



The Legion-Air

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January 2015

Commander's Message:

I hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On Sunday, December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, the County and 8th District went to the VA Hospital and Nursing Home in Batavia to place the Annual Christmas Wreaths and to give Canteen Books to the patients there. Then we went to the 8th District meeting at the Sackett-Merrill-White Post #575 in Bergen, New York. On Friday December 12, the County and the 8th District went to the Buffalo VA Hospital to place the annual Christmas Wreath and distribute canteen books to the patients.

On December 18th, the County meeting was held at Donovan Post #1626. County Auxiliary President Linda Miskell and her staff, Past Department Presidents Vi Brosart and Karen Porempski were also in attendance.

On Saturday, December 20th I had my Commander's Christmas Party at Hamburg Post # 527. I'm happy to have had a good number of County Legionnaires attend. We had a good day and NO snowstorm!

See you on Thursday, January 15th, 2015 at the Newcomb-Long Post #928 for the next County meeting and also at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany, on January 23rd through 25th, 2015.

Here's hoping all your wishes for the New Year come true!

Editor's Note:

Thanks go out to Clarence Post #838 and their Auxiliary who coordinated sending out Holiday Cheer boxes to our deployed soldiers, and patients at the Buffalo VA hospital. The program was started by President Ginger Lindner and is in its 7th year, with a total of 3,700 boxes sent out.

Membership – VC Wayne Sorrentino

As your County Membership Chairman, I'll let you know where you stand with Department, get you what you need to do your job and help you to get to 100% or better. Please perform your best at your membership job every single day of the year by making one more phone call or sending one more solicitation letter. Membership doesn't take vacation because membership is way too important to the future of our great organization. Our next Department membership target is 80% by 1-16-15. 12 Posts are at or above 80% as of 12-9-14: Lorenzo-Burrows, Sardinia, Grand Island, Newcomb-Long, East Aurora, Tehan, Clarence, Donovan, Newell-Faulkner, West Seneca, Lamm & North Collins. Thank you to all for your efforts to get your Post membership to this point. We now have 27 Posts totaling 191 new members with a self-imposed target of 300 new members. Please keep pushing the new member issue. If you need help with membership, please call me and I'll gladly give you every assistance which you request of me. The County REVITE program is progressing slowly - too slowly, I think, and much more needs to be done very quickly. Please get your like-minded membership committee members to call these Legionnaires now, this week, or at least by the end of December. If you cannot work the lists I gave you, give the lists back to me. This is a DO IT NOW item, and we need to do this REVITE NOW to help stem the tide of dwindling membership numbers in Erie County. Let's not allow Erie County to shrink in size from the LARGEST County in Department to become the 2nd largest, giving the first place honor to Nassau, Oneida or Suffolk County. Finally, send in your memberships to Department every week, on the same day of the week, without fail. Get into this habit of weekly submittals and it will quickly become your SOP. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all and to your families.

Special Activities – VC Nelson Oldfield

It was nice to see many of you at the County meeting on Thursday. I hope that you enjoyed the dinner. The Donovan was glad to have you and our special guests, the Ladies Auxiliary, there. Their assistance is invaluable at all levels of the organization.

A few comments on the Calendars so there are no hard feelings. On the January 1st we have a drawing for \$150. A lot of Calendar sales came in yesterday however If I do not have payment and you have not advised me before the 1st of January that you have sold the Calendar and that number is the winner I will not honor that days drawing. Shortly after the first of February, I will tally the sales and see which Posts have sold the most calendars. Please make sure that your Post number is in the sold by Column. If it is sold by a certain person and returned to me I have been marking the Post numbers on the tags.

It is nice to see that the County American Legion will have its own web site and it will be a great place to post our schedule and points of contact. I understand that it could also be linked to the Post web sites if you have one. I think this could be a great recruiting tool for people Interested in a local Post. I am anxious to see that one up and running.

A few of the Posts are having a New Year's Party, If you are considering going out it would be good to go to one of the local Posts. I am sure you will have a good time and you will be supporting a local Post.

I will talk about the Golf Outing at our January meeting, so If you any ideas please bring them up.

Hoping you had a great holiday season and thanks for the help with selling the Calendars.

Oratorical – George P. Barton

The Erie County Oratorical Contest that was to be held at The David McKeever Post # 64, on Sunday, December 14, was cancelled due to not having a contestant. Therefore, Erie County will not have a representative competing in the 8th District Oratorical contest which will be held on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at Noon at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post # 205 located at 3354 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217. The winners will then advance to the state level for further competitions.

From my family and I, to you and your family, we would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays.



