



The Legion-Air

Pat Murphy
Commander

Jim Bojanowski
Adjutant/Editor



thelegionair@gmail.com
(716) 852-6500

August 2026

Commander's Message:

Well, July is flying by and the Erie County Fair is fast approaching. We are looking for photos from Legion Posts that marched in past Erie County Fair Parades. Also, items of interest, old uniforms, drums, bugles that type of thing, to show in the American Legion display booth. I hope to see many of the American Legion Family on Veterans Day Sunday August 16.

I and the Staff went to meet Timothy Winterhalter regarding our Reserve Fund. Attended the Past Commanders Picnic which was a good time on a great summer day.

We had great attendance at the 108th Annual American Legion Convention in Syracuse. It was an excellent learning experience. I would say if you have the time, it is a great little vacation for you, and a great way to see New York State. At the Convention, you can learn about what other Post are doing and make contacts and learn what is on the future agenda for the American Legion. There were many informative lectures and some enjoyable trips to local Legion Posts and local points of interest in the Syracuse area.

I am proud to announce that Past Erie County Commander Arthur Forman was elected New York State Department Vice Commander for 2026 – 2027. For the future, our own Adjutant James Bojanowski is now the trailing candidate for Department of New York Commander 2028 – 2029. Best wishes to the both of them!

Department Membership Conference Sunday August 2 at Botts-Fiorito Post #576, 53 W. Main St., LeRoy NY, starts at 9 AM.

Membership: Howard Patton III Erie County Membership Campaign Is Underway!

Erie County American Legion is excited to begin another membership year as we work together to build on the outstanding growth and success we achieved last year. Every renewal and every new member strengthens our organization and ensures that we remain a powerful voice for veterans, their families, and our communities. Membership cards have arrived and are currently being distributed to posts. Please encourage your members to renew early. Early renewals strengthen your Post and help Erie County continue its membership success. Post Membership Officers are encouraged to use **myLegion.org** to generate renewal reports, send reminders, and contact members who have not yet renewed.

Multi-Year Membership Options

- **Already renewed for 2026?** Visit <https://www.legion.org/renew> to purchase a multi-year membership for **2027, 2028, and 2029.**
- **Renewing for 2026 or joining for the first time?** Visit <https://www.legion.org/renew> or <https://www.legion.org/join> to purchase a multi-year membership for **2026, 2027, and 2028.**

Reminder: If applicable, please sign in to your **myLegion** account before clicking either link. Together, let's keep the momentum going and make 2026 another successful membership year for Erie County!

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:

The Erie County American Legion remains committed to maintaining a strong dedication to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), emphasizing support for all veterans, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation.



Iroquois Post #1587 was selected to present the Colors at the Buffalo Bison Baseball Game on June 20. (L to R) Commander Ron Cook Jr., Reginald Kohler, James Papas, Patrica Schindler, Ron Jamieson, & Barry Printup.



2026 New York Boys State Chief Justice gives the oath of Office to Leonidas Boyd from Cleveland Hill High School who was elected as New York Boys State Attorney General. Leonidas was sponsored by the Adam Plewacki Post #799. County Chair Bernie Romanowski reported 16 Erie County boys attended this year's program. Hopefully we can increase this in 2027.



Americanism: VC Bruce Mayfield

Congratulations to Hamburg Post Baseball Team. They are the 8th District Champions. They have moved on to the Department Championship being held at Penfield High School in Penfield, a suburb of Rochester. They defeated Lamm Post in a best 2 out of 3 series.

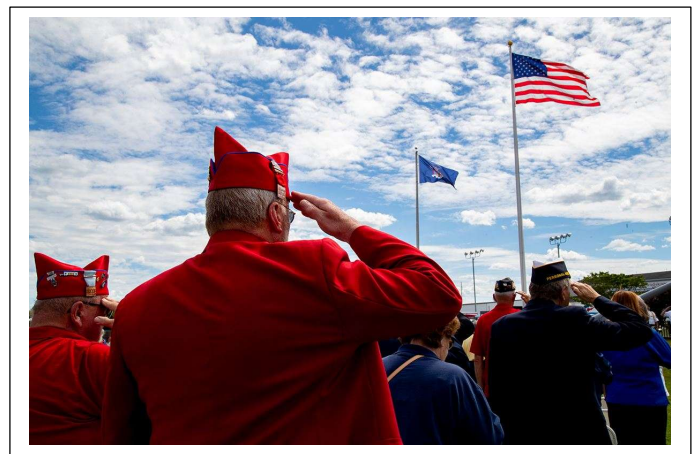
Congratulations to Erie County for being inducted into the Western New York Baseball Hall of Fame.

Special Activities: VC Keith Bender

Our annual calendar sales should be ready for distribution at the August 20th County Meeting.

Erie County Fair Veterans Day Sunday 8/16/26 – Jim Bojanowski

Free admission and a \$10 voucher for all Veterans, Auxiliary, and SAL members. Erie County Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson is arranging a Catholic Mass at Noon at the Family Entertainment Complex. There will be a Veterans Memorial Service at 1:30 PM in the track infield with yours truly as MC. We are scheduling a guest speaker and a MEPS induction ceremony. A US Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held each evening at 6:30 PM presented to a local Veteran. Join us!





Newly elected Department Commander Thomas Schreck is installed by Department Judge Advocate Kathleen Garvey.



Department Judge Advocate Kathleen Garvey installs the five Department Vice Commanders. Our own, Arthur Forman will represent the 7th & 8th Districts.



Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski seconds the nomination of Thomas Schreck for Department Commander, while Department Commander John Miga observes.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 8/20 at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 located at New & Smith Rds., East Amherst, NY 14051. The Post will be serving an Italian Sausage, plus sides \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 29 Posts who were in attendance for the July May County Meeting at the George F. Lamm Post #622. This may be an all-time record! Overall Posts that were in attendance for all or part of the evening were; were 63, 64, 78, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 567, 607, 622, 721, 735, 799, 838, 880, 900, 928, 1041, 1131, 1346, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, & 1780. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 8/20.

2027 Membership Cards and a copy of the new 2026 Officer & Adjutant Guides were passed out at the July 23rd Erie County Meeting to all Posts in attendance.

If you have not turned in your newly elected Post Officers yet, please send the OCF form to County Headquarters ASAP. Email is OK. I am still looking for 12 Posts.

Future County Meetings;

September 24, Matthew Glab #1477

October 29, Iroquois #1587

November 19, Gabriel Rodriguez Post #1928

Department Membership Conference

Sunday August 2 at Botts-Fiorito Post #576 starts at 9 AM..

**National Convention Louisville, KY
August 29 to September 3**



**SUBMISSIONS
For the September
"The Legion-Air"
Due August 21
thelegionair@gmail.com**



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Sen. George Borrello displays a wampum belt presented to him by retired U.S. Army commander Sgt. Ronald L. Cook Jr. on behalf of the Seneca Nation. The gift recognized Borrello's support for the Nation and for veterans. Pictured (from left) are Cook, Seneca Nation President J. Conrad Seneca, Borrello and Tina Abrams.

Photo Credit: Office of Sen. George Borrello



Some of our Erie County Delegates attending the Syracuse Department Convention in July. Seated (L to R) during a break in the action, Timothy Van Patten, Ted Balbierz, Tom Deinzer, Joe Porempski, Jerry Kowalski, Jim Bojanowski, & Sue Quirk.



Timothy Van Patten installs 8th District Commander Michael Jones (L to R)) and 8th District Vice Commander Ted Balbierz during the Caucus at the Syracuse 2026 Department Convention.
Pictures by Sue Quirk.

Sunday August 2, Buffalo & Eire County Naval & Military Park is celebrating America's 250th Anniversary. Contact buffalonaivalpark.org

Saturday August 22, Frank L. Gierlach Post, 50 Gates St., Sloan, will host its annual Hot Dog Event and Basket Raffle from 9 am to 1 pm.

Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672 reports no breakfast will be held in August. (Vacation time)

Saturday September 12, Iroquois Post 1587 invites all Legionnaires to join the Seneca Nation Fall Festival Parade. Starts at Noon. Meet at the Post by 11 AM.

Senior Wishes is honoring Veterans 65+ with Hero Boxes. Contact seniorwishes.org

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.

The Post has Friday Cruise Nights from 5 to 8 pm, with \$10 meals, every 3rd Thursday Flag Retirement Ceremony at 5 pm, and Music on the Lawn, First Friday with \$10 BBQ Rib meals.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. The Foxhole Bar Open M-F 2 PM till 6 PM. Hall and Catering services always available, please call Gary at 716-319-4383. Dining room and restaurant Polish Villa 2U will reopen September 4th, 2026. Bateman Memorial pavers can still be purchased at the Bar.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 8/21 for the September edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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

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