



## *The Legion-Air*

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September 2022

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

I want to thank all the Legionnaires who attended the Fair and other Legion sponsored events during the month.

During the past month I have attended the Veterans Day at the Fair, Mass, and Flag and Rose Memorial service in the infield. I was at the 8<sup>th</sup> District organizational meeting in Brocton, NY. I attended the joint 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District membership meeting in Leroy, NY.

This usually the last meeting of the year under the summer dress code of business casual. I feel that it may help increase attendance at our monthly meetings if we alter the monthly meeting dress code. All officers are expected to wear business dress of blue jacket and grey pants with tie. At a minimum, I would like all Post Delegates and Alternates wear business casual (trousers and collared shirts preferably with a Legion Logo). Others may wear business dress if they so desire.

There is a small contingent of Erie County Legionnaires going to the National Convention in Milwaukee.

I would like to see all Posts set up a Buddy Check program at their Posts as this may help Veterans that are in distress. It will show them we care.

Remember to Submit your CPR's and new Officers list after your post elections.

Yours in the Legion

### **Membership: Continued**

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! I look forward to meeting with each you at upcoming county meetings. In Continued Service for God & Country.

### **Membership: VC Ted Balbierz**

On Saturday August 6, I along with members of the EC Staff attended the 7th/8th District membership meeting at the Botts Fiorito Post 576 in Leroy, NY which primarily focused on the mechanics of the My Legion Application. With regard to County Membership, all Posts should be in receipt of their 2023 Membership Cards and have received my email detailing their 2023 Membership Goals. We are still waiting for Department to release the first membership report of the year. I will forward as soon as available and I am working on putting together a membership workshop locally for all EC Posts.

With the Erie County Fair behind us, I would like to relay that the feedback received with regard to ECAL Display in the Historical Building, was again extremely positive! I would like to extend many thanks to all those who contributed to the success of this year's display to include; PCC's Sue Quirk, Tom Deinzer, Gary Wald, Jim Bojanowski, VC Bernie Romanowski and Concord Post Commander Tom Place for all their assistance in setup/takedown and manning of this year's booth during the 12 days of the Fair. My Thanks to anyone that I may have missed.

We have been advised that next year's Fair theme will be "Vietnam" and that Fair Organizers are in discussions to host the Moving Vietnam Memorial during next year's Fair and we will be welcoming any memorabilia and ideas for next year's display. Congratulations to Dept VC Jim Bojanowski for coordinating a successful Fair Veterans Day Memorial Tribute and special thanks to ECAL Chaplain Father Michael Johnson who celebrated Catholic Mass on Veterans Day at the Fair.

## Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

On August 02, 2022, the Senate passed the PACT ACT. The American Legion supported legislation which will ensure millions of veterans exposed to noxious fumes emanating from burn pits will have access to VA care and benefits.

The sweeping legislation supplies a comprehensive framework to improve the process for burn pit veterans by streamlining access to health care benefits for those who served in areas of known toxic exposure - regardless of disability status and supplies health care for 3.5 million veterans exposed to airborne hazards and burn pits. Toxic smoke and fumes from burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan included medical and human waste, jet fuel, chemicals, metals, munitions, and unexploded ordnance, petroleum and lubricant products, plastics, Styrofoam and more.

The PACT ACT did not pass in the Senate at one point. Upon receiving this news, the American Legion sent an urgent action notice by email and called on recipients to demand that the Senate stay in Washington and pass the PACT ACT. Within 24 hours 9,000 emails hit the boxes of U.S. Senators from this call to action. As stated in the opening paragraph, the PACT ACT was passed on August 02, 2022.

## Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

First, my thanks to all those Posts who have already taken calendars to sell. So far, I have distributed 50 calendars. I will be contacting all Posts who have not picked up calendars. We can make some type of arrangement to get the packets to your Post. Just let me know you need to make alternate arrangements. Please contact me at 796-5341. The Early Bird drawing will be held at the October 27 County Meeting.



**Erie County American Legion Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson celebrated a Catholic Mass in the Family Entertainment Complex at the Erie County Fair 8/14/2022.**



**Gary Wald, standing, Tom Deinzer on the left, and Sue Quirk on the right, are some of the participants who staffed the Erie County Fair Membership Booth that VC Ted Balbierz organized.**



**The Erie County Fair 2022 Veterans Day Memorial Service Rifle Fire Salute and Taps by the Newell Faulkner Post #880.**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





**Regular County Meetings at 7 PM**

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 on Thursday September 29 located at 655 New Rd. East Amherst, 14051 at 7 PM. The SAL will be serving Italian Sausage with a side dish. Cost will be \$10 starting at 6 PM.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County. Monthly Executive County Meetings have stopped to streamline the process.

21 Posts attended the August County Meeting; 63, 64, 78, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 799, 838, 900, 1131, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1659, & 1672.

**Future County Meetings:**

October 27, Concord Post #431

November 17, Matthew Glab Post #1477

December 15, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

**2022 National Commander Visitation** will be held October 28 at the John W. Dill Post #434 in Brocton, NY. Additional details in the next newsletter. At this writing, the leading candidate for the next National American Legion Commander is V. James Troiola, a New York Past Department Commander.

**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,  
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SUBMISSIONS  
For the October  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due September 30  
thelegionair@gmail.com



**PDVC Joseph Porempski receives the US Flag from the US Army that flew over the Erie County Fair on Friday 8/19/2022. His daughters Tracy on his right and Holly on his left accompanied him.**



**New York State Vice Commander James Bojanowski gave a Certificate of Appreciation Award from The Erie County American Legion to Trace Adkins at the Erie County Fair Veterans Day Sunday night on 8/14/2022 for his outstanding support of our Troops, Veterans, and their families.**



**Participants of the Flag and Rose Ceremony during the Erie County Fair 2022 Veterans Memorial Service led by Department Vice Commander James Bojanowski.**



**Iroquois Post #1587 Commander Ron Cook reported that they completed a 2022 six-week summer youth challenge where Seneca Nation Tribal Councilor Tina Abrams and MMA Instructor Desmond White presented awards to the graduates.**

**Saturday September 10**, Iroquois Post #1587 Annual Seneca Nation Fall Festival. The Post invites any and all Color Guard Teams to participate in the Fall Festival Parade that starts at Noon. Please RSVP by 9/5 to confirm your spot with the Festival Parade Committee and try to arrive at the Post around 10 AM to avoid traffic closure delays. Fallen Comrade Salute with Luncheon Meal to follow. Call Commander Ronald L. Cook Jr. at Cell: 910-322-2450.

Commander Cook also reported that they conducted a Veteran Traditional Eagle Feather Honoring to US Navy Veteran Damage Control 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Ronald W. Jamieson at the Erie County Fair.

**Sunday September 11**, 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.

**VA Naval Park Outreach Event 9/14 & 15** forwarded by Carrie Ahearn DNY VSO

The Buffalo Economic Development Initiative is holding a two-day conference for Veterans, their family members, spouses, and caregivers living in Western New York at the Buffalo & Erie County Navel Park. The overarching goal of the EDI is to create a comprehensive and strategic approach to policy, programs, and services to encourage community-wide economic development. The Clinics will include, Claims, Spouse & Caregiver, VA Benefits & Resources, and a general Town Hall partnership roundtable discussion on Thursday 9/15 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

**Saturday September 17**, Orchard Park Post #567, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Grand Opening from 1:00 - 4:00 PM, inviting all Legion Family members to stop in and see our new renovated Post.

**Saturday September 17**, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 Auxiliary is running a Vintage Military BASH from 6 to 11 PM to benefit Veterans Thanksgiving/Christmas dinners for those in need.

**Saturday September 24, Saturday September 24**, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 SAL, located at 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, is running a free Children's Fun & Games Day from 11 AM to 2:30 PM.

**Saturday September 24**, Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St. Buffalo, is having Pasta Dinner from 4 to 7 PM, Adults 13+, \$ 9.50, Children 5 to 12, \$ 5.50, 4 and under free. Call Tom, 716-867-5730

**Sunday September 25**, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 Pancake Breakfast from 9 AM to Noon.

**Tuesday September 27**, Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, Polka Night show WBBZ TV taping 4 shows with one honoring Veterans. Doors open at 6 PM. Taping starts at 7 PM. \$10. Polish food available for purchase and a Cash Bar. One show to be televised Veterans Day weekend.

**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](http://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**, Fish Frys and more return on Sept 9, and every Friday thereafter from 4-8 PM. Live Music every Friday from 8-11 PM.

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 9/30 for the October 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**