



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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February 2018

Commander's Message:

I am proud to report that Erie County was well represented at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany. I have to say a big "Thank you" to VC Tony Solina, Historian Tom Deinzer, and Michelle Bojanowski, for all of the help they provided to the set up and the tear down of the Erie Co. Meet and Greet Room. It was very successful with many visitors. It also doubled as a birthday party room as my birthday fell on Jan. 20th. It turned out to be one of my happiest birthdays.

In addition to attending various conference meetings that presented topics pertinent to Legion programs from the Post to Department levels, our delegates made a contribution to the campaign of the Leading Candidate for Department Commander, Gary Schacher. It was my pleasure to present a \$200 check to him.

During the General Session of the Conference, a description of a new treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder was presented. It is called the Neuro-Linguistic Program. It does not utilize drugs or expensive equipment. Reports are showing a high rate of success. Videos of veterans who have participated in the program verified that they experienced positive results after eight sessions and the results persisted without the use of drugs. We will be hearing more about this as time goes on.

As we all know, membership is not keeping up with attrition, but the same amount of work still needs to be done. A suggestion has been made to create a county board of Erie Co. Legionnaires with experience in various positions to mentor and offer assistance with county and post programs. Please contact me or the county office if you have input about the board creation.

There are two activities coming up that I would like to encourage as much of your participation in as possible. First is the Department Commander's Visitation Dinner on February 10th, and then "Hill Day" which occurs March 12 & 13 in Albany.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

As of the latest update from Department, which came out on January 16th, 11 Posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 85% set for February 7th. 19 posts have surpassed the most recent goal of 80%, as has the County; which is sitting at 81.58%. Thank you to all of my fellow Legionnaires for having us being in a better position than we were one month ago. Let's keep it up!

Lorenzo-Burrows, Jr., Depew, and Frank L. Gierlach Posts have all hit their 100% goal. Keep on charging! We have several Posts right around 90% that will hopefully hit their 100% target before we know it. East Aurora Post is still number one in terms of the most new members signed up. Thank you all for the hard work. National is currently working on a program where each Posts' membership person would pay through the internet on a credit card their members' dues, which should drastically cut down on the time it takes for the records to reflect the true membership of each respective Post. They plan on rolling this out in Spring.

Have a great month and I look forward to seeing many of you at our next County meeting at Orchard Park Post on the 22nd.

ECAL Veterans for Veterans Inc.

In an effort to help our Veterans and Military Families, we have registered with Amazon.com/Smile. A portion of every dollar spent will go towards our Corporation. If you shop at Amazon, you can help by logging on at amazon.com/smile, instead of amazon.com directly. After you get on amazon.com/smile, type into the search bar "Charities To Donate To" and another entry box will come up. Next type in "ECAL Veterans For Veterans, Inc.", click on our name, and start shopping. Thanks in advance for your support.

Department Visitation – Nelson Oldfield

The Erie County American Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons will be hosting a dinner honoring Department Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and SAL Detachment Commander William Clancy III on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

The Dinner will be held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY. 14218. Cash Bar Cocktails will be at 6:00 p.m. and Dinner at 7:00 p.m. Dinner cost is \$30. Ticket deadline will be Friday February 2, 2018. There will be no sales the week of the dinner or payment at the door.

Dinner Menu: Salad, Breaded Pork Chops, Pasta, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Ice Cream, Tea & Coffee.

Tickets are ordered by sending in your check to County Headquarters, to 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Sq., Buffalo, NY 14202. Please make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion.

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 Nessler for her project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF) and the Department of New York Emergency Fund, President Hennessy's project, "Our Military Kids", and Commander Clancy's project, the National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Let's give Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and SAL Detachment Commander William Clancy III, a memorable Erie County welcome as they travel through the 8th District.

Past Commanders Club is looking for new members and the Club is willing to help your Post resolve issues. Please send in your \$5 dues payment to Ron Danielewicz, 66 West Main St. Lot #1, Corfu, NY, 14036. The next meeting is Wednesday 4/25 at the 40 & 8 Chateau, 810 Rein Rd. Cheektowaga.

Editor's Note:

The Buffalo News offer a Purple Heart Symbol in addition to the US Flag, with their death notices and memorial notices.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

We have sold approximately 875 calendars, but would like to sell more. If you have unsold calendars please contact Tom at 716-867-5730 and I can make arrangement to pick them up. If sold, and you want to turn them in contact me ASAP so they start counting. You do not want to cost someone money because you did not turn in the stub and money. I also still have Delta Sonic car wash tickets. For \$10 you get a super kiss wash and within five days a second wash.

Seneca Niagara Bus Trip - VC Tom

O'Connell: Time is running out. Checks and reservations must be in by February 2, 2018 for a Holiday to be spent with your friends at Breakfast at Post 1041 and the Seneca Niagara Casino on February 19. Breakfast at 10 AM. Bus leaves at 11:00 AM. Contact Tom at 867-5730 now. Casino trip and breakfast for \$30. When you arrive at the casino you will be given \$25 Machine Credit and \$5 credit for food. So, as you can see, you get all your money back for a wonderful day with veterans and friends.

BOYS STATE VC Tom O'Connell

Boys State will run from June 24 to 29, 2018. The boys will leave Post 1041 on June 24, 2018 at 8 AM. The return is different this year as they will come back on Friday night, rather than Saturday. So at this time, I am figuring that they will be back at Post 1041 around 9:30 PM.

The lunch will be held on June 10, with the same program as last year. Pizza and Boneless chicken will be served by the Boy Stater's to their families, and they will clean the tables after the business part of the program. An information package was given to any Post representative who attended the County meeting on January 25. Each Erie County American Legion Post is asked to try and send at least one boy to Boys State. We have a quota of 37, but we can ask for additional openings. For a packet please call Tom O'Connell at 716-867-5730.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Official guidelines are now posted on the County website. <http://eriecountyal.org/> It is time to start creating your nominations from your Post that must be received by April 9. Send to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main St. Williamsville, NY 14221.



Erie County Education Awards- Art Forman

To all Erie County Past Commanders and Posts, please support our annual Education Award Program by sending in your donation to the County office. Earmark check for Scholarships. Scholarship application is posted on the Erie County website.

PNC Michael J. Kogutek Scholarship – Jim Bojanowski

Application is posted online at the Erie County website for two \$1,500 scholarships. Donations to continue this scholarship, can be sent to the Erie County Office.

World War I Exhibit – Peter Hurd

Remember to visit the Erie County Central Library, 1 Lafayette Square, in Buffalo to view the exhibit which will be open for the next two years. It is worth the visit. Information is also in the Department website. <https://nylegion.net/buffalo-wwi-exhibit-features-legion-honorees/>

World War I Centennial 2018 Proof Silver

Dollar To commemorate the centennial of America's involvement in World War I and honor the more than 4 million men and women from the United States who served. Current price is \$51.95, plus freight, ordered thru the US Mint.

Department Convention – Jim Bojanowski

At my Mid-Winter Convention Committee meeting in Albany, we discussed the possibility of moving the Department convention session dates from a Thursday to Saturday format, to a Friday to Sunday format. The desired outcome is to potentially increase attendance, due to it being one less workday. This may reduce hotel prices in some cities, and it would move the parade to a Saturday night, resolving a lot of attendance and traffic issues we currently have. I look forward to your comments back directly, or at a County meeting, to take back to my Committee and the Department Leadership. The 2019 Buffalo Convention is not affected by this potential change, since contracts are already in place. It would start in 2020.

Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

February 22, Orchard Park Post #567

3740 N. Buffalo St., Orchard Park, 14127

Menu: Meatloaf, Potato, Vegetable

March 29, Matthew Glab Post #1477

April 26, East Aurora Post #362

May 17, Hamburg Post #527

June 2, Iroquois Post #1587

Erie County Convention

Sunday February 4,

8th District Meeting - Erie County

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St.

Cheektowaga, NY 14225

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

March 12 & 13 – Albany Hill Day

Let John Siefert or the County Office know if you are attending. Housing and the Monday night meeting will be held at the Desmond.

Breakfast and office visitations on Tuesday morning at the Empire State Plaza.

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 March
"The Legion-Air"
Due February 23
thelegionair@gmail.com



Sunday February 18

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.

Wednesday February 21

The Erie County "Thank a Vet" discount program will be having a sign up event at the Evans Senior Center at 999 Sturgeon Point Rd. in Evans. The time will be from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. Bring your discharge papers.

Saturday February 24

CRASH CADILLAC will be playing at The Matthew Glab Post 1477. They will be playing dance favorites from the 60's, 70's & 80's, from 8:00 PM till 12:00 AM. Admission is \$10 which includes 1 Free Drink, All proceeds to benefit Veterans Programs. Cash Bar - Bring Snacks.

Hamburg Post Spaghetti Dinners served on Thursdays 4:30 to 7 PM. Meatballs, salad, and bread. Coffee \$.50. Full order \$8, half \$6.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Sun. Mon. & Tues. Taco's Wed. 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thur. nights, is steak night. Fri. nights, fish fries/specials, Sat., pizza & wing's and sandwiches available. Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.

Also, Post 880 "Thank a Vet" sign up, Wednesday February 7.

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

South Buffalo Auxiliary #721 – Serving Taco's every other Wednesday from 5 – 7 PM. We will have Taco's on Wednesday February 7th & 21st. 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 2/23 for the March edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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The American Legion Family