



## *The Legion-Air*

**Thomas O'Connell**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor



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June 2020

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

I hope all American Legion Family members have stayed safe and healthy during this virus. The virus has not gone away so let's all be safe. Wear your mask when out in public and in meetings.

We are hoping to hold our first meeting for this new year on July 30, 2020 at the picnic shelter at the Lamm Post. Mask on and six feet apart. The July meeting will be an executive meeting only. With that said I ask that each Erie County post send at least one representative but no more than two. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

I want to announce that Gary Wald will be the County Americanism Officer, Fred Past will be the Special Events Officer, and Paul Wackowski will remain the County Membership Officer.

I am looking for a member to take on the Law and Order chairmanship currently. If interested, please call me at 867-5730.

Please continue to stay safe,

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

Greetings! Legion Family

Hope everyone is well and safe.

The most recent County Membership Report was on May 28, 2020. It was just sent to all Posts recently. If you or your Post have not received a copy, kindly forward the name of a contact and their email address to me at: [paulwackowski@yahoo.com](mailto:paulwackowski@yahoo.com)

Currently there are 7 Posts that have attained the goal of 100%, they are: Post 64, Post 205, Post 928, Post 1041, Post 1320, Post 1626 and Post 1780. Congratulations on your achievement!

We are nearing the end of the 2019 - 2020 Legion Membership year on June 30 2020.

On July 01 2020 the new Legion Membership begins for the 2020 - 2021 Legion Year.

The current COVID 19 Health Pandemic certainly has made the last few months a challenge for membership contacting of current members that still have not renewed or recruiting new members.

Thank You for all of your hard work that you have put forth thus far. There is still time to reach out to those who have not renewed their membership for this year and recruit new members.

Therefore, I'm encouraging each and every Post in Erie County to do what you can to increase your membership.

In closing; God Bless and keep every Legion member and their family safe.

## Americanism – VC Gary Wald

I hope all of you and your families are healthy.

I thank Commander Tom O'Connell for assigning me Chairman of Americanism for 2020-2021. To our Adjutant James Bojanowski thanks for his continuing guidance. Thanks to everyone for their support and trust you have placed in me as Vice Commander of Erie County.

Our Preamble states “to foster and perpetuate a 100% Americanism”. Americanism defines who we are, our attachment to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States of America. Action programs for Americanism include Operation Comfort Warriors, American Legion Baseball, Scouting, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, Junior shooting, Boys State and Boys Nation, Oratorical and Essay programs, flag education, Scholarships on the local and National levels, American Legion School Medal, Teaching Awards, Vets in the Classroom, Citizenship, and more. In the coming months, I will focus on these programs as I look forward to your Comradeship, and support.

### Special Mentions

**Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205** supported their local community with food donations. Articles appeared in their local news and the Department and National websites.

<https://nylegion.net/kenmore-post-donates-100-boxes-of-produce-to-food-pantry/>

**Frank Gierlach Post #1320** supported their local community with food donations.

**The Erie County American Legion Memorial Day Services** were sponsored by Forest Lawn Cemetery and aired on WBEN Radio.

<https://wben.radio.com/articles/hear-the-annual-memorial-day-ceremony-at-forest-lawn>



## Americanism – VC Fred Pask

### PATRIOTIC HOLLIDAY PROGRAMS

The American Legion has been the acknowledged leader in observing patriotic holidays since its inception in 1919. Patriotic observances, like those listed below, revitalize our intrinsic beliefs; beliefs which makes ideas, institutions and progress possible. It is therefore hoped that all Legion Posts participate to fullest extent in these programs, as well as other observances at the community level.

**ARBOR DAY:** Generally observed in the months of April and May each year. The American Legion should take the lead in observance of the day as it is an appropriate time for planting trees as living memorials to the war dead of the community.

**FLAG DAY:** June 14<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of the Flag of the United States of America. Every American Legion Post should observe the day with appropriate ceremonies.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY:** July 4<sup>th</sup> is day to celebrate our nation's independence – the birthday of our great republic - American Legion Posts are encouraged to sponsor and conduct appropriate activities.

**MEMORIAL DAY:** Celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of May. Thousands of American Legion Posts conduct Memorial Day services in their respective communities. They decorate veteran's graves and scatter flowers upon the water in memory of the sailor dead. It is suggested that all speeches used in Memorial Day services be strictly in the nature of a tribute to or eulogy of the dead of all wars, as distinguished from Veterans Day speeches, which are to commemorate military service.

