



The Legion-Air

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May/June 2022

Commander's Message:

I had the opportunity to attend the FIRST Annual Dinner Dance of the Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post a short while ago and listen to their guest speaker Brigadier General Isabel Rivera-Smith. As she spoke to a crowd of about 250 people of her experiences, as a Father of two Daughters and a Son, I was truly amazed at the life and sacrifices the General has made so far, and will continue making into the future. All I kept thinking of was that The American Legion must continue to be there to provide our Veterans with the Support they need.

It has been a great trip, learning experience, and privilege to serve as your Commander of the Erie County American Legion. I thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity. We did manage to navigate around the Covid 19 epidemic without too much loss in communication. We became more proficient at holding zoom meetings, and we were always able to maintain quorum. but unfortunately, a couple of the year's largest events, and more smaller ones were cancelled. Post visitations also took a hit. I was truly fortunate to have such a great Staff, an outstanding Adjutant in Jim Bojanowski, and hardworking committee Chairs. No Commander could ask for more. It seemed like any problem for one, was viewed as a problem for all. All a true bunch of American Legion professionals they understand that we need to stay focused, and improvise and adapt as required, in order to help those we serve.

Coming events include the Memorial Day Ceremony at Forest Lawn on Monday May 30, the Erie County Convention at Post 1041 on June 4, 8th district golf scramble tourney 6/17, \$60 incl Steak Dinner, or just the steak dinner for \$20 at Sikora Post. District Convention 6/18,

In the United States Navy that I was in, we never said goodbye, instead we said "see you later"

Membership: VC Paul Wackowski

Greetings Legionnaires

The latest membership report form Department was April 15, 2022. Hopefully there will be another report by May 4. WHY? because, I know that there a few Posts that will reach their 100% by the 4th of May 2022. Also, in order to be recognized for achieving the 100% Posts MUST achieve that goal 30 days prior to the County Convention. County Convention is on the 4th of June 2022. This means Posts have until the 4th of May to achieve said goals.

However, the Legion membership does not end until the 30th of June 2022. The next day, the 1st of July begins the new Legion membership year 2022 - 2023.

Congratulations to the following Posts have achieved 100% of their Post goal;

Post 1041 Niagara Frontier	104%
Post 0078 Lorenzo Burrows, Jr.	105%
Post 1449 Thomas E. Tehan	118%
Post 1928 Gabriel Rodriguez	162%

I shall be issuing an interim report prior to the Department's final report. Please advise if you show your Post is reaching 100% or better on or before the 4th of May 2022. I can be contacted at; empirestate716@yahoo.com
Phone 716 -262-5245.

Most new members by Post

Post 1928 Gabriel Rodriguez	23
Post 0362 East Aurora	20
Post 0735 West Seneca	15
Post 1449 Thomas Tehan	12
Post 0205 Milton Brounshidle	11
Post 1626 Francis J. Donovan	11

In Closing: "God Bless" Our nation, Armed Forces and the American Legion.

Lackawanna Post #63 new address is
1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218.

Americanism – VC Ted Balbierz

Originally Memorial Day was known as Decoration Day, meant to honor Union and the Confederate soldiers who died during the American Civil War. By the 1900s it had become a day to celebrate all American soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the military. It wasn't until 1967 that it was legally named Memorial Day.

The heroes that we remember each Memorial Day may have been conscripted into service or may have volunteered to serve and are not exclusive to any gender, race or religion. They are a diverse group wedded to the common principle that America is a nation worth dying for. Regardless of the place or the war fought, the purity of their sacrifice is without question. More than a million U.S. heroes have had their lives cut short while fighting in wars since the American Revolution in order to make the freedom of others possible. As we observe Memorial Day each year, families remember their Fallen loved ones EVERY DAY. Children without parents, Gold Star mothers and fathers, spouses and siblings – they can still hear the voices of those that they lost and it is up to us to hear the voices of these families, offer our support and express our highest gratitude. Whether the people we remember served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the War on Terrorism or any place or time in-between, we say thank you for the freedom that you have given us. We are here because of you. Labels that we hurl today like democrat, republican, red state and blue state, matter little when facing mines and machine gunfire while charging a beach. Politics are irrelevant to a family that hears the words, “We Regret to Inform You.”

We continue to lose heroes every day on missions throughout the world and during military training accidents at home. We honor all of them. Not just those with the highest medals or the heroes who fought in the most famous battles. They all died so we can continue to cherish the things that we love – freedom, country and family. This is why we gather on Memorial Day. To honor the memory of our fallen warriors who have given everything for their country. We are also reminded on Memorial Day that in each generation, brave men and women will always step forward to take the oath of allegiance as members of America's armed forces willing to fight, and if necessary, die for the sake of freedom. As Legionnaires, we are pledged through the Preamble of our organization's



Special Activities – VC Fred Pask

The 2021-2022 Legon year is coming to a close. I want all unsold Calendars returned to me by the May 2022 meeting in order to have a final report for the June Convention meeting. All winners are paid within a week or two. If you still have Calendars, or stubs please mail them to me or call so we can make arrangements to pick them up. Address is 102 Golden Pond Estates, Akron, NY 14001. (H) 716 543-2065 (C) 716 512-4321

Law & Order – Anthony Solina

I am still looking for 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.

Americanism Cont. – VC Ted Balbierz

constitution to “preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in All Wars...” This solemn promise is on the back of each American Legion membership card. Yet, we do not remember our fallen brothers and sisters-in-arms because of an edict or obligatory ritual. We do so because we want to and we want to be there for their families. Long after the battlefield guns have been silenced and the bombs stop exploding, As Americans, we should all remember that freedom isn't free. It's only possible because our fallen heroes have paid its high price. A price paid which enables us to have ceremonies and observances in communities across our great country.

May God bless you and your families and keep you all well! God bless America and God Bless our Fallen heroes.

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

Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services

We will be decorating graves on Monday 5/30 at 8 AM and holding our services at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes.

Education Awards/Scholarships

Donations are requested to be sent to the County Office for the Erie County and Past National Commander Michael J. Kogutewicz 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.eriecounty.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

2nd Annual Vet Bicycle Ride July 3, is looking for participants, volunteers and donations. Contact Sam Marrazzo at smarrazo@gmail.com We will have two rides. 40 mile "Veterans" and 10 mile "Recruit" ride (Vet ride will start from Naval Park. Cost \$25 per rider with all proceeds go to WNY Heroes. 40-mile ride, to Tonawanda and back, start 7:30 AM, Return 11 AM to pick up the Recruit Riders. "Recruit Ride, Take the Bike Ferry at 11:15 AM, return 12:30 PM Reception: 1 to 2:30 PM at Naval Park.

The **Cheektowaga Veterans Committee** is going to have a ground breaking ceremony to start the construction of the Neil Bateman Veteran Memorial Garden. Memorial Day starting at 1 PM with guest speaker Monica Wallace. Pavers are on sale for \$100 each. Honor a Veteran in your family or a friend. Call Donovan Post 896-3346 or 681-7169 for info.

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



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held at the LL Tillman Post #900 on Thursday May 19, located at 9 Eckerson Ave., Akron, NY 14001.

No food service for this meeting. The Post will open by 5 PM. Note: The meeting is held earlier in May due to the County Convention being held on Saturday 6/4.

Thanks go out to the 19 Posts who attended the 4/28 Erie County American Legion meeting at East Aurora Post #362. I hope to see more of the Posts in May at LL Tillman Post #900 on 5/19. All Erie County Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend these monthly Erie County Regular Meetings.

2022 Erie County Convention will be held Saturday June 4 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041, 533 Amherst St. Buffalo, 14207. Please support their ad and booster program book and your attendance.
Memorial Service 9 AM
Convention Start 10 AM
Registration from 8 AM to 11:30 PM
PCC membership will be accepted. \$5 for members, \$10 for new members. Summer picnic will be July 17, at the 40&8 on 810 Rein Rd. \$10 ea. Can pay at the convention.

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 AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



SUBMISSIONS
For the July
"The Legion-Air"
Due June 22
thelegionair@gmail.com



Boy Scout Ryan Couchman presented his Eagle Scout Project at the East Aurora Post County Meeting in April. His project will be to build bins for US Flags that need to be properly retired.

Thursday May 5 - Celebrate Cinco De Mayo at the NEW Orchard Park American Legion, 5784 Ellis Rd! Taco's, Corona's, Margarita's all priced so low you'll think you're back in Mexico! Taco's 2 for only a \$3, Full meal (2 Tacos, and 2 sides) only \$5. Corona's and Margarita's only \$3 all night long, plus a Nacho Bar! Food from 5 to 7, Drink specials 3 until closing.

Friday May 6 - South Buffalo Post #721 will be serving Fish Fry dinners from 5 to 8 PM. Haddock dinners \$15. Includes Beer Battered or Broiled, Cole Slaw, Macaroni Salad, Bread & Butter. Chicken Fingers and Take Out available. For further information please call the Post at 825-9557.

Sunday, May 8, Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet at Concord Post #431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville from 9 AM to 1 PM. Menu: scrambled eggs, regular and buckwheat pancakes, ham, sausage, home fries, white/wheat/rye toast, pastries, breads, muffins, OJ, coffee and tea. Adults=\$13, children (4-9) \$5.00, 3-under=free. And a gift for mom.

Sunday May 8, ALL YOU CAN EAT Mother's Day Special 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.

Saturday May 14, South Buffalo Post #721 is hosting a Meat Raffle. Doors open 2 PM, first spin at 3 PM. Cost \$10 per person, table of 8 for \$70. Cash table reservations by May 11 at the Post. Includes draft beer, pop and a sandwich. Can bring your own snacks. Cash Bar available. 21 and over event. Any questions please call the post at 716-825-9557.

Sunday May 15, Donovan Post #1626 Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ from 1 to 6 PM. \$13

Saturday May 21, Brounshidle Post #205 Chiavetta's Chicken BBQ from 1 to 5 PM. \$14

Saturday June 18, Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr. Hamburg. Chicken BBQ and Basket Raffle from 1 to 5 PM. Eat In or Take Out. Contact PC Jim Koester for \$14 BBQ Tickets 716-570-1349.

Orchard Park Legion Post #567 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park. No Cook Wednesday are back. Chicken BBQ every Wednesday from 2:00 - 7:00 pm. Drive thru. \$13 per dinner.

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 10 wings for \$12 special, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches, Regular menu available, Wed. - Sat. www.post880.com see kitchen.

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 by 6/22 for the July 2022 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor