiliary 1477. \$5 admission, raffles, & split club.

Saturday November 2

ECAL Vets for Vets Meat Raffle at David McKeever Post #64, 1770 South Park Ave. Buffalo, 14220. \$5 includes pizza and refreshments. First draw 7 PM, plus raffles.

Friday November 8

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

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/25 for the November edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

