



MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXV No.8

Sgt. Joseph Rowley Named 2017 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year



Michigan State Police Sgt. Joseph Rowley of the Tri-City Post and a native of the Gladwin area has been selected as the American Legion's 2017 National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

Each year, The American Legion gives its National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to a well-rounded law enforcement officer who has exceeded the duty requirements expected of his or her position and has demonstrated a distinct pattern of community service coupled with professional achievement. The award, which especially takes into account heroic acts, is presented at the Legion's national convention.

Rowley, a 17-year veteran of the department, serves as a firearms and defensive tactics instructor for the department as well as a field training officer at his post. He is an accomplished investigator and leader, and often seeks out opportunities to help fellow coworkers and their families.

He has been an active participant in events that honor fallen troopers and, notably, planned

and coordinated the Trooper Jeff Werda Memorial Baseball Tournament in Gladwin. Werda was killed in the line of duty in 2011.

He also has dedicated his time off by volunteering at Camp Quality Michigan, which serves children with cancer by providing year-round programs and experiences at no cost to their families.

Rowley was submitted by American Legion Post 18 out of Bay City. He was selected as the American Legion's Michigan Officer of the Year and then the Central Region Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. Five officers from around the country were in the running for the national award that Rowley ultimately received.

Rowley enlisted with the department in 2000, graduating as a member of the 119th Trooper Recruit School. Prior to being assigned to the Tri-City Post, he served at the Gaylord, Detroit, Metro North, Gladwin and West Branch posts.

Rowley will be recognized this August at a special ceremony in Reno, Nevada.

46th MP CMD Trains for National Mission

SFC Helen Miller

Lansing, Mich. - 4 May, 2017 — The Michigan Army National Guard's 46th Military Police Command trains to respond to a major domestic incident in the United States during exercise Vibrant Response 17. Vibrant Response 17 is a major training exercise conducted by US Northern Command and led by US Army North. The training will confirm the operational readiness and tactical capabilities of major elements of the Department of Defense's specialized forces designed to respond to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents in support of local, state and federal civilian agencies.

The Lansing-based 46th MP Command is a two-star command that provides command and control over National Guard units from around the country. The Department of Defense assigned the 46th with this national mission. In the event of a catastrophic disaster military forces would support

response efforts across the nation; local officials and first responders always lead in a crisis and, if local and state capabilities are overwhelmed, federal assistance can be requested.

This training is intended to qualify Soldiers of the 46th on the critical tasks of managing and coordinating lifesaving and life sustaining support to civilian authorities. This initial training will allow the unit to work alongside various other military and civilian counterparts from around the country during additional rigorous training exercises in the coming months.

"This force is the only one of its kind and is comprised of National Guard forces from around the country," said Brig. Gen. Michael T. White, Commander, 46th Military Police Command, "I could not be more proud of the men and women in the 46th MP Command for being selected for this mission".

"Of course we hope to never have to do this mission, but exercises like Vibrant Response prove that the 46th MP Command is fully prepared to provide command and control if we are ever needed," said White.



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

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

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

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

Chaplain



Greetings Legion Family! I hope you all are well as we prepare for our annual Department Convention. I always look forward to visiting with old friends and meeting new ones from across this great state. It is also a great time to share ideas and learn new things. In communicating it is important convey the who, what, why when and where of the story. I have found that one of the most important things in learning is just to ask questions. To the kids, the most important question is why. As we get older, we also want to know how. There is something in us about being independent, knowing "How Things Work" and how to "Do It Yourself," which has become the topic of various television programs. Education is never ending because the more you know, the more you know that you don't know.

As a business unit manager at work it was my responsibility to ensure that my employees were educated as to policy and best practices and that they had the best tools available to do their jobs. We would

meet in what I called "team huddles" to discuss what's going on with both them and the company and any issues they were experiencing. Since they were the ones performing the tasks, I wanted them to share ideas on how to do the job better. And, I wanted them to feel free to ask for what they needed. Many times I would say, "If you don't ask, the answer is always no. But if you do ask, sometimes the answer is yes." I found this to be true in both my personal and religious life as well. Sometimes I had to trust that God knew best and be satisfied if the answer was no, or to wait." I love the old hymn based on Isaiah 40:31 which says, "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength; they shall mount up on wings as eagles... Teach me Lord to wait." Let's slow down a little and enjoy the things we do have.

There is another old gospel song that we sang in Christian churches called, "Jesus on the Mainline, Tell Him What You Want." It had a way of building up and taking a life of it's own depending on who was leading the music that

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

"Just Ask"

day and how the congregation was feeling. There were some standard lyrics like "The line ain't never busy, tell Him what you want," and "if you want His kingdom, just call Him up and tell Him what you want." As the emotions grew and music would build the leader would call out a new phrase like, "If you need a healing" or "If you need salvation" and the people would sing it with "Tell Him what you want." Often this little song would go on for fifteen minutes or more. The point is this, regardless of your religious faith or your situation, you need to be in communication with your God. You need to be able to talk with Him like a friend on the phone. If you are in need, then "just ask" believing that he will help. And then, you need to wait upon Him and listen. So, let us gather together and listen to each other, but also hear and acknowledge Him. As we say in the Army, Hooah (heard, understood and acknowledged). And remember, as Matthew 18:20 says, "where we are gathered in His name, He will be with us." For God and Country..." Chaplain Eddie

2017/2018 MICHIGAN CANDIDATES



Candidate State Commander Brett Holt



Candidate Finance Officer Berry Wood



Candidate Historian Marilyn Britten



Candidate Sgt-at-Arms Bill Hilgris



Candidate NEC Tom Brown



Candidate Alt. NEC Raymond Moore

STATE OFFICERS

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

Larry Money, State Commander

Department Commander Goes to Washington



Larry Money
State Commander

I would like to start by thanking The American Legion family for a truly amazing year. Without your guidance and support this could have and would have been a very uneventful

year. I also need to thank Barb and my family for their cooperation in allowing me the opportunity to spend so much time away from home and all my house cleaning chores.

I have spent many a day traveling across the state of Michigan and meeting many distinguished Legionnaires and Community members. I have had the opportunity to meet and sit with several legislators

and representatives, both at the state and federal levels. One of the many memorable events that I had was the pleasure of attending a meeting with the Latvian General and his personal aide and sitting down to discuss how Michigan responds to the needs of its Veterans.

I was able to witness the signing of Bill Number 1100 with Governor Snyder which created a Michigan Veterans Facility Authority to start the construction of two new Veteran's homes and, at a later date, up to five more.

I would like to thank Secretary of State Ruth Johnson for allowing the American Legion to be represented during Motorcycle Awareness Month in May.

I want thank Michigan's American Legion Auxiliary President, Ellen

Jackson, for the great year of traveling throughout the state and all the memorable experiences we shared together. Her special project, "Hats Off to Veterans" was truly a success and was always a joy to see what "hat" she would be wearing next.

Thanks also goes out to Carvin "Huey" Chapman, Detachment SAL Commander and his hard work for helping to promote Operation Comfort Warrior. This was also my special project for the year.

Lastly, I would like to thank Sabrina Townes, Michigan's Auxiliary Junior President, for being such a delight.

At this writing, Michigan's membership is at 92 plus percent. Chairman Barry Wood has done an excellent job in moving Michigan's membership forward. Thank you,

Barry, for all your hard work. We still have time to reach 100% before our National Convention in Reno.

I also want to give a big Thank You to all the Committee Chairpersons that have given so much work and dedication in keeping the Department Programs and Activities moving forward. Without this determination, our programs would have failed.

Thank you also to an outstanding staff and Department Adjutant, Ron Runyan for all of your help in making my year as Department Commander such a success.

As my term comes to an end, I once again want to say thank you to all of my Legion family for such an outstanding year. Hope to see you all in Flint for the Department Convention.



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Commander, Officers and members I want to thank you all for a great year! Many things have been accomplished this year with your hard work and enthusiasm for our organization. We could not run a Department if it were not for the hours of hard work that you do at the Post and District levels!

Our state Convention is just a few weeks away and would like to encourage all members to come at least one day. On Thursday, our current Department Executive Committee will meet for the last time together and finish any business that needs to be concluded before the start of Convention on Friday. On Friday morning there is caucus meetings and we open up in the afternoon for Convention. We have many great award winners in attendance this year, one of whom

has won the Law Enforcement officer of the year here in Michigan, but also nationally! We have a two guest speakers this year and I know you will enjoy their stories. Saturday, business will restart in the morning and in the afternoon we will recess and be able to enjoy the party at the Post in Grand Blanc, which is hosted by our members from the Upper Peninsula Association.

Sunday we will elect new officers for this new upcoming year. I wish you all luck as you will take on your new duties and responsibilities.

Lastly, as an American Legion family in Michigan we are second to none! We have had some great leaders this last year in the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. I also want to thank them for their hard work and their efforts to help and assist our programs and mission.

Headquarters

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Your Department of
The American Legion

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MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH		X SIGNATURE _____

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*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.

Cut it out

Membership

Family



My time as the Department Membership Director is quickly ending. I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you this year and for the support many of you provided. Membership is ever important for any number of reasons. A major opportunity is for The American Legion to get information into the hands of veterans to help ensure service to veterans, their families and their communities. We can best do this if the veteran is a member. It is also important for The American Legion to have the strength through its membership when it comes to reaching out to our legislators at both the State and Federal levels.

