



The Legion-Air

Nelson Oldfield
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



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January 2017

Commander's Message:

As like many of you, I have been extremely busy, with veteran functions. But I did enjoy myself and I was well received.

The Legion Baseball Lunch, did my heart good the coaches and players really put their hearts into the program! Thank You! When the new schedule comes out I want to be there!! This is just such a great program.

I was invited to the Depew Post Christmas Dinner which I attended. It was great to be there and speak with their members. There were 3 WWII members in attendance. Thanks Jake for the invite.

It was good to see George Barton back with us and I hope he continues to recover quickly!

Please do not forget the 2/3 Department Commanders Visit and the Prime Rib is one of my favorites, let the "Big Dog" have a great showing.

Please keep our membership efforts going, I love to talk to people about membership in the Legion, if you need help ask Susie Quirk, she will provide you with some great assistance and materials.

Lastly, thank You all who attended the County Meeting Thursday night and came out in the Cold, I believe we had 18 Posts in attendance. The Donovan Post prepared a great meal and yet none of them were cooks in the service. When I told them we would not have a color guard, Major Dan called me back and said he would handle it. Proud of those guys for stepping up to the plate.

We had the usual stuff, Candy & Candy canes on the tables and Poinsettias. I had some prizes to give out which everyone was given a ticket for the drawing.

I hope to see you at the Tehan Post next month and wishing you a happy Holiday and healthy New Year! We had a great meal there last time so don't miss it!

Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk

Late 2016 activities that I attended included: the Baseball Award Luncheon on 11/26, which honored the team sponsored by the David McKeever Post as 8th District Champions; on 12/4, I participated in the wreath hanging at the Batavia VA and the 8th District Meeting conducted at the Botts-Fiorito Post 576 in LeRoy; and on 12/9, I joined in with the wreath hanging at the Buffalo VA and helped to distribute VA Canteen coupons to veterans currently at the VA hospital. The staff and decorations at both the Batavia and Buffalo VA facilities were very festive.

One of the nicest year-end/Christmas gifts that I could receive as the Membership Chairperson was the achievement by Erie County of the 75% goal on 12/12/16. Erie County actually achieved a percentage of 77.65. That puts the county in a great position to attain the 1/17/17 goal of 80%. These results are the product of a lot of hard work by post membership teams. The top five Posts have achieved 90% of goal or higher are David McKeever, North Collins, Four Star, Clarence, with Thomas E. Tehan on top at 113% of goal. Erie County's percentage of 77.7% of goal ranked 2nd in 8th District out of 9 counties and 10th in Department out of 63 counties. At the 8th District Meeting, Erie County had already achieved 75% of goal and the Department Commander John Sampson had high praise for counties that were close to or had already achieved 75%. I can't express my pride and gratitude enough for the initiative, dedication, and investment of time demonstrated to produce these results in membership. Because of your perseverance we are on track for a productive new year.

In the coming year I'm looking forward to sharing thoughts and ideas to promote the good works of and reasons to be a member of the American Legion with fellow Legionnaires during the Mid-Winter Conference and Department Commander visitations. Remember, membership is all of our responsibility.

Americanism – VC Michael Johnson

Fellow Legionnaires,

We are about to begin a new year! I hope 2017 brings great things for your Posts, our County, and the American Legion!

Just a reminder to your Posts to please keep supporting the many American Legion initiatives. Whether Family and Youth Programs like Boys State, American Legion Baseball, assistance for the Boy Scouts of America, scholarship programs, and the many others available or our Community Programs like Operation Comfort Warriors, the National Emergency Fund, Walk for Veterans, assistance to homeless veterans, and many more. All of these programs and activities need the support of our entire American Legion Family to succeed! If you feel your Post would like to take part in any of programs, but feel you don't have the manpower or resources to do so, please reach out to your fellow Posts and the County staff for assistance.

Also, American Legion College of New York, in a historic move, was renamed Legion Family College. It is now accepting students from among the memberships of the entire American Legion Family, which encompasses The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and The American Legion Riders. I highly encourage all Posts to encourage your members to apply. I was honored to attend last year and it was an amazing experience! You learn so much useful information about the American Legion that you can bring back to your Posts and you have the opportunity to meet fellow Legionnaires from across New York State and can gain new ideas and perspectives from them. Please consider applying for Legion Family College today! The deadline for applications is April 1, 2017. The Legion Family College is again being held at SUNY- Morrisville from June 2-4, 2017. Don't miss out on this great opportunity!

I want to wish all of you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year! I am looking forward to a wonderful new year for the Erie County American Legion Family!



Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable Christmas season and is staying warm! 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 These are great stocking stuffers for that one in your family who enjoys a clean, new looking automobile.

The yearly calendars are still available. They are a \$25 donation with a range of 000-999 for the numbers. If any would like any last minute or have any to turn in contact me with the information stated above. These are excellent Christmas and Hanukkah presents or just as a gift to yourself as you have hundreds or chances to win throughout the 2017 year.

The 2017 Erie County/8th District golf tournament will be coming up next year. 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 with steak roast and open bar to all golfers and awards following at Tehan Post 1449. Letters will be going out to all 8th District Posts next month. Thank you and Merry Christmas.



SUBMISSIONS
For the February
"The Legion-Air"
Due January 27
thelegionair@gmail.com

Department Visitation – Wayne Sorrentino

The Erie County American Legion and Auxiliary will be hosting a dinner honoring Department Commander John B. Sampson, Department President Deborah Kryczkowski, and SAL Detachment Commander J. Bruce Ruthven on Friday, February 3, 2017.

The Dinner will be held at the Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell, NY. 14219. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 6:00 PM and Dinner at 7:00 PM. Dinner cost is \$30. Ticket deadline will be Friday January 27, 2017. There will be no sales the week of the dinner or payment at the door.

Dinner Menu: Prime Rib, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Salad, Dessert, & Coffee, etc.

Tickets are ordered by sending in your check to County Headquarters, to 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq., Buffalo, N.Y. 14202. Please make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion. You can also pay for reservations at the County meetings. See Jim Bojanowski. To help offset expenses, please support the program book with 1/8 page Ads \$15, and Boosters \$1. Send in your ad or boosters to the County Office by Friday January 20.

Hopefully we will see all Posts represented at this dinner. This would also be a perfect time for you to make a presentation to Commander Sampson for his project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF), President Kryczkowski project, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), and Commander Ruthven's project, National Emergency Fund NEF).

8th District Wreath presentation at the Buffalo VA Hospital pictured left to right, Karyn Porempski, Lynda Pixley, Ken Barnes, Joseph Porempski, VA Director Brian Stiller, David Dexheimer, Jim Bojanowski, Chief of Staff Dr. Grace Stringfellow, Suzanne Quirk, and Nurse Executive Patricia Lind.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 18 Posts who attended in December. Please join us in January!

January 26, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

2075 Electric Ave, Blasdell, NY 14219

Menu: Italian Sausage, Meatballs, penne pasta, mixed vegetables, salad, dessert, etc.

February 23, Newcomb-Long Post #928

March 30, Concord Post #431

January 8 at Noon, 8th District Oratorical Contest

Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205

3354 Delaware Ave. Kenmore, NY 14217

Mid-Winter Conference 1/20 - 22, 2016

Albany, NY at the Desmond Hotel

Sunday February 12 8th District Meeting - Niagara Co.

Stephen Sikora Post #1322

950 Payne Ave.

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

March 6 & 7 Albany Hill Day

Contact John Siefert at 741-3480 to be included in our visitation group to lobby for Veteran's benefits with our State representatives. Housing will be at the Desmond Hotel. The Department website will have additional detailed information.

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



Wednesday January 11

PCC meeting at Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates St. Sloan, NY 14212 at 7 PM.

Sunday January 22

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.

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

Hamburg Post #527, weekly Thursday Spaghetti dinners from 4:30 to 7 PM. 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 1/27 for the February edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

8TH District Wreath Presentation at Batavia VA, pictured left to right, Ron Danielewicz, Joseph Porempski, Suzanne Quirk, Kathy Kindle, Jim Bojanowski, Bill Miskell, Paul Steward, and Wally Kornow.



Happy New Year 2017



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