



The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



May/June 2021

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Commander's Message:

VETERAN CRISIS LINE 1-800-273-8255

As two years as Erie County Commander comes to an end I have so many people I would like to thank. Not enough room here to do that so I will just say Thank you to all our Legion Family. I do have to say thank you to my better half Roe O'Connell who has been my traveling partner to the Eight District dinners that we attended and the many Post visits we made together. Roe made one last trip with me this past week to make her last visit to the Erie County meeting as the Erie County Auxiliary President.

My congratulations to the Iroquois Post for the great job they did on the food distribution to all the families they visited. I visited the Post for their Everlasting ceremony for seven members who passed during this past year. My deepest sympathies are with each of those families.

To Jr. Past Commander Tony and his wife Katie thank you for dinner before my visit to Sardinia Post. To all the Sardinia Post members thank you for the warm welcome during my visit.

Now I want to thank my entire staff for a job well done during this past two years. I know the past year has been an extremely hard year to run our programs, but the show must go on so thank you.

Finally, a great big thank you to Jim and Michelle Bojanowski, Michelle for giving her husband to the Legion for many hours of dedication. To Jim what can I say, you are the best. Not sure I would have made it the past two years without your help. I will miss the little notes during the meetings to remind me to do something. I have decided that I would like to bring you along as my Adjutant for Post 1041. Jim, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings! Legionnaires. I hope that every Legionnaire and your Families are Healthy and Safe. Make sure you get vaccinated!

The new system of My Legion is still undergoing work and there are major issues with it at all levels. Department did create a membership report, I entered the County information to our spreadsheet, and it was forwarded to everyone.

New 2021 target dates are; May 29 - 99%, June 9 - 100%. As we wind down the Legion Membership year, this would be an opportune time to utilize the "Buddy System" not only to check on your post members well-being but also to encourage those members who have not renewed their 2021 membership to do so.

In Closing;
"God Bless" the Nation and the American Legion Family and their Families. "Keep Safe"!

President Rosemary O'Connell and Commander Thomas O'Connell completing their years of service for Erie County.



Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services

We will be decorating graves on Monday 5/31 at 8 AM and holding our services at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes.

Americanism – VC Gary Wald

The Month of May has a lot on its calendar such as May Day, no pants day, Paranormal Day, Mother's Day, apple pie day, Tax Day, Burger Day, Kentucky Derby, and more. However, as Americanism Chairman, I would like to focus on May 6th Nurses Day, May 7th Military Spouses Day, May 15th National Armed Forces Day, and most importantly, May 31, Memorial Day when we honor our heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice. Less than 1% of our Population is keeping us free from the Global War on Terrorism, so let us remember the Words of Winston Churchill when he was talking about the RAF during WWII and said "Never was so much owed by so many to so few" Keep our military and first responders in our prayers and have a safe month, a spectacular summer, and see you in the Fall.

Virtual Boys State – Tom Deinzer

Erie County Posts have sponsored 18 boys for this year's virtual Boys State. Thank you for assisting these boys gain an education in how our democracy functions. Virtual Boys State will be held this year from June 27 to July 1.

FOREVER GRATEFUL

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Department of New York American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., I would like to thank all the American Legions in Western New York who supported the Department in our 83rd and 84th Convention. In addition, I personally thank all who placed ads in our Convention Journal, made donations, and attended the event. I would like to give a special thank you to the American Legion Post 880 Color Guard who provided the color guard at both the Memorial services and first banquet. Although this year's Convention was scaled back to follow the pandemic recommendations, we were successful and pleased with the outcome. Our next Convention will be in the Lake George area. Again, thank you and May God Bless.

Holly Baker, Past NY Department President
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Proud Mother of SGT Brian K. Baker



DeGlopper Memorial

Dedication ceremony on Saturday June 5, 2021, at 9:45 AM at 2333 Grand Island Blvd. Grand Island, NY. More information at www.degloppermemorial.org • 716.725.5750

Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

Covid – 19 has made this a difficult year to sell the 2021 Erie County American Legion Calendars. I still have many Calendars that have been handed out but the stubs and money for the sold Calendars have not been returned. During the month of April there were 26 numbers drawn, of these there nine that had no stubs. Of the nine there were 2 that have not been returned. I do not know if these Calendars have been sold or are ready to be returned, this is why it is important that all Post's and individuals return them.

I am requesting all **unsold Calendars, Stubs and Money be returned to me ASAP** to ensure that all winners are paid in a timely manner. Please contact me to make arrangements. I am willing to meet at a convenient location. Or you can mail money and stubs to me.

Fred Pask
102 Golden Pond Estates
Akron, NY 14001

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

Hopefully we can wrap-up the 2021 Calendar sales project now. Stay Safe and healthy.

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



Saturday May 8

Matthew Glab Post is hosting a Chicken BBQ on from 2 to 8 PM. Eat in or Take Out. Donation \$11.

Sunday May 9 Mother's Day

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.

Saturday, May 15

George F. Lamm Post No 622, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, will be holding a Canned Food and Paper Products Drive, drive thru event from Noon to 6 PM to benefit St. Paul's Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Eggertsville, N.Y.

Sunday May 16

The FJ Donovan Post is having a Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ dinner from 12-6 pm. or until sold out. You can get pre-sale tickets at the Post for \$11.00. Tickets are \$12.00 the day of the event. Call 896-3346 for more information. The Post will be having our annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31 at 11:00 AM, all are welcome.

Saturday May 22

Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Dr. off Evans Drive, drive thru Chicken & Ribs dinner, 2 sides, by Weidner. \$16, from 3 - 6 PM. Last day for ticket sales 5/17. Call PC Jim Koester at 570-1349 or the Post at 649-4667 for tickets.

Monday May 24

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218, is sponsoring a Blood Drive from Noon to 5 PM. For An appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org. and enter sponsor code GLABPOST, or call 1-800 RED CROSS

Thursday May 27

Troop I Post 665 Auxiliary, 432 Franklin St. Buffalo, is having a Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner. \$12 includes 1/2 chicken, potato salad, macaroni salad, roll and butter. 3 – 7 PM Dine in or takeout. Pat 870-8738 or Beth 939-3619.

Saturday June 19

Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 is having a Pig Roast at 261 Swan St. The Augustine Pucho Olivencia Center. \$13 Sandwiches with a drink and 2 sides. Time TBD.



Thursday County Meetings

We will have a combination in person and virtual Regular County meeting for the month of May while following all government Covid-19 guidelines. Current guidelines as of this publication is 100-person maximum, wearing masks, and social distancing. There will be a contact tracing sign in sheet at the door.

The meeting will be held at 7 PM on Thursday May 20 at LL Tillman Post #900, located at 9 Eckerson Ave., Akron, 14001. We will have a Zoom meeting set up for those who cannot attend in person. NOTE: One week earlier in May, due to the County Convention early June.

The Erie County Convention will be held at East Aurora Post #362 on Saturday June 5. NOTE DATE CHANGE.

1 Legion Dr., off Center St., East Aurora. This will be an in person meeting only. Please support their convention program book ads/boosters.

8th District Convention Saturday June 19 at 1 PM at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, 14075.

2021 Erie County & PNC Michael J. Kogutok Education Award applications must be received at the County Office by Friday May 7, 2021. The awards will be presented at their respective conventions. Please support this effort if you can. Both the County and the PNC Michael J. Kogutok scholarship applications can be found on the Erie County website.

eriecountyal.org



SUBMISSIONS
For the July
"The Legion-Air"
Due June 23
thelegionair@gmail.com



Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1587 member, Juan Negron, 88, who served in the 65th Infantry Regiment from 1952 to 1954, gives a thumbs-up after receiving a plaque during a ceremony to mark the first National Borinqueneers Day on Tuesday at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. National Borinqueneers Day was approved by Congress last year to recognize “the bravery, service and sacrifice of the Puerto Rican soldiers of the 65th Infantry Regiment.”

PCC next meeting will be our picnic at the 40 & 8. 810 Rein rd. Cheektowaga July 18th. For members in good standing. More information soon. PCC dues are due. \$5 for members \$10 for new members. Cards will be available at convention. If anyone has any ideas for what our club can do to help out our Posts. Please let me know. My email goakes_jr@hotmail.com

Congratulations to the new Past Commander's Club - President- Gary Oakes Jr., VP and Chaplain- Gary Kruger, Secretary- Jerry Kowalski, Treasurer- Nelson Oldfield, & Sgt.-at-Arms- Jake Schu

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 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 6-8 PM.

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 6/23 for the July 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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