



The Legion-Air

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AMERICAN
LEGION

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Commander's Message:

I would like to thank all those Legionnaires from Erie County who attended and assisted in the Department of New York American Legion Leadership Visitation held on Friday February 16. The day started with a tour and luncheon at the Niagara Aerospace Museum followed by a testimonial dinner at the Brounshidle Post 205. As County Commander, I would be lost without the support of not only my Home Post and past County Staff. Logistically there are many moving parts when coordinating visitations and I would be remiss to not Thank all those who played an integral part ensuring a successful visit.

I wish to thank Past Commanders Jim Bojanowski, Gary Wald & Tom O'Connell, along with Diana Steward; Brounshidle Post Kitchen Commandants Sherry Fossett & Fran Roselli along with Post 205 Sgt@Arms Nick Scott & Squadron 205 Adjutant Jim Tippet who along with the Tonnewanta Veterans Club and volunteers of Post 205, participated in the set-up, service, and takedown of this event. Thank you all for everything that you have done to make Erie County shine!

Last Call for Erie County American Legion Family, to support this year's Variety Club Telethon donation. Erie County Legion Family Leadership will be presenting our Legion Family Donation on Saturday March 9 and in the interim the county office is still accepting donations from each of Erie County Posts, Units, Squadrons and Riders to be applied to the very worthy cause of supporting our local Childrens Hospital! Prior to the 3/9, please forward any remaining Variety Club donations payable to: Erie County American Legion, 65 Niagara Square, Rm 609, Buffalo, NY, 14202.

Just a reminder, please ensure that you and Legion Family members from your Posts, pursue Grass Roots Efforts to lobby your NY State Assemblyman & Senators to support legislation to pass Electronic Bell Jar Gaming reform for Non for Profits of NY Assembly Bill 4813 & Senate Bill 1959. We can all make this great opportunity a reality...

Membership – VC Jerry Kowalski

On Monday, 2/26/24, a training class was held for MY LEGION, given by Fr. Mike Johnson. The class explained ways to navigate through the system, such as creating reports and adding members, taking just minutes not weeks. For those attending the class it was very beneficial. As second class was held on 2/29.

Post Data Reporting is fast approaching on April 1st. Each Post must fill out this report if you want to include the National \$5.00 increase for 2025 in your adjusted dues. You can find the form on the NYLegion website under Resources or contact the County Office. This is followed on July 1st by the Consolidated Post Report. This report is reviewed by National, Department and Erie County so 100% compliance is required. If help is needed give me a call, 716-681-7169.

Special Activities – VC Pat Murphy

Calendar sales before the new year were good, we had some late purchases come in January. Thanks to all who helped by purchasing calendars. You are helping the American Legion programs. Please return all unsold calendars returned so I can do a final report. I have already been mailing out winners for 2024. My contact information is 716 289 4143 or email at murphy8693@gmail.com.

Commander's Message: Continued

Passage of this new law should lead to 3 to 5 times increase in Bell Jar revenues to be used for much needed capital improvements.

Please don't forget to "Be the One" to ask Veterans how they are doing? Listen when a Veteran needs to talk and Reach Out when a Veteran is Struggling...

For more details follow BETHEONE.ORG

May God Continue to Bless Our Troops around the World and God Bless America! In Continued Service for God & Country...

Americanism – VC Paul Wackowski

The war of 1812, often overshadowed by the American Revolution War and the Civil War, was a significant conflict that had a lasting impact on the United States and Canada. One of the noteworthy events during this war was the burning of Buffalo, New York. The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain, stemming from issues such as trade restrictions, impressment of American sailors into the British navy, and territorial expansion. The conflict lasted from 1812 – 1815 and saw several key battles, including the burning of Washington, D.C, and the Battle of New Orleans.

In December 1813, the British forces, and their native American allies, led by Lt. General Gordon Drummond and Chief Tecumseh, launched a campaign into the Niagara Frontier. As part of this campaign, British troops and their allies attacked the American village of Buffalo, New York, on December 30, 1813. The village was set ablaze, and most of its buildings were destroyed. The burning of Buffalo was a devastating event for the residents of the village. It resulted in significant economic and infrastructural damage, causing hardship for its inhabitants. The destruction of Buffalo was part of a broader strategy by the British to weaken American forces and disrupt supply lines during the war.

However, the event also galvanized American resolve and contributed to a renewal sense of national identity. It reenforced the determination of Americans to defend their territory and preserve their independence.

Ultimately, the War of 1812 ended in 1815 with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent, which restored the pre-war status quo. The conflict had far reached effects on the United States., shaping its identity and setting the stage for future territorial expansion and international. Relations.

In the aftermath of the War of 1812, efforts were made to rebuild and revitalize Buffalo, ultimately leading to its resurgence as a thriving city. The war, and the burning of Buffalo, also contributed to a growing sense of American national identity and unity, as the young nation rallied to defend its sovereignty and independence.

