



The Legion-Air

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**AMERICAN
LEGION**

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April 2025

Commander's Message:

On Sunday 09 2025

PCC Ten Balbierz, Past Aux. Pres. Rosemary O'Connell and the Erie County Honor Guard attended the Children's Telethon to present a donation of Seven thousand dollars from the Erie County American Legion. This was the donations that were raised during the October Fest this past October.

"Be The One"

Is the American Legion's top priority, a mission to reduce the number of veterans and servicemember's who die by suicide. It involves everyone throughout the entire American Legion Family. Post members can support Be the One by conducting "Buddy Checks"

Every Legion Family member is encouraged to take the Columbia University training so you can know what to do in a potential time of crisis and more. At the national level, staff is promoting the initiative throughout various marketing, internal media and external media means. Some of the many materials available are on the dedicated resource page, betheone.org/resources.

The web page was updated throughout 2024, and additional resources will be added during 2025. Once again, all American Legion Family members are encouraged to take the American Legion – Columbia training that walks you through the steps to interact with and respond to veterans who may be in crisis.

There are multiple monthly virtual sessions, as well as in-person ones at national meetings, some department events and at other times. For training dates and times, and to register, visit betheone.org/training.

Next month, nominations of post officers shall commence. With that in mind, be sure that you are following your Post Constitution and By-Laws, to avoid any discrepancies.

Membership – VC Pat Murphy

State would like us at 95 % of membership goal by April 2. This is so state can get total to National by April 9. National starts mailing notices by May 3-9, 2025, Erie County is approximately. 84 % of goal as of 3-18-2025.

The National headquarters has released a new (toolkit) for Membership. Highlights, Do's and don'ts of welcoming new members, How to create good first impressions, Best practice to welcome new members, Resources to engage new members. These are only a few of the ideas you should download information at MyLegion Special Note

Posts that are over 100 percent as of 3-18-25 are North Collins 101%., 4 Star 114%, Newcomb Long 104 %, Frank Gierlach 103%, Grand Island 101%, Iroquois 112%, Gabriel Rodriguez 118 %

Special Activities – VC Howard Patton III

The calendar sales have been a great fundraiser for the Erie County American Legion.

Thank you so much for your ongoing support!

Commander's Message Continued:

Upon electing your Post officers, be sure to complete the Officer certification form ASAP and forward a copy to the County Office. Also, fill out your CPR reports in a timely manner and forward a copy to the County Office. This is the only way that National knows every Posts events, community activities, veteran services and assistance, contributions to various veteran organizations and more. The National Commander, when called upon by Congress, presents these reports before a congressional hearing.

In closing: God bless our military, provide guidance to all government officials and Bless The American Legion and their families. My term of enlistment has no expiration date as I serve in The American Legion

Boys State - Bernie Romanowski

Per the latest info from Ann Brown, Dept of NY Boys State Coordinator, 11 boys from Erie County have registered online for the 2025 Boys State program. Please remember that the deadline for online submission of the application is Friday April 11. After that date, all Posts must get each boys application plus Commitment form, Certification form, and Physical exam form, plus a \$550 check payable to the Erie County American Legion TO ME by April 26th, 2025.

I would like to thank all the Posts 63, 362, 799, 838, 1346, 1928 and Voiture 476 who have volunteered to fund a boy for this program. We are in the process of interviewing boys from Hutch Tech and Amherst High School next week. This could bring our total candidates to 21. Things to remember, make sure you interview each candidate, their parents understand they could be held liable if the boy does not show, and we would like the parents or guardian to pick up their boy after the Graduation Ceremony on July 3rd. Otherwise we have to pay for another bus and that could force us to raise the fee. I can be reached at 716-796-5341 or sz8p853@verizon.net for further assistance. My mailing address is 19 Goodrich Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Elder Howard Patton III

Given the current stance on DEI on the Federal level, when I spoke to National about furthering DEI in the American Legion they referred me to the Department and County Levels. At the current time, it appears to be stalled.

Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey
RESUMES FOR ERIE COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR ARE DUE APRIL 4, 2025. 2025 Guidelines on the Erie County American Legion Webpage: Legionnaire of the Year page . Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221. NO LATER THAN APRIL 4, 2025.

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers and weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings, Taco's \$4.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee Street Cheektowaga. Kitchen open Friday from 4 to 8 PM, full menu including a fantastic fish fry. Live music every Friday from 7-11PM. Take out available during dinner hours at 716-896-3346.



Americanism – VC Jerry Kowalski

As of March 22, 2025, we have a new museum in America. It's called the "National Medal of Honor Museum", located in Arlington Texas.

The Medal of Honor is a symbol of courage and sacrifice, commitment and integrity, citizenship and patriotism. Over 40 million Americans have served in the United States Armed Forces, since the Civil War. Fewer than 4,000 have received the Medal of Honor. Before they were National hero's, they were our neighbors, newlyweds, parents, students and friends. What made them go above and beyond the call of duty?

Do the names of William Donovan (1918) Buffalo, Theodore Roosevelt Jr. (1944) Oyster Bay NY, Matt Urban (1944) Buffalo, Charles Deglopper (1944) of Grand Island NY, Jason Dunham (2004) of Scio NY, David Bellavia (2004) of Buffalo NY. They all are Medal of Honor recipients. All of them have their own personal story of extraordinary heroism. What calls them to go above and beyond the call of duty? Keeping with the highest traditions of military service. They reflect great credit upon themselves, their unit and the US Army.

Another place of Honor is Arlington National Cemetery. Of the 3,547 Medal of Honor recipients some 468 are from New York State. Many of them are Civil War heroes who fought to preserve the Union. Please take the time to visit the Medal of Honor Museum in Texas.

Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy

Overall the Posts that have submitted the three candidates for the Law-and-Order Awards. Time is running out. April 1st, 2025 is final filing date

Friday June 6, East Aurora Post 362 Golf tournament. Registration at 8 AM, shotgun start 9:30, at Shamrock Hills Golf Club, Holland, NY. Lunch at the turn, open bar at 2 PM, Dinner and Awards at 3 PM. Scramble play, use 3 drives for each player. Mulligan sale hole 5, closest to pin and on the green contest hole 13. Foursome fee \$525, single golfer \$140, dinner and bar only \$45. Call Liz Raleigh 716-863-9630 or Larry Galuski at 716-812-0959 for info.

Boys Scouts – Felton Davis

Calling all Posts! Please provide the name and contact information of your Post's point of contact for working within the Scouting area. We did not receive any qualifying request for any of the Boy Scouts recognitions, such as the Eagle Scout Scholarship, the Eagle Scout/Scouter of the year. My review leads me to think the poor level of applications was mostly due to the lack of knowledge about these recognitions. Therefore it make sense to ask for help from our members to come up with a better marketing plan of informing the target audience about the Scout/Eagle Scout recognitions and the requirements and application detail process are in order to increase their applications and recognition for their service and leadership. Send you POC's contact information to Felton L. Davis, Erie County Boy Scout Chair, at "felton1@aol.com". Our Scouts and Posts are deserving of recognition for their many hours of service, support and studies undertaken for our future leaders. I hope to start working on our Scouting Plan over the next months so we can start the 2025/2026 year off in the right direction. Thank you in advance for your help and teamwork that our American Legion is know for as we take care of our own in both good and hard times.

Historian – Sue Quirk

As I reported previously, this year, just Post histories will be selected for display in a showcase at the national convention. Even though Post histories will not be judged at the national level, they will have to be judged at the county, district, and department levels. This will require some additional arrangements to accommodate Post histories created in a digital format to be judged. I've arranged for a laptop computer that accommodates a thumb drive for evaluating Post histories in the digital format at the county convention. If Posts submitting digital histories would be able to also bring a laptop computer to evaluate their submission, that would be helpful.

As this is the first year that a digital format for Post histories is being accepted, we may encounter some glitches as we adapt to these new guidelines. To help me plan for the county convention, I need to know the Posts who are working on a submission.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 4/24 at the East Aurora Post #362 located at 1 Legion Dr. , East Aurora, NY 14052, off Center St.

The Post will serve a dinner of lemon chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, salad, dessert and coffee for the price of \$10 at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 21 Posts that were in attendance for the March County Meeting at the Niagara Frontier Post #1041. Posts in attendance were; 64, 205, 362, 430, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1346, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, 1780, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 4/24.

Future County Meetings;

May 22, Concord Post #431

Erie County Convention Saturday 6/7/25 - David McKeever Post #64

Please support their Ad and Boosters program book.

Memorial Service 9 AM

Convention Start 10 AM

Registration from 8 AM to 11:30 PM for your Post Delegates and Alternates

8th District Conference

April 6 – Chautauqua County

Lakewood Memorial Post #1286

174 Chautauqua Ave., Lakewood, NY 14750

Membership Mtg – Noon

Conference – 1 PM



SUBMISSIONS
For the May/June
"The Legion-Air"
Due April 25
thelegionair@gmail.com



The Erie County American Legion Family presented a check for \$7,000 to the Buffalo Variety Club at the recent local Telethon. Pictured from (L to R) Kathy Kaminski from the Variety Club, Rosemary O'Connell, Ted Balbierz, Paul Wackowski and John DeCiullo from WBBZ. The donation was raised from the Oktoberfest held at the George F. Lamm Post #622.



The Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 Color Guard at the Buffalo Variety Club Telethon. From (L to R) Paul Tychulski, Dave Kerling, Ken Fritz, & Steve Capirci.



On February 22, 2025, Elder Howard Patton III became Pastor of The House of Prayer, Inc., in a celebrated Installation Ceremony. Members and their families in attendance were left/right Rev. Eugene L. Pierce, Bertha Hill, wife of Richard Hill, Richard Hill, Cheryl Thomas, Minister Paulette Woods, Donald Paulk, and Charles Everhart.

Saturday April 5, Gierlach Post will be holding a holiday craft show at our Post from 11 to 3pm.

Wednesday April 9, PCC meeting at 7 PM at Donovan Post. Summer picnic will be in July.

Saturday April 12, Concord Auxiliary Unit 431 and SAL 431 will be hosting a Meat Raffle from 4-7 pm. \$5 admission includes meal. Bring your own snacks. cash bar. A pie auction by Auctioneer Damon Gentner. also 50/50 raffle.

Saturday April 12, South Buffalo #721 American Legion Family Meat Raffle, first spin at 7 pm. \$15 per person, table of 8, \$110, includes Draft Beer & Pop. 50/50 Raffle. Bring your own snacks. For info, call the Post at 716-825-9557. Reserve tables by April 7. Cash Only. All Proceeds to benefit our Veterans.

Sunday April 13, 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 \$10, children under 12 \$4, children < 5 free.

Monday April 21, Gierlach Auxiliary will host a Dyngus Day party at the Sloan Firehall from 11am until 5pm. There is a \$10.00 cover charge at the door.

Saturday April 26, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Annual Fundraiser Dinner at Classics V, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst. \$75 per person. Call John Sanabria at 716 440 2605.

Saturday August 2, Sardinia Post #1131, Annual Steak Roast at Sardinia Veteran's Park, 13169 Genesee Road, 4-6 PM, \$30 Tickets available from Post Members or Call: 716-374-3335.

Newell Faulkner Post #880, 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Normal Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. 11:30 am to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT, Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 10 for \$8.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. www.post880.com

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 4/25 for the May/June 2025 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
Phone: (716) 852-6500 Veteran14202@verizon.net Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

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