



The Legion-Air

**Gary Wald
Commander**

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Adjutant/Editor**



November 2021

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Commander's Message:

On Nov. 8, 1918, a small party of German, British, French officers and politicians met in a train carriage that was originally used by the Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits, the company best known for operating the luxurious Orient Express.

Three days of fruitless negotiations followed before the Germans signed the armistice. Please take a moment on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month to remember a Veteran. This is our day. On Veterans Day 11/11, Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Grave Decoration starts at 8 AM, Services at 9 AM.

At 7:00 PM on the last Tuesday of each month, a training session centered on Post Commanders and Adjutants is presented the National Staff. Please tune in. Topics such as how to apply for Mission Blue Post Assistance, and the National Emergency Fund have been covered. Use the link: legion.org/training/training-Tuesdays

I had the privilege of attending the Honor Flight departure and arrival with the Post 362 Honor Guard from Post 362 that took place on 10/9. The plane was loading at 4 AM and returned at 11 PM. 35 veterans were honored.

On 11/4, the Erie County Staff will visit with the Erie County American Legion Auxiliary at Newcomb Long Post 928 @ 7:30 PM.

On Saturday November 6, 2021, there will be a 5:30 PM Mass held at St. Gregory the Great RC Church, 200 St. Gregory Court, Wmsvle, NY 14221. Reception after Mass at Francis J. Donovan Post 1626. Gold Star Mothers and the Auxiliary have been asked to attend. The Donovan Honor Guard will be presenting the Honors at this Veterans Day Mass.

I hope to see you at next County Meeting on 11/18 at Matthew Glab Post 1477. I wish everyone a safe and wonderful Thanksgiving.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings! Legionnaires. I hope every Legionnaire and your Families are in good health and safe.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE CHEAPEST WAY TO RECRUIT

Publicity is the cheapest way for Recruitment. It's about active recruitment, being relevant in the community and letting people know [that we are relevant] by publicizing what we do. Every community can't do what we have done, but every community can do the publicity. If you do something put it in the paper so people can see it. No matter how big or small it is, if you can get it in the paper with a headline, it helps with recruiting.

Examples;

Holding two flag retirement ceremonies a year with the Scouts.

Reading a book "F is for Flag" to first graders and donating copies of the book to classrooms. They are available thru the Legion Flag and Emblem Catalog.

Donating flags to your City or Township.

Recognizing veterans on their birthdays and for their military service.

Conducting a 911 ceremony

Recognizing graduating high school seniors who sign up for the military.

Volunteering to assist a food pantry in your community.

If you use the four pillars as your reason for being in the community, it's easy to talk about The American Legion.

Get your name out there in the newspaper – the cheapest way for recruitment. People see you in the paper and know that we're relevant in the community.

In closing;

God "Bless" this Nation, our Armed Forces, The American Legion Family and its members and their Families.

Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

On Sunday October 10, your Erie County American Legion Family joined with WNY Heroes USDA Veterans Food Distribution Program. I would like to thank all those Erie County American Legion Family members who made the time and were visible passing out approximately 1,100 Food Boxes to the Veterans of WNY.

I am currently working with SAL Candidate for Detachment Commander Tim Van Patten II to coordinate Son's participation at the next WNY Heroes Food Distribution to be held prior to Veterans Day on Sunday November 7. We are being told that NY State Governor Kathy Hochul is considering visiting an upcoming Food Distribution to be considered as a Model for Veteran Food Distribution for all of NY State.

On Wednesday October 20, I also participated in a work detail at the WNY National Cemetery with Past 8th District Commander Kathy Kindle and painted the 48ft Conex Storage Container to be used to store the Avenue of Flags (Poles and Flags) for the season. The Shipping Container was donated by Erie County resident Mr. Robert Hill. owner of Union Concrete. This donation was over \$6,500, which included delivery. I will be forwarding a recommendation submitting Mr. Hill & his very generous donation for Red White & Blue Award from the Department of New York to awarded at a future date.

With Veterans Day Services rapidly approaching, as stated in my last month's comments about public relations, I would like to continue to encourage each of the Posts of Erie County to include all local media outlets in your Ceremony announcements and upcoming events in your communities. Each of you are our best recruiters, please spread the word through your actions to all Veterans who are interested in continued service above self and camaraderie.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the upcoming Holidays and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion!

In Continued Service for God & Country.



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

The sale of 2022 Calendars appears to be headed in the right direction. I currently have 230 calendars that still need to be distributed. I am asking all Posts to take & sell at least 10 calendars. If you need calendars, please call me and we can make arrangements to get you some. The calendars are great stocking stuffers for the Christmas Season. Hopefully, with all of your efforts, we will sell out. The early bird winner was from David McKeever Post #64.

To turn in money and stubs, please call me at the numbers listed below. Or you can mail returns to my address at 102 Golden Pond Estates, Alden, NY 14001.

Home # 541-2065, Cell # 512-4321



Commander Ron Cook Jr. led a 9/11 Memorial Service on the Seneca Nation at Iroquois Post #1587. Picture by Sue Quirk.

