



# The Legion - Air



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## Commander's Message:

August has been a very eventful month. Thanks to all that came out to the Erie County Fair. It was a wet one for sure, but all in attendance had great time! Hats off to the Fair Committee; for doing their best despite Mother Nature's lack of cooperation.

I was saddened to hear that one of our Erie County Post Commanders and Post Chaplains had a lack of concern for the family of a deceased veteran. This is how the veteran's daughter and Department conveyed the story to me. The veteran had been very active in his post for many years; age diminished his ability to maintain an active roll in post activities. As this veterans health declined so did his participation and visits to the post. Then came the day that the veteran's health dictated nursing home care was necessary. His family assumed the veteran's affairs and somehow the family forgot about his membership renewal. Sadly the day came when the veteran had passed. The family contacted the post, for which the veteran had unselfishly given his service for his fellow veteran, and to their horror that because his dues were not paid up to date the post refused to render any military honors due. We are supposed to be an organization that takes pride in taking care of America's veterans. Both the Commander and Chaplain did nothing wrong in the decision they made, but I wonder if it was their families asking for recognition of their military service how would their families feel with the same response.

Membership dues and participation are important to the post, but compassion and understanding go a long way. As members of the American Legion we all take pride in the fact that we are "Veterans taking care of Veterans."

I will be attending the National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona and in my absence VC Pauline Fletcher will be acting as Commander.

## Membership – VC Bill Miskell

### Retain, Recruit, Rethink

Start rethinking how to survive for the future

Early Bird goal of 50% is September 10<sup>th</sup>. The hard work is beginning, getting our current members to pay their dues. Recruiting new members is just as important as our current members.

We still have some Posts that have not sent in any transmittals in at all. Be sure that you send the white copy to Department, pink copy to City Hall and the blue copy for your records. This is the only way I have in seeing if your Post is having any problems and if I can help in any way.

Membership has its own e-mail address. [eriecomembership@gmail.com](mailto:eriecomembership@gmail.com). I will try to keep you updated.

There is a new incentive program for Membership Chairpersons and Commanders of Posts achieving 95% and 100% of their goal. When your Post reaches the 95% goal on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 the Membership Chairperson can win a Legion Polo shirt for being ERIE COUNTY MEMBERSHIP LEADER. For reaching 100% of goal on May 13<sup>th</sup> the Commander also is awarded a Legion shirt. If you did not reach, 95% goal by April the Chairperson can also be awarded a shirt for reaching 100%.

Work on **RETAINING**, KEEP on **RECRUITING** and start **RETHINKING** THE FIRST TWO.



2009  
Membership  
Dues Are  
NOW Due!

## Special Activities – VC Pauline Fletcher

At last month's meeting I gave out 361 Lottery Calendars to sell for 2009. Thank You to everyone who took calendars to sell. Last year we sold 893 Lottery Calendars. This year my goal is to sell all the calendars by January 2009!!! **We can do it!!!**

The Gas Sale is doing well. I sold several tickets at the Erie County Fair. I have more tickets to sell if you need them.

On November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, I will be hosting a "Night Out" at the Orchard Park **Mr. Food – No Fuss Meals Store**. It is located at 3457 Amelia Drive in Orchard Park, off Milestrip (between the I-90 and Route 219), in the Quaker Crossing Plaza near Pet Smart and Famous Foot Wear. It will be a night of fun, with door prizes, wine and food sampling. All just for \$5.00 per person!!! Mr. Food – No Fuss makes delicious packaged meals to go. Last month I tried their stuffed mushrooms and peanut butter bars, which were great!!! So keep November 7<sup>th</sup> open and come out for a night of fun and great food. Call me at 636-4636 to make your reservations to get your tickets. Remember to use the promotional code: **C-N15AL** when you make a purchase, the store will donate 10% from your purchase to Erie County Special Activities.



## Americanism – VC Ray Caso

I will be sending a mailing out to announce a meeting of all third vice chairpersons or Americanism chairpersons soon. It is important to get together to set up a program that can run county wide. We need to get every post involved so we can cover all parts of the county. Remember no one knows your area like you do. By taking an active part in the program we will be promoting Americanism and at the same time we will be visible in the neighborhoods and that can only help our image. I have a list of current chairpersons but am missing names for the following Post 78, Post 607, Post 622, Post 900, post 928, Post 1031, Post 1320, Post 1346, Post 1377, Post 1586 and Post 1780. I hope to someone from all post at the meeting



**Amherst**  
Northtown Plaza  
3061 Sheridan Drive  
716.834.6325

**Orchard Park**  
Quaker Crossing  
East  
3457 Amelia Drive  
716.825.6325



## Legion Riders Update

- Jerzy Folta

Ready to march but no where to do it. The Legion Riders are very active this

time of year, took time out to march instead of ride and got rained out as we all did at the fair. However those that did show up had a good time. Aug 16<sup>th</sup> found Cmdr Art Forman, VC Bill Miskell and I with 50 plus motorcycles at the Vet's Home in Batavia, More detailed info to follow next month. A special thanks to South Buffalo Post #721 for a warm welcome to the Legion Riders and I understand the chicken was good also. Please keep us informed as to your post activities so we can pop in, weather permitting. Lastly, I would like to thank Commander Art Forman for my appointment. Jerzy Folta 655-1656 or John Post 652-7081

# American Legion Riders

– President John Post

Greetings to all Legion Riders. We had a great turn out for the Vet's picnic at East Aurora Absolute Care Nursing Home. The Ladies Auxiliary assisted in providing this picnic. Thanks to Beth Walsh and Marian Post for leading in providing picnic food, etc. We had a choir from Immanuel Lutheran Church sing many great songs, they did a great job. The Vets were wheeled outside to see the cycles and we took pictures. They had a great time and then ate well, too. Our August meeting was very well attended due to a big agenda. The last plans were made for marching in the Vet's Day parade, Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> Fun Run to Vet's Home in Batavia, and the group Riding Rules. Much was completed and then many members attended the Leatherneck's MC Party. We are looking forward to finishing our group Riding Rules and plans for membership picnic in September at Post Farms. We will start planning our events for 2009 in our Sept. 14 meeting. So, bring your ideas and join in the ride after the meeting. May God bless our troops with protection and victory? May your rides be dry and bug free.



## The Erie County Office Is Back To Serve Our Membership

The County Legion Office at Room 609 Buffalo City Hall is back to scheduled operating business hours. Adjutant Brian Lewandowski will be in the office on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9am to 2 pm to be of assistance. The Office number is 852-6500.



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SUBMISSIONS  
FOR  
"The Legion-Air"  
DUE  
Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008

[thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com)

### *The Erie County* American Legion **GREAT GAS GIVE – AWAY** Thursday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008

1 <sup>st</sup> - \$300 Gas Card	4 <sup>th</sup> - \$50 Gas Card
2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$200 Gas Card	5 <sup>th</sup> - \$25 Gas Card
3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$100 Gas Card	6 <sup>th</sup> - \$25 Gas Card

**SUNOCO  
GAS CARDS**

Donation:  
\$1 each  
or  
6 for \$5.00

For Tickets Call VC Pauline Fletcher  
636-4636

### County Meeting Dates

September 25, 2008  
Troop I Post #665  
October 30, 2008  
Matthew Glab Post #1477  
November 20, 2008  
Alfred J. Jurek Post #1672



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
The Erie County Committee  
609 City Hall  
65 Niagara Square  
Buffalo, NY 14202

PHONE: (716) 852-6500  
FAX: (716) 852-4664  
e-mail: [veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:veteran14202@verizon.net)

[www.eriecountylegion.org](http://www.eriecountylegion.org)



**September 1<sup>st</sup>** WNY AFL-CIO Labor Day Parade at Stevenson and Abbott Rd Led off by the Erie County American Legion Color Guard.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** Town of Amherst Memorial Service 12noon at the Amherst Memorial Hill Grove. For more Information contact John Kasmer @ 634-1128.

**September 13<sup>th</sup>** 4pm to 7pm, East Aurora Post #362 Annual Steak Roast. For Tickets and More Information Call 655-1656.

**September 14<sup>th</sup>** Special Olympics from 12noon to 5pm at George F. Lamm Post #622 Grove. For more Information Call Roy Dean at 632-0829.

**September 20<sup>th</sup>** 1pm to 5pm ERIECO Women's Post #1586 Annual Corn Roast @ George F. Lamm Post #622 Grove \$10 per person

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** 8am to 1pm Alfred J. Jurek Post#1672 All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast, \$6 per person.

***Come and wish Tim Van Patten a Happy Birthday. Rumor has it that he is closer to 65 than you think!!!***

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** 1pm to 5pm East Aurora Post #362 Annual Gun Raffle. For Tickets and More Information Call 655-1656.

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** 3:30pm University at Buffalo vs. Army Football Game \$17 per person. For more information and reservations call Don Siuda at 825-4400

**October 18<sup>th</sup>** 9am to 2pm South Buffalo Unit #721 Annual Craft Show; Tables Available for \$15ea. Call Roseanne @ 715-7339 for more information

**October 24<sup>th</sup>** National Commander's Visitation, LaSalle Post #1142, 8643 Buffalo Ave, Niagara Falls, NY. Luncheon & Dinner, more information to follow.

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** 7pm South Buffalo Post #721 Meat Raffle \$3 per person, includes beer, pop, & snacks. Doors open at 6pm

**November 7<sup>th</sup>** 7pm, Erie County "Night Out " at the Orchard Park **Mr. Food – No Fuss Meals Store**. For more information and reservations call VC Pauline Fletcher at 636-4636.