



The Legion-Air

Nelson Oldfield
Commander

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Adjutant/Editor



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March 2017

Commander's Message:

I attended the Department Commander's Dinner and the next morning I had a chance to speak with him in depth about our concerns with the American Legion. One issue was about membership and how to move forward in the future. If we are going to attract younger members, one of his key points was the methods we are using to bring them into our Posts. Young People today use Facebook and we need to have a presence by as many Posts as possible on Facebook & Twitter. We do a lot of good things but we are not getting the information where it belongs.

If you wish to see your current membership, please visit our website. Sue & Jake do a pretty good job keeping the site up to date.

The paperwork for documentation of memorials is out and it is a tall order. Copies will be available at our County meetings. There is great value in going to our meetings. We pass out a lot of Information regarding what is going on, we have many members with expertise in different areas of the Legion at the meetings. We make motions that affect our Posts and the County. Meeting schedule is listed in the newsletter and website.

If you are interested in running for a Vice Commanders position, please get your Post endorsement letter into the County Adjutant. These can be rewarding positions!

Our County meeting at Newcomb-Long went well the dinner was awesome and their new Commander Pete Muscarella has a lot of potential in the Legion!

On March 25th at 11 AM, the Iroquois Post 1587 will be celebrating the opening of their brand-new Post building. This is something that I have been waiting for and was concerned it might not happen under my watch. They have a fantastic building, please, if you are able to, join us.

I hope to see many of You at Hill Day! Thanks for your service!!!

Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk

It is all of your hard work that allows me to give a report that reflects success and optimism. I was also filled with pride as I attended Department Commander visit dinners and Eighth District meetings and accepted compliments and recognition for your diligent efforts achieving or surpassing membership goals. At the dinner honoring the Department Commander I awarded Department Commander pins to those who recruited new members. Six were given to Martin J. O'Connor of Matthew Glab Post #1477 and one was given to James Bojanowski, our Eighth District Commander. A Certificate of Achievement from Department was also given to Tehan Post #1449 for attaining a membership total that was 105% of goal as of December 31, 2016,

At this time of year membership growth becomes more difficult, but at the 2/11 Eighth District Meeting, the 2/7 data from Department reflected that Erie County achieved their goal and played a supporting role in Eighth District and Department achieving theirs. Erie County surpassed their goal of 85% with 86.67%. 19 posts have reached 85% goal or higher. All posts are at 70% of goal or higher except two. In Department, Eighth District ranks 2nd with 86.44% of goal. In the Eighth District Erie County ranks 4th out of nine counties. In Department Erie County ranks 23rd out of 63 counties. Department achieved 86.68% of goal and is in 19th place nationally and 6th place in the Northeast Region. Great numbers!

Just after the creation of this report, an update for membership status was posted on 2/22. Erie County is at 88.5% of goal. Our next target is 90% by 3/6. We are only 1 ½ % points away. Based on past performance we should be able to achieve that goal. I noted a sizeable increase of 13 new members to 177. Submit for the Dept. Commander's new member recruitment pin. Once again, I am so grateful that you have made it possible for me to give a positive report. I look forward to making a similar report next month.

Erie County Veteran's Museum – Peter Hurd

The Veteran's Museum of Erie County and the Central Erie County Library needs you and your Posts help! The central library is in the process of putting together an exhibit honoring the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War I. The exhibit will open this November in conjunction with Veteran's Day and run for approximately 15 months. We need memorabilia and artifacts from World War I.

I have seen some of these on display at Posts throughout the County, and many families have items such as letters, uniforms, photos, and souvenirs brought back of their experiences. We need your help in finding these articles. All donated or lent items to the display and/or future museum will be properly insured and properly categorized and handled in accordance with museum protocol. Please call Pete Hurd at 716-481-7215 for more information or pick up. We will gather everything the next few months to begin organizing the display which will be at the downtown Buffalo and Erie County Library. We are also in the planning stages for a second exhibit with photos from World War II. They must be taken by a service member who resided or is residing in Erie County. Again, please contact me for information or pick up. If you wish to get involved with the museum, give me a call!

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 you all are having a wonderful February. 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. With Spring right around the corner now is the time to get that vehicle sparkling clean! 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: fatony8705@yahoo.com

The yearly calendars are still available as we have some left as they will be all year. 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. Anyone wishing to still buy calendar(s) still have over 300 chances to win! Thank you to all who have bought/helped us sell the calendars as we are ahead of last year's total!

The 2017 Erie County/8th District Golf Tournament will be coming up this 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 a cost of \$60 a golfer. Golfers need not be members of the American Legion. Thank you and have a nice day.

Iroquois Post #1587 will be having a grand opening celebration of their new Post building on Saturday March 25, 2017. Ceremony will begin at 11 AM. The new Post home is located next to their old site on 12897 Route 437 Irving, NY 14081.

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

Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield presents the County Gift to Department Commander John Sampson at a dinner in his honor on Friday 2/3/17.



2/3/17 Department Visitation Dinner Guests include (L to R) SAL Detachment Commander J. Bruce Ruthven, Department Auxiliary President Debbie Kryzkowski, Department Commander John Sampson, Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, and Erie County Service Officer David Shenk. Dinner was held at the Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

Thanks go out to the 20 Posts who attended in February. Everyone, please join us in March.

March 30, Concord Post #431

109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY 14141

Menu: Stuffed pork chops, potatoes, vegetable, dinner roll and peach cobbler for dessert.

April 27, East Aurora Post #362

May 18, Troop I Post #665

June 3, Erie County Convention at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

Save the date! Erie County Commander Nelson Oldfield's Testimonial Dinner on Saturday May 20.

March 6 & 7 Albany Hill Day

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 April
"The Legion-Air"
Due March 24
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 March 12

Spaghetti dinner, Noon – 4 PM at the North Collins Senior Center to benefit the North Collins Veteran’s Tribute Site Memorial.

Sunday March 12

40 & 8 Voiture 476 presents trip to Presque Isle Casino. Buffet breakfast at 9 AM, Bus leaves Niagara Frontier Post at 10 AM. Contact Tom O'Connell at 867-5730 for more info. Cost \$30, returns by 6:30 PM.

Sunday March 19

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.

Sunday March 26

Spaghetti dinner at Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates St., Sloan from Noon - 5 PM. \$8 adults, \$5 children 4 to 12 years old, 3 and under are free, a basket raffle also held.

Newell Faulkner Post #880

Wednesday's 50 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday nights is steak night. Friday night’s fish fries and specials.

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, 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 3/24 for the April edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor