

The Legion-Air

Thomas O'Connell
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor

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February 2021

Commander's Message:

As I read the newspaper each morning, especially the obituaries, I must wonder why so many Veterans pass away and they are not members of a veteran's group, especially The American Legion. Has anyone else noticed this? One great Idea is to urge our members to try and get the Post name put in your obituary. Maybe we could figure out a way to get funeral directors and the newspaper to help us out. Just a thought.

Yes, Boys State is officially going to be virtual. The applications are ready for juniors to fill out. They still need to submit a copy to the Post who will be their sponsor. No medical report needed this year. Parent and school approvals are needed.

Well, we just finished our first virtual county meeting. For the first time I think we did ok. Twenty-six members were present. Attending the February meeting will be extremely easy, attend in person, on a computer, or by phone. Jim will send out the log on information to you or you can call, and we will walk you through it. We hope to have more of you participate in February. We are continuing to have Zoom meetings to ensure your safety during these troubling times. We hope to meet again in person in March.

FYI To receive email copy of the newsletter, please send a request email to the Erie County Office at veteran14202@verizon.net. By special exception, a newsletter can be mailed.

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

Membership – VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings Legionnaires !

Hope you and your families are healthy and safe.

As every Post is working on recruiting new members and retaining current members. Now would be an excellent time to reach out to those members that haven't renewed their membership for 2021 thru the "Buddy Check". A phone call just to check on their well-being, ask them if there is anything that they may need or you can assist them with and remind them that they haven't renewed their 2021 membership.

As of the January 20, 2021 membership report, the following are the top ten Posts in membership and three Posts have attained 100 percent or better.

Post 1928 Gabriel A. Rodriguez 207%, newly chartered with all new members.

Post 1587	Iroquois	105%
Post 0430	Jesse Clipper	100%
Post 0205	Milton J. Brounshidle	93%
Post 0431	Concord	92%
Post 0838	Clarence	92%
Post 1640	North Collins	90%
Post 1477	Matthew Glab	88%
Post 0362	East Aurora	87%
Post 1626	Francis Donovan	87%

In closing; "Thank You!" to all Erie County Posts for your hard work on the 2020 - 2021 Membership Year

God Bless America, God Bless The American Legion - Legionnaires and their Families !

Americanism – VC Gary Wald

The most recent events in Washington D.C. have become part of our history. Here are some other events that took place at our Nation's Capital throughout the years: In 1814 the British Army walked in and set fire to buildings of significant importance to Americans such as the President's mansion, the Capitol's Senate wing, and the library of Congress.

Rep. Preston Brooks of South Carolina used a cane to brutally attack Senator Charles Sumner of Mass. in 1856.

In 1902 junior Sen. John McLaurin of South Carolina called senior Senator Ben Tillman a liar. Tillman punched McLaurin in the jaw and the chamber exploded in pandemonium.

On July 2, 1915 a former German professor at Harvard, Eric Muentner, slipped into the Senate's reception room and left three sticks of dynamite. Muentner wanted to blow up the Senate Chamber but it was locked.

About 25,000 WWI Veterans gathered outside Congress in 1932 in a bid to receive a salary bonus promised to them. Under that law, the bonus was scheduled to be paid to them in 1945. Due to the great depression, an expedited bonus passed the House but failed to pass in the Senate. The marchers were disappointed, but peacefully dispersed with some setting up camps near Capitol Hill. The very next month armed federal troops lead by Gen Douglas MacArthur, Maj. Dwight Eisenhower and George Patton, torched and gassed the Veteran camps killing several and wounding many.

In the 1970's the anti-Vietnam War group known as the Weather Underground planted a series of explosives around Washington D.C.

In 1983 a bomb ripped through the Capitol's north wing as a protest to US military actions in Granada and Lebanon.

We also remember the events of Sept. 11, 2001 when a plane crashed into the Pentagon, and a short while later Washington DC played host to an anthrax scare. Too bad all Americans do not live-in accordance with our Preamble.

Law and Order Candidates – Bill Miskell

All of the guidelines and rules for a Law & Order candidate(s) can be found on the Department Web site. Take the time to find some deserving person, so we can recognize that person at the County and potentially upper levels. We will be judging multiple candidates, Police, Fire, & EMT's.

Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

It has been a difficult year selling the 2021 Erie County American Legion Calendars, due to Post's being closed and Covid-19 restrictions. I still have many Calendars that have been handed out but the stubs and money for the sold tickets have not been returned. I am requesting all unsold Calendars, Stubs and Money be returned to me by February 8, to ensure that all winners are paid in a timely manner. To facilitate returning, unsold Calendars or dropping off money and stubs for sold tickets, please contact me to make arrangements. I am willing to meet at a convenient location. You can mail money and stubs to me at the address listed below.

Fred Pask

102 Golden Pond Estates
Akron, NY 14001

Phone: H 716 542-2065

C 716 512- 4321

Hopefully we can wrap-up the 2021 Calendar sales project in February.

Stay Safe and healthy;

Thank you.

Erie County Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Posts, please start to work on submissions for Legionnaire of the Year. COVID-19 shouldn't stop us from recognizing and rewarding outstanding Legionnaires. We are Legionnaires, we adapt to challenging times. We all like to be recognized for our contributions to the Legion and this is an excellent way to recognize our outstanding Legionnaires. Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2021. All LOY details will be published on the County website.

Sunday February 14

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.

Newell Faulkner Post #880 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057 **DINE - IN & TAKE OUT**

Tuesday, Taco's

Wednesday's, 75 Cent Wings,

Thursday's Steak Night

Friday Nights, Fish Fries and Specials

Saturday, Pizza & Wing's and Sandwiches Available.

Regular menu also available, Wed.-Sat.

OPEN - TUES., WED., THUR., 3 PM. TO 9 PM.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY NOON to 9 PM.

CLOSED SUN., MON.,

MENU & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

www.post880.com go to kitchen link

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St. Cheektowaga, NY 14225

The dining room is now open, take out also available. Every Friday 4 - 8 PM. A full menu and our famous Fish Fry meal. Prepared by our Chef Rosie call her at 896-3346.

Hamburg Post #527

2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St. in the Village of Hamburg. TO GO ONLY

Spaghetti Dinners on Thursdays 4 to 7 PM.

Pasta, Sauce, Meatball(s), Salad, Bread, Butter. Phone in orders after 2 PM at 208-7852.

Open to All, Walk-in's Welcome, Curbside Service. Regular Order \$7. Large Order \$9.

Hamburg Post #527

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Thursday County Meetings

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the next Erie County American Legion Meeting on Thursday February 25, 2021 at 7 PM, will continue to be a ZOOM Meeting. Details will be sent out a week in advance. Everyone on my email contact list will be invited to attend.

Voting will be limited to the voting members of the Executive Committee, one member per Post, Elected Officers, and the five Past County Commanders.

Thanks go out to the 26 individuals who participated in our January meeting. Hopefully more of our County will attend in February. You can call in on a regular land line too, in addition to your computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Please notify the Adjutant in advance if you have any agenda items for the February meeting.

Future Erie County Meeting March 25 David McKeever Post #64

Sunday February 14

8th District Meeting – Niagara County

Stephen Sikora Post #1322, 950 Payne Avenue, N. Tonawanda, NY 14120.

NOON - Membership Mtg.

1:00 PM – General Meeting

All current Government Covid-19 Pandemic Guidelines for that date will be followed. Please do not attend if you cannot comply.



**SUBMISSIONS
For the March
"The Legion-Air"
Due February 26
thelegionair@gmail.com**

WNY National Cemetery Memorial Council – Ted Balbierz

The Council is looking for Veterans to join them.

Formed in December 2020 as a 501 (C) (3) with the purpose to honor our living veterans and to pay tribute to the memory of our military comrades and their eligible family members whose mortal remains have been interred to their final resting place on the hallowed grounds of the WNY National Cemetery in Corfu, NY.

Currently the council meets on the last Wednesday of each month on a 10 AM Zoom conference. The organization is extending an invitation to all interested veterans who qualify.

Qualification includes; agrees to participate as a volunteer, is a citizen of the United States of America, is eighteen (18) years of age or older on the day their membership is accepted by The Council. The age requirement does not apply to active duty or reservist members of the United States military services. Council Members must be honorable character and be willing to pay a one-time payment of the Life Membership dues in an amount of \$30.00.

For more information please contact: William R. Joyce USA, CSM(Retired)
email: William.Joyce@co.genesee.ny.us

Finance Officer Joe Porempski Memorandum to Posts:

Just a reminder that PUFL per capita of \$ 2.00 per member to the County is due now as it is not remitted by the Department out of the dues they send you. It is your responsibility to remit it to the County as noted in the Department communication sent to you. Please send in the respective per capita to County headquarters as soon as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mission Blue Assistance Program

The National American Legion has created a \$1,000 grant program to assist Posts during the COVID-19 Pandemic. The submission must be sent to Department Headquarters for approval and they will send the approved application on to National Headquarters. Send to ann@nylegion.org, Application must be received at National by the end of 2021. The application must include required attachments.

- Corporation Papers
- Insurance Certificate needs to list National as additionally insured
- What they are using the money for
- What Legion programs they participated in over the last 18 months
- Last filing of IRS 990 papers
- Department will check to see if 2020 – 2021 Post Officers and the 2020 Consolidated Post Report was submitted.

I have sent out the fillable PDF form on previous emails. Contact me if you need again or assistance.

Jim Bojanowski

Erie County Adjutant

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 2/26 for the March 2021 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

Department of New York website - <https://nylegion.net>

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

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

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