



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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December 2022

Commander's Message:

It has been a busy month so far: I attended the 8th District National Commanders dinner at the John W. Dill Post #434 in Brocton, NY. I was invited to and attended the Erie County American Legion Auxiliary dinner at the Donovan Post # 1626. There were 10 members of the Erie County American Legion that attended the WNY Hero's Gala at the Niagara Casino. I visited the Hospice and Palliative care center for their Veterans Day service, then on to Windemere Elementary school for their program. The Legion service at Forest Lawn Cemetery was a great success. The Town of Tonawanda Veteran's Day Service led by the Brounshidle Post # 205 was held indoors. I want to thank all Legion members who attended Veteran Day events at various venues. This shows we as the American Legion care and remember our departed comrades.

As was mentioned at previous meetings, Membership is necessary for the power and future of the American Legion. If each member recruited one new member things would be good.

As we approach the Holidays let us reach out and make sure that the families, and all troops deployed or not able to make it home are remembered. Remember to "BE THE ONE" that makes the call that may prevent a veteran or anyone else from committing suicide.
Yours within the Legion

Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

I thank all those Posts who have sold or are in the process of selling 2023 calendars. To date we have had 412 calendars sold, 588 outstanding. I do have a limited number of calendars to distribute. For return arrangements, contact me at 716-796-5341. You can also drop them off at the bar at Matthew Glab Post, 1965 Abbott Road. Remember, the sales of these Calendars go a long way to funding our County Activities.

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

Currently 23 of 35 Posts are at or above the November 65% Goal. Congratulations to 4 Star Post 1659 & Depew Post 1528 for being the first Posts to achieve 100% of their 2023 Membership Goal!!! As of Each of you are the American Legions best recruiters, please spread the word through your actions to all Veterans who are interested in continued commitment to service above self and camaraderie.

On Monday November 7, I joined with Past Erie County Auxiliary President Rosemary O'Connell and assisted in the planting approximately 750 Flags along the driveway at the Buffalo Hospice Campus on Como Park Blvd in Cheektowaga and also joined with Commander Fred Pask on Thursday November 10 for Buffalo Hospice Veterans Day Ceremony.

On Veterans Day morning we actually managed to stay dry, as I joined with the County Staff at Forest Lawn Cemetery. I continue to be impressed by all of the Student & ROTC Groups that assisted with the planting of well over 7100 flags. Huge thanks go out to PCC's John Siefert & Nelson Oldfield for all their efforts in coordinating this year's ceremony/Flag planting & recovery. Special mention & thanks goes out to Hutchinson Tech ROTC program, who took time to clean Veterans Marker stones prior to this year's event ensuring reverence for all those who served.

At 11 am, I had the honor to host the Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda Veterans Day Ceremony. Weather forced us to move this year's ceremony inside. For the first time we had Student/Musicians from all five Kenton High Schools participate and perform Patriotic music and TAPs. In recognition of their participation American Flag lapel pins we given to each student for participating in this year's event.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

🌲 Greetings! Legionnaires.

Hoping that you and your family had a wonderful Thanksgiving and paused for a moment to give "Thanks" for the Blessing that we have and that our families were able to get together.

Looking at the calendar, Christmas will be here shortly and, on that note, as families gather to celebrate Christmas, and the birth of our Lord, let us keep in mind those veterans that are serving in harm's way as well as those veterans that are alone. Now is an excellent time to make use of the "Buddy System" and call our Legionnaires that we have not heard from in a while and check on their well-being and remind them that, we are there for them.

If you have a family member that is currently on active duty or know of one, send them a Christmas card, or if possible, items such as; toiletries, magazines, newspapers of local events. Just letting them know that your care and you're thinking about them. No one should feel that their alone.

In closing; Merry Christmas to all Legionnaires and your Families!

Our term of enlistment has not ended, as we serve in a different capacity to assist veterans - The American Legion.

Membership Continued: VC Ted Balbierz

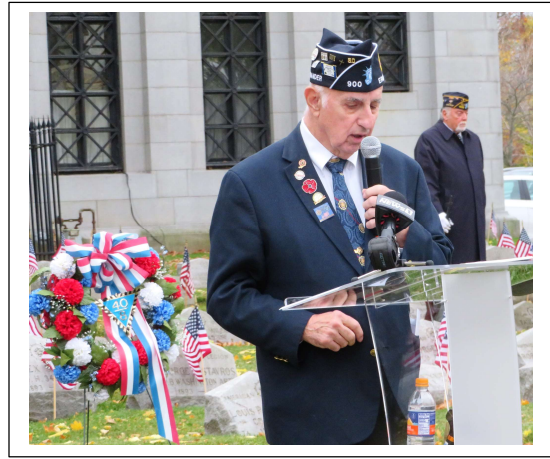
At 1pm I joined MJ Brounshidle Post Honor Guard and participated in the Dedication of a new Granite Veteran Memorial Monument at Elmlawn Memorial Park Field of Honor.

