



MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No. 8

THANK YOU ALL

Mark Sutton, PR Director

This article will by no means be able to tell or show all of the gifts given or received over the year. To those who are not sure what Legionnaires do or if others give let me just give a few examples here.

Capitol Services of Lansing is celebrating their 30th year in business. They provide advocacy services and during their 30th year they have decided to give a donation to a non-profit organization each month.



L-R, Ben Bodkin, Caria Marie Dobie, Mark Sutton, Noah Smith, Jean Doss (front), Todd Dennis, and Justin Allen. Capitol Services of Lansing presenting a check to "Heroes to Hometowns" fund.

They invited the Michigan American Legion Foundation in to talk about the many programs the American Legion supports. For their first donation they chose to give \$500 to the Heroes to Hometown program. Thank you Capitol Services for your donation.



Two Men and a Truck along with the Ruttkofsky's move from Wilwin to Cygnet Cove

In 2015, the Wilwin Corporation finalized an agreement with the Graymont company to move the Wilwin mission from Trout Lake, Michigan to Custer, Michigan. As soon as the weather allowed this spring the Wilwin crew led by Earl and Beverly Ruttkofsky began moving furniture and wears to Cygnet Cove property. Two Men and a Truck gave their time, energy, equipment, and two men to help with the move. We thank Two Men and a Truck for the support in this endeavor to continue the mission in a new location.



State Commander Mike Buda bartends as part of the Tips for Troops night.

American Legion Post 459 in Grand Rapids is holding a series of "Tips for Troops" nights throughout the 2016 summer. Tips given during

those events will be given to The Patriot Fund of the Michigan American Legion. Commander Buda was the guest bartender on their first night on May 7th and \$1431.00 was raised that evening. Several more nights are planned. Great Job Post 459!!

Members of Para-Dice MC made a donation to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on 3/13/16. Other members of the community give to our veterans to honor their service to this Great Country. Thank You Para-Dice MC for the generous do-



Members of Para-Dice MC made donation to Grand Rapids Home for Veterans .

nations.

On May 10, 2016 members of the American Legion Rider Chapter 179 dedicated a renovated hospice room to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home. Using an \$8,400 donation from the American Legion Riders 179 Grandville, MI, the 2 South Hospice Room at the Grand Rapids



Ribbon cutting for the Grand Rapids Home renovated hospice room.

Home for Veterans was updated to create a more private, comfortable space for residents who transition from nursing to hospice care. Thank



American Legion Post in Wolverine donated an AED device to the Community Schools Board of Education.

you Riders from Post 179, Great job!

American Legion Post 122 attended a recent Wolverine Community Schools Board of Education meeting and donated an AED device to the school. American Legion



Post 298 presenting school awards with Senator Mike Nofs

Posts give back to the community.

Lastly, American Legion Post 298 in Battle Creek presented over 80 American Legion School Awards to sixth graders in the area. They were assisted by State Senator Mike Nofs, who donated the funds to purchase the school award medals, and was a school award recipient when he was in the sixth grade.

The Legion Family does and is doing amazing thing around the state and people and companies recognize that. Keep up all the great work and thank you to those who have donated.

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 or mail it to department attn: Roxanne Osga.

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

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

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

Chaplain



Greetings Legion Family! This past year we have had much success but still have many challenges. Our mission of aiding returning veterans and improving rehabilitation both within and outside of the VA system is vital. To that end, I am excited about the move of Wilwin Lodge to the new property with a private lake. I think in time it will better serve of veterans.

The song "It Was a Very Good Year" was written in 1961 by Ervin Drake and recorded by Bob Shane. It was later made famous by Frank Sinatra in 1965 and sung by many others. The lyrics reflect on the past relationships, over the years, of an older gentleman. Reflection is good for the soul and the basis of many literary works of art. I have a book of The Poems of Thomas Moore printed in the 1800's and often read a verse or two. He is quoted as saying, "It is important to be heroic, ambitious, productive, efficient, creative and progressive. But these qualities do not necessarily nurture the soul. The soul has different concerns, of equal value; (and requires) downtime for reflection, conversation and reverie..." I like the saying "Work Hard and Play Hard." We need to be productive but also enjoy the fruits of our labor.

As the song goes, "When I was 17, it was a very good year..." Well, it was for me as I graduated from Roosevelt High in Wyandotte and went to college at Lee in Tennessee. On my

"A Very Good Year"

own for the first time I had many great adventures. I learned a lot about education and life, studying Sociology and Theology. Within a year I became licensed as an Exhorted Minister. It was there that I reflected on life and what was going on in the rest of the world. After family members were wounded in Vietnam and a neighborhood friend was killed there, I gave up my ministerial deferment and enlisted in the Army. I was hoping to be a Chaplain's Assistant but I ended up in HQ administration in Heidelberg, Germany.

"When I was 21, it was a very good year..." In 1973, a peace treaty was signed in Paris and we pulled our troops out of Viet Nam (but some support staff remained until 1975). So, I decided not to reenlist and came back home. After working in a factory for a while I thought about what I wanted to do in life. I decided to save some

money and return to school, eventually graduating from EMU in 1977.

I think much about the soldiers that came home from that war scarred both physically and mentally. How for many, the help that they needed was not available. We need to continue to do what we can now, to ensure this doesn't happen to our troops coming home today. Charity should begin at home and foremost to the those who offered their lives to this country. Hopefully we'll be able to look back, "in the Autumn of (our) days, and like a fine wine...(say) it poured sweet and clear. It was a very good year." Let us not forget Him from whom all blessings flow. "If they obey and serve Him, they will spend the rest of their days in prosperity and their years in contentment," Job 36:11.

God Bless You All.
Chaplain Eddie.

PDC George Johnson Remembered



Johnson, George D. 89 of Houghton Lake, formerly of Dexter, died May 13, 2016. Dear husband of Jearl Dean. Loving father of Jearl Ann (Ronald) Mull, Georgia Sue (David) Knope, Tammie Lynn (Paul) Koslakiewicz and the late Todd Johnson. Beloved grandfather of Jennifer (Jan), Kristina (Otis), Matthew (Jenny), Chad (Lisa), Alyssa (Tate), Lauren, Eli, Kyle (Afaf) and Nicolas. Cherished great-grandfather of Jack, Connor, Peter, McKenzie, Peyton, Maddox, Gavin, Maddison, Logan and Musa. George retired from Detroit Edison after 42 years of service. He was an avid sportsman who loved to deer hunt and snowmobile. George was a WWII Army Veteran assigned to the Tank Division. George served as Past State Commander of the Michigan American Legion, as well as Past Commander of Dexter American Legion Post 557.

2016/2017 MICHIGAN CANDIDATES



Candidate State Commander
Larry Money



Candidate Finance Officer
Roger Avie



Candidate Historian
Ernest Berry



Candidate Sgt-at-Arms
Bill Hilgris

STATE OFFICERS

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

Michael Buda, State Commander

Final Report



Michael Buda
State Commander

First and foremost, I want to thank Legionnaires for the privilege and honor that you bestowed on me this year as your Department Commander. The experience of leading 66,000

plus members has been challenging and rewarding. But I cannot take credit for all the progress that the Department of Michigan has achieved since last July. A dedicated team of Department Officers & Committee Chairmen, District Commanders, Department Staff

and Post Officers have worked hard throughout the year to move our organization forward.

Some of the most notable successes include: (1) The completion of selling the Upper Peninsula Wilwin location and relocating to it the west side of the Lower Peninsula. The negotiated royalties for future limestone sales will provide funding toward Wilwin operations for the next 140 years. (2) Post Recovery Rules to provide guidance on the steps necessary to close a Post and sell property if necessary. (3) Membership goals were early or on time through the 90% mark. We won the \$2000 first place prize for technology purchases at the department level by having the highest membership numbers at

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Wrapping Up the 2015/2016 Year



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

The busy time of the year is now upon us. Families will be attending graduations, weddings and other celebrations. The American Legion family will also be in full swing starting this month with many programs kicking off, elections, installations and Convention. I wish every new officer the best for the upcoming year. I encourage you to use the chains of command and the knowledge of past officers to make your year more meaningful and easier.

This last year in the Department has been on the fast track to many more years of success. We have seen fewer Post closings and members working together to keep small local Posts thriving. We have seen Posts and Districts working towards updating Constitution & Bylaws at an all-time high. We have more and more new members getting involved, which is a great thing. This is very important for us all to remember. The National Organization still stands above 2 million members, of which about 70,000 are here in Michigan. There is a potential of huge membership growth in Michigan if we ALL just ask our veterans, son and wives, grandmothers,

daughters and grandchildren to be long. Sometime we need to take the first step for them and just gift them a membership based on eligibility that the Veteran has. Next time you need an idea for a birthday gift, wedding present or just to say thanks, give the gift of Membership!

Lastly, I would like to thank the 2015-2016 DEC for a great year! You all have had constant communications with the Department during times of struggle and during times to celebration. I commend you for quick responses and performing your duties in a very professional manner. The officers were all there for the staff and the Commander when needed this year, so again thanks for your dedication. Our Department Service Officers always do an outstanding job for our veterans, and this year is no different. Commander, you have successfully navigated this ship we are all on in the right direction. The implementation of new ideas and training with videos on our website will be instrumental for generations to come. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon in Sault Ste Marie at Convention and to working with the newly elected officers for the 2016-2017 year. If I or the staff can help you perform your duties please contact us to better assist you.

Headquarters

the ninth month target date. This is due to all the layers of renewal and new member recruitment at Posts, Districts and Zones. (4) Financial stability by being approved for 501 C3 tax status with the IRS. This status will allow the Department of Michigan to receive corporate donations more easily. (5) Training videos on our website for various Post positions. We have recorded two of five videos as I write my last article. My goal is to complete the last three by the end of June.


In conclusion, Natalie and I thank everyone who made this an outstanding year for us as we traveled throughout the state. We always received a warm welcome and great camaraderie at every Post and District we visited. This was especially true during the winter tour

in January. Another reason for our fond memories is that of our frequent travel companions – Auxiliary President Sue Verville and her “drivers,” SAL Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky and his wife Diana, and Honorary Department Junior President Taylor Townes and her chauffeur Skipper Townes. Seeing them often allowed us to learn more about each American Legion Family organization and form lasting friendships.

I look forward to seeing you in June at the 98th Department Convention. Remember we stand united as a Family helping Veterans.

Respectfully & Sincerely

Michael Buda



**2016 Department Convention
Registration Form**

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

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

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

PRINT FULL NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS:

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

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

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

FULL NAME OF ALL OTHERS WHO ARE REGISTERING:

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

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

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

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

Enclosed find \$ _____ for _____ registrations.

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

Other Information: Free Self Parking and Valet Parking Available

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

Membership

Benefits of being a member

The American Legion Membership Benefits Expand

- **Omaha Steaks** delivers the finest in gourmet steaks, seafood, poultry, sides, and desserts. As a part of our member discount provider network, Legionnaires will receive free shipping on select combos and an additional 10% discount at checkout when verifying military affiliation using your American Legion member number. We recommend you explore Omaha Steaks and all they have to offer. Visit them online at www.OmahaSteaks.com/legion to shop today!
- Coming Soon! **Enterprise** brand to our car rental portfolio. Members will now be able to save 5% at National and Enterprise and up to 20% at Alamo car rental. Visit www.legion.org/discounts/auto for specific information about booking your car rental with The American Legion discount.
- **Office Depot and Office Max.** Members can shop online or print out a free purchasing card to use discounts in-store. all members are able to receive discounts by shopping online at www.officediscounts.org/tal.html or by printing a card from said website and using it in-store. Next day delivery is free on purchases of \$50 or more. American Legion Posts will soon be able to sign up for direct billing by calling 1-855-337-6811, ext. 12897 and are eligible for tax-exempt purchases. Posts will need to register online at www.officediscounts.org/talposts.html in order to be sent in-store purchasing cards with tax-exempt status.
- American Legion Members will be entitled to the government/military rate by displaying their current American Legion membership card at check-in at participating **Best Western Hotels** (in Canada and the United States). Members will be eligible for free enrollment in Best Western Service Rewards, which rewards them for their loyalty and helps support military charities.

Serve your Community and the Nation

Become a Selective Service System Local Board Member

The Selective Service System wants to hear from men and women in the community who might be willing to serve as members of local draft boards.

A Prospective Board Member must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, registered with the Selective Service (if male), and not be an employee of any law enforcement occupation, not be an active or retired member of the Armed Forces, and not have been convicted for any criminal offense. Once identified as qualified the Director of Selective Service, who acts on behalf of the President in making the appointments. Each new member receives five hours of initial training after appointment, followed by two hours of annual training for as long as he or she remains in the position. They may serve in Board Member positions up to a total of 20 years, if desired.

Local Board Members are uncompensated volunteers who play an important community role closely connected with our Nation's defense. If a military draft becomes necessary, approximately 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards throughout America would decide which young men in each community receive deferments, postponements or exemptions from military service, based on federal guidelines.

Four positions are currently open in the following counties: Wayne, Tuscola, Saint Joseph; and Manistee.

If you believe you meet the standards for Selective Service Board Membership, and wish to be considered for appointment, please contact your Selective Service Officer, MAJ Daniel Allen, Michigan Army National Guard, Daniel.Allen2020@gmail.com or 517-927-1537.

District Meetings

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM

June 6, 2016

5th District

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

June 9, 2016

7th District

June 2016 – Department Convention

August 21 - Mt. Clemens

October 9th - Sebewaing

January 8 - Lapeer

March 19th - Caro

May 21st - Lapeer

June 2017 Convention

10th District

June 4, 2016, Linwood Post 239

Lunch at 12PM – Meeting at 1PM

Installation of Officers

11th & 12th District

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

16th District

June 14, 2016 Garden City Post 396 313-381-2245

18th District

Meetings Convene at 2:00 PM

(Meeting for District Legion Only)

ATTENTION INCOMING DISTRICT COMMANDERS!!!

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



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AUXILIAIRE



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June 2016

*From the Desk of the President**2015 - 2016 Department President, Sue Verville***CHALLENGES AND REWARDS**

This is the last article that I have to write and I am going to start it off like this:

A wonderful and wise person told me as I was going to become your Department President for 2015—2016--**TO BE MYSELF-- and no matter how bad something is or how good things are---**

would only have to do that day once. There were some days that turned out to be a blessing and other times not so much. Everyone loves the good times and receiving some kind reward for a job well done. But no one likes the challenges of the bad times that life gives us. This year has been a year of many challenges both good and bad.

Our membership is the backbone of this great organization. Without our members, we are nothing! Our members have different lifestyles, they have a variety of interests, are all different ages, have many other friends and do other activities. But our common bond is our concern for our fellow members, our Veterans and their families. We are all judged by our membership, how we carry out our programs, by what we do and by our "Legion Family".

Life itself is a series of challenges. In fact, challenges are made to make and help us grow. Without challenges we would not change things, or try different ideas or find new ways to help our membership to grow. If we as members want to overcome lives challenges we need to have a positive attitude, be creative and inspire others, just

like we did at winter meeting. Also just like what we are doing with the website. Check it out and let us know what you think. Changes can be made and any ideas are welcome. Another reward this year was that we had **TWO** new Units receive their charters this year. Congratulation to them and let's keep moving in that direction.

Think back to some of the challenges you've faced in your life that you've managed to overcome. Are you stronger? Are you smarter? Are you more experienced? More understanding or just plain better than you were before? As the "Legion Family" we all face different challenges every day, but we have learned to be resourceful, positive and confident that we are doing the best that we can for our members, our families, our communities, all our Veterans and their families. That is how and why we need to keep "**Branching out as the Legion Family**" and keep growing stronger each year.

If we do not take the time to listen, teach, mentor or take care of our members, how can they meet the challenges that they will face in the future? How can we reward them if they do not belong? Everyone likes to receive a reward for doing a great job. It can be something as small as just saying Thank You or sending a note saying great job or doing a narrative for your unit or district and turning it in at the end of the year. We have many opportunities with our auxiliary programs that we can benefit from and be rewarded for. Take our volunteers, who give so much of their time to help others, our members who work at the Unit, and District levels. Only because of them can we say

and see if we have had another successful year. We will see how many have met this challenge this year and see how many rewards will be given out at convention.

I want to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU** to American Legion Commander Buda and First Lady Natalie along with S.A.L. Commander Fred Ruttkfosky and First Lady Diana. They have been wonderful to travel with and it has been an honor to serve with both of them. We truly are a "**Legion Family**". We would all like to **THANK** everyone in the "Legion Family", all the Posts, Units and Squadrons for all the kindness and hospitality we received throughout the year. I also want to **THANK** everyone who has helped me to overcome many of the challenges that I faced this year. I could not have done a lot of things this year without your help, all your hard work and your understanding. I do not want to list names, because I do not want to over look anyone, but those officers, chairmen, committee members and past department presidents, who helped me get through this difficult year **MANY THANKS.**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Department President for 2015-2016. I have made many new friends, renewed some old friendships and enjoyed meeting all the members from our "Legion Family" as I traveled across this great state of Michigan. To the new officers and chairman, I wish you much success and hope that your challenges will be overcome by many rewards this next year. **ALWAYS BE YOURSELF** and remember that **---YOU ONLY HAVE TO DO TODAY ONCE!**

Plan for 2017 is to focus on ENHANCING the Member Experience

Clarification on 2017 Membership Goals

Article from:
Sharon Conatser,
National President and
Mary Davis,
National Vice President

Due to confusion regarding the 2017 membership goals that were discussed during the Department Leadership National Conference, we thought it necessary to clarify the focus of the 2017 membership team.

The American Legion Auxiliary will continue to strive for 1 million members by our centennial celebration during the 2019-2020 administrative year. While the

Department numeric goals established for the centennial plan (membership years 2014 through 2020) will not change, the plan for 2017 is to focus on enhancing the member experience and not on the numbers.

The 2017 weekly membership reports provided by National Headquarters will be a comparison of each department's 2017 membership to that of their membership in 2016. There will be no reports distributed showing percentages of numeric goals. For your reference, attached are the pre-determined numeric goals for

years 2016 through 2020.

Rather than focusing on numbers and target dates, the national membership team will work more closely with departments throughout the year to help them improve the member experience – by making membership meaningful. By improving the member experience, Departments and Units will be better equipped to help meet the national numeric goal.

Departments that demonstrate improved membership performance (those with higher membership totals 30 days prior to the 2017 National Convention

compared to their 2016 membership as of 30 days prior to the 2016 National Convention) will be recognized at the 2017 National Convention. There will be no other awards focused solely on membership numbers, so that the membership team may focus on helping to provide a meaningful membership experience.

By focusing our efforts on the individual member's experience, fostering a culture of good will, and making membership meaningful we will be able to achieve Goal 1 of our Centennial Strategic Plan: Enhance Membership Strength.

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

Be Kind to People



“Sail beyond the horizon; fly higher than you ever thought possible; magnify your existence by helping others; be kind to people and animals of all shapes and sizes; be true to what you value most; shine your light on the world; and be the person you were born to

be.” Blake Beattie

Many of these words can be put into context with all of us as members of the American Legion Auxiliary. “Magnify your existence by helping others”. This is what we do. We help our veterans, our children and youth and our communities.

“Be kind to people” is what our Honorary Junior President is promoting. I devoted one of my previous articles on kindness. People performing acts of kindness for others without expecting anything in return.

“Be true to what you value most”. As auxiliary members, again it is the value of our veterans, children and youth and our communities that we work most hard to improve. We have many programs to further enlighten each of them.

“Shine your light on the world”. Be a beacon to our veterans, our children and our communities. They are guided with our sponsoring or help of food pantries, walks for a cause, child safety

programs, support of women in shelters and donations to shelters for the homeless and so much more.

“Sail beyond the horizon”. I know this is probably not what the author meant, but it makes me think of my dad, a U.S. Navy sailor. The U.S. Coast Guard also comes to mind. And with the sea, my thoughts are also of the Marines, of which my brother served proudly. “Fly higher than you ever thought possible” obviously makes me think of the Air Force. I had an uncle who served in the Air Force as well as a friend and fellow auxiliary member. And somewhere there is the Army, of which my husband served. All this said, the one thing they all have in common is they are veterans.

“Be the person you were born to be”, well this one I leave to you. No one knows you better than yourself. But as one auxiliary member to another, we are all blessed to do good things.

See how simple phrases reflect upon us as members of our organization and its goals? Every one of us should be able to aspire to these words.

Withhold not good from them whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Proverbs 3:27

Growing as Part of the Family

Carol Burke, 2nd District President

The women of the 2nd District continue to lead the way, serving our veterans, communities and military families. Two of our many accomplishments this past year include: Our formation of The 2nd District Veterans Scholarship Fund and our continued support of a music intervention program at the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center (AAVAMC)

Joyce Fraker, MS,OTR/L, is the head occupational therapist at the AAVAMC. Joyce saw the need for a music program to assist veterans struggling with PTSD. Music, from a therapeutic perspective, is known to help those with PTSD utilize coping skills associated with calming the mind and social interactions. Joyce developed a three phase program: the first phase being the use of MP3 players with customized music, which helps the patient to calm themselves. The other two phases involve the use of karaoke and instrument/drum circles for patient socialization and expression. Both the patients and the staff consider this program as highly successful. The Units of the 2nd District supported this program for the last two years as the President’s Special Project of both Peggy Nolff and myself.

In the desire to make a significant difference in the lives of others, the 2nd District Educational Scholarship Fund was formed this past year. This fund will provide a schol-

arship to a veteran in each of the 4 counties in our district. A golf tournament was held on May 21, 2016 to raise money and it was a collaborative effort of the 4 organizations of our American Legion Family. The veterans in our 4 counties will be served by this program but the benefit goes far beyond that. This effort has formed a working and supportive framework between the member organizations of the 2nd District American Legion Family towards the future growth of our district.

Education

Robin Puckett, Education Chairman

I cannot believe that our year is almost over, and I will be seeing all of you at Department Convention, soon. Thank you to all Units that took time to send to me a mid-winter report. It was very helpful to me when filing out my report to go to the Central Division Education Chairman. A big whoop whoop to the UPPA, for the work they have done with our Schools. They also had the most Scholarships come in from any one area. Great work ladies!

I was a little saddened this year with the lack of Scholarships that we received. But, on the bright side the ones we did receive were of high quality and very deserving.

A big thank you to everyone who got the

Tangaline Garrett, 4th District President

With Memorial Day close at hand, we need to take the time to remember our loved ones who have passed and the ones close to us who are struggling. We also need to take time to remember our American Legion Family as well. Remember their hard work, dedication, their devotion that they have shown, even by just being a member means a lot to use. As the 4th district we honor those members whose time has come to depart.

We as a Legion Family honor those who have passed by placing a rose in a vase, symbolizing the unity we have. They were devoted members why wait till the end of the year to honor their hard work. We recite a poem by Vernon Warning, that I felt stated a lot about our Legion Family.

When warriors sleep
they dream of peace
of perfect skies
and quiet seas

But when awake
they hear the call
and face the fight
and stand so tall

They fear not war
or words of hate
they know that strife
can make them great

And one who never
turned from the heat
who spoke his mind
endured defeat

Now rests in death
an honored man
who served us well
who took a stand

With our newer generation, lets never forget the ones who have worked so hard to get us here where we are today. Always remember the who’s, why’s, where’s and when and never never forget our POW-MIA’s.

information out to our Schools. I was speaking to our Central Division Education Chairman last week. We are not the only state in which we received less Scholarships than in years past. Her question to me was, do I think it is the Unit and Districts not passing information on? Or do I think the Students are just less aggressive in seeking them this year? My answer back was--I believe that it is a combination of both.

So we must work harder and think out of the box. To come up with ideas of how we can get them out to our Students and have them send them back to us. If you have any ideas I would love to hear them.

I will be announcing the winners of our Scholarships and awards at Department Convention.

2016 DEC Reports

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

Zone 2 Barry Wood Zone Commander

Let me start out this year-end report by thanking every Legionnaire in the 2nd Zone for any efforts you put into supporting your posts, veterans in your areas or throughout the state and The American Legion. I want to personally thank the four District Commanders of the 2nd Zone. Second District Commander Mike Kraus, 3rd District Commander Bob Berger, 4th District Commander Gary Wear and 5th District Commander Garrett Viehl as without your leadership and support many of the accomplishments of the Zone would not have been possible. It has been a privilege serving all of you and I thank you for putting your faith and confidence in me.

My travels took me all across the bottom of the State, from Monroe County to Berrien County and up the west side of the state to Ottawa County with many stops throughout the entire area. I was able to celebrate special occasions with many posts including, Christmas in Ann Arbor, 911 Memory Walk in Lansing, Legion Birthday in Ida, 4th of July in Hastings, VA Carnival and Gift Shop in Battle Creek, a young person's fiddler group from Grand Haven that performed at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (thank you 5th District Commander Viehl), the Zone Oratorical contest in Hastings, Fireman recognition ceremony in Grand Rapids, the first Department Media recognition ceremony also held in Grand Rapids, as well as a number of other activities. I was able to attend Court of Honor ceremonies for three Eagle Scouts and being an Eagle Scout myself it is always an honor to share in this life changing goal for a number of young men in the Scouting program.

I was honored with the responsibility officiating funeral services for Past Department Commander Glenn Ainslie. Glenn was a mentor to me and to Post 45 where he was a member for over 50 years. I was able to attend memorial services throughout southern Michigan including Zone 1. All very moving honors to the veterans whether held at a Post, a funeral home or at a National Cemetery.

It was also my privilege to attend District meetings multiple times and to meet many of the fine Legionnaires throughout the 2nd Zone.

The 2nd Zone spent many weeks in first place for membership due to the hard work within the districts and as of this writing the Zone stands at 94.28% and there are 33 posts that have reached 100%. Thank you to all throughout the Zone. There is still time to reach out to veterans to let them know of the benefits in being a member. We belong to a great organization and all of us need to take responsibility for getting the message out.

The 2nd Zone conducted a first ever "4th Quarter Delinquent List Call." The four Districts worked together to make calls within each District to help reach as many delinquent members as possible. This was a real team-building exercise and did result in a number of delinquent members returning to membership in The American Legion.

This has been a good year, however, it seems it went by all too fast and there was not enough time to get everything accomplished. I look forward to working and socializing with next year's Zone and District leaders. "Together We Can" is my motto and by working together we can accomplish more for the veterans throughout the State and Nation.

I look forward to serving you in some capacity for as long as possible.

Zone 4 Richard Tracy Zone Commander

It's almost the end of another year. I have enjoyed my tour as 4th Zone Commander. There were a few bumps in the road, but nothing that the District Commanders couldn't handle.

My wife and I went to many Posts that we had never been to before. We enjoyed the hospitality, the camaraderie and the food--Oh the food!

We also attended the awards ceremony for the ROTC in Morley, Michigan. That was a first for me, and very impressive. These are our young people up and coming and it is with great pride I watch these young adults give to their country.

I would like to say a hearty "Thank You" to the District Commanders, the Posts and all their members for their hospitality and a job well done in 2015-16. Keep up the good work!

Zone 5 Stan Kennedy Zone Commander

As 5th Zone Commander, I am deeply grateful to all the American Legion Posts of the Upper Peninsula--11th and 12th District-- for their support during the past year. In spite of recruitment challenges, our Membership team maintains its commitment to achieve that final few percent in achieving our goals. Both 11th and 12th Districts will elect their 2016-17 team of officers at our Upper Peninsula Association of American Legion Posts (UPA-ALP) summer convention at Bessemer Post #27 on 10-12 June, continuing the dynamic leadership exemplified by this year's leaders. I want to specifically commend the fourteen posts that extended their warmest hospitality to our Department Commander and his Michigan Department Family's leadership team during this 2016 Commanders' UP Winter Tour.

To cap off a productive year, 5th Zone welcomes all Department of Michigan Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL and Legion Riders to the 2016 Department Convention to be held at Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie on 22-26 June. Resuming an old tradition, the UPAALP will offer the YOOPER Picnic on Saturday 25 June at Post #3 and Brady Park, from 4 to 6 pm. Thank you, Commander Buda, for a great year.

1st District Dick Chatman District Adjutant

Membership:

The 1st District is very proud to have five (5) Posts achieve 100% membership goal as of May 5, 2016. Congratulation and thanks go out to the Officer_Membership Teams of Posts 70, 184, 202, 372 and 505.

Good of The Legion-Programs

1. 3 contestants for 1st Zone Oratorical Contest, Post 303 sponsored contestant Ponette Rubio went on to represent the district at the state contest.
2. We are working with Dr. Jerry Kelley and the Detroit JROTC to send students to Boys State and Student Trooper
3. We are scheduled to present American Legion School and Scholastic Awards to 8 Detroit JROTC programs.

1st District Community Involvement

1. District Commander Dan McCrary and District President Veronica Germany par-

ticipated in Tri-State Military College Options Day hosted by Detroit Public Schools by providing information on American Legion and Auxiliary Programs regarding Children and Youth.

2. Post 70 and Post 303 are coordinating efforts of getting a marching and concert band consisting of Detroit youth to represent the 1st District at Community and Veterans Events. The group will be called Detroit Concert Cadets.
3. Post 202, 303 and 372 are actively supporting Homeless Veterans in Detroit by volunteering in events and donations as well as donating and volunteering at the John Dingell Medical Center.
4. Post 202 is a member of the Detroit Veterans and Military Taskforce committee chaired by Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones.

Patriotic Events the 1st District participates in

1. Post 505 is an honor guard for the annual Cinco De Mayo festival in Southwest Detroit
2. Armed Forces Day Vietnam Commemoration Detroit
3. Annual Memorial Day Observance Roseland Park Berkeley MI
4. Annual 911 Observance Piquette Square Veterans Center Detroit, MI
5. Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade
6. Started Annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony Elmwood Cemetery Detroit, MI

2nd District Michael Kraus District Commander

I first want to thank my 2nd District officers for working with me this year in continuing to make the 2nd District a viable resource for the posts in 2nd district and the active legion service for the members. I also want to thank the posts that reached 100% this year. Those posts are 270 Hanover-Horton, 315 Brooklyn, 514 Ida, 97 Adrian, and 13 posts with 90% or better. I would like to thank all the posts that were very active in their communities and the surrounding areas participating in Patriotic events, helping veterans in distress, sponsoring youth programs and supporting our military. While visiting the post in my District, I was always greeted with respect and honor, thank you for

all your support. The 2nd district of the American Legion Family is sponsoring a golf tournament May 21, 2016. The proceeds from this charity outing will be used to assist veterans with educational expenses, this is supporting are local veterans who reside in our 4 counties in the 2nd district. I hope for a good turnout. I would like to thank all the member of the golf tournament, for their hard work especially the ladies' auxiliary. This is the 1st annual golf event for the 2nd district. I would like to ask for your support for the next District Commander and that you continue to be as welcoming to that person as you have been to me. Please make early contact with the District commander and invite him or her to your activities, attend District, Zone and Department activities and training to better prepare yourselves and your post. Also this year all the Districts participated in the 2nd zone 4th quarter delinquent membership campaign. This is how it worked, each district met at a post of their choosing, volunteers of the districts got together delinquent list and called the delinquent members in their posts. This process worked very well for the districts in the zone, I would like to see this delinquent membership campaign to continue and maybe this process will help others. I would like to thank the 2nd zone commander and all the district commanders in the zone for working together at the winter conference for coming up with this idea. Thank you for giving me 2 great years as the commander of the 2nd district. The success of the 2nd district goes to every legionnaire with in the district; you all did a wonderful job. It has been an honor serving as your 2nd district Commander.

5th District Garrett Viehl District Commander

It has been a active year in the Fifth District, from starting a new Post, to going out and helping Post struggling get it together, and get on track. The new Post is the Allendale Post 401, in Allendale Mi. at this time they are 28 strong and growing. I am proud to say at this time, the Fifth District has 9 Post at 100% or higher, and the District as a whole is at 96.13%. I must confess this is not 102%, as was my goal, yet I am proud of the membership teams for putting in

Summer Recreation Opportunities for Veterans Include Camping, Kayaking and More

Summer offers many opportunities to get outside and stay active. From camping to kayaking and even some good-spirited competition, veterans and their families have plenty to enjoy during Michigan's summer months.

Select Michigan state parks will host Fireworks-Free* Fourth of July celebrations over Independence Day weekend (July 2-4) for veterans and visitors who enjoy a quieter environment. This is the second year the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and the DNR have teamed up to offer veterans – including those who experience Post-Traumatic Stress – the option of foregoing traditional fireworks celebrations and enjoying time with family and friends.

The following parks are further away from areas with larger fireworks displays and will be participating in the Fireworks-Free* Fourth of July celebration:

- Bewabic State Park (Iron County)
- Brighton Recreation Area-Bishop Lake Campground (Livingston County)
- Cheboygan State Park (Cheboygan County)
- Craig Lake State Park (Baraga County)
- Hayes State Park (Lenawee County)
- Lake Hudson State Park (Lenawee County)
- Leelanau State Park (Leelanau County)
- Rifle River Recreation Area (Ogemaw County)
- Sleepy Hollow State Park (Clinton County)
- Tippy Dam Recreation Area (Manistee County)

- Wells State Park (Menominee County)
- Camping reservations can be made up to six months in advance by visiting midnrreservations.com. All regular camping fees will apply.

The fun doesn't stop there. July 10-14, the National Veterans Golden Age Games will take place at COBO Center, Belle Isle, Wayne State University, Thunderbird and Skore bowling lanes and Lakes of Taylor Golf Club. The competition – for veterans 55 or older – promotes healthier lifestyles through physical challenges open to individuals with abilities and disabilities alike. Events include shuffleboard, track & field, badminton and much more.

Registration is closed for Golden Age Games competitors but volunteers are still needed to help staff the event, expected to include 900 veteran participants. Visit Veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov for more information and for volunteer opportunities.

If you are a U.P. veteran who prefers activities on the water, then the kayaking weekend in Hessel might be for you. Veterans will be able to partake in a kayaking session Aug. 26-28 hosted by Woods and Water Ecotours. In previous sessions, veterans spent the weekend learning how to maneuver a kayak and touring the woods. The exact itinerary for this session will be released closer to the date. There are still a limited number of spaces available for the Woods and Water weekend, and reservations can be made by emailing heathyupvets@upsail.com.

*Smaller, novelty fireworks are still allowed.



FREE TICKETS FOR VETS
REGISTER NOW!

HIRING OUR HEROES FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016 COMERICA PARK – DETROIT

11:00AM – 2:00PM

Join us for a one-of-a-kind event featuring a hiring fair, networking opportunities and workshops tailored for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, guard and reserve members, and military spouses. All registered veterans and military spouses are eligible to receive up to two (2) free tickets for them and their families to attend that evening's game between the Tigers and Royals.

EMPLOYERS & MILITARY JOB SEEKERS REGISTER AT



HIRINGOURHEROES.ORG



AGENDA

- 9:00 A.M.
REGISTRATION OPENS
- 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP
- 11:00 A.M.
OPENING CEREMONY
- 11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
HIRING FAIR
- 7:10 P.M.
Tigers v Royals







FIREWORKS FREE FOURTH OF JULY

Approximately
100,000
Michigan veterans
suffer from
PTS

Learn more at
MichiganVeterans.com
or **800-MICH-VET**
(800-642-4838)

This **Independence Day Weekend (July 2-4)**, several Michigan state parks will offer Fireworks-Free* Fourth of July celebrations in honor of Michigan's veterans, including those with PTS



Located farther away from urban areas that often host large local firework displays, these participating parks are ideal camping locations for veterans and others that prefer a quieter holiday celebration.

*Sparklers and smaller novelty fireworks are still allowed.

For a full list of participating Fireworks-Free* Fourth state parks, visit michigan.gov/stateparks

#FwF4th

Coloma Post 362 Celebrate the Legion's 97th Birthday with a BANG!



(L to R): Berrien County Sheriff L. Paul Bailey; Coloma Post 362 Commander Mark McKie; Lt. Mike Kline, BCSD



Thompson Sub-Machine Gun used in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

Commander Mark McKie welcomed guest speaker Sheriff L. Paul Bailey of Berrien County, Michigan. Bailey gave a detailed speech on the Legion's second pillar, National Security. He emphasized how his department and local law enforcement team with federal agencies to provide homeland security to the residents of southwest Michigan.

The Sheriff also brought along Lt. Mike Kline, who gave a presentation on the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre. The Berrien County Sheriff's Department is in possession of the two Thompson Sub-Machine guns used in the Chicago slayings. Kline has presented the "Tommy-Guns" across the

country and on many television specials, to include the National Geographic Channel; the PBS series "History Detectives"; and the Travel Channel, to name a few. Post members loved hearing about the local history of the guns and their connection with our county of Berrien, only 90 miles from Chicago. Many of our members were also allowed to hold a "Tommy-Gun" for pictures.

It was a wonderful evening of good food and camaraderie and will be hard to top next year. For more information on the "Tommy-Guns" and their connection to Berrien County, visit the Sheriff's department website at www.bcsheriff.org.

Veteran Service

APPLICATION 2016 VETERANS ADVOCACY TRAINING
HIGGINS LAKE DNR RALPH A. MACMULLAN CENTER
SEPTEMBER 9, 10, 11, 2016

PLEASE PICK FROM THE FOLLOWING

Package "A" - 2 Nights Lodging & 6 Meals - () \$195.00

Package "B" - No Lodging 6 Meals - () \$120.00

Handicap Rm () 1st Time Student () County Counselor () Post Service Officer ()

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Post # _____ District # _____ e-mail address _____

I wish to share a room with _____

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Detroit, MI 48226

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American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

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Gary Easterling
Director

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On May 12, 2016, American Legion Blumfield Post 229 gave testimony to the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security Committee in Lansing indicating our support for Senate Bill 290. Senator Vincent Gregory introduced the bill and it would amend the Vietnam Veteran Era Bonus Act to do the following: Extend the period of military service covered under the Act to include the period between September 1, 1973, and May 7, 1975.

(Picture L-R Senator Vincent Gregory, Blumfield Post 229 Legionnaire Gary Dietrich)

Reports Continued

the effort to try to reach my goal.

Various Post in the District have been putting on different programs and fund raisers, to donated to our Legion Programs. Many hours have been spent at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans by our Legion Family, helping with Bingo, the annual Carnival, the raising and the retiring of the colors that hang out front of the home, etc.

Boys State, our goal this year was to send 65 boys from the District, at my last report I received, it looks like we will pass that number, and be nearer to 75, time will tell. Student Trooper numbers are not in so I can not report on them. We did not reach my goal for Oratorical, and for that I am disappointed.

The Fifth District has been helping with the move of WILWIN from Trout Lake to Custer. Work crews have been reporting to Wilwin at Cygnet Cove to assist in cleaning up the grounds and setting up rooms, painting and what ever is needed.

We of the Fifth District are working to increase membership, promote our programs and working with our youth. We have been in many of our schools teaching Americanism, supporting Scouting, and sport teams for our youth.

Our Honor Guards, Color Guards and Rifle Teams have put in many many hours honoring our fallen. Post 459 puts on the Four Chaplin Program every year, so we may never forget.

In short we have reached a couple of our goals and we have missed on a couple, an we have not stopped. We will keep on working to improve our District, and to increase our numbers, to keep working for our Veterans and their Families. I am happy to say we have done a good job here in the Fifth District, and we will keep on doing so. Hope to see you all at Summer Convention, bye now.

10th District Dave McGillen District Commander

Hello Legionnaires,

Hope everyone is enjoying what is supposed to be spring! As the 2015 - 2016 legion year is coming to an end, I would like to say it's been an educational and busy year. I have met a lot of legionnaires while visiting many posts of the 10th district.

Even though we've endured dues increases this year, the 10th district has stepped up to the plate, realizing the increase will help so many vets, families, and programs. We have 11 posts that have reached 100% and many coming

very close resulting in the 10th district at 97%. I know all posts have worked very hard with membership, renewing, signing up new members, and transferring 225 members to local posts. My hat is off to all of you! I have confidence the 10th district can and will reach 100% in the 2016 - 2017 Legion year.

Remember YOU can make a difference! There are many vets who have not been asked to join. I challenge each member of every post to sign up at least 1 new member for 2016 - 2017. Help is there for vets and families. Contact your service officer for information.

It's been an honor and a privilege working for you this past year. Thanks to all you vets!

18th District Sheryl May District Commander

It has truly been a blessing to have served as the 18th District Commander for the past two years. I have met some amazing individuals who are truly devoted to the American Legion and serving our Veterans. These individuals have worked hard to promote the Legion and what we stand for... they have devoted countless volunteer hours supporting the needs of our Veterans, maintaining their Posts and participating in community events. It has been my honor to serve alongside these 18th District members...thank you!

I would like to thank 1st Vice Commander Stephen Stevens, 2nd Vice Commander Edward Merritt, Finance Officer Ray Flum, Sergeant-at-Arms Don Wert, Adjutant Joe McClellan, Chaplain Vern McBride, Historian Gerald Lynch, Service Officer Anthony Mallia, Judge Advocate Carnie Jackson and all of the committee members for your hard work and the time you sacrificed to serve the 18th District. All of you are very dedicated and each of you took the extra step to ensure your duties were 100% fulfilled. I can't thank you enough for volunteering for these positions so that we could strive to continue the 'mighty 18th' heritage. I especially want to thank 1st Vice Commander Stevens for supporting me as I dealt with family health issues. He never hesitated to fill in for me when I was unable to attend a meeting or an event. Thank you so much, Steve.

As I am preparing this article, the 18th District is in 6th position with 95.03% of our membership goal with 3,516 members. We have 8 of our 23 Posts at 100% and no Posts with less than 15 members. Additionally, several Posts are very near to achieving 100%... hopefully with a little extra work, they too will attain 100%! All of

you have worked countless hours to recruit new members...153 new members have been added to the 18th District roster! Outstanding! Chief Pontiac Post 377 recruited 30 of these new members...congratulations Commander Fitzgerald and members of Post 377!

My time as 18th District Commander has come to an end but with that I take away memories of many fun times and wonderful friendships as well as a deeper gratitude to the Veterans who have served our great country. As I said in the beginning of my involvement with the American Legion, I do what I do to honor my father James Mulligan, a WWII Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient. He is a true hero and a Veteran worthy of our honor and respect.

There are so many Veterans who need our help and it is a blessing to know that you are there for them. Thank you for your service and may God bless you.

Children and Youth Ron Geiger, Chairman

I would like to thank Commander Buda for his confidence in re-appointing me as chairman for the Children and Youth committee.

The first order of business was the Fall Conference. The committee elected Rodney Galbraith as Vice Chairman. The programs for the upcoming legion year to promote children and youth were brought up and how to improve on them. Programs consisted of Temporary Financial Assistance, our Department lags behind most others in promoting this assistance. We as a committee continue to make progress but more educating needs to be done. The Child Welfare Banner program will continue to be promoted as will supporting Children's Miracle Network. The Student Dictionary project (putting a dictionary in each 3rd graders hand) continues its momentum each year it would be safe to say there are 24 to 30 Post's involved with their the support. Thank You. The committee once again have 2015-2016 Children and Youth pins available for a \$3.00 donation. The money raised from these pins enabled a motion to be made and accepted to support the fee's for 2 boys state, 2 student trooper and 1 girls state candidate, and a \$400.00 fuel stipend for the UP Association to help defray their bus transportation cost. Once again thanks for your continued support, the Auxiliary also deserve's credit for help with the pin sales. Consolidated Post Reports, there is still more work to be done in all zones about their importance and making sure they

are sent in on time. The Tabs for Tots at the District level was discussed and the importance to keep this program alive.

The committee does not get an official call for the Winter Meeting. However; three of our committee were present and were able to sell the remainder pin's. In talking with many districts and posts approximately 10 to 12 more posts are now involved with the Dictionary Project, absolutely outstanding. Also just about all of our Districts have continued the Tabs for Tots program. Another, Thank You, for supporting our children.

A meeting of the Red Palsen committee was held at the Winter Meeting. It was voted to discontinue the luncheon at the annual Department Convention. Reason's cost and time frame. Instead we would have a memorial table to honor Red Palsen with a few silent auction items and a donation jar for children and youth to continue all he did for Children and Youth.

The committee will receive an official call to meet on Thursday at convention to review the Consolidated Posts Reports. That will be the last official business of this committee.

I would like to thank committee member's Rodney Galbraith, Vern "Butch" Noel, O. Keith Gardner and Peter Satterwaite for everything they did for Children and Youth in their respective zones. Mr. Satterthwaite thank you for representing the Department of Michigan at the annual National Children and Youth Conference.

Finance Ray Carlson, Chairman

The Financial year began with a total proposed budget deficit of \$323,846. This equates to a deficit of \$4.63 per member at 70,000 members. This was the initial figure used for a proposed raise in Department dues that was presented to the DEC at Winter Meeting. The DEC voted against this Resolution for a five dollar dues increase going to Convention. The DEC stressed that cuts to the budget be made.

The year began with a very full slate for Department with; continued attempts to the IRS for Department 501c3 approval, the development of a Post Closure Rules of Procedure for Department and also the Wilwin potential land swap with Graymont Mining Company.

The 501c3 was finally approved for Department, the Wilwin/Graymont property exchange was finalized just prior to Christmas and the Department Rules of Procedure for Post Closures was presented to the DEC at Win-

ter Meeting and approved. Department Adjutant Runyan was swamped with work on the above items until January, along with the normal daily duties of running the Department of Michigan.

Discussions at the January Finance meeting centered on Health Insurance costs for both employees and retirees. Adjutant Runyan was to check with other companies and avenues to search for less expensive alternatives to our current coverages. This information was not yet available to the Finance Committee at Winter Meeting, so the resolution for the five dollar dues increase was presented to the DEC. Information on alternative insurance costs was received in late February that would be a significant savings to Department and would cut \$1.50 off the five dollar increase. The Finance Committee will look to cut expenses further at the May Budget Meeting.

Cuts are not easy to do as Department has been cutting costs for a number of years already. Two full time positions have been eliminated at Department Headquarters in the past several years, leaving a dedicated staff that is maximized in their duties to keep Department running. The VA&R Detroit Office has cut a lot of costs by going paperless as of the end of 2015. Department Headquarters has also cut costs in Lansing with less postal mailings saving costs of paper, supplies and postage. This leaves Programs. The Programs run at a bare minimum now, so if we are to save money here, we must eliminate some Programs. This is not an easy call, as what is the American Legion in Michigan without its' Programs?

This year so far has been very full for the Finance Committee and the Department of Michigan and it is not over. I want to thank the Finance Committee for all their time, expertise and hard work. Thank you to Vice Chairman David Buist, Randy Browne, Don Meskill, Walter Shinkonis, Commander Michael Buda, Finance Officer Roger Avie, Adjutant Ron Runyan and VA&R Director Gary Easterling.

Internal Affairs Stephen German, Chairman

The Department Internal Affairs Committee had very busy and productive sessions this past year. The main purpose of the Internal Affairs Committee is to formulate and recommend policies, procedures and changes regarding the organizational structure of the Department and other such matters that do not come within the

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN NINETY-SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

VA&R

Wednesday, June 22, 2016

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Early Auxiliary Registration Waters Edge Area

Thursday, June 23, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration and Credentials Waters Edge Area

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Auxiliary Headquarters Office Grand Island I

9:00 a.m. Registration of Colors Business Center

Displays Grand Ballroom

9:30 a.m. DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING Grand Ballroom

11:30 a.m. 2015-2016 (bring procedure folders)
AND 2016-2017 Chairmen's Luncheon..... Whitefish Point

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Membership Workshop Grand Ballroom

2:00 p.m. Flag Rehearsal Grand Ballroom

3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. District Caucuses

3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Pre-Convention Meetings

3:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m. Return to District Caucuses

4:30 p.m. Credentials Committee Grand Island II

5:00 p.m. Resolutions Committee Mackinac Island

7:00 p.m. OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 2016 CONVENTION..... Grand Ballroom

Friday, June 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Registration and Credentials Waters Edge Area

8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Auxiliary Headquarters Office Grand Island I

8:30 a.m. 96th ANNUAL CONVENTION RECONVENES Grand Ballroom

11:30 a.m. Recess for Lunch

11:30 a.m. V.A. & R Volunteer Luncheon..... Woodlands

1:00 p.m. 96th ANNUAL CONVENTION RECONVENES Grand Ballroom

2:00 p.m. Opening Session of The American Legion Convention..... Dream Makers Theater

3:00 p.m. Reconvene, if needed, to conduct additional business

5:00 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Rehearsal..... Grand Ballroom

Saturday, June 25, 2016

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Registration Waters Edge Area

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Credentials (Credentials Desk closes promptly at 8:30 a.m.)... Waters Edge Area

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 96th ANNUAL CONVENTION RECONVENES Grand Ballroom

1:00 p.m. New District Presidents/Vice Presidents Training..... Woodlands

2:00 p.m. MALPA Whitefish Point

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. U.P. Party (Busing Provided)..... Post 3

5:00 or 6:00 p.m. Catholic Mass Area Church of Choice

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Incoming Department President's Meet & Greet..... Whitefish Point

Sunday, June 26, 2016

7:30 a.m. Line Up for Memorial Service..... Waters Edge Area

8:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service Grand Ballroom

10:00 a.m. 96th ANNUAL CONVENTION RECONVENES Grand Ballroom

Recess 15 Minutes

Installation of 2016-2017 Officers Past Department Presidents

Note: Immediately following the adjournment of the Convention session, delegates and alternates to the National Convention will meet in the Convention Hall.

Note: Immediately following the close of the Convention session and the meeting of the delegates and alternates to the National Convention, the first meeting of the new Department Executive Committee will be held. This is in accordance with Article V, Section 3, Department By-Laws. The newly installed District Presidents are the voting members and must attend the Post Convention Executive Committee meeting. The location of this meeting will be the Grand Ballroom.

Janette Brockway, VA & R Chairman

WOW!!!! The year is almost over and what a great year we had with all the VA & R programs. The volunteering that was done for the past year has been outstanding. All the programs such as parades, Veteran's Day, and lunches and dinners put on for our Veterans are just amazing. There are the volunteers that do the Christmas Gift Shop Program where this year there were more volunteers than ever before. What a great year that was. We have great leadership in all our VA Hospitals and Nursing Homes. They put in many hours getting things ready for you to volunteer and many hours on some of the programs. Some don't realize how much work there is after the event is held. We have to THANK all of them because without the volunteers some of the programs would not exist. It is also amazing how many volunteers and family members are taking care of our veterans that are not in one of the facilities. These volunteers are above and beyond some of the greatest. It's easy to say you would like to volunteer but don't have the time. Well there are many ways of volunteering such as at a nursing home where there are veterans, taking a veteran to the doctor or shopping when you go, making lap robes while watching TV to donate, and the list can go on and on. Put your mind in volunteer mode and see what you can come up with to volunteer.

I'm putting a challenge out there for next year to see what Unit can do the "Most Outstanding Overall VA & R Program" that includes goals from the Plan of Action Guide. This is a Unit VA & R Program Award that very few Units send a narrative for. Hope to see lots of entries for next years' awards. Look into what your Unit can achieve this next year by volunteering. Make sure you keep track of all your volunteering hours in a VA facility, Nursing Home, at your own home or wherever you serve the veteran and be sure to turn them in and receive the award you deserve for volunteering. Honor our veterans and volunteer.

There are so many awards out there for Units and Districts to aim for. Make sure you read all of your guide and start making plans for an award next year.

American Legion Auxiliary Poppy Program

For your convenience, the following is a quick reference.

Poppy funds CAN be used for (per American Legion Resolution 20 of May 2013):

- For the rehabilitation of veterans honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.
- For the rehabilitation of hospitalized military service personnel returning home and awaiting discharge who require treatment in service hospitals.
- For the welfare of all veterans honorably discharged from U.S. Armed Forces, U.S. active-duty military personnel, and the families of those veterans and active-duty military personnel, where financial and medical need is evident.

Poppy funds CANNOT be used for:

1. Any general operating fund of a department, unit or post.
2. Any community service project that does not strictly benefit the welfare of an individual veteran/military service member or the welfare of his/her family.
3. General maintenance, beautification or improvement projects of American Legion or Auxiliary facilities, including adding ramp(s) to a post home.
4. Investments, even those that would bring profit to the unit or post.
5. POW/MIA programs.
6. Memberships, including other veteran support organizations such as Gold Star Mothers.
7. Contributions to, or payouts from, the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.
8. ALA Girls State/Girls Nation fees.
9. Flags or flagpoles.
10. Scholarships which do not restrict eligibility solely to military service members or their children, or where the financial need is not evident.
11. Mileage, travel or lodging expenses; registration of conference fees; or costs incurred by a person - including ALA members, volunteers and staff -- to attend any meeting, conference or event about veterans.
12. Attire or uniforms used by volunteers or staff in promoting or conducting ALA program activity or business.

Use of poppy funds is allowable

for care packages only when it is for a welfare need, as opposed to a comfort need, such as first aid topical treatment or vital hygiene items and not comfort/leisure items such as baked goods or books.

NOTE: Poppy funds collected after May 9 cannot be "co-mingled" with funds collected prior to that date. All funds collected prior to the passage of Resolution 20 must be used for veterans, in keeping with the intent and purpose of the previous Legion resolution. Only poppy funds collected after May 9, 2013, may be used for the welfare of U.S. active-duty military personnel and their families, where financial and medical need is evident.

Please consult the Poppy Program webpage at www.ALAforVeterans.org for additional information about the American Legion Auxiliary's Poppy Program.

Testimonial Dinner - Carl E Stitt Post 232 April 23, 2016



Legislative Dinner at Iron Mountain



Champions of the 80th Annual Bowling Tournament of 2016

The champions of the 80th Annual Bowling Tournament of 2016 are: Team Event; from Harold Ollrich Post 4, of Mt. Clemens; "Team #2"; Chris Anable (Capt.), Elbert Tomlinson, Missy Ann Robertson, Tim Shosey and Bud Daily. Score 3202 (Hcp. 462) Doubles Event; Berkley Post 374, of Berkley; Mike Modreski and Derrick Jasper Score 1449 (Hcp.00) Singles Event; from Ypsilanti Post 282 of Ypsilanti; Zach Hazel. Score 809 (Hcp. 00) Honorable mentions go out



to Derrick Jasper of Post 374, with a 300 game. Zach Hazel of Post 282, with a 299.

The checks were sent out in late April, you will need to contact your team captain or post depending on the address that was put on the entry form to see if you have a

Little something coming! Checks must be cashed within 90 days. Checks not cashed will be returned to the general fund and not reissued.

The 81st Annual bowling tournament will be held at Super Bowl Lanes of Canton. Ypsilanti Post 282 shall be the host and Bill Reynolds will

be the Honorary President (subject to change)

The Association would like to thank Shane Held, Sheri and Jeremy of the Monroe Sport Center for having a wonderful staff at the lanes and meeting the needs of all our participants. A special THANK YOU goes out to DEBBIE from me for her expertise in handling all of the changes which occur from January thru the last day of the tournament. It ran like a well-oiled machine!

At-ta' Boys & Girls go out to Jim Thornton, Jack Sweat, Linda Lefcheck and their crew of finely tuned personnel. Well Done. We would like to acknowledge Bill Galan for his assistance with the doings at the VFW Post 1138. In closing, we thank everyone who has participated in the tournament over the years.

This is important to all participants, you do not have to bowl in all three events, you may bowl in any combination of events, be it just one or all three. Furthermore, you may bowl in

Doubles and team event again, provided you have a different partner or team! Please remember the eligibility rules have been modified, therefore, we do not send info packets to

Posts in Michigan, however, all team Captains of record of the 80th tournament shall get one. You may contact us anytime for tournament information. Phone 734-422-8670 or at malbowl@sbcglobal.net. Please leave a postal address (aka Snail Mail)

As always yours in Comradeship; Scotty, Don, Ellen and Elsie. Enjoy your Summer

VETERANS NIGHT AT COMERICA PARK

Wednesday, August 3, 2016
7:10PM vs. Chicago White Sox



All Veterans, their families and friends may purchase Lower Baseline Box Seats* for a discounted price.

Groups of 15 or more receive a food coupon for a free small drink and hot dog.

Tickets & Food Coupons are limited. Don't miss out, get your orders in early!

For more information or to buy tickets, contact: **Carolyn Shanks** at 313.471.2245 or email carolyn.shanks@tigers.com

*Subject to availability, restrictions apply. This offer is not available at the Comerica Park Box Office or any ticket outlet. Orders must be received by Friday, July 22, 2016.

Michigan ALR



Legacy Fund Run



WWW.MICHIGANLEGACYRUN2016.ORG

2nd Annual Department of Michigan Legacy Scholarship Ride June 24 - 25, 2016

Cost: \$40 Per Rider, \$40 per Passenger
\$40 Per Car Including all Passengers

June 24, 2016:

Start Location: Garden City Post 396

Registration and Breakfast: 7 - 8:30 am

Kickstands Up: 9am

End Location: Oscoda Post 274

Dinner and Evening Activities Planned at Post 274

June 25, 2016:

Start Location: Oscoda Post 274

Registration and Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:45 am

Kickstands Up: 9am

End Location: Department Convention At the Kewadin Casino

Note: Option Available to Have Your Bike Transported Across the Bridge

Evening Activities Planned at the Casino and Sault Ste Marie Post 3

Forms, Itinerary and Lodging Information Available at the Michigan ALR Legacy Run Website

Net proceeds will be donated to the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund helping dependents of military personnel who died while on active duty after 9/11/2001 with college expenses



Cottages Available at Higgins Lake, Michigan

Camp Curnalia is a community of 405 cottages located on the north shore of Higgins Lake with easy access from I-75 and Highway 127. The community abuts the North Higgins Lake State Park. All cottage owners are guaranteed lake access, dock access, and boat slip-page on Higgins Lake.

All 405 cottages are connected to the Higgins Lake Utility Authority sewer system.

Only Honorably Discharged veterans with a DD214 are eligible to purchase available cottages.

Visit www.ccoa.net or call (989) 390-4208 for available cottages and more information.

Reports Continued

scope of other Department Committees.

The Committee assisted and clarified issues relating to rules, procedures, structural changes and protocol to Department Officers and/or Standing Committees as well as District Officers throughout year. We hopefully provided positive guidance to assist in the improvement of the Department.

There are 4 proposed amendments to be voted on at the Department Convention. The full text of the amendments were published in the April/May issue of the Legionnaire. We recommend that the Convention Delegates APPROVE two amendments – 16-2-CA regarding DEC meetings throughout the year; and 16-4-CA which changes the quorum requirements for the Dept. Convention. The Internal Affairs committee recommends that the delegates DISAPPROVE of amendments 16-1-CA regarding the cutoff date for credential certification to the Conventions and amendment 16-3-CA which adds an additional criteria that is not required.

Please contact any member of the Internal Affairs committee about our recommendations on the amendments for this year's Convention.

In closing and speaking on behalf of the Committee (Pat, Bob, Jerry, Howard, and myself), we want to thank Kim Siedelberg of the Dept. Staff for her administrative support to our committee. And "Thanks" to Commander Buda for appointing us to this great committee.

Membership Bret Holt, Chairman

I would like to thank Commander Buda for giving me the opportunity to have this amazing experience of being your Membership Director. It has been an honor to serve all of you in this capacity.

As of May 5, 2016 our membership is at 66,261. We had a goal of 70,364. We are at 94.17% of goal and an additional 4,103 paid members for 2016 are needed to make 100%.

112 post made 100% of goal or more. 11 post from the 1st Zone, 36 from the 2nd Zone, 39 from the 3rd Zone, 19 from the 4th Zone and 7 from the 5th Zone. The list would be too long to name them individually here but congratulations to all of you.

Unfortunately, 9 post finished under the minimum 15 members to remain active according to the Department Constitution and By-laws and will probably be closed or merged with another post at the

Department Convention.

Anything short of 100% is not what I was hoping for at the beginning of the year. As far as our percentage of goal goes; we have been in the top ten percent of all departments all year. We currently are in 9th place and have been as high as 1st. We made every membership target this year until the 95% target date. During the National Commanders his visit complemented our membership work and stated he hasn't seen Michigan this high in the rankings in some time.

For those that thought the dues increase would kill us; on December 30, 2015 we were at 83.52% with 58,725 paid members. Since the dues increase went into effect we have increased our percentage of goal by 10.65% and 7,536 paid members. Let me repeat 7,536 members paid their 2016 dues after the dues increase went into effect.

There is an award called the Big 12 award that is handed out by national to the department that meets or exceeds and comes closest to their projected membership percentage in March. The award is done by category based on the size of the department membership. Michigan took first place in our category and was awarded \$2,000 to be used towards electronics at the department headquarters.

At the start of the membership year I sat down with our Public Relations Director, Mark Sutton and we devised a membership training plan that was based on the membership training manual of 2009 as well as some handouts from other sources. The day before the Membership Training trip to Indianapolis we invited all the Zone Commanders and members of the Membership Committee to attend a training session so that they could then go out and train the membership in their area. The training went well and most attended.

Over the course of the year I or someone from the Membership Committee visited every District and offered all Districts a chance to attend the 45-minute training session. We then placed all of the window flyers from the training on the Department website available for download.

Just recently I recorded a very abbreviated version of this training on a training video at headquarters that will be available to anyone who either missed our training session or just wants a refresher course.

During the Winter Meeting the committee revised the Rules of Procedure that had not been revised in some time. The revisions were approved by the Department Executive Committee and are now

in place.

We had the opportunity to set up information tables around the state. The Department of Michigan had a table at the Big Mitt fair at the Michigan International Speedway over Labor Day weekend. The 2nd District took over this event and handled most of the staffing. Thank you 2nd District for your assistance. A special thank you goes to Jerry Andrus for his work on this event and to Jerry Kunzelman for getting us the invitation.

Other events your Membership Committee attended included a job fair at Comerica park, a job fair at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center in Flint, an information event for patients and staff at the Detroit VA, a job fair at the Detroit VA, a student veterans' orientation at Eastern Michigan University, a job fair in Westland, a welcome home celebration for OIF/OEF veterans at Compuware Arena during a USA Hockey game in Plymouth and a veteran employee information day at Michigan Department of Transportation's Lansing office. There are probably others that I do not recall as we were on the road most of the year. Thank you to Steve Striggow and his wife May, Mitch Louth, Mark Sutton and my wife Bonnie for attending these events with me or on my behalf.

During the U.P. tour I had the opportunity to sit down and visit with people from the Royal Canadian Legion that work on membership. We compared notes and shared some strategies with each other. We are staying in touch to try and help one another whenever a new idea that is successful for one of us can be shared with the other.

The Second Zone lead by Zone Commander Barry Wood and District Commanders from the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Districts held membership drives in all of their districts. They were not afraid to cross over the imaginary borders of each district and helped each other out. This resulted in positive membership gain.

The 1st District has put together a committee and is working hard on a plan to improve membership in their district. Thank you to Dan McCrary and Dick Chatman for your work on this plan.

I have no doubt that the other districts have also been working on ways to improve membership in their areas without my knowledge of their events and strategies.

I can't thank my Committee enough for all of their hard work this year. Sheila Saunders, Catherine Buckley, Gary Lane and Steve Striggow and the five Zone Commanders, David Babbage, Barry Wood, Kevin Gilliam, Richard

Tracy and Stan Kennedy. Every time I reached out to any of them for assistance they were ready willing and able to help. We had some tough breaks along the way with some members having to step down due to personal reasons and our U.P. membership Director falling ill and having to have extended stays in the hospital. In his absence 5th Zone Commander Stan Kennedy and 11th and 12th District Commanders Jim Wash and Carl Morrison stepped up and took ownership of the membership responsibilities in the U.P. Thank you gentlemen for taking on that task. Prior to his illness Gary was all over the U.P. working hard on membership.

I want to thank the District Commanders and Alternates for visiting the post on behalf of the department and talking about membership, stepping in and helping a new Adjutant get adjusted and for insuring that the post received the Request to Transfer and Project Stay Active cards.

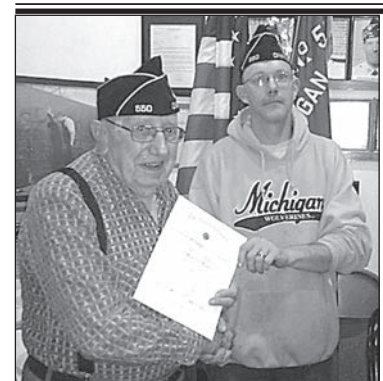
Lastly, I want to thank the blue cap Legionnaires. We can send you lists of names of potential new members, delinquent members, and members that want to transfer to the local posts but it is you that takes that information and works with it to see our posts membership rolls grow. You are the most vital link in our membership team. It has been a great year and I thank all of you for your hospitality and making this job so much fun.

National Security & Blood, Eye & Vital Organ Lavern Spolarich-Chair.

At our National Security meetings this year we had discussion about the use of drones by civilians and terrorist groups posing a National Security problem.

I will have information coming from my congressman on the current regulations for the usage and will have this available at the convention in June.

On the issue of Blood, Eye & Vital Organ awards since becoming chairman I have given out a total of 19 Blood Donor Awards. They are 2 Gold Level-4 Bronze Level-12 Certificates and 1 Post Level.



If anyone has given 10 or more gallons of blood and been given an awards, please contact me and I will give you the appropriate level award.

Post Development Al Ford, Chairman

This has been a very busy year for the Post Development Committee. There were 19 Post and 6 District visitations made to offer help and guidance on recruiting and revitalization.

There was one new Post formed in the 5th District, Allendale Post #401 and they now have 28 new members and growing.

There were 6 Posts that held recruiting drives.

In February Department Commander Buda put out a directive to 19 Posts in our Department who fall within the minimum of 15 members to be considered a legal Post, that they must take immediate action to remedy this situation by sending enough new members into State Headquarters to meet the 15 member requirement by April 15, 2016. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in your Post being considered for merger into another Post or for cancellation of your Post Charter at the Convention in June 2016.

This committee has been working with the District Commander's that have Posts with less than 15 members trying to increase their membership to avoid cancellation of charters. As of this writing we have managed to increase the membership in 11 of those 19 posts that were below the 15 member requirement. We will continue to work with the remaining 8 posts that don't meet the 15 member requirement.

Plans are now being made to get an early start in the New Legion Year to help as many Posts as possible grow and achieve their goals.

I wish to thank the Department Staff for all their help, also a big thank you to all the members of the Post Development Committee who gave up their time mostly on weekends to help the cause, Thanks to Ken, Marilyn, Jerry, Lee, and Richard & Skipper.

Charles F. Peart receives a 60 Years Continuous Membership Certificate from Post 550 in Onsted, MI. Charles served in W.W. II from Nov. 1942 to Feb. 1946. He was a fighter plane mechanic crew chief.



2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM

August 27 September 1, 2016

Millennium Hotel

150 W Fifth St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail: _____ Cell # _____

Rooms (quantity): _____ king _____ double _____ handicapped

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

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

Roommate(s): _____ LEG AUX SAL

_____ LEG AUX SAL

_____ LEG AUX SAL

_____ LEG AUX SAL

Special Room Requests: _____

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

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

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

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

Enclose check or credit card information for:

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

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

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

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Visa Mastercard CC# _____ exp. date ____/____/____

Signature: _____

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



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

Pre-Registration Form

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

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

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

After June 17th, 2016 registration - \$45.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

ALR Post # _____

Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

T-shirt

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

Total Due: \$ _____

Make checks payable to

American Legion Riders Post #274

Or send pre-registration forms and payment to:

American Legion

349 S. State St., Oscoda MI 48750

Questions or email: Julie A. Easton

jeaston-protect-allflooring.com Phone: (248)-752-0424

MILEGIONNAIRE

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

Name: _____

Member ID #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____



PRESENTS

RUN TO THE NORTH WALL XXI

JOIN US SUNDAY July 3rd, 2016 FOR THE ANNUAL RUN TO THE NORTH WALL, IN HONOR OF THE CANADIANS THAT SERVED WITH THE U.S. MILITARY DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. STAGING TAKES PLACE 9:30 A.M. AT R.C.L. BR. 594 - 5030 Howard Ave. Tecumseh, Ont.

There will be a breakfast served from 0900 hrs to 1100 hrs THE RUN LEAVES R.C.L. Br. 594 AT 11:30 A.M. SHARP! MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE NORTH WALL FOR 12:00 P.M. OPEN HOUSE AT R.C.L. BR. 143 - 1570 Marentette Ave.

FOR MORE INFO

EMAIL: northwallriders@hotmail.com

PHONE: (519) 256-6797 or (519) 965-0981

EVERYONE WELCOME

Around the State...



Gold Winner Cadet Chelsey Downer, Silver Winner Cadet Michaela Bourke, Bronze Winner, Cadet Paxson VonKerens, with Ferris State Coordinator Major Senn Ryan, Zone Commander Richard Tracy and 9th District Commander Gary Walter also Dept. Commander Mike Buda



Welcome John Snyder to the Post 28 Honor Guard. American Legion Grand Haven Charles A. Conklin Post #28, Commander Bob Wydeck, 1st Vice Commander Chris Jarvis, new Honor Guard member John Snyder, Honor Guard Leader George Bennett and Past Commander Dave Mackellar.



Assistant Sgt. at Arms William Hilgriss Past Dept. Commander Jim Wallace Dept. Commander Mike Buda and 6th District Commander Richard Schultz.



Pinckney Memorial Post 419 Makes Donation to Summer Reading Program.



Garry Sarles, Post 195 longes and oldest member, celebrated his 70th wedding anniversary to his wife Elaine at the post



Tour of VARO Detroit



Big Rapids High School Boys and Girls State class of 2016. Post 98 commander, Mr. Bill Semar signs a check fully funding all 5 boys and 11 girls. The community of Big Rapids raised over \$5,000 to send these 16 students.



The Lynn C. Weeman Post 514, The American Legion celebrated its 58th Birthday Party and the American Legion's 97th Anniversary on March 19th, 2016. In attendance were from left: Second District Commander Michael Kraus; State Commander Michael Buda; Second Zone Commander Barry Wood and Post 514 Commander Barbara Weimert.



American Legion Charles A. Conklin Post #28 Commander Bob Wydeck and Past Commander David MacKellar presented, 70 year Continuous Service to the American Legion award, to Donald Edward. Mr. Edward was not able to come to the 97th Legion Birthday Party so Legion members went to his home to give him his awards.



SAL Squadron of Lillian Larson (Greenwood) Post 114 recently donated \$500 to the U.P. Honor Flight, affording area veterans of the World War II and Korean War a chance to visit their respective memorials in Washington, D.C. Shown left to right are: Finance Officer Dave Korpi, SAL Cmdr. Mike Michell, U.P. Honor Flight Board Member Scott Knauf and Sr. Vice-Cmdr. Dean Stephens