



The Legion-Air

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Commander's Message:

Yes, summer is over. It was hot here and every day in Tampa Florida at the 106th National Convention. Some of the Erie County staff and I attended the National Convention and there were several meetings that we attended. One of the sessions the staff and I witnessed the election of the Officers for the Sons of the Legion. I was educated on the workings of the Sons and how closely they work with the Legion. The N. Y. Breakfast and caucus, presented the Department plans to move forward this year. I want to thank Jim Bojanowski and Joe Porempski for their guidance at the convention.

On September 11th I and Jim Bojanowski attended the Flags on the Bridge ceremony. We were joined with Buffalo Police, Firemen, EMT Personnel and the Marine Corp Color Guard. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of 9/11. Come - bring your flag and honor the fallen.

I attended the Seneca Fall Festival with Sue Quirk and Joe Porempski from the Erie County staff along with the Donovan Post Rifle Team. I am disappointed for the poor showing from 34 other Posts. The Seneca Post is a fine organization and I have talked about them and what they do every year.

The Vietnam Moving Wall and Gold Star Mothers Tribute is coming to Cheektowaga Pine Lawn Cemetery @ 2957 Harlem Rd. opening ceremony is Oct. 2 at 6:30 p.m. We are looking for volunteers to staff our Erie County table 10/4 & 5.

On Sept. 20, Joe Porempski, his daughter Holly, Bernie Romanowski, Gary Wald, and I attended the Blue Star Mother's Dinner at Salvatore's Restaurant. Holly has a son in the army Air Assault Company. What a wonderful group of mothers supporting their children in the active military. Please consider making a donation to this worthwhile group.

Membership:

Membership is the backbone of the American Legion the 2026 Target Dates are: 9/3/25 – 50%, 10/8/25 – 55%, 11/6/25 – 65%, 12/3/25 – 75% Last month we concentrated on Increasing Brand Awareness, and Creating Effective Membership Teams. This month we will concentrate on two areas to help increase our membership:

1. Check Post 1

From September to December Veterans could be persuaded to transfer to your post by sending a friendly and inviting letter to attend your monthly meeting.

Make them aware of the activities of your post and make them an invited guest.

Feel free to take a copy of the phone script and flyer that is provided.

2. Mylegion.org

Let's put forth every effort to become an active Mylegion.org user. For the membership chair that does not use this valuable resource, let's give it a try. Using the website allows for accurate and prompt membership activity. I am willing to come to your post and assist with the transition.

3. Remember the free tactics

Social Media: To tap into the younger Veterans, social media is a great tool, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.

Retention: The current members can help recruit new members as they are encouraged to renew their membership.

Commander's Message: Continued

Thank you to Niagara Frontier Post for inviting me to their meeting where I met three of the boys that went to Boy's State this year. I am looking forward to attending other Post Meetings during this year, call me at 716-681-7169.

Americanism – VC Pat Murphy

Teddy Roosevelt has always been one of my favorite presidents. He seems to have accomplished so many things in his life and always championing for the right side of history. He was president from 1901 till 1909, he was a wealthy man, from a wealthy family, that thought politics, was beneath them. But Teddy wanted to be where the action was, where the laws were being made, and help shape this country. Teddy popularized the term “hyphenated Americanism” this is part of the speak he gave on October 12, 1915. “There is no room in this country “for hyphenated Americanism” German - American , Irish- American, English- American, French- American, Scandinavian- American, or Italian – American, “There is no such thing as a hyphenated American, who is a good American. The only man who is a good American is the man who is an American and nothing else.

This may sound a little too conservative, and sexist but he continued. “Any discrimination against aliens is wrong, for it tends to put immigrants at a disadvantage and to cause him to feel bitterness and resentment during the very years when he should be preparing himself for American citizenship. If an immigrant is not fit to become a citizen, he should not be allowed to come here. If he is fit, he should be given all the rights to earn his own livelihood, and to better himself, that any man can have.” Teddy , is someone we should all read about. He was a veteran of the Spanish American war, fought corporate greed. He left the republican party in 1912 because he thought they were “too cozy” with big business and started a progressive party nicknamed “ the Bull Moose Party” after he told a reported he felt as strong as a bull moose. He is the President that saved the land we now call our national parks. These are only two small sections of his speech back then before, radio, tv, and mass media, orators orated.

Trivia On October 14, 1912, while on his way to give a speech, he was shot in the chest by a would-be assassin, the bullet went through his steel eye glass case, and 50 sheets of paper his speech was on, then entered his chest. He continued to the meeting, giving his speech telling all present that he had just been shot and would not allow his wound to be treated till the speech was over.



Special Activities – VC Paul Wackowski

The 2026 Calendars are here, and I started Distributing them at the September meeting. Thanks! to those posts that took them thus far. Hopefully additional Posts can help. This is our major fundraising for the year to support our American Legion programs. I can be reached at 716 262 5245 to arrange distribution to you.

Oktoberfest – Ted Balbierz

Just a reminder that Erie County American Legion Family will be hosting our 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Variety Club Fundraiser at the Lamm Post Grove on Sunday October 19 from Noon until 5 pm, \$10 Admission tickets will be available at the door and Bratwurst, Hotdogs & Beverages and Baked Goods will be available for purchase along with the opportunity to support a Basket Raffle.

I Thank all those Posts who have already answered the call and have donated \$500 supporting the Children & Youth in our Local community. Please keep the donations coming from all the Posts, Units, Squadrons and Riders. As previously stated, the Sum of all our Legion Family contributions, will result in a sizeable donation that each Legion Family entity can credit to their annual Children & Youths donations, on your Consolidated Post Reports (CPR).

Thank you all for your continued support of the Children of the Variety Club and we look forward to seeing everyone, Prost!!!

Boys State - Bernie Romanowski

Working with Terry McGuire at WBBZ-TV we will air a TV show about Boys and Girls State. Terry is a Co-Host of the WBBZ-TV “Those Who Served.” The purpose is to advertise the benefits of this valuable American Legion Program. Erie County had only 24 Boys attend the 2025 program. We are hoping to get more candidates this year and will include the Auxiliary Girls State program in the show. This will also give us the opportunity to solicit funding from outside the Legion.

Law & Order – VC Pat Murphy

Please remember Lt Alison Russo, an EMS Lieutenant in NYC who was stabbed to death while in uniform and walking by her the station house in 2022. A suspect is in custody for this unprovoked murder/ and was sentenced to 25 years to life for the unprovoked attack.

Erie County has started a new EMS program in the south town with newly hired EMS personnel responding to call to assist the south towns with calls for service. The county ambulance and fast response cars are located at the Colden Town Fire Station #1 till a building can be built. I speak from personal knowledge, as I am an EMT with the Colden Fire Company. This unit is a wonderful asset. Their 24-7 response is saving lives. They have a great mixture of new and experienced personnel and seem to work seamlessly with suburban EMS units

Please remember a career/ volunteer in any of the fire, law enforcement, EMS services deserve to be acknowledged. They are all unsung heroes. Since this was written there have been more Police Officers killed on duty. Please remember them. I stated in my last letter there were over 64 active fires across the country as of 8-11-25 there are more than 100 wildfires out of control.

Trivia October 27th is national First Responders Day of Appreciation. This is a day to honor all those who go in harm's way every day.

Thursday 10/2 to Monday 10/6

The Mount Calvary Heritage Foundation will honor our nation's heroes with two memorial veteran walls - The Moving Wall and the Gold Stars Tribute Wall at Pine Lawn Cemetery in Cheektowaga, NY. This event will be a powerful and moving tribute to Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan war troops killed in action. We are anticipating hosting over 50,000 throughout the duration of the event. The Erie County American Legion will need volunteers to staff a table at there. Contact Howard Patton or Jerry Kowalski.

Scouting – Felton Davis

Now is time for Scouts and Posts to see if they qualify for Scouting Scholarships for Scouts and Scouting Awards for Scouts and Posts given by many levels of the American Legion and Scouting America organizations. Take the time to document and fulfill their requirements. If you have questions or need help, please contact me at: felton1@aol.com.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 10/30 at Iroquois Post #1587 located at 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14081. The Post will be serving a Ham dinner with Salt Potatoes, Mixed Veggies, Roll & Dessert for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 21 Posts that were in attendance for the September County Meeting at Matthew Glab Post #1477. Posts in attendance were; 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 721, 799, 838, 900, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, 1780, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 10/30.

Future County Meetings;

November 20, Gabriel A. Rodriguez #1928

December 18, Francis J. Donovan #1626

January 29, Open, need a Post Host, no dinner is scheduled due to potential weather issues. Previously scheduled Post had a conflict with the date.

Sunday October 5, 8th District Conference

Fawcett Post 1582, 83 W. Main St.,
Canaseraga, NY 14822 at 1 PM.
Allegany County

Friday October 10, National Commander Dan E. Wiley Visitation Dinner

Samuel L. Derby Post #556, 9 Meadow Lane,
Frewsburg, NY, 14738. Social hour at 6 PM,
Dinner at 7 PM.



SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 31
thelegionair@gmail.com



Sherry Byrnes from the National Association for Mental Illness spoke at our last County Meeting about their new free six-week Homefront Program starting 10/14 for veteran family members and caregivers. She is pictured (L to R) with Joe Porempski, Jerry Kowalski, Jim Bojanowski, and Howard Patton III.

Picture by Sue Quirk.



Erie County Commander Jerry Kowalski makes remarks during the 2025 Seneca Nation Fall Festival Memorial Service while Iroquois Post #1587 Commander Ron Cook Jr. observes.

Picture by Sue Quirk.



Jesse Clipper Post 430, members go walleye fishing. Left to right: Perry Civils, Rev. Eugene Pierce, and Bill Barber are pictured with some of the walleye caught during their fishing trip to Westfield, NY, on Thursday, September 18, 2025.



Tom Petrie of Buffalo-Niagara Honor Flight was presented with a Department of New York American Legion Red White & Blue award at their recent Board meeting. Pictured (L to R) with Tom are Depew Post 1528 Commander Tom Johnston, Adjutant Jack Betz and Past Commander Jake Schu.

Graves & Registration – George Barton

Tuesday, November 11, is Veteran's Day. The Erie County American Legion will be having its annual ceremony at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 9 AM. Decoration of the graves will start at 8 AM.

Wednesday October 8, PCC meeting at Depew Post at 7 PM.

Friday October 10, South Buffalo Post #721 is holding a Pig Roast. \$12, 4:30 – 7 PM.

Saturday October 11, Francis J. Donovan Post #1626 OKTOBERFEST featuring the Lederhosen Lads from 6 – 9 PM. \$10. Refreshments and German Food available for purchase.

Sunday October 19, 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.

October 18 & 19, USAF Band & Singing Sergeants' Free Concerts in Buffalo Area. 10/18 @ 3 pm / N. Tonawanda High School Auditorium, 10/19 @ 3 pm / Kleinhans Music Hall.
<https://www.music.af.mil/USAFBand/Events/National-Tours/Concert-Band>

Saturday November 8, Concord Auxiliary Unit 431 is sponsoring a Veterans eat free spaghetti dinner from 3:30 to 6:30 PM, 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, NY 14141. Includes two meatballs, salad, bread, dessert, coffee and tea. \$10 for all others, 9 - 4 years \$5, 3 & under Free.

Orchard Park Post #567, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Dinners at the Post are from 4 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Monday: Beef on Weck, Tuesday: Tacos: Tacos, choice of beef or chicken, Hard shell or Soft. Wednesday: Chiavetta's Chicken & Ribs BBQ 2 – 6 PM, Thursday: Pasta Night! Comes with Salad, 2 meatballs and garlic bread. Friday: From the Grill.

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.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. We are happy to announce we are the new home of the Polish Villa 2U food service! Serving the finest cuisine every Friday from 4 -8 PM. Come join us at The Foxhole Bar and enjoy an ice cold Spaten beer! Live music every Friday from 7 till 10 PM .Always open to the Public!

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/31 for the November edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org

Phone: (716) 852 - 6500 Veteran14202@verizon.net Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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