



The Legion-Air

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November 2015

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legion family & friends. Thank you to the members of the Orchard Park Post for the fine job on the dinner & the hospitality for our October County meeting. Please remember that my push for this year is MEMBERSHIP, so I'm asking every member to recruit a new member or sign up a lapsed member. Please do your part now, and try your best to recruit at least one new member prior to our next County meeting. It is only with the help of everyone in Erie County, working together, that we will make goal by the end of the year. We each have a personal stake in this most important task. It's up to us if we win by making goal, or if the downward membership slide continues. Practice and use your elevator speech and ASK A VETERAN TO JOIN The American Legion. "JUST ASK" does work. This year's updated County goal is 7228. Let's work together to reverse the downward membership trend of the last several years, and get our membership numbers back up to where they belong.

I'm in need of two additional Aides, and each will be working on membership (primarily), under the direction of Vice Commander, Nelson Oldfield. Please contact me wayne.sorrentino@verizon.net or 716) 891-5164 if you're interested in being appointed as an Aide.

Please send me an electronic or hard copy of your Post's newsletter so my staff & I can keep up with what you and your Post are doing each month. My e-address is above.

Please keep Saturday, 12/19 open for my Erie County Christmas Party at the George F. Lamm Post Lounge from 1 to 5 pm. Bring a dish to pass to add to the variety of foods. An open bar will be provided. Plan to be there to enjoy the camaraderie of our Erie County American Legion family.

Please keep our troops in your daily prayers. Thank you again for all you do for our American Legion family. Keep charging!

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

It has been a busy month and membership is moving up. I am glad to see the Email with questions regarding membership. Many of you may have noticed that Department has adjusted your goals; It is good to see ERIECO Post 1586 in First place. For some of the Posts the number has gone up and this is based upon Past performance.

The Issue of Flags in the Cemetery was brought up again. Mike Weidman from Troop I who was at the September meeting came up with the same idea I thought about, it is based upon crawl before you walk. The First thing that I am going to do is work on the 39 Legion Posts and ask them for a Point of Contact at their Post along with a telephone number and the Cemeteries they cover. I will build a directory and at the meetings I will place the list of updates on our hand out table. I have 5 Posts that have given me their information at the meeting. If you have it you can also email it to me at nelson126@roadrunner.com I think this is an important Project and we need to support our Veterans wherever we can. We must never forget!!

Again, if you would like to be added to my membership email list please let me know. Have a great Veterans Day and support all our functions that you can and hopefully see you at the Gold Star Mothers Mass at Queen of Martyrs Church. I am looking forward to the Lamm Dinner for the Gold Star mothers and to give out membership awards. They will be given out for 1st Place in each Division.

I have a bounty on capturing Florida Legion members and bringing them into New York. Either a restaurant gift certificate or a Tim Horton's Coffee Card For each new member!!!

Please get as many membership cards as Possible turned in. If you only have a few turn that in and do not sit on them.

Thanks for being a member of the American Legion

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

As November is approaching I would like to express my hopes that you all experience an enjoyable and inspirational Veterans Day. I am grateful for your service and that of all those serving to defend our country today. I also hope that you choose to participate in some of the many veteran observances that will take place next month, especially the Erie County Veterans Day Dinner and the Veterans Day Commemorative Services conducted at Forrest Lawn Cemetery. I'm looking forward to seeing you there.

On behalf of ERIECO Women's Post I would like to thank everyone who attended or contributed to our annual corn roast. It was very successful and will allow us to continue to support children and youth and veteran assistance activities.

On September 26, it was my honor to present a Red, White, and Blue Award to Paul Stevens at Rock Oak Estates in Clarence, NY. The award was submitted by Clarence Post 838 to recognize Paul Stevens' efforts to establish a memorial with a flag pole in gratitude to the veterans in his community. If anyone knows of other citizens who have gone "above and beyond" to serve veterans and deserve recognition through a Red, White, and Blue Award please let me know.

As a female veteran I was proud to participate in the Homeless Female Veteran 1st annual 5k Race/ Walk on October 11. It was a nice mild autumn day for a walk/run in a beautiful South Buffalo neighborhood. Afterward everyone enjoyed a satisfying buffet style lunch served at South Buffalo Post 721. Many thanks go out to the Veterans for Veterans organization for all of their hard work in the cause for homeless female veterans.

On Friday night of October 16, I joined a strong representation of Erie County Legionnaires at the National Commander's Dinner in Batavia. The National Commander, Dale Barnett, who was a past high school social studies teacher, gave an informative and heartfelt talk that was not too long winded.

My last comment is please don't forget that we have a Legion Activity Board available at county meetings as an additional method to display flyers of up- coming events or other information to the delegation. I encourage you to bring flyers about future events or pictures of past activities for posting.



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

Calendar sales are moving along nicely. There are only two months remaining, so I encourage everyone to sell, sell, sell. The money we raise goes directly to supporting the programs, functions and activities of the Erie County American Legion. A calendar makes a great gift, even for yourself. The minimum prize is \$25 which is the price of the calendar and, because 2016 is a leap year, each calendar gives you 366 chances to win. The best part of all is that you don't have to worry about whether it'll fit or whether they'll like the color.

Right now there are over 730 calendars out for sale by 16 Posts. It would be nice if all of them could be sold plus a few more. If you would like to buy one or more calendars but, for whatever reason, you are unable to do so in person, just call 839-9109 or email me at bjorzechowski @ verizon.net. Two-day delivery is available anywhere within Erie County at no extra charge. Don't forget that I am (we all are) working on a challenge by VC Nelson Oldfield to sell at least one more calendar than he sold last year. We held the \$100 "Early Bird" drawing after the County meeting at Orchard Park Post on October 22nd. The winner, drawn from a total of 290 entries, was County Finance Officer Joe Porempski. Congratulations!

South Buffalo Post #721

Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1st Monday Spaghetti, 3rd Monday Beef

Donovan Post #1626,

3210 Genesee St., Friday Fish Fries 4 – 8 PM
Please try us out!! John Stiegler Cmdr.

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



SUBMISSIONS
For the December
"The Legion-Air"
due November 20
thelegionair@gmail.com

Welcome Home Veterans Parade Saturday 11/7 John Kasmer Chairman

Assembly starts at 11 AM from Delaware and Edward St. Looking for American Legion Family marchers and Color Guards to participate. Applications thru John Kasmer at 634-1128. Remember, as a veteran, you too are being honored with this annual parade.

Annual Gold Star Mothers/Veterans Day Mass and Dinner – PCC John Kasmer

The mass will be held on Saturday November 7, at Queen of Martyrs Church, 180 George Urban Blvd., near Harlem, Cheektowaga, NY at the 4 pm mass. Line up at 3:30 PM.

Annual Veterans Day Dinner

immediately after Mass at the George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, 14221. Cash Bar Cocktails at 5 PM, Dinner at 6:30 PM, \$20/person. Purchase tickets through Tim Van Patten at the County Office by Friday October 30. No tickets sold at the door.

Annual Veterans Day Luncheon

at Troop I Post #665, 432 Franklin St. Buffalo, NY 14202. It is our 50th year here to host the Veterans Day luncheon. Doors open at Noon and a turkey dinner with all the trimmings will be served at 1:00 PM, cost \$10.00. Our guest speaker will be Buffalo Comptroller Mark Schroeder. Save this date on your calendar. For reservations call 885-8084 or 885-8083. Denby Stowe Commander

Oratorical Competition - George Barton

The Annual Erie County American Legion Oratorical Contest will be held on Sunday, 12/6/15, at Noon at The David McKeever Post # 64, 1770 South Park Avenue, Buffalo, 14220. Letters to the schools in Erie County and Posts were sent out in September. As of today, I have not received any applications. It would be greatly appreciated if someone from each Post would take the time to talk to principals and teachers of schools in their area and try to get students involved. Refer to <http://www.ny.legion.org/orator.htm> for contest rules and the contest application. The contest will focus on the U.S. Constitution, to create interest in and respect for the basic principles of our form of government. To enter the competition, completed entry forms must be submitted no later than Friday, November 27, 2015. More information will follow in future reports and news articles.



Thursday County Meeting Dates Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

November 19, A.J. Jurek Post #1672

655 New Rd., East Amherst, 14051
Menu: Salad, Rolls, Turkey, Stuffing,
Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Apple Pie

December 17, F.J. Donovan Post #1626

January 14, Newcomb-Long Post #928

Sunday December 6

8th District Meeting - Orleans Co.

Jewell Buckman Post #529

Holley, NY 14470

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

Erie County Commander's Christmas Party Saturday December 19

join Commander Wayne Sorrentino at the George F. Lamm Post #622 from 1 – 5 PM to bring in the holidays.

Membership News –

8th District V.C. Jim Bojanowski

Congratulations go out to Erie County who leads the 8th District in the highest percentage of membership in the 8th District as of 10/13/15 report at 61%. If you currently don't use MYLEGION.ORG in your membership efforts, you should consider getting online with this national website. Valuable tools include reviewing and updating current paid members, downloading membership address labels, and identifying unpaid members from previous years to contact for potentially rejoining The American Legion. Also, consider running a Post revitalization effort in your Post. Help is available from the National organization on this effort. Thanks for your hard work so far and remember to ask a fellow veteran to join us today.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.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



Saturday November 7

AARP Safe Driving Course at Jurek Post, 8:30 AM to 3 PM. Lunch \$5. Insurance cost savings. Call Dick Schlierf at 634-9940.

Sunday November 8

All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner & Chinese Auction @ A. J. Jurek Post # 1672 from 2 – 6 PM. Adult or takeout - \$7, child under 12 - \$3, child under 3 - free. Price includes all-you-can-eat spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad, dessert, and tea/coffee. All proceeds donated to Erie County veterans' programs.

Saturday November 14

Holland American Legion's Annual Veteran's Day Steak Roast and Basket Raffle Dinner 6-8pm, Music by "TNT Rhythm and Tunes" 8pm-midnight, Holland Community Center, Legion Dr. Tickets are \$25/person

Saturday November 14

Turkey Night at A.J. Jurek Post #1672, 7 to 10 PM. Continuous turkey and ham raffles. Free beer and refreshments.

Sunday November 15

Spaghetti Dinner & Bake Sale at Donovan Post #1626 3210 Genesee St. from 1 - 5 PM, Cost \$8, 12 and under \$4

Sunday November 22

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.

Saturday November 28

Luncheon honoring West Seneca Post #735 Department Baseball Champions at 1 PM at Orchard Park Post #567. Order tickets by 10/21 from West Seneca Post #735.

Hamburg Post #527

Spaghetti dinners served every Thursday from 4:30 to 7 PM. Full order \$8 (2 meatballs), half order \$6. Includes salad.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [**thelegionair@gmail.com**](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by November 20 for the December edition.
PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor