



The Legion-Air

Fred Pask
Commander

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May/June 2023

Commander's Message:

I want to say THANK YOU for allowing me to be the Commander of the Erie County Committee of the American Legion for the year 2022-2023.

I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity and honor to serve as Commander. During the past year I met some great members of the Legion Family.

Without the help from my staff the year would not have gone as smoothly as it did. I especially want to thank Adjutant, Jim Bojanowski for his guidance and help when I needed it.

This is the time of year that Local Posts are electing new officers, after the elections remember to submit the Post Officers report to the County. Another report that is due prior to the Dept Convention, is the CPR report showing the activities your Post has participated in during the past year. This is important, the data gained from this report is compiled on a national level, and is used when The American Legion National Committee gives its annual report to Congress, showing how many volunteer hours and money is used in furthering the cause of the American Legion.

In 1919 The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nations veterans, its service members and their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens. We must keep the four pillars in mind, as the purpose of our Post activities and events.

Again, I want to thank the Erie County Legionnaires, for the vote of confidence, electing me as Commander. I want to thank my staff for a job well done.

Yours within the Legion.

Membership: VC Ted Balbierz

As of Department latest membership report Erie County American Legion is at 89% with 9 Posts at or above 100% of Departments and 19 Posts are within reach. With Department 100% Goal due Wednesday May 10th, I would encourage all Posts to make a final push during the last couple weeks to finish strong.

In an effort to recognize those Posts achieving 100% In my last membership update, I requested Shirt Sizes for each Post Membership Chairman & Commander. Please provide sizes as soon as possible so we can place order to have shirts prior to convention.

As we approach the end of this Legion year, I would like to thank each of you for all that you do to promote our American Legion.

Membership in the American Legion offers continued service, sense of purpose & camaraderie. When soliciting new members or the renewal of past members, promoting all the good that your Post does for your communities throughout the year is directly related to a healthy membership role.

I would like to take this opportunity to Congratulate Erie County American Legion Commander Fred Pask as he completes his 2022-23 term as Commander of our Erie County American Legion. Thank you for your mentoring and for the confidence that you placed on myself and the entire ECAL Staff.

It has been my honor to have served as Membership Chair and as one of your Vice Commanders and look forward to continued Service & Commitment to our American Legion.

May God Continue to Bless you as Leaders of our American Legion and your families!

Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of our American Legion!

Cell: 716-534-6288

email: TedB06@verizon.net

Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

As I looked at the calendar, I couldn't help but notice that another Erie County American Legion year will be soon ending. "My where does the time go". It is on that note that, I sincerely express my gratitude to the Erie County American Legion Nominating committee for allowing me to serve as County Vice Commander for the County Legion year 2022 – 2023. Commander Fred Pask for appointing me as Americanism Chairman- it's been an honor. And finally, the entire County Membership for allowing me to serve as County Vice Commander. To all of you "Thank You" – it has been an honor.

Family, Friends and Neighbors, cookouts, BBQ's, hot dogs, and gathering through this nation are going to take place during the Memorial Day Holiday. Amidst all these celebrations, let us pause for a moment as, "**We do not forget**", **what this holiday is all about.**

Whether it's an hour ago or a century ago, we remember. Just ask the countless number families who have lost someone very dear to them while serving our great nation. We honor all our fallen heroes, regardless of how many decades or centuries have passed. "All gave some". "Some gave All". So that others can enjoy freedom. The American Legion Family has a special obligation to honor and remember all our county's fallen heroes. We are founded in the aftermath of World War I, which claimed the lives of more than 116,000 Americans.

We honor the heroes of all wars, not just on Memorial Day, but through our daily commitment to ensure that America remains a place worthy of such sacrifice. We honor these heroes by supporting those who are currently serving in our armed forces. Whether at a domestic base or in a combat zone, military service comes with inherent dangers. On March 29th, nine young soldiers with the Army's 101st Airborne Division lost their lives when two Black Hawk helicopters crashed near Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It will always be painfully felt by the Gold Star Families who will mourn them for the rest of their lives. The one common characteristic that we and those who gave all is, all of us took an oath to die for America if called upon. We can ensure that the memories of those heroes and their sacrifice are not in vain. We can ensure that future generations will understand the importance of service, sacrifice, and honor. We can ensure it through our own community service that our country remains strong, free, and prosperous.

Gold Star Mothers/Memorial Day Mass

Will be held on Sunday May 28 at Noon at the Nativity of Our Lord Parish with Erie County Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson as the celebrant. The Church is located on 26 Thorn Ave., Orchard Park, NY 14127. Commander Fred Pask will host a light reception after the Mass at the new Orchard Park #567 Post home located on 5784 Ellis Rd.

Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services

We will be decorating graves on Monday 5/29 at 8 AM and holding our services at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes.

Special Activities – VC Bernie Romanowski

If there are any issues with the Calendars call me at 716-796-5341

I have requested assistance from Senator Tim Kennedy with the processing of the NYS Grants Gateway Prequalification Application for my post. Today I participated in a Webex Meeting with the NY State Office of Information Technology. They host a weekly Webinar on Thursday morning. You can register at <http://granstsmanagment.ny.gov/live> webinar. At the webinar I was informed that until my Post receives a Charities Registration Number and a SAM Cage Code, I cannot complete the extensive Grant Application process.

Boys State – Thomas O'Connell

We have 23 Boys registered this year. I am in the process of turning in the final paperwork. On May 27, there will be a light breakfast and meeting at 10 AM. This meeting is very important so I am going to make it **CASUAL AND MANDATORY** for the boy and at least one parent or guardian, along with the Post representatives. We will be busing the boys to Morrisville but **would** like the parents to go to the graduation on June 30. The bus will leave the Post on June 25 at 8:00 AM. If you have any questions call me at 716-867-5730. I do not always have the answer, but I will get it. Post1041@aol.com

Law & Order – Anthony Solina

Thank you to everyone who submitted a Law & Order packet. We have winners in four different categories: Police Officer, Police Department, Fire Fighter and Fire Department for the 2022-23 Legion year who will be announced at the County Convention in June.



Newell-Faulkner Post 880 Commander Jim Blidy, center, is presented with an Americanism Award by Vice Commander Paul Wackowski on the right, and Erie County Commander Fred Pask on the left. Picture by Sue Quirk.

Saturday May 20 – American Legion Family Homecoming for Department Commander David Riley Sr., President Nancy Babis, and Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II at Vernon Downs Casino Hotel. See the respective websites for detailed information.

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, 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.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at LL Tillman Post #900, 9 Eckerson Dr, Akron, NY 14001 on Thursday May 18 at 7 PM. The meeting is moved up due to the June 3rd Convention. Roast Beef Sandwiches and a side will be served at 6 PM. Cost \$10.

Thanks to the 21 Posts who attended the 4/27 meeting. Hopefully we can see representatives from all 35 Posts in at our 5/18 meeting.

**County Convention Saturday June 3
Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354
Delaware Ave., Kenmore, 14217**

Please support their ad and booster program book and your attendance.
Memorial Service 9 AM
Convention Start 10 AM
Registration from 8 AM to 11:30 PM

**8th District Convention - Saturday June 17
John W, Dill Post #434, Brocton, NY 14009**

**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.eriecounty.org>

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



**SUBMISSIONS
For the July
"The Legion-Air"
Due June 21
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Jesse Clipper Post 430 Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, assisted by Post 1928 Service Officer Venture Colon, installs the Officers of Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928, led by Post 1928 Commander John Sanabria.



Colors were presented at the recent Erie County Fairgrounds Equifest by Legionnaires, Joe Porempski, Larry Pask, Ted Balbierz, Jim Bojanowski, and Ken Fritz. The National Anthem was sung by 9 year old Sophia Mammarello, pictured in the blue dress. Her Step Dad, Phillip Wytwa is a US Army Veteran and is pictured in the middle of the back row.

Friday May 5, Niagara Frontier Post #1041 Meat Raffle, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207. First spin at 7 PM. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Call Tom O'Connell at 867-5730.

Sunday May 14, MOTHERS DAY 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 May 14, MOTHERS DAY Breakfast Buffet at Concord Post #431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville from 9 AM to 1 PM. Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Pancakes, Home Fries, Muffins, OJ, Coffee, etc. Adults \$15, \$5 children 4 – 9, children 3 and under free.

Sunday June 4, Frank L. Gierlach Post 1320, 50 Gates St Sloan NY will have a Chiavetta chicken dinner from 1-5 PM or until sold out. Price is \$14 per dinner presale, \$15 at the door. Text Sue at (716) 698-5713 for tickets.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 6/21 for the July 2023 edition of the new American Legion year. Jim Bojanowski Editor