



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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September 2020

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

Well, we had a scheduled County Executive meeting for last night August 27, 2020. No quorum so it turned into an info gathering only. To Commanders of each Post I ask you to take responsibility to make sure your executive board representative is at the meeting. I know not a lot is going on due to the coronavirus but it is a good way to not only hear what other Posts are doing but also a good time for your representative to let all of the other Posts know what you're doing. Many times, a complaint I hear is that a Post gets no support from other Posts. One probability is you did not send it into the County Office for this report or secondly you did not come to the county meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 PM at the Niagara Frontier Post 1041 located in downtown Black Rock at 533 Amherst Street. Mask required covering your nose and mouth. When you arrive at the Post your temp will be taken, and you will be asked to sign in. Please no beverage to be brought in we will have water and soft drink for you to purchase. No dinner currently.

### **Commander O'Connell presents the County Law Officer of the Year Award to Town Of Tonawanda Officer Julia Taylor.**



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

Greetings! Legionnaires

The latest membership report dated: August 24 2020 was made available at the County meeting on the 27 of August. Any Post that wasn't at the County meeting and would like a copy of that report, kindly email me at empirestate716@yahoo.com.

Post goals have not been established as of this newsletter and as they become available, information will be passed onto all County Posts.

Some Posts in Erie County that are still using hard copy Transmittal's. I recommend these Posts to change over to MYLegion.org. It's an excellent tool. Not only can membership data be processed in an efficient manner, you can print out your Post's current rooster, print address labels of your members, send a newsletter to members, change member data [change of address, phone number etc.], request Officers manuals and a number of other functions as well.

National also prefers all membership to be done digitally/electronic. There is less and less paper hard copy. Call National Headquarters at 800 433 3318 and ask for MYLegion department. The staff will provide you with an account and take you through the process. I can help assist you get familiar. Call me at 262 5245 or email empirestate716@yahoo.com. Or call Jim B. at 852 6500 or email veteran14202@verizon.com.

God Bless the American Legion and their Families. God Bless America

### **Commander O'Connell commented;**

Membership is particularly important to any organization but how do you get new members? I guess the best suggestion I could make is "just ask". You would be surprised at the response. "JUST ASK"

## Americanism – VC Gary Wald

Important dates in Septembers past:

Sept. 1, 1939 – The start of WWII in Europe when Germany invaded Poland

Sept, 2, 1945 – Declared V-J Day by President Harry Truman

Sept, 3, 1939 – Great Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany

Sept. 9, 1776 - The United States came into existence as the Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies

Sept. 11, 2001 – The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four large passenger jets were high jacked then crashed killing nearly 3,000 persons.

Sept. 13, 1813 – The battle of Fort Henry that Francis Scott Key observed and inspired him to write the verses of our National Anthem

Sept. 14, 1901 – President William McKinley succumbed to wounds he received 8 days earlier in Buffalo, NY

Sept. 18, 1947 – The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service

Sept. 19, 1994 – U.S. troops invaded Haiti with the goal of restoring democracy

Sept. 25, 1789 – The first U.S. Congress proposed 12 amendments to the Constitution, ten of which, comprising the Bill of Rights were ratified

Sept. 26, 1918 – The last major battle of World War 1, the Battle of the Argonne, began

Sept. 29, 1789- Congress created the United States Army consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

Sept. 30, 1949 – The Berlin Airlift concluded after carrying over 2 million tons of supplies to the people of West Berlin

## We've been there before

1916 - Polio, 1918- Spanish Flu, 1957- Asian flu, 1981- Aids, 2009- swine flu, 2014- West African Ebola – 2015 - ZIKI. How many of you remember air raid drills in grammar school when you had to hide under your desks? Riots at Kent State and at University of Buffalo or countless civil rights marches?

A film on Boys State by Amanda McBaine and Jesse Moss was released in January. This documentary on 1000 Texas Teens forming their own Government received great reviews. It is presently on Apple TV. Have a great month and stay safe!



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

The 2021 Erie County American Legion Calendars are here. I will be handing them out at the monthly County meetings. This year is going to be extremely harder than selling the Calendars than in the past. With Post's not being open or open in a limited capacity we will have to work harder and smarter selling the Calendars. Each Post should take at least ten calendars. I urge all Legionnaires to sell as many individually as they can. The deadline for the Early Bird drawing is October 29, 2020. To be eligible all sold calendars must be turned in by that date so the winning stub can be drawn at the County meeting.

Let's make this another great year for the Erie County American Legion and push to sell all the Calendars. If you need Calendars or have questions you may call me at (h) 716 542-2065 or (c) 716 512-4321.

Stay safe and healthy.

**2020 District Legionnaire of the Year Wayne Baumgartner from Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 receives his award from 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Bill Miskell, and LOY Chairperson Suzanne Quirk.**



## Sunday September 20

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 **DINE IN & TAKE OUT**  
Wednesday's, 75 Cent Wings,  
Thursday Bar - B - Q - 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 have returned. We have a new cook. 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.

## Hamburg Post #527

2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg. TO GO ONLY  
Spaghetti Dinners on Thursdays. Starts September 10th. From 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Pasta, Sauce, Meatball(s), Salad, Bread, Butter. Phone in orders after 2:00 PM at (716) 290-4432. Open to All, Walk-in's Welcome, Curbside Service.  
Regular Order \$7.00. Large Order \$9.00.



## Thursday County Meeting Dates

**The next Erie County American Legion Executive Meeting is scheduled for Thursday 9/24 at 7 PM at the Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207.**

The meeting will follow current Covid virus guidelines for late September 2020. We will have an Executive Meeting only for this 9/24 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 again to the 16 Posts who were able to make the 8/27 County meeting; 64, 205, 362, 430, 527, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1528, 1586, 1626, 1672, and in the process of forming, our new Post, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928.**

**Thanks to the 25 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, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, & 1780. Hopefully the balance of the Posts can send in their updated Officer list ASAP.**

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

## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the October  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due September 25  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

To all Erie County Contacts,

Hopefully you and your family remain safe and healthy. To comply with NYS Covid guidelines, the Erie County Meetings will continue to be 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 9/24/2020 at 7 PM at Niagara Frontier Post #1041. 533 Amherst St. Buffalo, NY 14207. Casual Legion dress. Of course, this is dependent on the current virus guidelines for late September 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 respect 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 10 Posts that have not submitted their Officers; 63, 78, 607, 655, 721, 928, 1031, 1449, 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 9/25 for the October 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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