On Saturday November 12, I attended the Veterans Mass at The Nativity of Our Lord Church in Orchard Park and would like to thank Erie County American Legion Chaplain Father Michael Johnson for presiding and Bill Miskell and the Donovan Post Honor Guard for coordinating and rendering Honors at this Mass dedicated to Veterans everywhere. Many Thanks to Orchard Park Post 567 who hosted a very nice reception after the mass.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the upcoming Holiday Season and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion!
In Continued Service for God & Country...

Ted Balbierz

Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



Erie County Commander Fred Pask gives his Veterans Day address at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/11/2022.



On 11/11/2022, Iroquois Post 1587 participated in the National Native American Veterans Memorial dedication in Washington, DC.



Iroquois Post 1587 pays tribute and honor Seneca Nation Warriors (Maxwell & Sheldon Lay) buried at the Arlington National Cemetery with Director Karen Durham-Aguilera and Sergeant Major Thomas. Photos by Bella Cook.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Please consider submitting a candidate from your Post for Erie County Legionnaire of the Year. This is an excellent way to let your members know you appreciate what they do for the Post. The 2023 Guidelines are not published yet, however, they most likely will not differ from the 2022 Guidelines which can be found on the County's web site. Take a minute to visit 2022 Guidelines EC Legionnaire of the Year.pdf (eriecountyal.org) for the guidelines. The 2023 Guidelines for Legionnaire of the Year will be published in February. The deadline for submitting candidates for 2023 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is April 7, 2023. Submit the resume of your candidate for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 7, 2022. If you have any questions, please contact me at kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com or 716-635-5029. Merry Christmas to everyone.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 on Thursday December 15 located at 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225 at 7 PM. The Post will be serving a Christmas feast starting at 6 PM. Menu is roasted turkey slices, with bread stuffing, and gravy. mashed sweet potatoes, cranberries, green beans with almonds, garden salad, rolls with butter and Christmas cake. Cost \$10.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at our 12/15 meeting.

Future County Meetings:

January 26, Matthew Glab Post #1477

February 23, OPEN Date

March 30, David McKeever Post #64

Sunday, December 4, 2022

8th District Conference

To be held in Genesee County at Botts – Fiorito Post #576, 53 W. Main Street, LeRoy, NY 14482. Budget & Finance at Noon, Membership Mtg at 12:20 PM, Meeting 1 PM. No Wreath Hanging at the Batavia VAMC this year due to Covid.

**Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall,
65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202**

Veteran14202@verizon.net

716 - 852 - 6500

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>



Eagle Scout Candidate Ryan Couchman is pictured with his grandfather PCC Thomas O'Connell. Ryan built five flag collection boxes and donated them to area American Legion Posts, including Niagara Frontier Post.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



SUBMISSIONS
For the January
"The Legion-Air"
Due December 16
thelegionair@gmail.com



For Veterans Day 2022, Adam Plewacki Post #799 member Darryl Gozdan on the left, was presented with a 2020 Toyota Corolla by Progressive Insurance. Darryl was accompanied by Post 799 Commander Jim Bojanowski and Progressive Insurance reps Jacquelyn Prenatt and Courtney Galus. I am aware of at least three other car presentations to Veterans that week. One more by Progressive Insurance and two by Geico Insurance.



The Francis J. Donovan Post 1626 Honor Guard saluted our departed Veterans on 11/11/2022 at Forest Lawn Cemetery at our annual Erie County Veterans Day Ceremony. Before the Ceremony the graves of 7,100 Veterans were decorated with a US Flag by volunteers from JROTC, Scouting groups, The American Legion Family, and community volunteers. This picture appeared in a publication of the Buffalo News.

Sunday December 18, 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.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners To Go Only. To place an order call (716) 649-4667 from 2 - 6:30 PM. Pick up 4 -7 PM. Regular Order \$9, 1 Meatball. Large Order \$11, 2 Meatballs plus extra portions. Extra Meatballs \$1 each. All dinners include Salad, Bread, Butter. No Dinners served December 22 & 29.

Newell Faulkner Post #880, 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Normal 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 10 for \$12 Wings special, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches, Regular menu also available, Wed. - Sat. www.post880.com Closed Christmas & New Year's Day.

Matthew Glab Post #1477, serving Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2 – 8 PM Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials. Wednesday 75 cent Wings and \$3 Tacos.

Francis J Donovan Post #1626, Every Friday Fish Frys and more from 4 - 8 PM. Live Music every Friday from 8 - 11 PM. Come to the Donovan Post, to watch the Buffalo Bill games, except Christmas Eve, on our new 75-inch TV. Post opens 1 hour before game. Cold beverages and a meal are available during the game. Toys for Tots Dropoff of NEW and unwrapped toys, \$10.00 and above.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/16 for the January 2023 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor Enjoy the upcoming Holidays!