



The Legion-Air

Fred Pask
Commander

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July 2022

Commander's Message:

I want to thank you for the confidence and support you have given me during the past three years, but especially in electing me as the Commander of the Erie County American Legion. As a 54-year member of the LL Tillman Post #900, I never thought I would ever attain such a high honor.

I will endeavor to do the job of Commander to the best of my abilities. The main theme of my term will be to increase membership in the American Legion Family, while working alongside VC Ted Balbierz membership chairman.

I will also be working with all Posts to submit their Consolidated Posts Reports in a timely manner. I will try to visit as many Posts as possible.

In the three weeks, I have been Commander, I have attended the 8th District Convention, both Flag Day and Memorial Day services at Forest Lawn. I also attended the Boys State breakfast, along with several committee meetings.

Yours in the Legion.

Please support our newly elected **Erie County Officers** for 2022 – 2023;

Commander Fred Pask from L.L. Tillman Post #900, Vice Commander Paul Wackowski from David McKeever Post #64, Vice Commander Ted Balbierz from Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, Vice Commander Bernie Romanowski from Matthew Glab Post #1477, Finance Officer Joseph Porempski from Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

Congratulations to these new officers!

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

Compliments to Niagara Frontier Post 1041 Legion Family for all their efforts hosting the Erie County American Legion 103rd Convention. Your Hospitality was greatly appreciated and enjoyed by all.

Congratulations to newly elected Erie County American Legion Officers; Commander, Fred Pask, Vice Commanders, Paul Wackowski & Bernie Romanowski and Finance Officer Joe Porempski. As we enter the 2022-23 Legion Year, I look forward to continuing service with each of you and the entire County Staff and have accepted Commander Pask tasking as this year's County Membership Chairman.

In the short term, my plan is to reach out to each of the Post Membership Chairs and assemble a team to formulate this year's membership campaign. What is Membership but marketing. I look forward to working together to identify and overcome any membership concerns.

With regard to 2022-23 Membership Cards, we are working with Department/National who have advised that the necessary Card Stock needed for Membership Cards is currently in short supply and they are working to resolve this issue.

If you have a member who is pressing for or has a need for their current card, please encourage them to log in the MyLegion.org which has a function to allow members to Print their individual Membership Card. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated. Stay Tuned, more to follow...

As we move into the summer months, I would like to wish each of you and your families a Healthy and Happy Fourth of July!

In Continued Service for God & Country...

VC Paul Wackowski – 2022 Membership

Just a reminder that the 2022 Membership year ends on June 30. On July 1, a New Legion Membership begins. With that in mind there is still time to reach out to those members that have not renewed their 2022 membership. By using the "Buddy Check System", is an excellent way to reach out to those members that have not renewed their 2022 membership and check on their wellbeing. Especially if you have not heard from a Legionnaire in quite a while. Keep in mind that if you are sending your membership renewals by Transmittals [known as hard copy] to get them out quickly as it takes some time for the results to be processed and posted.

A special "Thank You" to all Erie County Posts, for your hard work through the year on Membership. It has been a pleasure to work with all of you. I'm optimistic that the next Legion Membership year will see more County Posts attain their Post goals of 100%. "Thank You" Commander Gary Wald for the opportunity to work with you, and also, "Thank You" to Jim Bojanowski for your input and assistance.

In Closing; "God Bless" Our Nation, The Military in keeping us Free and the American Legion Family and its Families Safe. My enlistment is not over, as I still serve in another capacity.

Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

I look forward to the upcoming year as I serve as Special Activities Chairman. Calendars have been ordered for the 2023 Calendar year. I do not have a date yet when they will be ready for distribution to the Posts. Hopefully ready for our first County Meeting July 28 at the George F, Lamm Post #622. The Early Bird Drawing is scheduled for the October 27th County meeting.



ANEC Timothy Van Patten giving the oath of office charge to Cmdr Fred Pask, VC Paul Wackowski, VC Ted Balbierz, FO Joe Porempski, PCC Gary Wald. Picture by Sue Quirk.



Erie County Commander giving his address at the 2022 Memorial Day Service at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Picture by Sue Quirk.



Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Honor Guard at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Memorial Day.



Erie County Fair – Veterans Day

Everyone is very disappointed by the ending of the annual parades and dugout tents at the Fair. Unfortunately, with our current troubled times, the Fair Board decided to discontinue these functions due to Safety and Liability concerns. It should be noted that all of the other WNY Fair parades were discontinued years ago.

There will continue to be a Veterans Day at the Erie County Fair to be held on Sunday August 14, 2022. Admission will be free for all of the American Legion Family Members, with everyone receiving a \$10 voucher for food or beverages. Parking will be free.

As far as special activities, that I hope everyone can join with us to support Erie County Fair Veterans Day.

Erie County Chaplain Michael Johnson will celebrate a Catholic Mass at Noon in the Family Entertainment Complex. (The Dome)

Erie County Adjutant James Bojanowski will be Master of Ceremony for the annual Veterans Memorial Service to be held in the racetrack infield at 1:30 PM. We invite your Color Guards to participate with your Post Colors. The Flag and Rose Ceremony will be held, along with a Guest Speaker, and a Rifle Fire Salute and Taps.

Tables will be available in Liberty Park for those who wish to picnic as a group. No grills or alcohol allowed.

Nightly, there will be a Flag Retreat Ceremony honoring a local Veteran. I sent out a nomination form to everyone on June 1. Contact the office if you need a form.

Past Commander Club - President Gary Oakes

PCC at Convention handed out envelopes to the Posts. In the envelope there was a letter about our meetings, July 17 Summer Picnic and our officers. It included our fundraiser. If the Posts would like to help, please send checks made out to the Past Commanders Club and stubs to the Gierlach Post 1320 at 50 Gates Ave. Sloan, NY 14212. PCC membership due. \$5 renewal. \$10 for new members. Will have cards at Erie County meetings. Thank you.

Cheektowaga Veterans Committee

is still selling pavers for the Veteran's Memorial. Pavers are \$100 are available at Donovan Post or call Jerry Kowalski at 716-681-7169 for more info.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The first Regular Meeting of this new American Legion Year of the Erie County Committee will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 on Thursday July 28, located at 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221. The Post will be serving a Picnic Dinner, Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, and Dessert for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all of the 35 Posts in Erie County, with many of our Delegates and Alternates attending these monthly Erie County Regular Meetings. Monthly Executive County Meetings have stopped to streamline the process.

Future County Meetings:

August 25, Hamburg Post #527

September 29, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1626

October 27, Concord Post #431

2022 Department Convention will be held in Binghamton, sessions will be held July 14 – 16.

2022 National Convention will be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin from August 27 to September 1. Housing applications are now online on the Department website. The leading candidate for the next National Commander is V. James Troiola, a New York Past Department Commander.

**Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall,
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SUBMISSIONS
For the August
"The Legion-Air"
Due July 29
thelegionair@gmail.com



The Erie County American Legion hosted the annual Boys State breakfast at Niagara Frontier Post #1041. 14 Erie County boys are projected to participate in the 2022 Program. Chairman Thomas O'Connell was assisted by Bernie Romanowski and Boys State Counselor Jim Bojanowski overviewed the weeks activity. Picture by Joe Porempski.



Past County Commanders got together to welcome Fred Pask as the New Erie County Commander. Pictured (L to R) Tom O'Connell, Tim Van Patten, Jim Bojanowski, Gary Wald, Fred Pask, Marty Moot, back row, Joe Porempski, Chuck Herschlag, John Kasmer, Nelson Oldfield, & Wayne Sorrentino. Picture by Sue Quirk. Bill Miskell had to leave early.

Sunday July 24, Buffalo Championship Wrestling at Donovan Post. 7/24. Tickets sold at bar or at the door. Doors open 3 PM. Bell ring at 4 PM. 6 matches.

Sunday July 31, Famous Chicken BBQ A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From Noon to 6 PM. \$12 eat in or take out.

Sunday August 28, East Aurora Post #362 is sponsoring a Car Show on Main Street East Aurora.

South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo, 14210, Summer cook outs are back in full swing every Monday from now through August 29. Menu includes: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Italian Sausage with peppers & onions, Boneless Chicken Breast, Beans and other sides.

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 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

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Summer Music. GD Rose will be performing 7/15 and 8/12. Both nights 8-11. We will have a food wagon at the Post 6 PM - until sold out.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 7/29 for the August 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor