



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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November 2018

Commander's Message:

The day after I sent in my article last month, the American Legion presented the colors for the UB vs. Army football game while JROTC students had a flag 40 yards long across the field. We were able to watch Army pummel UB into submission.

This past month saw a very special Purple Heart ceremony take place. Legionnaires, the recipient's family, local media and politicians were there to present the Purple Heart to the grandson and a Vice Commander at Depew Post on behalf of his grandfather, Walter E. Rydzewski. He was shot below the heart 100 years to the day of the ceremony and died five years later as a result.

On 10/19, the 8th District had the honor of the yearly visitation and dinner for the National Commander Brett Resisted. The dinner was held at Dunkirk Memorial Post and was very well attended. Our Adjutant Jim Bojanowski did an excellent job as Toastmaster for the dinner.

On November 10, at Our Mother of Good Council at 3688 South Park Ave. in Blasdell, we will be hosting the Veteran's Day Mass for the 4:00 pm service. The Gold Star Mothers will also be in attendance. I hope many of you can make it there! Please arrive by 3:30 so we can get all set up. Reception afterwards will be held at the Tehan Post #1449 at 2075 Electric Avenue less than a half mile away.

As is our yearly tradition, on 11/11, we will be having grave decorations starting at 8 AM followed by the ceremony at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Veterans' Day, near the Main St. Buffalo entrance. Join us if your own Post does not have services that morning.

Membership – VC Gary Wald

As of the most recent transmittal I have received from Department (#15 dated 10/10) 18 Posts out of 36 posts reported as having no new members. Please work to get new members to join our organization.

We were only about 5.8%, or 345 members away from meeting our next milestone of 65% on 11/8. Please keep up the good work!

I attended the 7 & 8th District Workshop in Dansville on Oct 6 and the 8th District Membership meeting in Mayville on Oct. 7. Post 1 membership is still a good source from which to recruit new members. Post 1 dues are \$45.00 per member, and many Post dues in Erie County are less than that. A lower cost to be with friends and neighbors from the area are excellent transfer tools to work with so please continue to call Post 1 members and invite them into your own Post. If you have any questions on this contact me at any time.

The bulk renewal processing that Department has been working on has been moved out to January 2019.

Please remember that recruiting and retention is not yours alone, all members of your post should be involved. There are only a couple of posts on our membership team whom I still do not have "E" mail addresses for. If you would like more frequent information relating to membership, please send me either your "E" mail, or some other trustworthy source whom you can collect the information from. My "E" mail address is gwald10@aol.com.

Annual Veteran's Day Mass – John Kasmer

will be held on Saturday November 10, at the Our Mother of Good Council Church at 4 PM, located at 3688 South Park Ave. Blasdell, NY. Reception to follow after mass at Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449 on 2075 Electric Ave, Blasdell.

Veteran's Day Parade – John Kasmer

Will be held this year in South Buffalo starting at Red Jacket and McKinley Pkwy. on 11/10 starting at 11 AM. Closing services will be held at the South Park Botanical Gardens at the end of the parade. Call John at 634 -1128 for info.

Veteran's Day Services 11/11 - George Barton

The Erie County American Legion will be having their annual ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 9:00 AM. Decoration of graves with flags will start at 8:00 AM. The recovery of the flags will be Monday November 12, at 9:00 AM.

On Saturday November 3, at 11:00 am, the Erie County Honor Guard will be honoring veterans that are residents at the Buffalo Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing located at 1014 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY.

Hamburg Post 527 Spaghetti Dinners every Thursday from 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8. half order \$6. Chicken Wings on Saturdays.

FJ Donovan Post #1626 at 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225, Dave's Kitchen now serving a full menu, Fish Fries and weekly specials. Fridays 4-8 PM.

Newell-Faulkner Post 880, 2912 Legion Dr., Eden, 14057, Wednesday 75 cent wings, dine in only. Thursday steak night. Friday night fish fries and specials. Saturday pizza, wing's and sandwiches. Regular menu also Wed.-Sat. Go to kitchen link, www.post880.com.

The Boy Scouts of America located at 2860 Genesee Street (just East of Harlem), Buffalo, NY 14225 receive a significant number of American Flags for proper disposal thru-out the year. If your Post would be willing assist the Scouts in reducing its significant inventory, please call Scouting Executive Russell Etzenhouser at 716-512-6206. Hopefully you may be able to team up with a local Scout Troop and conduct a meaningful Ceremony.
Bill Loockerman 652-8299



Special Activities – VC Thomas O'Connell

With all 1,000 calendars in the hands of the Posts, we now need to get them sold. These calendars make a great gift for Christmas. So just think, we give away \$1,000 every month with a total of \$12,000 over the year. I know you would love to receive a check during the month. So, please sell your calendars and get the returns to me ASAP.

Department of New York Boy's State will be held June 27 to July 2, 2019 at SUNY Morrisville. Please start interviewing candidates now. More info to follow.

Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

Deadline for application paperwork is 11/16 in my hands. Potential candidates are those students in grades 9 through 12, including those home schooled. Instructions and the application are on the Department' web site under Oratorical. The application must be properly signed, with a 2" X 2" B&W photo and a copy of the student's oration, with title. I have received no applications to-date and only one phone call showing interest. Please contact me with questions: wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com or home: (716) 891-5164.

Armed Forces Sabbath Sunday 11/4 – Wayne Sorrentino

The Mass & non-denominational service will be at St. Joe's Cathedral, 50 Franklin St, Buffalo, NY 14202 at 10:30 am. We are looking for Color Guards, Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons, family, friends & guests to fill the pews to pray with us for our military members around the world, especially those in harm's way. Please contact me with questions or 716 891 5164.

South Buffalo Post #721 located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving dinners every Monday night, also serving Taco's on 11/14 & 11/28.

Erie County Commander Anthony Solina presents a check to National Commander Brett Reistad for the NEF.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

November 29, Troop I Post #665

432 Franklin St. Buffalo, Ny 14202

Menu: Meatloaf, potato, vegetable

December 20, Francis Donovan Post #1626

January 31, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

Sunday December 2

8th District Meeting - Genesee County

Sackett-Merrill-White Post #575

21 Lake Rd. Bergen, NY 14416

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Mid-Winter Albany Conference 1/24 - 26

Department Commander Gary Schacher

Erie County Visitation 2/16 at Hamburg Post

#527, 2 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, NY 14075

National Commander Brett Reistad giving his address at the 8th District dinner. Also pictured, L to R, NY Vice Commander Tom Schreck, NY Commander Gary Schacher, MC Jim Bojanowski, SAL National Commander Gregg Gibbs, and NY Adjutant Jim Casey.



Homeless Female Veterans 5K Race was held at the South Buffalo American Legion Post #721 on Sunday October 7.



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 December
"The Legion-Air"
Due November 30
thelegionair@gmail.com



Friday November 9

Frank L. Gierlach Post #1320 Meat Raffle at 7 PM, \$5 includes liquid refreshments. Held at St. Andrews School Hall, 34 Francis Ave., Sloan, NY. Pizza for sale. Must be 21+.

Saturday November 10

Ham & Turkey raffle at the A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051, starting at 7 PM.

Saturday November 10

Buffalo Warriors Sledfest at the Northtowns Ice Hockey Rink starting at 8:30 PM.

Sunday November 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.

Saturday December 15

Newell Faulkner Post #880 2912 Legion Dr, Eden, NY 14057, is holding a meat raffle staring at 7 PM.

PCC Suzanne Quirk, National Commander Brett Reistad, and ERIECO Commander Karen Patch at the 10/19 dinner.



Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 11/30 for the December edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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