



## *The Legion-Air*

Paul Steward  
Commander

Tim Van Patten  
Adjutant

Jim Bojanowski  
Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com

May/June 2015

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

This is my last Commander's message and my year is soon coming to an end. The County Convention will be at the A.J. Jurek Post #1672 on June 6th, 2015 to elect a new Commander and Vice Commanders.

The month of May will be busy with Armed Forces week opening at Canal Side on Sunday, May 3rd at 1:00 PM. I will have the Erie County Color Guard there.

The luncheon on Thursday, May 7th will be honoring the Gold Star Mother's and will be held at the Connecticut Street Armory at 12:00 noon.

The Gold Star Mother's Mass will be at SS. Peter and Paul Church, 66 East Main Street in Hamburg at 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 23rd, 2015. A reception will follow at Hamburg Post #527.

A Memorial Day Ceremony will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> at Forest Lawn Cemetery. We will decorate Veteran's graves with American flags at 8:30 AM, followed by services at 9:00 AM.

We will be at the Buffalo-Niagara Airport on Saturday, May 30th at 9:00 PM to welcome back the WWII Veterans who went to Washington D.C. on the Honor Flight to visit the military monuments.

On June 14th at 11:30 AM we will be going to the War of 1812 Cemetery on Aero Drive to honor those who died defending our young nation from the British.

This has been a most amazing year and I am grateful for this learning experience. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you better. This year has flown by all too quickly. Best of luck to all the new County Officers for 2015-2016. God Bless All of You.

Let us not forget the Past Commanders who died this past year – J. Donald Griffin, Helen Jacobs and Ray Caso. *May they rest in peace.*

### **Membership – VC Wayne Sorrentino**

The cutoff date for Membership Awards and Convention seating is May 8th. If Department's May report arrives sooner, that's the report we will use. If no May report is received, we will be forced to use the 4-23-15 (latest) report which we have on-hand. Please get your 2015 renewals and new members in to Department as soon as possible to be included in the May 8th report. I hope this short (one-way) discussion covers the topic completely. So many Posts are so very, very close to the 95% mark or the 100% mark. It would be a real shame to let this opportunity to increase your Post's membership slip through our hands. Please make at least one more call to each of your unpaid members. I believe they still want to be a part of this great organization. Never say never and never stop believing. We continue to have 11 Posts who have not recruited one new member. Remember to "Just Ask" and you'll be surprised with the results. Our fiscal year for membership ends on 6-30-15.

By our 100th Anniversary in 2019, our National Commander's goal is to achieve 4 million members: 1/2 million Sons, 1 million Auxiliary and 2.5 million Legionnaires.

Department Membership Workshop for 7th & 8th District is being held on 8/15 at Turner-Schrader Post #34, 1513 Palmyra St, Shortsville, NY 14548 (585 289 4186). Sign-in at 0900, sessions begin at 0930 sharp, and run 'til 1300, followed by a FREE lunch. Everyone interested or involved in Membership should attend: All Commanders and Membership Chairs. This is a well-spent Saturday, learning all you can about membership. Reservations are not necessary. Just show up, sign-in and be prepared to take copious notes.

Be sure to send your delegates and alternates to Convention on June 6th at the Jurek Post.

This shall be my final article regarding Membership for 2015. Thank you, Commander Paul, for my appointment.

## Special Activities – VC Nelson Oldfield

On June 14th, the War of 1812 Veterans Committee will be holding a Ceremony at the Aero Drive Cemetery. The event is open to all and I am hoping that many veterans show up. Paul Steward and I will be on hand. Along with Post members from the FJ Donovan Post & the Leonard Post VFW.

This Cemetery ground has both American & British soldiers in it and is the only real War, the foreigners invaded our land during a war in this area. Please join us with some of your friends. They need not be veterans!

There is a bill being sponsored by Congressman Collins called the “Revamp Act” It has been introduced before but apparently never passed. Previously by Rep. Tim Bishop in 111<sup>th</sup>, 112<sup>th</sup> & 113<sup>th</sup> Congress- H.R.2142-This bill would allow funds for the Posts in need of repairs to get some funding, one time in every five years. The maximum amount they could receive would be \$200,000. These funds can be used for repairs and improvements to existing facilities. The funds would come from block grant program and therefore not increase our taxes. Several elected Officials are on board but we need as many as possible. Many Posts need upgrading, please get on board with this.

