



## *The Legion-Air*

**Jerry Kowalski**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**

**thelegionair@gmail.com**  
**(716) 852-6500**

**May/June 2026**

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

Today is April 30<sup>th</sup>, I have come to realize that I only have 36 days remaining as Commander. This past year has gone by so fast.

First I want to welcome Howard Patton to the "55" Club. I attended his surprise birthday party April 4<sup>th</sup>. All of us had a good time, with many great stories told.

The EC Staff was at the 8<sup>th</sup> District meeting 4/12. We heard reports from, membership, legislation, boy state, historian, and many others.

The Gold Star Mother's held their conference and dinner in Rochester. I believe that it is our duty to support this organization. These families have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Let us not forget to include the Blue Star Mother's, their sons and daughters are on duty today.

The month of May is going to be the busiest month of the year for EC Legion. I will be attending four local High Schools, giving out the Cadet Awards for Military and Scholastic excellence. May 7,8,9, are the dates to remember for Armed Forces events. This month the EC Staff will be attending the Annual Rodriguez Post Dinner, as we have in the past.

May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> are the dates to intern the 10 Urns of fallen Veterans in a ceremony first hosted by the Lamm Post. Then on Friday the 10 Urns will have an escort to the National Cemetery for the burial with full Military Honors. May 25<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Graves decoration at 8 AM, Services at 9 AM.

If you are not having a service at your Post, come and join us at the Donovan Post. We are also celebrating the Ribbon Cutting of the Bateman Veteran's Memorial Garden at Knob Hill Park, in Cheektowaga. This memorial will be dedicated to all the military members killed in Vietnam. This project took 6 years to complete.

### **Membership: VC Howard Patton III**

Membership remains the foundation of the American Legion. At this point in 2026, our overall membership should be at or above 95 percent, and 16 Posts are currently at or above 90%, and on track to meet their respective membership goals for the month of May. As we approach May & June, we remain committed to our objective of reaching 100 percent of our annual target. A salute goes out to four Posts that have achieved 100 percent or more of their membership goal their membership numbers continue to rise:

- 1. Jesse Clipper Post 430 – 104.92%**
- 2. Newcomb-Long Post 928 – 104.71%**
- 3. Iroquois Post 1587 – 104.76%**
- 4. Frank H. Brink Post 607 – 103.70%**

This demonstrates a sincere commitment to the mission of the American Legion as they set a strong example for the entire organization. It is essential that we continue to build upon checking Post 1 for prospective members, while also conducting Buddy Checks to strengthen efforts with greater intentionality and member retention.

### **Commanders Message continued;**

I want to thank my Erie County Staff, that has worked with me through the year. We have gone to so many events and had many good times together. It was a fun year and I would do it again. Good luck to our new incoming Erie County Commander and staff as well as all future Post Commander's and Officer's to be elected for the next year. Thank you to our Legion family.

May GOD bless all of you and your families and GOD bless America.

On to the Conventions.

## **Americanism – VC Pat Murphy**

May is National Military Appreciation Month. We recognize the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Space Force. We also recognize the end of fighting in WWII. Military Spouse Day (the unsung heroes) who stay at home and take care of homes families and all those responsibilities. Memorial Day is also in May and honored with many events.

We should try to honor these days and individuals by hosting a luncheon or some such event to recognize their service and sacrifice. Recognizing individuals or family members that have done some outstanding action or service. Supporting veteran causes, such as honor flight and other veteran related events helps people remember and realize this is a never-ending cause. We must always be on guard to protect the country and the constitution.

## **Law and Order – VC Pat Murphy**

### **National Wildfire Awareness Month**

New York State has an open fire ban from March till May every year. To help prevent wildfire in the state. Since the ban has been in effect, there has been a decrease in wildfires. But even with the ban last year New York State lost 840 acres of land, and unknown amount of property damage to wildfires. We are an eastern state not really associated with wildfires.

