



The Legion-Air

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October 2024

Commander's Message:

Greetings! Legionnaires, Guests, SAL and Auxiliary

On Wednesday 28, August 2024

Myself and Joseph Porempski attended the Cheektowaga Veterans Services event. There were various agencies from the community, and County, providing information to veterans on Health Care, Veteran Rights, Veteran Benefits and a host of other programs. Also present were the Blue Star Mothers Chapter NY Buffalo – Niagara.

Tuesday 09 September 2024,

I had the Honor of performing the Swearing in Ceremony of the Legion and SAL Officers at Post 1449 – Thomas E. Thehan for the 2024 -2025 Legion year. I extended well Wishes to all those officers for a successful Legion year.

Tuesday 10 September 2024

An urgent request for assistance from the DNY regarding a Legion member from Post 1, within the County of Erie, Hamburg – Buffalo area. A Legionnaire was needed Financial Assistance. The DNY was seeking a Post to assist this individual in processing an Application for the Legions Temporary Financial Assistance Program. I have since picked up on this, brought this individual to the County Office and assisted said individual with the necessary forms, returned then to The Department of New York and also made a personal donation.

Saturday 14, September 2024

Joseph Porempski and I attended the Seneca Nation Festival in Irving. Some of the events that took place were a parade, Veteran ceremony dedicate to all those who served, those that are serving and a tribute to those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice. Various Indian cultural dances and displays. "Thank You!" Commander Ron Cook for your invite and being a gracious host. Of notation, the Seneca Nation presented a

Commander's Message: Continued

donation of One Hundred dollars to the County of Erie. As Commander, the check was returned to the Seneca Nation as a donation from County.

Tuesday 17, September 2024

Commander Phil English and I went to his post [George F Lamm] where the Erie County Honor Guard Ceremonial Rifles were stored for the purpose of conducting a physical inspection and accounting of said rifles. Thirteen rifles were accounted for. However, only 8 were that of the former County Honor Guard. A full report has been made outlining the discrepancies.

Tuesday 24, September 2024

I attended The Town Hall Session on Veteran Health Care sponsored by New York Assembly Pat Burke, hosted by the Matthew Glab *Post. Panelists comprised of Local Government Officials, Advocates and the VA Hospital Leadership to address the quality of Veteran Health Care.* Those in attendance were Bernie Romanowski and Paul Gordan – Post members, and Veterans from the community and the Veterans One-stop-Center.

Wednesday 25 September 2024

Received a call from Charlie LaHaise Department of New York Membership with an update on the Legionnaire that was seeking assistance. His application was accepted and will be forwarded to the next level. To that Legionnaire "In behalf of the Erie County American Legion. We wish you the best".

Be The One – Veteran Suicide, call those members that you haven't heard from in a while and check on their welfare. Use the "Buddy Check System" also to accomplish this task and remind them to renew their membership.

Remember Oktoberfest Sunday 10/20.

Membership – VC Pat Murphy

As of 8-30-24, we have 31 new members, 444 PUFL, 1595 renewals, for a total of 2076. The goal for members and Posts is to grow membership over the next 5 years by utilizing the following strategies.

CREATE BRAND AWARENESS,
COMMUNICATIONS,
TRAINING /LEADERSHIP DEVOLPMENT---
THRU POST DEVELOPMENT AND
REVITILATION,
MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING AND RETENTION.
Members can go online to MYLEGION and download or read the NY Plan for Sustaining and Membership Growth. I will give into more detail at each monthly meeting. If you go to MYLEGION there is information on goals for 2024 / 2025 years and awards for New Member Recruitment .and awards program, such as Bronze Brigade Recruiter Award for new members.
Contact me with your questions at 7162894143

Boy State Objectives- Tom O'Connell

A program of this scope and magnitude encompasses many objectives, below are the objectives we feel are most important and those for which we strive the hardest to attain;

A. To develop civic leadership and pride in American Citizenship. It is our earnest hope that each young man who attends Boys' State will return to his community a better citizen than when he left and that he will have a desire to demonstrate this fact by his willingness to make civic contributions which will help make his community a better place in which to live.

B. To stimulate a keen interest in the detailed study of our government.

C. To incite in these young citizens a determination to maintain our form of government.

D. To develop in these young men a full understanding of our American traditions and a belief in the United States of America.

The American Legion aims to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to their community, state, and nation in these young men and to charge them with the safeguarding of the principles of America, Democracy, Justice, and Freedom the legacy of their forefathers.

Americanism – VC Jerry Kowalski

We are moving quickly toward two very important dates in November.

November 5th "Election Day" A right given to all American citizens by the Constitution of the United States. Remember all votes count, so perform your civic duty and vote. Your vote will propel this country forward, on the issues that you feel are most important to you.

One Flag, One Land, One Vote, One Country.

Our second day is November 11th "Veteran's Day" is a day that is apart us. We are the citizens of this country. That defended the Constitution of the United States. The oath that we took is a lifetime commitment. We honor the Veterans of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This is a duty we don't take lightly. Take this day, to stop and reflect on this.
GOD AND COUNTRY.

Special Activities – VC Howard Patton III

The calendars sales have been doing quite well and I only have a few packs of calendars left. Be sure to see me and or call me if you would like to have some for your Post or to sell individually. They make great Christmas gifts and or stocking stuffers. This is truly the gift that keeps on giving because the calendar has a daily reward and you have to be in it to win it.

OKTOBERFEST 10/20 – Ted Balbierz

The Erie County American Legion Family will again have a 2024 Oktoberfest to benefit Variety Club 2025 Telethon. It will be held Sunday October 20th, from Noon to 5 pm at the George F Lamm Post 622 Grove, 962 Wherle Dr, Williamsville, 14221.

Hopefully, all those Posts, Units, Squadrons & Riders will support this year's Legion Family Oktoberfest Variety Club fundraiser. Last year, we raised and presented \$6,000 at the telethon. Erie County American Legion Auxiliary will be soliciting donations from all Legion Family organizations to support a Basket Raffle & Bake Sale during this event. Please reach out to President Cheri Hahn at chahn1380@verizon.net or Anne Baglio at ambaglio@verizon.net to RSVP any donations for the event. Event Posters and additional tickets are available by contacting me at tedb06@verizon.net or 716-534-6288. We are looking forward to your support of this very worthy cause supporting WNY's Children and Youth. Together we can make a difference.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY





Concord Post #431 American Legion Family led by Past 8th District Auxiliary President Anne Baglio, pictured above, collected thousands of pounds of school supplies to send to the families of our troops located in Guam. PCC Ted Balbierz worked with the Niagara Air Force Base for shipment. (Below)



Oratorical – Wayne Sorrentino

We need you to help secure contestants through your local high schools to compete in the Erie County Oratorical Contest. The top contestant wins \$25,000 at the National Competition, in May 2025, along with winnings for County, District, Zone and Department competitions.

The Erie County Oratorical Contest will be held at the Milton J Brounshidle Post in December 2024. More info on the firmed-up competition date later. I am also in need of Legionnaires and friends to assist me with running this contest. Please send me an email to wayne.sorrentino868@gmail.com with your interest and / or any questions about the various jobs, and we'll put you to work to help these young people achieve their goal. It takes a group of people to accomplish this mission, the jobs are not complicated, but the rewards are many. Thank you and waiting for your replies.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 10/24 at Iroquois Post #1587 located at 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14081. The Post will be serving Pork Loin, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, & dinner roll for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the **26 Posts** that attended the September County Meeting, 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 880, 900, 1041, 1131, 1320, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1659, & 1672, 1780, & 1928. This is our highest attendance in many years! Thanks to all who Attended! Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 10/24 meeting. For those not attending, please let us know what we can do to have you attend in the future.

Future County Meetings;

November 21, Gabriel A. Rodriguez #1928

December 19, Francis J. Donovan #1626

January 30, Niagara Frontier #1041

Department Leadership Visitation 2/14/25 - Ted Balbierz

We are looking for a Post to host the dinner for the visitation on 2/14/25. Please contact me at 534-6288 or at the September County Meeting if you are interested. Please indicate the total cost per person of providing the dinner for approximately 100 people. The County will handle the tickets and the program book through the Office.

8th District Conference

October 6 – Wyoming County

Hugh Lynch Memorial Post #737

550 W. Main St. Arcade, NY 14009

Membership Mtg – Noon

Conference – 1 PM



SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 25
thelegionair@gmail.com



The Iroquois Post #1587 Color Guard leads the Seneca Niagara Fall Festival Parade (L), while a number of Veterans ride the float in the parade (R).

Wednesday October 9, PCC meeting Depew Post at 7pm at the Depew Village Hall, Rm. 200.

Thursday October 17, Niagara Frontier Post 1041, 533 Amherst St., Buffalo Spaghetti Dinner 5 - 7 PM

Saturday October 19, Concertina All Stars are playing at the Matthew Glab Post 1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218. Tickets are \$15.00. Doors Open at 6:00 PM. Polka Music from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Polish Food will be available for purchase.

Saturday October 19, Orchard Park Post 567 will be holding a Meat Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each. Tables of 8 can be purchased for \$80. Raffle to be held at Wings Meeting Place 3964 California Rd. Orchard Park. For more information call the Post at 716-662-9780.

Sunday October 20, 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 \$10, children under 12 \$4, children > 5 free.

Sunday October 20, Erie County Oktoberfest at George F. Lamm Post 622 – See article pg. 2

Friday October 25, Halloween Costumed Meat Raffle at Milton J. Brounshidle Post 205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, \$10 advance, \$12 door sales, first spin at 7 PM.

Sunday October 27, Milton J. Brounshidle Post 205 Pancake Breakfast 9 Am to Noon. \$10.

Friday November 1, Gierlach Post 1320 is hosting a meat raffle at the Elks Club 33 Legion Parkway in Lancaster starting at 7pm. Tickets \$10 advance \$12 at the door. Call Fred at 716-894-3837 for tickets.

Newell Faulkner Post #880, 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057. Normal Hours: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 3 to 9 PM, Fri. 11 am to 9 PM & Sat. 11:30 am to 9 PM. DINE - IN OR TAKE OUT, Tuesday Taco Night, Wednesday 10 for \$8.50 Wings special, dine in only, Thursday Steak Night, Friday Fish Fry & Specials, Saturday Pizza & Wings and Sandwiches. www.post880.com

Matthew Glab Post #1477, 1965 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers and weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings, Taco's \$4.00.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 is now the new home of Frank's Country Kitchen and Catering. Starting September 6, the new menu will include a child menu, and monthly specials. Friday Fish Fry dinners will be 4-9 pm with live Bands from 8-11pm. Dine in or take out available, call 716-896-3346.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/25 for the November 2024 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

Erie County Website – eriecounty.al.org

Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM Phone: (716) 852-6500 Fax: (716) 852-4664

Veteran14202@verizon.net

Department of New York website - <https://nylegion.net>

National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>