



MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXV No.5

Avoiding the Axe by BRAC

Mark Sutton, PR Director

During World War II Michigan was considered the "Arsenal of Democracy", we converted from car makers to tank, plane, bombs, and bullet makers virtually overnight. The assembly line concept that Henry Ford created before World War I for making cars, turned America into a weapons producing power house during World War II and Michigan's industrial base led the way.

75 years after the invasion of Pearl Harbor one must wonder what's left in Michigan to contribute to the "Arsenal of Democracy" these days? Over the past 40 years Michigan has gone from 26 traditional active-duty full or part-time installations to seven today. Michigan has only seven military locations: The Detroit Arsenal (TACOM), Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, Fort Custer, the Defense Logistics Agency, Camp Grayling Joint Military Training Center, and Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center.

In Washington, D.C., retirements of key MI Senators and Representatives from powerful committees have limited the clout Michigan has on key committees. When the next round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC) comes, how does Michigan avoid the axe of our remaining military contributions? How can we avoid the loss of 105,000 jobs in the state that are tied to the defense industry here at home?

By Being Proactive

Over the past 15 years the Michigan military assets

have played a vital role in the Global War on Terrorism, from deployments of our troops to the support our military assets give to other countries and other branches of the military. Camp Graylings 147,000 acres of space provides the ideal training area for combined armed exercises. Battle Creek Air National Guard base is providing remote drone flight missions to the troops deployed in the middle east and the new Cyber Command is providing protection and training to the next generation of war fighting service members. We are no longer fighting wars with just bombs and bullets, but also with 1's and 0's (binary code). Keeping America's computer driven infrastructure secure is a priority we cannot afford to miss. Our electrical grid, automotive industry, and other high-tech industries in Michigan are targets from terrorist organizations, foreign powers, and organized crime rings all wanting to steal or disrupt whenever and from where ever they want too.

Under the leadership of General Vadnais Michigan has moved to make the few remaining assets left in Michigan less costly to operate and more vital to the overall mission of keeping America safe.

Natural gas, solar and wind energy alternatives are meeting the needs of our bases, the less they cost to maintain and operate the more attractive they look in the eyes of the BRAC committee to not close them.

Key relationships between the MI National Guard, the auto industry, and the military research companies in Michigan will help drive innovation

and protection for Michigan.

Governor Snyder recognized the importance of these assets and he commissioned a study to "Protect and Grow": A Strategic Plan for Michigan's Defense and Homeland Security Economy. It is about protecting jobs and the important elements here in Michigan.

Did you know that 79% of all US Iron Ore is shipped through the Soo Locks and that 70% of that is shipped through the 48-year-old Poe Lock? How important is Michigan to the steel industry knowing that? If the Soo Locks were to stop working, the Department of Homeland Security estimates that 75% of US integrated steel production would cease within 2-6 weeks.

Michigan is vital to national security and I would encourage all readers to download and read the "Protect and Grow" report at the link below. On this issue, Michigan citizens need to know more and speak to their Representatives about it. If we don't then the last 7 military installations will become like Willow Run Bomber plant did, a shuttered manufacturing plant for history to talk about.

The report:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/snyder/Michigan_Protect_and_Grow_Public_Report_2016_525922_7.pdf

Protect and Grow: A Strategic Plan for Michigan's Defense and Homeland Security Economy
Executive Summary and Public Report



Presented by:
The Michigan Defense Center



Michigan Veteran Home Authority Bills Passed

Marilyn Britten, Legislative Chairperson

Much of the news coming out of Lansing about the veteran homes has not been good this past year, until now. During the lame duck session, legislation has been passed to create a Michigan Veterans Facility Authority to first build two new veteran homes and later up to five more.

As I write this, those pieces are heading to the Governor's desk for his signature. The next steps are to create the authority, assemble a board, and have a completed application to Washington, D.C. by April 15th, 2017 to request that 65% of the construction costs be granted from the US Department of Veteran Affairs.



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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.



**The Only Written
Official Call
Annual Winter Conference
American Legion, Department of Michigan
March 10-12, 2017
Holiday Inn Gateway - Flint, Michigan**

Purpose: To implement plans for the upcoming year and otherwise conduct the business of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, through meetings of the Department Executive Committee, taking reports from called Department Committees and Chairmen, presenting public recognition awards, and conducting applicable Schools of Instruction.

Aside from the Department Executive Committee, only the Department Committees and Chairmen listed below are called to officially participate in the Winter Conference. See Program Book for all specific locations.

Registrations • Registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Saturday, March 11th, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings – Saturday March 11th, 2017 - See schedule at www.michiganlegion.org (subject to change)

- Baseball, Boys State, Education & Scholarships, Finance/Personnel, Internal Affairs, Leadership College, Legislative, Membership, National Security & Foreign Relations, Permanent Time and Place, Post Development, Public Relations, Reconnect, VA & R, and VAVS/VHVS

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, March 12th, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

“Happy New Year”



Greetings Legion Family! I am looking forward to another good year. This is a time to reflect on our lives, the past years and to plan for the future. We ask ourselves, how can we improve our lot in life and make things better for our families, Posts, communities and our fellow mankind? It can almost seem overwhelming. Many of us start by making resolutions. In the past I have made some with good intention that were almost doomed to fail before I started. So now, I start with a new approach. I say a prayer of thanks to God for the many wonderful things in my life, especially for His love. And, I promise to find a way to share that love with my family and to others. My hope is to do at least one thing nice for someone everyday.

Over the holidays we watch many Christmas programs. One of our favorites with the grand-kids is ‘Santa Claus is Coming to Town.’ In that movie a song says that to get any going you “just put

one foot in front of the other” and soon you’ll be on your way. So, the first thing I’ll do is to make a small affordable donation to a charitable cause or church program. We have many to choose from in the American Legion and some that are tax deductible (check out our Department website under Troop Support and Reconnect). That is a small step but with guaranteed success. Then, I’ll have a good feeling and I’m already on my way.

A lot of other things we might do may take time and we should not get discouraged. It reminds me of Ecclesiastes 3:1 “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens... 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance... 6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak.” For these things we make plans. The best place to start is to put activities in a calendar. For 2017, I have already planned to attend our Winter meetings in March at the

Flint Gateway Holiday Inn and scheduled a reminder. I also look forward to and schedule other personal and family events. Our fourth grandchild is also due in March. I’ll need to do some coordination of time and finances.

Its good to have dreams but it also helps to be organized (sounds like a good resolution). As we dream and plan, then we should be prayerful, asking for guidance. I have already mentioned that we need to take action. And it is important to enjoy the tasks, realizing that each small task contributes to the accomplishment of our ultimate goal. Ecclesiastes 3 goes on to say “11...no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end... 20 So I saw that there is nothing better for a person than to enjoy their work, because that is their lot. For who can bring them to see what will happen after them?” Thank each of you for all you do, no matter how small it may seem at the time, because it contributes to the greater good.

God bless you all. - Chaplain Eddie

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

Headquarters

Is your Post Home an Asset or a Liability?



Larry Money
State Commander

Until one actually takes the position of State Commander you can only speculate on how things in the Legion operate. Before becoming State Commander I would come to department headquarters for meet-

ings and for information, I would sit and chat with the state adjutant and talk about things in general going on through out the department.

However, upon taking office and then coming to department regularly and having regular conversations with Ron, the State Adjutant, I have learned quickly many of the day to day problems Ron handles seem to have a common theme, the American Legion Post owns a Post home and it generally contains a bar or lounge. This has gotten me to thinking and I want to pose the question to you.

Is your Post Home an Asset or a Liability?

What is the purpose of the Post Home? The primary purpose should be a business entity of the Post to generate revenue to support the programs for which the American Legion Post supports. The business entity can be in the form of a members lounge, where drinks are sold and profits made to maintain the building and support the programs. It could be entirely different, like a restaurant, or ice cream parlor to attract the public. It is a business and should be run like one. Some Posts simply have a building in which they rent space for the community to use and some do not have a building at all.

With the purpose of a Post Home in mind how do we then determine if it is an asset or liability? In my opinion I think it comes down to asking questions and looking at the answers. Does the committee in charge of the Post Home present a check to the American Legion Post to support its programs on a regular basis? (Because without prof-

its, programs are not funded). Is the Post Home an inviting and nice place to come and visit or hang out in? (Even if you do not partake in alcoholic beverages). If it has a banquet hall area included is it being rented out on a regular basis to generate revenue? Is the building a community partner? Is the American Legion Post meeting spent discussing discipline issues of members because of actions that happened in the lounge? Is there a partnership or infighting occurring between the SAL and Auxiliary family members demanding they pay allowances to use the building? Is the finance officer using membership dues to help pay the bills of the Post Home to keep the lights on?

American Legion Posts have closed their doors because the Post Home is no longer viable, but the Post Home is not the American Legion Post, but many think of it that way. The American Legion is our four pillars, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, Americanism, National Security, and Youth. It is no Miller Lite, Bud Lite, Coors, and Milwaukee's Best.

Why say all of this? I say this because I wonder sometimes if our Post Homes have become a distraction to our mission in some places. I see how the Post Home has driven wedges between our other organizations. I see Legionnaires acting in ways that make me shake my head in disbelief. Maybe for those American Legion Posts that have a Post Home it is time they take a serious look at the Post Home and how it operates and determine if it is an asset or a liability. Then take the steps to make it an asset, make sure it stays an asset, or close the Post Home to eliminate the liability that it has become before it ends the Post all together.

Maybe membership is falling in posts with Post Homes because to many members see the Post Home as a distraction to the real mission of The American Legion.

Membership is an ongoing process and as we crest the hill for the 2017 membership year lets look at everything we can to roll to the finish line as best we can.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Happy 2017



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

With the New Year in motion our membership dues increase is now in effect as of January 1, 2017. There is a new remittance sheet printed in this edition for all our Posts to use until they get the new forms. These new

forms are online in the "Forms" section or you can also contact Deanna and we can mail some to you. The new form is also much easier to use and provides for better information to be sent to Department.

During the holiday season I had the privilege to accompany Past State Commander Dick Chatman to "Vets Returning Home", which is a non-profit homeless shelter in Roseville. On behalf of the Department of Michigan and our Homeless Veterans fund we made a \$2000 donation. We could not make donations as such without your contributions and generosity to our veterans, so thank all of you who contributed! This is one event of many that we did. There are so many other ways we assist

veterans on a daily basis on behalf of you, as members of this Great organization. Please remember this, if you ask yourself, why you continue to pay those dues and belong to The American Legion.

On March 10th we will be holding a banquet for all members in the Legion family. We are pleased to be hosting the Leading Candidate for National Commander Denise Rohan, the first woman National Commander. Everyone is welcome come to the banquet if you cannot stay for the weekend meetings. The registration form is in this paper & online. We will also be holding our Winter Meeting March 11-12 in Flint. We will be conducting some very good training on Saturday March 11th throughout the day. The complete agenda is in this paper & online.

Deadlines are ap-

proaching!!! Scholarship applications are due January 9th, Teacher of the Year due February 1st, Eagle Scout of the Year due March 1st. If anyone has a family member or potential candidate for any of these great programs please get them submitted or call Roxanne and

provide the information. The zone oratorical contests are in full motion with the state finals at the Grand Rapids Gerald Ford auditorium on February 18th.

I wish happiness upon each of you and hope you all have a blessed and safe New Year!

REMITTANCE SHEET – MUST ACCOMPANY ALL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

The American Legion
Department of Michigan
212 N Verlinden Ave Ste A
Lansing, Michigan 48915

MEMBERSHIP YEAR _____

NO. _____ DATE _____ 20 _____

POST NAME _____ NEW MEMBERS _____

POST NUMBER _____ RENEWALS/CURRENT YEAR UNPAID TRANSFERS _____

POST LOCATION _____ = _____ # CARDS ENCLOSED x \$39.50

(SIGNED) _____ \$ _____ TOTAL REMITTANCE *

*DO NOT ADD ONLINE & DECEASED TO TOTAL

NAME & TITLE _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

_____ TRANSFERS ENCLOSED (PAID CURRENT YEAR TO FORMER POST) -DATA FORMS REQUIRED FOR ALL TRANSFERS

REMARKS: _____

MAIL WHITE ORIGINAL TO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS WITH DEPARTMENT RECORD – KEEP YELLOW COPY FOR YOUR FILE



Membership

Just Ask – It Works



Hello Michigan Legionnaires. Well, 2016 has slipped by, the snow has come, and we are still talking about membership. It has been said and written many times that “membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion.” And, it is as true today as the first time it was expressed, for without the membership the programs of The American Legion would not happen. It is time for us to check with our Legion friends to ensure they have renewed and you need to also check the year on your own membership card to ensure it reads 2017. If it does not read 2017 you are delinquent in your membership.

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from January 1st to December 31st (membership campaign year is July 1st to June 30th). When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine. The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July thru April. When a member renews, they are removed from future renewal notices for that year. There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please check with your local post to ensure they have received your dues. Hopefully if your post has received your dues you will have a 2017 membership card in your pocket.

Membership chairs of each post should lead their teams in calling and/or visiting those members that have yet to renew their membership for 2017. This also a good time for the Sergeant-at-Arms of each post to check membership cards before post meetings and to inform members that their memberships are not up-to-date if they do not have a 2017 membership card. Also, if you have a club license the State requires purchasers to be current members and as of January 1, 2017 that means a 2017 membership card. Your post by-laws may also stipulate that those without a current membership cannot vote on any actions brought to the meeting floor.

And now that the new year is here any Post memberships submitted to Department must have an additional \$5 included (\$39.50 per member).

Our percentages are looking good! Zone totals are at 79.61% while the Department totals, which include 225 members, set at 77.35%. Please put membership on your Post agendas for each meeting and discuss how the post is going to reach out to its membership for paying dues and for bringing members into post activities. I feel nothing will be accomplished in membership or post activities if we are unwilling to discuss the subjects in an open forum.

Talk about membership in your post newsletter, website, and other social media explaining how important membership is to all levels of The American Legion, especially your local post. Post Commanders, attend district meetings and exchange ideas about membership. This is a great place to find what works and what does not work. You can find resources to assist you in your membership efforts. Some districts and zones have worked together to assist each other in membership renewal efforts. You just might be the right person for the job!

Happy New Year. May this be the year that the Department of Michigan reaches 100% membership and shows the other Departments that “Michigan can!”

District Meetings

1st District

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

2nd District

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

4th District

January 8, 2017 - Allegan Post 89
 March 5, 2017 - TBD
 May 7, 2017 - TBD

5th District

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
 All Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with Senior Vice Commander Jan Roy presiding.
 All District Committee meetings will be conducted @ Post 179 (616) 453-9861: Oct 13, 2016, December 8, 2016, February 9, 2017, April 13, 2017, June 8, 2017
 DISTRICT MEETINGS
 January 12, 2017 @7PM – Furniture City Post 258, 401 North Park St. NE, Grand Rapids, MI
 March 2, 2017 @7PM – Post 179, 2327 Wilson SW, Grand Rapids, MI
 May 11, 2017 @ 7PM – Willard G. Leenhouts Post 6, 10820 Paw Paw Dr., Holland, MI
 July 13, 2017 @ 7PM TBA

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

6th District

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

7th District

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

8th District

Sunday, January 8, 2017 at Post 502 Elsie
 Sunday, March 5, 2017 at Post 101 Greenville
 Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Post 203 in Belding
 Dinner at 1:30 and meeting to follow.

9th District

March 18, 2017 at Fife Lake Post 219
 May 13, 2017 at Traverse City Post 35

10th District

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

11th & 12th District

Schedule: (Eastern Time) 9:00 A.M. - Service Officers School 10:30 A.M. - 11th & 12th District Meetings, Noon – Lunch, 1:30 P.M. - U.P. Association Meeting
 The U.P. Midwinter Conference will be at Post #71 in Gladstone On January 27th thru January 29th, 2017.
 The 11th and 12th District meetings will be on January 28th at Post #71.

16th District

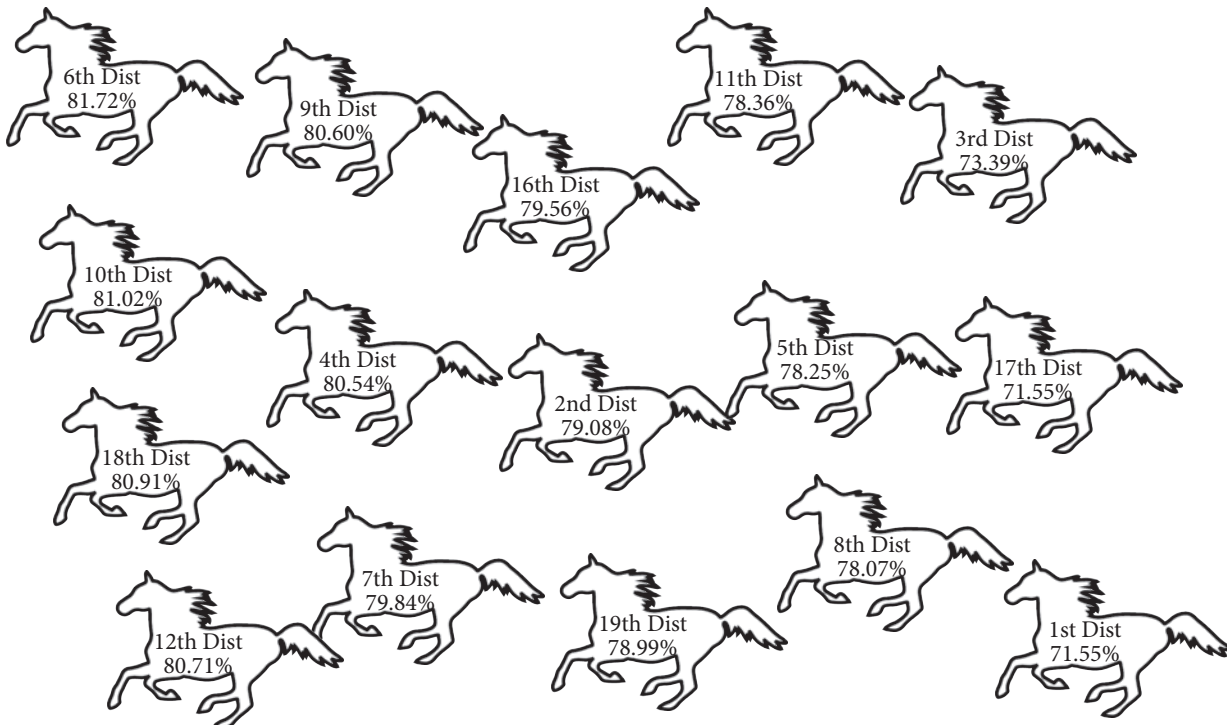
American Legion & Aux Meeting 7:30 PM
 *Denotes Service Officer School 6:30 PM
 ** Memorial Service 6:30 PM
 January 10 – Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177
 February 14* - Fort Dearborn Post 364 313-562-9090
 March 14 – Wyandotte 217
 April 11* - Trenton Post 426
 May 9** - Lincoln Park Post 67 313-388-2088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

17th District

January 18, 2017 Northville Post 147
 May 17, 2017 Livonia Post 32

18th District - TBD

2017 Membership Goal: 68,507 December 15 Total: 52,987 - 77.35%





AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2016 - 2017 Department President, Ellen Jackson

“Hats Off” to the Girls State Committee



As I mentioned in a previous article, I would like to give a “Hats Off” to exemplary members and projects that show off our efforts for our veterans and our children. Today, it is a very big “Hats Off” to our Girls State Committee and workers. The letter below is just one of the comments we get annually regarding this program. I am so proud of how much our program accomplishes in that week with our teens. So much work goes into the program year round and it feels worthwhile when we get responses like this one. Beryl Robbin, Girls State Chairman, you and your group are the best. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do.

Department Secretary/Treasurer,

Denise Carter

I hope this article finds all of you well and happy. Happy. Think about what things make you happy. Does going to your Unit's Auxiliary meeting make you happy? Or do you cringe at the very thought?

Sadly, many Auxiliary members are avoiding meetings and participation in our programs because of conflicts within their Units. Can you blame them? Who wants to listen to complaints, squabbles, one-up-manship and downright meanness?

Does your Unit suffer from any of those? There are many resources available on both the State website (michalaux.org) and the National website (ALAforVeterans.org) that can help make a meeting more amicable, more productive AND more enjoyable.

First of all, Units should always follow Parliamentary procedure. Our Parliamentarian wrote a good article in the last Auxiliare issue on what the procedure is. If members tend to take over the meeting and run with it, it should be stopped and order restored.

Second, remember and remind other members of our purpose. As stated in the American Legion Auxiliary at a Glance brochure:

For nearly a century, The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The

American Legion have worked steadfastly, side by side, promoting patriotism and national security, while supporting youth and advocating for veterans and active-duty military.

While members of The American Legion Family are individually unique, collectively we are a multi-million member powerhouse of caring advocates dedicated to service. You and your family can join us! You'll find that getting connected to The American Legion Family is one of the best decisions you'll ever make.

Third, let me re-state the last paragraph: Members are individually unique. That uniqueness is what makes our organization great. It is also what causes conflicts. Think before you speak. Did that person really intend to sound so bossy or is that just the way she speaks? Older or more seasoned members tend to insist that “we

Dear Susan Stacha,

9/13/2016

I would like to express my sincere thanks for giving me the opportunity to attend American Legion Auxiliary Girls State this past June. The things I learned and the friendships I made have been truly life-changing. Never before had I been in one place surrounded by passionate, driven young women, unafraid to speak their mind and tackle real-world issues that face our country today. In fact, I am still in touch with all of the girls that lived in my city, and we are planning to meet up in Lansing sometime soon.

During my time at Girls State I resided in the city of “Wojack” which was one of three cities in the county of Alger-Pearl. I was a Federalist, and attended party platforms to discuss what our party would stand for. To be honest I was actually quite nervous about what position I should run for in those beginning days, but with some studying and plan formulation for the issues that faced my city, I ran for Mayor and was appointed for office. Wojack was a large cosmopolitan city, and with this I was exposed to the issues that our city leaders face in the state of Michigan. I was even able to meet the Mayor of Muskegon. She was so cool. Throughout the week I learned the importance of the American flag. Flag ceremonies were held daily and of utmost importance. I have never felt more united with a group when we all stood around the flag and pledged our allegiance. It was really amazing. I also learned the importance of being a responsible citizen, and how important it is for women to vote. Although Girls State was full of stressful long nights and hard work, it is a memory I will cherish forever. I hope that more girls from our area can get involved in the future.

Michigan American Legion Girls State changed my life.

I can't thank you enough for that.

Karson Schuck

have always done it that way”. Think again. Is it important enough to fight over? Then give examples of why so the younger, newer members will understand where you are coming from. Younger, newer members, are you listening to the older members or just writing them off as old? From someone who is now aging, I will tell you that the body may be giving out but my mind is young and I want to stay involved for many years to come. If I get too old to handle a job, give me something else I can do.

The National organization predicts, based on current trends, the American Legion Auxiliary will cease to exist with 35 years. Why? Because fewer people want to come to meetings and work our programs. Solution? Give them a reason to join. Make your Unit a great place to be! We can do this!

Deanna Cortright Endorsed for Department President

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Coldwater American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52, held August 10, 2016, and the Third District Association meeting held September 11, 2016, Deanna (Mrs. Duane) Cortright was endorsed for the office of President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2017-2018.

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

Park, Florida.

Deanna has been a member for 35 years, and has been active at the Unit and District level for all of them. At the Unit level, Deanna has held all offices, including a total of 5 years as President, with part being while she was a member of Quincy Unit #157. She is currently Treasurer.

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

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

has served as chairman of the Junior Activities and Children and Youth committees, as well as Education. She was VA & R chairman for 3 years, and has also been the Department Membership Chairman. Deanna has served as Department Historian, Chaplain, and 2nd Vice President. She is currently the 1st Vice President for 2016-2017.

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

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

It is with great pleasure that we endorse Deanna for this position. We feel that she is well qualified to serve the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, as an officer. We ask for your consideration and endorsement of Deanna for the nomination of Department President for the year 2017-2018.

Lisa Bartlett
3rd Dist President

Dee Schraegle
3rd District Secretary

Diana Doyle
Unit 52 President

Janet Hurst
Unit 52 Secretary

Deborah Williamson Endorsed for First Vice President

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Fifth District Association, held Tuesday, October 18, 2016, in Grandville, MI, Deborah R. Williamson was endorsed for the office of 1st Vice President, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2017-2018.

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

Deborah has been an active American

Legion Auxiliary member for 63 years. On the Unit level she served as President for six years. She has served her Unit as 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian, and Treasurer for 24 years. She has held every Chairmanship at the Unit level with the exception of Americanism and VA & R.

At the District level, Deborah served as 1st and 2nd Vice President and was President in 2006-2007. She served as Publication Chairman and Poppy Chairman for several years.

At the Department level, Deborah has been on the Girls State Committee for 13 years and served two years as Girls State Chairman. She has served as Department

Historian, Chaplain, and is currently serving as 2nd Vice President

Deborah is a 13 year member of Kent Salon 322 of the 8 et 40, and a Chapeau Passe.

Deborah is a 23 year associate of Michaels Stores Inc. She has four children and has been blessed with sixteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

We ask your consideration and support of our candidate for the office of 1st Vice President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2017-2018.

Christine Merlington
Fifth District President

Pamela McVeigh
Fifth District Secretary

Georgia Downs Endorsed for Second Vice President

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, 9th District Association, Department of Michigan, held on October 1, 2016, we endorsed Georgia Downs for the office of Second Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan for the year 2017 - 2018.

Georgia became eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of her deceased father, Kenneth P. Carlson, who served in World War II. Mr. Carlson enlisted in the Army when he was 16 years old and was one of the few survivors of his platoon while battling in Germany. He was a recipient of several honor ribbons.

While being a member for 19

years, she has held the office of Unit President (3 years) and District President for two terms. She has had the opportunity to chair many committees at the Unit, District level and Department, including but not limited to Poppies, Americanism, Lower Northern Membership Chairman, V.A. & R. and Girls State staff. Currently Georgia is chairing the same committees along with the Family Support Group. She has been the chairman and co-chairman for eleven years for the Veterans Dinners at Post 411.

As District President her project was the Wilwin Lodge, a retreat for our returning Veterans; she raised thousands of dollars by hosting a dinner once a month with

all proceeds going to her project. Georgia has successfully raised funds for Girls State Program so no Alternate is left behind.

Georgia is Chaplain for the Department of Michigan and she is part of our Strategic Planning Team to help lead us into the future. She has been a volunteer at Girls State for four years. She is a strong supporter of all of our programs. She is a member of Salon 300 and holds the position of Chairman for the Nurses Scholarship, Departmental de Michigan.

She raised her family in Westerville, Ohio and moved back to Michigan in 1990. She has multiple designations and degrees in insurance and brings strong managerial skills in customer service/

sales. She sat on the Boards of her local township for ten years, secretary for the Zoning Board two years and Board of Review for eight years.

Georgia retired from Greenridge Real Estate in 2012 after 23 years in the industry. She has been a broker for 15 years and still maintains her own Real Estate brokerage.

We feel Georgia has the skills and our confidence to serve in this position. We ask for your support of our endorsement.

J. Barbara Hoaglund
9th District President

Sharon Reynolds
9th District Second Vice President

5th District Report

Merry Lesert, 5th District Commander

As I sit here I begin to ask myself, "Just what do I know that is happening in our District." With much of a heavy heart I fear to say that I don't really know what has been happening in our District. You may wonder that yourself. All I can say at this point is that I will be getting better. As some of the Posts in the 5th were aware that I recently had knee replacement surgery. In truth, this has knocked me back quite a bit. I however am feeling not 100% better yet but I am improving more and more each day. I once again am ready to go forth and make the 5th proud that they invest-ed their faith in me. I would like to thank my Senior Vice and both my Junior Vice Commanders for doing their jobs and pitching in for me when they could. I know by the time this hits our paper most of the holidays will have come and gone. In that time the 5th has maintained its membership. The 5th District main goal is our membership. We as well as some other Post has seen kind of a lull around the Holidays but

we are getting right back into membership quickly. We have however picked up some new members too. As we are now into the new year we still have the same goals on membership. The 5th will be holding 2 membership round ups coming later this winter and early spring. We have lost a lot of members over time but we still have a lot to get yet too. So, don't give up on the 5th for we will be bouncing back. We will be doing a lot more promoting of our District. I invite any Post in the 5th to talk to me about ideal that they have in promoting our District. Someone once said to me that we only care about their (members) money once we got them that's all that matters. We I beg to differ. Paid members are just important to our organization as if they were a new member. We come from all walks of life whether it is by size, shape, color, ethnic background, religion, or age we have fought wars, came home to bad times and good times but we all have 1 thing in common. We all Served our County. Be proud and keep standing tall Legionnaires and America. Keep standing tall.

10th District Report

Dave McGillen 10th District Commander

This year is going quickly. I hope everyone had a safe and good holiday season. As 2017 is upon us, the Mighty Tenth District is doing well with membership goals. Congrats to all, but we still have a ways to go to reach our 100% goal. We can do it!. We have to reach out to all vets, older vets, younger vets, 225 transfers! Many have never been asked. Explain how the Legion family works and what we do to help our vets and families.

For those who have access to a com-

puter, www.mylegion.org is a valuable tool. Our district service officer, Tom Sheppard, has offered to attend monthly meetings for Posts to explain benefits for vets and families, answer questions, and direct members to the right resources. We are here to help.

It is also important for our Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary to work together. Many hands accomplish much more than just a few.

I challenge each of you to sign up a least one new member, and we will reach our goal. Keep up the good work.

I wish you all good health and thank you for your service.



Our American Legion family will raise money during Tips for Troops-2017, for our Reconnect program (MichiganLegion.org/Reconnect), in order to support programming at Wilwin Lodge - Cygnet Cove (Wilwin.org). Wilwin, in Custer, MI, sits on 1183 acres of wooded land with veteran lodging, handicap accessibility and a beautiful private lake, perfect for recovery, renewal and relaxation. Reconnect funds Family Retreats, Group PTSD Retreats and Equestrian Therapy at Wilwin, along with providing opportunities for hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, and other leisure activities, for veterans and their families.

Tips for Troops is a simple concept, in which Legion family bartenders, donate a shift of their Tips, for Troop and Veteran charities. In addition, help from special guest bartenders, private and corporate donations, proceeds from auctions, raffles, 50-50's, food sales and musical guests, add to the total. Our staff and membership has supported this endeavor, wholeheartedly, helping to provide needed help to our heroes for six years. In 2016, Northeastern Post #459 and D.W. Cassard Post #208 partnered to raise over \$17,000 for The Patriot Fund, with ten (10) Tips for Troops events.

Your Post family can get involved by either hosting or attending, one or more Tips for Troops events. I am happy to visit your post and present information to your leadership and personnel about Tips for Troops. I am sure after hearing how successful it can be, they will all be on board, with fantastic fundraising ideas of their own. Our goal is to have as many partner post families, as possible, thereby insuring funding for these needed programs. You may contact me (Chris Moore) by phone (616)916-6260 or email (clmoore459@gmail.com), at any time to discuss this phenomenal benevolent endeavor.

Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our veterans!



Help Wanted

Veteran Service Officer Wanted

The Department of Michigan Veteran Services Division is accepting applications for a veteran service officer to cover the eastern half of the MI Upper Peninsula (from Manistique to Sault Saint Marie). Inquiries can be made by emailing Gary Easterling, DVSO Director at milegvar477@gmail.com or calling 313-964-6640.

April 1st & April 8th, 2017 at Super Bowl Lanes in Canton, MI

81st American Legion 2017 Bowling Tournament



We hope one and all enjoyed the best and safest the holidays had to offer. It is now time to start putting your

teams and doubles partners together. Information packets were sent out in late December to all of the team captains of record of the 80th tournament which was held in Monroe. The 81st Annual bowling tournament will be held at Super Bowl Lanes of Canton. The weekends of April 1st & 8th, 2017 will be used for the doubles and singles events. Squad time is 12:30 PM. Team event is held on Sunday with the starting time of 10:00 AM. Ypsilanti Post 282 is the host and Bill Reynolds will be the Honorary President (subject to change)

This is important to all participants,

you do not have to bowl in all three events, you may bowl in any combination of events, be it just one or all three. Furthermore, you may bowl in doubles and team event again, provided you have a different partner or team! Please remember the eligibility rules have been modified, therefore, we do not send info packets to Posts in Michigan. You may contact us anytime for tournament information. Phone 734-422-8670 or at malbowl@sbcglobal.net. Please leave a postal address (aka Snail Mail)

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

Around the State...



The Governor signed House Bill 5639 into law, a bill requiring the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to report to the legislature on 6 items regarding processes at the Veteran's Home related to last year's audits. L-R Representative Holly Hughes, Steve Kozera (MING), Governor Rick Snyder, Legislative Chairperson Marilyn Britten, State Adjutant Ron Runyan, State Commander Larry Money, and DAV Legislative Liaison Steve Grady.



Don Bloomfield, one of the last known Michigan survivors of the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941. Mr. Bloomfield was given a special tribute and introduced on the House floor. L-R Governor Rick Snyder, Don Bloomfield, and Rep. Gary Glenn (Midland).



Commander Larry Money attends a Veterans Day program at Well-spring Preparatory High School in Grand Rapids set up by student Emily Terhune as her senior project.



Kent County Veteran of the Year Bill Schaefer from Legion Post 311 is presented a plaque by Kent County Veterans Council Commander Paul Ryan



SAL Detachment Commander Carvin "Huey" Chapman, SAL Squadron 377 Member Dave West and Tom Lipton present Jay Conner of the Auburn Hills, MI Fed-Ex warehouse for the continuing donations to the Michigan Veterans Foundation and retrain veterans to reenter the workforce.



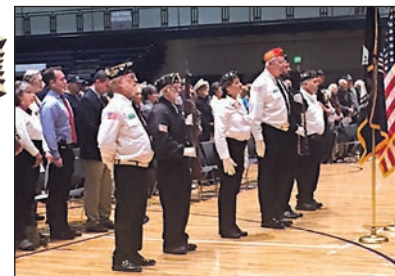
Members of the Cloverland American Legion Post 82 raised \$1229.00 during its brat cookout held at Elmer's County Market. Legion member Jerry Searle, front, left presents check for the amount to Honor Flight Director, Scott Knauf. Also pictured are legion members, L-R Tim Pach, Paul Roll, Dave Wilson, and Roman Gill. Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created to transport veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials. Korean veterans may apply, but priority is given to WWII veterans.



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause stopped into the headquarters office to say hello to Service Officer Rebecca Lewis and State Commander Larry Money.



Legion Riders Post 179 donates computers to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.



Color Guard from Post 459 at Unity Christian School at Hudsonville, MI on Nov. 11



State Senator Mike Kowall, State Rep. Tom Leonard, and State Senator Rick Jones held a Vietnam Veteran Commemorative label pinning ceremony at the Capitol in Lansing. Members of the St. John American Legion presented colors at the event and several Vietnam Veterans were honored. L-R pinning, Sen. Rick Jones, Rep. Tom Leonard, and Sen. Mike Kowall.

Volunteers Respecting the US Flag at the Grand Rapids Veterans Home



**Eric Nelson
American Legion Post 258**

Every year the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans takes the 30' by 50' US flag down in November. This saves it from the harsh winter weather. It is raised in May prior to Memorial Day. Some residents of the veterans home expressed concern about a lack of respect given due to the limited number of personnel available to lower the large U.S. flag and store it for the winter.

Three years ago, volunteers from

Furniture City Post 258 worked with the Homes directors and grounds personnel to ensure an adequate number of people are available to lower and raise this flag with respect for it and the veterans at the Home. We had 13 volunteers then, this year there were over 70 volunteers, including three folks from the Michigan legislature. We reach out to all area veteran groups to participate in the event. Anyone who so desires can volunteer to help during the ceremony so we all therefore come together with the residents to pay respect to our flag. If you would like more information please contact me at ericnelsonarc@gmail.com

Post 258 Commander Cliff Bartrum is the only person who has a certain job which is the actual commanding during the raising and lowering of the flag. He's a Marine and I'm afraid to give someone else the job.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came out this year to help lower the flag. We will see you in May

Office Depot Launches New Discount for American Legion Members

American Legion members now receive discounts on more than 93,000 items at Office Depot/OfficeMax

Indianapolis – (August 24, 2016) Members of The American Legion, the nation's largest veterans service organization, can now receive discounts on more than 93,000 items at Office Depot/OfficeMax. The new member discount program between the Legion and Office Depot/OfficeMax will be coordinated through Gallagher Affinity, a brokerage services division of Arthur J. Gallagher.

Founded in 1919, The American Legion has 2.2 million members and more than 13,000 posts. The Legion's mission is to mentor youth, assist veterans, support the community, promote patriotism and national security, and support service members and veterans.

The Office Depot/OfficeMax program will provide access to cost-effective shopping for the home, office and classroom. It offers more than 93,000 everyday items at member discounted rates up to 80 percent off. Products are suited for care packages, continuing education programs and offices at posts or small businesses, and range from school and office supplies to cleaning supplies and kitchen items. Each purchase supports The American Legion.

This program aligns with The American Legion's search for new and innovative ways to provide benefits for its members, as well as thank those who have served the United States of America. The American Legion member benefits team is excited to launch the program to provide members with additional valuable discount opportunities.

Legion members can visit the members section of www.legion.org under "Member Discounts" to shop online, create a direct billing account or print a free in-store purchase card for discounts at Office Depot/OfficeMax locations. Get your discount card here: <http://www.officediscounts.org/tal.html>



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your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2021. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

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ADDRESS _____

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.



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Veteran Service

Service After the Uniform State Senator-USMC David Knezek



The son of a police officer and high school lunch lady, David Knezek was born and raised in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. A lifelong resident of our great state, David has made a point of serving his community, state, and country in various capacities since he was 12 years old. In High School, David got his first experience of state and national government as a member of both the American Legion Boys State and Boys Nation.

After graduating from Crestwood High School in 2004, a profound sense of duty led David to serve our country after completing two years of college. He walked into a United States Marine Corps recruiting office in 2006, enlisted on the spot, and reported to Parris Island, South Carolina for boot camp just 11 days later. Between 2007 and 2010, David served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Scout Sniper Platoon member. The recipient of numerous military awards and commendations, David was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marine Corps in 2012 having risen to rank of Sergeant.

After completing his second tour of duty, David re-enrolled at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2010 to complete his degree using the Post-9/11 GI Bill. He went on to serve as the University of Michigan-Dearborn Student Government President where he advocated and negotiated on behalf of the almost 9,000 students at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He is the recipient of the University of Michigan-Dearborn Distinguished Student Leader award and was also named a University of Michigan-Dearborn Difference Maker—an annual list of the most influential students at the university. In December 2012, after numerous interruptions due to his military service, David graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science—a full eight years after his collegiate journey began.

Due to concerns over rising tuition rates and the cost of incarceration, David launched a campaign for Michigan State Representative while still a student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. After campaigning successfully with the help of his family and fellow college students, David became the youngest member of the 2013-2014 House Democratic Caucus at the age of 26. As a former Legislator of the Year for his work on tuition reform, and the first elected official in 150 years to pass legislation that would assist private employers in hiring veterans returning from combat, David has the distinct honor of being the first Iraq War Veteran elected to the Michigan Legislature. During his time in the House, David worked closely with colleges and universities across the state to ensure that all service members and veterans receive in state tuition regardless of their residency or active duty status.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm



Gary Easterling
Director

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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

Service After the Uniform State Representative – US Army Tom Barrett



Tom Barrett graduated high school in June of 2000, and almost immediately enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Following Basic training he continued at Fort Sill to become a Field Artillery Forward Observer. Following training he was stationed at Camp Hovey, South Korea as a member of the 2nd Infantry Division.

Upon completion of his initial enlistment, Barrett returned home from South Korea and transitioned to the Michigan Army National Guard as part of the 1-119th Field Artillery Battalion. Barrett was mobilized in December 2003 and deployed to Guantanamo Bay Cuba as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In Guantanamo Bay he served as a block sergeant, charged with running daily operations on a cell block containing up to 45 terrorist detainees. While deployed he attended the Army's Primary Leadership Development Course and graduated on the Commandant's List. He completed his deployment in November of 2004.

In 2006 Barrett was transferred to the 1-126th Cavalry Squadron. He was assigned as a squad leader and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from January to December 2008. As a Staff Sergeant in Iraq he was tasked with convoy security missions as a convoy commander and assistant platoon sergeant and served there until December 2008.

In 2010 Barrett was accepted into the Initial Entry Rotary Wing training as Warrant Officer Candidate. He trained at Fort Rucker, Alabama first in Warrant Officer Candidate School where he was the distinguished honor graduate of his class. He continued rotary wing training at Fort Rucker and graduated in November of 2011 as an aviator trained and qualified on two models of the UH-60 Blackhawk.

Barrett continues to serve in the Army part time as a Lakota Helicopter pilot assigned to the 1-112th Aviation Battalion in Grand Ledge Michigan. He holds the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 2.

Four Chaplains Service 2017



Join American Legion Post 459, Saturday January 28th, 2017 from 12PM to 2PM at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. 300 Pearl NW, Grand Rapids, MI for their annual Four Chaplains service. A service to remember the incredible sacrifice of the four chaplains.

Open to the public and free of charge, refreshments to follow the service.

2017 Michigan American Legion Riders Legacy Run



Join American Legion Riders from all over the State of Michigan on their annual ride to raise money for The American Legion Legacy Scholarship. A scholarship created to support the education of the decedents of 9/11 service members who have lost their lives or have a 50% VA Disability rating. To learn more about the 2017 Michigan Legacy Run visit www.michiganlegacyrun.org.

Georgia Downs, Department Chaplain

Giving of Gifts

We are half way through the 12 days of Christmas. Christmas is not just one day but a season of 12 days from sunset Christmas Eve through Epiphany, January 6th. The 12th day of Christmas, Epiphany, commemorates the visiting of the (Magi) Wise men with bringing their gifts. Giving of Gifts Day. When most people hear of "The 12 Days of Christmas". They think of the song. The song had its origin as a teaching tool designed to instruct young people in the meaning and content of the Christian faith. Each of the items in the song represents a religious significance. The "true love" represents God and the "me" who receives these presents is the Christian.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ who dies on a tree as a gift from God.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments – another gift from God.

Three French hens were faith, hope and love – the three gifts of the Spirit that abides (1 Corinthians 13).

Four calling birds were the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The "five golden rings" were the first five books of the Bible called the "Books of Moses".

The "six geese a-laying" were the six days of creation.

Seven swans a swimming were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit".

Eight maids a "milking" were the eight beatitudes.

The "nine ladies dancing" were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The "ten lords a-leaping" were the Ten Commandments.

The "eleven pipers piping: were the eleven faithful disciples.

The "twelve drummers drumming" were the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

Ref: all-creatures.org by John Z. Gardiner

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.
Psalms 46:1*

Keeping Our Relationship in the Public Simple

**Suzanne Knapp,
Public Relations Chairman**

Last time we talked about the "Basic's", starting with the basics and doing them over and over again each month can go a long way to promoting your Unit. This time lets expand on how we can use the tools I recommended to inform and promote to the Unit members and the public.

Promoting your next event

Fundraising by way of spaghetti dinners, or fish fries, or steak dinners are very popular with Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units. However, I have seen many who solely rely on word of mouth advertising, flyers in the building, and what is put out in the newsletter. Let me offer a few suggestions to expanding you audience.

1. Promote the next event at your current event. If you have another event scheduled then have small quarter page postcards made up, they can be made on regular white paper (nothing fancy or card stock), that give the name of the event, time, place, and price. Encourage guests to put them on their refrigerator and that you will be excited to see them then.

2. Take another quarter page size paper and make it a form to fill out for guests. Name, address, phone, and email lines on it. Promote to your guests that you will only use it to keep them informed of the events the Post/Unit will be having. With this card you can use any 3 of the tools I mentioned before, call-em-all.com, click2mail.com, or mailchimp.com. Not to mention promote your Facebook page too. Because you can schedule when mail is sent, email is delivered, and the phone calls go out you can pre-make these items on your time ahead of schedule.

3. Don't forget to use snail mail; the mail service is not dead; people still like to receive a physical letter or a postcard.

PROMOTE – PROMOTE – PROMOTE

I cannot stress this enough, ALWAYS BE PROMOTING THE NEXT EVENT. It will pay off in the long run. As you collect addresses and emails, if your Unit does not know what the next event is at that time you will have a built in audience who has shown in the past that they support the Units efforts and you can contact them easily.

News from D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans

**Wanda Westman,
Representative**

We currently have 180 residents at the Home. Our special project is the Eagle's Pride Program, which is an end-of-life program. This includes sitting with a resident at the end when his family can't, providing comfort items for the resident and his family, flag boxes made in our woodshop by a resident) which are given to the family as a memorial gift and quarterly bereavement luncheon for the family to help cope with grief. Most of our Auxiliary volunteers have been helping us for years and have cared for our residents, made wonderful friendships and it feels like we are one big family.

Our other current programs are Monday afternoon BINGO, library magazine racks, greet-

ing card racks and Christmas gift shop, which is December 1st and 2nd. By the time you read this, Christmas will be over, but gift shop is definitely a highlight at the Home. The residents get to choose five gifts each and we gift wrap and deliver to their rooms. Also the Home has asked for 50 more twin XL blankets and white diabetic socks. They have asked that no lap robes be sent, as we have an ample supply. Also, our Auxiliary needs monetary donations for my special project-Eagle's Pride, bingo parties, magazine subscriptions and beauty/barber shop donations. We are also looking for bingo prizes, such as new military or sports baseball caps, patriotic t-shirts, flashlights, nightlights, and small stuffed animals. Many thanks to Marquette Unit #44, Greenwood

Unit #114, Little Lake Unit #349, Perkins Unit #540 and Rock Unit #559 for constantly providing support and service to our residents. Also, thanks to Menominee Unit #146, Lake Linden Unit #90 and Gladstone Unit #71 for bingo donations. We are looking for units who can sponsor one bingo party a year (cost \$80-\$100), so the 4th Monday of all months will be sponsored. We recently hosted a Creative Arts show/ sale, with 9 residents showcasing their crafts in painting, leatherworks, models and ceramics. Every month, the Home prints a calendar of events. There is some events every day to meet our resident's interests. Today there are services in the chapel, flag boxes being made in our woodshop, our poppies being made, a woodworking class, a cooking class (bran muf-

fins today) and the Marine Corp. League took 15 residents out to a local restaurant for breakfast.

We invite everyone to come visit the Home, walk down the halls and talk to our residents. If you let me know you are coming, we can give you the tour. Between the residents, staff and volunteers, we are like one big family. We work with other service organizations to put on events, such as the parties, carnival and picnics. We feel if we keep our residents social and active, we help to keep them healthy. Many thanks to all our volunteers, Posts. Units and SAL who continue to support the veterans of this great country. To the Jacobetti Home for Veterans residents, our Department President Ellen says "Hats off to our veterans".

GRAND RAPIDS HOME FOR VETERANS

Sarah Brooks, Hospital Representative

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

We hold many events throughout the year, such as:

- Bingo once a month for the members at the Home.
- Bingo monthly for the women members only.
- Service Cart twice a month with personal care items.
- Blanket Drive for the homeless veterans. We recently provided 56 blankets to the homeless veterans at four different local shelters.
- Carnival which was held in July 2016 where the District had a booth with prizes.
- Luncheon honoring women veterans, as well as wives and widows. This was held on November 4 with a speaker, catered lunch, a certificate for the women veterans, and gifts for all the women. There are currently 26 women at the Home.
- Mother's Day Card Program.

- A cook-out for the members is held the first Saturday in June in which we serve hot-dogs, bratwurst and other items to the members.
- Hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves were recently distributed to all the members.
- Gift of money was given to the non-income members who receive no pension or Social Security. This was done in November to those 14 members who reside at the Home.
- Poppy Bonanza to demonstrate how poppies are made is held in April.
- We also provide lounge pants to the men in the two Alzheimer's units.
- Our biggest project is the Christmas Gift Shop, which was held November 29-30 and December 1. Members are able to select up to five gifts for family members. The gifts are wrapped and mailed.

We currently have over 350 members at the Home and are honored to serve them as they have served us.

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

The Mighty Seventh

Anita Mennel, 7th District

Greetings to all from the 'mighty Seventh'! Like most districts, it has been a busy year so far. And the time is flying. We had an awesome and very informative membership gala presented in October, even though the attendance wasn't what was hoped for. The work of membership is great, and for the most part, we have been on top of the heap. Now the real challenge... to stay there. November found our Units busy with Veterans Day celebrations, and then Thanksgiving. December, we tried to host our Leadership Workshop, but it seemed the timing wasn't right, so we had to cancel, however, when a door closes, another opens, and the 18th District has invited us to join them.

Trusting you all had a peaceful and Blessed Christmas/Holiday season, in whatever way you chose to celebrate. Many came together to share with our Veterans, be it at our Christmas

Gift Shops, local communities, or sharing with children, or serving dinners.

Now, the new year is here, and we continue to work. There is much to be done, and we need to keep reaching out to members, be they 'Old, current, or New'. Remember, you are never too... young or old!!! While it's great to have youth--for the mobility, the seasoned lady is also valuable. She has that experience, which has knowledge, and there are a lot of things that can be accomplished from the home, using the phone or a pen & paper. EVERYBODY is needed to function like a 'well-oiled-machine'.

There is so much potential, and it really is all about membership. We need bodies: to carry on our great organizations mission, to make our programs work, to take care of our Veterans. Never lose sight of WHY you joined. Honor the Veteran, who gave you eligibility, no matter where he or she is. Wishing you all a fantastic 2017!!



April is Children and Youth Month

means that I will receive 100% year-end reports with articles and pictures. The push is on to finalize and execute your plans for these young people.

Reach them through schools, boys and girls clubs, other places where you may gather. "April is the American Legion's Children and Youth Month". Report what you are doing. Review your guide and your local papers to find candidates to nominate for

the Youth Hero/Good Deed Award. Follow the national portion of your guide for ideas for reaching out to military children and youth. Focus on getting those candidates for Boys and Girls State, Poppy Poster contest, American Legion Oratorical contest, Student Troopers, Auxiliary Juniors and Boy and Girl Scout Troops. I am sure we will find many military children to mentor and support with family

consent.

If you would like to share, I would love to put some of your ideas into a future unit mailing.

Our Children & Youth Program "emphasizes protecting, caring for and supporting children and youth, particularly those of veterans' and military families". Let's do this and report everything big and little. It all counts towards our mission.

Kathleen Copeland, Chairman

By the time you read this article the holidays may be just pleasant memories of being with friends and families. I hope those memories will carry you into the future as well as what we can give our children and youth for their future.

I am sad to report at the time I am writing this article (late) I have not received any mid-year reports. That I hope

Michigan Boys State Celebrating 80 Years



Colon High School senior Chase Thrams was honored Thursday by the Colon American Legion for his participation in the Michigan Boys State program this summer. Thrams, who was the recipient of a \$750 scholarship bestowed by the Legion, was recognized by Colon American Legion's Mike Smoker and Michigan Boys State Director Jerry Kelley.

Michigan American Legion Boys State will be celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2017. Therefore, the Boys State Committee is planning several exciting events to highlight the Boys

State Program, as we look forward to providing another 80 years.

First, the Boys State Program will now be held at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich-

igan just west of Grand Rapids. This facility will allow us to grow, will provide outstanding facilities, and the University has agreed to create a promotional video of our program.

Second, we have asked each District to appoint a District Boys State Chair to work closely with every Post in their District. Their job is to encourage each Post to sponsor at least one young man from their community to attend Boys State. Any Post that sponsors at least three young men to Boys State will receive a Commemorative Certificate that signifies their commitment to and support of the Michigan American Legion Boys State Program.

Third, because we are celebrating 80 years of the Michigan Boys State Program, a Boys State Alumni Reunion will be held for all Boys State Alumni who attended from 1937 to the present. The reunion will be held on April 8, 2017 at the Crowne Plaza, Lansing. To make this event successful we need each Post to share this information with their members, their Boys State Alumni, and their community. More information will be posted on the Michigan Boys

State Facebook Page, the Michigan American Legion Facebook Page and the Michigan American Legion Website.

Fourth, special Boys State 80th anniversary pins and challenge coins that will be presented to Boy State 2017 attendees and those that attend the Alumni Reunion. Pins and challenge coins will also be available for purchase by Legion Family Members.

And fifth, we will be starting a fundraising campaign in February that will allow us to keep the cost of Boys State down, allow us to cover the cost of all young men that want to attend Boys State, and will help us market Boys State. Watch for the formal announcement.

As you can see, 2017 Michigan American Legion Boys State 80th year will be an exciting time for your Post to be involved in sending young men to Boys State, an outstanding leadership academy for eleventh grade young men, where they learn leadership skills and learn about our government by putting together and running the 51st State of the United States.



2017 WINTER CONFERENCE BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Friday, March 10, 2017

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

Select # of each: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for a total of _____ tickets at \$30 each

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

We accept all credit cards except American Express

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ POST/UNIT # _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____

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

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS AT
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

FEBRUARY 9, 2017
No Refunds after 2/9/2017

2nd Zone Report

Catherine Buckley
Vice Commander Zone 2

Welcome to the New Year with another great year as a Legionnaire.

Membership, membership we do hear that a lot, but if you stop and think about it there is so much we wouldn't have today if not for you the members. Just like in the military, we don't send one ship, one plane, one troop. We go prepared with all we have and that is what membership does for us when the National and State Commanders stands in front of Congress and demands the things we need, they show the numbers and we stand strong.

We have an untapped group out there and I have found it to be very hard to find them. "OH" one or two maybe, for they don't wear the ball cap or proudly display something on their car. They are in the shadows and we need to find them. (From the

Dept. of Veteran Affairs) We have 45,499 women veterans currently live in Michigan. Many may not think of themselves as "veterans" because they may not have served in wartime or in a combat-specific role, but, if a woman served in the military, she is a veteran! With that a potential member. As I've been traveling through the Districts, I'm amazed with the enthusiasm from the members. We have many membership drives set up and will be out recruiting. We can make this a banner year with just a little work. I will be seeing you at the drives. We as veterans don't always think about this, but the community wants to know what we do and what we are about. One of the things is and very sad, we don't toot our horn and we need to with doing it loudly. Let everyone know where you are and what you're about. Let's make The American Legion of Michigan shine like never before.

2017 WINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 10, 2017

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Auxiliary Store Open | Adams/Jefferson |
| 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Registration | Atrium |
| 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Legion Headquarters | Fillmore |
| 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. | Social hour | Atrium |
| 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | Winter Conference Banquet | Presidential Ballrm |

Saturday, March 11, 2017

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | Registration | Atrium |
| 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Legion Headquarters | Fillmore |
| 8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. | Permanent Time and Place - assign Resolutions | Fillmore |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Auxiliary – Americanism Workshop | Adams/Jefferson |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Membership Committee | Monroe |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Boys' State Committee | Washington |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. | Post Development Committee | Taylor |
| 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Finance/Personnel Committee | Lincoln |
| 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Education & Scholarship Committee | Camp David |
| 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. | Baseball Committee | Madison/McKinley |
| 10:00 a.m. - 10:45 p.m. | Mich Leadership College Committee | Taft |
| | VAVS/VHVS Committee | Oval Room |
| 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Auxiliary – Membership Workshop | Adams/Jefferson |
| 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Training – Membership & Revitalizations | Monroe |
| 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | S.A.L. DEC meeting | Washington |
| 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Public Relations | Taylor |
| 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | VA & R | Oval Room |
| 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Poppies available to purchase | Adams/Jefferson |
| 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | 3rd Zone Meeting | Madison/McKinley |
| 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch break | |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | M. A. L. P. A. | |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | Past Department Commanders & Wives Luncheon | Atrium |
| 1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. | National Security & Foreign Relations Committee | Taft |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Internal Affairs Committee | Oval Room |
| | Reconnect Committee | Taylor |
| 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Auxiliary – Leadership Workshop | Adams/Jefferson |
| 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Legislative Committee | Madison/McKinley |
| 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. | TRAINING – Open to all Flags in schools, Website/Paper media, Post | Monroe |
| | Permanent Time & Place | Taft/Taylor |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | (Convention & Conference selections) | |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Legion Riders Meeting | |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Wilwin Meeting | |
| 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | Auxiliary - Strategic Planning Workshop | Adams/Jefferson |
| 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. | Legion DEC Meeting | Washington/Lincoln |
| | Raffle drawing immediately following DEC meeting | |
| | Reception for Leading Cand Denise Rohan | Codr Money Suite |

Sunday, March 12, 2016

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Headquarters | Fillmore |
| 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. | Legion DEC Meeting | Washington/Lincoln |

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN WINTER MEETING MARCH 9-12, 2017

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

CHECKS ONLY PLEASE

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

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riders

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riers

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riers

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary SAL Leg. Riders

Number x \$15.00= _____

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

THE HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CENTRE

5353 GATEWAY CENTRE

FLINT, MI 48507

PHONE: 1-810-232-5300

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

CODE: ALD DEADLINE: February 16, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Bernie Langlois (Leg.) 810-653-6517

Venus Langlois (Aux.) 810-653-6517

WILWIN UPDATE

Bill Hafeman, PDC Member of the Board, Wilwin @ Cygnet Cove

The board of directors had a very busy fall. On October 6 and 7, 2016, Wilwin hosted 10 individuals including 4 psychologist, 2 people involved with agricultural programs for veterans, an equine therapist and 3 other individuals involved with PTSD and TBI veterans. Each one of these individuals had their individual input on ideas they would like to see become a reality at Wilwin during the next several years.

On October 23rd, four members of the Board of Directors travelled to Boulder Crest Retreat, Bluemont, VA. To obtain a firsthand view of a very successful program that was developed at Bluemont for the treatment of PTSD and TBI patients, both male and female. Their programs include reuniting

of couples after long deployments to a war zone, reuniting families after such deployments, caregiver programs, and a program for Gold Star Mothers. Their focus is on providing short-duration, high-impact retreats for their community of heroes. The trip was very enlightening and well worth the time that the directors took to visit. This visit worked in with suggestions that came out of the October 6 and 7 meeting. Out of this trip, many great things may be on the horizon for Wilwin.

The Board of Directors is seeking a professional site planner to draw up a site plan for Wilwin. If any Legionnaire knows of such a person or if you are this person, please let a board member know. It is important for Wilwin to have a professionally drawn site plan done prior to next summer, if possible, as this plan will be submitted to businesses, foundations and other financial

resources for the future solicitation of monies for the development of Wilwin.

The Board will be seeking a new board member in June, 2017. Anyone who would like to be on our board should contact one of the board members giving the reason for wanting to be on the board and what they could do to aid Wilwin achieve its goals. The person the board is looking for is an active Legionnaire. A combat veteran would be a plus. The current board does not have any combat veterans on it.

Wilwin at Trout Lake was host to over 700 Boys and Girl Scouts from throughout the Midwest and Ontario Canada this past September. Due to ongoing logging operations at Trout Lake, they will not be back at Wilwin next year; however, they are considering plans to be at Custer in 2018.

A special thanks for Ann Arbor American Legion Post #46 for donating

\$15,000 recently, in memory of Michael P. Malley. The monies will be used toward a rustic cabin. Mike Malley was Wilwin's pro-bono attorney for many years and attended many of our board meetings. He believed in Wilwin's program and was a loyal advocate for our veterans.

Wilwin at Cygnet Cove closed down for the winter. A special thank you to the Onstead American Legion Riders for helping the care-takers get the pontoon out of the water and getting the rest of the equipment ready for winter. As usual, Earl and Beverly Rutkowski did an excellent job in making sure Wilwin's program got transferred from Trout Lake to Custer in good order. The Board of Directors also want to give a special thank you for all the volunteers that help move equipment and reestablish the programs at Custer. The enthusiasm was fantastic.



The American Legion 5th District through the Children and Youth "Tabs for Tots" program of the district donated \$1000.00 to Rockford Ambulance of Rockford, Michigan for equipment needs for children. Soda pop tabs can go a long way for our community.

From left to right: Brittany (ambulance crew), Keith Tyler District Finance Officer (and District C&Y chairman), Merry Lassert 5th District Commander, Matt McConnon Chief Operating Manager, and Olivia (Ambulance Crew)



The Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274, Oscoda and the 10th District Association proudly endorse Thomas G. Brown for the office of National Executive Committeeman 2017-2019

Tom earned his eligibility for The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1985.

In 1984 he joined The American Legion at the Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post.

He has served his post as Commander for 5 terms, 1st Vice Commander 5 terms, 2nd Vice Commander 2 terms, Executive Committee 14 terms and is currently serving his 6th term as Judge Advocate. In 2004 he was awarded an honorary life membership.

His service to the 10th District began in 1999 as the Historian, he continued on as Chaplain, Finance Officer, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Commander and is 3 years as Judge Advocate. He has also served as chairman of several District committees.

On the Department level Tom served as Department Commander (2012-2013) Department

Vice Commander, Department Historian (2 years), Department Education and Scholarship Committee (5 years) 4 as Chairman and Children and Youth Committee (1 year). He has attended 3 Michigan Leadership Colleges and 4 Department Service Officers Schools.

On the National level Tom is currently serving on the Americanism Counsel and as the Alternate National Executive Committeeman. He also served on the National Security Commission (4 years) National and Homeland Security Council (1 year). He has attended 11 National Membership Workshops, 8 National Conventions, 5 Washington D. C. Conferences and the National Oratorical Contest Workshop. He has been awarded 3 National certificates of merit for Education and Scholarship.

Tom is a 20 year member of 40 & 8 Voiture 669, a life member of the DAV, a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 274 (currently serving as Adjutant), member of ANAVICUS and a member of the Knights of Columbus 5083.

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Tom worked for Lockheed Aerospace for 2 years. In 1987 he went to work as a rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 2010.

Tom and his wife, Rysta have been married for 35 years and have 3 sons, Abraham, Justin and Benjamin. Rysta is an honorary life member of Auxiliary Unit 274 and their sons are all members of S.A.L. Squadron 274. They attend church at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oscoda.

Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274 and the 10th District Association request your support for our candidate.

MILITARY HIRING FAIR

CAREER EVENT

Personal Branding • Hiring Fair • Career Planning

Date and Time

Saturday, March, 18, 2017
10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

Location:

Detroit VA Health System
4646 John R Street
Detroit, MI 48201

Employers and Military Job Seekers

register at

HiringOurHeroes.org

HIRING OUR HEROES FOUNDATION
Our Partners
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
ESGR
NBC NEWS



Morenci, MI Post 368 American Legion Riders President John Byard presents a check for one thousand dollars to Lenawee County Sheriff Jack Welsh. Looking on are Captain Jeff Ewald and members of the Morenci Legion Riders.

The monies are generated from Morenci Post 368 annual ride to Hell, Michigan for the purpose of battling the heroin opioid epidemic. Sheriff Welsh indicated the donation may be used to resupply the department's Narcan.

Legion Riders Corner

Jim Petry, Legion Rider Member Post 368

This past summer I had the new to me experience of being involved in the planning of our Legion Rider's poker run / benefit. It was quite interesting to learn how much goes into pulling these events together. It really is a team effort.

Because the recipient of our benefit was veterans in our county the decision was made to keep all the poker run stops within our county. We had many very nice Legion Posts to choose from. Because our benefit was for veterans the suggestion was made for a different kind of stop. We approached and were welcomed by one of the local assisted living centers to be our first stop. We were pleased to learn a number of the residents are veterans themselves. Everyone residing there was invited to join in. We had a large group waiting as we rode up. It was great fun. We had a 50/50 drawing won by a resident. Two of the ladies living there, both in their eighties asked for a ride on the motorcycles. Our President and Road Captain were happy to oblige. They were gone

long enough we considered a search party. While waiting I had a conversation with one of the gentlemen residents, a veteran. He shared with me that he was once a rider and enjoyed telling me about his bike.

Later this same summer one of the members of our group ran his bike off a curve near Hell, Michigan. Both he and his bike got banged up. Thankfully he has since made a full recovery. Sadly the day of the accident he confided to our Legion Riders President that he was finished riding. When I learned of this I too was sad. It also made me realize the significance of the conversation I had with the elderly gentleman at the assisted living center. That for all of us that ride, whether we choose to think about it or not, there's a date on the calendar for all of us. I have a great deal of respect for the courage it must take to give up an activity loved for decades. Some of us will choose the date. Others will have it chosen for them.

As it is with death and taxes, the date on the calendar is also inescapable. Until then, have fun and ride safe.

no-cost flu shots for VA patients



If you're enrolled in the VA Health Care System, getting your flu shot at Walgreens or Duane Reade is easy:*

Step 1 Just fill out the flu vaccination form below

Step 2 Bring the completed form, your VA ID card and a photo ID to your neighborhood Walgreens or Duane Reade location

Step 3 Walgreens or Duane Reade will automatically update your VA Electronic Health Record in the VA Health Care System

Nearby locations | Walk in anytime

A wellness benefit brought to you by Walgreens and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Information below must be completed prior to receiving your shot.

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____ **Home ZIP code:** _____

Plan ID IMZ Recipient # (Social Security number): _____

Group #: 5933XBAYV

Walgreens pharmacist:

- Only veterans enrolled in the VA Health Care System are eligible. Family members and Tricare members are NOT eligible.
- Verify information by checking VA ID card and a photo ID.
- Use the Social Security number in the Recipient # field.

To find a location near you, call 800-WALGREENS (800-925-4733) or visit Walgreens.com/FindAStore



For questions or more information about the program, call 866-964-1812 or go to <http://www.va.gov/PURCHASEDCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp>.

*No-cost flu shot option is available now through March 31, 2017. Vaccines subject to availability. State-, age- and health-related restrictions may apply. Vaccine may be in limited supply after March 1, 2017. This does not constitute an endorsement of Walgreens or Walgreens products. This wellness benefit is only for veterans enrolled in the VA health care system. Family members and Tricare members are not eligible.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

