



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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November 2022

Commander's Message:

In last month's report I forgot to mention that I attended the dedication of the African-American Veterans Monument at the Naval Park. There were quite a few American Legion members in attendance.

I attended the October 8th District Brocton meeting, and the SAL Department meeting that included SAL member Vinny Guarino from the Brounshidle Squadron #205 as the "New York SAL member of the year".

The Annual Veterans Day ceremony will be held 11/11/2022 with flag placement at 8:00 AM and the service to start at 9:00 AM. Come on down to help with the flag placement and stay for the ceremony.

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

Thanks go out to all those who sold 2023 calendars. We have over 450 sold so far that are eligible for the early bird drawing tonight. I still have about 40 calendars that are available to pass out. Please send your calendar stubs and payment, payable to Erie County American Legion, to the Matthew Glab Post, Attn: Bernie Romanowski, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY 14218. You can also drop them off at the Post directly. Please put my name on the envelope. The calendars make a great gift for the holidays. Remember the sale of these calendars will help us fund future County Legion activities.

NOTE: A special Veterans Day Polka Buzz TV Show, taped at the Glab Post, will be shown on Sunday 11/6 at 7 PM and on Sunday 11/13 on Verizon channel 505 or Direct TV 67.

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

With Veterans Day Ceremonies just around the corner, I would like to continue to encourage the Posts of Erie County to include all local media outlets in your Ceremony announcements and upcoming events in your communities. While we as Legionnaires are active 12 months of the year, November's Veterans Day & May's Memorial Day are when we have our highest visibility and best opportunity to bolster our rosters.

You hear me say all the time, that each of you are our best recruiters, but potential recruits first contact is usually with a Post Bartender, who may or may not be a Legion Family member and at a minimum will provide a Membership application. During the last county membership forum, 8th District Vice Commander Nelson Oldfield shared what I would consider a best practice, that the Donovan Post has adopted. Rather than just handing out a membership application and telling the potential member when they meet. The Post has assembled an informational Membership Packet that is kept behind their bar, that includes an Application, a Welcome Letter containing Post History and Current Details about Post Activities, along with a Why you Should Belong Membership Pamphlet. This was such a great idea; we have started this practice at the Brounshidle Post and I would encourage each of your Posts to do the same... thank you Nelson.

Currently 25 of 35 Erie County Posts are at or above the Oct 55% membership goal. Please continue to spread the word through your actions to all Veterans who are interested in continued service above self and camaraderie.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the upcoming Holidays and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion!

In Continued Service for God & Country...
Ted 716-534-6288, TedB06@verizon.net

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

As everyone is aware the 11th of November 2022 is Veteran's Day. There will be ceremonies conducted through the day in various cities, counties, state, and nation to pay tribute to those who have served and those currently serving from all branches of the Armed Forces.

Various merchants and restaurants will be providing discounts and/ or free meals. Search the "Thank A Vet" Discount Program. Also, news stations will hopefully have listings too.

Join us for The Erie County American Legion Veterans Day 11/11 ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery, flag placement 8 AM, Service 9 AM. Everyone is welcome to join us.

WHAT IS A VETERAN?

A former member of the armed forces. An old soldier of long service.

A person of long experience usually in some occupation or skill such as politics or arts.

HOWEVER, I HAVE A DIFFERENT VERSION: A Veteran.

- A. Defender of America and its freedom
- B. A patriot who shows great courage and bravery.
- C. Knows that freedom is never free
- D. A hero to their country

Everyone here in this assembly, your term of enlistment is not over, as you still are serving but in a different capacity, The American Legion!

VETERAN:

Serving size – 1 jar head

Amount per serving; Ooh – Rah!

Percentage of Daily Value

*Honor	100%
*Commitment	100%
*Warrior Ethics	100%
*Patriotism	100%
*Respect for Fallow Veterans	100%
*Love of Country	100%

Percent Daily Value based on defending the Constitution against enemies, foreign and domestic.



Erie County Commander Fred Pask presents an Erie County donation to National Commander Vincent J. Troiola.



PCC Suzanne Quirk presents the 8th District Legionnaire of the Year Pin and Cap to RuthAnn Coppola of Brounshidle Post #205 at the County September County Meeting.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Veteran's Day Services

11/11 Forest Lawn Cemetery graves decoration at 8 AM, followed by services at 9 AM. Please join us if your Post does not have local services.

Erie County Veterans Day Mass

Please join us at the Memorial Mass on Saturday November 12 at The Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church at the 4:30 PM located on 26 Thorn Ave., Orchard Park, NY 14127. Erie County Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson will be the celebrant of the Mass. Commander Fred Pask will host a light reception after the Mass at the new Orchard Park #567 Post home located on 5784 Ellis Rd.

Law and Order – Anthony Solina

Now is the time to be thinking about your nominees. Contact your local law enforcement chief, ambulance crew, or firefighting crew to try to nominate deserving individuals for our Officer, Firefighter and EMT of the year. All submissions are due to me by April 30, 2023.

Anthony J. Solina, 2307 Sullivan Road
East Arcade, NY 14009

Questions? Call/text (716) 949-3341. Form can be found at: <https://www.nylegion.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Law-and-Order-Report-Form.pdf>

Thank you in advance for your support of this great American Legion program.

COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military, and these meanings vary depending on the denomination of coin. A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect.

Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited. A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Matthew Glab Post #1477 on Thursday November 17 located at 1465 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, 14218 at 7 PM. They will be serving a Chicken, potato, vegetable, dinner at starting at 6 PM.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting. 18 Posts attended the October County Meeting; 63, 64, 205, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, & 1640.

Future County Meetings:

December 15, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

January 26, OPEN Date

February 23, OPEN Date

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. Prior to the Conference, Wreath Hanging at the Batavia VAMC at 10 AM, followed by a Wreath Hanging at the Batavia State Nursing Home.

**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>



SUBMISSIONS
For the December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 25
thelegionair@gmail.com



American Legion National Commander Vincent J. Troiola, center, with the Erie County delegation at the recent dinner in his honor at the John W. Dill Post #434, Brocton, NY.

Sunday November 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 November 27, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 located at 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, Pancake Breakfast from 9 AM to Noon. Adults \$8, 12 and under \$5, 5 and under Free.

Sunday December 4, PCC Christmas Party at the 40& 8 at 810 Rein Rd., Cheektowaga. 12 - 4pm. Food at 1pm. \$10 per person. Voicemail or text to 716-292-9970 attendance by Nov 23.

South Buffalo Post #721 – 136 Cazenovia Street, Buffalo NY 14210 – We will be serving dinners for November from 5:00-7:00PM with the following menu: MEAT LOAF Dinners Monday 11/7 and 11/21, SPAGHETTI Dinners Monday 11/14 and 11/28. We will have TACO'S every Wednesday and on Friday's we will be serving ROAST BEEF & CHICKEN WINGS. NO Dinners Friday 11/25.

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 on Thanksgiving

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

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 on our new 75-inch TV. Post opens 1 hour before game. Cold beverages and a meal are available during the game.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 11/25 for the December 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor