



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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December 2017

Commander's Message:

We are almost half-way through our business year and I've been pleased to see that we have been working well as an American Legion Family and are a little ahead of our goal for membership. Thank you to all who have contributed to those accomplishments.

Much has happened since our last County meeting. A notable activity primarily supported by our County American Legion Auxiliary was the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Our Auxiliary deserves high praise for the Hospitality Room they sponsored for the Arts Festival. I had the pleasure of visiting the Hospitality Room and attending the Closing Ceremonies Dinner for the festival. I was proud to witness all of the hard work of our Auxiliary.

On the first Sunday in November I stopped in at the Open House hosted by Brounshidle Post. It appeared to be well attended. Then on Veterans Day, it was my honor to be part of the Memorial Ceremony at Forest Lawn. Even though it was a very chilly day, there was a good turn-out. Later that day, I gathered with the American Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Gold Star Mothers for the Veterans Day Mass at St. Gregory the Great Church. It was followed by a reception generously hosted by Donovan Post. I want to send out a big thank you to the Legionnaires and Hutch Tech JROTC students that showed up on the day following Veterans Day to retrieve the flags placed at Veterans' headstones for the Memorial Ceremony.

November continued to keep me busy. On 11/15, I completed a visitation to Brounshidle Post for their Early-Bird Dinner Meeting. They welcomed new members that were signed up during their Open House earlier in the month. On 11/16, I attended a veterans' forum hosted by an Historical Association in Cheektowaga. On 11/17, the County Legion Staff and I, attended the County Auxiliary Meeting hosted by the Orchard Park Auxiliary Unit.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

I still have a limited number of post transmittal forms available and will have them at the next county meeting if you need them. However, if you would like some sooner than that, you can download and print them off the Department website under membership; it is on the right-hand side of the screen. Or, call to request some more transmittal forms. Contact Membership Manager at Department, Cassi Harden at 518-463-2215 ext. 15.

As of the latest update from Department, which came out on November 22, 9 posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 75% set for December 6. The County as a whole is close, at 71.53%. Depew Post leads the pack at 87.65%, while East Aurora Post has the most new members signed up. 24 Posts have surpassed last month's goal of 65%. Keep up the great work!

On November 21 we had a County revite for lapsed members, held at the Tehan Post. Thank you to those who helped out as we were able to get some past members to rejoin and/or transfer, it is much appreciated!!

I hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving!!

Commander's Message Continued:

On 11/18, it was my privilege to attend the Opening Ceremonies for the WWI Exhibit at the downtown Buffalo Public Library. Our County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, and Past County Commander, Peter Hurd, worked very hard to make this ceremony a success. Finally, I participated in the County Membership Revite on 11/21, at Tehan Post.

In closing, my wishes go out to the whole American Legion Family for a happy and safe Holiday Season. Included is an invitation to get an early start at the County Christmas Party at the Hamburg Post on December 2, from 1-5 PM.

Department Visitation – Nelson Oldfield

The Erie County American Legion and Auxiliary will be hosting a dinner honoring Department Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and SAL Detachment Commander William Clancy III on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

The Dinner will be held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY. 14218. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dinner cost is \$30. Ticket deadline will be Friday February 2, 2018. There will be no sales the week of the dinner or payment at the door.

Dinner Menu: Salad, Breaded Pork Chops, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Ice Cream, Tea & Coffee.

Tickets are ordered by sending in your check to County Headquarters, to 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq., Buffalo, NY 14202. Please make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion. You can also pay Jim Bojanowski for reservations at the County meetings.

To help offset expenses, please support the program book with 1/8-page Ads \$15, and Boosters \$1. Return ads/boosters to the County Office by Friday, January 26.

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 Nessler for her project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) and the Department of New York Emergency Fund, President Hennessy's project, "Our Military Kids", and Commander Clancy's project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Let's give Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and SAL Detachment Commander William Clancy III, a memorable Erie County welcome as they travel through the 8th District.

Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

No applications have been received for the County Contest this year. Next year, I hope the Posts get active in their community to encourage contestants in this career building opportunity.

Please send in your \$5 dues payment for the **Past Commanders Club** to Ron Danielewicz, 66 West Main St. Lot #1, Corfu, NY 14036.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

2018 Calendars sales are going well. I am happy to announce that I only have fifty calendars in my possession to give out. If your Post would like some, I will be glad to come and visit you and drop them off. For those Posts who have calendar stubs and money, please bring them to the County Meeting at Troop I on 11/30. You can also call me or text me at 716 - 867 - 5730 and we can make arrangements for me to pick up the returns. Remember, if the stubs and payments are not in my hands by January 1, 2018, they are not eligible for the \$150 drawing. So, get them in now, please.

USS Little Rock (LCS-9) Commissioning - Wayne Sorrentino

The ship will arrive at Canalside on Friday 12/8, around Noon. Many events are scheduled while the ship and her crew are in town. Check out the events on our website: usslittlerocklcs9.org, under "events". Some events are open to the public, some are by invitation only. If you are planning to attend the Commissioning on 12/16, and have tickets, give yourself plenty of time to find a parking spot and to go through the security checkpoint(s), similar to going through security at the airport. Guests without tickets will not be admitted inside the security areas. Thank you for your interest in this historical event for our fair city.

Seneca Niagara Bus Trip - VC Tom

O'Connell I have reserved two buses for February 19, 2018 for a field trip to the Seneca Niagara Casino. THIS IS A HOLIDAY so make your plans to support the Special Events breakfast and bus trip. Now to what you get for only \$30. A full buffet breakfast with scrambled eggs, home fries, sausage, french toast, coffee, tea, and OJ, plus sweets served at 10 AM. You get \$25 in slot money and \$5 toward food at the casino. The bus leaves Post 1041 on Amherst Street at 11 AM sharp. We are sure this will be a sell out, so get your payment in early. Bus returns to Post 1041 at 6 PM. Call Tom at 716-867-5730 or the Captain for the second bus, Ron at 716-836-9617.

World War I Exhibit Grand Opening – Peter Hurd Thanks go out to everyone who participated in the Ceremony held Saturday 11/18 at the Erie County Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo. If you were unable to be in attendance, the exhibit will be open for the next two years. It is worth the visit.



World War I Buffalo & Erie County Downtown Public Library Official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony held 11/18. Pictured (L-R), Past 8th District Commander Jim Bojanowski, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Past Erie County Commander Peter Hurd, Library Director Jean Jakubowski, and Library Board Chairman Frank Housh.



Fellow Legionnaires reviewing the WWI Exhibit, pictured (L-R), ERIECO Women's Post Commander Karen Patch, West Seneca Post member JoAnn Pressburg, and Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

December 21, Francis Donovan Post #1626
3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225

January 25, Newcomb Long Post #928

February Orchard Park Post #567

Saturday December 2

County Commander Sue Quirk Christmas Party at Hamburg Post #527 from 1 - 5 PM.

Sunday December 3, 8th District Meeting - Orleans County

Jewell Buckman Post #529

5 Wright St.

Holley, NY 14470

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

January 19, 20, & 21

Department Mid-Winter Conference in Albany.

Erie County Scholarships- Art Forman

To all Erie County Past Commanders and Posts, please support our annual Scholarship Programs by sending in your donation to the County office. Earmark check for Scholarships.

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



**SUBMISSIONS
For the January
"The Legion-Air"
Due December 22
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Sunday November 19

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.

Hamburg Post Spaghetti Dinners served on Thursdays 4:30 to 7 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50. Full order \$8, half \$6.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Sun. Mon. & Tues. Taco's Wed. 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thur. nights, is steak night. Fri. nights, fish fries/specials, Sat., pizza & wing's and sandwiches available. Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.

FJ Donovan Post #1626, Fish Fries, Friday's 4-8 PM, Szaras Catering.

South Buffalo Post 721 First Monday Spaghetti Dinner, all other Monday's, in November, we will be servings \$.65 wings from 6 - 10PM. Minimum order is 10, Eat in only.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/22 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

On Saturday, 11/11, Newell - Faulkner American Legion Post #880 Honor Guard and the Ladies Auxiliary members had their annual breakfast with the Veterans at Eden Heights Assisted Living Facility in Eden, NY.



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