



# MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXVI No. 1

## THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN FAMILY LEADERSHIP



**SAL Commander Dominic Merlington**



**Department Commander Brett Holt**



**Auxiliary President Deanna Cortright**

During the 2017 Annual Summer Department Convention the delegates present elected and approved the new leadership for the 2017-2018 American Legion membership year. For The American Legion, Brett Holt, Post 409 was elected as your new State Commander, The American Legion Auxiliary elected Deanna Cortright from Unit 52 as the State President, and the Sons of the American Legion elected Dominic Merlington of Squadron 287, Detachment Commander.

### One Million Pounds of Scrap Metal Supports the Community



American Legion Post 195, Jonesville, MI

(MAY 2017)- Members of American Legion Post 195 in Jonesville, MI were presented a check for the scrap drive they dropped off at Omnisource. Their May drive pushed the post to over 1 million pounds of scrap that has been collected and turned in.

In a email message to members Post Commander Bob Snow:

“Attached are pictures of the scrap drive this morning of which we broke the 1 million pound mark. A rare achievement for all. Congratulations Post 195.

Much has been done with the funds received from this program, including helping pay for the “Freedom Memorial” “Civil War Memorial in the park”, and countless donations to Veterans organizations, sending young people to boy’s & girl’s state, plus endowing the memorial for years to come to the city.

We must work to achieve great outcome! We go forward with the program as it is our main source of income outside the raffle in the fall. All of you over the years who have participated can be very proud.”

Bob Snow

No Return Postage Requested

July/August 2017

**MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE**

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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](mailto:news@michiganlegion.org) or mail it to department attn: Mark Sutton.

Please keep the photo at least 300 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](mailto:info@michiganlegion.org) or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

*Chaplain*



Greetings Legion Family! I trust you and yours are doing well. Time marches on and again we face changes and new challenges

every day. We have just ended a successful Legion year and now face a new one with many new leaders within our Family. As in the past, the only way we'll be successful is if we all work together. We often think that decisions come from the top, but our leaders are actually elected to serve us and to express our wishes. Action takes place at the ground level with participation by the membership. So let's help our leaders by first, telling them what we need and want and second, by supporting our programs. We do a lot of good things but our programs only work with "boots on the ground." We need you. Who? Yes you, the member, to do what you can when you can. We are an organization of volunteers. Now, Uncle Sam may have said "I Want You!" (Who me?) and some of our comrades may have been drafted into the military; but, we all volunteered to join The American

**"WHO?"**

Legion. We chose to "associate ourselves together for God and Country." We continue to serve.

There is a commercial out that I think is pretty clever. It has an owl in it that makes statements and the common reply is "Who?" Does this sound like some of our meetings? We need someone to visit a veteran. Who? We need help with a fund raiser dinner. Who? We need someone to present flags to schools? Who? The problem we often have is that many times it is the same group of people that show up at meetings, where we discuss these projects, so it is the same pool of volunteers. Sometimes they can get a little brunt out because it seems like we have so many needs. I feel this is where we need to use social media as much as possible. Tools like Facebook group pages can be helpful. If used properly, it can be like an ongoing conversation and extension of our meetings. But we still need to find ways to encourage better attendance in our meetings. We need more participants and those that will be like the prophet as written in Isaiah 6:8,

*Eddie Brown, State Chaplain*

*"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me!'"*

Most of us are familiar with the story of Moses in the Bible. He was a great leader but even he needed help. Exodus 33:12-14 reads, *Moses said to the Lord, "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favor with me.' If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people. The Lord replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."* But even then, Moses still needed his brother Aaron to be his spokesperson. Together, they delivered God's message and freed their people. My prayer today is for you, our members. "Dear Lord, give them courage, strength and help from their comrades. And at the end of the day, may they rest in You. Amen" God Bless you all.

**The Only Written Official Call Annual Fall Conference American Legion, Department of Michigan September 22-24, 2017 Holiday Inn Muskegon, Michigan**

*State Commander Brett Holt*

**Purpose:** To implement plans for the new American Legion 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 a variety of 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 Fall 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:** Friday, September 22, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

**Called Department Committee Meetings** – Friday, September 22, 2017- **meetings begin at 9 am** See schedule in the September Legionnaire or at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) (available soon)

- Americanism, Baseball, Boys State, Children & Youth, Economic, Education & Scholarship, 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

**Schools of Instruction:** Saturday, September 23, 2017

**Department Executive Committee Meeting:** Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

**STATE OFFICERS**

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| State Commander. . . . .Brett Holt | Finance Officer. . . . . Barry Wood    | Immediate Past Commander                       |
| State Adjutant. . . . . Ron Runyan | Historian . . . . .Marilyn Britten     | . . . . .Larry Money                           |
| 1st Zone. . . . .Bill Clark        | Chaplain . . . . . Eddie Brown         | VA&R Director . . . . . Gary Easterling        |
| 2nd Zone . . . . .Dave Loop        | Sergeant-at-Arms . . . . .Bill Hilgris | Membership Director . . . . . Jerry Andrus     |
| 3rd Zone . . . . .Mitch Louth      | Judge Advocate. . . . .Tim Hernandez   | Public Relations Director . . . . .Mark Sutton |
| 4th Zone . . . . .George Bolinger  | NEC . . . . . Tom Brown                |  |
| 5th Zone. . . . .Wayne Roy         | Alt. NEC. . . . .Ray Moore             |  |

*Brett Holt, State Commander*

## Communicate to Succeed



Brett Holt  
State Commander

Hello Michigan Legionnaires! I am truly humbled to have been elected as your Department Commander.

During the upcoming year I look forward to working with

all of you to advance our organization. I also look forward to working with the American Legion Auxiliary Department President Deanna Cortright and Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Dominick Merlington.

My motto for the year is "Communicate To Succeed".

I believe we have to communicate with our members in order to keep them informed of activities, events and issues and to keep them interested in continuing their membership. This includes communication between the Department and Districts, Districts and Post, Department and Post, and internally posts to your membership. If you do not have a means to communicate with your members I recommend creating one. If you do have a means, is it effective? If not look to see how you can improve the communication stream. Does your post have a website or Facebook page that is kept current? Without those pieces younger veterans may not even know your post exists or learn of the wonderful things that the post does.

Do you share events that your post is having with the local media? Do you invite the media when there is a special event or ceremony at your post? Does your community know you exist and what you do to make your community better? How you serve veterans and our programs to educate children and the community be more patriotic in general?

This year I will be recording YouTube video's at least monthly and hopefully more often, that will be loaded onto the Michigan American Legion YouTube channel. (/www.youtube.com/user/michigan-legion) We will link the video to our website and you will be able to stay informed of current events effecting veterans in our state and other issues pertinent to our members.

Look for training videos to assist

new members in understanding our organization and what benefits are available to them and to assist new officers in understanding how to perform their job correctly.

Sharing information on legislative issues effecting veterans in Michigan and asking for you to use the power of our numbers to make our voices heard.

College night school lists are available to the public and we will publish them so that you can plan to attend college night and share our scholarship information, information on Boys State, Girls State, Student Trooper, and Oratorical contest.

Communicating who we are, what we do and why we exist to everyone in the community will have a positive effect on membership throughout The American Legion family. As we all know membership is the life blood of our organization and without membership growth we will no longer exist. Please don't just sit around your post and fail to communicate with your members and community.

My special project for the year is the Michigan American Legion Foundation which is a 501(c)3. The Patriot Fund, Wounded and Returning Warrior, Homeless Veterans, Student Trooper, Hero's to Hometowns, Boys State Endowment Fund, and VA&R Veterans Service Support all fall under the Foundation. You can donate specifically to one of these programs or to the general fund of the Foundation where the programs can request money when needed. Please share this with people and businesses in your community that might be looking for a way to assist veterans or students.

**WE MUST COMMUNICATE TO SUCCEED!!**



*Ron Runyan, State Adjutant*

## POST TROUBLES WITH IRS!!!



Ron Runyan  
State Adjutant

Officers and members of Post, What is your Post status with the IRS? I suggest that at your next Post meeting you ask your Commander or Finance Officer. According to a report which was just provided to Department HQ almost 75% of the Posts within Michigan are NOT compliant.

On our website: [www.michiganlegion.org/finances---taxes.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/finances---taxes.html), on the left side there is a PDF with Post which have an EIN that was filed by the National HQ on your behalf. If your Post is not listed, then the Post may not be compliant.

When Posts are formed they are given a letter informing them they are required to secure an EIN from the IRS which is Form SS-4 (Application for Employer Identification Number). This letter is then required to be sent to the National Judge Advocate for inclusion on the blanket listing for group tax-exempt purposes.

**What this could mean is your Post is not tax exempt anymore.**

Your Post may have to start paying taxes on that property you sit on. You cannot keep money in a bank listed as Non Profit and you certainly will not be able to move that money to another bank or change your officers.

If your Post is one of the 95 that is currently compliant, congratulations! If not, I suggest you do something about this immediately!

What do you need to do if not compliant? The Post must request an EIN or file its 990 forms to the IRS. This may not be an easy task. In some cases it requires either a CPA firm or attorney for assistance. I would hope that Posts in this position perform the necessary task to become compliant as soon as possible.

If you need assistance please feel free to contact Department HQ and we can make suggestions for you to follow or people to contact.



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# Baseball

## 2017 Michigan American Legion Baseball State Tournament

Gerace Stadium at Northwood  
University, Midland, Michigan

Games begin:

Thursday July 27, 2017 at 9AM

Friday July 28, 2017 at 9AM

Saturday July 29, 2017 at 9AM

Sunday July 30, 2017 at 9AM (If necessary)



The 2017 Michigan State Fair, LLC, presented by Ram Trucks, is deeply grateful to all who have served and continue serve to protect our country! The State Fair is proud to honor Veterans and active-duty military, by offering free fair only admittance to the State Fair on Thursday, August 31, 2017.

If you are a member of an organization that provides services to veterans or active members of the Military and the organization would like to organize/coordinate a group as special guests, free of charge, for the Charity Evening, the night before the Fair opens to the public, Wednesday, August 30 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave in Novi, please contact the State Fair at 248-348-6942 for more information. Let's celebrate the great state of Michigan together!

[www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com)

### 2017-2018 American Legion, Department of Michigan District Meetings

#### 1st District

September 11, 2017, Joe Louis Post 375  
November 6, 2017, Joe Louis Post 375  
February 5, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375  
April 2, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375  
May 7, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375  
May 28, 2018, Memorial Day Service at Rose-land Park  
June 4, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375  
\*All meetings begin at 7PM

#### 3rd District

September 10, 2017 – Patrick Leo Hanlon Post 55, RSVP- 517.629.9300  
November 5, 2017 - Coldwater Post 52, RSVP- (517).278-5256  
January 7, 2018 – George Custer Post 54, RSVP- (269).963-3356.  
March 4, 2018 – Cole-Briggs Post 48, RSVP- (517).627-1232  
May 6, 2018 – Leighr Wright - Hillsdale Post 53, RSVP- (517).439-5133  
\*Executive Board Meeting- 11:30 AM, Dinner- Noon, and Regular Meeting at 1:00PM. Note: It is crucial for anyone who plans to attend a 3rd District Meeting that you communicate to the host Post your dinner plans

#### 5th District

##### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

All Executive Board meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. (19:00) with Senior Vice Commander Keith Wakefield presiding. All District Exec Board meetings will be conducted at Post 179, 616 453 9861, 2327 Wilson Ave. S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49534 on: August 10, 2017; October 12, 2017; December 7, 2017; February 8, 2018; April 12, 2018; June 14, 2018.

##### DISTRICT MEETINGS

July 13, 2017 at 7 p.m. – Post 258  
Sept, 14, 2017 at 7 p.m. - Post 208  
Nov. 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. – Post 154  
Jan. 11, 2018 at 7 p.m. – TBA  
March 8, 2018 at 7 p.m. – Post 179  
May 10, 2018 at 7 p.m. – TBA  
July 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. – TBA ( depending on new District Commander wishes)

#### 6th District

September 10, 2017, Post 141, Howell, MI  
November 5, 2017 TBA  
January 7, 2018, Post 269, Haslett, MI  
March 11, 2018, Post 419, Pinckney, MI  
May 6, 2018, Post 64, Flint, MI  
Lunch at 12 – Meeting at 1 p.m.

#### 7th District

August 6, 2017 Sebewaing Post  
October 15, 2017, Mt. Clemens Post  
January 14, 2018, Lapeer Post  
March 18, 2018, Memphis Post  
May 20, 2018, Marysville, MI  
June – Department Convention

#### 8th District

September 10, 2017, Carson City Post  
November 5, 2017, Belding Post  
Jan 7, 2017, Owosso Post  
March 4, 2018, TBA  
May 6, 2018, TBA

#### 10th District

September 9, 2017 Mikado Post 254  
November 4, 2017 Prudenville Post 245  
January 13, 2018, Oscoda Post 274  
March 3, 2018, Skidway Lake 370 (Nominations)  
May 6, 2017, Sanford Post 443 (Nominations, Elections, and Memorial Service)  
June 2, 2018 TBA (Installation of officers)  
Lunch at 12 PM, Meeting 1PM

#### 16th District

September 12, 2017, Allen Park Post 409  
October 10, 2017, Riverview Post 389\*  
November 14, 2017, Flat Rock Post 337  
December 12, 2017, Southgate Post 478\*  
January 9, 2018 – TBA  
February 13, 2018, Fort Dearborn Post 364\*  
March 13, 2018, Wyandotte Post 217  
April 10, 2018, Trento Post 426\*  
May 8, 2018, Lincoln Park Post 67, Memorial Service (6:30 PM)  
June 12, 2018, Garden City Post 396  
\*Service Officer School 6:30 PM  
Meetings at 7:30 PM

#### 17th District

September 20, 2017 Northville Post 147  
November 15, 2017 Livonia Post 32  
January 17, 2018 Plymouth Post 391, K of C Plymouth  
March 21, 2018 Post 390, K of C Managhan Council  
May 16, 2018 Livonia Post 32  
June 20, 2018 Northville Post 147  
Meetings start a 7PM

#### 18th District

July 9, 2017, Post 108, Oxford (2:30 p.m. Installation of officers)  
September 17, 2017, Berkley, Post 374  
October 10, 2017, Auburn Hills, Post 143  
November 12, 2017, Department Commanders tour  
January 7, 2018, Cook-Nelson Post 20  
March 4, 2018, Chief Pontiac Post 377  
April 15, 2018, Rochester, Post 172 (Memorial Service at 2 p.m.)  
May 5, 2018, Auburn Hills, Post 143 (Elections)  
June 10, 2018, Royal Oak, Post 253  
All meetings on Sunday at 2:00 PM, unless notified of change.

#### 19th District

October 7, 2017, East Jordan Post 227  
December 9, 2017, Onaway Post 317  
March 10 or 11, 2018, TBA  
May 19, 2018, Wolverine Post 122  
ALR and Service officer session 11AM  
Lunch at 12PM  
Legion and Auxiliary meet at 1PM



# AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2017 - 2018 Department President, Deanna Cortright

## Deanna Cortright Voted 2017-2018 Department President



WOW!!!! There is no other word that I can possibly use to describe what it feels like to stand before you in this capacity. I feel so very blessed to be a part of the largest female, Veteran's support organization in the world.

However, without all of you this would not be possible. I have received so much support on the road to today. Your encouragement has allowed me to continue to work toward today. I am so very proud of you, the members of this great organization. Even when membership is

a struggle all of you continue to do your very best to help our veterans. I would like to thank the members of Unit 52 and the 3rd District for believing in me and supporting me along the way. You are a super group of ladies and I love each of you.

I am eligible for membership because my father, Robert E Lentz, who spent 30+ years in the Navy. For many years I didn't truly appreciate what his service meant as he and my mother were divorced and I didn't see him. The summer I turned 13 I spent the majority of the summer with him at Patuxent River Naval Air Station. I met some truly incredible kids while there that made me realize how important the service was. It made me appreciate the sacrifice that our servicemen and women, as well as their

families, made for the rest of us. I will always do my very best to improve the lives of our veterans and their families.

A special thank you to my husband, Duane, who is not eligible to join the American Legion or the Sons of the American Legion, but still allows me to do everything I do. He is my driver and my support.

My daughter Jennifer was a member and also Secretary of Unit 52 when she passed away from leukemia almost 11 years ago. She was taught and firmly believed, that our veterans were a special group of people. She was looking forward to when I retired and began my procession through the chairs. I know she is watching me now, just waiting for me to fall apart and smiling.

My theme this year is "Dolls and Bears Together for our Veterans". It takes all of us, not just the Auxiliary, to give our Veterans what they need.

My special project is Pingee Detroit. There motto is "Bringing veterans and civilians together to maximize community well-being by creating an environment of resilience through localized, sustainable, community-supported production." They assist veterans with educational and recreational alternative therapy, peer mentoring and coaching, as well as offering free training opportunities in leather crafting and industrial sewing. Our donations provide materials, tools and a 3 hour training in leather crafting in local shelters, fund financial literacy classes, allows participation in therapy sessions including recovery infused yoga, music therapy and float tank therapy. They currently work with Piquette Square that houses 150 veterans in transition and Volunteers of America veterans.

There are currently 4 veterans working full time at Pingree. It is hoped that they can expand their reach and possibly even move into other areas of the state with our help.

I will be in the Department office, at a minimum, on Wednesdays. I will also be there, as needed, on other days. If there are problems, please follow protocol. If it is a unit that has the problem, contact your District President first. If they cannot resolve the problem, or have questions, they will contact Department. I am always available for questions or moral support. Do not hesitate to contact me.

Lastly, please respect each other. I understand that we are a large organization and there is a vast deviation in personalities, ideas, and ways of doing things. That does not mean that we have to treat each other with disrespect. Before doing or saying something that could cause issues, please think about what you would think if it was said or done to you. That is the only way we are ever going to grow and become the organization we once were.

I would like to ask that you also do the best you can of including Emma Damouth, our Honorary Junior President, in invitations. Our Juniors are our future and they are only going to grow if we include them.

I look forward to a wonderful fun year with all of you as well as the rest of the American Legion family.

## 2017 Department Convention Memories - Flint



## 2017-18 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND CHAIRMEN

### OFFICERS

|                              |                    |           |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| President                    | Deanna Cortright   | #52-3rd   |
| NEC                          | Ellen Jackson      | #108-18th |
| 1st Vice President           | Deborah Williamson | #258-5th  |
| 2nd Vice President           | Georgia Downs      | #411-9th  |
| Executive Director/Secretary | Denise Carter      | #225-6th  |
| Chaplain                     | Mary Dubay         | #4-7th    |
| Historian                    | Marcy Jorae        | #153-8th  |
| Parliamentarian              | Sue Verville       | #17-UPAA  |

### DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

|               |                        |      |
|---------------|------------------------|------|
| 1st District  | Veronica Germany       | #126 |
| 2nd District  | Carol Burke            | #557 |
| 3rd District  | Barbara Miller         | #48  |
| 4th District  | Kathie Hartman-Gleason | #51  |
| 5th District  | Melissa Townes         | #287 |
| 6th District  | Linda Wallace          | #419 |
| 7th District  | Anita Mennel           | #16  |
| 8th District  | Laurie Sweet           | #380 |
| 9th District  | Marcia Moore           | #300 |
| 10th District | Norma Tracy            | #254 |
| UPAA          | Julie Erickson         | #146 |
| 16th District | Pam Globke             | #396 |
| 17th District | Eli Martin             | #32  |
| 18th District | AnnMarie Stevens       | #14  |
| 19th District | Marjorie Brunett-Levi  | #463 |

### 1st VICE PRESIDENTS

|               |                      |      |
|---------------|----------------------|------|
| 1st District  | Anna Flowers         | #184 |
| 2nd District  | Dawn Gramza          | #514 |
| 3rd District  | Clara Webb           | #48  |
| 4th District  | Tangeline Hayes      | #89  |
| 5th District  | Rosemary Maciejewski | #459 |
| 6th District  | Pat Lozano           | #119 |
| 7th District  | Jacquelynn Boughner  | #16  |
| 8th District  | Dorothy Shanks       | #57  |
| 9th District  | Sharon Reynolds      | #10  |
| 10th District | Vivian Avery         | #274 |
| UPAA          | Mary Schram          | #71  |
| 16th District | Kim Frazier          | #232 |
| 17th District | Debbie Abraham       | #32  |
| 18th District | Cathy Merritt        | #216 |
| 19th District | Joyce Hempenstall    | #122 |

### DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

Judy Lynch (#43-UPAA)

#### AMERICANISM

Peggy Nolff (#514-2nd)

#### AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

Sheilah Dittenber (#439-8th)

#### CHILDREN & YOUTH

Mary Tyler (#287-5th)

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

LoraLee Nauta ((287-5th)

#### CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Donna Fuelling (#409-16th)

#### DISTINGUISHED GUEST CHAIRMAN

Suzanne Knapp (#4-7th)

#### EDUCATION

Connie Kovacs (#32-17th)

#### FINANCE

Kim Champion (#377-18th)

#### GIRLS STATE

Beryl Robbins (#426-16th)/Rysta Brown (#274-10th)

#### JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

Shylynn Jones (#377-18th)

#### LEADERSHIP

Jacquelynn Boughner (#16-7th)

#### LEGISLATIVE

Deborah Williamson (#258-5th)

#### MEMBERSHIP

Darlene Jones (#377-18th)

### MUSIC

Robin Basarabska (#153-8th)

### NATIONAL CEMETERY

Fort Custer Delegate

Eleanor Shelley (#465-3rd)

Great Lakes Delegate:

Barbara Applebee (#64-6th)

### NATIONAL SECURITY

Georgia Downs (#411-9th)

### PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

Sandy Snyder (#32-17th)

### PERSONAL SCRAPBOOK

Taylor Townes (#287-5th)

### PERSONNEL

Nedra Beal (#479-7th)

### POPPY

Miranda Jones (#377-18th)

### PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chris Moore (#459-5TH)

### RESOLUTIONS

Sheila Maxwell (#216-18th)

### VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

Lisa Bartlett (#48-3rd), Chairman

### Hospital Director:

Bonnie Holt (#439-8th)

### Service to Veterans Director:

Robin Puckett (#377-18th)

### Homeless Veterans Service Coordinator:

Pauline Meyer (#459-5th)

### VETERANS HOMES & HOSPITALS

#### Ann Arbor VAMC

Representative: Krystal Hall (#557-2nd)

#### Battle Creek VAMC

Representative: Christine Reed (#484-4th)

#### Detroit VAMC (Dingell)

Representative: Artensia Wynn (#126-1st)

#### D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans

Representative: Wanda Westman (#114-UPAA)

#### Grand Rapids Home for Veterans

Representative: Sarah Brooks (#59-5th)

#### Hamilton Nursing Home

Representative: Veronica Germany (#126-1st)

#### Iron Mountain VAMC

Representative: Barbara Larson (#50-UPAA)

#### Saginaw VAMC

Representative: Bonnie Holt (#439-8th)

### HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT

Emma Damouth (#51-4th)


**2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM**

August 19 – 23, 2017

Peppermill Resort Spa and Casino  
2707 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms (quantity): \_\_\_\_\_ king \_\_\_\_\_ double \_\_\_\_\_ handicapped

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rooms are \$156.81 per night (tax included). First night's room deposit needs to be included with this form. More than 2 people in a room is an additional \$10/day. Complimentary rollaways and complimentary parking.

Roommate(s): \_\_\_\_\_  LEG  AUX  SAL\_\_\_\_\_  LEG  AUX  SAL\_\_\_\_\_  LEG  AUX  SAL\_\_\_\_\_  LEG  AUX  SAL

Special Room Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Michigan Party: Tickets are \$30 each. The Michigan Party will be on Saturday, 8.19.17

National Commander's Banquet: Tickets are \$47 each. The banquet is Tuesday 8.22.17.

If marching in the parade list how many &amp; who: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclose check or credit card information for:

First room night deposit \$156.81 X # of Rooms \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# of tickets for Michigan Party \$30 each X # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets for National Cmdr Banq. \$47 each X # of tickets \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

 Visa  Mastercard CC# \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT BY JULY 14, 2017**

American Legion Dept of MI, Attn: Kim, 212 N. Verlinden Ave, Ste A, Lansing, MI 48915

No refunds after 7.14.17

**Junior Shooting Sports.....Yes or No?**

Junior Shooting Sports is a program of the American Legion, and is administered through the American Legion National headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. The program is well established in many states and we are looking to establish it in Michigan. This program should allow us to increase our membership.

In the beginning the competition will be through postal matches, followed by Michigan competition and eventually National competition and possibly sending shooters to Olympic competition. Scholarships will be awarded throughout.

The program is set up to be run at the post level; developed and run by post members. To run the program there should be at least two or three members who have a background in instructing firearms safety. The post should have an area that can be used to set up an indoor 10-meter range with pellet traps and a backstop. The availability of the post should also be considered.

The Friends of the NRA website, Michigan grant section, has forms to apply for grants that will supply posts with the equipment needed to train youth in the Junior Shooting Sports. These grants are available yearly and may be applied for between August 1st to November 1st, with the deadline being no later than November 1st and submitted to Fairfax, Virginia.

Should a post be interested in setting up a Junior Shooting Sports program, I am available to walk you through the procedures and answer any questions you may have. I would like ask each Zone Commander and District Commander to appoint a dedicated Legionnaire to help with the program in the area. Please contact me, Wayne L. Blank, Sr. American Legion 2nd District Commander, at 734-241-9131 or blankws3@att.net.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wayne L. Blank, Sr.  
American Legion  
2nd District Commander

**2017 Convention Raffle Winners**

|        |                      |                   |
|--------|----------------------|-------------------|
| \$5000 | Dale Wangler         | West Branch, MI   |
| \$1500 | Lawrence Czap        | Venice, FL        |
| \$1000 | Charles Jylha        | Comstock Park, MI |
| \$500  | Harry Krzeminski     | Rockford, MI      |
| \$500  | Richard Bloomfield   | Wyandotte, MI     |
| \$500  | Paul Abele           | Waterford, MI     |
| \$500  | John Roring          | Taylor, MI        |
| \$500  | Lawrence Fitzpatrick | Saginaw, MI       |
| \$500  | LaVerne Masten       | Paw Paw, MI       |
| \$100  | Raymond Denoyer      | Dexter, MI        |
| \$100  | Thomas Henderson     | Livonia, MI       |
| \$100  | William Lay          | Carleton, MI      |
| \$100  | Larry Mateer         | Weeki Wachee, FL  |
| \$100  | Robert Holsgrove     | Wixom, MI         |
| \$100  | Alfred Byrnes        | Atlanta, MI       |
| \$100  | John Amann           | Caledonia, IL     |
| \$100  | James McLeod         | Grand Ledge, MI   |
| \$100  | Harold Justice       | Oxford, MI        |
| \$100  | Jack Holman          | Lewiston, MI      |

Coming Soon  
to Your MailBox  
2017 Fall Conference  
Raffle  
Your Chance to Win  
one of 19 prizes!!  
First Place is \$5000!!



2017



State



Convention





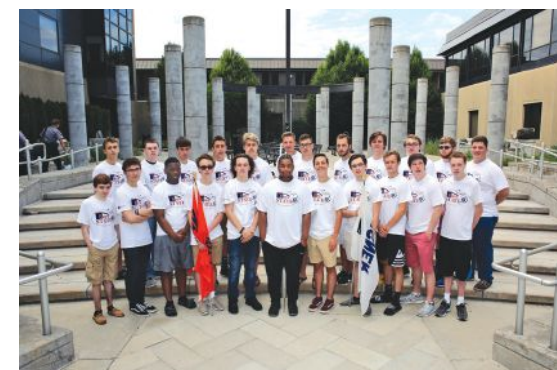
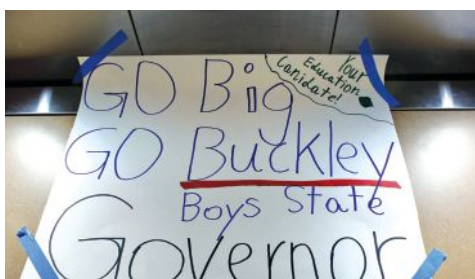
## Highlights from the 2017 State Convention



See you in  
Kalamazoo  
in 2018



2017 BOY STATE  
YEAR 1 AT GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY



# Veteran Service

For Immediate Release

## The American Legion slams White House VA Budget

WASHINGTON (May 25, 2017) – National Commander Charles E. Schmidt of The American Legion expressed extreme disappointment in the Trump administration's 2018 budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“The administration's budget for the VA would effectively lower the earnings of our most vulnerable veterans by reducing or eliminating disability payments from veterans who are the most in need,” Schmidt said. “This is absolutely unacceptable to us.”

The budget would stop higher disability payments to veterans once they become minimally eligible for Social Security. Veterans currently enrolled in the Individual Unemployability program, which is available to those who cannot work and receive the maximum disability compensation from VA, will see their benefits slashed by nearly two-thirds in some instances.

Another disturbing provision caps working age unemployability at age 62. Schmidt pointed out that many members of Congress continue to work past 70. “This plan breaks faith with veterans,” Schmidt added. “Moreover, it's an assault on TRICARE benefits, which were earned by veterans who spent decades of their lives serving and defending the Constitution of the United States. We are also alarmed by the cannibalization of services needed for the Choice program. It is a ‘stealth’ privatization attempt which The American Legion fully opposes. Choice should not be advanced to the detriment of cost of living increases for veterans. We hope all veterans, families and supporters of veterans call their elected officials and tell them that they can do better than this misguided plan. Our veterans deserve no less.”

### 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

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

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

## APPLICATION 2017 VETERANS ADVOCACY TRAINING HIGGINS LAKE DNR RALPH A. MACMULLAN CENTER

**SEPTEMBER 8-10, 2017**

PLEASE PICK FROM THE FOLLOWING

Package “A” - 2 Nights Lodging & 6 Meals - ()\$200.00

Package “B” - No Lodging & 6 Meals - ()\$120.00

Package “C” – Training Only – () \$100.00

Friday Night Dinner New York Steak () or Baked Great Lakes Whitefish ()

Handicap Rm () County Counselor ()

Post Service Officer Track 1 () Track 2 ()

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

Check the package of your choice,

send in corresponding payment by check made payable to:

The American Legion Department of Michigan - Higgins Lake

Send to:

American Legion VA&R Division

477 Michigan Ave Room 1210 ATTN: Debbie D.

Detroit, MI 48226

With a current membership of 2.2 million wartime veterans, The American Legion, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 13,000 posts across the nation.

### Stay Up to Date on Legislative Issues in Washington

The American Legion at the national level has several legislative personnel in Washington, D.C. working with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, the President, and all departments that deal with veterans and military members and their families.

If you are interested in keeping current on legislation coming from Washington, D.C. visit the following website and sign up for regular updates.

<https://capwiz.com/legion/home>

### Tell Your Representatives How You Feel

When you receive a update by signing up at the website above you will be able to take immediate action to contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senator with just a click of the “Take Action” button in the emails.

If you don't agree with what is proposed in Washington, D.C. tell them in a polite and clear way why you disagree. Letters, emails, and phone calls do work. Remember they work for us.

| PROGRAM                  | WINNER NAME              | UNIT #       | District | CONTEST NAME   |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|----------|--|---|
| Americanism              | Linda Wallace            | 419          | 6th      | Eva Spaulding Citation-Unit with the most outstanding program in Department  |   |
| Americanism              | Linda Wallace            | 419          | 6th      | Mary Ripley Citation-Unit having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism  |   |
| Americanism              | C.J. Wolf                | 28           | 5th      | National Americanism Essay Contest- Class 1 1st Place  |   |
| Americanism              | Jack Howell              | 28           | 5th      | Class 2 1st place  |   |
| Americanism              | Katy Schuler             | 150          | 8th      | Class 3 1st place  |   |
| Americanism              | Carolyn Brown            | 28           | 5th      | Class 4 1 st place   |   |
| Americanism              | Lauren Deland            | 382          | 7th      | Class 5 1st Place  |   |
| Americanism              | Katriona Voogd           | 44           | UPAA     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Izzy Bradford            | 44           | UPAA     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Joey Holm                | 44           | UPAA     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Tahvanh Lucero           | 33           | 5th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Michael Wilkinson        |              | 7th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Adam Sandahl             | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Sienna Cechura           | 411          | 9th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Nicholas Sandahl         | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Zoey Truesdell           | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Wyatt Poquette           | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Aryana Moone             | 28           | 5th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Grant Goodrich           | 550          | 2nd      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Dominic Piasecki         | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Brayden Allgeyer         | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Spencer Odea             | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Maria Gardner            | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Jada Johnson             | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Alexander Mamonor        | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Garrett Anderson         | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Brock Murphy             | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Tyrone Gromala           | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Brooklyn Albrecht        | 146          | 12th     | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Allyson Sprague          | 419          | 6th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Maggie Tysman            | 28           | 5th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Hunter Kelley            | 550          | 2nd      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Peyton Doolittle         | 208          | 5th      | Americanism National Essay Honorable Mention   |   |
| Americanism              | Barbara Kanyuh           | 146          | UPAA     | Very Good Americanism  |   |
| Americanism              | Eli Martin               | 32           | 17th     | Very Good Americanism  |   |
| Americanism              | Marjorie Knapp           | 287          | 5th      | Very Good Americanism  |   |
| Americanism              | Lynn Terhune             | 459          | 5th      | Very Good Americanism  |   |
| Americanism              | DW Cassard               | 208          | 8th      | Very Good Americanism  |   |
| Auxiliary Emergency Fund |                          | 400          | 7th      | Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes Group 1   |   |
| Auxiliary Emergency Fund |                          | 550          | 2nd      | Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes Group 2   |   |
| Auxiliary Emergency Fund |                          | 380          | 8th      | Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes Group 3   |   |
| Auxiliary Emergency Fund |                          | 439          | 8th      | Margaret Rohrer Citation for most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes Group 4   |   |
| Auxiliary Emergency Fund |                          | 217          | 16th     | Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most money Donation in 6 Membership Classes Group 5   |   |
| Chaplain                 | Nancy Hytinen            | 32           | 17th     | Service to God and Country Program for the Unit Chaplain for the best Service to God and Country program.                  |   |
| Chaplain                 | Terrie Hoskins           | 268          | 2nd      | Service to God and Country Program for the Unit Chaplain for the best Service to God and Country program,Honorable mention |   |
| Chaplain                 | Anna Mae Amerman         | 146          | UPAA     | Book of Prayers HONORABLE MENTION  |   |
| Chaplain                 | Marjorie Scheffler       | 416          | 6th      | Book of Prayers (Prayers & Devotionals) HONORABLE MENTION  |   |
| Chaplain                 | Nancy Hytinen            | 32           | 17th     | Leona Pitman Citation for the Unit with the most outstanding report  |   |
| Community Service        | Rosemary Maciewski       | 459          | 5th      | Betty Cline  |   |
| Community Service        | Kathy Edington           | 258          | 5th      | Patricia Jewel Award-For the most Outstanding Report for a Unit Under 200 Members  |   |
| Education                | Lynn Terhune             | 459          | 5th      | Most Outstanding Veterans in Community Schools Program   |   |
| Education                |                          | 419          | 6th      | National Outstanding Veterans In the Classroom Program   |   |
| Education                | Jan Hafeman              | 244          | UPAA     | National Outstanding Veterans In the Classroom Program Honorable Mention   |   |
| Education                | Jan Hafeman              | 244          | UPAA     | Most Outstanding Department Education Program  |   |
| Education                | Kathleen Edington        | 258          | 5th      | National Most Outstanding American Education Week Program  |   |
| Education                | Carla Pohl               | 550          | 2nd      | National Most Outstanding American Education Week Program Honorable Mention  |   |
| Education                | Linda Walthorn           |              | 5th      |  |   |
| Homeless                 | Payline Meyer            | 459          | 5th      | Citation - Thank you for helping get homeless off the streets  |   |
| Leadership               | Dorothy Alaina Johnson   | 143          | 18       | Leadership Mentoring Award for Special Recognition of someone who Mentored and Guided me                                   |   |
| Legislative              | Jeannine Uphouse         | 117          | 2nd      | Unit Legislative Award   |   |
| Legislative              | Jan Hafeman              | 294          | UPAA     | Romaine Roethel Citation-Best year-round report submitted  |   |
| Legislative              |                          | 16th         |          | Alice Thomas Citation-District with the most subscriptions to Legislative Bulletins  |   |
| Music                    | Rhonda Niner             | 32           | 17th     | Goldie Brooks Citation   |   |
| National Security        | Denise Warden, Chairman  | Linden       | 119      | 6th  | Agnes Dunn Citation to Unit with Best all-around report                     |
| National Security        | Denise Warden, Chairman  | Linden       | 119      | 6th  | Imogene Cowgill Citation to the Unit with the Best Crime Prevention Program |
| National Security        | Cindy Stanley, President | Leslie       | 491      | 6th  | Phyllis VanHill Citation to the Unit with the Best Fire Prevention Program  |
| Past President's Parley  | Dawn Tuhowski            |              | 21       | UPAA   | Unit Member of the Year   |
| Past President's Parley  | Pam Lajewski-Pearson     | 44           | UPAA     | Trudy Anderson memorial Citation for the Most Outstanding Parley Report  |   |
| Public Relations         | Dawn Lewkowicz           | 415          | 6th      | Viola Starkey Citation- To the Unit with the best "Unit of the Month" article  |   |
| Public Relations         | Connie Kewley            | 146          | UPAA     | Ivy Lee Reinhardt Citation- To the Unit with the best all around press book  |   |
| Public Relations         | Carla Pohl               | 550          | 2nd      | Best Unit "Letter Style" Newsletter  |   |
| Public Relations         | Deborah Williamson       | 258          | 5th      | Best Unit Newsletter - To the Unit with the best newsletter publication  |   |
| Public Relations         | Debbie Stewart           | 419          | 6th      | Best Unit/Post Joint Newsletter - To the Unit with the best joint newsletter publication                                   |   |
| Public Relations         | Linda Rosema             | 5th District |          | Best District Newsletter   |   |
| Public Relations         | Emily Terhune            | 459          | 5th      | Junior Public Relations Essay Challenge - "What it means to me when I see the US Flag"                                     |   |
| Public Relations         | Ciara Brown              | 59           | 5th      | Junior Public Relations Essay Challenge - "What it means to me when I see the US Flag" RUNNER UP                           |   |

|                                   |                        |      |   |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------|---|
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Barbara Gauntlett 268  | 2nd  | Nan Shepard Citation for most referrals to Legion; contributions and most outstanding activities  |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Mary Downey 44         | UPAA | Dorothy Pearl Citation for Outstanding Service to Our Veterans                                    |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Jacquelynn Boughner 16 | 7th  | Dorothy Pearl Citation for Outstanding Service to Our Veterans                                    |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | William C. Stark 97    | 2nd  | Dorothy Pearl Citation for Outstanding Service to Our Veterans                                    |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Betty McGee 293        | 7th  | Dorothy Pearl Citation for Outstanding Service to Our Veterans                                    |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Walter-Fraser 108      | 18th | Dorothy Pearl Citation for greatest participation in the Department Program                       |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Jacquelynn Boughner 16 | 7th  | Jackie Skinner Citation for Unit reporting greatest participation in Homeless Veteran initiatives |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Kelly Vondra 143       | 18th | Jackie Skinner Citation for Unit reporting greatest participation in Homeless Veteran initiatives |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Peggy Nolff 514        | 2nd  | Citation for Supporting our Veterans  |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Cathy Merritt 216      | 18th | Citation for Supporting our Veterans  |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | Linda Roman 32         | 17th | Citation for Outstanding Dedication to Our Veterans   |
| Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation | D.W. Cassard 208       | 5th  | Unit Most Outstanding Overall VA & R Program  |

### MEMBERSHIP NOTES

*By Darlene Jones, Membership Chairman*

Welcome to the 2017-2018 Membership Year. President Deanna and I are very excited to get this year's program under way.

There will be some very exciting awards and contests this year. Below are some of the rewards that your units and Districts have a chance to win:

- All Districts with zero goose egg units at Fall Conference will be entered into a drawing for \$50. (A goose egg unit is one that has no paid dues for the year and are at 0% of the unit goal.)
- All additional Districts with zero goose egg units by October 31 will be placed into a drawing for \$25.
- District and units with the highest increase in membership by % of

goal, not numbers, will be put in for a drawing and will all receive a special gift.

- For the unit that hit all targets Dates set up by National, they will also get a special award, to be announced at Fall Conference.
- President Deanna will make a \$50 donation to the District President's special project for the District that reaches 100% goal first.

New membership cards are out and, if you weren't at convention, they will be mailed to you. Dues are payable effective July 1st.

Please continue to send in 2016-2017 dues. The Department of Michigan is very close to moving up a position or two in National. Lorelee Nauta and her membership team are working very hard to reach number one in the Nation.

### The Thirteen Folds of the U.S. Flag

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.
4. The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is an acknowledgment to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with

- liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
  8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
  9. The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
  10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.
  11. The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  12. The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
  13. The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

### The Three Phases of Our Americanism Program

*Peggy Nolff, Americanism Chairman*

AMERICANISM – One description of the word is: an attachment or allegiance to the traditions, institutions, and ideals of the United States of America. American Legion Auxiliary Preamble we recite: "to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism." One way to help define what we do in this program is to use what is stated in our Unit Guide book: As members, our Americanism work is usually divided into three phases: work with the youth, the adults, and the Community. All matters pertaining to the flag or patriotic education are rightly classified as Americanism activities.

As we begin our new Auxiliary year let's take the time to look at the resources we have available to us from National and Department. Look at what other members of our Le-

gion Family are doing to promote Americanism. Now is the time to look at the National and Department Awards.

Think about the three phases of Americanism. First to work with our youth, take Flag education and promote the National Americanism Essay in the classroom, or to local youth organizations such as Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. Second the adults, promote by wearing a Flag Lapel pin, honor our Blue Star and Gold Star families, send postcards to those who fly tattered and torn flags, Get Out To Vote are a few. Third in our Communities, participate in Holiday parades, maybe your Community doesn't have Flags to fly, or perhaps they only put Flags out once or twice a year. Help promote the other Patriotic Holidays, perhaps as a Legion Family you can create a Community Project and volunteer to put those Flags up.

My goal this year as your Americanism Chair is to help you find the right program for you and help increase Americanism reporting and Awards.

939 Third Street Muskegon, MI 49440  
 Front Desk: 231-722-0100 x3

**Department Fall Conference 2017**

Group rates will be valid: 3 days before and after of the convention dates of

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017**

Rates: Single King Room (3 max per room): \$99.99

Double Queen Room (5 max per room): \$99.99

\* Rates are subject to applicable sales and hotel taxes, currently 11%.

**All reservations must be made on or before September 6, 2017** to receive group discount. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing hotel rate and availability.

**Reservation Information**

\* Hotel cannot guarantee that group rooms will be located near each other

\* Check in times is 3:00pm; Check out time is 11:00am

\* Reservations may be cancelled 24 hours in advance without penalty

\* For direct reservations please call our front desk 231-722-0100 and reference American Legion Conference

**Meeting Registration:** Registration badges are required for attendance at all meetings.

**Send \$15 Registration (Per Person), made payable to:**

American Legion Post 9, P.O. Box 4186, Muskegon Heights MI 49444



**Marine Week Makes its Way to the Motor City**

Detroit will be the center for the Marine's largest community outreach program

**DETROIT (June 5, 2017)** – The United States Marine Corps has selected the city of Detroit to host Marine Week taking place Sept. 6-10, 2017. The annual celebration of “Community, Country and Corps” will showcase the history, capabilities, pride and professionalism of the Marine Corps, as well as honor the service and sacrifice of Marines and their families. Metro Detroiters will have the opportunity to interact with more than 700 Marines visiting the Motor City through a variety of free and public events held at locations in and around downtown Detroit.

Marine Week Detroit activities will feature an opening ceremony, silent drill platoon demonstrations, interactive displays featuring the latest Marine Corps technology, vehicles and aircraft, as well as impressive Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstrations. A traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall will also be on display, providing a backdrop for wreath laying ceremonies. Each day will start off with reveille at 6 a.m. and conclude with taps at 10 p.m.

As Marine Week Detroit events and locations are confirmed, details will be updated at [www.usmarineweek.com](http://www.usmarineweek.com). Social media users can stay up-to-date on all activities on Facebook at @marineweek, Twitter at @marine\_week and Instagram at @marine\_week.

The Marine Corps has hosted seven iterations of Marine Week in different North American cities including Chicago, Boston, St. Louis, Cleveland, Seattle, Phoenix and Nashville. Marine Week is the Corps' largest community outreach program designed to connect the public to the United States Marine Corps.

| Last Name | First Name | Legion/Aux/SAL | Post/Unit/Squadron |
|-----------|------------|----------------|--------------------|
|           |            |                |                    |
|           |            |                |                    |
|           |            |                |                    |
|           |            |                |                    |

**The Selective Service System for the State of Michigan currently has several openings for local draft boards across the state.** - By Jake Maher

I am seeking volunteers who are interested in this important civic duty. While we have openings in most counties across the state, we are in dire need of board members in the following communities and zip codes:

Additional information can be found on our website at [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov). I can be reached at (616)915-3782 or at [jmahermi16@gmail.com](mailto:jmahermi16@gmail.com).

Ford - Luce County 49853, 49868

Krzyzaniak - Lenawee County

Wimple - Lenawee County -49220, 49221, 49228, 49229, 49235, 49236, 49238, 49248, 49253, 49256, 49265, 49268, 49276, 49279, 49286, 49287

Chockley - Washtenaw County 48103, 48104, 48105, 48108, 48109, 48118, 48130

George - Genesee County 48504, 48505, 48532

Deni - Oakland County 48327, 48328, 48329, 48340, 48341, 49342

McRipley - Oakland County 48017, 48070, 48072, 48073, 48084, 48237, 48304

Ashland - Oakland County 48098, 48307, 48309, 48326

Raymond - Wayne County 48135, 48185, 48187, 48188

Mills - Tuscola County 48435, 48701, 48723, 48726, 48729, 48733, 48735, 48741, 48744, 48767, 48768

## SAVE THE DATE

Join Team Selfridge and the U.S. Air Force  
Thunderbirds August 19 & 20, 2017

Celebrating 100 years of Military  
Aviation at Selfridge Air National

Visit [www.teamselfridge.com](http://www.teamselfridge.com) for tickets  
and information

## NEW WILWIN DIRECTORS APPROVED AT ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors of Wilwin at Cygnet Cove approved two new directors at its annual meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan, on June 22, 2017. Replacing Dan Crisp on the board is Dan Osborne, Williamston, Michigan. John Amman, Caledonia, Illinois will replace Steve Striggow. Both new directors are elected to 5 year terms.

The new officers for Wilwin for the 2017/18 fiscal year are as follows:

Garret Viehl, President/CEO  
John Amman, Vice President  
Dan Osborne, Secretary  
Bill Hafeman, Treasurer

Wilwin bylaws are written that only Legionnaires can be elected as officers of the Wilwin corporation.

Phase one of the planned three phases of the Veteran's village has begun, but progress is slow due to the large amount of continuous rain that has dampened the construction site. Two of the cabins are in the framing stage. The road to the village has been graded and graveled. The septic system has been completed and electricity is now available at the site.

Other construction completed was the storage barn attached to the east end of the garage and care-taker's cabin. All handicapped work at the main housing area including the ADC apartment is finished. The care-taker's cabin has a new metal roof.

The fiberglass bears that were located at the entrance of Wilwin at Trout Lake went through extensive renovation thanks to Garrett Viehl and his

friends. Restoration included patching all cracked and broken fiberglass, new teeth for the bears and painting. They are now located at the entrance of Cygnet Cove.

The Richard Lynch concert will be at Wilwin at Cygnet Cove on August 5th. Music will start at 4:00 P.M. There are facilities to hold the concert indoors if weather is a problem. Food and refreshments will be served, compliments of the State of Michigan Sons of the American Legion. The concert is open to the public with a tribute to all veterans in attendance.

Due to the inclement weather, some of the trails on the southwest end of the property had to be closed temporarily.

The board thanks all the Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons of the American, Legion Riders and individuals for your generous contribution. Several outside organizations have contributed to Wilwin including the VFW and DAV. Please use the donation form printed below to send in your donations. Check our new and updated website at [www.wilwin.org](http://www.wilwin.org).

Respectfully submitted

Bill Hafeman, Director and Fundraiser Chairman

Michigan American Legion's  
WILWIN LODGE at  
Cygnet Cove presents...



