



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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December 2016

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

A great month for veteran functions.

The Gold Star Mothers Mass was at St John Kanty Church. We were well received by the Church and their staff was awesome. Deacon Rick worked with John Kasmer to make sure the day went well. There was an onsite meal after the Mass on the premises after the event.

Thank You John!

Forest Lawn seemed like a larger group than usual. We managed to come up with enough Flags to cover our requirements. Thanks to the Posts who helped us out. Special thanks to George Barton who went out and collected the flags to cover the event and I hope he is recovering well from his hospital stay.

The Parade went well. John Kasmer stated it was the largest turn out of marchers in its history. The enthusiasm and the youth marchers added to the excitement of the parade. Many of the future leaders marched in this parade.

I was in Cheektowaga Town Park for Veterans Day. There is a full page of color pictures in the Cheektowaga Bee. We had 7 Legion Posts at the memorial, VFW members and the Purple Hearts.

I also visited Elderwood with 8 members from the Donovan Post. County Aide John Stiegler did a presentation on the POW Ceremony and explained the contents at the table. We do this just about every year because these veterans are not able to attend an event outside the home.

On 11/18, I attended the Auxiliary Meeting held at the Orchard Park Post. I was received well and enjoyed the meeting. Their staff was well informed. Special thanks to their President Debbie Diebold for the invite. I did speak briefly about membership and feel that we should team up to keep the Legion family strong.

Please remember my Commanders Party December 17<sup>th</sup> at the FJ Donovan Post from 12PM to 4PM. I look forward to seeing you there.

### **Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk**

November, as usual, was a full month which included many Veteran's Day activities: the Welcome Home Vets Parade in Buffalo, the Gold Star Mothers Mass at St. John Kanty's Church, Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery, Ceremonies in Kenmore organized by Brounshidle Post, and the Troop I Post luncheon, with a presentation about the WWII Memorial in D.C.

On November 15, the Erie County American Legion conducted a mini-revite. Up front I would like to thank and recognize those who donated energy, time, and their cell phone minutes to help encourage past members renew their membership. Those workers were: Wayne Sorrentino; Nelson Oldfield; James Bojanowski; Tony Solina; Karen Patch; Tom O'Connell; Jerry Kowalski; and Denby Stow. I would also like to thank the Donovan Post for the use of their facilities. The list we worked from contained over 300 names with address and telephone number. Those contacted that indicated they would like to renew or expressed interest in renewing totaled 21. For those potential members, that we were unable to contact because of limited resources, I am handing over the lists directly to the Posts where their membership lapsed.

Another statistic that came to light was that many of these contacts in the list we obtained from department were deceased. That group also contained 21 entries. One, according to the family, has been deceased since 1997. This information will be passed along to the Posts. I hope the Posts will follow-up on reporting deceased members so their families won't continue to receive mailings and calls concerning their deceased family member.

In closing I would like to send out my wishes to the American Legion Family for a happy and safe observance of the Holiday Season that is coming up.

## Americanism – VC Michael Johnson

I hope you all had an amazing Veterans Day! Thank you all for your service to our Nation. To our Brother and Sister Marines, Happy 241st Birthday to the United States Marine Corps! I represented Erie County at the Clarence Senior Center on 11/10 to present to Legionnaire Marty Helowicz, of Clarence Post #838, an American Legion Department of New York Red, White, and Blue Award for his efforts in fostering a greater sense of Americanism and patriotism in his community. Congratulations Marty! If any Posts want to recognize an individual or organization with a Red, White, and Blue Award, submit the application form to me for review.

On 12/1, we celebrate on 12/1, the 75th Birthday of the USAF Auxiliary, Civil Air Patrol (CAP). Founded 12/1/1941, just before America entered World War II, by Gill Robb Wilson and with Major General John F. Curry appointed as its first national commander, CAP was tasked with aiding the war effort by using civilian aviation resources for many missions including anti-submarine patrol and warfare, border patrols, and courier service. During World War II, CAP's coastal patrol flew 24 million miles, found 173 enemy U-boats, attacked 57, hit 10 and sank 2, dropping a total of 83 bombs and depth charges throughout the conflict. By the end of the war, 64 CAP members had lost their lives in the line of duty. This all volunteer organization continues today as part of the Air Force's Total Force concept and has a three-fold mission of emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet programs. For more information on CAP, see their website at: [www.gocivilairpatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com).

December 7th, that President Franklin D. Roosevelt called "A day which will live in infamy", is a time for us to remember the 75th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941. We especially remember those who were killed and wounded.

On 12/13, we celebrate the birthday of the National Guard, founded in 1636 as English colonial government militias. 12/17 is the annual National Wreaths Across America day when wreaths are laid at veteran's cemeteries across the nation.

As the calendar year draws to a close and the holiday season is upon us, I want to wish you and your families a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a very Happy and Blessed New Year!



## Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable Fall and that you all had a wonderful Veterans Day! I still have some Delta Sonic car wash tickets available. The cost is 10 dollars of which four dollars goes back to the American Legion for a car wash that normally runs over 15 dollars. They do not expire and you receive a free car wash that's good within five days of the original wash. If anyone would like any I can mail them or personally deliver them to you; you may contact me via call/text at (716) 949-3341 or e-mail: [fattony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fattony8705@yahoo.com) These are great stocking stuffers for that one in your family who enjoys a clean shiny automobile.

The yearly calendars are still available. They are a \$25 donation with a range of 000-999 for the numbers. I will have them with me at the County meetings and if you would like any at any other time please contact me as stated above. These are excellent Christmas and Hanukkah presents, or just as a gift to yourself as you have hundreds or chances to win throughout the 2017 year.

The 2017 Erie County/8<sup>th</sup> District Golf Tournament will be coming up next year. The date is set for Friday June 16, which is the day before the 8<sup>th</sup> District Convention. We will be having a shotgun start at noon at Concord Crest golf course with steak roast and open bar and awards for all golfers at Tehan Post 1449. Thank you and Happy Thanksgiving.

**South Buffalo Post #721** Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Spaghetti, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Roast Beef. 136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo, 14210.

**George F. Lamm Post #622** is collecting gently used clothing to support the VA's Homeless Veteran's Program.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the January**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due December 16**  
**[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

## Department Visitation – Wayne Sorrentino

The Erie County American Legion and Auxiliary will be hosting a dinner honoring Department Commander John B. Sampson, Department President Deborah Kryczkowski, and SAL Detachment Commander J. Bruce Ruthven on Friday, February 3, 2017.

The Dinner will be held at the Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell, NY. 14219. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00 PM. Dinner cost is \$30. Ticket deadline will be Friday January 27, 2017. There will be no sales the week of the dinner or payment at the door.

Dinner Menu: Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, & Coffee, etc.

Tickets are ordered by sending in your check to County Headquarters, to 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq., Buffalo, N.Y. 14202. Please make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion. You can also pay for reservations at the County meetings. See Jim Bojanowski. To help offset expenses, please support the program book with 1/8 page Ads \$15, and Boosters \$1. Returns to the County Office by Friday January 20.

Hopefully we will see all Posts represented at this dinner. This would also be a perfect time for you to make a presentation to Commander Sampson for his project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF), President Kryczkowski project, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), and Commander Ruthven's project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

**Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield** gives his address at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/11/16 with NYS Service Officer Anthony Druz bik overseeing.



### Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 22 Posts who attended in November. Please join us in December!

### **December 15, F.J. Donovan Post #1626**

3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225

Menu: Ham, Candied Yams, Green Bean Casserole, Chef Salad, Dessert, & Coffee

### **January 26, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449**

### **February 23, Newcomb-Long Post #928**

### **Sunday December 4**

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

Botts-Fiorito Post #576

53 W. Main St.

Leroy, NY 14482

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

### **Saturday December 17**

Join Commander Nelson Oldfield for the annual Christmas Party to be held at the F.J. Donovan Post #1626 from Noon to 4 PM. Light snacks will be served.

### **Mid-Winter Conference 1/20 - 22, 2016**

Albany, NY at the Desmond Hotel

### **Editor's Note:**

I recently toured a new wholesale outlet called Gordon Restaurant Service located at 1959 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo 14207. This is not an endorsement, but since it is free for your Post to join as a Non-Profit Organization, it may be worthwhile to check out.

### **Erie County Office Hours**

Staffed by Jim Bojanowski every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 7:30 am to 12:30 pm, excluding holidays.

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



### **Saturday November 26**

Blues in South Buffalo - Jony James & Kenny Parker will be playing at the South Buffalo American Legion Post #721 starting at 8 PM in our downstairs club room. All are invited.

### **Wednesday, December 7**

American Legion Post 735 will hold its 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Service on December 7, 2016. The service will commence at 12:00pm (noon) with guest speaker followed by chili and refreshments.

### **Wednesday December 14**

Past Commanders Club Christmas Party at Kiebzak's Restaurant, Crocker St., Sloan NY. \$25 Couple, \$12.50 single. No walk ins at door. Limit 40 people. Cash Bar at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. Dues of \$5 can be paid at County Meeting.

### **Saturday December 17**

Join Commander Nelson Oldfield for the annual Christmas Party to be held at the F.J. Donovan Post #1626 from Noon to 4 PM. Light snacks will be served.

### **Sunday December 18**

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 \$8, children under 12 \$4, under 5 free.

**FJ Donovan Post #1626**, Fish Fry's are back, Friday's 4-8 PM, Szaras Catering.

**Hamburg Post #527**, weekly Thursday Spaghetti dinners from 4:30 to 7 PM. Full order \$8, half order \$6. 2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 12/16 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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