How important is membership to your post? Does a larger membership enable your post to conduct more programs? Does a larger membership bring in more funds to enable your post to better meet its financial obligations? Does a larger membership help you to better serve veterans in your community? Does a larger membership bring in more ideas for service? When was the last time your post discussed membership at a regular meeting? Use your Consolidated Post Report (CPR) as a measure of how active your post has been this past year. Would you want to join your post if its activity over the past year is a measurement of its success? How active is your post in the lives of its members, families, veterans and how involved is your post in the local community? Your

CPR will make this very evident. Ask to see the CPR your post is sending into Department HQ and discuss how successful your post has been. Then make plans for this coming year. You might be surprised how successful your membership year will be if your CPR shows you have an active post. As stated in the recent issue of The American Legion Dispatch, "The CPR is an opportunity for posts to document every activity they fulfilled in a 12-month (June 1-May 31) reporting period – whether it's providing funeral honors, hosting Memorial Day or veterans Day ceremonies, sponsoring youth to attend a Legion program, conducting fundraising efforts and more." Be a part of the success of your post.

Legion members who recruit three new members for the 2017 membership year are encouraged to share their success with National Headquarters to be recognized. Fill out and submit the new member form at www.legion.org/commander/pin. Help The American Legion to "Carry the Legacy Forward."

Some will continue in their same positions this next year. If you're currently, or shortly will be, a post leader start your planning now for this next membership year. Let's continue to find successful ways to grow our membership in the coming years.

Again, thank you for your assistance this past year. I look forward to serving with you for years to come for the sake of veterans, families, and communities throughout Michigan.

Districts: Send in your 2017/18 Meeting List to: info@michiganlegion.org

District Meetings

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
June 5 – District State Convention Meeting

4th District

May 7, 2017 – Hastings Post 45

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

July 13, 2017 @ 7PM TBA
Past Commanders – Friday the 13th Club – January 13, 2017 & October 13, 2017

7th District

June 2017 Convention

10th District

Lunch at 12PM – Meeting at 1PM
June 3, 2017 – TBD

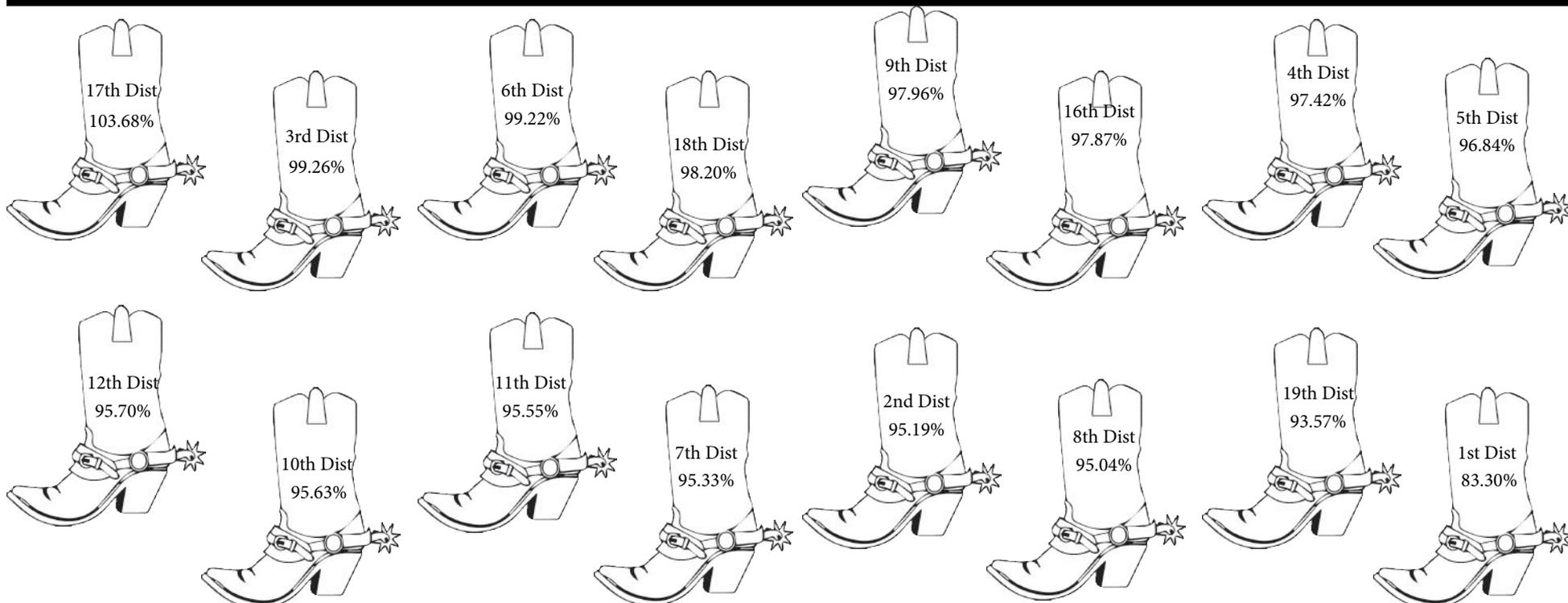
16th District

American Legion & Aux Meeting 7:30 PM
June 13 – Garden City 396 313-381-2245

18th District

6/11/2017 Royal Oak Post 253 (Legion meeting only)

2017 Membership Goal: 68,507 May 18 Total: 63,990 - 93.41%





AUXILIAIRE

**From the Desk of the President***2016 - 2017 Department President, Ellen Jackson***Hats Off!**

As I take my hat off to our Veterans once more as the Department President, I urge you continue with your awesome work for our

Veterans and their families who are so deserving. Thank you to all of you for your hard work to further our programs and your sup-

port. Many thanks to the Department Commander Larry Money, the staff at the Department office, to the Detachment Commander, my friend Carvin (Huey) Chapman, and my girl Sabrina Townes for a fantastic year. To my family and my wonderful, beautiful Unit Walter Frasher 108, "I'm coming home!" And now I have asked all year for some rock stars out in our great Michigan delegation and here finally are three of them. My hats off to all three!

Rock Star, Kent City Auxiliary Post #123

Sandra Wylie, Unit President

Kent City Auxiliary Post #123 donated throughout the year to our post, Kent City Schools and Band, Fire Department Children's safety program and others.

Recently I had the BEST day of my Presidency. I hand delivered checks to Sparta Senior Neighbors in honor of the many Veterans that enjoy that organization and several live there. I also deliver a check to KCHS Student Government to help with the cost of a fantastic Veterans Day ceremony and dinner they host every

November 11th. I also took a check to the Kent City Historical Society toward their Veterans display. I also mailed checks to Second Chance and Blue Star Mothers Banquet. We also sent checks to Wilwin's project for new cabins.

We took a check to the Grand Rapids Homeless Veterans center along with six mats our ladies made from used plastic grocery bags. We helped our own veterans with a new four section sink for the club room and fifty new chairs for our hall.

I am so thankful and proud of all the work our ladies did so we could do so much good this year.

Rock Star, Violet G Horstman Lentz

Submitted by Josie Larson

Violet Lentz has been Secretary/Treasurer of the old Wycoff Unit 296 American Legion Auxiliary as long as I can remember. She stayed with it even when we lost our hall and organized meetings in town.

She organized the school reunions in Williamston for years. She helps at two cemeteries and

keeps very busy and always has a smile.

She lives on a farm, is an excellent baker of cookies and bowls a pretty good game, too!

Our Unit members are aging and few gals attend. Violet is the one holding us together and keeping us going. She is always ready to help where needed.

Did I mention she turned 93 in March?

Dawn Lewkowicz, Rock Star**Linda Wallace, 6th District**

Austin-Moore American Legion Auxiliary Unit 415 was chartered in 2015. Presently they have 23 members. The Unit is small but mighty in what they do for veterans and their families. Under Unit President, Dawn Lewkowicz, and with her leadership, she has overseen the following projects:

- Assisted at local and national elections and was an active voice in order to pass a millage that directly affected services provided to veterans in Livingston County
- Active in helping with the local Community Senior Center
- Distributed poppies during Poppy Days in order to raise money to purchase a reclining chair for the Saginaw Valley Veterans Hospital
- Participated in cleaning headstones and laying wreaths on graves for "Wreaths Across America" at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly
- Led her unit in the Memorial Day Parade in her hometown representing the American Legion Family
- Hosted a Christmas party for veterans who successfully completed the "Livingston County Veterans Court" program along with their families
- Helped select gifts with the Marine Corp League for the "Toys for Tots" program. Along with members of her unit, she wrapped gifts and stuffed stockings for the children of Livingston County for

this program. A dinner was later served and Dawn spearheaded the set-up, serving food to the families and the clean-up process. Her unit provided all homemade desserts for the Christmas party which was greatly appreciated by the veterans and their families.

- She was instrumental in helping to raise funds to send a local girl to Girls State
- Guided unit members in getting their "Constitution/By-laws" and "Standing Rules" approved for their unit
- She has encouraged members to attend District Leadership Training classes
- She instituted a mentoring program for new members of her unit

As she has stated "her unit is a work in progress" but she, along with unit members, are attending workshops, district meetings, conferences and Department convention in order to make her unit the best it can be so they can service those who served our country

This year Dawn is the chairperson for the "Livingston County Veterans Appreciation Picnic" that is sponsored by the Livingston County Veterans Council which is a major undertaking.

Because of her dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary and her exceptional service to her community, veterans and their families, Dawn was voted to be the "2017 Livingston County Auxiliary Person of the Year" by members of the Livingston County Veterans Council.

National Convention Registration Form on Page 10

Georgia Downs, Department Chaplain**INTEGRITY**

The need for integrity today is perhaps as great as it has ever been. Integrity is essential if we are going to become people who positively and powerfully impact others.

Many people today view integrity as an outdated idea that is either expendable or no longer applicable in an age of moral belief. Just as honesty is essential for trust, trust is essential for any healthy relationship and for the ability to lead. So, integrity is essential to becoming trustworthy. It has been said that if you can't trust someone in all areas, you can't trust them in any. We compromise our integrity whenever we betray a trust. Integrity is a prerequisite to credibility. It involves an inner sense of wholeness which results from being consistently honest and morally upright. Integrity is crucial in all aspects of life: professional, personal, social and spiritual.

Webster describes integrity as "*soundness of moral character.*" Integrity from a biblical viewpoint has

to do with being morally sound. What does it mean to be morally sound? A person with integrity knows what is important to God and consistently lives in light of what is important to Him. It involves more than living our values; it involves subscribing to God's values and with His help learning to conform our conduct to those values. Integrity is like the foundation of a house, if it is unstable, the entire house may come apart when it comes under pressure.

It is the first characteristic that distinguishes godly leadership: "*So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them with his skillful hands*" (Psa. 78:72) Integrity is not determined by circumstances nor based on credentials and is not to be confused with reputation. A person with the integrity of heart is a morally and spiritually healthy individual.

If we are persons of character and integrity, we have the opportunity to add value to the lives of others

by our personal example. If others know we are persons of integrity, they don't have to worry about our motives. Perhaps one of the biggest benefits of integrity is trust and trust is the single most important factor in our personal and professional lives. Without trust what do you really have? Nothing! Who can we trust? We can trust persons of integrity. We gain trust when we exemplify solid character and prove ourselves to be trustworthy. When you earn people's trust you gain their confidence.

The road to integrity is not an easy one but it's the only one worth traveling because it's the only one that ultimately takes you where you want to go. When you are tempted to take short-cuts, integrity will keep you on the correct path. When you think about it, integrity is one of our best friends. When you are unfairly criticized by others it keeps you going and helps you to take the high road of not returning evil for evil.

ref: Dr. Steven C. Riser 2006

VA&R**Janette Brockway
VA&R Chairman**

Members of the Auxiliary should be very proud of accomplishments they have done this year.

We had a unit that reported they brought baby books to one of their meetings and presented them to the Representative from the Ann Arbor VA to take them to the annual baby shower that is held each year.

Another reported they hosted a special Veterans Day that started with a black hawk helicopter landing on their property, also had a large display of war memorabilia, they had local students visit and served them lunch, a radio station broadcast live for this event.

We are all able to do the same things, it takes special members like you to start something new for your unit, and our veterans are always looking for new events, programs, luncheons or whatever idea your unit can come up with.

I hope all units know that their Poppy Funds can be spent on the veteran which could mean bringing him or her to your post and serving a luncheon or one of the favorite things to do is play bingo, remember this money can only be spent on veterans, you can also use it for your donation to the Christmas Gift Shop. Another unit reported they provided Poppy Bookmarks to those who donated during Poppy Days, they printed the Poppy book marks that are available online from the National Auxiliary and laminated them.

There are many special things that our Auxiliary sisters have done for our veterans and it is good to see that more units are reporting and very proud of what they have accomplished during the year.

REMEMBER; unless we think of others and do something for them, we miss one of the greatest resources of happiness, Ray Lyman Wilbur.

Membership 2016-17**Loralee Nauta
Dept. Membership Chairman**

WOW, what a year. I can't believe it's almost over. The team worked very hard to make this year a success. I was lucky to have a great team of Area chairman. So a special thank you goes out to Ange-

la, Laura, Deborah & Julie.

We are in 2nd place as of May 1, in Central Division, following very close behind Iowa, we are .28% behind, not much of a difference. I know we can do it. We also made a milestone in recruiting this year. In 2016 we had 815 new members, as of this writing, we had 1808 new

members. AWESOME JOB EVERYONE.....

Unfortunately, the good Lord took home several of our members this year, but we can continue to honor them by keeping this wonderful organization strong and we do have a great start.

We also have to mentor our juniors. They are the future of the ALA.

We still need to work on teamwork, (NO- I in team) & being respectful of each other. Remember that focusing on working our programs, being there for our Veterans is what the Auxiliary stands for. It's an honor to be part of the ALA and we should always treat the ALA with the respect it deserves. By doing that, our membership will continue to grow.

Remember to keep our units strong, keep on recruiting and re-joining. It was a pleasure to serve as your Dept. Membership Chairman. We had our ups and downs, but as always, Michigan bounced back and came out stronger for it.

I know with **continuous teamwork** and mentoring our state will continue to grow stronger & stronger.

We can accomplish anything we set our minds to, so let's show all that **MICHIGAN ROCKS !!!!!!!**

Breakfast Is Served!

The Albion American Legion reaches out to veterans at the Silver Star Apartments. To honor veterans, brunch was brought in and ideas collected for future events as Legion members seek to serve those who have served our country. Silver Star Apartments near Fort Custer offers facilities and beautiful apartments to veterans and their spouses. The apartments are the only ones like them in the nation and the complex is completely furnished by Art Van furniture. Veterans are eligible for their own apartments with on-site libraries, lounges, gym facilities and an extensive greenhouse where residents may grow their own vegetables.

Auxiliary President, Judy Root organized a group of Legion Auxiliary ladies to prepare an extensive breakfast for veterans at the apartments Wednesday, March 8th. Albion Legionnaires received a tour of the beautiful facilities and were able to visit an Albion Legion member now living at the facility. Veterans chose from egg casseroles, muffins, sweet rolls, biscuits and gravy, fruit and juices and coffee. Plans are forming to organize other events in the Spring to honor those who have served our country. Legion members have raised funds through Bunco parties, Craft Shows, and Teas to support local veterans and offer services to returning service members.

2017 DEC Reports

Article IX, Section 1 of the Department By-Laws requires officers and chairpersons to make an annual detailed report for publication in the Michigan Legionnaire. District Commanders are invited, but not required, to submit reports.

1st Zone Archie Chappell Zone Commander

I hope everyone had a productive year. I know first zone has been very busy getting new members. We have post 202, 70, and 505 in District 1 at 100%, from 16th District we had post 231, 388, 173, 337, 396, 364, 426 and post 75 all making over 100%. Congratulations to all that helped in getting new members. I am confident that other post will follow and get there 100% membership.

I am in the process of getting contacts about setting up membership tables at the street fairs and at the church outings to recruit new members. I know there are eligible veterans and that we need to ask them about joining our legion, Just Ask.

American Legion Stitt Post 232 will host a Recognition Ceremony for all Vietnam Veterans and with this being open to the public I am hoping to recruit new members. Hope to see you all at the Convention.

3rd Zone Bob Bigham Zone Commander

This has been a remarkable year. As of this writing, the 3rd Zone was in first place for the last 2 ½ weeks. Now the 2nd Zone has taken first place. Great job Catherine. Of course, the 4th Zone was in first most of the other time. Sorry Neal.

So far the 3rd Zone has 33 Posts at 100%. I want to thank each District Commander in the 6th, 7th, 8th, 17th Districts for their hard work throughout the year.

I've been to many posts this year, many for the first time. Sometimes with my white hat on, other times with it off. In every post I visited for the first time, I felt like I was a member there. I felt at home. I wish I could have visited more this year. I still will, only without a white hat.

I went to a lot of ceremonies, fairs and parades in the 3rd Zone (and outside of the Zone). The ceremonies were sincere and well planned. The fairs were fun and interesting with all of the exhibits. The parades, well the parades were long. It seems each one was longer than the last.

I always learned something from every district I visited. Whether it was from the District Commanders, members at the meetings, the Auxiliary (there's a ton of information there) and even from the S.A.L. (they've been

around a while). Ever District Commander has their own special way of getting things done in their Districts. I wouldn't be bragging about them if it weren't true. They do a great job!

I want to thank: Bob Higley, 6th Dist. Cmdr., Sarge Parr, 7th Dist. Cmdr., Mitch Louth, 8th Dist. Cmdr., Gary DeMars, 17th Dist. Cmdr. and Steve Stevens, 18th Dist Cmdr. for an incredible year and wish them all well. I also want to thank the Department Commander Larry Money, Adjutant Ron Runyan for making the DEC better than any DEC I've ever seen. Thanks to all the Department staff in Lansing for all of their help.

1st District Dan McCrary District Commander

As the 2017, Legion year is coming to an end, the 1st District enjoyed successes as well as disappointments. One thing is clear, we have individuals on our District Officer Team and in our member Posts who are determined to work to keep the 1st District and The American Legion viable in Michigan's largest city, Detroit Michigan.

We are disappointed in the fact that we remain the department's smallest district in terms of membership and that some of our Posts continue to struggle in finding new members. We have 4 posts that have less than 15 members. Assistance has been offered and sadly some of them will not be with us in 2018. On the other hand, we are elated at the fact that 3 of our Posts achieved 100%. Post 70, 202 and 505 has demonstrated that having a dedicated membership team and spreading the word about how great it is to be a Michigan Legionnaire, is effective in getting wartime veterans to join your posts.

During 2017, 1st District members continued to support legion programs by partnering with Wayne County Community College and Detroit JROTC to raise funds and send Detroit youth to both Boys State and Girls State. This year 1st District Posts will award 17 JROTC School Awards and Medals to 10 Detroit High Schools. We had candidates for the Oratorical Contest and active volunteers who work at the John Dingell Medical Center.

The District is active in the community, playing key roles in the annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade, Detroit City Council Veterans Task Force, Annual Patri-

ot Day Observance @ Piquette Square, Annual Memorial Day Service @ Roseland Park, saving and relocating the Michigan War Veterans Memorial located on the old Michigan State Fair Grounds and supporting organizations and individuals that assist our homeless Veterans.

We are looking forward to the 2018 Legion year with a new sense of purpose and improving on our 2017 results. Our 1st District Post Commanders wish to thank out-going District Commander Dan McCrary for doing a great job as a leader and comrade and are looking forward to assisting incoming District Commander Gregory Spight in having a successful term.

2nd District Wayne L. Blank District Commander

Second District is not at the top but is performing well Membership can always be better. We have seven posts that have 100% or more at this time and I am always challenging posts to dig deeper for membership. We need to use the tools that are available to us. The Legion .org is important to get info on Members active and inactive.

Throughout the year we have stressed clarity of post operation Mark Sutton has presented programs, clearly stating the right and wrong way of incorporating Post, bar, and hall operations and how and what should be updated on our constitution and by-laws also standing rules.

The main concern is a post that does not have complete understanding of the American Legion system and this is what we have stressed this year. And where to get help with a problem.

On The bright side our District Chaplain Mr. Norm Soli has developed a successful program for nursing home Veterans who have not been recognized for their service. Thank You Norm

Another very good job was done by our District Service Officer Dave Mooberry. He developed District service Officer seminar for additional training and questions that may arise, thanks Dave.

I would like to admit it has been a challenge to build up our District meeting attendance but seems to be going the positive direction... we still have a ways to go but the numbers are climbing. This is the way to get information that you may be missing.

Now on the other hand the posts that are having trouble with membership and post operation

are the posts that usually do not show up to District or department meetings. The meetings are being designed to not only conduct business but to train new officers in the Legion way.

In closing I would like to remind Legion Members we are veterans and should concern ourselves with keeping veterans 1st., NOT The bar and halls associated with the Building

6th District Bob Higley District Commander

As the 2016-2017 Legion year comes to a close I want to thank all the District officers for their time and effort they put in to help out the posts in the 6th District. I also want to thank the 6th District posts for the warm welcome I received from them during my post visits. As of this writing the 6th District is in 3rd place in membership with achieving 98.44% of our goal of 3,846 members. The 6th District posts have signed up a combined 130 new members. We only need 60 more members to reach 100%. Please keep working hard renewing and recruiting members. I especially want to congratulate the nine posts in the 6th District that achieved 100% of their membership goal. They are Linden post 119, Flushing post 283, Otisville post 321, Grand Blanc post 413, Brighton post 235, Haslett post 269, Williamston post 296, Swartz Creek post 294 and Lansing post 178. Please thank your membership teams for me. There are seven posts above 97% and most only need two or three members to reach 100% of their goal. Hopefully by summer convention they will be at 100%.

By now all posts should have completed their officer elections for the 2017-2018 Legion year. I encourage all new post commanders to meet with your new executive committee now and start planning for the new Legion year. Start setting your goals and put together an action plan on how your goals will be achieved. Ask for input from the post members on what they feel the direction of the post should be. Your goals should be measurable so during the year you can see if they are being achieved. All new officers should immediately start getting acquainted with their new position. Please don't wait until your first post meeting. Be prepared. You can download the most current officer's guide on Legion.org.

Adjutants, please remember to send your new post officer list,

bonding form and post audit to Department Headquarters prior to Department's summer convention. Posts will not receive their new 2018 membership cards until this information is received by Department. Also, please fill out and return the post consolidated report (CPRs) to Department by June 1st. It does not take much time to complete the CPRs. These reports are very important. All of these reports are used in National Headquarters' report to Congress.

This year the District started a Facebook page. It is The American Legion 6th District Department of Michigan. If your post has an event you want published on the page please contact me. We are going to try and use our Facebook page to let everyone in the District know what is happening. I still encourage posts to have representatives at our District meetings though.

It has been an honor and privilege of serving all of you. I hope to see you at the Department summer convention.

8th District Mitch Louth District Commander

It has been a great honor for me to serve as the 8th District Commander for the last two years (2015-2016, 2016-2017). Even though this time has been very busy for me, it has been two years that I will always remember. It has been very rewarding, as well as a great learning experience.

I wish to thank all the Legionnaires of the 8th District for their cooperation and support during my years. I have always maintained that "Eight is Great!" and has some of the best Legion-oriented members that have made my task as District Commander much more gratifying.

Also, I would be remiss if I did not thank the great ladies of the 8th District Auxiliary under the leadership of Robin Basarabska (2015-2016) and Laurie Sweet (2016-2017). They have been very cooperative and helpful.

Now, I would like to personally thank the following Legionnaires, brothers, and friends for all their patience in helping to mentor me in becoming a better Legionnaire and leader: PDC's Ken Dittenber, Carnie Jackson, Al Ford, Jim Wallace, Honorary PDC and Past Adjutant Pat Lafferty, and Past National Vice Commander and PDC John Mella. Also, I would include in this

Anniversaries

Bark River Post 438



Rheume-Knauf American Legion Post 438 celebrated 60 years of service recently. The Auxiliary arranged for a dinner to commemorate the Anniversary. The commander touched on the history of the Post. The name Rheume was derived from John Rheume who was the first Bark River Area man to be drafted into World War I. Knauf was derived from Fred Knauf who was the first Bark River man to be killed in the line of duty during WW II.

Some of the events that the post headed up over the past years were the Bark River 4th of July Celebration, Annual Smelt Fry, Youth Firearm Training, and Legion Baseball. Recently the Post began sponsoring Legion Baseball again, and conducts a very successful Gun, Knife & Outdoor Show for a fund raiser. Various veteran and community services including high school scholarships are supported by the funds raised.

Patriotic Activities are at the helm of the Post: Conducting of Memorial Funeral Services for fellow veterans, Destruction of Dilapidated U.S. Flags, Memorial Day Services at various local cemeteries, Color Guard Leading the 4th of July Parade, and conducting

an annual program at the BR-H High School for Veteran's Day.

The Auxiliary arranged to host a Patriotic Poppy Poster Contest at the Junior and High school. The art was displayed and all voted for a winner in each category. The display was phenomenal and one could see a lot of work went into the contest. The students are commended for their Patriotic Creativity and participation in the contest. Winners will move on to the state level contest.

The Legion and the Auxiliary also support local high school students to attend Girls State, Boys State, and Trooper School. They are currently looking for candidates to attend these programs this year.

in their invitations for the anniversary, the Auxiliary also encouraged Legionnaires to bring any mementos they may have of their service. It turned out to be a huge success, resembling a small military museum with many interesting items displayed.

The evening was concluded by the cutting of a beautiful anniversary cake enjoyed by all. Thanks to all who participated.

Elsie Post 502



Submitted by Cmdr. Gene Nethaway

March 23 we celebrated our Post's existence which began 70 years ago on this date. We had many from the post come and a couple of Post Commanders from local communities came to share in our mile stone that we had at our post. Some community citizens showed up and enjoyed spending time with us. We showed off our World War 1 wheel chair that many people didn't know was in our post. We brought it down from in the upper attic over the big auditorium and cleaned it up and repaired and lubricated it. It surprised everyone that came. We had member's uniforms from our post for people to look at which also attracted many people to see.

We send now give a special thank you to everyone that donated items for the veterans and their families that are treated there at the Saginaw V A Hospital. Our post went back up to the VA Hospital on Monday March 27 and stood a flag line for the veterans that came there for help. A local lady, Mrs. Mead that has been coming over to the

post for all we have been doing, knitted very many lap blankets, all in red, white and blue that looked great and were well received. A member from our support group also made lap blankets and coughing pillow made these items that we took up there, plus went there and stood the flag line with us.



Bowling Tournament

Greetings and Salutations Everyone:

The following are the 1st Place Winners of the 81st Annual American Legion Bowling Tournament: Team Event; from Myron H Beals post 32, "DPW Crew" / Tom Liacakes, Ralph Mohr, John Creith, Dave Wallman and Capt. Riley Saylor: 3146 (201 hcp). Doubles Event; from Lyle Edwards post 491 / Phil Wilson & Lina Greenlee: 1370 (408 hcp). Singles Event; from Myron H Beals post 32 / Calvin Bruning: 778 (27 hcp). Honorable mentions go out to Tom Reynolds from Ypsilanti post 282 and Calvin Bruning of Livonia post 32 with perfect games of 300. Great Shooting everyone.

Kudo's go out to Bill Reynolds (honorary president) and his staff of Ypsilanti post 282 for a job well done. Their handling of the duties at the post and the bowling alley ran like a "well oiled machine."

We would like to thank Doug Sewesky G.M. and his staff at Super Bowl for keeping the activities at the lanes running with perfection. We would be remiss if we did not mention Michell for keeping all the changes we endure each week! Great job Everyone.

Where do we go from here? For those who participated in this tournament you were made aware that my staff and myself have retired! This does not mean that the tournaments may end. As Director I will try to help anyone who may wish to continue this tradition. You may contact me at 734-422-8670 or by email malbowl@sbcglobal.net I can give anyone some insight on what is expected. God Bless one and all for all of the years you have given us. So Long.

Don, Ellen, Elsie and Scotty



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For more information log on to www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call toll-free 1-888-293-4008 today to speak with a representative.

*This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Guide carefully. EA+ is not insurance.

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From Your
American Legion
Department



Post 3 SAL held a "Tip a Cop" for the Michigan Department of Correction Torch run for Special Olympics. Commander Willette, Members at large Tom Batho & Greg Oja sold burgers, white fish dinners and raised \$430.00 for the event.

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MSU Army ROTC Awards Ceremony



MSU Army ROTC Awards Ceremony, April 20th, Marilyn Britten, Department Legislative Chairman, presents the American Legion Scholastic Excellence Awards to Junior Brendon Daley with Senior Shane Neal, waiting in line (Left Photo).



Marilyn Britten awards the American Legion Military Excellence Award to Emilee Tripp, Cadet Battalion Commander (Right Photo).

Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center, Inc.



Freedom Center Golf Outing and Fundraiser August 18, 2017

Featuring the USAF Thunderbirds practice Air Show

The Michigan Armed Forces Hospitality Center (MAFHC) is a 501(C)(3) tax exempt nonprofit incorporated in the State of Michigan in 2011. MAFHC's mission is to provide world-class reception and hospitality lounges for traveling military personnel and their families. We are independently operated and not affiliated with any government agency. Freedom Centers are located at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport's (DTW) North Terminal and McNamara Terminal and at the Military Entrance Processing Stations in Troy and Lansing. Over the past five years the Airport Freedom Center Lounges have hosted more than 250,000 guests. This includes active duty personnel, National Guard members, reservists, and service academy cadets, military dependents, military retirees, veterans and their families.

The Freedom Centers are supported through donations and staffed by volunteers from the surrounding communities. Please visit our website at www.mifreedomcenter.org.

The Freedom Center Golf Outing is your opportunity to join us as we continue "serving those who serve us." Mark your calendar for **Friday, August 18, 2017** at the Selfridge ANGB golf course. Our **Four Star Sponsor** for this event is **Delta Air Lines**. Three, two, and one star sponsorships are available. Please see the registration form attached. Friday August 18 is designated as **Team Selfridge Family Day**, which includes the afternoon Air Show rehearsal/practice, static aircraft displays, and a ticketed evening Hangar Party with dinner, concert and twilight Air Show.



The Golf Outing is in conjunction with the August 19-20 Open House and 100th Anniversary Air show celebrating Centennial Anniversary of the Selfridge Air National Guard Base. The weekend Air Show will feature the **USAF Thunderbirds** aerial demonstration team, other active military aircraft performers, and numerous world class civilian acrobatic acts. Please visit www.teamselfridge.com for more information.

A very special 'perk' for all our golfers will be viewing the **Thunderbirds** and other acts practice in the skies above as we finish golf and begin the food service. This will be a grand day to honor those who do serve and have served our country. **Individuals without a military ID card need only supply a driver's license number on the registration form for a security background check in order to have access to the base and golf course.**



Post 251 2nd Vice Commander Ernest Jones, Member Robert Manuel, Post Commander Bill Acton, Member Don Shelby, and Adjutant Ron Nickels man a Legion recruitment table at their local UAW hall.

Veteran Service

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

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

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

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

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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Serve Your Community and the Nation

Become a Selective Service System

Local Board Member



The Selective Service System wants to hear from men and women in Iron, Marquette, Houghton, Leelanau, Isabella, Roscommon, Clare, Mecosta, Newaygo, Muskegon, Calhoun, Saint Joseph, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Livingston, and Shiawassee Counties. We are looking for individuals who might be willing to serve as members of local draft boards in your county of residence.

A Prospective Board Member must be citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, registered with the Selective Service (if male), and not be an employee in any law enforcement occupation, not be an active or retired member of the Armed Forces, and not have been convicted for any criminal offense. Once identified as qualified candidates for

appointment, they are recommended by the governor and appointed by the Director of Selective Service, who acts on behalf of the President in making the appointments. Each new member receives five hours of initial training after appointment, followed by two hours of annual training for as long as he or she remains in the position. They may serve in Board Member positions up to a total of 20 years, if desired.

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

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

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

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 & 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

American Legion Auxiliary Code of Ethics

American Legion Auxiliary members are expected to comply with the organization's governing documents and comport themselves according to the following Code of Ethics adopted by the National Executive Committee.

This Code of Ethics serves as a guide for conduct acceptable within the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

As a matter of fundamental principle, the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will adhere to the American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules 25 highest ethical standards to earn and protect the public's trust in our performance to carry out the Auxiliary's mission, uphold rigorous standards of conduct, and be good stewards of our resources.

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation, as witnessed through the conduct of its national governing body, officers, staff, and volunteers, must earn the public's trust every day and in every possible way. National leaders are expected to abide by all laws and demonstrate their ongoing commitment to the core values of integrity, honesty, fairness, openness, responsibility and respect.

The American Legion Auxiliary strongly recommends that all chartered entities and affiliated organizations at all levels adopt a Code of Ethics and conduct themselves accordingly. In keeping with the best practices of high performing nonprofit organizations, it is the expectation of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation that its national business standards, operations, and conduct conform to the following Code of Ethics.

Personal and Professional Integrity

All members, volunteers, and staff of the American Legion

Auxiliary and its Foundation act with honesty, integrity, and openness in all their communication, business, and transactions as representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary (organization). The organization promotes an environment that values fairness and commitment to the organization's founding principles and demonstrates respect for others.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall conduct their personal and professional lives in a manner befitting the organization's mission and values, recognizing that their actions reflect upon the creditability and reputation of the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall work to positively influence their environment to build respect, creditability, and strategic importance of our organization to the public, our members, and the communities we serve.

Legal Compliance

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation are knowledgeable of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations, including but not limited to: complying with laws and regulations related to human resources, financial accountability, taxation, fundraising, trademark protection, and licensing.

National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall exercise due diligence in obtaining information on applicable laws and regulations for their jurisdiction. National officers, board members, staff, and volunteers shall recognize that compliance with applicable laws is a paramount standard.

Governance

The American Legion Auxiliary's national governing body is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the organization and oversight of the finances,

operations, policies and programmatic performance.

The governing bodies of both the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall:

- Ensure that the organization conducts all communication, business, and transactions with integrity and honesty;
- Ensure that policies of the organization are in writing, clearly articulated, and officially adopted;
- Ensure periodic review of the organization's structure, procedures and programs to determine what is working well and what practices the organization might want to change in order to be more efficient, effective or responsible.
- Ensure that the resources of the organization are responsibly and prudently managed;
- Ensure that the organization has the capacity to carry out its programs effectively.

Responsible Stewardship

The boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are responsible for managing and preserving the organization's assets. Officers, board members, staff, and volunteers are expected to understand their fiduciary responsibilities so that the charitable purposes of the organization are carried out and assets are properly safeguarded and managed.

Officers, board members, appropriate volunteer leaders and staff shall ensure that:

- Financial reports are created and maintained on a timely basis that accurately portray its financial status and activities.
- Internal financial statements are provided accurately and

timely.

- Annual financial reports are made available to the public.
- Employees, national leaders, and members are provided a confidential means to report suspected financial impropriety or misuse of its resource.
- Written financial policies governing management and investment of assets and reserve accounts, internal control procedures, and purchasing practices are developed and implemented.

Openness and Disclosure

The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation will provide comprehensive and timely information to the public, the media, and its members, and is responsive to reasonable requests for information. All information about the organizations will fully and honestly reflect the policies and the practices of the organizations.

Conflict of Interest

The organization has the right to expect that the decisions made by the national boards, officers, staff, and volunteers of the Auxiliary and its Foundation are made objectively and in the best interest of the organization.

To avoid the appearance of impropriety by those who could benefit directly or indirectly from any action by the Auxiliary and its Foundation, the organization shall develop, adopt and implement a conflict of interest policy.

Such policy shall include requirements to fully disclose all potential and actual conflicts of interest and prohibitions on activities that conflict with legal, ethical, and fiduciary obligations to the organization.

Fundraising

The organization shall take care to ensure that all means and materials for solicitation accurately and correctly reflect its

Code of Ethics Continued

mission and use of solicited funds. The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall respect the privacy concerns of individual donors and expend funds consistent with donor intent.

To assure that donors and prospective donors can have full confidence in the organization and the causes they are asked to support, the Auxiliary and its Foundation will respect the following rights of donors:

- To be informed of the organization's mission, of the way the organization intends to use donated resources, and of its capacity to use donations effectively for their intended purposes.
- To be informed of the identity of those serving on the organization's governing board, and to expect the board to exercise prudent judgment in its stewardship responsibilities.
- To have access to the organization's most recent financial statement and others on request. • To be assured their gifts will be used for the purposes for which they were given.

- To receive appropriate acknowledgement and recognition.
- To be assured that information about their donation is handled with respect and with confidentiality to the extent provided by law.
- To expect that all relationships with individuals representing the American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation will be professional in nature.
- To be informed whether those seeking donations are volunteers, employees of the organization or hired solicitors.
- To feel free to ask questions when making a donation and to receive prompt, truthful and forthright answers.

Grant Making

The American Legion Auxiliary and its Foundation shall have specific stated responsibilities in carrying out grant programs. These responsibilities include the following:

- A formal and consistent application process which includes defined eligibility.
- Fair and equitable selection

criteria.

- Assurance of applicant privacy.
- Clear, timely and respectful communications throughout the application process.

Inclusiveness and Diversity

The organization recognizes the value of the diverse backgrounds and beliefs of its membership. The organization promotes an atmosphere of mutual respect for the worth and dignity of its members, those eligible to become members and those we serve.

Ethics Violations

Any member may report a violation of ethical conduct or actions contrary to the governing doctrine without fear of retaliation. The organization considers all inquiries and complaints about actions of members to be strictly confidential.

Ethics Query – An ethics query is a means for inquiring whether or not a practice warrants filing a complaint alleging a violation of the Code. Anyone may register a query of a possible violation of the Code by a member.

The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the ethics query process.

Ethics Complaint – An ethics complaint provides a process for receiving, investigating and acting on a violation of the Code made against any member or

staff and provides a process that is fair, responsible, confidential and consistent.

The organization shall adopt a procedure to administer the complaint process.

Whistleblower Protection

A whistleblower is any member who, in good faith, promptly reports instances of any suspected violation of the Code. The American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary Foundation shall establish and abide by policies to protect the Auxiliary.

Any member who acts maliciously by making known information she knows or reasonably believes to be false is not a whistleblower and will not be protected under the whistleblower mechanism.

The organization expects improper activity to be reported accurately and will protect whistleblowers from retaliation.

The organization will investigate any allegation that a whistleblower has been retaliated against for disclosing information that the whistleblower believed to have been accurate. Any member who believes she has been retaliated against for whistle blowing is expected to report it immediately. If the complaint is validated, the organization can impose disciplinary sanctions against the retaliating member including termination of membership in the organization.

2017 Medical Career Scholarship Winners

NAME	CITY	SCHOOL
Sophia Berutti	Iron Mountain	Northern Michigan University
Brooke Bossert	Negaunee	Northern Michigan University
Lucas James Cavalieri	Iron Mountain	Northern Michigan University
Brooke Fornetti	Iron Mountain	Alama College
Merritt Gerald Fox	Rapid City	Oakland University
Kimberly Anne Glanville	Norway	Bay Community College
Paden Graham	Laingsburg	University of Michigan
Zachary Greenwald	Leonidas	Kellogg Community College
Hannah Kirby	Roscommon	Grand Valley State University
Allison Kowatch	Gaylord	Michigan Tech. I University
Hannah McArthur	Gould City	University of Michigan
Maia Michelle McCleary	St Clair Shores	University of Detroit Mercy
Tiffany Anne Roberts	Onstead	Siena Heights University
Brendan James Shanahan	Harrietta	Aquinas College
Grant William Smitz	Roscommon	Aquinas College
Madalinn Thibodeau	Imlay City	Oakland University
Cole Westphal	Gaastra	Ferris State University

2017 Memorial Scholarship Winners

NAME	CITY	SCHOOL
Kiera Bishop	Iron Mountain	Grand Valley State University
Katherine Burdick	Midland	Grand Valley State University
Keely Curran	Gaylord	Lake Superior State Univeristy
Kelsi Davis	Mackinaw City	University of Michigan
Marissa Doyal	Iron Mountain	Ferris State University
Harleigh Hill	Roscommon	Western Michigan Univeristy
Lilianna Kaastra	Maple City	Wayne State University
Rachel Malmquist	Iron River	Northern Michigan University
Hannah Skewis	Negaunee	Northern Michigan University
Elizabeth Spisak	Rockwood	Wayne State University
Amanda Taylor	Southfield	University of Michigan
Hayley Torres	Almont	Oakland Univeristy
Sydney Torres	Almont	Oakland Univeristy
Michelle Wiegand	Caspian Ferris	State University

Reports Continued

list the late PDC Tom Cadmus. Of course, thank you to the great staff at Department who have given invaluable help to all of us: Kim, Deanna, Roxanne, Lynne, Mark and Ron. And last, but certainly not least, the man who has been not only a great teacher, friend and travel companion, but also someone I call brother, Brett Holt.

To all of you gentlemen and ladies, Thank You. I hope to live up to your great example as I continue my journey in the Legion as the new 3rd Zone Commander and beyond.

Always remember, MEMBERSHIP is the key word of the American Legion, so let's make an all-out effort towards membership. Get those members signed up so we can keep our organization the best Veterans Service Organization in the country.

So, in closing, a grateful Thank You again to all my fellow Legionnaires who have helped me and have become my friends and family.

As I always say: "Onward through the Fog" and Keep the Faith".

10th District

Dave McGillen

District Commander

Hello Legionnaires. Another year has gone by so quickly. It's been an honor and privilege to serve the Mighty Tenth District the past two years. We've had a few challenges this past year, but the perseverance of Legionnaires have come through for their posts. Membership has been tough and the 10th District has worked hard to renew, sign up new, and transfer 225 members to local posts, the backbone of the American Legion. We have to continue trying to get our younger veterans to join the Legion family. As most of us know, most members are of senior age. We need to show the younger veterans we honor their conflicts and opinions. We need to work together. If our local posts fail, department suffers followed by national. Let's support our legion family from the local posts on up. I have visited many posts, met a lot of legionnaires, and been welcomed in posts across the states. I'm especially grateful for all the veterans, families, and communities we have helped. That's what we're about.

To YOU VETERANS, I salute you, tip my hat to you, for your unconditional sacrifices you made to Keep American free! Please give support to our new officers for 2017-2018 as you have supported me. We work for you!

God bless you and God bless the U.S.A.

11th District

Wayne Roy

District Commander

The 11th District continues to showcase some dedication regarding membership goals, regardless if they are Posts that have large memberships or small.

Special congratulations to Escanaba River Post 115 at 102.78%, Menominee Post 146 at 119.55%, and Carney-Nadeau Post 487 at 101.82% and the Garden Post 545 with 100%. Most other Posts are in the 90 plus percentage with a little more effort the total numbers in the District should be very close to reaching our goal. It's been a great year and one of the hi-lite's was assisting the Wagon Master on this year's Winter Tour, thanks again to all the Post we traveled to on the tour your hospitality was outstanding and greatly appreciated. I encourage all those Posts who have not reached a 100% to find the best way you can to reach out to those members who have not yet paid their dues. It's just another way of Veterans helping Veterans. I also strongly encourage the incoming new officers to attend the Departments Leadership training here in the U.P. in May, the location has not been chosen at this time, so check the Departments web site or the Legion Newspaper. To all the Posts and their members I thank you for your support, it's been a privilege and honor to have been your District Commander for 2016-2017.

17th District

Gary DeMars

District Commander

As I meet with the 17th District Post Commanders, I find the base of the Posts is strong. The Posts are actively engaged in recruiting new members and are also fully engaged using the new tool from National headquarters to transfer members from holding Post 225. The results have been great, and we are reaching our 100% membership goals. Our commanders have more work to do, but they are on target to try to reach the ultimate objective of 100% membership for the district. Many Posts in our District have participated in charitable causes, in particular, support for the Metro Airport Freedom Center. Rosedale Park Post 390 donated two large display cases for each of the Freedom Center airport locations and \$2,000 in cash to help them support military travelers passing thru Detroit. A job well done. In addition, through our Service Officer, Northville Post

147 was instrumental in arranging for Delta Air Lines to donate new furniture for two of the Freedom Center's lounges. This

furniture is a significant donation and much appreciated by the Freedom Center. We in our District are proud of the members who took the initiative to help an organization that is open to assist military travelers. However, let us also not forget the Freedom Center needs people to staff it. Our District has many volunteers that help staff the center on a regular basis. Another important activity is done annually by our Plymouth Post 391. These members partner with the Plymouth Elks and provide a steak luncheon for veterans. These veterans come from the Detroit and Ann Arbor VA hospitals and the Michigan Veterans Foundation shelter. We at the District are proud of the commitments made by Post 391 to this event. Also, let us not forget our shining star in our District - the Livonia Post 32 Honor Guard. This group of members assists in military honors for deceased veterans and will provide a 21-gun salute. The Honor Guard is a well-organized and disciplined organization in constant demand. Unfortunately, we are seeing many elderly veterans passing and our Honor Guard is consistently at work. We are proud of this group and wish we had more. Last, but not least, is a program we started to communicate more efficiently with our Post Commanders and members. We developed a Web Log (aka Blog) to provide an information portal with access by any web browser. This Blog holds notes, articles, and links to sites the Post Commanders and members may be interested in. It is a good place to start to retrieve information about the District and our National American Legion programs. The year has gone by very quickly, and our Commanders and members are looking forward to continuing their programs and support of our veterans.

Judge Advocate

Tim Hernandez

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I would like to remind everyone that the American Legion Centennial is fast approaching and we should all take steps to prepare our Posts for this historic event. Not only should we be ready physically and mentally but also administratively. That means we should get our ducks in a row so that we can demonstrate to our members and the public the asset we represent to the community. Part of the administrative preparedness that concerns me includes making sure that our Post Constitution and Bylaws are up to date. In a recent audit of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Posts in our Department it was discovered that less than half of our Posts have a copy on file

with Department Headquarters. I would wager to say that a good many of these Posts either cannot find a copy of them or they are so out of date that these Posts do not know how to proceed to get them current. Whatever the situation might be, a good start would be to visit the Department website. Click on the Headquarters tab to get a drop down menu. Then click on the sixth item down which is Publications. This will get you a list of Department Publications of which clicking on the tenth item down will get you a suggested form for a Post Constitution and Bylaws which can be downloaded into your computer. This file is a word document that can easily be modified to fit your Post. This document is substantially the same suggested form that can be found in the "Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" that is published by our National Organization. Several Posts have already done so; have carefully gone through these documents so as to tailor them to apply to their Post structure and operations and have successfully brought their Constitution and Bylaws up to date. I am glad to say that we are slowly getting Posts ready for this aspect of the centennial preparations and beyond. I encourage all Posts to evaluate their situation and get updated. Please remember that to amend and update these documents requires that proper notice be given and a vote by the membership of the Post. Once they are approved by the Post, a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which they were approved must accompany the newly amended Constitution and Bylaws when they are sent to the Department Adjutant. They will log it for tracking purposes and forward it on for the review. The office of the Department Judge Advocate stands ready to assist in this and any other matter that may come up.

Please be aware that there is a Rules of Procedure for requesting an opinion from the Department Judge Advocate. I ask that it be followed and that all exceptions and communications be directed through the Department Adjutant.

Finally, I would like to thank Department Commander Larry Money for the opportunity to serve as your Department Judge Advocate this year. Department Adjutant Ron Runyan and his staff of professionals have provided tireless support for which I am most grateful. I would also like to thank the Department Assistant Judge Advocate, Elmer White, for his invaluable assistance and legal counsel on matters which has required his expertise. Elmer has worked very hard behind the

scenes with the Wilwin transition and with asset recovery of defunct Posts. I can't say enough about Elmer's cheerful "can do" positive attitude of which I certainly appreciate. I believe Elmer and I make a good team as we constantly strive to provide our best in service to the Department and our members.

Sgt-at-Arms

William W. Hilgriss

Thank you for a good year and all the help from everybody. Especially the assistants Steve, Dan and Bob. I am looking forward to serving you as your Sgt. At Arms for one more year.

Children and Youth

Ron Geiger

Chairman

I would like to thank Commander Money for appointing me as Chairman of the committee.

The third weekend of September, I attended the Annual Children and Youth conference in Indianapolis. As always it is was full of information on different programs and highlighting past accomplishments. National Commander Schmidt was in attendance all three days so you know the camaraderie was great.

The Department of Michigan Fall Conference was held the last weekend of September. The department chairman, were called to meet on Thursday evening, where Commander Money laid out his expectations for the year. On Friday, the Children and Youth held its first official meeting. The following programs were to be continued from the previous year. The dictionary project, Children's Miracle Network, Temporary Financial Assistance, and the Child Welfare Foundation Banner Program. I informed the members of the committee that I inquired at the National Conference about how to follow thru on the applications that were rejected for receiving a grant for TFA. Those rejected usually were only missing some required information and could be resubmitted. Our annual 300 pin's for C&Y were distributed to each committee member to sell for \$3.00. This fund raiser and other's help the committee to fund other programs. With that; a motion was made and supported to fund 2 Boy's State, 2 Girls State, and 2 Student Trooper candidates, and also a \$400.00 fuel stipend for the UP Bus for Boy's and Girl's to their respective programs.

The committee does not meet at the Winter Conference. Children and Youth and the Red Palsen committee's held a 50/50 and a silent auction. I am proud

Reports Continued

to report that \$479.00 was raised. Thank You American Legion Family for your support. Information on different programs was available and many questions were answered.

These accomplishments could not have been made without the input and help from my committee members, Rodney Galbraith, Vern "Butch" Noel, Keith Gardner, Peter Satterthwaite. A thank you is also in order for the department staff for all their help, and Lavern Spolarich helping with the pin sales.

Economic Gerald Merrell Chairman

New name, same job!

Greetings fellow legionaries; the Economic Committee is now called the Veterans Employment & Education Commission. It makes sense, a successful veteran needs the education and training in order to secure a good rewarding career. Michigan and the nation have made some good steps in recognizing the value and skills our men & women who served have to offer. However there's more work to be done. I would like to thank Commander Money for his confidence in re-appointing me as chairman for the Veterans' Employment & Education committee. I would also like to thank Adjutant Ron Runyan, Mark Sutton and Kim Siedelberg for their help and support. I would also like to thank committee members Dale Gould and Gary Sammons. Thanks to the American Legion and our other sponsors we had a very successful job fair. The Great Lakes Bay Job Fair was held Thursday March 23rd at Delta College we had over 86 employers and over 90 Veterans were able to find a new job and get information about their veteran's benefits. The UP Fair and other events we had a role in. The Department of Michigan Veterans Employment & Education Committee continues to be a force in supporting and preserving veteran economic programs for members of the armed forces and their families. As Michigan turns it attention to apprenticeships and skilled trades, such as going Pro encouraging young people to take an interest in skilled trades jobs which are in demand. We need to ensure our veterans also have a chance at apprenticeships and training. Our men and women who have served have the skills to fit today's employer needs. "Are you willing to reach out your hand to a fellow veteran and invite them to

your post home?" Please continue to support your local veterans by remembering to invite them before the post meeting to talk about jobs, education, homes and how to find them. Make your post home their post home. All they ask for is a handshake a smile. "Welcome Home In closing I would like to congratulate this years Veterans Employment & Education award winners:

- **Rayetta Wyatt (DVOP) Flint, Michigan**
 - **Liberty Glass & Glazing (SMALL) Burton, Michigan**
 - **Ingenuity IEQ (MEDIUM) Midland, Michigan**
- GOD Bless our veterans and the American Legion**

Finance Ray Carlson Chairman

The Financial year began with a total proposed budget deficit of \$260,624. An increase of \$5.00 in annual dues per member was approved at 2016 Department Convention beginning on January 1, 2017. The majority of dues were paid prior to this date and had little effect on the proposed budget. The goal of the Finance Committee is to extend this dues increase into the future as far as possible and continue to operate The American Legion Department of Michigan as near to the present framework of operations as possible.

Department Headquarters has continued to update the interior lighting to LED fixtures. Kudos to Adjutant Runyan for contacting the Lansing Board of Water & Light and procuring a grant to pay for the majority of this work! The main floor interior has also been repainted this winter.

The annual Department audits will be starting in the fall this coming year instead of July, with drafts being presented in January.

Department added Cyber Insurance this year to financially protect Department from loss in case of attacks on our computer network. Even with this addition, Department saved almost \$7,000 by changing carriers and eliminating duplicate Workers Comp and Employers Liability Insurance that is covered under the agreement with ADP.

As Chairman of the Finance / Personnel Committee the past four years, I would like to point out to the membership that the employees in both the Department Headquarters in Lansing and the VA&R staff in Detroit do an outstanding job for all of you every day of the year! Adjutant Ron Runyan and VA&R Director Gary Easterling along with Assistant Director Tripp Cantwell are to be commended for running

such efficient operations! And they continue to look for ways to operate more efficiently at less cost.

I want to also thank Commander Larry Money for the appointment of Chairman of this Committee and also the Committee members for their hard work and expertise this past year. Many thanks to Vice Chairman Don Meskill, Randy Browne, Lyle Shanks, Walter Shinkonis, Finance Officer Roger Avie, Adjutant Ron Runyan and VA&R Director Gary Easterling.

Internal Affairs Stephen J. German Chairman

The Department Internal Affairs Committee had very busy and productive sessions this past year. The main purpose of the Internal Affairs Committee is to formulate and recommend policies, procedures and changes regarding the organizational structure of the Department and other such matters that do not come within the scope of other Department Committees.

The Committee assisted and clarified issues relating to rules, procedures, structural changes and protocol to Department Officers and/or Standing Committees as well as District Officers throughout year. We hopefully provided positive guidance to assist in the improvement of the Department.

There are 3 proposed amendments to be voted on at the Department Convention. The full text of the amendments were published in the April/May issue of the Legionnaire. We recommend that the Convention Delegates **APPROVE** all 3 amendments - 17-1-CA renaming the Economics Committee; and 17-2-CA which renames the Public Relations Committee. 17-3-CA changes language regarding the Post Bonding insurance requirements to Surety and Crime Insurance requirements. Please review the full text of these amendments for the full details of the proposed changes

Please contact any member of the Internal Affairs committee about our recommendations on the amendments for this year's Convention.

In closing and speaking on behalf of the Committee (Pat, Bob, Howard, Ron and myself), we want to thank Kim Siedelberg of the Dept. Staff for her administrative support to our committee. And "Thanks" to Commander Money for appointing us to this great committee.

Leadership College David Buist

Chairman

According to the rules of procedure, the Michigan Leadership College Committee will normally consist of three regular members, with vote, and three advisors without vote. I would recommend that in the future, the number of voting members be expanded to five. Currently, if one member is absent from a meeting that leaves a discussion of only two persons to conduct the work of the committee.

On Saturday, April 29, 2017, a Leadership College Seminar was conducted at Department Headquarters. There were 19 members present including one Auxiliary member. Members present spent a whole day learning more about the Four Pillars of the American Legion, Americanism, Communications (Public Relations), Post Officer's duties, Protocol, Membership, and other timely subjects. The course was aptly taught by instructors Bud Hansbarger, Bob Higley, Mark Sutton, Brett Holt, Jerry Andrus and myself. There were many comments and input from the audience throughout the day. I would like to especially thank Mark Sutton for all of his help and expertise this year and Bud Hansbarger for his knowledge and feedback.

One of the plans for the future is to conduct seminars via teleconference that would concentrate on a single subject, and be approximately 30 minutes in length. This format would allow for more participation by Legionnaires, without having to travel from home. Conference calls can be done at no cost.

Thank you Commander Money for this opportunity to chair the Leadership College Committee. Continued success to all.

Legislative Marilyn Britten Chairman

The biggest thing of the year has been the legislation and establishment of the Michigan Veterans Facilities Authority. All filings have been made to the VA including placeholder status for the proposed future builds. We are in the top category for selection because we are replacing existing beds. The selection will be made by the VA in August with a release of their selections in January 2018. The Authority has been named and are starting their assignments and laying out the future.

Bills that are pending with a significant impact on us that we are supporting are: HB 4053 which establishes English as the official state language; HB 4160 allows for the solicitation in public roadways by certain nonprofits; many other bills are being processed to assist

veterans and their families in various situations.

The end of February members of The Legion Family took part in lobbying our US Senators and Representatives representing Michigan in Washington. Every Legislator or a staff member was contacted and presented a brochure and fact sheet of our priorities from the National Office and our state concerns dealing with defense issues, including military units, defense contracts and development.

All of you that have contacted and keep in contact with your legislators at the state and federal levels make our story of what we contribute to this nation easier to tell. It is vital to our continued monetary support from state government that we keep our state legislators involved in our mission. We need to extend invitations to them and make them a part of the process in support of our fellow veterans and communities.

Thanks to the members of the committee and our Legion Family members for support of our mission of insuring laws to protect and support our Family are enacted.

Post Development Al Ford Chairman

There were 14 Post and 5 District visitations made to offer help and guidance on recruiting and revitalization.

The committee assisted 3 Posts doing recruiting drives, several Posts did recruiting drivers on their own without the help of the Post Development committee.

This committee has been working with the District Commander's that have Posts with less than 15 members trying to increase their membership to avoid cancellation of charters.

Plans are now being made to get an early start in the New Legion year to help as many Posts as possible to grow and achieve their goal.

I wish to thank the Department staff for all their help, also a big thank you to all the members of the Post Development Committee who gave up their time mostly on weekends to help the cause. Thanks to Ken, Mike, Lee, Skipper, and Jim. This has been a trying year for me recovering from 2 major surgeries since December. I am on the mend now and looking forward to another great year.

Reconnect Gary Tanner Chairman

Since June 2016, the Department of Michigan Reconnect Com-

mittee has been involved in our aggressive Troop and Family Support Services as well as assistance for our Veterans. Some of the activities and accomplishments are as follows:

Donations received and assistance given for the 2016-2017 Legion year are still being tabulated, but so far through April, donations have totaled over \$70,000 for the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program and over \$30,000.00 for the Patriot Fund equaling a combined total of over \$100,000.00! Absolutely incredible! The Reconnect Committee has provided over \$72,000.00 in Financial Assistance to our Veterans, Active Duty and military families through the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program and the Patriot Fund. These grants provide relief in a variety of ways. We have prevented evictions, (many of which were 10-day eviction notices), prevented utility shut offs from occurring, assisted Homeless Veterans get into permanent sustainable housing, paid for various home repairs and disability modifications, paid for wheel chair ramps to be built and installed as well as many other immediate quality of life needs.

Our Committee members attend the Michigan National

Guard's Pre-, Mid and Post Deployment Yellow Ribbon Workshops ranging from normal benefit briefings to closed door casualty briefings to brief the service members and their families on the assistance programs and resources available to them. These briefings have been critically important in building trusting relationships with these families and their units. The Reconnect Committee's Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program sends returning Warriors and clinically recommended families on all expenses paid retreat weekends to various Michigan Resorts such as Mackinac Island, Treetops, Garland and Boyne. The Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program also funds the PTSD Eco-Therapy Group retreats at our Wilwin Lodge facility. These retreats usually consist of 10 - 14 veterans whose service has ranged from Vietnam to OIF/OEF and are conducted in partnership with Clinical Psychologists from the Michigan Psychological Association. Members of the Reconnect Committee attend many local scouting functions and school events to make presentations and provide various patriotic items to help foster awareness and assistance for our veterans. Fox2 News

Problem Solvers has even adopted the Reconnect Committee as their go to resource for all veteran related issues received at their station.

The Reconnect Committee conducts community presentations about post traumatic stress, traumatic brain injuries and the overall effects of combat related trauma on our veterans and military families.

Our Committee also funds and conducts Elmobility Room missions for the families and children of our Michigan military units. The Elmobility Room is a mobile Sesame Street play room and was created by the Reconnect Committee in partnership with Sesame Workshop in New York. The Elmobility room and is staffed by Legion Family volunteers and is taken around to the various units and set up in an existing room or indoor area so the kids have a fun, safe place to learn and play while their parents take care of unit matters. Unfortunately, the Elmobility Room Trailer suffered significant water damage last summer during while in storage and is currently being evaluated for repair or replacement of the trailer and most of the room items that were damaged or destroyed.

The Reconnect Committee has been fortunate to partner

with many Michigan businesses and local community sponsors to help fund and provide services for our programs. Some of the major sponsors include the Mackinaw Island Tourism Bureau, the Michigan Psychological Association Foundation, the Michigan Combat PTSD Task Force, the Michigan Building and Construction Trades Council, White

Chapel Memorial Gardens and the Michigan Bowling Association, Treetops Resort and Garland Resort.

And of course, Thank You to the many Legion Posts, Legion Rider Chapters, SAL Squadrons and Auxiliary Units who have provided support items and held fundraisers and events to provide a large percentage of the donations received to fund the Reconnect initiatives and programs. You truly are amazing and inspiring!

The American Legion Department of Michigan Reconnect Committee has earned a solid reputation as the 'go to' resource for veteran needs and assistance here in Michigan. VA Medical Center counselors, County Agencies, National Guard Family Assistance Coordinators and even national non-profit organizations such as, Operation Homefront, all contact the Reconnect Committee directly and refer veterans seeking assistance to the Reconnect Committee and more often than not, we are their last hope for assistance and a better quality of life!

Thank you for your generosity and continued support!

Don't forget to: Follow us on Twitter: @LegionReconnect Like the "Elmobility Room" and the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program on Facebook

**VA & R
Don Howard
Chairman**

The first pillar of the American Legion is VETERAN AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION. It is a complex and vital part of the organization's mission, particularly now, as a new generation of wartime veterans enter the civilian and VA world.

The following are issues of high priority of the VA&R Committee to the Department of Michigan, American Legion.

The DOWNRIVER COMMUNITY CONFERENCE CENTER AT 1500 Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan is a one-stop Veteran service center. The Southgate Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, no appointment necessary. A Department Veterans Service Officer will be present to assist veterans and

or dependents secure their benefits earned through service to our country. So far, over 4000 Veterans and dependents have visited this facility seeking services provided at the Southgate office.

At the Winter Conference, the VA&R Committee approved a new program for the Department of Michigan, the District Service Officer Guide. I appreciate the efforts of VA&R Committee member, Tom Sheppard for assisting the VA&R Director with this project. Coordination between this committee and the Director of VA&R, Gary Easterling, is being addressed as I write to develop District Service Officer training. It is our goal to provide training for our District Service Officers to understand their duties and responsibilities. Hopefully, we can have training for our 17 District Service Officers at The American Legion Annual Higgins Lake Training in September.

Great effort has been given over the last 2 years to have the Native American Tribes and the Veterans Administration in the U.P. of Michigan become partners in providing health care to veterans in the great north. We have been working with the Sault tribe for the past 2 years on ways to better serve all veterans in U.P. The Sault tribe has been working with Iron Mountain V.A. on ways to better serve All VETERANS in the U.P. We would like to see all veterans not have to travel 400 miles for simple health care across ice covered roads. This put peoples' lives at risk. We have Veterans in the U.P. that are on oxygen that have to travel across the U.P. for health care. By working together with all tribes in the U.P, this would not be necessary.

The VA&R Committee is constantly looking for ways to provide Department Service Officers in the U.P. as we all know, there are many miles to cover so the American Legion can assist veterans utilize their earned benefits through service to county.

On behalf of the VA&R Committee, I would also like to thank Commander Larry Money and Adjutant Ronald Runyan for their help and cooperation with The VA&R Committee.



GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION
IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE
AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
AND
STATE CONVENTION JUNE 22 - 25, 2017



REGISTRATION: \$15.00 per person, you must be registered to attend meetings. You must pick up your badges.

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

Number x \$15.00= _____

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, Residence Inn Suites 810-424-7000, Best Western 810-233-9000 or Hampton Inn 810-234-8400

CODE: ALM

DEADLINE: MAY 30, 2017

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

Note: The Code # ALM 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

**Membership Cards Will Be Mailed
to Your Post Once HQ Has Your
Post Officers List, Bond, and Audit!
Get Yours Sent Today!**

Around the State...

The American Legion Post in Cedar Springs honored the First Responders of the community On Feb. 20th. A wonderful Swiss steak meal was provided



for our local heroes for their sacrifices, contributions and dedication to public service. Seventy-five attendees from the Sand Lake Police and Fire Department, Solon Township Fire Department, Cedar Springs Fire Department, Spencer Township Fire Department, Courtland Township Fire Department, Oakfield Township Fire Department, Algoma Township Fire Department and the Kent County Sherriff's Department enjoyed the meal and were given certificates of appreciation. Twenty-five members of the Glen Hill Post 287 Family worked to make this event possible, as well as assistance on items for the dinner from Save A Lot and Kelly's Restaurant.



Grand Haven American Legion Charles A. Conklin Post #28 presented a flag and awards case to Sandi Telgenhof in Honor of her husband Doug Telgenhof. Doug passed last year and was a member of the Legion Honor Guard and the legion pool team. With Jim Verduin, Commander #99 Chris Jarvis, Past Commander #93 MacKellar, Past Commander #89 Bill Kaufman, Past Commander #94 Phil Smith, Past Commander #88 Mike Zeff

Photo on Rt: Grand Haven Post 28 Commander # 99 Chris Jarvis and Past Post 28 Commander #93 MacKellar present 70 continuous years of membership award to Marvin Satter at his home.



The American Legion post #28 will send 5 cases of Girl Scout cookies to the USS WASP for troop 4831. Daisy girl scout Maya Goldberg, troop 4831. Troop leader Nicole Goldberg photographed. Thank you for helping the Legion support our troops.



Bob Gaines, founder of Gaines Jewelry in Flint, is presented his 70 years of continuous service award by Commander John Fischer (right) and Adjutant Larry Shepard (back to camera). Bob is a World War II and Korean War veteran. He has been a member of Oakley Traynor Post 64 for the entire 70 years. Bob, we thank you for your service.



The photo is of Walter Durkee Post 311 (Grand Rapids) Commander Mark Moyer presenting a check for \$12,000 (from Post 311 membership) to Dan Ophoff from the Friends of Kent County Veterans Treatment Court as the Honorable Judge Pablo Cortes looks on.



PDC Dick Chatman and 1st District 1st Vice Commander Gregory Spight, represent Coleman A. Young Post 202, the 1st District and Department of Michigan at Dossin Elementary. Detroit City Councilman James Tate selects random Detroit Public Schools and ask African American males to come and greet the students as they enter school.



Post 372's Post meeting March 16, 2017, Post 372 Commander Francis A. McCarroll and Post 372 Adjutant Richard Wendin present a donation of \$1,000 to Bill Browning, John Dingell VA Hospital Volunteer Director, on behalf of Veterans.



Trombley-Polkas Post 494 Trout Creek, Michigan located in the western part of Michigan's Upper Peninsula is small in number, but big in heart. Chartered on April 22, 1946, this small post keeps alive with pancake breakfast fundraisers and quarterly pasty sales.



Post 557 Commander Tom Serwell (left) and Adjutant Larry Stalker (right) representing the Dexter American Legion, present DPW Foreman Kurt Augustine with fifty (50) nylon American Flags. The flags will be flown from the street lampposts in downtown Dexter.