



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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January 2019

Commander's Message:

I hope everyone had a Blessed Christmas and I wish you all a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Although not the most activity filled past few weeks, I participated in the wreath laying held at the Buffalo VA facility. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from throughout the Mighty 8th District took part. After taking care of the wreath portion of our trip, we had the pleasure of visiting sick veterans upstairs. We presented them with Christmas cards from local children along with gift certificates for use in the PX down in the basement. The way we lit up their faces was a fulfilling sight to see, especially after most of them looked very glum when we first entered their rooms. It was my first-time partaking in this and it will not be my last.

On the 21st I attended the Hutch Tech JROTC Christmas banquet at the Classic V Banquet Center. They did awards and promotions for the deserving cadets. Seeing those children helps give me confidence that the next generation will keep the flames of patriotism and democracy alit. Lieutenant Colonel Cipolla and his staff truly do a wonderful job in instilling the values that turn a citizen into a great citizen of our Republic.

For those of you who are planning on attending the Mid-Winter Conference next month I will be hosting my hospitality room on Saturday after Department Commander Schacher's dinner. Please stop and come on by to say hello.

A reminder for those who are attending Mid-Winter to help us with the sales table for the 2019 Department Convention at both the Desmond and Marriott hotels. We will be selling the Convention Pins, Raffle, and Boosters.

Membership – VC Gary Wald

Thank you to all of the hardworking membership chairpersons and committees. As of our last transmittal number 21 dated 12/11, we had a slight start on our 1/10 requirement of 80% with 302 members left to capture. 16 Posts have already exceeded 75% and 5 more Posts are between 70-75%. I extend my best wishes for all to have a great and safe holiday season.

From Wayne P. Sorrentino

Thank you for all of the work you've been doing for membership. Thank you to our Post leaders who have already achieved 100% or better. Please do all you can, personally, to stop the back sliding. Canada County is still #1 in the District, but now #7 in Department, followed by Erie County in the #2 spot for the District, and the #17th spot for Department. Remember our goal is to get above 100K members again by the end of this membership year. Please ask your friends and neighbors to join our great organization.

The new "Process Membership" Tab is available on the Department's web site to allow Posts to renew multiple members at one time and pay by e-check or credit card. It appears that national will still be updating Department only once per month (around the 15th of the following month) with these renewals, much like the updating for regular individual online renewals.

National has offered to provide our Posts with a \$5 incentive for bringing back into the organization those members who've had their memberships expire during 2014, 2015 or 2016. If you need help getting the list of the past members, please ask me and I'll gladly send it to you as an Excel spreadsheet. If your Post does not have access to mylegion.org, please contact me and I'll help you through the registration process.

Americanism – VC George Barton

As everyone knows December 7th was the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. There were a couple of ceremonies of remembrance in Erie County. If you were not able to attend a ceremony, hopefully you remembered our fallen comrades in your own way. From my family and I, to you and your family, we would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a joyous season.

JR Shooters – Tim Winterhalter

Unfortunately, in week 5 of the American Legion competition we saw a 37-point drop, but still an impressive team score of 1868 led by Team Captain Peter Musselli who shot a 485. Right behind with an equally impressive score was Mike Slazak with a 484. Dan Maran shot a 455 and Shawn Dukes hit a solid 444. Incidentally, Peter had a goal of setting a school record in the Prone position before the end of the year. Well, HE DID JUST THAT. Last night Peter shot a nearly perfect 97 out of 100 beating the old record by a point. No surprise to us, because he shot three 95's this year already. Wow! Note: Mevi Tonato, Jordan Anderson and Enyel (Angel) Rivera all earned their aiguillettes by shooting a 50 in the standing position. This is not as easy as it sounds and is arguably the hardest aiguillette you can earn at Maritime. Congratulations to all.

From Wayne Sorrentino

Vietnam Vets Luncheon or Dinner sponsored by DAR. Date/place TBD but the offer is made. If your Post members are interested, please contact me via phone or email asap along with any questions you may have which I'll pass along. wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com, or call 716-891-5164. I will build a list of attendees and the associated head count. Guests are included in the invite and pay the \$5 per person charge. Since we don't have a specific date/time/location, you are not committing yourself to attend, just showing your interest.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019!



Special Activities – VC Thomas O'Connell

I need all calendars turned in to me by January 1, 2019 in order for them to be eligible on Day 1. Returns have been great so far, but please get all of the calendars that are out, sold ASAP. Feel free to call me at 716-867-5730 to make arrangements to get your returns in. If I don't answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you ASAP. I also have Delta Sonic Car Wash coupons for sale. I wish everyone in our American Legion Family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Boy's State – VC Thomas O'Connell

will be held June 27 to July 2, 2019 at SUNY Morrisville. Please start interviewing candidates now. Information packets were handed out at the County meeting to the Posts present. Make sure you only use the 2019 paperwork. Completed forms must be returned to the County Office by the end of March. Cost will be \$450 this year which includes the program, transportation, and the luncheon. Please call me at 716-867-5730 if your Post needs an information packet. Information is also now online at the Department website. <https://nylegion.net/boys-state/>

Oratorical Contest - Wayne Sorrentino

The Mighty 8th District Oratorical Contest will be held at M J Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217 on Sunday, 1/13 starting at 1 PM. Snow date is Sunday, 1/20. We have no Erie County candidate this year, but we'd appreciate our members coming out to show their support of these kids who give their all for this contest. Last year, our Department winner was from the 8th District, Orleans County, Melissa Barnosky, a senior at Charles D'Amico High School in Albion, NY. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to you and your families.

American Legion float has prominent position in the 130th annual Tournament of Roses Parade January 1 in Pasadena, California.

The American Legion will have the third float in the parade, directly behind the Marine Corps band. National Commander Brett Reistad, Sons of The American Legion National Commander Greg "Doc" Gibbs and Auxiliary National President Kathy Dugan will be among those riding the float. Four Medal of Honor recipients — Hershel "Woody" Williams, Ron Rosser, Walter "Joe" Marm and Britt Slabinski — will also be riding the float.

In the days leading up to the parade, a delegation of American Legion Family members and youth program participants will decorate it. On 12/30, the float will be judged, along with others in the parade.

Erie County Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Now is the time for all Posts to begin working on your submissions. I am sure each Post has a worthy candidate.

- All candidates' resumes will be judged on attendance at Post meetings, Post functions, hours spent working in and for the Post, Dedication, Leadership, and Service to the Post, Fellow Veterans and the Community are important considerations.
- The County judges must make their choice strictly on the merit of the contents of the resume. To insure impartiality in judging the Name, Gender, Post Name, Number, and their Community of the candidate, MUST be omitted from the resume. Any activities or elected office above Post Commander should NOT appear on the resume as well. RESUMES THAT DO NOT CONFORM TO THE ABOVE RULES WILL NOT BE JUDGED!!!
- Posts submit the resume of their candidates to Chairman Kathleen Garvey at her home address 320 Crosby Ave. Kenmore, NY 14217, May 2019 date TBD, along with a resume cover sheet that will identify the candidate, his/her Post name, number, and relative information that has been omitted from the resume. Cover sheets MUST be sealed in a plain white envelope and attached to the resume.
- The resume cannot be submitted posthumously.

All details will be published on the County website in January.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM
Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

January 31, Niagara Frontier Post #1041
533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207
Menu: Salad, Spaghetti & Meatballs.

February 28, Newcomb-Long Post #928

March 28 McKeever Post #64

Mid-Winter Albany Conference 1/24 - 26

Department American Legion Family Leadership Team Erie County Visitation Saturday February 16 at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, NY 14075.

We will be hosting Department Commander Gary Schacher, Department President Marie Mock, SAL Detachment Commander James Coates, and Legion Riders Director Bob Wallace. Cash Bar Cocktails at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM. Cost is \$32, payable by Friday February 8. No sales the week of the dinner, or at the door. Please also consider an Ad for \$15, and/or sign the booster page for \$1. Ads and boosters due to the office by Friday January 26. Donations to their projects can be made that night after the conclusion of their speeches.

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 February
"The Legion-Air"
Due January 28
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Wednesday January 16

PCC meeting at 7 PM at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225.

Sunday January 20

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 January 27

Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217, from 9 AM to 1 PM.

Department American Legion Family Leadership Team Erie County Visitation Saturday February 16 at Hamburg Post.

South Buffalo Post #721 located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 Is serving dinners every Monday night.

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.

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.

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.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 1/28 for the January edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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