



## *The Legion-Air*

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

On Wed. March 9<sup>th</sup>. Jim Bojanowski and I attended a seminar put on by Northland Workforce Training Center which is a full service, employment agency that specializes in placing qualified candidates in permanent positions with top local employers in the manufacturing and light industries. Alfred State University gives specific courses in Machine Tool Technology, Electrical construction and maintenance electrician, CNC Manufacturing and Machining, Mechatronics which includes hydraulics, pneumatics, robotics, welding and more. This training will fall under the GI Bill and Northland is looking for Vets. For more information, please check out the details on our Erie County Website under "Links to other Sites". Stephen Tucker, MBA (President & CEO), whom you will see on the website, is an Airforce Veteran.

Jim Bojanowski has sent out fillable copies of the Consolidated report, for your Post to fill out and return by May 15. From time to time during the course of the year, I have made the importance of these forms known to all via the newsletter, and also my Commander reports at our County meetings. Those of you who have used it as a tool, and worked with the form throughout the year per my recommendations, should have no difficulty in turning it in by the required date. **GET THEM IN !!**

Warning to all Bell Jar Committees: Every expenditure from your Bell Jar Funds must be approved and moved by your General Meeting prior to making the expenditure. Copies of these motions must accompany your quarterly reports.

Please see the County Adjutant's email dated 3/28 regarding Fair Voting Policies and Procedures as you run annual Post Elections. I consider this to be Required Reading.

Yours for the Legion.

### **Membership: VC Paul Wackowski**

Greetings! Legionnaires

As of this newsletter, the last Department Membership report was March 10, 2022.

Most County Posts are within the finish line of making their goal. Kindly look at your Post's roster and identify those members that have not renewed their membership, get a couple members together and give the missing members a call. While making your calls, check on their well-being, especially those members that you have not heard from in a while.

Remind all members of the benefits all members enjoy are benefits because the American Legion won them for us. The weaker our voices, those benefits will slowly be stripped away.

### **Why We Need Steady Membership Growth**

To maintain our status as the nation's largest veteran organization.

Ensure our presence and voice in Washington remains relevant.

Source of revenue to fund programs.

Increase talent pool for potential Legion Leaders.

### **Where To Find Potential Members**

Members of immediate family, extended relatives, insurance agents, Police Officers, Coworkers, Firemen, Church members, Mail Carriers, Teachers, Colleges, Civic /Social groups, Other veteran organizations, Active-duty members, Reserve/National Guard units.

### **OF NOTATION**

**For County Membership Awards, all Erie County posts have 30 days prior to the 6/4 County Convention to attain 100% Membership Goal.**

To the Legion Family, God Bless and stay safe.

## Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

Spring is upon us and Summer is right around the corner, that being said, May is Armed Forces Month and Memorial Day is fast approaching and after a two-year Covid hiatus, Erie County American Legion Posts will be honoring our Fallen across the county with Wreath Laying Ceremonies and Parades.

The American Legion is a great organization, but if people don't know about it, they won't simply come and join. That is why it is vital for American Legion Departments, Districts and Posts to formulate, maintain and adapt a strong public relations program as a permanent component to its membership efforts.

The month of May is our opportunity time to shine and we need to ensure that Erie County American Legion Posts are composing and sending out Media Releases & Social Media Posts announcing details of any Post Activities. Whether you are inviting members of your community to attend a ceremony or function at your post, having a membership drive or conducting an area-wide information campaign, you will need to reach people who are not members of your Post. This will involve coordination with not only the media, but all other elements in your community to include outreach to businesses, elected officials, schools and religious leaders as well as other civic groups in your town or neighborhood

For more information about Media Relations, National American Legion provides resources to assist at:

[https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/membership\\_pr\\_guide\\_0.pdf](https://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/publications/membership_pr_guide_0.pdf)

For those tasked with giving Memorial Day Speeches National provides a recommended Speech that can be found at:

<https://www.legion.org/publications/160982/memorial-day-speech>. While this speech is lengthy it can provide a strong foundation in which to create your personalized address.

I look forward to hearing from you, 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!  
Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net

Erie County American Legion, 609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202  
Veteran14202@verizon.net



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

Hello Legionnaires. It feels good to be back to business as usual, I hope we can continue. I collected all unsold Calendars and the money and stubs for all sold Calendars after March meeting. All winners should have their checks within a week or two of having their numbers picked. If you still have Calendars, or stubs please mail them to me or call so we can make arrangements to pick them up. I want to wrap up the 2022 Event by the April meeting so I can present a final report. Thank you  
My address is 102 Golden Pond Estates, Akron, NY 14001. (H) 716 543-2065 (C) 716 512-4321

## Law & Order – Anthony Solina

I have yet to receive any nominations for Law & Order related awards. Please seek out your local paper or friends who are firefighters, police officers, EMT personnel and anyone else who works in emergency services for any possible names of a deserving individual. If anyone has any questions please call or e-mail me: (716) 949-3341 or fattony8705@yahoo.com. Any and all nominations may be mailed to me at: Tony Solina, 2307 Sullivan Road, Arcade, NY 14009. Thank you.

The **Cheektowaga Veterans Committee** is sponsoring the **Bateman Veteran's Memorial Garden**. Have a Veterans name, rank, military unit, war, or era engraved on a 4x8 paver for only \$100. Get an order form, from the Donovan Post or call Jerry Kowalski 681-7169.

**Veterans Post Restoration Fund** We have restarted. We are selling paper flags at the Southgate DMV. Monday - Friday any hours you can do. Set up a schedule with Marge Sullivan at 858-2057. Future events with the Buffalo Bison's will be released soon.



## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

The April 10 deadline for submitting candidates for 2022 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is fast approaching. Posts, lets recognize our outstanding legionnaires. Let's make this a competitive event. I am confident that every Post has at least one person who always steps up to the plate to help out. Let's tell those folks we appreciate all they do for the Post and the American Legion. This is an excellent way to recognize our outstanding Legionnaires. Specifics about submitting the resume of a candidate are at: 2022 Guidelines EC Legionnaire of the Year.pdf ([eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)) Submit the resume of your candidate for Legionnaire of the Year to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221, NO LATER THAN APRIL 10, 2022.

## Boys State 2022 – Thomas O'Connell

Department Online Applications process closes end of business day Wednesday April 13. Call Ann Brown at Department Headquarters if you have an issue printing at 518-463-2215. We currently have ten young men in the County registered. I use young men because when they come home on July 1, they will be young men for sure. Boys State is a wonderful program that will literally follow them the rest of their life. All paperwork along with a check in the amount of \$450 made out to Erie County American Legion must be in my possession by April 30. Send your completed application and funds to me at 299 Linden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216. Letters will be sent to each boy that he and his family are invited to a pancake breakfast at the Alfred J. Jurek Post on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

## Education Awards/Scholarships

Donations are requested to be sent to the County Office for the Erie County and Past National Commander Michael J. Kogut awards from any individual, Past County Commanders, and all American Legion Family Posts, Units and Squadrons. The applications can be found on the Erie County website. The County Office can send you a copy if needed. <http://www.eriecountyal.org>

**East Aurora Post 362** American Legion Riders Memorial Day May 30 run to Sprague Brook Park at 10 AM, Ride to Cicero for the NY Legion Riders annual meet on June 11. Contact Don Butcher at our first Saturday of the month meetings at East Aurora Post 362. 716-652-3443 [dbutcher@roadrunner.com](mailto:dbutcher@roadrunner.com)



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the East Aurora Post #362 on Thursday April 28, located at 1 Legion Drive, off Central Ave., East Aurora NY 14052. The Post will be serving a Roast Beef Sandwich, Home Fries, Salad, and a brownie, for \$8 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 19 Posts who attended the 3/31 Erie County American Legion meeting at the David McKeever Post #64.

Posts in attendance were 64, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 721, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1041, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, & 1672.

I hope to see more of the Posts in April at East Aurora Post #362 on 4/28. All Erie County Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend these monthly Erie County Regular Meetings. Note: We no longer have monthly Executive County Meetings in an effort to streamline the process.

## Future County Meetings:

May 19, Akron Post #900

**2022 Erie County Convention** will be held Saturday June 4 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041. Please support their ad and booster program book.

**2022 8th District Convention** will be held Saturday June 18 – Stephen Sikora Post #1322.

**2022 Department Convention** will be held in Binghamton, sessions scheduled July 14 – 16.

**2022 National Convention** will be held in Milwaukee Wisconsin from August 27 to September 1. The leading candidate for the next National Commander is V. James Troiola from New York.



SUBMISSIONS  
For the May/June  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due April 29  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)



The Erie County American Legion presented a campaign donation to the leading candidate for Department Commander to David Riley Sr. at the March mini mid-winter conference in Albany.

Pictured (L to R)

Jim Bojanowski, David Riley Sr., Bill Miskell, and Timothy Van Patten.

**Thursday April 7**, Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. LAST Spaghetti Dinner of the season. 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. Thank You for your Patronage!

**Sunday April 10**, Breakfast with Easter Bunny at Newell-Faulkner Post #880 from 10:30 - 12:30 Adults \$3 and Children \$2 Bring the kids out for breakfast then stay for the Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 PM.

**Sunday April 10**, Frank L Gierlach Post #1320. 50 Gates Ave. Sloan 14212. Spaghetti dinner \$10 from 12 - 4 or until sold out. Drive thru only.

**Sunday April 10**, 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.

**Tuesday April 12**, PCC meeting will be at the Donovan Post #1626 at 7 PM.

**Friday April 15**, South Buffalo Post #721, Good Friday Fish Fry's from 4 – 8 PM.

**Monday 4/18**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Dyngus Day Party, Dining Room open 2-8pm. Polish Food available. Polka music by DJ Rich, bar open.

**Sunday April 24**, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, All you can eat Pancake Breakfast, from 9 AM to 1 PM, \$8, 12 and under \$5, 5 and under free. Includes Eggs, Sausage, OJ, Coffee, & Tea.

**Sunday April 24**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Live Pro Wrestling at 4 PM. BCW-WNY.COM

**Saturday April 30**, South Buffalo Auxiliary 721 hosting a Cinco DeMayo Buffet from 3-7 PM. Serving Soft & Hard Tacos, Chicken & Cheese Enchiladas, Taco Salad, Nachos and Mexican Rice. Cost will be \$15 per person. We will also have music by DJ – Jay Cepeda.

**East Aurora Post #362**, Lent Fish Fry dinners 4 – 7 PM.

**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](http://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. Free popcorn!

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 4/29 for the May/June 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**