



# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

## 2017 Student Programs & College Scholarships



### The American Legion supports the youth of Michigan

The American Legion Department of Michigan provides programs to high school students in a broad range of areas. Our American Legion Baseball league, Boys State, Eagle Scout of the Year, Michigan State Police Student Trooper, and Oratorical contest gives our students the opportunities to experience teamwork, government leadership, oral communication, and police career experience.

### Get your Post involved

Sponsor a young man and young lady to Boys State and Girls State, as well as, sponsoring one to Student Trooper. These are great experiences for the young people. It helps them see a different world, learn by doing, and make new friends.

### Do you know high school students, family, or friends who have students needing money for college?

Every year The American Legion Department of Michigan provides opportunities to Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, war-time Veterans, and their descendents to win scholarship money. We have several ranges of scholarships, from \$500 for our marksman award in the Michigan State Police Student Trooper program, to \$20,000 from the Samsung Scholarship award through the Boys/Girls Nation program. In today's economic climate, help with the rising cost of education is welcome.

### Does your Post participate in any of the College Scholarship programs?

These programs offer a great opportunity to show the community that

we support them. As a Legionnaire do you know a high school student who would benefit from these programs? Take some brochures, applications, and information to your area schools. Even though every school in Michigan will receive a booklet with our program and scholarship information, personal contact is always superior.

### Scholarships

- Boys/Girls State - participants who are descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$1000 and/or a \$20,000 scholarship
- Guy Wilson Scholarship – descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship - descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- Oratorical Contest – Students compete for \$800-\$1500 on the Department (State) level and up to \$18,000 if they proceed to the National competition.
- Michigan State Police Student Trooper – Students could win 1 - \$1000 or 1 of 3 \$500 awards
- Eagle Scout of the Year – An Eagle Scout associated with The American Legion could win a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dept. of Michigan and a \$10,000 National scholarship
- The American Legion Baseball Scholarship – Members of Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win one of several national awards.
- The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship - Members of Michigan Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship.

Learn more at [www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships](http://www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships)

No Return Postage Requested

### War-Time Service Dates

US Army, Navy Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Service from December 7, 1941 - August 15, 1945

Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990 - Cessation of hostilities, as determined by US Government

Panama .....December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990

Grenada/Lebanon .. August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984

Vietnam War ..... February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

Korean War ..... June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

World War II ..... December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

World War I .....April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918



# Everyone says “we need more young people to get involved” The American Legion teaches them how.

## Boys State Program

*Learning through doing.....*

Helping to Build the Leaders of Tomorrow Every year The American Legion Boys State program and The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program teach young men and young women in their junior year of high school the function of government, a glimpse of life in a college dorm setting, leadership, management and communication skills. In the course of 7 days they will also develop friendships that will last a lifetime.



***“I am so grateful to you for this chance of a lifetime. I did have the time of my life! Boys State is going to go down as the best activity I’ve done in high school. It really sparked my interest in how the government works – at all levels. I can’t wait to start participating in voting and politics.” –Alec F. class of 2010***

**2017 Boys State is at Grand Valley State University - Grand Rapids, Michigan  
June 18 - 24, 2017**

### What is Boys State?

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by the American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. Our motto is “Learn by Doing”. The Boys State educational staff’s goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves, and to run their own state.

### Boys State is...LEARNING.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn more about their city, county, and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting. Boys Staters meet with elected and appointed officials to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of a variety of positions in government from people on the “inside.” Additionally, in Boys State, each citizen has the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is just what he makes it.

### Boys State is...POLITICS.

The first half of your Boys State experience will expose you to the world of politics. You will nominate candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices on the city, county, and state level. You will also, no doubt, be exposed to the “seamy” side of politics...the wheeling and dealing, the promises that cannot be kept, the vote trading, and the cajoling, to give a candidate or a party that “extra advantage.”

***“This program changed my life. It has allowed me to establish lifelong friendships, learn from some of the best counselors, and allowed me to meet some very honorable American Legion members.” –Ian M. class of 2010***

### Boys State is...GOVERNMENT.

When the dust has settled from the conventions, campaigns, and elections, Boys State needs to be governed for four days by its elected and appointed officials. Boys Staters will find themselves performing exactly the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world. Education and University Boards must make policies for their areas of responsibility. City councils, county commissions, and the state legislature must make ordinances and laws for their constituencies. Executive departments and other administrators must see that laws and policies are properly interpreted.

### Boys State is...INVOLVEMENT.

Come to Boys State determined to become as involved as possible in the many activities that are available to you in this mythical 51st state. The more active and involved you are, the more you will benefit from the program.

Boys State builds strong leaders of the future

- Rush Limbaugh Jr. (radio personality)
- Bill Clinton ( Former U.S. President)
- Dale Kildee (U.S. Rep, MI)
- Tom Brokaw (TV news anchor)
- Michael Jordan
- Mark L. Wahlberg (Actor)



### Boys State is...FRIENDSHIP.

You may arrive at Boys State knowing no one else. However, one of the fringe benefits of Boys State is how easy it is to get to know people, many of whom may remain your friend for the rest of your life.

Contact Jerry Kelley at (734) 434-8272 / jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net or Headquarters at (517) 371-4720 ext.23 / programs@michiganlegion.org

*Participants in Boys State, who are direct descendents of a wartime era veteran have the opportunity to win a \$1000 scholarship and up to a \$20,000 scholarship from Samsung*

**www.michiganboysstate.org**

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What if someone cannot afford to send a young person to Boys/Girls State?***

- Check with your Post, Posts provide sponsorship money for this program, but sometimes have a hard time finding an interested person. Kiwanis Club’s and Rotary Club’s have sponsored kids as well. Be sure to ask them. A local business is also an excellent source.

#### ***Our Post has set aside money, but we are having trouble finding a young person to attend Boys/Girls State, will department help us find one?***

- Yes the teachers on our educational staff have a network of educators throughout the state and can assist in finding someone who is interested.

#### ***What is the requirement for the young man or young lady?***

- They must be a Junior (11th Grade) in High School or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited home-school program, must be 15+ years old by June 4th, 2017 and have an interest in government.

**Application is due May 26, 2017**



# MI LEGIONNAIRE



Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXV No. 3

## MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

(USPS 010637) is published monthly except February, May, August, and December by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$10.00 non-members, members receive the publication as part of their dues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Legionnaire, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297.

### DEADLINE DATES

October 2016- September 1, 2016

Circulation: 97,687

Printed: 9-30-16 · Mailed: 10-3-16

### LEGION STATE HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

Publisher: Ronald Runyan  
Editor: Mark Sutton

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan  
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915  
(517) 371-4720 Fax: (517) 371-2401  
Web Site: www.michiganlegion.org  
Email: info@michiganlegion.org

Legion and SAL Membership - 24 -  
deanna@michiganlegion.org

Legion Finance - 17 -  
finance@michiganlegion.org

Programs, Boys State, Scholarships, Baseball, Website, Newspaper & History - 23 -  
roxanne@michiganlegion.org

Veterans Service -12- Wednesday only

Public Relations - 16 -  
mark@michiganlegion.org

Administration -13 -  
kim@michiganlegion.org

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

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

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

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

## Chaplain



Greetings Legion Family! How time flies the older I get. I must be having a lot of fun. September and Labor Day have past and we are now moving into October. The summer vacations are over and the kids are back in school. In the office our companies are discussing plans to make the most out of the fourth quarter. And, we've already had our Fall Conference. It's time to get to work to implement our programs and do some good. "Therefore my dear brothers and sisters stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

I love this time of year, the fall weather and football. I and many of my family members have birthdays in October. And, I look forward to all of the holidays. I guess

## "Rejoice"

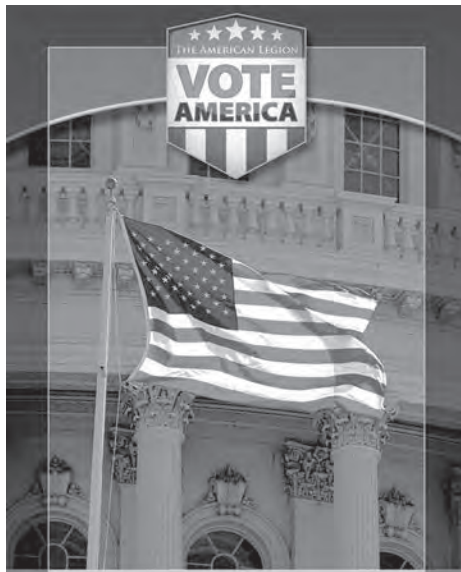
I just like to celebrate life. There is a saying I use a lot, "If you don't have a good time its your own fault." But no, I don't ignore the bad things in life that happen to us all. I pray for those that struggle with physical pain or financial problems. Sometimes those things can seem overwhelming. We need to labor together to ease their pain and improve their situation. We need to give them something to smile about. That's what we do for our family and friends (and Legion Family).

Another thing to remember is that God is the same, regardless of our own particular circumstance. He is bigger than our problems. Hosea 6:1 tells us that if we return to the Lord, although we feel torn to pieces, He will heal us and bind up our wounds. Knowing that, it gives us something to look forward to even when we feel at our worse. "I will glory in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and rejoice." Psalm 34:2.

## Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

This passage doesn't say wait until you feel better to rejoice. Rejoicing now is how you exercise your faith, trusting in the Lord.

Every day I look around and see the changes of the fall season like the colors in the trees. Michigan is beautiful this time of year. I know that winter is coming, but spring and summer will follow. I look at our grandchildren as they grow and discover new things in the world around them. It seems that I rediscover those things through their eyes. I look forward to sharing the future with them. I have so much to be thankful for. Everyday things change in our lives, some for good and some bad. I try to concentrate on the good, improve the bad and choose to be happy. "They rejoice in Your name all day long; they celebrate Your righteousness," Psalm 89:16. So, as I mentioned earlier, "If you don't have a good time....." God Bless You All. - Chaplain Eddie.



## Remember to Vote November 8th, 2016

## Permanent Time and Place Committee

## SEEKING BIDS FOR DEPARTMENT Conferences, Meetings, and Conventions

The committee is currently seeking bids for the following:

- Fall Conference 2017
- Fall Conference 2018
- Fall Conference 2019
- Annual Convention 2019



Please notify the State Adjutant Ron Runyan of your interest and to receive the requirements for the events. More information to be provided in the November/December Legionnaire.



## 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 Hilgriss	..... 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

Larry Money, State Commander

## Ride it to the TOP!!



Larry Money  
State Commander

Thirty-eight years in The American Legion is a long time, but as I think back today to when I first joined, something very striking occurs to me. I was one of

the “young veterans” I hear many people today complain about not joining the American Legion. Is it true that “younger veterans” are not joining or participating in Legion Posts all over Michigan? Or is it like back in the 70’s when I

joined and I think well I joined when I was young, was I different? Does age really matter or does their veteran status matter.

When I look on the Legion website I see pictures of younger veterans all the time. When I went to National Convention I saw younger veterans with their blue and white caps on. So I am confused.

I think about why 38 years later I am still a member. I think about all of the officer positions I have held at the post, district, and department levels. Why am I, not only, still a member, but an active member as well? Then it dawned

on me, I recalled the one event that made the difference, I was “ASKED” to be an officer, senior vice commander, in my local post. In my second year in the Legion I was a senior vice.

Can it really be that easy? Can we take our membership to the TOP in 2017 faster and better than any other year in recent memory? Yes, I believe we can, and it is really simple as to how. We have heard it before, but we are not living it. It is two simple words and one simple phrase, “JUST ASK”.

Do you know the new veteran who joined and is coming to the Post and maybe to the meeting? Or the one not coming to meeting? Have you “Asked” them to be a part of something special? Have you “Asked” them to be an officer? Have you “Asked” them to donate

money to a Boy Stater program?

Did you “ask” the owner of the vehicle with the Army sticker on it to join The American Legion? Or maybe your first question to them should be “What Post do you belong to?” Maybe we should assume they already belong.

Can it really be that simple? I don’t know, but what I do know from experience, is that it worked for me and I am grateful someone “Asked” me to be involved. In 2017 let’s “Ride Membership to the Top”, let’s keep it simple and “Just Ask” veteran after veteran after veteran to join The American Legion as we ride membership to the TOP in 2017. Maybe 38 years from now a veteran will be State Commander and say I remember when someone “just ask” me to do.....

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

## National Commander Charles Schmidt visits Michigan



Ron Runyan  
State Adjutant

In the military the one thing we all learn is to adapt to the situation. So when the National Commanders office called to tell us that Commander Schmidt had a scheduling conflict with our Winter Meeting in 2017 we had to adapt.

While speaking with National Commander Schmidt about different options I mentioned our Department Veteran Service Officer Training in Higgins Lake. Veteran service’s is one of the commander’s passions and he was excited to learn more about what Michigan does at our class and asked to join us at that time. Commander Schmidt was able to see our Depart-



ment Veteran Service Division train and inform Legionnaires and county service officers on the duties of helping veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

Commander Schmidt was impressed and inspired by the work Gary Easterling and his team did at Higgins Lake.

He also was able to attend the 10th District meeting and on September 11th joined Legion Family members in Traverse City to remember the tragedies of 15 years ago.

Thank you National Commander Schmidt for visiting Michigan and may you have a great Legion year.



# Headquarters

## Operation Comfort Warrior

### Department Commanders Special Project



Commander Money’s special project this year is Operation Comfort Warrior. Unlike other funds by other groups, 100% of the money donated is used for the servicemembers. To donate send a check to The Michigan American Legion: Memo line place Cmdr Money’s OCW.

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the

Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.

Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion’s Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide “nonessentials” - items that help wounded warriors’ recovery but don’t usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

**Every 10 minutes, someone dies from an accident . . .**

**Accident Facts to Know:**

- Accidents are the leading cause of premature deaths
- Men are at higher risk
- Living in an urban area increases risks
- About half happen at home

Protect your family with extra  
**Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accident Benefits**

Sources: National Safety Council, Injury Facts, 2014  
http://www.nsc.org/injuryfacts/accidents/injury.pdf



# AUXILIAIRE



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October 2016

From the Desk of the President

2016 - 2017 Department President, Ellen Jackson

## An Act of Mutual Helpfulness



Greetings to you all from your Department President:

The summer has rushed by, Fall Conference is over, and I trust everyone is busy working our programs.

I trust most all are aware of the many visits your Department President does

over the year, and hope you will enjoy learning about that summary at our Department Convention, in Flint. This year, I am taking the Presidents article to a different format. Its hats off to YOU, our members, sharing how you are displaying our Strategic plan. Thru sharing how YOU show promotion of our Organization, help strengthen your Unit, District, or Department, mirror training, show a culture of goodwill, or help to gain that 35,000 membership mark. The possibilities are really limitless, just as long as they share a Hats off attitude, and spotlight our "unsung" heroes. Remember this is about our Auxiliary members!

WHO WE ARE...WHAT WE DO...WHY WE MATTER

Here is a great start of an example:

### An Act of Mutual Helpfulness

Lynn Terhune is an example of what our organization stands for "Mutual Helpfulness". She saw that the membership chairman was going to Lansing and doing the job of clerk. She volunteered to come to department with her whenever she was coming down to help, and sometimes she even drove down herself to work.

Lynn helped get the filing all caught up and even put all 2016 files for placement in basement. Then she set-up and organized the 2017 files & file all new records. Lynn also organized the new Members application file by unit #. Also sent them down to basement for filing.

Then set-up the new 2016 new member applications. Lynn also organized the supply closet, filled supply orders. The whole time asking if there was more she

could do. She saw that the area where the accounting clerk had sat needed some TLC without being asked cleaned up the desk and organized the reception area.

Lynn displays the true meaning of "GOOD WILL". Lynn is the Unit President of Northeastern #459, Grand Rapids. Her entire family are very committed to the American Legion/Auxiliary. Emily, her daughter, the 5th District Honorary Junior President, has also donated several hours helping organizing the basement files with Deanna Cortwright. Emily has even recruited help from a fellow junior.

Thank you Sherri.

As of Sept. 1st, Lynn has volunteered over 60 hours at department.

It is members like Lynn that keep this organization going in a positive way.

Hats off to you Lynn Tentue and here's tipping our hats to you, Emily and Shari from myself and LoraLee for the unselfish act of caring about the American Legion Auxiliary and jumping in to help.

## Battle Creek VA

### By Barbara Parks Battle Creek Representative

The 2016-17 year is already started and where has the time gone? At Battle Creek VA the monthly Bingo parties are all scheduled but Units to take over some of the afternoon parties are still needed. If your Unit can host one of these parties please contact Deputy Carol Parks so she can put you on the list. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

The Battle Creek Gift Shop will be held on December 7th and 8th, in building 6 as usual. Please be sure to send your gifts in plenty of time so we can have a good selection for our Veterans. They appreciate so much being remembered each year. Please remember not to send any sharp or glass items; all gifts should be new and small sizes are not usu-

ally needed. There are several 3X and 4X sweat suits left over last year, so send mostly large, X large and 2X large sets. In case you are new doing the shopping this year a note on items needed. Each patient receives a sweat shirt and pants, socks, underwear and one additional item they may request such as a hand held game, radio with batteries, P.J.'s, wallets, hats and gloves, shirts, sweaters and so on. Also be sure to vary the sizes.

Volunteers will be greatly needed. Hours are from 8:00 A.M. to approximately 3:00 P.M. If you cannot spend the entire day, come for as long as you can. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes; and bring a pen and a pair of scissors, if possible. There are a variety of jobs and if you need one come look me up and I will find you one. And if possi-

ble plan on visiting the wards to deliver the gifts to the patients. They love to have you visit and you will enjoy it too.

I have been asked if it was possible for the hospital to provide an orientation while at Gift Shop. I am looking into this. If any Auxiliary member wishes to take this orientation, let me know so we would have an idea of how many to expect. I am not sure if this is possible so we will have to wait and see how things work out.

Also remember two of the other programs the Auxiliary provides at Battle Creek. One is the annual pro golf outing where the pros in the area put on a seminar for the Veterans and then the Veterans serve as cadies for the pros. They bring all of the Vets gifts and we provide lunch for all. Giving the Golfers and Vets

time to spend together; all of this is done on the VA grounds at the golf course.

The other program is the Father's Day program. All male Veterans receive a GENERAL Father's Day card with \$5.00 in canteen books distributed to them the week of Father's Day. Lady Veterans receive a Thinking of You card and also the \$5.00 in canteen books. (If there are 200 patients at \$5.00 each this comes to \$1000.00. So your donations will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have helped over the last few years and especially the last few months since I have been ill. All of your help was greatly appreciated. I am doing better and with God's blessing I will be ready for Gift Shop. Hope to see all of you then.

Georgia Downs, Department Chaplain

## The Golden Rule

by Barbara Farhan, 3-26-16.

**The Golden Rule** or law of reciprocity is the principle of treating others as one would wish to be treated oneself. It is a maxim of altruism seen in many human religions and human cultures.

This Biblical verse from 1 Peter 3:8-22 references the principle of the Golden Rule: Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. For "Whoever desires to love life

and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who evil."

As we strive to keep President Lincoln's promise let us strive for Honor, Confidence, Service and Cooperation in this great organization and in each of our lives.

Continue to keep our Servicemen and Servicewomen around the world in our prayers.

We have buttons with "Let's Be Kind To Each Other" so isn't it time that we practice applying, "Do unto Others as You would have them Do unto You?" When James Cash Penney founded his business in 1902, he sought to win public confidence through service, conviction and customer satisfaction. It was for this reason that his business was founded upon the principle of The Golden Rule. A famous quote from Mr. Penney, "Honor be-speaks Worth, Confidence be-gets Trust, Service brings Satisfaction, Cooperation proves the Quality of Leadership." Updated

## WOW-WHAT A YEAR SO FAR

### LoraLee Nauta Membership Chairman

Well, membership is back on track again with the help of a few key members.

A special thank you goes out to Lynn Terhune and Emily for all your help at department.

I was always aware of the detail that goes into the process of membership, but boy had no idea just how much detail it takes.

I would like to discuss a key points that would help a lot when processing your application or transmittals.

- PLEASE print clearly and neatly( we don't want to guess if it's an a or o )
- Applications MUST be completely filled out.

I'm finding that some have to be sent back to the unit because, No birth date- no unit #-Eligible Legion Member's #. These are very Important.....

These are just some of the important steps to help assure your application or transmittals are done in a timely matter.

Also PLEASE remember when you call or e-mail the office or membership clerk, that you treat them the same way that you wish to be treated. **HUMBLE & KIND**

I have learned so much working at Department these last few weeks, it's been stressful at times and yet very rewarding. I have to new found respect for this job.

I'm very excited about this year's membership, as a lot of you know we have been 1st in Central Division for the last three years, and unusually top 10 at national.

My goal this is to be 1st in both Central & National. I would really like to award a few Top 10 Recruiter & Silver Brigade. Also let's see if we can have a lot request for "Best Member Experience Award" & "Shining Star".

Let's Show all that **MICHIGAN ROCKS**.

In closing I would like to thank my Area Chairman in advance for your hard work making us stronger again.....

Remember to always be Humble & Kind to one other, and let's get membership on top.....

## Auxiliary Emergency Fund

### Linda Webster, AEF Chairman

After returning from National Convention I am filled with enthusiasm and support for the AEF Program. I know that by working together we can and will assist our Auxiliary members in times of disasters and difficult financial challenges in their lives. Members can apply for assistance for up to \$2400.00 if they have been a paid member for at least 2 years and complete the necessary application form.

There is also financial assistance available for cancer patients and spouses who are having financial challenges paying for medicines, utility bills, food, etc. They also provide assistance for those needing support due to unexpected life changing circumstances or who are without job skills necessary to obtain adequate employment. Priority use of funds is for handling emergencies wrought on by Mother Nature. You can access infor-

mation and application forms by logging onto [www.ALAVeterans.org/Members/Auxiliary](http://www.ALAVeterans.org/Members/Auxiliary) -Emergency-Fund. Please promote the importance of AEF in your unit. Members making a donation of \$50 or more will receive a pin from National. Consider having fun-raisers in your units with proceeds contributed to AEF. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at [ultimatelife10@hotmail.com](mailto:ultimatelife10@hotmail.com) or (989) 687-9372.

## Constitution and Bylaws Reminders

### Donna Fuelling, Chairman

Each year as I sit down to write this article for the Auxiliaire I have a hard time thinking of what I should write about. This year is a little bit different as many of the corrections have been the same this past year. If you don't have any changes to your Standing Rules you send in the "No Change in Standing Rules" sheet that is included in your Guide. You don't have to send it every year, only if you have changes to your Standing Rules. Standing Rules can be changed at any meeting by a 2/3 vote or if notice has been given by a majority vote. Remember that Units in Michigan do not write a Constitution or Bylaws only Standing Rules, they adopt the uniform Constitution and Bylaws as prescribed by the Department of Michigan since the twenties with changes since then.

District Constitution and Bylaws should only be amended at their annual meeting as per Robert's Rules of Order. Your District Standing Rules can be changed anytime just the same as the Unit Standing Rules. Remember if something is going to be changed more than once or twice in a couple of years then I would take it out of the Bylaws and put it into your Standing Rules.

Units and Districts please go over your Bylaws before doing your Standing Rules. Don't put what is in your Bylaws in your Standing Rules because it is supposed to be harder to change Bylaws than Standing Rules. Standing Rules are what pertain to your Unit as a whole.

Good Standing Rules will help in keeping the meeting under control. Please read the Constitution and Bylaws Guide that was given to each Unit and District at Fall Conference. If you need any help the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is here to help you along with the Department Parliamentarian. Our addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are listed in the Guide.

At the National Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio, there was a change to the National Standing Rules regarding Transfers. It will change Article VII, Section 7 under the Unit Bylaws. Once we get the correct reading of it, it will be put either in a Unit mailing or in the Auxiliaire.

# Membership

## Do Not Wait for Your Membership



**Barry Wood,**  
Department Membership Director

Commanders your membership will not just happen. There are goals and when goals are not being met there is probably a reason. It is imperative that you track those goals and give praise where and when good things happen. And, you need to provide assistance when things do not go according to plans. Department met the September 14 goal by reaching 50%. Our next goal is 55% to be reached by October 12. The percent of goal is at 54.4% as of September 15. We are close. Nine of the Districts have reached 55%. Thank you.

Please take every advantage of the Direct Mail Solicitation items sent to you through your District 1st Vice Commanders. This is an excellent opportunity to bring a number of Legionnaires into your posts.

Posts and Districts leadership should put together membership teams lead either by the First Vice Commander or a Membership Chairperson, as the Commander desires. Then the chairperson will select a number of individuals to assist with the jobs of membership that need to take place as explained in the "Membership Team Training Guide." This is an important manual to read for the post/district leadership and those on the membership teams. Do not wait for the membership to happen but follow the ideas from this manual. However, do not forget the things that have been successful for you in the past. Those methods that have not produced the desired results let them go and try something different. Coordinate your membership actions with the activities of the post/district. When you have a community activity at your post the membership committee should be there ready to actively recruit eligible veterans. Your membership committee members need to know your post, district, department and The American Legion. Information about The American Legion can be found under publications on the Legion website at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). Every member of the team needs access to the training guide.

The retention should be making contact with your membership throughout the year. You do not always need to be asking for money or time when you make contact with members. Let them know you remember them and seek their opinions about what is taking place in the post. Ask them what would bring them into the post.

Educate your post members so they can talk confidently with prospective members about what The American Legion does for veterans and how your post is involved. Talk to them about what your post does within the community and how they can become involved. Members should know your success story and be able to share them with anyone they meet.

All of these things lead to one thing. Membership is not a one-person job. The Membership Chairperson may have the leadership role. The membership team may do the bulk of the work. The commander may have the oversight of membership. But, membership is the responsibility of every Legion member.

## District Meetings

### 1st District

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

October 3 - District Meeting  
December 5 - District Meeting  
February 6 - District Nominating Meeting  
April 3 - District Annual Meeting  
June 5 - District State Convention Meeting

### 2nd District

October 9, 2016 Jackson Rose City Post 324  
January 8, 2017 Ida Post 514  
March 12, 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 - Dorr Post 127  
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 - Neal E. Fonger Post 179, 2327 Wilson SW, Grand Rapids, MI  
January 12, 2017 @7PM - Furniture City Post 258, 401 North Park St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI  
March 9th, 2017 - No meeting - Winter Meeting in Flint  
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

### 6th District

November 6, 2016  
Lyle Edwards Post 491, 422 Woodworth St., Leslie, MI  
49251 Lunch 12:00 pm Meeting 1:00 pm  
January 8, 2017  
Capt. Steven W. Frank Post 269, 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840 Lunch 12:00 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm  
March 5, 2017  
Pinckney Memorial Post 419, 9807 Whitewood Rd., Pinckney, MI 48169 Lunch 12:00 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm  
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 - Sebewaung  
January 8 - Lapeer  
March 19th - Caro  
May 21st - Lapeer  
June 2017 Convention

### 9th District

October 1, 2016 at Ludington Post 76  
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

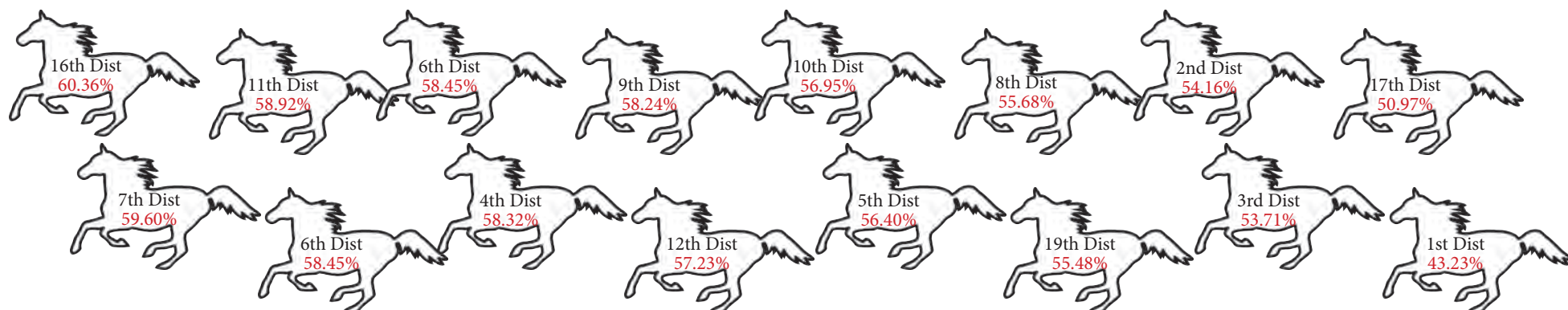
American Legion & Aux Meeting 7:30 PM  
\*Denotes Service Officer School 6:30 PM  
\*\* Memorial Service 6:30 PM  
October 11\* - Riverview 389 734-284-7166  
November 8 - Flat Rock Post 337 734-782-2717  
December 13\* - Southgate Post 478 734-946-5398  
January 10 - Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177  
February 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  
June 13 - Garden City 396 313-381-2245

### 17th District - N/A

### 18th District

Meetings Convene at 2:00 PM  
(Meeting for District Legion Only)

**2017 Membership Goal: 68,507 September 21 Total: 38,331 - 55.95%**



# Fall Conference Holiday Inn - Muskegon



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## Around the State...



The U.P. Association Convention Corporation on behalf of the Upper Peninsula American Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units, present D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans a check in the amount of \$3,800 for a blanket warmer at the home. In the Photo are (left to right): Ken Arsenault, Jacobetti Activities Director; Carl Morrison, Post 44, U.P. Convention Corp.; Brad Slagle, Jacobetti Administrator; Ray Carlson, Post 44, U.P. Convention Corp.; Jim Feliciano, Post 44, Dept. VAVS Representative at the Jacobetti Home.



Posts 459, 179, & 258 presented the colors at a recent KISS concert in Grand Rapids. The members posed for a photo backstage with the band.



Charles, a Vietnam Vet whose wheelchair was stolen received a donated one from Howard Christiansen in the 5th District. Catherine Buckley, 2nd Zone Commander is photographed with Charles along with Bullshead staff members.



David Buist receiving his flu shot while attending National Convention



Deerfield Fire Chief Brett Holubik, Legion Commander Jim Baber, band teacher Hiedi Fether and Sons of the Legion Commander Brian Bar-ta presenting a check for \$1008.00 benefiting the B-D Middle School Band Program for the things that the school cannot provide.



In August, Legionnaire Robert Turelli, on behalf of Dexter American Legion Post 557, presented over \$300 worth of socks and undergarments for veteran patients to Volunteer Services at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor.



Kent City Post 123 has a beautiful new addition to their yard thanks to a very dedicated scout. 13 yr old 7th grader Pauly Nanzer from Kent City planned, organized, and supervised the construction of a fence surrounding the battle tank in the post yard as his Eagle Scout project.



Chesaning American Legion Lavern Spolarich presents a check to Wilwin CEO Steve Striggow for \$500



14 members of the Joseph B. Westnedge American Legion Post 36, along with family and friends attended the 2016 Kalamazoo Growlers Military Appreciation game on 8/6.



The American Legion in Cedar Springs was host to residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on September 17, 2016. While at the American Legion, the veterans were treated to a Swiss steak lunch, and then played many games of bingo with prizes.

# Veteran Service

## Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Celebrates 70 Years of Helping Veterans, Kicks off 19-County Pilot Project

On Feb. 25, 1946, Gov. Harry Kelly signed Public Act 9 into law, creating the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund from \$50 million in post-World War II reserve funds. Since then, the MVTF has helped veterans of every era overcome unexpected expenses – ranging from utility bills to home repairs to mortgage assistance – and get back on their feet financially. During the past 70 years, more than \$100 million in emergency grants have been awarded to Michigan veterans.

In July, the MVTF Board of Trustees kicked off a pilot project in 19 counties to test a regional model for delivery of Emergency Grant Program services. This model leverages technology by allowing veterans to apply for emergency assistance online while continuing to offer personalized access through the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency 24/7/365 call center, the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center.

“The regional pilot tests the feasibility of expanding emergency assistance access beyond physical offices and limited office hours by simplifying the application process,” said Lindell Holm, MVTF director. “The pilot will also determine administrative costs savings, which could then be applied to grants or to increase the overall trust

fund balance.”

Once received, emergency assistance applications will be reviewed to determine what local and state resources are available to assist the applicant, including the MVTF.

The pilot project also consolidates MVTF county committees into regional committees with a representative from each county in the region, including: Allegan, Barry, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kent, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston, Mason, Mecosta, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa and Washtenaw.

These regional committees will meet virtually on a weekly basis to review applications for approval.

Veterans in the 19-county pilot project area who are experiencing temporary financial setbacks can apply for emergency assistance at MichiganVeterans.com or by calling 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838).

Emergency assistance is available online, by phone or at a county veterans service office for veterans in the remaining 64 counties. Staff will assist the veteran or their dependent with completing an application for the emergency grant and gathering necessary supporting documentation.

### American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

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



Gary Easterling  
Director

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

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

## Michigan House and Senate Workgroup Propose New Veteran Homes



This past summer a workgroup was created to look into the future of veteran homes in the State of Michigan. This workgroup using information from the auditor's report, testimony from the oversight hearings from the audit report and looking towards the future assembled legislatures, board of manager members, home health care experts, and others to assess the future of the 2 State Veterans Homes in Michigan.

On Wednesday September 21, 2016 the workgroup released their report and the State House and State Senate introduced bills to modernize the State Veterans Home system. The bills in the House introduced are HB 5919, HB 5920, HB 5921, HB 5922 and the Senate bills are SB 1097, SB 1098, SB 1099, and SB 1100. Text of these bills are available at <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/>.

The proposed construction timeline is divided into the following six “phases”: Phase 1: Build two homes -- one in Metro Detroit and another in

Grand Rapids to replace the current facility -- within the first year. Phase 2: Build a home in the Flint-Saginaw-Bay City area to serve the tri-city and thumb region. Phase 3: Build one home along the I-94 corridor to serve the “hefty population of veterans” between Jackson and Battle Creek. Phase 4: The workgroup recommends replacing the Jacobetti home in Marquette. Phase 5: Recommends building a new home near a freeway exit in a “central location” to serve the Northern Lower Peninsula region. Phase 6: Calls for the construction of two homes to serve the Southeast Michigan region.

Work on this legislation must be complete by the end of the legislative session December 31st, 2016 or the deadline for applications to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs of April 15, 2017 will not be met.

We would encourage Legionnaires to read the bills and provide feedback and suggestion to [info@michiganlegion.org](mailto:info@michiganlegion.org).

## Fall Raffle Winners 2016

NAME	CITY	AMOUNT	Place
George Burt	East Jordan	\$4,000.00	1ST
William Jelier	Spring Lake	\$1,500.00	2ND
George Besko	Montrose	\$1,000.00	3RD
John Hibler	Dearborn Heights	\$500.00	4TH
Roger Kroshinsky	Portage	\$500.00	5TH
Mark Wolanin	Memphis	\$500.00	6TH
Richard Voss	Lapeer	\$250.00	7TH
Richard Donnelly	Grandville	\$250.00	8TH
Donald Shalibo	Berkley	\$250.00	9TH
Wayne Kollmeyer	Ypsilanti	\$250.00	10TH
J. Richard Priester	Saint Johns	\$250.00	11TH
John Hess	Rochester Hills	\$250.00	12TH
Jeffrey Sage	Charlotte	\$250.00	13TH
Richard Yandora	Sterling Heights	\$250.00	14TH
Clare Travis	Croswell	\$100.00	15TH
James Vanlandschoot	Marquette	\$100.00	16TH
Richard Mullen	White Lake	\$100.00	17TH
Howard Quant Jr.	Jeddo	\$100.00	18TH
Horace Howell	Maple Rapids	\$100.00	19TH

## 18th District Report

**ShyLynn Jones**  
18th Dist President

It was an honor to be installed as the 18th District President at Dept. Convention, a dream and a goal of mine for many years and then to be installed at the 18th District installation by my mom, Darlene Jones this was such an honor. I started working in with the Auxiliary as a junior, with wonderful support. This year the 18th District has started our year with the theme being: "Leading the pack in helping our Veterans", we will be raising money for the "Guardian Angel Dogs" (which I first heard about from Teri Williams from Rochester Unit 172) and helping the Legion raise money for the "War Dog Memorial". Our 18th District Juniors and SAL Commander are working to help us have a very successful year. Homeless Veterans, VA & R, Poppies and juniors have always been programs I have been interested in supporting. I am so happy that

we have Robin Frank from unit 108 on the VA&R Chairmanship this year, as a fairly new member I am sure she will have wonderful new ideas to help our veterans.

So far this year I have attended several Parades, installations, and the VA Grand Rapids Carnival was awesome they did a great job. I also was at the MVF Picnic at my Unit #377 always helping and supporting our veterans.

It was nice to see Ellen Jackson from unit Oxford 108 of the 18th District installed as Dept. President, and one of my mentors Deanna Cortright being installed as Dept. 1st Vice. I would like to thank my mentors in the 18th for supporting me and sharing your knowledge all of you have a special place in my heart. I could not do this job without the help of everyone in our District. I may have the title of President but this is our District and working together we will make it great "Leading the pack in helping our Veterans"

## Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

**Mary Dubay**  
Department Historian

YESTERDAY is your past history  
TODAY you are making history  
TOMORROW is your future history

Your history is a document of who, what, when, where, why and how you have achieved all that you have done whether it be in your Unit, your District, your Department, or even in your personal lives. What you do Today, will be your history tomorrow, and what you do tomorrow will be your future history. Today you are living your history.

A history is a written document that allows others to go back and see all that we have done in the past and how we did it. A scrapbook is a written history that also includes pictures, newspaper articles, mementos, etc. to give a pictorial story of our achievements.

As you write the history of your Unit and/or District, you want to be factual. You will want to record not only what has happened yesterday, but also to start to record what is happening today.

At the 2015 National Convention, the Cavalcade of Memories Committee's name was changed to the History Committee. The purpose is still the same—to preserve our memories. Do you have a place to showcase and/or store past history books, mementos from previous Unit and/or District years? These items provide testimony to the achievements of our organization. Maintaining these records can also serve as an informative and educational resource which can be made available not only to our members but to others outside our organization.

**I would like to thank all of you for allowing me to be your Department Historian this year. I promise to do the very best that I can. If I can be of any help, please don't hesitate to contact me at 586-468-9870 or rdubay1@aol.com. Snail mail will also work and my address is in the Department Guide.**

**Now get busy and start writing, taking pictures, and working on those History Books!!!**

## Children & Youth

**Kathleen Copeland, Chairman**

The Children & Youth Program emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families. As stated by National, this plan is part of the Centennial Strategic Plan and will fulfill our brand promise (Goal 5) of being community leaders and responsible citizens. In doing so, we will build a future membership base (Goal 1) among our target demographic – military families.

The future strength of our nation can be accomplished by what we can give to the children and youth today. Our children and youth need our support, guidance and nurturing. All of this can be done through many of our Auxiliary and Legion programs. For instance, wouldn't it be exciting to promote in our communities "Star Spangled Kids", educating children on the history of the United States through patriotism, flag etiquette and the U.S. Constitution. Some ways to do this is to have a "Star Spangled Presentation in your local schools and distrib-

ute pocket constitutions to the children. We can help promote good citizenship through learning the ideals of the U.S. Constitution. At the high school level, promote the US Constitution by having high school students participate in the American Legion oratorical contest, and while there, promote Boys State and Girls State. In schools receptive to our mission, we may be able to enhance what teachers are giving to our children and youth and they may welcome our support of them too. In doing some of the above, we will aid our children in preparation for their futures and ours. Let's celebrate what our children and youth do by providing recognition awards. Let them know you are here to support them. Again, let's remember the focus of the Children & Youth program is to emphasize protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families. Start putting these plans in motion and report what you are doing, because you do it so well. Units, get ready for your first report (mid-year) due to me December 15, 2016.

## Working, Learning, Giving

**J. Barbara Hoaglund,**  
9th District President

It is astounding to see the calendar of events our Units have established. Fundraising projects (dinners, craft shows, cookie walks, pizza nights, auction with an auctioneer!) all in support of our Mission. They are making contributions to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, Wilwin, ALA Girls State and their communities.

We are learning "Goodwill" and to recognize our silent volunteers. Unit 35 established an Auxiliary "Hall of Fame" with two inductees each year. The Department of Michigan's Woman of the Year, Linda Wolven, Unit 76, attended State Convention,

National Convention and Fall Conference.

The challenge is on for our Units to reach 90% membership goal by January 1st.

We have Units without formal meetings reporting money earned, contributions and volunteer hours. Now that is amazing!

One of our District goals is Unit interaction through personal contact and social media. Department is providing support through their Leadership Workshop in December with revitalizing ideas and energy.

As intelligent, hardworking, compassionate members with the common goal to serve our veterans, communities and youth, we are working hard to make a difference.

## Legislative

**Deanna Cortright, Chairman**

Welcome to the 2016-2017 Legislative Year.

It is imperative that we, the citizens of Michigan and the United States, let our government officials know how we feel when it comes to changes relating to our Veterans. If we don't let our voices be known they won't know how important it is to us.

For information on pending federal legislation, or to find a Senator or Representative from Michigan, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). There you can find any federal legislation regarding Veterans or even find out information on your area's Senator or Representative.

To find out who your State Senator or Representative is, go to [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov) and

click on Government in the top right corner. You can also search for any pending legislation by using the search feature.

There are many other legislative resources. One of them is The Dispatch, a monthly publication of the American Legion describing current legislative issues and other news pertinent to the American Legion Family. You can subscribe, at a cost of \$15 per year, at [www.legion.org/dispatch](http://www.legion.org/dispatch). This is an excellent source of pertinent information.

If you have children that might be interested, there is an interactive, fun-filled source designed for children in grades 4-12. It can be found at [www.congressforkids.net/index.htm](http://www.congressforkids.net/index.htm).

If there is anything the committee can help you with please let us know.

## Education Program

**Susan Svacha, Chairman**

How to Organize Veterans in Community Schools Event Background Information on Veterans in Community Schools:

Veterans in Community Schools is an activity endorsed by The American Legion that brings history to life by connecting military veterans with students in classrooms or at school assemblies in conjunction with history lessons about World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War or Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom. The ever-decreasing numbers of healthy veterans from World War II points to the fleeting nature of the opportunity to pass on these important lessons.

Veterans are important pieces of American history. The American Legion Family believes accounts of their experiences while in uniform

and as a result of their military service should be preserved and shared with others. Veterans have witnessed monumental events in history. They can help students learn from and appreciate the sacrifices individuals and their families have made.

In addition to sharing their experiences, veterans may also discuss a wide range of topics including how to help a family who has a deployed military service member, how to show support for the troops, proper respect for the flag, or why The American Legion Family was formed and what it stands for. Also, veterans' sharing of their military experience with an appreciative audience can help them heal psychological wounds from combat, deployment or family separation. Veterans who have spoken to students generally describe the experience as a rewarding and personally satisfying experience.

# Happy Halloween



## Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

**Kimberly Dold, 16th District**

First and foremost, I want to thank the 16th District for electing me to the position of President for 2016/17. I will strive to make this year productive, fun and memorable.

I joined the Auxiliary several years ago under my brother, a Captain in the Army; however, my family has also been privileged to serve this great country we live in through the Air Force, the Navy & the Coast Guard.

For the same reason as my sisters in the Auxiliary, I joined to do my part. To do whatever I could to assist our active military, our veterans and their families. I have been very fortunate to participate in a number of projects that were of benefit to them.

The camaraderie and sense of family was an added bonus!

Membership, both recruiting and retaining, was the big topic at this year's convention. Our organization, like many others, has seen a significant decline in membership. We have to ensure that our members feel useful and are met with friendly and open arms. Keep our units active and involved, everyone has something to offer. It's going to take work and a lot of honesty, with ourselves and others. Let's all take a good hard look at how our units operate and treat all of our members and make changes where they're needed.

Remember, we all have two hands. One to help ourselves, the second to help others.

# DEC 2016 Fall Conference REPORTS

## Archie Chappell 1st Zone Commander

Hello from 1st Zone Vice Commander

It looks like I have some big shoes to fill this coming year. I am talking about zone 1 and District 16 taking 1st place in the Department. Good job to our Past Zone 1 vice and past 16th District Commanders. I am challenging District 1 to make their goal of 100% membership and that will be 539 members for 2016/2017. District 16 goal for this year is 3527 members.

I want to archive our Membership goal and some of the ideas that my wife's and I are talking about is to see if we can set up a booth at the baseball and football games also at the street fairs to recruit new members. I know some street fairs charge for a booth and I think that it is wrong. The booths should be donated so we can get the word out to our fellow veterans about getting the help they so deserve. Once we recruit the members we need to welcome them with open arms into our post. Ask them if they can make some time in their daily schedule to volunteer in the post. Even if the members ask to help never deny their help.

To all of the new post commanders, post officers we need to keep moving forward and don't try to change something that is working because when you do change it and if it doesn't work then you wind up losing members. Membership is very important to all post. Also have your membership chairman to get a report for the members of post 225 and see if they want to be transferred into your post.

## Catherine Buckley 2nd Zone Commander

I want to thank everyone

for their faith in me to be your Zone Commander. I will do everything possible to promote and educate our zone.

District Commanders have a very important job and that is to promote membership, but it is to also educate the Post about the American Legion.

We must realize that everyone doesn't know the rules and all programs of the American Legion. We are not all blessed with mentors that pass information on. Not everyone takes the classes that are offered. So may I offer a few suggestion?

Make up an outline for your officers with information on the many things we offer. Let them impress the importance that every Legionnaire promote the American Legion. In reality they can do this without even realizing it.

1) Wearing a ball cap with our logo

2) Seeing an auto with a reference to being a veteran. Place a brochure on their auto.

There are so many little things we can do. Dept. will supply District Commanders with many aids to hand out.

We are in last place with membership, but like the Tortious and the Hare I'm not worried. We have been blessed with outstanding Legionnaires.

I look forward to visiting your Districts and in my travels stopping into Post I've never been.

If anyone would like a visit from me please call or e-mail me. I would love to meet as many of you as possible. I am working for you and if there is anything I can assist you with please let me know.

## Bob Bingham 3rd Zone Commander

I was proud to be part of Clawson's 4th of July parade. All 1.7 miles of it. The temperature was great and a lot of Legionnaires participated.

It was the first time I wore my White hat.

The 30 Day Meeting and the bus trip to Indianapolis for the National Membership Workshop was a great opportunity for me to meet all of the District, Zone Commanders and Department permanent staff at headquarters. The tour through National Flag and Emblem Sales building was amazing. It showed me exactly how big the American Legion actually is nationally. They process all of the 2 million + membership cards and notices that you receive at home.

August 2 gave me the opportunity to participate in the Saginaw County opening ceremony for the County Fair. You would expect HOT in August, but this was the morning.

August 7 was the VJ Day Parade for the Family of the 4 Freedoms at White Chapel Cemetery in Troy. Again another HOT one. But I loved every minute of it!

August 13 was the St. Johns Mint Parade. It made my day to be invited to that. Again, it was a HOT day, but the visit to Post 153 was well worth it. Thank you 8th District Commander Mitch Louth for the invitation to both Saginaw County Fair and St. Johns Parade. And you Marcy for the excellent directions.

On August 28, my Post (Frank Wendland Post 253) and Birmingham-Troy Post 14 sponsored a Run/Walk/Bicycle-A-Thon for Michigan Wounded & Returning Warriors. 4 miles, in the HOT blazing heat of summer. I posted our picture at Post 14 (only a few were missing) on Facebook. Yes, I did walk the whole way.

Finally on August 31, I discovered the Jewel of the 18th District. Constitution Post 224 in Wixom. Every last day of every month for the past 111 months, they perform a ceremony for current died in action and re-

patriated POW/MIA's from all the wars. Honor Guard firing included. August's service was for 18, bringing the total they performed to 3,436. Summer, winter, rain or shine for over the past 9+ years. I was glad I attended.

I am Looking forward to visiting more events and Posts in the 3rd Zone. Thank you all.

## Merry Lesert 5th District Commander

The activity at the 5th is buzzing already. The buzz is about membership and what we can do to improve membership. We are getting stronger in the 5th District. We have a lot of growth to do yet. I will be working very hard on getting 100% or more for the 5th District. Membership has become our staple and glue for the year. Several ideas have come with that and we will be trying some to see what is working. We are not forgetting about our established member either. I sincerely hope that one of the approaches that we at the 5th are encouraging is a HAND TO HAND approach. Getting new members shouldn't be too hard in the Hand to Hand approach. We have a few post struggling to hit 50% yet but we will get there and more. Boys State is in full gear. With Boys State in our District this year there should be no reason why we don't get more young men to attend, so we also are working hard on Boys State. Let us not to forget about the other Scholarships that High School Students can also obtain thru the American Legion. Our Senior, and Junior Vices have started making their Post visits. The Post will be getting information on Boys State, Student Trooper, and Oratorical soon. We are busy promoting the American Legion and Wilwin at Cygnet Cove. In and out of the school, into the communities. Many Post have been doing fundraising for their Post, or a Legion Program,

and for communities. Keep up the good work mighty 5th. It is a new year and a new day so let's strive to be all that we can be in the 5th District. I look forward to visiting every Post in the District this year. Anything that the District can do for you please do not hesitate to ask for help. We will do what we can do for your Post. One last thought, WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY. I know we have our work cut out for us but I do believe with your help we will succeed.

God Bless and strive hard

## 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 confident 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.

## Raymond W. Moore Endorsed for Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2017-2019



The Jackson-Koster-Gray Post 300, Lake City and the 9th District Association proudly endorse Raymond W.

Moore for the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Ray earned his eligibility for The American Legion through his service in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971 with service in Vietnam from October 1968 to October 1969.

In 1982 he joined The American Legion at the Jackson-Koster-Gray Post and is a Paid Up For Life member.

He has served several positions at the Post, District, Department and National levels and was privileged to serve as Department Commander 2013-2014.

Ray and his wife, Marcia, have been married since 1972 and have one son and daughter in law, three grandsons and one married daughter and son in law, one step granddaughter, and one grandson and all eligible are members of the Legion Family.

# MILEGIONNAIRE

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Wilwin Updates

### Bill Hafeman, PDC Board Member, Wilwin at Cygnet Cove & Chairman of Fund Raising

Thank you to all, from the Wilwin Board of Director, for your donations of money, supplies and equipment and to the volunteers who helped in making Wilwin's transition to Cygnet Cove easier.

The board would like to give a special thank you to the Sons of the American Legion for their donation of two gas operated golf carts, which make it easier for our veterans to get around the premises and explore 15+ miles of trails. Also, thanks to Omstead Post 550 American Legion riders for their fundraiser and donation of over \$3,000; to Graymont Mining company for their donations of a John Deere tractor and pontoon boat; and Clare-Farwell Post 558 for their donation of a stainless steel commercial 4-burner with grill with twin, plus a stainless steel hood.

### Wilwin - Trout Lake Update

2016 is expected to be our final year at Trout Lake. To date, 19 Afghani War Veterans re-united for the first time with their squadron, including veterans from South Carolina, Texas, and California. Invited, and in attendance, was their Afghani interpreter who saved their live many times on the battlefield. This group has already made arrange-

ments to re-unite at Cygnet Cove next year. 672 Scouts from throughout the Midwest and Ontario Province, Canada held their weekend Jamboree in September. To date, they have not committed to hold their Jamboree at Cygnet Cove in 2017. Other groups cancelled due to ongoing lodging operations. Fortunately, no veteran groups cancelled.

### Wilwin at Cygnet Cove

To date, the handicapped ramp to the main house has been completed and approved. The stairwell to the loft apartment located over the garage has been replaced. A new metal roof has been installed to eliminate a leaky skylight on the loft apartment. By the time this article is read, the new handicapped apartment and central laundry room will be completed.

A 40' x 48' garage add-on has been approved and should be completed prior to winter. The horse corral area has been cleared and is ready for construction as time permits.

The Board of Directors recently approved tentative 5 year plan for Cygnet Cove. Included in the plan is the location of veteran's village on the east side of the lake. The village will take priority. The board approved a "go-ahead" on running an underground electrical line 1800 + feet to the village location. Also approved is the installation of an above ground septic system with a pumping

station. An auxiliary system was also approved to save money as the village expands. Once the electrical and septic has been completed all buildings will be built to include a commercial kitchen and dining hall, a central enclosed bath and shower facilities for men and women, a recreational building, and the construction of an unspecified number of cabins.

A rustic RV park area has been designated to be located just inside the 3rd gate entrance; a sight location on the northwest side of the property was approved for cabins to be used for reconnecting families; another area to the southeast part of the property will be designated for scouting.

To date Wilwin at Cygnet Cove has had over 50 veterans with their families stay at the facilities. Not included are volunteers who stayed overnight to work on various projects. Volunteerism has more than doubled at the new facility. Over 200 visitors have toured the property to date.

The Board of Directors want to give a special thank you to Beverly and Earl Ruttkowski for the extra effort they have made to not only move everything from the old facility to the new facility but to organize the operation of both facilities. Earl has spent endless hours obtaining building permits and construction contracts and making sure the jobs get done. Beverly's work load has doubled

due to the larger influx of facility usage. Both have done an outstanding job in established a repertoire within the local community.

Several programs were discussed for future consideration included, but not limited to, non-structured groups of wives married to husbands with severe PTSD/TBI, archery program for veterans, training schools, etc.

The Board has approved pursuing mineral rights to Cygnet Cove and to look into the possibility of having a cell tower located on the property for additional revenues and better communication in the area.

Plans are being made to have a Richard Lynch concert and an auction sale of excess inventory next year. Details will be given in later articles.

A group for PTSD/TBI specialists along with several board members will have met at Cygnet Cove as of this printing to discuss future plans that could be implemented in the future. They will be working to make Wilwin at Cygnet Cove the premiere location for veterans to seek the healing needed to cope with their medical conditions. Once a medical plan is presented to the board by these professionals, the board will make a decision on approving all, some, or none of their recommendations. Once this is done, Wilwin Board will write a business plan to obtain funding through various sources.



## Michigan State Police Student Trooper Program

Do you know a high school student, 16 to 18 years of age?

Who is interested in learning about Law Enforcement?

They will spend 1 week at the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing, Michigan being exposed to all the areas of law enforcement.

- They will:
- Learn the proper handling of firearms
  - Experience the adrenaline of driving at a high rate speed..
  - Learn self-defense techniques
  - Learn water safety
  - Classes on crime lab and forensic
  - Along with intense physical training

Top Student Trooper of the week wins a \$1000 College Scholarship  
3 other categories win \$500 each

Class is being offered: July 9 - 14, 2017 (Application deadline May 26, 2017)

Cost to attend is \$390 per student. Ask your Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, civic organization, local business, or other organization to sponsor them.

Find more information at: [www.michiganlegion.org/trooper](http://www.michiganlegion.org/trooper) or call Roxanne at (517) 371-4720 ext 23



## William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship

Scholarship available to only Michigan residents who are attending high school or college – no bachelor's degree,

- Who are a son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to or are attending any nationally accredited college or university.

- Selection is based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grandparent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Submit the scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the deadline date of January 9, 2017 (not postmarked by).

[www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/brewer.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/brewer.html)

**The scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable.**



## Oratorical Contest Scholarship

The High School Oratorical Contest began in Kansas City, Missouri in 1934-1935. The primary purpose of the contest is to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

A contestant must be sponsored by a American Legion Post to qualify for the contest.

Contestants have an opportunity to win \$800 to \$1,500 in scholarship money at the department level. Those moving on to the National Contest compete for up to \$18,000 in scholarship money.

### 2016 Program deadlines:

- Contestant must register with the Oratorical Zone Chairman by Monday, November 19, 2016.
- Zone contests must be completed by January 21, 2017
- Department contest will be on February 18, 2017

If you are interested visit your local American Legion Post and ask them if you can represent them at the contest.

[www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical](http://www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical)

## Guy Wilson Scholarship

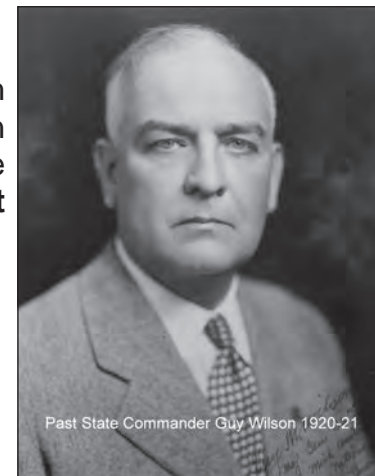
Scholarship available to only Michigan residents attending high school and

- A son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to attend any Michigan accredited college or university.
- Selection based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grandparent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Send scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the **deadline date of January 9, 2017 (not postmarked by).**

[www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/wilson.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/wilson.html)

**Scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable**



Past State Commander Guy Wilson 1920-21





## Eagle Scout of the Year Award

Our Eagle Scout of the Year Award candidate for American Legion Michigan Department will receive a \$1,000.00 college scholarship.

By adding this \$1000.00 scholarship for our Eagle Scout of the Year this will help all of our American Legion Michigan Department scouting advocates to have something special to help promote and enlist more applicants for this award.

The Department would like to thank all those zone, district and post scouting chairman for all your efforts in promoting scouting in Michigan. American Legion Michigan Department charters approximately 70 scout units in Michigan and involves over 2000 scouts. The American Legion charters more than 2500 scout units nationwide. The Boy Scouts of America Organization involves more than 2.7 million youth and 1.2 million adult volunteers. The American Legion has had a close relationship with the Boy Scouts since 1919.

American Legion Posts are teaming up with local scout units in a number of activities. Maybe your post can get your local scouts involved in some of the below listed activities:

- March in parades
- Flag Day and Flag disposal ceremony
- Poppy Day sales
- Help serve at special dinners for veterans and families as 4th of July and Christmas.
- Putting Flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day
- Helping with projects at our Michigan Department Wilwin Lodge

Bob Mazzuca, chief executive for the Boy Scouts of America spoke at the Legion's 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Mazzuca shared that many Boy Scouts get their start at American Legion Posts, and described how such a start ends up with impressive results. "And at the end of that boy's journey is embedded another chromosome called leadership. "Mazzuca said. Other values have been embedded ; service, duty to God and Country, leadership and respect for others. "I'd say that's a pretty good product." The Boy Scouts of America could not do that alone, Mazzuca said.

"But in partnership with this marvelous organization call The American Legion and dozens of others across the country, we change lives every day".

Thank you for supporting scouting in Michigan and if there are any questions please contact the office in Lansing or Scouting subcommittee chairman Carl Atkinson at (269) 945-3526

<http://michiganlegion.org/eagle-scout-of-the-year.html>

Department deadline: March 1, 2017

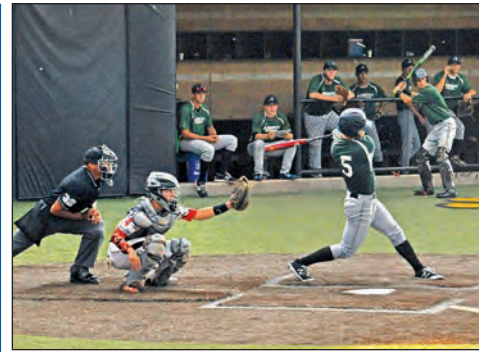
## Don't Forget the Young Girls in Schools



When promoting Boys State, be sure to mention that the American Legion Auxiliary hosts a Girls State program similar to the Boys State. Theirs will be held at Michigan State University June 18 – June 24, 2017

Find information at the Michigan Auxiliary web site [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org) (select scholarships on the right)

2017 Memorial Scholarship \$500.00  
 2017 Non-Traditional Student \$500.00  
 2017 Medical Career Scholarship \$500.00  
 \$20,000 Samsung Scholarship through the Girls State Program See their National site for 3 more scholarships [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) (under "What we do")



## The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Any Team Manager or Head Coach of an American Legion (Post – affiliated) team may nominate one player for consideration of this award.

The scholarship application is found online at:  
<http://www.legion.org/baseball/resources>

Each Department (state) Baseball Committee will select a registered American Legion Player who best meets the qualifications as the 2017 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner. Each department winner will receive a scholarship from The American Legion of \$500 or more.

## The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship

Robert (Bob) Turner was born in 1922 in Woodsfield, OH. As a child, his family moved to Crystal, MI in 1935. Bob served in the United States Army Air Corp. during World War II from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in March of 1946; reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was stationed on Seymour Island and received a Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Star, and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In the middle 1970s, his oldest son Bryce played Michigan American Legion Baseball. Bob supported the team by attending many of the games and was a life-long fan of baseball. The initial "seeds" for the Robert Turner Scholarship were donated in honor of his life and memory. The vision and hope is that this academic scholarship fund will "grow" to support and invest in many more youth seeking to fulfill their dreams in the years ahead.



Scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2015 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and who are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. Selection is based on the application information, the student's GPA of 2.5 or higher, and two letters of testimony (one from the American Legion coach or team manager, and the other from a community leader, school official or minister). The scholarship award amount is \$500. Deadline date is July 1, 2017 (not postmarked by).

The scholarship application is found online at:  
[www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball)

**For the most up to date information on American Legion Department of Michigan Scholarships please visit:**  
[www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships](http://www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships)  
**For applications, email:**  
[packet@michiganlegion.org](mailto:packet@michiganlegion.org)