



The Legion-Air

Paul Wackowski
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor

AMERICAN
LEGION

thelegionair@gmail.com
(716) 852-6500

January 2025

Commander's Message:

Saturday 11/23, I attended Blue Star Mothers annual care box for active military men & women serving overseas. Boxes were filled with non-perishable food items. Men's & women's personal items, toothbrushes, toothpaste, various toiletry items, word puzzles, books, magazines etc. 700 boxes were packed by various volunteers.

Thursday 12/5, Joseph Porempski and I attended a Christmas function at Depew Post 1528. Rev. Michael Johnson was a gracious host. Thank you for the invitation.

Saturday 12/14, I attended a Christmas function at the George F. Lamm Post 622. Cmdr. Phillip English was a gracious host. Thank you for the invitation.

With the Christmas and New Years Day holidays soon approaching, let us keep in mind that this is a time many of our veterans may be going through a very difficult time due to loss of a loved one, depression, homelessness, health and mental health issues and loneliness. It could be a Legion Family member, a friend or a neighbor. Use the "Buddy System" and call those that you haven't heard from in a while or better yet visit them to check on their welfare. Ask them if they need transport to medical appointments, perhaps picking up a prescription [s], grocery shopping or just someone to talk to or dropping off a dinner.

To All Erie County Posts; Legion, SAL and Auxiliary Members and your Families.

Merry Christmas and safe and healthy New Year!

The Erie County Website is up and running again after resolving some issues.

eriecountyal.org Jim Bojanowski

Membership – VC Pat Murphy

The next renewal notice by National will be sent out early January. Dues must be received in early February for the March mailing.

We would like all Posts to be at 80% by 1/8/25. New York State is currently at 73% and is in 16th place in National. Erie County is at 70%. We have two Posts that have achieved 100%+, Four Star 1659 and North Collins 1640. Two Posts are 90%+, Lackawanna 63 and Gabriel A. Rodriguez 1928. Congratulations to these Posts.

You can reach out to me at murphy8693@gmail.com or 7162894143.

Merry Christmas to all.

Special Activities – VC Howard Patton III

The calendar sales have surpassed expectations, and I'm currently sold out. If you have any unsold calendars and would like to return them, please don't hesitate. There's a strong demand, with many people asking for more, so I'm confident they'll sell quickly. This is a friendly reminder to turn in the money if you have sold your calendars but haven't done so yet. Don't forget, these calendars make fantastic Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers. They're truly the gift that keeps on giving, with a daily reward to enjoy—and, as always, you've got to be in it to win it! Thank you so much for your ongoing support! The calendars must be turned in to me in order to be eligible to win. I can be reached at hpttn3@gmail.com or at 7164269083.

As reported in October, Concord Post #431 American Legion Family led by Past 8th District Auxiliary President Anne Baglio, collected thousands of pounds of school supplies to send to the families of our troops located in Guam. PCC Ted Balbierz worked with the Niagara Air Force Base for shipment. Thanks to everyone who supported this initiative. The School supplies have been received in Guam and the children of our Servicemembers are enjoying them!



Americanism – VC Jerry Kowalski

Some months ago, I reported we are restarting the Essay Program. This year's theme is "What does America the Beautiful mean to me, when it comes to Veteran's and our Military". I have secured \$750 prize money to be given to the first and second place winners. In January we will be mailing out announcements of the Essay Contest to 6th graders, in Erie County. The closing date will be May 1st, 2025. At that time the Essay's will be collected and reviewed. If anyone would like to review Essay's please contact me at 716-681-7169. All help is greatly appreciated.

I am hoping that we get a good response from the schools. The guidance consular at Cleve-Hill High School, suggested to give this project to Social Studies teachers. That looks like good advice and I will follow up on the suggestion. I would like to say to ALL our Legion Family. Merry Christmas and have a healthy New Year.



Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy

I have received one submission so far for Law & Order Awards. 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. 2024 Guidelines and Information are available the Erie County American Legion Webpage: Legionnaire of the Year page (eriecountyal.org). The 2025 Guidelines will be similar to past guidelines. 2025 Guidelines for Legionnaire of the Year will be posted on the County's web page in January. 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

Scholarships are awarded to Eagle Scouts who have active participation in school, Scouting activities, community service, and who demonstrate service to community, Scouting and their character. They have a financial need, what distinguishes their financial need from others.

Submission timeframe is now to 1/31/25.

Council Service Territory (CST): A CST is a group of councils geographically located together.

One recipient will be selected for a four-year \$50,000 Lawrence S. and Mabel Cooke Scholarship. \$12,500 per year for four years.

Four recipients will be selected for a four-year \$30,000 Lawrence S. and Mabel Cooke Scholarship. \$7,500 per year for four years.

One recipient will be selected from each CST for a one-year \$10,000 Lawrence S. and Mabel Cooke Scholarship (14 scholarships total).

One recipient will be selected from each CST for a one-year \$7,000 Hansen & Mary Hall Scholarship (14 scholarships total).

One recipient will be selected from each CST for a one-year \$6,000 National Eagle Scout Association Scholarship Endowment. 14 total.

One recipient will be selected from each CST for a one-year \$6,000 Lester S. McElwain Eagle Scholarship, Robert and Rebecca Palmer Eagle Scout Scholarship, or National Eagle Scout Association Legacy Society Scholarship (14 scholarships total).

Eligibility

Eagle Scouts must be a member of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA) to apply.

Eagle Scouts may apply for NESA scholarships beginning in their senior year of high school through their junior year in an undergraduate program or by the halfway point of their associate degree program or skilled trade program.

One time only NESA Scholarship Recipient.

NESA scholarships are available to Eagle Scouts currently enrolled in or accepted by an accredited educational institution as a full-time student (at least 12 credit hours) in a program leading to an academic degree (including associate degrees) or a skilled trade program.

Cooke four-year scholarship awardees must be enrolled in an accredited four year college or university as a full-time student, 12 credit hours min. in a program leading to a bachelors degree.

NESA scholarships are not available to students attending any of the U.S. military academies or greater than a Bachelor's degree.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 1/30 at Niagara Frontier Post #1041 located at 533 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14207. Unknown at this time if the Post is serving dinners that night.

Thanks go out to the 22 Posts that attended the December County Meeting at Francis J. Donovan Post #1626. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 900, 1320, 1346, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, 1780, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 1/30 meeting.

Future County Meetings;

February 27, Milton J. Brounshidle #205

We need a Post to host March 27.

April 24, East Aurora #362

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. \$1 Boosters and \$15 Ads. Submissions to the County Office, program by 2/2/25, dinner payment by 2/5/25.

8th District Conference

February 2 – Niagara County

Stephen Sikora Post #1322

950 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Membership Mtg – Noon

Conference – 1 PM



SUBMISSIONS
For the February
"The Legion-Air"
Due January 31
thelegionair@gmail.com



On December 19, 2024, Rev. Michael Johnson, Commander of Depew Post 1528, Dick Bulman, Depew Post 1528 Americanism Chairman, and Post Officers and Members presented the American Legion Red, White, and Blue Award to Jim Basil and the whole team at Joe Basil Chevrolet at their Depew location for their patriotism, Americanism, and support of Veterans. Joe Basil Chevrolet flies a large American Flag at their dealerships, takes part in the Erie County Thank-a-Vet Program, and sponsors a yearly Vehicles for Veterans Program that donates five new vehicles to Veterans in need of a vehicle. They are very appreciative of the award.

Wednesday January 8, PCC meeting at the Gierlach Post at 7 pm, 50 Gates Ave., Sloan NY. Just a reminder for the ones that signed up. PCC Holiday dinner for January 18, at 1pm at Elma Towne and grille. \$15 a person. Order off menu.

Sunday January 12, 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.

Sunday January 26, Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 9 AM to Noon. \$10.

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

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, Friday Fish Fry dinners will be 4-9 pm, with children's menu, specials and live Bands from 8-11pm. Dine in or take out available, call 716-896-3346.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 1/31 for the February 2025 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to All!

Erie County Website – 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

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

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