



MILEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 8

2 Great Rides, 2 Great Legacies This Summer



The inaugural Michigan Legacy Scholarship Run will be June 25-26th. Information was sent to all of the posts and ALR last

month. The run will be from Harbor Springs to the State Convention in Sterling Heights. There will be an overnight stop in Grand Rapids. Open to

Michigan Legacy Scholarship Run June 25th-26th, 2015

any legion member and their guests. Thursday will start with breakfast at Harbor Springs Post 281, lunch at the Manistee Post 10 and dinner at Grand Rapid Post 459. Friday will start with breakfast at Grand Rapids Post 208, lunch along the way then to the State Convention in Sterling Heights. There will be camping available in Grand Rapids and other stops along the way. Preregistration is preferred if you wish to get the ride patch or join the run in progress at an agreed upon location. Once registered, an in-

formation packet will be mailed with more details concerning lodging, events and times, etc. This is open to two, three and 4 wheel vehicles. We ask that you and your vehicle be in safe operating condition. If we deem your vehicle is unsafe (bald tires, serious leaks, yes I know older bikes do leak a little, inoperable lights) you will not be allowed to ride in the event. Net Proceeds for this will go to the American Legion Legacy Run Scholarship Program. If you wish to ride in with us from Troy to Sterling Heights

you may do so free of cost. If riding for free, you will not get a patch or any other accoutrements from the ride. You must preregister with the State Convention if you wish to go onto the floor to present the check on Friday evening. Registration will be closed when we roll up to the convention. For more information and registration form, please go to www.michiganlegion.org and click on the Legacy Run section. Questions - Contact Jerry "Mouse" Lundquist 248-310-1775 or lou_zerr@yahoo.com

Wilwin Ride for Our Veterans Saturday July 25, 2015

The ride will be from Mt Pleasant to Sault Ste Marie.

Open to all American Legion Riders from any state. Pre registration appreciated and we will try to ensure free ride patches for all that pre register. An information packet will be mailed to you. Ride will end at the Kewadin Casino where country music artist Richard Lynch will be hosting a benefit concert for Wilwin lodge Saturday evening. Visit www.michiganlegion.org click on

the Wilwin Fundraiser for registration and information. For questions contact Tom Howard at 517-488-4730 or email at speedbump48813@hotmail.com

Registration - Snacks - and registration assignment number, wristband or bike marker. C&S Motorsports - Mt Pleasant MI

TIME - 7- 8.30

Ride introduction 8:45 along with Group assignments (will assign to squads based on number of people).

Ride prayer.

Assemble motorcycles into squads.

Ride Captain Introductions to squads, riders meet and greet and motorcycle safety inspection by RC's to be done by 9:30. Unsafe motorcycles or riders will be dismissed, period. Your safety is my responsibility.

10:00 AM Depart C&S Motorsports for ride.

11.30 Arrive at first stop in Gaylord. Fuel on your own. Assemble at Zips 45 parallel Harley {Leg 1 is 101 Miles 1 Hr 35 Min} Food to be supplied by Zips 45th Parallel Harley for lunch.

2:00 PM Depart after safety talk on bridge crossing and logistics.

Arrive at Sault Ste Marie casino destination at 4:15 PM

{Leg 2 is 119 Miles Time 1 Hr 56 Min}

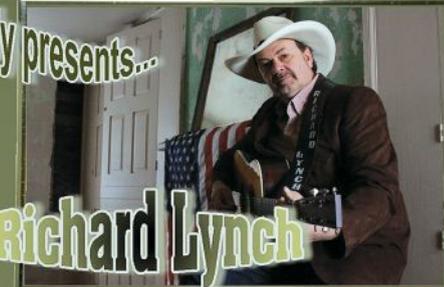
** Please note the following items. For riders registering at Gaylord. Please arrive early. Lead team timelines may vary. No alcohol, period. Small flags permitted only.

No Return Postage Requested

JUNE 2015



proudly presents...



Richard Lynch

Come Home To The
WilWin Lodge
Benefit Concert Series

Opening Act... Melanie Rose Roell July 25, 2015 -Doors Open 7pm

Michigan American Legion Riders Event

Concert Tickets;
 \$20.00 advance - \$25.00 at door

Lodging Package....\$119.00

The room package will include 2 full size beds, One concert ticket, A Gift Bag with: an autographed Love Tattoo CD, a sampler bottle of Mackinaw Trail Wine and a \$10 Gaming credit. NOTE: This package includes ONLY one show ticket....Please order additional tickets separately.

Extra Night Stay Friday or Sunday....\$79.00 per night/per room

For Reservations/Tickets or Info by Phone: 513-377-3203

Or on the web @ www.richardlynchband.com

Promotional Consideration By:






MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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Do you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use? E-mail it to us at info@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Mark Sutton.

Please keep the photo at least 200 dpi or larger. If you are submitting a hard copy photo, please note photos printed from a home printer cannot be used, nor can photos clipped from newspapers.

We look for photos showing Legion caps in action whenever possible.

Interested in placing an ad in the Michigan Legionnaire? Please Contact Mark Sutton at: info@michiganlegion.org or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

Chaplain



One of the joys of being a Civil Air Patrol Chaplain is to teach a monthly class on Character Development, and this month's was a class on "Success and Failures." They applied themselves in how it works with their promotions and desires to succeed in all they do. No one likes to fail, because it hurts, its painful, and so, we try to avoid it. But, success is built on failure. Never is the thought, that once a failure, always a failure. With failure, comes second and third chances, (With Thomas Edison, it was 10, 000 times!). Failure creates unexpected opportunities. Emily Dickinson said, "The glory is in never failing, but in rising every time you fail."

A few weeks ago, I was feeling like a failure when I felt the pain of being "snubbed" by someone, and I quoted the words from the words of Elizabeth Keebler Ross, "The opinion that other people have of you is their problem, not

yours." What happened next was a ton of friends who encouraged me, by saying, "You are loved and appreciated And your pain is your gain, and, keep moving forward, and do what you know is the best." I was humbled by it. and felt, it was time to move forward again.

As we recognize the 40th year Anniversary of the Vietnam War, I will never forget the words from MG (Major General) USAF, Ret. John Borling, who was a POW for 6 and half years in the Ho Lo prison (aka Hanoi Hilton). He said, "On 1 June 1966, my life changed forever. My 97th fighter mission sortie was in the deep heart of N. Vietnam. My F-4 Phantom was hit, and went out of control, then, no controls, then, upside down, and then the jet was dead. I ejected, and hit the ground running. I was alive, but with excruciating pain, blood everywhere, I was broken. Soon I was captured, and found myself tied up, stripped naked, and lying in the road. The enemy kept us isolated, and weak, and despondent, and totally cutoff. Our

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

SUCSESSES AND FAILURES

challenge was to keep the faith, to carry on, and stay true to one another. To do that, it was important to communicate to one another, and then I saw my mission, which was to begin by tapping on the walls to the others. We tapped messages of hope and family. We tapped jokes. We tapped to teach and learn languages. We tapped prayers and lots of them. We stayed true to each other and as the years passed, we kept on tapping the walls."

General (Ret) Borling was broken when he landed his Phantom jet, and could have died as a failure. But he won the fight over himself, and then he turned to his fellow prisoners and gave them morale and survival as well. Turning failure into success can happen in a Prison Camp! He said, "You never leave combat. It is a lifetime thing. The glory and gore continues, either enlarged or diminished by time. If you have been there, then you know." What a true example of success and failure from a Vietnam POW.

2015/2016 MICHIGAN CANDIDATES



Candidate State Commander Michael Buda



Candidate NEC Roger Webster



Candidate Alt NEC Tom Brown



Candidate Finance Officer Roger Avie



Candidate Historian Ernest Berry



Candidate Sgt-at-Arms Frank Flores

STATE OFFICERS

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| State Commander | Jim Wallace, Pinckney | Finance Officer .. | George Dolan, Grand Blanc | Alt. National Executive Committeeman | Roger Webster, Croton |
| State Adjutant..... | Ron Runyan, Wyandotte | Historian | Mitch Louth, St. Johns | Immediate Past Commander | Ray Moore, Lake City |
| 1st Zone..... | Joe Callahan | Chaplain | Larry Volink, Ypsilanti | Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director | Gary Easterling, Jonesville |
| 2nd Zone..... | Jim Carlin | Sergeant-at-Arms | Frank Flores, Madison Heights | Membership Dir..... | Steve Striggow, Holly |
| 3rd Zone..... | Marilyn Britten | Judge Advocate..... | Elmer White, Ann Arbor | Public Relations Director | Mark Sutton, Eaton Rapids |
| 4th Zone..... | Joe Renis | National Executive Committeeman | John Skinner, Schoolcraft | | |
| 5th Zone..... | Jim Dougovito | | | | |

Headquarters



Jim Wallace, State Commander

THANK YOU LEGION FAMILY



Jim Wallace
State Commander

I would like to thank the American Legion Family for an exciting, challenging and rewarding year as the Department Commander for 2014-2015. Without your help, guidance, support, kindness and well wishes it would have been a less productive time. I must, also, thank my wife, Linda, and all my family members for their support and backing throughout this fiscal year and the years leading up to this year. Distinct guidance by the Past Commanders, the DEC and the Legion staff has been influential in managing the day-to-day operations and direction needed to lead this great organization into the future.

The First Lady and I have traveled many miles throughout this fantastic State, also to Indiana, Illinois, and Washington D.C. to spread the word about the Legion Family and all the programs and activities that allow us to help veterans, their families and the communities. We have met many wonderful people and visited several locations that we might not have had the pleasure without your sincere and genuine response to us.

We want to thank Department Auxiliary President Nancy Knox, her husband John (PDC), Detachment Commander "Butch" Maxwell, his wife Linda, for the great year together traveling to many activities. It has been an experience that will be cherished forever. We have made a bond that will not be broken.

We appreciate the many Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, SAL Commanders and ALR Directors, their officers and members for the rousing welcomes, accommodations and gifts we have received.

I am looking forward to the outcome of the Department of Michigan's 1st National Legacy Scholarship Fund run on June 25-26, 2015 that will end at the State Convention in Sterling Heights. Hopefully, this will be an annual event to help the children of military personnel that died while on Active Duty after September 11, 2001 to get assistance for college. This will start in Harbor Springs go to Grand Rapids and end in Sterling Heights. This is being directed by Jim "Big Daddy" Austin and Mike "Ponytail" Globke, Department American Legion Riders (ALR) Liaisons. Thanks.

Also, the Wilwin Ride on July 25th, 2015 will start in Mt. Pleasant and end in Sault Ste. Marie. There will be a concert by Richard Lynch, Nashville Recording Artist, afterwards with all proceeds going to Wilwin Lodge for their work with veterans and their families. Thanks to Tom Howard, SAL ALR Liaison.

The Membership Team has worked very hard this year under the direction of Chairman Steve Striggow. As of this writing we are at 95% of our goal. We still have time to get 100% before National Convention. We need all Legionnaires to work toward that goal. Don't give up!

A big Thank You goes out to all the Department Committee Chairpersons that have put a lot of work into keeping the Departments programs and activities going forward. Without your dedication and de-

termination we could have lost some of those committees.

I have had the opportunity to meet with several Legislative Senators and Representatives, both at the State and Federal level, to promote and gain support for the veteran issues and needs. I believe we have made many good strides in bridging a positive relationship between the Legislative Branch and the Department of Michigan. They have helped us to continue the work for the veterans through their enduring support.

Please keep in mind that you make the difference it takes to make the American Legion what it is. Without your commitment and desire to advance this organization we will falter in the future. It is up to you to find those "new" members and bring back to the posts the members who have strayed. Without your willingness to enhance our programs and activities, we will lose them. Which ones do you want to see dropped from our schedule? If the answer is none, then we have to work harder and collaborate more frequently together with the Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the America Legion Riders to do just that.

As my term as your Department Commander comes to a close I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in Sterling Heights. Please bring with you ideas to share and the willingness to accept new ideas to foster and perpetuate a 100% American Legion Family. Again, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and for all your assistance throughout this last year.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Post Home/Lounge Financials - Keeping Them in Order

The Importance of an Audit of the Post Financials and the Post Home/Lounge Financials

During installation a Post Finance officer is charged with: "You are the keeper of the money, and in you is reposed the financial policy of the post. To you is given charge of the year's budget, and to you is given the duty of the payment of all obligations when proper authorization has been given for such payment. Your position is an important one, demanding integrity and honesty. Your election to this office signifies your comrades have implicit trust in you. Guard well that trust."

Don't Lose Your Post to Mismanagement

When was the last time your post created an audit committee and audited the financial records? This should be done at a minimum annually, but more often is encouraged. Does the post finance officer bring the current bank statements, investment statements, and or Certificate of Deposit statements to each meeting and is the post executive committee reviewing those statements? Do they include a Balance Sheet

and an Income and Expense Statement as part of their report to the Post? How do you verify that the bills are being paid?

Over the past several months we have received reports and seen very publicly announced problems at local American Legion Posts due to mismanagement of funds resulting in the foreclosure of post homes. As officers in Posts we represent the interests of all the post members. Officers are given the trust and confidence to carry out the business of the Legion. However, sometimes we become complacent and things fall through the cracks hurting the entire organization.

Why is the audit so important? Remember the audit is a tool to help the post determine a couple of important directions. One, it ensures the finance officer is keeping up to date on all bills and obligations of the post. Number two, it helps to determine if the post needs to address financial needs coming up in the future. How is revenue? Does the post have enough monies coming in to sustain the operations? How are revenues compared to expenses?

When the finance officer is asked to show the bank statements, a balance sheet, and income and expense report at each meeting (separate reports for the post and for the social club) it is not because we do

not trust them; it is because they have an obligation to the members to keep them informed of the financial integrity of the post. The finance officer should want to share this information with the members.

I want to encourage Post Commanders to assemble an audit committee based on the guidelines presented in the "Post Operations Manual" offered by the National office. This manual is provided through the Legion.org website under Media- Publications, or by downloading it from www.mylegion.org click the Post Officer Manuals link under materials. If the post executive committee is not looking at bank statements and reports at each meeting I would recommend it begin.

Don't lose your post due to the mismanagement of funds. If you think your post could have a financial issue contact a local accounting firm for assistance. They will be able to guide your post to ensure proper accounting practices are being adhered too. If you suspect any wrong doing after working with the audit committee and accounting firm, you should notify your local authorities of this possible issue for a more thorough investigation. If you have any questions please feel call me at the office. Keep your post financially stable to keep supporting the mission of The American Legion.



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

IS IT JUNE ALREADY?



Steve Striggow
Membership Director

First, I would like to thank Commander Wallace for giving me the opportunity to serve the Department of Michigan as Membership Director this past year.

The Team assembled was second to none. As we finish up the membership year we are not where we want to be, namely 100%. I urge everyone to continue to resign those that have dropped out or are just slow to pay. We still have the opportunity to be at 100% before the National Convention. The Zone and District Commanders need to be congratulated by the entire membership for their tireless work in membership this year. We award the Commanders, but we know they could not do it without their Membership Team behind them. I know being the Post Membership Chairman can be a thankless job, however there are some that excelled and I thank them for their hard work.

This is a year I will never forget and I thank all the Legionnaires of Michigan for supporting me this year.

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

Updated 5/13/2015

1st District
June 1, 2015 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI

5th District
Meetings @ 7PM
July 9th, 2015 TBA

7th District
June 2015 – Department Convention

10th District
June 6, 2015 Linwood Post 239
All Luncheons will be at 12:00 Noon
Meetings at 1:00P.

16th District
Meetings begin at 7:30PM
June 9th, 2015 @ Garden City Post 396

18th District
Meetings start @ 2:00PM
June 14th, 2015 @ Royal Oak Post #253

ATTENTION INCOMING DISTRICT COMMANDERS!!!

Please send your district meeting list to info@michiganlegion.org by June 19, 2015 to be included in the July/August Michigan Legionnaire. Note: Send what you have confirmed we can add dates in future issues.

Finance Committee Report

Ray Carlson, Finance Chairman

Highlights of the June 26, 2014 standing Committee meeting:

- The 2014/2015 Department Budget was approved for presentation at Department Convention.
- The VA&R Welfare Fund was voted on to become funded annually in July 1st in the amount of \$12,00, from the Post #225 Reserve Fund. This Fund gives a veteran or family of a veteran \$225 in an emergency.
- The car for Commander James Wallace was purchased under budget by almost \$1,700.
- Wilwin Lodge reported they are continuing their mission, even with the uncertainty of the mining issues in the area.

Highlights of the June 27, 2014 Finance Convention Committee meeting:

- David Buist was elected Vice Chairman of the Finance Committee for the coming year.
- The current dues structure of \$29.50 was voted to keep as is for the coming year.
- The Sons of the American Legion reported the Detachment/National portion of their dues structure was raised from \$7.00 per member to \$8.00 per member.
- No resolutions were presented to this Committee.
- The 2014/2015 Department Budget, with an anticipated income of \$2,561,365.50, anticipated expenses of \$2,870,377.00, and an anticipated net loss of \$309,011.50, was approved.

Highlights of the September 26, 2014 Fall Meeting:

- A review of invested funds was presented by Steven Hicks of Siena Wealth Advisors. The draft audit review of the five audits was presented by Eric Sturk of Kutas and Associates. The five draft audits were approved, with final approval to be given on the final audits at the January 2015 Finance meeting.
- The Rules of Procedure for the Department Finance Committee were reviewed and accepted without change.
- Insurance policies for the Department of Michigan with Auto Owners were approved.
- Adjutant Lafferty reported that profit from the Fall Raffle is up over last year.
- New Adjutant, Ron Runyan, reported that he is having

his eyes opened concerning invoice and budget items. Highlights of the January 9, 2015 Meeting:

- The VA&R Report showed less income than projected. Director Esterling said the MVAA was behind on some expense reimbursements but expected these funds to be forthcoming.
- The Final Audit Reports from Kutas and Associates were reviewed and approved.
- The insurance policies for the Department of Michigan were reviewed and explained by Mike Totte of Labuda, Totte, Bray Agency.
- The 501c3 application was received by the IRS on December 9, 2014, with a 180 day processing time beginning on that date.
- The invested funds with Siena Wealth Advisors all showed gains for the past year.
- Adjutant Runyan reported that holding Post #225 currently has about 9,000 members with about 1,700 not paid. These members will be contacted by mail explaining the need to pay their dues.

Highlight of the February 14 Meeting;

- The VA&R Report showed that the MVAA payments were catching up.
- No word on the 501c3 from the IRS.
- The Sons of the American Legion budget for the coming year was presented by Chris Donhal. There is an increase in the dues by \$1.00 per member.
- The May 11, 2015 Budget Meeting minutes were not available at deadline. The 2015/2016 Depart of Michigan Budget has anticipated income of \$2,539,630.82, anticipated expenses of \$2,800,027.29, with a net loss of (\$260,396.47).

I want to thank Commander James Wallace for the opportunity to serve as Chairman of the Finance/Personnel Committee this past year. The task has been made much easier with the advice and help of the Committee members; Dave Buist (Vice Chairman), Don Meskill, Roger Avie, and Eddie Brown. And I can't leave out the expertise of Finance Officer George Dolan and the two Adjutants, Pat Lafferty and Ron Runyan. Pat Lafferty, we will always miss you knowledge and presence. Enjoy your retirement! I do believe that the Department of Michigan will be well served in the coming future with Ron Runyan as Adjutant. He done an exemplary job since being hired!

MI LEGIONNAIRE OPT OUT FORM

YES! I would like to view the Legionnaire online at www.michiganlegion.org instead of receiving it through the mail. Please permanently remove me from the Legionnaire mailing list. This option will not effect any other Legion mailings.

Name: _____

Member ID #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____



AUXILIAIRE

*From the Desk of the President**2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox*

We Can Be Proud of our Membership



Spring has come and it sure is a welcome sight. This week I have been thinking a lot about our membership. Our national membership is currently sitting at about 89% and we only need about 11% more or about 3400 more members. Is this possible -

you better believe it is.

Our membership is something I am very proud of. As I traveled around the state, each unit and post that I visited had a unique way to promote and retain the membership. But my one question that I have asked all year was, "Why is the American Legion numbers in the 75,000 and the Auxiliary is at around 29,000." A huge question. Each legionnaire has at least 2 ladies that can join the auxiliary. So where are they? I

haven't figured it out myself but if someone has the answer please let me know. Now to see if anyone reads my article I challenge 3400 legionnaires to sign up one member for the auxiliary. Remember our juniors count as a member. So please sign up your granddaughter at just \$3.00 per year. Not only are you helping us reach our goal of 100% for this year but also National goal of 1 million by 2019. But the most important thing is that once our numbers get stronger and more in line with the legion, we as our own organization will become stronger and louder to our local, state and national officials.

Reports are in and the Chairmen, Department and national, of each committee is working hard on their reports. In advance a huge Thank-You for all that you are doing for the Auxiliary this year. I can't wait to see what everyone is reporting at convention. Let's make our little changes a

big difference in reporting.

In closing out my year, a huge THANK-YOU for all the units and districts for your invitations, the great kind words that have been given to me, the gifts of money that went to my special project, but most of all the hard work that is being done in this state. Our Chairmen worked very hard this year and it shows throughout this great state. My memories of this year will live in my heart for the rest of my life. I asked in the beginning of the year to help strengthen the Department of Michigan and that is exactly what has happen. Great Job Michigan.

To my advisory chairman, a special thank you for everything you did to get me through my tears and fears this year. My work is not finished with the Auxiliary and I will continue to work hard for this organization. I wish the new officers the best wishes for the upcoming year. Go get them girls.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

Notes from the National Leadership Conference—May 1-4, 2015

(Leading Candidate for National President and National Chairmen Appointee synopsis of changes in their respective programs)

From May 1-4, 2015, Incoming Department President, Sue Verville; Incoming Department Membership Chairman, Pam Lajewski-Pearson and myself attended the annual National Leadership Conference. As a portion of the conference, the Leading Candidate for National President, Sharon Conatser, presented

a few portions of her program, and the National Chairman gave highlights and changes in each of their Plan of Action.

1. Next Year's Theme "Keeping the Promise"
2. Next Year President's Special Project: Auxiliary Emergency Fund
3. Next Year National Presidents Award for Excellence, must include 3 programs - Membership, AEF and Choice
4. No Department On-Site Training for 2015-2016
5. Mission Training, one in each division, reduced to one day (Saturday), will include a division Jr. Conference
6. Strategic Planning, current group will be renamed to "Future Focus Committee"

7. Changes to Program Plan of Action:

- Membership, Family membership award will continue, Honor our female veterans will continue (national waive \$9), thank you post card sent to new members, accepting payments on line, departments are encouraged to set up a membership task force and develop a revitalization program
- Americanism, adding a category to Lincoln's Promise for special needs entries
- Community Service, eliminating "Walk, Run & Roll"
- Poppy, no notes
- Public Relations, new member award and new how to for website
- AEF, new how to host a diva event, new water bottle collection
- Education, new section on military children
- Girls Nation, July 23-30
- Jr Activities, how to involve Jrs in your unit, divisional conferences
- Leadership, new how to and update to resources
- Legislative, no notes

- National Security, ALA Military Family Readiness Guide
- VA&R, Department chairman should encourage "Service to Veterans"
- Children and Youth, Department chairman should encourage "Star Spangled Kids" and "Kids of Deployed are Hero's Too"
- 8. Plan of Action will be aligned to Centennial Strategic Plan, more recognition of units ("the year of the unit")
- 9. National Awards cover sheet will remain the same the only change will be to the dates
- 10. Goal is to have the new plan of action ready by 7/1/2015
- 11. Membership Theme: "It's the little things that count"
- 12. Departments are encouraged to set up a Centennial Strategic Plan Team
- 13. National President's homecoming will be October 22 - 25 detail to follow National Convention
- 14. Department Chairman are highly encouraged to communicate with the Division Chairman

Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” Chronicles 16:34



As this is my final Chaplain's article, I would like to thank all of our Units for their help in sending me their deceased members for the monthly Memory Garden, the wonderful prayers and

thoughts for President Nancy's Prayer Book and for all of the emails and documents sent in response to my Faith Sharing project. You have all been simply wonderful and I am very thankful for all of you.

As the Chaplain's theme this year has been "Always be Thankful", it has been a year that our Veterans and active Service Personnel have been able to say thank you to so many of you for the things you

have done for them. Whether it was volunteering at our VA Medical Centers, Homes for Veterans, driving Veterans to and from doctor appointments, or just saying thank you to them on the street, you have all gone above and beyond for them.

Our Legion family is the best and I will always be very thankful to be a part of it. As Veterans, and families of, a great deal is done to make our Veterans feel like we are very thankful for what they have done, and all they have sacrificed, to make our country one that allows us the freedoms we enjoy.

As always, be thankful for the freedoms we enjoy, the families that we love and the friends that help make our lives complete.

Our Auxiliary Has Amazing Women

Peggy Nolff, 2nd District President

As my second year as District President comes to a close, I cannot believe the amazing women I have come to know. The dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and to our Veterans and their families is beyond compare. Out of my 27 Units in District 2 I have had the pleasure of visiting 18 of them and have 3 more visits scheduled for May. Our goal this year was 2,243 members and currently we are in 8th place. As I have seen for myself several Units are still struggling yet today to get those last few memberships in. We are at 88.90% as of the 4-30 report and I know we can grow from there.

I am sad to say we did turn in one Charter this past year but have grown as a District. Our meeting participation has increased, at meetings we pass out literature for better promotion of Department and National programs, we encourage sharing from our Units. We promote the Units activities on the Second District Facebook page. My Vice President Carol Burke attended a majority of the meetings with me not only promoting the PR of Ring Your Bell, she wrote articles and press releases. Carol also as the Membership chairman for the District put together a Membership challenge for the Units to increase Membership 125% over last year, the prize was funds raised from 50/50 held at Unit and District meetings. We have seen the Charter completed and the District and Units reinstated with their nonprofit status returned and made retroactive. Two years ago we had to beg for officers now I am proud to say we have women offering to take a posi-

tion.

This year my President Project is to raise funds to develop a Music Therapy Program at the Ann Arbor VA for our PTSD patients. I have received contributions of music, a laptop and monetary donations from my Units. We are still seeking donations of a variety of CD's and instruments that may be used, my project will just be getting items put together this month as we purchase MP3 players and Bluetooth. If anyone has talents they would like to share please let us know.

Many of the Units I visited always seem to worry about how few members they may have at a meeting, or if they run a formal or informal meeting. But no matter how many attended or if they followed Roberts Rules of Order there was always one thing you could not deny, it was dedication. I had Units struggle with lack of participation and support from members or from their own Legion Post. But that did not stop them from continuing to do the work of the American Legion Auxiliary for their communities and for active duty soldiers and our Veterans.

As I look back over my past two years I still look for ways where communication and support between the Legion and the Auxiliary can come together and keep us a strong organization. I will continue to work beside these ladies and help and encourage anywhere I can as our job will never be done. I thank everyone for the support and guidance that I have received over this past year and a special thank you to Department Staff and to Nancy Knox for always being there when I called. As always I am with you as we are "Service to Others Not to Self".

VA&R - IT'S ALL ABOUT VOLUNTEERS

Janette Brockway, VA&R Chairman

To all of the volunteers - give yourself a pat on the back. Without you, this program would not be the GREAT success program that it is. Serving our veterans, we have a lot to be proud of for instance, there has been over 11,000 veterans receiving some kind of donation from this program, and over 7,000 hours donated to our veterans serving in the military. All of the facilities that serve our veterans are in need of dedicated volunteers such as yourself. We have had over 65 new volunteers this year so we know there are many of you out there that would love to volunteer and be counted next year, make yourself be counted and volunteer.

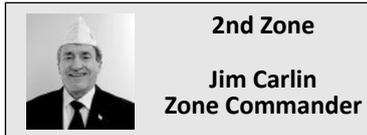
There are many ways that you can volunteer all you have to do is get in contact with one of the many volunteers, Hospital Representatives, Nursing Home Representatives or let your Unit VA&R Chairman know that you are interested in volunteering. There are easy tracking sheets out there now that will help in recording all of your time and monies spent on the veteran. As it stands today, under the direction of the ALA's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program, members serve as VAVS volunteers and as Service to Veterans (combined Field Service and Home Service) volunteers.

VAVS volunteers must serve in a VA healthcare facility (VA medical centers, VA hospitals, clinics, etc.), whereas Service to Veterans volunteers can serve from their homes or in the community with other service organizations. With summer coming think of taking your juniors with you to volunteer, get them involved now and they will volunteer the rest of their lives.

Summer is also a great time to attend one of the many Homeless Stand downs around the state, you can get in contact with the Homeless Coordinator and she will guide you where there is one in the future. All of our dollars that are donated to help serve our veterans is greatly appreciated and have the veterans best interest in mind when serving them.

2015 DEC Reports

Article IX, Section 1 of the Department By-Laws requires officers and chairpersons to make an annual detailed report for publication in the Michigan Legionnaire. District Commanders are invited, but not required to submit reports.



2nd Zone

Jim Carlin
Zone Commander

It has been a wonderful and productive year, and I'm pleased to report having traveled 15,000 miles to nearly all of the 123 Posts in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Districts. If you count the total of Legion Posts visited more than once, that number is 290. There are still a few weeks before the Convention and my objectives are to continue Post visits advocating the mission of the American Legion. We have all done great things together working as a team in the communities we serve, and I'm extremely proud of all my Posts and the tireless effort of my four District Commanders in Zone 2.

I also deeply appreciate the advice provided to me by Department Commander Jim Wallace, and the six other PDC's who helped me in so many ways. Each of these gentlemen have made it easier for me to accomplish my duties of zone commander.

There is not enough space to mention each of the special events and activities that I have attended, however two are notable. One was an invitation to the 2014 Americana Concert held by the Oxford, Michigan Middle School Choir, and Oxford Post 108. Another was the awesome program, the Four Chaplains Memorial Service, held at Lapeer Post 16. Immediately following that event I contacted an official at Oxford Middle School, and told them the history of Four Chaplains and U.S.A.T. Dorchester. I am pleased to announce the school program will include this narrative into their annual 2015 Americana Concert event, honoring veterans in the community. It was a pleasure to speak at their program last year, and I look forward to returning.

Our 2nd Zone Face Book page www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion2ndZoneMichigan has been very popular and contained my "On the road again" remarks with over 1,000 photographs of the Posts and events that I have attended. It has a great following, and been an excellent social Internet resource to keep members advised of what is going on within the 2nd Zone. I hope the incoming zone commanders might also use this type of social media to promote our Posts across the state. As PDC Richard Chatman stated in 2011, we must utilize the technology of the Internet and social media to brag about what we do,

because it is the only way that others will learn about our mission.

It has been an honor serving you in my Department capacity, and I hope I have fulfilled the trust you have placed in me. I look forward to taking the next step on my path in the American Legion, and to serve where I am best suited helping veterans and their families. To each of you in our Legion family, I would personally like to thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great Nation, and for everything you do for our organization." See you, "on the road again"...



3rd Zone

Marilyn Brittan
Zone Commander

What a year! I have been to places I didn't even know existed, found warm, excited Legion Family members and saw the Legion in action. Sometimes there were dinners and ceremonies honoring our own, sometimes honoring others. It all makes us stronger. There were district meetings, events, training at national, department, district, posts, units and squadrons. Post revitalization was very important and bolstered the Legion Family in several locations. It all comes down to our members and the leadership shown by so many in so many ways, helping someone who needs a helping hand, a new direction or just someone to listen to them.

I thank the members of the Third Zone that elected me and to the scores of others that supported me. You have given me a memorable year, but more important is the demonstration that the Family is made up of some of the finest people in this country. I look forward to continuing to serve with all of you in support of the Legion Family, veterans and their families. Let's continue to grow our Family and show others how much we care about them and this country. See you on the road in the future.



4th Zone

Joe Renis
Zone Commander

Greetings from the 4th Zone. It has been a busy, but very productive year for our Northern Michigan districts. Starting with the 10th District, I want to thank District Commander Ken Burtch and Vice Don Mraz for their outstanding efforts in getting out and

visiting their Posts. It reflected in both their membership numbers and participation of their posts. It was brought together by their recognizing their members of the Legion Family who passed away at a memorial service at their May District meeting. In the 9th District, Commander Neal Horning and Vice Gary Walter continued to work with their Posts resolving issues and continuing to support programs in their community. I was able to see this personally at Post 35 in Traverse City, where they aided the Girl Scouts packing Girl Scout cookies for the soldiers overseas. The 19th District Commander George Bollinger and Vice John Vanmaele continued to reach out to smaller posts and get them more involved. They worked hard with struggling posts and offered instruction on Mylegion.org at their District meetings. I thank all for making this a memorable year. Richard Tracy, from the 10th District, has been nominated for the Zone Commander for the upcoming year. Please support him as you have me.



5th Zone

James P. Dougovito
Zone Commander

The 5th Zone continues to excel in reaching our 100% membership - the toughest is the last five percent or so. Keep up the excellent work and if assistance is needed contact myself or Jack Koivisto, our membership chairman. The 11th and 12th districts have met are both ready with new leadership for the 2015-2016 Legion Year. My best of wishes for a strong, safe and productive year new year. Our Upper Peninsula Association of Legion Posts will be meeting on the 12th and 13th of June at the Island Resort east of Escanaba and two weeks later will be the State Convention in Sterling Heights. The famous YOOPER party and Sue Verville's meet and greet will be held at American Legion Post 351 in Utica during the convention - look for the details in your convention packet. Thank you Commander Wallace for a great year.



1st District

Dan McCrary
District Commander

I first want to thank my 1st District Officer team for working with me this year in continuing to try and make the 1st District a vi-

able and active Legion service outlet for The American Legion. Although our membership numbers do not reflect the hard work that I know some of our members are doing, I want all those 1st District Legionnaires who are working to know that their efforts are appreciated and you can count on the District to continue to work with you in this endeavor. I want to personally thank the Post Commanders and Officer Teams of Post 13, 86, 126, 132, 202, 303, 375 and 505 for regularly attending our District meetings. Without you the business of the District could not be done. The posts who stepped up this year to purchase and present ROTC Medals and School Awards are to be saluted. Children & Youth is a pillar of The American Legion, so thank you for your support. The 1st District had (4) posts 13, 184, 202 & 372 to reach 100% membership goal. We have members who are actively involved with Boys State, helping homeless Veterans, partnering with organizations that assist Veterans such as Southwest Solutions (Piquette Square), VCAT (Veterans Community Action Team), Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones (Veterans Task Force Committee), volunteering at John Dingell Hospital and working with the MDVC (Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition) in staging of the annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade. The future is bright not only for the City of Detroit but for the 1st District as well. It has been my extreme pleasure to work with you this year and looking forward to great things happening in the District for 2015-2016.

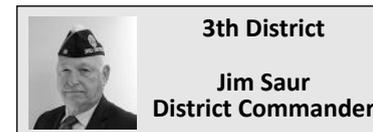


2nd District

Mike Kraus
District Commander

It's been a great honor and pleasure to serve the 2nd District. As your District Commander the past year. First off I would like to thank all posts for their hard work on membership this year. I would like to thank Post 270 of Hanover-Horton for leading the District in 100% membership by the deadline. Here are the posts that are at 100% past the deadline Posts 24, 40, 46, 72, 81, 180, 315, 514. Thank you for your hard work from Commander on down to the membership. All so a big thank you to the posts that held district meetings this year and all the posts who generously hosted special guests and events. It is always nice to have a family of SAL, Auxilia-

ry, and Legion Riders. It's been a great learning experience for me. I have been blessed with great men from the 2nd District officers for their support throughout this year, I thank you for your knowledge and great help you have been for me. I would like to also thank 2nd Zone Commander Jim Carlin for his dedication and knowledge and the help he gave me and the 2nd district and for all the hard work he does for the American Legion. We cannot survive without compromise and we must all work together as a team. To all my friends and supporters and to the many veterans that we serve, for now and forever, God Bless the USA.



3rd District

Jim Saur
District Commander

It has been a good year for the Third District and I am very proud to have been a part of it. Our Posts were very active in their communities and the surrounding areas participating in patriotic events, helping veterans in distress, sponsoring youth programs, and supporting our military.

Post 36 in Kalamazoo and Post 207 in Portage continued their many years of appearances in Memorial Day parades and ceremonies as did many other Posts in The Third and throughout the state. The Joseph B. Westledge Post 36 Parade Float has been a highlight of local parades for over forty years. These appearances by our veterans, honor guards and patriotic floats inspire both adults and youth to better understand Americanism.

The revitalization of Post 257 in Augusta has given the Legion important access to hospitalized veterans in the VA's Battle Creek Medical Center as well as the previously homeless veterans that now reside with dignity at Silver Star. The BINGO NIGHT at the Medical Center is staffed by volunteer Legionnaires from the five counties of The Third District Association and a highlight monthly activity for the short and long term patients.

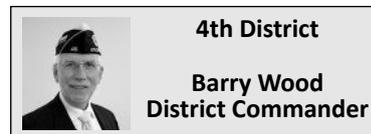
Post 298 in Battle Creek is a strong supporter of the youth in Calhoun County with its acclaimed Student Awards Program. Six grade students from area schools are selected and honored with medallions and certificates for their leadership, scholarship, courage, honor, and patriotism.

Reports Continued

This year's ceremony was attended by Department Commander James Wallace and Woman's Auxiliary President Nancy Knox. Both gave congratulations and meaningful encouragement to the students and parents. The positive lessons of well organized youth sports are also recognized. Post 36 in Kalamazoo has stepped up to sponsor a Little League Team this year. Other Posts in the District are sponsoring youth activities as well.

These programs are supported by the volunteerism and participation of the members of the Legion Family. A highlight of this year has been the leadership efforts of several Post Commanders, Alternate Commanders and membership committees. They have succeeded in bringing their Post well deserved recognition for meeting their membership goals. The success of the The Third District Association Posts also brings recognition to the Department and the District. I am sure our newly elected District Leadership will continue the progress of this past year.

Thank you all. It has been my honor to serve as your District Commander.



4th District

Barry Wood
District Commander

I am not the first to say "that time is flying." Yes, the Legion year is going fast. I want to thank the 4th District members for their hard work this year. I thank you for your acceptance of me as your commander and for welcoming me into your posts and activities during this year. There are many exciting things taking place in the District and I have been allowed to participate in a number of them. I hope to continue my involvement regardless of the positions I hold within the Legion.

I would like your support for the next District commander and that you continue to be as welcoming to that person as you have been to me. Please make early contact with the District commander and invite him/her to your activities. The District commander is the contact between posts and the Department and presents an opportunity to pass ideas throughout the District to better provide for our veterans. By the time you read this the District elections will have taken place. I am sure your new District commander will reach out to early so respond early and get the New Year off to a good start.

Attend District, Zone, and Department activities and training to better prepare yourselves and

your post to participate in Legion services. Learn about the Four Pillars of the American Legion and how you can further the purpose of these programs. There is always some type of training and learning opportunities at these meetings. These opportunities give you the chance to take new material back to your home post. Please do not pass this up.

I would like to see an increased use of myLegion. Post adjutants and District commanders need to make regular use of this tool to help drive membership programs and to provide an active post environment to those Legion members that are hanging out in Post 225. You can obtain the application for myLegion on the national website (legion.org). Start early with access to this site and you will see how helpful it can be. Many Legion members are just waiting to be asked as many do not know how to make contact with an active post. Welcome these members into your posts.

Most of all I want you all to realize the most important activities happen at your posts. This is where a majority of your members see The American Legion. This is where the most support for veterans take place. You are The American Legion! Veterans supporting veterans! Veterans supporting the community! You are the one that makes The American Legion successful. Be active and help your post to continue serving those who served.



5th District

Catherine Buckley
District Commander

The year in the 5th has been exciting. Working on membership has been a challenge, which I'm very proud of the District with their hard work and we are not done yet.

As the Commander I have learned much concerning the Legion and more so concerning veterans and their needs and benefits. Within the 5th we are very concerned with veteran's needs. We are working with a business to have apartments for homeless veterans. We are looking into all possibilities for housing. The 5th is sending at last count 40 boys to Boys State and one to Student Trooper. By June we should have a few more.

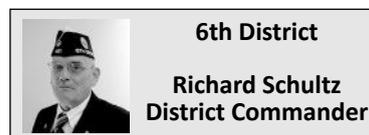
Working with other Districts has been very fruitful; also working with the 5th District Auxiliary and SAL. We have found working together is much more beneficial for the end results. A Family that works and plays together, stays together. Our American Legion Riders have grown and are very active helping veterans. They have many

events scheduled throughout the summer.

Right now I'm working with the 3rd District into locating women veterans. There are over 50,000 female veterans in Michigan. With the women from the 3rd and 5th we hope to gather others from across the state to help with this. This will not be a pressure point to get them to join the Legion, but it will be the end result. We need to know if they have needs that haven't been met. Give them the direction they need to go for their needs. As Districts we need to work together for the betterment of The American Legion and its family. If any women veterans wish to climb on board for this challenge please give me a call, for we need your help. We just had a Baby Shower at the Veterans Clinic for over 25 female veterans that were in need. We also receive an electric wheel chair and found a wonderful home that needed it.

We are gearing up for the upcoming year with an agenda in the works, for we will continue to work together in some capacity.

Thank you for giving me a great year as the Commander of the 5th District. The success of the 5th District goes to every Legionnaire within the district; you all did a wonderful job.



6th District

Richard Schultz
District Commander

The 6th District is doing great this year, with everyone working hard to make their goals. Ten posts met the challenge to be at 100 per cent by December 31, and by April, 30 2015 six more are at 100 percent. My congratulations to all the Posts and their members, job well done! Don't forget Boy's State, Girls State and Student Trooper programs. We still have work to do, so keep up the good work!

It has been a fun year for me, visiting all of the posts and meeting all of the members. I've attended several functions this year, the Christmas party at Post 235, dinner at Post 294, and the Memorial Service at Post 64, just to name a few. Thank you all for your hospitality.



9th District

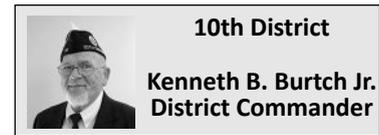
Neal Horning
District Commander

Our District has completed a great year. The 9th District is in good shape doing and supporting the Four Pillars of the American Legion in their communities - JOB WELL DONE!

While visiting the Posts in my District, I was always greeted with respect and honor, thank you

for all your support. At the latest report Membership is at 90.67% - We still have time to get that 100% - Thank You for All Your Efforts!

It's been a real honor to be your District Commander these past two years.

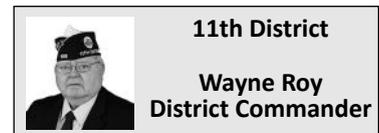


10th District

Kenneth B. Burtch Jr.
District Commander

Comrades, well this is my last report as District 10 Commander. The past two years have been a challenge, but a learning experience I will be able to use in years to come. I certainly appreciate all the help I have received from many of you, and the wonderful work you have done in the area of membership. As of this writing, 4/22/2015 the Mighty 10th is at 97.32% we have until the end of May to reach 100%. As of this writing we have 10 Posts that are at 100% or more. Who will receive the Commander's Plaque this year? Right now the Hale Post is at 108.29% and the Mikado post is at 107.89. We have several Posts that are only 1 to 3 members of being 100%. I hope by the time this Legionnaire is printed these Posts, and others, will have passed the 100% mark.

I just want to encourage all the members of the 10th District to continue in the great works they are doing, and remember the American Legion is a Family! The Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Legion Riders are not in competition with each other; we are a Family working together for our mail purpose of serving Veterans, and fulfilling our obligation to the Four Pillars. What kind of person do I want to be? I heard a man say recently, in a prayerful way, "Lord, help me to be the kind of person my dog thinks I am." Thank you.



11th District

Wayne Roy
District Commander

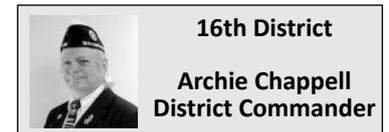
As my term of office comes to a close I am amazed how time passes so quickly. First and foremost is membership, for the Posts who met or surpassed their goals I congratulate you, and for those still working at it I encourage you to put a little more effort into your hard work, we know that some Posts have one or two members who seem to drag their feet, when all else fails stop in and make a house call. By the time this print reaches you I would think that the 11th District should be near 100 percent.

I want to thank everyone for their support and understanding of my absence on various occasions during the past year, still having some projects to complete

my plan is to continue them at such time allows under the circumstances that surround me.

A reminder to all the 11th & 12th Districts Posts Commanders your challenge to man the American Legion UP State Fair Booth, your will be receiving a mailing with all the details.

The 11th District has been labeled as "God's Country" and/or "A Sportsman's Paradise", which brings me to say; Gods area code could be "906" and yes the area of the 11th District is a slice of heaven, be proud to be a member of the District as I am so very proud of it. Please support your incoming officers and thank you for your support.



16th District

Archie Chappell
District Commander

Well, it looks like my term as 16th District Commander is coming to an end. As my year started I have stated that I would like to see all post members including Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary to become a family again and work together. I think we are all getting on the same page again. I went to many of our post meetings in our 16th District to promote what I believe that we can work as a family. Next thing that I am working on is to have the dues raised for post 225. There is members transferring from post 225 into other post's then the transferred members realize the dues was cheaper if they had stayed in post 225 so the members transfers back to 225. Lastly I will be with Al Ford and his committee to do a revitalization with the Westland Post on 05/09/2015. I am hoping the outcome turns out great for our Westland Post. After I leave office I want to work with our newly elected 16th District Commander and his newly elected officers along with Al Ford to hold another Revitalization for our 16th District. In closing I would like to thank everyone in the 16th District and throughout the Department for giving me the guidance and support. May God Bless each and every one of our legion family's throughout our fine Department of Michigan.



17th District

Kevin Gilliam
District Commander

It's been a good two year run in the 17th District. We have gotten many positives accomplished in that time. We have worked membership very hard and have placed a special focus on various

American Legion Post 514 Support the Community Youth



Lynn C. Weeman Post 514 celebrated its 57th Birthday Party on Feb. 28th, 2015. The Young Marines posted Colors prior to the Meeting and returned the Colors after the Meeting. For that service the Lynn C. Weeman Post 514 presented each of the Young Marines a Legion Appreciation Coin and Certificate. The Presentation Ceremonies were held at the Young Marines regular meeting on April 28, 2015. Back row is ALR President James (Doc) Hubbard Jr.; Post 514 Adjutant William (Bill) Zornow; Pvt. Sam Gonsales and Post 514 Commander Barbara Weimert. Front row is Pvt. Morgan Hub-

bard; Training Officer Caitlynn Jones; Pfc. Dylan Gillenkirk and Pvt. Alexis Whiteside. Commanding Officer Richard Sheets was unable to attend the meeting, he will be presented his Legion Appreciation Coin and Certificate at a later date. Among the guests were Second Zone Vice Commander Jim Carlin; Second District Commander Mike Kraus; Second District Service Officer and Chair of the Department PR Committee Dave Loop; Department PR Committee Member Roger Younglove and his wife Nancy, Post Commander Barbara Weimert, her husband Historian John Weimert and Post 514 ALR President James (Doc) Hubbard Jr. and his wife. A Girl Scout Scarlet Adams provided a great performance on Flag Etiquette. She was assisted by the Young Marines as a U.S. Flag was folded. She will be receiving her American Legion Certificate & Appreciation Coin during The Lynn C. Weeman Post 514 May meeting.

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