



The Legion-Air

**Gary Wald
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor**



December 2021

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Commander's Message:

We've been through a lot of changes during the past couple of years. New Rules and Regulations have been established and are continually changing. Many of you Post Commanders have gratefully been on the job for multi terms and have been doing tremendous work. Encourage and work toward 'moving through the chairs' if you have not already been doing so. When existing members are brought into the Post inner circles, and they know that their term is limited because someone is standing in the wings to take their place, it creates a much healthier and motivational work environment for all.

Monthly meetings are now shorter due to the change in our dinner policy with Posts deciding on what and if they would like to serve food commencing at 6 PM rather than waiting until after the "E" board meeting. The "E" board meeting is only taking place one time per year unless required more frequently. The County Staff is continually working on making the meetings less intrusive on everyone's lives, but in doing so, we really also need your Posts participation at County meetings. Why are some Posts getting new members and others are not? What can you do differently? Brainstorm with other Posts. Some information you may wish to pass on to members of your Post comes up at the last minute. By the time you hear of it or see it in the Legionair, it will already be History. These are only a few of the reasons we have the County Meetings. We need you present.

Various events that I attended with my staff this past month included, an Auxiliary County Meeting, Veterans Day Service at St. Gregory the Great RC Church which a Gold Star Mother and the Auxiliary President and Her staff members also attended, Veterans Day Services at Forest Lawn Cemetery and my own Post functions, a Veterans Day Parade in Marilla, and award ceremony at Brounshidle Post.

Membership: VC Paul Wackowski

Hope everyone had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. Also, I'd like to extend to all American Legion Members and your Families a Warm Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

The latest Department Membership Report was just sent out. Let us know if you are not receiving them.

Upon viewing the report some Posts are making significant progress and some may need some assistance. There may be some significant reasons for this due to the Holiday Season, Members may not be thinking about renewing their membership at this time.

Therefore, a reminder to use the "Buddy Check" system to check on your members who have not renewed their 2022 Membership and at the same time to check on their welfare, especially those that may be living alone during the Holidays.

"Thank You" for all that you do and "God Bless" the Nation, Our Armed Forces and the American Legion Family and their Families.

Commander's Message: Continued

For Veterans Day, Donovan Post Honor Guard, Donovan Post reception after Mass, Jerry Kowalski, Jim Bojanowski, John Kasmer, Jeff Cipolla, Nelson Oldfield, GSM Georgian Davis, Auxiliary President Stefanie Baxter, Father Jim Bastian, MC John Seifert, and all others who have helped with these activities.

I hope to see you at the mid-winter Albany conference Jan. 21 – 23rd., and a visit from our Dept. Commander on February 11.

I hope all of you have a wonderful holiday season and are blessed with good health. Thank you for your continuing Support.

Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

On Sunday November 7, I joined with SAL NY Detachment Commander candidate Tim Van Patten II, and members of the Erie County American Legion Family and participated in another WNY Heroes USDA Veterans Food Distribution. This day was different from prior events in that in recognition of upcoming Veterans Day, Service Flags and Banners we flown by Legionnaire Jim Schaller and American Flags were given out by members of the SAL to all those receiving food. The highlight of this beautiful day was the simulcast of the National Anthem at noon, where all volunteers stopped and recipients got out of their vehicles and stood at attention Saluting the colors of our Nation immediately followed by every car in line honking their horns. It was a very patriotic afternoon and my Thanks go out to all those who participated.

On Saturday November 6, I attended the Veterans Mass at St Gregory the Great Church. I thank PCC John Kasmer and the Donavan Post Honor Guard for setting up and rendering Honors at this Mass dedicated to Veterans everywhere. On Veterans Day I joined with the County Staff at Forest Lawn Cemetery. This was my 1st time at Forest Lawn and I was so very impressed by all of the Youth & Student Groups that assisted with the planting of well over 7,000 flags. This is part of what Americanism is all about, creating life long memories and sharing the reverence for all those who served.

At 11 am on Veterans Day, I also had the honor as Host Commander of the Kenmore/Town of Tonawanda Veterans Day Ceremony. Brounshidle Post hosted 28 Student/Musicians from both Kenmore East & Kenmore West, High Schools who performed Patriotic music prior to the ceremony, performed a USMC Band arrangement of TAPs and sang the National Anthem & God Bless America. In recognition of their participation American Flag lapel pins we given to each student for participating in this year's event.

Each of you are the American Legions best recruiters, please spread the word through your actions to all Veterans who are interested in continued commitment to service above self and camaraderie.

May God Continue to Bless you and your families through the upcoming Holidays and keep you all well! Thank you for your Continued Service and Support of your American Legion!

In Continued Service for God & Country.



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I only have 109 Calendars left to hand out. As of the November meeting I have deposited \$12,830. I feel that sales are doing good and commend all that have sold calendars. The Calendars make good stocking stuffers for Christmas. I also have some car wash coupons available. The early bird winning ticket was sold by Post 64. If you need additional Calendars or wish to turn in money and stubs, I am willing to meet at a convenient location. You can mail stubs and money to me at:

Fred Pask, 102 Golden Pond Estates, Akron, NY 14001 Phone: C 716 512-4321, H 716 542-2065.

Hope you all have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving.

BASEBALL: Wayne Sorrentino

Baseball is getting off to a good start, locally. We will have between 8 to 12 teams or more. The Coaches and Managers running Baseball locally are primed, wired and ready to go. The first general meeting was recently held at Brounshidle Post. Nine coaches/managers attended. More meetings in the near future.



Erie County Auxiliary President Stefanie Baxter greeted Erie County Commander Gary Wald and his Staff at their recent County Auxiliary Meeting held at the Newcomb-Long Post #928.

Hello Navy Veterans & Legionnaires,
 From Derek Sansone, Brounshidle Post Historian. I'm a former Navy SEABEE & deployed with NMCB-21 (The Black Jack Battalion) to Kuwait & Southern Iraq. I finished my time as a Chief Equipment Operator (EOC). I'm trying to identify Legionnaires who were either Navy SEABEES or Navy Vets who were in a "Fleet Support Rate" & served with the Seabees (BM, GM, SK, HM, DT, PN, PS, DK, HT, MA, etc.). Reason: To solicit interest for a dinner on or around MARCH 5, 2022 to celebrate "our" Birthday. If interested & if you were a Seabee or served with the Seabees in a Fleet Support Rate, please respond to me personally by 2/2/2022. Based on responses, I'll try to find a restaurant somewhat centrally located. Please respond & provide your contact information to: Derek Sansone, (585) 313-9671 or Killerbee05@hotmail.com



Regular County Meetings

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday December 16, at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 located at 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, 14225.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 will be serving a Christmas Feast - Sliced Turkey Breast, Bread Stuffing w/gravy, Sweet Mashed Potatoes, Cinn. spiced Apples, (warm), Cranberries, Glazed Carrots, Cake w/Vanilla Ice Cream starting at 6 PM for \$10.

Thanks go out to the 18 Posts who attended the October County Meeting: Posts 205, 362, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1320, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, & 1672. I hope to see more of you in November!

Future County Meetings:

January 27, Niagara Frontier Post #1041
 February 24, Lorenzo-Burrows Post #78
 March 31, David McKeever Post #64

**Sunday December 5
 8th District Meeting – Orleans County**

Jewell Buckman Post #569
 5 Wright St., Holley, 14470
 12:00 PM - Membership Meeting
 1:00 PM – General Meeting

Albany Mid-Winter Conference January 21 - 23, 2022. Housing are Dinner forms are now on the Department website.

Department Leadership Team Visitation to Erie County, Friday February 11, 2022 will be held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477. Cost \$32. Mail in your reservations to the County office or see me at the County Meetings. Please support our Ads and Boosters.



Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Honor Guard at Forest Lawn Cemetery on 11/11/21.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
 Office Hours, M, W, F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

NY Department website - <https://nylegion.net>
 National website - <https://www.legion.org>

Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall, 65
 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202
 Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664
 Email Veteran14202@verizon.net



SUBMISSIONS
 For the January
 "The Legion-Air"
 Due December 17
thelegionair@gmail.com



Erie County Commander Gary Wald gives his Veterans Day address at Forest Lawn Cemetery with Sgt-at Arms Ray Borowski and PDVC John Siefert in the background.

Apologies to AJ Jurek Post for not putting in their Ham/Turkey event in the newsletter.

Wednesday December 8 PCC Christmas party at Donovan Post. Drinks at 6 PM Dinner at 7 PM. \$15 a person. Includes dinner, draft beer, wine and pop. Have to be a member in good standing. Contact John Stiegler if attending. Next PCC meeting January 12, at 7 PM at the Gierlach Post 1320.

Friday December 10 Donovan Post "Toys for Tots" Gift Collection. New and unwrapped child toys.

Saturday December 11 7:30 PM – 10 PM Donovan Post Christmas Party " Holiday Soiree" Michael Stuart Sings-Cash Bar Food Raffles Giveaways and a special visit from Santa Claus. Tickets presale at the bar \$25, \$30 at the door! Proper dress required.

Friday, December 17, Hamburg Post 527, 2 Memorial Drive. Allykat Band, 7:00-11:00 PM.

Sunday December 19 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 \$9, children under 12 \$4, children under 5 free.

South Buffalo Post #721 Monday's, Wednesday's and Friday's from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm. On Sunday's we will be opened from noon to 6:00 pm for the Bills Games. Monday Spaghetti Dinners, Wednesday's serving Chicken Wings and Beef on Weck and Friday's our menu will consist of Chicken Wings, Beef on Weck, Meatball Subs, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, French Fries and Onion Rings.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners To Go Only. To place an order call (716) 649-4667 starting at 2:00 PM. Pick up from 4:00-6:30 PM. Regular Order - \$8.00, 1 Meatball. Large Order - \$10.00, 2 Meatballs. All dinners include Salad, Bread and Butter. No dinners 12/23 & 30.

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 95 Cent Wings, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches, Regular menu also available, Wed. - Sat. www.post880.com go to kitchen link

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY 14218. Wed., Thurs., Fri. 2 – 8 PM. Serving Fish Frys, Seafood, Burgers, Weekly Specials, Wednesday \$1 wings and \$3 tacos, Thursday create-your-own pasta night. (716) 825-3733

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225 Friday Fish Fry 4 – 8 PM. Monthly Specials. Take outs available. Call 896-3346. LIVE Bands every Friday.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 12/17 for the January 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor