



## *The Legion-Air*

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April 2015

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

The long cold winter is finally over – Welcome Spring!

On March 2, 3 we went to Albany for Hill Day where we met with our State Senators and Assemblymen representing Erie County and asked for their help in passing bills to benefit Veterans. This year we want to help Veterans with the performance of a study regarding homeless Veterans in the State of New York. Also Resolution #33 requests the Governor and New York State Legislature create and fund a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Biological Repair Treatment and Recovery Law. Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Treatment (HBOT) is being looked at. It has been internationally recognized as a viable treatment for mild TBI and PTSD at an overall lower cost of treatment than a lifetime of unproven prescription drugs.

On March 4 and 5, I went to Medina and Wellsville for the last two of Department Commander Frank Peters' Visitation Dinners.

A Testimonial Dinner honoring Greg (Doc) Gibbs, Sons of The American Legion National Vice Commander will be held at Hamburg Post 527 on Saturday, April 18, 2015. Social Hour at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM. Price is \$35/person. Deadline for reservations: Friday, April 10th. Make checks payable to: Committee to Elect Greg Gibbs. Mail reservations to: Dr. Greg Gibbs, 286 Highland Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075.

I hope to see you at the Testimonial Dinner for Erie County Auxiliary President Linda Miskell and myself on Saturday, April 25th, at the Hamburg Post #527. Cost will be \$25/person. Deadline for reservations: Friday April 17. Contact the Erie County Office at 852-6500 or VC Nelson Oldfield at 634-6394.

### **Membership – VC Wayne Sorrentino**

The cutoff date for Membership Awards and Convention seating is May 8th. Be sure to send in your Post's report to be received by that date in order to be counted for this.

According to Department's 3-25-15 report, we now have 6 Posts above the 100% mark and 1 additional Post above the 95% mark. Congrats to all involved. I'll be ordering shirts for their Membership Chairs and Post Commanders. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the entire Legion family. Keep up the great work. This year's shirts are MADE IN THE U.S.A. The price is only a few dollars more for each shirt compared to last year's shirts. If you look hard enough, you can find U.S. MADE items to support U.S. WORKERS.

We are now at a total of 262 new members against a self-imposed target of 300, which is up 26 new members since February. We have 28 Posts with at least one new member. It would be great if all of our Posts were successful with recruiting at least one new member. Remember to "Just Ask" and you'll be very surprised with the results. Keep Charging!

The next cut-off date (to stop National from sending out dues 'minders) is April 13th. Be sure to give Department time to get your renewals to National in time to stop renewal notices to your Post's members.

We all know that membership is never an easy job. Nothing worthwhile is ever easy. Membership should be considered one of the keys to the success of The American Legion since without members none of our programs could be possible. And so, our National Commander's goal for our 100th Anniversary during 2019 is 4M members, which works out to 1/2M Sons, 1M Auxiliary and 2.5M Legionnaires. Let's work toward that goal together.

## Special Activities – VC Nelson Oldfield

For those of you who did not attend the County meeting I would like to review the winners in the Calendar program. 20 of the 39 Posts participated. The top 4 Posts and the Calendars they sold; Hamburg Post 527 was number 1 with 113, Newcomb Long Post 928 in the number 2 spot with 77, David McKeever Post 64 in spot number 3 with 71, & East Aurora Post 362 with 56. It is interesting to note that the David McKeever Post and being one of the smaller Posts did a great job for their size. In this program, everyone really had a fair chance to win. The next five Posts were West Seneca #735 at 50, Frank Gierlach Post # 1320 at 47, Orchard Park 567 at 43, Troop I #665 at 35, & South Buffalo #721 at 34. The top four prizes were two Computer Tablets and two 19" TV sets. The balance of the Posts received Restaurant Gift certificates. The Gierlach Post for its size, also did a great job. I wish to thank all who helped make the program a success with your hard work. I wish I had more space here to thank everyone. The total Calendars sold was 904.

In regards to our Golf Outing, that will take place on Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> at Elma Meadows, Peter Hurd has been helping me to get the event off the ground. The membership approved the date as it was a little bit of a challenge because we needed to stay away from the Erie County Fair and The National Convention, and keep it in the Month of August. So get your golf clubs ready and mark the date down. More to follow on this in future issues of the newsletters.

I have tickets for the Testimonial Dinner for Paul Steward & Linda Miskell for April 25<sup>th</sup> if you need them. Please send me a check made payable to the Erie County American Legion– Nelson Oldfield 126 Greenway Blvd Cheektowaga NY 14225. Tickets are \$25 each.

## Erie County Office Hours

Staffed by Tim Van Patten every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the May/June**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**DUE**  
**April 24**  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



## Americanism – VC Joe Orzechowski

March 25<sup>th</sup> was National Medal of Honor Day. I know it's a bit late but it might be appropriate for us to take a moment to reflect on the deeds of all those individuals who earned the right to wear that "badge of courage". The date March 25<sup>th</sup> was chosen because it was on that date back in 1863 that the first MOHs were awarded to members of Andrews Raiders for their actions during the Civil War. If you have some time, check out the story of Andrews Raiders and the Great Locomotive Chase. The story was made into a Disney movie in 1956 starring Fess Parker.

The two Red, White & Blue Award nominations that were submitted by Clarence Post #838 and Tehan Post #1449 have been approved for a Department level award. I look forward to attending the award ceremonies in the near future. If anyone knows of an individual, organization or business that makes an exceptional effort to express their patriotism and to promote Americanism, please consider submitting them for a Red, White & Blue Award. I have forms available or you can download it from the Department website.

Spring is just around the corner (no wait, it's already here). That means Memorial Day will soon be upon us so start preparing your graves decoration detail. Flag Day follows shortly afterwards so it might be a good time to look into doing a Flag Retirement Ceremony at your Post. It's a great way to get your members (especially new members) involved and also to let the community know what the American Legion is all about.

**Francis Donovan Post # 1626** Fish Fry every Friday at Francis Donovan Post, except Holidays, from 4 – 8 pm. There are also none fish menu items. Take outs are available, post phone 896-3346.

**Erie County Website –** [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org).

## Boy's State – Pierre Harper

Letters have been sent out to the Post Chairmen and it has been reported that many Posts have already started conducting interviews for boys. The dates for the program are June 26th to July 2nd at SUNY Morrisville. The cost per delegate will once again be \$450.00. Erie County has been allotted 38 spaces for the program and more can be added if we need to. The deadline for entries to Pierre's home address, which is listed on the documents sent out is Friday May 1, 2015.

The Boys State luncheon will be held at the Niagara Frontier Post on Sunday May 31st at 1 o'clock. All Post chairmen who are sponsoring boys are encouraged to attend.

There has been a few people who said they have not been able to get in contact with me. My contact information has remained the same for the past few years. For those who need to contact me use [eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com](mailto:eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com). All of the pertinent information including the application can be found at [nylegion.net/boys-state](http://nylegion.net/boys-state). I hope that this gets everyone up to speed.



Current Jesse Clipper Post # 430 Commander Rev Eugene Pierce is pictured with Pfc. Elvis Presley at Fort Hood Texas, June 21, 1958



## Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 pm

### **April 23, East Aurora Post # 362**

1 Legion Drive, East Aurora, 14052

Menu: Salad, Ham, Potatoes, rolls, dessert

### **May 21, Orchard Park Post # 567**

### **Erie County Convention**

#### **June 6 Alfred J. Jurek Post # 1672**

Smith & New Rds. East Amherst, 14051

Please send in your Ads & Boosters ASAP.

Join us for the steak dinner and parade after the convention.

### **Sunday April 12**

#### **8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting - Chautauqua Co.**

John W. Dill Post # 434

110 W. Main St., Brocton, NY 14716

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

### **Saturday April 18**

Testimonial Dinner honoring Greg (Doc) Gibbs, SAL National Vice Commander will be held at Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, NY 14075 on Saturday, April 18th, 2015. Social Hour at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM. Price is \$35/person. Reservation deadline is Friday, April 10th. Make checks payable to: Committee to Elect Greg Gibbs. Mail to: Dr. Greg Gibbs, 286 Highland Avenue, Hamburg, NY 14075.

### **Saturday April 25**

Testimonial Dinner honoring Erie County Commander Paul J. Steward and Erie County Auxiliary President Linda Miskell at the Hamburg American Legion Post # 527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg NY. Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres at 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7:00 PM. We will be serving chicken and steak. The cost will be \$25 per person. Deadline for reservations: Friday April 17. Make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion. Contact the Erie County Office at 852-6500 or VC Nelson Oldfield at 634-6394.



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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Buffalo, NY 14202  
PHONE: (716) 852-6500  
FAX: (716) 852-4664  
e-mail: [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)



### **Friday April 3**

South Buffalo Post #721, Good Friday Fish Fry from 5 - 7:30 PM – \$9.95 for beer batter or broiled and includes Cole Slaw, Macaroni Salad, French Fries and Rye Bread. We will also be serving Chicken fingers & French Fries for \$7.50.

### **Wednesday April 15**

PAST Commanders Club, Meeting at 7 pm. Gierlach Post # 1320, 50 Gates Ave. Sloan.

### **Sunday April 19**

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 8 am to 12:30 pm. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$7, children under 12 \$3, children under 5 free.

### **Sunday April 19**

Past Commander's Club Pancake breakfast at Donovan Post # 1626 from 9 am to 1 pm. \$7.50 Adults, \$4.50 age 5-12, under 5 free. All you can eat Pancakes, with sausage, scrambled eggs, OJ, coffee

### **Sunday April 19**

Frank L. Gierlach Post 1320 is having their annual spaghetti dinner from noon till 5pm tickets are \$8 adults, children 6 to 12 are \$5, children 5 and under are free, chinese auction follows the dinner.

### **Sunday April 26**

Western Hoedown sponsored by George F Lamm Auxiliary. Doors open at 3 pm; food served from 4:30 to 5:30; music by the GHOST RIDERS from 5:30 to 8:30pm. \$18 per person includes roast beef sandwich, salads, desserts, draft beer, pop and wine. Call Debbie Diebold for tickets 836-9617.

### **Saturday May 2**

David McKeever Post # 64 is hosting a Cradle Beach benefit at 1770 S. Park Ave. Tickets are \$20 for dinner from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, includes 1 chinese auction sheet and entertainment. Cash Bar.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by Friday April 24 for the May/June edition.  
PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor