



The Legion - Air

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Commander's Message:

The Holiday Season is now upon us. It is the time of the year that we line up outside the department stores looking for that perfect gift. Sounds and smells of the season fill the air. Hurrying and scurrying about to prepare for the family gatherings and all the gifts that are in need of wrapping. All these wonderful distractions help us to forget what is going on half the world away. This day and throughout this holiday season stands a young man or woman vigilant in protecting our freedoms that we take so lightly. Take time during this season to thank our vanguards of freedom by participating in some local event in your area for veterans and the family members of soldiers deployed to thank them for that we have peace at home to celebrate our holiday traditions freely.

This past year we have lost two great Legionnaires, both were Past County Commanders that believed in the programs of the American Legion. Past County Commander Paul Moore devoted his efforts to the Americanism and Family Support Programs. Past County Commander Donald Cummings devotion and time was dedicated to the Children and Youth Programs and the Past Commanders Scholarship Program. We owe both of them a debt of gratitude for their hard work and sacrifices. To their families our hearts go out to them this holiday season. What better way to honor these two fine Legionnaires than to continue their legacy by ensuring that these programs that they loved continue for future generations. God Bless both Paul and Don, as well as their families, our soldiers serving in harm's way, and God Bless America!

To one and all may your holiday season be filled with joy and happiness, and may the New Year be blessed with health, prosperity and peace!



Donald W. Cummings

Erie County Commander 2003-2004
Chairman Emeritus Children & Youth
Chairman Emeritus Past Commanders
Scholarship Program

Mark Twain once stated, "Education: that which reveals to the wise, and conceals from the stupid, the vast limits of their knowledge." Don was a very wise and caring man that was willing to share his knowledge through education. No one can argue that in the true sense of the word that Don was an educator. If you were willing to listen, he would teach you through his stories. His belief in education and our youth was without boundaries. It was Don's belief that our children are our future and that is the basis of how he developed and nurtured the Erie County American Legion Children and Youth Program. Don also believed that education was vital part in the development of our youth. His stewardship of the Past Commanders Scholarship Program was a labor of love. Many a child has benefitted by Don's unselfish dedication to these two programs. The time came this past summer that Don Cummings came to the rationalization that it was time to pass on the torch of these two programs. From the beginning Don made it clear that his replacements in these vital American Legion programs should be of the highest caliber, he wanted nothing less and would not even think of settling for less. When the final decisions were made, he was proud to know that his love of these two programs would continue. Now that Don Cummings is gone into everlasting peace, it is now our burden to assist both chairmen of these programs he so dearly loved to continue the legacy. Don thank you for being our teacher!

Special Activities – VC Pauline Fletcher

Everyone who came out to the “Mr. Food-No Fuss Meal” Night on November 7th had a great time. They also sampled some delicious food; and everyone took home a free “Oh It’s so Good” meal. Don’t forget that Mr. Food-No Fuss Meals is in the 2009 Entertainment Book on pages D-1 and D-168! Use the coupons to purchase some delicious food and support County Special Activities. Use the promotional code C-NY15AL when you make a purchase. The store will donate 10% of your purchase to Erie County Special Activities.

Thank you to everyone who sold the Great Gas Give Away Raffle Tickets. This raffle was a great success!!! I will have a complete report at the December County Meeting.

The Lottery Calendar sales are going very slow this year. So far I have only accounted for 240 calendars that are sold. They make great Christmas gifts!! **NOW** is the time to sell them. ***Several Posts have taken many calendars to sell, but have not returned any money nor completed stubs! This is our biggest fundraiser!!!*** Remember that we need to sell **500** by January’s County Meeting in order to make the payouts. **There is a \$100 award for the person or Post who sells the most calendars by January’s County Meeting.** We need to sell only **260 more** to reach 500! Last year we sold **893!!!** I would like to sell at least **700** this year. Please try to sell as many calendars as you can. This fundraiser can only be a success if you make an effort. ***OUR COUNTY LEGION PROGRAMS DEPEND UPON THIS FUNDRAISER TO BE A SUCCESS!!!***



Amherst
Northtown Plaza
3061 Sheridan Drive
716.834.6325

Orchard Park
Quaker Crossing
East
3457 Amelia Drive
716.825.6325



Americanism – VC Ray Caso

I hope everyone had a healthy and happy Thanksgiving. With a busy November coming to a close I would like Erie County Commander Art Forman and the committee that put on a beautiful service at Forest Lawn for Veterans Day. Congratulation and thanks to all the Post who also held services. I would like to thank Brian Lewandowski for the talk we did at the Poplar School in Buffalo. Also many thanks to County Aide David Randal who put me in contact with the Cheektowaga School System, a series of talks and a showing of a DVD on what it means to be a veteran are in the works. At the last meeting I handed out the DVD to Posts in attendance, any Post that has received the DVD I will have them at our December Meeting.

On Nov.28th we held our annual Legion Baseball Awards banquet at AJ Jurek Post and I would like to thank the Post and Post Commander Van Patten for a fine dinner. Congrats to A.J. Juerk Legion baseball team for being Erie County and 8th District Champions. There were 8 other Legion Post who were present, thank you. If any post needs or wants any help with Americanism please call me.



SUBMISSIONS
FOR
“The Legion-Air”
DUE
Dec. 21st, 2008

thelegionair@gmail.com

Home cooking without the hassle™



Satellite TV



Legion Dish offers American Legion Post locations Dish Network programming, service and promotions. Commercial programming packages start as low as \$27.99 per month. For every Legion Dish purchased a percentage of the revenue goes to The American Legion National Headquarters' General Fund to support Legion programs, such as American Legion Baseball, Boys State and Boys Nation, just to name a few. Will your local cable company do that? With its Headquarters located in Clementon, New Jersey, Legion DISH has been one of the country's top commercial retailers and has been offering Dish Network for the past eight (8) years. Visit the Legion Dish Website at www.legiondish.com, or call toll free at 1-866-LEGION9 (1-866-534.46.69) to obtain additional information and to sign up for the programming service. **This offer is for new customers only.**

Membership – VC Bill Miskell

THE HARD WORK BEGINS TODAY

YES, the time has come to start working to get the members that dislike paying their dues or have forgotten to pay. A friendly phone call is sometime is all that is needed. With the holiday season upon us, members sometime do not have the extra money for dues, but just remind them how important they are to the Legion and you will get back to them later.

At the Veterans Day Dinner, there were six division awards given out to the highest percentage in membership in each division. The highest Post was Tehan Post 1449 with a 93.94%, **GREAT WORK**. Tehan Post could well be the first Post in Erie County to reach 100% of goal for the year.

Congratulations to all of the Posts. As of November 19th the County is at 76.64%. It takes work to get our members and keep your Post strong, so keep up the good work to make Erie County the best in Department. Looking back at the finishing numbers from last year the County could finish with higher numbers. The County finished at 93% of goal and with a little work we could do better. The Department has 63 Counties and Erie finished 41st, I know we can do better. The County only had 248 new members last year, can we do better or should I say we must do better to survive. Remember **RENEW, RECRUIT, RETHINK**.

Have a **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to you and your family.

**City Hall CLOSED
Christmas Day
December 25th**

Friday December 26th

And

Wednesday December 31st

The Office number is 852-6500



PNC Michael Kogutec presents County Commander Art Forman with American Legion Award of Merit at 2008 Veterans Day Dinner

County Meeting Dates

December 18, 2008

Milton J. Brounshidle Post # 205

January 29, 2009

South Buffalo Post # 721

February 26, 2009

David McKeever Post # 64

Non-Profit
 Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 PERMIT NO. 103
 BUFFALO, NY

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

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www.eriecountylegion.org



Dec. 7th Japanese attack Pearl Harbor 1941
Dec. 7th 8th District Mtg. Botts-Fiorito Post#576
 53 W. Main St., Leroy NY; 10am Wreath
 Hanging at VA; 12noon Membership Mtg.;
 1pm General Mtg.

Dec. 8th 12noon to 9pm The Veterans
 Administration Regional Office – Buffalo
 has job openings for claims examiners and
 will be conducting a job fair at the
 Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Ave.
 Cheektowaga, NY 14225. If you are a
 veteran make sure you bring your DD FM-
 214.

Dec. 14th 8am – 1pm "All you can eat"
 pancake breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672.
 Breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage,
 orange juice and coffee. \$6 adults, \$3 children
 12 and under, 5 and under free.

Dec 14th 1pm – 4pm Erie County
 Commanders Christmas Party at South
 Buffalo Post #721; 136 Cazenovia St, Buffalo

2009

Jan. 4th 1pm 8th District Oratorical Contest;
 M.J. Brounshidle Post #205 (Snow Date: Jan.
 11th)

Jan. 23rd – 25th Mid-Winter Conference

Desmond Hotel, Al **Hamburg Post #527**
Dinners

Mondays 4pm-7pm
 Beef on Weck w/ Fries \$5
 Thursdays 4pm-7pm
 Spaghetti Dinner \$5.50



CHRISTMAS 2008

*Happy Holidays
 To
 One and All!
 God Bless Our Troops!*