The burning of Buffalo, New York, during the War of 1812 stands as a tragic episode in American history, highlighting the profound impact of war on civilian populations and the enduring resilience of communities in the face of adversity. “God Bless” this nation, its Armed Forces and the American Legion and its families.



Legionnaire of the Year – Kathleen Garvey

Legionnaire of the Year Resumes for Erie County Legionnaire of the Year are due April 8, 2024. The 2024 Guidelines and Information are available the Erie County American Legion Webpage: [Legionnaire of the Year page \(eriecountyal.org\)](http://eriecountyal.org). The 2024 Guidelines are very similar to past guidelines. Submitting a Member for Legionnaire of the Year is a great way to recognize our Legionnaires. Submit the resume of your candidate to Kathleen Garvey, 5792 Main Street, Williamsville NY 14221. NO LATER THAN APRIL 8, 2024.

Department Leadership Dinner

A big Thank You to all who supported the Department American Legion Family Visitation on Friday, February 16, 2024. We appreciate your attendance, donations to their projects, and purchase of Ads and Boosters. Special thanks to the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.



Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205 Commander Ray Borawski receives a picture and license plate from Department Commander Timothy Collmer while Erie County Commander Ted Balbierz observes. Photo by Sue Quirk.

Boys State – Felton Davis

2024 Boys State Application last date to register online by the deadline for the students to complete the online application is FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024.

Don't forget to advise the candidates of the opportunity to apply for the SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP! If applying for the SAMSUNG SCHOLARSHIP, the application must be filled out online at <https://www.legion.org/samsung-scholarship-application>. The deadline for submitting the application is 11:59 pm on 6/28/24. Packets with guidance for Post Boys State Chairs were sent to the Post Commanders who did not pick up one at the January 2024 County meeting. Please pass the packet to your Chair. Volunteers are still needed for the County Boys State Committee to work on the Transportation Plan, a Budget and flyer designing. Contact Chair Felton at felton1@aol.com to volunteer and ask questions. Thanks for all you are doing for our future leaders and our communities.

Past Commanders Club – Gary Oakes

Any Past Commander that is interested in becoming a member or already a member and want info in the PCC club. Please send an email to me at Goakes_jr@hotmail.com. I will pass it on to have it put on our email list. The next PCC meeting April 10th at 7pm. Held at Donovan Post.



Erie County Vice Commander Jerry Kowalski and Voiture #51 40/8 Chef de Gare John Stiegler delivered 22 cases of soup to Resurrection food pantry on February 28, which is used by local Veterans.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 3/28 at David McKeever Post #64 located at 1770 South Park Ave., Buffalo, 14220. Liquid refreshments available, no food service.

Thanks go out to the 17 Posts that attended the February County Meeting, 63, 78, 205, 362, 430, 527, 607, 622, 735, 799, 838, 1320, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1672, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County at the 3/28 meeting.

Future County Meetings;

April 25, East Aurora Post #362
May 16, LL Tillman Post #900

8th District Conference

4/7/2024 at Little Valley Post 531, located at 5899 Route 353, Little Valley, NY at 1 PM. Membership and Finance Meetings at Noon.

Erie County Convention – Saturday 6/1 at Matthew Glab Post #1477.

8th District Convention – Saturday 6/15 at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626.

Department Convention – Wednesday 7/17 thru Friday 7/19/2024 in Niagara Falls.

**Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org
Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**



**SUBMISSIONS
For the April
"The Legion-Air"
Due March 29
thelegionair@gmail.com**



NYSAL Detachment Commander Peter J. DeAngelis gives his address at the Department Leadership Visitation Dinner on 2/16/24 held at the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.
Photo by Sue Quirk.

Sunday March 17, 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.

Saturday April 13, George F. Lamm Post #622, 962 Wehrle Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221, Veterans Open House to enjoy fellowship with free Pizza and Wings from 1 - 4 PM to learn about the benefits of joining The American Legion Family.

Saturday April 20, Gabriel A. Rodriguez Post #1928, annual fundraiser dinner at Acqua Restaurant. \$75 per person, call Saul at 716 481 6596, or Joseph at 716 482 0533. Ads by 3/29.

Thursday May 16, WNY Armed Forces Luncheon at Niagara Falls Air Base.

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, 1956 Abbott Road, Lackawanna, NY 14218, serving Wed, and Friday 2-8 PM, Fish Fry's, Seafood, Burgers & weekly specials, Wednesday 75 cent wings and \$3 Tacos.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee St., Cheektowaga. Come and joins us for our Fish Fry Friday's. Dinners from 4 - 8pm with a live Band from 8-11pm. Dine in or take out available. Call 716-896-3346.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive. Thursday's Spaghetti Dinners have Indoor Seating and To Go Dinners. Serving 4:30-6:30 PM. To/Go Order, call after 2:00 PM at 716-649-4667 or order at door. \$9 for Regular Size and \$11 for Large Size, with a \$.50 charge for To Go containers. Last dinner of the season is on Thursday, March 21st, 2024. **Thank You** for your patronage.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 3/28 for the April 2024 edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

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

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

Erie County American Legion website - <http://www.eriecounty.al.org>

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