



The Legion-Air

Paul Steward
Commander

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Editor



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February 2015

Commander's Message:

The holidays are over for another year. Not too much happening during the month of January. The attendance at the County meetings is dropping, as well as at Post meetings. Legionnaires say they want a say at Post and County, but you need to take the time to come to the meetings for us to get your valuable input.

I just got back from the 96th Annual Mid-Winter Conference. Everyone had a good time and came away with valuable information. For the County and their Posts.

I sincerely hope to see more delegates at the next County meeting to be held on February 26th, at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post # 205.

I also hope to see you at the Department Commanders Testimonial Dinner at the George F. Lamm Post #622 on Saturday February 14.

In Albany, at the Mid-Winter Conference, County Commander Paul Steward presented a check from Erie County to the leading candidate for Department Commander Jim Yermas from Amsterdam, the 4th District, for his campaign.



Membership – VC Wayne Sorrentino

Thank you for all you do each day for Membership. Department Membership Coordinator, Cassi Harden, told us at the Mid-Winter Conference that she handles your transmittals in bulk form (not one Post's input at-a-time) and delays are built in to the process because of the need to verify some information submitted and to correct errors. We all would hope for a quicker, more comprehensive report from Department, but that cannot be the case here. With over 900 Posts in the Department, she is responsible for publishing everyone's numbers and with zero errors. Our next Department membership target is 85% by 2-9-15. Congratulations to East Aurora Post for being at 100.24% and to Grand Island Post for being at 96.77%, both as of 1-20-15. 10 other Posts are above the 85% target: Newcomb-Long, Sardinia, Clarence, Lorenzo-Burrows, Lamm, Donovan, West Seneca, Newell-Faulkner, Tehan and Gierlach. Well done to all! New members total is now at 210 with a self-imposed goal of 300. Please do all you can to recruit new members. Transferring Legionnaires from Post 0001 to your local Post is great for you but does not help Department achieve their goal since we are basically moving members internally. Don't get me wrong here. Yes, we need more members in Erie County, but look at the BIG picture. We need to recruit new veterans. 12 Posts are still showing no new members this year. If every member recruited just one new member, we'd be looking at Erie County with over 14,000 members. Erie County's goal this year is 7,971. Last year we achieved 7,411 or 92.97% of goal. This means we lost over 7% of our membership. This trend must be reversed and let's do all we can to help. Please call or email me with your REVITE results. We have over 800 prospects for transfer from Post 0001 to local Erie County Posts. Let's get all of them to transfer and then look for new veterans to sign up for The American Legion.

Special Activities – VC Nelson Oldfield

For those of you who were not at the last County meeting the winning number for New Year's Day was 064, for \$150 and Dick Allein was the winner. Yes the number Dick selected was 064 which is his Post number!

The calendar sales went well and a special thanks to the members who went the extra mile to help us keep the sales up. I still have calendars left. If you would like one please let me know and I can arrange to get one to you. We are at 761 sold.

I am working on stuffing the bags for the Department Convention here in Buffalo, If anyone knows where I might find some free trinkets to stuff in the bags that would be great. Please contact me via email or home phone nelson126@roadrunner.com or 634-6394.

Last September, I received an Email from Jim Bojanowski that the Republic of South Korea wanted to formally thank all who fought to defend their country during the Korean War by presenting those Veterans with a special medal and who served from - June 25, 1950 to July 27th 1953. I mentioned this at our General meeting but not sure we had any takers, I thought that out of the 30 members in attendance and thought we might have one or two eligible.

I did have one member who is a close friend who qualified with failing eye sight; I completed the required form, had him sign it and mailed it in with his DD214. Last week he received in the mail from the Republic of South Korea two certificates, one in English and the other in Korean. A lanyard along with a beautiful Medal. When I went over to see him he has this huge smile on his Face and proudly showed me his new medal. That made my day and confirmed that what Legion Members do is take care of Veterans.

PNC Michael J. Kogutek Scholarship

The scholarship information was recently mailed out to all High Schools and College Veteran's Offices across the 8th District. The application is already on the County website. If you have funds available, please consider a donation to this scholarship through County headquarters. Please, indicate Michael J. Kogutek scholarship as we honor his memory. The Scholarship trust Committee PCC Jim Bojanowski, PDVC Marty Moot, and Tim Winterhalter.



Americanism – VC Joe Orzechowski

Last month I wrote that we had two Red, White and Blue Awards approved for a County level certificate. Unfortunately, the Department office in Albany, said the County level award was eliminated. After discussing with a member from each of the two nominating Posts (Clarence #838 and Tehan #1449), I will submit the nominations to Albany to be considered for a Department level award.

In the past I've mentioned different ways that I might be able to assist with or expand your Post's Americanism programs. The thought recently crossed my mind that perhaps some of you out there might be able to help me. So, if any Post has a program, an event, a presentation or something similar that falls under the heading of Americanism, please let me know. With your permission, I'd like to add such things to my portfolio and make them available to the other Posts (with the proper recognition to the source Post, of course). That way another Post might benefit from your knowledge and experience. If anyone has something they'd like to share with me, please give me a call at 839-9109 or email me at bjorzechowski@verizon.net.

Finally, it's not too early to start thinking about what your Post might want to do on Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day or any other day this summer in the name of Americanism. If you have something in mind, contact me; I'd be happy to sit down with you and discuss what I can do to help make it happen.

Operation Gold Star Camp 2015

Is open to surviving dependent children and siblings of all branches of Active Duty, Reserves, and National Guard, ages 7 – 17. For further information call (716) 549-1420 or email info@pioneerencamp.org

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

Buffalo 2015 Department Convention Update

– Jim Bojanowski

At the Mid-Winter Conference sales tables for pins, boosters, and raffle tickets were sold at both the Legion and Auxiliary hotels. Thanks go out to those who volunteered their time for this effort; Bill Miskell, Al O'Donnell, Wayne Sorrentino, Joe Porempski, Karen Porempski, Kathy Renner, Anne Baglio, Marty Moot, Jerry Simoneit, Donna Simoneit, Tom Deinzer, Sue Quirk, John Siefert, and Bill Lockerman. Special thanks go out to Bill Miskell and Joe Porempski for coordinating activities at the hotels.

Pictured below at the sales table, from left to right, are Donna Simoneit, Marty Moot, Jerry Simoneit, and Bill Miskell at the Desmond hotel.



The overall convention committee met a few weeks ago to stuff 2,000 envelopes with information on the Convention Program Book Ads and Boosters. Many thanks to Wayne Sorrentino and Timothy Van Patten in coordinating this activity. I hope everyone who is reading this will get up and make a motion at your next Post meeting to support taking an ad in the program book. Also, circulate the booster sheet to get names printed in the book at \$1 apiece.

Erie County Office Hours

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



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 pm

February 26 Brounshidle Post # 205

3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217

March 26, A.J. Jurek Post # 1672

April 23, East Aurora Post # 362

Sunday February 1

8th District Meeting - Niagara Co.

Stephen Sikora Post # 1322

950 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Department Commander Frank J. Peters

Testimonial Dinner will be held Saturday February 14 at the George F. Lamm Post # 622. Tickets \$25/person. City Hall ticket deadline is Friday February 6. Cash bar at 6 pm, with the dinner start at 7 pm. The dinner will also honor Auxiliary Department President Diane Gerber, and Sons Detachment Commander Charles Depo.

Erie County Website – PCC Jim Bojanowski

Thanks go out to Depew Post Past Commander Jake Schu who designed our new website which can be found at eriecountyal.com. I can proudly report that the site is up and running! Thanks to all who supplied information to Jake for his input. If anyone has additional information into the website, contact Jake Schu thru his email at jschu@depewlegion.org. Or, you can use the emails for the County Office, or the County newsletter. We will need your information to highlight the American Legion programs and to post on the event calendar.



**SUBMISSIONS
For the March
"The Legion-Air"
DUE**

February 20

thelegionair@gmail.com



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Buffalo, NY 14202
PHONE: (716) 852-6500
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Saturday, February 7

Matthew Glab Post #1477 will be having a Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ Dinner from 3 -7 pm. Tickets are \$10/dinner. This includes a 1/2 chicken, 2 sides, roll/butter, dessert and coffee. Eat in or takeout available. Also a themed basket raffle and 50/50 split club. Call Maureen (Moe) Matte @ 827-0374 for tickets or more information.

Sunday February 8

Annual East Aurora Post Wine Tasting Party hosted by Aurora Liquors and our Vietnam Vets Club will commence at 6:30 PM with a wine seminar. The ticket price at \$15 each. Tickets are now available for purchase behind the bar. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Wine tasting will start at 7 and go until 9 PM. Everyone will leave with a gift. Appetizers and drawings for other prizes are also all included in the price of your ticket.

Saturday February 14

East Aurora Post first Steak roast of the New Year. For a price of \$12.00 per person, you get your choice of a charcoal cooked cut of choice steak, baked potato, salad bar, roll, and coffee. Hours are 4 until 7:00 PM.

Sunday February 15

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 February 22

The F.J. Donovan Post is sponsoring an All you can eat Pancake Breakfast from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, coffee, tea, orange juice & milk for a \$7 donation for adults. Kids under 12 are \$3 and under 5 free. The Auxiliary will also have a bake good sale.

Friday March 20

The Thomas Tehan Post #1449 will host a meat raffle to raise money for their building fund. Admission is \$5, raffle starts at 7 pm.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by Friday February 20 for the March edition.
PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor