



# MILEGI ❄️ NNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No.5

Winter Meeting 2016

## NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE BARNETT COMING TO MICHIGAN



The National Commander will be joining the Department of Michigan at our 2016 Winter Meeting in Flint Michigan, February 12-14.

**National Commanders Banquet is  
Saturday February 13th, 2016**

Due to the Commanders schedule and Abraham Lincoln's birthday celebrations, National Commander Barnett will not be arriving until late Friday evening or Saturday morning, so the banquet has moved to Saturday from Friday.

**Register today – Come and Learn**

Come join us for Winter Meeting, meet the National Commander. Friday State Adjutant Ron Runyan will be presenting a program on how to host a Department Conference and Convention. If your Post or District has ever thought of being a sponsor, but are not sure how, this class will give you that information. Following the class, there will be a social for everyone. Then join us on Saturday when National Staff will be presenting lessons on Public Relations, the use of MailChimp email marketing software, and how to use Social Media for your Post and membership.

### Something for Everyone

If you are not on a Department Committee there is still plenty to learn at the 2016 Winter Meeting. See you there.

## RE ENTRY

**Friday, February 26, 7:30PM  
& Saturday, February 27, 7:30PM**

**Staged Reading**  
*By Emily Ackerman and KJ Sanchez*

How do you go from battlefields to summer barbecues? What price does a family pay when husbands, wives, sons and daughters go off to war? Based on interviews and testimony of soldiers and their families, this staged reading of *ReEntry* explores the challenges faced by over a dozen service members and their loved ones as they transition between home and deployment. This powerful piece is honest, moving and surprisingly funny. Characters directly address the audience and give unvarnished answers about what they've seen, and tell of the joys, challenges and frustrations of returning home from war.

**“Powerful, high-wattage theater. Scalding, moving, and highly entertaining...[places] hot-blooded life on the stage, a rare accomplishment that deserves to be lauded and, more importantly, seen.”** -Backstage

*For ages 16+. Contains explicit language.*

**AfterChat discussions following both performances.**

**A Wharton Center Theatre Production**  
Produced and directed by Bert Goldstein

**Tickets:** Public \$10, Students, Active Duty Military & Veterans \$5

Photo by The U.S. Army

## To the Economy of the State of Michigan Return on Taxpayers Money for FY2015 \$406,294,842.00

**Mark Sutton**

**Have you ever wondered if a “return on investment” could be calculated for your tax money?**

I do not know if every program in the State budget can be determined in this way; we do hear from the Governor that the “Pure Michigan” campaign brings in \$2 for every \$1 spent on that program. What I do know is that in the FY 2015 State Michigan budget under the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs portion there is a line for Veteran Services Grants. For FY 2015 the item was approximately \$3.8 million dollars.

That grant money was awarded to a coalition of 7 Veteran Service Organizations, including The American Legion, to help veterans in Michigan apply, maintain, or review veteran administration benefit applications and help them navigate the red tape of the VA to successfully obtain the benefits they have earned.

The American Legion, Department of Michigan has been a partner with the State of Michigan, providing this service to our military service members, veterans, and their families, since 1920 when they worked to help World War I veterans obtain benefits from the Federal government. Over the years other VSO's were brought on board as their organizations formed and became established in the state.

**Return On Investment for FY 2015 \$106 for every \$1**

How can we calculate the amount of benefit rewarded? For veterans applying for VA benefits through an Accredited Veteran Service Officer they first must assign them as their “POA” or “Power of

Attorney” for their claim. When veterans use an Accredited VSO to help with their claim some studies have found that 70% of them will receive a positive rating the first time they apply.

The American Legion and other VSO's as the POA receive reports on claims awarded to veterans based on the power of attorney assigned. The reports show the amount of the benefit received or increase and any back payment to the date of filing. Each VSO tracks them for the fiscal year.

### Budgets Requests

Although the grants received a small decrease for FY 2016 we will continue to request appropriate funding to continue this service, so we may continue our service to Michigan Veterans.

**The American Legion Recoveries \$143,536,229.00**

The American Legion Department of Michigan Accredited Veteran Service Officers assisting veterans recovered \$143,536,229.00 in benefits for fiscal year 2015. The VA awarded 6922 claims attributed to The American Legion Power of Attorney. Our services officers are working hard each day fighting for the benefits veterans have earned through their military service.

### Don't Face the VA Alone

If you are a veteran or family member with questions about benefits use an accredited veteran service officer. To find one near you call The American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Service Office at 313-964-6640 or visit <http://www.michiganveterans.com/Home/Benefit-Counselors>

No Return Postage Requested

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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](mailto: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](mailto:info@michiganlegion.org) or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

**Chaplain**



Greetings Legion Family! Another year is over and we leave it with many memories, both good and bad. The attacks by the religious extremists in France and in other countries is one thing that sticks out. The objective of these attacks seems to be fear and intimidation. It can make you think twice about traveling abroad. Also, my sister and her husband have dual citizenship and live in French Polynesia. I am concerned for their safety. The thing that I found most interesting is how the world pulled together in the time of tragedy to support the victims and fight back against the terrorists. While we don't always agree politically, we know that we must all chip in to help protect the innocent. We pray that 2016 will be a better year of international co-operation and peace.

My wife and I love to travel in

**“A Star Spangled Year”**

Michigan. One of our favorite destinations is Frankenmuth. It's about 100 miles each way but it is a really nice drive. The hotels, restaurants and shopping are great. They always seem to have something going on there from car and ice shows to various festivals. And of course, there is Bronner's where it is Christmas all year long. On one of our visits to Bronner's they gave us a free brochure called "The legacy of the Star Spangled Banner." It was historically informative but also inspiring.

During the War of 1812 Francis Scott Key, armed with a letter from President Madison, risked much to help free a doctor friend being held prisoner on a British war ship. The British agreed to the release, but on the condition that they remain on board until the attack on American Fort McHenry was complete. The shelling was intense during the night and there was much doubt if the Americans could survive. As the morning light pierced the darkness, Key was overcome with emotions when we saw our flag waving proudly. He immediately began writing the famous words that eventually became

our National Anthem. As I mentioned before, he included thanks to God writing, "And this be our motto: In God is our Trust."

The brochure went on to say that our nation has faced many battles in the past and even many today including "violence, poverty drug abuse, immorality and apathy." To win these battles we need to return to the faith in God that this country was founded on. We also face many other enemies today, such as terrorists, and yes, I agree that we need to turn to our faith. The faith that respects individual differences and teaches us to love our neighbors. I believe in this country and these principles. Like many of you I took an oath to defend this country, and I believe that if we all work together that no matter how dark things seem, there will be a dawning where that Star Spangled Banner will still yet wave. So yes, as we are expecting another grandchild, I have hopes for a great year and a better world. May, "The Lord make His face shine on you, and be gracious to you," Numbers 6:25.

God Bless You All.  
- Chaplain Eddie.

**YOU ARE INVITED**  
**FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE**  
**2016**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FREE OF CHARGE**

**THIS YEAR'S THEME**  
"A Veteran's Voice"

**WHEN**  
Saturday, January 30, 2016  
12 pm - 2 pm  
Refreshments served following end of service

**WHERE**  
Loosemore Auditorium  
Richard M. DeVos Center  
401 Fulton Street West  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**FOR MORE INFO**  
Contact Harriet Sturim at 616-540-7675

**HOSTED BY**  
American Legion Post 459 and friends

LOCATION QR CODE

The Southeastern Michigan Four Chaplains Association invites all Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and their guests to join us in celebrating the memory of the heroic acts of the Four Chaplains that lost their lives while selflessly serving others when the USAT Dorchester was sank on February 3, 1943.

The event will take place on January 31, 2016 at Post 16 Lapeer, Michigan at 2:03 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided after the event and time for fellowship. Please join us.

**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 Dir..... Brett Holt
5th Zone..... Stan Kennedy	..... Roger Webster	Public Relations Director.....Mark Sutton



*Michael Buda, State Commander*

## New Year Review



Michael Buda  
State Commander

Merry Christmas and Happy New Years! As we welcome 2016, I realize that half of my term as Department Commander has passed. It means it's time to review how I'm progressing toward my goals of leading our Department into the future.

**Membership** – I want to congratulate the 28 posts who have already achieved 100% of their membership goal by the end of November. We are on target with our December 2nd goal of 75% Department membership. We are at the 30% mark in the recruitment of 5000 new members for the 2016 membership year. Keep your ears open for potential new members and be sure to inform them of the benefits of belonging to the American Legion. Keep up the good work!

**Communication** – I continue to have the open door policy of listening to our members' ideas and concerns. I am still working on incorporating interac-

tive communication with posts, districts, zones and department officers between conferences. Using technology as a tool to work together in a fast and efficient manner will improve our organization.

**Finance** – We all know National has raised its per-diem \$5. Their reasoning was a loss of revenue due to the loss of membership and rising expenses to keep the same amount of programming. On the Department level, we will propose an increase in the Department dues by the same amount at the State Convention. The increase will allow us to ease the burden caused by the higher National dues and allow us to improve our Department programs. We also need to build a reserve fund so that when an unexpected expense occurs or an investment presents itself, we can meet those future needs without financial distress.

At this time I would like to thank Past Department Commander Dick Chatman for the invite to the Veterans Day parade in Detroit. I also want to thank Sheryl May of the 18th District and Jim Austin of the 16th District for inviting the First Lady and I to their District tours.

# Headquarters

**We are Family**

**Freedom is Not Free**

**We Stand United**

**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

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

*Ron Runyan, State Adjutant*



Ron Runyan  
State Adjutant

## Subsidiaries to The American Legion: Rules That Must Be Followed

Greetings from the Department HQ office and staff. We wish you all a sincere Happy New Year with many good things to be bestowed upon you, your families and our organization. Since it is the beginning of a new year there are many things I would like to bring to your attention. All the information I will discuss has information within this paper as well will be on our website and Facebook page. If you are having trouble finding this or would like to contact one of our staff please feel free to call the HQ office for immediate assistance.

Many of our program applications have dates which are very close to being due that need immediate attention. The Fire fighter & Law Enforcement Officer award deadline is January 6th. The Economic Awards are due on January 7th. Teacher of the Year awards are due February 2nd. Many Legion post participate in these awards, but there are many of you that have no idea that we even recognize many in our community that deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication. I encourage all post or members within the Legion family to submit an application for someone in your community that you feel deserves some attention for what they do for us.

The Upper Peninsula is holding the annual Winter Tour which is open to all Legion family, this takes place January 4th – 30th. We are preparing for Winter Meeting held February 12-14, 2016 in Flint. Leadership will be attending legislative sessions in Washington DC February 20th-25th. We will be meeting with

many of our state congressman to discuss local Michigan Veteran issues that they can assist us with.

We also recently conducted our holiday label program. Most of you received these without any issue. However, a small portion got the labels with another members name on them. This was caused by an internal sorting glitch here at our HQ office. I want to assure you no information of your was compromised in any way. These labels are a way to offset cost for our programs, so if you can contribute to the cause it would be great! We will also be conducting a cash raffle at our Winter Meeting in February so many of you will be getting these tickets in the mail soon, if not already. Everyone in the entire Legion family can participate, however we only mail them to Legion members. If you are interested in getting tickets please contact Lynne in finance. As another opportunity the Department Service officers are selling tickets for a gun raffle, a Henry .22 caliber rifle for \$10 each and 100% of profits will go to the VA&R Endowment fund.

Lastly, I want to clear up some questions we have had a lot of calls and mail about recently. The American Legion is a corporation, with licensed Trademarks of our emblem. When using the emblem for any purpose it is to be used for the purpose of the American Legion and only in a respectful manner. Nothing is ever to touch the emblem when using it for printing post materials. If the emblem is ever used to make a profit by selling merchandise it has to be authorized by the National and State adjutants.

Subsidiaries of The American Legion are: The Sons of The American Legion (SAL) and The Ameri-

can Legion Riders (ALR), Wilwin, and Michigan A.L. Foundation.. There are rules that a subsidiary must follow with their "parent" organization which is the Post, District or Department. These rules come from the National Judge advocate and shall be followed.

1. All officers, trustees, etc ..must be named by the parent organization. The SAL & ALR can elect their officers, but these must be approved by the parent organization. These officers can be replaced at any time by the parent organization.
2. All vacancies in the subsidiary must be filled and must be approved by the parent organization.
3. The subsidiary organization must report to the parent organization no less than monthly. These reports must include financial reports.
4. The subsidiary does not have their own EIN or bank accounts, these are obtained through the parent organization. The parent organization has the authority to control any money or finances of the subsidiary organization. This also includes raffle licenses.
5. The parent organization finance officer/treasurer must be a signatory on all accounts.
6. All amendments to articles of incorporation or bylaws must be approved by the parent organization.
7. The parent organization has the ability to cancel or discontinue its affiliation to the subsidiary organization at any time. The parent organization has the authority to retain any property or monies from the subsidiary organization.

# Membership

## New Years Review



**Brett Holt**

Happy New Year and congratulations Michigan Legionnaires! As we turn the corner on the first half of the 2015-2016 Legion year you have reached every membership target date that was set for the Department. As of this writing the Department of Michigan is at 76%.

Thank you to all that have worked so hard to get us there. I want to thank DMS Coordinator Steve Striggow and U.P. Membership Director Gary Lane for all of their efforts thus far as well as all of the Zone Commanders and District Commanders. However, it is the blue cap Legionnaires that truly make membership successful. Thank you.

Those of you that attended the Membership Team training, thank you. If you are trying to find the information given out it is available on the department website at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org). Double click the membership tab and you will see Recruit Retain, Renew tips. There is also more information on the national website [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) under the membership tab.

Recently the 18th District held a revitalization where three post participated. I encourage all of you to contact the Revitalization committee if you need assistance.

The Membership committee stands ready to assist you in recruiting drives and open houses.

Now that the elephant in the room that everyone has been talking about and focusing on, that being the national dues increase, has come to pass it is time to focus on retaining those members that still have not renewed and finding those new members that we need to fill our ranks to complete the other 24% of this membership year.

I have been told by some that it is not possible to reach 100% this year. I refuse to believe that is true. I believe that you refuse to believe that is true. I consider it a challenge to all of Michigan Legionnaires to prove them wrong! Won't you join me in working to show everyone the pride that we have as Michigan Legionnaires and get this job done?

Here is how we are going to do it. **KNOW YOUR LEGION!** You cannot possibly be a good recruiter of new and delinquent members if you can't give them a good reason why they should join. By all means tell them of the programs and the special functions that your post does that make your posts special. However, you are a member of the largest veteran's organization anywhere. The emblem on your cap says American Legion. You need to know what your organization does so that you can tell the whole story. Here are just a few facts to help you.

On the National Level in the Legion year 2014-15: 166,099 VA claims were handled by Post Service Officers, \$2,923,929 were given out in Emergency Aid with \$179,666 coming to Michigan, 41,895 volunteers spent 897,960 hours at VA Hospitals, \$1,668,475 was donated to VA Hospitals, 78,840 pints of blood were donated by Legionnaires making the Legion one of the largest donor organizations in the country, The American Legion provided 110,780 funeral honors 5,462 of those were in Michigan, we had 1005 homeless veterans chairpersons working to end veteran homelessness, post participating in career fairs help place 2,956 veterans in jobs and an additional 1,178 in job training, collectively we donated \$1,006,818 to the Legion Legacy Scholarship for the children of service personnel killed in action after 9/11, we've sponsored 2,024 American Legion Baseball teams,

## District Meetings 2015 - 2016

### 1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM  
Feb 1, 2016  
April 4, 2016  
May 2, 2016  
June 6, 2016

### 2nd District

Jan 10, 2016 Saline  
Mar 13, 2016 in Tecumseh  
May 15th in Jackson Post 29  
Service officers school 1PM with meeting at 2PM

### 3rd District

January 10, 2016- George A. Custer Post 54, 1125 E. Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek,.  
RSVP- 269.344.0658  
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

Nov. 1, 2015 - Hickory Corners Post 484 11 AM Special meeting, 12:30 Lunch, 2 PM Business Meeting

### 5th District

Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Roger B. Chaffee Post #154, 2327 Byron Center Ave. SW  
Wyoming, MI 49509  
616-538-4443  
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  
August 13, 2015  
October, 8, 2015  
December 10, 2015  
District Executive Committee Meeting Dates:  
No February 2016 meeting due to Winter Conference  
April 14, 2016  
June 9, 2016  
PAST COMMANDERS - FRIDAY THE 13TH CLUB  
March 13, 2016

### 6th District

Service officer School @ 11:00 AM when scheduled  
Lunch @ 12:00 PM Meeting @ 1:00 PM

2,100 scouting units, we saw 1,133 students take place in the Oratorical contest, we gave out 10,215 scholarships at a cost of \$4,252,328, we did 19,488 flag presentations, participated in over 7,000 Veterans Day and Memorial Day celebrations, 3,756,288 hours on community service volunteer hours and \$4,263,505 donated to communities across America, we sponsored 19,060 Children & Youth activities while giving \$2,046,639 to those activities and an additional \$2,489,479 in goods and services, the Family Support Network helped 286,216 cases, Temporary Financial Assistance helped an additional 404,199 people, and The American Legion gave \$1,050,598 to Troop Support and 508,578 hours in Troop Support. That's just getting started really. Space availability keeps me from continuing.

Keep in mind these numbers come from the collected Consolidated Post Reports. This isn't even the whole story since we do not have 100% participation from post. Imagine what the numbers really are and what we could say if only all post submitted their CPR's.

January 10, 2016 Post 269 - 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett  
March 6, 2016 - Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney  
May 1, 2016 - Post 491 - 422 Woodworth St, Leslie

### 7th District

January 10, 2016 - Post 16, Lapeer  
March 20, 2016 - Post 197 - Harbor Beach  
May 15, 2015 - Post 8, Port Huron  
June 2016 - Department Convention

### 8th District

January 10, 2016 Elsie Post 502  
March 6, 2016 Saginaw Post 439  
May 1, 2016 Carson City Post 280  
Lunch is at 1:30 meeting to follow

### 9th District

March 12, 2016 at Manistee Post 10  
May 14, 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

Jan. 9TH 2016 - BAY CITY POST 18  
March 5TH 2016 - OSCODA POST 274  
May 1ST 2016 - Memorial Service - SANFORD POST 443  
Lunch at noon meetings at 1pm all dates

### 11th District & 12th District Meeting

The U.P. Winter Conference will be on January 29 and 30, 2016 at Post #21 in Stambaugh

### 16th District

\*Service Officer School \*\*Memorial Service & Elections  
Jan. 12, 2016 Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177  
Feb. 9, 2016\* Fort Dearborn Post 364 313-562-9090  
March 8, 2016 Wayndotte 217  
April 12, 2016\* Trentionn 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  
Jan 20, 2016 Northville Post 147, 100 Dunlap St., Northville, MI  
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  
January 10, 2016 - Post 20, Pontiac, MI  
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 16, 2016- Wolverine, Post 122  
All have an 11-12 meet & greet, noon lunch, 1:00 meeting

I ask you to cut that section out of your paper, put it in your wallet or purse and display it on your post bulletin boards. Use this information the next time you are talking to a prospective new member or a member that didn't realize all the good we do and has left our ranks. Don't forget all the benefits available to those who hold membership. If you need that information it can be found on the national website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Once you have told them all the great things our organization does I believe they will see the value of belonging to The American Legion no matter what the dues amount.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet please do so.

By making 100% membership we can improve on all the great things that we do in our organization.

I ask each one of you as a member of our organization to become part of the membership recruiting effort. Recruit - Retain - Renew. You'll help us get there, won't you?





## AUXILIAIRE



## PAST ---PRESENT---OUR FUTURE



The holiday season is behind us and we are starting a new year. Mid-year reports have been sent in and hopefully they had a lot to send in about what we here in Michigan are doing to help our Veterans, their families and our communities. This also means that we have done our gifts

shops across the state and once again made our Veterans holiday a special event for them and their families. This could not be done without each Unit doing their part by sending the gifts or money to buy the gifts, volunteering to help the Veteran select a gift or gifts and then wrapping it for them. Many thanks to those members who also were willing to give their time to help our homeless Veterans, those who prepared meals, handed out warm clothing or helped them in any way.

As the "Legion Family" Commander Buda, Commander Ruttkofsky, and myself participated in the Detroit Veteran's Day Parade. We had a great time on the 18th District Tour, with District President Sandra Carter, NEC Nancy Knox, Dept. 1st Vice Ellen Jackson and Eastern Area Membership Chairman Jacquelynn Boughner, Eastern Area Leadership Chairman Angela Galbraith, Poppy Chairman Kim Champion, National Junior Miss Poppy Aleigha Houghton, Junior Chairman Darlene Jones, Junior Historian Leigh Daniels, Education Chairman Robin Puckett, committee member Shylynn Jones, Dwaine and the First Ladies Natalie and Dianna. Also on the 16th District Tour with District President Pam Globke, PDP Donna Fuelling, Southern Area Membership Chairman Laura Chappell, Southern Area Leadership Chairman Fran Babbage, Central Division C&Y Chairman Jacquelynn Boughner, committee

member Kim Frazier, Dwaine and the First Ladies Natalie and Dianna. Many thanks to all the members and the Legion Posts who allowed us to come and visit and see what they do to help everyone in their area. I am hoping that the weather will be as good for us for the Mid-Winter Tour in the U.P. this January.

Next it will be time to attend our Winter Meeting, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Gateway Center in Flint on February 12-14, 2016. We are very pleased to say that our ALA National President, Sharon Conatser from Champaign Ill. will be coming. So everyone please plan on attending the meeting and help give her a **BIG** Michigan welcome. President Sharon will be holding a meet and greet session for our membership and President Sharon's theme this year is "Keeping the Promise". We will be doing things a little different at the winter meeting so be prepared to have fun but still be able to learn about our programs.

Before we know it we will be doing our annual reports. Remember that they are not that hard to do if you have been keeping records of what your members, your Unit and your District has been doing threw out the year. It all has to do with how many members participated in each program, how many Veterans/ Service men and women you helped, also their families, what you did in your communities and how much money was spent. Check the guide for the rules for the narratives be sure to include everything that is needed and make sure that you **DO NOT** exceed the required word count that is permitted for the award. Select the activities that pertain to the certain program. Combine a list of the items for that program and put them in paragraphs. Group the items into sentences that can be opened with a general statement. Write specific sentences on any special projects that were done for the program. The ending should summarize the importance of

your Units work on that program. Remember that **GREEN SLIPS** need to be filled out by the District Chairman (this means all info and signed by the chairman) and then sent on to the Department Chairman for the award. All this information will need to be attached to your Units annual report form and sent on to the proper person. Please take the time to READ your guide and follow the directions for the awards.

I have been working very hard this year on communications between department, our officers and chairman. Hopefully all this information is being passed down to our districts, to our units and all our members. I truly believe that we need to let our members know why and how we do things so we will be able to attract new members and help to keep the ones we already have. One way is with the web-site. The committee is still working very hard on updating our web-site to make it more user- friendly. They are making changes but it will take time to get everything done. So if you have not checked the web-site out lately, try it now and let us know what you think about the changes. Also we are working very hard with strategic planning. This will also take time to accomplish; it cannot be done in a matter of a short amount of time.

Remember to turn in all your membership dues; do not hold on to them. Only by working together as one, will we reach our membership goals. So by "**Branching Out as the Legion Family**" will we be able to achieve all our goals we have set as the "**Legion Family**". So let's keep our organization moving forward into the present and not staying in the past. We need to think of our future, that means our membership, volunteers, chairman and officers. Who will be here to keep doing our programs, helping our Veterans, their families and our own local communities?

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

## Winter Meeting Schedule



## Friday February 13

6PM to 8PM - Ex-board meeting

## Saturday February 14

9AM - Americanism workshop  
10AM - Membership workshop  
11:30 - Noon--- poppies available to purchase & pick up

1PM - Leadership workshop  
2PM - Strategic Planning workshop  
3PM - National President meet & greet  
--or-- Q&A session  
6PM ----- Social hour  
7PM----Banquet

**Schedule is Subject to Change**

See you in February!



VA & R Chairman Janette Brockway and Saginaw Rep Bonnie Holt at the Saginaw VAMC gift shop.

11:30 - 1 PM LUNCH  
M.A.L.P.A. luncheon 12--1 PM  
Past Dept. Commanders luncheon 12 - 1:30 PM  
luncheons are tentative as of right now

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11*



I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends. Now with the new year upon us, it is now time to get back to work on our Auxiliary programs. The first one that comes to mind is VA & R. There are six more months to be thankful for all that our Veterans have done for us and current service men and women will continue to do.

Many of our Veterans are homeless or have no family to have shared the holidays with. They appreciate the things we do for them, but it will not replace

having a home to call their own or family to share with. There are also many active service men and women that had to spend the holidays away from their families. I hope that many of you found a way to make their season a little brighter. We, as Auxiliary members are committed to continue doing things for our veterans and serve men and women. We should have a plan for them also. A plan to give them hope and that we will be here for them now and in the future.

Pray often for our veterans and service men and women. Not just today, but every day.

I hope everyone has a blessed 2016.

## GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS

Sarah Brooks, Representative

As we begin a new year serving our veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, I would like to thank all the volunteers from the 5th, 7th, 9th and 19th Districts for their continued support of our activities. Also included are the many outside individuals and organizations who have made donations. We have had a successful 2015/2016 year so far.

We hold many events throughout the year, such as:

- Bingo once a month for the members at the Home.
- Bingo monthly for the women members only.
- Service Cart twice a month with personal care items.
- Blanket Drive for the homeless veterans. We recently provided over 100 blankets to the homeless veterans at three different local shelters.
- Carnival which was held in July 2015 where the District had a booth with prizes.
- Luncheon honoring women veterans, as well as wives and widows. This was held on November 6 with a speaker, catered lunch, a certificate for

the women veterans, and gifts for all the women.

- Mother's Day Card Program.
- A cook-out for the members is held the first Saturday in June in which we serve hotdogs, bratwurst and other items to the members.
- Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves were recently distributed to all the members.
- Gift of money was given to the non-income members who receive no pension or Social Security. This was done in November to those 17 members who reside at the Home.
- Poppy Bonanza to demonstrate how poppies are made is held in April.
- Our biggest project is the Christmas Gift Shop, which was held December 1-2-3. Members are able to select up to five gifts for family members. The gifts are wrapped and mailed.

We currently have around 430 members at the Home and are honored to serve them as they have served us.

Once again I would like to thank all those who volunteer hours and donations. My thanks also to my three deputies. Without their support, we couldn't accomplish as much as we do.

## Junior Report

Darlene Jones, Junior Activities Chairman

Honorary Junior President Taylor Townes's special project is off to a great start. She sold many "be nice" bracelets at Fall Conference and the Central Division Mission Training. Taylor and Sabrina Townes went to the First ever Central Division Junior Mission Training Session in Indianapolis. They had a great time and learned a lot.

The Juniors have been in many parades, helped at veterans centers and homeless shelters, and recently attended a Junior Sleep Over at the Glen Hill Post 287 in Cedar Springs. The ladies did a wonderful job with plenty of food crafts and fun for our Juniors.

We talked about the patch program and handed out the forms, hoping for a lot of patch entries this year. Please go on the American Legion Auxiliary National page and print your patch sheets. The Juniors took

the challenge to sing the National Anthem and post it on face book.

Honorary Junior President Taylor also had a Young Marine Sgt. Devin Siskins, come in and talk to the Juniors about staying away from drugs and alcohol. The Juniors took the challenge to wear Drunk Goggles, what an experience. Taylor present the young Marine with a "be nice" bracelet and thanked him for coming.

Pictures of this event can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of MI, facebook 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.

Don't forget to enter for the Junior Awards and look through your guides the Juniors and younger members can enter essay contest, poppy contest and much more. For God and Country

## Notice Regarding On-Line Dues Notices

The ability to pay dues online is an additional opportunity for members to pay their dues if they so choose. For several years national has heard from our membership that they wanted the opportunity to pay their dues online. With the 2016 membership year, national is finally able to accommodate this request.

Please note that this is an option available to members, but it is not required that members renew their membership online. Members can still submit their payment to their unit as they have done in the

past.

**New for this year, however, was an electronic dues renewal notice** that went out to members with a valid email address instead of paper notices. While some members did receive this notice via email they could still have the option to submit their dues to their unit or visit the national website and renew online.

However, **if a member received her first dues notice via e-mail and has not yet paid the dues, the 2nd dues notice which goes out in January will be mailed.**

## Children & Youth

Mary Tyler,  
Children & Youth Committee Member

The Children & Youth program was conceived to care and protect the children of veterans and also improve conditions of all children.

Talk to your unit and or district chairman about what you and your unit can do. Remember that Children & Youth month is April. Try to do something special during the month, but also be willing to do whatever you can the whole year.

The Children & Youth of today is our future. We need to work together to make this world a good place for them. There are so many things you can do. Check your guide and do what is right for your community. Let us know what you decide to do, so we can share with others.

## Who We Are and What We Do

Jan Hafeman, Public Relations Chairman

We, the American Legion Auxiliary, need to let people who we are and what we do. There are several ways to do this.

First, remember our purpose. We are here to support our military, military families, our veterans, and our children. Our military may need help with daily needs and may need to connect with their families. Think of ways you can assist. If you have a good idea, share it. Their families may need assistance dealing with any aspect of life. Again, share your ideas. Our veterans may need help with day to day things such as doctor or hospital appointments, shopping trips, or just company. You may want to honor their service. Be sure to show your appreciation and honor by publicizing what you're doing. Our children need your help becoming responsible patriotic citizens. Again, share what you're doing.

When you have projects or events, wear your Auxiliary apparel, and when wearing Auxiliary apparel, remember how you conduct yourself tells a lot about what we're like. Be respectful and civil, and always keep a positive attitude.

Tell people about what you are doing. Put lead-ups in the media. Tell people what is coming, and invite the public to attend. During the event, ask the media (newspaper, radio or television reporters) to attend. Take plenty of pictures. And after the event, send those pictures along with articles telling them the who, what, where, when why and how of the event or project. Make sure that people in your pictures are identified by name and position.

Get other members involved. We are a group, not a one person organization. Mentor our members so they can develop Auxiliary values and achieve American Legion Auxiliary principles. Publicize what other members in your unit are doing. Your monthly newsletter can spotlight an older member or a stay-at-home mom's Auxiliary's activities.

Use social media. Our younger members, 65 and younger, are into texting, the internet and social media. Turn this into an asset. Text your Juniors and younger members to remind them of meetings and projects. Put your meetings, projects and events on Facebook or your website, and remind them a couple days before and after on Twitter about the events and projects with short Twitter messages.

Remember, it's who we are and what we do. Let people know!



# DO YOU STILL HAVE THEIR SIX? VETERAN COURTS SEEK MENTOR VOLUNTEERS



*"A Veteran is someone who, at one point, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including his or her life.'" – Author unknown.*

Every member of the American Legion has written this check. The amounts that some veterans paid have been higher than others. A number of our Brothers and Sisters in arms return home after their tour of duty and, for whatever reason, find it difficult to assimilate back into civilian life. As a result, they run into trouble with the law, whether because of fighting, domes-

tic abuse, or substance abuse.

As recently recognized by Governor Rick Snyder:

"Generations of men and women in our U.S. Armed Forces have put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents and preserve our freedoms. At times, the injuries they sustain while in service to our country are unseen, causing uncharacteristically negative behaviors and affecting a veteran's actions back home."

Many of us veterans from older eras know too well the lack of support available to assist with re-integration into society. Fortunately, this is changing, largely because of the efforts of Judge David Jordon, Retired, whose father was a career Air Force officer that flew missions in three wars. In 2010, Judge Jordon helped create a manual to develop veteran treatment courts in Michigan. Veterans' treatment courts shift the focus from the stigma of being a criminal to the honor of being a veteran; highlighting individual worth and collective value to society, and concentrate on getting the veterans the individualized help that they need. In 2012, the Michigan Legislature enacted statutory provisions

authorizing these courts. Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert P. Young, Jr., recently praised the importance of these courts and urged all Michigan judges to develop veteran treatment courts in their communities:

"These courts recognize that service and sacrifice do not stop when a veteran concludes service in uniform. With the help of volunteer mentors, brave men and women are afforded support needed to overcome challenges that can be exceedingly difficult if faced alone. Veterans have served us, and now, our duty is to serve them, so I urge you to give serious consideration to starting a veterans treatment court in your community or making one accessible to local veterans through a regional partnership."

As noted by our Chief Justice, **volunteer veteran mentors** are a necessary component. These are veterans are willing to stand by the side of their brothers and sisters in arms. They are willing to **be there**. They let these veterans in the program know, "hey, I still have your six." Without volunteer veteran mentors, the program does not work as well. And veteran mentors are desperately needed.

The role of a veteran mentor is to provide support and guidance to veteran participants as they progress through the courts. Mentors are matched as closely as possible to their mentees based on their branch, era, rank, gender, and combat exposure. Mentor duties include:

- Attending all scheduled court hearings.
- Communicating frequently with their mentee to provide ongoing support and encouragement and ensuring that he or she is following the treatment plan, attending appointments, etc.
- Assisting their mentee in answering questions about court procedures and accomplishing the conditions set by the court.
- Staying in contact with the mentor coordinator and providing him or her with progress updates on their mentee, raising

any concerns about their mentee's behavior or circumstances, and staying up to date on mentor trainings, meetings, etc.

It does not take much to qualify as a veteran mentor. Mentor requirements are as follows:

- Be an honorably discharged veteran of one of the branches of the United States military (including National Guard and Reserve branches).
- Be available to attend court hearings and other meetings as needed.
- Complete mentor training and any additional training as requested by the court.
- Maintain confidentiality regarding a veteran participant/mentee's case and personal information.

Most, if not all, veterans consider it an honor and a privilege to have served their country. It is also an honor and a privilege to serve those who have served, to continue to give back. To continue to have your Brother's or your Sister's six. In order to work, the veterans treatment courts need you. The mentor role cannot be filled by civilians. It must be filled by someone who has gone through the same experiences that the mentees have gone through. The mentor must be a Brother or a Sister. I am asking you to take up this call to arms. To help them fight the good fight. To help them win their personal war.

If you are interested in becoming a veteran mentor, you need to contact the nearest veteran's treatment court because each court works a little differently. Visit [www.michiganlegion.org/vetcourts](http://www.michiganlegion.org/vetcourts) to view a list of courts and contacts to volunteer.

Thank you for your service. Thank you for continuing to serve your fellow veterans. Semper Fi.

Sincerely,

Kimberlee A. Hillock  
LCpl, USMC  
Veteran Mentor  
American Legion Member

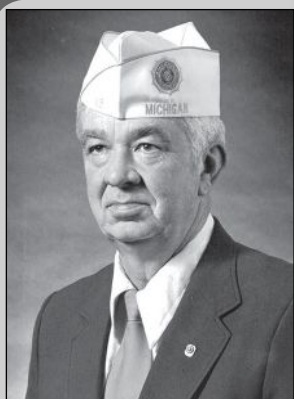
## Past State Commander Glenn Ainslie Remembered

Glenn H. Ainslie passed away peacefully at the age of 89 on December 2, 2015 in Charlotte, Michigan with his loving wife Sue at his side.

Glenn was a loving, tender husband to Sue during their 25 year marriage. He was a wonderful father to Bill Norton (Megan) and Wendy Adams (Kyle) and a devoted brother to his sister, Elaine Wilt. He had four children

from a previous marriage, Russell Ainslie, Pegg Ainslie, Robert Ainslie and Michael Ainslie. He had several grandchildren, Philip Ainslie (Stephanie), Melissa Sigel (Ben), Amanda Berryhill, Brendan and Jake Adams. Nieces Spring Boehmer, April Maynard, nephew Steve Avery and more friends than one can count. He was preceded in death by his mother, Della Gertrude Ainslie (Smith), father, Russell Chester Ainslie and brother, Gayle plus many close friends.

Glenn was a veteran and served his country during the Korean Conflict and World War II. He was a proud American and continued to serve as a member of Hastings American Legion Post #45 for 59 years. He was elected State Commander of The American Legion in 1980 and also served in several capacities on the National level. He retired in 1996 as Administrator/Director of Legion Villa in Battle Creek.





## 2016 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM



Saturday, February 13, 2016

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI  
 Cash Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.  
 \$25.00 per person

Select # of each: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a total of \_\_\_\_\_ tickets at \$25 each

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

*We accept all credit cards except American Express*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ POST/UNIT # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Michigan,  
 Attn: Kim, 212 N. Verlinden, Ste A, Lansing, MI 48915

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS**  
**FEBRUARY 8, 2016**  
**No Refunds after 2/8/2016**

GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION  
 IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
 THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
 WINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 12-14, 2016



- REGISTRATION: \$15.00 per person, **you must be registered to attend meetings.**
- PAYABLE TO: Genesee County Convention Corporation
- MAILED TO: Bernie Langlois, 12248 E. Atherton Rd., Davison, MI 48423

**CHECKS ONLY PLEASE**

**\*\*Note\*\*** Please *print legibly* or fill out the form online, print it out and mail it in.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Legion  Auxiliary  SAL  Leg. Riders

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Legion  Auxiliary  SAL  Leg. Riders

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Legion  Auxiliary  SAL  Leg. Riders

Name \_\_\_\_\_  Legion  Auxiliary  SAL  Leg. Riders

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$15.00= \_\_\_\_\_

**All room requests and special needs are to be placed through:**

THE HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CENTRE  
 5353 GATEWAY CENTRE  
 FLINT, MI 48507  
 PHONE: 1-810-232-5300

**If the Holiday Inn is full please call the Courtyard 1-810-232-3500**

CODE: AML

DEADLINE: January 21, 2016

Located in Mundy Twp. - Hill Rd. at Gateway Center

Note: The Code # AML will allow the hotel to access the room rate of \$90.00 + 11% tax. All major credit cards are acceptable.

When you call for your reservation you should be greeted with *"It's a great day at the Holiday Inn in Flint."* If this is not your greeting please hang up and try your call again in 10 to 15 minutes. The Flint phone # is 1-810-232-5300. If the hotel is full please asked to be transferred to Courtyard.

If you have asked the hotel for any special needs and would like to verify them please drop a note in with your registration and we will verify them for you.

**Please feel free to contact one of the following with any questions:**

Bernie Langlois (Leg.) 810-653-6517

Venus Langlois (Aux.) 810-653-6517

# Apply Today!

## 2016 Eagle Scout of the Year



**Deadline March 1, 2016**

# MILEGIONNAIRE OPT OUT FORM

**YES! I would like to view the Legionnaire online** at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_





# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

## SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY LEGION FAMILY



Fred Ruttkofsky  
SAL Commander

I hope all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season. But now that the Holidays are over it's time to get down to some serious work. The first 6 months have gone by so fast for me. It seems like just yesterday that I became your Detachment Commander. But in that time I have been to a lot of different post and meet with some very nice Family members. I

hope that the next 6 months are as rewarding as the first 6 have been. It was nice to see the great turnout for the Detroit Veterans Day parade on November 7th. I would also like to thank the Post in the 16th and 18th Districts for opening their doors to us on the tours on November 8th and the 14th. We had a wonderful time and met with a lot of very nice people.

Now on to the serious work. As you may or may not know once a month I have a conference call with our National Vice Commander Dennis J

Henkemeyer an guess what always comes up you guess it membership, we need to really work hard on our membership. I have made calls to some of you and by now we should be at 100 %. If I can help you in any way please let me know.

It was my pleasure to work with Commander Buda and President Sue Verville at the Veterans Gift Shops in Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Saginaw. I enjoyed talking to the veterans and helping them pick out gifts for there family .

As the winter weather moves in around us please keep our veterans in mind. If there is anything that we can do to help them please take the time to do so. Also lets keep our active service men and women in our prays that they come home safe and sound.

Hope to see a lot of you Blue Caps at our Winter Meeting in February.

Always remember Freedom is Not Free  
For God and Country  
Detachment Commander  
Fred Ruttkofsky

## HISTORIAN, EDITOR, NATIONAL EMERGENCY & ENDOWMENT FUND CHAIR

My family hopes that everyone had a Happy and Healthy Holiday season! But know it is time to move forward with the rest of our Legion Family year. I know that many posts squadrons units and chapters have had activities but as your historian and editor I am receiving very little. No one can promote your organization better than you the blue caps, remember you are the lifeblood of this great organization without you we cannot exist. So please send me info at sandylipman95@hotmail.com or mail to 13633 Vernon Oak Park Michigan 48237.

R.O.C.K.E.D. remembering our commitment keeping it every day: this is our Commander Kevin's slogan. His and the legions Commander's programs are the American Legion Endowment Fund, and the National Emergency Fund. The mission of the Endowment fund is to help Veterans Children to maintain basic needs i.e. shelter food clothing etc., this is done by the fund supporting the Temporary Financial Assistance program of The Children and Youth committee. It also distributes funds to the Veteran Affairs \$ Rehabilitation committee! The Emergency Fund provides financial assistance to Legionnaires, Auxililiary members. Sons and post that have been affected by natural disasters. The NEF provides up to #3000 for Legion Family members and up to \$10,000 for posts, The NEF has prevented damaged post from closing and Family members to recover from tragedy/ So PLEASE donate our national commander would like to see an average of .50 from each member. Your checks can be mailed to me at the address above and I will hand deliver then to National. Please don't hesitate to give. Always be proud of what you and the American Legion do. Do not forget to thank and hug a Veteran.

Yours in God and Country.  
Sandy Lipman PDC

## MEMBERSHIP: ANDRE SVACHA CHAIRMAN

Every Sons of The American Legion squadron should have a plan in place to coordinate and direct membership development. The squadron commander, ultimately, is responsible for the success or failure of the squadron to meet its membership goals for the year. Often the commander is assisted by the post membership chairman, who helps by selecting membership team members, planning membership rallies or events, and assisting the commander and adjutant with the processing of new and renewed members.

Commanders often follow a formula for success by assigning an energetic and motivated member to be the Squadron Membership Officer (or chairman) to supervise the following Squadron membership teams:

- Contact team
- New Member team
- Retention team

The Contact team concentrates on developing leads to areas with a likely concentration of members. The geographical borders of the local post community should cover not only the local business zones and residential neighborhoods, but should reach out to neighboring communities and counties that are underserved by American Legion posts.

Some features of the expanded area should give it high potential for successful membership development, including:

- Convenience in travel time to the post and scheduled post events.

- A sense of community awareness about the post, its location and positive contributions.
- A willingness in the community to help boost post membership through poster and countertop displays, public-service announcement outlets, local advertising buyers, etc.).
- A high number of prospective members.
- The contact team should restrict itself to building a list of areas and neighborhoods where potential members might be located. With post leaders, the membership chairman coordinates specific events to host in these local communities throughout the year.

Post leaders might also prepare plans and make necessary arrangements for post-sponsored events that are scheduled on the post calendar. Such events could include an Americanism rally, a membership breakfast or dinner, open house, an American Legion birthday party, a dance, a children's day, a Halloween carnival, Legion Rider fun runs, and Santa Claus hotline for children.

All dues need to be paid by December 31st to be in good standing. If your Post has a bar, drinks should not be served to anyone who hasn't paid their dues. 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 conference calls with the National SAL Membership Team, looking forward to seeing everyone at winter Conference.



A stop at Post 389 During the 16th District Tour



## 18th District continues with “Flags for Classrooms Project”



Randy Jackson, Dave Mennel, Joe Radiger Sq.374 Carvin Chapman Sq 377, Rodney Galbraith 18th District Commander Sq 143 and members of the County Board of Education at the presentation of classroom flags

Co-chair men Randy Jackson and Dave Mennel, would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee for their work on our this important project. To date, we have presented close to one thousand 2' x 3' American Flags and brackets to school boards for installation in their classrooms. These American Made flag sets replace some that had been removed during remodeling, or other reasons. We have been doing this for a while, but, it really got going when Alice Jackson helped out by sending a letter to the County Board of Education. Since then, we've had as many as three presentations in one week. This is a very worthwhile program that could be carried on throughout the State. I know that we get a lot of positive feedback from these presentations. Thanks again to everyone involved. Keep it up.

## Saginaw VA Bike Rack Project Donation



Carvin Chapman, 3rd Zone Commander at the Saginaw VA Medical Center presenting Bike Racks as part of the Bike Rack Project.



## Dictionary Project Recipients



Dictionary Project at West Iron Elementary in Iron River



Dictionary Project at Forest Park in Crystal Falls



Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, State Commander Mike Buda, and Department President Sue Verville at the Ann Arbor VA



Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky, and Department President Sue Verville at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans



## From Post 328 in Southfield

### A listing of current events in and around the metro Detroit Area for and about Veterans, as of 12/3/15.

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in emotional crisis and need help RIGHT NOW, call this toll-free number 1-800-273-8255, available 24/7, and tell them you are a veteran. All calls are confidential.

Special Notice: If you are a veteran in need of housing or are homeless contact the VA Homeless Veterans Hotline at 1-877-424-3838.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

"Freedom Center @ North Terminal Opening!" The Metro Airport North Freedom Center is opening December 17th, at gate D-17, with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 11AM. The hours of operation, however, will be limited because of a lack of volunteers! We need you! You get free parking at the airport (handy when you go on vacation) and a chance to serve the troops as they pass thru. To volunteer visit the Freedom Center website and go to volunteer.

"Accommodating Wounded Warriors" Mentioned this a year ago but with the Holidays coming worth mentioning again. If you need special assistance when flying (wheelchair, early boarding, etc) the TSA will meet you at the door of the airport, get you thru security, and then to your gate. Your plane will also than be met by the TSA to help you get to baggage claim, etc. You must notify the TSA of your travel schedule at least 24 hours in advance at 888-262-2396 or via email at msusoc@dhs.gov.

"VA Golden Age Games coming to Detroit" The VA Golden Age Games are coming to Detroit in July 2016. This will be open to all veterans that are enrolled in the VA Health System. To get a sneak peek see early flyer or visit their new website!

"Buddy-2Buddy December Job Fair Listing" These are the job fairs for December compiled by the B2B network. They are not hosting any of these. Click here to get the listing.

#### EVENTS!

"Thursday, January 14, 2016 (NEW)" The Virtual Center of Excellence is hosting a Veterans Mental Health First Aid Training seminar at their location, 36300 Warren Rd, Westland, from 8:30 till 4:30PM, with lunch provided. This is a free program and very informative so for a complete discription on what is covered and who should attend see attached flyer.

"Buddy-to-Buddy Volunteer Veteran Program" The Buddy-to-Buddy Program is a peer-to-peer outreach program that provides peer support and connection to resources for Michigan Post-9/11 service members and veterans. The program places Volunteer Veterans at MIARNG armories to offer resource linkage to current service members as well as places them in the community to help any veteran in need. Volunteers are trained to help veterans find resources for a variety of concerns, such as: financial, VA benefits, education, emotional challenges, substance abuse, legal, medical, or employment. This service is completely free and confidential. The program is part of the M-SPAN suite of programs serving military service members, veterans, and their families, funded by the Welcome Back Veterans initiative. For more information on volunteering or getting assistance from the

program, visit [www.buddytobuddy.org](http://www.buddytobuddy.org), call 1-888-82-BUD-DY (28339), or email [buddytobuddyvvp@umich.edu](mailto:buddytobuddyvvp@umich.edu). Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BuddytoBuddyProgram](http://www.facebook.com/BuddytoBuddyProgram).

"Project Healing Waters" The John Dingell VA Hospital is teaming up with Project Healing Waters to teach veterans the art of Fly Fishing in room B1290 from 10AM to Noon. This event will be held Wednesdays on the dates noted above. For more information you can contact Kelly Cousion at the VA at 313-576-1217, visit their website at Project Healing Waters, or see attached flyer.

"Assistance for jobless Veterans" Are you a veteran and need a job? The State of Michigan has a veterans employment specialist located right here in Southfield at the John Grace Center, 21030 Indian St. The office is there to provide veterans with employment assistance; mainly providing them with the tools they need to search for jobs (positions) out in the community, as they partner with "Employment Services" at Michigan Works! Contact Mr. Fred Pittman at 248-796-4569 or email him at [pittmanf@michigan.gov](mailto:pittmanf@michigan.gov).

"Old Warrior Camp" Do you know a returning vet that needs some time to unwind and relax? In the Upper Peninsula of Michigan there is a camp where fishing, hunting, riding, etc., are all available for free. For more information go to <http://www.oldwarriorcamp.com> or email <mailto:thebulldogblevins@yahoo.com>

"Free Veteran Legal Clinic (Update)" Are you having issues with the VA? Need some legal help with all the VA paperwork? The University of Detroit-Mercy offers free legal services for veterans as part of their Project Salute, which is now in its 5th year of helping veterans. For more information contact U of D-M at 888-836-5294 or visit their website at <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/index.php/projectsalute>. Also see attached flyer for more information.

"Veterans History Project" The Southfield Veterans' Commission is currently working with the Library of Congress and the Southfield Public Library gathering interviews for the American History Series. We are asking all veterans to share their stories with everyone across the country. Currently interviews are being done every Wednesday afternoon at the Southfield Library. The veteran also receives a copy of the interview for their own family record on DVD. You do not need to be a Southfield resident to participate in this program. Veterans wishing to be interviewed need to contact us to schedule a date and time at the above phone number or email address so that the necessary paperwork can get started. You will need to sign a release form for the Library of Congress, the Southfield Public Library, complete a bio form, etc. As of June 2010 196 vets have been interviewed. More information on the Veterans History Project can be found at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets)

"Veterans Aid & Assistance Program (Updated)" Are you taking care of a veteran? Have a veteran in a nursing home? Have the spouse of a veteran in a nursing home or taking care of at home? A little known program of the VA might be able to help. VA Program S-38 might be able to supply to you up to \$20,000 a year toward the care of a veteran or spouse, or widow of a veteran. Naturally there are qualifications to meet, more then can be covered here. Details on this program and assistance on how to apply can be found at [www.veteranaid.org/index.php](http://www.veteranaid.org/index.php).

"New GI Bill" The Veterans Education Act of 2008 was passed last summer. This affects all veterans who have served since 9/11/01 and goes into affect on August 1, 2009. The American Legion is sponsoring a web site to provide information to current veterans on what this new program will provide. To find out more about the New GI Bill go to [www.mygibill.org](http://www.mygibill.org).

"Veteran Housing Project" Are you a disabled or a low income veteran and having problems cutting the weeds in your backyard, fixing a leaking sink, need a wheelchair ramp installed, etc. The Oakland County chapter of the Rebuilding Together program may be able to help. Their volunteers will come to your house, cut your weeds, fix that leak, build you a wheelchair ramp. For more information goto <http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/content/organization/detail/743/>, see attached flyer, or call Mr. Jerry McKay at 248-889-5450.

"Social Security Benefits for Wounded Veterans" If you are a disabled veteran, and receiving benefits from the VA, you may still be entitled to extra benefits from the Social Security Administration. For more information check with the Social Security Administration local office or goto: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors/>

"Social Security Benefits for Vets prior to 1967" In many cases veterans that served prior to 1967 did not get full credit for their service with the Social Security Administration. If you are retiring be sure to take a copy of your DD-214 to the SSA office. If you are retired take a copy of your discharge papers to the SSA to get your earning record corrected. This might mean more per month for you.

"Free Tuition for Returning Vets" Western Michigan University's trustees have initiated a Returning Veterans Tuition Assistance Program designed to help recently discharged veterans with the cost of college. The program waives tuition for the first semester on campus. The current cost for a semester of tuition for a typical full time student is \$3,088. Eligible veterans must begin school at Western Michigan University within six months of discharge from active duty for purposes other than training. Contact Western Michigan University for more information.

"Combat Veterans Program (Update)" The John D. Dingell VA Medical Center has a team of providers who specialize in the assessment and treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The mission of the PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) is to provide comprehensive, individualized, and state-of-the-art treatment for veterans who have been impacted by traumatic events that occurred during military service. The program provides assessment for PTSD, education, group and individual therapy, and assistance with connecting to other needed services. If you believe you or your family member would benefit from these services, please contact the PCT at 313-576-1000, extension 65770. You may also contact the PCT Coordinator, Christina Hall, LMSW, directly at 313-576-4962.

"Information for all Vets" If you have been searching the web for information on a particular item concerning vets, look no further! I received the attached from the Student Vet Association at the U of M, author unknown! Think you will find it most useful.

*Join the American Legion!*

## LEGION RIDERS

Many probably think so now it's winter and what on earth do the Riders do. This is the time of year for a number of things. Planning for the next riding season. It's great when groups near each other get together to plan rides and events so we can support other chapters. Another item we do is ramp up dinners that we suspend during riding season. Having your motorcycle serviced for safety is great during the winter and saves valuable riding season downtime. There are a range of other activities to think about. Cutting stars from retired flags and attaching Veteran's thank you cards. Your chapter can go out in force on a given

day and simply hand these out and blanket a main city street or carry them in stores and pass them out. You can make an appointment with a high-school and talk about the Legion Riders and the "Good Bikers". It is also important to broadcast your success stories. Make a list of your years accomplishments and ask local papers to run a story. Motorcycle shows are a good place to recruit new members. I will also mention that if at all possible have people from your Post attend conventions. Each entity should have representatives. There is so much to learn and take back to the Post. Please remember that the State Legion was good enough

to let the Riders have a page on the [michiganlegion.org](http://michiganlegion.org) website. Please send in ride information. Single items not a yearly ride schedule are desired. Please include cost, charity, directions, time, contact information and any other important information in regards to the event. I would like to see the web site feature loaded with rides from around the state. Information can be sent to [speedbump48813@hotmail.com](mailto:speedbump48813@hotmail.com).

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season,  
Tom Howard  
Detachment of Michigan Riders Chairman.

## MIAP DECEMBER UPDATE

We Sons, along with other Legion Family members continue to work with other Veterans Service Organizations to show our support for The Missing in America Project program.

We continue to visit Funeral Homes across Michigan asking if they have any Unclaimed Ashes. If they do, we try to verify if the Ashes are those of a Veteran. If the Verification Report comes back stating that the Cremains are those of an Honorably Discharged Veteran, we can move forward with setting up a burial date for that Veteran, along with the Full Military Honors that they earned.

The American Legion Fami-

ly from Grand Haven Post #28 was recently a part of a ceremony that helped to Inter a Veteran whose Remains had gone Unclaimed. Thanks to their efforts, Vietnam Veteran Gregory Bolot was Laid to Rest with his Military Brothers and Sisters.

The Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council has said that if you locate the Unclaimed Ashes of a Veteran, and you would like that Veteran be a part of their Horse Drawn Caisson Veterans Day Ceremony, you can give them or myself a call.

Thank you for your hard work in making sure that these Unclaimed Veterans are "Not Forgotten".

Greg Price  
MIAP

## ZONE 1 COMMANDER'S REPORT

We leave the 2015 Holiday Season with some great memories. One of those memories is about all those who participated in the 10th annual Detroit Veterans Parade that Honored those who have, and those who continue to preserve the Freedom that we enjoy.

Another one of those memories were the smiles on the faces of the Residents of the Veterans Administration Medical Center as they were being served a great Thanksgiving dinner while visiting the Taylor American Legion Post #200.

Toss in the laughter of the Kids who attended Christmas parties held at various Posts, and the dedication of some Legion Family members who stood on street corners in their communities volunteering to receive donations for Goodfellow Papers with the goal that No Child Would Go Without A Christmas! As Bob Hope would say, "Thanks for the Memories".

With the arrival of the New Year (2016), your Old Membership

Card (2015) will no longer let you enjoy the privileges of the clubroom at your or any other Post. It is important for you to either visit your Post to renew your Squadron membership (S.A.L.), or mail a check or money order to your Post along with a note letting them know that it is to renew your Dues for 2016.

On Saturday February 6th the 16th District will host their Annual Americanism Banquet at the Carl E. Stitt Post #232 in Dearborn Heights. This year's banquet will be filled with fun, special guest speakers, and the opportunity to spend some time with Department Commander Michael Buda, Department President Sue Verville, and Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky. Tickets are on sale now. If you would like tickets, you can contact me at 313-550-0857. This is a great occasion to enjoy dinner with friends and family. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

For God & Country,  
Greg Price  
Zone 1 Commander

## 5TH ZONE COMMANDER'S REPORT

Hello 5th Zone. There was a meeting of the 11th District at Rapid River on October 10th. We had 6 SAL Posts there. Iron Mountain, Marquette, Menominee, Stambou, Iron River and Gladstone. A nice turn out but wish we would have had more. Jerry Lynch gave a brief report on Boys state. Dwaine Verville gave us the latest stats on Wil

Win Lodge. Some squadrons gave brief reports on some of their projects. Just a reminder do not hold your dues, they need to be sent in to the department as soon as possible.

For God and Country  
Bill Germain  
5th Zone Commander

## 3RD ZONE COMMANDER'S REPORT

The month of November was very busy. It started out with participating in the Veterans Day Parade on November 7th. I pulled the float with the Juniors from Post 377. November 8th I went on the 18th District Commanders Tour. There was an excellent turn out for this Tour. November 11th our Post cooked breakfast for Veterans Day. November 14th I went on the 16th District Commander's Tour. I participated in helping our 18th District SAL Association hand out classroom Flags to 3 schools in Oakland County. They were Avondale, Bloomfield Hills and Clarkston. I visited five

Posts this month and delivered the certificates for Membership and National. I'm asking that all the Squadrons in the 3rd Zone to please get their membership turned in. Please do not hang onto them. The quicker they get into Department the quicker these numbers get to National. In closing I hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and from my wife and myself we wish everyone Happy Holiday's and a Happy New Year.

Yours in God and Country  
Carvin "Huey" Chapman  
3rd Zone Commander

## SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION HANG UP THE WELCOME SIGN

Gladstone: The August Mattson Son's of The American Legion recently installed a new Sign at the north entrance of The City of Gladstone to welcome new visitors and to welcome any Son's or Grandson's of Veterans that would like to join their Squad.

What a great time to belong to the greatest organization on earth! Michigan Sons of The American Legion are making great strides in American Legion programs, helping posts, and working with the community. Remember that they are here because of the veterans, so they help a veteran whenever we can. The Sons of The American Legion was founded for preserving The American Legion traditions and programs while improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

The Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan represents over 19,000 members in the State of Michigan. The Sons of The

American Legion was founded in 1932 as a program of The American Legion. The Sons of The American Legion follows closely and supports "The Four Pillars" of The American Legion; veteran rehabilitation, Americanism, child welfare, and national security. They meet on the Second Thursdays of the month at 7:30 P.M. at the American Legion Clubroom on Delta Avenue in Gladstone.



Membership Chairman Don Couillard finishes installing the New Son's of the American Legion Welcome Sign at the North Entrance of Gladstone



## RESERVED FOR COMBAT WOUNDED SIGN POSTED

Tom Stremppka, of American Legion Post #253, in Royal Oak, and DAV Chapter 19, South Oakland County is shown at the "Reserved for Combat Wounded" parking spot at the Goodyear Store on Woodward Ave, in Royal Oak. "Skip" Case, the Store Manager had the spot designated, recently,



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734-769-7100 OR 1-800-361-8387 [www.annarbor.va.gov](http://www.annarbor.va.gov) @VAAnnArbor 2215 Fuller Road Ann Arbor, MI 48105

### American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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](mailto:al.vbadet@va.gov)  
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm



Gary Easterling  
Director

**Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule**

Visit us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/MichiganVAR](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganVAR)



## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Legion members, the deadline for The American Legion Department of Michigan Teacher of the Year Award is just around the corner: February 1st, 2016. Please talk to your local school Superintendents and submit a name. The nomination forms are available online at:

<http://michiganlegion.org/teacher.html>

### 2016 Department Convention Sault Ste Marie - Kewadin Casino June 22 - June 26, 2016

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.

- Only 1 room reservation per party. No multiple room reservations to ensure everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the convention experience at the casino.
- Rates will apply from Monday, June 20 - Sunday, June 26, 2016.
- Smoking, handicap rooms, and refrigerators available on first come basis.
- Cancellations must be made at least 3 days prior to arrival date to avoid a charge for one night.

Call 1-800-539-2346 for room reservations and mention ID number 2253 for convention rates.



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# Monroe Man is Only Person Remaining From World War II Transport Ship



**Monroe News Photo by TOM HAWLEY** Bill Bunkelman is the lone survivor of the *Dorchester*, a WWII ship sunk near Greenland.

By Ray Kisonas, From the Monroe News, August 15, 2015

On a clear, frigid, moonless night in February, 1943, the SS *Dorchester*, an Army transport ship, steamed through calm seas toward Greenland with 904 souls aboard.

William G. Bunkelman was one of four Monroe County soldiers aboard the 368-foot vessel, the middle of a convoy of three. In the early morning hours of Feb. 3, Mr. Bunkelman was on duty as a lookout for German submarines, a job he considered relatively useless since they typically were below surface and the night was ink black.

"They always wanted to keep you occupied," Mr. Bunkelman said. "They had to give me something to do."

A friend of his, Jesse Lord of Georgia, had been busy smashing ice with a sledge hammer that had formed on the ship. Mr. Bunkelman remembers his buddy's love of pork chops and marveled at how many he could eat at one setting. As he went below deck, Mr. Lord tossed Mr. Bunkelman a life jacket and told him to put it on.

"He's the guy who saved my life," Mr. Bunkelman said. "He was a good Southern kid."

Mr. Bunkelman is 94 and remains in fairly good health. Marian, his wife of 70 years, died just four months ago. His son, William D., one of five Bunkelman children, died in 1980 and the Monroe High School football field was named in his honor.

Now living quietly in the Wellspring Lutheran Home, Mr. Bunkelman is a grandfather of eight and the great-grand-

father of 10. He also is the last survivor of the *Dorchester*, a ship made famous by the Immortal Chaplains. They were four Army chaplains who gave away their life preservers to other soldiers, dooming themselves in the process. They went down with the ship, their arms linked together as they prayed.

Of the 904 people aboard the *Dorchester*, only 230 were saved. It was the worst single loss of American personnel of any American convoy during World War II and of all the American ships lost during the war, the *Dorchester* had the third highest death toll.

Mr. Bunkelman's daughter, Dianna (Debbie) Tomkinson, said she recently received a phone call from the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation based in Philadelphia and was told that her father was the last survivor.

"He never really talked about it when we were kids," Mrs. Tomkinson said. "But we're very proud of him."

## Torpedoed

When the torpedo slammed into the *Dorchester* on her starboard side at 12:55 a.m., it hit near the engine room well beneath the surface of the sea, which muffled the blast.

According to a summary of survivor statements, no one on the escort vessels nearby heard the explosion. The second officer of the *Dorchester* was asleep when the torpedo hit and thought the ship struck an iceberg.

Mr. Bunkelman remembers a similar account. He said the torpedo struck on the opposite side of the ship where he was stationed while on duty. Although there was

only a muffled boom, there was no mistaking what had just occurred.

"You knew we were hit," he said. "You could feel the ship shudder."

The explosion tore through the ship and destroyed the refrigeration system, which was above the engine room on the main deck, and the ensuing fumes filled the air.

Mr. Bunkelman recalls the strong smell of ammonia, a similar account by other survivors. The blast knocked out electricity immediately and the crippled ship quickly began listing badly.

Mr. Bunkelman said he remembers joining fellow Monroe County soldiers Lawrence Dusseau Jr. and Albert DeKeyser. A fourth soldier from Monroe County, Paul May, also was on board but Mr. Bunkelman didn't know him.

"I knew damn well it was going down," Mr. Bunkelman recalled. "We decided to get out of there."

He said one minute his buddies were behind him; the next they were gone. None of the three others from Monroe survived the sinking.

"I thought the guys were behind me," he said. "But they weren't."

With his life jacket on, Mr. Bunkelman lowered himself by rope into the freezing North Atlantic. The water temperature was 34 degrees and the air was only two degrees warmer. But there was another problem.

"I didn't know how to swim," he said. "Still don't. I hate the water."

Despite the dire situation, Mr. Bunkelman said it was not chaotic, a memory shared by other survivors.

According to the *Dorchester* Files, a written account created by survivors, many of the lifeboats were destroyed by the torpedo and others were swamped. Some were frozen to the ship.

"There was apparently no panic during the abandoning of the ship operations," wrote Lt. H.V. Stebbins, one of the survivors. "Many of the passengers did not realize the seriousness of the situation. When the vessel went down, many persons were seen standing motionless on deck and apparently making no effort to leave the ship."

## Saving survivors

Within 20 minutes, the ship disappeared beneath the surface. When it went down, it dragged Mr. Bunkelman with it. Somehow, he managed to make it to the surface and there in front of him was a lifeboat. It contained only one survivor.

"I couldn't understand what this guy was doing by himself," Mr. Bunkelman said. "He must have been an angel."

The life jackets were equipped with red lights and all around them they could see red lights dotting the darkness.

"You could see them bobbing all around you," Mr. Bunkelman said. "There were a lot of red lights."

Mr. Bunkelman said they grabbed as many men they could and hauled them into the lifeboat. He guessed it was around

20 men. Hours later, they were rescued by SS *Escanaba*, a ship named after the Upper Peninsula town.

But according to Lt. Stebbins' account, Mr. Bunkelman and the man in the lifeboat appeared to have saved many more lives than he recalls. Lt. Stebbins wrote that the *Escanaba* rescued lifeboat No. 6, which had 51 people in the boat and five more hanging onto the sides.

Mr. Bunkelman's lifeboat most likely was No. 6 because, according to Lt. Stebbins, of the 14 lifeboats aboard the *Dorchester*, only No. 6 and No. 13 were successfully used in abandoning ship. He described in detail what happened to the lifeboats. No. 6 was the only one rescued by the *Escanaba*.

## His legacy

Like other written accounts documented by survivors, Mr. Bunkelman's sworn affidavit was filed with the Army in September, 1944. On the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Web site, Mr. Bunkelman's written account of the disaster can be viewed as a document that was marked "confidential" at the time.

"Before going over the side, I noticed numerous men who were afraid to jump or get into the water for the thought of an icy drenching and possible death was more than they could bear," he wrote at the time.

In his single-page account, which he signed S/Sgt. William G. Bunkelman, he also mentioned seeing the chaplains "without regard for their safety, going about the deck giving the men encouragement and trying to calm their fears." He also wrote that he knew two of the now famous men.

Mr. Bunkelman never mentioned in his affidavit that he helped save the lives of 54 men by pulling them into that lifeboat or letting them hang over the sides. Even today, he doesn't even think of himself as a hero or a key witness to history. In fact, he said he wished he could have done more during the war because after the sinking, he served the rest of his military days doing office work.

He was honorably discharged in January, 1946.

"Sure I'm proud I served, even though I didn't have combat duty," said Mr. Bunkelman, who earned the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon.

He is quick to recall Mr. Lord and credit him for saving his life. He credited the lone man in the lifeboat as his angel. What he didn't mention was that he was a part of history, a survivor who more than 72 years ago, in dire circumstances that only a few could understand, not only saved himself, but helped save the lives of 54 men.

He also didn't mention that because of that selfless act hundreds, perhaps thousands of descendants are alive today because Mr. Bunkelman helped pulled those icy soldiers out of the freezing Atlantic.



## D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans

### Wanda Westman, Representative

American Legion Auxiliary members volunteer over 3,000 hours every year to assist our residents. Currently, we have 191 residents, 172 men and 19 women. We work hard in hope that our Auxiliary programs serve them all. We are looking for donations for my special project--Activities & Entertainment, which covers all the programs that we get involved in. First, we host a weekly bingo party every Monday afternoon, sponsored by a rotation of four Auxiliary units. We are looking for units to help sponsor the fourth Monday of the month at a cost of \$85-\$100 monthly. Next, we assist in the library with magazine subscriptions costing \$400-\$450 annually. The magazines are updated weekly; we request that donated magazines be current issues. Otherwise, contributions towards magazine subscriptions are always appreciated. We also accept puzzle books and 300-pc and 500-pc jigsaw puzzles. Several Auxiliary members have started a crafting group that meet once a month, which our members really enjoy. They started with beading and now will be painting ornaments.

Monthly activities for January include the VFC holiday party and the Mid-Winter tour. February includes the Four Chaplains Service and Post Everlasting hosted by Post #44 Marquette and the VFC Valentine's party. March brings playing blackjack at the VFC Vegas Days and April brings the annual volunteer banquet and the VFC spring fling. May has the Member's Creative Art Show/Sale, the Mother's Day party and Memorial Day ceremony. In June, we celebrate Father's Day with a card for each male resident and \$2.00 gift in their account. These are donated by the U.P. Auxiliary units. In July, we help with the annual Fish Fry and the old car show. August brings the annual carnival and a trip to the U. P. State Fair. Summer months also include many outings and picnics that we help with. September has the POW/MIA Ceremony. October brings the Tailgate party and the Halloween party. November celebrates Veteran's Day

and Thanksgiving.

Our biggest program of the year is the Christmas Gift Shop, which takes place in December. Our U. P. units and volunteers work hard for months to make Christmas special at the Jacobetti Home. During Gift Shop, our residents get to choose something for themselves and something for their family members, up to five gifts total. Then the presents are gift wrapped and stored until Christmas week. Then, more volunteers come & help distribute them so the residents have them when their family comes to visit during the holidays. We appreciate the U. P. Units that donate the gifts and the many volunteers who put in such long hours shopping and assisting the residents at gift shop to choose their presents, the gift wrapping and all the organization to make this program work. In all, we give approximately 900 gifts to our residents at a value of about \$20,000.

Every two months, we have an outing to the American Legion Post # 114 Greenwood for lunch & bingo. Also, our residents are invited to American Legion Post # 44 Marquette and American Legion Post # 349 Little Lake once a year.

It takes all the volunteers working together to make all our programs work. Now, I challenge all the Auxiliary members to reach out to your Legion and Son's of the Legion members to help in our programs here at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans. Branching out to include our Legion family can only make programs stronger and better able to serve the residents. My thanks go out to my deputies—Diana Peterson of Unit # 44 Marquette, Lois Juchemich of Unit #114 Greenwood and Sheri Richard of Unit # 349 Little Lake, who are so caring and give so much of your time and heart. I think the staff at the Jacobetti Home is fantastic along with all the volunteers, too. The quality of care our residents receive really makes the Jacobetti Home a special place to live. To our resident veterans, I want to sincerely thank you for your service and sacrifice and for your friendship. God bless you and God bless America!

## 8th District Promoting "Service Not Self"

### Robin Basarabska, 8th District President

I'd like to take this opportunity to share what Units in the 8th District are doing to promote "Service, not Self". Unit 125 volunteers for bingo weekly at the Saginaw Veteran's Home, serves dinner every Wednesday with proceeds going to the veterans and hosted a Trunk or Treat event for kids to have fun while staying safe. Unit 412 distributes poppies during poppy days and poppy bookmarks through Veterans Day.

They assist with a Veteran's Day dinner and deliver approximately 60 fruit baskets. Unit 380 has a bake sale and creates cards for our soldiers. They host a dinner on Halloween, march in the holiday parade, are working on a clothing drive for the veterans and have adopted three kids to give Christmas gifts to. Unit 153 had a "Give 10 for Education" event that collected 22 backpacks and two large boxes of school sup-

plies, participates in the Memorial Day, Mint Festival and Veteran's Day parades and luncheons, promoted Green Light-a-Vet, and hosted breakfast to raise money for veteran's projects. Unit 439 focuses on the Saginaw Veteran's Hospital.

They have their angel tree up for the Christmas Shop and spend hours volunteering. Unit 212 has bake sales and has donated profits to Girl's State. They have also donated to "Toys for Kids" to benefit school children in their community. I have more units to visit, so this is only a partial representation of the things that the ladies in the 8th District are doing.

I am proud to be the President of a district that spends so much time and energy living up to "Service, Not Self". As we begin a new year, let's all promote a culture of goodwill. Remember that we are a Legion Family, keep the lines of communication open with the Legion and SAL.

## 7th District, Checking In

### Kathleen Copeland, District President

Greetings to all. First I am proud to be an Auxiliary member and second I am proud to be a 7th District Auxiliary member. The women of this district are passionate in what they do for our Veterans. They are working our programs, and recruiting and retaining their members.

I am visiting our Units and visited 3 in 1 evening in October. Port Huron, Charles A. Hammond Unit #8 hosted a meet and greet that included Peck Unit #489 and Charles J Fulton, Saint Clair Unit #382. In November I visited Lapeer Unit #16 with more visits to follow. I will return to Lapeer Post #16 in January for the Four Chaplains Memorial on January 31st, 2016 at 2:03 PM. Won't you join us?

I was not able to attend the Gift Shop at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans as originally planned and I hope the gifts the hospital received were ample to assist our Veterans that would be shopping for their families.

I have received a wonderful article on what the hard working auxiliary members of Harbor Beach, Burhans Hagedon Unit #197 had done for their 2015 Veterans Day project. Their Post, and the Department of Veterans Affairs/DAV Bad Axe supported their project by delivering the items to the Ann Arbor VA for Veterans Day. With community support and poppy funds they were able to make 73 lap robes and 11 wheelchair/walker/bedrail totes. Kudos Ladies.

Another shining example of some of the work our ladies do is from Stamitz-Lindeman Auxiliary Unit #293 of Sebawaing that raised \$1,000.00 for the Michigan Wounded Warrior program, my special project this year. The program had a major supporter last year and the company has changed hands, therefore I hoped we could help in some way and this Unit stepped up to this cause. I personally thank you President Betty, and all those that helped your unit in any way to achieve such success.

So, along with all of the lunches, dinners, parades, attention to our youth, our Legion family and our Auxiliary, the 7th District is hard at work for our programs.

## The Poppy

### Kimberly Champion, Poppy Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary continues to distribute the Memorial Poppy. This has taken place for over 90 years. As always, many distributors are needed this year, not only for the older Veterans, but for the many men and women serving our country today.

The Memorial Poppy reminds us about the millions who sacrificed their lives to keep us free and the program is one of the oldest plus one of the most beneficial Auxiliary Programs for Veterans and their families. Help to support our Veterans, past and present, by distributing the Poppy on Poppy Days, May 19, 20, 21, 2016. Everyone can help no matter what age.

Get involved at your neighborhood school, explain to them how Veterans earn money by making Poppies and get them involved in creating Poppy Posters. Encourage your Juniors, the SAL, the Legion and the Auxiliary to get involved with distribution even if they can only donate their time for an hour. 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.

Use the Poppy for various functions at your Post homes. Make Poppy centerpieces, Poppy corsages for special dinners at your Posts/Units, display the Poppy in a window display, visit your local hospitals and give each Veteran in the hospital a Poppy and thank them for serving our Country to keep us safe and free. Remember the more you promote the more others will know about the Poppy Program.

I hope everyone can help make this year a successful year, an informative one and a fun year.

## ELLEN JACKSON ENDORSED FOR 2016-17 DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

At the regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, 18th District and the regular scheduled meeting of Walter Fraser Unit 108, members voted to endorse Ellen Jackson for the High Office of Department President for the year 2016-2017.

At the department level, Ellen is presently serving as the 1st Vice President and Legislative Chairman and also currently on the Strategic Planning Committee and has previously served as 2nd Vice President & National Security Chairman, Chaplain, Historian, and Americanism Chairman. She has served on the Americanism and Community Service Committees.

At the Unit and District levels she has dutifully held the offices of President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian, and Sgt.-at-Arms. She brings her varied experience as chairman of VA & R, Americanism, Community Service, Membership, Past President's Parley, Girls State, and Education, and is currently the District Publication Relations Chairman.

She has served on the Board for the Pontiac

Veterans Memorial Wall. She was an ALA Representative for the Families of Pontiac Veterans Scholarship. Ellen is also a partner of Salon 224.

Ellen has been proudly married for 10 years to her best friend PDC Carrie Jackson, a Vietnam Veteran. Between them they have three children and a daughter-in-law, Heather, Russell, John and his wife Amber. Ellen also has four grandchildren. They are Marissa 17, Anastia 15, Michael 9 and Ashley 5, all members of the American Legion Family.

Ellen is a dedicated, active Auxiliary member who joined under her deceased father, a Korean War Veteran. She is committed to serving the Veteran and their family and has shown her loyalty over a 15 year period of unselfish giving.

It is our honor and duty to ask for your support of our endorsement of Ellen Jackson for the Office of Department President for the year 2016-2017.

Sandra Carter                      Darlene Jones  
President, 18th District      Secretary, 18th District

## DEANNA CORTRIGHT ENDORSED FOR 1ST VICE PRESIDENT

At A regularly scheduled meeting of the Coldwater American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52, held October 14, 2015, and the Third District Association Meeting held November 8, 2015, Deanna (Mrs. Duane) Cortright was endorsed for the office of First Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the 2016-2017 year.

Deanna is eligible for membership through the service of her father, Robert E. Lentz, a US Navy Veteran. He served 33 years including during both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Mr. Lentz is a member of the American Legion in Orange Park, Florida.

Deanna has been a member for 34 years, and has been active at the Unit and District level for all of them. At the Unit level, Deanna has held all offices, including a total of 5 years as President, with part being while she was a member of Quincy Unit #157. She is currently Treasurer.

On the District level, Deanna has held all offices, including a total of 3 years as President and 2 years as Parliamentarian. She has also held many of the District Chairmanships.

On the Department level, Deanna has been on several committees, many as chairman. She

has served as Chairman of the Junior Activities and Children and Youth Committees, as well as Education Chairman. She was VA & R Chairman for 3 years, and has also been the Department Membership Chairman. Deanna has served as Department Historian and Chaplain. She is currently the 2nd Vice President for 2015-2016.

Deanna is a member of the 8 and 40 Salon #41 and the La Societe de Femme Cabane #946.

She retired from the State of Michigan after 30 years in December 2009 where she worked for the Department of Community Health for all but one year.

It is with great pleasure that we endorse Deanna for this position. We feel that she is well qualified to serve the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan as an Officer. We ask for your consideration and endorsement of Deanna for the nomination of Department First Vice President for the 2016-2017 year.

Nancy Ritchey                      Linda Bowers  
Third District President      Third District Secretary

Diana Doyle                      Janet Hurst  
Unit #52 President              Unit #52 Secretary

## DEBORAH WILLIAMSON ENDORSED FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Fifth District Association, held Tuesday, October 20, 2015, in Grandville, MI, Deborah R. Williamson was endorsed for the office of 2nd Vice President, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan for the 2016-2017 year.

Deborah is eligible through the service of her late father, Harvey R. Volkens, who served in the United States Navy during World War II and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. She is also eligible through her brother who served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era.

Deborah has been an active American Legion Auxiliary member for 62 years. At the Unit level she served her Unit as President for five years. She has served her Unit as 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian, and Treasurer for twenty four years. She has held every Chairmanship at the Unit level with the exception of Americanism and VA & R.

At the District level, Deborah served as First and Second Vice President and was President in 2006-2007. She served as Publication Chairman and Poppy Chairman for several years.

At the Department level, Deborah has been on the Girls State Committee for thirteen years and served two years as Girls State Chairman. She has served as Department Historian and is currently serving as Department Chaplain.

Deborah is a 12 year member of Kent Salon 322 of the 8 et 40, and a Chapeau Passe.

Deborah is a 22 year associate of Michaels Stores Inc. She has four children and has been blessed with sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

We ask your consideration and support of our candidate for the Office of 2nd Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the 2016-2017 year.

Margo Forrester                      Pamela McVeigh  
Fifth District President      Fifth District Secretary



**HARBOR BEACH** - The American Legion Auxiliary, Burhans Hagedon Unit 197, concluded the Veterans Day Project for 2015 at their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 27. A total of 73 Lap Robes and 11 Wheelchair/Walker/Bed Rail Totes were proudly donated by members. The donated items will be delivered to the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital to celebrate Veterans Day November 11, 2015. Thank you to all the members of the Auxiliary for their participation, American Legion Post 197 Harbor Beach & Department of Veterans Affairs/DAV Bad Axe for delivery of the donated items, and the community whose support and poppy donations helped in part to fund this project. We are forever grateful to all Veterans for their service.



Waiting for the Veteran's Day Parade to begin.



President Sue Verville with Rosie the Riveters at the Detroit Veterans Day Parade.



## American Red Cross Seeks Volunteers

**Robert Haertel, Volunteer Services  
American Red Cross of Northern Michigan**

The American Red Cross of Michigan is currently seeking volunteers to fill a variety of positions. Volunteers of the Red Cross are essential in keeping the American public informed and prepared to prevent and respond to disasters and personal emergencies.

We provide training in lifesaving skills such as CPR and first aid. We collect and distribute more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply. We support members of the military, veterans and their families. We help victims of nearly 70,000 disasters annually in providing them the support, comfort and necessities they need to recover.

Our humanitarian mission connects us to people and communities across the nation and around the world. We are committed to ensuring that our people, programs and services reflect the diversity of the people and communities we serve.

Our local Red Cross units make it possible for us to be present within communities nationwide. Your skills and talents help us maintain this network of chapters to provide services in communities across the country, so that no one is ever alone in their time of greatest need. Our dedicated staff are crucial to the Red Cross and the delivery of our mission.

Although no prior training or experience is required for most positions, Veterans can bring their skills and discipline that they were taught in the military to help fill both volunteer and leadership positions. There is no maximum and people with disabilities can apply as well and be assigned valuable support positions based on their ability.

Although all positions are important, the main recruitment goals right now are for Disaster Action Teams where volunteers are on call to respond after fires and other disasters to provide meals, shelter, and other aid to victims in need. Those with leadership experience are especially needed to help become Team Leaders. Home Safety Preparedness Teams are also needed to help canvas local areas to find low income households in need of basic safety devices that we often take for granted such as Smoke Detectors and help install them in the homes of people whose disabilities restrict their ability to do so on their own.

For those who wish to help children, we are also in need of "PillowCase Project" Volunteers to go to schools with the Red Cross to teach children how to remain safe and survive home disasters.

For those who want to help the families of deployed soldiers we also are always seeking volunteers to help with "Service To Soldiers" to help deployed soldiers stay in touch with their families and help their families of soldiers and veterans as well.

Those with prior First Aid, CPR, and other medical training can also volunteer to become instructors to help teach classes on those subjects and provide invaluable training to the community in those regards as well.

For those who are interested in learning more, or volunteering, they are encourage to visit our website at <http://www.redcross.org/volunteer> and to contact their local Red Cross Chapter. For those in Northern Michigan, or those who would like help locating their local chapter, please contact me directly for assistance. American Red Cross of Northern Michigan, 735 S Garfield Ave Ste B100, Traverse City, MI 49686. (231) 947-7286 ext. 7426 or [rob.haertel@redcross.org](mailto:rob.haertel@redcross.org)

## National American Legion Press Association Changes

**Mark Sutton Area 3 President**

### Are you a NALPA member?

Don't worry if you are not, but at one time if you were, I can understand why you may have stopped being a member. What I would like to encourage you to do is give it a try for one more year and let me tell you why.

In November I was invited down to Indianapolis, along with the President of the National American Legion Press Association Priscilla R. Imburgia to meet with the Media, Marketing, and Communications staff at Headquarters. We spent 2 full days sitting and brainstorming ways to make NALPA more useful, more engaging, and more valuable to The American Legion.

By the end of the second day we had a plan and series of steps to begin. No longer will the newsletter from NALPA be full of people just talking, it will have a short message, but then the rest will be useful information. Tips and help with making your PR, your communication to your members and your community better.

When you join and give your email address to them you will receive a monthly e-newsletter with more tips, training, and story ideas to fill your newsletter, your Facebook, and other social media channels.

### Don't Miss Winter Meeting

One of the courses of action we came up with is putting on more relevant and interesting trainings for Public Relations, Social Media, and Communications in general. Hence I want to encourage everyone to be at winter meeting in Flint on Saturday Feb 13th, 2015 when a member from the National Staff along with department trainers will conduct 4 hours of Communication training. We will start with the basics and work our way up to give everyone the understanding of how to Promote, promote, promote.

If you have any questions please contact me at 517-371-4720 ext 16 or email at [mark@michiganlegion.org](mailto:mark@michiganlegion.org).

Don't forget to join NALPA here <http://nalpa.org> it will be worth it.

See you in Flint.

## Boys State

**Jerry Kelley, PhD  
Boys State Chairman**

The Michigan American Legion Boys State Program for 2016 is off and running. Committee Members have been to several school college nights, the Michigan Social Studies Teacher Conference, and the Michigan School Councilor's Conference. In addition, information has been sent to all schools about Boys State and all of the other American Legion Programs (Student Trooper, Scholarships, Baseball, and Oratorical). It is time for the Boys State Chairperson from your Post to visit your local high school and begin the process to sponsor some from your local high school to attend Boys State.

Not sure where to start? Go to <http://michiganboysstate.org/sponsors.html> and follow the guidelines that are there. You will find a sample letter that can be sent to your local high school prior to your visit.

Post officers have stated that we don't have the money to send someone to Boys State. We are now very fortunate that we

have a 501(c)3 Foundation (Michigan American Legion Foundation) that donations can be made to Boys State and all of the American Legion Programs. To help you seek funds from your community, i.e., businesses, service clubs, community foundations, individuals, etc., you will find a sample letter that can be sent to your community organizations and businesses at <http://michiganboysstate.org/sponsors.html>.

If your Post has not sponsored an 11th grade boy to attend Boys State or your Post has not sponsored an 11th grade boy to Boys State for several years, the Boys State Committee is ready and willing to help your Post. Please let us know how we can help you support Boys State.

In addition, we would like to know who your Post Boys State Chairperson is so we can provide information and assistance. Please notify [programs@michiganlegion.org](mailto:programs@michiganlegion.org) with their name and email address.

We look forward to seeing your Post Boys State Chairperson at our meeting at Winter Conference in February.

Are you writing, promoting, communicating?

## Department Public Relations Awards for 2015-2106

Every year the Department of Michigan Public Relations Chairperson seeks to review and award Legionnaires who are engaging in Public Relations on the Post and District Levels. The department has 3 public relations awards and we judge American Legion Post Websites.

**no longer judge or award contestants unless at least 6 entries are received for each award.**

**Does your Post or District have a website? Compete for an Award.**

The 3 Public Relation Awards are as follows:

1. Andy Gomolak Flying Eagle Award - "For Best Post Public Relations Legionnaire" - To recognize the Legionnaire on the Post level who was determined to have done the best job at promoting the local Post's programs, activities and 4 Pillars.
2. Milton W. Lobstein Award - "For Best District Public Relations Program" To recognize the District determined to have the most complete American Legion Public Relations Program in the State.
3. C. Oscar Hammond Award - "For Best Post Public Relations Program" To recognize the Post determined to have the most complete American Legion Public Relations Program in the State.

For further criteria visit [www.michiganlegion.org/public-relations.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/public-relations.html) for entry criteria and entering information.

**NOTE: It was passed at the 2015 Fall Conference that the Department Public Relations Chairperson/Committee will**

To be eligibility All post Web sites who have a working link in the "Post Websites" under the American Legion Post locator on the National Website at [www.legion.org/posts](http://www.legion.org/posts) will be considered for this award. Deadline for judging is 30 days before convention. The Post Locator information can be adjusted through you [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) account for your Post.



**Are you a member of MALPA or NALPA? Did you know they give awards away as well?**

Putting in all the hard work of sending out communications in the form of newsletters and press releases you should try to get recognition for it. Join both the Michigan American Legion Press Association and the National American Legion Press Association. Both are made up of fellow newsletter editors and writers like you trying to produce publications the membership will enjoy reading and staying active.

To find out more about MALPA visit their website at [michiganmalpa.wordpress.com](http://michiganmalpa.wordpress.com)

To find out more about NALPA visit their website at [www.nalpa.org](http://www.nalpa.org)

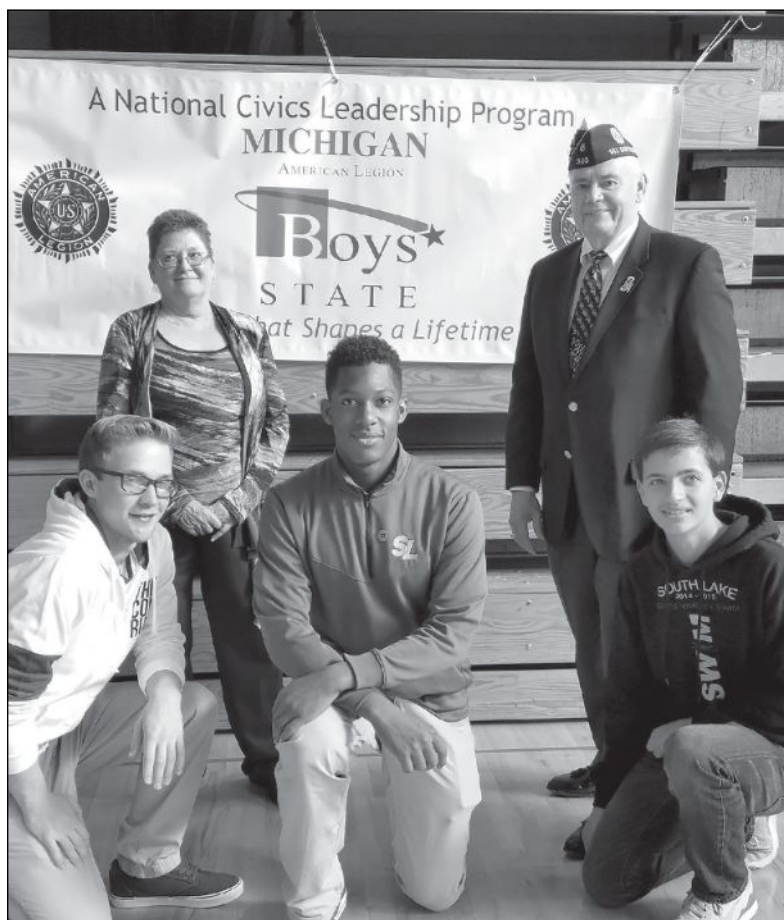




## 2015 Detroit Veterans Day Parade







1st District Commander Dan McCrary and Beryl Robbins (pictured with students interested in learning more) attended the Cass Tech JROTC Military Day in Detroit to promote Boys & Girls State and other Legion sponsored programs.



On Saturday Nov. 14 Boy Scout Troop 175 in Hastings, MI chartered by American Legion Post 45 held a Court of Honor for 3 Eagle Scouts. This is the first time that troop 175 has had 3 scouts reach the Eagle Scout rank in one year. In the picture L to R is Barry Wood, zone 2 commander, David Decker post 45 commander, Carl Atkinson Michigan Department Scouting Chairman and the 3 Eagle Scouts Nicholas Surratt, Nathan Beebe and Robert Perry.



American Legion Post 45 in Hastings, MI provided the rifle salute for the dedication of a new Veteran's Memorial in Delton, MI that was the Eagle Scout project for Eagle Scout candidate Logan Lumbert of Boy Scout Troop 50 in Delton.

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## Giving Thanks

Holt-Delhi community groups (local township government, the Buck Reasoner American Legion post, and Holt Kiwanis) have joined efforts to give thanks to those who served.

C.J. Davis, township supervisor, states "Honoring our all our veterans is important but honoring our WWII vets is critical. I was personally frustrated to see such little being done in the state and federal level to recognize them that I thought the least we could do is to honor our local WWII veterans. I asked and received enthusiastic support from our township board and also received help

from our local Holt-Delhi historical society and our Sam Corey Senior center and all veterans groups, the boy and girl scouts, etc. Holt embraced the idea completely."

Before the Holt Hometown festival at the township board meeting, 15 WWII veterans were presented proclamations of thanks for their service. The veterans were interviewed at The Sam Cory Senior Center for a public panel discussion. The Historical Society co-hosted this event and the video will be included in their historical archives. The vets were also the Grand Marshalls of the festival's Parade.



WWII Vets honored at township board meeting

Happy Valentine's Day



## Around the State...



"I Support The 1 Percent", Food Pantry for Veterans. Judy Adams, Food Pantry Director came to Blumfield Post 229 November meeting and presented them with a "Certificate of Appreciation". This was for the Food Drive effort in August. The food pantry is located in Saginaw County and has helped over 180 veterans in the Tri City area. The Post could not have done it without the help of the community.



Bay City, American Legion Post #18, with Commander Gary Jevicks (standing) leading the monthly post business meeting



Post 44 visited ten schools on Veterans Day. Pictured above with Graveraet student Parker, whose great grandfather James Burt obtained the Medal of Honor for his actions in WWII. From left: Dr. Kempainen, Principal of Graveraet Elementary, Dewey Jones, Charlie Hawes, Jim Wallis, Tom Ranta, Pam Jackovich, Dan Jackovich and Ron Pearson all members of American Legion Post 44 in Marquette.



State PR Chairwoman, Wanda Torres, doing Public Relations at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church with Harriet Sturim Post 459 Auxiliary Chaplain and Theresa Robinson Commander of Kent County Veterans Council.



The M231 Grand River Bridge Non-Motorized Pathway was officially named the Sgt. Henry E. Plant Memorial Grand River Bridge Friday Oct 16th 2015, and was dedicated today during a ceremony at the bridge to honor the first Metal of Honor recipient in Ottawa County. 5th District Commander Garrett Veihl with the Honor Guard from Grand Haven Post #28 were apart of the dedication.



Grand Ledge Cole-Briggs Post 48 participated in the Lansing Silver Bells light parade



Dept Public Relations Chairlady Wanda Torres & Leigh Wojcicki Chaplain Post 459 doing Public Relations at Ransom Apts Tribute to Veterans



Blue Lake Township 150th Anniversary open house and book signing. Presenters included: Whitehall, MI Post American Legion Past State Vice Commander Nancy Frye, Blue Lake Township Supervisor Melonie Arbogast and author of "Sea Serpent and Gold" Bill Hansen. The book includes information about 21 Civil War veterans that were discovered to live in the Blue Lake area. The Civil War American Flag plaque, painted by Bill's sister Connie Cejmer, is a 33 star flag pattern that was in use at the beginning of the war. The name plates for the confirmed Civil war residents were contributed by Bill's brother Brian Hansen.



American Legion, George Washington Post 88 Commander Howard Crumit, presents a donation to Bill Browning, Chief, Volunteer and Community Relations, Detroit VA Healthcare System for the 2016 National Veterans Golden Age Games that will be hosted by the Detroit VA Hospital.



Ladies Auxiliary 9th District President, Ruth Gott, received a big surprise and an equally big check totally \$2,600 for her project "The Freedom Center". The Legion Family presented to Ruth during her official visit on 11-16-15 to the Dale H. Wheeler Unit 219 Fife Lake. Pictured are from left to right, Greg Samp, Legion Rider; Vicki Samp, Ladies Auxiliary President; Randy Gilbert, Legion First Vice Commander, Ruth Gott, District 9 President; Al Scott, SAL Squadron Commander.