



## *The Legion-Air*

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

Greetings Legion family & friends. A big Thank You to the Newcomb-Long Post Legion family for the excellent job on the dinner & hospitality for our January County meeting.

Please recruit a new member or sign up a lapsed member **prior to our next County meeting.**

Working together we must reverse the downward membership trend of the last several years. This year is shaping up to accomplish this mission with your continued help.

Congratulations again to ERIECO Post for smashing past the 100% mark with membership (now at 133.33%!!). I'm asking all Posts to continue your work with renewing and recruiting additional members. Thanks to all who are working on membership to keep our American Legion and Erie County strong, today, and into the future. Remember to "Just Ask".

I hope to see many of you at the Department Commander's Testimonial Dinner on Friday February 12 at Lamm Post #622.

Thanks to Hamburg, Orchard Park, Lamm, Donovan & East Aurora Posts for sending your newsletters to me. I'm not getting newsletters from our other Posts. I know great things are happening every month across Erie County and my staff & I would like to support your event.

The Mid-Winter Albany Conference was excellent. Thank you to all who stopped by my Erie County Hospitality Room for a few pops. It was great to see old friends and to make some new friends. Hill Day (2/29 & 3/1) will soon be upon us. This is a great opportunity to visit with our representatives in Albany. Lots going on with veterans' issues and The American Legion is in the forefront on all of these bills.

The Binghamton Department Convention pins are being offered for sale at the low price of \$3. I have a few extra pins if you'd like one.

God bless our troops.

Thank you for your efforts to increase the membership of our American Legion family.

### **Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield**

Use mylegion.org to see what members have paid. Mylegion.org is a great place to find members in Post 1. The list can be printed off the web site. Calling them person to person is best. Questions let me know.

If someone is having a thank a vet function see if you can set up a table to recruit members. If you need help, possibly our staff can help. Use membership applications, and a value-Brag sheet, a fact sheet about your Post, which includes your programs, funeral detail etc.

Help from National, seems far off. I recently did a report they requested and suggested some ideas including TV or Radio Advertising.

Those of you that have a Post, do you have signs up in the Post recruiting members? Signs should be on your bars and meeting areas. Keep the Sons in mind.

I am excited to report that our membership numbers are over 85% and want to thank all of you who have worked hard to get to this point.

One of things that I always look at is new members, If we are going to grow this is an important issue. Posts with 10 or more new members – East Aurora, Depew, & Newell Faulkner. Great job.

Last year in May we had 88% as our membership number for the County and we are only 3% away from closing in on 88 Percent. Please keep this going, as we close in on the end of the year, it will be much harder to bring our numbers up.

What type of program does your Post have in place for members who have not paid their dues? I prefer the phone approach, some prefer the mailings but I think one on one is best. When you have your meetings have your sergeant of arms check the members to see if they are current.

I receive the leads from Department and I have been emailing them to the Posts involved. It is very hard to hold on to them until the County meeting, and find out that no one is there from

## **Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk**

The holidays are in the past and it's time to get back to work. I only attended two Legion activities as December ended and January began. They included the Erie County Christmas Party festively hosted by George F. Lamm Post #622 on 12/19, and the Eighth District Oratorical Competition conducted at M.J. Brounshidle Post #205 on 1/10. Five bright, competent, and well-spoken contestants demonstrated their oratorical skills at the Eighth District Level. It made me proud to be a part of an organization that sponsored this type of activity for young people.

The end of January and the month of February present us opportunities to participate in activities which range from organizational, to historical, to patriotic, and to legislative in nature. The Mid-Winter Conference, January 21-23, allowed representatives from County, District, and Department to plan for the coming year. Points emphasized during the Americanism oriented sessions included the following. All posts should complete and submit consolidated reports by May. These reports are used by County and Department to determine Americanism Awards. Samsung Scholarships are available for Boy Staters and Baseball Players. Applications are on line. Background checks are now required for Boys State Counselors and Baseball Coaches. During February we will celebrate Presidents Day. Besides being a day off, it reminds us how important it is to be well informed and to take time to vote for the best qualified person to lead our country and our armed forces. February is also Black History Month. I have to say thank you to all of our veterans who have contributed to that history through their honorable service to defend our country. Finally, this February contains Leap Day which is included in the Hill Day Trip scheduled for February 29 – March 1. I believe Hill Day would be a very productive way to spend the extra day we get this Leap Year. I hope to see a strong representation of Erie County Legionnaires sign up for this trip to speak for veterans in Albany. It does pay off. Last year Legionnaires expressed the need for a grant for Boys State, resulting in Boys State receiving a grant of \$150,000 from NY State.

My parting request is the usual invitation to bring pictures and announcements pertaining to post activities to the County Meeting to share on the Legion Activity Board.



## **Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski**

Thanks to a nice spurt of activity during the past month, I'm happy to report that 2016 calendar sales now stand at 750 which is slightly above last year's count. On behalf of the Erie County American Legion, I'd like to extend a well-deserved "Thank You" to the Posts that sold calendars (21 in all) and to all the hard working people at those Posts that pitched in and made this year's Calendar project a success. The Posts that sold 50 or more calendars are: Hamburg (126), McKeever (80), Lamm (72), Newcomb-Long (62), Gierlach (56) and South Buffalo (51). These numbers may include sales by individuals from the Post who made a personal effort to sell calendars.

It's now time to turn to the County's next fund raising effort, typically the summer Golf Tournament. As you know, we had to cancel last year because we didn't get enough players registered. At the January County meeting I raised the question of having a golf tournament again this year and there seemed to be some support for it. I want to get a good sense of what kind of response we can expect this year before I commit us to a tournament. A fundraising alternative is selling Delta Sonic gift cards or car wash tickets. We would get them at a deep discount and sell them at a profit but still less than the actual value of the item. Everyone wins: D-S gets a charitable contribution write off, the County makes a profit on each item sold, and the buyer gets a bit of a discount on a car wash. I would very much appreciate some feedback on both of these options. Please call me at 839-9109 or email me at [bjorzechowski@verizon.net](mailto:bjorzechowski@verizon.net) and give me your thoughts.



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the March  
"The Legion-Air"  
due February 26  
[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)**

## Erie County Legionnaire of the Year

Your Post entry for this annual award must be received by March 1, 2016. Mail the resume and cover letter to Kathleen A. Garvey, 320 Crosby Ave., Buffalo, NY 14217. If you have any questions call Kathleen at 871-9266 or 907-8984.



### Membership – (Continued)

some Posts I have leads for. I would like to get them to you quick, so If you have an email please make sure you share it with me to make this happen if you have a email address.

I did enjoy myself at the Mid-Winter Conference and learned a lot about the Legion. It was a great place to learn about our programs and speak with many Legion members. If you have not attended one, please consider attending!!! It was a good week-end and a way to pick up some knowledge!

I understand that in downstate New York the advertising has begun. They are using Radio, TV, and American Legion "banners" on some websites. If you see one please let me know. The TV stations involved are DVY & the history channel. Time warner is the one who is handling the TV portion so If you have dish or Direct TV, I doubt you will see them.

### Erie County Office Hours

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

At the Albany Mid-Winter Conference, Buffalo Department Convention Chairman Jim Bojanowski presented a \$10,000 check to Department Commander James Yermas. The funds are to be used for New York State Veterans Temporary Financial Assistance.



### Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

#### **February 25, Troop I Post #665**

432 Franklin St. Buffalo 14202

Menu: Meatloaf, potato, vegetable

#### **\*\*\*Note: Date change for March**

**March 31, Thomas Tehan Post #1449**

#### **April 28, East Aurora Post #362**

#### **Sunday February 7**

##### **8<sup>th</sup> District Meeting - Erie Co.**

George F. Lamm Post #622

962 Wherle Dr. Williamsville, NY 14221

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

#### **Visitation to Erie County February 12**

**Department Commander James Yermas**

**Department President Janet Mahoney**

**SAL Detachment Commander**

**Joe Santacroce**

Luncheon will be held at AJ Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051 at 11:30 AM. Cost \$6.

Dinner will be held at George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wherle Dr. Williamsville, 14221.

Cocktails at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. Cost is \$30.

Purchase tickets through Erie County American Legion Office, 609 City Hall, Buffalo, 14202 by Friday February 5.

No tickets sold at the door.

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

Log on to our site to get up to date information on membership & current events in Erie County. All recent editions of the Legion-Air are also available online. Contact Tim Van Patten to be able to log on the members page for additional information.



### **Friday February 5**

Last day to reserve your ticket for the Department Commander's February 12 dinner to be held at Lamm Post #622.

### **Saturday February 6**

East Aurora Nam Era Vets Club is holding its yearly wine tasting party at 6:30 PM hosted by one of our own members, Rick Wells & the new owner of Aurora Liquor, Jill Hennig. \$15 donation includes the wine, food, your free wine glass to use for tasting, and a chance to win many door prizes. Reserve your tickets for East Aurora Post, 1 Legion Dr. East Aurora, 14052 Call 652-9862.

### **Sunday February 14**

ALL YOU AN 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, children under 5 free.

**East Aurora Post #362** begins its Lenten Friday fish fry season starting on February 12, through Good Friday March 25<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 PM. Dine in or take out. Choice of beer battered or broiled fish, macaroni salad, coleslaw, and choice of French fries, German, or American style potato salad. Chicken fingers also available. Fish cost \$11, or \$9 for senior citizens, and \$7 for children.

### **Donovan Post #1626,**

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

### **Hamburg Post #527**

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

1 Memorial Dr. Hamburg, 14051

### **South Buffalo Post #721**

Monday night dinners at the Post from 5 to 7 PM. 1<sup>st</sup> Monday Spaghetti, 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Roast Beef. 136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo, 14210

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by February 26 for the February edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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