



## *The Legion-Air*

**Nelson Oldfield**  
Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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May/June 2017

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

As the April-May Issue is combined, this will be my last article as you Commander. This is the tough one because there is so much I need to say and little room for it all.

First thank you for your support and hard work not just the staff but all the Legion members. It has been an honor to work with you and the interaction has been awesome.

To go out and meet so many Veterans and see our legion members in action did my heart good. I got to see first-hand the issues that come into the office and had the talent around me to help get the job done.

I know we struggle and I have read your Newsletters, the Comments by the Commanders and the staff are the same ones that are issues with every post only the names have changed.

Taking care of Veterans is what it is all about and that is one part of the job I really enjoyed. I am hoping to walk away leaving the job better than when I started.

We need to work on membership, reading the reports at a meeting only shows the Posts need help. I do believe the one on one approach, at a Mall or other venue helps us generate membership, and I know it works because Donovan has captured 11 new members, only the Post by the "Dam Site" did more!

Special Thanks to Jim Bojanowski for his assistance in helping me get through the year. His guidance has been awesome and has created an incredible bond, even though he had a part in breaking a Bacardi Rum bottle. Thank you Jim.

Very Proud of you all and Thanks for a great year, I am hoping to see you at my Testimonial Dinner and the County Convention Meeting. It has been a great honor. God Speed!!

### **Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk**

Recently I took time to check out some definitions in my trusty Webster's Dictionary:

Legion – a national association of veterans.

Member – a constituent part of a whole.

Constituent – one of a group who elects another to represent him.

In simple terms, as a Legionnaire, we elect fellow veterans to represent our voice in Congress. In order for our voice to be heard, the number and support of the constituents or members is very important. That's why we spend a lot of time and energy to maintain and increase our membership. At this time of year the rate of membership growth slows down, but I am happy to say it is still growing. As of 4/25, Erie County's % of membership goal is 91.54, showing an increase since 4/11. Two of our Posts in Erie County were recognized at the 8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting on 4/2. They received American Legion Birthday Citations which are awarded by Department to Posts whose membership as of March 6, 2017 exceeds their total 2016 membership. These citations were awarded to Thomas E. Tehan and Francis J. Donovan. Congratulations and thanks go to these Posts for their hard work and success.

We have other membership statistics to highlight in Erie County. 10 Posts are at 95% of goal or higher. Since 4/11 Erie County gained 31 traditional members, 8 new members and 1 PUFL member. All of that effort is much appreciated. Our final goal of 100% is to be achieved by 5/5. We have 3 posts that have reached that 100% goal. There are Posts at 95% or higher who are in a good position to attain the 100% goal by the target date. I am very proud of the progress that Erie County has made and is still making. To aid in this I will have membership forms and related supplies at the next county meeting. As we draw to the end of another Erie County Committee business year I would like to say it has been my privilege to be part of the Erie County Membership Team.

### **Gold Star Mothers Mass – John Kasmer**

Saturday May 27, at St. Mary's, 6919 Transit Rd., Swormville, NY 14051, at the 4 PM Mass, Reception after the Mass at Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672, Smith Rd & New Rd, Amherst, NY 14228

### **Memorial Day Services – Anthony Druzvik Jr.**

Annual Erie County American Legion services will be held at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Monday May 29 starting at 9AM. Graves's decoration will begin at 8 AM. Chairman George Barton will soon be letting everyone know when to pick up their flags for their Post graves decoration.

### **Armed Forces Week –John Kasmer**

The opening ceremony will take place on Sunday May 7 at Buffalo Riverworks at Noon. All Color Guards are invited to participate. This year's host is the United States Air Force. The luncheon will be held at Salvatore's Restaurant on Thursday May 11, social hour starts at 11 AM, lunch at Noon. See John Kasmer for tickets. Cost is \$30.

### **Hiring Our Heroes – Jim Bojanowski**

We are once again partnering with the US Chamber of Commerce on a local Job Fair for veterans and their spouses. It will be held Friday June 9 at the Knights of Columbus, 2735 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, 14227 from 10:30 to 1:30 PM.

### **Erie County Veteran's Museum – Peter Hurd**

We continue to work with the Erie County Central Library to collect artifacts, letters, photos, etc. on Erie County Veterans who served in World War I and World War II. An exhibit will travel to the libraries through the County. We wish to preserve our Erie County history. We need your support. For more information contact Pete Hurd at 716-481-7215 or e-mail [phurd9@hotmail.com](mailto:phurd9@hotmail.com)

**East Aurora Post #362**, third Monday of each month starting in May thru September, cruise nights starting at 5 PM, totally free family night.

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

**Newell Faulkner Post #880** Mon. & Tues. Taco's, Wednesday's 50 cent wings, dine in. Thursday nights is steak night, Friday night's fish fries and specials. 15% Veteran discount.

### **Sunday September 23**

ERIECO's Corn Roast at George F. Lamm Post Grove. Save the date.



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

I hope everyone is enjoying this warming weather! There are still some Delta Sonic car wash tickets available. The cost is 10 dollars of which four dollars goes back to the American Legion for a car wash that normally runs over 15 dollars. 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 via call/text at (716) 949-3341 or e-mail: [fattony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fattony8705@yahoo.com)

The yearly calendars are still available for anybody late to the party. If anyone would like please contact me as stated above. I will accept calendars for as long as it is 2017. Thank you to all who have assisted in these sales. It goes a long way to helping our outstanding organization.

The 2017 Erie County/8<sup>th</sup> District American Legion Family golf tournament will be coming up in a month and a half to benefit our children and youth programs. The date is set for Friday June 16, which is the day before the 8<sup>th</sup> District convention. We will be having a shotgun start at noon at Concord Crest golf course in East Concord at 9255 Genesee Street (3 miles off the 219). Registration is 11 AM with lunch provided along with a golf cart, 18 holes of golf, and a steak roast dinner afterwards AT Concord Crest, all for only \$60 a golfer. If you are not a golfer but still want to support this endeavor by attending the dinner, the cost is \$25. Golfers need not be a member of the American Legion Family. Thank you and have a nice day.

**Donations** are now being accepted at the County Office for the Erie County Scholarships and the Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutek Scholarships.

### **Operation Evaluation – Bernie Romanowski**

The next meeting will be Thursday May 18 at 9 AM at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, 14218.

## Boys State - Tom O'Connell

Luncheon will be Sunday June 11 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, 14207. Registration at Noon, lunch served by the Boy's at 1 PM. Boy's State runs June 25 - July 1. Bus will leave Niagara Frontier Post 1041, at 8 AM. Each boy will receive a bag lunch and drink for the ride. Check in starts at 7:15 AM, continental breakfast at 7:30 AM. Arrival back on the 7/1 at Post 1041 will be about Noon. Any questions, call me at 867-5730.

## Paperwork DUE – Jim Bojanowski

- Consolidated Post Reports - MAY 7
- County Delegate & Alternate Forms with \$3.00 check per name - MAY 19.
- Committee Chair Reports - MAY 19.
- Delegates & Alternates request for Department & 8<sup>th</sup> District with \$10 check per name - MAY 27.
- National Delegate request - JUNE 3.
- Officer Certification Form - JUNE 12.
- Executive Delegate & Alternate - JUNE 12.

## Ribbon Cutting for New Iroquois Post #1587

**Post Home.** Pictured L to R, Post Commander Lowell Thompson, Seneca Nation President Todd Gates, Department Commander John Sampson, 8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Jim Bojanowski, Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield, and New York State Senator Katharine Young. The Seneca Nation paid for the entire building of this new American Legion Post. Picture taken by Timothy Van Patten II.



## 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)



## Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 22 Posts who attended in April. Everyone, please join us in May.

## May 18, Troop I Post #665

432 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY 14202

Menu: Meatloaf, Potato, Vegetable

## June 3, Erie County Convention at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Memorial Service 9 AM

Convention Start 10 AM

Registration from 8 AM to 12:30 PM

## Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield's Testimonial Dinner on Saturday May 20

at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga, 14225. Cash Bar Cocktails 6:00 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cost \$25. Ticket deadline is Friday May 12 to Suzanne Quirk, 570 Herr Rd. Angola, NY 14006. Check payable to Francis J. Donovan Post. NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR.

## Saturday June 17

### 8<sup>th</sup> District Convention – Erie County

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219

11:00 AM – Nominating Committee Meeting

1:00 PM – Convention Start

Registration 10 AM to 12:30 PM

## July 20- 22 Department Convention Syracuse, NY

## August 19 – 24 National Convention Reno, Nevada



**SUBMISSIONS**  
For the July  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due June 22  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



**Saturday May 6**

ECAL Veterans for Veterans Meat Raffle fundraiser at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, first draw at 7 PM.

**Saturday May 13**

Matthew Glab Post 1477 - 70th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Dance, tickets \$25 p/p includes cocktails, dinner, and live music. For reservation/tickets call Denice 821-9773

**Saturday May 13**

McKeever Post #64, 1770 South Park Ave., Cradle Beach Fundraiser, from 3 – 8 PM

**Saturday May 13**

East Aurora Post 362 Steak Roast from 4 – 7 PM. \$12, includes baked potato, roll, salad bar, coffee and all the trimmings.

**Sunday, May 14**

Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet 8 am - 12 pm at Concord American Legion Post 431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141, Adults 10+, \$10, children 4-9, \$5, 3 and under, free

**Sunday May 14 & June 11**

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 May 24**

Lamm Baseball Team Fundraiser, Chiavetta Chicken BBQ 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Tickets \$10.

**Saturday May 27**

West Seneca Post 735, 35 Legion Parkway, is sponsoring 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Motorcycle Run to Support WNY Veterans. Run will start/finish at Post 735. Registration at 10 AM kickstands up Noon. Cost \$15 driver, \$10 for passenger. Coffee/Donuts before, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage, one free drink after, Music + Auction.

**Saturday July 22**

Hamburg Post 527, 6th Annual Golf Tournament; at noon; Holland Hills Golf Course; \$80, golf, cart, lunch, dinner, goody bag, etc. Call Bob Kenefic at 825-1797.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 6/22 for the July edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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