



The Legion-Air

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March 2018

Commander's Message:

March spotlights a theme that holds a lot of interest for me. March is "Women in History" month. As you all know women made history in the American Legion by being elected as first women commanders at the Department of NY level and National level respectively. Of further note, this took place in the Legion's 99th year. The Legion's actual birthday falls on 15-17MAR. We are all looking forward to celebrating our 100th birthday next year.

A good portion of February was devoted to celebrating and welcoming our Department American Legion Family Leadership to 8th District and Erie County. I cannot express enough my pride in and gratitude to those who planned and hosted the various activities conducted during the visitation. Comments from our visitors during the dinner speeches and in conversation attest to the success of our efforts. I am going to use this platform to say thank you to some individuals and organizations that deserve recognition. First, thank you to Iroquois Post #1587 and their Commander Bud Thompson, who hosted the luncheon. The satisfying lunch, the Native Dancers' Program, and honors rendered, presentation of an eagle feather and Seneca Nation Flag to the Department Commander made a lasting impact on all who were there. Kudos are deserved by Nelson Oldfield as the Dinner Chairman and Matthew Glab Post #1477, led by Commander Bernie Romanowski, for organizing an impressive dinner. I was also impressed by our Erie County American Legion Family support in their attendance and their generous donations to the Leadership's projects. Thousands of dollars were collected in Erie County for veterans' services. Following those festivities, participants still had energy left to socialize in the Erie County meet & and greet room at the Hampton Inn. It was also well attended and a good time was had by all.

Membership – VC Anthony Solina

As of the latest update from Department, which came out on February 13, 10 Posts have already met or exceeded the next target goal of 90% set for March 7.

16 Posts have surpassed the most recent goal of 85%, but not the County; which is sitting at 84.76% as of the most recent report. Please reach out to members who have not paid this or last year's dues and try to get them to renew. Every member counts.

Lorenzo-Burrows, Depew and Frank Gierlach Posts have all hit their 100% goal, keep on charging! We have several Post's right around 90% that will hopefully hit their 100% target before we know it. Lorenzo-Burrows has over taken East Aurora and all other Post's with most new members signed up (23). Thank you all for the hard work.

National is currently working on a program where each Posts' membership person can pay their members' dues through the internet on a credit card, 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 Meet at Matthew Glab Post on the 29th.

Commander's Message: Continued

Many thanks go out to Tom Deinzer who helped to set up and break down the meet & and greet room. In parting, I look forward to traveling with the Erie County Legion delegation to Albany in March for Hill Day to meet with our legislators concerning veterans' issues.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Official guidelines are now posted on the County website. <http://eriecounty.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.

Essay Contest – Pauline Collier

Information has been sent out to all schools in Erie County for 5th & 6th graders and is posted on our website. This year's topic is, "I am your Flag. What do the colors of our country mean to me? Why should they be respected?" Submission due date is May 7 at the County office.

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, starting at 7 PM.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057 has Sun. Mon. & Tues. for Taco's, Wed. is 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.

Wednesday May 23

George F. Lamm Unit 622, Casino trip to Seneca Niagara. \$31 includes \$25 free play and \$5 food credit. Leave Post at 11 AM, leave Casino at 5 PM. Call Debbie at 836 – 9617.



Special Activities - VC Tom O'Connell

We have sold 885 calendars, and can still sell more. If you have unsold calendars please contact me at 716-867-5730 and I can make arrangements 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: Thanks to everyone who attended the trip on February 2, 2018. We will explore the potential of another trip in the future.

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 at 8 AM. Their 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 11:00 PM.

The lunch will be held on June 10 at 11 AM, with the same program as last year. Pizza and Boneless chicken will be served by the Boy Staters to their families, and they will clean the tables after the business part of the program. An information package has been given/sent to all Post's. Each Erie County American Legion Post is asked to try and send at least one boy to Boys State. For information call Tom O'Connell at 867-5730.

Department Visitation – Nelson Oldfield

Thanks to everyone who supported the visitation of Department Commander Rena Nessler, Department President Patricia Hennessy, and SAL Detachment Commander William Clancy III on Saturday, February 10, 2018. We appreciate your attendance and placing of Ads & Boosters.

Hamburg Post Spaghetti Dinners served on Thursdays, except 3/29, from 4:30 to 7 PM. Meatballs, salad, and bread. Coffee \$.50. Full order \$8, half \$6.

Department Commander receiving a NEF contribution from Erie County Commander Suzanne Quirk.



Department Commander Rena Nessler receiving the Seneca Nation Flag from Iroquois Post Commander Bud Thompson.



Erie County Museum President Peter Hurd presented plaques to Erie County Library representatives; Joy Testa Cinquino, Marguerite Cheman, & Amy Pickard, with PCC Jim Bojanowski and VC Tony Solina.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

March 29, Matthew Glab Post #1477

1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, 14218

Menu: Roast Beef, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert

April 26, East Aurora Post #362

May 17, Hamburg Post #527

June 2, Iroquois Post #1587

Erie County Convention

Sunday April 8,

8th District Meeting - Cattaraugus County

Little Valley Post #531

Erie St.

Little Valley, NY 14755

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 April
“The Legion-Air”
Due March 30
thelegionair@gmail.com



Sunday March 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.

Monday April 2

Matthew Glab Post #1477 is hosting a Dyngus Day featuring The New Direction Band, music 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm, Admission: \$10.00, For Tickets and Table Reservation call 716-825-3733. Krupnik Shots and Polish Beer

Monday April 2

South Buffalo Auxiliary #721, 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210, will be hosting a Dyngus Day Buffet in our downstairs club room on, from 4 to 8 PM. \$10 per person, includes: Pigs in the Blanket, Polish Sausage, Lazy Pierogi, Sweet & Sour Cabbage and Cheese Cake.

Saturday April 14

Hamburg Squadron 527 is sponsoring a Meat Raffle to support National SAL Candidate Greg "Doc" Gibbs. First raffle at 7 PM. \$5 admission includes, beer, pop, & hot dog.

Saturday April 14

Wrestling at Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., 14225, bell time at 7 PM. VIP \$14, adults \$12, Kids, 12 & under \$10. Extra \$2 the day of event. Call 896 – 3346.

Sunday April 29

George F. Lamm Unit 622 Western Hoe Down, 962 Wherle Dr., Williamsville, 14221, \$20 pp includes includes roast beef, salads, beer, pop, & wine. Food 4:30 to 5:30 PM. Music by Ghost Riders 5:30 to 8:30 PM. Call Debbie at 836 - 9617

Saturday April 28

721 Auxiliary is also sponsoring a Meat Raffle. First spin at 7 PM. \$5 Admission includes: door prize, refreshments, snacks and food

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 3/30 for the April edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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