



## *The Legion-Air*

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor



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January 2021

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

Who is Old Glory?

I was thinking when I got the large envelope in the mail this past week, now what and who wants money? It actually was from National American Legion. Yes, they are looking for a donation! But the survey was short and easy. Please fill it out if you get it and send it back in the envelope which already pays for the mailing. Mostly a survey letting the American Legion know what is important to you.

I do not think we will be having an in-person meeting for a little while longer so I would like to try a virtual meeting. If you have a computer, smart phone or iPad download ZOOM.com and be ready at 7:00 PM on January 28, 2021 to join our meeting. Adjutant Jim will be reporting more in this report.

On behalf of my wife Roe and myself I want to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and prosperous and healthy New Year.

**The Veterans Post Restoration Fund** has sponsored another project. We are awarding \$13,000 to the Voiture 51, 40/8. The funds will be used to put a new roof on the entire building. The project will be done before the end of December.

Jerry Kowalski

**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**

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

Greetings Legionnaires!

Thanks to everyone for their work on 2021 membership so far. Erie County is currently at 79% with 4,360 members against a goal of 5,527. National will be mailing out dues notice reminders in early January. We have goal to reach 80% by January 14, 2021.

Merry Christmas! and a Happy, Safe and Healthy New Year!

### **Mission Blue Assistance Program**

The National American Legion has created a \$1,000 grant program to assist Posts during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The submission must be sent to Department Headquarters for approval and they will send the approved application on to National Headquarters. Send to [ann@nylegion.org](mailto:ann@nylegion.org), Application must be received at National by the end of 2021. The application must include required attachments.

- Corporation Papers
- Insurance Certificate needs to list National as additionally insured
- What they are using the money for
- What Legion programs they participated in over the last 18 months
- Last filing of IRS 990 papers
- Department will check to see if 2020 – 2021 Post Officers and the 2020 Consolidated Post Report was submitted.

I have sent out the fillable PDF form on previous emails. Contact me if you need again or assistance.

Jim Bojanowski  
Erie County Adjutant

## Americanism – VC Gary Wald

I have a December 1942 edition of a magazine called "The American" that cost twenty-five cents. This particular issue came out during the dark days of WWII. The cover of the magazine has a picture of an Actor dressed in Army uniform holding a small dog. As I paged through the magazine, various items and names from the past brought back memories even though 1942 was years before I was born. There was Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Dorothy Lamour, Rita Hayworth, pictures of PT-72, the sinking of a Torpedoed tanker, a lady wearing clothes she made out of curtains, an article with photos of "Why Hitler Thinks He'll Win", ads for Philip Morris Cigarettes, Pennzoil, Pepsodent Tooth paste, Schlitz and Ballantine beer, and many more. The strange thing is, that within this whole magazine of about 158 pages, there was only one black and white picture of Santa Claus in a small ad on page 119. Everyone was focused on what had to be done - winning the war.

This is truly a time of year to be thankful for what we have resulting from the work of our predecessors and to those currently serving. Today less than one-half of one percent of the population is made up of active-duty personnel. Let all of us in the American Legion join in a toast to those before and among us who have honorably served, and to our four pillars that we must focus on. Have a fantastic holiday and stay safe out there.

## Erie County Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Posts, please start to work on submissions for Legionnaire of the Year. COVID-19 shouldn't stop us from recognizing and rewarding outstanding Legionnaires. We are Legionnaires, we adapt to challenging times. We all like to be recognized for our contributions to the Legion and this is an excellent way to recognize our outstanding Legionnaires. Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2021. All LOY details will be published on the County website.



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

We are approaching the end of 2020; I still have 2021 Calendars remaining to be sold. With the December Erie County meeting being canceled, you were not be able to pick up additional Calendars or drop off money and stubs. I still have about 40 calendars to distribute. To facilitate getting additional Calendars or dropping off money and stubs for sold tickets, please contact me to make arrangements. I am willing to meet at a convenient location. You can mail **checks and stubs** to me at the address listed below.

Fred Pask  
102 Golden Pond Estates  
Akron, NY 14001

Phone: H **716 542-2065** C **716 512- 4321**

We will not have a physical January 2021 meeting to turn in the 2021 Calendar sales. Have a safe and healthy, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## Law and Order Candidates – Bill Miskell

It is **not too** early to start looking for a candidate from the Post level. It is at the Post level that candidates are found, not the County, etc. Each area has someone who could be eligible to be a candidate, but you must first find that person and then submit them to your County.

All of the guidelines and rules for a Law & Order candidate(s) can be found on the Department Web site.

Candidates are found in your local newspapers. Take the time to find some deserving person, so we can recognize that person at the County and potentially upper levels.

I can only encourage each one of you to work to make this program work. We should be judging multiple candidates, Police, Fire, & EMT's. Congratulations to Brounshidle Post 205 for finding two Police Officers to win the Department Law & Order Award. One in 2019 and the other 2020. This is very rare that a County could get two winners, let alone a Post. Thank you for looking.



## PCC Club – Gary Oakes

1. PCC Christmas party cancelled January 13th.
2. PCC lottery tickets stubs and money due before February 1st.
3. Next meeting Tuesday January 12th at the Gierlach Post 7 PM.



**Newell Faulkner Post #880** 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057 **TAKE OUT ONLY**

Wednesday's, 75 Cent Wings,  
Thursday's Steak Night  
Friday Nights, Fish Fries and Specials  
Saturday, Pizza & Wing's and Sandwiches Available.

Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.  
OPEN - WED., THUR., SAT., 3PM. TO 9PM.  
FRIDAY 12 NOON to 9PM.  
CLOSED SUN., MON., TUES.  
MENU & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
[www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com) go to kitchen link

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Take-out meals only. Every Friday 4 - 8 PM. A full menu and our famous Fish Fry meal. Prepared by our Chef Rosie call her at 896-3346. Food will be brought out to your vehicle.

## Hamburg Post #527

2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg. TO GO ONLY

Spaghetti Dinners on Thursdays 4 to 7 PM.  
Pasta, Sauce, Meatball(s), Salad, Bread, Butter. Phone in orders after 2 PM at 208-7852.  
Open to All, Walk-in's Welcome, Curbside Service. Regular Order \$7. Large Order \$9.  
NO DINNERS ON DECEMBER 24th & 31<sup>st</sup>



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY**

## Thursday County Meetings

**Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the next Erie County American Legion Executive Meeting on Thursday January 28, 2021 at 7 PM, will be for the first time, a ZOOM Meeting. Details will be sent out a week in advance. Everyone on my email contact list will be invited. Voting will be limited to the voting members of the Executive Committee, one member per Post, Elected Officers, and the five Past County Commanders. A quorum is 18 Posts participating.**

Please try to sign on to Zoom before the scheduled meeting. The holiday time period is a great time to practice signing on to a Zoom meeting which is free for small groups with limited time. Using a computer or smart phone is the easiest process, with preloading the Zoom application. Dialing in on a regular phone can also occur.

Adjutant Bojanowski will control the meeting Zoom process. This will be a learning experience. We will need to respect the current speaker and not interrupt. Voting, depending on the subject, will probably be; after motion and second, the Commander will ask for any discussion, assume everyone is in the affirmative, ask for any objections, if hearing none, state motion is approved.

Please notify the Adjutant in advance if you have any agenda items for the January meeting.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the February**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due January 29**  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

**Finance Officer Joe Porempski Memorandum to Posts:**

Just a reminder that PUFL per capita of \$ 2.00 per member to the County is due now as it is not remitted by the Department out of the dues they send you. It is your responsibility to remit it to the County as noted in the Department communication sent to you. Please send in the respective per capita to County headquarters as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.



**The Erie County American Legion presented the Department of New York Red, White and Blue Award to Joseph Dispenza, President of Forest Lawn Cemetery for their sponsorship of the 2020 Memorial Day and 2020 Veterans Day virtual services broadcast on WBEN Radio. Pictured with Mr. Dispenza are Erie County Commander Thomas O'Connell and Erie County Adjutant James Bojanowski.**



**8<sup>th</sup> District representatives present the Christmas Wreath at the Buffalo VA Hospital. (L to R) Vice Commander Ken Barnes, Commander Bill Miskell, & Historian Sue Quirk.**

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 1/29 for the February 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

Department of New York website - <https://nylegion.net>

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

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

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