



The Legion-Air

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Commander's Message:

Between August 25 and 30, I was honored to be represent Erie County at the 104th American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, NC and would highly recommend any interested legionnaires make this trip. Next year, the 105th American Legion Convention will be held August 23 – 29, in New Orleans, LA.

On Saturday September 9, I along with County Vice Commander Jerry Kowalski, Finance Officer Joe Porempski, Adjutant Jim Bojanowski along with 8th District Commander Nelson Oldfield marched in Iroquois Post 1587 Annual Fallfest Parade. Thank you Commander Ron Cook for all your hospitality.

On Tuesday September 19, I conducted my first Post visitation and attended Niagara Frontier Post 1041 monthly meeting that was very well attended. Thank you, PCC Tom O'Connell, 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to Encourage all Erie County American Legion Family members to participate in upcoming Habitat for Humanity Veteran Builds; Saturdays; October 14, November 4, and December 2. I will forward registration details prior to each event.

On Friday October 13, Erie County will be hosting American Legion National Commander Daniel J Seehafer visit the 8th District. A dinner will be held at Niagara Frontier Post 1041. If you have not already done so, please forward any Dinner Program Ads and Boosters as soon as possible Deadline is Monday October 2. As previously announced, Dinner tickets are \$35 per person with a cash bar. I am encouraging all Post Legion family leadership and members to welcome our National and Department Leadership.

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

Membership for this year has been progressing. We have several Posts above the 70% level already. Don't let up, every day is a membership day. Don't wait until the end of the year to capture new members, go after them now. Another tip, is to use your local "Bee" newspaper. Contact the editor and start a "Veterans View" weekly column. Write articles about joining the local Post, highlighting events that your Post is doing. Mention about our Buddy Check Program, especially for older Veterans who may need a friend. This is a great way to get the American Legion and your Post out into the public's eye.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

The Erie County calendars are now available for distribution. Please pick them 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. The Early Bird drawing will be at the end of October. Make sure your stubs are filled out correctly. All sold stubs must be returned before new year to be valid.

Commander's Message Continued

On a Personal note, on behalf of my family, I would like to thank the entire Erie County Legion Family for all their thoughts, prayers & support on the passing of my mother. Who passed on August 29th while I was at the National Convention in Charlotte.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Are we more a divided country than before?

In recent years, there has been a growing concern about the increasing divisions within societies. Many argue that these divisions have reached unprecedented levels, leading to a perception that our country is more divided than ever before. While it is true that there are significant challenges and divisions in society today. It is important to consider historical content and the complex nature of social dynamics before drawing any definite conclusions.

POLITICAL POLARIZATION:

One of the primary factors contributing to the perception of division is political polarization in many countries, including the United States, political ideologies have become increasingly extreme, leading to heightened tensions and animosity between different factions. Social media and a 24-hour news cycle have amplified these divisions, creating echo chambers that reinforce existing beliefs and discourage constructive dialogue.

SOCIAL AND CULTURE FRAGMENTATION:

Society has become more diverse and multicultural, which can lead to social and cultural fragmentation. People from unusual backgrounds may have different values, beliefs, and world views, which can sometimes cause the advent of and conflicts. However, it is important to recognize that diversity can also enrich societies by fostering tolerance, understanding, and creativity.

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY:

Another significant factor contributing to division is economic inequality. The gap between rich and the poor has widened in many countries, leading to frustration and resentment among those who feel left behind. Economic disparities can create social divisions, erode trust in institutions, and breathe social unrest.

TECHNOLOGICAL INFLUENCE:

The advent of social media and digital communications has revolutionized the way we interact and consume information. While these advancements have brought numerous benefits, they have also facilitated the spread of misinformation and disinformation. This has further fueled divisions and created a lack of trust in traditional sources of information, making it difficult to find common ground and shared understanding.

OKTOBERFEST 10/22/23 – Ted Balbierz

It has been many years since we have all come together socially to enjoy each other's company. We are going to have a Family Picnic/Social that would have a dual purpose of raising funds together for Variety Club of Buffalo.

I invite ALL Erie County American Legion Family (Posts, Units, Squadrons, Riders, and the Public) to join us at: 2023 Oktoberfest Picnic Fundraiser: which will include a Large Ticket Basket Raffle Sponsored by Zuba Zone, a Regular Basket Raffle, Bake Sale run by EC Auxiliary, Basket donations from everyone would be appreciated). Entertainment will be provided by Tim Van Patten II. Lamm Post Televisions will be showing Bills vs Patriots Game. Please Bring, your Cornhole and Horseshoe Sets and any other Picnic Related Fun Items. Tickets will be available through your local Legion Family locations and at Zuba Zone, 5872 Transit Rd, Depew, NY. At a minimum please join us; Volunteer to assist the day of the event. (setup, cooks, cleanup, etc.) Donate Baskets, and Participate in the Raffles. This event can only be a success, if each member of the Erie County Legion Family join together for an afternoon of Family Fun supporting this very worthy cause. Please Encourage your Posts/Units/Squadrons/Riders to Participate and Present a Children and Youth Donation.

HISTORICAL PROSPECTIVE: VC Paul

It is essential to consider historical content when evaluating the current state of division. Throughout history, societies have faced numerous challenges and periods of intense division. Civil rights movements, political revolutions, and social reforms have often been accompanied by deep divisions and social unrest. While the current divisions may seem significant, they are not necessarily unique or insurmountable.

CONCLUSION:

While it is undeniable that divisions exist within our society, it is crucial to avoid succumbing to the pessimistic view that we are more divided than ever before. Understanding the complex factors contributing to these divisions is essential for finding ways to bridge the gaps and foster unity. Constructive dialogue, empathy, and a commitment to addressing the root cause of division can help us build a more inclusive and harmonious society. Rather than dwelling on our divisions, let us focus on finding common ground and working towards a shared future.

National American Legion Commander's Dinner honoring newly elected National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer on Friday October 13, 2023 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041. Reservations for dinner are \$35 per person and are made by mailing in your payment to Erie County headquarters at 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq., Buffalo, NY 14202. Payment must be received by Friday 10/6. There will be no payment at the door. Cash Bar refreshments starting at 6 PM, with a Meatloaf and Pork Chop Dinner starting at 7 PM.

Thanks go out to everyone who supported this event with the purchasing of Ads and Boosters.



At the September Seneca Nation Fall Festival, Iroquois Post #1587 Judge Advocate Bella Cook administers reenlistment to her daughter Petty Officer 2nd Class P02 Rebecca Cook, US Navy, while her proud Father Ron Cook Jr. observes.



NEC Timothy Van Patten, Jim Bojanowski, Joe Porempski, and Ted Balbierz at the 2023 Charlotte National American Legion Convention. Picture by Sue Quirk.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

NOTE: THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED UP ONE WEEK TO OCTOBER 19.

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at Matthew Glab #1477 on Thursday October 19 located at 1965 Abbott rd. Lackawanna, NY 14218. The Post will be serving a Pork Chop Dinner for \$10, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 23 Posts that attended the September County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 880, 900, 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:

November 30, Gabriel A. Rodriguez #1928
 December 21, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626
 January 25, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

**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 October 14, 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



SUBMISSIONS
 For the November
 "The Legion-Air"
 Due October 27
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Iroquois Post #1587 Memorial Service at the conclusion of the Seneca Nation Fall Festival Parade. Post Commander Ron Cook Jr. thanks everyone for their support of this event.

Wednesday October 11, PCC meeting at Depew Post at 7 PM

Saturday October 14, Matthew Glab Post 1477 will host a Polka Night with John Gora, from 6:00 to 10:00 PM. Tickets \$15.00. Polish food available for Purchase.

Sunday October 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.

Thursday October 19, Niagara Frontier Post 1041 Legion Family All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner from 5 - 7 PM. Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, chef salad and dessert. 13 and over \$10.00, 5-12 yrs. \$5.00, 4 and under free. For tickets call Tom at 716-867-5730. Dine in or takeout available.

Saturday October 21, Meat Raffle at Concord American Legion Post 431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY 14141. Starting at 7 PM. Cover charge \$5.00. A Pie Auction by Damon Gentner, Auctioneer. Food, drinks, available. Bring own snacks. Cash bar. Proceeds to help Veterans in need.

Sunday October 22, Erie County American Legion Family Octoberfest Picnic to be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 to support Buffalo Variety Club from Noon to 5 PM. Donation is \$10. See article.

Sunday October 29, Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Dr., Soup-A-Thon, 1 - 4 PM. Taste all the Homemade Soups for \$7. Desserts available for purchase. There will also be a Theme Basket Auction.

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.

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 begin Sept. 7th, 2023 with Indoor Seating and To Go Dinners. Serving 4:30–6:30 PM. To/Go Order, call after 3:00 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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/27 for the November 2023 edition. Jim Bojanowski Editor