



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander**

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February 2022

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### **Commander's Message:**

The last Tuesday of each month, American Legion National Headquarters staff and other leadership present 60–90-minute sessions on topics aimed at Post Commanders and Adjutants. If you have missed a training session, or would like to review one, all sessions are archived on the [Training Tuesday web page](#).

On Dec. 18, I participated in the "Wreaths of America" program at the Veteran's National Cemetery in Pembroke, On Dec. 21, I attended the induction of Wayne Baumgartner into the NYS Veteran Hall of Fame presentation at Brounshidle Post #205, and on Jan. 9, our Oratorical Chairman Tom Ricci and I attended the 8<sup>th</sup> District Oratorical Contest held at the Brounshidle Post in Kenmore.

I sadly also attended the wake of Past County Commander Paul 'Doc' Strycharz on January 25, along with other County and District Staff Officers and members

Due to the Corona Virus, the 8<sup>th</sup> District visitations by our Dept. Commander Frank LaMarsh, Mid -Winter Conference, and the February 8 District meeting have been cancelled. Albany Legislative Hill Day is still on schedule to take place on March 14 and 15 as of this writing. We held our January County Meeting via Zoom to ensure everyone's safety.

Continue to stay safe out there, and use the extra time you may have gained as a result of the cancellation of events due to the virus constructively. A lot of business can be transacted through the use of telephones, computers, and letters. How about a combined buddy check and dues payment call to members? Have a great month.  
Yours for the Legion.

### **Membership: VC Paul Wackowski**

Greetings! Legionnaires

As of this article, the last Department report was dated January 10, and it has a new look.

1st column - New members, 2nd column - PUFL members, 3rd column - Renewals, 4th column - HQ Transfers, 5th column - Totals, 6th column - Goals and 7th column - percentages of Goals.

What has been emitted is, members who processed their renewal on line, Post renewals on line and hard copy transmittals. These methods are all now called renewals.

Congratulations to these Posts for achieving 100% of membership goal. Post 78 Lorenzo Burrows 101% Post 1449 Thomas Tehan 103%, Post 1928 Gabriel Rodriguez 120%. Everyone, thanks for your hard work so far!

A part of membership engagement is showing members and potential members the value of membership, and where their dues are going. One way to do this is through the National American Legion's monthly membership Impact Report. The report highlights the many ways the American Legion is making difference in the lives of veterans, children and youth and communities nationwide through legislation, scholarships, grants, programs and more. See the Impact reports @ [legion.org/membership/impact](http://legion.org/membership/impact).

My Legion. org. Membership reports in mylegion. org help with revitalization efforts, recruiting, transferring members and more. Access them now. Reports in my Legion. org play a vital role with tracking membership. The Reports and label tab in the left - hand navigation menu is the primary location to create reports for membership rosters and revitalization efforts, as well as communication to post and squadron members. The reports are defined by officer position and permission provided as a group administrator. Return to the main group any time by clicking Group Profile at the top of the screen.

## Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

Back in my September comments, I discussed the importance Public Relations plays in the success at the Post level.

While each Post is directly responsible for defining its own local narrative, all Posts benefit from Marketing & Public Relations campaigns and resources from the National & Department levels on down.

With that being said I would like to propose that consideration be given to the formation of a Visibility Committee to assist in promoting the Erie County American Legion and its associated Posts. The purpose of the Visibility Committee would be to develop a Marketing plan to Promote the Erie County American Legion and all Posts through all local Media Outlets (TV, Radio, Internet & Social Media). I am requesting any Legionnaires with interest in working together on this committee please email me at [tedb06@verizon.net](mailto:tedb06@verizon.net). While any Marketing or Public Relations background would be helpful, it is not required.

I look forward to hearing for you, 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!  
Cell: 716-534-6288 email: [TedB06@verizon.net](mailto:TedB06@verizon.net)

## Education Awards/Scholarships

Donations are requested to be sent to the County Office for the Erie County and Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutew awards from any individual, Past County Commanders, and all American Legion Family Posts, Units and Squadrons.

Scholarship applications are sent to every high school in Erie County for both programs, with the PNC Michael J. Kogutew Scholarship including all high schools in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. The applications can be found on the Erie County website. I can send you a copy if needed.

**Veterans Post Restoration of Erie County**, is going active in January 2022. We will be starting our 6th project in the summer of 2022. Fund raising events will start in January. If you want to join us, please contact Jerry Kowalski at 716-681-7169.



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I hope this finds everyone healthy and enjoying the WNY winter. I will be leaving on vacation soon and returning the middle of March. Thanks for the selling of the 869 Calendars I have recorded so far. I will be checking the Daily Numbers and sending checks to the winning numbers for the stubs that I have with me. You can return all unsold Calendars and any stubs and money you have at the March meeting or send them in to the County Office. See you all at the March meeting.

**Albany Hill Day** is currently scheduled for March 14 & 15, 2022. The Department will notify us if this event will remain scheduled.

**2022 Erie County Convention** will be held Saturday June 4 - Niagara Frontier Post #1041.

**2022 8th District Convention** will be held Saturday June 18 – Stephen Sikora Post #1322.

**2022 Department Convention** is scheduled to be held in Binghamton with sessions scheduled for July 14 – 16.

**2022 National Convention** is scheduled to be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin from August 27 to September 1. The leading candidate for the next National Commander is V. James Troiola from New York.

The **Cheektowaga Veterans Committee** is sponsoring the **Bateman Veteran's Memorial Garden**. Have a Veterans name, rank, military unit, war, or era engraved on a 4x8 paver for only \$100. Get an order form, from the Donovan Post or at the Erie County meetings.



## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

The deadline for submitting candidates for 2022 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is approaching. Posts, lets recognize our outstanding legionnaires. All Posts have at least one person who always steps up the plate to help out. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. This is an excellent way to recognize our outstanding Legionnaires. Specifics about submitting the resume of a candidate are posted on the County's Web Page. If you have any questions, please contact, Kathleen Garvey at [kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com](mailto:kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com) or 716-635-5029. Submit the resume of your candidate for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2022.

## Boys State 2022 – Thomas O'Connell

Our weeklong citizenship and leadership program is projected to be held June 26 to July 1, 2022, at Morrisville State College. Now is the time to start your recruitment of current high school juniors. All information is now posted online on the Department website and need to be turned in to me by April 1, so I can review and forward to Department. [Boys' State « The American Legion Department of New York \(nylegion.net\)](#)

Candidates must have at least an 80% or B average. Cost is \$450 per submission. Send your completed application and funds to 299 Linden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216.

## Hello Navy Veterans & Legionnaires,

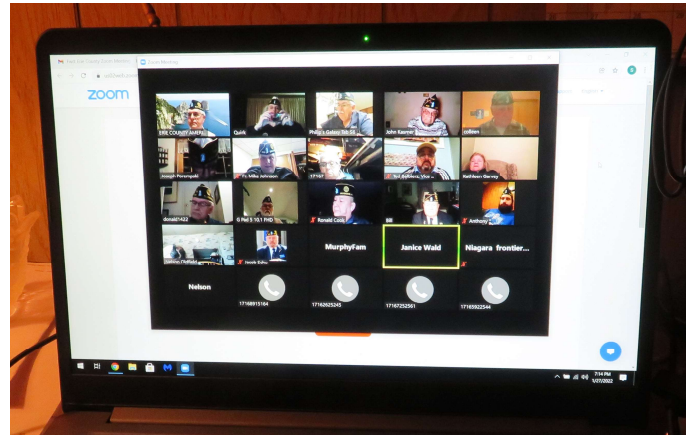
From Derek Sansone, Brounshidle Post Historian, former Navy SEABEE & deployed with NMCB-21 (The Black Jack Battalion) to Kuwait & Southern Iraq. I'm trying to identify Legionnaires who were either Navy SEABEES or Navy Vets who were in a "Fleet Support Rate" & served with the Seabees (BM, GM, SK, HM, DT, PN, PS, DK, HT, MA, etc.). Reason: To solicit interest for a dinner on or around MARCH 5, 2022 to celebrate "our" Birthday. If interested, please respond to me personally by 2/2/2022. Please provide your contact information to: Derek Sansone, (585) 313-9671 or [Killerbee05@hotmail.com](mailto:Killerbee05@hotmail.com)



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday February 24, at The Saturn Club located at 977 Delaware Ave Buffalo, NY 14209 hosted by Lorenzo-Burrows Post #78. There will be no food available for this meeting.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts who attended the January Zoom County Meeting: Posts 64, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, & 1626. I hope to see more of you in February! We will evaluate the current pandemic issues the week before the scheduled meeting, and decide whether to have an in-person or Zoom meeting.



**Picture of Zoom meeting on a laptop submitted by Historian Sue Quirk.**

## Future County Meetings:

March 31, David McKeever Post #64

April 28, East Aurora Post #362

May 19, Akron Post #900

**Department Leadership Team Visitation was cancelled due to the ongoing concerns of the Covid-19 pandemic.** Treasurer Joseph Porempski has sent returns out to all those who made reservations and took ads and boosters.



SUBMISSIONS  
For the March  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due February 25  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



**2020 Department of New York  
Legionnaire of the Year  
Wayne Baumgartner was inducted into  
the New York Veterans Hall of Fame.**

**Wayne is a Past Commander of the Milton  
J. Brounshidle Post #205.**

**Wayne is pictured with sponsor NYS  
Senator Sean Ryan on his left and Erie  
County Commander Gary Wald on his  
right.**

**Friday February 4,** South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, live music from 7 – 10 PM featuring Classic Rock and popular favorites by Brother James Breidenstein. Age 21+ event.

**Saturday February 19,** Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, Spaghetti Dinner, 4 – 8 PM, Cost \$11. Half order \$5. Dine in or take out.

**Sunday February 20,** 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.

**Sunday February 27,** Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, All you can eat Pancake Breakfast, from 9 AM to 1 PM, \$8, 12 and under \$5, 5 and under free. Includes Eggs, Sausage, OJ, Coffee, & Tea.

**South Buffalo Post #721 –** 136 Cazenovia Street, Buffalo NY 14210 – Monday Night Dinners serving Spaghetti/Rigatoni with Meat Ball or Italian Sausage, Full or Half Orders. Friday's serving Roast Beef Sandwiches, Reg or Mini, Plain or Weck roll, Chicken Wings, Mini Roast Beef & 5 Chicken Wings, Meatball Bomber, French Fries and Onion Rings. All food is served from 4 – 7:00 PM.

**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. No dinners 12/23 & 30.

**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](http://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. Call 896-3346. LIVE Bands every Friday. Free popcorn!

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 2/25 for the March 2022 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>

Erie County American Legion Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664

609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202 [Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)