



The Legion-Air

Wayne Sorrentino
Commander

Tim Van Patten
Adjutant

Jim Bojanowski
Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

October 2015

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legionnaires & friends. Thank you to Concord Post for the fine job on the dinner for our September County meeting.

Your Post's target membership goals for 2016 have recently been updated. Please do YOUR part NOW, and recruit at least one new member prior to our next County meeting. Every member needs to recruit a new member or sign up a lapsed member. It is only with the help of everyone in Erie County that we will make goal by next year. Let's all grab a personal share of this victory. Practice and use your elevator speech and ASK A VETERAN TO JOIN The American Legion. "JUST ASK" does work. Last year ended with 7,089 Legionnaires. This year's County goal is 7,228. Let's work together to reverse the downward membership trend and get our numbers back up to where they were just a few years ago. Every Post's leadership should read/execute the Department's 5-Year Plan for Membership: <http://legion.net/membership>, scroll down to "Recruiting" and click on "Strategic Plan".

Please keep Saturday 12/19 open for my Christmas Party at the Lamm Post Lounge from 1 to 5 pm. More details on the party to follow next month. I'm in need of two additional Aides, and each will be working on membership (primarily). Please call or email me if you're interested in being appointed as an Aide: (716) 891-5164 or wayne.sorrentino@verizon.net. Please send me an electronic or hard copy of your Post's newsletter so my staff & I can keep up with what you and your Post are doing each month. Erie County had a very nice turn out of Legionnaires and Auxiliary members for the National Convention in Baltimore, MD. My hope is that we have another very nice turn out for our new National Commander Dale Barnett of Georgia, in Genesee County on October 16th. Please keep our troops in your daily prayers. Thanks for all you do for The American Legion Family.

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

I attended the Korean War Dinner at Salvatore's and it was awesome. About 100 people were in attendance and medals were awarded to these great vets for their service in the Korean War. It did my heart good to be there and see them receive their medal from a two Star retired Korean General. People there from the Legion and my friends from the VFW! Well done!

Many of you are probably aware that the dues increase was approved and in January 2016 dues will go up. For 2016 dues, Department will cover \$2 of the \$5 increase. Future coverage of this, TBD. If you have not paid your dues yet, please do ASAP, to avoid the January increase. If you cannot get to the Post you can pay them online. We did not make the 50 % Membership goal and probably could have if the cards that we had on hand were turned in promptly.

On the revite program I have 3 takers, we need more I have people willing to work with you and you need not do it alone. Please consider this program. I can email you the paperwork if you would like to look it over.

Another suggestion is the Thank A Vet Program, have one at your Post, it costs you nothing other than your time. The County provides the paperwork, the coffee, donuts Forms, etc. Good chance to meet some vets in your area. We are the only County that I am aware of that has one.

I am starting an Email list for membership probably about once a month you will receive some info from me. Tips, prospective leads, etc. If you are the membership contact I would appreciate your email, this will save the county some postage and afford a quick way for me to get leads over to you. Some of you have been emailing me, with questions and comments on membership I think that is great and a few of you have already hit the road with some solid and impressive numbers. My email is nelson126@roadrunner.com

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

This month I was able to participate in a number of activities that highlighted patriotic and veteran oriented interests. The first was the National Convention in Baltimore, MD. I was especially impressed with some of the American Legion Youth Champions. The two that stood out for me were Avavind Byju of Sarasota, FL., the 2015 Boys Nation President and Geeta Minocha of Ocala, FL., the National Oratorical Contest First Place Winner. Both had messages that they imparted to the National Delegation in a poised and well expressed manner. They could easily hold public office in the future. I was proud to be a member of the organization that promoted the programs that allowed these young people to improve their skills to become productive citizens in the future. I encourage Erie County Legion Posts to continue their support of Children and Youth programs like Boys State and Oratorical so that maybe next year a National American Legion Youth Champion will have a WNYaddress.

