



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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Commander's Message:

I would like to take a minute to speak about honor flight. Their contact information is easily obtained online at

BUFFALONIAGARAHONORFLIGHT.ORG

I have been informed that veterans who served before 1975, should obtain and fill out the form to go on Honor Flight. All the information and costs are there. Veterans should get this done ASAP. There is a two-year waiting list, as of now. But if you submit your forms and are on the list, and something comes up, in the way of a severe illness, you could possibly get moved up. So do this for your family and yourself.

The Erie County Fair was as usual a great success. Thank you to all that helped with the American Legion booth, the setting up and manning to for the length of the Fair. Special thanks to Sue Quick who did so much work on Legion exhibits. and James Bojanowski for the photos of past Legion fair participations. Thanks to Ted Balbierz, Jerry Kowalski, and Joe Orzechowski for their booth supplies.

On 8/16 Veterans' Day at the Fair, I attended the Mass for veterans and their families. Our Father Mike Johnson said the Mass. We then went to the center area of the racetrack and had a ceremony for all veterans and a special induction of over sixty young people entering all branches of the military service. There was a parachuter with a large flag who landed by us, and a 102-year-old Army Airforce veteran who was our guest speaker. As always, our Adjutant James Bojanowski did an excellent job as MC of the Veterans Ceremony. The Fair went on until 8/23. Attendance at the fair the fair is great local event honoring our history and growth as a County, State, and Nation .

Membership: Howard Patton III

The backbone of the American Legion. The 2026 - 2027 Target Dates are: 9/3 – 50%, 10/7 – 55%, 11/5 – 65%, 12/2 – 75%, 1/6 – 80%, 2/3 – 85%, 3/3 – 90%, 4/7 – 95%, 5/5 – 100%

1. Cards – all Posts should be in possession of their respective membership cards.

2. Increase Brand Awareness

- When out and about, i.e., the supermarket, mall, gas station, be sure to wear your legion cap, or Veteran cap. If and when you see a Veteran with a hat, shirt, or license plate engage them and tell them about the American Legion and invite them to join. Also inform them about the multi-year membership.

3. Create Effective Membership Teams within your Post

- Everyone can be a part of the team; you need people who are go-getters to work on membership year-round. The team should be organized with clear, obtainable membership goals and a plan of action to achieve them that has a developed set of action plans that are repeatable. This can be made fun through incentives as well.

4. Remember the free tactics

- **Check Post 1:** Veterans could be persuaded to transfer to your post
- **Social Media:** To tap into the younger Veterans, social media is a great tool, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.

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.

Flags on the Bridge – September 11

Gather with the WNY Community as we fly the American Flag in remembrance of the fallen Heroes and Victims of September 11, 2001 from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM.

Oktoberfest – Ted Balbierz

On Sunday October 18, from 1 – 7 PM your Erie County American Legion Family will be hosting its Fourth Annual Oktoberfest to Benefit Variety Club of WNY at the George F Lamm Post Grove 962 Wehrle Dr, Williamsville, NY 14221.

Last year's event raised \$11,200 and we have raised a total of \$24,200 in the three prior years events. We are requesting all Erie County Legion Family Posts, Units, Squadrons & Riders please support this great cause by donating from their Children & Youth programs. If just the 35 Posts alone make a \$500-\$1000 Donation we could walk into this event with up to \$35,000.

Legion Family organizations interested in donating, please remit checks payable to: Erie County American Legion, Memo Oktoberfest and mail to: Erie County American Legion, 65 Niagara Square Rm 609, Buffalo NY, 14202. We will be accepting donations at the door. Be sure to mark any donations made on your CPR.

Cost of admission will be \$10 Donation at the Door (with a chance to win a Flat Screen TV), Bratwurst and Hot Dogs will be available for purchase along with a Cash Bar. The Bills vs Raiders Game will be on the Grove Televisions.

Erie County American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a Bake Sale & Basket Raffle at the event and a Special Basket Raffle to benefit Variety will be held Sunday February 28th at the Milton J Brounsidle Post Pancake Breakfast.

Everyone has a story, of the great work that Buffalo Children's Hospital does to care for the Children of WNY and it's that time of the year where we as a Legion family can step up and provide this valuable assistance.

Scouting – Felton L. Davis

As we start another School year, each Post's Adjutant is requested to forward the name and contact info to me in order to generate assistance for the Posts and their Scouts to boost their chances for being selected for Post Awards and Scholarships for Eagle Scouts applicants. 716-864-8430 or felton1@aol.com

There are a number of scholarships available at different levels of the Legion to Eagle Scouts.



Americanism: VC Bruce Mayfield

Bruce was off volunteering at the American Legion Baseball World Series in Shelby, NC. Congratulations to Nebraska for their come from behind victory over Oregon.

The Americanism Commission is asking all legionaries to contact our senators and congressmen to show our support for the Take Care of Americas Veterans Act legislation. <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/138045/Respond>

Special Activities: VC Keith Bender

Our annual calendar sales are ready for distribution. Thanks to everyone who picked up calendars at the August 20th County Meeting. Please contact me at 716 462 2268 or at kebender@fbi.gov to make arrangements to pick up calendars for 2027. Or, see me at the 9/24 County Meeting at the Matthew Glab Post.



Veterans Day Remembrance Service at the Erie County Fair, (L to R) Board Chair Jim Brass, CEO Jessica Underburg, Rev. Michael Johnson, MC Jim Bojanowski, WWII Veteran Casey Bukowski, and Casey's Aide.

Picture by Sue Quirk



The United States Flag that flew over the Erie County Fair on Friday 8/14 was presented by the US ARMY to ECVC Howard Patton III. Howard is flanked by his daughter Dawn on his right and his wife Davette on his left.



A special visitor dropped in during the Veterans Remembrance service at the Fair. Photo by Sue Quirk



Our Erie County American Legion Booth at the Erie County Fair. Thanks go out to all who helped set up and staff. Photo by Sue Quirk



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 9/24 at the Matthew Glab Post #1477 located at 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna, NY 14218. The Post will be serving a Taco's \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts who were in attendance for the August County Meeting at the Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672. Posts that were in attendance for all or part of the evening were; were 63, 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 799, 838, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1780. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 9/24.

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 8 Posts.

Future County Meetings;

October 29, Iroquois #1587

November 19, Gabriel Rodriguez #1928

December 17, Francis J. Donovan #1626

8th District Conference Sunday October 4

Hugh Lynch Post #737, 550 West Main St., Arcade, NY 14009. Membership meeting at Noon, Conference start at 1 PM.

FYI - Members of the Staff will be attending the National American Legion Convention in Louisville KY, from 8/28 thru 9/3.



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



A special moment of leadership, fellowship, and continued service within American Legion Jesse Clipper Post 430, Buffalo, New York. Seated is Past Post Commander Chaplain Henry Curtis, who, at 91 years of age, represents a remarkable legacy of dedication and service to The American Legion and his fellow veterans. Standing (L to R) are Current Post Commander Marvin Prophet; PC & ECVC Pastor Howard Patton, PC Cheryl Thomas; PC Dr. Kanasha Blue; and PC Reverend Eugene Pierce. Together, these Legionnaires represent multiple generations of leadership within Jesse Clipper Post 430.



The Veterans Day Remembrance Service at the Erie County Fair Flag and Rose Ceremony was led on the far left by Gold Star Mother Fran Davis. Photo by Sue Quirk

American Legion Post 1780 Honors Local Scholarship Recipients



On Sunday August 3, the Bennett-Wells Post #1780 presented their annual Lillian Hundley Scholarships to six outstanding high schools seniors. Seated (L to R): Nen Jareefah, Mykah Moreland, and Uchechi Ezenwa. Standing (L to R): Delores Williams, Barbara Brenkenridge, Davion Becker, Mohiyudin Hassan, and Post Commander Louetta Oliver-Howard. Unable to attend recipient Sharifa Abdi.



Members of the County Staff at the July 23, 2026 Erie County Meeting at the George F. Lamm Post #622. (L to R) Finance Officer Joe Porempski, Vice Commander Keith Bender, Vice Commander Bruce Mayfield, Commander Pat Murphy, Adjutant Jim Bojanowski, Vice Commander Howard Patton III, and Rev. Michael Johnson. Picture by Historian Sue Quirk.

Saturday September 11, Flags on the Scajaquada Pedestrian Bridge

Gather with the WNY Community as we fly the American Flag in remembrance of the fallen Heroes and Victims of September 11, 2001 from 8:30 AM to 10:15 AM. It's been 25 years! Laurie Kostrzewski has been leading a local effort to rename the bridge "9.11 Heroes Bridge".

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.

Sunday September 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 September 27, , Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 9 AM to Noon. \$10.

Saturday October 10, Francis J. Donovan Post #1672 Oktoberfest from 6 – 9 PM, music by the Lederhosen Lads. Cost \$10

Wednesday October 14, PCC meeting at 7 PM at Depew Post #1528 85 Manitou St. Depew.

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. Our famous Polish Villa 2U will reopen on September 11. Our kitchen will now be open every Friday from 4-8 PM. Fish Frys and so much more! Our Live Music events start on September 11th and will happen every Friday from 7-10PM We are the home of The Foxhole Bar. Bills Patriots Game October 4. Open at Noon.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 9/25 for the October 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>