**VETERANS DAY:** Veterans Day is celebrated each year on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Veterans Day will always have a very deep and personal significance to many members of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. All Posts are strongly encouraged to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies. Cited American Legion “Americanism Manual” This may be my last Americanism Community Report, I have been assigned to the Special Activities Committee.



## Scholarship - Art Forman

Thank you to all of the Past County Commanders and Posts who have donated to the Erie County Scholarship program so far. There is still time to donate if you can.

Please send your donations to:

The Erie County American Legion  
c/o James Bojanowski  
5115 Abbott Road  
Orchard Park, New York 14127

We have received 80 scholarship applications in Erie County and they are in the judging process. The winners will be announced next month.

## Historian – Suzanne Quirk

On April 15, 2020, a message from Department stated, "All Department Awards will be given out this year when time permits..." I believe safety also needs to be considered. Some awardees can be determined safely through the mail. Judging a history book cannot be accomplished through the mail. Several judges would need to have access to the books to judge them. The safest way for this to happen would be to wait for it to be safe enough for conventions to be conducted again. Under these circumstances I recommend that those posts who have completed a history book for 2019-2020, safeguard that book until the next convention, when it can be judged safely. For my information, I would appreciate it if those posts who have completed history books to contact me at, 549-3803 or [suzzikk65@gmail.com](mailto:suzzikk65@gmail.com). Some already have done this. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions.

**Hamburg Post #527** 2 Memorial Dr., off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg  
**Take Out Spaghetti Dinners** ends Thursday 6/4, from 4 to 6:30 PM. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, and bread. Phone in orders at (716) 649-4667. Open to All. Walk-in's Welcome. Curbside Service. Full order \$9. Half Order \$7.

**Newell Faulkner Post #880** 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057 **TAKE OUT ONLY**  
Wednesday's, 75 cent wings,  
Thursday steak night.  
Friday nights, fish fries and specials  
Saturday, pizza & wing's and sandwiches available.  
Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.  
MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
[www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com) go to kitchen link.



## Thursday County Meeting Dates

The next Erie County American Legion meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday 7/30/2020 at the George F. Lamm Post #622. Of course, this is dependent on the current virus guidelines for late July 2020. We will have an Executive Meeting format for this 7/30 date.

The list below provides an update of all of the current known cancellations as we work together to follow government guidelines and stem the spread of the coronavirus.

## Canceled Meetings and Events:

- June NYS American Legion College
- 6/13 County Convention
- 6/20 District Convention
- June 2020 Boys State
- July Department Convention
- August Erie County Fair
- August National Convention
- September Special Olympics Picnic, (Cancelled in conjunction with the cancellations of other Special Olympics events in the area.)

**Please send in your 2019 – 2020 (CPR) Consolidated Post Report and 2020 – 2021 Post Officers to the County by Friday 6/12.**

**Donovan Post #1626** is going to continue take-out meals all summer. Every Friday from 4-8 pm phone orders only 896-3346 with curbside pickup. Will have monthly special menus along with our Fish Fry's.

**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). By special exception, a newsletter can be mailed.

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



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the July**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due June 26**  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

To all Erie County Contacts,

Hopefully you and your family remain safe and healthy.

The previous page lists all of the currently known cancelations as we work together to follow government guidelines and stem the spread of the coronavirus. At this time your safety is our primary concern. We look forward to the day that we can actively work together again.

We tentatively have scheduled the first County Executive Meeting of the new American Legion Year for Thursday 7/30/2020 at the George F. Lamm Post #622. Of course, this is dependent on the current virus guidelines late July 2020. Meeting only 7 PM. No food to be served. Limited to 2 members max per Post.

All Post, County, District, Department, and National American Legion Officers are being asked to serve an additional year. If a person cannot continue their service, use your respective Constitution and By Laws to handle any vacancies. Please submit your 2020 - 2021 Post Officers to the Erie County Office using the updated form on the Department website resources page <https://nylegion.net/resources/> Send either email or US Postal mail. Please provide as many officer emails as possible.

The County's US Postal mail is now back to being delivered to City Hall. I have been going up to City Hall once per week. You can also continue to use my direct home address of;  
5115 Abbott Rd. Orchard Park, NY 14127.

All Posts are asked to submit their Post Consolidated Report for the current American Legion year and send to the County office. Form is also on the same resources page. <https://nylegion.net/resources/> Email me if you are having problems with this form.

Erie County and all levels of the American Legion organization will work towards recognizing your accomplishments through the many award programs.

Jim Bojanowski  
Erie County Adjutant

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 6/26 for the July edition.  
PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

**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>

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