On September 11, I attended the Patriots Day ceremony conducted in Angola, NY. It was well attended and I was happy to see that many family members with children in attendance..

On September 12, I participated in the parade that is part of the annual Fall Festival celebrated by the Seneca Nation of Indians near Gowanda, NY. I marched with the ERIECO Women's Post #1586 Color Guard and then formed up with other units for a memorial service to remember Erie County Legionnaires who passed in the previous year. Then we enjoyed the hospitality of Iroquois Post #1587 as they served an extensive and tasty buffet style lunch.

On September 19, I enjoyed the experience of a Victorian Dinner and Tea at the Adam's Mark Hotel that was a fund raiser for Women's Health Radio. This was the first year that a table was sponsored by a veterans' organization, ERIECO Women's Post #1586. The table included a traditional POW-MIA place setting. The veteran table was well received and the community was made more aware of veterans' activities.

Welcome Home Veterans Parade Saturday 11/7 John Kasmer Chairman

Assembly starts at 11 AM from Delaware and Edward St. Looking for American Legion Family marchers and Color Guards to participate. Applications thru John Kasmer at 634-1128. Remember, as a veteran, you too are being honored with this annual parade.



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

More than half of the 2016 Calendars have now been distributed to more than a dozen Posts in the County as well as a handful of individuals who have taken it upon themselves to help out. Bravo! But there are still plenty of Calendars available so, if you have not picked yours up yet, you can get some at the next County meeting or contact me and I'll be happy to deliver anywhere in Erie County. Call 839-9109 or email me at bjorzechowski@verizon.net.

Remember that we will be holding an "Early Bird" drawing from all those Calendars sold by the 10/22 County meeting at the Orchard Park Post. Any stubs accompanied by payment that I receive on or before the night of the meeting will be eligible for the drawing. The buyer of the winning Calendar will receive \$100. Hopefully, they'll use at least \$25 of that prize money to buy another Calendar. If for any reason you don't think you can get your stubs to me by the October meeting, please contact me; I'd be glad to make arrangements to pick them up so they can be entered into the drawing.

Our goal is to sell all 1,000 Calendars. At a minimum, we need to net \$10,000 on the Calendars to support the County's activities for the year. VC Nelson Oldfield has challenged me to better his total of 903 Calendars sold last year. Challenge accepted, Nelson. Please don't let me down folks!

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org.

Erie County Office Hours Staffed by Tim Van Patten every Mon., Wed., & Fri. from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.



**SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
due October 23
thelegionair@gmail.com**

Annual Gold Star Mothers/Veterans Day Mass and Dinner – PCC John Kasmer

The mass will be held on Saturday November 7, at Queen of Martyrs Church, 180 George Urban Blvd., near Harlem, Cheektowaga, NY at the 4 pm mass. Line up at 3:30 PM.

Annual Veterans Day Dinner

immediately after Mass at the George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, 14221. Cash Bar Cocktails at 5 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM, \$20/person. Purchase tickets through Tim Van Patten at the County Office by Friday October 30. No tickets sold at the door.

Homeless Female Veterans

1st Annual 5k Race/Walk
Sunday, October 11, 2015
South Buffalo Post 721
136 Cazenovia St Buffalo
Registration starts 9 AM
Race begins 11 AM
Cost is \$20 registration online at www.score-this.com

For further information contact
Anne Baglio 592-3756 or
Kathie Renner 822-6121

Our web site www.ecalveteransforveterans.org
After party- pork sandwiches, salads & refreshments , Chinese auction and 50/50 split
If you don't want to run or walk then a \$10 cover charge. Please come and support us.

Special Olympics Report

The Special Olympics Picnic was held on 9-20-15 at the Lamm Post Grove in Williamsville. 8th District CDR Dave Henry and Jane Fox assisted. We had about 52 Special Olympians and their sponsors and 28 volunteer workers. Depew Post #1528 did all of the cooking. Workers were 7 from Lamm Post, 6 from Lamm Auxiliary, 4 from Depew Post, 2 from 8th District, 2 from Tehan Post, 2 from Jurek Post, 2 unknowns and 3 from V-51 of The 40 & 8 Society who assisted with the serving and also provided train rides. Thank you to McKeever Post #64 for the \$200 donation to help cover the expenses of the picnic. If you wish to donate to the Special Olympics Picnic, please mail your check to "Erie County Committee" and send it to the County office in City Hall, with the memo "Special Olympics Picnic." Thank you.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

October 22, Orchard Park Post #567

3740 N. Buffalo Rd., Orchard Park, 14127
Menu; Parmesan Crusted Pork Loin, Roast Beef, Steamed Mixed Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, Rolls, Relish Tray, Cookies, Coffee

November 19, A.J. Jurek Post #1672

December 17, F.J. Donovan Post #1626

Sunday October 4

8th District Meeting - Allegany Co.

Fawcett Post # 1582
Canaseraga, NY 14822
12:00 PM - Membership Meeting
1:00 PM – General Meeting

Friday October 16

National Commander's Dinner

At Batavia Downs Gaming, cash bar 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, \$40/person. Choice of Beef or Crab stuffed Cod. Reservations with entre choice to Wallace Kornow, 3556 Lockport Rd., Oakfield, NY 14125 by October 8. Tickets available at 10/4 District meeting.

Membership Dues – PCC Jim Bojanowski

Recently every Post received a letter reviewing the overall National Dues increase of \$5. We are currently transmitting \$31.50 per member to Department, which includes the County and District per capita. For 2016, Department will cover \$2 of the increase. Each year they will review their financial process and inform us if this \$2 coverage will continue. Therefore, for 2016 dues transmitted starting mid-January, you will need to transmit \$34.50 per member. Also, there is a Department 2016 membership incentive of \$1 rebate per member for those Posts who equal their last year's actual membership plus five new members. The Department \$1 rebate will not apply to PUFL members that are part of total membership.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
 The Erie County Committee
 609 City Hall
 65 Niagara Square
 Buffalo, NY 14202
 PHONE: (716) 852-6500
 FAX: (716) 852-4664
 e-mail: veteran14202@verizon.net



Saturday October 3

South Buffalo Auxiliary Gift Card raffle to benefit Veterans Programs. \$3/Person includes beer, pop, sandwich. Starts 7 PM

Monday October 5

Matthew Glab Post Auxiliary, 1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna is hosting a special bingo game to benefit ECAL Homeless Women's Veterans Housing project. 7:30 PM start.

Saturday October 10

F.J. Donovan Post 1626, Fall Dance from 7-11 pm, Music by the Auslanders, \$15 person, beer, pop, wine, snacks, included. For tickets call Post 896-3346.

Saturday October 10

Matthew Glab Post Meat Raffle. Doors Open at 6:00 PM. First Spin at 7:00 PM. Tickets are \$7.00. Tables of 8 can be reserved for \$50.00. Contact MOE at 827-0374.

Sunday October 11

ALL YOU AN 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.

Saturday October 24

Niagara Frontier Auxiliary Unit 1041 8th Annual Homeless Veterans Benefit from 5 to 9 PM at 533 Amherst St. Tickets \$20, include beer, soft drinks, roast beef sandwiches, sheet of Chinese Auction tickets. Includes music by River Dogs. For tickets or donations contact Pat 875-9894 or the Post 875-9276.

South Buffalo Post #721

Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1st Monday Spaghetti, 3rd Monday Beef.

Hamburg Post #527

Spaghetti dinners served every Thursday from 4:30 to 7 PM. Full order \$8 (2 meatballs), half order \$6. Includes salad.

Donovan Post #1626,

3210 Genesee St., Friday Fish Fries 4 – 8 PM Please try us out!! John Stiegler Cmdr.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by October 23 for the November edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor