



## *The Legion-Air*

Suzanne Quirk  
Commander

Jim Bojanowski  
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

August 2017

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

It is my honor to have been the Commander at the first Erie County meeting hosted by Iroquois Post in their new building. They have worked hard to ensure all requirements for a productive meeting were met. Iroquois Post will go on to conduct many successful activities in the future.

Erie County continues to experience success in the early weeks of a new Legion year as evidenced by awards received during the Department Convention held in Syracuse.

Orchard Park Post earned awards in the Junior Shooting Sports Program. Jerzy Folta of East Aurora Post was named Department Recruiter of the Year. In the Yearbook Competition, ERIECO Women's Post achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Place and their book will go on to the National Competition. The Erie County Yearbook was judged to be in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. The Department JROTC Cadet of the Year was Cadet Major Tamara Cross who attends Hutch Tech. Notable elections included Dennis McCarthy who was elected as Department Vice Commander of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts. Also, Rena Nessler was elected as our new Department Commander. She is the first woman to hold this office. Her motto is, "Every veteran counts."

As Erie County Commander, I was proud to host a spacious and comfortable Meet and Greet Room at the Dept. Convention compliments of Adjutant Jim Bojanowski. I was able to relax and socialize with American Legion Family from the 8<sup>th</sup> District and others from all over the Department following the parade. My Aide, Karen Patch, was also indispensable in presenting a successful Meet and Greet Room.

I look forward to meeting Legionnaires and Veterans at the Erie County Fair on August 13, in our tent in the infield with the 8<sup>th</sup> District.

Please be safe as you enjoy summertime activities which I hope will include the support of American Legion Family activities when possible. I will continue to encourage our future growth through Legion Family unity.

### **Membership – VC Anthony Solina**

Thank you to Commander Quirk for my appointment as Vice Commander in charge of membership. As of the morning of the 28th, Department did not yet update our Post goals for the 2017-2018 American Legion year. However, just keep sending in the transmittal forms to Department and they will be reflected soon. If you run out of transmittal forms and I cannot get any more to you, go to the Department website and you can print copies off as a PDF towards the bottom right of the site's membership page.

<https://nylegion.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Dues-Transmittal-Form.pdf>

Congratulations go out to the Department Recruiter of the Year, Jerzy Folta from East Aurora Post #362. He signed up 44 new members in the American Legion for 2017. We definitely need more recruiters like him. Make an effort to at least sign up one new member to your Post.

Post 1659: I still have your membership cards. E-mail me at: [fattony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fattony8705@yahoo.com) or call/text me at 949-3341 to arrange the pick-up of the cards.

### **Membership Roundtable – Wayne Sorrentino**

Sunday, August 27 at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr, Hamburg, 14057, Phone: 649-4667. Open to ALL Legion, Auxiliary & SAL members. Sign-in 0900, meeting start at 0930 and run for 1 to 2 hours. Please encourage your Post/County Commanders, Vice Commanders and Membership Chair(s) to attend along with all other Legionnaires who wish to learn more about membership in The American Legion. Call or email me with questions: home 716 891 5164, or [wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com).

### **Americanism – VC George Barton**

At the County meeting, I had a flyer that shows the altering of the American Flag, in honor of our police and firefighters across our great country. American's want to honor our veterans along with the police and firefighters, which I have no problem with once so ever. The problem I have is changing the American flag. I want everyone to know that this only my opinion, but I believe changing the flag as you see in the flyer and may have seen flying in your neighborhoods is wrong and should not be allowed. I do strongly believe that the police and firefighters, along with EMT's should be honored with our fullest respect, but not in this way. Adjutant Bojanowski and I have spoken on this issue a few times, and Adjutant Bojanowski has contacted National on this subject. Their statement is that due to overall public sentiment concerning our police and firefighters, we need to leave this issue alone.

### **Special Olympics Picnic – Wayne Sorrentino**

Will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 in the Grove on Sunday, September 17. 962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville, NY 14221. We expect to have Voiture 51 of The 40 & 8 Society bring out their train and offer rides. Depew Post #1528 will do the cooking. Music by Just "In" Sound, hosted by Justin Connors for your dancing pleasure. Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit will attend. Volunteers are encouraged to attend by 1130 hours to sign in and get your job assignment(s). Thank you in advance for your continued support of this very worthwhile annual event. If you are so inclined, you can also support us financially by sending your check to the County's City Hall Office, earmarked "Special Olympics 2017".

**Jesse Clipper Post 430** participated in the Juneteenth Festival parade and had a tent for recruitment. 20 Legionnaires manned the information tent from 8 am to 8 pm. Buffalo News ran an article about the American Legion and the importance of the black soldier's involvement.



### **Boys State – VC Tom O'Connell**

We sent 39 boys to the program this year. Five our boys achieved the title of Mayor, Ryan Van Splunder from Jurek, John Minogue from Orchard Park, Chris Brook from Hamburg, Ian Witmer from Newell-Faulkner, and John Van Dermay from Grand island. Ryan Van Splunder was also chosen to represent NYS at Boy's Nation. Tentative dates next year - 6/24 to 6/30.

### **Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell**

2018 Calendars will be available to pass out next month. Our organization would like to have a commemoration 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Coin minted. Only two get approved each year. Contact your federal representative for support.

### **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](tel:716-481-7215) or e-mail [phurd9@hotmail.com](mailto:phurd9@hotmail.com)

### **Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk leading part of our delegation at the Syracuse Department Convention.**



**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. Then following, the Gold Medal Winners LIVE stage performance from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. The MC for the stage performance 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 of a 4000 sq.ft. (Fountain Room) Hospitality room that we have to man and 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](mailto: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.

**Compliance – Dennis McCarthy**

As of July 9, 2017, patrons may pay for bell jar tickets with a check. Posts do not have to accept a check but may do so. If a post allows a person to buy bell jar tickets with a check and the check bounces how do you close out the deal? What do you put in your paper work "bounced check"? Be very careful.

If a post has an outside area such as a horseshoe pit that members use and have drinks, be sure the area is included on your liquor license or you could face a fine.

Playing cards is considered a game of chance and the offering of any prize cash or other's is against the law.



**Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM  
Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 26 Posts who attended the July County meeting.

LEGION CASUAL DRESS - AUGUST

**August 17, George F. Lamm Post #622**

962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville, NY 14221  
Menu: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, etc.

**September 28, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672**

**October 26, Thomas E. Tehan #1449**

**August 19 – 24 National Convention  
Reno, Nevada**

**Sunday August 13 Erie County Fair  
Veteran's Day – Free Admission**

- 10 AM Catholic Mass at Evans Bank Family Entertainment Complex
- 11:30 AM Veteran's Recognition Ceremony at Veteran's Park, located on the infield
- 12:30 PM Parade Lineup
- 1 PM Parade Starts

**Editor's Note:**

Congratulations go out to Pat Nealon from Hamburg Post #527 on his selection as this year's Erie County Legionnaire of the Year!

**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)**



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the September  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due August 24  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



**Eden Corn Festival AUGUST 3,4,5,6 on  
Eden American Legion Post 880 Grounds.**

**Sunday, August 13**

Veteran's Day at The Erie County Fair

**Sunday, August 27**

Membership Roundtable at Hamburg Post.

**Saturday September 9**

Iroquois Post # 1587 Fall Festival Parade starting at Noon. 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14202. If your Post is marching, please contact Bud Thomson at 255-2623.

**Saturday September 23**

ERIECO Women's Post Corn Roast at George F. Lamm Post Grove. 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221. 1-5 PM. All you can eat, beer & pop. \$12. OK to pay at the door.

**Wednesday September 27**

Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, NY 14218 is hosting a CHIAVETTA'S CHICKEN BBQ, 1/2 chicken, 2 sides, roll & butter, coffee or pop, from 4 PM to 8 PM. Eat in or Take Out. \$10.00 donation

**Newell-Faulkner Post 880**, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Mon. & Tues. Taco's, Wednesday's, 65 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday nights, is steak night. Friday nights, fish fries and specials, Saturday, pizza & wing's and sandwiches available, along with regular menu.

**South Buffalo Post # 721**, 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 started summer cookouts every Monday from 5 – 7 PM. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, and more.

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

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

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 8/24 for the September 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](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)

