



The Legion-Air

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January 2016

Commander's Message:

Greetings Legion family & friends. Kudos to our Donovan Post Legion family for the excellent job on the dinner & hospitality for our December County meeting. Much appreciated.

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.

Congratulations to ERIECO Post for achieving the 100% mark with membership. Thanks to all who are working on membership to keep our American Legion and Erie County strong, today, and into the future.

Thanks to Hamburg, Orchard Park, Lamm, Donovan & East Aurora Posts for sending me your newsletters. It's great to see that there's lots happening in our Erie County Posts!

We had a great time at my Christmas Party at the Lamm Post Lounge on Saturday, 12/19. All were "merry & bright" as the song goes, and the food and drink were outstanding. A special thanks & tip of the ol' Legion cap to Lamm Auxiliary, President Sally and her staff, my wife Dianne and to Post Commander Greg Voye for the decorations and the hospitality afforded us for this special event in my year as your Commander. God bless us everyone!!

The 8th District Oratorical contest will be held at Brounshidle Post on Sunday, 1/10/16, starting at noon. Please take some time from your day and cheer these students on by your attendance.

They will appreciate your support.

Plan to attend the January Mid-Winter Conference in Albany at the Desmond Hotel. I will need help with my hospitality room, on both Friday and Saturday nights. If you can help, with the bartending duties, let me know.

I hope to see many of you at the Department Commander's Dinner Friday 2/12 at Lamm Post. Please keep our troops in your daily prayers. Thank you for all you do for our American Legion family. Keep charging!

Membership – VC Nelson Oldfield

I had a Visit with the East Lovejoy Post and they are interested in bringing the Post back- 8 member cards were turned in. I met some of the members of the Big Timers club, who I understand have about 100 veterans in their group. They are presently considering my proposal to expand the Post, It would be great to keep a Post up and running in the East Lovejoy area where we have been since the 1940's.

Millennium Hotel had a Veterans Vendor Fair day- December 8th from 5 to 7 PM, Mike Johnson and myself were extremely busy, Mike was an asset and great potential in the American Legion. 15 People interested in joining the Legion, leads are sent to the local Post by Mike, Sign them up! I would not mind doing more of these 15 People in 2 hours!!

Anyone signed up a Florida member and has Proof? I still have a \$25 gift certificate to the Smoking Little Diner on Transit Road in Depew! Someone told they would have one at the last meeting, but it never happened this month.

Membership status- Erieco Women's in First Place 103.33, 2nd Place North Collins at 94.37% and Third Place Tehan Post at 92.98%

It was great to have the Erie County Ladies Auxiliary at our Christmas Month meeting. They are a strong asset to our organization and brighten the place up.

Please consider visiting our Posts in your area for a pancake breakfast or a fish fry, these funds help them keep their doors open and we need them.

Lastly I wish you and your loved one a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Americanism – VC Suzanne Quirk

January is named after the Roman god Janus who is represented artistically with two opposite faces, one looking backward and one looking forward. We are at the time of year when we review what we've done and then plan for what we're going to do.

Lately, I participated in activities involving children and youth as well as veterans.

On 11/21, I helped present awards (funded by the American Legion) at the JROTC Great Lakes Color Guard Competition at South Park High School. Hutch Tech earned the "Top Dog" position, but all the participating schools exhibited commitment and teamwork.

On 11/28, I attended the Baseball Award Luncheon hosted by Orchard Park Post #567 honoring the American Legion Baseball Team sponsored by West Seneca Post #735. The team demonstrated the skill and teamwork necessary throughout the summer to become the Department Champions.

On 12/6, I joined Legionnaires from Erie County and Eighth District to hang wreaths and visit with veterans at the Batavia VA Hospital. Gifts were distributed along with smiles and happy conversations.

Looking forward to the future I would like to ask you to start thinking about Red, White and Blue Awards and consolidated reports. If you are aware of an individual or organization in your community that has demonstrated patriotic acts "above and beyond" the norm, let me know and together we can submit a nomination for a Red, White and Blue Award citation.

With respect to consolidated reports, I encourage you to keep track of investment in terms of time and funds expended by your members in programs like volunteering in the VA and/or the community, scholarships, color guards, scouting, Boys State, etc. Initiating the organization of this information now will make it easier to complete the report in the spring.

I extend my wishes to all for good health and success in the New Year. Also, please bring pictures and announcements pertaining to your Post activities to the County Meeting to display on the Legion Activity Board.

Erie County Office Hours

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



Special Activities – VC Joe Orzechowski

Demand for calendars has continued through December. I've had requests for another 150 calendars this month bringing the total to 920 distributed among 21 Posts around the County. On the other side of the equation, there were 240 stubs turned in to me at the December County meeting which brings the total number of calendars sold thus far to 612. That leaves us just 105 shy of last year's total and leaves me 106 short of meeting VC Nelson Oldfield's challenge of selling at least one more than he did last year. I know time is getting short but, with 300 calendars still outstanding, I'm thinking that with your help, I have a shot at it.

As I mentioned, several Posts asked for additional calendars to sell and I'd like to thank the members of those Posts for putting forth that extra effort to help me – I mean the County – out. I would also like to recognize and extend special thanks to those Posts that have sold more than 50 calendars thus far: McKeever (71), Hamburg (83), Newcomb-Long (52), and Gierlach (56).

Calendar stubs and money must be in my possession by December 31 to be eligible to win, especially that \$150 prize on January 1. I can make special arrangements for last minute sales but you must contact me regarding these; no exceptions. You can call me at 839-9109 or email me at bjorzechowski @ verizon.net.

Finally, my wife Beverly and I want to wish you and yours a New Year filled with happiness, health and peace.



SUBMISSIONS
For the February
"The Legion-Air"
due January 24
thelegionair@gmail.com

Oratorical Competition - George Barton

It is with deepest regrets that I am reporting that the 2015 Erie County Oratorical Contest was cancelled this year, due to not having any contestants. I tried everything possible to get contestants to participate in this wonderful competition. Maybe next year. The 8th District Oratorical contest will be held Sunday, January 10, 2016 at Noon at Milton J. Brounsidle Post # 205 located at 3354 Delaware Avenue, Kenmore, NY 14217, with a snow date scheduled for Sunday, January 17. Winners advance to the State level for further competitions. Lastly, from my family and myself, I would like to wish everyone a Happy and safe holiday season.

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.
1st Monday Spaghetti, 3rd Monday Beef
136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo, 14210

Donovan Post #1626,

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

County Commander Wayne Sorrentino and Buffalo Convention Chairman Jim Bojanowski present a check to Auxiliary Convention Chair Karyn Porempski at the County Meeting.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

January 14, Newcomb-Long Post #928

7353 Lake Erie Rd. Derby, NY 14047
Menu: stuffed rolled beef, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetable, & chef salad.

February 25, Troop I Post #665

March 24, Thomas Tehan Post #1449

January 22 – 24 Albany, NY Department Mid-Winter Conference

Sunday February 7

8th 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 10 AM. Cost \$6.

Luncheon will be held at George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wherle Dr. Williamsville, 14221. Starts at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. Cost is \$30.

Please purchase tickets through Erie County American Legion Office, 609 City Hall, Buffalo, 14202 by Friday February 5. Tickets sold at the door.

County Website – eriecountyal.org.

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



Sunday January 17

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.

Members of the Erie County American Legion join the 8th District to visit the patients and present Christmas Wreaths at the WNY VA Hospitals.



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Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [**thelegionair@gmail.com**](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by January 24 for the February edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

*Best Wishes for a
Happy New Year to All!*