



## *The Legion-Air*

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

August 2020

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

We had our first meeting since last January due to the coronavirus that has hit our nation along with 188 other countries. Proud to say we had 25 of 35 of our Posts represented, plus our elected Officers and four Past County Commanders with a vote eligible to attend. (February was canceled because of weather)

We approved the Erie County American Legion budget for 2020-2021 presented by the chairman of the committee, Tim Van Patten. We also welcomed our newest Post, the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928. Yes, they are back. Newly elected Post Commander John Acevedo was in attendance. Welcome!

Keeping within the guidelines of New York State coronavirus rules for the time being, we will hold only Executive Committee meetings. No bars will be open during our meeting, and no dinners will be served. If your Post would like to host a meeting please contact Jim at the office. We do allow members to bring in their own beverages for the meeting. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and last about one hour.

The next Erie County American Legion meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8/27/2020 at 7 PM at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672. 655 New Rd., Swormville, NY 14051.

Our main goal this year is to welcome 100 new members to the American Legion plus have each Post reach 100 percent. Can you imagine District Commander Bill Miskell's face if we can accomplish this?

Stay Safe and wear your mask.

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

Greetings Legionnaires

Now that the 2019 - 2020 Legion Membership year has come to a close, it will be remembered as a "Challenge" during an unprecedented time.

As we have now entered a new Legion Membership Year 2020 - 2121. with some of the same challenges and a few new ones just as in previous years, recruitment of new members and retaining current members.

At all levels of the American Legion, National, Department, District and County, all Posts are encouraged to use My Legion.org for processing membership. Within the next few years, I expect every Post will be on My Legion as the traditional method will be phased out entirely. Any Post that need assistance in making the transition can contact me at 262-5245, or [paulwackowski@yahoo.com](mailto:paulwackowski@yahoo.com), the County Commander Tom O' Connell at 867-6730 or [post1041@aol.com](mailto:post1041@aol.com)

We all know that veterans and especially those returning home from tours of duty overseas need a place to not only socialize but also need an organization such as ours for assistance in Health Care, Housing, Financial Assistance, Education, Employment and Training, & Family Activities. These are just a few of the services that an American Legion Post have to offer.

We need to get the word out thru Advertisement, Radio, TV, Publications, Community functions, Veteran Events, and personal contact.

### **THE AMERICAN LEGION - SERVICE TO VETERANS**

God Bless each and every Legionnaire and their families.

## Americanism – VC Gary Wald

### August Dates in History

- Aug 1, 1779 – Birthdate of Francis Scott Key
- Aug 2, 1776 – The date when most of the members of the Continental Congress signed the parchment copy of the declaration of Independence
- Aug 3, 1900 - Ernie Pyle was born
- Aug 3, 1492- Christopher Columbus set sail from Palos, Spain
- Aug 5, 1861 - President Lincoln signed into law the first Federal Income Tax
- Aug 6, 1945 - The Atomic Bomb was dropped over Hiroshima
- Aug 7, 1990 - President Bush ordered Desert Shield to go into effect
- Aug 9, 1945 - The second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki
- Aug 13, 1961 - the Berlin Wall came into existence
- Aug 14, 1945 - Emperor Hirohito accepted allied surrender terms – VJ Day.
- Aug 15, 1969 – Woodstock
- Aug 17, 1943 – the battle for Sicily ended
- Aug 18, 1920 – Women received the right to Vote
- Aug 21, 1959 – Hawaii became our 50<sup>th</sup> state
- Aug 24, 1814 – Washington, DC was invaded by British Forces during the war of 1812

The red, white and blue award program recognizes individuals, organizations, business, and industries, other than The American Legion and its members or the associated organizations, for promoting Americanism through action. Posts must submit nominations in writing for this award to their County/Chairman anytime during the year. Please take a moment to Google the information relating to it from our Department Website. It's only one page long, and the application is also just one page long. What an ideal time to actively seek perspective Candidates. Make your Post aware of this program and your members can play an active role in the search.



### Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

The 2021 Erie County American Legion calendars are in and ready for sale. An initial distribution was made at our last County meeting. I will have calendars available at all future meetings. Contribution is \$25 per calendar. Please return your sold calendars by the October County meeting for the Early Bird drawing.

