



## *The Legion-Air*

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Commander

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April 2020

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

As I sit here listening to our President say we will stay closed until April 30, I want to ask all Posts to stay closed until then. Staying six feet away from others will be the best thing to get us better once and for all and we will begin to have a handle on Coronavirus pandemic. The County Meeting will be canceled for April. Please be sure get your Consolidated Post Reports into the office. Our County Adjutant has forwarded the mail to his house. I want to remind all Veterans to contact your brother Veterans to make sure they are ok. I have been calling two brothers or sisters every day. Remember the Buddy Check program.

### **Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski**

Unfortunately, due to coronavirus, our normal way of life has been severely altered. With that all of our normal Post election processes are on hold. National and Department American Legion Leadership is currently working on guidance as to how we will proceed in the future. A lot of activity should be taking place right now according to our individual constitutions. The respective Judge Advocates are part of the planning process. With the unknown end of the virus cycle, determining a path forward cannot be completed at this time. Meetings are being canceled, Events are being canceled or postponed. The higher level conventions path forward is still unknown at this time, with a lot of alternatives being considered.

At your Post level please comply with all Government and National/Department American Legion directives. Your safety and your families safety is of utmost importance. As the Commander stated, reach out "Buddy Check" via phone/internet with your fellow Veterans, the elderly, and your family. We all have the time now to renew/refresh relationships that may have gone stale over the years.

Stay SAFE and HEALTHY!

### **Membership – VC Paul Wackowski**

Last report from the Department dated 3/20, states there were 4 Posts in Erie County that have attained 100%. This morning I received an e-mail that 2 more Posts have reached their goal. Congratulations to Jesse Clipper Post #430 and Alden Post # 1377 in attaining your goals. The four Posts that had previously obtained their goal were; Milton J. Brounshidle #205. Niagara Frontier #1041, Frank L. Gierlach #1320, and Francis J. Donovan #1626. When your Post has accomplished this achievement, kindly forward that information along with the name of the Post Commander and Membership Chairman. Also include shirt size, send to [paulwackowski@yahoo.com](mailto:paulwackowski@yahoo.com) or 716 - 262 - 5245

Now that just about everyone is staying home, this is an excellent opportunity to contact those members who have not renewed their membership for 2020 using the "Buddy Check". Inquire as to how they are doing. If there's anything that you can do for them and remind them that they haven't renewed their membership for 2020. Erie County currently stands at 91%.

### **Special Activities – VC Gary Wald**

The total of calendars sold was actually 945, not 949. Everyone who participated did a fantastic job. There are three clear winners of the \$100, \$75, and \$50 prizes for selling the most calendars. I would love to present the winners with the checks in person, but right now that looks like May at the earliest. As far as special activities go, they've taken a different perspective for all of us for at least the next couple of months. (1) Stay current with all credible sources reporting on the corona Virus. (2) Now that the weather is getting better, get outside and enjoy some level of exercise if you're able and most of all, (3) don't do any unnecessary travel, stay at home. I look forward to seeing all of you within the next couple of months.

## Boys State – Tom Deinzer

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus, the 2020 Boys State program has been canceled. Please contact your selected candidates to inform them of the decision. The County Adjutant has forwarded to all of his contacts a draft letter that congratulates them on their selection for their files. If you have already forwarded your payment, it will be returned.

## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Applications for this program are still being accepted. Information regarding Legionnaire of the Year is available on the Erie County American Legion web page under Bulletin Board and Events. You can find the page at <http://www.eriecountyal.org/pdf%20files/2020%20Guidelines%20EC%20Legionnaire%20of%20the%20Year.pdf>

Please make sure that the resume DOES NOT contain the name, gender, post name and number and community of the candidate. Submit the resume of your candidate to: Chairman Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221 NO LATER THAN APRIL 11, 2020. Please include a resume cover sheet that will identify the candidate, his/her Post name, number, and relative information that has been omitted from the resume. Cover sheets MUST be sealed in a plain white envelope and attached to the resume.

## Law & Order – Ron Diebold

Please submit your candidate for National Law Officer, Fireman, And Emergency Medical Technician of the Year Award for a well-rounded candidate who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. Submissions start at the County level. Winners go on to all levels of The American Legion. Please start now in our search for a worthy candidate. Applications are on the Department website at; <https://nylegion.net/department/law-order-awards/>



## Americanism – VC Fred Pask

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND SAFETY ACTIVITIES (for normal times)

The objective of the broad, far-reaching community service program of The American Legion is “to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation.

Community Service is a major Americanism activity.

Suggested Community Service Activities:

WINTER: Open Posts to be used for teen centers, craft and hobby shows,

Forum discussions on community problems, voting activities, Americanism study courses. There are many other types of activities that are specific to the local community that can be held at the Post. Organize a Teenage Council so that the Post may have the benefit of the teenage group’s input in preparing a program for spring and summer.

SPRING AND SUMMER: Boys State, bicycling, golf leagues, concerts, street dances, playgrounds, legion baseball, soccer teams. Strong Post Flag Day and Memorial Day programs.

FALL: Farmers Markets, fall festivals, educational and participatory school activities and election activities.

These are only a few of the activities and programs that will contribute to the creation of community spirit and harmony. These suggested projects can be developed with a minimum expenditure of funds through cooperation and unity of effort, coupled with imagination, initiative and resourcefulness on the part of the Post membership.

Cited; American Legion “AMERICANISM MANUAL”



**Newell-Faulkner Post 880**, 2912 Legion Dr.,  
Eden, 14057.

**TAKE OUT ONLY**

Wednesday's, 75 cent wings,

Thursday Steak night.

Friday nights, fish fries and specials

Saturday, pizza & wing's and sandwiches  
available.

Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.

**MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

[www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com) go to kitchen link

**Education Awards/Scholarships**

Applications for these awards are still being  
taken. You can find the application online at the  
Erie County website.

[http://www.eriecountyal.org/EC%20scholarship%  
20page.html](http://www.eriecountyal.org/EC%20scholarship%20page.html)

Donations are requested to be sent to the office  
for the Erie County and Past National  
Commander Michael J. Kogutek awards.



**Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

**The April 30 Erie County American Legion  
Meeting at East Aurora Post #362 has been  
canceled.**

**Future decisions will be made on a month  
by month basis.**

**Tentative Schedule**

**May 21 Hamburg Post #527**

**Erie County Convention June 13  
at East Aurora Post #362**

**Canceled Sunday April 5  
8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – Cattaraugus County  
At Little Valley Post #531**

**Canceled NY American Legion College 2020**

**FYI** To receive email copy of the newsletter,  
please send a request email to the Erie County  
Office at [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net). The last  
print edition of The Legion-Air was December  
2019. Only by special exception, will a  
newsletter be mailed at first class postage.

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)  
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the May  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due April 24  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



## Happy 100th Birthday, American Legion Auxiliary!

Since 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary has been serving, helping, and meeting the needs of our nation's veterans, military, and their families—both here and abroad.

**Members of the New York Army National Guard setting up a 1,000-bed hospital at the Jacob Javits Convention Center in Manhattan.**

**Despite its complexity – or perhaps because of it, the National Guard is taking the lead role in the military's response to the coronavirus outbreak.**



### **Editor's Note:**

A wealth of information can be accessed online at the Department of New York website.

Overall website address - <https://nylegion.net>

From here you can access all general information by clicking on various topics presented.

Specific other direct webpage links:

Membership - <https://nylegion.net/membership>

All overall program information can be accessed here - <https://nylegion.net/programs-services>

Scroll down and click on the various programs on the right side of the screen.

National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>

Erie County American Legion website - <http://www.eriecountyal.org>

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