



The Legion-Air

Suzanne Quirk
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



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July 2017

Commander's Message:

My heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have offered their support to me and to those who worked to organize our Erie County Convention. Specifically my gratitude goes to ERIECO Women's Post for their friendship and encouragement and to Donovan Post as host for their cooperation and generosity.

The first weeks of June have been a whirlwind of activity. On June 7th I joined VC George Barton for the Hutch Tech JROTC Awards Luncheon on the Fantail of the Little Rock. On June 8, I attended the Reserve Account Committee Meeting concerning our investments. We are fiscally sound and should be in the years to come. On June 9, I joined County and Auxiliary Staff to man a table at the Job Fair hosted at the Knights of Columbus in Cheektowaga. I spoke to many veterans and approximately 10 expressed an interest in joining a Legion Post. That information will be passed along to the appropriate posts. Also on June 9, I attended the installation of Erie County Auxiliary Officers at the Lamm Post Grove. I look forward to promoting our common goals with this member of our Legion Family. On June 10, I observed the dedication of a Blue Star Marker at Eden Post #880. I was most impressed by the Capella performance of the National Anthem by seniors from Eden High School. On June 11, I was proud to attend the Boys State Luncheon at Niagara Frontier Post. Boys State Chairman Tom O'Connell, did a great job promoting our Boys State Program. I then participated in a pre-Flag Day Celebration at Waterfront Center in Buffalo on June 13. Our Erie County Honor Guard did a beautiful job. Then on Flag Day, June 14, I participated in the Flag Retirement Ceremony at Forest Lawn. Thank you to the Donovan Post Firing Squad for their professional contribution to that ceremony. Finally, as part of the Erie County Delegation I attended the 8th District Convention hosted by Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone is enjoying this warm weather! I would like to say thank you for your re-election as a County Vice Commander, I look forward to taking on membership and assisting the commander throughout the coming year.

Also, thank you to Past Commander Oldfield for working with me and helping to make this past year such a fun learning experience.

The 2017 Erie County/8th District American Legion Family golf tournament was held on Friday June 16 at Concord Crest. Big thank you to Tom Deinzer and Peter Hurd for all the hard work! It was a beautiful day for golf with a good turn-out of golfers and a delicious steak dinner with prizes afterwards.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the brand new Iroquois Post in Irving next month for the county meeting. I have the newly printed 2018 Membership Cards and will distribute them at the July County Meeting on Thursday 7/27.

Commander's Message: (Continued)

At the District Convention, a motion was presented and unanimously passed to contribute \$500 to Karyn Porempski, the leading candidate for National Auxiliary Vice President for the Northeast Region. I will continue to support any action that benefits any member of our American Legion Family.

From what I've seen in the short time I've been in my position, "The State of the Legion" is strong and active. I look forward to working with Our American Legion Family in the coming year. My watchword will be "Future growth through Legion Family Unity."

National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Monday, October 23 - Sunday, October 29, 2017
The Veterans will reside at the Adams Mark Hotel in Buffalo and the Gold Medal Art Exhibit and Live Stage Performance will be held Sunday, October 29 from 12:00 – 2:00 (exhibit) and 2:00 – 4:00 (performance) at the UB Center of the Arts in Amherst.

The live stage performance on Sunday, October 29 is amazing and FREE. For FREE TICKETS to the stage Performance please call Pam from the VA at [\(716\) 862-6814](tel:7168626814). Please leave a message with your name and phone # and amount of tickets needed and she will call you back. Everyone needs tickets to get in. Parking is also free. Invite your family, friends, neighbors, Legion Family, and other Veteran organizations. Please help spread the word! We want to fill the UB Center of the Arts with as many guests as possible. Let's show are Veterans that New York is proud of them and what they have accomplished.

The American Legion Auxiliary's main responsibility for the festival is to care for and maintain the hospitality room (Fountain Room at Adam's Mark) for the veterans and their guests, which is approx. 260 people, daily. We are in need many of volunteers, and this is open to the whole Legion Family to volunteer not just the Auxiliary, for the hospitality suite. Also parking at the Adam's Mark will be free if volunteering. Here are the shifts and times for Monday, October 23 – Sunday, October 29. Everyday 9AM – 1PM, 1PM – 6PM, 6PM – 11PM and need 6 people per shift. (Yes that's 120 slots we need to fill). On Sunday, October 29 we only need from 9AM – Noon, then we close up for the stage performance. Monday, October 30 at 9AM we will need help for clean-up and packing up.

Any questions or volunteering for Hospitality Suite please call me at H- [\(716\) 592-3756](tel:7165923756) or C- [\(716\) 432-1354](tel:7164321354) or email ambaglio@verizon.net. Volunteers are also needed for the Festival itself. For more information on the festival or volunteering please contact Kelly Clark at [\(716\) 862-8672](tel:7168628672) at the Buffalo VA.

Let's make New York State stand proud for this great event! Thank you in advance for all your support.

Anne M. Baglio,
NVCAF Hospitality Chairman and
Erie County ALA VA&R Chairman



Boys State – VC Tom O'Connell

Erie County sent 40 Boys to New York American Legion Boy's State at Morrisville State College from 6/25 to 7/1. Thanks go out to all of the Posts who supported this program. You have contributed greatly to the development of these young men and our future leaders.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880 celebrates Flag Day with its Flag burning ceremony with participation from the Eden Boy Scout Troop 603. They also dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker in front of their Post to honor all past, present, and future men & women who have served, are serving, or will serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.



8th District Commander Jim Bojanowski installs the newly elected officers of Erie County; retiring Commander Nelson Oldfield, Sgt at Arms Joseph Cash, VC Tom O'Connell, Commander Suzanne Quirk, VC Anthony Solina, VC George Barton, and Finance Officer Joseph Porempski.



2017 – 2018 Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk hangs the plaque in the County Office after adding retiring Commander's Nelson Oldfield's name to the list of Past Erie County Commander's.



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

Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

LEGION CASUAL DRESS - JULY & AUGUST

July 27 Iroquois Post #1587

12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14202

Post location is close to Versailles Plank Rd.

Menu: Chicken BBQ

August 18, George F. Lamm Post #622

September 28, Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672

**July 20- 22 Department Convention
Syracuse, NY**

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

Paperwork DUE – Jim Bojanowski

If you have not already done so please send me the following ASAP, Officer Certification Form, and Executive Delegate & Alternate.

From Greg "Doc" Gibbs Hamburg Squadron #527,

"I wish to thank all those who have contributed to my campaign for National SAL Commander 2018 - 2019. The goal is large and any and all donations are appreciated! I hope to be the first National Commander from our part of the State and only the second one from NY in over 32 years! Thank you again for your help, I am proud to be from Erie County and I hope that I will honorably represent all the Legion Family from WNY. The check from the County Legion was exceptional and sincerely appreciated. Thank you again". 286 Highland Ave, Hamburg, NY 14075. (716) 648 – 3004 gggibbs@sbu.edu



**SUBMISSIONS
For the August
"The Legion-Air"
Due July 28
thelegionair@gmail.com**



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

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.

Sunday July 30

½ LARGE BBQ CHICKEN with potato & macaroni salads, roll/butter, dessert and your choice of one beverage. Only \$10, served from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051.

Saturday September 23

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

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 by 7/28 for the August edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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