



## *The Legion-Air*

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor

**NYALPA**  
Member

thelegionair@gmail.com

January 2020

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

I want to first wish the members of the American Legion Family a very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa.

I had the opportunity to assist in hanging the Christmas Wreath at the VA Hospital followed by visiting patients. Visitation was wonderful, especially one gentleman with whom I had a one on one conversation. I have to say if you ever have an opportunity to do this you will find it to be a very humbling experience.

Memorial Day Gold Star Mass will be May 23, 2020 at the Newman Center at 495 Skimmersville Road, Amherst NY. The Mass will start at 5 PM.

The next meeting will be held at Niagara Frontier Post 1041 on January 30, 2020. Hopefully, the weather will hold up this year. Please take time to attend one meeting to hear all about Boy's State.

To your family from mine Happy New Year!

### **Erie County Commander Thomas O'Connell visiting a Buffalo VA patient.**



### **Membership – VC Paul Wackowski**

Greetings! Legion Family  
Hope everyone had a joyous Christmas and best wishes for a Safe & Healthy New Year!

We're at a point in time where membership incentives and awards are at the forefront. At the County level, I am reviewing several options in which I'll be announcing at the next County membership meeting in January. All suggestions are welcomed.

At the Department and National levels, each one has their own incentives and awards programs. These are posted on their web sites.

Post Commanders, Adjutants and Membership Chairman, are to decide what type of an incentive award they would like to present to their respective posts. These awards are found on the Department of New York American Legion. Org. web site. Once you are in the site scroll down to Membership. Then, scroll on the right column to Incentives. There you will find various awards. Also, these are in the American Legion Flag and Emblem Catalog.

The latest numbers from the Department shows Erie County at 75%. The goal is to be 80% by January 8, 2020. In reviewing the last report, we have some Posts that have not sent in any membership as of the published report. You can check this report online at <https://nylegion.net/membership/>. This membership section also has the individual transactions done weekly by Department to National. Of course, if you are using the National "MYLEGION" process, this transactional information is looked up via the national web site.

### **Special Activities – VC Gary Wald**

All calendars have been out and available for sale. A few Posts have quite a few out without any returns as of 12/19. 64% of the funds and stubs are in. If you do not think you can sell all of your calendars, please call me and I may be able to find a taker for them who could sell them. Any Stubs with money that I receive after January 1, 2020, will be eligible to win prizes as of the day that I receive them. If you are holding stubs with money but will not be able to get them to be by January 1, you can "E" mail, or Phone the stub numbers to me. Contact me at my cell phone number 716-863-1919, or via "E" mail at gwald10@aol.com.

The next 'Special Activity' you may wish to arrange at your Post, for the new year if you haven't already, is a Four Chaplain Ceremony on or about February 3, 2020.

I wish all of you a healthy, prosperous, and fun New Year.

### **Dept. Leadership Visitation – Anthony Solina**

The Dinner honoring Department Commander Michael McDermott, Department President Linda Tome, and Detachment Commander Dennis George will be on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at the Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna. Cost \$32, cash bar cocktails at 6 PM, dinner at 7 PM. Reservations must be made with the County Office by Friday 2/7. No reservation or payment the week of the dinner or at the door. \$15 Ads and \$1 Boosters are due to the County Office by Friday 1/31. You can also make payments at the 1/30 County meeting. Letters were sent out to all Posts in early December. Contact me if you want a room at the Hampton Inn, located off the West Seneca exit of the I-90. Rates are \$104. E-mail fattony8705@yahoo.com. Room reservation deadline is January 15.

### **Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey**

All Posts, please start to work on submissions for Erie County Legionnaire of the Year. This is a great way to recognize and reward outstanding Legionnaires. At a time when we talk about recruiting and retention of members, Legionnaire of the Year is one tool we can use to show we care about our Members. All of us like to be recognized for our contributions to the Legion. Submit the resume of your candidate to: Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 11, 2020. All details will be published on the County website.



### **Americanism – VC Fred Pask**

The development of the Americanism programs in Departments and Posts depends to a great extent upon the initiative of the Americanism Chairman. Those Legionnaires must possess the qualities of leadership, vision, high idealism, and be able to inspire others of the committee and the membership to carry out the requirements of the various activities associated with the Americanism program. Americanism Chairmen should be among the most patriotic and active members of the Posts. A good and active Post Americanism Program will help keep the local Post in the minds of the local residents and instill a feeling of pride in the membership.

### **Law Officer of the Year – Ron Diebold**

Each year, the American Legion gives its National Law Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The process starts at the County level. The winning candidate will then be submitted to the District and then on to Department. Only one winner per Department is submitted to National. Please start now in our search for a worthy candidate. Applications will be submitted in the spring. More information will be available at the next County meeting.

### **NY Senator Chris Jacobs presents the Veteran of the Month to PCC Suzanne Quirk.**



## Sunday January 19

ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd., Swormville, 14051, 8 AM - 12:30. Fresh, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$8.

**Thomas Tehan Post 1449**, 2075 Electric Ave., Blasdell NY. Polka Nights Thursdays, Jan. 16 featuring Special Delivery and Jan. 30 with Buffalo Touch. Party starts at 6:30 PM. Music, Dancing, and Fun. Food available. \$5 cover charge, children under 12 free. Call 481-7315 for directions and details.

**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](http://www.post880.com).

### Hamburg Post 527

Spaghetti Dinners. Served on Thursdays, 4:30 to 7:00 PM. Meatballs, salad, bread. Coffee \$.50 (refills free). Full order \$8.50. Half order \$6.50. No dinners on 12/26.

### Francis Donovan Post #1626

3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga 14225, New Chef- Custom Culinary Solutions, every Friday from 4-8 PM. Fish Fry's and Awesome Dinners.

### South Buffalo Post #721

located at 136 Cazenovia St. Buffalo, 14210 is serving Spaghetti Dinners the first Monday of each month from 5 – 7 PM.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 1/31 for the February edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

*HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020!*



### Thursday County Meeting Dates

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

### January 30, Niagara Frontier Post #1041

533 Amherst St. Buffalo 14207  
Menu: Meat Loaf and Chicken Marcellus

### February 27 Matthew Glab Post #1477

### March 26 David McKeever Post #64

### Sunday February 9

#### 8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting – Erie County

Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449, 2076 Electric Ave. Blasdell, NY 14219  
NOON - Membership Mtg.  
1:00 PM – General Meeting

### Mid-Winter Albany Conference 1/24 – 1/26

### Albany Hill Day – 2/24 & 2/25

Please notify Adjutant Bojanowski if you are planning to attend ASAP. We are working on teams to visit our Albany representative offices.

### NY American Legion College 6/5, 6/6, & 6/7

This is a great year to attend the College if you have never been. The County Convention will not be conflicting this year since the convention will be held on 6/13.

**FYI** To receive email copy of the newsletter, please send a request email to the Erie County Office at [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net). The last print edition of The Legion-Air was December 2019. Only by special exception, will a newsletter be mailed at first class postage.

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)**  
**Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the February**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due January 31**  
**[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



**Erie County & 8th District Staff Christmas visit at The Buffalo VA Hospital. Front Row (L to R) Thomas O'Connell, Kathy Kindle, Bill Miskell, Ken Barnes, Fred Pask, and Suzanne Quirk. Back Row; Tom Deinzer, Chief Bio. Med. Engineer Kasey Zielinski, Jim Bojanowski, Earl Schmidt, and Patrick Bapst.**



**Erie County President Rosemary O'Connell addresses the County meeting while Commander Thomas O'Connell and Adjutant Jim Bojanowski carefully listen to every word.**



**Editor's Note:**

A wealth of information can be accessed online at the Department of New York website.  
Overall website address - <https://nylegion.net>  
From here you can access all general information by clicking on various topics presented.  
Specific other direct webpage links:  
Membership - <https://nylegion.net/membership>  
All overall program information can be accessed here - <https://nylegion.net/programs-services>  
Scroll down and click on the various programs on the right side of the screen.

National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>

Erie County American Legion website - <http://www.eriecountyal.org>

Erie County American Legion  
609 City Hall  
65 Niagara Square  
Buffalo NY, 14202

Phone: (716) 852-6500  
Fax: (716) 852-4664

[Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)