



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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October 2016

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

There have been a lot of things going on in the last month. I enjoyed the Parade at the Iroquois Post. It was a lot of fun and their Commander Bud Thompson and staff did an excellent job and presented me with their flag which I will keep for a long time. Bud has promised me an invite for their new building and I am looking forward to being there.

I attended the Retirees Appreciation Day at the Niagara Falls Air Base. It was the First and hopefully many more. These are normally held at Fort Drum so it was great to have one in our backyard. My wife Marlene attended and she was able to get a ride on the C130 at the base. This was the hurrah as the next day the planes were moved from the base after about 60 years of being there. Part of the base will have a new Mission. We did manage to pick up four members at the event. Special thanks to Henry Curtiss for helping bring the event there and keeping us informed. Thanks to Susan Quirk for setting the membership table.

Special Olympics, great showing by volunteers at the Lamm Post, a little lite on attendees but it was supported well by the Post and the group. The Erie County Sheriff was there with two mounted Police officers, along with the 40/8 with their Train the Lamm Express. The Depew Post chefs were busy cooking the burgers outside by the grill. Great job and a worthwhile function and I would do it again in a heartbeat!

I attended the 865<sup>th</sup> Picnic on Grand Island with Jerzy Folta, looks like from the totals we should pick up seven members from attending this function, I can see why East Aurora does well with membership and he is a key Aide to have at our recruiting functions.

What I have learned, is that if we are going to increase our membership that we must be at more functions in our area, we need members who are sharp and good at dealing with the public

### **Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk**

Our first target cut-off date of September 12 has past and the goal was 50%. As a county we achieved that at 56.48%. Of 39 posts, 23 achieved a membership percentage of 50% or higher with Four Star Post achieving the highest at 91.67%. Our next target date is October 7 and the goal is 55%. My heartfelt thanks go out to all membership teams who are working hard to maintain our membership so that the Legion can continue to serve veterans and the community.

September 13 was primary day and November 8 will be Election Day. It goes without saying that engaging in our right to vote is imperative to maintain veterans' benefits. So please do your homework and vote for the legislators you feel will represent veterans' interests the best. On 9/17 Retirees Appreciation Day took place at the Niagara Falls Air Base. The Erie County American Legion manned a table there and there was an impressive turn-out. Some individuals expressed interest in membership and their information will be passed along. We will have a tent at the UB – Army game on 9/24. The American Legion will be in the public eye by participating in the Opening Ceremonies due to the hard work of Legionnaires George Barton and John Kasmer. This will generate increased interest in American Legion membership.

A future membership recruiting activity being planned is a County Mini Revite. At this time it is scheduled for 11/15 at Donovan Post #1626 starting at approximately 5:30 PM. We will need volunteers to make phone calls. Volunteers can sign up at a county meeting or call Cmdr. Nelson, VC Sue, or Adjutant Jim at the County Office. Please check your calendars and consider helping out if you can.

In closing I'd like to repeat the Dept. Cmdr's motto, "Tell somebody." Talk to people about the activities you and your family are involved with in the American Legion. Remember, membership is all of our responsibility.

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

to bring new members into our Posts. Last year we had the most new members in the 8<sup>th</sup> District than any other County. If you have questions contact Sue Quirk, but we need to be out there. Let's keep the "Big Dog on top!"

Last thing is if you are a membership person please get your email address turned into Jim Bojanowski, We have leads that we can email to you which is a quick way of getting them to you before they forget they talked to us and a way for the County to save some money on Postage. Thanks for your Service!

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

I hope you all took an opportunity on Patriot Day, September 11th, to remember those we lost in the terrorist attacks 15 years ago. To my fellow United States Air Force Veterans, I hope you all had a chance to celebrate the 69<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Air Force on September 18th!

In October, we join with our Brother and Sister Navy Veterans in celebrating the 241<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the United States Navy. Founded on October 13, 1775 by resolution of the Continental Congress, the U.S. Navy has grown from the original two ships requested to go up against the British Royal Navy to the largest and most technologically advanced naval force in the world.

We must always remember all those that have served on ship or shore to defend our Nation. Election Day is on Tuesday, November 8th. Please encourage everyone you know to exercise their civic duty and vote during this Presidential Election Year!

Veteran's Day is fast approaching, I hope all Posts will celebrate this day of thanksgiving for the service of all of our Veterans.

As always, I can be reached by phone: (716) 570-1246 or E-Mail: [ecal@eriecountyal.org](mailto:ecal@eriecountyal.org) Be assured of my continued daily prayers for all of you and your families.

### **Oratorical – Wayne Sorrentino**

Letters have been sent to all Erie County High Schools encouraging 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. If you can, please visit your local High School to also help encourage participants in this contest that grows student's public speaking skills. Please have your prospect contact me via email at [wayne.sorrentino@verizon.net](mailto:wayne.sorrentino@verizon.net) to get them started.



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

I hope everyone has had a great summer! 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: [fatony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fatony8705@yahoo.com)

The yearly calendars are available. They are a \$25 donation with numbers 000-999 and make an excellent Christmas present! Early bird drawing for \$100 will be at the October County meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of that month at the Tehan Post. All stubs received that day are eligible for the drawing. 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. The 2017 Erie County/8<sup>th</sup> District golf tournament will be coming up next year. As the weather turns more details will become concrete. Thank you.

**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.

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

**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 November**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due October 21**  
**[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

## Special Olympics – Wayne Sorrentino

The Picnic was held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 in the Grove on Sunday, 9/18. We had 50 Special Olympics folks attend, along with 31 volunteers from several American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries, and including 4 members of The 40 & 8 Society, Voiture 51, who brought their loki & box car and provided train rides for 38 of our guests. Four members of Depew Post #1528 cooked all of the hamburgers for our enjoyment and did an excellent job. Music by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors was enjoyed by our Special Olympians. The Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit was able to attend and show off their horses. Among the volunteer worker bees were our own District 8 Commander from Erie County, Jim Bojanowski and his wife Michelle and Erie County Commander, Nelson Oldfield. Many thanks to Lamm Auxiliary President, Sally Dean and her team who performed all of the magic in the Grove kitchen. Workers were as follows: 10 - Lamm Post #622, 8 - Lamm #622 Auxiliary, 4 - Depew Post #1528, 4 - Donovan Post #1626, 1 - Brounshidle #205 Auxiliary, 1 - Jurek Unit #1672, 1 - Plewacki Post #799, 1 - Glab #1477 Auxiliary, and 1 - Tehan Post #1449. Thank you for your support of this great and worthwhile program. Special Thank You's to East Aurora Post #362 for their \$100 check, Depew Post #1528 for their \$50 check and to Don Schram for his \$50 check to help offset the expenses of the picnic.

**Niagara Falls Air Force Retiree Appreciation Day** attendees include, Felton Davis, Richard Hill, Henry Curtis, County Cmdr. Nelson Oldfield, District Cmdr. Jim Bojanowski, Paulette Woods, and Sue Quirk. Picture taken by Eugene Pierce.



### Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 23 Posts who attended in September.

### **October 27, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449**

2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell 14219

Menu: Salad, German Sausage, Pork Loin, German potato Salad, Vegetable, Peach Cake.

### **November 17, A.J. Jurek Post #1672**

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

### **Sunday October 2**

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

Dunkirk Memorial Post #62

211 Central Ave.

Dunkirk, NY 14048

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

### **National Commander Charles E. Schmidt**

### **Testimonial Dinner Friday October 14**

at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, 14075. Our newly elected National American Legion Commander will be visiting WNY. Let's shown him a big welcome!

Cost will be \$30 per person for a family style roast beef and turkey dinner at 7 PM. The Post will be open at 5:30 PM for cash bar cocktails with Hors d'oeuvres. Send your payment to the Erie County Legion Office by Friday 10/7. No tickets will be sold the week of the dinner or at the door. We are also asking for 1/8 page ads \$15 and boosters \$1. Program Book deadline is Monday October 3.

### **Veteran's Day 11/11 Luncheon**

will be held at Troop I Post #665, 432 Franklin St. Buffalo starting 1 PM. Call 885 – 8083. Cost \$15.

### **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).**



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
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 Buffalo, NY 14202  
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 e-mail: [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)



**Sunday October 2**

Official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Buffalo/Niagara Military Lounge at 4 PM. Reception will be held at the Days Hotel 4345 Genesee St., Cheektowaga 14225. Shuttle service available to the lounge.

**Saturday October 8**

Orchard Park Post #567, 3740 N. Buffalo Rd. is sponsoring a meat raffle, starting at 7 PM.

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual race will be held on Sunday October 9 at South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo, 14210. Registration 9 AM, Race starts at 11 AM. Cost is \$20. Register at [www.score-this.com](http://www.score-this.com). Contact Anne Baglio at 592-3756 or Kathy Renner 822-6121.

**Wednesday October 12**

Past Commander's Club meeting at 7 PM at the F.J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225.

**Sunday October 16**

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.

**Wednesday October 19**

Compliance Workshop held at 1 PM Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr., Hamburg 14075. Department Compliance Chairman Dennis McCarthy has arranged NYS Gaming Commission to review all aspects of charitable gaming: pull tabs, queen of hearts, raffles, etc.

**Saturday November 5**

All American Legion Posts let's Welcome Home all our Veterans from all War's. A parade to welcome them home at 11 AM. For more info on parade and application contact parade chairman John R Kasmer at [716-634-1128](tel:716-634-1128) or e-mail to [kasmer\\_03@aol.com](mailto:kasmer_03@aol.com).

**Saturday November 5**

The annual Gold Star mothers Mass will be at St John Kanty's R.C Church 4 PM mass.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by October 21 for the November edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor