



The Legion-Air

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March 2016

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legion family & friends. Thank You to Troop I Post for the excellent job on the dinner & hospitality for our February County meeting. Tehan Post is the next meeting, on March 31st. Let's keep working to reverse the downward membership trend. This year looks to be shaping up to accomplish the mission and to build our numbers back up again.

Congratulations again to ERIECO Post for leading the charge on membership with 133.33%. I'm asking all Posts to continue your work with renewing and recruiting additional members. Thanks to all who are working on membership to keep our American Legion and Erie County strong, today, and into the future. Remember to "Just Ask".

Thank you to East Aurora Post for hosting our First Annual Four Chaplains Memorial Ceremony on 2/4. We had 15 people attend, plus about 8 or 10 in the Post Rifle Squad and collected \$151 for the museum. The food was terrific. Let's make this an annual remembrance in Erie County.

Thanks to Hamburg, Orchard Park, Lamm, Donovan & East Aurora Posts for sending your newsletters to me. Latest additions, Grand Island and Belgium! There are great things happening across Erie County and my staff & I would like to support your event, but we need to know about it. The Mid-Winter Conference was great. We had an Erie County hospitality room on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Thank You to all who stopped by for a few pops. It was great to see old friends and to make some new friends.

Hill Day will be history by the time this issue goes to press. Hill Day is a great opportunity for our Legion Family to attend the event and visit with our representatives in Albany. Lots going on with veterans' issues and The American Legion is in the forefront on all of these bills.

God bless our troops.

Thank you for your efforts to increase the membership of our American Legion family.

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

The strength report is out as of 2-9-16 for membership we are at 87.19%, according to Department, our **goal is 90%** by 3-7-16. My Projections for the county, I feel we are at about 89%, based upon transmittals that have not been posted yet. I figure this number out based upon conversations with membership people and the transmittals. If you have any even one or two hanging out there please send them in. We are so close to our goal! This is the hard part of the road for membership, because the rush is over. I would like to keep us Number one for Department Membership, for number of County members.!

I attended the Four Chaplains ceremony held at the East Aurora Post. They did a great job on it and I was proud to be there. 700 Americans died on the Dorchester as it went down, the German U Boat U223 sank the ship. These four chaplains should not be forgotten along with the Americans who lost their lives aboard this ship. I would very much like to see this ceremony move from Post to Post each year. There is more information at the Legion web site just type in the search box 4 Chaplains. Let Us never forget.

Please keep Aide Tony Solina in your prayers he is home recuperating from his surgery. He will be back at our next meeting at the Tehan Post.

There was recently in the Buffalo news an article about the 6th National Cemetery –Pembroke, New York. It is very informative and spells out the guidelines for Burial there. If you missed the meeting or would like the information, please let me know I can email it to you or send it out US mail.

Please attend the meetings it is a great source for Information about what is happening at the American Legion. We need more Post participation at County meetings!

Let Us never forget!

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

February was a very busy month primarily due to activities associated with the Department Commander's visit to the Eighth District. I attended dinners hosted by Niagara Co., Genesee Co., Orleans Co., and Erie Co. The Erie Co. dinner hosted by the George F. Lamm Post #622 was well attended and I was pleased to receive an Honorable Mention Award for the County Scrapbook I submitted to the Department Convention in July 2015. In early February, I attended the Eighth District Meeting, also conducted at the George F. Lamm Post.

March commemorates notable milestones in U.S. history and American Legion history. To begin, March has been designated as Women's History Month. As a women veteran I am proud to be a member of a group that has demonstrated over time that the gender of an individual does not indicate how well qualified they are to do a job proficiently. There is another milestone occurring in March that we all can be proud of. The American Legion Birthday will be celebrated on March 15 through 17. Our organization will become 97 years old. According to our National Commander, Dale Barnett, we have a rich legacy of accomplishments to be proud of including: the formation of the VA; establishment of the U.S. Flag Code; unparalleled troop support; relief for veterans suffering from service-related health conditions; career and education opportunities; and youth programs that improve lives in amazing ways generation after generation. On a final note I think it's fitting that National Medal of Honor Day, March 25, is observed during the same month that the American Legion was established.

In parting, please remember to bring pictures and/or announcements pertaining to Post activities to the county meeting to share on the Legion Activity Board.

Saturday April 23

South Buffalo Auxiliary Unit #721 will be hosting a Garage Sale from 9 AM to 2 PM. Tables are \$10 each. This is a great way to get rid of the clutter in your house and make a little cash in the process. If anyone is interested in renting a table please contact Rosanne at 812-4470.



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

Believe it or not, calendar sales are still trickling in. As of this moment (I don't want to call this the final figure for the year just yet) we have 780 calendars sold which has brought in a total of \$19,500. Naturally, we will have to pay quite a few winners during the year but, if everything follows the law of averages, we should expect to pay 286 winners a total of about \$9,400. This should leave about \$10K to fund future County programs, projects and functions.

In last month's issue I mentioned two options for our next fundraising activity: our usual golf tournament or selling Delta-Sonic car wash tickets. I was leaning towards the D-S tickets. However, an interesting development regarding the golf tournament came up at the February County Meeting which has made me reconsider. I will be making a final decision in the next few days and will announce it at the March meeting.

For the last couple of years, one of the primary benefactors of the County's golf tournament has been the American Legion's Legacy Scholarship Fund. As Dept. Cmdr. James Yermas informed us at his recent visitation dinner (Lamm Post on Feb 12th), that scholarship fund has a rather unusual problem at the moment: too much money and not enough applicants. The reason is that Government programs have recently stepped in to do what the Scholarship Fund has been doing for almost 15 years – providing college financial aid to the children of our heroes who have fallen since 9/11. So, regardless of which fundraiser we finally settle on, it will likely target Cmdr. Yermas other project for the year, Operation Comfort Warriors.



SUBMISSIONS
For the April
"The Legion-Air"
due March 25
thelegionair@gmail.com

Boys State – Pierre Harper

We are in full swing with another year of the Boys' State program and things are progressing very well so far. I have sent out letters to all of the listed Boys' State Chairpersons and things seem to be ahead of schedule with finding quality delegates. If your post is interested in sending a delegate, but did not receive the information please contact me as soon as possible. For Posts that will be sending delegates to Boys' State please be sure to attend our information/application completion lunch on April 3rd at the Niagara Frontier Post. The lunch will begin at 11 AM. This is where all prospective delegates and alternates will come and complete their online application. We will be providing the computers, printers and all equipment needed to properly submit the application. All that the delegates and alternates will need to bring to the lunch is a completed physical form and a signed commitment certification form.

After the 2016 Boys' State session, I will be stepping down as Erie County Boys' State Chairman. It has been a great ride and getting to work with some outstanding legionnaires and wonderful young men has been a pleasure. If there is anyone who is interested in taking over this wonderful committee please contact me. I will do my best to pass down all that I have learned in the six years that I have served if you are interested in the position. I would like to thank Carl Domescek for serving as my assistant chairman and all of the Past County Commanders for allowing me to serve the American Legion in the capacity that will always be closest to my heart.

For God and Country,

P. R. Harper Sr.
Erie County Boys' State Chairman
Eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com

Erie County Office Hours

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



Thursday County Meeting Dates Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

***Note: Date change for March

March 31, Thomas Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219

Menu: caesar salad, baked ham, potatoes, carrots, & dessert.

April 28, East Aurora Post #362

May 19, Lackawanna Post #63

June 3, Erie County Convention

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219

Please support our Convention hosts by ordering an ad or sending in boosters in the program book by May 1. Letters have been sent out to all Posts. Make your check payable to Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449 Convention Committee. Post address above.

Sunday April 3

8th District Meeting – Cattaraugus County

Norton-Chambers Post #1434

3514 Route 16, Hinsdale, NY 14743

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Erie County Scholarship – Arthur Foreman

Applications for this year's scholarship have been mailed out. Letters have also been sent out asking all Past County Commanders and Posts to donate to funding the scholarships.

PNC Michael J. Kogutek Scholarship

Applications have been mailed out and the scholarship is also posted on the Erie County website. Donations also accepted.

Erie County Website – eriecounyal.org.

Log on to our site to get up to date information on membership & current events in Erie County. All recent editions of the Legion-Air are also available online. Contact Tim Van Patten to be able to log on the members page for additional information.



Friday March 11

South Buffalo Post #721 proudly presents Music by the DOS FOGIES from 7:30PM – Midnight. Post # 825 – 9557.

Sunday March 13

ALL YOU AN 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, children under 5 free.

Good Friday March 25

South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo, will be serving Fish Fry's from 4:30 – 8 PM. Haddock dinners are \$10 and include: French Fries, Cole Slaw, Macaroni Salad, Bread & Butter. We will also have Chicken Fingers and French Fries for \$7.50. Take out will also be available. Post # 825-9557.

East Aurora Post #362 begins its Lenten Friday fish fry season starting on February 12, through Good Friday March 25th from 4 to 7 PM. Dine in or take out. Choice of beer battered or broiled fish, macaroni salad, coleslaw, and choice of French fries, German, or American style potato salad. Chicken fingers also available. Fish cost \$11, or \$9 for senior citizens, and \$7 for children.

Donovan Post #1626,

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

Hamburg Post #527

Spaghetti dinners served every Thursday from 4:30 to 7 PM. Full order \$8 (2 meatballs), half order \$6. Includes salad.
1 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, 14051

South Buffalo Post #721

Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1st Monday Spaghetti, 3rd Monday Roast Beef. 136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo, 14210

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by March 25 for the April edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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