



The Legion-Air

**Suzanne Quirk
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor**



thelegionair@gmail.com

October 2017

Commander's Message:

This time of year, is a time of harvest and celebration of bounty from the fields. We in WNY have a lot to be grateful for. In contrast there is a lot of destruction in other parts of our country and the world resulting from recent hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. I encourage Legion members to be generous in their contributions to the National Emergency Fund or any reputable disaster response organization.

Early in the month on September 9th, I proudly joined Erie County Staff at the annual Fall Festival Parade on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. After the parade, American Legion Color Guards gathered for a memorial service to remember those Legionnaires who passed this year. Iroquois Post 1587 then hosted a hearty lunch in their newly dedicated building. During lunch I was honored to receive the flag of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

On 9/17 I volunteered at the Special Olympics Picnic hosted by the George F. Lamm Post 622 in the Grove. Lots of smiles were observed on participants as they enjoyed lunch, Karaoke music, and especially for the Sherriff's Mounted Horses.

Later in the month I attended the Reception for Commanders at the VA on 9/22. The program covered Modernization, Suicide Prevention, Geriatric Care, and the National Creative Arts Festival. Questions were welcome resulting in a very informative dialogue. If any delegates know of a topic concerning VA services you would like to hear more about, the VA offered to arrange a presentation if requested. Let me or the County office know if you have any ideas.

In closing I'm going to reiterate my emphasis on supporting and promoting all American Legion Family activities to include the Auxiliary, the Sons, and the Riders. In this way we can ensure that each branch of our family can continue their needed services to veterans, the community, and children and youth.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

At the next County meeting at Tehan Post on October 26, I will have a limited number of Post transmittal forms available. 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. For those who do not want to print off the computer, there is a number to call to request transmittal forms. You will reach membership manager at Department, Cassi Harden. That number is: 518-463-2215 ext. 15.

As of the latest update from Department, which came out on Sept. 26, 20 posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 55% set for 5 October. The county as a whole is close, at 53.11%. Depew Post leads the pack at 71.76%.

In mid-November I am looking to hold a county re-vite for lapsed members, anyone interested in helping out please let me know at the next county meeting or by phone at: 949-3341 or e-mail: fattony8705@yahoo.com. More details to follow at the next meeting.

As for end of the year membership incentives for the County Convention in June, will only be for Posts who meet or exceed 100%. I do not believe in get an incentive or rewarding falling short, even if it is just by one member.

Department Membership Workshop – 10/7/17

The Department is running a 7th & 8th District membership workshop meeting at on Saturday 10/7/2017 at the Botts-Fiorito Post #576, 53 West Main St. LeRoy, NY 14482. Sign in at 9 AM and workshop beginning at 9:30 AM. There is a free lunch at the conclusion of the meeting.

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.

Gold Star Mothers 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.

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.

Special Olympics Picnic – Wayne Sorrentino

The Picnic was held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 in the Grove on Sunday, September 17. We had 65 Special Olympics folks & 28 volunteers. Depew Post #1528 volunteers did the cooking. Music by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors for your dancing pleasure. Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit attended. Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile annual event. If you are so inclined, you can also support us financially to help offset our picnic costs by sending your check to the County's City Hall office, earmarked "Special Olympics Picnic 2017". Thank you to the following for their financial support: Depew Post, Don Schram, Sue Quirk & myself. We seem to have cracked the code this year with more folks than ever calling me with reservations. Perhaps we've turned the corner on how to get the word out and next year will be an even bigger event. Thank you for your support.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

I have approximately 300 calendar books still available. If anyone can help sell some, please contact me ASAP. I have them bundled in 10 packs. They make great Christmas, Birthday, Anniversary etc. Gifts. The money raised helps the County pay for our Children and Youth and many other programs. 21 prizes were paid out in August, totaling \$700. The Early Bird drawing will be held on October 27, the day after our next County meeting. When you fill out the stubs, make sure they are readable. Please bring in all sold calendars to our meeting at the Tehan Post on 10/26. Please contact me if you can sell some of these calendars at 867-5730.

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

Saturday December 16, 2017 seems to be the date for this historic event even though it's not yet announced officially by the Secretary of the Navy. We expect 8,000 people to attend the commissioning at Canal Side. Several crew members are currently day in Buffalo for meetings. The Mast Stepping ceremony was just held in Marinette, Wisconsin on Friday 9/29. 5 members of the Commissioning Committee from Buffalo, including myself and 2 members of the Commissioning Committee from Little Rock, Arkansas were present. For tickets to the commissioning check out this page: <http://usslittlerocklcs9.org/commissioning-event-ticket-reservations/>

Wednesday October 18 Hamburg Post Casino Trip, Seneca-Niagara. Check in 7:30 AM for Danish and coffee. Bus leaves Post at 8:30 AM. Leaves Casino 2:30 PM. Cost \$26 per person. Incentives \$26 free play, \$5 toward food. Requires Valid license or ID. 50/50 on bus. Pizza and wings back at Post 527. Contact PC Pat Nealon 649-0992, or 262-6301.

**National Veterans Creative Arts Festival
October 23, 2017 – October 29, 2017**

Call for your FREE tickets, don't wait for the week of the festival. Sunday, October 29 at UB Center of the Arts will be the Gold Medal **Art Exhibit and Creative Writer's Meet & Greet** from 12:00 – 2:00 PM. Gold Medal Winners LIVE stage performance from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The stage performance MC is a million selling, Grammy nominated, Country music star Michael Peterson. The NVCAF is sponsored by the VA and The American Legion Auxiliary. The Auxiliary is in charge the Hospitality room that we will take care of for 8 days from 9am -11pm everyday. In the hospitality room we will have Karaoke, ice cream social, jam sessions, caricaturists, magicians, and more. Please call Pam at the VA 716-862-6814 and order your tickets for you, family and friends. They will be sent to you in September. The Stage Performance is AMAZING and you won't want to miss it. The UB Center of the Arts has 1744 seats that we need to fill (hopefully). Please order your tickets and invite family, friends, cousins, etc. It is open to everyone. If you would like to volunteer for this week long festival or any questions please call Anne Baglio at 716-432-1354 or email ambaglio@verizon.net. Still in need of volunteers. Donations being accepted for Festival, please send to VA WNY Healthcare System, attn. Mark Francis, 3495 Bailey Ave., Buffalo NY 14215.

Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk leads the County representatives at the Iroquois Post #1587 Fall Festival Parade.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

October 26, Thomas E. Tehan #1449

November 30, Troop I Post #655

December 21, Francis Donovan Post #1626

**National Commander Denise Rohan
Testimonial Dinner Friday October 13**

To be held at Wheatfield Post #1451, located at 6525 Ward Rd., Sanborn, NY 14132.

**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 November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 27
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Saturday Oct 7

East Aurora Post 362 will be having a steak roast from 4 - 7 PM or until sold out. \$12 dinner includes a charcoal cooked steak, baked potato, salad bar, roll, and coffee.

Sunday October 8

Annual ECAL Veterans for Veterans Inc. 5K Race/Walk to benefit Homeless Female Veterans at South Buffalo Post #721 on 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo NY starting at 11 AM. Registration begins at 9 AM. Theme basket raffle, 50/50, and refreshments after race.

Friday October 13

"Come Fly a Kite For Homeless Vets" Meat Raffle, at Geo. F. Lamm Post. \$10.00 Advance sales only, call Tim at 208-2955 or Jack at 435-7210. Prizes 50" TV,

Sunday October 15

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.

Saturday October 28

F.J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, is sponsoring a Pro Wrestling Match. Cost \$12. Starts at 6:30 PM.

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 Monday's, the 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th of October, we will be servings \$.65 wings from 6 - 10PM. Minimum order is 10 and this will be EAT IN ONLY.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/27 for the November edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

THE AMERICAN LEGION
The Erie County Committee
609 City Hall
65 Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY 14202
PHONE: (716) 852-6500
FAX: (716) 852-4664
e-mail: veteran14202@verizon.net

