



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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March 2023

Commander's Message:

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Department of New York Leadership Team's Visitation a success. I especially want to thank Gary Wald and his committee for a job well done. Thanks go out to Kathleen Garvey for setting up the Naval Park Tour. Thanks go out to East Aurora Post #362 for hosting the luncheon. Thanks go out to the Hamburg Post #527 for hosting the dinner. Special thanks to Jim Bojanowski for pulling it all together.

Thanks go out to everyone who covered for me while I vacationed with my family!

I hope to see you all at the March 30 Erie County Meeting at David McKeever Post #64.

Yours in the Legion

Membership Continued;

All Posts need to become comfortable using My Legion and should be encouraging their Legionnaires to manage their individual Legion details using My Legion... Please let me know if you have any issues or require any assistance with your My Legion experience and I will do my best to assist...

Currently Erie County Membership is at 83% with the next Membership Goal of 90% Due on 3/8/23. Together we can get Erie County to 100% of its Membership Goal! Thank you for all you do for our American Legion!

May God Continue to Bless you and your families and keep you all well!

In Continued Service for God & Country...

Ted

Cell: 716-534-6288

email: TedB06@verizon.net

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

This month I would like to take this opportunity to stress the value of the "My Legion" Membership program. My Legion is a one stop membership management tool that allows Legionnaires and Sons to manage their individual memberships and provides functional reporting for American Legion Post and Sons of The American Legion Squadron adjutants and commanders through My Groups, which is the administrative side of MyLegion.org.

While this application was rolled out a couple years ago, individual Legionnaires and Posts have been reluctant to commit to using My Legion, based on previous developmental issues (that have since been resolved) and or are hesitant to log into My Legion due to feeling of a lack of computer literacy.

Please set these apprehensions aside, as the My Legion architects designed this program to be as user friendly as possible... While not perfect it gets better every day...

If you have not already created an Individual account, I highly encourage that you take the opportunity to Login and manage your own account with basic access and highly recommend Post Adjutants, Commanders or Membership Chairs familiarize yourselves with My Legion Functionality, specifically, to become comfortable with the Reporting & Remittal functions.

This area contains the most used reports for managing current membership, revitalization and communications affording Membership chairs access to manage their current rosters and provides an opportunity to create a list of headquarters Post 01 members defined by ZIP code or by mileage, sorted alphabetically, to include contact data that can be exported, saved or printed using the export icon.

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Freedom

We're all aware that Freedom isn't free. The price of freedom has no monetary value, but it has a different price. All one must do is visit a veteran cemetery or a veteran's hospital.

What is sometimes overlooked is the veteran that you see every day who has a medical condition in which they're living with every day. And what about the veteran that has a medical or mental condition that's not being addressed.

We need to get the word out to the community that freedom goes far beyond what social media projects or what they see, hear, or read about.

I'm encouraging all Legion posts and legionnaires to use the "Buddy Checks" and contact those members that you may have not heard from in a while to check on their welfare and wellbeing.

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 to get 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 at 10 AM

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



Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

I still have 2023 calendars for sale. Please contact me at my cellphone number 716-796-5341. Remember your support goes a long way towards funding our Erie County American Legion programs.

On another subject, I would like to point out that New York State has a program called Grants Gateway. I have been trying to process an application for my post, and I wanted to make you all aware of this program.

You can access the system at https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYDHG.

To get registered in the system you will need to process an application know as Grants Gateway Registration Form for Administrators. Be sure to include your Federal ID #. You will also need a SFS number, which can be obtained through the NYS Comptroller's office. Please note the Registration Form has to be notarized.

Once you establish an account with Logon ID and password, you will need to process a NYS Grants Gateway Pre-qualification Exemption Request before you can apply for whatever grants that are available. GOOD LUCK. It's a lengthy process.

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 30th. 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.

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.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at David McKeever Post #64, 1770 South Park Ave. Buffalo, NY 14220 on Thursday March 30 at 7 PM. No food service that night.

Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in Erie County at our 3/30 meeting.

Future County Meetings:

April 27, East Aurora Post #362
 May 18, LL Tillman Post #900

Erie County Convention to be held at the Milton J. Brounshide Post #205 on Saturday June 3. Please support their program book.

**Sunday, April 2, 2023
 8th District Conference**

To be held in Wyoming County at Hugh Lynch Memorial Post #737, 850 W. Main St., Arcade, NY 14009. 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.eriecounty.org>



Past Department Commander Charles Herschlag escorts Department American Legion Commander David Riley Sr. into the Erie County Visitation Dinner held Friday February 17 at Hamburg Post #527. Picture by Anne Baglio.



SUBMISSIONS
 For the April
 "The Legion-Air"
 Due March 31
thelegionair@gmail.com

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz presented proclamations to our Department of New York American Legion Family, Legion Commander David Riley Sr., Auxiliary President Nancy Babis, and SAL Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II.
Picture by Sue Quirk.

Friday March 10, Hamburg Post #527 will host Emerald Isle, a night of Irish Music and fun at 7 PM.

Saturday March 11, Concord Post #431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, Corned Beef Dinner, 4 – 7 PM, \$13, or Reuben for \$9. Auxiliary Scholarship event.

Saturday March 18, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, St. Patrick's Day Soiree, Dancing, Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar. \$25. Call 716-440-9805.

Sunday March 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.

Sunday March 26, 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.

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, 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 by 3/31 for the April 2023 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor