



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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August 2023

Commander's Message:

I hope that each of you are enjoying your Summer, as I approach the end of my 2nd month as Erie County Commander, I would like to reach out to all 35 Posts to schedule my upcoming visitations.

Please email me at tedb06@verizon.net about any upcoming Membership Meetings and all upcoming events so I can plan to attend.

While I cannot promise to attend all events, you have my word that I will do my very best to support any upcoming Post functions and events and am looking forward to my visitations.

Erie County American Legion will be setting up a booth at this year's Erie County Fair. This year's theme is Vietnam.

Past Erie County Commander/Historian Suzanne Quirk will be your point of contact for any Legion Family Members interested in volunteering to staff this year's booth or anyone interested in lending any Vietnam Era items to compliment this year's display. Please stop by the History Building to say hello and check out this year's display.

Please join with us on Sunday 8/13 for Veterans Day at the Erie County Fair, where Erie County American Legion Chaplain Fr. Michael Johnson will be celebrating Catholic Mass at noon, immediately followed by Veterans Memorial Ceremony. Parking is free, and Legion family Members/Veterans will receive a \$10 Voucher good for that day. I look forward to seeing you there.

I am interested in setting up a County Advertising Committee, to promote our Erie County American Legion. I am asking any Legion Family members with any Advertising, Media Sales, or Marketing background, to please contact me so we can put together a team to Promote our Great Organization and Posts.

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

Compliments to Brounshidle Post 205, for all their efforts hosting our annual County Convention. Congratulations go out to all the newly elected and appointed Officers. I have accepted Commander Ted Balbierz assignment as this year's County Membership Chairman.

The goal for this year will be to increase Membership. Statistics show that veterans are out there, and Western New York has the most veterans in the state so Erie County will be my area of focus. We need to get the word out to area veterans, that we are here for them. This is not the American Legion of old. We are now in the 21st century, and better than before, serving our veterans and the community. So, let's help them join the American Legion. Every day is membership day.

To Post Membership Chairs: Please contact me at 716 681-7169 to pick up your membership cards if you do not have them yet.

Summer is here, let's enjoy this time with our families. See you at the Erie County Fair, on Veteran's Day.

Commander's Message: Continued

Please join with us Saturday August 5th at 0830 as we assist Buffalo Habitat for Humanity, in building a Veterans Home located at 52 Olcott Place. Here are the sign-up links;

<https://www.habitatbuffalo.org/volunteer-registration/>

https://habitatbflo.my.salesforce-sites.com/volunteer/GW_Volunteers__PersonalSiteJobListing?Calendar=1&volunteerShiftId=a0a0V00000DwmnU&jobId=a0T2J00000prUKz&nMonthsToShow=12

I will be attending The American Legion National Convention in Charlotte the end of this month and will provide a report in September.

Thank you for all you do for our American Legion. God bless our veterans, their families, and the United States of America.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

It's been a while since we all gathered. Hope that every Legionnaire had a festive and safe Independence Holiday and spent time with your families and friends. Legionnaires!!! We are at the earlier stage of the New Legion Year 2023 – 2024, with this, a few reminders of importance.

POST OFFICERS, if you have not done so already, please send in a copy of your new Post Officers to the County Office.

CPR's CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS,

Any Post that has not completed this report is encouraged to fill out the form and send it in to the County Office. This report is very important as this is proof of what the American Legion Post's do to promote the four pillars: Americanism, Child and Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs. These reports are sent to National so as our National Commander when called before the legislatures, they can present what the American Legion is doing to assist veterans and their families, as well as the communities.

All forms are available on the Department of New York American Legion website under Resources.

Hopefully, I will see all 35 Posts attend our County Meetings where we offer discussions on wide variety of subjects and issues that affect every Post and its members, be it Membership, Child and Youth, Legislation, Americanism, and Veteran related Guest Speakers.

BE THE ONE

Our National Commander's plea to all American Legion Posts and Members to save a life of any veteran who is contemplating suicide. "Be The One" to talk to a veteran that you might know who is having trouble with life, feels left out, needs medical services or is just down and out, a feeling of being let down. Use the "Buddy System" to check on your members that you haven't heard from in a while and check on their Well Being.

MY PROJECT:

I'd like to see each county post to form an American Flag Etiquette program and adopt a grammar school in your community to instruct students on the history of our flag, proper respect and how to fold our national flag properly along with the 13 folds of our flag and, what each fold represents.

