



The Legion-Air

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November 2023

Commander's Message:

On Tuesday October 3, I attended Hamburg Post 527 monthly meeting that was very well attended. Thank you Commander John Grotke for the invitation. I am looking forward to my upcoming visitations with all Erie Counties Posts. Please email me at [tedb06@verizon.net] about any upcoming Membership Meetings and all upcoming events so I can plan to attend.

On Friday October 13, Erie County American Legion hosted National American Legion Commander, Daniel J Seehafer, along with Department Leadership, as they visited the 8th District. I Thank all those who participated in the Wreath Laying Ceremonies at both the African American & Hispanic American Veteran Memorials; those who facilitated the Buffalo Naval Park tour; Luncheon at the Milton J Brounshidle Post and Dinner at Niagara Frontier Post. The National Commanders message was clear that we need to continue to "Be the One!"

I Thank the George F Lamm Post for hosting the Erie County American Legion Family Oktoberfest Picnic, as well as Erie County American Legion Auxiliary who managed both the Basket Raffle & Bake Sale in conjunction with a Sports Memorabilia Raffle sponsored by Zuba Zone and Entertainment was provided by Tim Van Patten II. The Oktoberfest Picnic was a Huge Success collecting \$5,252.80 for Variety Club of Buffalo! Thanks to everyone who participated!!!

Thank you for all you continue to do for our American Legion. Remember to Be-the-One and may God continue to bless our veterans, their families, and the United States of America.

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

Our membership goal for November 8 is 65%. Erie County is at 59% as of Oct. 20. We have 8 Posts over 75% and down to 4 Post under 50%. We are making progress.

I would like to get members out of Post #1 and into our local Posts. We need members to be paying their dues into a local Post. With new members in the Post, they might become an active member, not just a number in Post #1.

Our National Commander Daniel Seehafer has started a new program. It's called "Membership Incentive Dog Tag Coin". To qualify you need to recruit 2 new members into the American Legion. Transfers do not count, as a new member. There is a certification form available at MyLegion.org Or I will have blank forms at the Erie County meetings. The program ends 6/30/24, so you have lots of time to recruit 2 new members.

If you need help with membership, call 716-681-7169. I am here to serve you.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

We are heading into the end of the year and the Holidays are upon us. So to all you last minute Christmas shoppers, BUY A FEW CALENDARS, THEY ARE GREAT INEXPENSIVE GIFTS. If you don't give them away, you have multiple chances of winning. Plus the fact that you are helping the American Legion, because monies raised are used to fund good and needed activities in our area. Please help us help you. The Winner of the Early Bird Drawing will be announced at November meeting. Calendars can be picked up at the next County Meeting or contact me by email at murphy8693@gmail.com or by phone at 716 289 4143 to make other arrangements. Make sure your stubs are filled out correctly. All sold stubs must be returned before the New Year to be valid.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Veterans Day is a special day when we come together to honor and express our gratitude to the brave men and women who have served in the armed forces. It is a time to reflect on their sacrifice, courage, and dedication to protecting our freedoms.

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day, commemorating the end of World War 1 on November 11, 1918. It was officially recognized as a national holiday in 1918. In 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor veterans of all wars. Veterans Day stands as a symbol of appreciation for those who selflessly served their country, defending the principles of liberty and justice.

On Veterans Day, it is crucial to express our gratitude and recognition to veterans for their service. These brave individuals have willingly put their lives on the line to protect our nation's values and secure our way of life. Whether they served during times of peace or in the midst of conflict, their dedication deserves our utmost respect.

Our veterans come from diverse backgrounds, representing various races, gender, religions. And ethnicities. Veterans Day provides an opportunity to celebrate the diversity within our armed forces and recognize the unity that emerges when people work together for a common cause. It is a reminder that our strength as a nation lies in our ability to embrace and value our differences.

While Veterans Day is a time to honor our veterans, it is equally important to support them throughout the year. Many veterans face challenges when transitioning back to civilian life, including physical and mental health issues, unemployment, and homelessness. We can support them by advocating for policies that provide necessary assistance and resources, volunteering our time, or simply offering a listening ear.

Veterans Day serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans. It is a day to express our heartfelt appreciation and to reflect on our freedoms we enjoy because of their dedication. Let us honor and support our veterans not only on this special day but every day, recognizing their immense contribution to our nation's history and to our lives as individuals.



Jane Riemer wins the TV at Oktoberfest with Commander Ted Balbierz. Thanks everyone for your support. Picture by Sue Quirk.



2023 Post Membership Leaders received Citations and American Legion Jackets at the September Erie County Meeting at Concord Post #431. Picture by Sue Quirk.



Erie County Staff pictured with National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer during his October 13, 2023 Visitation. Picture by Timothy Van Patten II.

