



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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

As the old year ends and the New Year begins, we tend to evaluate what has been accomplished, plan for new endeavors, and reflect on the resources and supporters that helped to make it all happen. I am very fortunate as Commander to have dedicated Legionnaires serving as county delegates and on my staff, in conjunction with Auxiliary and Sons members to promote veterans' programs. They all have my sincere gratitude for all of their hard work. I am looking forward to working with all of them on projects in the New Year.

As expected December was a combination of Legion business and Christmas celebrations. On 12/2, I hosted the County Christmas Party at Hamburg Post. It appeared that those who attended had a good time and my thanks go out to Hamburg Post and my Aide, Karen Patch, for their help in creating a festive atmosphere. On 12/3 I joined 8<sup>th</sup> District delegates at the Batavia VA for the Christmas Wreath Hanging followed by the 8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting at the Jewels-Buchman Post in Orleans County. For our Christmas gathering, my Post, ERIECO Women's Post, reserved a table at the Lamm Post Christmas Party on 12/10. We all had high praise for the food served on their buffet. On 12/14, I joined Erie County, and 8<sup>th</sup> District Staff at the Buffalo VA to hang two Christmas Wreaths. Following that, we distributed booklets of Canteen gift coupons that patients could use on items of their choice. Lots of smiles and "War Stories" were exchanged. Finally, I was a presenter at the Hutch Tech JROTC Awards Dinner at the Classics V on 12/22.

In closing, I'm looking forward to joining Erie County American Legion Family delegates at the Department Mid-Winter Conference, 1/19 to 1/21, to review Department plans for the American Legion in the New Year.

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

The latest membership update from Department, came out on 11<sup>th</sup> of December. 11 Posts have already met or exceeded the next 1/11 target goal of 80%. 15 Posts have surpassed the most recent goal of 75%. The County as a whole has surpassed that goal by standing tall at 75.61%. Lorenzo-Burrows Post #78 is the first Post to crack the 100% mark. Great work! Now, at least one other Post has also done that, but is not recorded yet on the official report. Unfortunately, that means that some Posts that have made a nice percentage jump, are not reflected in the current membership report. I know we have more members who have renewed both online and via the mail. East Aurora Post is still showing the most new members at 17, while Brounsidle Post is nipping at their heels with 12 new members.

### **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](https://www.amazon.com/smile), instead of [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) directly. After you get on [amazon.com/smile](https://www.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.

### **Editor's Note:**

In the January edition of the American Legion Magazine, page 22, look for an article entitled "A Place To Land". Included in the article, are interviews of ECAL Veterans for Veterans Inc. President Anne Baglio, and Vice President Bill Siegel. They reviewed the effort to create Homeless Women's Veterans housing in Cheektowaga at the Villa Maria School.

## Department Visitation – Nelson Oldfield

The Erie County American Legion and Auxiliary 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. You can also pay Jim Bojanowski for reservations at the County meetings.

To help offset expenses, please support the program book with 1/8-page Ads \$15, and Boosters \$1. Return ads/boosters to the County Office by Friday, January 26.

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 8<sup>th</sup> District.

## Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

8th District Contest will be held at the M. J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave. Kenmore, 14217 on Sunday, January 14, (Snow Date, 1/21), starts at Noon. Please make every effort to attend this competition in order to show these kids that we respect & support their efforts.

**Past Commanders Club** meeting at Frank L. Gerlach Post #1320, 50 Gates St., Sloan, 14212 at 7 PM. Please send in your \$5 dues payment to Ron Danielewicz, 66 West Main St. Lot #1, Corfu, NY, 14036.



## Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

I received 200 additional sold calendars at our recent County Meeting. That brings our total to 821 calendars sold. We are closing in on a total sell out. Please keep up the good work and get your calendars back to me ASAP. All returns must be to me by 1/1/18 in order to qualify from the first of the year. After that, eligibility starts as of the date I received the money and stubs. 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:** How about coming to breakfast on February 19, at 10 AM, and leaving for Seneca Niagara Casino at 11 AM? You will have a buffet breakfast at Post 1041, 533 Amherst Street, Buffalo, 14207. 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 follow veterans and friends. Ron Diebold is the captain for bus two and I am the captain for bus one. Bus returns to the Post at 6 PM. Call Tom at 867-5730 or, Ron at 836-9617.

## Americanism – VC George Barton

The American Flag at the corner of Grider and Northland that was in very bad shape, has been replaced with a new flag after I contact that business. The old flag will be properly retired at the June Flag Day ceremony in June. After the holidays, we will be sending letters out to our elected officials requesting funds for new flags for Memorial Day.

## USS Little Rock (LCS-9) - Wayne Sorrentino

The ship was Commissioned in Buffalo on Saturday, 12/16. Over 8,500 were in attendance. The Committee raised \$415,000 for the events held the two weeks the ship was here. We greatly exceeded expectations. Thanks to everyone for braving the weather and for your generosity. The ship left Buffalo 12/20, heading to their home port of Mayport, Florida. Thanks for everyone's cooperation with the Veterans' tours on Thursday and Friday.



**95-YEAR-OLD WWII VET RECEIVES A HERO'S WELCOME IN TWO COUNTRIES!**

Thanks to "Wish of A Lifetime", WWII Veteran Paul Woods received a free trip to Sydney, Australia to retrace his steps 73 years ago, as a 19-year Technical Sergeant serving with the Australian Army, the New Zealand Army, and the Aboriginals Troops. From December 4-11, 2017 Paul Woods returned to the nation he helped defend in WWII and was given a hero's welcome. The US Embassy covered the event on its live Twitter feed. Paul Woods was accompanied by his daughters Paulette Woods, Commander of the Jesse Clipper American Legion Post#430, and RN Linnette Woods-Ingram. Members of his Post greeted Mr. Woods upon his return.



PCC Tom Deinzer, County Commander Sue Quirk, District Commander Kathy Kindel, VA Rep Ken Barnes, are pictured with VA Staff at the Buffalo VA Hospital wreath presentation.

**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/>



**Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

**January 25, Newcomb Long Post #928**

7353 Erie Rd., (Route 5) Derby, 14047

Menu: Lasagna, meatballs, garden salad, garlic bread, veggie tray and a fruit tray.

**February 25, Orchard Park Post #567**

**March 29, Matthew Glab Post #1477**

**Sunday February 4,**

**8<sup>th</sup> 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

**January 19, 20, & 21**

Department Mid-Winter Conference in Albany.

**March 12 & 13 – Albany Hill Day**

Let John Siefert or the County Office know if you are attending.

**Erie County Scholarships- Art Forman**

To all Erie County Past Commanders and Posts, please support our annual Scholarship Programs by sending in your donation to the County office. Earmark check for Scholarships.

**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 February  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due January 26  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**



**Saturday January 13**

F.J. Donovan Post will have Live Pro Wrestling. Doors open at 6 PM and Bell time is 7 PM. Discount Tickets available at the Post before the event, or the day of the event at slightly higher prices. For additional information please check face book

**Wednesday January 17 Seneca-Niagara**

Casino Trip. Check in 7:30 AM at Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, NY for danish and coffee. Bus leaves Post at 8:30 AM. Leaves Casino 2:30 PM. Cost \$26 per person. Incentives \$25 free play, \$5 toward food. Requires Valid License or ID. 50/50 on bus. Pizza and wings back at Post 527. Contact PC Pat Nealon 649-0992, or 262-6301 to sign up.

**Sunday January 21**

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.

**Hamburg Post** Spaghetti Dinners served on Thursdays 4:30 to 7 PM. Meatballs, salad, 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.

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

**South Buffalo Post 721**, 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210, First Monday Spaghetti Dinner, all other Monday's, in November, we will be servings \$.65 wings from 6 - 10PM. Minimum order is 10, Eat in only.

**South Buffalo Auxiliary** serves Taco's every other Wednesday from 5 to 7 PM, 1/10 & 1/24, and 2/7 & 2/21.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 1/26 for the February edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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*HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018!*