



The Legion-Air

Nelson Oldfield
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



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November 2016

Commander's Message:

Thanks for all who attended the UB Football Game against Army; it was nice to be recognized on the field along with our District Commander. It did my heart good to see his grandson with him for the event. I had mixed emotions as to who I should cheer for, being a product of the US Army, It looked like Army was going to roll over UB but in overtime, UB won the game! **Special Thanks to our color guard and Rifle Squad.**

We are getting many requests to be linked to our County Web Site. We will not link our site to a profit making Company. My fear here is that we may tarnish our great Brand Name, The American Legion. I have asked our Judge Advocate Kathy Garvey to establish and write up a policy and we will make sure that everyone receives a copy at a future County meeting.

I would request that if you are bulk emailing something to our group that you send them out as "blind copy". This will help eliminate our members from receiving a lot of JUNK mail. If you have been asked to forward info, please consider forwarding it to our Adjutant Jim Bojanowski or myself to make sure it is something we want sent on within our organization.

It was great to have our National Commander Charles Schmidt here in Buffalo and a chance to meet him. He has some great ideas for the Legion and I wish him luck! Thanks to the Hamburg Post for the great job on his Dinner!!

I apologize that I cannot make all the Veterans Day events but with the help of my Vice Commanders and Aides I think we have most of them covered. A lot is coming up this month and one very Special event to me is the Gold Star Mothers and Dads. I am very honored and proud to have a mass for them at Saint John Kanty's Church at the 4PM on 11/5. There will be a reception following the mass and a lite meal will be provided in the Church conference area. The Church is beautiful inside and was built in 1892.

Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk

The 55% membership goal was targeted for October 7. As a county, we surpassed that goal with a membership percentage of 63.57%. That puts us very close to the goal of 65% targeted for November 14. Of 39 posts in Erie County, 29 achieved a membership percentage of 55% or higher with Four Star Post still holding the highest at 91.67%. Compared to last month, 6 additional posts were within the target goal for the period. These results demonstrate that a lot of hard work, time, and effort are being directed toward post membership programs. That effort is greatly appreciated. Please keep up the good work toward continued success in the achievement of our next goal.

We're also doing well compared to district and department standings. In our district, we had the highest percentage out of nine counties. In department, our percentage was ranked at 15th out of 63 counties. We can feel very proud of our accomplishments in membership up to this point.

We are still planning a County Mini Revite to contact members who have let their membership lapse. It is scheduled for 11/15 at Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga. It will start at 5:30PM. We will need volunteers to make phone calls. Please sign up at the county meeting or contact Cmdr. Nelson, VC Sue, or Adjutant Jim at the county office. Let's make this a successful recruiting activity.

November is a month when veterans are in the spotlight because of Veterans Day and the activities associated with this holiday. Let's take advantage of this extra attention by proudly wearing apparel displaying Legion logos and talking up Legion programs during our daily activities. Put the Dept. Cmdr's. Motto, "Tell somebody," into action. Keeping in mind, that membership is all of our responsibility.

Americanism – VC Michael Johnson

Fellow Legionnaires,

I can't believe it's already November!

General Election Day is November 8. Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. - 9 p.m. We all need to do our civic duty and vote! Also, we as Legionnaires, should get out the vote by encouraging everyone to vote and even by assisting with rides to polling places for elderly or disabled individuals.

November 11th is Veterans Day, so I want to personally thank you all for your service. I highly encourage all Posts and Legionnaires to take part in this celebration of the service all veterans have given to our Nation. Whether it's taking part in a parade or other community event, all veterans should be out in force promoting this holiday and enjoying camaraderie with fellow veterans!

On November 10th, at about 11 a.m. at the Clarence Senior Center, I plan on being with Clarence Post 838 to present a Red, White, and Blue Award to a deserving recipient. If any other Legionnaires would like to come for this presentation and to support the award recipient, you are welcome! If any other Posts want to nominate an individual or business for a Red, White, and Blue Award, you can get the application from the Department of New York website, www.nylegion.net, or contact me at (716) 570-1246 or tke251@hotmail.com and I can send you an application.

Finally, I want to wish you and your families a very Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Oratorical – Wayne Sorrentino

If you have a contact at your local school, please encourage participation in the Erie County Oratorical contest which will be held at The George F. Lamm Post #622, on Sunday, December 11, 2016, at 3:00 PM. Please have your prospect contact me via email at wayne.sorrentino@verizon.net.

Buffalo City Hall PURPLE HEART DISPLAY in the main lobby by the concession stand. They have an effort to increase the spousal/dependent stipend raised to 50% of what the veteran's compensation award is. See their website at www.russellpurpleheart.com or contact Russell Ward at 716-587-1120.

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



Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I still have Delta Sonic car wash tickets available. The cost is \$10, of which \$4 goes back to the American Legion for a car wash that normally runs over \$15. 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 at 949-3341 or e-mail: fattony8705@yahoo.com

Yearly calendars are also, still available. They are a \$25 donation with a range of 000-999 for the numbers. I will have them with me at every County meeting and if you would like any at any other time please contact me as stated above. These calendars make for an excellent holiday presents as there are hundreds of opportunities throughout 2017 for whomever you give one to, to win.

The 2017 Erie County/8th District golf tournament will be coming up next year. The committee has met already and information will be mailed out to the posts a little bit down the line.

With Veteran's Day approaching, I hope that those of you who can attend or partake in a Veteran's Day event to please do so. It is a day for all of us veterans but more so a chance to remember those men and woman who did not make it back.

November 11 Veteran's Day Celebration at Salvatore's 6675 Transit Rd., Williamsville to benefit the Batavia PTSD Clinics. USO musical performance starts at 4 PM, ends at 7 PM.

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



SUBMISSIONS
For the December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 18
thelegionair@gmail.com

Sabbath Mass – Wayne Sorrentino

Please attend the non-denominational Armed Forces Sabbath Mass at St. Joe's Cathedral on Franklin St. in Buffalo, on Sunday, November 6 at 10:30 AM. Let's pray together for our military around the world. Wear your uniform or Legion cover and show your support of our military and veterans. Color Guards, please arrive by 10 AM hours and proceed to Our Lady's Chapel inside the Cathedral on the left side of the altar for procession assignments.

5K Race for Female Homeless Veterans (l-r)

Thomas Carberry sings the National Anthem, ECAL Veterans for Veterans Inc., President Anne Balio, ECVC Sue Quirk, and runner Beth Wallace holds the American Flag.



5 levels of Commanders pictured from (l-r) Hamburg Post Cmdr. Mark Wilson, New York Department Cmdr. John Sampson, National Cmdr. Charles E. Schmidt, 8th District Cmdr. James Bojanowski, and Erie County Cmdr. Nelson Oldfield.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 24 Posts who attended in September. Please join us!

November 17, A.J. Jurek Post #1672

655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051

Menu: Turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, cranberry and raspberry sauces and apple pie for dessert.

December 15, F.J. Donovan Post #1626

January 26, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

Saturday November 5

The annual Gold Star Mothers & Dads Mass will be at St John Kanty's R.C Church 4 PM mass. Reception/Refreshments after the mass in Church's hospitality room.

Saturday November 5

All American Legion Posts let's Welcome Home all our Veterans from all War's. A parade to welcome them home starting at 11 AM at Delaware & Virginia. For more info contact parade chairman John R Kasmer at [634-1128](tel:634-1128) or e-mail to kasmer_03@aol.com.

Veteran's Day Service – Anthony Druzvik

Join us at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/11. Grave decoration at 8 AM, with services at the American Legion Monument at 9 AM.

Veteran's Day 11/11 Luncheon will be held at

Troop I Post #665, 432 Franklin St. Buffalo. Doors open at Noon, luncheon starts at 1 PM. Cost \$11. Reservations preferred, call 885-8084. The guest speaker Norm Mineo, a WWII historian.

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.



See inside for Details:

- **Gold Star Mothers & Dads Mass 11/5**
- **Veteran's Parade 11/5**
- **Sabbath Mass 11/6**
- **Veteran's Day Service 11/11**
- **Veteran's Day Luncheon 11/11**

Sunday November 20

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.

Sunday December 4

8th 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

Wednesday December 14

Past Commanders Club Christmas Party at Kiebzak's Restaurant, Crocker St., Sloan NY. \$25 Couple, \$12.50 single. Must be a dues paid member. Deadline November 15, no walk ins at door. Limit 40 people. Dues can be paid at County Meeting \$5.

December 17

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

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 by November 18 for the December edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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