



MILEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No. 7



Michigan Boys State
Registration Due
May 26, 2016

www.michiganboysstate.org

Legion Baseball Team
Registration & Insurance
due by May 15, 2016
www.michiganlegion.org/baseball



2016 CPR's
Due June 1st
mylegion.org

Annual Post
Data Reports
Due
April 15 - 25,
2016



Student Trooper Forms
Due May 27, 2016
www.michiganlegion.org/trooper

No Return Postage Requested

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 news@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Roxanne Osga.

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



Greetings Legion Family! "For behold, the (grief of) winter is past ... The flowers have already appeared ... And the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land," Song of Solomon 2:11-12. I can almost hear Ernie Harwell's reading now. As the days get warmer we look forward to many outdoor activities like baseball (Go Tigers), camping, hiking and swimming. Ah yes, the "glory" of spring is finally here.

You never know about the weather. Sometimes there are extreme conditions like hurricanes and tornadoes. Today, we are doing better at predicting and mapping bad weather. There was little or no warning 200 years ago. Either a hurricane or tornado is bad enough and you really wouldn't expect both together. But, that is probably what happened in what many refer to as "The Storm That Saved Washington (D.C.)."

During the War of 1812 against the British, America was still young. In April of 1814, with the ending of the Napoleonic Wars, the British were then able devote more troops and ships to America. And, angered over American attacks and destruction in Canada, they decided retaliate and hit us hard. In an effort to spread the US forces out, in addition to strengthening Canada in

the north, they began to blockade the south and attack the Atlantic coastline. Then in August, they launched a massive land attack into Maryland. On the 24th they soundly defeated the American forces at the Battle of Bladensburg. The American troops fled in an unorganized retreat. This opened the door to Washington, only about 8 miles away. So, President Madison, the rest of the government and U.S. forces quickly abandoned the Capitol.

The British moved in immediately and began to burn and destroy strategic targets like the White House and Capitol Building. But some hours later, a sudden severe thunderstorm began moving in, likely a hurricane, and was extinguishing some of the fires. And of all things, it spun off a tornado right in the center of the City. It reeked destruction to the point of lifting and throwing some cannons. While many of the civilians had taken cover the British soldiers were more exposed, many were injured and some died. Following the storm, less than 26 hours after entering the city, the British soldiers returned to their ships which had also experienced a lot of damage. They did so without a even a skirmish with the Americans.

Some historians debate that the British didn't intend to occupy Washington, just to lay waste to it. However, had the British known the condition of the American troops and government,

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

"Grief to Glory"

and if they would have continued to pursue and attack, they likely could have won the war. Perhaps after the storm they no longer had the inclination for conflict. To me, it was if God said to the British, "This country is under my grace. I can support it, or destroy it as I choose, not you."

In the meantime, the Americans regrouped, moved back into the Capitol and the army even secured some subsequent victories. This greatly improved our position in the negotiations during the Treaty of Ghent, signed later that December, which restored and enhanced our territories. We began to rebuild the Nation's Capitol to be the shining light it has become today. Out of our grief arose glory.

I'll never forget our trip to Washington D.C. Just touching the Viet Nam Wall, walking through the Capitol Building and Arlington Cemetery renewed my patriotism. I encourage you to visit if you can. There is so much to do there and admission to most exhibits is free. As I stood at the Capitol Building looking down the Mall toward the Washington Monument I was uplifted. "Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. Yes, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase," Psalm 85:11-12.

God Bless You All. - Chaplain Eddie.

2016 Department Oratorical Contest



The 2016 Department Oratorical Contest was held on February 20th at the Eberhard Center in Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids. Four talented students competed for scholarship money. This year's winner was Lyndon DeFoe from University High School Academy in Southfield. He was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship and advanced to the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis with the potential of winning \$18,000. Second place was awarded to Jihye "Sophia" Nam, winning a scholarship of \$1,000. Runners up, Ponette Rubio and Kelsie Wenz were awarded \$800 scholarships.

Photo from L to R: Dept. Commander Mike Buda, Kelsie Wenz, Jihye (Sophia) Nam, Ponette Rubio, Lyndon DeFoe, and John Bradford, Oratorical Chairman.

STATE OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| State Commander.....Michael Buda | Finance Officer.....Roger Avie | Alt. National Executive Committeeman |
| State Adjutant..... Ron Runyan | Historian..... Ernest Berry | Tom Brown |
| 1st Zone..... David Babbage | Chaplain..... Eddie Brown | Immediate Past Commander.... Jim Wallace |
| 2nd Zone..... Barry Wood | Sergeant-at-Arms.....Frank Flores | Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director |
| 3rd Zone..... Kevin Gilliam | Judge Advocate.....Elmer White | Gary Easterling |
| 4th Zone..... Richard Tracy | National Executive Committeeman | Membership Director..... Brett Holt |
| 5th Zone..... Stan Kennedy | Roger Webster | Public Relations Director.....Mark Sutton |

Michael Buda, State Commander

Planning Ahead

“Unless success in all that we do. commitment is made, there are only promises and hopes - but no plans.”

“People don’t plan to fail, people fail to plan.”

“Planning is bringing the future into the present so that you can do something about it now.”

“It pays to plan ahead. It wasn’t raining when Noah built the ark.”

If you don’t do your homework, plans will not turn out as wanted. These quotes pertain to everything we do, beginning as a child. If you don’t plan the steps necessary to become an Eagle Scout, you won’t earn the honor. If you don’t plan to study hard in college, you won’t graduate with a degree. If you don’t look into the future with goals, you won’t meet any because you didn’t have any. Being proactive instead of reactive is an ingredient needed for



Michael Buda
State Commander

During my travels this year, I have seen firsthand the Posts that are healthy and growing. They are the ones that are involved in their communities and engage all members with year round opportunities of service, community involvement and social activities. They run their Posts as a business with a budget, to make sure expenses are not more than revenue. Most of these Posts have a plan for growth, how to contribute to their communities and meet the needs and expectations of their future membership.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the March issue of MI Legionnaire. I like seeing so many pictures of Legion happenings and the descriptions of the occasion presented. At this time I would like to say thank you to all the members who wrote articles, especially those who covered the news of Wilwin, membership and what’s coming up in the near future. Thank you for doing it right!

Michael Buda

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Post Adjutant’s “You’ve Got Mail”

Post Commanders and Post Adjutants you should have received, at the mailing address provided to Department, a packet of information containing the following information.

- Post Data Report Form
- Deletion – Direct Renewal Notice Form
- Membership Recruitment Pin (3, 10, 20, 30) Form
- New Member Recruiter Award (Gold, Silver, Bronze) Form
- Post Officers List Form




Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

- Post Bond Form
- Post Officers Certification of Annual Audit Form
- Notification Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants Form
- National Commanders Membership Incentive Pin Certification Form


Watch the deadlines and fill out completely. If you have any questions please contact Deanna Clark by email at member@michiganlegion.org or phone 517-371-4720 Ext 24.

Coming Soon.... Consolidated Post Reports are on the way!!!

Headquarters



We are Family



Freedom is Not Free

LEGION FAMILY TESTIMONIAL DINNER


Department Commander Michael Buda
Auxiliary President Sue Verville
Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky

April 23, 2016
Carl E Stitt Post 232
Dearborn Heights, MI

5pm Social Hour & Cash Bar
6pm Dinner
\$30 per person

We Stand United

RSVP by April 1, 2016 ~ Checks payable to Natalie Buda ~ 3210 Monroe Dearborn, MI 48124 ~ Include email address for confirmation



2016 Department Convention
Registration Form

Kewadin Casino Hotel & Convention Center
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
June 22 - June 26, 2016 Group #2253

Hotel Reservations must be made through the hotel directly. Call 1-800-539-2346 for room reservations and mention ID number 2253 for convention rates.

Regular Rooms (King bed or double Queen beds) – \$79.00 + tax
Jacuzzi Rooms (King bed) – \$89.00 + tax
Suites (King bed with Queen Sleeper sofa) – \$99.00 + tax
Non-smoking and limited smoking rooms available.
Additional \$10 per person per room over 2 people.

PRINT FULL NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS:

Name _____ (Mark the affiliation) Leg Aux SAL Leg. Rider

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email Address*: _____
**email address is required for registration confirmation.*

FULL NAME OF ALL OTHERS WHO ARE REGISTERING:

Name _____ (Mark the affiliation) Leg Aux SAL Leg. Rider

Name _____ (Mark the affiliation) Leg Aux SAL Leg. Rider

Name _____ (Mark the affiliation) Leg Aux SAL Leg. Rider

The American Legion requires that each person in a room must register with the Corporation. The Registration fee is \$15.00 per person. Make checks payable to the UP Association Convention Corp.

Enclosed find \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

Mail form and check to Ray Carlson, 19 Longyear Dr, Negaunee, MI 49866

Other Information: Free Self Parking and Valet Parking Available

There are limited camp sites available. Campers must call 906-635-4926 after May 1st for information.

Membership

Award Forms are Due!



Brett Holt

It has been a fantastic year for membership thus far. Thank you to everyone who has worked on membership from the post level up. We have received several accolades for a job well done. Even the National Commander spoke of how well the Department of Michigan has done with membership this year.

However, in the next breath, the old basketball coach in him warned that we have done well so far but we are only three quarters through the game. If we stop now we will fail to win, or in this case reach our 100% membership goal. The Commander is correct. We have made every target date so far this year. As of March 15, 2016, when this article was written we are at 92.225% and in 7th place nationally. That's wonderful but we need 1,952 more new and or renewed members to make the 95% target on April 13th and 5,471 more members to reach our 100% goal on May 11th. We must continue to contact our delinquent members and get them to return to our great organization.

Consider starting a membership push and write letters to your unpaid members, obtain a 225 list and a delinquent list for members in your area and reach out to them. Finally, the weather is getting nice now. Start a door to door campaign. Knock on the doors of those that have left us and see if they are needing help. Sometimes a little personal contact is all it takes to bring them back. Throughout the month of March, the Fourth Zone held membership drives in their districts. Just because we are nearing the end of the Legion year does not mean that you can't hold a membership drive.

It is time to start sending in those 10-20-30 recruitment pins and Gold, Silver and Bronze Brigade award winner applications. Anyone who has recruited 30 new members qualifies for the Department Gold Brigade award and will receive a shirt, plaque and 30-star pin. Anyone that has recruited 20 new members qualifies for the Silver Brigade and will receive a plaque and a 20-star pin. Anyone recruiting 10 new members qualifies for the Bronze Brigade and will receive a framed certificate and a 10-star pin. Please complete the appropriate Brigade form and the 10-20-30 pin form when applying for the award. You will not receive an award if **you do not send in an application.**

National also has a Gold and Silver Brigade award.

A Legionnaire who recruits 50 or more **NEW MEMBERS** (transfers do not count as new members) into The American Legion by the May 11th will qualify for enrollment in the elite Gold Brigade of The American Legion. These very special Legionnaires will be awarded unique gifts that designate affiliation with the Gold Brigade of The American Legion. Also, special recognition will be given to those Legionnaires enrolled in the Gold Brigade through special

District Meetings 2015 - 2016

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
April 4, 2016
May 2, 2016
June 6, 2016

2nd District

Mar 13, 2016 in Tecumseh
May 15th in Jackson Post 29
Service officers school 1PM with meeting at 2PM

3rd District

March 6, 2016- Wolverine Post 360, 219 N. Main Street, Reading RSVP- 517.283.2683
May 1, 2016- Sherman-Rice-Demorest Post 157, 104 E. Chicago Street, Quincy RSVP- 517.639.3101
Please remember, the regular schedule for 3rd District Meetings; Executive Board Meeting- 11:30 AM, Dinner-Noon, and Regular Meeting at 1:00 P.M. The dinner is \$7.00. Please always RSVP so that staff will be aware of how many may be in attendance.

4th District

N/A

5th District

Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Evan-Swanson Post #123, 14111 Ball Creek Kent City, MI.49330
616-678-5160
Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Charles A. Conklin Post #28
616-842-5310
700 S. Harbor Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Thursday, July 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. - Location to be determined
DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
All Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with First Vice Commander Howard Christensen presiding.
All District Executive Committee meetings will be conducted at: 2327 Wilson Ave. SW Grand Rapids, MI 49534
Neal E. Fonger Post #179 616-453-9861
April 14, 2016
June 9, 2016

6th District

Lunch @ 12:00 PM Meeting @ 1:00 PM
March 6, 2016 - Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney
Service officer School @ 11:00 AM at March Meeting
May 1, 2016 - Post 491 - 422 Woodworth St, Leslie

7th District

March 20, 2016 - Post 197 - Harbor Beach
May 15, 2015 - Post 8, Port Huron
June 2016 - Department Convention

8th District

March 6, 2016 Saginaw Post 439
May 1, 2016 Carson City Post 380
Lunch is at 1:30 meeting to follow

9th District

March 12, 2016 at Manistee Post 10

May 7, 2016 at Traverse City Post 35
Executive Board at Noon, Lunch at 1:00 p.m.,
General Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
We are also attempting to have a Training Session beginning at 10:30 a.m. for interested Legionnaires.

10th District

March 5TH 2016 - OSCODA POST 274
May 1st 2016 - Post 443 Sanford, MI
Lunch at noon meetings at 1pm all dates

11th District

April 9th at Post 71 in Gladstone. The meeting begins at 10:00 AM EDT

12th District

April 23 at Post 21 in Stambaugh. The meeting begins at 10:30 AM CDT

11th & 12th District

The 2016 UPAALP Legislative Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 30th, at Post #50, 916 River Avenue in Iron Mountain, MI 49801. Cocktails are from 5:30 P.M. to 6:30 P.M., CDT, with dinner to be served at 7:00 P.M. The main course is Chateaubriand (Beef Tenderloin) and the cost per ticket is \$20.00. For tickets call Post #50 at (906) 774-5797 from 2:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. CDT. You can also call Chairman Jerry Hicks at (906) 282-1474 for reservations and information. Reservations can be made until Friday, April 22nd. Tickets will be sent to you or can be held for you at the door. Tickets must be paid for in advance.

The 2016 UPAALP Summer Convention will be held at Post #27 in Bessemer on June 10th and 11th. Post #27 will be sending out schedules and further information soon. Please plan on having your Post represented at the Convention and support the host Post along with the UPAALP.

16th District

*Service Officer School **Memorial Service & Elections
March 8, 2016 Wyandotte 217
April 12, 2016* Trenton Post 426
May 10, 2016** Lincoln Park Post 67 313-388-2088
June 14, 2016 Garden City Post 396 313-381-2245

17th District

Meeting start at 7:00 PM
March 16, 2016 Post 391 K of C 150 Fair St, Plymouth, MI
May 18, 2016 Livonia Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI

18th District

Meetings Convene at 2:00 PM
March 13, 2016 - Post 374, Berkley
April 17, 2016 - Post 143, Auburn Hills
(District Memorial Service 2:00 PM)
May 15, 2016 - Post 172, Rochester
(District Election of Officers for 2016-2017)
June 12, 2016 - Post 253, Royal Oak
(Meeting for District Legion Only)

19th District

Mar 13, 2016- Elk Rapids, Post 350
May 14, 2016- Wolverine, Post 122
All have an 11-12 meet & greet, noon lunch, 1:00 meeting

announcements in The Dispatch and in special articles in other publications.

A Legionnaire who recruits 25 to 49 **NEW MEMBERS** (transfers do not count as new members) into The American Legion by the May target date will qualify for this award. A silver pin and certificate will be awarded.

Finally, National has an award called the Big 12 Award. The Big Twelve Competition recognizes departments that meet or exceed their pledged membership goal percentage by the March target date. The percentage does not include members gained through DMS.

The competition is broken down into six categories. The winner in each category will be reimbursed for computer equipment purchases of up to \$2,000, while the runners-up in each category will be reimbursed for computer equipment purchases of up to \$1,000.

This year the Department of Michigan won the Big 12 competition in Category II.

Thank you to everyone that has worked on membership this year. Our success is not because of what any individual has done but rather what we have done collectively. You should be proud of your accomplishments to date.



AUXILIAIRE



BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS



One part of the year ended but another year was beginning. Many things have happened since the beginning of the year.

In January we had The U. P. Mid-Winter Tour, which was a lot of fun and I know everyone had a great time.

February was Americanism Month and I hope everyone contacted their schools and had

their students participate in our Americanism Essay Contest. Also in February we had our Mid-Winter Conference and the Commanders Banquet in Flint. We had the pleasure of having the National President Sharon Conatser from Champaign Ill. in attendance this year for her official visit. This year we also did our conference a little differently and everyone really seemed to enjoy it more. We want to say thanks to those chairmen and committee members who did all the hard work to make it such a great success. We could not have done it without all your help. Even National President Sharon liked what we here in Michigan are doing to promote our programs. Many thanks to Linda Wallace and her committee for doing a great job, well done ladies! Also to our members here in Michigan who helped to donate to the AEF, we were able to present a check to National President Sharon for her special project, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for over \$2,000.00. This amount was added to the parade of checks that I was able to present to the National President in Washington DC in February.

In Washington DC at the conference, Command-

er Buda, SAL Commander Ruttkofsky and I, along with our other Michigan delegation were able to meet with Debbie Stabenow and discuss some important issues we are facing here in Michigan. The Legion had the pleasure to present Gary Peters and Dan Benishek a plaque for all that they are doing to help our Veterans.

March is when we celebrate the birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary, Community Service month, Annual Report Month and the Junior Convention. This is the time to remember how we began and how we want to keep from coming to an end. This is also the time to tell and show what we do for our programs by helping in our local communities. We do this by **REPORTING** what we do on our annual report forms. Please **DO NOT** mark down on your annual report form **NO ACTIVITY** every Unit does something for our Veterans, their community, their Unit or the Post. Next you need to write down what your Unit did for the year to help with our programs. If you do not try for an award you will not receive one. It will also be the beginning for a new Honorary Junior President. This year's Honorary Junior President Taylor Townes should be very proud of what she has done this year to bring awareness to her special project "Be Nice" about Bulling.

April is Children and Youth Month and hopefully each Unit can promote our programs for our youth in their area.

May is the month of remembrance. We celebrate and remember our Mothers. We distribute Poppies urging everyone to remember our veterans who gave us the freedoms which we now enjoy. All the proceeds

collected are to be used for our veterans. If you or your Unit still needs to order Poppies please do so as soon as possible. The last weekend of May we take the time to remember all those family members who are no longer a part of our lives but who have given so much for us and that they will not be forgotten.

I cannot believe that soon my year as your American Legion Auxiliary Department President will be ending. It was not so long ago that a new year was beginning. But as the saying goes all good things will come to an end. Just like our lives our beginnings and endings always go together. As members of this great organization, we are always growing and changing. We are like the limbs of a tree always branching out. We reach out as far as we can, going in all different directions, hoping that we can make a difference in the lives of others.

We as members always seem to find a way to build upon the foundations that we have left behind. We look to the future, not the past, with a sense of purpose and excitement and the beginnings start again. We reach out every day to our members, our Veterans, their families, our communities with a sense of hope that we will do better next time. As we end one year and soon will begin another may we also continue to meet the challenges that will face our new leadership, new ideas and new plans for our members. Meeting the challenges of our Auxiliary will require commitment, hope, understanding and lots of hard work. So let us continue by "**Branching out as the Legion Family**" and keep climbing forward on our journey to find our endings and our new beginnings.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

2016 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CONVENTION CALL



The 96th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan is hereby called to be held in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan June 23-June 26, 2016.

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing

officers for the ensuing year, considering amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules, receiving reports of the National Executive Committeewoman, Department Officers and Chairmen, electing Delegates and Alternates to the 96th National Convention and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2: The Annual Convention shall be composed of Delegates and Alternates qualified as follows:

- Delegates and Alternates shall have paid their National and Department dues for the current year to Department Headquarters not less than thir-

- ty (30) days prior to the convention.
- Delegates and Alternates must be over eighteen (18) years of age, except as provided in the Constitution, Article III, Section 2 (a).
- Delegates and Alternates must be elected at a Unit meeting duly called for that purpose: notice of said meeting having been given no later than two (2) weeks prior to election.
- Alternates shall have priority in order of their election.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3: Each Unit of ten (10) or more members shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) additional Delegate for every one hundred (100) members or major fraction thereof.

- Units may send Delegates or Alternates only if they have paid their Mandatory Funds for the current year to Department Headquarters not less than (30) days prior to Convention.
- Units will be permitted to vote from the floor only if they have complied with all mandates and are represented by at least one (1) Delegate or Alternate.
- Units organized during the year (after

July 1) will be given the privileges of the Convention floor.

THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES ALLOWED WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UNIT'S MEMBERSHIP INTO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON MAY 23, 2016.

UNIT CREDENTIAL FEES

Standing Rules (Department of Administration) credential fee is \$10.00 for each delegate, \$1.00 fee will be charged for lost credentials for Department Convention, must be paid by the Unit for each Delegate to which it is entitled by virtue of its membership.

DELEGATE AT LARGE

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4: All elected and appointed Department Officers, all members of Department Standing Committees, the Hospital Representatives and their First Deputies of the VA Hospitals, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans and all non-VA Hospital Chairmen and their First Deputies shall be Delegates-at-Large to the annual Convention and entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5: All Past Department Presidents, as long as they remain members in good standing in a Unit in this Department, shall be Delegates-at-Large to the annual Convention and entitled to vote.

STANDING RULES (DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION)

A credential fee shall be paid for each Delegate-at-Large for the Department Convention. All credential fees collected for Department Convention shall be allocated to the printing account to help defray the cost of the Annual Report Book. Credential fee is \$10.00.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE

The fee of \$15.00 charged by The American Legion Convention Corporation must be paid by ALL DELEGATES, ALTERNATES, DELEGATES-AT-LARGE AND GUESTS. Convention program book, badge, etc. will be given only on presentation of the Corporation's receipt at the registration desk. The registration fee of \$15.00 must be paid even if housing is not required. The convention registration fee of \$15.00 is to be mailed to the American Legion 2015 Convention with a registration form.

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

A Good Word Makes a Glad Heart



Proverb 12:25 teaches that good words uplifts a burden. "Anxiety in the heart of a man weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad."

Words can be a powerful force to bring about evil or to bring about good. Words can hurt and injure, or words can soothe and heal. Words can mislead, or words can guide. Each of us is responsible for the words, the type of words, coming out of our mouth.

It has been estimated that a talkative person may speak 30,000 words a day. Thus it would be wise to ask our self an important question, "How do our words, be they many or few, affect others?"

Those who are excessively burdened due to personal troubles or social affliction

need a good word from you. A good word can transform the situation or our perception of it. Good words must be true; true to reason, conscience, character and God. Good words must be kind words or words which originate in a loving heart from a loving spirit. Good words must be suitable words, suitable to the particular condition of the sufferer. They should be fitted to his or her condition. Good words cause us to be more conscious of them and how to use them for the blessing of men and the greater glory of God.

One's words will bring a tangible return. By speaking positively and helping others with one's words we in turn are blessed. What we give we receive. Our words and actions, while spending time with our veterans put great smiles on their faces. I don't know about you, but seeing their smiles makes my heart fill with joy.

Visiting Units Is a Pleasure

Nancy Ritchey, Third District President

As Third District President, I have had the pleasure of visiting several Unit meetings. It is always so interesting and informative to see how other Units are active. Membership has been a concern for us this year, but everyone is making an effort to grow. Several of our Units are active with Girl State. We support Battle Creek VA by volunteering to help them with Christmas

Gift Shop, Bingo and parties. We are now working on our Poppy projects, community service, and Children and Youth Programs. At our March District meeting we held a joint program with Third District American Legion to honor our living Past Commanders and Past Presidents, followed by a memorial ceremony for our deceased Past Commanders and Past Presidents. Thank you to everyone for making this year as Third District President a success.

The Poppy Reminds Us of the Sacrifices Made

Kimberly Champion, Poppy Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary, the Legion, the SAL and Juniors distribute Poppies every year. The Memorial Poppy reminds us about the millions who sacrificed their lives to help keep us free and the program is one of the most beneficial Auxiliary Programs for Veterans and their families. Help to support our Veterans by distributing the Poppy on Poppy Days, May 19, 20, and 21, 2016.

Colonel John McCrae's message states "We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders Fields" and "we have not forgotten". Remember Poppy Days by showing are support to our Veterans. Everyone can help no matter what age. The more time each and every one of us spends out in our communities during Poppy Days not only helps with the donations but also spreads awareness.

Many distributors are needed this year more than ever, not only for the older Veterans, but for the many men and women coming home disabled from the current situation overseas. Their needs are going to be many. We also need to educate the public on how their donations are used and the answer simply is to assist and support Veterans and their families.

Also, please come to the Poppy Bonanza at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on April 23, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. The Veterans are going to show us how they make Poppies and you will also get a chance to make some yourself. Look for the flyer that is being sent in a unit mailing. Make sure that you share the information with everyone at your Post and Units.

I hope everyone can help make this year a successful year.

Let's Commit to Achieve Our Goals

**Marcia Moore,
Lower Northern Membership Chairman**

As our membership year 2016 comes to a close, now is the real commitment to achieve our goals. The year is not done until we have at least tried to contact all of our remaining members who have yet to pay for 2016. Even though June is considered the close of this year, our members can still renew until December for 2016. Make the contact to see if there is a health concern or just some other financial problem that may be causing them not to renew and if so do what you can to assist them.

Now that the 2017 dues will be coming out soon, have your membership chairman along with the Unit President write a newsletter to be placed in with the membership cards inviting every member on your roster to join in on a meeting. Make it special by having an initiation ceremony for new members, educating them on what The American Legion Auxiliary stands for and what programs we support. For members that have been a long time member, give out lapel pins or awards for the years that they have been a member. Use the 46 ways to keep your members, this list has a lot of good ideals. Also when new members sign up also be sure that they get the New Member Kit and a copy of your standing rules and department constitution and by-laws.

Remember that it is not just the membership chairman's responsibility to recruit new members or to contact the ones that have not paid their dues, it is every members' responsibility. Write articles for your local papers telling the community that we do makes a difference in the lives of Veterans and their families.

Congratulations goes to Unit 201- Atlanta for being the first, and so far only, unit making goal. Also many thanks to those of you who have done your best to keep our Auxiliary strong. Not everyone can be 100% all the time, but at least we know we made the attempt.

Also I would like to say to every Veteran that has served and is still serving, a big thank you for all that you have done and are still doing to make our lives better. God Bless America.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

LET'S FINISH THIS YEAR RIGHT



Fred Ruttkofsky
SAL Commander

The first half of my year has been a very learning experience. By that I mean traveling to all the different Posts has shown me the many different things that each Post does for their veterans and the community they live in. Traveling with Commander Mike Buda, Madam President Sue Verville, and Honorary Jr. President Taylor Townes we just returned from the UP Winter Tour. The Tour

took us over to visit the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #25 in Sault, Ont. (over there post are called branch), it was quite interesting to see how they do things. We also visited 13 Post, Jacobetti Veterans Home, and Iron Mountain VA Med. Center. I would like to give a big THANK YOU to Stan Kennedy Dept. 5th Zone Commander for being our Wagon Master and providing us with a most enjoyable tour.

I would like to encourage all of the squadrons to send in any pictures you may have of the things that go on in your Post, also any articles that you

would like to share telling about the happenings in your Post. We need to keep everyone informed as to what we do in our community and for our veterans. Please send anything you have to Sandy Lipman Publications Editor.

Great job guys on our membership. We are currently at goal but will still need to turn in those dues as they come in so we can stay ahead of our goal. Please do not hold on to them send them in. Also any of you who have not yet sent your officers list in do so now.

Before you know it we will be doing our yearly reports. I hope all of you have been keeping track of the things your Squadron has done this year for the veterans, your post, and the community. When you get ready to do the Consolidated Squadron Report it will go much easier if you have kept track of what went on throughout the year. All squadrons will receive these reports by mail please fill them out and send them in if you do not receive one let me know. I will make sure and send you one.

We were pleased to have our National Vice Commander Dennis Henkemeyer take time from his busy schedule to come and speak to us at our

Winter Conference in Flint on February 13th. I hope some of you got the chance to meet with him.

As you may have heard Wilwin will be moving to a new location in Custer MI. Wilwin is my special project and I want to let all you blue caps know that no matter where Wilwin is located the mission is still the same to serve our veterans and their families. I have seen firsthand how this place can help them reconnect.

In March I will have the pleasure in attending our National Commander Kevin Collier's Homecoming. His statement R.O.C.K.E.D. stands for Remembering Our Commitment Keeping it Every Day. I will keep you informed as to how the event turned out.

I would like to send a special Thank You to all the Posts that held a Four Chaplains service on the last weekend in January.

Always remember Freedom Is Not Free

For God and Country
Detachment Commander
Fred Ruttkofsky

ZONE 1 REPORT

We have welcomed a New Squadron in the 16th District. Huron Valley Post #231 which is located in New Boston has added a Son of the American Legion Squadron to their Legion Family.

I was asked to meet with different Squadrons to discuss the article that Department Adjutant Ron Runyan had posted in the last issue of the Michigan Legionnaire. I shared with them the information that Department Adjutant Ron had talked about while being a guest speaker at our Winter Meeting that was held in Flint. He simply stated that the information was available at the National Headquarters, and that he did not realize the amount of conversation it would create given the many good things the Sons of the

American Legion, and the Legion Riders Chapters have done supporting their Posts, Communities, and Various Programs of the American Legion. I have to agree with Adjutant Ron. We do enjoy working with our Posts, and appreciate being a part of the American Legion Family.

This year's 2nd State Legacy Run to the Legion State Convention will begin at the Garden City Post #396 on Friday June 24th. Registration will begin at 7:30a.m. (Breakfast will be available). Kick stands up at 9:00a.m. They will visit a couple of Posts while riding to Oscoda, where the Oscoda Post #274 will be serving food and providing entertainment to welcome the Riders.

The Riders will spend the night in Oscoda, and will continue their ride on Saturday morning. They plan on visiting a couple more Posts before arriving at the Legion State Convention in Sault Sainte Marie that afternoon/evening.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our Detachment State Convention this June in Charlotte. Be sure to send any dues you have toward membership now, because the number of Delegate Votes you will have concerning Elections will be based on your Squadrons total membership number 30 days prior to the start of Convention.

For God & Country,
Greg Price

ZONE 2 NEWSLETTER UPDATE

I would like to say hello and that everyone is doing a great job on getting your dues numbers this year.

I had a real opportunity a few weeks back to attend a four-chaplain service in Grand Rapids. It was well worth the trip, I highly recommend that you attend the event in the future. Afterwards, my party and I got the chance to tour five different legion post in the Grand Rapids area. I got to shake hands and meet a lot of new people. I also had the opportunity to receive a lot of information and give away my .97 cents worth of advice.

Right now, we are working towards restarting the third district officer core. This is important to our sons organization to help restore the chain of command.

When there is an issue or concern, dealing with your post please use the appropriate chain of command; first place is to address your post commander, then your district commander. If your concerns have not been addressed at this time, then you may contact me, your zone commander.

John Van Havel (517) 215-1734.

Please do not burden our state commander without first following the proper chain of command.

To the 4th and 5th district, be expecting an unannounced ambush from me in the near future. Tentatively I plan to be there twice in March, and again in April. Due to conflicting meeting times, I apologize; I have not been able to attend your recent district meet-

ings. I have talked to your commanders about these future visits.

Remember that your consolidated post reports are due in June. The importance of these reports to inform the people in Washington of what the Legion families do for our veterans and local communities. Also, Chaplain reports are due to your district commander in April.

I thank you for your time and support

P.S. I haven't forgotten my home district boys. Just remember our motto 2nd District, 2nd to none. Hoorah!

John Van Havel, Commander
Zone 2 Commander

ZONE 3 REPORT



Happy New Year to everyone and I hope you had a very nice holiday. January and February I spent traveling with the Detachment Commander Fred, Department Commander Budda and Department President Sue. We attended the Red Flannel in Cedar Springs and then on our way to the UP Winter Tour in which I spent my birthday at the Canadian Legion Post. Then I attended the Winter Conference in Grand Blanc in which I attended the National Commanders Banquet. My wife and I would like

to thank the Ida Post for the warm and fun night that we had at their Family Dinner. We truly enjoyed being a part of that evening.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Zack and his wife Cassie. She is truly a fighter and will pull through this.

As most of you know I am running for Detachment Commander for 2016 – 2017 so I hope to see you all in Charlotte in June for the SAL Convention.

Yours in God and Country

Carvin "Huey" Chapman, 3rd Zone Commander

AMERICANISM REPORT



Dominic R. Merlington, Americanism Chairman

Gentlemen, just a friendly reminder for you to make sure your Squadron submits their Consolidated Squadron Report form. This information is used to help determine the winners of the Americanism and VA&R awards at the Detachment Convention.

Also, I urge you to submit an application for the Maurice L. Michael Award. What is it, you ask? The official description: "Said trophy is to be awarded annually to the squadron with the best S.A.L. program in the

State of Michigan for that particular year." This is a very prestigious award. I'd love to see more Squadrons apply for this.

Other awards given out annually at the Convention are the Son of the Year, Scrapbook and History Book awards. For those that participate in the air rifle shoot competition during the Convention, we have trophies for various age group winners.

So where can you find forms for this award, as well as all kinds of other information? Simply go to www.michiganlegion.org and click on the S.A.L. emblem at the bottom of the page.

ZONE 5 REPORT

The Commanders UP Mid-Winter Tour was a big success. With State Commander Mike Buda, Auxiliary President Sue Verville, Junior Miss President Taylor Towns and Detachment SAL Commander Fred Ruttkofsky.

The tour went from January 24th to the 28th then onto Stanbaugh Post 21 for Winter Conference 29th thru 31st.

On the tour we visited 13 posts and into Canada to visit the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 for a great lunch.

5th Zone Commander Stan Kennedy was wagon master with driver UP AALP Commander Dave Spencer.

We also toured the Jacobetti Center in Marquette and The VA Hospital in Iron Mountain.

For God and Country

Bill Germain, 5th Zone Commander

MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION

Hello SAL Commanders and Unit Members,

My name is John Brown and I am currently the Chairman of Make a Wish for the Detachment.

I hope you and your family had a pleasant and "uneventful" holiday.

The Make a Wish Foundation is one of the SAL Charities of which we try to assist.

The Make a Wish grants about one wish a day for a child with a life threatening medical condition. This ray of sunshine is the bright spot for a otherwise bleak outlook.

help them envision or experience with power to change lives.

- Creating Joy: The wish granters created an experience driven by the child's creativity. They strive to personalize each wish to make the perfect day.

(Note: these four steps were obtained from the website).

If your squadron could see their way to assist this wonderful foundation the Detachment would be most thankful. Please send your checks to me so I can keep track and record your donations. Please make your check out to the Detachment of Michigan and on the footnote please indicate this is for Make a Wish Foundation of Michigan. I will forward these checks to the Detachment in Lansing and they will send the check to the Make a Wish Foundation.

On behalf of the Make a Wish Foundation our SAL Commander Fred Ruttkofsky and myself we thank you for assisting this wonderful and helpful foundation. You can contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

John Brown –
Detachment Chairman
Make a Wish Foundation
651 S. 8 Mile
Lake City, MI 49651
Email – johnbrwn421@aol.com
Phone – 734-634-7733

1. In 1980 the Make a Wish legacy was started in Phoenix Arizona by a child named Chris Greicius. This 7 year old boy, diagnosed with Leukemia wished more than anything else to be a Police Officer. The community pulled together to grant this wish and this was the beginning Make a Wish. Please read the complete story on the Make a Wish Website.
2. The Make a Wish Foundation uses for steps in granting wishes:
 - Referral: Children 2-1/2 to 18 years of age who have not received a wish from another wish granting organization.
 - Medical Eligibility: Life threatening medical condition.
 - The Wish: Send volunteers to connect with wish children to

NO VETERAN SHOULD BE HOMELESS

Some of the men and women who have served this great nation of ours are down on their luck and some have nowhere to go.

We can help by going to standowns in your area helping out anywhere you can. Go to a homeless shelter I bet you will find 3 or 4 Veteran there.

Please donate clothing, shoes, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine products etc. to these places.

I also need your help please. I am in need of Boxer under shorts, Sox of any kind, tee shirts of any kind We also need backpacks of any kind.

Please get your Squadron to have a drive or a fundraiser, these type of items go very fast I can't keep them in stock.

I will take any kind clothes shoes, personal hygiene items (shampoo, deodorant mouthwash) washcloth, towels coats heavy and light.

Most size I need for Men med. large and xl, for women small to large. Some of these Vets also have small children, I could also could use some kid clothes and small toys.

I would like to give a shout out to Charlotte SAL, Auxiliary, and Legion Riders for their kind donation, also to Joe Holoman and his mother for their kind donation.

If need me to help in picking up these donations you can reach me at 269-277-3069, rodtgoblue@yahoo.com, or if you want to send them to me, my address is 588 Maiden Lane St. Joseph, MI 49085. I will also take money make checks to Homeless Veterans.

Thank You

For God and Country

Rodney Tolbert
Homeless Veterans Chairman

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

John A. Kailunas Child Welfare Chairman

Once upon a time, a good Doctor, And Legion Leader, saw a great need in the United States. He found many good organizations, and charities did fantastic things for the children of our country. But alas, they lacked the means to get this information to those who would benefit from those activities.

Hazzah! The good Doctor, and Leader of Legion, started the Child Welfare Foundation. And to this day children of the world benefit.

The Sons of the American Legion are in the forefront of those who make this possible. The final results for this legion year will be given at the convention.

A dollar per member to CWF gets the Ribbon for your Squadron Banner.

Post Voting Requirements

By Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Non-compliance with the 10-day delegate/alternate information requirement below will negate a post's vote at Department Convention

VOTING STRENGTH IS DETERMINED BY MEMBERSHIP TOTAL'S AS OF MAY 26th, 2015 (last year's membership number)

10 Day's Prior to the Opening of Department Convention

Each Post Adjutant must send the completed Post Delegate Form, which will be mailed to each Post Adjutant's home address in May, into Department Headquarters by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday June 14th, 2016. Once department receives the signed post delegate form, department will mail the appropriate number of post delegate cards to each Post Adjutant's home address. The form must include each person's membership card number, full name, mailing address, and be signed by either the Post Commander or Adjutant. Forms can be mailed, faxed to 517-371-2401, attn: Deanna Clark, or emailed to her attention only at this email address: membership@michiganlegion.org. A form will not be accepted at any other department email address nor accepted if it lacks the Post Commander or Adjutant Signature.

Representation – Article V, Section 1 (c). Delegates

Representation in the annual Convention shall be by Delegates and Alternates, duly elected by Posts of the Department and, in addition thereto, the Past Department Commanders and the members of the Department Executive Committee, with the exception of the Department Adjutant. Each of the above Delegates shall be entitled

to one vote. Each Post having 15 or more paid up members at the Department Headquarters **30 days prior to the opening date of the PRECEDING year's Convention** shall have representation at the annual Convention on the basis of one Delegate for such Post, who shall be the newly elected Commander and one additional Delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. Each Post represented at the Department Convention is entitled to cast the voting strength of its Post, provided all annual dues and debts to the District of which it is a part and the Department are paid.

Delegates – Article IV, Section 4 (j). In addition to the newly elected Post Commander, each Post shall select one Delegate for each 50 paid-up members, or major fraction thereof, to represent such Post at the annual Convention. Each Post shall select an alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant at least 10 days before the opening date of the annual Convention.

Delegate Determination formula Example:

0-14 members 0 delegates
 15-49 members 1 delegate (Newly elected Post Commander)
 50-99 members 2 delegates (Post Commander plus 1 for each 50 members)
 100-149 members... 3 delegates
 150-199 members.. 4 delegates
 200-249 members.. 5 delegates
 250-299 members.. 6 delegates
 300-349 members.. 7 delegates
 350-399 members.. 8 delegates

Total members _____ divided by 50 equals _____ (round number down) plus 1 for post commander (only if the post has at least 15 members) equals total delegate count

Example: Total members 235 divided by 50 = 4.7 (round down) 4 delegates plus 1 delegate for the newly elected Post Commander equals 5 total delegates for convention.

Credentials – Delegates will receive an identification badge upon registering with the Convention Corporation on-site. If an alternate permanently replaces the delegate, credential badge can be provided at Department Headquarters and the name added to the list.

Election of Vice Commanders – Article VI, Section 3 (a) - Elective Department Officers shall be chosen annually at the Department Convention by a roll call vote of the Districts of the Department, with the exception of Five Vice-Commanders, who shall be chosen at the "Zone" Caucuses by the Districts making up the "Zone" which that individual Vice Commander is to represent. Each Vice Commander so chosen must be and shall remain a member of a Post within his respective Zone.

Election of District Commanders – Articles V, Section 3 (c) - Each District shall elect its District Commander by vote of the Delegates representing Posts in the said District in attendance at the Annual Department Convention and prior to the adjournment thereof or else at a regular District Meeting to be held not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Department Convention. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Commanders.



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Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veterans' advocacy to Michigan Veterans and their families. They can assist with Claims Preparation, Presentation and appeal counsel in Veterans' benefits services. Assist you and your Dependents in getting the Benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

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Gary Easterling
 Director

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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The Only Written

Official Call to the 98th Annual State Convention American Legion, Department of Michigan June 24 – June 26, 2016 Kewadin Casino & Hotel Sault Saint Marie, Michigan



Purpose: To receive Department Officers' annual reports, consider Department Constitution and By-Laws amendments, elect Department Officers and conduct any other business brought to the convention. Only the Committees and Chairpersons listed below are called to officially participate in the Convention.

Registration: Registration fee of \$15 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Department Exec. Cmte Meeting: Thursday June 23, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

Opening Session: Friday June 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Subsequent Convention Sessions: Saturday, June 25, 2016, 9:00 a.m. & Sunday, June 26, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings: Thursday, June 23, 2016 (TBA – see schedule at www.michiganlegion.org)

- Finance/Personnel
- Children & Youth, Legislative, Membership, Permanent Time and Place
- Americanism, Economic, Public Relations, Reconnect, and VAVS/VHVS
- Internal Affairs, Post Development, and VA&R

Called Department Committee Chairmen: Representing Department Committees not called to convention: Baseball, Boys State, Education & Scholarship, Leadership College, and National Security & Foreign Relations

Convention Committee Meetings: Friday June 24, 2016, 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Convention Committees are comprised of one person per district. Each Delegation Chairman will name the members to serve on the Convention Committees and certify that list to the Department Adjutant ten (10) (**June 14, 2016**) days prior to the Department Convention.

Americanism & Community Service (includes Education & Scholarship, Boys State, Law and Order, Scouting) – Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Credentials, Economic, Finance, Legislative, Membership, National Security & Foreign Relations, Post Development, Public Relations, Reconnect, Rules, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation and VAVS/VHVS

District Caucuses: Friday, June 24, 2016, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Zone Caucuses: Friday, June 24, 2016, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Joint Memorial Service: Sunday, June 26, 2016 8 a.m.

Elections & Adjournment: Sunday June 26, 2016, 10 a.m.

The new 2016-2017 Department Executive Committee and the 2016 National Convention Delegates and Alternates will meet upon Convention adjournment.

Proposed '16 Constitutional Amendments

These proposed Constitutional Amendments are published in accordance with Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution & By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Michigan: "These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote at any Annual Department Convention, provided notice be published electronically on the Department website at least 60 days prior to said convention and be published in paper form in a spring edition of the Michigan Legionnaire. Said proposed amendment shall be referred to the Convention Constitution and By-Laws Committee, which shall submit the same to the Department Convention with its recommendations with regard thereto".

PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGE 16-1-CA

Submitted by the Department Executive Committee

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article IV, Section 4, Subsection j, which now reads:**

"In addition to the newly elected Post Commander, each Post shall select one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) paid-up members, or major fraction thereof, to represent such Post at the Annual Convention. Each Post shall select an Alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant at least ten (10) days before the opening date of the Annual Convention."

To be amended by:

Replacing "10 days before" to "2 days before"

so that when amended, Article IV, Section 4, Subsection j, shall read:

"In addition to the newly elected Post Commander, each Post shall select one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) paid-up members, or major fraction thereof, to represent such Post at the Annual Convention. Each Post shall select an Alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant at least two (2) days before the opening date of the Annual Convention."

PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGE 16-2-CA

Submitted by the Department Executive Committee

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article V, Section 3, Subsection f, paragraph 2, which now reads:**

"The second (2nd) annual meeting is known as the Thirty (30) Day Meeting and may be held within thirty (30) days after the conclusion of Convention. The third (3rd) meeting is to be held in September or October after the adjournment of the National Convention and be known as the Fall Conference to provide for Schools of Instruction for Commanders, Adjutants, Service Officers, or other topics. The fourth (4th) meeting, to be known as the Winter Meeting, is to be held within the first three (3) months of the year.

Dates and locations of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) meetings will be determined at a minimum of two (2) years in advance by the Department Executive Committee when in Fall Conference assembled, upon the recommendations of the Permanent Time and Place Committee."

To be amended so that when amended, Article V, Section 3, Subsection f, paragraph 2, shall read:

"The second (2nd) annual meeting shall meet within forty-five (45) days and no more than fifty-five (55) days, of the adjournment of the Department Annual Convention provided, however, that the Department Commander shall have authority to extend said forty-five (45) days period for sufficient reasons to him/her appearing, upon approval of the Department Executive Committee. The third (3rd) meeting is to be held in September or October after the adjournment of the National Convention and be known as the Fall Conference to provide for Schools of Instruction for Commanders, Adjutants, Service Officers or other topics. The fourth (4th) meeting, to be known as the Winter Meeting, is to be held within the first three (3) months of the year. Dates and locations of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) meetings will be determined one (1) year in advance by the Department Executive Committee when in Fall Conference assembled, upon the recommendations of the Permanent Time and Place Committee."

PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGE 16-3-CA

Submitted by the Department Executive Committee

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article VIII, Section 1, Subsection 3, which now reads:**

"The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department. He shall pay out money only on vouchers properly signed by the Department Commander and Department Adjutant, and only for such purposes as shall have been duly authorized. He shall keep a full and complete record of all transactions, including receipts and disbursements, and shall exhibit all records when requested to do so by any Department Officer or member of the Executive Committee or Finance/Personnel Committee."

"The Finance Officer of the Department, immediately upon his election, shall appoint an Assistant Finance Officer, whose powers and duties shall be such as may be prescribed by the Finance/

Personnel Committee. The Assistant Finance Officer shall not be a member of the Department Executive Committee or of the Department Finance/Personnel Committee, except when delegated by the Finance Officer to represent him in attendance at meetings of these committees. The official financial records of the Department shall be kept at Department Head-quarters."

To be amended so that when amended, Article VIII, Section 1, Subsection 3, shall read:

"The Finance Officer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Department. He shall pay out money only on vouchers properly signed by the Department Commander or Department Adjutant, and only for such purposes as shall have been duly authorized. He shall keep a full and complete record of all transactions, including receipts and disbursements, and shall exhibit all records when requested to do so by any Department Officer or member of the Executive Committee or Finance/Personnel Committee."

"The Finance Officer of the Department, immediately upon his election, shall appoint an Assistant Finance Officer, **subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee**, whose powers and duties shall be such as may be prescribed by the Finance/Personnel Committee. The Assistant Finance Officer shall not be a member of the Department Executive Committee or of the Department Finance/Personnel Committee, except when delegated by the Finance Officer to represent him in attendance at meetings of these committees. The official financial records of the Department shall be kept at Department Headquarters."

PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGE 16-4-CA

Submitted by The American Legion, Department of Michigan

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article V, Section 1, Subsection e, which now reads:**

"A quorum shall exist at the Annual Department Convention when a majority of the Department officers and 25% of the Posts of the Department are either fully or partially represented."

To be amended so that when amended, Article V, Section 1, Subsection e, shall read:

"A quorum shall exist at the Annual Department Convention when a majority of the Department officers and **15%** of the Posts of the Department are either fully or partially represented."

Children and Youth Month

Ron Geiger, Department Children and Youth Chairman

The American Legion observes April as Children and Youth Month. April is the perfect time of the year for Legionnaires to demonstrate that the American Legion Family is committed to its community, and especially its children. It is a time to publicize a program or an activity sponsored by the post and its members to serve the children of the community. Special events could include obtaining a speaker regarding Children and Youth programs. Posts could host a Children and Youth themed community event and collaborate on a project with local schools, or any number of activities. A community project with and for children could be conducted. Sponsor a carnival or show featuring young people to raise money for community project. Feature a youth panel at your local schools where participants can discuss some of their concerns. These are just some suggestions, or develop your own projects.

You should publicize these programs and activities that effect the Children and Youth of your community, invite the news media of your activities and keep them informed. The post should be proud of what they are doing for children, but also thank the children for their partic-

ipation. Children represent our future. It is up to us to equip them with knowledge and leadership skills and a commitment to service that they will use as productive adult citizens of the United States.

This is pertaining to the Department Convention in June.

A dedicated Legionnaire Red Phassen was a member of Department Executive Committee. He had a passion for raising money for Children and Youth programs. He did this by seeking donations through the sale of C&Y pins. (The pin sales were resumed by the Department C&Y committee five years ago).

Upon his passing the "Red Pahssen Chairity Luncheon" was created to continue his legacy in raising funds for C&Y at the annual convention each year. This luncheon was for members or past member of the DEC. However; the time has come for a change due to time frames in the schedule and inflation. There is a five member Red Pahssen committee and at Winter conference we decided to create a memorial table for Red Pahssen. We are thinking possible a few silent auction items and a donation jar with all proceeds going to Children and Youth. This would be for all of the Legion Family to support. More information will be available a convention.

Tips for Troops!



It began in an ALA Northeastern Unit 459 monthly meeting in 2010, during a discussion on how to cover the \$2500 price tag on postage, to mail care packages to our troops serving overseas. We could fill the boxes with American love and granola bars, but our Auxiliary coffers were a little short on the delivery charges. A suggestion from a newer member/bartender in our clubroom (Rachael Clark), was heartily accepted and Tips for Troops was born.

The idea was simple; each clubroom staff member would donate a shift of their TIPS, for the TROOPS. As our bartenders are all generous, Legion family members, they rose to the challenge. We put out the flyers, hung a challenge board, invited our friends, hit social media and published in our newsletter. We were thrilled when we raised \$1500 in TIPS!

Since its inception, Tips for Troops has been thoroughly embraced by our staff and Legion family membership. We hold raffles, 50-50's and auctions and host our shifts during dinners, events and concerts. Furthermore, we have added a "Guest Bartender" to help bring in

the patrons and massive gratuities. In 2015, we raised over \$6300 on six (6) evenings, which benefited The Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. Our excitement with the program continues and it is time to spread our wings, by encouraging our extended Legion family to partner with us for 2016. Our 2016 cause is The Patriot Endowment Fund!

The Patriot Endowment Fund is a program of the American Legion Department of Michigan Reconnect Committee. It provides emergency financial assistance to veterans of all eras throughout the state, with temporary unforeseen financial hardships, who do not qualify for other programs. The grants are usually \$500.00 or less, one time grants paid directly to the party owed by the veteran or service member. All administrative costs are provided for in the Department budget, so 100% of the money raised, goes directly to our heroes! It is also, Commander Michael Buda's Special Project.

If you are curious about the program or would like to participate in the 2016 Tips for Troops drive, please contact Chris Moore @ (616)916-6260 or clmoore459@gmail.com. I would love to speak to you about this outstanding fundraiser and charity. Together we can make difference in the lives of our Michigan military families who are in need!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Moore
American Legion Auxiliary
Northeastern Unit 459
Grand Rapids, MI

Veterans Appreciation Night at Comerica Park 2016



Join fellow veterans at Comerica Park for a night of baseball and camaraderie. August 3, 2016, cost of tickets is \$38.00 per person, purchasing 15 or more free soda and hot dog.

Order form will be available soon. Check www.michiganlegion.org, we will post the order form and instructions there when it becomes available.

The selected Veteran of the Year by the Veteran of the Year Committee will throw out the first pitch, and be recognized on the field. State Commanders, State Presidents, and Department Commandant's or their representative will be recognized on the field of their respective organization.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD CRITERIA

Selection Criteria

Nominees for the Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan, Lifetime Achievement Award should meet the following criteria:

Years of Distinguished Service. The award is for lifetime achievement rather than for a single contribution, no matter how monumental.

Categories of Distinction. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a Son who has placed an emphasis on:

- preserving American traditions and values
- improving the quality of life for our nation's children
- caring for veterans and their families
- and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship

Nomination Letter and Supporting Materials

Each nomination should be supported by a letter of nomination, the nominee's resume, and up to five letters of recommendation that speak to the nominee's distinction in the identified categories. The nominations must be type-written, double-spaced and single-sided (please organize as outlined below), with margins of at least one inch on 8.5" x 11" paper. Font size must be no smaller than 10-point, and width between characters should be normal (100

- ◇ Letter of Nomination. The letter of nomination should include the name, address, and daytime telephone number of the nominee; the name, address, daytime telephone number, and signature of the nominator; and the names of the authors of letters of recommendation.
- ◇ Resume. The nominee's resume should detail education; work experience; service at the district, state, national, and international level; publications; talks at conferences; and service to NCTM or other professional organizations.
- ◇ Letters of Recommendation. Up to five letters of recommendation may be included. Each of the categories (preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship) should be addressed in at least one of the letters. The nominator may write one of the five letters of recommendation. Letters of recommendation should focus on the quality rather than the quantity of the performance of the nominee, emphasizing the distinction of the nominee's performance.

Number of Awards

Normally, not more than two awards per year will be given.

"LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT" AWARD

Many members have dedicated their lives to serving the Sons of The American Legion and deserve special recognition. Nominations are now being accepted for "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT".

The selection process is anonymous and the following rules for nominating a Sons of The American Legion member shall be followed:

1. Provide a 200 word or less nomination letter describing why the Son has been chosen for this award.
 - a. The nominee shall have been a member of the Sons of The American Legion for 20 years or more.
 - b. Do not include any information that will identify the nominee, such as name, gender, Post, District, dates of Squadron office held (Squadron office held okay), or any other information that may tend to identify the Son. Any such identifiers will be blacked out by the committee reviewing the nomination.
2. Provide a photo and personal biography of the nominee.
 - a. The biography should include the Son's name, S.A.L. history, military service and other professional and volunteer activities.
 - b. The photo and biography must be placed in a sealed envelope, with only the Area number marked on the outside of the envelope.
 - c. This envelope will not be opened until after selection is made at the Detachment Convention Son of the Year Committee Meeting.
3. Any violation of these rules will disqualify the nominee.
4. Submit the nomination letter and sealed envelope with the photo and biography to the Sons of the Year chairman for judging prior to the Detachment Convention.
5. The members of the Son of the Year Committee will select the Lifetime Achievement award recipient from the nominations.

LEGISLATIVE

Ronald R. Wyatt Legislative Chairman

The main focus for the 114th congress is several items. Fully fund superior national defense, 21st century VA healthcare, GI Bill education, veteran homelessness, oppose diminution on military benefits, flag amendment, but the main objective is VA accountability. Even though it has gotten better, there is still a lot of work to be done. The American Legion is calling on Congress, the VA and MSPB to work together to reform the procedures needed to finally bring accountability to a department that desperately needs it.

Things are being done even though it will be a shorten session because of the election year. Please keep contacting your representatives this is very important.

Andre Svacha, Membership Chairman

By now all renewals should be paid and your squadron should be working on recruiting new members. We have hit our membership target date for January passing the 60% required. Now the big push is on, squadrons need to continue sending in dues as you receive them, do not sit on them as the benefits are

MEMBERSHIP

only in effect when a member dues reaches National. Again renewal dues need to be paid by now to be in good standing. If your Post has a bar, drinks should not be served to anyone who hasn't paid their 2016 dues. Again please make sure to send in dues as soon as they are received, as any benefits will not be in effect until dues reach National Level.

I have personally been in con-

ference calls with the National SAL Membership Team, we usually have a call once a month. It is interesting to hear what other state are doing to get their membership in.

Our remaining Target Dates for membership totals are as follows:

APRIL 13, 2016 90%

MAY 11, 2016 100%

JULY 26, 2016 105%



Left to right-Son's Squad 71 Commander Bill Germain, Gale St. Martin President of Conference, Nancy Frazer Gladstone Pantry Manager and Randy Bruntjens First Vice Commander Squad #71 made a \$100 donation to the Gladstone St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry.



There was no time for dawdling in the kitchen Wednesday evening as American Legion Post #3 in Sault Ste. Marie hosted a benefit dinner for Shane Miller. Derek Saunders, Ed Hubbard and Bill Henderson were doing their best, but couldn't keep up with demand as the line wound its way through the building and kept going outside. One of the kitchen workers estimated they had already served 450 hamburgers in a little over an hour and demand did not appear to be diminished as the Burger Bash moved onto its midway point.

The Sons of the American Legion

2016 STATE CONVENTION – Charlotte Michigan

June 3 (Friday) through June 5 (Sunday), 2016

Hotel Information

Host Hotel:

Holiday Inn Express - 500 Meijer St, Charlotte, MI 48813 - (517) 541-5000
Web: <http://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/charlotte/ctmi/hoteldetail>

Other Hotels in Area:

Americas Best Value Inn – 828 E Shepherd St, Charlotte, MI 48813 – (517) 543-8288

Web: <http://www.americasbestvalueinn.com/bestv.cfm?idp=1976&rcode=sim2016>

Comfort Inn – 1302 Packard Hwy, Charlotte, MI 48813 – (517) 543-7307

Web: <https://www.choicehotels.com/michigan/charlotte/comfort-inn-hotels/mi201?source=gglocaljn>

2016 Sons of the America Legion Convention

REGISTRATION FORM

All Attendees and Guests Must Register and have a Badge in order to attend any of the Convention Functions (meetings, luncheons, banquets, and convention. We will check badges.

ALL PRE-REGISTRATIONS NEED TO BE SENT IN BY May 18th, 2016
DOOR REGISTRATION AVAILABLE DURING CONVENTION

Clip and mail to:

Sons of the American Legion, 513 Johnson St, Charlotte, MI 48813

Make checks payable to:

SAL Post 42 Convention

Check Memo:

Registration

A luncheon will be available on Saturday, June 4th prepared by Squadron 42

Please fill out the below form of the number of Members and Guest that will be attending

Voting Status: Circle D for Delegate, A for At Large, or N for Neither

Meal: Circle S for Steak which cost \$13, C for Chicken which cost \$10, or N for Neither

Please print legibly!

| Name | Squad # | Phone # | E-Mail | Voting Status | Meal |
|--------------|---------|---------|--------|---------------|--------|
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| | | | | D A N | S C N |
| Total | | | | X \$15 = | X \$ = |

Make Checks Payable to SAL Post 42 Convention Check Memo suggested to state Registration

MIAP UPDATE

We continue to move forward looking for the Ashes of Veterans that have gone Unclaimed for decades. These are Ashes of Heroes that have served in the military, and have fought for the Freedom that we enjoy today.

There may be different explanations why their Unclaimed Ashes have been sitting on shelves in the backrooms or closets of Funeral Homes or Mortuaries.

Some of these Unclaimed Veterans may not have had any known Next of Kin.

Maybe their families have been Unresponsive to any contact that may have been sent to them from the Funeral Directors.

Perhaps the families felt they did not have the money to pay for their funeral, and hoped the Veterans Administration would bury them because they have served in the Military.

Whatever the reason; these Veterans have been forgotten and de-

serve the Respect of being Interned with the Full Military Honors they have earned.

Let us remain committed to locating these Veterans, and give them the opportunity to be laid to rest in a Veterans National Cemetery while their Military Brothers and Sisters welcome them home.

The Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council has continued their offer to those who may locate an Unclaimed Veteran, with the opportunity to have that Veteran Honored in their Memorial Day Veterans Ceremony. For additional information you can contact DAWVC members Phil Smith at marret94@aol.com or Steve Fletcher at Stephen.Fletcher@wowway.com, or myself at grinnerman@msn.com

Veterans that are in this Ceremony will be Interned in Great Lakes National Cemetery located in Holly, MI.

Missing in America Project
Greg Price



Honoring veterans during Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week at the Iron Mountain VA Medical Center. From left to right: Dennis Larson VAVS rep., Pat Lees Squadron 50 Commander, Steve Podgornik deputy VAVS rep. Sons serving cake and fruit. Larson and Podgornik each have 17 years as VAVS reps at the Iron Mountain VA.

Post 322 held the 2nd District meeting and to our surprise our SAL commander Fred Ruttkofsky and his wife attended our meeting. Carvin Chapman and his wife were also there. It was a pleasant surprise that the entire second district SAL members enjoyed hearing from our State SAL commander. From L to R: 2nd District Commander Gary LaMunyon, 2nd Zone Commander John VanHavel, 3rd Zone Commander Carvin Carter and State of Michigan Commander Fred Ruttkofsky.



From Left, Don Armstrong, Vera Armstrong, SAL Finance Officer TL Lowe, SAL Past Commander Rocky Johnson, Love Inc. driver Jeff Gray, SAL Past Commander Alan Van Dam, SAL Adjutant Paul Kubicek, SAL member Greg Meyers and SAL 1st Vice Commander Thomas Schultz team up to deliver canned goods to the pantries.

SQUAD 28 HELPS THE HUNGRY

For the second consecutive year, the Grand Haven "Charles A. Conklin" Squadron #28, along with Don and Vera Armstrong have purchased canned goods for Love Inc and The Salvation Army. Prior to this Thanksgiving, 5,000 cans of soups and vegetables were purchased and delivered to the pantries. Another 7,500 cans of fruits and soups were delivered the week before Christmas to provide food over the holidays as well as the upcoming months.



From Left, Don Armstrong, Vera Armstrong, SAL Finance Officer TL Lowe, SAL Past Commander Rocky Johnson, Love Inc. driver Jeff Gray, SAL Past Commander Alan Van Dam, SAL Adjutant Paul Kubicek, SAL member Greg Meyers and SAL 1st Vice Commander Thomas Schultz team up to deliver canned goods to the pantries.

2016 Junior Convention Report

Darlene Jones, Junior Activities Chairman

The Honorary Department Junior President Taylor Townes had a very successful convention. The junior's took the Anti-Bullying Pledge, and worked on the be nice program. Taylor Townes has done a very good year and we are so proud of you.

I would like to thank everyone who came and showed support for our juniors. They are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary. Taylor is still collecting for her special project until Department Convention.



We would like to see more juniors get active if you want to know more about the junior program you can call me, (248)460-3405, facebook me, e mail me darlenejones5027@yahoo.com. I would love to help you promote your juniors.

Pictures of this event can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of MI, face book page. If you have pictures of your juniors and their events please post them and tell us what they are doing. You can also post them on #ALARockStars lets show what our Michigan Juniors are doing.

The new Junior Officers for 2016-2017 are,

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| President | Sabrina Townes |
| 1st Vice | Emma Damouth |
| 2nd Vice | Taylor Townes |
| Chaplain | Leigh Daniels |
| Historian | Mackezie Townes |
| Sgt-at-arms | Alegha Houghton |
| Asst. Sgt-at-arms | Destiny Smigiel |
| Secretary | Emily Terhun |
| Dist. Guest Chairman | Taylor Townes |
| Americanism | Liberty Smigiel |
| Color Bearers | Shamar Shqair Sherry Tichelaar |

Sabrina has chosen for her special project this year is going to be **Stiggy Dogs**.

It has been an honor to serve as the Department of Michigan Juniors. Hope to see you our juniors at the Department Convention this year.

NATIONAL SECURITY – HOW WE CAN HELP

Deanna Cortright, National Security Chairman

Did you know that by assisting our military and their families we can help promote and maintain a strong national defense? We may not be the ones protecting our freedoms but we can help by helping the families of our military so they can rest easier knowing that they don't have to worry about how their families are doing.

Supporting the Red Cross by donating blood is a good way to start. There is always a major need for blood products. There have been many tornadoes and other natural disasters that have quite possibly affected the families of our military.

Service members with financial assistance needs can be referred to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center. They can help obtain the assistance they need.

If a service member is deployed, quite often the families return to where they are from. When this happens, the spouse will be in search of employment. You can work with the American Legion and sponsor a job fair. You can also direct them to sources that might be able to help.

You can also help by supporting the National Security programs of the American Legion. You can collect supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them within your community. There are also Community Emergency Response Trainings that you can complete. Your post and unit can host a training day to give training in CPR, first aid or other emergency skills.

For other ideas you can go to www.ALAforVeterans.org and go to the resources on the National Security page. There are many outside sources given there. You can also find a list on the National Security Guide for this year.

I would love to hear about anything National Security related that your unit does.

Legislation for Our Veterans Is Important

Ellen Jackson, Legislative Chairman

One of the most overlooked tools the American Legion Auxiliary has is the ALA Advocacy Guide. It can be downloaded from the Legislative program page at www.ALAforVeterans.org or ordered from your Department Headquarters. You will learn how to contact your Legislators at every level, from the local level, to the state level, to the national level.

There is a myriad of ways to advocate locally:

- Identify your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators and build a relationship with them and their staff locally and in Washington D.C.
- Identify your local and state representatives that are involved with veterans and service members topics in your community and state.
- Use social media to keep up with your representatives and senators. Most have social media profiles; make sure to follow them there.
- Subscribe to your Legislators e-newsletters or visit their websites. If you do not have access to the internet, call the Legislators district office and ask to be put on their mailing list.
- Discover which staff members are key contacts regarding veterans' issues and be sure to foster a relationship with them too. Then you have them to meet with on veterans' issues in case your Legislator is not available. Often the staff

team is your best ally as they are the "subject matter expert" and will have the Senator or Representative's ear. Make them your friend and use them as a resource!

- Share the current Legion legislative concerns at your Unit meetings and how individual members can advocate for these matters. Ensure this legislative information is provided at meetings, newsletters and social media.
- During an ALA meeting, the Legislative Chairman can bring a prepared templates or letters for members to sign. It will be more impactful to have several letters than all signing the same letter. While a handwritten letter may seem more personal, typically there is a three-week delay. But don't let that dissuade you! Just remember if the topic is timely, perhaps email is the way to go.
- Attend town hall meetings and other civic organizational meetings that are advocating for veterans, service members and family issues. Collaborate with those organizations to push Legion legislative priorities.
- And don't forget to work with the entire Legion Family to keep members informed about current legislation. Invite state and federal legislators to speak at a joint Unit/Post/Squadron meeting followed by a question and answer time. It will get

the conversation going and start a relationship with the elected officials your voice at the local level does make a difference on legislation on behalf of our veterans, our service members and their families! Our members have been leading the grassroots fight from our founding. From Past National President O.D. Oliphant getting members mobilized to override the veto of President Coolidge on the Adjusted Compensation Act in 1924, which provided benefits to our World War I veterans, and members getting petitions signed to pass the G.I. Bill in 1944, we've made a difference. So, yes, advocacy by members on the local level can and does make a difference! Let's continue to be steadfast in this tradition as we approach 100 years.

Remember Keeping the Promise begins with each one of us and we can only keep the promise if we become involved. Add your voice to the tens, hundreds, thousands and millions of other voices that are advocates for our veterans, our service members and their families. There is strength in numbers. YOUR voice does matter. YOUR voice, MY voice, OUR voices, together we can make a difference! Your voice, combined with the thousands of other supporters of this issue, will help shape the outcome. This was a bulletin that the National Western Chairman Marge Blankenship shared with all departments and I thought it should be shared to everyone and no better way than this article.

Winter Meeting



Washington DC 2016





2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM

August 27 - September 1, 2016

Millennium Hotel

150 W Fifth St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail: _____ Cell # _____

Rooms (quantity): _____ king _____ double _____ handicapped

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

Rooms are \$156.28 per night (tax included). First night's room deposit needs to be included with this form. More than 2 people in a room is an additional \$15/day. Rollaways are not available. Valet parking/\$22 day.

Roommate(s): _____ LEG AUX SAL_____ LEG AUX SAL_____ LEG AUX SAL_____ LEG AUX SAL

Special Room Requests: _____

Registration Fee: \$25 each LEGION _____ AUX _____ SAL _____

(Note: If you are an Auxiliary or SAL delegate, **do not** include your registration fee)

Michigan Party: Tickets are \$25 each. The Michigan Party will be Saturday, 8/27/16

National Commander's Banquet: Tickets are \$45 each. The banquet is Tuesday 8/30/16

Enclose check or credit card information for:

First room night deposit \$156.28 X # of Rooms _____ \$ _____

of Registrations \$25 each X # of badges _____ \$ _____

of tickets for Michigan Party \$25 each X # of tickets _____ \$ _____

of tickets for Natl Comm Banquet \$45 each X # of tickets _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

 Visa Mastercard CC# _____ exp. date ____/____

Signature: _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT BY JULY 21, 2016 - Attn: Kim
No refunds after 7.22.16

2016 Scholarship Winners

Wilson Scholarships

Alexis Golfis (Iron River)

Martha Johnson (Mikado)

Brandon Richardson (Saint Helen)

Mckenna Bowdish (Constantine)

Noah Bagazinski (Livonia)

Brooke Larsen (Lake City)

Hunter White (Fowlerville)

Mariah Aldrich (Lake City)

Kyle Radle (Pickford)

Brewer Scholarships

Cambria Brantley (Dearborn)

Hannah Haviland (Perry)

Chancellor Helms (Pentwater)

Timothy Miller (Standish)

Justice Taylor (Clinton Twp)



1st Annual Department of Michigan ROMP, Oscoda, MI
August 5th-7th, 2016

Pre-Registration Form

Registration is \$40.00 if received by **June 17, 2016**. After that date, and up to the event date itself, the registration fee will be \$45.00.

Registration includes: A specially prepared dinner at the American Legion Post 274 on Saturday afternoon, live entertainment featuring Abe Brown and his Knuckle Draggers, an event-T-shirt, access to beautiful Lake Huron located adjacent to our Legion Post, and special activities including guided rides of our famous Au Sable region and surrounding community.

Pre-Registration postmarked by June 17, 2016 - \$40.00 per person.

After June 17th, 2016 registration - \$45.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

ALR Post # _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

T-shirt

Male _____ Size _____ Female _____ Size: _____ (XXL & larger + \$2.00) \$ _____

Total Due: \$ _____

Make checks payable to

American Legion Riders Post #274

Or send pre-registration forms and payment to: American Legion

349 S. State St., Oscoda MI 48750

Questions or email: Julie A. Easton jeaston-protect-allflooring.com Phone: (248)-752-0424

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

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: _____

Get to Know the Lansing Staff

212 N. Verlinden Ave, Ste A, Lansing, MI 48915

517-371-4720



Deanna Clark
Membership

deanna@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 24

Deanna has been with the Department Headquarters since 1991. She handles membership services (Legion and SAL), transfers, address changes, PUFL's, membership reports, membership awards, and CPR's.



Lynne Fracker
Finance

lynne@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 17

Lynne was hired in 2015. She is responsible for accounting, raffles, fundraising, and vouchers for the Legion and SAL.



Roxanne Osga
Programs

roxanne@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 23

Roxanne came onboard in 2004. She is the Department contact for the programs (Boys State, Scouting, Baseball, Law Officer & Firefighter of the Year, Oratorical, & scholarships) along with being the webmaster and graphic designer.



Mark Sutton

Public Relations

mark@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 16

Mark began his career at the American Legion in 2011. He assists with Department training, public relations, legislative activities, building oversight, economics, LIT and USAA insurance contact.



Kim Siedelberg
Exec. Support

kim@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 13

Kim became a member of the team in 2004. She is the Executive Assistant to the State Commander & Adjutant. She also assists the Judge Advocate, State Resolutions, Internal Affairs, Permanent Post files, Committee rules of Procedure, Conventions/Conferences, TFA's and DEC contact.



Ashley Zimmer
Office Support

ashley@michiganlegion.org
Extension: 11

Ashley was hired in 2015. She assists everyone one in the office from membership, bookkeeping, programs, and mailings.

Boys State: Changing the Lives of the Attendees and the Volunteers

Garrett Veihl,
5th District Commander

For the past two years Jerry Kelley has been after me to help at Boys State. Working full time prevented that until last year; now that I am retired I was able to attend.

Accommodations are a room about 6' by 8', the size reminded me of my days on submarines, small but adequate, you do not spend much time in the room, because you will be busy the whole week.

Sunday morning just after breakfast the boys started to arrive. A bunch of 16 and 17 year olds talking over one another. Competing to see who the top dog in house. To my surprise this didn't last long at all. These boys soon started to mess as a unit. No one really trying to be the top man.

Once the boys were assigned to their City and introduced to the counselors of that city they were put into rooms, two to a room, friendships started to form. Each city contained boys from the big city, the farm lands, your sunrise coast boys, and yes the sunset coast as well. Not to mention our young men from the U.P. Did not take long before it started to remind me of my first day in boot camp, meeting new and different people.

I was impressed at how fast the boys started lobbying for offices to run for. Talking about social problems they wanted to address, and Laws to pass. When the voting was all done, the Governor put in office etc. They went right to work and getting bills passed, and getting their cities, counties, and the State operating in the black. I was impressed.

Most of the boys got right into the mix, yet some not many stayed on the sidelines. I asked one young man why. His reply "I'm just a UPer don't fit in." I took him aside and informed him to please never describe yourself as just anything. You are a very important person. No matter what you do in life, you are important. No person is more important than another. We all have a place to fit in.

The last night of Boys State we had pizza and some shared stories of their life. One young man stood out; his story brought tears to my eyes. He shared a family tragedy that stirred up familiar feelings. The room was silent as he spoke, tears were flowing by all. For this young man to share with a group that 5 days earlier were all strangers was moving.

These engagements I had with the boys here at Boys State made me feel that this week was the most rewarding week of my 25 years with the American Legion.

Being here and watching 272 Boys arrive on a Sunday morning and six days later watching 271 young men graduate in front of their parents (PRICELESS!)

I was moved by my experience here at Boys State, so I tell you from now on each year as long as the American Legion wants me, and as long as my health allows, I will be back to help with Boys State.

New MVAA Leadership Pledges Commitment to Improvement, Accountability



James Redford



Leslie Shanlian

James Robert Redford was named the interim director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency on Feb. 19, 2016.

Redford served 28 years in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a captain in 2012. He was a military trial judge for five years in the Navy Reserves and had three tours as a commanding officer – one each with the Navy Reserve Trial Judiciary, the Reserve Navy Legal Service Office and the civil litigation unit in Washington D.C.

He received the Legion of Merit, six Navy and Marine Corps commendation medals and two Navy Achievement medals.

Redford was a federal prosecutor for eight years before becoming a partner in the Plunkett & Cooney law firm in Grand Rapids. He was elected as a Kent County Circuit Court judge in 2002 and joined the Snyder administration in 2014 as chief legal counsel. He is a member of the Walter Durkee American Legion Post 311 in Grand Rapids.

“MVAA’s mission is personal to me. Military service is a part of me, and it is in my family’s

DNA,” Redford said. “Like so many of you, my brother and I served as did countless others in our family in generations before. The tradition of service continues in today’s conflicts.

“I cannot imagine a greater honor than to serve those who have worn the cloth of our nation. I will be guided by my Navy and Marine Corps core values of honor, courage and commitment.”

Redford’s appointment was part of a series of changes made to address concerns released in the Office of the Auditor General’s audit of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The audit focused on medical administration, member care documentation, handling of complaints and financial management. It also addressed ongoing staffing shortages and non-narcotic pharmaceutical controls.

MVAA oversees the Michigan Veteran Health System, which was created in September 2015 to bring both state veterans homes under the same set of policies and procedures.

Leslie Shanlian was appointed chief executive officer of the health system on Oct. 26, 2015. A licensed nursing home administrator, Shanlian has more than 20 years of experience managing and improving skilled nursing facilities and assisted and independent living communities throughout Michigan.

Previously, she served as the deputy director of the Aging and Adult Services Agency and as director of long-term care for the State of Michigan’s Bureau of Health Care Services.

Shanlian’s father served in the Air Force and National Guard, while her brother served in the Marine Corps Reserves. Her stepbrother was killed by an IED in Iraq while serving in the

Army. Leslie is a member of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan.

“Since the end of the Civil War, Michigan veterans have had a place they could call home, where they could live with their fellow veterans and receive compassionate, highly skilled care,” Shanlian said. “Under MVHS, we will continue that tradition as we explore new ways to provide care for the next 130 years.”

Since her appointment as CEO of MVHS, Shanlian put together a leadership team with more than 100 years of experience in private- and public-sector skilled care administration.

The team includes two chief executive officers – Scott Blakeney at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and Brad Slagle at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. Four vice presidents serve alongside Shanlian, Slagle and Blakeney, examining the areas of nursing services, social services, business services and operations to ensure the two state veteran’s homes can continue to meet both the current and emerging needs of the veterans who live there.

Together, Redford and Shanlian pledged to continue addressing every finding in the audit, with the short-term goal of making sure the agency and MVHS have what they need to take care of the men and women who have served.

“We will create an environment that is respectful, caring and loving, and we will do so by holding ourselves to a higher standard,” Redford said. “We will be accountable, accessible and transparent to our partners in the Legislature, veteran’s service organizations, Board of Managers and, most importantly, to the veterans who reside at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.”

Fixing It!

Audit Report on the Grand Rapids Veterans Home

Bob Johnson, Chairman, Board of Managers of the State Veterans Home, and American Legion Representative

As the results of the recent audit have been released it has become abundantly clear that the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has suffered from a lack of leadership. As I read the findings of the audit I was angry and disappointed that this board was led to believe all was well for quite some time at the home. As the chair of the board and the American Legion representative, I apologize for not asking the right questions to all of our Legion family, the members at the Grand Rapids Home and their families.

While the ramifications of this audit will not be fully felt for some time, I can assure you that this Board of Managers has been working together with the new leadership of the Michigan Veterans Health System and the

new COO of Grand Rapids to ensure we are all working towards the same goal of providing exceptional care for our veterans. What may get lost in this noise is the fact that the right leadership is in place for the Homes and the Board has been assured we retain our position of leadership that public act 152 of 1885 calls for. The MVAA has been acting alone in addressing issues at the Home but they have agreed just this week at our monthly board meeting that the Board is the administrative authority and we will be working together moving forward.

I can truthfully say that I am pleased with the new direction of the Grand Rapids Home and the future direction we are moving towards. The Board of Managers has a wealth of talent and anxious and eager to start the homes down the path of sustainability and growth.

**To Prevent Cancer:
Do what’s good —**



Eat Well



Move More



Stay Lean



Get Screened

Add benefits with
**The Legionnaire Insurance Trust
Cancer Care Insurance Plan**



Source: American Institute for Cancer Research, March 2015

37400

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Around the State...



SAL Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, National SAL Commander Kevin Collier, and 4th District SAL Commander Ron Wyatt place a wreath at the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.



Sen. Kowall Continues Mission to Commemorate 50th Anniversary. Senator Kowall organized a Thank you to our Vietnam Veterans last year on the State Capitol grounds and he continues to meet with groups of Vietnam Veterans thanking them for their service and sacrifice.



Raydell Mills was presented with his 70 year membership certificate from American Legion Post #35 Commander Ray Howell at our monthly meeting. Mr. Mills is a decorated and wounded veteran of WWII.



In Washington, D.C. Michigan Legionnaires met with and presented Rep. Dan Benishek with a plaque in appreciation for his years representing the 1st District and supporting Veteran's causes through the years. PNC Tom Cadmus presents Rep. Benishek with the plaque.



L-R State Adjutant Ron Runyan, PDC Ray Moore, Rep. Benishek, Economic Chairman Gerald Merrill, and PNC Tom Cadmus.



WWII Member Dean Edward is handed an award for 70 years for faithful service to the Grass Lake American Legion by Bud Freysinger (Korean War vet).



Garland Lodge and Resort for selected the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program for their \$10,000.00 putting challenge! Over \$2600.00 dollars raised. L to R: Gary Tanner, Reconnect Chairman with Aaron Gentry, Director of Sales at Garland Lodge & Resort



Post 8 Celebrating the 97th Birthday. Left photo: Cutting of the Birthday Cake Right Photo: Dept Commander Mike Buda with Post 8 Commander Jim Leslie