National American Legion Commander's Visitation honoring newly elected National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer on Friday October 13, 2023. Many thanks to everyone who supported this visitation through their participation, ads, and boosters. We received many compliments from all levels of the organization on the fine job that Erie County did in hosting our National leadership to WNY. The National Organization also did an excellent job with the video and write up of the Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park wreath presentations at the African American Veterans Memorial and the Hispanic American Veterans Memorial and ship tour of the USS Little Rock and USS Sullivans.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 on Thursday November 30 located at the Pucho Olivencia Community Center, 261 Swan St., Buffalo, NY 14204. The Post will be open by 6 PM for socializing, no dinner served that evening. There will be some light snacks.

Thanks go out to the 23 Posts that attended the September County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 721, 735, 799, 838, 880, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting.

Future County Meetings;

December 21, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626
 January 25, Niagara Frontier Post #1041
 February 29, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

**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>

Habitat for Humanity Veteran Build Days are Saturday November 4, and Saturday December 2, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Register at www.habitatbuffalo.org/volunteer-registration/ or email volunteer@habitatbuffalo.org



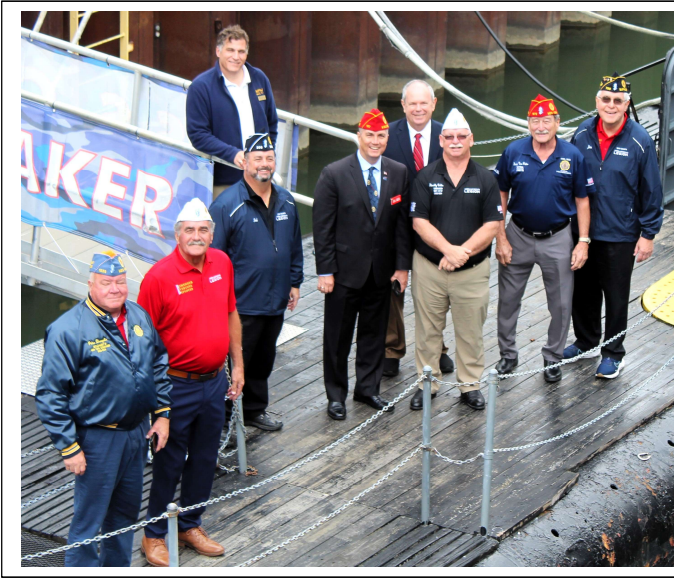
National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer gives his address at the African American Veterans Memorial emphasizing the "Be the One" program. Picture by Chip Rayno.



National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer gives his address at the Hispanic American Veterans Memorial. Picture by Chip Rayno.



SUBMISSIONS
 For the December
 "The Legion-Air"
 Due November 30
thelegionair@gmail.com



National Commander Visitation 10/13/2023
On the deck of the USS Croaker, from (L to R) SAL Detachment Commander Peter DeAngelis, Department Adjutant James Casey, County Commander Ted Balbierz, National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, National Aide Michael Rohan, Department Commander Timothy Collmer, National Executive Committee Timothy Van Patten, County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, and in the rear Naval Park Tour Guide Shane Stephenson, Curator and Director of museum collections. Picture by Chip Rayno.

Saturday November 11, AJ Jurek Post #1672 Turkey Raffle

Saturday November 18, Iroquois Post #1587 Virtual Meat Raffle. Contact Post Commander Ron Cook Jr. to purchase tickets at 716-532-1587.

Sunday November 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 November 25, David McKeever Post #64 will be hosting a special Bingo and Basked Raffle at 2:00 PM. Doors Open at Noon. Food & Refreshments will be available. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the ECAL Veterans for Veterans, Inc. for Transitional Housing for Our Homeless Female Veterans. Please come and support our Female Veterans!

Every Wednesday, Orchard Park Post #567, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Chicken Chiavetta's BBQ Dinner from 2 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Cost is \$15. Dinners end 11/15.

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. 11:30 am. to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT, Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 10 for \$7.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. www.post880.com

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1956 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed, and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials, Wednesday 50 cent wings from 2 – 4 PM and 75 cent wings from 4 - 8 PM and \$3 Tacos.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga. New Chef, New Food Items, Fish Frys every Friday 1 to 10 PM, starting September 8. Live Bands every Friday 8-11 PM. Starting 9/1 with food/refreshments available, all BILLS Games will be on the big screen.

Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners now have Indoor Seating and To Go Dinners. Serving 4:30-6:30 PM. To/Go Order, call after 2:00 PM at 716-649-4667 or order at door. \$9 for Regular Size and \$11 for Large Size, with a \$.50 charge for To Go containers. (No Dinners on Nov. 23)

South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo will be serving Meat Loaf Dinners on Monday November 6th & 20th, Spaghetti or Rigatoni Dinners on Monday November 13th & 27th and on Friday November 10th and 17th we will have Roast Beef & Chicken Wings. Call 716-825-9557 for takeout.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 11/30 for the December 2023 edition. Jim Bojanowski Editor