



The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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July 2020

Commander's Message:

First and foremost, I hope all are doing well. I know staying home has been a real drag, but at least you can go out to a restaurant and have dine in dinner or lunch.

Membership cards have been picked up by twenty five of 36 posts. Cards must be signed for so we need a person to make arrangements to pick them up or meet me some place to get your cards. Post 64, 430, 431, 607, 735, 1131, 1346, 1377, 1640, and 1672 must contact Tom at 867-5730 to make plans to get the membership cards.

On July 30, 2020 we will hold the Erie County Executive meeting starting at 7:00 PM sharp. The American Legion Lamm Post will host this meeting in the picnic grove with the rule in place for distancing. Mask must be worn. Please make sure you mail into the office your two names who will be executive representatives for your post ASAP. I will bring the remaining 2021 membership cards to this meeting.

On behalf of my wife and myself please have a safe July 4 weekend.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

As of this publication of the Legion-Air, the 2020 membership year is nearing its end. Any Post that has recently attained their goal of 100% by 6/30, please notify me at 262 - 5245 or email at paulwackowski@yahoo.com for documentation.

The last Department Membership Report didn't have some updated information that the County has. Post 1780 Bennett Wells, has attained their membership goal. The final Department Membership report will be made available soon after the close of the 2020 membership year.

To date; seven Posts have attained 100% membership or better. They are; Post 0064, Post 0295, Post 0928, Post 1041, Post 1320, Post 1626 and Post 1780.

Post 1320 - Frank L. Gierlach is at 111% of their goal and are the top Post thru out the County.

Post 0735 is the County Leader as to the Post with most new members at 19.

To all Erie County Posts; " Thank You! for all of your hard work during this difficult time.

Welcome to the 2021 New Legion Membership Year. If your Post has not made arrangements to pick up your new membership roster and cards kindly refer to Erie Commander Thomas O'Connell at 876 - 5730 to make arrangements for pickup. New membership rosters and cards, and all forms will also be available at the upcoming Executive Meeting on July 30 at 1900 hours, at the George F. Lamm Post 622.

I hope to see everyone at the Executive Meeting. God Bless, and keep every Legion member and their family safe.

Americanism – VC Gary Wald

In June, our National Commander Bill Oxford, very eloquently reminded us of what our American Legion believes in. In the interest of saving space, here a couple of excerpts: “The American Legion stands on principles and serves purposes worldwide that are violated when justice, freedom and democracy are not applied equally, regardless of race, color, creed or class. The American Legion stands firm in a value it has upheld, in the form of a national resolution, first adopted in 1923:

RESOLVED, That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law, and be it finally RESOLVED, that we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of the American Legion.

Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned, without prejudice”. In the words of our very own Preamble “to promote peace and good will on earth, to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.

July days to remember and also events specific to the fourth, include Independence Day on July 4th, 1776, the ending of the Korean War on July 27th, 1953 and the beginning of WW1 on July 28th, 1914. Did you know that The Declaration of Independence was only signed by one person on July 4th, John Hancock? The rest signed later. Sadly to say, also happening on July 4th Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe all died. Adams and Jefferson within hours of each other in 1826 and Monroe in 1831. The 4th also marks the announcement of the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the official opening of the US Military Academy at West Point in 1802, breaking ground for the Erie Canal in Rome NY in 1817, Lees Army withdrawal from Gettysburg in 1863, and on July 4th, 1939, Lou Gehrig announced his retirement to a sold out crowd in Yankee Stadium

Please stay safe out there.



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I hope this finds all Legion Family members safe and healthy during these trying times. The 2021 calendars are at the printers. I am hoping to be able to hand them out at the tentatively scheduled meeting on 7/30/2020 being held at the George F. Lamm Post. If not I will be handing them out at the August meeting.

Stay healthy!!

From John Kasmer

The Erie County Honor Guard has temporarily suspended all Military Funeral Honors until further notice.



2020

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Saturday July 4

Orchard Park Post #567, 3740 N. Buffalo St.
Orchard Park, is having a Chicken BBQ \$11 and
Food Drive from Noon to 4 PM. The food drive
collection is for the Gold Star Mothers Food
Pantry at the Buffalo VA Hospital.



Wednesday July 15

Hamburg Post #527 2 Memorial Dr., off Evans St.
in the Village of Hamburg
Take Out Chicken Dinners Noon to 6:00 PM.
\$11 per Person. Cash Only. Drive thru to pick
up. Proceeds to Benefit Post 527's Programs.

Friday July 24

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd.
Lackawanna, NY 14218
Weidmers Chicken BBQ, 2:00 to 6:00 PM. 1/2
Chicken, Potato, Mac Salad, Apple Sauce, Roll &
Butter, \$12.00. EAT IN or TAKE OUT. CALL 716-
825-3733 for tickets.

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.

Every Friday

Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St.
Cheektowaga, NY 14225 is going to continue
take-out meals all summer from 4-8 PM
Phone orders only 896-3346 with curbside
pickup. Will have monthly special menus along
with our Fish Fry's.

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Thursday County Meeting Dates

The next Erie County American Legion meeting
is tentatively scheduled for Thursday 7/30/2020
at the George F. Lamm Post #622. Of course,
this is dependent on the current virus
guidelines for late July 2020. We will have an
Executive Meeting only for this 7/30 date.
No dinners will be served.

The list below provides an update of all of the
current known cancellations as we work
together to follow government guidelines and
stem the spread of the coronavirus.

Canceled Meetings and Events:

- July Department Convention
- August Erie County Fair
- August National Convention
- September Special Olympics Picnic,
(Cancelled in conjunction with the cancellations
of other Special Olympics events in the area.)

**Please send in your 2020 – 2021 Post
Officers to the County ASAP.**

Thank You to the Posts who submitted their
Consolidated Post Reports.

FYI To receive email copy of the newsletter,
please send a request email to the Erie County
Office at veteran14202@verizon.net. By
special exception, a newsletter can be mailed.

**Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**



SUBMISSIONS
For the August
"The Legion-Air"
Due July 30
thelegionair@gmail.com

To all Erie County Contacts,

Hopefully you and your family remain safe and healthy.

The previous page lists all of the currently known cancelations as we work together to follow government guidelines and stem the spread of the coronavirus. Your safety is our primary concern.

We tentatively have scheduled the first County Executive Meeting of the new American Legion Year for Thursday 7/30/2020 at the George F. Lamm Post #622. Of course, this is dependent on the current virus guidelines for late July 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. 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.

The County's US Postal mail is now back to being delivered to City Hall. 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 by 7/30 for the August 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>

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