NY American Legion College – submitted by 8th District Vice Commander Henry Link

A three-day immersion into the Legion's programs and structure, and issues facing the largest veteran's organization in the country will be held June 3 – 5, 2022. It is open to the Legion, the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders and is held at Morrisville State College. The curriculum covers an array of topics, such as leadership and communication; americanism, children and youth; MyLegion.org; legislation; constitution and bylaws; duties of local officers; media relations; membership. Applications are found on the Department website. <https://nylegion.net>

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Veteran's Day Services

Erie County American Legion Mass on 11/6 at St. Gregory the Great R.C. Church 5:30 PM Mass on Maple Road, 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221. A reception will be held after Mass at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Armed Forces Sabbath 10:30 AM Mass on 11/7 at St. Joe's Cathedral, 50 Franklin St, Buffalo. All are welcome, bring your Post Colors. Please wear your American Legion Cap to show our support for our fellow servicemembers.

11/11 Forest Lawn Cemetery graves decoration at 8 AM, followed by services at 9 AM.



The A.J. Jurek Post #1672 Swormville NY Honor Guard was invited to the Town of Amherst Veterans Memorial annual ceremony for the addition of names of veterans of the town of Amherst. The rifle team is led by Captain Joe Orzechowski, team members are Bill Vincent, Dick Schlierf and Charlie Prell. The photo captures the moment of the muzzle blast from Charlie's rifle. In the photo the shape of the blast resembles that an arrow. The ironic thing is that Charlie is a native American. Charlie's late father was a Black Foot Indian, the tribe is from the central USA.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
Office Hours, M, W, F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

NY Department website - <https://nylegion.net>
National website - <https://www.legion.org>

Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall, 65
Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202
Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664

Email Veteran14202@verizon.net



Regular County Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday November 18, at Matthew Glab Post #1477 located at 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, 14218 starting at 7 PM.

Matthew Glab Post #1477 will be serving Pasta, meatballs, bread sticks, and a salad starting at 6 PM for \$10.

Thanks go out to the 18 Posts who attended the October County Meeting: Posts 205, 362, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1041, 1320, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, & 1672. I hope to see more of you in November!

Future County Meetings:

December 16, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626
January 27, Niagara Frontier Post #1041
February 24, Lorenzo-Burrows Post #78

Sunday December 5

8th District Meeting – Orleans County

Jewell Buckman Post #569
5 Wright St., Holley, 14470
12:00 PM - Membership Meeting
1:00 PM – General Meeting

Albany Mid-Winter Conference January 21 - 23, 2022. Housing forms will be available on the Department website soon.

Department Leadership Team Visitation to Erie County, Friday February 11, 2022 will be held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477.

FYI The current Excelsior Pass does not work for those who received their Covid Vaccine at the VA Hospital. NYS is working on a fix. In the meantime, you can use the CLEAR App on your cellphone.



SUBMISSIONS
For the December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 19
thelegionair@gmail.com



The Erie County American Legion Family helped distribute food to approximately 1,100 veteran families on Sunday October 10, 2021 with the WNY Heroes Organization who obtained a federal grant to purchase the food. The volunteer effort was organized by ECVF Ted Balbierz.

Saturday, November 13, Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive. One Eyed Jack Band. Classic Rock and Roll, covering hits from the 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's and More! 7:00-11:00 PM.

Sunday November 21 ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to 12:30 PM. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$9, children under 12 \$4, children under 5 free.

Wednesday December 8 PCC Christmas party at Donovan Post. Drinks at 6 PM Dinner at 7 PM. \$15 a person. Includes dinner, draft beer, wine and pop. Have to be a member in good standing. Contact John Stiegler if attending. Next PCC meeting January 12, at 7 PM at the Gierlach Post 1320.

South Buffalo Post #721 Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm. On Sunday's we will be opened from noon to 6:00 pm for the Bills Games. Monday Spaghetti Dinners, Wednesday's serving Chicken Wings and Beef on Weck and Friday's our menu will consist of Chicken Wings, Beef on Weck, Meatball Subs, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries and Onion Rings.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners To Go Only. To place an order call (716) 649-4667 starting at 2:00 PM. Pick up from 4:00-6:30 PM. Regular Order - \$8.00, 1 Meatball. Large Order - \$10.00, 2 Meatballs. All dinners include Salad, Bread and Butter. Closed Thanksgiving.

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. Last day will be 11/17.

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 95 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

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY 14218. Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2 – 8 PM. Serving Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers, Weekly Specials, Wednesday \$1 wings and \$3 tacos, Thursday create-your-own pasta night. (716) 825-3733

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Friday Fish Fry 4 – 8 PM. Monthly Specials. Take outs available. LIVE Bands every Friday.

Donovan Post is selling 4x8 pavers for the Bateman Veteran's Memorial Garden for \$100 to honor any veteran you select. The Paver will have 3 lines with 20 characters per line. For more info. call Jerry Kowalski 716-681-7169.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 11/19 for the December 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor