



## *The Legion-Air*

**Gary Wald  
Commander**

**Jim Bojanowski  
Adjutant/Editor**



March 2022

thelegionair@gmail.com

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

February was not as busy as it has been in the Past. The cancellation of the Department Commanders Dinners, cancellation of the Mid-Winter Conference and the cancellation of Hill Day have freed up some time. The Erie County National Cemetery Rifle Squad has been quiet, however, that can change at any time. (In this case, quiet is good).

My Post Activities, and the Four Chaplain Service with the American Legion and VFW provided me with a couple of activities to participate in. I was invited to the Valentines from Tots to Service Men and Women event that took place at Depew Post. Commander Jake Schu and his crew did a great job. In fact, I took some of the cards that were available to my Post and everyone started dipping right into them and enjoying their content. I'm Pretty sure that all, or at least most of cards, found a home with a veteran somewhere.

On March 4 & 5 the State Championship Oratorical contest will be held in Albany, and the Legion Family College has some slots open for June 3 – June 5 time period.

I also wish to thank Senator Chuck Schumer for his involvement with the Veterans National Cemetery, and his follow up to the Auto Related Deaths of two Veterans that took place on Sept. 22, 2021. I ask that all Legionnaires do the same as I have by going to Senator Schumer's Home page, click on the blue button, and thank him for his follow up. Ask your County delegate who attended the February Meeting to fill you in or you can also contact me.

Go get those new members and stay safe.

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

Thanks for all of your hard work so far!

As of this edition, there are 3 Posts that have achieved their goal of 100% or above and several Posts that are close to attaining 100%.

Post 1928	Gabriel Rodriguez	135%
Post 1449	Thomas E. Tehan	111%
Post 0205	Lorenzo Burrows Jr.	101%
Post 1346	Grand Island	94%
Post 1041	Niagara Frontier	94%
Post 1640	North Collins	93%
Post 0900	LL Tillman	92%
Post 0928	Newcomb Long	91%

It is crunch time for checking on those members that have not renewed their 2022 membership and to check on their welfare. We are well into 2022, any members that have not renewed are considered suspended. Call them ASAP.

We all know there are thousands of veterans that are not in the American Legion. Probably 90% of the veterans that are not members have never been asked to join the Legion. If they haven't been contacted by an active Legionnaire and explained what the Legion does, they have no idea of what we do and what programs we have. When you see anyone wearing a veteran's hat ask if they belong. If they are not a member explain why we, the veteran family, need their voice. The members of the Legion are in charge of the future of our organization, gaining new members will ensure our future.

With regard to the Department incentive program that was brought to the attention of Post representatives at the recent County virtual meeting, whereas, by signing up the most new members in March and April will give them a chance to win the new incentive award. \$\$\$\$.

Question: what about those Posts that have a number of new members already signed up? This issue will be looked into.

## Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

I was recently asked to participate as a member of the WNY VA Healthcare Advisory Board that met as a Zoom conference on Thursday 2/3. During the conference members of the VA Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinators facilitated a presentation on Veteran Suicide Prevention. We have all heard the very disheartening 22 a day statistic. During the PowerPoint the facilitators discussed services available to those Service members who are in "Crisis". Common reasons for Veterans Crisis are: Loss of Camaraderie (Feeling Lost or Alone), No Sense of Purpose (Loss of Mission), Loss of Income & PTSD.

This got me thinking and I asked the following questions: What is the DOD & VA doing to prevent Veterans from getting to the crisis point? My next question seemed to trigger an a'ha moment with the facilitators... What is the DOD and VA doing to encourage Veterans to Participate in Veterans Service Organizations such as the American Legion, VFW & DAV? Service Organizations such as the American Legion were built upon a foundation of Continued Camaraderie & Purpose which are two of the primary reasons for Veterans considering their final discharge.

There would be no VA care or benefits without the American Legion. Has the system grown so large to have missed the innate benefits that Veteran Service Organizations have to offer? Immediately upon completion of the Zoom, both coordinators requested a follow up meeting to discuss the potential benefit of encouraging Veterans in joining their local VSO's and I have participated in one follow up meeting to date. We as Brothers & Sisters in Arms, have all been there before and further consideration must be given to encouraging the stepped-up marketing of VSO's such as the American Legion as an extension of service, to provide all Veterans with a Continued Sense of Commitment and Camaraderie to provide what is missing and assist in preventing crisis to begin with. From Basic Training thru Discharge and beyond promotion of VSO's can and should have an impact to reduce the 22 a Day.

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! In Continued Service for God & Country...  
Cell: 716-534-6288 email: TedB06@verizon.net



## Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

I hope this finds everyone in good health. I have been sending out checks to winners that I have stubs for, on a daily basis. I expect to be at the March meeting and will be collecting the remaining money and stubs for all sold Calendars. Please return all unsold Calendars at this time. As soon as I receive stubs for past winning numbers (2022) I will be mailing checks to all winners within two weeks.

## 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** will begin selling paper flags at the Erie County DMV. Located at the Southgate DMV office, Fridays 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Veterans manning the tables are from Donovan, Gierlach, Voiture 51 40&8, and Marine Detachment. Come and support us as we continue with our sixth project.



## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

The deadline for submitting candidates for 2022 Erie County Legionnaire of the Year is approaching. Posts, let's recognize our outstanding legionnaires. All Posts have at least one person who always steps up 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 posted on the County's Web Page. If you have any questions, please contact, Kathleen Garvey at [kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com](mailto:kgarvey@kgarveylaw.com) or 716-635-5029. 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

Our weeklong citizenship and leadership program will be held June 26 to July 1, 2022, at Morrisville State College. Now is the time to start your recruitment of current high school juniors. All information is now posted online on the Department website and need to be turned in to me by April 20, so I can review and forward to Department. [Boys' State « The American Legion Department of New York \(nylegion.net\)](#)

Candidates must have at least an 80% or B average. Cost is \$450 per submission. Send your completed application and funds to 299 Linden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216.

## Education Awards/Scholarships

Donations are requested to be sent to the County Office for the Erie County and Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutew awards from any individual, Past County Commanders, and all American Legion Family Posts, Units and Squadrons.

Scholarship applications are sent to every high school in Erie County for both programs, with the PNC Michael J. Kogutew Scholarship including all high schools in the 8<sup>th</sup> District. The applications can be found on the Erie County website. I can send you a copy if needed.

**Albany Hill Day** was cancelled. A small number of committees will be meeting in Albany March 12 & 13, 2022. Attendance is by invitation only.



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the David McKeever Post #64 on Thursday March 31, located at 1770 South Park Ave., Buffalo, NY 14220. There will be no food available for this meeting. The Post will open at 6 PM for refreshments.

Thanks go out to the 18 Posts who attended the February Zoom County Meeting: Posts 64, 205, 362, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, & 1626. I hope to see more of you in March!

## Future County Meetings:

April 28, East Aurora Post #362  
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.

## **8<sup>th</sup> District Conference Sunday April 3**

At Little Valley Post #531, Erie St., Little Valley, 14755. Membership meeting at Noon, Regular Meeting starts at 1 PM.

**2022 8<sup>th</sup> 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 April  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due April 1  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

**Wednesday March 2**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, Ash Wednesday special dinners, 2 – 6 PM, Fish, shrimp, perogies, etc.

**Saturday March 12** - Concord American Legion Auxiliary Unit #431 is having a Corned Beef dinner from 3-7 p.m. Dinner includes corned beef, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, Rye bread, dessert and coffee/tea for \$12. Also, Reuben sandwiches with a pickle, dessert and coffee/tea for \$8. The Post is located at 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY. Money raised will go towards our scholarships.

**Tuesday March 15**, Buffalo Naval & Military Park, "Save the Sullivan's Campaign" at the Seneca One Tower Lobby. Tickets \$50 per person. Call (716) 847-1773, ext. 10 for tickets & info.

**Thursday March 17**, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, St. Patrick's Day, 2 – 6 PM, and Friday 3/18, special dinners, Irish Stew, Reubens, green beer, etc.

**Sunday March 20**, 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.

**Sunday March 27**, 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.

**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.

**South Buffalo Post #721** – We will not be serving dinners until further notice.

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

**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 3/17.

**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 4/1 for the April 2022 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.eriecountyal.org>

Erie County American Legion Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664

609 City Hall, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo NY, 14202 [Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)