Americanism – VC Joe Orzechowski

It's that time of year again when we set out to try to improve ourselves by making New Year's Resolutions. May I suggest that this year you also consider making a resolution to augment your Post's Americanism activities. Do a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Try a presentation on Flag Etiquette or Memorial Day at a local school, scout troop or assisted living facility. If your community has a war or veterans memorial, arrange for your Post to perform a ceremony or participate in a scheduled ceremony at that memorial on an appropriate holiday. As always, I'm willing to help out when and where I can. Feel free to give me a call at 839-9109 or email me at bjozechowski @ verizon.net.

The two applications for a Red, White and Blue Award described in the November Legion-Air, have been approved. I'll be working with Clarence Post #838 and Tehan Post #1449 to set up an appropriate time and place for making the respective award. I'll provide award ceremony details as soon as they become available.

A bit of Flag trivia: In 1958 Robert Heft, a 16 year old high school student from Ohio, designed a 50-star Flag for a history project to show what the star pattern might look like if Alaska and Hawaii joined the Union. He got a B-grade. He later stitched up an example of his design and submitted it to Washington for consideration as our nation's new Flag. In August 1959 President Eisenhower himself called Heft to let him know that his design was chosen from over 1500 other submissions.

Erie County Office Hours

Staffed by Tim Van Patten every Monday, Wednesday, & Friday from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays

Erie County Honor Guard – PCC John Kasmer

The Honor Guard needs your help! Needed are 5 dedicated legionnaires for the Honor Guard. If you work shift work, we can use you in the mornings and on Saturdays. If retired, we can use you. The calls for Military Burials have changed. The new law calls for 5 to 7 member squads. If you are interested in joining, please call John R. Kasmer at [716-634-1128](tel:716-634-1128).

Christmas Wreath presentation at the Buffalo VA Hospital on Friday December 12 by Past Department Commander Tim Van Patten, Niagara County Commander Lynda Pixley, Erie County Commander Paul Steward, 8th District Finance Officer Jim Bojanowski, and Buffalo VAVS Chairman Ken Barnes.



8th District Baseball Trophy presentation to Champions from A.J. Jurek Post # 1672, Coach Mike Brown and Commander Tim Van Patten, by District Chairman Ray Caso and Department Chairman Bruce Mayfield.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 pm

January 15 Newcomb-Long Post # 928

7353 Erie Rd., Route 5, Derby, NY 14047
Menu: Baked Chicken, Beef on Weck/Roll, chef salad, baby red potato, pasta w sauce, vegetable, dessert, coffee & tea.

February 26 Brounshidle Post # 205

March 26, A.J. Jurek Post # 1672

Albany Mid-Winter Conference

1/23, 24, & 25, 2015

The Buffalo 2015 Convention Committee is looking for help with staffing the booster, pins, & raffle sales table at both the Desmond and Marriott hotels.

Sunday February 1

8th District Meeting - Niagara Co.

Stephen Sikora Post # 1322

950 Payne Ave., N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Department Commander Frank J. Peters

Testimonial Dinner will be held Saturday February 14 at the George F. Lamm Post # 622. Tickets \$25/person. City Hall ticket deadline is Friday February 6. Cash bar at 6 pm, with the dinner start at 7 pm. The dinner will also honor Auxiliary Department President Diane Gerber, and Sons Detachment Commander Charles Depo.



**SUBMISSIONS
For the February
"The Legion-Air"
DUE**

January 26

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Friday January 9

“Thank a Vet” ID card registration at David McKeever Post # 64 from 11 am to 3 pm.

Sunday January 18

ALL YOU AN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 8 am to 12:30 pm. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$7, children under 12 \$3, children under 5 free.

Wednesday January 21

Next Past Commander’s Club meeting will be held at Francis J. Donovan Post # 1626 at 7 pm to plan the raffle and summer picnic. Thanks to all who attended the Christmas Party, hope to see more of you next year. John Stiegler President

February 8

Our annual East Aurora Post Wine Tasting Party hosted by Aurora Liquors and our Vietnam Vets Club will commence at 6:30 PM with a wine seminar. The ticket price remains the same as last year at \$15 each. Tickets are now available for purchase behind the bar. Only 100 tickets will be sold. Wine tasting will start at 7 and go until 9 PM. Everyone will leave with a gift. Appetizers and drawings for other prizes are also all included in the price of your ticket.

February 14

East Aurora Post first Steak roast of the New Year. For a price of \$12.00 per person, you get your choice of a charcoal cooked cut of choice steak, baked potato, salad bar, roll, and coffee. Hours are 4 until 7:00 PM.

Fish Fry every Friday at Francis Donovan Post, except Holidays, from 4 – 8 pm. There are also none fish menu items. Take outs are available, post phone 896-3346

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by Monday January 26 for the February edition. I am extending the deadline to enable reports to contain up to date information from the Mid-Winter conference.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor
Happy New Year to Everyone

2015!