## Operation Recognition

Veterans who left high school without graduating are eligible to earn New York State high school diplomas. The new law recognizes the devotion and sacrifice of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Era Veterans who left school early by presenting them with a high school diploma. To be eligible, a Veteran must meet the following requirements: be a New York State resident, engaged in active duty service for at least one day during one of the following Periods -12/7/41 to 12/31/46, 6/27/50 to 1/31/55, and 5/1/61 to 4/30/75. Also, received a satisfactory discharge from military service. Deceased Veterans families can apply for a posthumous diploma on the Veteran’s behalf with appropriate documentation.

## Have a great Sumer and thanks for allowing me to serve as a Vice Commander,

**Francis Donovan Post # 1626** 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



## Americanism – VC Joe Orzechowski

Presentation of the Department of New York's Red, White & Blue Award to Honor Flight – Buffalo is scheduled for the evening of May 30<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will take place during the homecoming ceremony following the return of that day's flight. The return of the veterans and their guardians from Washington is always quite an event. If you've never attended, I would encourage you to join Commander Steward and myself on the arrivals level of the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport. The time is still TBD but is usually somewhere around 8:00PM. For more details contact me at 839-9109 or bjorzechowski@verizon.net. Honor Flight – Buffalo was nominated for the RW&B Award by the Tehan Post #1449. The presentation of a Red, White & Blue Award to Paul Stephen of Stephen Development LLC is still in the planning stages. The Clarence Post #838, which submitted the nomination, is working on plans for the presentation ceremony. I will provide details when they become available.

Americanism Trivia: The U.S. Flag Code became public law in 1942. But where did it come from? In 1923, the Legion's Americanism Commission called the first National Flag Conference in Washington DC. Attendees from the Legion and more than 60 other patriotic, fraternal, civic and military organizations compiled a standard flag protocol from the many traditions and variations extant at the time. That protocol was adopted on June 14, 1923 and was the basis for today's US Flag Code.

## County Honor Guard – PCC John Kasmer

We need your help! Several months ago I asked for volunteers, no response. Today, we turned down requests because we ran out of manpower. For example, I have too many requests for Memorial Day weekend for us to handle. If interested in volunteering, call 634-1128.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the July**  
**“The Legion-Air”**  
**June 21**  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

## **Memorial Day Mass – PC John Kasmer**

The annual mass will be held at SS. Peter and Paul Church, 66 East Main Street in Hamburg at 4:00 PM on Saturday May 23. The Gold Star Mothers will be our special guests and all veterans are invited. A reception will be held at Hamburg Post # 527 following the mass.

## **Memorial Day Services, Monday, May 25**

Forest Lawn Cemetery. Decorate graves at 8:30 am followed by Memorial Service at 9:00 am.

## **Boy's State – Pierre Harper**

Boys' State is progressing quite steadily and I have been receiving many applications from the Post chairpersons. My goal is to have 34 delegates attend the program and we seem to be on the way to that mark. I would like to thank all of the chairpersons and commanders for their work in making the program a success again. Contact me at [eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com](mailto:eriecountyboysstate@gmail.com).

## **Past Commander's Club**

Will be collecting annual \$5 dues at the Erie County Convention. Their annual picnic will be held on Sunday June 28 at Stiglmeier Park, Shelter #3, Losson Rd., Cheektowaga from Noon to 4 pm. Cost is \$5/member or guest, advance payment only, to President John Stiegler.

## **Buffalo Bison's Armed Forces Day Tribute**

will be held on Saturday May 16, with a pregame ceremony starting at 4:30 pm, with a game start of 5 pm. Our own Erie County Vice Commander Nelson Oldfield will be recognized for his service. Tickets are \$10, with \$5 benefitting the Buffalo & Erie County Naval Park. Order tickets at (716) 847-1773 or at [www.buffalonavalpark.org](http://www.buffalonavalpark.org).

