



## *The Legion-Air*

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Commander

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August 2016

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

It has been an enjoyable time since becoming County Commander, the members of the American Legion are awesome.

I attended the Buffalo Stand Down at Bison field, War of 1812 Ceremony, 8<sup>th</sup> District Convention, Installation of Officers at the Erie County Women's Post 1586, Gold Star Mothers Marker dedication, the Department Convention, and unfortunately several Legion members' funerals.

In case you did not make the meeting and got a card in the mail from the Department of New York, it is for a yearbook they are trying to promote and sell. If you are not interested, please toss the card. The number on the card is not your Legion ID number but a computer generated number.

One thing that has been brought to my attention is bank signature cards, Please make sure they are current and that you have more than one signature on file. If for some reason you have a single signature, you may have a problem getting the funds. Please review your cards.

The Erie County Fair is coming up Sunday August 14. Church service is at 10:00 am, 11:30 Veterans Ceremony, 12:30 Line up for Parade, 1:00 pm Parade. If you're Post is not in the Parade and you are able to march, I would consider it an honor for you to march with the County and me. Bring your membership card you can receive free admission on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The Legion will be at the front of the Parade!!!

Finally there is a local football game UB Bulls vs. Army September 24. The Game starts at 6 PM and there is a concert by David Nail 3 hours before the game. Flyers were passed out at the last County meeting. Great price on tickets Regular price is \$30. For veterans, their family & friends \$10!!! Go Army!!

### **Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk**

These first weeks of summer have been busy ones. I joined our new Commander, Nelson, and Judge Advocate, Kathleen Garvey, at the Veterans' Stand Down at Coca-Cola Field on June 29. Information from prospective members was collected.

During July 14-16, I was part of the delegation that represented Erie County at the Department Convention in Binghamton. Some good news was announced. New York Department will be able to subsidize \$2.00 of the National Dues increase for one more year. Erie County Legionnaires earned several membership awards. Of special note, I'm proud to announce that Jerzy Folta of East Aurora Post #362 distinguished himself by being named the Department Recruiter of the Year and was given the Silver Brigade Award. Congratulations to Jerzy and I hope he is able to achieve similar membership results this coming year. Also at the convention, a resolution was presented that will affect membership if it is passed at the National Convention. It was recommended that 1979 - 1981, the period of the Iran-Contra crisis during which our military was mobilized world-wide, be added as a wartime period. This would open up another time frame for eligibility in the American Legion. We also learned that the motto of our new Department Commander, John Sampson, is "Tell Somebody." This can be done verbally or visually. We can "tell somebody" about the good things done for and by veterans by getting the word out and by being visible. In addition to words we can be deliberate in wearing Legion Logos on hats and shirts when we participate in community activities. We need to brag more in order to inspire veterans to want to be a part of our organization.

I would like to remind everyone in the Legion Family associated with Membership that the 2016 Membership Workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District will be on Saturday, August 13, at Botts-Fioritio Post #576 located on 53 W. Main St. in LeRoy, NY.

## Americanism – VC Michael Johnson

Fellow Legionnaires,

A big thank you to all the Posts and Legionnaires that participated in and represented the American Legion at Flag Day, 4th of July, and War of 1812 Events/Ceremonies in July!

There are many activities coming up in August that I HIGHLY encourage your Posts to attend. Attending these events does two things. First, it is a potential opportunity for your Post to recruit new members. Second, having Legionnaires present gets the American Legion in the public eye which is great for public relations.

On Saturday, August 6th from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., there will be a Welcome Home Event for all veterans at the Buffalo and Erie County Naval and Military Park, One Naval Park Cove, Buffalo, NY. A memorial ceremony honoring those who lost their lives in post 9/11 conflicts will take place at noon. If you plan on attending, bring a VA or Military ID for free entry. For more information, call [\(716\) 862-7344](tel:7168627344).

Sunday, August 14th is Veteran's Day at the Erie County Fair. Admission is free to all military, veterans, & auxiliary with American Legion, VA or Military ID. The day starts with a church service at 10 a.m. followed by a veteran's recognition ceremony and parade. Hope to see maximum participation from your Posts! If you need additional info, including a registration form if your Post is participating, please contact me at: [ecal@eriecountyal.org](mailto:ecal@eriecountyal.org) or [\(716\) 570-1246](tel:7165701246).

Also, a reminder to all Posts that the Legion encourages us to Get Out the Vote! In this Presidential Election Year, please consider holding a Get Out the Vote program at your Post!

**Congratulations go out to Past Erie County President Karyn Porempski** who was recently elected at the Binghamton New York State Department Auxiliary Convention as the candidate for the high office of Northeast National American Legion Auxiliary Vice President for 2017 – 2018. This National Convention and election will be held in Reno, Nevada August 18 – 24, 2017. Karyn is a Past President of Kensington Unit #708, Past 8<sup>th</sup> District and New York State President.

**Tonawanda's Post 264** is looking for members to join their marching band color guard. If anyone is interested, please contact Dave at 879-2841 for more info.



## Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful summer we are having! After receiving many requests for Delta Sonic car wash tickets, I ordered 200 more. They are \$10 (over \$15 value), never expire, and make you eligible for an additional free car wash for use up to five days later. As of this writing, I have 150 on hand and would be happy to drop some off. My e-mail is [fatony8705@yahoo.com](mailto:fatony8705@yahoo.com) and my number is 949-3341. If I do not pick up leave a message. Contact me if you want to buy/sell some tickets.

It may be mid-summer, but the 2017 lottery calendar fundraiser is almost upon us. They will be ready and I will have them on hand at the August 18<sup>th</sup> county meeting. I have been alerted that some of you have a specific number(s) that you like, contact me as stated above, let me know what they are and I will set them aside for you.

Next year there will be a combined 8<sup>th</sup> District/Erie County American Legion golf tournament. Peter Hurd, Tom Deinzer, and myself have been appointed to the committee and will be holding our first meeting in about a fortnight. The date will be Friday June 16, 2017. Golf will be followed by a dinner with refreshments included. More information will follow, so stay tuned. Thank you.

**PCC Dennis McCarthy** – if anyone has an extra bottle to restock the County Commander's refreshment cabinet, please donate.



**SUBMISSIONS**  
**For the September**  
**"The Legion-Air"**  
**Due August 22**  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

## **Membership (Continued) – VC Suzanne Quirk**

Sign-in for the workshop will be 9:00 AM. Seminar starts at 9:30AM-until 1PM. A free lunch will follow. The workshop is open to Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL members. If any posts are considering a mini-revite, I have copies of a procedural outline which can also be found on line at nylegion.net under membership. Our District Membership Coordinator, Wayne Sorrentino, would like to be contacted when a mini-revite is conducted to know the results.

Finally, Commander Nelson has made a challenge. The first four Posts that recruit a new member from Florida will receive a \$25.00 check. I know a lot of you are motivated by your belief in the American Legion and its accomplishments. The monetary incentive is nice too. Thank you for all of your continued hard work.

## **Special Olympics – Wayne Sorrentino**

The Special Olympics Picnic will be held in the George F. Lamm Post GROVE, 962 Wehrle Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221 on Sunday, September 18. The picnic will run from noon to 4:00 pm. Workers from Erie County, The Mighty 8th District, Auxiliary, SAL, and any others who wish to help, are requested to arrive no later than 11:30 am and to SIGN IN for job assignments. We will have a local karaoke musician for dance music, the 40 & 8 Train from Voiture 51 in Cheektowaga for rides for the kids and their sponsors, a petting zoo, the Erie County Sheriff's Mounted Unit. Depew Post #1528 workers will do the cooking. Donations are being requested to help offset the cost of this annual event and you may send your check payable to "Erie County Committee" to the Erie County American Legion, City Hall Room 609, 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, NY 14202. Be sure to note in the memo box "Special Olympics" so your generous gift gets to the right place. Thank you in advance for your personal and financial support of this great annual event.

## **Erie County Office Hours**

Staffed by Jim Bojanowski every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, excluding holidays.

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



## **Thursday County Meeting Dates**

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

August Meeting

Dress is Legion Casual

**We are looking forward to seeing all Posts represented at these meetings. Thanks go out to the 26 Posts who attended in July!**

## **August 18, Hamburg Post #527**

1 Memorial Dr., Hamburg, NY 14075

Menu: BBQ Chicken & Roast Beef, Salads, Dessert, & Coffee

## **September 22, Matthew Glab Post #1477**

## **October 27, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449**

## **Saturday August 13, 2016 Membership**

**Workshop for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> District**, at Botts-Fioritio Post #576 located on 53 W. Main St. in LeRoy, NY. Sign-in will be 9:00 AM. Seminar starts at 9:30 AM. Free lunch after meeting.

## **Sunday August 14 Erie County Fair**

- 10 AM Catholic Mass at Evans Bank Family Entertainment Complex
- 11:30 AM Veteran's Recognition Ceremony at Veteran's Park, located on the infield
- 12:30 PM Parade Lineup
- 1 PM Parade Starts

## **National Convention – Cincinnati, OH**

**August 27 to September 1** – the County Office will be closed the week of August 29.

## **National Commander's Testimonial Dinner Friday October 14** at Hamburg Post #527.

The newly elected Commander will be visiting WNY, let's shown him a big welcome! Cost will be \$30 per person for a family style roast beef and turkey dinner at 7 PM. Cash Bar. Send your payment to the Erie County Legion Office by Friday 10/7. No tickets will be sold the week of the dinner or at the door. We will also be asking for ads and boosters.



**Saturday August 13**

Hamburg Post 527 is holding their 5th Annual Golf tournament at Holland Hills Country Club. Shotgun start Noon, hole in one contest for a 2016 car sponsored by West-Herr of Hamburg. Lunch at the start, with a chicken & Rib dinner at the finish. Prizes and 50/50. Open to all. Cost \$80. Proceeds to benefit the VA Hospital and Homeless Female Veterans Transitional Housing Project. For information call Jim Koester 570-1349 or Dan Murphy 648-0792.

**Saturday August 13  
7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> District Membership Conference**  
(See details in article)

**Sunday August 21**  
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 \$8, children under 12 \$4, under 5 free.

**Saturday September 17**  
Benefit for Bill Herter at East Aurora Post #362, 1 Legion Dr. 14052 from 3 – 8 PM. Bill is recovering from cancer and heart illness. Tickets \$25 at the door. Food and entertainment included.

**Sunday September 18 Special Olympics picnic at the George F. Lamm Post.**  
(See details in article)

**Sunday September 25**  
ERIECO Women's Post #1586 will host their annual Corn Roast at the George F. Lamm Post #622 Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, 14221. 1-5 PM. Cost is \$12. Cost includes: door prizes, corn on the cob, hot dogs, salads, desserts, coffee, tea, pop and beer. No BYOB.

**Sunday October 9 Annual 5K race to benefit Homeless Female Veterans.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual race will be held on Sunday October 9 at South Buffalo Post #721, 136 Cazenovia St., Buffalo, 14210. Registration 9 AM, Race starts at 11 AM. Cost is \$20. Register at [www.score-this.com](http://www.score-this.com). Contact Anne Baglio at 592-3756 or Kathy Renner 822-6121.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by August 22 for the September edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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