



The Legion-Air

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September 2015

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legionnaires & friends. Thank you to Hamburg Post's Legionnaires and Auxiliary for the fine job on the dinner for our August County meeting. Nicely done and many kudos for your hard work. Regarding our membership goals: your Post's target membership numbers for 2016 will be presented after the national convention in September. Please do your part NOW, and recruit at least one new member prior to our September County meeting at Concord Post. Every member needs to recruit a new member or sign up a lapsed member. This is how we'll all make goal by next year. Practice and use your elevator speech and ASK A VETERAN TO JOIN The American Legion. "JUST ASK" does work. VC Joe Orzechowski had to cancel the County Golf Tournament due to a lack of golfers! Joe is in the process of developing an alternate fundraiser to replace the funds which we did not earn from the golf outing. Please support Joe in whatever fundraiser he presents. The County calendars are now for sale. Please support this special activity. 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. Thank you in advance. Please send me an electronic copy of your Post's newsletter so my staff & I can keep up with what you and your Post are doing each month. Every Post Commander and Membership Chair should be aware of the Department's 5-Year Plan For Membership. It can be downloaded from the Department's web site: Membership/Recruiting/Strategic Plan. It's a great read for anyone who wants to help The American Legion Family and work the membership side. Last year we ended with 7089 Legionnaires. Let's work together to reverse the downward membership trend and get our membership numbers back up to where they were just a few years ago. Thank you for your efforts.

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

Membership seems to be off to a good start some of the Posts have sent the Pink copy of the transmittal and I have reviewed them. Please keep up the good work and help keep us strong. I do not require the pinks as previously stated but if you wish to email them to me that would be fine. As many of you are probably aware National is requesting a dues increase, shortly after this printing we will know the outcome. If in the event this becomes reality the increase would start in January, so it would be good to get your dues in before the January 2016 to receive the old rate.

The meeting at Shortsville did not generate many answers as I had hoped to see. We have a great brand name but we need to promote it. The staff at the meeting did bring up a few key points, some you may know and some might be new. My nephew is a Desert storm veteran and his Uncle has asked him to join the American Legion and one meeting he showed up and I had the honor of swearing him in. The point is please look at you relatives many are prior service and need to be asked we need to turn the numbers around.

I am looking into doing a County-wide REVITE and I'd like all of our Posts to get involved with this. I'll get a listing of all Post 0001 members who reside in Erie County. We plan to call each Legionnaire from a central location, using personal cell phones and ask each person to transfer to your Post or a Post close to their home. The listing will be organized by Zip Code. If you are interested please let me know. I asked at the County meeting and no one appeared to be interested, please prove me wrong. These are times we must all band together! Thank you for your service!!!

Nelson126@roadrunner.com 634-6394

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

This month I was able to attend several patriotic and veteran centered activities. On July 29, I observed the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker honoring all members of the Armed Forces in the Honor Garden at Chestnut Ridge Park. Tributes were offered by Mark C. Poloncarz, Erie Co. Exec., and Michael P. Kearns, NYS ASM, 142nd Dist. High praise for their contribution to this ceremony goes to American Legion Post 567: Commander Joe Cash, Auxiliary President Liz Cash, and American Legion Riders President Bob Youngs.

On August 2, I enjoyed the dining experience of a Civil War Era Banquet conducted in association with static displays hosted by Most Precious Blood Parish in Angola, NY. The displays represented aspects of Reynolds' Battery L, 1st New York Light Artillery. The banquet menu featured period selections such as Mullagatawny Soup, venison, rabbit stew, hasenpfeffer, dandelions, cabbage stew, corn bread, sweet potato bread, maple rice pudding, and Artillery Punch. The present day Reynolds' Battery is over 25 years old and is chartered by the NYS Board of Education. Its stated purpose and objectives are to inform, instruct, and educate the public of the life and trials of a Civil War Artillery soldier during the 1860s.

On August 8, I attended the Welcome Home Veterans 2015 at the Naval Park. There were numerous representatives of organizations that provide services to veterans, veterans' service organizations, and vendors. The weather was beautiful and the activity was well attended.

On August 15, I participated in the 7th and 8th District Membership Workshop in Shortsville, NY. Erie County was well represented. One point that I came away with was when speaking to others about what your Post is doing in the community or what the Legion does in general, use the whole title "American Legion" so there is no doubt which organization should get credit for all of the good things we do.

Finally, on August 16 I joined area veterans for Veterans' Day at the Erie County Fair. Despite the heat, the Memorial Service and Parade were well attended.

I took the plunge and I'm now on the internet. My email address is: suzzikk65@gmail.com.



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

As many of you already know, we were forced to cancel the annual Erie County Golf Tournament that was scheduled to take place on August 21st. There were only 4 golfers that had indicated an interest in playing which is clearly not enough to make a tournament. All donations and prizes that were collected for the tournament will be returned to their donors.

The 2016 lottery Calendars are now available! Several Posts picked up their Calendars at the last County meeting. I will be contacting the rest of the Posts in the next couple of weeks to make arrangement for getting Calendars out to those who want them. (I hope that's just about everyone.) The Calendars make a great gift that continues to give for an entire year. They're also a good way to get some of your Christmas shopping out of the way early.

As was done last year, we will be holding an "Early Bird" drawing from those Calendars sold on or before the October County meeting at the Orchard Park Post. The prize will be \$100. Remember "sold" means the Calendar stub and payment are in my possession. Also, please **be sure the buyer has filled out the stub completely and that it is legible**. I can only make a payout to a winner if I can decipher the name and address information on the stub.

If anyone is interested in Calendars or more Calendars (delivery is available) please contact me by phone at 839-9109 or by email at bjorzechowski@verizon.net. I urge you to please make every effort to help make the Calendars program a success.



SUBMISSIONS
For the October
"The Legion-Air"
due September 25
thelegionair@gmail.com

Boys' State – Pierre Harper

Legionnaires, this is sort of the off season when it comes to Boys' State, but we will be ramping up a little earlier than usual to ensure another great year in 2016. I will be contacting all of the chairpersons to set up a Boys State meeting sometime in October. During the meeting we will discuss ways to make the program better and to ensure everyone is properly informed. The chain has been breaking and I would like to implement a strategy that will ensure that we are squared away as a county. If you have any questions beforehand please email me at eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com

American Legion College – Pierre Harper

We are looking for Legionnaires who have graduated from the American Legion College to submit articles for the alumni newsletter. If you are a graduate who has obtained a new legion position, done something great in your post or community or just has information to pass please let us know! All articles can be submitted via email to NYALCAA@gmail.com.

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.

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. The Annual Veterans Day Dinner will be held immediately after, at a place TBD.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

September 24, Concord Post # 431

109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141
Menu; Stuffed Pork Chops, potato, vegetable, Salad, roll, dessert.

October 22, Orchard Park Post # 567

November 19 A.J. Jurek Post #1672

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 23

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.
Housing at the Clarion Hotel, 8250 Park Rd., Batavia, NY Cost \$110, call (585) 344-2100 by October 2. Shuttle bus to dinner & back.

Reminder: All Posts need to submit their Post Officer forms to the County Office.

Next month, I hope we don't have to print any of the 9 Post names who have not yet submitted.

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

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org.



THE AMERICAN LEGION
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Tuesday September 8

David McKeever Post # 64 will be hosting a Thank A Vet program. The program will start at 12:30 PM until 3:30 PM.

Wednesday September 9

Dinner at Salvatore's Italian Gardens honoring Korean War Veterans. Medals presented by Kim Ghee Wan, Consulate General, Republic of Korea. Cocktails at 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6 PM. tickets \$25. Contact Cmdr. Wayne Sorrentino by 9/2.

Saturday September 12

Iroquois Post # 1587 annual Fall Festival Parade forms at Library at 11:00 am, steps off at Noon, near intersection of Routes 5 & 20, on Route 438. Call Cmdr. Bud Thompson for info @ 255 -2623.

Sunday September 13

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.

Friday September 18

Jessie Clipper Post # 430 is celebrating their 96th Anniversary with a dinner fundraiser at 1670 Main St., starts at 6 PM. Tickets \$40. Mail to PO Box 1041, Buffalo, NY 14205.

Sunday September 27

ERIECO Women' Post # 1586 is having its Annual Corn Roast from 1 PM to 5 PM at Lamm Post # 622 Grove. Tickets cost \$12 and includes corn (roasted and boiled), hot dogs, salads, deserts, coffee, beer and soft drinks. There are door prizes & raffles.

Donovan Post # 1626,

3210 Genesee St., Friday Fish Fries are back, Starting Sept. 11th, 4:00 - 8:00 pm, new caterer, Jason Krull, Cornerstone Bar & Grill, Clarence Hollow, Please try us out!! John Stiegler Cmdr. Info at 896-3346.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by September 25 for the October edition.
 PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor