



## *The Legion-Air*

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

It felt good being at a regular County Legion meeting and getting back into normal activities.

I attended the Vietnam Veteran Pin Ceremony, sponsored by Congressman Brian Higgins, held in the Town of Wheatfield on March 20.

Approximately 75 Vietnam Era Veterans received Vietnam Commemoration Pins. The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law by President Donald J. Trump, designating March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. This commemoration honors all Veterans who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975 regardless of location.

Remember this is the time of year to submit your Post CPR's. Send in a list of newly elected Officers, and Post delegates and alternates to the county office so we may have the current contact information. The Consolidated Posts are very important to National, they gather the necessary information on the amount of money and time the Legion members spend running the various programs sponsored by the Legion, when they make their annual report to Congress.

### **Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey**

Volunteers are needed to judge the applications for 2023 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year. Please contact Kathleen Garvey at 716-635-5029 or [kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com](mailto:kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com). Judging the candidates resumes involves reading the resumes and grading them according to the guidelines. The judging will be done over the internet or by mail. Specifics about submitting the resume of a candidate are <http://www.eriecountyal.org/pdf%20files/2021%20Guidelines%20EC%20Legionnaire%20of%20the%20Year.pdf>. Submit the candidate resume for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221.

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

Currently Erie County is at 86% of our goal; with 15 of 35 Posts at or above Departments 90% membership goal with April 12, goal of 95%.

I congratulate the following Posts who have achieved 100% or have met March Membership Goal: Depew Post 1528 – 112%, Gabriel Rodriguez Post 1928 - 107%, Thomas E. Tehan Post 1449 - 103%, Frank L. Gierlach Post 1320 - 103% & both Sardinia Post 1131, and 4 Star Post 1659 - 100%.

90% + - Iroquois Post 1587 - 99%, South Buffalo Post 721 - 98%, Bennett-Wells Post 1780 - 96%, LL Tillman Post 900 - 95%, North Collins Post 1640 - 94%, Lorenzo Burrows Post 78 - 93%, Concord Post 431 - 92%, East Aurora Post 362 – 90% & Milton J. Brounshidle Post 205 - 90%.

The American Legion is a great organization that promotes a continued sense of purpose and camaraderie that is worth the price of admission. With our Legion year rapidly coming to a close, Erie County American Legion is in position to achieve Departments 100% Goal.

Each Erie County Post should be using the My Legion membership exception reports, to identify and encourage those Legionnaires who have yet to remit their 2023 membership dues, by reaching out and promoting all the good that your Posts do for Veterans, Children & Youth, Americanism & Law & Order.

April showers bring May Consolidated Post Reports (CPR), if you have not already started, please start compiling your Post year to date efforts to be submitted to Congress...

May God Continue to Bless you as Leaders of our American Legion and your families!

Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of our American Legion!

Cell: 716-534-6288

email: [TedB06@verizon.net](mailto:TedB06@verizon.net)

### **Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski**

Buffalo and the WNY area are very fortunate to have many iconic historical landmarks. One of these is not a veteran cemetery, monument, place of interest or a person.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Buffalo's waterfront was an extremely busy center of commerce. Grain elevators, and shipping traffic had overtaxed the two existing fireboats. The city of Buffalo had shoreline hookups to allow the fireboats to serve as floating pumping stations supplying high pressure water to a fire hydrant system that covered the downtown area. The City ordered a third boat that would also have icebreaking capabilities along with her normal firefighting duties. So, the William S. Grattan arrived. As time moved time on, age took its toll, the boat has been refurbished several times to keep up with the newest firefighting technology and equipment. In 1953 the Grattan was renamed the firefighter, a year later was renamed the Edward M. Cotter as it's known as today.

So, "what's the big deal"? Well, the Edward M. Cotter is considered to be the oldest active fireboat in the world. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1996. With its firefighting duties, it also serves as an ice breaker during the winter on Buffalo's rivers. In 1960 it's the first instance that a U.S. fireboat had crossed the international border to Canada to assist in fighting a massive fire in Port Colborne, Ontario, Canada, at a set of eight story grain elevators. She was escorted by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter because she never needed navigational equipment of her own. It has notable rescues and still services the Buffalo waterfront as there are two grain mills and elevators on the Buffalo River, as well as a refinery and several other entities. The Cotter has been sent to several various festivals and boat shows around the Great Lakes.

### **Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services**

We will be decorating graves on Monday 5/29 at 8 AM and holding our services at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes.

### **Memorial Day Mass**

Commander Fred Pask is working with John Kasmer and Rev. Michael Johnson to finalize arrangements for a Mass to be held on Saturday May 27.

### **Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski**

I wanted to take this opportunity to put together a Recap of Calendar Sales. So far, I have 922 Calendar Stubs in my possession. I also have 10 unsold calendars, which means there are approximately 68 calendars not accounted for. The following numbers are still available: 096, 151, 250, 383, 438, 509, 691, 827, 938, 985. If anyone is interested in purchasing these calendars let me know.

As I mentioned last month, I am processing a request for a grant through the NY State Portal known as Grants Gateway. The system will test your patience. I am still waiting for my post's Sam Cage Code and Dunn & Bradstreet numbers. I have successfully obtained a Charitie Registration number. This is all required simply to get a NYS Grants Gateway Prequalification Exemption Request. Remember to start this entire process you will need to complete a Grants Gateway Registration Form for Administrators and it must be notarized.

### **Boys State – Thomas O'Connell**

April 11 is the last day to register on the Department website. I must have all the Boys State candidate paperwork by April 20, 2023. This includes a copy of the application the boy prints out before submitting the application to the Department, the commitment sheet notarized, the medical report and the school certification form. On May 27, there will be a light breakfast and meeting. This meeting is very important so I am going to make it **CASUAL AND MANDATORY** for the boy and at least one parent or guardian. We will be busing the boys to Morrisville but **would** like the parents to go to the graduation on June 30. The bus will leave the Post on June 25 at 8:00 AM. If you have any questions call me at 716-867-5730. I do not always have the answer, but I will get it. Post1041@aol.com, 716-867-5730

### **Law & Order – Anthony Solina**

The original deadline for submissions was March 30; it has been changed to April 15. So please, if you have been meaning to send in a nomination, there is still time. Eligible awards includes Police Officer, Fire Fighter, EMT, Corrections Officer, Fire Department/Company, Emergency Squad and Police Departments of the year. If you have any submissions or questions please ask away. My number is (716) 949-3341, e-mail, asolina@wyomingco.net or submissions may be mailed to me at: 2307 Sullivan Road, East Arcade, NY 14009.

**From Kathleen Garvey**

The Legal Aid Bureau of Buffalo, Inc. spoke at our March County Meeting. They provide services to qualified veterans. Services include Housing, Employment, Educational, and Family Law. Legal Aid can help veterans with debt problems or a credit report. They also assist veterans who may have been wrongfully denied unemployment benefits or job discrimination. They provide help in housing matters. Legal Aid will help with family matters such as custody, divorce, or child support. Contact information is: 290 Main Street, Suite 400, Buffalo, NY 14202 716-853-9555 legalaidbuffalo.org



**Regular County Meetings at 7 PM**

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at East Aurora Post #362, 1 Legion Dr., East Aurora, 14052 on Thursday April 27 at 7 PM. Dinner will be served starting at 6 PM, Meat Loaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Salad, Desert and Coffee for \$10.

Thanks to the 21 Posts who attended the 3/30 meeting. Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in at our 4/27 meeting.

**Future County Meetings;**

May 18, LL Tillman Post #900

**County Convention Saturday June 3  
Milton J. Brounshide Post #205, 3354  
Delaware Ave., Kenmore, 14217**

Please support their ad and booster program book and your attendance.

Memorial Service 9 AM

Convention Start 10 AM

Registration from 8 AM to 11:30 PM

**8<sup>th</sup> District Convention - Saturday June 17  
John W, Dill Post #434, Brocton, NY 14009**

**Department Convention July 20 – 22, 2023  
White Plains, Westchester County**

**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>



**Susan Minestero from Legal Aid addresses the March County Meeting. Picture by Sue Quirk.**



**SAL Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II addresses the March County Meeting. Picture by Sue Quirk.**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the May/June  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due April 28  
thelegionair@gmail.com**



**The Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park hosted the Department Leadership Team for a tour during the February Visitations. Erie County made a \$100 donation. Pictured (L to R) Department Commander Davis Riley Sr., President & CEO Paul Marzello Sr., and Department Vice Commander Jim Bojanowski. Picture by Timothy Van Patten II.**

**Monday April 10**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, Dyngus Day Party, with Polish Platter and Polka Music, 2 – 8 PM.

**Wednesday April 12**, PCC Meeting at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 at 7 PM.

**Sunday April 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 April 30**, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, Pancake Breakfast 9 AM – 1 PM. Adults \$9, 12 and under \$6, 5 and under free. Basket Raffle too.

**Sunday April 30**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, Pro Wrestling, Doors open at 2:30 PM, starts at 4 PM. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Post, \$25 at the door. Phone 716-896-3346.

**Orchard Park Post #567**, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Chicken Chiavetta's BBQ Dinner every Wednesday from 2 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Cost is \$15.

**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.

**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 available every Friday from 4 – 8 PM, with live music from 8 – 11 PM. Full menu available in addition to fish fry's. For takeout - please call Post at 716-896-3346.

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 4/28 for the May/June 2023 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**