**Veteran's Job Fair June 18** at the Connecticut Street Armory from 10 am to 1 pm.

**POPPY Program** - Volunteers are needed to make poppies for the orders that the American Legion Auxiliary gets. Veterans who stay in the VA hospitals has been reduced significantly and most to those who are left are not capable of making them. Ten cents is paid by the Auxiliary for each poppy made. Anyone can make the poppies but only a veteran can receive the funds for making them. Veterans who make poppies are subject the issuance of a 1099 for Federal Income Tax purposes for 6,000 or more poppies. Anyone would be interested, in this worthwhile cause please contact Violet Brosart at 827-9039.



## **Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 pm

## **May 21, Orchard Park Post # 567**

3740 N. Buffalo Rd., Orchard Park, 14127  
Menu: Roast Beef, Pork Loin, Potatoes, Rice, Vegetable, Salad, Rolls, Coffee

## **Erie County Convention**

### **June 6 Alfred J. Jurek Post # 1672**

Smith & New Rds. East Amherst, 14051  
Please send in your Ads & Boosters ASAP.  
Join us for the steak dinner and parade after the convention.

## **Saturday June 20**

### **8<sup>th</sup> District Convention - Chautauqua Co.**

Cassadaga Memorial Post # 1280  
228 Maple Ave., Cassadaga, NY 14718  
1:00 PM – Convention Meeting

## **July 16 -18 New York State Convention**

We will be welcoming the American Legion Family from across New York State, with the Department convention held here in Buffalo. The Legion will meet at the Hyatt hotel and the Auxiliary and SAL will meet at the Adam's Mark hotel. Please join us in welcoming our visitors. Also, please consider taking an Ad and/or submitting boosters to help support this convention. All Posts received a packet of information or it is on the Erie County website. Also, please support our split club raffle. Join us for the parade which will be held Friday July 17 at 6:30 pm, starting at Franklin St., in front of the Buffalo convention center. I have previously listed all of the hardworking Legionnaires who are busy preparing for this endeavor. We are all committed to make Erie County American Legion shine! Hats off also to Past Department President Karyn Porempski, the Auxiliary Chair, and to SAL District Vice Commander Timothy Van Patten II, the Sons of the Legion Chair.

Jim Bojanowski  
2015 General Chairman

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



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
 The Erie County Committee  
 609 City Hall  
 65 Niagara Square  
 Buffalo, NY 14202  
 PHONE: (716) 852-6500  
 FAX: (716) 852-4664  
 e-mail: [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)



**Saturday May 2**

David McKeever Post # 64 is hosting a Cradle Beach benefit at 1770 S. Park Ave. Tickets are \$20 for dinner from 3:30 – 6:30 pm, includes 1 chinese auction sheet and entertainment. Cash Bar.

**Saturday May 9**

Orchard Park Post 567 is holding a Craft and Vender Show 10:00 am-4:00 pm with a fabulous basket raffle.

**Sunday May 10 from 8 AM – 1 PM.**

Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet at Concord American Legion Post 431 109 Zoar Valley Rd., Springville. Includes: Scrambled eggs, Pancakes, ham, sausage, home fries, white, wheat or rye toast, orange juice, coffee and tea Adults 10+ \$9, Children 4+ \$5, Toddlers free and....A Present for Mom!! Sponsored by: Concord American Legion Auxiliary

**Sunday May 10 and June 14**

ALL YOU CAN 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 May 27**

Casino Trip to Seneca Niagara. Bus departs George F Lamm Post, at 10:45 am, returns 5pm. Cost is \$30/person. Receive \$25 slot money. Fundraiser for Lamm Auxiliary. Call Debbie Diebold at 836-9617.

**Sunday June 21**

Frank L. Gierlach Post # 1320, 50 Gates Ave., Sloan, is having a pancake, sausage, & fruit breakfast from 9 am to Noon. \$5/p

**East Aurora Post # 362**

Visit us on our cruise nights held the third Monday of every month, starting May 18 from 5 to 8:00 PM, running through Sept. 21st. If you bring a car to show, you get a ticket for a chance to win one of many door prizes. We also have a DJ playing 60's music, with hot dogs for a nominal fee.

**Erie County Office Hours** Staffed by Tim Van Patten every Mon., Wed., & Fri. from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by Sunday June 21 for the July edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor