



## *The Legion-Air*

**Nelson Oldfield  
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski  
Adjutant/Editor**



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July 2016

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

It gives me great pleasure in being elected your New County Commander, the endorsements at the convention were enthusiastic and I thank you for that. This is the Year of the Veteran!

A special Thanks to the Tehan Post 1449 who did an excellent job for the whole convention. An awesome Post and hoping to visit them again.

As a County we have many challenges facing us this year. I am pleased with the selection of Vice Commanders and look forward to working with them in the coming year along with the staff to solve some of these Challenges.

We will go to our casual uniform for our meetings for July & August and there will no longer be a requirement for a staff meeting prior to our Monthly meeting. I realize that many of you work and that puts a strain on our staff. If you are able to, please report 30 Minutes before the meeting starts. Your job comes First!, I am planning a quarterly staff meeting on a different date as soon as I get some input from the staff and I will keep you posted.

In the membership area, for most new members in the Eighth district, Erie County was the winner. I was the membership director and the award was presented to me, but it was the hard work of the Posts that generated this award, and I thank you for your great efforts we generated 234 Members!

A special thanks to Tim Van Patton for the job as adjutant he stepped in at a Crucial time and kept us functioning at 100%, his guidance was amazing and I wish him luck in his retirement. He will be missed and hopefully stay active with the County! Thanks Tim!!!

I was am pleased with our new adjutant Jim Bojanowski, Jim led us through a successful Department Convention last year and I believe has the talent to lead us through the coming years. Welcome aboard Jim!

### **Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk**

I would like to thank the County for placing your trust in me and electing me as a Vice Commander for Erie County. I will strive to produce results deserving of that trust.

I have been reviewing pointers suggested at Department to maintain and improve membership numbers. Some I feel deserve mentioning here. Sources of potential members that were offered included insurance agents, police officers, fireman, church members, teachers, mail carriers, doctors, dentists, and college campuses. It was pointed out that expired members that renew are immediately counted as new members for the post. So renewing contact with expired members could be productive. Possible contact methods that were recommended included letter to the editor, church announcements, county fair, military appreciation events. Finally, some retention methods that were listed included father/son event, parent's night out, post-sponsored day trips, visits to home-bound members, and establish car pool rotation for post meetings.

The 2016 Membership Cards were received after the convention. I will have them available for pick-up at the July County Meeting.

The 2016 Membership Workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District will be on Saturday, August 13, at Botts-Fioritio Post #576 located on 53 W. Main St. in LeRoy, NY. Sign-in will be 9:00 AM. Seminar starts at 9:30 AM - until 1 PM. A free lunch will follow. The workshop is open to Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members. This year our District Membership Coordinator will be Wayne Sorrentino.

Membership is everyone's responsibility. I look forward to working with everyone toward a successful year in achieving membership goals.

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

At the 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting this Past weekend, I had the pleasure to see our own Erie County Legion member, Jim Bojanowski elected 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander. It was well deserved and gives Jim another function in the Legion Family. Keep in Mind the Erie County Fair coming up and I would enjoy seeing you there, you get

Free admission on Veterans Day Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2016. Remember to bring your membership card. Church Service starts at 10am and the ceremony starts at 11:30 and we assemble for the Parade at 12:30.

Thanks for being a Legion Member!

### **Boy's State - Pierre Harper Sr.**

I would like to inform all of you that the annual Boys' State luncheon was another successful event! Having a chance to meet and greet with our 37 delegates and their families was an absolute pleasure. I am glad that we got a chance to pass along pertinent information to the delegates along with enjoying a great meal. I would like to thank Gunner Haberal who is a Legislative Aide for the NYS Assembly and a former Erie County Boy's Stater for a wonderful speech to the young men.

As always, I want to thank all of the Posts and the chairpersons for doing a wonderful job! The level of delegates this year is second to none and that comes from all of the hard work that these men and women put in. Thanks go out to the following Posts who sponsored these young men, David McKeever, Lackawanna, Milton J. Brounshidle, East Aurora, Concord, Hamburg, Orchard Park, Frank H. Brink, George F. Lamm, Kensington, South Buffalo, West Seneca, Adam Plewacki, Clarence, Sardinia, Grand Island, Matthew Glab, Erieco Women's, North Collins, and Alfred J. Jurek. I hope to see more Post's on this list next year.

Thank you all for what has been a heck of a ride during my time as Erie County Boys' State Chairman. I will miss the young men that I had a chance to meet and all the chairpersons I got to work with.

For God and Country,  
Pierre Harper Sr.



### **Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina**

First and foremost I would like to thank my fellow Erie County Legionnaires for supporting and voting me in as a County Vice Commander. Commander Oldfield has assigned me the Special Activities role. Thank you Nelson for that. A special thank you to the past special activities person VC Joe Orzechowski who did a thorough battle handoff with me last week and e-mailed me other information I needed.

As you all know we are still selling the Delta Sonic car wash tickets for 10 dollars and if there is any questions about that please see my contact information at the end of this article. Next year, however, I would like to bring back the annual golf tournament to help to strengthen our American Legion so we can continue to function at a high level. I will need members to help me get this off the ground by forming a committee for the various tasks. With your assistance I know we can bring back such a worthwhile event.

I look forward to having a solid year while continuing to help the American Legion achieve its goals. Thank you all for your service to our great country and may God bless America. My e-mail is [fatony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fatony8705@yahoo.com) and number is 949-3341. Any questions or concerns let me know.

### **Americanism – VC Michael Johnson**

Fellow Legionnaires,  
I am deeply honored and humbled that you have elected me to serve as an Erie County Vice Commander. With our Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield, my fellow Vice Commanders, and the entire County Staff, I look forward to having a great year!

Shortly after our Erie County Convention, on June 6, we remembered the 72nd Anniversary of D-Day, the Normandy invasion. On Tuesday, June 14, I had the privilege of attending the Buffalo School 54 Flag Day celebration. Myself, other Legionnaires from Akron and Jesse Clipper Post, our brother and sister veterans from AMVETS, and a Color Guard from Hutch

## **Americanism Cont. – VC Michael Johnson**

Tech High School JROTC accompanied approximately 400 children and their teachers from Buffalo Public Schools 54, 31, and 17 with Erie County Sheriff and Buffalo Police escort down Main Street from School 54 to Forest Lawn Cemetery where a five man Erie County American Legion Honor Guard, including Erie County V.C. Tony Solina, was waiting with Buffalo Fire Department at the grave of Sarah Hinson, a founder of Flag Day. I assisted in laying a wreath at Sarah Hinson's grave, our Honor Guard firing party provided honors, and the Buffalo Fire Department assisted in the respectful burning of worn and unserviceable American Flags. Thank you to all the Legionnaires that attended this event and all other Flag Day events that happened around Erie County!

June 14, also marked the 241st Birthday of the U.S. Army, so to all Soldiers, Happy Birthday! On Wednesday, June 15, Commander Oldfield, myself, and other County Staff attended the ERIECO Women's Post 1586 Installation of Officers. From Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19, I had the privilege of attending the American Legion College of New York at SUNY Morrisville with other Legionnaires from Erie County. On June 18, we remembered the 204th Anniversary of the U.S. declaring war on Great Britain which began the War of 1812. On Sunday, June 12, Commander Oldfield and other Legionnaires commemorated this occasion by attending the Town of Cheektowaga ceremonies at the War of 1812 Cemetery on Aero Drive. A reception followed hosted by the Francis J. Donovan Post 1626. From June 26 - July 2, please keep in your thoughts those boys from Erie County and our Erie County Legionnaires attending Boys State at SUNY Morrisville. May they have a fun and enriching Boys State experience!

So June has been a busy month! With the celebration of our Nation's 240th Birthday on July 4, 2016 fast approaching, please let me know of any Fourth of July celebrations your Posts will be participating in. Also, I received a Red, White, and Blue Award nomination from Clarence Post 838. If there are any other Posts wishing to nominate someone or an organization/group for this award, please submit your award application form to me for consideration.



### **Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM  
July & August Meetings  
Dress is Legion Casual

**We are looking forward to seeing all Posts represented at these meetings.**

#### **July 28, George F. Lamm Post #622**

962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville, NY 14221  
Menu; Hot dogs, Hamburgers, Potato & Macaroni Salads

#### **August 18, Hamburg Post #527**

#### **September 22, Matthew Glab Post #1477**

#### **Department Convention – Binghamton, NY Sessions July 14 – 16**

**July 24, 8<sup>th</sup> District Organizational Meeting**  
at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. East Amherst, NY 14051 at 1 PM

**Saturday August 13, 2016 Membership Workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District**, at Botts-Fioritio Post #576 located on 53 W. Main St. in LeRoy, NY. Sign-in will be 9:00 AM. Seminar starts at 9:30 AM.

#### **Sunday August 14 Erie County Fair**

- 10 am Catholic Mass at Evans Bank Family Entertainment Complex
- 11:30 am Veteran's Recognition Ceremony at Veteran's Park, located on the infield
- 12:30 pm Parade Lineup
- 1 pm Parade Starts

#### **National Convention – Cincinnati, OH August 27 to September 1**

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

#### **Erie County Office Hours**

Staffed by Jim Bojanowski every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.



**Jr. Past Erie County Commander Wayne Sorrentino hands off the County Office key to newly elected Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield.**



**Sunday July 31**

Annual Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 Chicken BBQ. 655 New Rd, E. Amherst, NY 14051

**Saturday August 13**

Hamburg Post 527 is holding their 5th Annual Golf tournament at Holland Hills Country Club. Shotgun start Noon, hole in one contest for a 2016 car sponsored by West-Herr of Hamburg. Lunch at the start, with a chicken & Rib dinner at the finish. Prizes and 50/50. Open to all. Cost \$80. Proceeds to benefit the VA Hospital and Homeless Female Veterans Transitional Housing Project. For information call Jim Koester 570-1349 or Dan Murphy 648-0792.

**Sunday September 18 Special Olympics picnic at the George F. Lamm Post.**

**Sunday September 25**

ERIECO Women's Post #1586 will host their annual Corn Roast at the George F. Lamm Post #622 Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, 14221. 1-5 PM. Cost is \$12. Cost includes: door prizes, corn on the cob, hot dogs, salads, desserts, coffee, tea, pop and beer. No BYOB.

**Sunday October 9 Annual 5K race to benefit Homeless Female Veterans.**

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by July 29 for the August edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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