



The Legion-Air

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Commander**

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Adjutant/Editor**



September 2021

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Commander's Message:

Summer has always been a time to re-organize in order to get ready for the coming year, and I would like to thank all the Posts who have donated their facilities for our use during the 2021-2022 year. It's a good experience for everyone to see the various Posts in the County and it is also one of many ways we can learn and get new ideas from one another.

Jim Bojanowski, Paul Wackowski, and I performed the first Flag Retreat Ceremony at the Erie County Fair on August 11th. I participated in the Veterans Day Fair activities at the Fair on August 15 and I was happy to see that the majority of the 300 participant chairs were filled. My thanks go out to Eden Post 880 who provided a very professional and well-organized Color Guard at the event. Our Fair County booth at the Historical Building looked very professional thanks to Ted Balbierz. Ted, Sue Quirk, Tom Deinzer and I were booth attendants and we saw a lot of familiar faces stopping by to say hello during the course of the fair. Many thanks to the Erie County Agricultural Society for their generous donation to us because "we made a difference". They want us back next year. I checked out the KIA March at Chestnut Ridge Park on August 21 in which our Post Cmdr., Third Vice, and one of our "E" board members took part. I visited briefly with the Eden honor guard who were also rendering honors at the KIA event. I attended the 8th District 8/22 Re-organizational Meeting. We will continue to monitor the Covid 19 pandemic and will remain flexible as far as to the method on how we will present our monthly meetings. Hopefully we can see at least one representative from every Post in the County. We need to continue to work together in order to keep our communications between the Posts, County, District, and Department, strong. Have a great month and stay safe out there.

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

For the Post Representatives, Delegates and Alternates that weren't able to attend the last County Legion meeting, and a reminder to those who were present that;

Department Membership Seminar Saturday September 18, at Botts - Fiorito Post 575
53 West Main Street, Leroy, NY, 14482
Start Time; 0900 hours. Lunch shall be provided at the conclusion of the session.

This is an Excellent seminar and presentation. For those who are new Membership Chairs, I recommend attending as you will become knowledgeable in various aspects of Mylegion, membership processing to include Hard Copy Transmittals, process changes and a host of other valuable information to take to your Post. For those of us who are familiar with the process, we can also benefit from the presentation in regards to the new mylegion and its different functions and uses.

I'm hoping that there will be a facilitator present to possibly assist those who require assistance in logging into the new mylegion and its use.

JUST ASK! As most of us are out and about shopping, banking, eating at a restaurant or any other activity, notice a person wearing an Armed Forces or Veteran's hat but do we ever ask that person if they ever given any thought to join a Veterans organization such as ours and explain to them what the benefits are, or what we can do for them? **Just Ask!**

Lastly, let us not forget about the "Buddy Checks" with those members that you may not have heard from in a while. Check to ensure that they are alright, is there anything that they may need or something that that your Post may be able to assist them with. [a ride to a medical facility that they may not transportation to].

Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

I thank those who who assisted with the set-up/take down and manning of this year's Erie County Fair History Booth; Cmdr Gary Wald, PC Tony Solina, PC Suzanne Quirk, PC Tom Deinzer & Tom Hawkins from Concord Post.

During last month's comments I discussed the importance of conducting a Post Self-Assessment to measure the Impact that each of your Posts have in your community. One of the most important keys to your Post Success is whether the community in which you reside is aware of all of the Great things that you are doing – in short *Public Relations*. Does your Post have a decent Computer connected to the Internet with a Printer and WIFI? What used to be a simple as typing and mailing out Press Release is now all electronic. If not, I would highly recommend your Post make the investment to secure a decent computer to craft and send out Press Releases and Announcements to all local media outlets and Event Billboards? Be sure to Save all the fruits of your labors to make future compositions from past documents easier. Many Press releases are recurring and the ability to edit prior efforts lightens the load. Get to know the editors & reporters of your local and regional Newspapers and Media Outlets... (TV, Radio, Cable News) Does your Post maintain a *Current* Website or Facebook Page? Are you Creating & Sharing Events & Posters Physically & Online? In today's world If you are not online, your effectively do not exist. When looking for any information about your Post the very first thing todays Veterans do is a Google Search? Have you done a search of your Post Digital Footprint? What does it Say if anything? Keep in mind that "*perception is reality*", If all you post online are Bar & Dinner Specials or nothing at all, that is all you will be known for. We are more than just a local bar and your Post's success is directly related how you are perceived in public. You need to control the narrative and not be intimidated by Computers or the Internet... For more information, please visit the American Legion Media Alliance [TALMA] at <https://www.legion.org/talma> they offer online training and many suggestions on how to establish a positive media presence. 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!



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

Hope this finds all Legionaries in good health. Considering what transpired last year we still sold calendars. I am looking for a great year of sales in 2022.

I distributed the 2022 Legion Calendars after the August meeting. I am asking each Post to take at least 2 bundles (20) of Calendars. If you didn't pick up your calendars at the meeting call me. We can possibly make arrangements to pick them up. (Phone Numbers: H 716 542-2065 C 716 512-4321.

There was a problem when the new Calendars were printed, the perforation line for the stub was placed below the number of the calendar. Therefore, I had to number each stub by hand. I am asking that the sellers check and make sure the hand printed number matches the number on the Calendar. The EARLY BIRD DRAWING WILL BE HELD AT THE October 28, 2021 meeting. Make sure all Stubs are filled out in a legible manner.

Afghanistan Vet Thank You Lawn Signs

Individual Signs can be purchased for \$10 by contacting Brounshidle Post Historian Derek Sansone at 585-313-9671 or Ted Balbierz at 716-534-6288. Posts interested in purchasing large quantities call Bobby Ganz at 3G Signs on Niagara Falls Blvd, for pricing at 716-632-7446.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





Newly elected Department Commander Frank LaMarsh addresses the Albany Department Convention while PDC Michael McDermott and Adjutant James Casey observe.



Adjutant Jim Bojanowski receives the Department Public Relations Award from PR Chair Robert Stronach, left, and Department Commander Michael McDermott.

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

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.



SUBMISSIONS
For the October
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 1
thelegionair@gmail.com



Regular County Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday September 30, at South Buffalo Post #721 located at 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo, 14210 at 7 PM.

South Buffalo Post will be grilling Hot Dogs and Hamburgers starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 24 Posts who attended the August County Meeting: Posts 64, 78, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 622, 665, 721, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1346, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1659, & 1672

Future Meetings:

October 28, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

November 18, Matthew Glab Post #1477

December 16, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626



PCC Wayne Sorrentino inducts James Niland into the US Navy. James is a Canisius graduate from Grand Island and plans to be a fixed wing pilot. The ceremony was held at the DeGlopper Memorial on Grand Island.

Saturday, September 11 Sardinia Post# 1131 present their annual Patriot Day Chicken BBQ \$12; 11 AM until gone. Half chicken by Weidner's, two sides, roll with butter
Veteran's Park 13169 Genesee Road, Chaffee, NY 14030

Iroquois Post #1587 invites Color Guard teams to participate in our annual Seneca Nation Fall Festival Parade 2021 on **September 11** starting at NOON. A 9/11 ceremony and luncheon to follow. (a \$10 donation is requested for the luncheon) contact Post Cdr Ron Cook Jr @910-322-2450 for confirmation and details." Please RSVP your color team to americanlegioniroquoispost1587@gmail.com

Saturday September 11 Buffalo Championship Wrestling " The Return to the Donovan Post" Thank A Veteran. Doors open 5:30 PM, Bell Time 7 PM, Ring Side VIP Seats \$20, General Admission \$17.

Saturday September 18 Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY, Chiavettas BBQ Chicken Dinner, \$12, 1 – 5 PM. Drive Thru. Call 983 -9901 or 777-1816.

Sunday September 19 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 September 25 – Troop I Unit #665, 432 Franklin S. Buffalo, is hosting a Meat/Basket Raffle. Doors open at 5, first spin at 6 PM. \$10 at the door, table of 8 is \$70. Separate raffles held. Troop I will begin serving Spaghetti Dinners every 2 weeks **starting on Thursday September 16** from 4:00 – 8:00 PM. Dinners are \$10 for adults, \$6 for children 10 and under and includes: Spaghetti, 2 Meat Balls, Salad & Bread. Dine in and take out will also be available. Our Bar is open.

Sunday September 26 Jurek Post Squadron #1672 will be having a Pig Roast on from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM as a fundraiser for Tim Van Patten II, the leading candidate for Department SAL Commander. \$12, includes BBQ pork, potatoes, slaw, roll and one beverage. Bills game will be on. Please pre order tickets to Tim Van Patten at 741-8385.

South Buffalo Post #721 will be re-opening on Wednesday September 8, 2021. Our hours will be 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. Starting on Monday September 13, we will start serving 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. Spaghetti Dinners To Go Only start Thursday, September 16. 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.

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 starting 09/16 create-your-own pasta night. (716) 825-3733

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The Donovan Post is opening Sept 10, for our Friday Fish Fry 4-8pm. Take outs available. LIVE Bands every Friday. 9/3 Michael Stuart & Joe Priore Sing 6-9 PM, 9/10 Bobby V and the FOMR Band 8-11 PM, 9/17 GD Rose Country & Western Show 8-11 PM, 9/24 The Slim Chance Band 8-11 PM. 896-3346.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/1 for the October 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor