



MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXV No. 2

PNC THOMAS CADMUS PASSES AWAY

NEVER A STRANGER TO ANYONE



Steve B. Brooks

In his final Commander's Message for The American Legion Magazine, then-National Commander Thomas P. Cadmus chose to reflect on what his view of The American Legion was. Rather than it being offices in Indianapolis or Washington, D.C., the organization was "a diverse and dedicated assortment of nearly 15,000 unique posts where veterans don't need to consciously think much about 'national' because they're busy making differences in their hometowns."

Cadmus wrote of the Legionnaire coaching a

Legion Baseball team, volunteering at a Department of Veterans Affairs facility or fundraising to purchase phone cards for troops deployed overseas. It was those Legionnaires – the ones working at the grass-roots level – who drove the Legion, Cadmus said. And as national commander from 2004-2005, and long after his tenure ended, he was as comfortable talking with them as he was leaders in the U.S. government, military and VA.

"He was a great believer in the grass-roots efforts of The American Legion to accomplish (its) mission," said Past National Commander Robert W. Spanogle, who had a friendship that spanned more than 40 years. "Tom was never a stranger to anyone. His hand was always out offering friendship and good counsel. He just was a great friend to everybody, and treated everybody with respect and dignity. Rank didn't matter to Tom."

Spanogle said Cadmus, who passed away July 25 at age 69, also was quick to share credit and praise with his fellow Legionnaires. Spanogle – who served as national adjutant while Cadmus was in office – recalled the 2005 American Legion National Convention in Hawaii. The Legion had passed Resolution 169, which urged all Americans to stand

united in the global war on terrorism and united in support of the troops fighting that war." While the convention was in session, President George W. Bush called Cadmus to thank him for passage of the resolution.

"You know what Tom Cadmus did?" Spanogle said. "He said, 'Mr. President, if I can patch you through to the (convention) hall, to the 2,000 delegates out there that passed this resolution.' He said that was the highlight of his year. He was thanking the 2,000 delegates at that convention. That's the kind of guy he was."

A Vietnam War Army veteran and 50-year member of Glen H. Daykin Post 155 in Britten, Mich., Cadmus served as department commander, national vice commander, and chairman of various Legion commissions and committees.

Cadmus is survived by his daughter Nicole (Joe) Coughlin, son Brian Cadmus, both of Tecumseh, his brother Russell, sisters Eleanor Mueller and Charlotte Patterson of Adrian, and his grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge at Cyget Cove, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Lansing, MI 48915.

Introducing the 2016-2017 Auxiliary Junior President



Department of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary, Honorary Jr President Sabrina Jo Townes. Sabrina is a member of ALA Unit 287, Cedar Springs, Mich. Sabrina has been a member of Unit 287 since 2001. Sabrina is and has been active not only at the Unit level with the Jr's, but also with the 5th District

ALA Jr's and Department of Michigan ALA Jr's for several years.

The Honorary Jr President's special Project this year is "STIGGY'S DOGS". Stiggy's Dogs is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that transforms shelter dogs into individually trained Psychiatric Service Animals for our military veterans living with combat related PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) at NO COST to the veteran.

Those wishing to donate to Sabrina's Special Project may do so by making your donation out to the "Dept. of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary". Please put in the memo area "Honorary Jr President Special Project Stiggy's Dogs". Please mail donation to the following address:

Sabrina Townes,
Dept. of Mich. Hon. Jr President

PO Box 584
Cedar Springs, MI 49319

Connie Kovacs,
Dept. of Mich. Jr's Chairman
5948 North Linville
Westland, MI 48185

Phone: (616) 754-7879 for any questions.



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

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

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

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

Chaplain



Greetings Legion Family! I want to thank Commander Money for appointing me again as Chaplain. It is an honor to serve with you and I am looking forward to another great year. Please continue to pray for our leaders, both in the Legion Family and in our Country as well. We need to encourage and support those who labor for our cause. And, may we never forget that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," Psalm 33:12.

Again, the seasons are changing and summer is coming to an end. That being said I am looking forward to Fall and all of the upcoming holidays. We have a number of Legion events planned for this year. I am excited to announce that at the Fall Conference in Muskegon, on Saturday, September 24th we will be having various Schools of Instruction. This year we will include a Chaplains Class/Forum. It is tentatively scheduled for 8:30am but check the agenda when it is finalized. The session will be open to the entire Legion Family and I hope that you get an opportunity to

"Again"

attend. We will be discussing such things as what makes a good Chaplain, the roles and responsibilities of the office, communication and pursuing our goals. I always learn something new at these meetings and it is wonderful to share ideas on how we can make our Legion and Chaplain Corps even better.

I recently saw a commercial where children were doing various things, some more successful than others, and wanting to repeat them saying "Again." This reminded me of my two year old granddaughter Macee. One day this summer we were at a park and Macee was excited about the play-scapes and especially all of the slides. She is a daring young child and soon the smaller slides were just not enough. One by one she climbed up the higher slides until there was only the tallest, twister one was left. She stood on the medium platform and looked up. I was curious as to see if she would do it. Then she turned and looked down to see that Papa was watching. But really, she wanted to see if I was going to try and stop her. I was a little concerned but hey, it was just a slide, so I smiled and said, "don't worry Macee, I'll catch you when you come

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

down." When I saw the gleam in her eye I knew that although she was a little afraid, she was going to do it. Her eyes and mouth were wide open as I caught her at the bottom. She looked at me so very happy (and I was, too) and cried out, "Again." And up she went another eight or nine times until I finally did stop her.

I often think about that day and how great it is to see the kids grow up and learn new things. I also think about what would have happened if I would have given her a negative response and an excuse not to try. This applies to much in life and in our organization as well. As we have new members that come in to our Posts they may need our support and have some new ideas. They need to know we are there to catch them if they start to fall. We need to revive our passion for our purposes and to learn and grow together. Let's keep things fresh and exciting so that our members will say, "I can't wait to go to that Legion meeting, again." "Revive us again so Your people will rejoice in You. Show us Your grace, Oh Lord, and grant us salvation." Psalm 85:6,7. God Bless You All. - Chaplain Eddie.

2016 Fall Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 22, 2016

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Chairman Training

Friday, September 23, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office
8:45 a.m. Resolutions Assignment – meet in H/Q office
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Finance/Personnel
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Children & Youth
Education & Scholarship
Reconnect
Boys State
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Michigan Leadership College
Membership
Economic
VA & R
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Baseball
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch break
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. VAVS

Internal Affairs
Post Development
Americanism
National Security & Foreign Relations
Permanent Time and Place/Resolutions
Legislative
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. SAL Budget Meeting
3:30 – 4:00 p.m. 3rd Zone Meeting
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. D.E.C. Meeting

Saturday, September 24, 2016

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Legion H/Q Office

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
11:30 – 12:30 p.m.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m.

Training – Room 1:

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Training – Room 2:

9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.
10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

SAL DEC Meeting
Legion Riders
Past Department Commanders/
First Ladies Luncheon
Lunch break
M.A.L.P.A. meeting

Chaplain
Boys State
Junior Shooting
Charitable Gaming/Liquor Control
Putting on a Blood Drive
Charities of The American Legion
Lunch break
Historian
My Legion
100 Year Anniversary
Reimage/Rebrand

Finance 990
Judge Advocate – Bylaws
Lunch break
Post Service Officer/VA & R
G.N.U.T.S. – LST
Wilwin Lodge Meeting (30)
Raffle drawing/Social Event ?

D.E.C. Meeting
Legion H/Q Office

*** ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE ***

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

Larry Money, State Commander

“Now is the Time”



Larry Money
State Commander

I would like to start by thanking everyone for the honor and privilege to serve as your Department Commander for 2016-17,

It has been a whirlwind of activities since the 26th of June, but

so far the experience has been tremendous.

The 30-day meeting was held at Department Headquarters in mid-July. We covered a lot of ground in a very short period of time. Thanks to our Department staff and those Committee Members who assisted. I feel that we have an out-

standing group of Legionnaires to lead this year.

At the end of July, we once again boarded the bus for the Indy National Membership Workshop. This event was well attended by our District Commanders or their Alternates, the Department Membership Team as well as our Administrative Assistant Kim and Deanna our Membership Secretary. Thank you both for all of your help.

On Thursday evening, Membership Director Barry Wood, Adjutant Runyan and I met with upcoming National Commander Schmidt and his staff to discuss our membership goals for the upcoming year. Thank you Director Wood for an outstanding presentation. We walked out of the session with a goal of

68,507 for the 2016-2017 membership year.

With that being said, “Now is the time”.



Department Commander Money and PDC Buda attended the Wyandotte 4th of July parade

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Post Adjutant Training & Information



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

Greetings to my fellow adjutants and members,

This month I wanted to write a special article regarding some important membership information. I hope this will be useful and clarify some forms you get monthly from Districts or our DMS Coordinator.

Request to Transfer

REQUEST TO TRANSFER TO LOCAL POST

Yes! I'm interested in transferring to a local Post. (This moving Post is the Post authority on transfer.)

After your request is processed, National will forward this request to your Department Headquarters (stand) for handling. Understand the local Post may require a copy of my membership from active duty papers. (The Post's Service Officer can help you get replacement separation papers if yours have been lost or destroyed.)

If you have a particular Post to which you would like to be transferred, indicate below:

Post: State: Zip:

Your Phone No.:

ENCLOSE THIS REQUEST SLIP WITH YOUR DUES NOTICE IN THE REPLY ENVELOPE PROVIDED.

The Request to Transfer form is a form sent to all Post 225 members that pay their dues directly to the Department or National. The form is filled out by the member and sent back with their dues. It states which Post or area that they “Want to be transferred to” and it is signed by the member. If signed, the Post adjutant

needs to complete a Member Data Form with the attached Request to Transfer and send in the transfer to Department. The MDF form does not need to be signed again, since the member has already signed the Request to Transfer. It is the Post decision to hold these transfers for validation of the DD214, or to send them in as soon as possible.

Project Stay Active

Americans are on the move, and Legionnaires are no exception. National Headquarters' Project Stay Active helps local posts maintain contact with members who move into your area.

National Headquarters prints a summary of the veteran's membership on a 3 x 5 card, including both new and old addresses, the member's department, the post number, the number of continuous years, and the date the card was printed. If the member is a life member, it is noted. The card is printed in ZIP code order and mailed to department adjutants for distribution to the post most accessible to the member. This post is then asked to contact and welcome the member to the area. This is an

ideal time to offer assistance and to invite the member to visit your post. In many cases, the Legionnaire may wish to transfer membership to a post in the community. Michigan actively participates in Project Stay Active. The cards are generally distributed each month through district commanders.

Member Data Forms - Transfers

Membership transfer from one post to another is handled by completing the Member Data Form. The right to transfer does not include the right to be accepted by any post. Members still must vote upon acceptance of the applicant. Being the member of more than one post at one time is a violation of The American Legion Constitution. Formal transfer is the only method of transferring from one post to another so continuity of Legion membership is not broken, and it is available to members in good standing. Many members who change posts simply start paying dues in the new post without the formality of an official transfer. This can result in a duplicate (and unnecessary) record entered in the data system. Such transfers risk

the member losing his or her continuous membership record unless the post adjutant gives the member full credit at the time the card is made. Without official transfer, the member will also likely receive a renewal notice from National Headquarters asking for dues for the next year to be sent to the former post; second, third and fourth renewals may also be sent if the proper procedures are not followed. In all instances where an American Legion member transfers from one post to another after payment of the current year's dues, the transferring post shall retain said dues and shall have credit for such membership during the remainder of such year for which said dues were collected, but the transferred member shall be entitled to all of the benefits and assume all of the responsibilities of membership in the post to which transfer is made, after such transfer is complete. IMPORTANT! Always ask a prospective member if he or she currently belongs or has been a member. If he or she has a current or previous 9-digit member ID number, it should be reported on the transfer request and dues card forwarded to your department.

Membership

Let's Ride it to the Top!

2017 Membership Year Begins



Barry Wood, Membership Director

The National Membership Workshop took place July 28 – 30. Your membership team and Michigan Legion leadership attended. Many good ideas were shared and a plan is coming together. The crux of the plan is to help each Post reach an established goal through membership teams and by building active posts. Active posts set a positive environment where current and new members want to be part of what is taking place. Active posts seek out ways to participate in communities and lets community members know what events are taking place. Active posts invite community members into their posts at different times throughout the year. Active posts reflect their community. Active posts keep members informed what the mission and programs are for the posts. Active posts encourage members to participate in these programs. Active posts attract members.

If your post does not have a membership team, put one together. If you need assistance contact your District Commander and have that conversation about forming a membership team. If training is required, the Commander can contact the Department membership team and training will be arranged. Please do not let membership just happen because it will not “just happen.” Membership is an activity of the post and members need to be involved. Post's leadership need to have the conversation about forming and using membership teams.

The 2016-2017 membership goal for the Department of Michigan is 68,507. Talk to your post's membership about membership now. Put information out in your newsletters. Talk about membership during your meetings. Challenge your membership to assist in membership. Challenge your membership to recruit for the Legion Family. The American Legion is a family organization and our strength is in the family.

Thank you for your service to our county. Thank you for your continuing service to our veterans and to our communities. For God and County.

PROUD TO BE A VETERAN. PROUD TO BE A LEGIONNAIRE.

District Meetings

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
 Sept 12 – District Meeting
 October 3 - District Meeting
 December 5 – District Meeting
 February 6 – District Nominating Meeting
 April 3 – District Annual Meeting
 June 5 – District State Convention 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

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

7th District

October 9th - Sebewaing
 January 8 - Lapeer
 March 19th - Caro
 May 21st - Lapeer
 June 2017 Convention

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 @ Boat & Canoe Club, 401 North Park St. NE, Grand Rapids, Mi. 49525 (616) 361-7685: Oct 13, 2016, December 8, 2016, February 9, 2017, April 13, 2017, June 8, 2017

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

District meetings

September 8, 2016 @ 7PM – Daniel W. Cassard Post 208, 133 44th St. SE, Kentwood, MI
 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

10th District

Lunch at 12PM – Meeting at 1PM
 September 10, 2016 – Harrison Post 404
 November 15, 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

Past Commanders – Friday the 13th Club – January 13, 2017

16th District

American Legion & Aux Meeting 7:30 PM
 *Denotes Service Officer School 6:30 PM
 ** Memorial Service 6:30 PM
 September 13 – Dual Taylor Post 200 313-388-2088
 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 Duel
 June 13 – Garden City 396 313-381-2245

6th District

September 11, 2016 - Jesse B. Cooley Post 235,10590 E. Grand River Rd, Brighton, MI 48116
 Installation of Officers 11:00 am - Lunch 12:00 pm - Meeting 1:00 pm
 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

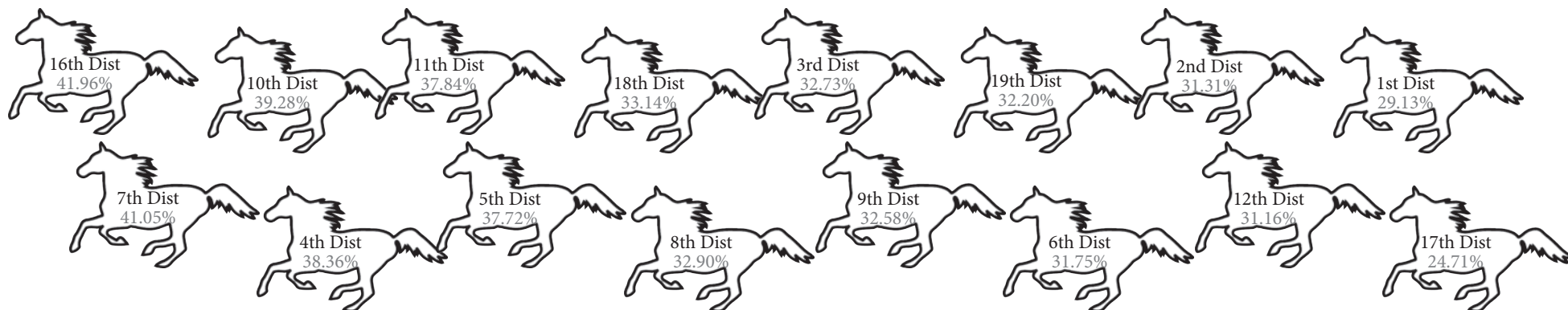
17th District

Wednesday 9/21/16 Livonia Post 32

18th District

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

2017 Membership Goal: 68,507 August 18 Total: 23,847 - 34.81%





AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2016 - 2017 Department President, Ellen Jackson

Let's Work All Our Programs in 2016-17



It has been almost 2 months since you have elected me your President and it already has been an experience. As your President I have had the opportunity to install 4 District Presidents and a Unit President what an honor!

By now all Districts should have had their installations. I congratulate everyone on their elections of their perspective offices also the membership for entrusting them with that honor. I went to the Grand Rapids Veterans

Hospitals Carnival for the veterans what a great experience. Had so much fun with the veterans there even had a dance or two with one of the residents what a sweet gentleman.

Our juniors came out and had a great time also! I encourage you to take a look at our web page and see what fun we had! As a Legion Family we had the honor of welcoming the Michigan's POW/MIA traveling wall into the Saginaw County fairgrounds. I was very proud to stand next to my Commander Larry Money, hold hands with your(my) Honorary Department Junior President Sabrina Townes and have my SAL Detachment Com-

mander Carvin (Huey) Chapman there with us.

National Convention is right around the corner and I am looking forward to going. Fall Conference is less than a month after national Convention so put your thinking caps on write down your questions bring them with you! It will be great to see everyone again and I am looking forward to a successful conference.

May each of you have a very successful and fun filled year working the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember always to be humble and kind!

Fall Conference-September 23-25, 2016

Holiday Inn, Muskegon, Michigan

Office Hours: Friday--10:00-5:00 and Saturday--9:00-3:00

Thursday—September 23—Registration**Friday—September 24--Registration**

10:00-1:00	DEC Meeting
1:00-2:00	Lunch
3:00-4:00	Opening Session
5:00-6:00	Dinner
6:00-7:00	Strategic Planning
7:00-8:30	"Getting to Know You" Session (Officers, Chairman, Dist. Pres, 1st Vice only)

Saturday—September 25--Registration

9:00	Schools of Instruction
9:00-9:15	Session 1
9:15-9:30	Session 2
9:30-9:45	Session 3
9:45-10:00	Session 4
10:00-10:15	Session 5
10:15-10:30	Session 6
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45-11:00	Session 7
11:00-11:15	Session 8
11:15-11:30	Session 9
11:30-11:45	Session 10
11:45-12:00	Session 11
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-1:15	Session 12
1:15-1:30	Session 13
1:30-1:425	Session 14
1:45-2:00	Session 15
2:00-2:15	Session 16
2:15-2:30	BREAK
2:30-2:45	Session 17
2:45-3:00	Session 18
3:00-3:15	Session 19
3:15-3:30	Session 20
3:30-3:45	Session 21
3:45-4:00	Raffles/Drawings

Thank you for attending Fall Conference—have a safe journey home.

Michigan 102% Units for 2015-16

(Each Unit received a check for \$150.00 from National)

UNIT	Legal Name	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	%
0042	Greenawalt-Flaherty	103	5	133	138	133.98%
0070	Captain Naomi Bell	11	3	11	14	127.27%
0415	Austin Moore	20	1	24	25	125.00%
0135	Harry F Hovey	20	0	25	25	125.00%
0293	Stamnitz-Lindeman	72	5	80	85	118.06%
0092	Milton G. Preiss	29	0	34	34	117.24%
0159	Clayton Murray	108	2	123	125	115.74%
0139	Reese	14	4	12	16	114.29%
0105	Benton Harbor	12	0	36	36	112.50%
0525	Smiths Creek	18	0	20	20	111.11%
0115	Escanaba River	15	1	15	16	106.67%
0226	Leslie T Shapton	632	0	34	34	106.25%
0089	Oscar Briggs	16	3	14	17	106.25%
0146	Menominee	236	7	241	248	105.08%
0028	Charles A Conklin	71456	29	1471	1500	103.02%
0472	Melvindale	141	0	42	42	102.44%
0454	Snyder-Lewis-Welty	88	1	89	90	102.27%
0558	Clare-Farwell	140	0	143	143	102.14%

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Carnival

Post 259, and the 5th District Auxiliary participated in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Annual Carnival in July.



2016 GIRLS STATE WRAP-UP

Beryl Robbins, Girls State Chairman

Our 76th Session of American Legion Auxiliary was held at Michigan State University June 19 to June 25, 2016. We had 287 paid reservations, and called in every Alternate that was available to attend. On Registration day 276 delegates arrived, nine left the program unexcused, 268 voted for their favorite candidate on Wednesday, five more were excused on Friday to attend previous commitments, and 262 attended our closing ceremony. The list of awards and elected officials is available on the ALA Girls State webpage, and sponsors will be contacted if their delegate left the program early. A special thank you to the Committee members and volunteers for another successful year!

We were honored this year that 2014 Girls State Delegate and Girls Nation Senator, Hannah Moore, was selected to be an ALA Girls Nation Junior Counselor. She also served as Michigan's 2016 Wojack City Counselor. Two Senators from Michigan, Nour Ali from Dearborn Heights, and Elizabeth (Libby) Plowman from Grand Haven, were selected to attend ALA Girls Nation. Hannah emailed a picture of herself with our two Michigan Senators

and reported they have been participating and representing MI Girls State beautifully. Nour made it into the top four nominees in her party's presidential election and Libby did the same for VP.

As we continue to wrap up 2016, your ALA Girls State Committee is already preparing for the 77th Session of ALA Girls State scheduled to take place June 18 to June 24, 2017. School will be starting soon, talk to your 2016 Delegates now, they are all willing to help find candidates for 2017! Make plans to visit schools in your area and let them know you are interested in sponsoring students. Don't delay, the 2017 Reservation Form and Delegate Application are available online now!



Georgia Downs, Department Chaplain

Bringing Back Grace

We are a service oriented organization striving to increase and retain our membership with a focus on our five-year strategic plan. A dear friend of mine thought we needed to bring Grace back into our organization. I have referenced several websites in search of the definition of Grace and found that there are many ways to bring Grace back. There are a few definitions of how Grace is defined: **a virtue or excellence of divine origin. Sanctifying grace** is a habitual gift, a stable and supernatural disposition that perfects the soul itself to enable it to live with God, to act by his love. What is grace and what are some ways people have defined grace. "Grace is free sovereign favor to the ill-deserving," (B.B. Warfield) "Grace is love that cares and stoops and rescues," (John Stott) "Grace is unconditional love toward a person who does not deserve it." (Paul Zahl) "Grace is mercy, not merit." Showing grace isn't about being kind now and then, it is a much taller order. Look for ways to show grace toward others and inspire them to do the same. Passing on grace makes the world a better

place. Here are a few ways to show Grace:

- **Show Grace with Words** - When speaking to people use words that are kind and gentle.
- **Look for the Needs of Others** - Help someone in a small way, helping with carrying packages.
- **Respond with Grace** - If criticized even unjustly, respond in a gracious way. Learn from well-meant criticism.
- **Graceful Presence** - Be with someone in a time of grief or if they are in the hospital even if it's for only 10 minutes.
- **Forgive with Grace** - when someone asks forgiveness, accept their apology graciously, don't criticize them.
- **Learn to say "I'm Sorry"** - When you make a mistake, swallow your pride and ask forgiveness.
- **Keep Short Accounts** - When you need to apologize, do it quickly. Grace can go a long way to repairing a relationship.
- **Clean Up your Language** - Use gentle words with those around you, be careful how you

Community Service

Dawn Gramza, Community Service Chairman

The Community Service Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility in our communities through our involvement in activities throughout the community. Planning activities with organizations in the community will allow the community to see us in another light. Your service project doesn't have to be huge as we all know any help is always appreciated.

There are many activities that qualify for community service: walks for a cause, child safety programs, food pantries, recycling programs and support of women shelters

Being active in our communities allows us to show people: Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter! Remember to wear any Auxiliary apparel when working in the community keeping our brand visible.

The suggested Auxiliary-recognized days of service for the 2016-2017 are:

1. 9/11 National Day of Service & Remembrance/Patriot Day

(September 11)

2. Make a Difference Day (October)
3. Veteran's Day (November 11)
4. National Family Volunteer Day (November)
5. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January)
6. National Volunteer Week (April)

I am asking all the units to report their hours monthly as it will make reporting at the end of the year much easier. Remember if you are counting something as community service it can't be counted as National Security or VA & R.

More information and helpful ideas will be available in your Guide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or any member of the committee.

National Security

Deborah Williamson, National Security Chairman

Our National Security program encompasses a vast array of opportunities. These opportunities expand to our units, districts and department in order to promote a strong national defense by supporting our military and their families. This may sound like an easy task, but once you see how much is actually structured into this program, you will understand why units are not going to be able to accomplish every aspect of this program. I encourage you to choose one or two ideas of the program and do them well. This is the ideal way to make a difference to our military and their families.

So, what can you do? I will include as many areas of this program as space allows. There is the Blue Star or Gold Star Banners, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, Family Readiness Groups, Operation Homefront, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS), USO, completing a Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) course and Operation Comfort Warriors (and because we live in Michigan, the Patriot Fund). Do not forget our Juniors. They are able to get involved in and/or start a Youth Preparedness Program in their community. I could not possibly list everything and that is what the guide is for.

With that said, I challenge every member to read the National Security Guide, as there are opportunities as individuals to participate as well.

express yourself. We all have some words in our vocabulary that should be kept in the closet with the door shut.

- **Thank You to Show Grace to others** - Take time to say "Thank You," it doesn't cost anything, but it can show other people gratitude and grace.
- **Take Interest in Others** - Let people talk about themselves - then be interested in their response. (By David Peach)

Today, before you say an unkind word - think of someone who can't speak. Before you complain about the taste of food - think of someone who has nothing to eat. Before you complain about your husband or wife - think of someone who is crying for a companion. Today before you complain about life - think of someone who left you too early.

Be a person, that not only is graceful in life's moments of upset, be the person who shows others what true grace is all about when they least deserve it. (Jan Miesse)

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Colossians 4:6



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 would like to thank everyone for the privilege to be your 2016-2017 Detachment Commander for this great State. I am very happy and proud to represent such a wonderful organization.

June was a very busy month for me as I finished my duties of being the 3rd Zone Commander by delivering the last of the membership certificates to the Posts. I met a lot of new friends and visited many Posts that I have never been to before. Thank you for the memories of being your 3rd Zone Commander.

One of my first trips as being elected and sworn in as your Detachment Commander was traveling to the UPA Summer Tour. I attended the Jr. Auxiliary Convention in Cedar Springs to see Sabrina Townes get elected and installed as the Jr. Auxiliary President. Then it was off to Department Convention where Larry Money was elected and installed as Department Commander and Ellen Jackson was elected and installed as Department President. I look forward to working with both Larry "aka Dad" and Ellen "aka Mom" this coming year.

In July I helped out at our Post for their Fire Works and participated in the Clawson 4th of July Parade. I helped deliver a golf cart which was purchased and donated by the SAL to Custer Wilwin.

The Golden Age Games which were held at Cobo Hall I had the privilege of volunteer for this first time and what fun it was to be able to participate in this event. I organized a Homeless Veterans Picnic at my home Post. Unfortunately it rained that day so we were not able to take them on boat rides but we did entertain them with games, lots of food and care packages. Thank you to everyone that helped me make that day a success. On a sad note I attended the Memorial Service for Past National Commander Tom Camdus. Tom was a great guy and also one of our SAL Advisors. My wife and I send our condolences to his family and he will surely be missed. I will be attending the VA Carnival in Grand Rapids at the end of this month and I hope to see some of you there.

Last but not least I went to Lansing to have my truck detailed and I am so proud to be able to travel this great State and showing off that I am the Detachment Commander for the Sons of the American Legion.

I would like to thank Fred Ruttkofsky for giving me the experience of showing me the ropes and what would be in store for me this coming year.

I am continuing to be on my "magic carpet ride" and look forward to what journeys this year will bring me.

Yours in God and Country

Carvin "Huey" Chapman
Detachment Commander

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

We are not always aware when the Unclaimed ashes of a Veteran has been located. These remains of Veterans have been sitting on shelves in funeral homes that are situated within our neighborhoods for years.

Occasionally a funeral home will become aware, that if they have the Cremains of a Veteran that has not been claimed by a family member, they can contact a V.A. National Cemetery and set up a Date for that Veteran to be buried with the Full Military Honors they had been promised for their Service in the Military.

Sometimes the funeral home will contact a Veterans Service Organization that is situated in their area and ask them if they would like to be representatives of that Veterans Military Family. That Organization may offer to put together an Escort to help lead the way to that Veterans final resting place, where that Keeper of our Freedom will hear "Welcome Home" from their other military brothers and sisters.

With us Sons continuing to visit Funeral Homes in the communities in which we live, and letting them know of our ongoing support of The Missing In America Program, we can be the ones that let them know that the American Legion is willing to help identify any Unclaimed Ashes they may have, to see if they are the Ashes of a Forgotten Veteran.

For God & Country,

Greg Price



The Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Michigan donated and delivered a Golf Cart for use at Wilwin. Delivery was made by Detachment Commander Carvin Chapman, PDC Pat Pustay, chauffeur Department Honorary Jr President Sabrina Jo Townes. Receiving on behalf of Wilwin was Board member John Kinzinger.



Charles A Conklin Squadron #28, Grand Haven completed their Fourteenth Annual Memorial Golf Outing. Their proceeds helped send 6 out of the Posts record number of 50 high school juniors to "Boys State". They also sponsored 2 girls to "Girls State" with their profits.

4TH ZONE REPORT

Hello, Squadron members from District 9, 10, & 19. My name is John Brown and I am your newly elected Zone 4 Commander. My home squadron is #300 in Lake City. I also have the privilege to be the "Make a Wish" Chairman for the Detachment. I hope to visit as many squadrons as I can in 2106-2017.

I had the honor to visit the traveling Vietnam Wall in Sanford Michigan, Post #443. Unfortunately, it was at the tail end of its visit on Monday, July 18th. I did however, have time to pay my respects to some past high school friends who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We as SAL members should never forget are veterans' service and support our veterans who have proudly served their country.

Individual squadrons' should also support programs in our communities. SAL members should also; support the detachment causes and be supportive as we can in helping its programs. Least we, the SAL, not forget that the legionnaires, the communities where we are based, and the detachment charities appreciate the SAL'S hard work in assisting the above.

Squadrons should encourage those eligible to join the SAL and also to thank those who are current members, and hope that they remain proud members of their squadrons. Saying this, I believe our 2017 membership cards, should have arrived at

your posts. If you have not received your new cards please contact me or the Department in Lansing.

Sons, please encouraging membership growth and thank your current members for their continued support. SAL members please attend your meetings, and become involved in your communities. There is much to do.

I will continue to get updated officers list for squadrons in my districts. I would like for all SAL Commanders in Districts 9, 10 & 19 to e-mail or call me, so I can obtain contact information that does not get to me from the Department.

I, as Zone 4 Commander will do my very best, to try to assist our squadrons in Zone 4. We together will encourage the Son's growth, to continue our support for our veterans and our communities. We will also continue our support for our detachment and your national leadership. Most important we shall be supportive of each other, for in this, the Sons can better achieve and support our veterans for their service and their sacrifice.

Feel free to contact me if you need assistance.

Sincerely,
John P. Brown
Zone 4 Commander
"Make a Wish" Chairman
Phone: (734) 634-7733
E-mail: johnbrwn421@aol.com

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Child Welfare Foundation: Terrific, Great, Stupendous, Wonderful, Good, Great Help, Excellent, Desperately Needed, No Expense to those in need.

These are a few of the many things I have heard since I have been involved with the Legion Family and Child Welfare. I have been privileged to have been on the National Child Welfare Committee and assisted in choosing who received grants from the Foundation.

The CWF provides, the means to promulgate, to those can use the information, that particular grantee

can provide. It may be in the form of a brochure, a CD, or a Video. Any means to get the information to those who need it.

The administration of the CWF, is provided by the American Legion, so no administrative cost is taken from the money we raise. We are in a new year.

In Michigan our goal is one and ten.

That is one dollar and ten cents per member for CWF. Can we do it?

Yer Darn Right We Can!
John A. Kailunas
Child Welfare Chairman

5TH ZONE REPORT

On July 17, 2016 Gladstone Post 71 held its first Take a Vet Fishing event. It was a huge success. It was kicked off with a social gathering on Saturday night at the post. It started around 6:30 and lasted till 10:00. This was a time for fishermen, guides, volunteers and relatives to get to know one another. There was approximately 75 people. It was a great time had by all.

Sunday started out at between 6 AM and 6:30 getting the Vets on the boats. There were 56 Vets, 31 boats and guides. Boats came from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois as well as our own locals.

The weather was not the greatest but they did get several hours of fishing in before the high winds and driving rain forced everyone off the water.

A chartered bus took the

Vets to and from the dock to the Legion and the motels.

A luncheon of brats, hamburgers and hot dogs was served. A short presentation followed with lots of prizes for all Vets that participated. The main prize was a fishing trip to Canada. We served about 200 people.

Plans are in the works for next year. It will definitely be bigger and better. Word has gotten out about what a great event it was.

Post 71 Family would like to thank all that helped and volunteered their boats and time for this event. Especially a huge thank you to the members of Take a Vet Fishing Organization that planned and chose our Post and our location to hold their event.

Bill Germain
5th Zone Commander

LEGION RIDERS CORNER

As summer is here so are road repairs and the tar & stone road improvements. Please keep in mind if you are having a ride to check and if need a backup plan on your route. A number of years ago planning an escorted ride with the Sheriff's department a road on our route got a couple inches of stone 2 days before the ride. Provisions had to be made as the Sheriff's department would not use the road. I am also going to have to mention safety. Corn is tall enough for deer to be unseen. I lost a friend a couple years ago due to this and not wearing a helmet, so please be safe. There was a blast from Indianapolis on the rate the Riders are growing. Some still insist that we are the "other guys". I overheard a conversation at the SAL convention that people are joining the SAL just to be

a Rider! First I think the membership people are loving this, but make the SAL meeting attractive. Many times Riders functions involve husband and wife time together. Does your local SAL have family functions? Someday there actually might be a Legion Family. This would be a truly unstoppable movement. Please publish your Fundraising Rides. Contact me with who, what, where, when, cost & why. Please do not send me a list of several pages of functions and meals. Let's occupy the State Riders calendar and be interactive with other posts on rides. Email me at speedbump48813@hotmail.com

Have a Safe & Great Day

Tom Howard
Chairman Legion Riders
Detachment of Michigan

Brett Holt for Department Commander 2017-2018



American Legion Post 439 and the 8th District Association proudly endorses and supports Brett Holt for Department Commander.

Brett earned his eligibility in The American Legion through his service in the U.S. Navy from 1983-1994. He is a 18 year PUFL member of The American Legion. He has served as a post officer, including Post Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Post adjutant, and Sgt-At-Arms. Brett has served his district from Sgt-at Arms to District Commander for 2 years, as well as, Zone 3 Commander.

Legionnaire Holt has served the department as Membership chairman, DMS Membership Coordinator, as a member of the Finance/Personnel, Leadership College, Economic, ADA Advisor, and 100th Anniversary Committee.

He has served on several National committees and State of Michigan appointments.

Brett is married to Bonnie (12 years), a member of Unit 439, and he has 2 children Barry and Jillian. Both members of the Legion family.

Finance Officer Report

Roger Avie, Finance Officer

I would like to start off this article by thanking all the Legionnaires that made my first year as Finance Officer a great success. Looking forward to my second year in office, I want to continue the education process I began last year by holding a Class/Seminar at the September Education Meeting on the Forms that must be filed with the Federal Government, State Government and the Department of Michigan.

This Class will help all new and current Finance Officers and Adjutants better understand the forms, requirements and some of the reasons all these documents are necessary for your Posts

and Districts to function legally with each government agency and the Department of Michigan. The second part of this class will be about "best practices" for running a Bar, Lounge or Catering Facility. Although the Department of Michigan only Charters the Posts we all know that most problems stem from issues running the afore mentioned facilities. As a result I will be putting forth some "suggestions" you might follow to make your functions and activities more profitable and less prone to financial instability and resultant loss. I look forward to seeing you all next month and personally meeting and speaking to you.

Boys State Report

Jerry Kelley, Michigan Boys State Director

School has started and now is the time to begin planning to sponsor young men to attend the 80th year of the Michigan American Legion Boys State Program.

To help celebrate 80 years of young men learning leadership skills and how our government functions, every Post in Michigan should sponsor a young man from their local community to attend Michigan Boys State. The Boys State Committee and all of our Boys state Volunteers are ready and able to assist every Post. The first step for each Post is to select a Boys State Committee Chair. That

person then contacts a Boys State Committee Member for assistance and attends the Boys State Committee Meeting at Fall Conference, where information on finding young men will be presented and how to provide funds to cover the cost of sending a young man to Boys State, which is still \$325, will be provided.

As our 80th year begins we will be moving the Michigan Boys State Program to Grand Valley State University where we will hold Michigan Boys State from June 18, 2017 to June 24, 2017.

Have questions, or need help, please feel free to contact me or any committee member: email: jkelly2136@sbcglobal.net

Marilyn Britten for 2017-2018 Department Historian



The 6th District endorses Marilyn Britten for Department Historian. Marilyn earned her eligibility from her service in the US Army from 1970 - 1985. She has served as Post Adjutant and currently as Commander, several positions at the district including Commander, 3rd Zone Commander 2014-2015, Department Membership Director, Post Development Committee, Past Reconnect Chairman, and current Legislative Chairman. Marilyn served as the Natinal Chairman of Membership and Post Development 2002-2004, and currently serves on the National Security Council. She is a 2001 Legion Colleg graduate and has seved as a facilitator in 2006. We are pleased to endorse Marilyn Britten for this high office.

Scouting Report for 2016

It has been another good year for Michigan Department scouting units. Our scout units were busy with unit activities and being involved in many American Legion Post activities. We ended the year with 70 scout units and are represented by an excellent Eagle Scout of the Year candidate. This year we again did not have a American Legion scout leader Square Knot Award winner.

Our Eagle Scout of the Year Award this year went to Mr. Andrew Twiford of Byron Center, MI. Andrew just completed the 11h 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 camp outs, jamborees, and activities. Some special activities Andrew participates 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 flag disposal boxes for the American Legion Post 127 in Dorr, MI to collect flags. The project was a real success and there was \$500 left over which was donated to the American Legion Post 127 in Dorr. Andrews 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. Andrew will receive his plaque and scholarship at the fall conference.

The 30th International Scout Rally will be held at our Wilwin Lodge at Trout Lake on Sept. 16, 17 & 18. Scouts from Mich-

igan, Wisconsin and Canada will again be involved.

Any scout units interested in joining in this years Inter. Scout Rally can contact Ray Schebel event chairman at (906) 440-3647 or Carl Atkinson at (269) 838-3491

I encourage all our legion posts to get involved with scouting in your areas. Supporting scouting is a great way to build goodwill in your communities. Some ideas on how to get involved are:

- Poppy Day sales.
- Memorial Day parade.
- Putting flags on veterans graves.
- Helping with dinners, cook outs or clean up days at the post.
- Helping with the Flag Disposal ceremony at the post on Flag Day.
- Participate in 4th of July activities.
- Support Eagle Scout projects with funding or manpower.
- Conduct flag etiquette classes and flag folding classes in school.
- Team up with scouts and have a community clean up day.
- Provide posting the colors at community events.

The American Legion Michigan Department charters 70 scout units in Michigan. We have 57 legion posts that charter scout units in Michigan.

A break down of type of scout units is as follows:

- Cub scout packs	- 32
- Boy scout troops	- 30
- Crews	- 7
- Sea scouts	- 1

Thanks to all our Michigan Legion Posts and members for all your support to scouting in Michigan during the past year.

Lets keep it up.

Its been a privilege to again support scouting in Michigan through the 2016 year. If you have a question on American Legion and scouting, please contact me at Carl Atkinson (269) 838-3491.

STATE OFFICERS - 2016 - 2017

AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



Commander Larry Money



Adjutant Ronald Runyan



N.E.C. Roger Webster



Alt. N.E.C. Thomas Brown



Finance Officer Roger Avie



Sergant-at-Arms Bill Hilgris



Historian Ernest Berry



Chaplain Eddie Brown



Judge Advocate Tim Hernandez



1st Zone Cmdr Archie Chappell



2nd Zone Cmdr Catherine Buckley



3rd Zone Cmdr Bob Bigham



4th Zone Cmdr Neal Horning



5th Zone Cmdr Gary Lane



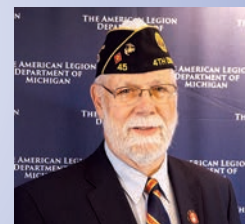
1st Dist. Cmdr Dan McCrary



2nd Dist. Cmdr Wayne Blank



3rd Dist. Cmdr Robert Berger



4th Dist. Cmdr Gary Wear



5th Dist. Merry Lesert



6th Dist. Cmdr Robert Higley



7th Dist. Cmdr Mike Parr



8th Dist. Cmdr Mitch Louth



9th Dist. Cmdr Gary Walter



10th Dist. Cmdr David McGillen



11th Dist. Cmdr Wayne Roy



12th Dist. Cmdr Carl Morrison



16th Dist. Cmdr Bill Clark



17th Dist. Cmdr Gary DeMars



18th Dist. Cmdr Stephen Stevens



19th Dist. Cmdr John Van Maele

These officers comprise your Department Executive Committee. They represent your membership in each respective territory, with the State Commander having overall responsibility. With them and the assistance from our 404 posts and state level committees, Michigan will once again deliver a very successful and progressive Legion year for our veterans, their families, and their communities.

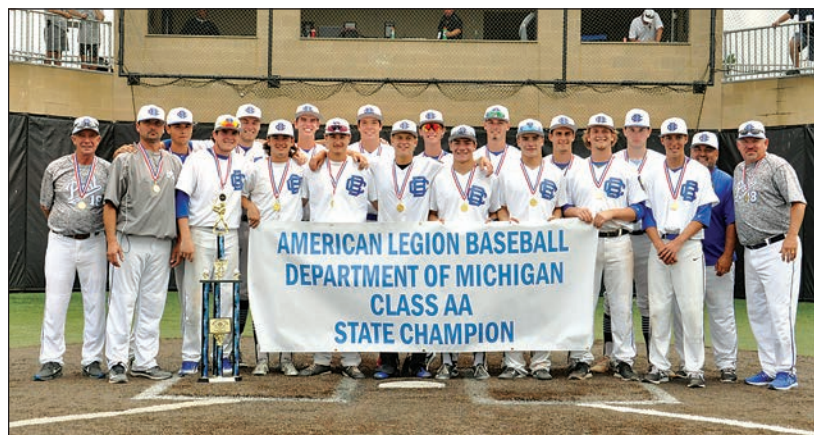
CLASS AA STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



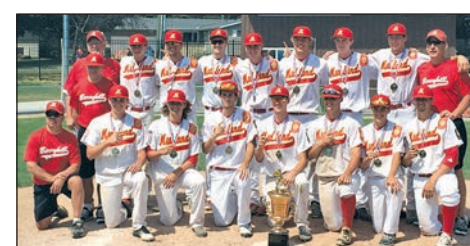
Adrian Post 275



Fort Dearborn Post 364



Bay City Post 18 Class AA State Champions



Midland Berryhill Post 165



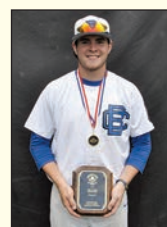
Sault Ste. Marie Post 3



Stevensville Post 568



The Turner family presents a plaque for the Turner Baseball Scholarship. From l to r: Dr. Tychele Turner, Brenda Turner, Bryce Turner, and the Gladwin Baseball Manager Terry Brokoff.



Brady Wood from Bay City Post 18 was chosen as the 2016 Ki Ki Cuyler as "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



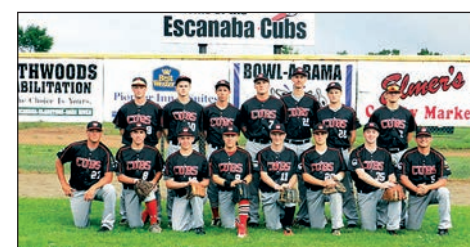
2016 Turner Baseball Scholarship, Michigan Legion Baseball Scholarship, & All-Academic Winner

Camden Dice from Clare was chosen as the 2016 Michigan American Legion Turner Baseball Scholarship, Michigan Baseball Scholarship, and All-Academic Team winner. Dice plans to attend Butler University.

CLASS A STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



Hudson Post 180 Sr Class A State Champions



Escanaba Cubs Post 82



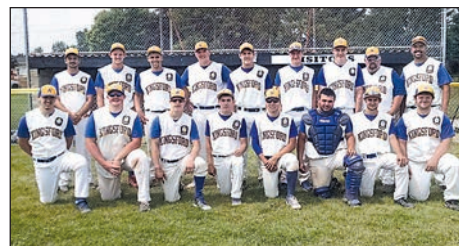
Gladwin Post 171



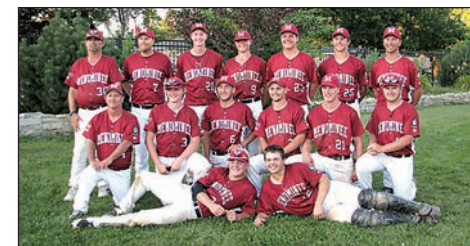
Scott Boden from Hudson Post 180 Sr. team was chosen as the 2015 Hal Newhouser "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



Hudson Post 180 Jr



Kingsford Post 363



Menominee Post 146

Veteran Service

VA Releases Report on Nation's Largest Analysis of Veteran Suicide

More than 55 Million Veterans' Records Reviewed from 1979 to 2014 From Every State in the Nation

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today released its findings from the nation's most comprehensive analysis of Veteran suicide rates in the United States in which VA examined more than 55 million Veterans' records from 1979 to 2014 from every state in the nation. The effort advances VA's knowledge from the previous report in 2012, which was primarily limited to information on Veterans who used VHA health services or from mortality records obtained directly from 20 states and approximately 3 million records. Compared to the data from the 2012 report, which estimated the number of Veteran deaths by suicide to be 22 per day, the current analysis indicates that in 2014, an average of 20 Veterans a day died from suicide.

A link to the report may be found here. **THE REPORT CONCLUDES:**

- Approximately 65 percent of all Veterans who died from suicide in 2014 were 50 years of age or older.
- Veterans accounted for 18 percent of all deaths from suicide among U.S. adults. This is a decrease from 22 percent in 2010.
- Since 2001, U.S. adult civilian suicides increased 23 percent, while Veteran suicides increased 32 percent in the same time period. After controlling for age and gender, this makes the risk of suicide 21 percent greater for Veterans.
- Since 2001, the rate of suicide among U.S. Veterans who use VA services increased by 8.8 percent, while the rate of suicide among Veterans who do not use VA services increased by 38.6 percent.
- In the same time period, the rate of suicide among male Veterans who use VA services increased 11 percent, while the rate of suicide increased 35 percent

among male Veterans who do not use VA services.

- In the same time period, the rate of suicide among female Veterans who use VA services increased 4.6 percent while the rate of suicide increased 98 percent among female Veterans who do not use VA services.

SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURES BY VA

- VA is aggressively undertaking a number of new measures to prevent suicide, including:
- VA has implemented comprehensive, broad-ranging suicide prevention initiatives, including a toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, placement of Suicide Prevention Coordinators at all VA Medical Centers and large outpatient facilities and improvements in case management and tracking. In addition, VA announced this week the creation of a satellite Veterans Crisis Line site in Atlanta, Georgia, for increased staffing capability and geographic redundancy; the satellite site is expected to operational in October 2016 with 200 additional responders.
- Ensuring same-day access for Veterans with urgent mental health needs at over 1,000 points of care by the end of calendar year 2016. In fiscal year 2015, more than 1.6 million Veterans received mental health treatment from VA, including at over 150 medical centers, 820 community-based outpatient clinics and 300 Vet Centers that provide readjustment counseling. Veterans also enter VA health care through the Veterans Crisis Line, VA staff on college and university campuses, or other outreach points.
- Using predictive modeling to determine which Veterans may be at highest risk of suicide, so providers can inter-

vene early. Veterans in the top 0.1% of risk, who have a 43-fold increased risk of death from suicide within a month, can be identified before clinical signs of suicide are evident in order to save lives before a crisis occurs.

- Expanding telemental health care by establishing four new regional telemental health hubs across the VA healthcare system.
- Hiring over 60 new crisis intervention responders for the Veterans Crisis Line. Each responder receives intensive training on a wide variety of topics in crisis intervention, substance use disorders, screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment.
- Building new collaborations between Veteran programs in VA and those working in community settings, such as Give an Hour, Psych Armor Institute, University of Michigan's Peer Advisors for Veterans Education Program (PAVE), and the Cohen Veterans Network.
- Creating stronger inter-agency (e.g. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health) and new public-private

partnerships (e.g., Johnson & Johnson Healthcare System, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Walgreen's, and many more) focused on preventing suicide among Veterans.

Many of these efforts were catalyzed by VA's February 2016 Preventing Veteran Suicide—A Call to Action summit, which focused on improving mental health care access for Veterans across the nation and increasing resources for the VA Suicide Prevention Program.

Suicide is an issue that affects all Americans. Recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data reported in April 2016 that from 1999 through 2014 (the most recent year with data available from CDC), suicide rates increased 24 percent in the general population for both males and females.

A link to the report may be found at: <http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/2016suicidedatereport.pdf>

Other VA mental health information can be found on the VA Mental Health page at: www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

Information about the Crisis Line is available at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net; Veterans in crisis can call Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 (press 1) or texting 838255.

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

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Gary Easterling
Director

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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Serving Veterans In Macomb County



Volunteer shuttle to Detroit VA Medical Center

Our nation's heroes travel around the globe to protect our freedoms—it's only right that we return their dedication. Volunteering to drive a veteran ensures that even those living remotely from VA hospitals can make their appointments and never go without the treatment they need.

Many veterans depend on generous volunteer drivers to get them to and from their Detroit VA Healthcare System appointments. The Volunteer Transportation Network (VTN) uses donated or VA purchased vans, driven by VA volunteer drivers, to transport our veterans to medical appointments.

- Macomb County VTN Shuttle
- Help Veterans get to their appointments
- Valid driver's license with a good driving record needed
- We provide vehicle, gas and training

Call today to learn more:

(313) 576-3332 or (586) 469-6508

Or email: vhadetVAVS@va.gov

PIG ROAST/POKER RUN



Pig Roast/Poker Run will be led on September 10, 2016, at Post 3 in Sault Saint Maire, MI.

For Patriots weekend the Legion along with the Legion Riders, and the SAL are having a Pig Roast.

There will be a Raffle with a prize of \$1000.00. The Riders will have a Poker Run during the day for their Christmas Toy Run. Open License, Fun for all. Proceeds from Raffle and Pig Roast go to Repairs on the Legion Building and Veteran's causes

MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY: MENTORS NEEDED FOR CHALLENGED TEENS



BATTLE CREEK, MI – At-risk teens from across the state need your support as they work on changing their lives. Up to 300 young adults age 16-18 travel to the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy each year to improve life skill and overcome educational difficulties, and each cadet is required to have a mentor who is willing to invest in him or her.

Since 1999, the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy has educated, trained and mentored at-risk youth in a quasi-military environment at no cost to participants, giving these non-traditional learners the skills to become productive and responsible citizens.

The cadets come to the academy from various backgrounds, but share a desire to take control of their lives and better their futures. They endure five and a half months away from home in a highly focused residential environment in order to achieve confidence, independence, and success.

During the residential portion of the Academy, mentors are encouraged to develop relationships with cadets that will continue to grow after the cadets return to their hometowns. Mentors must be over 21, the same gender as the cadet, not directly related to the cadet, not living in the same home, and willing to attend mentor workshops throughout the cycle. Mentors will also be subject to a basic background check, and it is preferred they live within 50 miles of the cadet.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor and helping to improve the life of a teen in your community, email Mrs. Christina McNees at mycaadmissions@michigan.gov or call 269-968-1294.

Witness the journey! You can watch the change in our latest cycle by following us on social media. Be sure to cheer our cadets on! Visit www.facebook.com/MYCA.MICH

POW/MIA OBSERVANCE IN SEPTEMBER

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will observe POW/MIA Day on Friday 16th, 2016. As Legionnaires we remember the POW/MIA's at every meeting of The American Legion. Post Commanders should have the following on their agenda each meeting:

Commander: "Resolution 288, adopted at the 67th National Convention, calls for designating a POW/MIA Empty Chair at all official meetings of The American Legion as a physical symbol of the thousands of American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts

involving the United States of America. Accordingly, at this time the Vice Commanders will place the POW/MIA flag on the Empty Chair—a reminder for all of us to spare no effort to secure the release of any American prisoners from captivity, the repatriation of the remains of those who died bravely in defense of liberty, and a full accounting of those missing. Let us rededicate ourselves for this vital endeavor!"

Michigan POW/MIA's: WWII – 2476
Korea – 347 Vietnam – 49 Cold War – 126 (as reported at www.dpaa.mil)

FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY
September 16, 2016

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

There has been some discussion that not all Squadrons have a copy of their Constitution & Bylaws on file at Department.

Each Squadron needs to formulate a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its functions in realization of its purpose.

Copies of these documents shall be submitted to the Detachment of Michigan for approval.

Each Squadrons Constitution & Bylaws shall not be in conflict with the provisions of our Detachment, Department, or the National's Constitution and By-laws.

If you think your Squadron does not have a copy of your Constitution & Bylaws on file, you can go to; michiganlegion.org then click

on the S.A.L. logo which is located at the bottom of the page. Once there, you can scroll down to our Constitution & Bylaws.

If you think the Detachment Constitution & Bylaws are acceptable for your Squadron, you can download them, and send them to Department so our Judge Advocate can review and approve them.

I have spoken with Kim at Department, and with our Judge Advocate Skipper, to see if we can compile a list of the Squadrons whose forms are not on file. If your Squadron is on that list, you will be contacted, and we can work together to resolve this.

Thank you,
Greg Price

VA & R REPORT

I hope everyone is having a great summer. As your new VA&R Chairman I would first like to congratulate the new Legion Commander Larry Money, Auxiliary President Ellen Jackson and S.A.L. Detachment Commander Carvin Chapman as they take over their new offices. I look forward to working with them this year as we strive to help our veterans.

As members of the American Legion Family it is up to all of us to make sure that our veterans are take care of. The freedom that all of us love so much we owe to them. So that being said try and help a veteran whenever you can.

Please take the time to visit one of hospitals or homes in your area (in the Lower Peninsula there is one in Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Saginaw, Grand Rapids and Wilwin in Custer. In the UP there is Oscar Johnson and Jacobette). Stop in and talk to them see what you can do help.

You can contact me @ Home 231-229-3528 Cell 517-759-0961 or email fruttkofsky@yahoo.com

Always remember Freedom is Not Free

Thank a Veteran

VA&R Chairman
Fred Ruttkoifsky

POST 514 HOLDS MONTHLY CAR SHOWS

Lynn C. Weeman Ida post 514 has a monthly car show on our property with an opening flag ceremony and Star Spangle banner. July 20th show was completely filled with members of the community enjoying all the fine cars and motorcycles. We serve beverages along with hotdogs and hamburgers done on our grill. We have a driver's pool that is returned to the lucky winner along with 50/50 drawing. Drivers can win from the many prizes that are donated by our many local vendors and sponsors. It's wonderful to see our visitors and friends showing true Americanism!



July 20th 2016 Ida post 514 monthly car show opening ceremony was distinguished by American flag barrier Jan Parker Army E5 served 1965 – 1967. POW flag barrier Art Liebdorff WWII veteran 1940-1944 B17 member.



Hotdogs and hamburgers made to order on our grill at the Ida post 514 car show that was on July 20th. Greg Rose and his grandson Gavin Duttine volunteered to cook and join in the fun. In the background is past and current commanders of both Legion and SAL.

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS IN PASSING

Janette Brockway, VA&R Chairman

It's important that we remember our veterans these days on what happens to them when they pass. Our veteran soldiers can be given a full military burial and are buried wherever the veteran or their family desires are. The Department of Veterans Affairs National Cemetery Administration maintains 134 cemeteries in 39 states (and Puerto Rico) as well as 33 soldier's lots and monument sites.

For burial in a National Cemetery benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 134 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veterans's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran. Veterans who are buried in their local cemeteries are also eligible for the headstone at no cost to the family.

Most of the Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries display an Avenue of Flags on patriotic holidays and during special events.

The Avenues consist of burial flags donated by the families of deceased Veterans and provide a unique visible tribute to all of our Nation's Veterans. A certificate of Appreciation is presented to the donor for providing their loved ones' burial flag to a national cemetery.

Many states have established state veterans cemeteries. Eligibility is similar to Department of Veterans Affairs national cemeteries, but many include residency requirements. Even though they may have been established or improved with Government funds through VA'S Veterans Cemetery Grants Program state veterans cemeteries are run solely by the states.

"NO VETERAN DIES ALONE", is vision of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, it's committed to providing caring support and companionship to every dying veteran. No veteran dies alone is a one-of-a-kind program in which volunteers provide companionship and assistance to veterans who are entering the final stages of life. The volunteers provide comfort at the bedside when the family and friends can't be present, they ensure that no one should have to face the challenge of death alone, they hold the veterans hand, talk and listen to them, the volunteers and staff try to make the veterans as comfortable as possible in their final days. The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is always looking for volunteers, maybe this is your calling as a volunteer.

Once death has occurred you can rest as-

sured that the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans will continue to care for your loved one with the dignity, honor and love they extended in life. When death has been pronounced by a doctor the loved one's body will be cleansed and honorably transported to a holding area where the funeral home the family has chosen will receive it for final burial or cremation care.

Our veterans are very special people and are treated respectfully when they pass, wherever death has taken place the veteran is treated with the up most respect and dignity they deserve, after all if it were not for them, would we be a free nation?

The Chaplains at many hospitals will be notified when a veteran passes, he will then gather pertinent information and be there when the families or next of kin or whom ever the contact person is arrives, if a funeral or burial is pre-arranged then the funeral home will be notified. The veteran leaves the hospital or place of death with dignity and respect.

We have an obligation to our veterans when they pass to make sure all of their wishes are met, and to not lose our way emotionally, mentally, or spiritually. Many questions arise that you may never have considered before. Answers don't come easily. It can be a very confusing and exhausting time for you.

Thankfully, you are not alone. Others have taken this journey before you and have marked out a path that you can follow.

District 19 Report

Marjorie Brunett, District 19 President

It was a great experience to attend the Convention at the Soo. What a learning opportunity and UPAAs were super hostesses. The skits were entertaining and eased the seriousness of our meeting.

As I write this I am planning to go to the National Convention in Cincinnati, OH. I have never been to one. I am so looking forward to my next great experience.

District 19 lost 2 Units and gained one this past year. I will keep trying to encourage people to join our great organization.

Recruiting new members is a real challenge

and a tip that was presented at the Convention is to hold a short meeting-then do something fun. This is a plan I intend to implement and want to encourage all Units in the District to do too.

We have a print out of what we do and who we are that we pass out when we are receiving donations for poppies. We are so fortunate as when it is poppy days our local merchants allow us to set up tables in their entryways and locals are generous with their contributions. I usually get permission slips from the store managers to do this and if another organization (such as VFW) wants the same time and space we try to

work out an agreeable arrangement.

My theme for this year will be "Helping our Homeless/Needy Veterans". It is amazing to me that we still have Veterans who are homeless. I want easier access for the Veteran to receive help without having to wait a long time to get it. I am working with our county VA office who will help select the deserving person. Sometimes it is just a tank of gas or a few dollars to help out through the rest of the month or a co-pay for medicine. With a donation to a special fund set up specifically for this, we can help our local Veteran. It may seem like a small amount, but a big help when the Veteran needs it.

Promoting Americanism

Pamela Globke, Americanism Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary is the "Largest Women's Patriotic Organization in the World", and they provide the opportunity, and the material to enlighten many of our citizens about the important things they should know about the Constitution, which is a document that describes our Freedoms and our Rights.

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors an Americanism Essay Contest for students in grades 3-12 including students with special needs. Grade levels are divided into six classes. This year's theme is "How does learning about the government, and our

America, help you become a future guardian of the liberties of our country?"

Liberties may include the assurance of them being able to Vote, or the freedom for them to continue to support such issues as, the Amendment to protect the United States Flag from desecration.

Perhaps they can help to guarantee the freedom to celebrate our Patriotic Holidays such as Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Patriotic Day, and allow us to continue gathering together to watch those participating in parades within our communities' as they proudly carry or wave their American Flags, showing their enthusiasm and patriotism.

American Legion Auxiliary also helps to educate our youth by going into schools and teaching Flag Etiquette, such as the proper way of folding the American Flag, and what each Stripe means. They also encourage the students to participate in the American Legion Americanism programs, such as American Legion Baseball, the Oratorical Contest, or the Junior Shooting Sports program.

American Legion Auxiliary is proud to be a part of the American Legion Family. We will continue to support the programs of the American Legion, and will remain focused in helping others with our educational programs.

Wolven Named Auxiliary Woman of Year

Linda Wolven has been named the American Legion Auxiliary Woman of the Year for Michigan.

"My husband Louis, a Vietnam veteran, has always been involved ever since he got out of teaching. He's been a commander forever, about 11 years. Before that, he was doing things with the Legion, so I joined after getting out of teaching," she said.

Linda, a member of the Auxiliary for Ludington's Post No. 76, said she was interested in seeing what they could do to help people in need.

"We started doing haircuts for the veterans in nursing homes, I've been doing that for 12 years. I like to give them shower gels during the holidays, because I work with Avon. We also have a dog we take, Buddy. He shakes hands with veterans and all the people there."

Linda said she gets back what she gives.

"If you don't get into the nursing homes, you're missed and that's really nice," she said. "It just warms your heart and brings tears. We forget about these guys and women who gave everything."

When she learned she had won the award, it came as a surprise.

"I was completely shocked, good thing I was sitting down when my friend called me. It was just unbelievable, there are so many people that do so many good things, so I'm very humbled," she said.

Her husband was thrilled to hear about his wife's honor.

"She makes sure the veterans are taken care of. I'm proud of her for what she's doing. We were really blown away when we found out she had won. About the same loss for words when I received veteran of the year," he said.

As part of the award, she had the opportunity to be in the Ludington Area Jaycees Freedom Festival Grand Parade, so everyone could recognize the accomplishment.

"It was so much fun and scary to be in the parade," she said.

Linda Wolven was nominated by Auxiliary District President Barb Hoaglund.

Effective Public Relations Begin with the Basics

Suzanne Knapp,
Public Relations Chairman

Consider this short article just a teaser, if what I say here is confusing or you need more understanding do not hesitate to contact me. The Unit and the communication coming from the Unit public relations officer is critical to a successful American Legion Auxiliary. Space is limited here, so watch for my newsletter in the Unit Mailing. My email is Suzanne.knapp26@gmail.com

Let's cover the 3 basics of what I consider the basics for each Unit. Commit to these three basics for one year and beyond and your reputation and participation should increase.

Number one: Does your Unit have a Facebook Page? Yes? Are you posting something at least once a week and have all of your members "Liked" the page so they receive notifications? Facebook allows you to post your Unit news, press releases and announcements without filter from a newspaper editor.

To learn more about pages, go to www.facebook.com/help.

Number two: Are you sending your local newspaper and news outlets information about every one of your monthly meetings? Be consistent, know their publishing schedule and make sure your meetings are in the paper. Who, what, when, where, and why. Also, if you give money away or sponsor someone or something, tell the paper and take a picture.

Number three: Are you communicating with your members? Via email, phone, and or letter every month? This is key, what do they belong to? Why should they continue to belong? What and how your Unit does is important, even to the card carrying members out there. Keep them informed. For email check out mailchimp.com. For phone check out call-em-all.com and for snail mail check out click2mail.com.

Keep it simple, do the basics as best you can.

Greetings from the Southern Area Membership

Laura Chappell,
Southern Area Membership Chairman

Membership is a vital part in our organization and each and every unit is doing their best to reach the goal each year. The question I have is; we obtain new members throughout the year, but we are not any closer to our goal than when we first started. In the 2015-2016 year when I

was Southern Area membership chairman some of the Auxiliary units were down and then I started to ask why?

We are recruiting new members but why are percentage are still down, I understand that there are deaths, transfers, and even some members move that is all understandable but why weren't the members renewing. By questioning some of these members this is what they said; we go to unit meetings they asked for volunteers and being a new person who volunteers I am told that they have enough people to help or so and so usually does that, some said that the ladies were not very friendly and I really didn't feel like I was accepted or I felt that I didn't fit in to the group or there is too much arguing and gossiping going on between everyone. Does this sound familiar? Well to perfectly honest I hear it in the units, at the district meetings, and even at the conventions. This behavior needs to stop! No one wants to belong to organization like that, I know I don't and that is **not** what the American Legion Auxiliary is all about.

Let's all be kind and respectful, talk and treat someone like you want to be treated, and I promise we will be closer to and even make our 100% in membership in each unit. Let's have a great and fun year!

Many, Many Thanks to the Units Who Contributed to the VA&R Luncheon at Convention 2016

Unit #	Amount	In Honor of	TOTAL
158	\$25.00		\$25.00
419	\$50.00		\$50.00
892	\$25.00		\$25.00
18	\$50.00		\$50.00
472	\$50.00	Barbra Dunaway	\$50.00
154	\$800.00		\$800.00
68	\$100.00	Volunteers	\$100.00
226	\$100.00	Josie Bindi-- Maxine Pulman	\$100.00
491	\$25.00		\$25.00
			<u>\$1,225.00</u>



Sarah Brooks' 70th Birthday - Grand Rapids Representative

USS DETROIT COMMISSIONING PUSHED BACK ONE MONTH

Sea Trials and Construction Schedules Cause Delay



DETROIT, Mich., June 16, 2016 – A busy shipyard and ongoing sea trials are good for the local Marinette, Wisc. Economy, as well as the USS Detroit crew training regimen – but it has also caused the much-anticipated ship commissioning on the General Motors Riverwalk at the Renaissance Center

to be pushed back one month, from this September 17, to October 22, 2016.

“It’s ‘good news - bad news,’” said John Peracchio, Chairman, USS Detroit Commissioning Committee. “On one hand, we’re excited and can’t wait to see the ship dock at the Ren Cen, become part of the Detroit and Windsor shoreline – and then make history by being commissioned here in Detroit. On the other hand – the added month adds to the anticipation and gets more

people involved.”

All ship commissioning dates are always “moving targets” and subject to change because of the many activities involved in the construction and sea/acceptance trials of a modern warship, Peracchio explained.

“Additional variables include weather, multiple schedules, testing/validation process requirements and myriad activities that must occur sequentially, he added.”

In addition to the shipyard having several other LCS-class ships in various stages of construction, the Navy is also commissioning five other ships during the same approximate time period.

About USS Detroit and the USS Detroit Commissioning Committee

A Freedom-class littoral combat ship, the new, high-tech USS DETROIT is the sixth U.S. Navy warship to bear the city’s name. She is a fast, agile ship designed for a variety of missions in coastal waters as well as humanitarian relief missions. Capable of open ocean operations, her modular

design supports interchangeable mission packages, which will allow the ship to be reconfigured for antisubmarine warfare, mine warfare, or surface warfare missions as-needed.

A previous USS DETROIT (CL 8), a light cruiser, was one of the few ships to get underway during the attack on Pearl Harbor and earned six Battle Stars during WWII. She was moored with the battleship USS MISSOURI during the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay in 1945.

The new USS DETROIT is being built at the Lockheed Martin Marinette Marine shipyard in Wisconsin. The ship was launched and christened on October 18, 2014 by Mrs. Barbara Levin, the ship’s sponsor and wife of long serving, retired United States Senator Carl Levin, during ceremonies at the Marinette Marine Shipyard. The USS Detroit will be commissioned on the Detroit, Mich., waterfront in October, 2016.

For more information about the USS Detroit and the USS Detroit Commissioning Committee, visit: www.ussdetroitlcs7.com

American Legion Post 382 Give Local Students Scholarships

The American Legion Charles J. Fulton Post 382 recently awarded three area graduating students a \$500 scholarship. In 2011 the St. Clair veterans’ organization established its scholarship program to help high school seniors who were also children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of a U.S. military veteran.

The award was identified as the DeWayne T. Williams Memorial Scholarship as a living memorial to the local U.S. Marine and Medal of Honor recipient who heroically gave his life in 1968 while serving in Vietnam.

This year Post 382 awarded scholarship stipends to Alexa Pastoria, a graduate of Marine City High School, another to Jacob Roman who attended Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School, and the third to Alexis Smith of St. Clair High School.



(l. to r.) Andy Dupuis, Post Commander, Jacob Roman, Alexis Smith, Alexa Pastoria and David Gillis, Scholarship Chairman

Alexa participated in 4-H Club, Student Government and varsity cross country and track. She plans to attend Michigan State University where she will pursue an education in veterinary medicine.

While in high school, Jacob participated in Care of Southeastern Michigan Teens Talking Truth as well as being a member of the varsity football and baseball teams. He is registered to attend Lake Superior State University and work towards an undergraduate degree in criminal justice.

Alexis has received several academic awards, was a four-year member of the varsity swim team and served as a member of Student Council. She also served as a member of the Youth Advisory Council of the Community Foundation of St. Clair County and was a member of the Mock Trial Team. She will be majoring in biology at the University of Michigan and hopes to pursue an education to become a medical doctor.

Information regarding the scholarship program can be obtained by visiting the Post’s website at www.americanlegionpost382.org.

4th Zone Report

Neal Horning, 4th Zone Vice Commander

Greetings (I’ll bet you’ve heard that before)

First of all, thank you for all your support and encouragement. I do appreciate all of that and appreciate the great job our membership as a whole is doing. Just a reminder, The American Legion’s first priority is assisting and taking care our fellow Veterans who are unable or lack of knowledge of the benefits they have earned. I have 12 close comrades who we lost in Viet Nam and other operations that I know if they were here right now, they would be doing the same thing we are assisting Veterans and their families. We are their representatives and we must carry on with Honor and Pride. We leave no-one behind.

My intentions are honorable and true, I will do everything I can to assist and accomplish success with the needs of the 4th Zone. I will be visiting, of course, District Meetings, but be allowed to visit as many Post’s as I can in our 4th Zone.

In my previous life I was assigned to the 28th Infan-

try Division, Combat Engineer Officer, and their Division motto always stuck with me - “Whatever It Takes”. Please stand with me and go forward into battle fighting for what we believe in, our United States, The U.S. Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and the Men and Women who signed their name when joining the United States Armed Forces to defend the same.

Our goals for 2016/2017:

Keep the membership we do have, find new members. I have always liked the idea of everyone just invite one (1) veteran to a Post Meeting, make him or her welcome, sign them up – this would increase our American Legion by a whole bunch.

Let’s be out in the public wearing an American Legion shirt, hat, jacket, showing our pride in the American Legion and what we stand for, duty, honor, and country.

Can you imagine the excitement at that first meeting of The American Legion in 1919? Let’s work on getting that back.



Celebrating 50 Years of Service
TO LEGIONNAIRES AND
LEGIONNAIRE MEMBERS

WE’LL GET YOU HOME.



From Your American Legion Department

Celebrating 50 Years of serving your needs!

Any time you have an accident or sudden illness while traveling away from home, Legionnaire *Emergency Assistance Plus* (EA+) provides a crucial safety net that can help pay for emergency medical transportation expenses your health or travel insurance generally will NOT cover.

- + **Medical Evacuation (by air and/or ground)**
- + **Transportation after Stabilization**
- + **Vehicle Return Costs**
- + **Return of Traveling Companion, Children or Grandchildren**

EA+ rates specially negotiated for Legionnaires and their Families.
The Legionnaire *Emergency Assistance Plus* (EA+) Program is available to Legionnaires at a 35% discount off the broad market rate. A recent enhancement to EA+ now includes escorting you home with a qualified nurse, if deemed medically necessary by EA+ physicians, saving members anywhere from \$5,000 - \$25,000.

For more information log on to www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call toll-free 1-888-310-1547 today to speak with a benefit representative.

*This information is only an outline of the plan’s features. The full terms, benefits and conditions of the plan are shown in your Member Benefit Guide. Please read it carefully. ©2016 Worldwide Rescue & Security 40064

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars

The Sinking of the S.S. Leopoldville and the Loss of an Uncle



On December 24th, 1944 the S.S. Leopoldville was transporting over 2,000 American soldiers of the 262nd and 264th Infantry Regiments of the 66th Infantry Division across the English Channel to France to fight in the Battle of

the Bulge. The Leopoldville was part of a small convoy of 6 ships that traveled the English Channel in a diamond formation on that Christmas Eve. When the Leopoldville was just five miles from its destination of Cherbourg it was struck by a torpedo from the German submarine U-486. Sadly, 763 soldiers were killed and the bodies of

493 were never recovered from the icy waters of the English Channel. Due to the efforts of the HMS Brilliant, a ship escorting the S.S. Leopoldville, approximately five hundred soldiers were rescued.

Legionnaire William Koob's, Uncle Albin J. Wincheski (pictured) was one of the 493 never recovered from the English Channel. Albin was a Staff Sgt with Company F of the 262 Infantry from Ludington, MI. In all 28 soldiers from Michigan perished, 10 of whom were never recovered and are still missing.

Many people are unaware of this disaster that occurred just over 71 years ago and to this day some families do not know the true circumstances of this disaster that claimed their loved ones' lives. It is clear that the military did not want anyone to find out about the Leopoldville disaster and took steps to encourage survivors from telling their stories. Soldiers that did survive were ordered not to disclose any of the details regarding the ships sinking and the letters they wrote home were ultimately censored by the Army for

the remainder of World War II. Even after WWII soldiers were told not to talk about the sinking of the S.S. Leopoldville to the press or else their GI benefits as civilians would be canceled. Families of the fallen soldiers were initially sent missing-in-action cards from the military, followed by a death notice a month later.

For those interested learning more about the sinking, including a complete list of victims, you can visit www.leopoldville.org, a website dedicated to remembering and honoring those lost in the Leopoldville disaster. There is also a memorial in Sacrifice Field in Fort Benning, Georgia.



Selective Service Looking for Local Board Members



The Selective Service System wants to hear from men and women in Wayne, Kent, Lapeer, Kalamazoo, Tuscola, Van Buren, Kalkaska, Wexford, Mecosta, Ottawa and Gogebic

Counties who might be willing to serve as members of local draft boards.

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

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

If you believe you meet the standards for Selective Service Board Membership, and wish to be considered for appointment, please contact: Lieutenant Colonel Dan Allen: daniel.allen2020@gmail.com or 517-927-1537.

The American Legion Department of Michigan can now accept non-serviceable flags 24 hours a day. The Department purchased a flag drop box from American Security Cabinets in St. Cloud, MN. If you would like information about the box contact Kylee Haglund at 866-268-4955 ext 125 or email at khaglund@ascbr.com. They have a few wrap designs and can add wording to the box as well.

Flag Drop Box at Headquarters



PDC Dick Chatman wins a 2016 Governor's Service Award



Steve Palackdharry, Southwest Solutions

Dick Chatman, a strong supporter of veterans' causes and Piquette Square for Veterans, will be honored as one of the recipients of the 2016 Governor's Service Awards (GSA) for his exemplary volunteer efforts.

Dick will receive a GSA "Volunteer of the Year" award at a special ceremony hosted by Governor Rick Snyder on August 30 at the Temple Theater in Saginaw.

It's a great privilege to be selected for this award and I'm certainly thrilled," Dick says. "At the same time, it's important to note that all my work with veterans is supported by a whole network of people, and I'm accepting this award on their behalf."

Dick, 67, served in the Air Force for four years during the Vietnam War. After his service, Dick remained connected to veterans' causes while he built a career at Michigan Bell. Dick retired from the phone company in 2002 and intensified his volunteer efforts to improve the lives of veterans in need.

In 2011, after serving in various high-level posts in

The American Legion Department of Michigan, Dick was named its State Commander. He was the first African American to attain this position. Dick has chaired the Legion's Homeless Veterans Task Force. He has worked with the Wayne County Veterans Community Action Team and the Reboot program for formerly homeless veterans at Piquette Square for Veterans. He is a member of Detroit City Council's Military and Veterans Task Force.

"If it is a veteran's issue, I'm going to be involved," Dick says.

Dick has also been instrumental in raising the profile of important events to honor service. He played a key role in establishing the annual Patriot Day Obser-

vance at Piquette Square, which honors both veterans and first responders. His involvement with the Detroit Veterans Day Parade has resulted in the Parade growing from about 100 veterans to 4,000 participating.

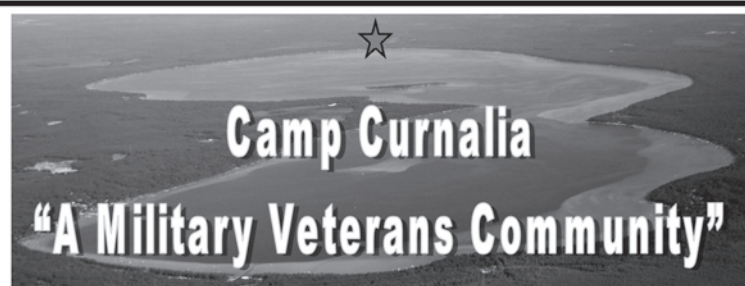
"Dick is the driving force that put the Parade on the map, which has become an annual rite for Veterans," says William Browning, Chief of Volunteer and Community Relations at Detroit VA Healthcare System. "Dick is a champion of the VA's mission to end homelessness for all veterans and his work will only be done when all veterans have a home."

Southwest Solutions whole-heartedly congratulates Dick Chatman for this prestigious and well-deserved honor as a GSA "Volunteer of the Year."



The Detroit Veterans Day Parade will be Saturday, November 6, 2016. 10:00 AM staging at Martin Luther King High School, Larned at McDougall St, east side of Detroit. Parade steps off at 12:00 from Jefferson at Chene St, west to Hart Plaza.

Register at: www.detroitveteransdayparade.org/registration



Cottages Available at Higgins Lake, Michigan

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

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

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

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

6th District Report

Bob Higley, 6th District Commander

I want to thank the 6th District Legionnaires for having the trust in me to be their commander for the 2016-2017 year. I will work hard not to let you down. First I would like to congratulate the 15 posts in the District that hit 100% of their 2016 membership goal. I would like to see all of our posts hit 100% for the 2017 membership year. If you need help with membership please contact me. I can meet with your membership team and we can work on ways to reach your goal. We still have four posts that have not received their 2017 membership cards. Remember, you need to send in the post officers list, bonding form along with a \$10 check and post audit form in order to receive your membership cards.

When I attended the 30 day meeting I was shocked to hear that in 1999 the state of Michigan had 100,000 Legionnaires. Just 17 years later we are down to 67,000 members. That is a 33% loss in our membership numbers. What will the next 17 years bring. We are at a critical point where we must turn this around. We can no longer wait for that eligible veteran to walk in our door and ask to join. We must get out in the community and find them. The 6th district has 39,241 eligible veterans but yet we only have 10% of those as members. In the past dad, grandpa or Uncle Joe would take the younger veteran relative down to their American Legion post and sign them up. Many of our younger veterans today are first generation veterans. They don't have an older relative that already is a member. Many think they need a special invitation to join. Many new members I have talked to said they waited to join because no one asked them. We need to be alert when out in our communities and ask those we see with military hats, license plates or stickers on their cars to become a member.

I would also like our posts to know the 6th District is again sponsoring three young men to Boy's State this year. Every post is eligible to send in an applicant for consideration. We will be selecting one boy from each county for sponsorship. Applications are due by May 1st for consideration. I also would like to see a representative from each post at our District meetings. There is a lot of valuable information that is shared at these meetings you could use at your posts. The representative does not have to be a post officer. Anyone can attend our District meetings.

I look forward to seeing all of the posts in our District this year. I have already visited some of you and will be seeing the rest of you in the near future.

For God and Country

Around the State...



Photo to the Right: Economic Chairman Gerry Merrell presented First Class Building Maintenance with the 2016 Small Business Economic Award for their support of hiring our veterans.



Members of Post 127 Dorr, assembled to dedicate new flag poles for a new veteran's memorial scheduled for dedication on Sept.10th. Also Dorr Parks Commission members Chris Gesink, and Denice Lawrence were present.



Members of Post 84 of Otsego, Michigan accepting a check for \$1,000.00 from the Plainwell Walmart Store to go towards local homeless veterans and their families in need. Post Commander Jay Miller accepts check from Wal-Mart Gen. Store Mgr. Mr. David Fisher.



Comerica Park Aug 3, 2016 was veteran's night at the Detroit Tigers Game. Michigan VSO Commanders gathered and were introduced on the field before the game.



Department Commander Money presided over the 2016 Student Trooper graduation at the Michigan State Police Training Center. The American Legion is grateful for the work the MSP Officers put into making the students experience memorable.



Department Commander Money, Department Adjutant Runyan, Legionnaire Brett Holt, 3rd Zone Cmdr Catherine Buckley, 4th District Cmdr Gary Wear, and 19th District Cmdr John Vanmeale are showing their rolling billboards for the Legion. Spreading the word one mile at a time.