**On July 28, 2020, The American Legion Jesse Clipper Post #430**, joined with members of the Buffalo Police Department, with the distribution of 300 boxes of free food to veterans. The food was provided by The WNY HEROES.

Pictured left to right: Capt. Nichols, Sgt-at-Arms Perry Civils, Vice Commander Richard Hill, Commander Rev. Eugene L. Pierce, Buffalo Police Officer, Compliance Officer Elder Howard Patton, Buffalo Police Officer, kneeling- Capt. Beyer. Commander Pierce said “The Jesse Clipper Post No. 430 was honored to be able to serve our fellow-veterans in their time of need”.



## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



### Wednesday August 5

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell is having a Grand Reopening from 2 to 10 PM. Drink specials and giveaways.

### Sunday August 16

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051, 8 AM - 12:30 PM. Fresh, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$8.

**Orchard Park Post #567**, 3740 N. Buffalo St. Orchard Park, has a Chicken BBQ \$11, every Wednesday from 4 – 7 PM.

**Newell Faulkner Post #880** 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 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 go to kitchen link.

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Re-opening. Bar hours 2-6pm. We have Bar Food, to have with your cold drinks.  
Dining Room open Friday 4-8pm. For Fish fry's with full menu and monthly Specials. Take-outs still available call 896-3346.

**Matthew Glab Post #1477**, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna is proud to announce Fish Fries are returning. We have a new cook and expect to begin on Friday August 7. Indoor dining and take out will be available. We are in the process of changing our menu. Hours will be from 4 to 8 PM and will follow all NY State and Erie County guidelines for Covid 19.



### Thursday County Meeting Dates

The next Erie County American Legion meeting is scheduled for Thursday 8/27/2020 at 7 PM at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672. 655 New Rd., Swormville, NY 14051.

The meeting will follow current virus guidelines for late August 2020. We will have an Executive Meeting only for this 8/26 date. Casual Legion dress.

Dinners will NOT be served.

Please contact the Commander or Adjutant if you have a report to be added to the agenda.

**Thanks to the 28 Posts who have sent in their 2020-2021 Post Officers to the County; 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 567, 622, 735, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1346, 1377, 1477, 1528, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1780.**

**Hopefully the balance of the Posts can send in their updated Officer list ASAP.**

**Thank You to the 28 Posts who submitted their Consolidated Post Reports; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 567, 622, 665, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1346, 1377, 1449, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1659, 1780.**

**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). By special exception, a newsletter can be mailed.

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



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the September  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due August 28  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

To all Erie County Contacts,

Hopefully you and your family remain safe and healthy. As we start our meetings, they are Executive Only. We are cautious and conservative in following all government guidelines to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Your safety is our primary concern.

Our next Erie County Executive Meeting will be Thursday 8/27/2020 at 7 PM at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672. 655 New Rd., Swormville, NY 14051. Casual Legion dress. Of course, this is dependent on the current virus guidelines for late August 2020. Executive Meeting only will be held starting at 7 PM. No food to be served. We will not have a Regular meeting. Limited to 2 members max per Post, exception, elected County Officers and Past County Commanders with a vote. Please wear a mask and use social distancing.

All Post, County, District, Department, and National American Legion Officers are being asked to serve an additional year. If a person cannot continue their service, use your respective Constitution and By Laws to handle any vacancies. Please submit your 2020 - 2021 Post Officers to the Erie County Office using the updated form on the Department website resources page <https://nylegion.net/resources/> Send either email or US Postal mail. Please provide as many officer emails as possible. There are still 11 Posts that have not submitted their Officers; 63, 78, 607, 655, 721, 928, 1031, 1449, 1586, 1659, & 1672. We are welcoming Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 back to The American Legion. Unfortunately, we will be losing Francis A. Lombardo Post #1031. Their remaining members are being asked to transfer out.

The County's US Postal mail is now back to being delivered to City Hall. Since, City Hall has limited access, I have been going up to City Hall once per week. You can also continue to use my direct home address of; 5115 Abbott Rd. Orchard Park, NY 14127.

Jim Bojanowski  
Erie County Adjutant

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 8/28 for the September edition.**

**PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

**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>

Erie County American Legion  
609 City Hall  
65 Niagara Square  
Buffalo NY, 14202

Phone: (716) 852-6500  
Fax: (716) 852-4664

[Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)