



The Legion-Air

**Gary Wald
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor**



July 2021

thelegionair@gmail.com

Commander's Message:

Thank you for the confidence and support you have given to me, not only during the past four years, but also in electing me as your 102nd Erie County American Legion Commander. I also wish to thank Tom Ricci Past Commander of East Aurora Post 362, along with the current Commander Keith Bender, and Pat Pederson for making the Convention a success.

Together, with our Posts and men and women making up our Legion Family we can do a lot to 'advance' the American Legion. I believe that we must begin by honoring our commitments that have been placed upon us. To help us all remember those commitments, I use the word 'advance' to mean: **A**d (advertise), **v** (Veteran's rehabilitation and support), **a** (Americanism), **n** (national security), **c** (children & youth, communication, comradery, and commitment), **e**, (everywhere).

Posts can begin the new American Legion Financial Year by reviewing your consolidated reports from the prior Legion year and using those reports as a comparison against the current year and also as a reminder. Download a current, blank Consolidated Post Report (CPR) right from the Department Website under Resources tab. Don't wait until the end of the year to do this, review it once a month, perhaps at your Post meeting or more frequently as you wish. Do you see anything that you can do for the coming month(s) that you can check off that you didn't check off last year? Use the CPR as a mechanism for tracking how well you are currently performing as opposed to last year. By using it routinely, you will not have any kind of a crunch next year in filling it out and you will have a wonderful tool for tracking your progress.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings Legionnaires!

Wednesday June 30, will be the American Legion's version of New Year's Eve, that's when the 2021 Legion Membership recruiting comes to a close. The very next day Thursday July 1, will be the American Legion's version of New Year's Day, this is the beginning of the new Legion 2022 Membership Year.

Once again, any Post that still has any 2021 membership renewals and/or new members is encouraged to get them processed ASAP. Especially if your Post is using transmittals - otherwise known as Hard Copy.

Now that the majority of COVID 19 restrictions have been lifted, this will give every Post an opportunity to use all resources that are available to them. To start with, the Department of New York has made available POST 1 members that are not assign any Post. This gives you the opportunity to check by zip for potential new members.

Several Posts did not pick up their new 2022 Membership Cards they are as follows: 63, 78, 431, 607, 735, 928, 1320, 1377, 1659, & 1780.
On Thursday July 1, I'll be available from 1 PM to 6 PM at the David McKeever Post 64, located at 1770 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, for distribution of the New Membership cards.

In addition to the above, the new cards will also be available at the next County meeting at the Lamm Post. You can also call Commander Gary Wald at 863-1919 if you need to make special arrangements to get your new cards.

In Closing; God Bless America, our Military and their Families, the American Legion Family and their Families.

"The best of Health and Stay Safe"

2021 – 2022 Erie County Elected Officers

Commander Gerald Wald

Vice Commander Paul Wackowski

Vice Commander Fred Pask

Vice Commander Ted Balbierz

Finance Officer Joseph Porempski

Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Borawski

Congratulations to these new officers! Please support them throughout the year.

Legionnaire of the Year was awarded to Ruth Ann Coppola of Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.

At the 8th District Convention James Koester from Hamburg Post 527 was awarded Legionnaire of the Year, and Tom Deinzer from Hamburg Post 527 was elected as Boys State Director.

Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

Erie County Legionnaires, as this is my first comments since being elected Vice Commander at the June 5th Erie County Convention, I wish to thank each and every one of you for my election and your confidence in me.

I am humbled to have accepted this position and welcome Commander Wald charge to handle County Americanism for the upcoming year.

While we are all familiar with the Pillars of the American Legion; Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, I would like to say that everything we do as legionnaires is about Americanism and having an Impact in the communities in which we live.

In the coming months I would like to encourage the Leadership of the 35 Posts of Erie County to join us at our monthly meetings, where I will be holding open discussions to work together to discuss what works and what is necessary to grow each of our Posts.

We have 102 Years of History to reflect on, but in order to remain our Nation's Leading Veterans Service Organization, we must look forward and work together to keep our Posts and Legion Family healthy. While each of the 35 Posts in Erie County are autonomous, working together the sum of all of our parts is what will make Erie County American Legion the best County in the Department. May God Continue to Bless you and your families and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion! I look forward to meeting with each of you at upcoming county meetings.

In Continued Service for God & Country...

Cell 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I hope every Legion Family Member is healthy and getting back to into doing normal activities I want to wish the new Commander, Gary Wald congratulations on his election. I also want to thank him for reappointing me as chairman of the Special Events Committee. If things work out, I plan on starting to disburse the 2022 Calendars at the July meeting if not at the August meeting. This year I will be asking every Post in the County to take and sell at least ten (10) Calendars. We did fairly well selling the 2021 Calendars considering all the problems COVID 19 presented. I will have a detailed report at the next meeting.

Commander's Message: Continued

Legion Events that I have participated in from the end of May, not including my own Post's events were: the WNY Heroes food distribution on Sunday May 23 (arranged between Vice Commander Ted Balbierz and the WNY Heroes.) I also participated in an internal County Audit on May 26, the annual Forest Lawn Cemetery Memorial Day salute on May 31st, the American Legion Auxiliary Erie County Installation on June 3rd, the DeGlopper Memorial Statue unveiling on Grand Island the morning of the Erie County American Legion Convention on June 5th, The First Mass of our Erie County American Legion Chaplain Father Mike Johnson on Sunday June 6th, Installation at the Brounshidle Post on June 16, at which I presided as the installing officer, and the Eighth District Convention held at Hamburg Post 527 on June 19th which I attended as a delegate.

Have a great month and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting shown later in this newsletter. It is important for all 35 Posts to be at these meetings, so I ask you to please give it your best shot. I doubt if all Posts will find all of the subject matter interesting all of the time, but the networking is priceless.

Yours for the Legion,
Gary Wald

Sunday July 25

Chicken BBQ at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From Noon to 4 PM.
\$12, includes ½ chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, & roll. Eat in or take out.

Sunday July 26

Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, 14218 is having an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Noon to 5:00 PM. For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code GLABPOST or call 1-800 RED CROSS.

Erie County Fair Veteran's Day 8/15

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY & SPOUSES OF ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY WITH PROPER I.D., VETERANS & VETERANS' POST AUXILIARY WITH PROPER I.D. AND CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.

The free tickets still must be picked up on line but there is no longer a need for attendance control because the fair is now open to 100% capacity.

July 1. www.ecfair.org

Flag Retreat Ceremony contact

Holly Smyczynski, Marketing Manager

5600 McKinley Parkway

Hamburg, NY 14075

716-649-3900 ext 6261

- The Fair will open at 11 AM.
- Mass will be held at NOON at the Entertainment Center
- Memorial Service will be held after the Mass in Veterans Park at 2 PM in the infield of the track. Best to proceed there directly after Mass.
- There is no infield parking.
- There will be no infield tents/dugouts
- There will be no parade

Joseph M. Solomon

Director, Erie County Agricultural Society
Veterans' Program

Lloyd W. Quiter

Veterans' Program Coordinator



Regular County Meetings

The first Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday July 22, at the George F. Lamm Post #622 located at 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, 14221 at 7 PM.

Required dinners were eliminated at the County Convention, but the Lamm Post will be offering a Barbeque Hamburger meal, salad, chips, cookies, and coffee for \$6. Please support their voluntary efforts starting at 6 PM for your socializing with others.

Future Meetings

August 26, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672

September 30, Open – TBD

Albany Department Convention will be held 7/29 – 31 by invite only due to Covid – 19 guidelines in place during the planning, Zoom call in information and the program schedule will be distributed as the information is released for your viewing.

Phoenix National Convention will be held August 28 to September 2.

Adjutant Jim Bojanowski will be attending both of the above conventions and New York Boys State as a counselor. County office phone messages and emails will be monitored offsite.

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 23
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Erie County Clerk Michael P. Kearns and The Veterans Post Restoration of Erie County NY, Inc., a not-for-profit comprised of American Legion, AMVETS the 40&8, Marine Corps League and VFW Posts throughout Erie County announced they are again working collaboratively to upgrade handicap accessibility and other much needed repairs at the Posts. The Buffalo Bison's will donate 20% of their net online sales for all camo gear sold through Bisons.com to The Veterans Post Restoration of Erie County NY, Inc. In addition, Mike Billoni, former General Manger of the Bisons will donate \$10 from every copy sold of his book "The Seasons of Buffalo Baseball - 1857-2020" purchased through Bisons.com.

PCC Picnic at the 40 & 8. 810 Rein Rd. Cheektowaga on July 18, starting at Noon. \$5 per member and \$5 one guest, paid for in advance. Contact President Gary Oakes Jr. goakes_jr@hotmail.com

Orchard Park Post #567 Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ every Wednesday 3 - 7 PM, \$11. Drive Thru only at our new home, 5784 Ellis Rd. (off Taylor Rd.), Orchard Park.

Newell Faulkner Post #880 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. Noon to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT
 Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 75 Cent Wings, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials
 Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches, Regular menu also available, Wed. - Sat.
www.post880.com go to kitchen link

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225. Dining room closed for July & August. There will be live entertainment on Friday 7/9 starting at 8 PM - The Smash Band, and Friday 7/23, GD ROSE Country & Western Show at 8PM.

Matthew Glab Post #1477 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218, Dine in Wednesday 2 – 8 PM. "Wings, Burgers, Tacos", Friday Fish Fry or Salmon, see menu on Facebook. Dine in or take out. Hall and Pavilion for rent. Call 825-3733 or email glabpost@aol.com

Friday July 9 Vets for Vets/Pathfinders Golf Tournament at Concord Cress Golf Course, T-time 9 AM. 4-man scramble \$85 per golfer. Lunch and Steak Dinner. Proceeds to Benefit Disabled Veterans. Contact Mike at 998-9583 or Marty at 361-5381.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 7/23 for the August 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>

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

Phone: (716) 852-6500
 Fax: (716) 852-4664
Veteran14202@verizon.net