



The Legion-Air

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January 2023

Commander's Message:

During the past month I have attended the 8th District conference in Leroy, the Post 1528 Christmas Party, the VAVS annual wreath ceremony at the Buffalo VA center, McKinley High School JROTC awards dinner. I presented a Certificate of Appreciation for work they did at Forest Lawn, to the Battalion Commander.

I am requesting that all Post membership chairpersons step up their recruitment efforts to reach the goals set forth by the Department of New York. I would like to see all Posts at 100% by the end of this membership drive. As was stated in the past, "If each member enrolled one new member the total membership would double".

The end of the year is approaching, this is a good time to list all the events and functions that your Post participated in during the past year so that when it is time to submit the Consolidated Post Reports you will have the necessary information.

Remember to make the call and BE THE ONE that may prevent a suicide.

I would like to wish my staff and all members of the American Legion Family a very happy and healthy Holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

Yours in the Legion



Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

13 of 35 Posts in Erie County are currently at or above the December 75% Membership Goal and I would like to encourage each Post to be proactive in reaching out to encourage membership renewals & revites to ensure that your Posts achieve 100%. The next Membership Goal is 80% on January 12th 2023.

When I joined the Legion in 2016, I really did not know what it was all about? It had been ten years since my retirement from the Air Force. I had served in Iraq & Afghanistan and had seen the world serving beside the best men and woman that this country has to offer.

During the time after my separation, I felt that something was missing... Yes, I missed the travel, but the things I missed most were the camaraderie & sense of purpose. Both things that I have since rediscovered as a member of the American Legion.

No matter your time of service (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, GW1, Iraq or Afghanistan) our fraternity crosses all lines of branch served or era served. We are an organization tied by and for continued service and your Leadership & Mentorship is the standard for all Legionnaires to follow.

As we enter a new year, I would like to take this opportunity to Thank each of you for your friendship, guidance and for your commitment to American Legion throughout the year. You are what makes The American Legion a Great organization.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the new year and keep you all well!
Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion!
In Continued Service for God & Country...
Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

❄️ Greetings ! Legionnaires

Another New Year will begin. I Hope everyone will enjoy their Christmas and New Years with family and friends

As we start the New Year, let's not forget those veterans who may be struggling with every day challenges. Also keep in mind the "Be The One" Legion program, in addressing veteran suicide. If any legionnaire knows of a veteran that may be completing suicide, talk to them, get them the necessary medical assistance. Lastly, let's not forget the "Buddy Checks", an excellent way to also check on Legionnaires that you may not have heard from in a while. Check to see if they need any assistance be it medical, transportation to a medical facility, do they need someone to pick up their prescriptions or do they need transportation to pick them up or do they need to go grocery shopping. and while doing so remind them that their membership needs to be renewed.

Regarding membership, V/C Ted Balbierz has a membership program that is worthwhile looking into and for each Post to adopt.

In closing,
God Bless our Country, Military and the American Legion Family and their Families!

At the December County meeting, awards were presented to Teacher Mrs. Claudine Picado, Guidance Counselor Mrs. Elizabeth Porterfield, and the Bi-Lingo School 33, for their outstanding service in honoring veterans for Veterans Day by Vice Commander Paul Wackowski and County Commander Fred Pask.



Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

As of our December County meeting, I have collected 650 calendar returns. That means 350 calendars are still out there. Please try to get them to me by either calling me at 716 796 5341 or leave them at the Matthew Glab Post on 1965 Abbott Rd. in Lackawanna. You don't want to miss a day of 2023 for these calendars. I must have them in hand to qualify.



Erie County Historian Suzanne Quirk presents the 2021 – 2022 History Book which won first place in the Department to Past County Commander Gary Wald.



Erie County President Stephanie Baxter addresses the December County Meeting.

Department Leadership Visitation – Gary Wald

The Erie County American Legion Family is hosting 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 will be held at Hamburg Post #527 with cash bar and cocktails commencing at 5:30 PM. The Cost of the Dinner is \$32. Reservations are made by sending in your check made payable to Erie County American Legion at 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq. Buffalo, NY 14202 by Wednesday February 8. There are no door sales. You can also pay at the next County Meeting.

To support the program book, please take out a 1/8" page Ad for \$15. The dinner will also serve as the perfect time for you and /or your Post to support the projects of Commander David Riley, President Nancy Babis, and SAL Commander Timothy Van Patten II for their designated charities. For more detail, please refer to the letter sent that was sent out to everyone.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Resumes for Erie County Legionnaire of the Year are due April 8, 2023. The Guidelines and Information are available the Erie County American Legion Webpage:

<http://www.eriecountyal.org/Legionnaire%20of%20the%20year%20page.html>. The 2023

Guidelines will be similar to the 2022 Guidelines and will be posted this month. Submitting a Member for Legionnaire of the Year is a great way to recognize our Legionnaires. Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221. NO LATER THAN APRIL 8, 2023.

Law & Order – Anthony Solina

Remember to look for first responder candidates in your community to nominate for Law & Order Awards in Erie County. Applications are due by April 1, 2023.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218 on Thursday January 26 at 7 PM. The Post front lounge will have food available.

Thanks to the 15 Posts who attended the December County Meeting; 64, 205, 362, 527, 622, 735, 799, 838, 900, 1320, 1346, 1447, 1528, 1586, & 1626.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at our 12/15 meeting.

Future County Meetings:

February 23, Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320

March 30, David McKeever Post #64

April 27, East Aurora Post #362

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>

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



SUBMISSIONS
For the February
"The Legion-Air"
Due January 27
thelegionair@gmail.com



Erie County Vice Commander Ted Balbierz, third in line, presented the USAF Wreath at the WNY National Cemetery Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday 10, 2022 in Pembroke, NY. The Erie County American Legion contributed to the purchase of wreaths for this day along with a number of our Posts.

Wednesday January 11, PCC meeting at Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates Ave., Sloan, NY 14212, starting at 7 PM.

Sunday January 15, 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.

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. Come to the Donovan Post, to watch the Buffalo Bill games, except Christmas Eve, on our new 75-inch TV. Post opens 1 hour before game. Cold beverages and a meal are available during the game.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 1/27 for the February 2023 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor Enjoy the upcoming Holidays and Happy New Year!

