



The Legion-Air

Ted Balbierz
Commander

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July 2023

Commander's Message:

I am humbled by the opportunity as your choice to lead our Erie County American Legion and work alongside all of you to uphold the values that the American Legion represents. As we embark on this new chapter together, I want to emphasize the importance of unity within our ranks. We must continue to stand shoulder to shoulder, ensuring that our veterans receive the care and support they deserve. By fostering a spirit of camaraderie, we can strengthen our collective impact and amplify our voice to effect positive change.

During my tenure as County Commander, I commit to upholding the values that have defined the American Legion since its inception. Our organization is built on the pillars of service, advocacy, and camaraderie. We must continue to honor our veterans by providing vital services, advocating for their needs, and fostering a sense of belonging within our community.

Additionally, I believe it is crucial to expand our outreach efforts. We must engage with all Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans, educating them about the value of being a member of America's leading Veterans Service Organization. We must instill a sense of patriotism and inspire them to carry the torch of service forward and do our very best to Be the One to prevent Veteran suicide.

The key to our success is collaboration with all service organizations, community leaders, and government agencies. By working together, we can pool our resources, share our expertise, and achieve greater results for those we serve.

As my first project, I am requesting any available Legionnaires plan to join with us as we assist Buffalo Habitat for Humanity in building a Veterans Home at 0830 on Saturday July 8th (location tbd). Please RSVP to me at tedb06@verizon.net if you plan to attend. Details will follow.

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

The new 2024 have been received and the distribution process has begun. I will have them at the July County Meeting or we can make alternate arrangements. You contact me at Cell: 716-681-7169
email: jckowalski@roadrunner.com

Commander's Message: Continued

In conclusion, I want to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity to serve as your American Legion County Commander. Together, we have the power to make a lasting impact on the lives of our veterans and their families. Let us embrace the challenges that lie ahead with determination and a commitment to excellence. Together, we will ensure that the American Legion continues to be a beacon of hope, support, and gratitude for those who have served our nation.

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



Newly elected Erie County Commander Ted Balbierz addresses the County Convention.
Picture by Sue Quirk.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

We are known around the world as confident and happy people. There's much to celebrate and many blessings to be grateful for. So, while it's good to talk about serious things, it's just as important and just American to have some fun. Now, let's have some fun, let the celebration begin!!

Light Up Your Fourth of July with some lighthearted quotes and sayings.

- ★ *You must love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the streets in show of muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism.*
- ★ *This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave.*
- ★ *We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it.*
- ★ *My favorite thing about the United States? Lots of Americans, one America.*
- ★ *America means opportunity, freedom, power.*
- ★ *We hold our heads high, despite the price we have paid, because freedom is priceless.*
- ★ *America is a tune. It must be sung together.*
- ★ *Then join hand and hand, brave Americans all. By uniting we stand by dividing we fall.*
- ★ *The United States is the only country with a known birthday.*
- ★ *America's family. We all yell at each other, and it all works out.*
- ★ *Happy 4th of July! Drink until you see stars... and stripes!*

In closing, wishing everyone a Safe and Happy Independence Day.

DUTY HONOR COUNTRY

God Bless and watch over our Military, Nations Leaders, and The American Legion and their families.

Gold Star Mothers/Memorial Day Mass



Erie County Chaplain Father Michael Johnson was the Celebrant of the Mass at Nativity of Our Lord Parish.

Memorial Day Services



Gold Star Mother Fran Davis gives her message with Erie County Commander Fred Pask at her side.



The Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Honor Guard salutes our departed Veterans.

Pictures by Sue Quirk.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

I am looking forward to the upcoming year of service as the Special Activities Chairman. I hope to have all the information regarding the ordering, printing, and distribution of Calendars ASAP, including the date of the Early Bird Drawing. I would appreciate everyone's support for our only fundraising project.

Congratulations to all newly elected Officers and thank you to all previous Officers

SPECIAL NOTE: For the rededication of the Patriot's and Heroes Park at Salvatore's on 6/21, the turnout was great and many Posts and Organizations were acknowledged. Special thanks to the Buffalo Police, Firefighters, and the Blue Knights Motorcycle Club.

New York American Legion College



Two Legionnaires from Erie County attended the recent New York American Legion Family College in June. Pictured (L to R), Sandy McIsaac from Jesse Clipper Post #430, New York Department Commander David R. Riley Sr., and Kathleen Garvey from ERIECO Women's Post #1586.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The first Regular Meeting of this new American Legion Year of the Erie County Committee will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 on Thursday July 27, located at 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221 in the rear grove. The Post will be serving a Picnic Dinner, Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, and Dessert for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County, with many of our Delegates and Alternates attending these monthly Erie County Regular Meetings. The Monthly Executive County Meetings have stopped to streamline the process.

Future County Meetings:

August Date TBD, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1626

September 28, Location TBD

October 26, Location TBD

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

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

**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 August
"The Legion-Air"
Due July 28
thelegionair@gmail.com



National Executive Committee Alternate Timothy Van Patten installs the newly elected Erie County Officers. (L to R) Past Commander Fred Pask, Commander Ted Balbierz, Vice Commander Paul Wackowski, Vice Commander Jerry Kowalski, and Finance Officer Joseph Porempski. Vice Commander Pat Murphy was unable to attend. Picture by Sue Quirk.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

Sunday July 28 - Francis J Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225, Summer Music Event GD ROSE COUNTRY AND WESTERN SHOW 8-11 PM. Fresh Hot Pizza available.

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

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2-8 PM Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials. Wednesday 75 cent Wings and \$3 Tacos.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 7/28 for the August 2023 edition of the new American Legion year. Jim Bojanowski Editor