



## *The Legion-Air*

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AMERICAN  
LEGION

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February 2025

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

Wednesday 08 January 2025

Joseph Porempski, Joe Orzechowski, Jim Bojanowski, the Francis J. Donovan Post 1626 Honor Guard, and I attended the 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our 13<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Millard Fillmore. The ceremony and honors took place at the Forest Lawn Cemetery, at his gravesite. It was followed by a short program at the Chapel. Guest speakers provided their remarks about President Fillmore including the Presidential impersonator. The character was portrayed by the President of the Buffalo Club.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025

A number of Erie County Staff members and I attended the Albany Mid – Winter Conference. A lot of valuable information was shared. Just to mention few were; My Legion, Boys State, Membership, Legislative, Veteran Services, Americanism & Oratorical. Thank you to all who attended from Erie County.

Please check on your members that you haven't heard from or seen in a while, especially those that may have health issues or concerns using the Legions' "BUDDY SYSTEM". A simple phone call "How are you Doing, Is there anything we, as a Post can assist you with". If any of you have - time a – Personal Visit.

Let's not forget the Legions "BE THE ONE" program on veteran suicide. On My Legion – there's a special page dedicated to the "BE THE ONE" program where you can take certified a course thru the University of Columbia / American Legion on veteran suicide.

**VETERANS SERVING VETERANS**

God Bless our Nation and Military. The American Legion and It's members and their Families.

### **Membership – VC Pat Murphy**

Reports from the New York State office, as of 1/28 has Erie County at approximately 79 percent of their goal. Posts that are at 100 percent or more as of this report are; Iroquois Post 107%, North Collins Post 101%, 4-Star Post 114%, and Gabriel Rodriguez Post 101%. Congratulations . 8<sup>th</sup> District is at 80 percent of membership goal. The State is looking for 85% by 2-5-2025.

I can state the obvious that we need to reach out to old and new members, the new members would be mostly younger veterans. With the change in eligibility, there are a lot of people who served in the armed forces that now qualify.

I ask that you read the Preamble to the American Legion Constitution. Try to understand the meaning of the words in it, and the statement it makes. We need to let the public know what we stand for. What those principles are. Members should take the time to understand the meaning of the words in it.

**I.E. TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES.**

The preamble was written over a hundred years ago. But its words and meaning are as true today, as when the preamble was written.

### **Special Activities – VC Howard Patton III**

Our annual calendar sales have been a tremendous success, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed by selling calendars. If you still have any calendar stubs to turn in, please do so as soon as possible. Likewise, if you have any unsold calendars, kindly return them.

I also have a few remaining calendars available for purchase—if you're interested, please feel free to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support!

## Boys State - Bernie Romanowski

I am the newly appointed Erie County Boys State Chairman. Letters outlining the process applying to this program have been sent to all Posts. The 2025 program is scheduled to start on June 28 and end on July 3. Now is the time to start interviewing potential candidates.

Once a candidate is approved to be sponsored by a Post, each candidate must apply online. All forms to include the Complete Application form, the Commitment form, the Certification form and the physical exam form are downloaded by the candidate. Once completed, the Boys State Chairman for each Post will forward it to me with a check for \$550, Payable to Erie County American Legion.

I am working with Niagara County to share the Bus Expenses and getting quotes from School Bus companies for the ride to Morrisville.

The current plan is to have an Information Breakfast at the Matthew Glab Post on Saturday June 13 at 10 AM. Departure options are still being discussed. Stay tuned.

## Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Elder Howard Patton III

DEI is at a crossroads. While some organizations and states are pulling back, others are doubling down on inclusive policies. As of January 30, 2025, The American Legion maintains a strong commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), emphasizing support for all veterans, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. This dedication is evident through various initiatives and public statements.



**The Adam Plewacki Post #799 donated two boombox radios for the waiting room and exercise room to the Buffalo VA Hospital. Post Commander Jim Bojanowski pictured with Faith Domowicz.**



## Americanism – VC Jerry Kowalski

February is known as President's month. The following are the Presidents we have had to lead our nation in war and peace.

The first is George Washington, born 2/22/1732. Our first President of the newly created United States of America. He was a great American before there was an America. He set the standard for the next 250 years.

The next President is Willaim Henry Harrison, born 2/9/1773. Our 9<sup>th</sup> President, but served for only 32 days.

Abraham Lincoln, born 2/12/1809. Became our 16<sup>th</sup> President. Who lead our country during the Civil War. A war fought to preserve the Union. He ended slavery in America, during his term, and started the country on the path of recovery after the war.

The last President to have a February birthday, was our 39<sup>th</sup>, Ronald Reagan, born 2/6/1911. Most of us still remember Reagan's Presidency not too long ago. He brought peace and prosperity to America, with the end of the Cold War, and the fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. It seems to me that America, had each of these President's weave their own special fabric into the making of America.

## Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy

As I have asked for candidates in the past. Time is running out. The dead line is April 2025, but submissions should be in weeks before for them to be checked. Please contact your local community first responders for potential submissions for EMS, Fire, & Police. Emails with detailed forms have been sent out and are available on the Department website.

## Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Resumes for Erie County Legionnaire of the Year are due April 4, 2025. 2025 Guidelines and Information are available the Erie County American Legion Webpage: [Legionnaire of the Year page \(eriecountyal.org\)](http://Legionnaire of the Year page (eriecountyal.org)). Submitting a Member for Legionnaire of the Year is a terrific way to recognize our Legionnaires. Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221. NO LATER THAN APRIL 4, 2025.

## Scouting - Felton L. Davis

The American Legion awards an Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarships annually. The nomination window will close Saturday, March 1, 2025. Nomination packets must be received by the NYS American Legion Department (State) no later than March 1st. The National American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. Three runner-up scholarship awards will be granted in the amount of \$2,500 each. I need to receive your Erie County's Boy Scout nominations no later than Friday, February 21, 2025 using the following address:

Erie County Scouting Committee  
c/o Felton L. Davis  
115 Burbank Drive  
Orchard Park, NY 14127-2382

Other details are available on the American Legion Department website.  
at <http://www.legion.org/departments> website.



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 2/27 at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 located at 3354 Delaware Ave., Kenmore, NY 14217. There will be no dinner service that night. Guest speaker will be Paul J. Marzello Sr. President & CEO of the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park

Thanks go out to the 21 Posts that were in attendance for the January County Meeting at Niagara Frontier Post #1041. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 78, 205, 362, 430, 431, 567, 607, 622, 799, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 2/27 meeting.

## Future County Meetings;

March 27, Niagara Frontier #1041  
April 24, East Aurora #362  
May 22, Concord Post #431

## Department Leadership Visitation 2/14/25 - Ted Balbierz

The dinner will be held at the George F. Lamm Post #622 to honor Department Commander Keith Koster, Auxiliary President Kimberly Quick, and Detachment Commander Gaither Espey. Cash Bar at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM. \$35 per person **by 2/5/25**.

## 8<sup>th</sup> District Conference

### April 6 – Chautauqua County

Lakewood Memorial Post #1286  
174 Chautauqua Ave., Lakewood, NY 14750  
Membership Mtg – Noon  
Conference – 1 PM



**Chris Akios, founder and President of Foxhole Alliance reviews the programs he runs for Veterans including golf and hikes while Erie County Commander Paul Wackowski observes at the January County Meeting at Niagara Frontier Post #1041.**

Picture by Sue Quirk.



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the March  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due February 28  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**





**On January 4, 2025, the Honorable April N. M. Baskin, State Senator of New York's 63rd District, was sworn into office at the Buffalo History Museum. Dr. Kanasha Blue, Commander Jesse Clipper Post 430 and Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, organized a joint American Legion Color Guard. The Posts include Matthew Glab Post 1477, Francis J. Donovan Post 1626, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post 1928, Bennett-Wells Post 1780, and Jesse Clipper Post 430. The Joint Color Guard Unit performed exemplary, receiving praise from Senator Baskin and several audience members.**

**Pictured L to R) Front \*Staff Sergeant Francisco Cordero, Post 1928, \*Jose Orto, Post 1928, \*Dr. Kanasha Blue, Commander, Post 430, \*Elder Howard Patton, Erie County VC, Past Post Commander, Post 430, \*Pedro H. Montanez, Post 1928, \*Rev. Eugene Pierce, Past Commander, Post 430, 2nd row \*Bernie Romanowski, Commander, Post 1477, \*Ken Fritz, Post 1626, Johnny Sanabria, Commander, Post 1928, Dave Kerling, Post 1626, \*Henry Jernigan, Commander, Post 1780, Jerry Kowalski, Erie County VC, Commander, Post 1626. \*Joint Color Guard Unit-Members.**



**The 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday of President Millard Fillmore was commemorated at Forest Lawn Cemetery with an Erie County Color Guard on January 7, 2025. Pictured (L to R) Commander Paul Wackowski, Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, Sgt at Arms Joe Orzechowski, and Treasurer Joe Porempski. The Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 was the Honor Guard and were featured in the Winter edition of the NYS American Legion Magazine for their efforts. Forest Lawn CEO Julie R. Snyder addresses those in attendance.**



**Erie County American Legion presented a \$200 check to leading Department Commander candidate John Miga and his wife Audrey from Chautauqua County. Support donations were made from (L to R) Tony Solina, Jim Bojanowski, Paul Wackowski, Tim Van Patten, John Siefert, and Tom Deinzer. Also donating were Sue Quirk, Dennis McCarthy and Ted Balbierz who were busy running/attending a Compliance meeting.**

**Sunday February 16**, 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.

**Thursday February 20**, Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, will be hosting the Polka Buzz TV show taping. Doors open at 6 PM, show starts at 7 PM with the Kaisertown Polka Band. Tickets are \$10. Cash Bar and Polish Food will be available for sale.

**Sunday February 23**, Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 9 AM to Noon. \$10.

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

**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](http://www.post880.com)

**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 \$4.00.

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

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 2/28 for the March 2025 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)**

**Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664**

**[Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net)**

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

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