



The Legion-Air

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February 2023

Commander's Message:

Since the last meeting I have attended several Legion Functions, including the 8th District Oratorical contest held at the Brounshidle Post 205. There were only two candidates. No candidates from Erie County. We have to try harder to get more kids involved. I also attended the Dept of New York Mid-winter conference in Albany. Monday night I was with the Department Vice Commander James Bojanowski and 8th District Commander Henry Link to present a New York Department check of \$15,000 to the WNY Veterans Housing Coalition. This request initiated by Vice Commander Balbierz and pushed into passage by Jim Bojanowski.

A new year has started this is a good time to compile a list of all things your Post has accomplished during the past year. This will make it easier to compile the data for your CPR for this year. This report is very important and the data is compiled to form a snapshot of the value of Post activities when National meets with Congress to discuss our agenda. I am looking for a 100% response from our Posts.

The Boy State rules are on the Department of New York website. We all have to try harder to get boys to sign up to go to Boys State.

Yours in The Legion.

Membership Continued

As of January 12, 17 Posts are at or above Department 80% Membership Goal and Erie County is currently at 76%. Next membership Goal is 85% on 2/8/23. Congratulations to: Depew Post 1528 –107% and 4 Star Post 1659 & Gabriel Rodriguez Post 1928 are both at 100%. Please keep up the Good Work and continue to reach out to those Legionnaires yet to renew. 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!

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

Last weekend I had the opportunity to join members of the Erie County Staff and attended the Department of New York Mid-winter conferences in Albany. My first experience in Albany, since last year was canceled.

I would highly recommend your participation in the future. Committee meetings and workshops provide guidance and insights to daily legion operations. I had the opportunity to participate in Membership, Public Relations & Resolution Writing & Legislation workshops along with participating in a My Legion refresher.

Facilitators during the membership training stressed the value of identifying and mining Post 1 members using Zip Code Reports and provided an example report where 398 Post 1 Members were identified in the 10 Mile Radius of my post. Many Post 1 Legionnaires are new members who when educated about everything your Posts do, may be interested in transferring.

After they agree, ask for a copy of their DD214 and then fill out a Member Data form for the transfer. The only info you need on the form is the date, their membership number, name, and then the Post they're transferring from (NY Post 0001) to your Post. Then, they'll sign it and you'll sign it. Email form to Charlie at Charlie@nylegion.org.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to assist in attaining your Post membership goal. The Social aspect of this gathering is by far the most valuable takeaway from the Mid-winter conference.

While this was only my 3rd Department Level event, getting to know Legionnaires from Posts, Counties, Districts and Department Staff who share my interests and passion for our American Legion is invaluable. The Department hosted a Welcome Reception Friday Evening, and a Dinner Saturday night. There was a meet & greet room for the leading Department Commander candidate and various Counties.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

As I was looking out of my window yesterday, it was cold and snowing. Couldn't help thinking about those veterans that were homeless, didn't have heat in their home or apartment, may not have enough food, depressed or have medical issues and possibly contemplating suicide.

I'm encouraging every Legionnaire to reach out to those members who you have not heard from in a while and reach out to them through the "Buddy System", checking their wellbeing. Some of you may also know a veteran that may be struggling with PTS or just struggling with other situations that may be overwhelming.: Be the One", could be a life changing program.

Just a reminder for those who may have forgotten what a veteran and those that are currently in harm's way have gone through, this may give you another prospective; You're welcome.

We protected you and many are currently doing the same. You are protected by the best. Your voice is strong and loud, but who will fight for you?

No one standing in your crowd.

We were and are your grandfathers, Great Grandfathers, fathers, brothers, sisters and sons, wearing the boots and carrying the guns. We are and were that have left all we own, to make sure that our future is carved in stone.

We are and were the ones who fight and died. We might not be able to save the world, well at least we tried.

We walked the paths to where we are and were at and we wanted and want no choice other than that.

So, when you complain, take a look in the back of your brain, in order for that flag you love to fly, wars must be fought and young men must die. We came here to fight for the ones we hold dear, if that's not respected, we would rather stay here. So please pray for those behind enemy lines.

When the conflicts are over and all is well, be thankful that we chose to go through hell.



Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

Thanks to all who have purchased 2023 Calendars. So far, we have sold 921. If you still have calendars, please return them to me ASAP, or drop them off at the Matthew Glab Post #1477. Sales can still occur, obviously we cannot pay for numbers for the days that already passed. If there are any issues, please do not hesitate to notify me at 716-796-5341.

Boys State – Thomas O'Connell

Will take place at Morrisville College from June 25 - 30, 2023. American Legion Posts are the sponsoring organizations. Once a Post agrees to sponsor a High School Junior, please conduct interviews in your local area. April 1, 2023 is the deadline. Mail your paperwork and check to Tom O'Connell, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, New York 14207. An informational meeting will be held at Post 1041 on May 27. If you did not get my packet at the January County Meeting, please call me and I will get one to you along with my full report. 716-867-5730 or email to post1041@aol.com

Law & Order – Anthony Solina

Hello. Law and Order submissions may be made for a Police Officer; Firefighter; EMT; Corrections Officer; 911 Dispatcher; Fire Department Company; Emergency Squad and/or a Police Department. Please speak with local officials in these fields or look for news articles to nominate someone deserving. Firefighter or EMT of the year can also be for many years of service if they are still considered active. I ask that all submissions are in my hand (by mail or at a meeting) by the March County Meeting taking place on March 29th. This person DOES NOT need to be a veteran or legionnaire. Updated versions of the submission forms were sent separately by email or on the Department website. My address is:

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

Questions? Call/text (716) 949-3341. Thank you in advance for your support of this great American Legion program. For God & Country.

Department Leadership Visitation – Gary Wald

Let's give our Department Leadership Team a memorable Erie County welcome as they travel through the 8th District. Purchase a Dinner ticket in the amount of \$32 per person for attending a dinner honoring Department American Legion Commander David Riley Sr., Department Auxiliary President Nancy Babis, and SAL Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II on Friday February 17, 2023. The Dinner is being held at the Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075 starting at 5:30 PM with a cash bar, introductions and speakers at 6:30 PM, and dinner immediately afterward. Your \$32 payment must be received at Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara St., Buffalo, NY 14202, no later than Wednesday February 8, 2023. No sales after February 8.

There is a special rate to those requiring hotel accommodation on the night of February 17th at the Hampton Inn., 5444 Camp Rd., Hamburg, NY, 14075 (716-649-3769 Josh Reinhardt Gen. Mgr). Just Tell them you are with the American Legion. Rooms are \$105. The hotel is 2 miles from Hamburg Post and located right by Exit 57, of the NY State Thruway. For any questions, Mobile 716-863-1919, Home 716-655-0836 Email Gwald10@aol.com

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Erie County is not submitting a candidate for 2023 8th District Legionnaire of the Year. We did not have a Legionnaire of the Year last year to submit as a candidate this year. I encourage all Posts to submit a candidate for Legionnaire of the Year. Let's recognize our outstanding legionnaires. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. Specifics about submitting the resume of a candidate are posted on the Erie County Website. Contact Kathleen Garvey at kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com or 716-635-5029. Submit the resume of your candidate for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 8, 2023.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates Ave. Sloan, NY 14212 on Thursday February 23 at 7 PM. No food service that night.

Thanks go out to all Posts who attended the January County Meeting.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at our 2/23 meeting.

Future County Meetings:

March 30, David McKeever Post #64

April 27, East Aurora Post #362

May 18, LL Tillman Post #900

Sunday, February 5, 2023

8th District Conference

To be held in Niagara County at Wheatfield Post #1451, 6525 Ward Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132. Budget & Finance at Noon, Membership Mtg at 12:20 PM, Meeting 1 PM.

**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 March
"The Legion-Air"

Due February 24

thelegionair@gmail.com



A \$15,000 from the Department of New York American Legion was presented to WNY Veterans Housing Coalition on Monday 1/23/23 to assist in purchasing new bedding for Veterans, who will reside in the recently converted Public School 75. Pictured (L to R) Erie County VC Ted Balbierz, Erie County Commander Fred Pask, WNYVHC Officer Chris Kennedy, WNYVHC President/CEO Gigi Grizanti Cooke, Department of NY Vice Commander James Bojanowski & 8th District Commander Henry Link.



At the Mid-Winter Albany Conference presented a donation to the leading candidate for Department commander Tim Collmer. Pictured (L to R) Timothy Van Patten, Jim Bojanowski, Tim Collmer, Fred Pask, Tom Deinzer, and Sue Quirk.

Sunday February January 19, 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.

Saturday February 25, Hamburg SAL Squadron 527, 2 Memorial Dr. Take Out or Eat In Chicken BBQ and Ladies Auxiliary Basket Raffle. 2 – 6 PM. Tickets \$14, Pre-Sale, \$15. at the Door. Tickets, contact Ed Warhol amished@roadrunner.com or 716-480-9698. Chicken by Weidner BBQ.

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 Closed Christmas & New Year's Day.

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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 2/24 for the March 2023 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor