



## *The Legion-Air*

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### **Commander's Message:**

As we enter 2024, I would like to take this opportunity to Thank each of you for your friendship, guidance and for your commitment to American Legion. You are what makes The American Legion a Great organization. As I look back on 2023, I am very pleased by what we as Legion Family continue to accomplish and am looking forward to 2024.

I had the pleasure of attending Depew Post 1528, George Lamm Post 622 & Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928 Christmas Parties and wish to thank them for the invitation and for all their hospitality. As of this writing I have been invited and have attended 9 of 35 Posts, and look forward to meeting with each of the remaining Posts prior to end of my term. Please review your upcoming meeting schedules and let me know when you would like to schedule my visit.

Special Thanks to all the entire County Staff, all Post Officers, Members the Erie County Auxiliary, Sons & Riders, along with all those members who volunteered their time and have been the driving force behind all of our success in 2023.

No matter your time of service (WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, GW1, Iraq or Afghanistan) our fraternity crosses all lines of branch served or era served. We are an organization tied by and for continued service and your Leadership & Mentorship is the standard for all Legionnaires to follow.

Hopefully, we will see some of you at the Albany Mid-Winter Conference 1/19 – 1/21/2024. There will be a lot of good information shared at the various meetings. See the Department website for the detailed agenda.

Wishing you and your families Good Health & Prosperity in the coming year. May God Continue to Bless Our Troops around the World and God Bless America!

In Continued Service for God & Country...

### **Membership: VC Jerry Kowalski**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. Let's congratulate the 2 Posts that have achieved 100% or more, Post #1928 and #1659. The following are in the 90's, Post #63, #1449, #1640. Our other Posts are moving up showing how hard we are working; we are making progress. Take a look at the 2024 Membership Incentive "Dog Tag Coins Program" Let's continue to make our Buddy Check calls. During the call ask the member if they renewed for 2024. Post Commander's use the guidebook available to you at [Membership@Legion.org](mailto:Membership@Legion.org). Also, for Membership chairperson's look to [Legion.org/Publications](http://Legion.org/Publications). There is valuable information there to grow membership.

### **Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy**

Merry Christmas. The sale of calendars is going well. This is the end of the year, and the last chance to get calendars before the new year starts. You are helping the American Legion raise funds for our programs. Contact me by email at [murphy8693@gmail.com](mailto:murphy8693@gmail.com) or by phone at 716 289 4143 to make arrangements. Make sure your stubs are filled out correctly. All sold stubs must be returned before the New Year to be valid.

### **Department Leadership Dinner**

The Erie County American Legion Family will host Department American Legion Commander Timothy J. Collmer, Department Auxiliary President Karen St. Helaire, and SAL Detachment Commander Peter J. DeAngelis on Friday, February 16, 2024. The Dinner will be held at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 5:30 PM and the Dinner at 6:30 PM. Dinner cost is \$35. Ticket deadline will be Wednesday February 7, 2024 thru the County Office or pay at the County meetings. \$1 each Boosters, plus various Ad sizes, due 2/2/24.

## Americanism - VC Paul Wackowski

Falling between World War II and Vietnam, the Korean War, which ended in an armistice, 70 years ago, has sometimes seemed to have a less vivid place in America's memory. But for those who fought in harrowing combat under brutal conditions there, the memories remain indelible, as they are for those who lost loved ones. And for those of Korean ancestry, the war marked the modern birth of a free and prosperous homeland.

**The Korean War:** Often referred to as the "Forgotten War," was a conflict that took place from 1950 – 1953 on the Korean Peninsula. It began on June 25, 1950, when North Korea, supported by the Soviet Union and China, invaded South Korea, which was supported by the United States and the United Nations.

**Causes:** Korea divisions after World War II, with the Soviet Union occupying the north, created tensions between the two sides. North Korean Kim Il -Song sought communist reunification of the peninsula, leading to the south invasion.

**International Involvement:** The United Nations Security Council passed a resolution condemning the invasion and authorized military intervention to repel the North Korean forces. A UN coalition, mostly led by the US, was formed to support South Korea, while China and the Soviet Union backed North Korea.

**Stalemate:** This quickly turned into stalemate along the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel, the dividing line between the two Koreas. Both sides launched offensives and counter offences but failed to achieve a decisive victory. This was settled into a battle of attrition with heavy casualties on both sides.

**Armistice Agreement:** After three years of intense fighting, negotiations led to the signing of an armistice agreement on July 27, 1953. The agreement restored the pre-war borders, created the Korean Demilitarized Zone [ DMZ], and established a cease-fire. However, no formal peace treaty has been signed, and technically, the war is still going on.

**Human Cost:** The Korean war had a significant human cost. Estimates suggest that over 2.5 million people, including civilians, military personnel, and prisoners of war, lost their lives. This resulted in widespread destruction of infrastructure, leaving the Peninsula divided.

**Legacy:** The Korean war had lasting impact. Communist North Korea Kim dynasty versus the South Korea democratic and prosperous nation. The conflict shaped the dynamics of the cold war, and influencing subsequent US foreign policy.



**Jerry Kowalski presented the American Legion medal for Military Leadership to a young Cadet from Hutch Tech JROTC at their annual Dining Out event at Classic V.**



**VAMC Wreath hanging. DVC Kathy Kindler, PCC Fred Pask, and CC Ted Balbierz.**



**A \$1,000 check was presented to VAMC Volunteer Director Nick Lamarca by 2019 Buffalo Convention Chair Jim Bojanowski.**

## Boys State Program – Felton L. Davis

I humbly accept the Erie County American Legion Boys State Chairmanship. I follow a long line of Legionnaires, such as Thomas O'Connell and the current Vice-Chair, Bernie Romanowski. They provided successful leadership for this program.

The latest NYS information is the Boys State 2024 Program is scheduled to be June 28 through July 3, 2024 at Morrisville State College. Additional information is on the Dept. website.

I would like each Post to send me the name, email address, phone number and postal address of their Boys State Committee Chairperson. My vision is for each Post to sponsor at least one Boys State candidate to attend NYS Boys State this coming summer. Please send your thoughts to: [felton1@aol.com](mailto:felton1@aol.com) and cc to [sz8p853@verizaon.net](mailto:sz8p853@verizaon.net) for our team to use. As always, thanks for your support.

## CALLING ALL SEABEES !

I'd like to organize a Dinner to celebrate the Seabee Birthday on **a Saturday in March 2024**. If you're a Member of an Erie County American Legion Post & a Navy Seabee (EO, CM, CE, UT, BU, SW or EA) please contact Post 205 Historian Derek Sansone at: (585) 313-9671 or [killerbee05@hotmail.com](mailto:killerbee05@hotmail.com) **by Saturday, February 24, 2024**. This way, I can select a date & a centrally located restaurant based on those interested. **CAN DO !** Post Commanders & Representatives, please assist by pushing this invitation & RSVP request.

## NYS Veterans Nonprofit Capital Program - Bernie Romanowski

There will be a webinar on January 9 to gain more information on this Post capital improvement grant program.  
<https://dasny.zoom.us/j/86757784774?pwd=REpXQlJJRGtHMkY2WXNMT3hWd3lBQT09>  
Passcode: 219015

Each Post must be prequalified to participate in the grants gateway program. Get started now! You will need a charities registration number, copies of your bylaws, copies of your nonprofit status and more. There will be a blackout period from 1/9 to 1/17 as they convert their software. Take advantage of the training program the State offers. VNCP applications are due 4/19. They are detailed and you need a good grant writer. Awards are expected to be announced by 5/17/2024.



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 1/25 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041 located at 533 Amherst St., Buffalo 14207. No meal that evening due to potential weather issues.

Thanks go out to the 25 Posts that attended the December County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 567, 607, 622, 721, 735, 799, 900, 1131, 1320, 1346, 1377, 1449, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 1/25 meeting.

## Future County Meetings:

February 29, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205  
March 28, David McKeever Post #64  
April 25, East Aurora Post #362

## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

2024 submissions will be due in April. The exact date will be forthcoming. Let's recognize our outstanding legionnaires. All Posts have at least one person who always steps up the plate to help out. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. The candidate submission guidelines will be on line by the end of the year.

**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>

**Happy New Year to ALL!!!**



SUBMISSIONS  
For the February  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due January 26  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



**Erie County Commander Ted Balbierz attended the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 Christmas Party, pictured here with Post 1928 Commander John Sanabria and many Post members.**

**Saturday January 6**, PCC holiday dinner at 1 pm at Elma Towne and Grill for those that let us know by the December 22 deadline. Reminder cash bar.

**Wednesday January 10**, PCC meeting at the Gierlach Post at 7 pm. 50 Gates, St. Sloan, NY

**Sunday January 14**, 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 \$10, children under 12 \$4, children > 5 free.

**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 \$8.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. [www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com)

**Matthew Glab Post #1477**, 1956 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed, and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings and \$3 Tacos.

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga. Come and joins us for our Fish Fry Friday's. Dinners from 4-8pm with a live Band from 8-11pm. Dine in or take out available. Call 716-896-3346.

**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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 1/26 for the February 2024 edition. Jim Bojanowski Editor

**Happy New Year to ALL!!!  
Have a Healthy, Safe, and Prosperous 2024!**