



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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September 2016

Commander's Message:

This month has really moved by. I had a great time at the Erie County Fair. I was proud to march with the County Legion Group as well as all the Legion Posts. I do not believe we could have had a parade without them!

We need to get as many Posts as possible to attend our County Meetings. The next one is at Matthew Glab Post. The information that is presented at the County meeting is of value to all Posts and we are a source for possibly helping you with your issues.

I attended a meeting with NYS Assemblyman Mickey Kearns on Post revitalization. Also attending for the Legion with me was, Bernie Romanowski, Jim Bojanowski & Joe Porempski. A few days back some paperwork was mailed out to the Posts please review it with your board and get it promptly returned. This is the next step forward in Post revitalization effort.

I asked the Posts to pass this down at our Last County meeting, you cannot transfer anyone into your Post from Post one without an actual signature from someone who is listed for 2016. This does not apply to 2015 or before. So, unless you can get a signature please do not put time into this program. I am looking into this further and will advise if something changes. For additional Information please contact Sue Quirk.

I was the Guest Speaker for the Veterans who were in Buffalo as Part of Kiwanis Club District Convention. A special Thanks to Al Federico who invited me from the group. West Seneca Post 735 who provided the Color Guard and County Aide John Stiegler who assisted me.

If you have the Car wash tickets please make sure they are not in your pockets but at the Post location with a copy of the promo sign up. I was concerned about the number of Posts who appear to have done nothing with them. Please contact Tony Solina if you need help or a sign.

Membership – VC Suzanne Quirk

I attended typical summer activities this month. First up was the annual 7th & 8th District Membership Workshop. Some highlights that I took away from the workshop: The Department Quota for 2017 is 107,750, Erie County Quota is 6,815, and the first target cut-off date to achieve 50% is September 12. Some selling points that membership reps have found productive are being familiar with the Department Legislative Agenda found on the Department website and charitable contributions made by your own Post during the past year. The Department Commander announced that anyone who recruits one new member will receive a Department Commander's membership pin. It was emphasized that Post #1 transfer documentation **MUST** have the member's signature. Post enhancements for membership recruitment purposes can be reimbursed by Department. The process for this is further described in the Awards Manual that is available on the Department website. The fact that the American Legion is a family of organizations was also elaborated on. We heard from the Auxiliary, the Sons, and the Legion Riders. All offer a variety of activities that could interest various members of a veteran's family. These are also selling points to present to a prospective member.

Two activities that will draw a large number of veterans will take place next month. Erie County will have a table/tent at both activities. The first, Armed Forces Retiree Appreciation Day will take place on September 17 in the Multi-Purpose Heritage Center at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Registration occurs 7:45 - 8:45AM. The other activity is the Army/UB Football game on September 24 at the UB Stadium. We hope to attract new members at both of these activities.

Let's all continue to be proud advocates of the American Legion, because membership is all of our responsibility.

Americanism – VC Michael Johnson

Thank you to all the Posts, Legionnaires, American Legion Auxiliary Members, Sons of the American Legion Members, Legion Riders, and families that participated in the Veteran's Day at the Erie County Fair on August 14th! It was great seeing all of our Legion Family units marching in the parade! I think we all looked very professional and represented the American Legion well. A big thank you to those who set up, worked, and cleaned up the District 8/Erie County tent. The food and camaraderie was great!

The 226th Birthday of the United States Coast Guard was on August 4th. The U.S. Coast Guard was founded on August 4, 1790 by Alexander Hamilton. Constitution Day is celebrated on September 17th memorializing the date that the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787. The 69th Birthday of the United States Air Force is on September 18th! Initially part of the U.S. Army, the U.S. Air Force was formed as a separate branch of the military on September 18, 1947 under the National Security Act of 1947. The United States Air Force is the youngest military branch, but the largest and one of the most technologically advanced air forces in the world! So to all of my fellow Air Force Veterans, Happy Birthday and Aim High...Fly, Fight, and Win!

On a personal note, I am returning to full-time graduate studies for priesthood at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora. Due to the requirements of Seminary, I will not be at Erie County meetings, but will try to attend any meetings or American Legion activities I can during breaks. I can be reached by phone: (716) 570-1246 or E-Mail: ecal@eriecountyal.org Be assured of my daily prayers for all of you.

William Pratt a 72 year member of the Frank H. Brink Post #607 celebrates his 100th birthday with 8th District Commander Jim Bojanowski



Special Activities – VC Anthony Solina

I hope everyone has had a great summer! I still have 150 of those Delta Sonic car wash tickets available. They are \$10, never expire, and you receive a free car wash that's good within five days of the original wash. If anyone would like any, I can mail them or personally deliver them to you. Contact me at 949-3341 or e-mail: fatony8705@yahoo.com

The yearly calendars are now available. They are a \$25 donation with numbers 000-999 based on the evening New York Numbers. Early bird drawing will be at the October county meeting on the 27th of that month at the Tehan Post. They will be at the County meetings the balance of this year, or contact me as stated above.

The 2017 golf tournament will be going on next year as a combined 8th District/Erie County affair. We are getting things put together but we are in the very early stages at the moment, more details to follow. Thank you.

North Collins Veteran's Tribute

The town of North Collins is creating a memorial in the shape of a star honoring each branch of the service in one of the points. Brick pavers will be sold as part of the design. For more information contact James Lint, 2568 Marshfield Rd., Lawtons, NY 14091. (716) 609 - 1906.

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.



SUBMISSIONS
For the October
"The Legion-Air"
Due September 23
thelegionair@gmail.com

Commander's Message (Continued):

A Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is being held at the Niagara Falls Reserve Station September 17. Military ID required for additional information Please contact Joe Reece at joseph.reece@us.sf.mil

Finally, there is a football game UB Bulls vs. Army September 24th. 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!! The County will have a membership tent there.

I will be attending the Cincinnati National Convention. Please keep this in mind should you try to contact me. The County Office will also be closed during this time and Labor Day.

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 financial support of this great annual event.

Hamburg Post #527 will start their weekly Thursday Spaghetti dinners on September 22 from 4:30 to 7 PM. Full order \$8, half order \$6 includes salad. 2 Memorial Dr. off Evans St.

Sunday October 2

Official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Buffalo/Niagara Military Lounge at 4 PM. Reception will be held at the Days Hotel 4345 Genesee St., Cheektowaga 14225. Shuttle service available to the lounge.



Thursday County Meeting Dates

Executive Dinner Meeting: 6:30 PM

Regular meeting starts approximately at 8 PM

We are looking forward to seeing all Posts represented at these County meetings. Thanks go out to all of the Posts who attended in August.

September 22, Matthew Glab Post #1477

1965 Abbott Rd. Lackawanna, 14218

Menu: Meatloaf, Potato, & Beans

October 27, Thomas E. Tehan Post #1449

November 17, A.J. Jurek Post #1672

Sunday October 2

8th District Meeting - Chautauqua Co.

Dunkirk Memorial Post #62

211 Central Ave.

Dunkirk, NY 14048

12:00 PM - Membership Meeting

1:00 PM – General Meeting

National Commander's Testimonial Dinner

Friday October 14 at Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, 14075.

Our newly elected National American Legion Commander will be visiting WNY. Let's shown him a big welcome! The Commander was not elected at time of this publication.

Cost will be \$30 per person for a family style roast beef and turkey dinner at 7 PM. The Post will be open at 5:30 PM for cash bar cocktails with Hors d'oeuvres. 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 are also asking for 1/8 page ads \$15 and boosters \$1. Program Book deadline is Monday October 3.

Erie County Office Hours

Staffed by Jim Bojanowski every Mon., Wed., & Fri. 7:30 am to 12:30 pm, excluding holidays.

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org.



Saturday September 10

Iroquois Post #1587 is holding their annual Fall Festival parade. Please arrive by 11:30 AM for the Noon start. Parade ends at their Post home 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14081.

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

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.

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.

2nd 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. Contact Anne Baglio at 592-3756 or Kathy Renner 822-6121.

Wednesday October 19

Compliance Workshop held at 1 PM Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Dr., Hamburg 14075. Department Compliance Chairman Dennis McCarthy has arranged NYS Gaming Commission to review all aspects of charitable gaming: pull tabs, queen of hearts, raffles, etc.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by September 23 for the October edition.

PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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