



The Legion-Air

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October 2022

Commander's Message:

I want to thank all the Legionnaires who attended legion sponsored events during the month. During the past month I have attended the American Legion National Convention in Milwaukee. The newly elected National Commander is from the Department of New York. The Commanders biggest focus this year is "Be the One" suicide prevention initiative. Each legionnaire should make a call to Veteran to check on how they are doing. This a part of the BUDDY CHECK program, and will show them that we care about them.

I also attended the 9/11 memorial on the bridge over the Scajauada Expressway, the VA sponsored Buffalo Economic Development Initiative 2022 at the Naval Park, a fund raiser at the Gabriel Rodriguez Post 1928, and the membership meeting at Post 205.

Again, I am asking that each Post send a delegate to the County Meetings. I also want to remind each Post to send a listing of any newly elected Officers to the County Adjutant and to submit their CPR's in a timely manner.

Yours in the Legion

Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

First, my thanks to all those Posts who have already taken calendars to sell. So far almost 700 calendars for 2023 have been distributed to several Posts. I remind everybody that the Early Bird Drawing is scheduled for 27 October at our monthly County meeting. Make sure you get sold calendars recorded. It is important to remember that the profits from the sale of these calendars will help fund our County activities. If you need more calendars, please feel free to contact me at 716-796-5341 thru a phone call or text. You can also email me glabpost@aol.com.

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

I take this opportunity to thank members of Posts 1586, 900, 1626, 799, 838 & 205 who attended my first Membership Training Forum on Tuesday evening 9/26.

For those who were unable to attend, we had a productive discussion about the differences between passive and active recruiting. Active Recruiting Involves prospecting activities; Telephone Calls (Buddy Checks), Direct Mail Solicitation, Post Traffic and Membership tables at community events.

Passive recruiting is where the real magic happens. Does your Post inspire others through pride in your organization? Is your Post Welcoming and Current? History and Heritage are important, but each generation wants to feel relevant and at home.

Does your Post mission, vision, and values appeal to those who you want to be members and demonstrate consistent excellence and genuine benevolence in taking care of veterans?

What does your Post do for; Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation? National Security? Americanism? Children & Youth?

Is your community aware of all of the great things that you are doing.

To Quote the movie Field of Dreams... "If you Build it, they will come".

Currently 14 Posts are at or above the Department October 6th 55% Goal.

Every Legionnaire is our Best Recruiter and if every member signs up one new member, our Posts and the County would double in size.

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!

In Continued Service for God & Country.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Be The One

How you can help save the Life of a veteran
September is National Suicide Awareness Month.
The Number 1 issue facing those who served is
veteran suicide. Let's stop talking about how
many veterans we are losing and start talking
about the One we can save.

What to Know

The stigma associated with mental health issues
is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance. They
fear loss of their job, they think they can handle
their situation themselves, or don't think others
can understand their situation. It is OK for
veterans to ask for help.

Family members may be the first to recognize the
signs that their veteran needs help, but they may
lack the knowledge of how to approach the
situation. Use "Buddy Checks" to help.

End Veteran Suicide.

Be the One to:

- Ask a veteran in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.
 - Make supportive and encouraging comments, don't ask invasive questions.
 - Don't inject judgement or emotion in the conversation. Stay calm.
 - It's okay to ask directly; Are you thinking about taking your own life.
 - Asking about thoughts of suicide doesn't increase their suicide risk.
 - Remind them you are there for them.
 - Listen more than you speak – don't dominate the conversation.
 - Let them decide how much to share.

The VA offers a network of support for all veterans and their families and friends. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care. Call 988 and press 1 and chat with a real person qualified to support veterans. Access is free, confidential 24/7 365 days a year.

Visit veteranscrisisline.net/

Or Text; 838255

Pledge to Be the One at www.betheone.org by signing up for email updates.



Erie County American Legion Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson saying prayers at the Iroquois Post #1587 Fall Festival Memorial Service with Post Commander Ron Cook, and the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Honor Guard in the background.



Members of the Erie County Staff line up for the Iroquois Post #1587 Fall Festival Parade, Joe Porempski, Jim Bojanowski Ted Balbierz, and Ray Borawski.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



New York SAL Son of the Year Presentation

On Saturday October 15, Kenmore East High School Sophomore Vinny Guarino will be recognized as "Son of the Year for 2021-2022". This honor will be presented by SAL Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II at 11:30 AM at the Alfred Jurek Post #1672. Vinny participates in all Squadron meetings, volunteers to manage a Squadron Clothing Collection Bin; Basket Raffle Sales, Food Concession Sales, SAL Flag Day ceremonies & coordinates fundraising efforts to support a Little Food Pantry at his home, and countless hours with WNY Heroes Veteran Food Distribution Program.

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 American Legion Mass

Please join with The Erie County American Legion as we honor all of our departed Veterans with a Memorial Mass on Saturday November 12 at The Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church at the 4:30 PM Mass 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., Orchard Park.



Attending the Orchard Park Post #567 Open House, Sue Quirk, Bill Miskell, Dick Poisson, Post Cmdr Bob Davis, Jim Bojanowski, and Bernie Romanowski.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Concord Post #431 on Thursday October 27 located at 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141 at 7 PM. The SAL will be serving Hot Dogs/Hamburgers with a side dish starting at 6 PM.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting.

22 Posts attended the September County Meeting; 63, 64, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 622, 665, 721, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1320, 1377, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1928.

Future County Meetings:

November 17, Matthew Glab Post #1477

December 15, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

January 26, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

2022 National Commander Visitation for

Vincent J. Troiola, a New York Past Department Commander, will be held October 28 at the John W. Dill Post #434 in Brocton, NY. Dinner cost is \$38. Reservations are made thru the Post contact Mattie McIntyre at all4him@netsync.net or 716 253 3064. Cash Bar at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. The National Commander's project for tax deductible donations is "The American Legion Veterans & Children's Foundation".

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.

**Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall,
65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202
Veteran14202@verizon.net
716 - 852 - 6500**



SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 28
thelegionair@gmail.com



The African American Veterans Monument was unveiled on Saturday 9/24/2022 with many American Legion Veterans in attendance. The Memorial contains 12 pillars representing the 12 Wars that African Americans supported. The Memorial has gray and black pavers, reminiscent of military dog tags, which sit at the base of the monument while informational displays stand in the background to describe the service of Black service members in every U.S. conflict dating back to the American Revolution.



Erie County Commander Fred Pask is seated next to Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 Commander John Sanabria who is 2nd from the left, at a Post fundraiser during Hispanic Heritage Month. Department Vice Commander Jim Bojanowski is in the middle of the rear row center with many of the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post members on Saturday 9/17/2022.

Wednesday October 12, PCC meeting at 7 PM at Depew Post.

Saturday October 15, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 is hosting an Elvis and Johnny Cash impersonator night starting at 7 PM. Tickets are \$25 or \$45 for a couple, includes draft beer, wine, and Elvis trivia. For tickets contact jcpretire@aol.com or purchase at the Post bar.

Sunday October 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.

Sunday October 30, 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.

South Buffalo Post #721 – 136 Cazenovia Street, Buffalo NY 14210 – We will be resuming our dinners in October from 5 – 7 PM with the following menu: SPAGHETTI DINNERS Monday October 3rd, 10th and 31st. MEAT LOAF DINNERS Monday October 17th and 24th. We will have TACO'S every Wednesday in October and on Friday's we will be serving ROAST BEEF & CHICKEN WINGS.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners To Go Only start on September 15. To place an order call (716) 649-4667 starting at 2:00-6:30 PM. Pick up 4:00-7:00 PM. Regular Order \$9.00, 1 Meatball. Large Order \$11.00, 2 Meatballs. Extra Meatballs \$1.00 each. All dinners include Salad, Bread, Butter.

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 10/28 for the November 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>

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