



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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April 2017

Commander's Message:

It was great to attend Hill Day and meet many of our elected Officials and explain our concerns. Because of our meeting and with the help of Jim Bojanowski we will be coming up with funds to cover our flag needs for Memorial Day. Please remember these flags need to be reused and as many as possible stored away for the next event. The Legislative agenda from Department and National makes me feel great about being a member of the American Legion. I will have handouts at our next meeting. Please take them back to your Posts, if you did not receive them. Issues were many, Veteran's tax credit changes, alternate treatments for PTSD, Resolution #31 and many others. I love this Country, but restricting the display of an American Flag in an honorable way is wrong. This is being worked on.

I have the pleasure of attending the Presentation by Commander Karen Patch to Ruth Johnston for her service as a WWII Navy Veteran and for her many years membership in the American Legion. Ruth is a resident of the Orchard Heights Care Facility. The People of the facility have asked if we could get Veteran's to stop by for a visit. For more information Contact Commander Patch Erieo Post 1586.

On Saturday, I was at Iroquois Post 1587 for the Grand Opening of their brand new building. It is beautiful!! I spent time with many Legion Brothers and Sisters. The number in attendance was amazing. The Ceremony went well. Guest speakers included Dept. Cmdr. John Sampson, Dist. Cmdr James Bojanowski, Post Cmdr. Lowell Thompson & myself. Cmdr Thompson and his staff welcomed their Guests, treated us to a fine meal, including their own native corn soup. The native dancing was extremely enjoyable. I am proud of their Post & Officers. A special thanks to Todd Gates & his council who were instrumental in supporting our veterans and obtaining the funds for the new Building!!

Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk

It is now spring, a time of renewal. For membership, renewal is even more important. According to the 3/6 data from Department, Erie County was at 89.78% of goal with a target of 90%. We missed it by the skin of our teeth. We made it if you round to the nearest percent. By the time Department posted the 3/21 breakdown, Erie County recruited 90.23% of goal. Nice work!

Noteworthy increases in Post membership were observed for Donovan Post that increased from 101.18% to 105.33% of goal and Matthew Glab Post that increased from 88.79% to 91.87% of goal. Great effort! New members recruited increased from 181 to 187, thanks to Donovan Post who gained 3 new members, Matthew Glab Post who gained 2 new members, and East Aurora Post who gained 1 new member.

Our ability to keep up with goals has also helped Eighth District to reach their target by achieving 91.09% of goal. According to Gary Schacher, the Dept. Membership Chairman, Department achieved their 90% goal for 3/6. Your work also had an impact on that accomplishment.

Membership renewal and recruitment will be even more challenging now. As the largest County in Eighth District, it takes larger numbers of membership increase to translate into a percentage point. 32 posts have recruited new members. That represents a lot of hard work. I hope Posts are submitting for the Department Commander's new member recruitment pin. If any post would like me to help present awards, let me know.

Our next goal is 95% by the target date of 4/10. We are 4.77 percentage points away from that. I believe we are up to the challenge. I will have membership forms and related supplies at the next county meeting. Remember the Department Commander's slogan with respect to membership, "Tell somebody" about your many programs and activities.

Erie County Veteran's Museum – Peter Hurd

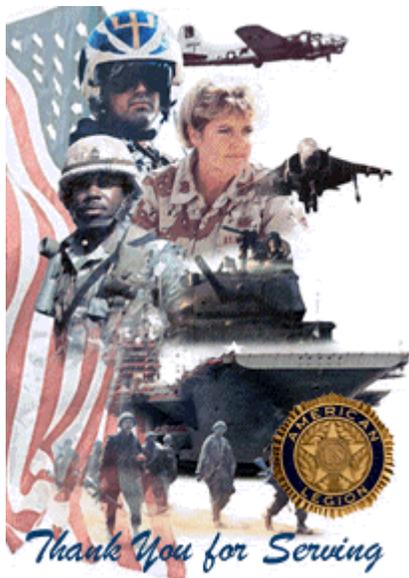
I am happy to announce that the Erie County Veterans Museum is moving forward working with the Erie County Central Library. We are collecting artifacts, letters, photos, and other pertinent information on Erie County Veterans who served in World War I and World War II. We will be putting together an exhibit to travel to the library's through the County.

The Museum will be holding a reorganizational meeting in the first part of April at the 40/8 Club House on Rein Road in Cheektowaga. All are welcome, notices will go out shortly to past officers and members and the public

All American Legion Posts will soon be receiving a letter urging them to join the Museum. Without the Veterans and the Veterans organizations support, how can we preserve the History of our Veterans in Erie County. We also wish to work with our Legion Posts in preserving their history in the Communities of Erie County. Without funding, we are limited on the amount of work and success we can achieve. It is time we need your support. for more information contact Pete Hurd at 716-481-7215 or e-mail phurd9@hotmail.com

Armed Forces Week

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.



Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful Spring! I still have 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

The yearly calendars are still available as we have some left. They are a \$25 donation with a range of 000-999 for the numbers. If anyone would like any or have any to turn in contact me as stated above. I will accept calendars for as long as it is 2017. We have surpassed last year's total so I would like to personally thank everyone who bought and/or sold calendars, your assistance will go a long way to helping our outstanding organization.

The 2017 Erie County/8th District American Legion Family golf tournament will be coming up in a couple of months to benefit our children and youth programs. The date is set for Friday June 16, which is the day before the 8th District convention. We will be having a shotgun start at noon at Concord Crest golf course in East Concord at 9255 Genesee St. Registration is 11 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. Letters have been sent to all 8th District post commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, and SAL Detachment Commanders. 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.

Boys State - Tom O'Connell

Program will be June 25 to July 1. Bus will leave Niagara Frontier Post 1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, 14207 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. Applications are now on the Department website. If you are having problems in securing a candidate or filling out the paperwork, call me if you need help at 867-5730. **All paperwork must be received at the County Office by April 1.**

Albany Hill Day 2017 pictured L-R, Tom O'Connell, John Steigler, Wayne Sorrentino, Senator Pat Gallivan, Jim Bojanowski, and Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield.



ERIECO Women's Post recognized WWII Navy Veteran Ruth Johnston, for 70 years of continuous membership. Standing behind Ruth, L-R: Sue Quirk, Erie Co Cmdr. Nelson Oldfield, Terry Stillwagon, and Karen Patch.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 21 Posts who attended in March. Everyone, please join us in April.

April 27, East Aurora Post #362

1 Legion Dr., East Aurora, NY 14052

Menu: Pork Loin, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert

May 18, Troop I Post #665

June 3, Erie County Convention at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, please support their ads and boosters program book.

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.**

Sunday April 2

8th District Meeting - Wyoming Co.

Veterans Memorial Building, Village Park

Liberty St. Warsaw, NY 14569

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM - General Meeting

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 May/June
"The Legion-Air"
Due April 28
thelegionair@gmail.com



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



Sunday April 23

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 May 13

Matthew Glab Post 1477 - 70th Anniversary Celebration Dinner n' Dance, tickets are \$25 p/p includes cocktails, dinner, live music for your dancing pleasure. For reservation/tickets call Denice 821-9773

Saturday May 27

West Seneca Post 735, 35 Legion Parkway, is sponsoring 11th *Annual Motorcycle Run to Support WNY Veterans* to raise money and awareness to support local WNY veterans. The Run will start/finish at 735. Registration at 10 AM kickstands up Noon. Cost \$15 driver, \$10 for passenger. Coffee/Donuts before, hot dogs, hamburgers, sausage and one free drink after, plus Music and Chinese Auction.

Newell Faulkner Post #880 Mon. & Tues.

Taco's, Wednesday's 50 cent wings, dine in. y. Thursday nights is steak night, Friday night's fish fries and specials. 15% Veteran discount.

East Aurora Post #362 annual Lenten Friday Fish Fry dinners start Friday March 3 through Good Friday April 14th from 4 – 7:00 PM. Dine in or take out. \$11 regular, \$9 for seniors, and \$6 for children. Chicken fingers also available.

Orchard Park Post 567 – Friday Fish Fry during Lent (except 17 March- Corned Beef and Cabbage). Fridays, 5:00 until sold out. Every Wednesday –Wings & Shrimp.

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

Hamburg Post #527, Thursday Spaghetti dinners from 4:30 to 7 PM, ends 4/6. Full order \$8, half order \$6. 2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St.

South Buffalo Post #721 Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1st Monday Spaghetti, 3rd Monday Roast Beef. 136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo, 14210.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 4/28 for the May/June edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor