



MILEGIONNAIRE



Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXV No.4

Michigan Veterans State Veterans Home

The Dawn of a New Era

Larry Money, State Commander

In 1885, 131 years ago the State of Michigan through its legislative body created and funded a State Veterans Home in the Grand Rapids area. Over those 131 years the State Veterans Home grew from one home to two homes. One in Grand Rapids and one in Mar-



quette, Michigan.

The Grand Rapids campus covers 90 acres and includes a veteran's cemetery. At one time the home housed more than 700 veterans, that was when it was acceptable practice to have four veterans per room. Thankfully over the years' customs and regulations have changed that now there is generally only two veterans per room to allow more space and comfort for the members.

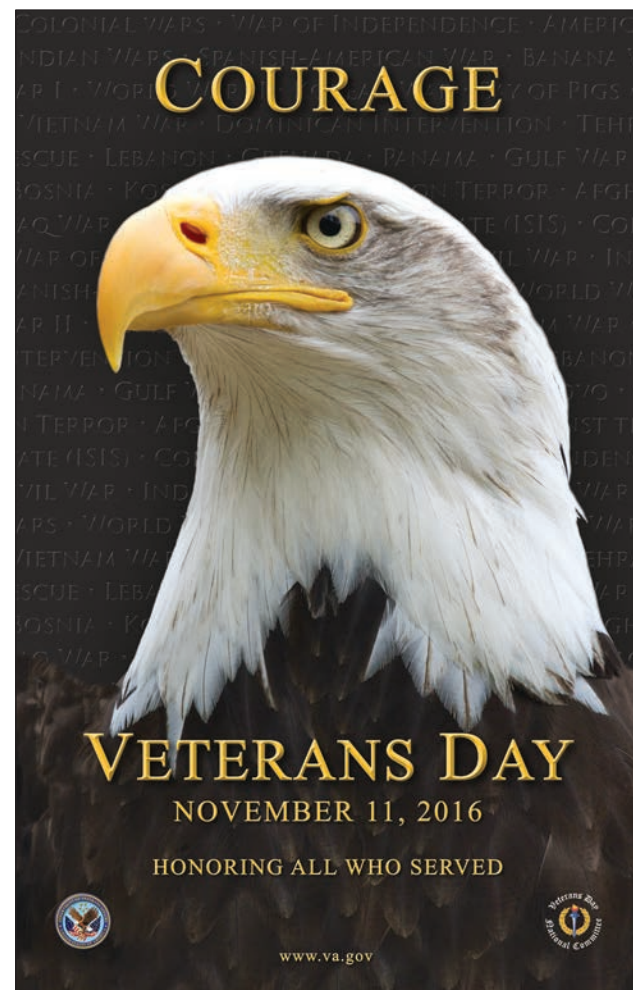
Earlier this year a State General Auditors report was released on the Grand Rapids Veterans Home showing major problems of the administration of the homes. The release of the report saw the resignation of the director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency and changes to the homes management team. It also sparked hearings within the Michigan House and Senate as to the state of our State Veteran Homes operated. The American Legion was present at all

of those meetings and our legislative team testified to give historical perspective and offered ideas on a path forward. Many of the ideas offered by the Legion were listed in the final report presented to the legislative body from the Oversight Committee on both the House and Senate side.

A New Path Forward

In June, a workgroup was formed by the Governor and the legislative leadership that included Bob Johnson, the Legions representative on the Board of Managers, as co-chair of this workgroup. Over the course of the summer this group listened to ideas and ways the state can build, operate, and fund new state veteran homes. They propose a total of 7 new homes in Michigan over the course of time. These homes would be run by an authority, like an authority (or non-profit corporation) that operates the Mackinac Bridge, a board of 9 members. As of this writing, three of those members would be from congressionally chartered veteran service organizations.

Part of the time spent by the workgroup was spent on looking at the future services the state could offer through these new facilities. For example, the current homes offer long-term care, transitional housing, and residential type housing for veterans. The workgroup looked at ways that new homes might offer adult day-care for veterans, more transition options, and be a campus type area with multiple outside services directed to veterans on the campus. Centers that make receiving benefits they have earned better. They will



also be certified to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding for members who qualify.

HELP WANTED

As you read this, the legislation to create this authority is being discussed and the legislature will have until December 31st, 2016 to vote on the bills and get them signed by the Governor. Hence, this is moving quickly and should it pass The American Legion needs to be ready.

We are seeking

Per the legislation, The American Legion is seeking members who have "professional knowledge, skill, or experience in long-term care, health care licensure or finance, or medicine" and would like to be recommended to serve on the new Michigan Veterans Care Facility Authority, if it is indeed created.

Those with those qualifications who would like to be considered, please send your resume, references, and cover letter to our State Adjutant Ron Runyan at 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing, MI 48915 or email him at adj@michiganlegion.org.

The Next 100 years

We are sitting at an important time for our veterans. This legislation will transform how Michigan cares for its State Veterans Homes for the decades to come. If done right this will serve our veterans for the next 100 years and The American Legion will continue to serve the veterans of the State of Michigan.



The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

No Return Postage Requested

November/December 2016

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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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! I want to start by saying I think this Fall's conference in Muskegon was great! Thanks again to those who attended our Chaplain's School of Instruction. To our PR Director Mark Sutton, Asst. Chaplain Ed Goreki and S.A.L. Chaplain Jack Helmski for their help with the class. And, to Auxiliary Chaplain Georgia Downs for stopping by and sharing her theme for this year, "Footprints," as at times we all need to lean on each other.

One of the points that I made in our class is worth sharing again. In meetings you'll often hear that The American Legion is "nonpartisan," meaning that we do not support one political party over another. But, we do encourage all to be active in the political process, to exercise your rights and to vote consistent with your beliefs. You will also hear that we are "nondenominational," meaning that we do not support any one religion over another. While technically that is true, I'm not

thrilled with the word as to me it seems to take God out of consideration. I prefer to say that we are "multi-denominational," meaning that we are of many religious groups respecting each other's beliefs and working together for God and Country.

As I have said before, I love this time of year. This is the "Holy Days" season for so many different religions. It not only brings about a change in the weather, it often brings feelings of good will and love for one another. We as a nation have so much to be thankful for. So, as we sit around our tables to celebrate events like Thanksgiving, Mawlid an Mabi, Hanukkah, Yule or Christmas let us remember our nations religious heritage and the reasons for these holidays.

Throughout history God has provided a way of salvation for his people. We need to thank Him and take time out of our day to listen to Him. Isaiah 55:2-8 ... "Listen carefully to me, and you will eat well, you will enjoy the fat of the land... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways," says

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

"Give Thanks"

ADONAI (God). "As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts (higher) than your thoughts." Although there are many things in life that we don't understand, we need to trust in the goodness of the Lord. Let's celebrate God and our faith and be tolerant of each other. Give thanks unto Him, by whatever name you call Him and in what ever holiday you participate. This includes those who are Christian as well. Yes, celebrate Christ in Christmas. Do not be intimidated by those who seek to limit religious expression. It is your constitutional right under the freedoms of religion and of speech. Many have fought and died to preserve these freedoms for all. And, there are some still serving today. Like many of you, I can remember what it is like being away from home for the holidays. Whisper a prayer for the safety of our troops and for "Peace on Earth." May we never forget our heritage and that, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." Psalm 33:12. God Bless You All. - Chaplain Eddie.

Memorial Garden at Wilwin at Cygnet Cove Honors Legion Family Members



Ashley Loria and her family from Pinckney, Michigan, made this memorial garden possible. Her family and friends helped with it. All the materials were donated. A big Thank You to her and her family. The families of



PNC Tom Cadmus and PDC Dwaine Verville helped with the benches and have a memory plaque on them. We are so blessed to have such a great support system and to be able to honor two huge supporters of Wilwin who left us much to soon.

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander.....Larry Money	Finance Officer.....Roger Avie	Alt. National Executive Committeeman
State Adjutant..... Ron Runyan	Historian..... Ernest Berry Tom Brown
1st Zone..... Archie Chappell	Chaplain..... Eddie Brown	Immediate Past Commander
2nd Zone..... Catherine Buckley	Sergeant-at-Arms..... Bill Hilgris Michael Buda
3rd Zone..... Bob Bigham	Judge Advocate..... Tim Hernandez	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director
4th Zone..... Neal Horning	National Executive Committeeman Gary Easterling
5th Zone..... Gary Lane Roger Webster	Membership Director..... Barry Wood
		Public Relations Director..... Mark Sutton

Headquarters

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Please Participate



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

Greetings Legion family from your headquarters staff. The season is starting to slow down with the completion of our meetings and programs for 2016. We had an overwhelming attendance at our Fall Meetings in Muskegon this year. Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the classes. There were many great compliments on the hotel and how the meetings were run. Many thanks to the Convention Corporation and staff for making things run smooth. Thanks also go out to U.S.S. LST 393 which hosted our members and GNUTS, which helped raise money for our youth programs.

The Commander and other officers have just returned from Indianapolis, where we attended the Fall NEC meetings. While in attendance we got to spend time with other Department Commanders and Adjutants and be educated on proper operations and business practices for Departments. There were also many new resolutions adopted by the National Executive Committee, which can be found online or by contacting our office. The one I would like

to make mention of is Resolution #16, in summary states that We as The American Legion shall make it clear to all participants of our programs that they will observe and pay proper respect to the flag of our country and to the National Anthem. If participants do not follow these guidelines they could be eliminated from the competition or program they are in. One of our founding principles is to promote Americanism, so I believe that the NEC is just in its thought into this resolution. I, too, believe in our Nations Constitution, which grants individuals the freedom of speech. However, The American Legion governs how we as an organization should conduct ourselves and its programs.

Another noteworthy item to bring to your attention is the USS Detroit was recently commissioned downtown Detroit on October 22, 2016. This was a wonderful event we were privileged to attend on behalf of the American Legion. A "Thank You" challenge coin was given to each of the 75 crew members aboard this new fine Navy vessel.

Lastly, I would like to extend a Happy Holidays to everyone. May your planned trips be safe & less eventful than the movie "Planes, Trains and Automobiles".



Greenwood American Legion Post 114 (Post, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion) recently made a \$620 donation to the U.P. Honor Flight, scheduled for mid-September. Shown in photo are: (front, L to R): Auxiliary member Gloria Lehtinen, Commander Howard Wood. Rear: Adjutant Richard Sharland, Service Officer Dennis LaFond, SAL Finance Officer David Korpi, Honor Flight Representative Scott Knauf, Auxiliary

President Kaitlyn Nault, Aux. Treasurer Barb Liubakka, SAL Commander Mike Michell, SAL Vice-Commander Dean Stephens, Post Sergeant-at-Arms Erland Bickers.

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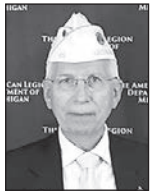
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Membership

Just Ask – It Works



Yes, Legionnaires there are veterans out there in Michigan that will join if we just ask them. I have had that experience.

Last month in Chesaning, at a special community event honoring veterans during the high school football game, many veterans were present. A large number already a part of the Legion Family. However, there were many that were not members of our family and five new members were brought in our family. A far greater number were exposed to what the Legion is by an explanation of the four pillars and how we reach out to our legislators advocating for veteran's issues. I believe many of the veterans there left with a better understanding of who we are. Maybe some will become members now that they know about the Legion.

Today I experienced this again. The local Elks Lodge, in Hastings, received a grant which they used in conjunction with Hastings High School to honor local veterans. The veterans were exposed to services in the local community. The American Legion was there, once again, and we were able to bring in four members to the local American Legion post.

Veterans want to know what the post has to offer and how the post is involved in the community and how it helps veterans. This takes a bit of knowledge on our part. But, if you want to be successful in your membership efforts you need this knowledge. You can find this information by going to the National website and looking at the bottom of the home page. There you will find "publications." Looking through all the materials there you can gain knowledge about The American Legion that will prepare you for your recruiting efforts.

Mentioning recruiting effort, I hope that you are not leaving the membership responsibility to only one person in your posts. Membership responsibility belongs to all of us. Be part of your post's membership team. Refer to the Membership Training Guide to see how you can become a part of the team. Do your part and bring one or two members into your post and double or triple the membership in your post. Also, be willing to recruit into another post. When talking to veterans you realize is not from your local community assist the veteran in finding a post close their home. Get a name, address and phone number and check with your District Commander or with me and we will find a post close to the veteran's home. You can then call the veteran back. Become a member of your post's membership team. It's a good feeling to bring in a new member.

At this writing the Department is over 60% of goal for year. Thanks to all the have helped this to happen from those new members that have come in to those that have renewed. There are many post in the Department that are extremely close to reaching 100%. Keep up the effort. Last week the Department was in 15th place Nationally and this week we are 20th. However, our numbers continue to grow and I am very optimistic that we can reach the 100% plateau.

Posts need to be on myLegion. This is a valuable tool in tracking and assisting with membership. Gary Demars, 17th District Commander, informed many of us at the Fall Meeting about how to produce letters using myLegion. It does work and has brought in results in my use of process. Thank you Gary. How to get started with myLegion and how to use is all available on the National website. And if you have the capability a Facebook page would be well worth the effort. This allows you to be found and tell the world what your post is all about. It could bring in any number of members.

Please do not forget your Department Membership Team is ready to assist as needed. Just give your District Commander a call and let her/him what you need and they will get a hold of a team member and we will work with you and the commander to bring your situation to resolution.

There are a large number of veterans just waiting for us to ask them to join. Many want a location to share with others that have had similar experiences. They are also looking for information as to their benefits and how to apply for them. We can be an answer for their wants, needs, desires and questions.

Please "JUST ASK."

P.S. A reminder that the amount for dues to be sent in with each membership will increase to \$39.50 effective January 1, 2017. Those memberships sent in before the end of calendar year 2016 are \$34.50. Please take the Christmas/New Year holidays into account when sending in membership before the end of the year to allow Headquarters staff to be able to process memberships before the end of the year.

District Meetings

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
 December 5 – District Meeting
 February 6 – District Nominating Meeting
 April 3 – District Annual Meeting
 June 5 – District State Convention Meeting

2nd District

January 8, 2017 Ida Post 514
 March 19, 2017 Milan Post 268
 May 21, 2017 Adrian Post 97
 SAL 11.00 AM, Riders Noon, Service Officers 1 PM, Meeting 2PM

4th District

November 6, 2016 – Hickory Corners Post 484
 January 8, 2017 - Allegan Post 89
 March 5, 2017 - TBD
 May 7, 2017 - TBD

5th District

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
 All Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Senior Vice Commander Jan Roy presiding.
 All District Committee meetings will be conducted @ Post 179 (616) 453-9861: Oct 13, 2016, December 8, 2016, February 9, 2017, April 13, 2017, June 8, 2017

DISTRICT MEETINGS

November 10, 2016 @ 7PM – Post 208, 133 44th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49548
 January 12, 2017 @7PM – Furniture City Post 258, 401 North Park St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI
 March 2, 2017 @7PM – Post 179, 2327 Wilson SW, Grand Rapids, MI
 May 11, 2017 @ 7PM – Willard G. Leenhouts Post 6, 10820 Paw Paw Dr., Holland, MI
 July 13, 2017 @ 7PM TBA
 Past Commanders – Friday the 13th Club – January 13, 2017 & October 13, 2017

6th District

Lunch 12:00 pm Meeting 1:00 pm
 November 6, 2016 Lyle Edwards Post 491, 422 Woodworth St., Leslie, MI 49251
 January 8, 2017 Capt. Steven W. Frank Post 269, 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840
 March 5, 2017 Pinckney Memorial Post 419, 9807 White-wood Rd., Pinckney, MI 48169
 May 7, 2017 Buck Reasoner Post 238, 1785 Cedar Street, Holt, MI 48842
 Memorial Service 11:00 am, Lunch 12:00 PM Meeting 1:00 PM

7th District

October 9th - Sebewaing

January 8 - Lapeer
 March 19th - Caro
 May 21st - Lapeer
 June 2017 Convention

8th District

Sunday, November 6, 2016 in St. Johns (at the UAW Hall)
 Sunday, January 8, 2017 at Post 502 Elsie
 Sunday, March 5, 2017 at Post 101 Greenville
 Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Post 203 in Belding
 Dinner at 1:30 and meeting to follow.

9th District

December 10, 2016 location to be determined
 March 18, 2017 at Fife Lake Post 219
 May 13, 2017 at Traverse City Post 35

10th District

Lunch at 12PM – Meeting at 1PM
 November 5, 2016 – Mikado Post 254
 January 14, 2017 – Oscoda Post 274
 March 4, 2017 – Skidway Lake Post 370
 May 7, 2017 – Bay City Post 18
 June 3, 2017 – TBD

11th & 12th District

Fall meeting of the 11th & 12th Districts and the U.P. Association of American Legion Posts will be at Post #349 in Little Lake on Saturday, October 8th.
 Schedule: (Eastern Time) 9:00 A.M. - Service Officers School
 10:30 A.M. - 11th & 12th District Meetings, Noon – Lunch, 1:30 P.M. - U.P. Association Meeting
 The U.P. Midwinter Conference will be at Post #71 in Gladstone On January 27th thru January 29th, 2017.
 The 11th and 12th District meetings will be on January 28th at Post #71.

16th District

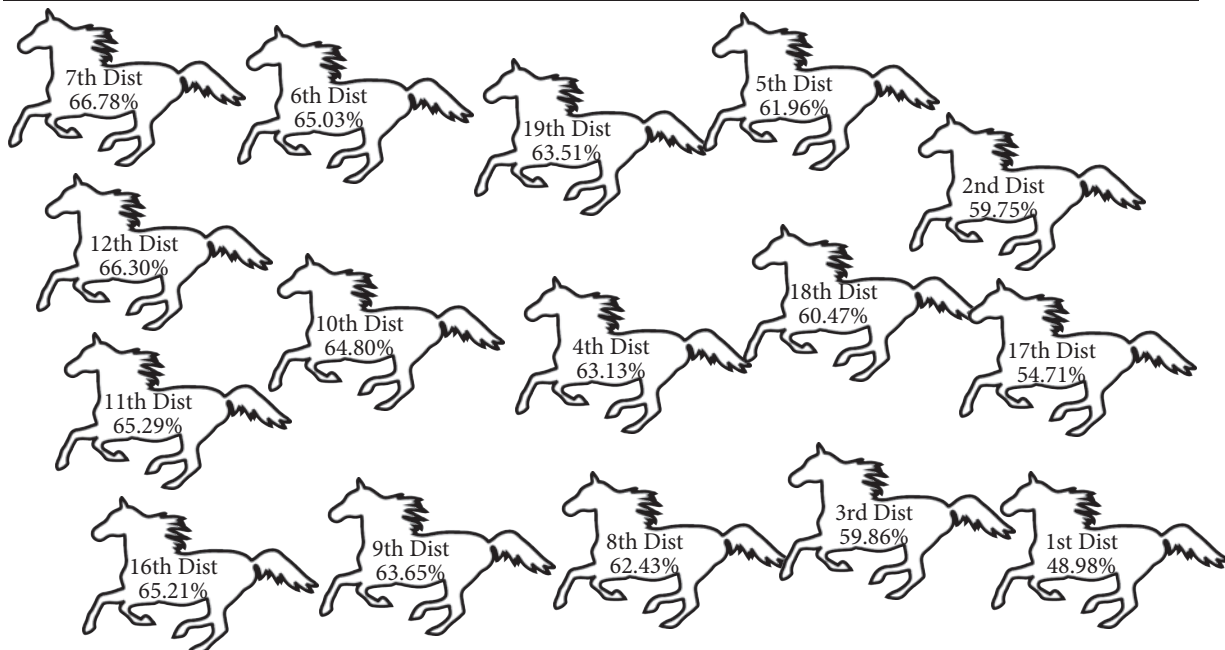
American Legion & Aux Meeting 7:30 PM
 *Denotes Service Officer School 6:30 PM
 ** Memorial Service 6:30 PM
 November 8 – Flat Rock Post 337 734-782-2717
 December 13* - Southgate Post 478 734-946-5398
 January 10 – Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177
 February 14* - Fort Dearborn Post 364 313-562-9090
 March 14 – Wyandotte 217
 April 11* - Trenton Post 426
 May 9** - Lincoln Park Post 67 313-388-2088 Duel
 June 13 – Garden City 396 313-381-2245

17th District

November 16, 2016 Plymouth Post 391
 January 18, 2017 Northville Post 147
 May 17, 2017 Livonia Post 32

18th District - TBD

2017 Membership Goal: 68,507 October 20 Total: 42,298 - 61.74%





AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2016 - 2017 Department President, Ellen Jackson

New and Old Faces



For those members who have not heard, we have made some changes to the Department Office staff. I am pleased to announce that our new Department Secretary/Treasurer, Denise Carter, was hired and ratified at Fall Conference.

Many will remember that name from years past. Denise served in this capacity from 2002 to 2010. She was a member of Capital City Unit 12 until they turned in their charter and is currently a member of Department Unit 225. Denise has jumped in with both

feet running and I am happy that she agreed to come back to work for us.

Also joining us is Heather Wilcox as Membership Clerk. Heather comes to us from Grand Ledge and is a member of Unit 48 there. Our Membership Chairman, Lora Lee Nauta, has trained her in the use of the ALAMIS system and she is busy daily processing all your membership transmittals and will be working on this year's Girls State event.

We have started a Friday is "Jean Day" fund in the office! The employees contribute \$5 each month for the privilege of wearing (nice looking) jeans on Fridays. The pro-

ceeds of their contributions will go to the current President's project at year end. So if you are visiting on Fridays, expect to see some denim!

I am sure you will be impressed with the changes we have made. Be patient as they learn their jobs.

If you are in the Lansing area, by all means stop in to meet our Department team!



Denise and Heather and the "Jean Day" Fund

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Denise Carter

I am so excited to be back working for the greatest organization! I am so proud to be a part of such a dedicated group of people who spend so much of their time helping our Veterans and their families.

For those of you who don't know me, I was Secretary/Treasurer for 8 years. After that time, I moved to St. Petersburg, Florida. The person that helped me settle in was a former 5th District member who had retired to that area. Shortly after I moved, my son and daughter got busy sprouting kids and after 4 years, I moved back to enjoy my growing family. I have two granddaughters and

two grandsons, and a daughter-in-law and son-in-law.

So, here I am six years later, back at my desk. It isn't exactly like getting back on a bike after this length of time but a lot is coming back to me and I have plenty of resources to get the right answers for you. I am here to help you, the members, achieve your goals for this year.

Thank you, President Ellen, for placing your confidence in me!

Remember that the Holidays are just around the corner and the Hospital Reps are counting on the Units and Districts to make

them great for our Veterans.

We are also heavy into Membership renewals and getting new members. I can't express my sadness when I saw the membership numbers. When I started in 2002, I worked for 33,000 women. We are around 27,000 now. We have lost an average of 1,000 members each year since I left. We have to put a stop to this decline. Let's put our heads together and find new ways to make people want to join us.

As President Ellen mentioned, we have a new Membership Clerk, Heather Wilcox, and I will let her tell you about herself.

From the Membership Desk



Hello, my name is Heather Wilcox and I will be your new membership clerk. I come to the department with an expansive background in customer service. People are my passion.

Being a member of the Auxiliary for 7 years, serving one year as the Secretary of my Unit and many hours volunteering for different events, I look forward my new adventure working with all the Auxiliary Units across the state.

Keeping track of your membership and getting the members' dues paid is a time consuming job both at the Unit and the Department level. In order to make the process go smoothly, please keep the following in mind before mail-

Membership Clerk, Heather Wilcox

ing your transmittals.

- Please write legibly
- Make sure the list of the members you are paying for is included with the transmittal form
- Make sure your arithmetic on the transmittal is correct
- Make sure the check is for the correct amount
- And PLEASE

Make sure new member applications are filled out completely. We need ALL the information before we can send them to National. If information is missing, we have to return them to you and that will delay the membership.

We are here to help. Call us anytime.



Correction: This picture was printed in the September issue with the caption that Sarah was celebrating her 70th birthday. She actually celebrated her 90th year! Congratulations, Sarah!

Georgia Downs, Department Chaplain

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

This month I would like to share information provided by National Chaplain Valerie Brown-Debro. I was unable to attend her Chaplain School because of a conflict of dates with our Fall Conference, God wouldn't let me be at both places at the same time.

For God and Country – The first four words of our Preamble. The American Legion affirmed is the law of God to the Family. The family has a high and central position in Biblical law.

Purpose Statement – To express by word and action, our founding principle of Service to God and Country. Encourage all members to celebrate diversity among people and faiths. Provide spiritual and emotional guidance when needed or re-

quested, always sending dignity and respect to the occasion.

The American Legion Auxiliary chaplains should have compassionate hearts dedicated to service "For God and Country." They help people reconnect with God and act as spiritual guides in the practice of prayer and service.

Trust in the Lord with All your heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all the ways acknowledge him, and he should direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

In his heart, a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.

Chaplains calendar – November: Election Day. Veterans Day – Armistice- November 11, 1918; Family week.

What is a Parliamentarian?

By Kim Champion
Department Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian is a consultant who advises the President, other officers, committees and members on procedure. She, as a rule, should be seen and not heard. Her role during a meeting is advisory since parliamentary law gives the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order and discussions. She is seated next to the President in order to quietly call her attention to any errors or violations affecting the rights of members. She assists with keeping the presiding officer on track with motions and discussions.

The basic and most common tools for a Parliamentarian and President are your Units or Districts Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules. As the De-

partment of Michigan Auxiliary Parliamentarian I also need the Department of Michigan Auxiliary's Constitution and Bylaws and Standing Rules. You also need a copy of "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition" for anything not covered in the Constitution and Bylaws or Standing Rules. A Parliamentary Procedure Booklet is also helpful.

An effective Parliamentarian is impartial, knows the rules, has varied roles, has duties before a meeting, duties during a meeting, has duties for conventions and helps members learn. She is appointed by the President not because they are friends but because the President feels she is someone that is reliable and trusted to provide accurate advice for everyone on both sides of an issue. They should also have a good working relationship.

Remembering the Small Stuff

Deb Chambers,
Western Area Membership Chairman

Sure, gaining new members is a very important part of our organization, but retaining those members and making them want to be a productive part of a unit can often be a difficult task. Many of us have been members so long, it's hard to remember those first couple meetings we attended. Sense of belonging and acceptance is a part of everyone.

The new member attends her first meeting. She should be introduced to all members attending the meeting. Now will she remember all the names probably not, but a nice smile and some welcoming words will help. How often have you seen introductions made, everyone goes off in their groups and there she stands alone? Several units having mentoring programs in place,

which will give her the feeling there is someone there to help her understand everything about the unit. Remember the mentor is not there to inform the new member of the different personalities in the room, she is there to help her feel comfortable and make her feel welcome. Don't assume she has read a new member's welcome packet, instead give her a reason to want to read it.

The meeting starts and hopefully the member's mentor is sitting right beside her coaching and answering questions. If not remember new members know nothing about our procedures and protocol during a meeting, the mentor plays an integral part. During the meeting ladies are whispering amongst themselves, new business is presented and a heated discussion breaks out. Being respectful of others, can make your meetings shorter and you can accomplish so much

more. If you are there to catch up with one another, there is plenty of time for that outside of the meeting; it's ok to disagree and discuss, it's not ok to stand firm and argue.

How many times have you had a new lady make a suggestion and told we've tried that before and it hasn't worked? New members have new and fresh ideas, don't push them aside. How many times have you been given a committee and it was because you weren't at the meeting?

Now I may have painted some very bleak pictures of auxiliary meetings, but if one of those scenarios fit your meetings it may be something to look at. A large percentage of new members are lost within the first three years. We need to make them feel we are a team working together to help our veterans and their families. Remember, it's the small stuff that counts when retaining members.

GIRLS STATE

Rysta Brown,
Girls State Co-Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Reservation forms are now available at www.michalaux.org, click on Girls State. You can also look under the September Unit mailing where you will find the reservation form, our 2017 Wish List, and a plea for new volunteers. We are hoping 350 Reservations come in this year. Please take a reservation form to your next Unit meeting and ask for your members consent to sponsor a girl

to attend our 77th session scheduled for June 18 – June 24, 2017, at Michigan State University.

An improvement in our process has been made. We will not be sending Delegates CDs. All the required forms, orientations and instructions will be available on-line at www.michalaux.org. Delegates will receive a letter with their registration number and link to register with MSU, along with a "Check list" containing everything they need to know to attend ALA Girls State. Alternates will receive a letter also with their instructions.

The Department office will start mailing out the Delegate and Alternate letters in early December. Now is the time to send in your Reservation forms and sponsorship fees into Department. Remember to reach out to your community groups, the Legion Family and individuals, the interest is out there!

We are asking that all unsponsored applications be mailed to Beryl Robbins, Co-Chairman, 14683 Shenandoah, Riverview, MI 48193. We have called every available alternate in past years,

and needed more.

Your Unit may have more applications than sponsorship money, so send Beryl the applications so we can get these deserving young ladies to Girls State! Your Unit might have the money to send four girls, but only have 2 applications. Contact Beryl so she can fill those spots!

It's important to stay in touch with your Delegates and Alternates. Make sure they know you are available to answer their questions and they understand what the program is about.

Department of Michigan-Permanent
Time & Place Committee

Dick Chatman Chairperson 2016—2017



Friday September 23, 2016, Kalamazoo Holiday Inn

The PT&P committee held its meeting at Fall conference. Items discussed and acted upon are below:

Action to be taken:

Department will inform the current Convention Corporations on file of the open dates and solicit interest in hosting.

If no interest is shown, Department will plan on hosting the events.

Date conflicts with Department and National Events are causing confusion and concern for those wishing to host a convention or conference.

Action to be taken:

Department will prepare a black out date form and present to the PT&P Chairman. This form will be published with all dates blacked out that conflict with Department and National events so everyone will know what dates to present to perspective hosts of future conferences and conventions. All bids will be reopened at Winter Conference based on the dates that will be published in the November and January/February Michigan Legionnaire



Date/Rules for Submitting/Awarding Hotel Bids: Winter 2 years prior, Submit to PT&P & H/Q 30 days prior to scheduled mtg. **1-6 Months Prior to Bid Approval:** 2 mbrs of PT/P and 2 corp mbrs do site inspection, **Award Date:** One year prior....Convention 2 years prior, Submit to PT&P & H/Q 30 days prior to scheduled mtg. **1-6 Months Prior to Bid Approval:** 2 mbrs of PT/P and 2 corp mbrs do site inspection, **Award Date:** One year prior....Fall 2 years prior, Submit to PT&P & H/Q 30 days prior to scheduled mtg. **1-6 Months Prior to Bid Approval:** 2 mbrs of PT/P and 2 corp mbrs do site inspection, **Award Date:** One year prior

PT&P NEWS

Department of Michigan Scheduled and Pending Events

2017		2017		2017	
Mar 9	Mar 12	June 22	June 25	Sept 22	Sept 24
Winter Conference		State Convention		Fall Conference	
Flint MI		Flint MI		Muskegon	
2018		2018		2018	
Marriott-Ann Arbor	June 21	June 24		Bid Pending	
Winter Conference	State Convention			Fall Conference	
Bid Pending	Kalamazoo Radison			Bid Pending	
Feb 14	Feb 17				
2018		2018		2018	
Kensington-Ann Arbor					
Winter Conference					
Bid Pending					
Feb 15	Feb 18				
2019		2019		2019	
Mar 6	Mar 10	June 22	June 25	No Bid	
Winter Conference		State Convention		Fall Conference	
Flint MI		Flint MI		No Bid	
2020		2020		2020	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	
Fall Conference		Fall Conference		Fall Conference	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	
2021		2021		2021	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	
Fall Conference		Fall Conference		Fall Conference	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	
2022		2022		2022	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	
Fall Conference		Fall Conference		Fall Conference	
No Bid		No Bid		No Bid	



Permanent Time & Place Resolutions Committee

Chairperson: Richard Chatman, dickc1948@ameritech.net,
313.204.7227

Thomas Brown, rystab@hotmail.com, 989.464.1896

Raymond Moore, moore@michiganlegion.org, 231.884.1303

James Wallace, firedog73@juno.com, 810.599.2120

Secretary: Michael Buda, mbuda2002@yahoo.com, 313.804.5191

Next Scheduled Meeting

March 9-12, 2017, Flint, MI Holiday Inn

Has your non-profit status been revoked by the IRS?

Have you filed your IRS 990's or checked the status of the Post's EIN lately?



Roger Avie, Department Finance Officer

When is the last time you checked?

Since becoming the Department Finance officer I have tried to highlight some of the very basic things we as Posts need to file each and every year. If we as Posts and Departments do not file, the proper forms and pay the appropriate fees to the IRS and to the State of Michigan then we lose our ability to operate as a non-profit. Donors cannot give to a Post to support their causes and have those donations deducted from their taxes IF the Posts status has been revoked.

Has your Posts EIN and non-profit status been revoked? I write this article to ask that you check the status of your Post's EIN status. I was out at the IRS website and casually looked up EIN's that are on the revoked list for American Legion Posts in Michigan. What I found was that there are over 150 American Legion entities, including SAL squadrons, and over 125 Auxiliary Units in Michigan who have had their status of non-profit revoked.

How can you check?

Any officer or member of the Post can check the status of their EIN status. Go to this IRS website and click on the look up tool.

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/exempt-organizations-select-check>

If the Posts status has been revoked, then look on the IRS website for how to reinstate the status. It is important that the status be reinstated. Unfortunately, the department does not have the resources to assist in reinstating, because of the long process. Posts may want to contact an account for more information.

Charlotte American Legion Post 42 Opens Nature Trail

CHARLOTTE, MI – On Saturday October 1st, 2016 the day had arrived. After months of tree cutting, brush removing, and trail making American Legion Post 42 was ready to introduce their project to the community.

The Legion Post in Charlotte, MI, about 20 miles southwest of Lansing, sits on 17 acres of land. They have a building, 2 baseball fields, a helicopter out front, and artillery piece in the back. The parking lot is big enough that they hosted almost 450 Legion Riders during a National Legacy Run a few years ago.

Along the back and both sides of the property are trees and brush, until one day the idea came up to use that portion of the property. The Legion family planned it, funds were raised for it, and volunteers worked week after week to clear a trail through the wooded area for Legion family members and the community to enjoy.

The trail rolls through just over a mile and with a partnership with the Alive Health center next door they hope to have close to 1.5 miles of trail when completed.

A special opening ceremony was held on October 1st for the volunteers and the community to see the new Post 42 trail. If you are in the Charlotte, Michigan area stop by and stretch your legs at American Legion Post 42.



Late Fall Reports

Wayne L. Blank Sr 2nd District Commander

Second District is extremely busy working on membership for all posts. We have most posts over 50% and the ones that are not we are strongly focusing on them; urging each post not to wait until the last minute due to the fact that there will be a slight increase after January 1, 2017. They need to get their dues in early. I am also encouraging leadership for each post to use MY LEGION.ORG.

The executive committee is working on our handbook which contains Department, District and Post information making it easier to communicate with all members. This booklet is very important, with contact information for each post in 2nd District.

The District will be looking at a fundraiser to assist posts sending youth to programs sponsored by our Legion family; making it easier for struggling posts to send prospective kids to our programs.

The Public Relations Committee will be looking at PSA's for community pages in newspapers introducing our posts to the community they serve and what they can offer. Inviting the community to come to an event, get involved, and give back to fellow needy Veterans.

Wayne Roy 11th District Commander

Greetings from the 11th District, it was a busy start to the 2016 – 2017 year, making preparations for the UP State Fair and the Department Fair Booth, making changes to the format now having all the Legion Family manning the booth for the week of the Fair. Membership was the focus along with decimating information about programs, places and people for Veterans to go for assistance. Happy to report it was a success, and to have our Department Commander Money and Department Adjutant Runyan visit the Fair Booth was an honor and pleasure.

Worked with a couple of Posts to process their required paperwork so they could proceed with their annual membership drive. The 11th District is doing great regarding membership even though there are a few Posts a little behind but I'm confi-

dent that all Posts will reach our Oct 5th goals or surpass them. Having said all that; I'll take this opportunity to thank all those you took the time to attend our District meetings and elected me to represent and serve them. It is my pleasure to report the 11th District leads in membership in the 5th Zone., thank you Posts in the 11th District and keep up the pride.

Carl Morrison 12th District Commander

Membership in the American Legion is a matter of PRIDE. PRIDE in tradition, PRIDE in heritage, PRIDE in accomplishment, PRIDE in serving, PRIDE in belonging. We owe every eligible VETERAN the opportunity to share in the PRIDE.

With that being said I want to take this opportunity to remind our members to invite all eligible VETERANS to join our organization and also remind everyone to please renew your membership. It is you the membership that makes this organization what it is.

The year has started off great, I attended the thirty day meeting in Lansing, then a couple of weeks later the Membership Seminar at National Headquarters where I got to meet members from all over the country and discuss and share ideas on how they operate their Posts. This was my second trip and was a great learning experience.

I did attend the Fall Conference in Muskegon and attended the many classes of instruction which were offered and renewed friendships with a lot of Legion Members. These Conventions and Conferences are held several times a year and offer you a great opportunity to learn about the operation and changes to the operation of your Post. I would ask that you as a Post Officer or Member to please attend to keep abreast of the changes.

Our Fall District 12 and U.P.A.L.A. meeting will be held at the Little Lake Post #349 on October 8 2016 starting with Service Officers School at 9:00 a.m. District Meeting at 10:30 a.m. and the U.P.A.L.A. meeting at 1:00 p.m. We will also have several guests in attendance as well. We hope to see you there.

Remember, every VETERAN sign a Veteran.

John VanMaele 19th District Commander

Since our Summer Convention we've been quite busy in the 19th District. One of the most important issues to come before us was the re-organization of the Atlanta Mi. Post. Due to the death of the Post Commander and various transfers, the Post was considering turning in its charter.

Al Ford, PDC and the Post Development Chairman, was called in to assist with the future of the Post. Through a series of meetings this summer we were able to get new officers elected and a fresh start for the Post. In a joint agreement, with the Atlanta VFW Post, we will be able to

meet there until the end of the year.

Our goal this year as a District is to have more representation from the posts at the District meetings. This is where the trickle-down effect from our Convention, 30 Day Meeting, and Conference meetings are addressed with you. This is where your District Officers want to hear your concerns. This is where you will meet the candidates running for Department and National offices.

As we should all have heard by now our membership is increasing Jan 1, 2017. Please make a valient effort to try to have 100% of your dues in by Veterans Day. Let our District of the Tip-of-the-Mitt lead the way!

Still Serving

Nationwide World War I Monument & Memorial Restoration Project

A nationwide project to locate, assess conditions and restore World War I monuments and memorials – many of which were erected by American Legion posts – can “incite a national conversation” about the Great War and its many impacts, says Daniel Dayton, United States World War One Centennial Commission executive director. “We’re three generations out, and we can’t afford to miss this generation.”

Dayton and American Legion Past National Commander Marty Conatser, adjutant for the Legion’s Department of Illinois and its more than 750 local posts, were among the speakers at the Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of the World War One Centennial Commission in September. The Chicago event brought to the Pritzker Military Museum & Library state World War I centennial representatives from across the Midwest, including Deborah York of Tennessee, great-granddaughter of Medal of Honor recipient Alvin York, a first-generation member of The American Legion. Tuesday’s meeting was streamed live online to a nationwide audience.

“If we all work together, we can build a great puzzle,” said York, who lives near Pall Mall, Tenn., home of the Sergeant Alvin C. York State Historic Park, which has undergone numerous renovations and improvements, including construction of an authentic World War I battle trench, frequent battle re-enactments, a visitor center mod-

eled after Sgt. York’s General Store and more. “We can make something really beautiful because we come at this from so many different angles.”

“Honor and remembrance are in the DNA of The American Legion and have been since its founding nearly a century ago,” Conatser told the group. “Through the decades, The American Legion has been the official caretaker and supporter of innumerable memorials and monuments across the land and beyond our shores.”

The American Legion National Executive Committee passed a resolution in May to support and promote the 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant program that offers matching funds of up to \$2,000 for projects to restore World War I monuments and memorials in local communities throughout the United States. To learn more about how to raise funds locally and apply for grants, click here.

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials grant application deadline is July 15, 2017. The Pritzker Military Museum & Library plans to publish a coffee table book to showcase the 100 chosen memorials and monuments by 2018.

“Beyond the matching-money grants that will help many Legion posts restore World War I memorials and monuments, this is an excellent opportunity to build one comprehensive inventory into a database that can be

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Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MY LEGION FAMILY



Carvin Chapman
SAL Commander

I'm glowing from head to toe. Just got back home from attending the National Institute for Detachment Commanders. I received a diploma on Sunday. What an exciting moment and I am very honored.

In between helping my SAL at my Post putting on fundraisers, I have also been visiting other Posts for their District meetings. If you would like me to attend your District Meeting or a function that you have going on please let me know and if I am able will do the best to be there. It's nice seeing old friends and meeting new friends when you attend these functions.

Fall conference was held in September. Accom-

plished taking care of business along with spending time with the Legion Family.

This past week myself, along with my SAL Squadron, helped an 80 year old veteran by putting up a railing on his porch and trimming a few trees. A big thank you to my Squadron for stepping up and helping to take care of this.

I traveled to Cedar Springs with Commander Money and President Jackson supporting the Red Flannel Carnival. We all had a blast.

It's dark now in the morning when the kids are leaving for school. They are either walking to the bus stop or walking to school. Please keep your eyes open. Have a safe and fun Halloween.

Yours in God and Country

Carvin "Huey" Chapman
Detachment Commander

VETERAN HANDRAIL PROJECT COMPLETED



Greg Price, Carvin Chapman and Dave West, S.A.L. members, put a handrail in for a USN seaman Earl Slayton who served on the battleship New Jersey from 1957-1959. He was afraid to go out of his house because the handrail was gone and was afraid of falling.



Sgt. Mike Stover accepting a check from Bob Poirier and Bob Mayrand of the SAL Squadron 217, Wyandotte, to help sponsor the Downriver Warriors Hockey Club. The hockey club consists of active military and returning veterans.

SQUADRON 459 PULASKI DAYS IN GRAND RAPIDS



Al Jamison and Dominic Merlington



Al Jamison, a Tuskegee Airman, was a guest of Post 459 for the weekend, and he rode on our float.

NATIONAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION COMMISSION

TOPIC 1: ECONOMY

Americans generally enjoy what they do for a living, but they are concerned about diminishing job security. So finds a new report from the Pew Research Center, in association with the Markle Foundation. The study looked at how the shifting economic landscape is reshaping work and society. The findings are based on interviews with 5,006 adults conducted in May and June and also Census data.

The 2016 presidential election has shone a spotlight on jobs and whether Americans today need a college degree to get ahead, or even just to tread water, as well as the impact of globalization and trade on American workers. Pew's study found the vast majority of Americans are happy with their jobs. Some 49 percent say they are very satisfied and another 30 percent say they are somewhat satisfied with their current employment, the study found. Only about 15 percent said they were either very dissatisfied or somewhat dissatisfied with their positions.

Workers are also holding onto their jobs longer than in the past. The share of folks who've been with their current employer for at least five years rose to 51 percent in 2014, up from 46 percent in 1996, according to Census figures Pew analyzed for the study. This is especially true among older workers. Some 76 percent were working at the same company for at least five years in 2014, up from 67 percent in 1996. They are also putting in more hours. Americans worked 46.8 weeks a year, on average, in 2015, up from 43 weeks in 1980.

Most Americans don't feel they'll lose their positions in the next year, but they are more concerned about job security. Some 63 percent say that workers have less security now than they did 20 to 30 years ago, while only 16 percent say such confidence has increased. For those who are unemployed, it's not easy to find another job, respondents said. Some 65 percent said good jobs are difficult to find in their local area. While this is a lower than the 84 percent who felt this way in 2009, at the height of the recession, it's still higher than the 55 percent who said so in mid-2007.

Additional education is crucial to holding onto jobs and advancing in the profession, workers said. Some 87 percent said it's either essential or important for them to get training and develop new skills throughout their career to keep up with changes in the workplace. The changing economy has left many Americans feeling left behind. This is particularly true of those without college degrees. The number of workers in occupations requiring average to above-average education, training and experience jumped 68 percent between 1980 and 2015, while those requiring below-average skills rose only 31 percent, according to Pew (the amount of training needed varies by occupation and

is based on a Department of Labor scale. Above-average preparation usually involves a four-year college degree and additional years of experience and training).

Some 72 percent of respondents said Americans bear a lot of the responsibility to secure the skills and education needed to succeed in today's economy. Some 60 percent feel the responsibility falls on K-12 schools. But only 16 percent feel that a four-year degree prepares students very well for a well-paying job in today's economy. As for threats to job security, Americans see them in many places. Eight in 10 adults felt that increased outsourcing is hurting American workers, while nearly the same share feel that having more foreign-made products sold in the U.S. has been a problem. Some 57 percent feel the increased use of contract or temporary workers is harmful, while nearly half said the decline in union membership has hurt workers.

USEHOLD DATA

Employment status, veteran status, and period of service	Total		Men		Women	
	SEP 2015	SEP 2016	SEP 2015	SEP 2016	SEP 2015	SEP 2016
Gulf War-era II veterans						
Unemployed	147	139	122	127	25	12
Unemployment rate	5.0	4.4	5.0	4.8	5.0	2.3

National unemployment rate is 5.0 percent (September 2016). Gulf War II veterans unemployment rate is 4.4 percent. Currently, the unemployment rate for Gulf War II women veterans is 2.3 percent (down from 7.3 percent in August).

TOPIC 2: MEETINGS

On Monday October 3, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division conducted a follow-up conference call with both Southern Utah State University's (SUU) President and Aviation Department Director concerning flight school reforms they are instituting on campus. SUU has recently transitioned from contracting their flight school programs to providing them in house, which has resulted in increased savings and better education outcomes for the student-veterans attending.

On Monday October 3, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with Charles Tulaney, Military Relations Manager, Talent Acquisition, Lockheed Martin, regarding pitfalls from service members and veterans resumes. Lockheed Martin is an American global aerospace, defense, security and advanced technologies company with worldwide interests.

On Tuesday October 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with Georgetown University's Veterans Services Office to discuss best practices at private four-year institutions. Representatives from American University, Georgetown University and George Washington University will be presenting on this

topic at the 2016 annual conference of the National Association of Veterans Program Administrator next week. Additionally, our staff was briefed on other topics that will be presented at the Conference.

On Tuesday October 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division spoke with Humboldt University's student veterans organization on best practices for creating a veteran resource center on campus. The student organization is interested in collaborating with The American Legion to create a Post on campus that could provide services and outreach to transitioning student-veterans.

On Tuesday, October 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division spoke with Justin Stuebgen of Corning Inc. There are 545 self-identified veterans that are currently employed with Corning that equates to roughly 20 percent of its employees. Although Corning is a relatively small company, they would like to hire at least 10 veterans per year.

On Tuesday, October 4, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division had a conference call with Orville Whitlock, Senior Consultant, Private Public Partnership (P3), to discuss the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between The American Legion and P3. P3 focuses on fostering long-term partnerships with companies, corporations, foundations, academia, and non-governmental organizations to increase Leader and Unit readiness, as well as, enhancing Individual Soldier physical, emotional, spiritual, financial and employment readiness.

On Wednesday, October 5, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division had a conference call with Hakeem Basheerud-Deen, Director of Veterans Services and Employment, Office of Personnel Management (OPM), regarding the downgrading of low-level GS positions (GS7 and below) within the VA. A majority of these positions are occupied by veterans and service-connected disabled veterans. A resolution has been drafted for review at the Fall NEC meetings.

On Wednesday, October 5, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division had a conference with Cara Lustig, Senior Associate of Events, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, regarding the Career Fair being held at the National Guard Armory in Warwick, Rhode Island. The Governor of Rhode Island, Senator Jack Reed, Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs for the State of RI, and Mayor of Warwick will be present at the event.

On Thursday, October 6, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division met with Michael Michaud, Assistant Secretary of Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), Department of Labor (DOL), to discuss their website. On January 1, 2017, DOL will assume the re-

sponsibility of assisting veterans with a centralized website - www.veterans.gov - with the termination of www.vets.gov.

On Friday, October 7, the National Veterans Employment & Education Division had a conference call with local community service providers in Washington, DC, that assist homeless veterans and their families. The discussion centered on the steps it takes to assist and provide the necessary treatment, housing and job training that positively effect homeless veterans ability to establish self-sufficiency and long-term success.

TOPIC 3: EMPLOYMENT

Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced today the start of a new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) jobs program that will use the national apprenticeship system to hire new employees as agricultural commodity graders, a key role in USDA's mission to protect American consumers. The new program will also serve as a way to increase jobs for U.S. veterans.

The program, piloted by USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), is a registered national apprenticeship program that combines on-the-job training with theoretical and practical instruction in the classroom and online. Apprentices who complete the paid training program will meet the qualifications for a position as a USDA Agricultural Commodities Grader.

TOPIC 4: VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

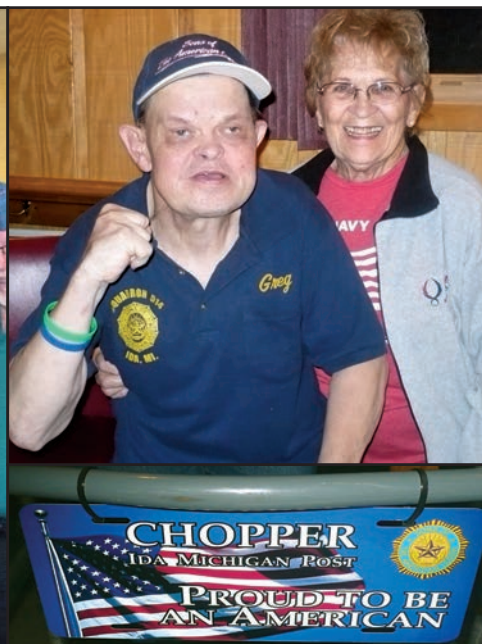
On September 29, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert McDonald announced the award of \$3.4 million in grant funding offered through the Grant and Per Diem (GPD) Program to 16 community agencies that provide enhanced services for homeless veterans with special needs. The GPD Program promotes the development and provision of supportive housing and services to help homeless veterans to have stable residences, increase their skills and income, and achieve independence. Specifically, GPD special need grant funding assists with additional operating costs of transitional housing and services for special need groups such as women, chronically mental ill, frail elderly, terminally ill, and those with minor dependents.

"GPD Special Need Grants exemplify VA's response to the wide range of needs of subpopulations of homeless Veterans," said VA Secretary McDonald. "These 16 grants strengthen the continuum of VA services to help the most vulnerable Veterans become stably housed and achieve greater self-determination." As a result of these and other efforts, the number of U.S. veterans experiencing homelessness has been cut nearly in half since 2010. As of September 16, 2016, 29 communities and two states have confirmed and publicly announced that they

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Mike Boughner, Greg "CHOPPER" Smith, Commander Carvin Chapman, PDC Greg Price show off their license plates with members of the Ida Post 514 SAL members.



Greg "CHOPPER" Smith and his mother.



Detachment Commander Carvin and his wife Kathy and Dominic Merlington (Squadron 287 Commander) at Red Flannel Day in Cedar Springs

On October 6th at the SAL meeting for Ida post 514 Commander Carvin Chatman along with past commanders Greg Price and Mike Boughner came on a special mission. Mike had noticed that the last time he saw Greg "CHOPPER" Smith that he no longer had his license plate on the front of his walker! The 3 commanders presented "CHOPPER" with a new plate. In turn "CHOPPER" presented to Commander Carter a HUEY plate and to Mike Boughner a MEANIE plate, both the courtesy of Past commander Greg Price. The squadron got in the background to enjoy in the fun that night.

SON'S OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SUPPORT U.P. HONOR FLIGHT

(Gladstone). August Mattson Squad #71 Son's of the American Legion Has given the next U.P. Honor flight \$500.00 toward their funding for their next flight. The money was raised at the September 11th Croatian Chicken dinner held at the Legion home on Delta Avenue in Gladstone.

On hand to accept the check was Scott Knauf, Chairperson for the U.P. Honor Flight. The U.P. Honor flight just returned from their 11th mission on September 21. It's the second mission for which Knauf was the leader. He took over for Mission ten from Barb Van Rooy, who founded the program and guided the first nine flights. Mission 11, which brought World War II and Korean War veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the memorials in their honor and other landmarks. More than 700 veterans have made the trip so far at no cost to them. U.P. Honor Flight volunteers work diligently to raise funds for the program. For them, the fund-raising is

a labor of love.

Knauf said he's ready for the next flight.

"Mission 11 was a great experience and went off perfectly. Our weather was wonderful in both DC and Escanaba," he said. "We get such wonderful support from our community, each veteran is assigned a guardian, who has received special training for the journey. The guardians are with the veterans every step of the way on the trip, which is something of a whirlwind, stopping at many memorials and landmarks during the course of the day.

Knauf said that "We are currently accepting applications from World War II and Korean veterans for our flight next May."

For more information, email Knauf at scott@uphonorflight.org, call 280-2871 or visit the organization's website at uphonorflight.org where applications for veterans and potential guardians are available for download.



Left to Right- Squad #71 Member Tony Sustarich, Honor flight Chairman Scott Knauf, Squad Commander Bill Germain, S.A.L. Members, John Blair, Bob Snowaert.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Many Unclaimed Veterans Cremains across the United States continue to be located. Some of these Forgotten Veterans that "Have Not been spoken for", have been sitting on shelves in Funeral Homes for a period that spans the years from 1890 to 1971, an era that begins with the Spanish American War and ends with Vietnam.

Reports on the MIAP website shows that during the months of October and November there will be services for Unclaimed Ashes that have been located and verified as being eligible to be interred in National cemeteries of at least 66 Veterans and 4 Spouses. They will be buried with Full Military Honor.

I was talking with Garden City Post

#396 Post Service Officer Bob Gillet, about sending the information about any Unclaimed Cremains that have been located to St. Louis to verify them as being a Veteran. Bob informed me that we can contact The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, P.O. Box 30104, Lansing, MI. 48909, email: MVAAR-ResourceCenter@michigan.gov to also attain a verification form.

Let us remain vigilant in visiting Funeral Homes in our communities looking for any Unclaimed Cremains that could be those of a Veteran that has been Forgotten for years.

For God & Country,

Greg Price



Veterans Day November 11, 2016



October 8, 2016

To: Detachment Commanders & Adjutants
From: SAL National Veterans Employment and Education Commission

The SAL National Veterans Employment and Education Commission is asking for your assistance. We are requesting that all Detachments establish their own VE&E Commission/Committee to assist us in getting information out concerning Job Fairs, benefits available and other valuable information out to our Veterans. We are hopeful that some of you have already done so. It is additionally requested that each Detachment then request their Districts and Squadrons to follow suit and establish the same.

We are introducing a Resolution this weekend to create a "VE&E On-Board Certificate Award" for presentation at our National Convention to all Detachments that do so, as well as to the Region that, by percentage has the most Detachments creating these VE&E Commissions/Committees. It is our hope that this Resolution will be approved by the NEC at tomorrow's meeting.

Once a Detachment VE&E Commission/Committee has been established, please fill out the following information and return to our Commission.

VE&E Chairman _____ Phone# _____
E-mail _____

Please mail completed form to: Larry "Bear" Weinzirl, National VE&E Chairman, PO Box 578, Perryville, Md. 21903

Or E-mail information back to me at: nesdsal@aol.com

Please help us to get Veterans Employment and Education Commissions/Committees organized at all levels of our organization.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Bear

Larry "Bear" Weinzirl
National Chairman
Veterans Employment and Education Commission
Sons of The American Legion
"Knowledge is Power"

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

I recently met with our Detachment Commander Carvin Chapman, Skipper Townes, and Mark Sutton at Department. Mark and others at Department had created a File showing which Squadrons have a Copy of their Constitution & Bylaws, and which Squadrons have a Photo of their Original Charter inside a Folder at Department that holds their Squadrons Information.

Many of our Squadrons that Do Not have all of these required documents in their folders, will receive a letter indicating the need to send a copy of either their Constitution & Bylaws, their Charter, or both to Department.

Those Squadrons that have had

a copy of their Constitution & Bylaws at Department for over two years will be asked to review them, to see if any changes are needed to be added or deleted to keep it up to date.

Squadrons that Do Not have a copy of their Charter at Department, will be asked to take a photograph of the Front, and Back of their Charter. The front photo will show the Squadrons Original Charter, and the photo of the back will show the Original Signatures for the Application of that Charter.

Let us all work together to get these Required Documents up to Department, and into their respective folders.

Thank you, Greg Price

NOVEMBER NEF & PUBLICATIONS REPORT

Devastation, flood, lost lives, rain, hail, winds and more. It's name was Matthew and its path hit the Southern and Eastern costal States. Millions without power, billions of dollars in damage to home, buildings, schools, legions and our family members. We need your help now. The National Emergency Fund is set up for this but we need funds to help our Legion Family. This is a call to action new. Please send in your donations to The American Legion National Emergency Fund-PO Box 1954- Indianapolis, IN 46206. Please make a copy of your checks for our records and send them to me at Sandy Lipman- 13633 Vernon, Oak Park, MI 48237. This also helps in keeping track in the amount of money that was sent in for the Annual Reports.

The American Legion National Emergency Fund is set up to quickly and efficiently to provide monies to affected Legion Family Members and Posts. Full 100% of donations to the NEF are turned into grants. Donations are not used to cover Administration and Promotional costs. The NEF relies on do-

nations to help Legionnaires, Auxiliary and members of the Sons of The American Legion caused from these disasters. A big Thank you to Jim Roberts, Past National SAL Commander for his work this past 2 weeks in Florida as a representative of FEMA. Please donate and help our Legion Family Members.

Now for the Newsletters. Articles for the March newsletter must be sent to me by February 1st and for the May issue articles must be sent to me by March 1st. Please Blue Cappers, send me your information of what is going on in your Squadron. Send me articles and pictures. This is your newsletter and we know you do great work. Also please make sure that all SAL Convention information is in these two issues.

Finally Congratulations to the Michigan Legionnaire and Mark Sutton on their National MALPA Award and to all of the Michigan Legion Organization for their contributions to make this paper an Award winning publication.

Yours in God and Country
Sandy Lipman
Chairman

NVE&E Report Cont. from page 12

have effectively ended veteran homelessness, serving as models for others across the nation.

TOPIC 5: CAREER FAIR

This week, work continued on The American Legion's upcoming hiring events to be staged in Arlington (TX), Belle Chasse (LA), Biloxi (MS), Cincinnati, Fort Jackson (SC), Fort Lee (VA), Fredericksburg (VA), Huntsville (AL), Joint Base Andrews, Kansas City, King George (VA), Lexington (KY), Lexington Park (MD), Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Montgomery (AL), Omaha (NE), Philadelphia, Pinellas Park (FL), Reston (VA), Rochester (NY), Springfield (IL), Springfield (VA) and Washington, DC.

The mission of The American Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Commission is to take actions that affect the economic well-being of veterans, including issues relating to veterans' education, employment, home loans, vocational rehabilitation, homelessness and small business.

TOPIC 6: EDUCATION

The American Legion is supporting federal efforts to assist student veterans impacted by the closure of ITT Technical Institute (ITT Tech) by providing educational counseling through its service officer network. ITT Tech announced it was permanently closing all its campuses nationwide Sept. 6, citing actions by the U.S. Department of Education to ban the for-profit institution from enrolling new students using federal financial aid over concerns of financial mismanagement. This announcement

directly affects more than 6,000 military veterans expected to attend fall 2016 classes using GI Bill funds.

Accredited American Legion Service Officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, which is free to all veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education. Recently, service officers have received information to specifically counsel veterans affected by the ITT Tech closings.

"We are deeply troubled by ITT Tech's abrupt closing and the blockade it has placed in front of veterans seeking higher education," said American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt. "Since its inception, The American Legion has honored its commitment to veterans and their families in readjusting to civilian life. Today, our service officers assist veterans with understanding their benefits, solving VA's health-care maze and finding educational opportunities that match their interests. We are honored to serve as the nation's vanguard for veterans' education benefits by counseling these veterans through our service officer network."

To contact your nearest American Legion Department Service Officer for ITT Tech information or questions on VA benefits, visit www.legion.org/serviceofficers.

Joseph C. Sharpe, Jr., Director
Veterans Employment &
Education Division
202.861.2700 ext. 2989
Week Ending: 10/7/16

Veteran Service

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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



Gary Easterling
Director

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Mr. Gary Easterling, Director
Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210
477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226
Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697
e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MichiganVAR

GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION

IS PROUD TO PRESENT

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
WINTER MEETING MARCH 9-12, 2017

REGISTRATION: \$15.00 per person, you must be registered to attend meetings.

PAYABLE TO: Genesee County Convention Corporation

MAILED TO: Bernie Langlois, 12248 E. Atherton Rd., Davison, MI 48423

CHECKS ONLY PLEASE

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

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riders

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riers

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riers

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riders

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Note: The Code # ALD will allow the hotel to access the room rate of 92.00 + 11% tax.
All major credit cards are acceptable.

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

If you have asked the hotel for any special needs and would like to verify them please drop a note in with your registration and we will verify them for you. **THE HOLIDAY INN & THE COURTYARD HAVE DETROIT WATER...NOT FLINT WATER.**

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

Bernie Langlois (Leg.) 810-653-6517

Venus Langlois (Aux.) 810-653-6517

Veterans Service Office Located Inside DCC has Helped More Than 3,500 Clients Since 2014



Article and Picture: By Dave Haddon, Twitter: @NHDaveH, The News-Herald Newspaper Sep 26, 2016 edition

Lanny Thomas is a lone island in an ocean of veterans.

Thomas is the only paid service officer at the American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Office that is located inside the Downriver Community Conference Building in Southgate.

The office, 15100 North Line Road, is open Wednesday and Thursday each week from 8 a.m. until they run out of veterans to help for the day. Active duty military is also eligible for assistance at the office.

"We change people's lives," Thomas said when asked what exactly the office does for its clients. "We're here locally and advocate for veterans."

Since the office opened in 2014, more than 3,500 people have been helped in various ways at the office.

Thomas said, the DCC office offers free parking and is easy to find, unlike others veteran services offices across the state.

"We're not hidden in some large government building," he said. "We're here and ready to help."

According to the American Legion, officers like Thomas are specially trained to provide expert assistance to veterans and their immediate families.

"We advocate for them," Thomas said. "We are the largest veterans service organization in the country."

Most of the help that Thomas, and his staff of 11 volunteers give out is with applying for VA disability benefits. Other assistance they offer includes providing information, referrals and resources on education, employment, business, and death benefits among other services.

"There is no magic button to push," volunteer John Perry said. "But we are here to help."

The volunteers are all service veterans in their own right.

"A veteran won't talk to anyone else like they will another veteran," Perry said. "We are able to help in ways that others just can't."

No appointments are necessary to see Thomas or any of the other volunteers. Rather, it is on a first-come, first-served basis with a sign-up sheet.

This veterans service office is a one-stop shop for veterans' service needs including pension, disability, compensation claims, seniors and current military assistance.

Since the office opened in 2014, more than 3,500 people have been helped in various ways at the office.

For more information about assistance check <http://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/> or call the Southgate office at 1-313-964-6640.

About the Junior Shooting Sports Program



Kayle Gadeken from Nebraska lines up her sights before the Junior Shooting Sports competition at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado Saturday July 23, 2016. Photo by Clay Lomneth.

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Both males and females can participate, through Legion sponsorship; disabled youth are encouraged to join, as competitive shooting is a sport that creates an equal playing field for all competitors. Contact your local Legion post, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Auxiliary unit for information about affiliating as a club or individual.

Junior Shooting Sports is a three-part program that combines the Basic Marksmanship Course, Qualification Awards and Air Rifle Competition into a well-rounded activity.

Basic Marksmanship Course

The Basic Marksmanship Course, given to Shooting Sports participants, offers comprehensive instruction for beginning shooters with little or no marksmanship experience. Designed for an instructor's easy use, the course teaches gun safety and marksmanship fundamentals, using short lectures or discussions, followed by hands-on activities. The package includes:

Instructor's Guide

Detailed information for teaching the course. Download from the JSSP Resources page, at www.legion.org/shooting

Student Handbook

Now in its third edition, a comprehensive reference text for beginners that thoroughly covers the fundamentals of position shooting. Download from the JSSP Resources page, at www.legion.org/shooting

Learning Tools

Six quizzes and a final exam.

Qualification Awards

Graduates who want to keep improving their skills can enroll in air-rifle qualification courses provided by the National Rifle Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Programs. These courses offer personal skill-development ladders for shooters to achieve established performance standards.

Air Rifle Competition

The annual 3-Position Junior Air Rifle National Championship is a tournament that begins with postal matches. State and/or regional champions are determined and advance to a qualification round (also a postal match) to determine the athletes who will earn expense-paid trips to compete in the national championship. The national championship is a shoulder-to-shoulder match held each July at the USA Shooting range facilities at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

Michigan wants to rebuild Junior Shooting

Are you interested in starting a Junior Shooting Club in your Post? Check out the legion.org/shooting website for more information. Then contact 2nd District Commander Wayne Blank who is a NRA certified instructor and on a National Rifle Association board which may have grant money to help start a program. His phone number is 734-241-9131.

Does your Post Host Millionaire Parties? Michigan Gaming Control Board Issues New Forms



The Michigan Gaming Control Board has updated the forms for Millionaire Parties as of September 26, 2016. To find the new forms go to their website www.michigan.gov/mgcb, on the left menu click on Millionaire Party, then click Forms.



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2017 WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Saturday, March 10, 2017

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI
Cash Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
\$30.00 per person

Select # of each: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

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

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

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS AT
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
FEBRUARY 9, 2017
No Refunds after 2/9/2017

Community Service

Dawn Gramza, Chairman

As we approach the winter, there are many chances for our members to represent our motto "Service to others not self" beginning with activities such as helping with food banks and collecting winter clothing for shelters. Many members are doing things every day that they don't consider to be Community Service, but it is. Anytime you are helping your fellow man and not getting paid, that is "COMMUNITY SERVICE."

Fall Conference was a great opportunity to help people look at all the things that fall under Community Service. The one

thing we all need to remember is to record our activities! ALA members are very active helping others and guilty of not tooting our own horn, so remember to report all you or your unit do.

ALA suggested days of service:

Veteran's Day
(November 11, 2016)

National Family Volunteer Day
(November 19, 2016)

Giving Tuesday
(November 29, 2016)

Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service
(January 16, 2017)

National Volunteer Week
(April 23-29, 2017)

News from Oscar Johnson VA Medical Center

Barbara Larson, Representative

Our new activities director will be starting Nov 14th. He will be doing orientation at that time and reviewing all of the activities of the CLC. He will be a great addition to the facility since the last one retired. Bingo is doing fine but for me help is always needed on Saturday. The hospital lets High school students volunteer but have to work under adult supervision.

The Christmas gift shop is Dec 6th from 9 to 2:30 pm. Help is needed from 7:30 am till 9, to set up the dining room with all the merchandise and items the units send. All the units have received their gift shop list of what to purchase and how many. I will

be receiving toys so that does not have to be bought. Much help is needed from 9 till 2:30 to help get patients to the gift shop and helping them to shop. Last year 7 from Menominee and 2 from Iron River was a great help and also the 6 from Wisconsin also come to help. Thank you to all.

The canteen will be moving to the basement next to the kitchen. The Store will remain on 3rd floor. CLC will be expanding in late 2017 or 2018. The Choice Program is doing well and is expanding fast. It helps the veteran get appointments within 5 days when necessary. Future events: Veterans Day Program, Thanksgiving, Patient Christmas Party. Volunteers are always needed. Come and join and feel great in helping a veteran.

Hospital Service

Bonnie Holt, Hospital Chairman

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program has a Hospital Chairman. The job is overseeing the five (5) Hospital in Michigan Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Iron Mountain and Saginaw. We do our best to make sure the Representatives and Deputies have enough volunteers to help them.

Hours are VERY important to keep track of all year long. There are computers at each

Hospital keeping track of the volunteer hours. If you need to keep track of your volunteer hours at each Unit meeting, do it each month than it will not be a hassle come reporting time.

This year National American Legion Auxiliary has asked that we have our membership id number in order to get any pin and or hour bar.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer for our Veterans. Let's remember our Department President, Ellen's theme "Hats Off To Our Veterans"

Saginaw VA

Bonnie Holt, Saginaw VA Representative

Our Department President, Ellen says "Hats Off To Our Veterans". Speaking of Veterans my special project to the year 2016 – 2017 is new lazy boy recliners.

All of our old lazy boy recliners at the Saginaw VAMC Hospital have all worn out after much use. The Veterans need new lazy boy recliners to relax and enjoy while their stay in the hospital. Make checks out to The American Legion Auxiliary in the memo section write Saginaw VA recliners. Thank you very much to those who have donated earlier.

Our Christmas Gift Shop this year is on a Thursday, 12-8-16 at 10 a. m. The Veterans will be greeted this year by Mr. and

Mrs. Santa. We can't wait to see all the happy smiles on the Veterans faces when Santa comes in to see them on this wonderful holiday. Please mail all boxes to The Saginaw VAMC Hospital, 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48603 before 12-1-16.

The Veterans have been seeing a new face with me as we do our volunteer on Mondays. Laurie Sweet from Carson City Unit 380 is my new 1st Deputy. She has been doing a great job. Her enthusiasm is so catchy that the Veterans in their sweet way want to marry her. We get plenty of laughs and tears as we go from room to room doing our volunteer work.

Many Thanks to all the Posts, Units and SAL who have sent in their donations and continue to support our Veterans.

Thank You

Happy
Thanksgiving



The Juniors are Spreading Their Magic around the State!

Connie Kovacs, Junior Activities Chairperson

If you think you may have spotted a pixie, it may have been the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan Honorary Juniors spreading their wings and sprinkling their magic pixie dust around the State! Whether a pie eating contest during the Veterans Carnival at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, marching in the annual Mint Festival Parade in St. Johns and the Red Flannel Festival Parade in Cedar Springs to working hard at learning new skills at Fall Conference

in Muskegon! Once they sprinkle their pixie dust on you, they will win over your hearts, minds and support for a truly great cause!

The personal project of Honorary Juniors President – Sabrina Townes is Stiggy's Dogs. Stiggy's Dogs is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization that provides our military veterans living with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury another method of healing through service and companion dogs. They seek to help heal the wounds of war, provide families with new beginnings and raise

awareness about the potential of shelter dogs everywhere. We believe in rescued dogs and know from experience that many mixed breed and rescue dogs can make wonderful service dogs and provide a mutually beneficial relationship with a veteran living with Post Traumatic Stress and/or a Traumatic Brain Injury. Stiggy's provides the Psychiatric Service Dog, (PSD), and associated training at 'NO COST' to the veteran. The average cost to rescue, care for and train a service dog for the veteran is around \$8000.00. So far this year, the

Juniors have raised \$1000.00 for Stiggy's! Great job, Juniors!

Those wishing to donate to Honorary Juniors President Sabrina's Special Project may do so by making checks payable to: The "Dept. of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary"

Memo Line: "Honorary Jr President's Special Project - Stiggy's Dogs"

Please mail donations to:
Sabrina Townes,
Dept. of Michigan
Honorary Jr. President
PO Box 584
Cedar Springs, MI 49319

MICHIGAN AWARDS FROM NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016

Congratulations to the winners and thank you for representing Michigan!

Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Capital City Unit 12, Sixth District	Contributing Largest Amount to the Fund
Children & Youth	Feneley-McNeil-Nesbit Unit 290, Judith Hamilton, Unit President	Conducted best promotion of Children & Youth Program Narrative not to exceed 1,000 words
Leadership	Marcy Jorae, Department of Michigan Leadership Chairman	Present to the Department Leadership Chairman with the best overall Leadership program
Leadership	Marcy Jorae, Department of Michigan Leadership Chairman	Presented to the Department Leadership Chairman who best exemplifies what her department did to promote a culture of goodwill
Public Relations	Northeastern Unit 459 presented to Chris Moore	Created the 3 best media resources
VA&R	Unit 208, Jacqueline Weersing	Best overall program in VA&R



SAL Commander Carvin Chapman, Auxiliary President Ellen Jackson, along with the Juniors visit the Red Flannel Festival in Cedar Springs.



Thanks to the generosity of the Units in the Fifth District and also outside organizations, we were able to contribute toward the purchase of one of the exercise bikes used in the Therapy Department at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Shown in the picture is one of the veterans taking advantage of this bike.

Night of Thunder and Fire

Wayne L. Blank, Sr., 2nd District Commander & Night of Thunder & Fire Chairman



September 11, 2001 – a day America will never forget. American Air flight 11 and United Airline flight 175 were intentionally crashed into the North and South towers of the New York City World Trade Center – collapsing the two 110 story towers within one hour and 42 minutes. American Airline flight 77 intentionally crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia. United Air flight 93 was steered towards Washington D.C. either at the White House or the Capitol building- their exact destination unknown. Passengers overcame the hijackers with this flight crashing into a field in Stoneycreek Township,

Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

A total of 2996 people, including hijackers, were killed and more than 6000 other injured. September 11, 2001 marked the worst and deadliest terrorist attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

Fifteen years later the American Legion Riders and Post 514, Ida, MI hosted their third Night of Thunder and Fire memorial. The weather was great and the motorcycles poured in. There were two bands alternately playing inside the hall: Buster Strange and Armed-N- Dangerous. Guests were eating and dancing to the music. DJ, John Miller, of the Legion Riders spun tunes outside. Nation-



al Anthem was sung by Amy Kinsey Quinn. The American Legion Auxiliary prepared and served hot dogs, sloppy joes and chips. Riders held hourly 50/50 raffles, offered cookies (Mrs. Field's), served drinks, sold koozies, and tickets for donated bucket prizes.

Speakers of the night were Robert Grimaldi from Fallen & Wounded Soldiers of Michigan, Tammie Pierce from Military Families of Monroe, and Wayne Blank, Night of Thunder & Fire Event Chairman.

At precisely 9:11 p.m. the Ida and Bedford Fire Department trucks signaled with their flashing lights and sirens the "Start your Engines" for the bikes and street rods. It was awesome!

Fallen & Wounded Soldiers of Michigan and Military Families of Monroe are the donation recipients of this year's event.

A special "Thank You" to everyone who made this event a huge success!

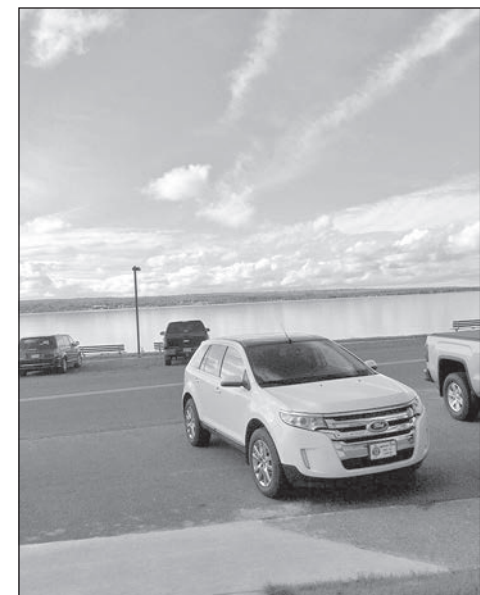


Jim Miller of the Wood Carvers Assoc. of MI presents a decorated hand made cane to Comrade Claude Smith, a Korean War veteran of Oakley Traynor Post 64 in Flint

Where's Your Post?

Tell us about your post and send a couple of pictures

William McGlue Post 144, located on beautiful Keweenaw Bay in L'Anse, Michigan, at 115 North Front Street, was chartered on April 27, 1921. It is the home Post of past State Commander Bill Coffey. Current Post Commander is Dan Larson – visit our Post on Facebook for more details, search "American Legion Post 144 L'Anse, MI"



Rockford American Legion Post Honors Local Law Enforcement, by Pledging Their Support and Solidarity

Clyde Sinclair, Past Post 102 Commander

Stirred by current events involving the slaying of, and disrespect for, police officers across America, the members of Merritt Lamb Post 102 of The American Legion, resolved to show their support to those who serve and protect.

“Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that we pledge our support and solidarity with the men and women who serve, or who have served as law enforcement officers throughout this state and nation, and in particular to the Rockford City Police Department, the Kent County Sheriff Department and Michigan State Police Post 61”...

In the spirit of those who have served in the Armed Forces, these men and women place themselves between the law abiding citizens who make up this nation, and those criminal elements that desire only to commit crimes of violence against them.

In the performance of their duty, law enforcement officers face numerous trying and often dangerous situations. As citizens of this community, state and nation, we must stand in support of those who enforce our laws. They deserve no less than our greatest support and encouragement.



In a ceremony recently held at Rockford's American Legion Post, Commander Richard Hendrickson and other members of the Post present Rockford Police Chief David Jones, County Sheriff Larry Stelma and Lt. Chris McIntire of the Michigan State Police copies of their resolution of support.

Merritt Lamb Post 102, Rockford, Michigan Resolution of Support For Law Enforcement Officers In Our Community, State And Nation

Whereas, recent events throughout our nation have unfortunately demonstrated a reckless disregard for the lives and safety of law enforcement officers; and

Whereas, law enforcement officers are routinely called upon to serve and protect their fellow citizens by responding to horrendous events and acting heroically to save the lives of others; and

Whereas, law enforcement officers provide the safety and security necessary to live in a free and peaceful state; and

Whereas, in the performance of their duty, numerous law enforcement officers have paid the ultimate price for the safety and security of others; and

Whereas, we, the members of Merritt Lamb Post 102 and those community members listed who have joined with us, condemn those dissenters in our society who use rioting, injury to others, and the destruction of property as a means of expressing their views, and those who unwittingly follow the leadership of known agitators whose avowed aim is to bring civil unrest to our nation;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we pledge our support and solidarity with the men and women who serve, or who have served, as law enforcement officers throughout this state and nation, and in particular to the Rockford City Police Department, the Kent County Sheriff Department and Michigan State Police Post 61, for their distinctive service and dedicated efforts, earning our highest respect and deepest gratitude, which must be recognized and honored for their selfless and heroic service and invaluable contribution to upholding justice, enforcing the rule of law, and protecting the innocent in the City of Rockford, the State of Michigan, and this nation.

Signed this date, July 15, 2016

Restoration Cont. from page 8

mapped and made accessible online,” Conatser said. “These monuments and memorials are no good to anyone if no one knows where they are and what they express. As years and decades go by, they deteriorate with age and are forgotten – which is not what we want.”

He said the entire American Legion Family can get involved with the effort to find and revive local memorials in honor of the centennial, whether they pursue grant money or not. American Legion Riders chapters, Sons of The American Legion Squadrons, American Legion Auxiliary units, Boy Scout troops attached to posts and others in local communities can work together to locate and take inventory, he said. Co-

natser advised the centennial representatives to make contact with American Legion department adjutants to spread the word about the effort and to find opportunities to work together as the Legion draws nearer to its 100th anniversary, to be recognized between August 2018 and November 2019.

“Thousands of hometown American Legion posts were named in honor of World War I troops who gave their lives to win peace in Europe,” Conatser said. “The earliest American Legion members were dedicated to the fourth line in the Preamble to our Constitution: ‘to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars.’”

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The American Legion Department of Michigan Eagle Scout of the Year



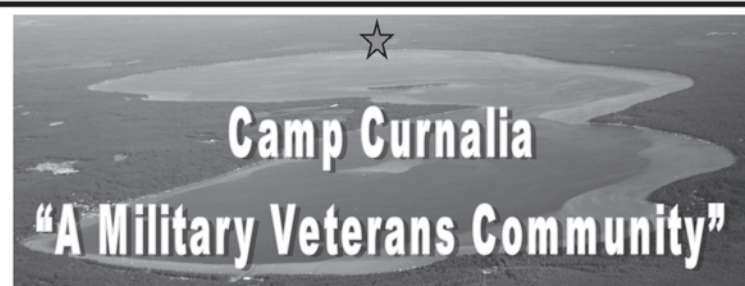
Department Scouting Chairman Carl Atkinson with Eagle Scout of the Year recipient, Andrew Twiford at our Fall Meeting in Muskegon.

Our Eagle Scout of the Year is Andrew Twiford of Byron Center, MI who just completed the 11th grade at Byron Center High School and carries a 3.82 GPA. Andrew has completed his Eagle Scout rank and has added 4 palms. Andrew is in the National Honor Society and participates in band, soccer team, lacrosse team and track team.

Andrew excelled in Cub Scouts and won many awards. Andrew was part of Boy Scout Troop 250 where he held a number of leadership positions. Andrew earned 62 merit badges which is a huge accomplishment. He participates in many campouts, jamborees, and activities. Some special activities Andrew participated in were Mackinac Island Honor Guard, USS Gerald R. Ford CVN-78 Christening Ceremony Guard, and 98th Indianapolis 500 Opening Ceremony. Andrew participated in the Lions of Michigan All State Band and a number of other community bands and volunteered many hours in support of veterans and senior citizen groups.

Andrew's Eagle Project was to build three flag disposal boxes to collect flags. The project was a real success and there have been over a 1000 flags collected. Andrew's career interests lie in the area of aeronautics and space exploration and engineering.

We congratulate Andrew on being chosen the Eagle Scout of the Year for the American Legion Michigan Department. We wish Andrew much success in his future.



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

Post 129 Donates Flag Pole to the Portland Community



American Legion Post 129 purchased a 35 ft flag pole, flag, and a bronze plaque for the dedication of the Red Mill Pavilion in Portland, MI. The dedication ceremony took place on October 1, 2016. The Honor Guard ceremoniously presented the flag to the community.

Around the State...



Boys and Girl Scouts from around the Great Lakes States converged on the old Wilwin property in Trout Lake, MI again this September for the international Scout rally.



Girl Scout Cookies for the Troops. For the past several years during the Annual Girl Scout Cookie sales Meredith and Amanda Allen would promote buying boxes of cookies for service men and women overseas. An event would be held at Post 35 to box, label, and ship the cookies in April. In September American Legion Family from Post 35 and Unit 35 in Traverse City honored the Allen's with a Certificate of Appreciation for supporting those deployed.



2nd Zone Commander Catherine Buckley presented WZZM 13 Watchdog Team Reporter David Baily an Excellence in Media award for his coverage of the Grand Rapids Veterans Home.



Neal Horning, Michigan's 4th Zone Commander, is now showing his Legion Pride on his Ford Mustang. He has had the car for several years and enjoys driving with the top down and he uses it for his local parades. Now he will show his Legion Pride at parades and as he drives the Northern Michigan roads.



Legion Post 216 Commander Rich Cherf hands over \$1000 scholarship check to David Vernon, Senior from Lakeland High School, as he reads his essay to Members



State Commander Larry Money, 4th District Commander Gary Wear, Department Membership Director Barry Wood attend the 4th District Meeting.



Plymouth Passage-Gayde Post 391 members meet with Chaplain David Brown at the Detroit Veterans Hospital prior to serving coffee & donuts to veterans after Sunday religious services. It to rt: Gene Belattari, Mark Gunn, John Lockwood, Chaplain David Brown, Johnnie Johnson, and Frank Pawelak.



Morenci, MI Post 368 American Legion Riders presented a Blue Star Banner to the family of PFC 1st Class Cody Tule. Photos: (Left) PFC Cody Tule, ALR President John Byard. (Right) Cody's step-father Jim Cox, sister Emilee Cox, ALR president John Byard, mother Sandy Cox, PFC Tule, sister Rebecca Cox and girlfriend Cheyenne Stone.