It is reported that approximately 68 percent of all wildfires are caused by human error in the USA. And that approximately 2.8 million acres are burned, lightning strikes were the largest of the non-human factors that cause wildfires.

We must all be aware and try to help prevent wildfires, smoking and discarding cigarettes are still a problem, the storage of flammable liquids and camping fires not properly watched or extinguished.

The ten western states have the largest problem with wildfires for all the above reasons and the large number of tourists who are unaware or disregard warnings. Other concerns include the amount of money, and time it costs states to fight these fires. Manpower must be equipped, trained and paid. This all-cost large amounts of money. Puts a huge strain on small communities with volunteer agencies. Please look at your local volunteers and paid services for our hometown hero's. Just like the firefighters out west, they are there when asked paid or volunteer , no questions about where you live or pay taxes , just helping for the good of the community.



## **Special Activities – VC Paul Wackowski**

There are still calendars that have not been returned. Lost or misplaced are: 018, 119, 299, 342, 469, 479, 547,983 and 986, these are not sold. I'm asking all posts to check if any members or anyone has these numbers to kindly return them. As stated above they are recorded as unsold. The updated numbers listed are prior to our County Meeting.

**Total Calendars        999**

**Unsold Calendars      126**

**Sold Calendars         873**

At this time, To the following County Posts; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 627, 607, 622, 721, 799, 838, 900,1320,,1477, 1586, 1626, 1672,

**A "Special "Thank You"** for supporting the 2026 Calander sales. As you all know that these funds are used for donations to various veteran and children's activities and programs..

**VETERANS SERVING VETERANS!!!!**

## **Boys State Chairman - Bernie Romanowski**

Thank you to all the post who sent boys to this year's Boy State Class. We submitted to Department 15 boys to attend this year's program. Post 64 sent 4 boys, 205 -2, 527 – 1, 567 -1, 622-1, 799 – 1, 838 -1, 1041 -1, 1528 -1, 1626-1.

A special thanks to Post Lackawanna Post 63 and Grand Island Post 1346 who contributed to the program but did not have any candidates.

The next activity will be the Saturday June 13 Orientation program which will be held at the Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218. The program will start at 10:00 AM. The boys and their parents need to attend. Your Post Chairman are also encouraged to attend.

## **Education Awards – Art Forman**

Thanks go out to the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 and the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 for the sponsorship of a \$500 Scholarship Award in their Post's name. That should bring the number of County Scholarship to 12 \$500 awards. We are still collecting donations to support this effort.

## Veterans Interment – Jim Bojanowski

We are working with the NYS Patriot Guard to put to rest 10 Veteran unclaimed remains from WNY. WWI veterans - 3, WWII veterans – 3, Korea veterans – 1, Vietnam veterans – 1, Cold War veterans – 2.

On Thursday afternoon 5/21 and evening these Veterans will have a public wake at the George F. Lamm Post #622. On Friday 5/22 at Noon, we will motorcade to the WNY Veterans Cemetery in Corfu for a 1 PM Ceremony for these 10 Veterans with full Military Honors.

## Memorial Day Mass Saturday May 23

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.

## Memorial Day Grave Decoration/Services

Graves Decoration at Forest Lawn Field of Valor Section on Monday 5/25 at 8 AM and Annual Memorial Day Services at 9 AM 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 – George Barton

Memorial Day is Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The Erie County American Legion will be having a ceremony at 0900. All are welcome to decorate the graves and attend the service. It would be greatly appreciated if you could attend along with all of our youth groups; JROTC and Scouts. You will be completely touched. Also flag recovery will be on Monday June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, starting at 0930. Any help would be greatly appreciated. As well several posts will be placing flags on veteran's graves throughout the county. Posts orders for flags throughout the county were due on or by Friday April 24. Flag distribution will be on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, between 1000 and 1130 hours by the back garage. The garage is located at the far end of the cemetery close to Canisus College and Main Street. As of this moment, I have 15 posts that have requested flags & those requests have been filled. If you want to contact me, we can make arrangements to pick up the flags early. If you cannot make that date, please let me know so that we can make other agreements, if you did not place an order & need flags, please contact me.



## Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 5/21 at the Concord Post #431 located at 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville, NY 14141.

The Post will be serving Swedish Meatballs over Pasta with Green Beans and Tossed Salad at 6 PM for \$10.

Thanks go out to the 20 Posts that were in attendance for the April County Meeting at the East Aurora Post #362. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 721, 735, 799, 838, 1131, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 5/21 County Meeting.

**Saturday June 6, Erie County Convention at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626.** Please support their AD and Booster program book.

- Registration 8:30 to 11:30 AM
- Memorial Service at 9 AM
- Convention Start 10 AM

PCC dues are due. \$5 for members. \$10 for new members. Will be accepting payment at the convention. The PCC Summer picnic is Sunday July 12. \$15 a family. Info at Conv.

**Saturday June 20, 8<sup>th</sup> District Convention, Chautauqua County**  
Samuel L Derby Post #556, Frewsburg, NY  
Convention Start 1 PM

**July 16 – 18, Department Convention, Syracuse, NY**

**National Convention - Louisville, Kentucky  
August 29 to September 3**



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



**On April 4, 2026, Davette Patton, the wife of EC Vice Commander Pastor Patton, orchestrated a heartwarming Surprise Birthday Celebration that left him beaming with joy. Among the gathered well-wishers were; Joseph Porempski, Pastor Howard Patton, Jerry Kowalski, and Ted Balbierz. Eight other Legionnaires and their delighted guests joined the joyful festivities, savoring mouthwatering food and drinks.**

Photo by Rev. Eugene Pierce.

**Sunday, May 10,** Hawaiian Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet at Concord American Legion Post 431 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville NY 14141 from 9 am - 12:30 pm. Menu...Scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage gravy & biscuits, ham, bacon, sausage, home fries w/or without onions, white/rye toast, fruit, pastries, breads, muffins, juice, coffee, tea and milk. Adults \$18, children (4-9) = \$5, toddlers (3-under) free, Wear your Hawaiian outfit if you want. All moms get a gift.

**Sunday May 10,** ALL YOU CAN EAT Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051 with a gift for each Mom. 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.

**Friday May 15,** Join us for our Annual KMR Toast The Fallen, live music, delicious food, a cash bar, raffles, games, basket raffles, merchandise, and more at the Hamburg Fairgrounds, Grange Building. This is a FREE EVENT with donation of a new stuffed animal for our annual Teddy Bears for a Cause. You must RSVP via link below to reserve your spot.

RSVP HERE: <https://www.kiamemorialmarch.com/events-page/toast/>

**Saturday May 16,** Gierlach Post #1320, 50 Gates St., Sloan is having a Spring Bazaar and Plant Sale from 10 AM to 2 PM.

**Saturday May 16,** Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, Chiavetta Chicken BBQ from 1 – 5 PM.

**Orchard Park Post #567,** 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Dinners at the Post are from 4 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Monday: Beef on Weck, Tuesday: Tacos: Tacos, choice of beef or chicken, Hard shell or Soft. Wednesday: Chiavettas Chicken BBQ, Thursday: Pasta Night! Comes with Salad, 2 meatballs and garlic bread. Friday: From the Grill.

**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.

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626,** 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. Home of POLISH VILLA 2 Dinners served every Friday from 4 PM till 8 PM during the month of MAY. (June to be determined) Home of the FOXHOLE BAR with the best drink prices in Erie County. Bar open M-TH 2PM till 6PM. Friday bar hours are 2 PM till... Live Music every Friday in May. Bands take to the stage at 7 PM and play till at least 10 PM. Come join us!

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by Monday 6/22 for the July edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org) Phone: (716) 852 – 6500 Veteran14202@verizon.net  
DNY website - <https://nylegion.net> National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>**