



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Do You Know a High School Student Who Needs Money for College?

Scholarship and Program Opportunities in:

- A career in law enforcement
 - Politics or how government works
 - U.S. history and the Constitution of the United States
 - Baseball
 - Scouting

Earning Money
for College
Can Start
in the 9th Grade

Do you know of a descendant of a 9/11 veteran who was killed in action or a 9/11 veteran that has a 50% or more disability rating from the VA?

The American Legion 2017-2018 Programs and Scholarships are ready!!

Details are wrapped around this issue.



No Return Postage Requested

War-Time Service Dates

US Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Service from

December 7, 1941 - August 15, 1945

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

PanamaDecember 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990

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

Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

Korean War June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

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

World War IApril 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918



For high school juniors interested in politics, how government works, and civic leadership

The American Legion Michigan Boys State Program

This program is open to all male high school juniors
(female high school juniors see Girls State with the American
Legion Auxiliary)



What is Boys State?

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

Boys State is LEARNING.

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

Boys State is POLITICS.

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

Boys State is GOVERNMENT.

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

Boys State is FRIENDSHIP.

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

"I have learned so much about government and life through this program. I would recommend and encourage everyone to go to Boys State. I am truly humbled and so thankful to the American Legion for allowing me to have this experience." - Zane O. Class of 2017

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

Contact

Jerry Kelley at
(734) 434-8272

jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net

or State Headquarters at
(517) 371-4720 ext.23

legion@michiganlegion.org

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

www.michiganboysstate.org

Frequently Asked Questions:

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

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

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

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

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

- They must be a Junior (11th Grade) in high school or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited homeschool program, must be 15+ years old by June 4, 2018, and have an interest in government

Application is due May 25, 2018



**2018 Boys State is at Grand Valley State
University - Allendale, Michigan
June 17 - 23, 2018**



MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

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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 info@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Mark Sutton.

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 can't believe how quickly time has passed, as September always seems so busy. I do love October as it is my birthday month (I guess that's a thing now), and also for many of my family members. So, we have a lot of celebrations and then finish the month with one of our favorite holidays, Halloween.

I think some people have the wrong idea about what Halloween is, or is supposed to be. Here in America it has become a more commercial, secular holiday (and so has Christmas) with costume parties, trick or treating, and haunted houses. But in much of Europe they still hold to the more religious holiday of All Hallows Eve before the Feast of All Saints Day. It is a time set aside for remembering the dead, including the saints (hallows), martyrs, and faithfully departed, along with their sacrifices and contributions for others.

My wife Caroline and I were in Europe last year during late October, and while some places did have some

“Preserve the Memories”

costume parties, most did not. Our tour guide explained that in Europe they are very respectful of history, ancestors, and religious celebrations. On that “Eve” they traditionally light candles at grave sites and monuments, or do things such as leave a light on all night and bread for the good spirits. They might also make what they call root monsters (or in other areas jack-o-lanterns) to scare off evil spirits. On All Saints Day the banks and government offices were closed, as well as many businesses and stores. We did get to tour Marksburg Castle that day and had an excursion down the Rhine River. But, when we got to Rudesheim that afternoon many of the shops and restaurants were closed.

Our history in America is relatively short compared to theirs. We usually mark time from the Columbus discovery in 1492 and the European settlements in the 1500's, even though the Native Americans were already here. In Europe, they mark time in centuries. This is seen in their sites, castles, churches, and monuments. As an example, the construction of the magnificent Cathedral of Cologne began in 1248, halted for a while, and was not completed until 1880. They

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

make great efforts to preserve these sites and their heritage. It seems to me that in America we tend to rewrite history or tear down what we don't like. This worries me as one of our Legion purposes is to “preserve the memories” of our efforts to keep America free, and to honor the sacrifices made by so many. Edmund Burke, the Anglo-Irish statesman who served in the British House of Commons supported the American colonies in the dispute with King George III. Those issues eventually led to the American Revolution. He is credited with the quote, “Those who do not know history are doomed to repeat it.”

We need to educate our children and youth, and promote patriotic endeavors. It should start in our own homes and neighborhoods. We need to be more visible in schools and with their boards. And we need to be good examples. Proverbs 22:6 tells us, “Start children up on the way they should go, and when they are old they will not turn from it.” Thanks again for all that you do for our great cause and may God bless you all.

National Security Report Lavern Spolarich, chairman

National Security Committee has been in contact with our U.S. Senators about flag protection amendments. SJR 46 and U.S. Representatives on amendment HJR 61.

Representatives passed the Legion 100th Anniversary coin to be minted.

To date the Blood, Eye, & Vital Organ subcommittee has awarded 2 Gold Medals with plaques, 1 Silver Medal with plaque, 5 Bronze Medals with plaques, 15 certificates of participation and 1 post level award.

Post Development Committee Al Ford, chairman

This year has started out to be a very busy year for our committee.

Three revitalizations and recruiting events have been planned. Hannahville Post #116 in the U.P., 11th District on September 30th, Westland Post #251 in the 16th District on October 14, and Prudenville Post 245, October 21.

Work is in progress in two other District to hold events later in November.

Any of the Posts in our Department that is struggling getting their membership in and would like assistance from our committee, all you should do is ask. We are ready to go to work with you.

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander.	Brett Holt	Finance Officer.	Barry Wood	Alt. National Executive Committeeman	
State Adjutant.	Ron Runyan	Historian	Marilyn Britten		John Knox
1st Zone.	Bill Clark	Chaplain	Eddie Brown	Immediate Past Commander	
2nd Zone	Dave Loop	Sergeant-at-Arms	Bill Hilgriss		Larry Money
3rd Zone	Mitch Louth	Judge Advocate.	Tim Hernandez	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director	
4th Zone	George Bollinger	National Executive Committeeman			Gary Easterling
5th Zone.	Wayne Roy		Ray Moore	Membership Director	Jerry Andrus
				Public Relations Director	Mark Sutton

Brett Holt, State Commander

What makes your post's heart beat?



Brett Holt
State Commander

I want to start this article with a heartfelt thank you. As many of you know most of my family lives in the Houston/East Texas part of the country. The outpouring of support and the offers of assistance from our Legion Family while I was waiting to hear from my family was nothing short of amazing. Last month I wrote Why Do You Belong? I was reminded of "my why" by your actions. You are all amazing. We truly are a Legion Family. My family is all fine. As I write this on September 8, some of my family still have water in their homes and can't get back into them. They have some property damage, but no lives lost.

Irma is now bearing down on Florida. It is obvious that the people there will need our love and support as well.

I will be reaching out to the Department Finance Committee to ask for a donation to assist veterans in Texas and Florida through The American Legion National Emergency Fund.

We often refer to the membership as the life blood of the organization. While this is certainly true, without membership there is no money to run our programs. But if membership is the lifeblood then programs are the heartbeat. If you want your post to be successful then you must run programs and hold events. If you want to attract younger veterans then some of those programs need to be community based. Some programs are labor- and financially-intensive, but many are not.

Did you know that The American Legion has a Halloween Safety Program? In 1972, The American Legion implemented a nationwide Halloween safety program for young trick-or-treaters, the first and only one of its kind. The Legion's brochure, "Make Halloween a Fun and Safe Night," provides trick-or-treating safety tips to keep in mind on Halloween. The American Legion also encourages posts to promote Halloween safety and to make it a fun evening for youth in the community.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The District and Zone competitions will be taking place in the next couple of months. Now is the time to start looking for interested students. Does your high school have a college and career night coming up soon? Go to macrao.org and click on the second tab, College Day/Night calendar to find out.

Does your post have volunteers that donate time at the VA? The VAVS

until decades after you left the military. Do you wish you had had the camaraderie earlier? Let them know what you would have done differently. Have you volunteered at a post event reaching out to veterans? Share with the prospective member how that felt. Ask both current and former members of the Guard and reserve.

Posts that want to reach out to local National Guard and Reserve units and installations need to follow The American Legion guidelines by going through their district and state commander. There is a prescribed protocol to follow when contacting a unit commander. National has materials that will assist you in your presentation. Ask your district commander for more information.

Let's review the requirements: One day on federal active duty during eligible periods; honorable discharge or currently serving; Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Guard & Reserve, "Just Ask"



Membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion. "Just Ask" is The American Legion's motto for membership recruitment.

Hint: Basic training qualifies for federal Title 10 duty. This training must have taken place during eligible periods. Yes, the guard and reserve members are given a DD 214 from basic training.

The authority line on his or her activation orders is the determining factor on if the Guard or reservist has been on or is currently serving on federal active duty:

1. Yes: Title 10, Subsection 672 or 12301 (Federal orders from the Secretary of Defense)
2. No: Title 32 (governor-activated, weekend drills and annual training for National Guard) and Title 10, Subsection 270 (Reserve activation for weekend drills and annual training)

Your story is powerful. Did you join the American Legion upon discharge or a few years later? Tell the Guard or Reserve member how being in contact with veterans helped you transition into civilian life. Maybe you didn't connect with other veterans by joining the legion

I know many of you talk to other veterans about becoming Legionnaires. As you go about your day, don't forget to talk to National Guard and Reserve members about joining The American Legion, also. They are required to meet the same eligibility requirements as federal active-duty veterans, but this can be a sticking point if you don't know the eligibility requirements. Let me make it simple for you.

National Guardsman and reserve members eligibility:

1. Must have served at least one day on federal active duty during the periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1 of The American Legion Constitution.

2. Must either have an honorable discharge or currently be serving either in the Guard, reserve, or on federal active duty.

Headquarters

program is a great way to assist veterans in need. Does your post host a bingo or other function at the VA? Does your post have a service officer to assist veterans in filing claims? Last month our Department Service Officers hosted a service officer school, one of the best around in my opinion. If you missed it consider going next year.

Do you participate in local parades? Do you hold events on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and other patriotic holidays?

One of the fastest growing programs is the Legion Riders. It was founded right here in Michigan, in Garden City. Does your post have a chapter?

There are several established programs from which to choose; from Children and Youth, to Americanism, to Veterans Assistance, to National Security. You can run an established program or create your own. It is a proven fact that an active post is a growing post, and a stagnant post is a post in danger of failing.

What makes your post's heart beat?

Oh, yes, and "Just Ask!" It really is that simple.

Accidents HAPPEN

Are you and your family prepared?

37.4 million accidents a year
At work or play?



7.3 million leisure activity injuries



6.1 million sports injuries



4.2 million work-related injuries

Leading causes by age:



• Motor vehicle injuries — Under age 50



• Falls — Over age 50

Prepare today!

► Add Benefits from Legionnaire Insurance Trust



Source: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_10/sr10_259.pdf
http://www.cdc.gov/hr/pubs/publications/FactBookInjury-A_Risk_at_Any_Stage_of_Life2006-a.pdf 37457



AUXILIAIRE



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October 2017

From the Desk of the President

2017 - 2018 Department President, Deanna Cortright

Your Help is Needed



August was a very crazy month. There were budget meetings and a lot of travel.

I was privileged to attend the benefit concert by the Richard Lynch Band for Wilwin at Cygnet Cove, the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial Wall at South Haven where I was honored to meet Medal of Honor recipient James C McCloughan. I participated in the Mint Festival Parade in St. Johns. It was a beautiful day for a parade and celebration. I was just sorry I couldn't stay after to enjoy the wonderful company.

It was off to National Convention in Reno NV after that. A lot of information was passed on during the various meetings. National dues will be raised by \$3 beginning with the 2018-2019 year. It has been 6 years since National has had an increase in dues.

That takes care of my August. What I would like to talk about here is Hurricane Harvey and the devastation that he caused. As I write this, there are still families that are waiting to even be able to get back to their homes. Those that have been

able to return have so much water damage that it will take months, or even years, before they can begin living there again. Many lives were lost. A lot of us know someone that either is directly affected, or has family that was. There are many wonderful charitable organizations that are doing everything they can to assist these families.

One way that we can all help is by making a donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The Auxiliary Emergency Fund provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crises or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and promotes awareness and knowledge of the program.

The following are some of the rules that apply to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Members can apply during:

A time of financial crisis when no other source of aid is readily available to pay for shelter, food and utilities.

Weather-related emergencies and natural disasters, for food and shelter.

Assistance will not be granted to pay accumulated debts or medical expenses. The intent is to

help members who have suffered a financial setback and is meant to be a bridge offering a helping hand until slow processing the case file.

Eligibility: Persons who have been members of the American Legion Auxiliary for at least the immediate past two consecutive years and whose current membership dues are paid at the time the emergency occurs (three consecutive years' dues) may apply for assistance.

Assistance provided: The maximum grant amount is \$2,400, disbursed as the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

Donations should be sent to the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan with AEF Donation in the subject line of the check. Please note that donations are not limited to Units. Individuals can also make donations.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those affected by the disaster Harvey created.

As I am writing this, Irma is churning her way toward land. No one knows exactly where she is going to go but our prayers are with anyone that might be in her path.

Back Packs For School

Members of Auxiliary Unit #287 deliver backpacks for students at Cedar Springs elementary schools. As school begins, many families find it difficult to afford the required items. The Auxiliary provided 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to the school principals attending the August school board meeting. From left to right: Tricia Schenefield, Beth Whaley, Auxiliary Unit President Deborah Chambers, Miranda Latimer, Auxiliary Unit Education Chairman Mary Anne Yuncker, and Carol Franz

2018 Winter Meeting will be February 16-18, 2018 Marriott Eagle Crest Hotel and Conference Center in Ypsilanti



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Mary Dubay, Department Chaplain

I would like to share with you an article that I ran across the other day. It was about prayer. Prayer is a conversation with God, not a formula. And we often have prayers that we say every day each in our own Faith.

I did find this quite interesting and I thought that I might share with you as a guide when praying for others. It is called "Five-Finger Prayers".

- When you fold your hands, the thumb is nearest you. So begin by praying for those closest to you—your loved ones
- The index finger is the pointer. Pray for those who teach—Bible

teachers, preachers, and those who teach children.

- The next finger is the tallest. It reminds you to pray for those in authority over you—national and local leaders, and your supervisor at work.
- The fourth finger is usually the weakest. Pray for those who are in trouble or who are suffering.
- Then comes your little finger. It reminds you of your smallness in relation to God's greatness. Ask Him to supply your needs.

Whatever method that you use, just talk with the God of your Faith. He wants to hear what is in your heart.

Girls State: A Program with an Impact on Youth

The letter below is a thank you from one of this year's Girls State attendees. Our program has a lasting effect on these girls. Keep this in mind as you work to sponsor some lucky girl for 2018:

Dear Unit 171,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for sponsoring me to attend the 2017 Michigan Girls State! I had the time of my life and made friends that will last forever- a group of us are actually planning a trip to all meet up for lunch sometime soon. I was amazed at the reality of the simulation of government and have tried to explain it to others, but no one gets it quite like the other girls who I was fortunate enough to share the experience with. Personally, I have noticed that I apply the knowledge I gained at

Girls State at the most random points of time. For example, the other day I noticed a restaurant in an industrial park and wondered if they changed the zoning so that they could operate there. Parliamentary procedure was something that may have been kind of a thorn in our side in the beginning, but once we got the hang of it we didn't even notice we were still using it at dinner or at our vespers (we got some good laughs out of it too). I am excited to start my field study at the courthouse this coming fall, and to apply my knowledge from Girls State to my work experience. There was a lot of learning done at Girls State, but there were also memories made that will forever hold a special place in my heart. Our late night meetings/vespers and door decorating sessions opened some

quality bonding time between all the girls in our lovely city of Gott. We learned more about each other, other communities, and ourselves in one short week than we had in our entire lifetime and I am eternally grateful for the chance to do such a thing. There is no doubt I also met some of the most talented, kind, intelligent, and just downright amazing girls in the state of Michigan at Girls State. The late nights and early mornings were totally worth the pain when we accomplished the challenges we had been facing all week, and helped our city to grow. So thank you again for the opportunity, and know that I will put the knowledge gained to good use, and carry these friendships I have made for the rest of my life!
Sincerely, Delaney Alward

Service to Veterans

Robin Puckett, Service to Veterans Director

I can't believe that Fall Conference is over and we are into October already. I hope that all of you have taken back information from Fall Conference to use and share with your units and districts. Together we can help to make a better, more full life for the veterans in our communities.

What is "Service to Veterans", and what can we do to help? It is our mission to enhance the lives of U.S veterans along with military servicemembers and their families both within their homes and in our community. The first thing we all should have is an ALA Guide for Volunteers to read and become familiar with.

Let's all try to contact our homebound veterans to make them familiar with The National Creative Arts Festival. We might be surprised at the talents they may have. Visit with them and see if they have any needs we can help with. Try teaching them how to use a computer and how to use the internet. Help with errands, or transportation to and from appointments. Check with our military families to see what needs they may have. Help to assist veterans in accessing VA Benefits, including health care. How to navigate through the whole process can be overwhelming. Help to inform our veterans of the VA care system, its services, hospitals, and community based outpatient centers. Become a friend and an advocate for them.