**A Country Western Benefit Concert**



**Richard Lynch Band**

Featuring the multiple award winning, nationally touring Richard Lynch Band along with local area acts.....


**AUGUST 5, 2017 - Gates Open 4pm - Showtime 7pm**

3393 E. HAWLEY RD. CUSTER, MI

Admission By Donation

231-881-0844  
WILWIN.ORG

The Michigan American Legion, Wilwin at Cygnet Cove, is a vacation destination for U.S. Military Veterans and their supporters.



[lovetattoofoundation.org](http://lovetattoofoundation.org)

## 2017 Department Americanism Awards

The Department Americanism Committee selects the award won based on consolidated post reports (CPR's). Awards will be presented to respective committeeman at the 30 Day Meeting for local presentaion.

- Giles A Reeve Award (Best Post Community Service/cpr) Post 253 Royal Oak
- Clarence W Taylor (Best Post Americanism Program/cpr) Post 217 Wyandotte

## 2017 Department Children & Youth Awards

The Department Children & Youth Committee selects the award won based on consolidated post reports (CPR's). Awards will be presented to respective committeeman at the 30 Day Meeting for local presentaion.

- 40 & 8 Plaque (Outstanding Post Children & youth Services in Community) Post 459 Grand Rapids
- Louis Schneider (Best District CPR Reports) District 4
- Whitney A. Smart (Best District Children & Youth Program) District 12
- Stanley A. Kolodziej (Outstanding Post Child Welfare Program Relative to Post Size) District 2
- Clark W. Wilbur (Best Post Child Welfare Program) Post 364 Dearborn
- Red Passen (Outstanding Americanism Program from a Post and District) Post 3, District 11

# Retiree Appreciation Day CAMP GRAYLING, MICHIGAN

The Michigan Army National Guard is hosting a  
**RETIREE APPRECIATION DAY EVENT**

Are you retired from the military or a family member  
with a valid military ID card?

Please join us for a one-day informational workshop with subject matter experts and service providers on **Friday, 11 August 2017 at the All Ranks Club, Camp Grayling, MI.**

The club is located off of 4th Street, across from the Parade Field.

The event is being held in conjunction with the annual Pass in Review, and will begin immediately after the parade (approximately 11:00 AM) and run through 3:00 PM.

\* Food, drink and snacks will be available on-site

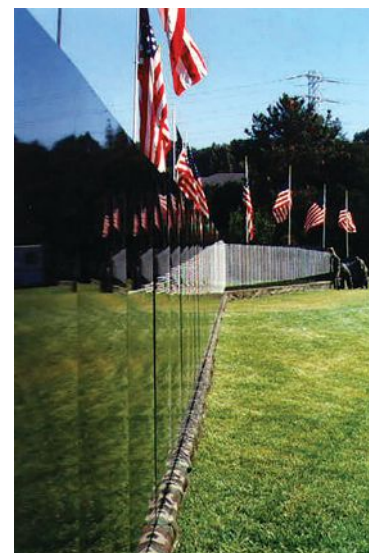
Please R.S.V.P. by 8 August 2017. Walk-Ins also welcome.

<https://einvitations.afft.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=334372&k=0162460A7C55> or Call

POC: 1SG Christopher Maes (517) 481-8303 - Alt POC: SGT David Saunders

—Alt POC: CW2 Tammie Ochoa

Military: N/A Civilian: Casual



## The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall.

The Moving Wall is coming to Grayling Thursday, July 20, 2017. The Moving Wall is the half-size replica of the Washington, DC Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for thirty plus years. When John

Devitt attended the 1982 dedication in Washington, he felt the positive power of The Wall. He vowed to share that experience with those who did not have the opportunity to go to Washington.

The Moving Wall will be on display at the Crawford County Sportsplex (old fairgrounds) from Thursday, July 20th to Sunday, July 24th. The Wall will be available for viewing **AROUND THE CLOCK** and we invite everyone to honor the 58,479 who lost their

## Many Michigan Posts Have Unclaimed Property

You may have unclaimed property waiting for you. Don't let the name fool you; when it comes to the Michigan Department of Treasury's Unclaimed Property Section, the term **property** refers to money, stock or safe deposit box contents – not land. Did you have a bank account that you don't recall closing, was there a paycheck that wasn't cashed, did you purchase stock years ago and lose track of it? These are only a few examples of the one hundred different types of properties that can be turned over to the Unclaimed Property Section every day as abandoned. The funds are then held in custody until the owner or, if the owner is deceased, the owner's heirs come forward to claim the property.

In fiscal years 2014 and 2015, Unclaimed Property staff worked diligently to return over \$100 million to property owners or their heirs in each of those years. No fees are ever charged to return property to the rightful owners – this is a service provided by the State of Michigan to ensure individuals, organizations and businesses do not permanently lose touch with the funds they are entitled to. Finding out if you have any unclaimed property is as simple as entering your name on the Michigan Money Quest searchable website, accessible through [michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty](http://michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty) or you can call the claimant customer service line at 517-636-5320 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Post adjutants don't forget to search for property belonging to your local post.

<http://www.michigan.gov/unclaimedproperty>

lives in this conflict.

Volunteers are needed. Anyone wishing to volunteer at The Moving Wall is asked to sign-up at the American Legion Post #106 located at 106 S. James Street in Grayling.

The Moving Wall is sponsored by the Crawford County Veterans Service Office, the American Legion Post #106, and VFW Post #3736.

## MILEGIONNAIRE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# 2017 Michigan Legacy Run



Post 558 Legion Rider Director Aaron Moline is seen presenting a check for \$3,000 to Angela Halverson. The American Legion Riders from Post 558 in Farwell sponsored a ride on June 10, 2017 to raise funds for St Jude's Children Research Hospital. "Your contributions will help ensure that families never receive a bill from St. Jude for treatment, travel, housing or food because all a family should worry about is helping their child live" said Angela Halverson, Regional Events Liaison for St Jude's. "The Legion Riders are proud to be a part of something that touches local families. Like ripples in a pond, the benefits are close by and far reaching" said Moline.



## 2017 National American Legion Legacy Run

Online registration for the 12th annual American Legion Legacy Run has topped 280 participants through the end of May. To register online, click here.

The USAA-sponsored charity motorcycle ride will cover nearly 1,400 miles across Kansas, Colorado and Utah before arriving at the national convention. The Ride will depart Fort Dodge, Kan., on

Aug. 12 and travel west to Reno, Nev. – site of the Legion's 99th National Convention. The route will take riders along Route 50 through Kansas, Colorado and Utah before winding up in Nevada. The run will cover nearly 1,400 miles.

Rather than leaving from Indianapolis, which has been the starting point for 10 out of 11 Legacy Runs, this year's ride will leave from Fort Dodge. The Kansas Soldiers' Home, about five miles east of Dodge City, will host a hog roast for riders on the evening of Aug. 11 and a morning breakfast to kick off the event.

To register for the 2017 Legacy Run visit [www.legion.org/riders](http://www.legion.org/riders)



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American Legion  
Family!!!**

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FREE!**

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