



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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March 2021

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Commander's Message: VETERAN CRISIS LINE 1-800-273-8255

I would like to bring up a very touchy question. What happened to the Erie County Honor Guard? I am asking because the Honor Guard Duties for the Pembroke Veterans National Cemetery on Thursdays is the responsibility of the Veterans organizations from Erie County. I had the honor of taking part in the detail for one veteran last Friday to help that county out. Sometimes they have up to five funerals. So, I am looking for us, with the help of John Kasmer, to rebuild our County Honor Guard. Would you consider being a part of our program? Please call John or me. I believe all veterans should have this final send off. Usually, the funeral director arranges for the veteran to have two representatives from the branch of the service to do the flag folding and flag presentation to the family. Our duties are rifle salute and taps. On a personal note, I feel a great honor when I take part in this program.

Our Zoom meeting seemed to be particularly good on February 25, 2021. Now our next meeting will be in person and zoom. We will meet at 7:00 PM in person and on zoom. Those attending the meeting in person are asked to dress in blue and grey uniform with a cap. Please no exceptions.

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**

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings Legionnaires!

Hoping that you and your families are safe. I have Membership Certificates Awards from the 2019 - 2020 for the following Posts; Post 928 - Newcomb - Long along with the certificates their polo shirts, Post 1640 North Collins, Post 1780 - Bennett - Wells. Kindly contact me at 716 - 262 - 5245 or email at empirestate716@yahoo.com to arrange for disposition.

As the 2020 - 2021 Legion Membership year is 4 months away from closing. Now would be an opportune time to utilize the "Buddy Check Program". This program is designed to give Legionnaires the tools to make contact, engage in conversion, assess risks and direct veterans in need to the appropriate services and remind those that have not renewed their 2021 Membership to do so. Membership is key to the American Legion. In closing; God Bless The United States, The American Legion and its Members and their Families. Keep safe.

Erie County Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

The deadline for submitting candidates for 2021 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is approaching. Posts, let's recognize our outstanding legionnaires. So far one resume has been submitted. All Posts have at least one person who always steps up the plate to help out. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. This is an excellent way to recognize our outstanding Legionnaires. Specifics about submitting the resume of a candidate are at: <http://www.eriecountyal.org/pdf%20files/2021%20Guidelines%20EC%20Legionnaire%20of%20the%20Year.pdf>. Submit the resume of your candidate for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2021.

Americanism – VC Gary Wald

I really enjoy history. Not all that long ago, when you used to watch old time movies, they were always in black and white, people were moving about triple the speed that they would normally move, and there was no sound. Today, with all of the new innovations in electronics, you can now watch movies that are over 100 years old, with sound, in color, moving at the same speed as if you were really there. Not only did the people in the movies back then look and sound just like us today they also faced many of the same problems and issues that we have. For example, citizens of Mexico are coming to our border in droves. Many years ago, it would have been the Irish and the Chinese. Let us learn from History what an important person, and Veteran, said about America back then:

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people.” Theodore Roosevelt

Law and Order Candidates – Bill Miskell

Time is starting to run out to submit a candidate for a Law and Order Award. There are 8 categories for this award: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, 911 DESPATCHER, POLICE DEPARTMENT, CORRECTIONS OFFICER, FIRE DEPARTMENT, EMERGENCY SQUAD, FIREFIGHTER, EMT.

The forms are on line at the Department of NY. Somewhere in Erie County there is a candidate for one of these Awards. Keep looking.



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

Legionaries

Any member or Post that have Calendars that have been sold, I need the stubs and money returned to me ASAP so I can make payments in a timely manner. At some point (determined by the executive officers) any member or Post that have not turned in unsold calendars or stubs and money for those sold will be held responsible for making the payments.

You can contact me after March 10th to make arrangements to get the Calendars

Fred Pask

102 Golden Pond Estates
Akron, NY 14001

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



Pictured above are Rev. Eugene Pierce Commander of the Jesse Clipper Post No 430, and thirteen members of the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post No. 1928, at the Lombardo Funeral Home on 2/19/2021, before going forward to honor deceased member Joaquin H. Rodriguez with a "Final Salute".

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Saturday March 6

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg. CHICKEN BBQ By Weidner. Drive Thru Only. 12 Noon to 6:00 PM \$12.00 per Person – Cash Only.

Sunday March 21

ALL YOU AN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to Noon. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$9, children under 12 \$4, children under 5 free.

Sunday March 28

Milton J Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, 14217 is having a Pancake Breakfast with Eggs, Sausage, OJ, Coffee, & Tea. 9 AM to 1 PM. Adults \$8, 12 and under \$5, 5 and under Free.

Wednesday April 14

Niagara Frontier Post #1041 will have a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner, includes chef salad and a soft drink. \$7.50 in advance, \$8.50 at the door. Eat in or take out. 5:00 to 7.00 PM. Call 716-876-5730 for reservations. Send check to Post 1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207.

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 is now open, take out available. Friday 4 - 8 PM. A full menu and our Fish Fry meal. Prepared by Chef Rosie call her at 896-3346. Live Singers during dinner hour. Michael Stewart 1st and 3rd Fridays 6-8 PM. GD Rose, 2nd and 4th Fridays 6-8 PM.

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.



Thursday County Meetings

We will be returning to in person Executive meeting for the month of March while following all government Covid-19 guidelines. Therefore, we will be limited to a 50-person maximum, wearing masks, and social distancing. There is be a contact tracing sign in sheet at the door.

The meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday March 25 at David McKeever Post #64, located at 1770 South Park Ave., Buffalo, 14220. We plan to have a WIFI hot spot, to have a Zoom meeting connection for those who cannot attend in person.

**Future Meetings planned for;
April 29 East Aurora Post #362
May 20 Akron Post #900**

The Erie County Convention is planned to be held at East Aurora Post #362 on Saturday June 12. Please support their convention program book with ads and boosters.

Erie County Scholarship Award applications were recently mailed out to all Erie County Schools. The awards will be presented at the County Convention. Please support this effort if you can. Both the County and the PNC Michael J. Kogutek scholarship applications can be found on the Erie County website. eriecounty.org



**SUBMISSIONS
For the April
"The Legion-Air"
Due March 26
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Department Commander Michael McDermott presents the 2020 Department Legionnaire of the Year Award to Wayne Baumgartner of the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 at the recent 8th District Conference on 2/14. Due to the ongoing pandemic the presentation was not able to be presented at the annual Department Convention.



Department Commander Michael McDermott and Department Chairman Dave Riley present the 2020 Department Law and Order Award to Tonawanda Police Officer Julia Taylor at the recent 8th District Conference on 2/14. Officer Taylor was nominated by the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.

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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 3/26 for the April 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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