



The Legion-Air

Ted Balbierz
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

(716) 852-6500

Fax: (716) 852-4664

September 2023

Commander's Message:

On Saturday August 5th Erie County American Legion Family members participated in our 2nd Habitat for Humanity Build. Working together on a refurb in progress at 52 Olcott Place. Our team cleaned up an overgrown yard and removed old windows. Special Thanks goes out to Newcomb-Long Unit 928 who delivered lunch to us.

Please join with us at future events (date & time TBD) as we assist Buffalo Habitat for Humanity, in building another Veterans home.

I also joined with Legion Family members of Newell-Faulkner Post 880 and volunteered my time serving beer at the Eden Corn fest to benefit the Post. I can say that the fringe benefits were well worth the time. :)

On Monday August 7, I joined with Erie County Clerk Mickey Kearns along with Legionnaires from the Gabriel Rodriguez Post 1928 as he held a ceremony at Erie County Hall, recognizing Veterans on National Purple Heart Day.

I would like to thank all those who participated on Sunday August 13, in this year's Veterans Day at the Erie County Fair and would like to recognize PCC/EC Historian Suzanne Quirk and PCC Tom and all those who Volunteered to setup and staff ECAL Vietnam Display at this year's Fair Deinzer Historical exhibit. Next year's theme will be Community Events & gatherings.

During the Fair, I joined with Erie County American Legion Chaplain Fr. Michael Johnson who celebrated Catholic Mass, immediately followed by Veterans Memorial Ceremony hosted by PDVC/EC Adjutant Jim Bojanowski and participated in this year's Flag & Rose Ceremony with Erie County Auxiliary President Cheri Hahn.

For future planning, please set aside Friday October 13, as National American Legion Commander Daniel J. Seehafer is planned to visit 8th District & Erie County. Niagara Frontier Post 1041 will be the host for the dinner.

Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski

Welcome back from your vacations and summer, and let's get to work. At this early point of the year, membership numbers don't mean much. Now is the time to increase our membership.

My first tip to help find members, is in Post #1. Access to Post #1, is through MyLegion.org. This is where you can print off "Members in your Area". The print out has the name, address, phone numbers, and email addresses. This is a very valuable source of information. Your Membership Chairman can get help from other members to make calls or send out emails. We need members in our local Post, not in Post #1. Once they see what is happening in a local Post, they maybe come active members. Good luck, and more tips to come.

Commander's Message: Continued

Dinner cost will be \$35. This is a great opportunity for all 35 Erie County Posts, Units, Squadrons, & Riders to join together to welcome our Leadership in attendance. Erie County is the Largest County in the Department of New York. I encourage each Erie County Post to please support this event by attending, purchase a program ad or boosters. Please email me at [tedb06@verizon.net] about any upcoming Membership Meetings and all upcoming events so I can plan to attend. While I cannot promise to attend all events, you have my word that I will do my very best to support any upcoming Post functions and events. I am also looking forward to my scheduled visitations. Thank you for all you do for our American Legion. Remember to Be-the-One and God Bless our veterans, their families, and the USA.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Where were you! Remembering 9/11; A Day That Changed Our World. On the morning of September 11, 2001, the world stood still as a series of unprecedented terrorist attacks unfolded in the United States. The impact of these events, forever etched in our collective memory, reshaped the course of history, and left an indelible mark on humanity. Let us take a moment to reflect on the tragic events of 9/11, and honor the lives lost.

The Attacks - As the sun rose on that faithful day Tuesday, four commercial airplanes became weapons of destruction in the hands of terrorists. The first two planes, American Airlines Flight 11, and United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, causing unimaginable devastation. Moments later, American Airlines 77 struck the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. And in the act of resistance, the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 77 fought back, leading to the plane's crash in a field in Pennsylvania, preventing further tragedy.

The Human Toll - The attacks claimed the lives of nearly 3,000 innocent people from more than 90 countries, leaving families shattered and communities in mourning. Among the victims were courageous first responders who selflessly rushed into danger to save lives, many of whom made the ultimate sacrifice. The pain and loss experienced by survivors and the families left behind endure to this day.

Unity and Resilience - In the face of such unimaginable horror, a spirit of unity emerged. Americans from all walks of life stood together, offering support, compassion, and resilience. Firefighters, police officers and ordinary citizens worked tirelessly, sifting through the rubble, searching for survivors, and providing solace to those in need. The heroic acts of countless individuals in the aftermath of the attacks demonstrated the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

A Changed World - September 11, 2001, marked a turning point in history. The attacks prompted significant changes in national security policies and led to a global fight against terrorism. The world came to realize that the threat of extremism and violence knows no boundaries. Travel, immigration, and international relations were forever transformed, as nations sought to prevent future acts of terror and protect their citizens.

As we remember the events of 9/11, let us honor the lives lost and the heroes who emerged from the darkness. Their memory serves

as a reminder of the enduring spirit of humanity and the importance of unity in the face of adversity. May we continue to strive for a world where peace prevails and acts of compassion triumph over acts of hatred.

My tour of enlistment and duty have not ended, as I now serve in a different capacity in the American Legion – service to veterans.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

The Erie County calendars are now available for distribution. Please pick them up at the next County Meeting at Concord Post, 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 October County Meeting. This is the only Erie County fundraiser of the year.

September 11th Flags on the Bridge

Gather with the WNY Community as we fly the American flag in remembrance of the Fallen Heroes and Victims of September 11, 2001. Location - The Scajaquada pedestrian bridge over Route 198 near Hoyt Lake, 8:30 to 10:15 AM. Join Firefighters, Police and EMS, Military personnel, and veterans who will come together to observe the Anniversary of 9.11 Submitted by VC Paul Wackowski.

Oratorical – Wayne Sorrentino

The Erie County Oratorical Contest will be held on Saturday 12/9 at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 in the upper hall. I am in need of many helpers to assist with this task. We need approximately 12 volunteers in the form of timekeepers, judges, escorts, chief escort, tabulators, AT Moderator, Chaplain, Soloist, ushers, Leader, etc. Please phone or email me if you have an interest in helping with this contest, with supporting our Erie County American Legion Oratorical Contest & the Milton J. Brounshidle Post's Children & Youth Program. This event will begin at 1100 and be completed by 1400 (or so) so we don't interfere with the Navy-Army Game, which starts at 1500. I'm asking for only a few hours of your time on this one day and that's all. Let's show these high school kids that we appreciate their hard work and the effort they're putting into this competition. We all know how difficult it can be for these kids to get up in front of an audience and perform their orations. You can reach me at 716 891 5164 or

wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com

Please remember to work with your local High Schools to encourage participation in this youth development opportunity thru their public speaking classes. Last year's Department Oratorical Contest winner accumulated over \$50,000 of scholarships in a few years of participation, including 2nd place at National.

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. Please support expenses of the dinner by purchasing Ads, 1/8 page \$15, 1/4 page \$30, 1/2 page \$50, Full page \$100. Boosters are \$1 per name. Ads and Boosters are due to be received in the office by 9 AM on Monday October 2.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the Concord Post #431 on Thursday September 28, located at 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY 14141. The Post will be serving a Turkey Dinner and Pie for Dessert for \$10, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 20 Posts that attended the August County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 735, 838, 900, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the next meeting.

Future County Meetings:

October 26, Matthew Glab #1477
 November 30, Gabriel A. Rodriguez #1928
 December 21, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

Tuskegee Airmen - Past Jesse Clipper Post 430 Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce was interviewed on Channel 2 on 8/29, reviewing the Tuskegee Red Tail P-51C Mustang Flights Auction. More information can be found at aavmwny.org The Tuskegee Mobile Exhibit called the Red Tail exhibit is at Canalside.

8th District Conference

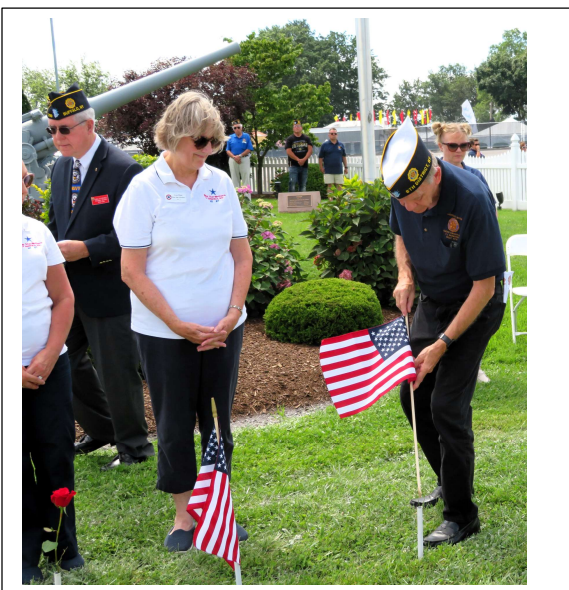
Sunday October 1, at Morrison-Hayes Post #702, 36 Jefferson St., Wellsville, NY 14895, Allegany County. Membership meeting at Noon, Meeting start at 1 PM.

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>



Erie County American Legion Fair Display Booth organized by Sue Quirk. Pictured are Tom Deinzer, Paul Wackowski, and Ted Balbierz. Of course, Sue took the picture.



8th District Commander Nelson Oldfield places a US Flag during the Veterans Memorial Service on Sunday 8/13/2023 at the Erie County Fair.



SUBMISSIONS
 For the October
 "The Legion-Air"
 Due September 29
thelegionair@gmail.com



On Saturday 8/5, The Erie County American Legion Family volunteers were at the Habitat for Humanity House building site at located on 52 Olcott Place, Buffalo, NY that is earmarked for a Veteran. From (L to R) Cheri Hahn, Mary Segelhurst, Ray Borawski, Ted Balbierz, Jim Bojanowski, and Nick Scott. Special Thanks goes out to Newcomb-Long Unit 928 who delivered lunch to the workers.

Saturday September 9, Iroquois Post 1587 “Seneca Nation Fall Festival” Parade, Memorial, and Veteran Luncheon (\$10 per meal ticket) event. (50/50 and Chinese Auction) please consider arriving around 10:30 am to avoid parade traffic road closure activity. RSVP Post Commander Ron Cook Jr @ 716-532-1587. Let him know if your Color Guard is participating.

Sunday September 17, 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 September 21, Niagara Frontier Post 1041 at 533 Amherst St, Buffalo is sponsoring an All You Can Eat Pasta Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. Dine in or Take Out. 13 and older \$10, 5-12 \$6, 4 and under free. Bar will be open for beverages. For more information contact Tom at 716-867-5730.

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, with a chance to win a big screen TV. Cash Bar and food will be available for purchase. The Buffalo Bills Game versus the New England Patriots will be on the televisions. More details out soon.

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. 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
Eden Corn Festival August 3, 4, 5, & 6.

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 9/29 for the October 2023 edition.
Jim Bojanowski Editor