



The Legion-Air

**Gary Wald
Commander**

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Adjutant/Editor**



October 2021

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Commander's Message:

Various events that I was able to attend during the month of September were: On 9/7, I was able to present Hamburg Post with a \$500 donation from The Erie County American Legion to help offset extra expenses incurred by Hamburg Post for the State Championship Baseball Team as they competed at National playoffs. Thanks to Hamburg Post and the hospitality that night. On 9/11, I attended "Flags on the Bridge in Delaware Park. Thanks to Fred, Jim, Ted, Pat Babst, for being there. A lot of cars passing below were using their horns to acknowledge all of the flags that were smartly waving on the Bridge. Many different organizations were represented. On 9/25, Saturday Morning, I along with Fred Pask and Jim Bojanowski attended the dedication of a Middle East Monument in Veterans Park in Depew. Commander Jake Schu held a great ceremony, with Depew Mayor & Supervisor, and Congressman Chris Jacobs in attendance. On 9/29, I attended the Buffalo Stand Down at the Naval Park. Thanks to John Steigler and Jim Bojanowski for helping out. The event was arranged nicely and it was easy to make eye contact. Both existing and perspective new members visited our tent. Stay safe, and don't forget to get your flu shot and Covid Booster.

Commander Wald and Aide Steigler at Standdown.

Picture by
District President
Anne Baglio.



Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings! Legionnaires.

I hope everyone is healthy and safe.

Post recruitment for new members has been challenging, with our current environment. Here are a couple of tools for Posts to consider; If your Post has an Internet Blog, this is an excellent way to communicate within your community as to events and activities that your Post participates in as well as Why a Veteran should join your Post. This is known as Public Relations. Perhaps there may be a Community Newspaper that you could have them post as to what your Post does. Have you considered using the various media outlets?

Let's not forget the Department of New York's "Post 1" listing of possible of members that are not assigned to any Post and maybe waiting for someone to contact them about the benefits of participating and becoming a member of your Post in their own community.

The National American Legion website has several sections on Membership Recruitment and suggestions on using the media as a tool for recruitment [mylegion.org].

I believe that, in an effort to attract not only the Veterans coming home from Afghanistan, but all Veterans and use a holistic approach and service the veteran families. We need to rid ourselves of the stigma of the "Good Old Boys" at the bar. That's not what we are all about.

In closing, "God Bless" Our Nation, Our Military and the American Legion Family and their Families.

**Sign created by
Ted Balbierz.
Photo by
Sue Quirk.**



Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

During the last couple of months, I have encouraged each Post in Erie County to conduct a Post Self-Assessment and have stressed the importance that Public Relations plays in the success of each Post.

While each Post is autonomous and locally determines the programs that they choose to support, we all subscribe to the Pillars of our American Legion and as Legionnaires we Consecrate & Sanctify our Comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

As Veterans we all shared in the commitment to Serve our Great Country and continue to Serve as members of America's Original Veterans Service Organization. The Key word being Service.

When I retired from the Air Force something was missing and it took me ten years to figure it out... I missed the continued sense of purpose, camaraderie and pride associated with working together to accomplish common goals.

When conducting your internal Post Assessment, ask yourself the following?

What does our Post do for; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation? National Security? Americanism? Children & Youth?

On Sunday October 10, at 9 AM I would like to invite all of Erie County's Legionnaires to participate in WNY Heroes USDA Food Veterans Food Distribution Program.

Please join us, as we work together to distribute over 500 food boxes to Erie County's Veterans at WNY Heroes Office located at 8205 Main St #1, Williamsville, NY 14221. Please be sure to wear your Legion Polos & Hats to be visible to the hundreds of Veterans being served. We will have Membership Applications and Why I should Join pamphlets available and this will be a great opportunity to be seen.

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! In Continued Service for God & Country. Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

Hope this finds all Legionaries in good health. I distributed 2022 Legion Calendars after the County meetings. Only 15 Posts took Calendars so far. I am asking each Post to take at least 1 bundle (10) of Calendars. If you can't pick up your calendars at the meeting call me. We can make arrangements to get them to you.

Phone: Home 716 542-2065 Cell 716 512-4321
The EARLY BIRD DRAWING will be held at the October 28, 2021 Erie County meeting. Make sure Stubs are filled out legibly.

Law & Order – Anthony Solina

Please continue to work on finding Police Officer, Fire Fighter, EMT ECT, of the year nominees. If you are having trouble finding the forms just go on a search engine and type in "American Legion ... of the year" and you will receive the results you are looking for. Any questions please call/text me at: (716) 949-3341 and mail completed forms to my house. 2307 Sullivan Road Arcade, NY 14009

American Legion Baseball

We are searching for volunteers throughout the entire state to add to the District level administration for American Legion Baseball. Currently we are without Directors in some Districts. Even those Districts with Directors can always use some assistance so please distribute this to anyone that you think might be interested and would be a good fit for your district. Contact information below.

Department of NY Baseball Committee

www.nylegionbaseball.com

Twitter [@NYSALChampion](https://twitter.com/NYSALChampion)

Facebook [@nylegionbaseball](https://www.facebook.com/nylegionbaseball)

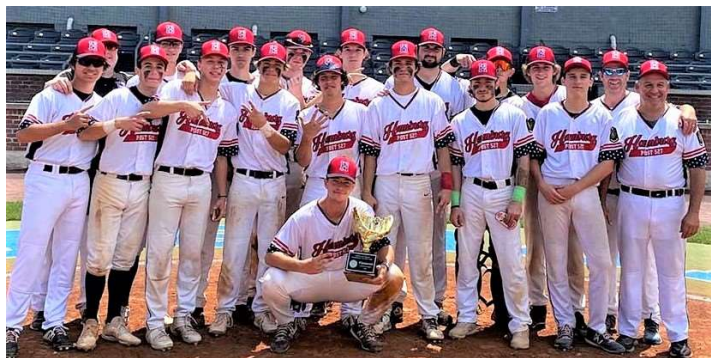


Veteran's Day Services

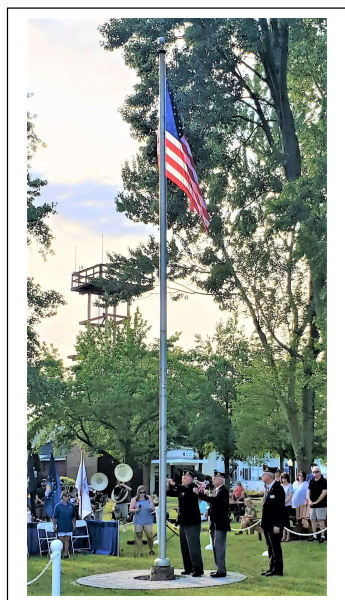
Erie County American Legion Mass on 11/6 at St. Gregory the Great R.C. Church 5:30 PM Mass on Maple Road, 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221. A light reception will be held after Mass.

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.



Congratulations go out to the Hamburg Post #527 Baseball Team on winning the Department of New York Championship. County Commander Gary Wald presented a \$500 check to the Post to help offset expenses during the National Playoffs which was won by Idaho Falls Post #56.



Erie County Fair Flag Retirement Ceremony by Erie County Cmdr Gary Wald, Vice Cmdr Paul Wackowski, and Adjutant Jim Bojanowski on opening day at the Fair 8/11/2021. The flag was presented to US Navy Veteran Carmela Rigoli who served from April 1979 until August 1983.



Regular County Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday October 28, at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 located at 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, 14217 starting at 7 PM.

Milton J. Brounshidle Post will be serving a Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ at 6 PM for \$10.

Thanks go out to the 19 Posts who attended the September County Meeting: Posts 64, 205, 362, 527, 622, 721, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1131, 1320, 1449, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, & 1672. I hope to see more of you in October!

Future County Meetings:

November 18, Matthew Glab Post #1477

December 16, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

January 27, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

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

NOTE: There will be no 8th District National Commander Dinner held in October this year. National Commander Paul E. Dillard is projected to visit our area, July 2022.

Albany Mid-Winter Conference, January 21 - 23, 2022.

Department Commander Frank LaMarsh visitation to Erie County, Friday February 11, 2022. Bids to host the dinner must be received at the County office by Wednesday 10/27.



SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 29
thelegionair@gmail.co

Sunday October 10 Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Soup-A-Thon, 1 to 4 PM. Taste all the Homemade Soups for \$7. (bread, butter, crackers included). Desserts available for purchase. There will also be a Theme Basket Auction.

Wednesday October 13 PCC next meeting at Depew Post #1528, at 7 PM. Will be discussing Christmas party.

Saturday October 16 Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ, eat in or drive thru, from 4 – 8 PM.

Sunday October 17 ALL YOU AN 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.

Saturday October 23 Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, 14218 is presenting Crash Cadillac from 7 to 11 PM. Tickets \$11.

South Buffalo Post #721 re-opening hours 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.

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. Take outs available. LIVE Bands every Friday.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/29 for the November 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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

Email Veteran14202@verizon.net