



## *The Legion-Air*

**Gary Wald  
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski  
Adjutant/Editor**



January 2022

thelegionair@gmail.com

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

The National Exchange Club is a service organization founded in 1911. The chapter in Rome, Ga., through its Americanism Committee, debuted on Memorial Day 2015 a half-scale traveling replica of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier called "A Call to Honor." Local organizations can request a visit from "A Call to Honor" by contacting Bill King at (706) 766-8451 or kingglfnt@yahoo.com.

I attended the 8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting in Holley N.Y. Participated in a Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony at my Post 362 along with VFW Post 205. The VFW Erie County Commander Larry Bronowski was also present. I sadly attended Past Erie County Commander and Past 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Al O'Donnell's wake and funeral service. 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Ken Barnes, Past District Cmdr. Kathryn Kindle, District & County Historian Suzan Quirk, Erie County Vice Commander and VAVS Rep. Fred Pask and I presented a Wreath to the VA Hospital on Dec. 10.

The Erie County American Legion hosted the County Auxiliary at our December County Meeting at Donovan Post #1626.

Hopefully I will see many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, Jan. 21 to 23, 2022. There is a lot of information available to anyone attending in the form of Seminars and various work groups. Information and forms are available on the American Legion Dept. of NY website.

As a reminder, please continue to work on your Consolidated Post Reports, and use them as a tool to track your progress so you can hit the ground running in 2022.

I sincerely wish all of you the best the Holidays and the New Year have to offer.

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

Greetings Legionnaires!

I wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and New Year's, spending time with family and friends.

As we start the New Year, this is an excellent time to reach out to your Post members that have not renewed their 2022 membership using the "Buddy Check" system, to check on their well-being. And ask them if they need assistance in getting to any medical appointments, shopping, groceries, or just stop by to chat with them.

There have been no recent updates from Department as to a membership report since the November 2021 report. "Thank You!" to all Erie County Posts for your hard work that you do regarding membership.

"God Bless" our Nation, Armed Forces and the American Legion Family and their Families.



***HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!***

## Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

As we are in the heart of the Holiday Season & entering a new year, it is appropriate that we realize that not everyone experiences a joyous time with family and friends that this time of year can bring. Instead, some are overcome by loneliness and a feeling of sadness not understood by those who do not walk in their shoes.

We have all heard the statistic that an average of 22 Veterans a day chose to expedite their discharge as an option to end their personal suffering from depression, PTSD, and overwhelming sense of low self-worth. This is unacceptable. Now more than ever, it is time for each of our Legion Family organizations to reach out to those Legion Family members and Fellow Veterans to effect a change.

To echo the comments of National Commander Paul Dillard, “The holiday season can stir up different emotions and needs, which makes it a perfect time to perform Buddy Checks for your fellow veterans. See how they are doing, what they may need, and give them a voice to talk to.”

For those who were not aware, the American Legion has a Buddy Check toolkit to help your Posts get started making phone calls, which can be downloaded at [legion.org/buddychecks](http://legion.org/buddychecks). I would like to encourage all the posts of Erie County to have an active Buddy Check Program and divide the calls amongst members of your post to ensure a manageable program and reach out to our brothers and sisters, not only during the holiday season but throughout the year and let them know they are not alone and that we care.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the new year 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  
Erie County Vice Commander  
Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I only have 25 Calendars left to hand out. As of the November meeting I have deposited \$15,615. I feel that sales are doing good and commend all that have sold Calendars. The Calendars make good stocking stuffers for Christmas. I also have some car wash coupons available.

I will be leaving for Florida at the end of January, for the month of February. If you want to hand in money and stubs prior to the January meeting please call me to make arrangements for me to pick it up.

Fred Pask  
102 Golden Pond Estates  
Akron, NY 14001  
Phone: C 716 512-4321  
H 716 542-2065

Hope you all have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year's.

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.

**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.



## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

As we enter this new year, 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 2022 Guidelines are not published yet, however, they will not differ from the 2021 Guidelines which can be found on the County's web site. Take a minute to visit [2021 Guidelines EC Legionnaire of the Year.pdf \(eriecountyal.org\)](#) for the guidelines. The 2022 Guidelines for Legionnaire of the Year will be published in January. The deadline for submitting candidates for 2022 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is April 7, 2022. 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](mailto:kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com) or 716-635-5029. Merry Christmas to everyone.

## 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 January 27, at Niagara Frontier Post #1041 located at 533 Amherst St. Buffalo, 14207. There will be no food available for this meeting.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts who attended the December County Meeting: Posts 205, 362, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1320, 1346, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, & 1672. I hope to see more of you in January!

## Future County Meetings:

February 24, Lorenzo-Burrows Post #78  
March 31, David McKeever Post #64  
April 28, East Aurora Post #362

**Albany Mid-Winter Conference** January 21 - 23, 2022. Housing and Dinner forms are now on the Department website.

## **Department Leadership Team Visitation**

We are hosting a dinner honoring Department Commander Frank LaMarsh, Department President Mary Farley, and Detachment Commander David Lee on Friday February 11 at the Matthew Glab Post #1477. Dinner cost is \$32. Dinner payment is due by Friday 2/4. Cocktails at 6 PM. Dinner at 7 PM. There will be no sales the week of the dinner or payment at the door.

Please support our dinner program book with purchasing Ads of \$15, or Boosters at \$1. Deadline for submitting ads and boosters is Friday January 28.

See Adjutant Jim Bojanowski at the County Meeting to make payments or mail in responses to the County Office.



SUBMISSIONS  
For the February  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due January 28  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



**Buffalo VA Wreath presentation by (L to R) District Historian Suzanne Quirk, Erie County Commander Gary Wald, ECVC Fred Pask, Past District Commander Kathy Kindle, and 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Ken Barnes.**



**Grand Island American Legion Post #1346 and Trinity United Methodist Women donated parcels of toiletry articles to the Buffalo VA Hospital. Pictured (L to R) Service Officer Jim Sharpe, Commander Ray DeGlopper, Pat Shaw, Sheila Colan and Member Rich Bonarek. Not pictured, member Dan Brown who also assisted delivery of the bags to the hospital. Since 2005, Trinity UMW has delivered more than 3,000 bags to the VA Hospital.**

**Sunday January 16 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.

**South Buffalo Post #721** Monday'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, Friday's our menu will consist of Chicken Wings, Beef on Weck, Meatball Subs, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries and Onion Rings. They will no longer be serving dinners on Wednesdays. No dinners on December 24, 27, or 31 and January 3 or 7. Dinner's resume Mondays January 10 and Fridays January 14.

**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 1/28 for the February 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**