



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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November 2017

Commander's Message:

In the month of October our nation celebrated the recognized discovery of the "New World". In that new world our nation was created and established on the concept of freedom for all. Recently the symbol of that freedom, our Flag, has become the center of a controversy concerning the freedom of speech. As a result of a motion passed at our October county meeting, a letter was sent to the Buffalo Bills from the Office of the Erie County Committee of the American Legion concerning this controversy. It reflected the sentiment of our National Commander. She lamented the politicization of our National Anthem and proper respect of the Flag that used to be a display of unity at NFL games across the country. The letter explained that the American Legion Family in WNY encourages freedom of speech, but found associated disrespect of the Flag and our National Anthem to be offensive. A copy of the U.S. Flag Code was also sent with the letter.

The Erie County American Legion Family has been well represented in and supportive of many activities throughout October. These included the 8th District Meeting in Wellsville, the Department Membership Workshop in Leroy, the Homeless female Vets 5K Race/Walk at South Buffalo Post #721, and the National Commander's visitation dinner at Wheatfield Post #1451 in Niagara County. During the National Commander's visit I was proud to be in a picture that represented a complete chain of women commanders from ERIECO Women's Post to the National Level.

Most recently on 25OCT I attended the Opening of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival being conducted at several venues here in Buffalo throughout the week. I visited the hospitality room for festival participants hosted by our Erie County American Legion Auxiliary in the Adam's Mark.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

I have a limited number of post transmittal forms available for the next county meeting. Remember, you can download and print them off the Department website under membership. You can also call to request some more transmittal forms from Department, Manager Cassi Harden at 518-463-2215 ext 15.

The current update from Department, shows 14 posts have already met or exceeded the 11/8 target goal of 65%. The county is at 62.2%. Concord Post leads at 82.5%. 30 posts have surpassed last month's goal of 55%. Great job!

On 11/21 we will be holding a county re-vite for lapsed members in conjunction with the Auxiliary and Sons at Tehan Post. Anyone interested in helping out please call me know at: 949-3341 or e-mail: fatony8705@yahoo.com. We will be having pizza and a training session at 5:30 with calls to commence at 6:00 and conclude once all calls have been made or 9:00, whichever comes first. Please come out and help us to regain some of these lost members.

End of the year membership prizes for the County Convention in June, will be awarded to Posts who meet or exceed 100%.

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.

World War I Exhibit Grand Opening –

Peter Hurd Ceremony will be held Saturday 11/18 at the Erie County Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, starting at 10 AM. The initial opening ceremony is planned for outside, but will be moved inside, if the weather does not cooperate. Please join us with your Post Color Guard for the opening of this two-year commemorative display. Please RSVP the invitation your Post received. Tours will be given and refreshments provided.

Commander's Message Continued:

They have done a wonderful job creating a welcoming atmosphere for those who have traveled from all over the country to take part in this festival. Two VIP visitors present for the opening dinner and a stop in the hospitality room were American Legion Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck, and American Legion National Commander Denise Rohan.

On November 11, 1918, the WWI Armistice was signed and has become commemorated as the national holiday of Veterans Day. It is OUR holiday. I hope all veterans take part in one or more of the many patriotic and remembrance ceremonies scheduled throughout the month of November.

In closing, I encourage all Legionnaires in November to participate in another of our freedoms, which is our right to vote. We wore the uniform to protect this freedom. In the current political climate, it is important that all voices are heard through the right to vote.

10/13/17 National Commander's Dinner (L - R)

Department Commander Rena Nessler, National Commander Denise Rohan, 8th District Commander Kathy Kindle, Erie County Commander Sue Quirk, Erie County Post Commander Karen Patch, and Dept. Aide Dorothy Button.



Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

No applications have been received to-date. Volunteers will be needed for the County Contest planned for Saturday 12/2 at 11 AM if we have contestants. District competition - Saturday 1/14/18 Brounshidle Post #205 starting at Noon. Please attend these competitions to show these students that we care about them and the very hard work they are doing in order to compete.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

I have about 130 calendars left so please sell the ones you have and ask for more. Our goal is to sell all one thousand. Please bring your sold calendar slips along with the money to the next meeting which will be held at Troop I on 11/30. The early bird drawing winning ticket of \$100 was sold by Tom Deinzer. The next big drawing will be January 1, 2018. Please contact me if you can sell some of these calendars at 867-5730.

Boys State will run from June 24 to June 30, 2018. Please start working on this important program now. We are hoping the cost will remain the same. Doing the pizza lunch with the boys serving, worked out great. I was very proud of my first class of Boy Stater's. Next year, let's send more from Erie County.

Americanism - George Barton

I have been in contact with the Commanders of the JROTC programs of South Park and Hutch Tech High Schools, requesting my services to discuss Flag Etiquette. We are trying to set a date for November. I haven't heard anything from other schools or the Boy Scouts yet. Therefore, I will be making phone calls and reaching out to other schools and youth organizations to offer my services to discuss Americanism and or Flag Etiquette.

Please remember that November 7th, 2017 is Election Day. As an American it is your right, privilege, and responsibility to vote. If you want to see change or you want things to stay the same, then you must vote.

USS Little Rock (LCS-9) Commissioning -

Wayne Sorrentino planned for Saturday, 12/16/17 at Canal Side in Buffalo. The ship is planned to arrive in Buffalo on Friday, 12/8 and depart Monday 12/18. Go to our website: USSLITTLEROCKLCS9.ORG to apply for commissioning tickets and potentially make a donation to the Commissioning Committee. Social events will be free of charge, with all expenses paid by the Commissioning Committee.

Veteran's Day Mass – John Kasmer

The annual Mass will be held on Saturday November 11 at St. Gregory the Great Church, 5:30 PM Mass on Maple Road, 200 St. Gregory Court, Williamsville, NY 14221. Reception to follow at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Gold Medal Winning Artist Veteran James Becker from Grand Island at the **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival** is pictured with his painting "Intraflexion".



Volunteers at the Buffalo National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (L – R) Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, Erie County Commander Sue Quirk, National Commander Denise Rohan, National Auxiliary President Diane Duscheck, Erie County President Deb Diebold, Hospitality Chairman Anne Baglio, and 8th District President Cheryl Kollander



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

November 30, Troop I Post #655

432 Franklin St. Buffalo, 14202

Menu: Meatloaf, Potato, Vegetable

December 21, Francis Donovan Post #1626

January 25, Newcomb Long Post #928

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

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

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 December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 24
thelegionair@gmail.com



Sunday, November 5

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr., Pancake Breakfast 9 AM to Noon, \$6/person, children 8 and under are free. ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee or tea. Benefits Boys State and Scholarship Funds.

Sunday November 5

Veteran's Open House at the Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 14217 from 1 - 5 PM. VA and local Service Agencies will be available to answer your questions. Free refreshments will be served.

Saturday, November 11

Frank H. Brink Post #607 is sponsoring a Veterans' Day Prime Rib Roast/Dance held at the Holland Community Center on Legion Drive. \$25, served 6-8pm, dancing from 8pm-12am. Cash bar for beer, wine and soft drinks.

November 17, 18, & 19

Troop I Post #665 Craft Show Craft Fair, Fri. 4 – 9 pm, Sat. 10 am - 6pm, & Sun. 10 am – 3 pm. Any vendor interested in participating contact Beth or Dana at 716 885-9803.

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 11/24 for the December edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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