



## *The Legion-Air*

**Gary Wald  
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski  
Adjutant/Editor**



August 2021

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

The Department Convention held between 7/29 – 7/31 will be unable to host the 62 County Commanders, 50 executive committee members, and 25 potentially new Department officers, therefore, I will not be attending this event. Only 100 invitations have been sent out Statewide due to Covid 19 restrictions.

July has been somewhat quiet on the County level but I have managed to catch an American Legion ball game. It was one of the most relaxing things I've done for a long time, and the professionalism, and sportsmanship these young players exhibit is second to none. The ball field is a great place to spend a summer evening and it certainly brings back many memories.

I became a member of the National Cemetery Honor Guard, and if anyone is interested in joining or checking it out, Erie County's Day at the cemetery is every Thursday.

The Erie County Fair is coming on August 11, and Veterans Day at the Fair on August 15 will be held with a ceremony at the infield Flag. Details regarding the events can be found on the Erie County Fair website. Sadly, there will be no tents on the infield or parade due to Covid 19 restrictions. I will be attending the National Convention, being held in Phoenix, AZ commencing August 27, and will fill you in next month. Along with those hazy, lazy days of summer in August comes American Legion Baseball including the World Series, and the Legacy Run.

Keep working on those consolidated Post reports monthly. I hope to see you next month at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 County Meeting 8/26.

Stay safe out there.

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

Greetings! Legionnaires

Hoping everyone is well and safe.

There have been no recent up dates of County Membership since the last report dated, 7/6. Membership goals for 2022 are not available yet. Without members, the Legion will not exist. Let us look around to come up with suggestions and ideas that would help each Post to increase their membership. Possible suggestions: When you're at a food chain, corner market, or any other entity and you may come across a veteran wearing the branch of service that they served in, "just ask". I noticed that you were in the armed forces, have you ever given any thought in participating in a veteran organization? Holding a community event, cook out, or fair with activities for children? Set up a recruitment table with information for potential new members. Again, Just Ask.

I'm encouraging all Posts to attend the County meetings which are usually held the last Thursday of every month at various Posts through the year. There is a wide variety of information shared at these meetings. As a reminder; let's not forget to check the Department of New York Post 1 reports for members that are not assign any Post and are waiting for someone to call them to become a possible member of your Post.

MyLegion.org We realize there are still a number of Posts that are struggling with logging in the new version of the software. Keep working on it, use the email contact system they have set up or the phone number. National is still working on the functionality. We hope the return to normal is on the horizon soon. We will plan a session to help in the next few months.

In closing: "God Bless" our Military, Nation and the American Legion Family and their Families and keep all of us safe.

## **Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz**

Legionnaires, as we begin the 2021-22 Legion Year, I would first like to Thank each and every one of you for taking ownership of the leadership roles at each of your Posts, for without your continued commitment to service, our American Legion would not be relevant.

With that being said, I would ask each of Erie Counties 35 Posts begin the new Legion year by reviewing what they have accomplished during this most difficult last year during the pandemic. When thinking of the lifeblood of our American Legion, I can think of no more of an appropriate acronym with a dual-meaning of “**CPR**” (Consolidated Post Report). CPR’s measure the Impact of each Post and what we accomplish throughout each year and keep each Post lifeblood flowing...

Having a **visible** Impact in our communities is the key to all Posts in Erie County to become healthy and I would encourage each of you to conduct a Post Assessment of what your Post has accomplished in this past year and use this review to set new goals for this coming year. Benchmark using the Pillars of the American Legion and ask yourself what has your Post done during this past year in support each of the following; **Americanism; Children and Youth; National Security; and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation?**

If your self-review begins with “**Well we used to do...**” this may be what is impeding your Post Impact and Success in your Communities. Keeping in mind that what has worked in the past, can work again. “If you build it new members will come”

Everything we do as legionnaires is about **Americanism** and having an Impact in our communities.

Next Month I would like to discuss the Importance that **Public Relations** plays in our communities. Don't be afraid to Promote send Press releases to your local and regional media outlets. May God Continue to Bless you and your families and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion! I look forward to meeting with each you at upcoming county meetings.

In Continued Service for God & Country...

Ted Balbierz

Erie County Vice Commander

Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



## **Special Activities – VC Fred Pask**

It was a challenge for all of us selling the 2021 Legion Calendars. Calendars Sold, 743 @ \$25 for \$18,575, Calendars returned - 194, Calendars still outstanding - 63 After many requests to have all Calendars returned to me there are still 63 Calendars unaccounted for. To ensure that all winners are paid in a timely manner I need all money, stubs and unsold Calendars returned to me. I have been contacting all of the Posts and individuals who still owe me a response on their outstanding calendars. I did announce them at the last County meeting and will keep trying for these returns.

The 2022 Calendars have been printed and will be available for handing out at the at the August County meeting. I again thank all the Posts and individuals that sold Calendars during the past year. GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

## **Law & Order – Anthony Solina**

I would like to thank Commander Wald for appointing me as the new Law and Order Chairman for this year. Please begin now at the Post level. Talk to your local police, fire and EMT departments along with following the news to help identify worthy candidates for any or all of the following categories: Law Enforcement Officer of the Year, Corrections Officer of the Year, Police Department of the Year, Firefighter of the Year, Fire Department of the Year, EMT of the Year, Emergency Medical, Squad of the Year and 911 Dispatcher of the Year. It is never too early to start. Any questions call me at: 949-3341 or my house at (585) 653-5325. Submissions can be mailed directly to me at: 2307 Sullivan Road, Arcade, NY 14009. Thank you.

## Special Olympics – Wayne Sorrentino

No Special Olympics picnic is scheduled this year due to the pandemic. Special Olympics New York makes those decisions, not The American Legion. We fully expect to continue our long practice of serving these special Olympians during the 2022 September picnic at the George F. Lamm Post #622. The County budget does not show any \$\$ allocated for Special Olympics. If you wish to make a donation to this cause, please send me your check, payable to "Erie County American Legion" and list "Special Olympics Picnic" in the memo block. Mail your check to me at 85 McNaughton Ave Cheektowaga, NY 14225-4542. These donations will then be passed on to the Erie County Committee Finance Officer and be earmarked for our 2022 picnic. Thank you for your continued support of this great annual American Legion event of the Mighty 8th District and Erie County.

## Erie County Fair Veteran's Day 8/15

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY & SPOUSES OF ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY WITH PROPER I.D., VETERANS & VETERANS' POST AUXILIARY WITH PROPER I.D. AND CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER.

The free tickets still must be obtained on line.  
[www.ecfair.org](http://www.ecfair.org)

For the Flag Retreat Ceremony contact Holly Smyczynski, Marketing Manager  
5600 McKinley Parkway  
Hamburg, NY 14075  
716-649-3900 ext 6261

- The Fair will open at 11 AM.
- Mass held at NOON - Entertainment Center
- Memorial Service will be held after the Mass in Veterans Park at 2 PM in the infield of the track. Best to proceed there directly after Mass.
- There is no infield parking.
- There will be no infield tents/dugouts or parade.

Joseph M. Solomon  
Director, Erie County Agricultural Society  
Veterans' Program

Lloyd W. Quiter  
Veterans' Program Coordinator



## Regular County Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday August 26, at Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 located at 655 New Rd. East Amherst, 14051 at 7 PM.

Jurek Post will be offering a Chicken Dinner. Price \$10.

Thanks go out to the 21 Posts who attended the July County Meeting: Posts 64, 205, 362, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1449, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1659, 1672, & 1780.

## Future Meetings:

September 30, **Need a Host Post**

October 30, Milton J. Brounshild Post #205

November 18, Matthew Glab Post #1477

**Albany Department Convention** will be held 7/29 – 31 by invite only due to Covid – 19 guidelines in place during the planning, The Convention can be viewed on the New York American Legion website. NYLEGION.NET

**Phoenix National Convention** will be held August 28 to September 2.

Adjutant Jim Bojanowski will be attending both of the above conventions. County office phone messages and emails will be monitored offsite.

**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 September  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due August 23  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)





8<sup>th</sup> District Commander Ken Barnes addressing the first Erie County Meeting of this American Legion Year held at the George F. Lamm Post #622. (L to R) Paul Wackowski, Fred Pask, Gary Wald, Cmdr. Ken, Jim Bojanowski, Ted Balbierz, and Father Mike Johnson. Picture by Sue Quirk.

**Sunday August 22 ALL YOU AN 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 \$9, children under 12 \$4, children under 5 free.

**Iroquois Post #1587** would like to invite color guard teams to participate in our annual Seneca Nation Fall Festival Parade 2021 on **September 11** starting at NOON. A 9/11 ceremony and luncheon to follow. Please RSVP your color team with anticipated headcount by August 13 to [americanlegioniroquoispost1587@gmail.com](mailto:americanlegioniroquoispost1587@gmail.com) Or call Commander Ron Cook at 910-322-2450.

**Orchard Park Post #567** Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ every Wednesday 3 - 7 PM, \$11. Drive Thru only at our new home, 5784 Ellis Rd. (off Taylor Rd.), Orchard Park.

**Newell Faulkner Post #880** 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. Noon to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT  
 Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 75 Cent Wings, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials  
 Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches, Regular menu also available, Wed. - Sat.  
[www.post880.com](http://www.post880.com) go to kitchen link

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225. The Donovan Post is opening Sept 10, for our Friday Fish Fry 4-8pm. We are bringing back LIVE Bands every Friday 8-11pm Take outs available. Call for Band schedules 896-3346.

**Saturday September 11** Buffalo Championship Wrestling " The Return to the Donovan Post" Thank A Veteran. Doors open 5:30 PM, Bell Time 7 PM, Ring Side VIP Seats \$20, General Admission \$17

**Matthew Glab Post #1477** 1965 Abbott Rd, Lackawanna, NY 14218, Dine in Wednesday 2 – 8 PM. "Wings, Burgers, Tacos", Friday Fish Fry or Salmon, see menu on Facebook. Dine in or take out. Hall and Pavilion for rent. Call 825-3733 or email [glabpost@aol.com](mailto:glabpost@aol.com)

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 8/23 for the September 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

Department of New York website - <https://nylegion.net> National website - <https://www.legion.org>  
 Erie County American Legion website - <http://www.eriecountyal.org>

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