Please remember to keep track of all your hours and report them mid-year and on your annual reports. Also enter for the awards. Michigan helps our veterans so much. We need to let our President Deanna and National know all we do. Have fun this year, and feel free to contact me with any questions you have.

Be A PR Star

We have all heard it before! We need to share with everyone-Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter! If we want the general public to know about our efforts and events, we need to let them know. How you may ask?

We simply need to try! Team up with Program & event Chairs. Make a flyer, post on Social Media, contact local newsrooms, take advantage of on-line or print community event pages. And it's all free! Not only will the public have a positive image of our organization; they will learn about our efforts, support our event(s) and may even be inspired to join our Legion Family!

For more information visit our National webpage alaforveterans.org. There is a Media tab inside the Members Only Section (you have to sign in). Under Member Support Committees, click on Public Relations. There you will find toolkits & how-tos and many examples to learn from. Plus, check our own Department webpage michalaux.org, where you'll find Department Guides and Monthly Mailings containing more info.

PR Star-Service Selfie or Picture Contest

1. Take a "selfie" or "picture" of your Unit's effort(s) serving veterans, children or community (You may enter multiple times). Some examples could be at a Halloween or Thanksgiving event, Giving Tuesday, Veterans Day, Gift Shop, School function, Christmas or Hanukkah effort, etc.
2. Describe in 1 or 2 sentences, what it's about. Include your Unit Name, number, location and date.
3. Post it on the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan Facebook page or email it to clmoore459@gmail.com.
4. Submit entries from Oct. 1, 2017 thru Dec. 31, 2017.
5. There will be 3 winners. 1st Place selected by PR Committee. 2nd & 3rd Place will be random picks. You have nothing to lose & PR to gain!

Your PR Team: Margo Forrester 616 363-6688
msscottforrester@gmail.com
or Chris Moore 616 916-6260 clmoore459@gmail.com

Hospital Services 2017-18

Bonnie Holt, Hospital Chairman

A grand total of 6,803,354 of volunteer hours were reported. \$18,533,619 raised and spent on Veterans the year of 2016-2017 for the entire American Legion Auxiliary. Thanks goes out to all of our volunteers.

My special project for the 2017-2018 year is for Wilwin at Cygnet Cove. It is a unique Veterans facility located at 3383 East Hawely Road in Custer, MI. Once there a Veteran can go hiking, fishing, hunting and swimming plus more. Cabins are being built as we write. They will need to be furnished with appliances like refrigerators, stoves, furniture and bedding. Please help our Veterans to heal and enjoy by donating to Wilwin at Cygnet Cove. Send all donations to Bonnie Holt, 598 Pilgrim Drive East, Saginaw, MI.48638. We will than give it to the board members of Wilwin.

This year in order to get your pin for your hours of volunteering we will need your membership number. National American Legion Auxiliary has asks for this information. Service To Veterans hours will need this too.

Thank You so much for volunteering at our VAMC Hospitals.

Membership News

Jerry Andrus, Membership Director

Find the Delinquent Members



Hello again. By now every post should have set up their membership committees. If you are not going to meet the 100 percent goal by the end of the year (Dec 31), then I think you need more than a one-person team. The post commander is ultimately responsible for the success of your membership, and should find some members to help that are energetic and want the post to succeed.

I have a list of 4,000 delinquent members. You can get that list from mylegion.org. It is a great place to start.

I have the new target dates from National for this year, but I would prefer we stay well ahead. Rather than hitting 100 percent in May, 2018, let's all get it in by Dec. 31 of this year. The goal by Veterans Day is 65 percent, but we should be well over that figure by then.

Between now and Veterans Day is the easiest time to get your renewals. Catch the snow birds before they fly south. We would like to see everyone at 90 percent by Veterans Day. We already have 2 posts at 100 percent in August. I'm hoping for at least 50 posts to reach that as I write this in September, and 100 posts at 100 percent by October 31.

Don't forget the two new incentives this year. The Commanders Cup and the Al Ford award.

Could your post use some extra money? All posts at 100 percent by December 31 will receive \$1.50 per member. That could be several hundred dollars for some posts.

I already have several district meetings dates that I plan to attend. Hope to see you there.

District Commander's Don't Forget

About the Commanders Cup it goes to the commander with the highest membership percentage at the end of each month.

District Meetings

1st District
 November 6, 2017, Joe Louis Post 375
 February 5, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375
 April 2, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375
 May 7, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375
 May 28, 2018, Memorial Day Service at Roseland Park
 June 4, 2018, Joe Louis Post 375
 *All meetings begin at 7PM

2nd District
 October 8, 2017 Milan Post 268
 January 14, 2018 Jackson Post 324
 March 11, 2018 Ida Post 514
 May 20, 2018 Tecumseh Post 34

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

4th District
 November 5, 2017 - South Haven Post 49
 January 7, 2018 - Allegan

5th District
 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS
 All Executive Board meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. (19:00) with Senior Vice Commander Keith Wakefield presiding. All District Exec Board meetings will be conducted at Post 179, 616 453 9861, 2327 Wilson Ave. S.W., Grand Rapids, MI 49534 on: October 12, 2017; December 7, 2017; February 8, 2018; April 12, 2018; June 14, 2018.
 DISTRICT MEETINGS
 Nov. 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. - Post 154
 Jan. 11, 2018 at 7 p.m. - TBA

March 8, 2018 at 7 p.m. - Post 179
 May 10, 2018 at 7 p.m. - TBA
 July 12, 2018 at 7 p.m. - TBA (depending on new District Commander wishes)

6th District
 November 5, 2017 TBA
 January 7, 2018, Post 269, Haslett, MI
 March 11, 2018, Post 419, Pinckney, MI
 May 6, 2018, Post 64, Flint, MI
 Lunch at 12 - Meeting at 1 p.m.

7th District
 October 15, 2017, Mt. Clemens Post
 January 14, 2018, Lapeer Post
 March 18, 2018, Memphis Post
 May 20, 2018, Marysville, MI
 June - Department Convention

8th District
 November 5, 2017, Belding Post 203
 Jan 7, 2017, Owosso Post 57
 March 4, 2018, Laingsburg Post 246
 May 6, 2018, Bath Post 412
 Service Officer 12:00 p.m.
 Lunch at 1:300 p.m.
 Meeting at 3:00 p.m.

9th District
 October 7, 2017 at East Jordan Post 227
 December 9, 2017 at Onaway Post 317
 March 10 or 11, 2018-TBD
 May 19, 2018 at Wolverine Post 122
 11 AM-Training for Post Officers
 12 noon-lunch
 1 PM-General Membership meeting
 One-on-one training and coaching following membership meeting if requested

10th District
 November 4, 2017 Prudenville Post 245
 January 13, 2018, Oscoda Post 274
 March 3, 2018, Skidway Lake 370 (Nominations)
 May 6, 2017, Sanford Post 443 (Nominations, Elections, and Memorial Service)
 June 2, 2018 TBA (Installation of officers)
 Lunch at 12 PM, Meeting 1PM

11th District & 12th District

October 7, 2017 - Menominee Post 146
 0930 Service Officers School
 1100 11th & 12th Districts meetings
 1200 noon lunch break
 1300 UP Association meeting

16th District
 October 10, 2017, Riverview Post 389*
 November 14, 2017, Flat Rock Post 337
 December 12, 2017, Southgate Post 478*
 January 9, 2018 - TBA
 February 13, 2018, Fort Dearborn Post 364*
 March 13, 2018, Wyandotte Post 217
 April 10, 2018, Trento Post 426*
 May 8, 2018, Lincoln Park Post 67, Memorial Service (6:30 PM)
 June 12, 2018, Garden City Post 396
 *Service Officer School 6:30 PM
 Meetings at 7:30 PM

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

18th District
 October 10, 2017, Auburn Hills, Post 143
 November 12, 2017, Department Commanders tour
 January 7, 2018, Cook-Nelson Post 20
 March 4, 2018, Chief Pontiac Post 377
 April 15, 2018, Rochester, Post 172 (Memorial Service at 2 p.m.)
 May 5, 2018, Auburn Hills, Post 143 (Elections)
 June 10, 2018, Royal Oak, Post 253
 All meetings on Sunday at 2:00 PM, unless notified of change.

19th District
 October 7, 2017, East Jordan Post 227
 December 8, 2017, Onaway Post 317
 March 10 or 11, 2018, TBA
 May 19, 2018, Wolverine Post 122
 ALR and Service officer session 11AM
 Lunch at 12PM
 Legion and Auxiliary meet at 1PM

2018 Membership Goal: 65,439 September 28 Total: 39,016 - 59.62%

7th Dist
61.11%

11th Dist
58.96%

19th Dist
57.15%

2nd Dist
55.94%

10th Dist
60.84%

8th Dist
57.78%

6th Dist
57.09%

5th Dist
55.55%

12th Dist
60.66%

4th Dist
57.41%

18th Dist
56.67%

9th Dist
54.90%

16th Dist
60.55%

17th Dist
57.30%

3rd Dist
56.09%

1st Dist
53.88%

Upcoming Membership Target Dates

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 8, 2017 65%

PEARL HARBOR DAY

DECEMBER 6, 2017 75%

MID-WINTER

JANUARY 10, 2018 80%

Fall Conference 2017 Muskegon



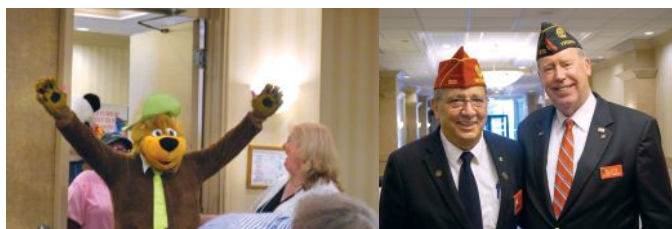
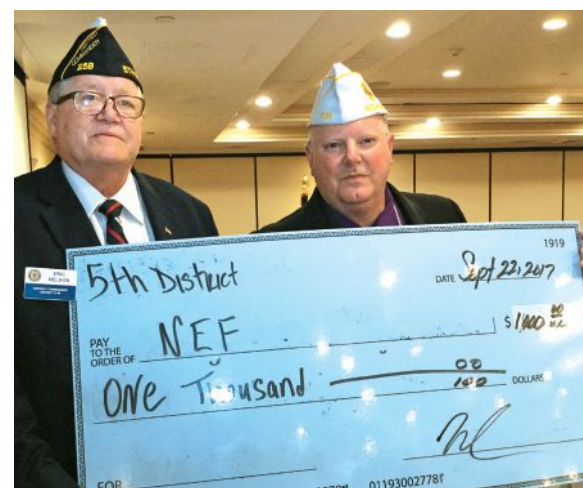
(Above) American Legion Post 9 provided the honor guard. (L) Brett Reistad, National Commander



Donations were given by: Post 459 "Tips for Troops", Post 409 to support 6 different Legion programs, and the 5th District presented a check to support NEF.



(Above) (L-R) Dan McCreary, Caleb Plumley, and Cndr Holt. Caleb is a finalist of the Samsung Scholarship award for his participation in Boys State.



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Around the State...



Legion Riders from Climax-Scotts Post 465 and other posts formed a benefit run in honor of Police Sgt. Collin Rose who was killed in Detroit while on duty last year. They raised \$2644.00 which was used to purchase Canine Officer kits for the Kalamazoo County K-9 units. Cliff Rose, 3rd District JA and Collin Roses grandfather received the check.



Friends of the Kent County Veterans Treatment Court accept a donation from tips collected at a recent Post 179 Officer Takeover event. Present are FKCVTC Board Members Brent Geers, president; Roland Lindh, treasurer; Ann Stoll, board member; Dan Ophoff, secretary; LaDonna Austhof-Siebelink, legionnaire; Terry Hall, board member; accompanied by the Honorable Pablo Cortes, presiding judge of the KCVTC.



This is a picture of the Battle Creek Bandits. We have made many runs to accomplish the of stealing 38 plaques. There are only 50 in the state. This picture was taken on 24 August. -G. Roy McMillon
Commander Post298 - ALR President Post 298



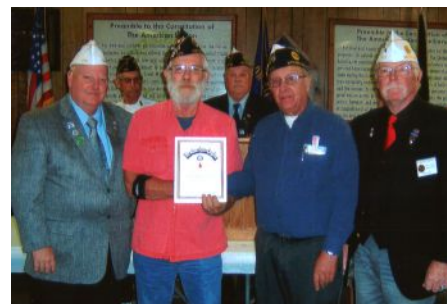
(R)Stevensville American Legion Post 568 Juniors with Post 568 Legionnaire/WWII Marine Corps Veteran, Harold Curtis. The Juniors did fundraisers to sponsor a Veteran on a Talons Out Honor Flight. (L) Post 568 Veterans participated in the SWMI Steelheaders Trolling with the Troops fishing outing on Lake Michigan on August 25, 2017.



District 17 Commander Gary DeMars is presenting Johnnie Johnson, Commander of Passage Gayde Post 391 of Plymouth, Michigan a Children & Youth Citation for the year 2016-2017. Our Michigan Department awarded Post 391 with the Citation for outstanding service to children during the reporting year.



Nat Cmdr Charles Schmidt presents Michigan State Trooper Joe Rowley the National Law Enforcement of the Year Award.



Blood, Eye, & Vital Organ Chairman Lavern Spolarich, Depart Cmdr Brett Holt, 3rd Zone Cmdr Mitch Louth present James Wladarczyk a certificate for donating 100 gallons of platelets at the 8th District mgt.



Merrick-Potter Post 566 stand in front of a Army M113A Armored Personnel Carrier now displayed at their post in Memphis. It came from a VFW post down the road that was closing their building doors.



The American Legion Riders from Post 514 recently welcomed members of other motorcycle clubs to join them in remembrance of the tragedy of 9/11 at the Post Home. The night was filled with comradery, music to a live band, good food and a little brew. Exactly at 11 minutes past nine p.m. on this warm, late-summer evening, the engines of 350 motorcycles rumbled to life. This created a thundering salute along with the sirens of three fire engines that were present. Including a 1938 Ford Fire Engine that was purchased for the Ida Volunteer Fire Dept.



American Legion Post 257 Renames Post in Honor of Battle Creek Soldier Killed in Action

Staff Sgt. Michael A. Dickinson American Legion Post. Staff Sgt. Dickinson's mother Vicki and sister Renee were present when Department Commander Brett Holt and Department Adjutant Ron Runyan signed the new charter for the post at the Sunday morning session of the Department Executive Committee at the Departments Fall Conference in Muskegon. SSgt Dickinson was a native of Battle Creek and was killed in action by a sniper nine days before he was to return to the states. The leading candidate for National Commander Brett Reistad was on hand to help with the presentation.



Register for the Detroit Veterans Day Parade November 5 at www.detroitveteransdayparade.org

Veteran Service News

Congratulations

**Carlton Seaman Outstanding Post Service Officer
Albert Theil Jr Outstanding District Service Officer
Winners**



(Left) Carlton Seaman Outstanding Post Service Officer, Post 28 5th District. Garrett Viehl & Larry Lambert (not present). (Right) Albert Theil Jr Outstanding District Service Officer Post 396 to 16th District Robert Gillette. VSO Director Gary Easterling (L) and Department Commander Holt (R) presented the awards.

Reserve Retirees Are Losing Millions in Unclaimed Retired Pay

Are you retired from a reserve component (Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, or Marine Reserves)?

Do you know when you are eligible to receive retired pay and other benefits?

The Michigan Army National Guard has identified sixty people who served twenty or more years and have not applied for their earned benefits. It is very likely that this problem exists in every component of the Reserves. These retirees are losing out on tens of thousands of dollars a months and are collectively due hundreds of thousands of dollars in back pay. This is just one state and just in the Army National Guard.

Now imagine if the same percentage of the retired military population holds true in the rest of the country (0.3%, for those who are wondering). We could be talking about over forty-two hundred retirees who are not receiving their retirements. This doesn't include surviving spouses who may be eligible for a survivor benefit.

Start with a simple email or phone call. You can email the Michigan National Guard's Retirement Services section at NGMIRSO@mail.mil or call 517-481-9867. This office can assist with any service branch request.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

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



Gary Easterling
Director

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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



JOIN THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

in a salute to those who served or are serving our nation at
a very special

VETERANS DAY DINNER

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan wants you and your family to **HELP MAKE THIS VETERANS DAY DINNER BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER!**

If your post is holding a Veterans Day dinner at your post, The American Legion has provided media materials to help you promote the event and to help you organize one.

www.legion.org/nalpa/familyfirst

#LegionFamilyDinner

Reconnect Report

What is Reconnect? Believe it or not, I still get asked this question while traveling around our state. The Department of Michigan Reconnect Committee has been developing and implementing comprehensive, innovative Troop and Family Support Services as well as temporary financial assistance for unforeseen hardships. Even with the force draw downs and decreases in Michigan National Guard deployments, our requests for assistance have continued to increase each year. Last year our committee received more than \$100,000 in privately funded donations, and provided more than \$90,000 in assistance. That's right! You read those figures correctly. In addition, an astounding 100 percent of every dollar received by the Reconnect Committee's programs goes right back out to the families we assist! Thanks to the Michigan American Legion Foundation, every donation is 100 percent tax deductible too.

Our National Commander, Denise Rohan, is focusing her attention on the department Reconnect efforts. Department has distributed a Reconnect Certification Reporting form from Commander Rohan. Please use this form to record your post Reconnect activities each time you reach out to our Michigan military families, our Michigan National Guard and Reserve units, our Military recruiters and our deployed service members. This form will also help districts to recognize their posts with nominations for the Jim Schutze Department Reconnect Award which recognizes the post working the best Reconnect programs.

Thank you to our Legion posts, Legion Rider chapters, SAL squadrons and Auxiliary units who provide support items and hold fundraising events in support of the Reconnect Committee initiatives and programs. Your generous support contributes the largest portion of the donations received. A very special thank you goes to Past Department President Ellen Jackson for adopting the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program as her personal project last year. 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. Everyone including the VA Medical Center counselors, county agencies, National Guard Family Assistance Coordinators, and non-profit organizations such as Operation Homefront and Buddy 2 Buddy all contact the Reconnect Committee directly and refer veterans seeking assistance. We are often the only organization willing to help, and we become their last hope for assistance and a better quality of life!

I can't thank you enough for your continued generosity and support!
Gary Tanner
Chairman
Department Reconnect Committee

Follow us on Twitter: @LegionReconnect
Like the "Elmobility Room" and the "Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program" on Facebook

Legislative Report

Deborah Williamson
Chairman

“Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” JFK

It has been more than five decades since President John F. Kennedy made that statement. To this day I believe these are still very powerful words. We as American Legion Auxiliary members need to live by that statement in order to influence our representatives in Washington D.C. regarding any legislation that supply our veterans with what is needed. Our influence is in numbers, so please, each and every one of you, write to your senators and representatives on all legislation pertaining to our

veterans. More information was provided at Fall Conference on legislation that needs our attention.

Right now with our help, we can encourage Congress to mark The American Legion's 2019 Centennial with the minting of commemorative coins. With only two coins being authorized per year, this would be such an honor for the world's greatest veterans organization. Please write to your representatives in Washington D.C. about your interest in the passing of Legislation S.1182 regarding these coins. H.R. 2519 has already passed in the House. This legislation is in the running with another organization, so pick up your pens and start writing, emailing, and/or calling.

Historian Report

Marcy Jorae
Department Historian

The heart of any organization's history is in its records – items that officers, members, directors, staff, and volunteers have produced and compiled over the years. They provide unique testimony to the achievements of an organization. Records also contribute in other ways:

- Members are able to look back and learn what efforts were successful or unsuccessful, and why. Understanding the missteps as well as the achievements can assist in determining a future strategy.

- Exhibiting materials stimulates enthusiasm and encourages members to maintain the organization's standards and promote its future. Pride in the organization has a direct correlation to motivating the current membership to bring in new members, achieve more goals, and create a sense of strength and conviction while developing leaders.

- Maintaining and preserving our records are invaluable to society by serving as informative and education resources to a variety of potential users. In other words, an organization benefits itself and the public by preserving its records and making them available for use by everyone inside and outside the organization.

The American Legion Auxiliary history is contained in artifacts, our documents, newspaper articles, publications, meeting minutes, photos, newsletters, written histories, etc. We do this to honor those members who have made differences in our organization at all

levels. Additionally, history allows us to build a stronger organization based upon those experiences.

The above was taken from the 2017-2022 ALA Programs Action Plan – History Committee, page 115. These words are important to keep in mind as we prepare for the Centennial Celebration of the American Legion Auxiliary. As the department historian for this administrative year, I am asking unit and even district historians to not only record the history for the current year, but to begin looking back over the past nearly 100 years if you have not already done so. When was your post chartered? When was your unit chartered? If your post was named after an individual(s), who were they and why were they so honored? Have you had any famous members from your post/unit? Have you had department commanders/presidents from your Legion Family? What are those unique achievements that your Legion Family is proud to have accomplished?

As historians, you can start or continue records that will be useful not only as we prepare to celebrate the Centennials of both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary, but will also be useful to future generations of our Legion Family.

Watch for more information in the monthly unit mailings, as we work together to record Who We Are, What We Do, and Why We Matter. Information on researching history is also available on the national website: www.ALForVeterans.org as well as on The American Legion website: www.legion.org.

Supporting Quality Education for the Children of our Military Families

Connie Kovacs
Education Chairperson

The American Legion Auxiliary Education Committee promotes the Auxiliary's role in providing quality education for youth and adults with special emphasis on the children of our veterans and military families.

The Education Committee carries out that mission through special scholarship opportunities, Veterans in Community Schools programs, supporting the Give 10 initiative, collaboration with college and university campus student veteran groups, support for National Teacher and National Education Appreciation Weeks and by raising awareness of the unique classroom needs of our children with deployed parents.

The scholarships available through the National Auxiliary Education program are: Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship (Three \$5000 Scholarships awarded in each division.)

The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship (One \$2000 Scholarship awarded in each division.)

Spirit of Youth Scholarship (One \$5000 Scholarship awarded to a Junior Member in each division.)

Units and districts are also encouraged to develop, fund, and award local scholarship opportunities to students in their communities as well.

Another big initiative that the Education Committee supports is the Give 10 program. We encourage local units to solicit their members to collect and distribute school supplies to schools in their community in increments of 10 per item.

You may also purchase these items and drop them off at Department Headquarters if you prefer.

If you have any questions, or would like more information on any Education programs, please feel free to contact me.

18th District

AnnMarie Stevens
18th District President

Hello from the 18th District! We would like to say “Congratulations” to Department President Deanna Cortright, along with all the elected officers for the 2017-18 year.

Many from the 18th District attended Fall Conference in Muskegon to learn about our programs, and will take back all the knowledge we gained to our units.

My special project for this year is iheartdog.org.

My membership theme will be “Warming Up Membership.” The way we came up

with this membership theme is that many from department have heard the legend of the cast iron frying pan. When I married 18th District Commander Stephen Stevens, I received from his Grandmother my first cast iron frying pan. It came with the word “Feed him or Beat him,” as the story goes.

We at the 18th District are looking forward to the new year with the American Legion Auxiliary. For God and Country.

Fall Conference Evaluations

Deanna Cortright President

I have reviewed the evaluation forms turned in by those in attendance and wanted to be sure that everyone was made aware of both the good and the bad. Overall most everyone was pleased.

Some of the other positive comments were:

Not bad...keep it rolling
 Liked everyone being exposed to all of the programs again
 Well presented, even to an educator attendee
 New ideas are a blessing to get away from "we always do"
 Better than last year as we could hear better
 So much better than last year but we need more room
 Looking forward to the next conference
 Learned so much and got excited about going back to share
 Better with speakers from the podium – learned much more and less confusion
 Enjoyed programs but also recommend using powerpoints
 Thank you for the instruction
 Lot of material – great job
 Very helpful
 Very informative – learned a lot and loved meeting new members
 First time – wonderful
 Membership program was best – they motivated members
 Past President's Parlay was also good
 Liked the Junior shooting sports idea
 Education was best
 Wonderful Conference
 There were also negatives. Some we can fix, others we can only make recommendations, and some we cannot help, at least not right now.
 Examples are:
 Chit chat control
 Not enough water available
 Way too hot
 Didn't feel she could ask questions because everyone was wanting to get out of there
 Paper for questions
 Very long day
 Remind members of proper protocol while someone is speaking
 More space, all facing speakers and improved sound
 More seating and members be quiet
 Time limit on speakers

Presenters need to be sure they are prepared
 Need leg stretching time both in AM and PM
 Couldn't do the ALA Academy and listen to speakers
 Liked moving to different tables better
 Do handouts rather than committee tables
 No reason for the disrespect that was shown
 Have a class on etiquette
 Would like classes longer for new members
 Website list for be completed. Too hard to write them all down
 More time giving ideas on how to do programs rather than info from the guide
 More transparency of budgets to members
 Send the proposed budget to Executive Board prior to the meeting
 Shame that not all past presidents stayed for the whole day.
 Past presidents should not sit in the back of the room and talk
 People on cell phones during people speaking is rude
 Had to wait in the crowded hall because of the late start – will think twice about coming back
 Name tags should include the members unit/post
 Be more courteous
 If meeting is running over – move it to a different location and start the committee part
 Better feelings shown toward each other
 Not very handicap accessible
 We find that the Past Presidents do not want to give up any status they had/have so it makes it hard to get them to mentor members
 Too bad we have to remind everyone to be kind-need to support each other and their positions
 whether we like them or not
 Too much detail on awards
 Less arguing among women
 Change start time to allow for extended meetings
 More education on programs on website
 Schedule was stupid as men had to be there on Friday so we could have started Friday morning
 Examples of how to complete forms
 I will take the blame for the air not being adjusted more. It was once but I should have had them do it again. I also could have used my gavel more. I truly

never thought about having water at each table. I truly am sorry I didn't give you breaks. When these things happen please feel free to bring it to my attention. Sometimes I need a little nudge to get my brain functioning.

I'm afraid we cannot do anything about the space we have. The American Legion has a time and place committee that sets all meetings. We get the room that we are given. On a good note, we had a wonderful group there and I am very pleased about that. Possibly next year they can use long tables rather than round and that might give more space. It is also possible they may opt for no tables. Please feel free to let us know your thoughts on either of those options.

I will forward the evaluation sheets to next year's president so she can review them and decide how she feels will be the best way to handle the problems that occurred that can be changed.

I do want to address the extension of the Executive Meeting into Saturday morning. There was a suggestion that it should have been held in another room. That isn't possible because we still have to allow all members to attend if they choose. Members that found themselves waiting in the hall could have come in. We cannot limit a members ability to attend, nor would I want to. I do apologize that it took so long to get the meeting finished so we could move on.

Our day starting at 1:00 on Friday was done for two reasons. Originally, there was a group that was scheduled to be there and using the room until 10:00 Friday. It was also intended to allow for at least part of our members to save one nights lodging.

There will be a Leadership School at Winter meeting for those that asked about that. We will also be putting together a list of websites to put in the unit mailing.

Please feel free to contact me with suggestions at 517/617-4198 or dcndc4ever@yahoo.com

Thank you to all that attended. It was wonderful to see all of you.

Serving Our Veterans

Lisa A Bartlett VA & R Chairman

From Unit and District elections in May, to August's National Convention in Reno, this has been a busy summer for me. I also had the pleasure of going to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans' Carnival. I was overwhelmed to see all those vendors come out and support the veterans at that location. I look forward to more visits to other facilities.

Along with fitting in my Auxiliary tasks, I had to fit in some work, watching grandkids and a trip to the Mackinaw Bridge with my son and the grandkids. (My seven-year-old granddaughter told me in her whole life she had never seen the Mackinac Bridge, so of course I had to take her.)

In the past few months I have learned a lot about being a Department Chair. I recently started a Facebook page for ALA MIVets — please post your upcoming event on that page. Then, post the picture of your event afterward! Let all of Michigan know we are proud of our veterans and that the Auxiliary is here to serve them.

Report Service Hours

My focus this year will be on encouraging every unit and district in the state to report their hours and their events. Reporting is easy if you are volunteering at (or near) one of the eight veteran facilities in the state — those hours are tracked by our Hospital Reps and then reported to the department every few months. We need to get everyone who works on a veteran project to start reporting! These statistics are included in the "Service to Veterans" part of the Annual Report. In

Family Tradition Punch, Lisa Bartlett, 3rd District President



If you stopped by President Deanna's hospitality room at convention in Flint, the talk of the room was the punch. I have made this punch for the Bartlett Family Christmas Eve for more than 40 years. The recipe was on a calendar which I have lost in one of my moves, and the following is how I remember it:

- 2 or 3 large oranges sliced
- 1 large jar (12 or 16oz) of maraschino cherries (drained)
- 1 large can (20 oz) of pineapples chunks (in pineapple juice)
- 1 fifth of Bacardi light rum

my last years as 3rd District President, I visited several units and heard of all the wonderful work their members were doing for the veterans and their families. Sadly, come time to report on all that wonderful work we did in the Third District, I didn't have a single report.

Last year I heard how a unit took breakfast to Silver Star Apartment (the next step for homeless vets to get back on their feet). These hours and money spend count for Service to Veteran hours. I heard how one member made a sleep mat for a homeless vets — again these are Service to Veteran hours. I heard how several units shopped for the VA gift shop and the homeless vets at Christmas (Service to Veteran Hours). I heard units make a dinner or Lunch for Homeless Vets. These hours count! I heard Veterans Day lunches were served to all veterans and their families (Service to Veteran hours). One unit had a lady that made comfort quilts for the VA hospitals, the hours she spends making the quilt, shopping for material, and the time to deliver the quilt — again, all these count for Service to Veteran hours. This is just one district and one visit to ten units. I would love to hear what did they do when I am not there to hear about the wonderful ways they are serving our vets. Your time and generosity can inspire others to serve veterans. Don't let it go unreported!

All these hours add up over the year, even those that may seem insignificant to your members. The Department would like to know about all the hours you have spent supporting your local veterans. I also want to hear about the all the special projects you are doing for your veterans.

Put these items in a LARGE punch bowl –
 let the rum soak in the fruit for 12 to 24 hours.

2 hours before your event:
 Add ½ gallon of orange juice
 1 8oz bottle of grenadine
 1 6oz can of Limeade concentrate (mixed per instructions)

(I can only find Limeade in Kroger's and Walmart)

Fill the punch bowl with Ice (I do not add the ice until I have the bowl where I'm going to serve it. You need to add the ice as least one hour before the event to let it chill.)

This makes about one gallon of punch.

Enjoy – watch out for the fruit, it's potent!

DEC 2017 Fall Conference REPORTS

John Bradford, Education & Scholarship Chairman

Speak Up for College Dollars

The Starving Student is a comedy character we are all familiar with. Between tuition and textbooks, rent, gas, and the inevitable entertainment, there often isn't enough money to go around. Maybe you know a high school student who could use up to \$18,000 for college.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest has challenged high school students to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution since 1938. By studying the Constitution and being prepared to speak first on a topic of their choice in a prepared eight to ten minute oration, and then for three to five minutes on any one of the four assigned topics, participants develop important leadership qualities and the ability to think and speak clearly while learning the history of our nation's laws and gaining an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship.

The Oratorical program is offered to all high school students 20 and under. Being the descendant of a veteran is not required. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship.

The rules and registration are listed on michiganlegion.org. The deadline for Oratorical registration is November 18, 2017. This program is free for the post to run, takes only a few volunteers, and is a great opportunity to let your community know about your post. If you would like to get involved with sponsoring a young person in this program, or you would like to be involved, contact me.

17th District Report

District Commander, Gary Demars

The 17th District had 1,629 members at the close of the 2016/2017 membership cycle. The district obtained 105 percent of the membership goal and was the top district in the Department of Michigan.

District 17 consists of five posts located in Wayne County.

- Myron H. Beals, Post 32, Livonia
- Lloyd H. Green, Post 147, Northville
- Tansey - Weil, Post 271, Redford
- Rosedale Park, Post 390, Detroit
- Passage-Gayde, Post 391, Plymouth

Post 32 is located in Livonia with an ending membership of 1,115. It has the third largest post in Michigan and the largest post in the 17th District. Post 32, with a large community, obtained 101 percent of their membership goal. The post supports American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, the Sons of the American Legion, and a very professional American Legion Honor Guard. Post 32 is a brick and mortar facility with a large hall for rental, a lounge, and a large parking lot to handle the weekend patronage. Post 32 has a website and a Riders Facebook page and is open seven days a week. The post is led by Commander Larry Fenner, an Army veteran with a 29-year continuous American Legion membership.

Post 147 is in Northville with an ending membership of 253. The post obtained 109 percent of their membership goal. The post supports American Legion Auxiliary, American Legion Riders, and the Sons of the American Legion. Post 147 is a brick and mortar facility with a hall for rental, a lounge, and a small parking lot to handle the weekend patronage, and the post is open seven days a week. The post has a lot of history within The American Legion, as it was chartered in 1920. The post maintains a website, monthly newsletter, email distribution, Facebook, and an Instagram page. The post is led by Commander Gary DeMars an Air Force veteran with a six-year continuous American Legion membership.

Post 271 is in Redford. With an ending membership cycle of 120 individuals, the Post obtained 98 percent of their membership goal. Post 271 is not a brick and mortar facility and holds their scheduled meetings at a local restaurant hall located in the Redford area. Post 271 was chartered in 1940 and was housed in a building at that time. The post building was sold later. The post is led by Commander Bernie McCarthy an Army veteran with a 21-year continuous American Legion membership.

Post 390 is a Detroit post which meets in a Livonia K of C building. With an ending membership of 52, the post obtained 110 percent of their membership goal. Post 390 is not a brick and mortar facility and holds their monthly meetings at a larger K of C facility. The post maintains a website. The post is led by Commander Dan MacDonald with a 12-year continu-

ous American Legion membership.

Passage - Gayde Post 391 is in Plymouth, with an ending membership of 89. The post obtained 164 percent of their membership goal, and won an award by achieving 100 percent membership before the close of 2016. American Legion Passage - Gayde Post 391 is not a brick and mortar facility, and they meet at a K of C Hall located in Plymouth. Post 391 became a tax-exempt non-profit in March 1946. The Constitution and By-Laws of Passage - Gayde Post No. 391 The American Legion were adopted by a majority vote of the post membership in attendance at a regular meeting of the post on September 10, 1992. The post is led by Commander Johnnie Johnson a Navy veteran with a 30-year continuous American Legion membership.

AMERICANISM

By Americanism Chairman Don Meskill

As Legionnaires we recite the preamble to The American Legion Constitution at every meeting and function.

Do we realize what we are saying or is it just words to be said?

The preamble charges us to: uphold and defend the Constitution; to foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy.

Most things that you do in and for your community are Americanism. Recognize and honor your neighbors for who they are and what they do. The police/fire/EMT and, yes, your teachers are also first responders to our youth.

Recognize and award Boy Scouts, leaders, and members involved in the Scouting program.

Boys State and Oratorical Contest focus on the constitution and government. The Student Trooper program will acquaint students with police work.

American Legion Baseball is one of the oldest programs, allowing youth to be involved in a sport. The Junior Shooting Program is becoming more popular among youth. Consider starting a club for Junior Shooting.

All applications and forms can be found on-line or call Department.

Remember to put your efforts on the Post Consolidated Report in April. Take credit for the things you do. These reports will also go to tell our state government and the U.S. Congress how The American Legion is an active participant in your community.

Michigan Boys State

By Jerry Kelley, Boys State chairman

The mission of Boys State to provide the highest-quality interactive

educational experience possible, to help young men learn about our system of government, and to help the delegates learn leadership skills was successfully met during Boys State 2017, our 80th Anniversary. The lessons and memories from Boys State 2017 will last a lifetime, and provide a solid foundation to further enhance leadership and teamwork in the delegates' schools and communities. Boys State is a life-changing experience and our staff is committed to providing the best environment to encourage education and growth.

The Boys State Program has a challenge, and we need the help of each American Legion post and SAL squadron to help meet that challenge. We have many high schools that are not being given the opportunity to send delegates to Boys State. With the help of every American Legion post and SAL squadron we can reach out to almost every school in Michigan. With your help we can provide a Boys State opportunity to more schools and more young men.

To participate a young man must be a junior (11th grade) in high school or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited homeschool program. He must be at least 15 years old by June 4, 2018, and have an interest in learning leadership skills and how our government functions. These young men can be found in schools, Scout troops, religious organizations, and sports teams.

Any eleventh-grade male student who wants to attend can be sponsored by American Legion posts, Sons of the American Legion squadrons, American Legion Auxiliary units, civic organizations, businesses, clubs, schools, families, and interested individuals. The Boys State Committee will do everything they can to see that every young man who wants to attend Boys State can.

So how can each post help? By sponsoring one young man to attend and pay the \$375 fee. If your post is having difficulty finding a young man or with financing, please contact the Boys State Committee or your District Boys State Chair.

For more information please visit our website: www.michiganboysstate.org

Legislative Committee Report

Tim Poxson, chairman

Member Increase for Complete Coverage

The Legislative Committee has been hard at work since being appointed by Commander Holt. We have made it easier for you to stay informed about legislative issues in Lansing by putting the information in "Legislative" under "Programs" on the Department of Michigan web page. Go to <http://www.michiganlegion.org/legislative.html>

in order to follow the important veteran bills that will be introduced by the Michigan Senate and House. Working with Public Relations Director Mark Sutton we will attempt to keep you informed.

The Committee met prior to the Fall Conference in Muskegon and reviewed the Legislative Committee Rules of Procedure. We voted on and approved some procedural changes. The changes were submitted to the Internal Affairs Committee and approved. These procedural changes will take effect right away. The Legislative Committee also reviewed and voted to increase the number of its Committee members from three to five, effective 2018-2019. This change includes the appointment of one member of the Legislative Committee from each of the five zones. We are hoping that this will give us a veteran in each area of the state to communicate with our veterans and elected officials in their zone. This change has been submitted to the Finance and Personnel Committee for approval.

At the Fall Conference the committee also received updates on more legislation, and voted as to our recommendation to support or not support, or be neutral on said legislation. The committee will continue to communicate throughout the legislative sessions as to our recommendations for support or not to support or be neutral on new legislation. The committee also received an update on Veterans Facilities Authority, and it appears that while the Authority is moving forward the Authority still has work to do to finalize the first phase of the start of the new Veterans Homes.

5th District, Eric Nelson, Commander

Last year when I realized that I was headed too quickly towards the position of 5th District Commander I asked some members to guide me, counsel me. They seem to have a lot of work to do but I'm hoping they can retire soon. Optimism. There's the word. We are going to have a great year. Of course there are a few Posts that have a high learning curve ahead of them, but already I can see their optimism and enthusiasm. They are on the way to success. My advice to the big wide world? Boast. Let the world know what you are doing. Boast. Tell the rest of The American Legion what you are doing. Boast. Tell even your own membership what is going on in your Post. Not everyone can make the meetings, but still want to know how they connect with you. Thank you and have a good year.

Dan Crisp Endorsed for Department Sgt-at-Arms 2018-2019



American Legion Clare-Farewell Post 558 and the 10th District Association recommends and endorses Dan Crisp for the position of Department Sgt-At-Arms for 2018-2019.

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Media and Communications Committee Report LaDonna Seibelink, Committee Secretary

The ever-changing world of information technology influences how we keep Legion news in front of our members and the American people. With so many tools at hand there are more ways than ever to put the word out on the mission, the programs, and the various events held at all levels. So many choices make it difficult to do justice to all generations.

The Media and Communications Committee of the American Legion Department of Michigan is committed in their mission to continue to serve all of our members, each and every community, and to push the limits in reaching new members. There are many communication tools already available, and more being developed. The sources are the Legion, Department, and two of the press associations connected with The American Legion.

The National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) elected Mark Sutton to be the 2017/2018 president during its meeting at National Convention in August. Sutton has been a member of The American Legion for 11 years and began his Legion career with Post 32 in Livonia, Mich. He joined NALPA six years ago, shortly after becoming the public relations director for the Department. Sutton, a Marine Corps veteran, is also a member of the Michigan American Legion Press Association (MALPA). This three-pronged connection to Sutton poises Michigan to

be an innovative force in Legion communications.

NALPA was established in 1923 with the purpose of facilitating communications within the Legion from the national down to the post level, encouraging members to talk with one another about their ideas, and giving members the tools to write newsletters, press releases, and connect with community leaders to promote events and the Legion's goals. NALPA exists not to promote the Legion, but to help you promote the Legion.

Many states have established their own press association to bring the national mission of NALPA to their own members in a more personal way. Michigan has done this with MALPA.

Michigan's Media and Communications Committee Chairman Brian Czubak recognizes the membership challenges. "Membership has been impacted by a number of factors. We can't continue what we are doing and expect those numbers to miraculously increase," said Czubak. He is concerned about a trend that he sees in both the younger veterans and the community members he comes into contact with: A lack of knowledge about the organization and its true mission. As the nation's largest and most influential veterans organization in the world the Legion has a strong history of political influence and in-

volvement in the legislation process targeted at protecting the rights of veterans, and making life better for servicemembers and their families. "The American Legion has done, and continues to do so much in regards to pushing legislation for the benefit of veterans and their families. We cannot allow that to disappear."

"I certainly hope to see more involvement in either NALPA or MALPA at the department, zone, district, and post levels," continued Czubak, a Marine veteran like Sutton. "By joining, you can get the tools you need to help communicate more effectively to other veterans and your community." Membership in each of these organizations is open to those who are involved in public relations type activity for the Legion at the national, state, district, or post level; and is inclusive of the Auxiliary, the Sons, and The American Legion Riders. Those who would benefit from membership include newsletter editors and publishers, historians, and those who promote the events and mission of the Legion. Every post should have a public relations person or committee.

Some of the tools Czubak refer to are already in existence, others will be made available in the coming year. National has a number of useful links that can be found at <https://www.legion.org/media>. These include a Publication Style Guide specific to the Legion; Facebook links to many of the Legion programs along with other social media links such as Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest; an E-newslet-

ter subscription page; logos for download and use in your Legion promotions; news releases; and Public Service Announcements. These resources are available to help promote local, district, state, and national Legion news to your community. For example: There are four Public Service Announcements available to download and share in a press release to your local television stations. This free airtime is a great way to make the local community members aware of the real mission of The American Legion. There is also a link to NALPA where you can find out more about the organization and join.

Plans at Department include an updated website, a more active Facebook Page, and basic journalism educational material made available to those interested in learning how to better promote the Legion. The MI Legionnaire newspaper will continue. "This is not going away," stressed Sutton.

The success of the world's largest veterans organization depends entirely on active membership. "Veterans want to belong to an organization that is moving forward, and the challenge is in communicating to the older veterans and the newer veterans at the same time. In 2017 we need to embrace the old ways and the new ways of communicating in order to accomplish our goals," said Sutton. "The American Legion, at all levels, needs to do better at doing both for our current members and those who are eligible to join. We intend to make that happen."



Michigan State Troopers and Law Enforcement Officers from around the State will show you what their life is like every day on the job. They bring their personal experience to the teachings of the day.

You will learn:

- Proper gun safety while live-firing handguns under the supervision of the Michigan State Police firing range of-ficers.
- Self-defense techniques
- The adrenaline rush of underwater rescue and recovery in the training center pool
- Crash site investigation
- First aid
- Police K-9 units and their incredible abilities
- Basic “CSI- Crime Scene Investigations”
- Intense physical training (Yes, you will run!)
- How to work as a team

Do You Know a high school student, 16 to 18 years old interested in a law enforcement career?

The American Legion Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program

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

Class is being offered: **July 15-20, 2018** (Application deadline **May 28, 2018**)

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



Do you know a high school/college student who is the decesdent of a war-time era veteran?

Who will be attending any nationally accredited college or university?

William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship

- Scholarship available to only Michigan residents who are attending high school or college – no bachelor’s degree,
- Who are a son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to or are attending any nationally accredited college or university.
- Selection is based on a student’s G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent’s or grandparent’s honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Submit the scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion’s District Commander by the deadline date of January 8, 2018 (not postmarked by).

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships.html

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

Speak Up for College Dollars American Legion Oratorical Contest



Do you know a 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grader in need of college money?

Who can give a prepared oratorical presentation and an impromptu speech? Who has an interest in the U.S. Constitution?

Contestants have an opportunity to win \$800 to \$1,500 in scholarship money at the department level. Those moving on to the National Contest will receive \$1500 for each level they move up to and compete for up to \$18,000 in scholarship money at the National Oratocial Finals.

2018 Program deadlines:

- Contestant must register with the Oratorical Zone Chairman by Saturday, November 18, 2017.
- Zone contests must be completed by January 29, 2018
- Department contest will be on February 24, 2018

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

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships.html

This contest is open to ALL high school students in the 9th to 12th grade and contestants may compete multiple years, unless they win the National Finals



Do you know a high school/college student who is the decesdent of a war-time era veteran?

Who will be attending a Michigan accredited college or university?

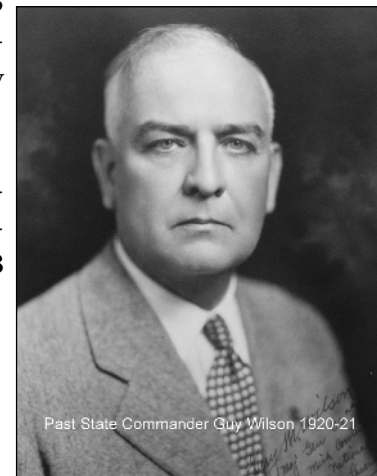
Guy Wilson Scholarship

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

Send scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion’s District Commander by the **deadline date of January 8, 2018 (not postmarked by).**

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships.html

Scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable



Past State Commander Guy Wilson 1920-21



Is your son or grandson a registered and active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew?

Does your American Legion, Sons Squadron, or Auxiliary Unit charter a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew?

Eagle Scout of the Year Award

Department Eagle Scout Award \$1000
National Eagle Scout Award \$10,000

Eligibility Requirements

THE NOMINEE MUST:

- Be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew chartered to an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit or Sons of The American Legion squadron.

OR

- Be a registered, active member of a chartered Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, and the son or grandson of a Legionnaire, Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary member.

AND

- Received the Eagle Scout Award.
- Be an active member of his religious institution and must have received the appropriate Boy Scout religious emblem.
- Have demonstrated practical citizenship in church, school, Scouting, and community.
- Have reached his 15th birthday and be enrolled in high school at the time of selection.
- Reside in the department (state) to which he applies

Note: Eagle Scouts still in high school who reached their 18th birthday during the nomination year remain eligible if otherwise qualified.

American Legion Legacy Scholarship

Do you know a child of a fallen 9/11 servicemember?

Or

Do you know a child of a VA-rated, post 9/11 veteran with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher?

Since the inception of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2001 following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, The American Legion has offered its support to the children of fallen post-9/11 servicemembers through this scholarship. Beginning with the 2017 award year, The American Legion expanded the scholarship to include children of VA-rated, post-9/11 veterans with a combined disability rating of 50 percent or higher. Our organization remains committed to honoring the memory and service of our fallen and disabled comrades by ensuring their children are afforded the best possible educational opportunities.

Financial Aid Offered

The total amount of Legacy Scholarship money to be awarded varies based on the amount of donations received each year and the total amount of income derived from interest on the trust each year. Fifty percent of each amount is made available for awards each year – beginning with the 2017 award year. Each award made is good for one year and may be up to \$20,000. The amount of each award is determined by the financial need of that student as determined by fiscal information provided by the applicant during the application process. Depending on the amount of total money available for award, the number of applicants and the total need in a given year, all applicants might not receive an award. However, The American Legion will strive to offer as many awards as possible.

To learn more and apply visit:

<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy>

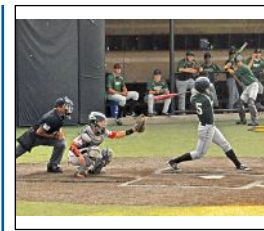
Scholarships and Programs specifically for high school girls can be found at the Michigan Auxiliary web site www.michalaux.org (select scholarships on the right)

The American Legion Auxiliary hosts a Girls State program similar to the Boys State.

- Find information at
- 2018 Memorial Scholarship \$500.00
- 2018 Non-Traditional Student \$500.00
- 2018 Medical Career Scholarship \$500.00



\$20,000 Samsung Scholarship through the Girls State Program See their National site for 3 more scholarships www.alaforveterans.org (under "What we do")



Do you know a young American Legion Baseball player?

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

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

The scholarship application is found online at: <https://www.legion.org/baseball/resources> (look under the players section of the website for the Diamond application)

Each Department (state) Baseball Committee will select a registered American Legion Player who best meets the qualifications as the 2018 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner. Each department winner will receive a scholarship from The American Legion of \$500 or more.

The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship

Robert (Bob) Turner was born in 1922 in Woodfield, OH. As a child, his family moved to Crystal, MI in 1935. Bob served in the United States Army Air Corp. during World War II from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in March of 1946; reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was stationed on Seymour Island



and received a Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Star, and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In the middle 1970s, his oldest son Bryce played Michigan American Legion Baseball. Bob supported the team by attending many of the games and was a life-long fan of baseball. The initial "seeds" for the Robert Turner Scholarship were donated in honor of his life and memory. The vision and hope is that this academic scholarship fund will "grow" to support and invest in many more youth seeking to fulfill their dreams in the years ahead.

Scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2018 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and who are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. Selection is based on the application information, the student's GPA of 2.5 or higher, and two letters of testimony (one from the American Legion coach or team manager, and the other from a community leader, school official or minister). The scholarship award amount is \$500. Deadline date is July 1, 2018 (not postmarked by).

The scholarship application is found online at: <http://michiganlegion.org/scholarships.html>

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