



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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May 2020

Commander's Message:

Article from Unit 1041 Secretary Kelly O'Connell, Yes, this is my daughter and she wrote this and shared it on face book. I have her permission to share it with my brother and sisters of the American Legion. Please pass it on if you wish.

I am a nurse and I love that I get to be a nurse! I love what I do! Is being a new nurse during a global pandemic scary? You bet! I am afraid I will get this virus and unknowingly bring it home to one of my parents. So, while they live downstairs from me, I don't see them. My family spent Easter, together through Skype. Was it perfect? No. But it was ideal given the circumstances. This is a virus that is reported to kill approximately 2% of the total reported cases. And I hear from a lot of people the numbers reported are inflated and if you look at the statistics 98% of people have mild cases and recover completely and it is only 2% that get severe symptoms that could potentially cause death. I hear it is just a glorified flu bug, it really isn't that big of a deal. While 2% may seem trivial to some, you know who it is not trivial to? Those 2%. That 2% percent could be your elderly grandparents, your parents, your immunocompromised siblings or friends. That 2% could potentially even be me or you or any other completely healthy individual with no underlying issues because as we are seeing now, even healthy people can be that 2%. Do I love not being able to see my family and friends? No, I hate it. I don't see them, in order to protect them. Do I love wearing a mask at work for 12+ hours at a time? I hate it. In fact, I get a flu shot every year for the sole purpose of not having to wear a mask during flu season at work. I wear the mask and try my hardest not to complain about it, because I work with a vulnerable population. And wearing that mask, doesn't necessarily protect me, but it sure does protect my patients from anything that I could potentially pass along to them.

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Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings! Legion Family
Hoping everyone is well and safe during this medical COVID 19 health pandemic.

The latest report from The Department of New York dated; April 04, 2020. Several Posts have made great strides in renewing members and/or attaining new members during this difficult time. "Thank You" to all Posts for the hard work that each of you are doing.

There are five [5] posts that have achieved one hundred percent [100%]. Posts 205, 028, 1041, 1320 & 1626. "Congratulations"! Thank You shirts have been ordered for the Membership Chair and Commander of each of these Posts. I look forward to adding to this list.

Post [s] at 96% - 607
Post [s] at 95% - 078, 799, 1346, ^ 1649
Post [s] at 94% - 567, 735, 900, 1448 & 1580
Post [s] at 93% - 431 & 527
Post [s] at 92% - 064, & 362
Post [s] at 91% - 838 & 880
Post [s] at 90% - 1522 & 1659

Any Post that that has reached One Hundred percent [100%] since the April 4th report and you are using Hard Copy Paper Transmittal Forms, kindly send/forward a copy of that transmittal form to the County and myself, so we can make immediate updates of our records. Better yet, scan your transmittal, and send your copy via an email to both of us.

In closing;
Everyone, stay healthy and most of all stay "Safe".

Commander's Message: Continued

From Unit 1041 Secretary Kelly O'Connell

If you had to have surgery, would you be comfortable knowing that your surgeon decided not to wear a mask while operating on you, just because they hate wearing a mask? Breathing all of their non sterile breath into your open surgical site, leaving whatever bacteria they have to fester inside of you to cause post op complications due to infection. No one would be OK with that, I know I wouldn't be. We wear masks to protect others from us and what we could be carrying. A good portion of people have the virus and are completely asymptomatic and are spreading it unknowingly. It spreads 2x as fast as the flu. Please stop complaining about being forced to wear a mask in public temporarily. You could be protecting that 2%. And I know how grateful they are for that. Because even though my patients have a harder time hearing what I am saying to them, they are that potential 2%, and I know they appreciate every precaution we take to protect them as best we can. If you are not going to practice social distancing, please just wear a mask. Whether you can get your hands on medical masks or you have to make your own, any type of mask is better than nothing at this point. And please please just think before you decide not to wear a mask or decide not to practice social distancing. For some people it really is the difference between life and death.

Special Activities – VC Gary Wald

Hello Everyone - I hope this brief report finds all of you in the best of health.

I will take this opportunity to tell everyone who will be receiving monetary prizes for selling the most Calendars.

The third place prize winner of \$50 for a recorded sale of 70 calendars was South Buffalo Post 721; Second place went to Frank Gierlach Post 1320, for selling 75 calendars and will receive a check for \$75; and finally the first prize of \$100 will be going to David. McKeever, Post 64 for selling 110 calendars. So many others helped in many ways, like Tom Deinzer, who helped to distribute and also sold 63 calendars, Peter Hurd, Tony Solina, Joe Cash, and really everyone else who participated. Thank you !!! Checks will be in the mail within the next few days. Stay safe



Americanism – VC Fred Pask VIRTUAL MEMORIAL DAY 2020

Thousands of American Legion Posts conduct Memorial Day services in their respective communities. They decorate veterans' graves and scatter flowers upon the water in memory of the sailor dead.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all American Legion sponsored 2020 Memorial Day services have been canceled, based on the social distancing protocols.

It is still possible to hold a VIRTUAL Memorial Day service to honor our deceased veterans. As per the American Legion Americanism Manual a suggested program is as follow:

- Call to Order
- Reading: "Original Order" by General Logan in 1866
- Post Colors
- Sing "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Invocation by Chaplain
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading "Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:
- Vocal Solo
- Recitation, "In Flanders Field,"
- Memorial Day Address
- Benediction
- Taps
-

The above program can use "canned music" or prerecorded events from past years. The American Legion "Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" also contains an outline of a possible program. Any of the above program suggestions can be altered to meet each Posts objectives.



Save Our Scholarships (SOS)

from Art Forman

This year has been a very interesting and challenging for each and every one of us. COVID – 19 has brought about hardships and challenges to each and every one of us. Uncertainty has become the norm for society each and every day. As American Legion Members we profess our unending support of our youth and community. Now more than ever our youth and community need the assistance of each and very Legionnaire. Please, please don't let 2020 be the year that the Erie County American Legion Education Awards Program comes to an end. We need your support today and NOW! We need the Past Erie County Commanders to honor their commitment to keep the Past Commanders Education Award alive. To date the only few Past County Commanders have kept their commitment to the youth of our community. Our youth depend upon these awards and need our support. Even if you are not a Past County Commander, we need your help! Please send your donations to:

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

The deadline for submission of awards applications has been extended to May 15, 2020. They must be postmarked no later than midnight May 15, 2020.

Hamburg Post #527 2 Memorial Dr., off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg

Take Out Spaghetti Dinners on Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:30 PM. Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, bread. Phone in orders at (716) 649-4667. Open to All. Walk-in's Welcome. Curbside Service. Full order \$9.00. Half Order \$7.00

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 go to kitchen link.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

The next Erie County American Legion meeting is unknown at this time due to the coronavirus and social distancing requirements.

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. At this time your safety is our primary concern. We look forward to the day that we can actively work together again.

Canceled Meetings and Events:

- 4/30 County meeting
- 5/7 Armed Forces Luncheon
- 5/21 County meeting
- 5/24 Memorial Day Gold Star Mothers Mass
- 5/25 Memorial Day Forest Lawn Grave Decoration and Services
- US Flags for grave decoration will not be distributed to the individual Posts
- June NYS American Legion College
- 6/13 County Convention
- 6/20 District Convention
- June 2020 Boys State
- July Department Convention
- August National Convention
- September Special Olympics Picnic, (Cancelled in conjunction with the cancellations of other Special Olympics events in the area.)

FYI To receive email copy of the newsletter, please send a request email to the Erie County Office at 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
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM



SUBMISSIONS
For the June
"The Legion-Air"
Due May 22
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 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.

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.

I am having the County's US Postal mail forwarded to my house. Unfortunately, it can take up to two weeks to get that mail. For now, please 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 by 5/22 for the June 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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