DUTY HONOR COUNTRY

"Thank You!" to all the Erie County Posts for all the dedicated work that you do.



The Erie County American Legion has created a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee with Elder Howard Patton III as Chairperson. At the July Erie County Meeting we were joined by, (L to R) (front row) Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, Jesse Clipper Post 430, Commander Henry Jernigan, Bennett-Wells Post 1780, County Commander Ted Balbierz, Commander Elder Howard Patton III, Jesse Clipper Post 430. (second row) Finance Officer Ricardo Estrada, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928, Commander Johnny Sanabria, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928, 2nd Vice Commander Charles Grant, Bennett-Wells Post 1780, 1st Vice Commander Dr. Kanasha Blue, Jesse Clipper Post 430, 1st Vice Commander Walter Cole, Bennett-Wells Post 1780, Sgt-at-Arms Pedro Lopez, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928.



Erie County sponsored 23 Boys Staters this year as reported by Chairman Thomas O'Connell. Thanks go out to the sponsoring Posts, 64, 205, 430, 431, 527, 567, 622, 880, 900, 1041, 1477, 1528, 1587, 1626, & A.J. Jurek SAL 1672. Hopefully we have more boys next year. Start your fundraising now. Call me if you need assistance at 716 867 5730.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

The Erie County calendars will be available to be distributed at the August County Meeting at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 on 8/24.

Erie County Fair Veterans Day Sunday 8/13

- Free admission and a \$10 voucher for all Veterans, Auxiliary, and SAL members.
- Fair opens at 11 AM.
- Mass at Noon at the Family Entertainment Complex by Erie County Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson.
- Veterans Memorial Service at 1:30 PM in the track infield. Guest speaker, Billy Puckett, Tunnel to Towers Foundation. MC will be PDVC Jim Bojanowski
- US Flag Retirement Ceremony each evening at 6:30 PM presented to a local Veteran.



The Iroquois Post #1587 Color Guard presents the colors at the Marvin “Joe” Curry Veterans POW WOW at the Seneca Nation.

Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station

Retiree Appreciation Day on Thursday August 24, at The Heritage Center located at 10405 Lockport Rd, Niagara Falls, NY 14304. RSVP by August 7 at RAO 716 236 2389 or retireeactivitiesoffice@gmail.com.



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 August 24, located at New & Smith Rds., East Amherst, NY 14051. The Post will be serving BBQ Chicken and Salads for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 24 Posts that attended the July County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 721, 735, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1659, 1672, 1780, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting.

Future County Meetings:

September 28, Concord #431

October 26, Matthew Glab #1477

November 30, Gabriel A. Rodriguez #1928

**National Convention – August 26 – 31, 2023
Charlotte, North Carolina**

National Commander’s Dinner

Friday October 13, 2023

at Niagara Frontier Post #1041.

**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>

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



SUBMISSIONS
For the September
“The Legion-Air”
Due August 25
thelegionair@gmail.com



The Past Erie County Commanders welcomed newly elected Commander Ted Balbierz seated next to Fred Pask. Back Row (L to R) Jim Bojanowski, Timothy Van Patten, Joe Porempski, Sue Quirk, Bill Miskell, Charles Hercschlag, Marty Moot, Nelson Oldfield, Tom O'Connell, Tom Deinzer, and Gary Wald. The picture was taken by Wayne Sorrentino.

Saturday August 5, 7th & 8th District Membership Workshop at Botts-Fiorito Post #576, 53 W. Main St. Leroy, NY 14482 starting at 9 AM.

Saturday August 19, Frank L Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates Ave. Sloan, will host a hot dog sale and basket raffle from 9 AM until 2 PM in conjunction with the Village of Sloan's village wide yard sale.

Saturday August 26, Concord Post #431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, Legion Family Fun Day, 1 - 6 PM, Food Drinks, Kids games, cornhole, horseshoes, 50/50 & more. Music by Sensedog.

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.

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
Eden Corn Festival August 3, 4, 5, & 6.

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1956 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed, and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials, Wednesday 50 cent wings from 2 – 4 PM and 75 cent wings from 4 - 8 PM and \$3 Tacos.

Donovan Post will re-open for the fall season Sept. 8 with our new Chef Monica and a new menu.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 8/25 for the September 2023 edition. Jim Bojanowski Editor