



The Legion-Air

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AMERICAN
LEGION

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May/June 2025

Commander's Message:

Sunday 06 April 2025

Several County staff, delegates and I were present at the 8th District Meeting held at the Lakewood Memorial Post 1286 in Chautauqua County. Various Chairpersons presented their reports on Membership, Legislation, Boys State Veteran Services and more.

As I am looking at the calendar, my turn as your County Commander shall be ending, with the Erie County Convention on Saturday, 07 June 2025 at the David McKeever Post.

I Thank all the Erie County post delegates and alternates and the nomination committee for the opportunity to serve as Erie County Commander for the past year. I am Honored and Humbled in the trust in me in conducting the American Legions ideals, principles and the four pillars Defense, Americanism, Child & Youth and Veteran Services.

This was all possible with an excellent diligent staff and Committee Chairpersons and excellent mentors in Adjutant James Bojanowski and a second to none Finance Officer in Joseph Porempski.

A special 'Thank You'! to my family for their encouragement and support.

Notes.

All Erie County Posts are encouraged to attend the Convention and submit your CPR reports thirty days prior to the convention, May 7th, 2025, as the convention is on the 7th of June 2025. Send a copy of your CPRs to the County Office.

Lastly, Thanks to the David McKeever Post 64 Legion family for their support and The Erie County American Legion.

When all county Posts have held elections for post officers, kindly send a copy of the OCC – Officer Certification Certificate to the County Office at 609 Buffalo City Hall.

Membership – VC Pat Murphy

As of 4-17-25, Erie County is at 88% of projected membership goals set by the state. Posts are over 100% of goals are listed below. National has put out a TOOL KIT for membership officers in Posts that can be found at MY LEGION under membership. I feel that the most important thing Posts can do to increase membership is to be active in community affairs. American Legion shirts and hats that identify with the Post are good starting points. Jesse Clipper Post 109, Newcomb-Long 108, Frank Gierlach 105, Iroquois 115, North Collins 101, 4 Star 114, Bennett-Wells 112, & Gabriel Rodriguez 126.

Special Activities – VC Howard Patton III

The monthly calendars have been moving and there have been some significant winnings. The summary and breakdown of the calendars sales have been provided. There are a few Posts that still have calendars and they have been contacted. Please turn in your sold and unsold calendars. If you can verify that your calendars have been sold by providing the calendar stub along with the money, then we can determine if they were winners and get the winner paid.

Commander's Message Continued: Congratulations!

To all the County Posts that have achieved 100% of your membership goal to date; Jesse Clipper Post 430, Newcomb - Long Post 928, Frank L Gierlach Post 1320, Grand Island Post 1346, Iroquois Post 1587, North Collins Post 1640, 4Star Post 1659, Bennett - Wells Post 1780, & Gabriel A Rodriguez Post 1928

In closing, Safe Journeys to your destinations as you leave here tonight.

God Bless our Military and keep them safe, provide guidance to our politicians and Bless the American Legion Family and their Families.

Boys State - Bernie Romanowski

Many thanks to the following Posts: 64, 205, 362, 527, 622, 799, 838, 1041, 1477, 1528, 1626.

These are the Posts who are sponsoring Boys to this year's Boys State program. Erie County now has 25 young men signed up. The problem is only 16 out of the 25 have completed all the paperwork. I still need all the supporting items to the application which includes the Commitment form, Certification form and the Annual Physical. I need all of the paperwork plus a check to send to the Department by 2 May 2025.

The next event will be an Orientation meeting at the Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218 on Saturday morning 14 June 2025 at 10:00 AM. The boys, their parents and the Post chairman will attend.

Departure for Morrisville is scheduled for Saturday 28 June 2025 from Brounshidle Post 205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore NY 14217. Boys should report by 7:30 AM. Box lunches will be provided. The first meal at Morrisville will be dinner later that day.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Elder Howard

Patton III Since our last meeting, I have not received a return call, email or letter in regards to DEI status, therefore are still waiting.

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. Fish Frys and more every Friday from 4 - 8 PM. Live music entertainment every Friday from 7 - 10 PM. Come visit us at the Foxhole Bar!

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 716-863-9630 or Larry at 716-812-0959.

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



Americanism – VC Jerry Kowalski

Where does Americanism come from? Let's look back at our Constitution, where all of our rights are listed. The first ten Amendments are known as the "Bill of Rights". The bill was ratified in 1791 to provide additional guarantees that the newly formed government would protect the rights of its citizens.

In the First Amendment, Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of Religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people to peaceably assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

This Amendment says a lot. Let's break this down to understand it. Congress to make no law to restrict the freedom of Religion. Throughout this country a citizen can practice the religion of his forefathers where ever they have come from. As a result, citizens have built houses of worship from coast to coast.

Freedom of speech and of the press in this country citizens have the right to say and write words to express our political views. The right to practice, participate or engage without government interference. The rights are very liberal, giving a wide boundry of limits of what a citizen can say or write.

The right to peacefully assemble. The citizens can band together to promote a political view that they support. The key here is peacefully. The people should express their opinions to the government if there is a grievance

As I stated this is the First Amendment. It contains several new ideals, a new compass to guide this new country and government, all back in 1791. There are 26 more Amendments that created this government – what a great country and the men with such great insight. – God Bless America.

Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy

All the candidates' applications needed to be in by 4-1-25. I forwarded all received candidates to District and they acknowledged receipt of same. Just being nominated is an acknowledgement of outstanding actions, good luck to all.

Memorial Day Mass Saturday May 24

County Chaplain Father Michael Johnson will celebrate Mass at 5:30 PM at St. Mary's of the Lake located at 4737 Lakeshore Rd., Hamburg, NY 14075. A reception will be held after the Mass at Newcomb-Long Post #928 located at 7353 Erie Rd. Derby, NY 14047 host by Newcomb-Long American Legion Family.

Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services

We will be decorating graves at the Forest Lawn Field of Valor Section on Monday 5/26 at 8 AM and holding our Annual Memorial Day Services at 9 AM at Forest Lawn Cemetery to honor our fallen heroes. Please join us for this early morning service, especially if your Post does not have their own services.

Graves Registration Chair George Barton will be at the Forest Lawn Garage to pass out requested flags to the Posts for their grave's decoration on Saturday 5/10 from 10 AM to 11:30 AM. Call George at 716-544-3686 if you need to make alternate arrangements.



On Friday, April 11, American Legion Jesse Clipper Post 430 members Commander Dr. Kanasha Blue, Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, and Rev. Mark Blue participated in a Roundtable organized by Congressman Tim Kennedy to hear the experiences and opinions of veterans regarding health care at the Buffalo VA Medical Center. One veteran after another complained of a lack of adequate medical care, antiquated equipment, lack of medical care for female veterans, excessive wait time for services, and deplorable appearance of the Medical Center.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 5/22 at Concord Post #431 located at 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY 14141, The Post will serve a dinner of Stuffed Shells, salad, garlic bread, and dessert and coffee for the price of \$10 at 6 PM. Note meeting is one week early this month because of the June 7 County Convention.

Thanks go out to the 23 Posts that were in attendance for the April County Meeting at East Aurora Post #362. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 721, 799, 838, 900, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1659, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 5/22.

Future County Meetings;

Please let the office know if you want to host a meeting for the next American Legion year.

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 Convention Saturday 6/21/25 Niagara County

Stephen Sikora Post #1322

950 Payne Ave. N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

Convention Start – 1 PM

107th Department Convention Syracuse, NY

July 17 – 19, 2025. Send in your Post

Department Delegates to the Office with \$20.



SUBMISSIONS
For the July
"The Legion-Air"
Due June 24
thelegionair@gmail.com



Jesse Clipper Post Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce, (on the Left) installs the new officers of Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928 led by Post 1928 Commander John Sanabria (4th on the left) at their fundraising dinner on Saturday 4/26/25. The dinner was attended by 330 members of the community and also featured special awards to "Boots on the Ground" Vietnam Veterans who have provided excellent support to Western New York. Picture by Jim Bojanowski

Sunday May 11 & June 15 , 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.

Saturday May 17 , at 7 PM at the Grand Island High School, A program to honor our Veterans and "An American Hero" - US Army Charles N. DeGlopper - Medal of Honor Recipient.

Saturday July 19, PCC summer picnic at Stiglmeier Park, on Losson Rd., Cheektowaga in Shelter #2. \$10 per family. Reservation deadline will be June 30. Or, let us know at the County Convention.

PCC membership will be collected at the convention. \$5 for members. \$10 for new members. Any Post paying for their Past Commanders, please bring check and their names with your representative to the convention. Or, you can mail it to me at Gary M Oakes Jr. PO Box 1496 Buffalo, NY 14240. Make checks out to Past Commanders Club.

Saturday August 2, Sardinia Post #1131 Annual Steak Roast Dinner Fundraiser from 4-6 PM at Sardinia Veterans Park, 13169 Genesee Rd., Sardinia. \$30 per person. Tickets available at Erie County Meetings or contact PPC Jim Wiedemann at 716-374-3335.

It is now time to send in your Erie County Post Delegates and Alternates to the County Office with \$3 per representative. Also send in your completed Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and newly elected Post Officers. If you have Post representatives for the District and Department, send in \$20 per person. Anyone going to the National Convention in Tampa Bay, Fl., please let me know so I can add your name to the list. Also, let me know if your Post would like to host a County Meeting for the next Legion year. Please indicate desired month.

Jim Bojanowski Erie County Adjutant

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 6/24 for the July 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>