**AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT VETERAN SERVICES DIVISION IS BACK OPEN**

**SOME AREAS STILL HAVE RESTRICTIONS**

By Gary Easterling, Department Director Veterans Services Division

Thank you, Legionnaires and Veterans, for your help and understanding over the past several months. Like other businesses, and American Legion Posts in Michigan, the VA Regional Offices, including the Department Veteran Service Office was given short notice to stop coming into work. Our field Veteran Service Officers could not go to many of their sites because those places were closed to help flatten the curve of COVID-19.

We were not about to stop advocating for our Veterans, so the DVSO’s pivoted, and with the help of the leadership at the VA Regional offices and Department Headquarters, we were successfully able to have the DVSO staff working from home. Our partners at the VFW, DAV, VVA, and the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, also adapted, and together we were able to keep services available to Michigan Veterans.

We lost the ability to meet with Veterans face-to-face; when one door closes, the Army taught me to use another door or breach the wall and make a new door. We made a new door.

Your DVSO team started working from home immediately. From March until the first part of June, when some VA offices and county offices began to re-open, we did the following:

DVSO’s made 8,890 phone calls to Veterans. Faxed 924 documents, made 1,305 emails to clients, helped fill out 1,471 forms, processed 1,012 pieces of incoming mail, 995 pieces of outgoing mail, and had 4,128 other interactions with Veterans.

Working on claims for veterans does not end once the paperwork is submitted, sometimes it is only beginning. The time allowed us to engage veterans, answer questions, and in some cases, file additional claims or file for increases based on the veteran’s case.

What is the status of the VA and VSO’s as of July 1?

Governor Whitmer is still issuing Executive Orders, and those orders could change at any time. As of July 1, not all locations where Department VSO’s were pre-COVID are open. VA Facilities have certain restrictions and requirements of visitors.

If you need to speak to or feel you need to visit a DVSO, please call (313)964-6640 ahead of time, to find out where a service officer is closest to you, and then make an appointment. In some places, veterans are required to make appointments to gain entry into the building.

If you need to go to a VA Medical Center or Clinic, please contact them to find out their policy for entrance. Policies and procedures are changing at a moment’s notice, call ahead, and be prepared.

Note our service officers can handle most claim issues over the phone.

Thank you for your patients and understanding through this national crisis.

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**MVAA MAKES STATE EMERGENCY AID AVAILABLE TO MICHIGAN VETERANS**

Zaneta Adams, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director

Struggling veterans in many counties across Michigan are able to put food on the table, make essential housing and vehicle repairs and pay medical bills thanks to the County Veteran Service Fund Emergency Relief (CVSF-ER) effort launched by the MVAA during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the state’s coordinating agency for Michigan’s more than 550,000 veterans and their families, the MVAA facilitates $6.4 million in CVSF state-appropriated grants to County Veterans Service Offices.

The emergency aid was made available to counties that were previously approved for CVSF grants but wanted to amend the grants to offer emergency relief directly to veterans.

Some counties were slated to spend CVSF grants on veteran outreach and activities but were unable due to pandemic restrictions. The emergency relief was also available to counties that either did not qualify or chose not to apply for CVSF grants previously.

The emergency relief effort gained considerable traction, with at least 20 Michigan counties participating by mid-June to the tune of $1.3 million. The CVSF-ER grants, determined by each county’s veteran population, ranged from $6,000 in Wexford County (with 2,500 veterans) to $519,736 in Wayne County (with 83,400 veterans).

Eligible veterans from all eras – both wartime and peacetime – in participating counties can use the money to make home and vehicle repairs, pay medical expenses, and meet other needs determined emergent. As part of the effort, the MVAA also teamed up with Meijer to provide grocery vouchers to veterans in participating counties.

While the emergency assistance is helping veterans hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic, it also applied to emergent needs stemming from the central Michigan flooding in May. Both Midland and Gladwin counties, which were devastated by flooding, applied for and were approved for CVSF-ER grants.

As Gov. Whitmer said in helping announce the CVSF-ER effort: “The State of Michigan is committed to supporting our veterans and their families during these challenging times and every day throughout the year. These brave men and women put their lives on the line to protect our freedoms, and we will continue serving them as they served us.”

Indeed, for those counties that opted in, veterans of all eras could take advantage of emergency funding opportunities while also becoming more familiar with resources that are available to them and their families. No matter which era they served in, they deserve support when they need it the most, especially during these trying and uncertain times.

For more information about emergency funding opportunities and all other benefits and services available to veterans, contact the MVAA’s Veteran Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).
**CHAPLAIN “RESILIENCY!”**

Larry Vollink  
Department Chaplain

I just saw my kind of video on TV! It’s a young child going down the playground slide, very slow and his mother is smiling as he goes down…. slooowwly! It reminds me of my grandson at the park one day doing the same thing. I loved it because I was not fearful of him getting into danger. It reminded me when I was at Air Assault School many years ago, as I rappelled down the 50 ft wall, very slowly and very carefully, scared of course! No speed in my book!

As we are getting back to our posts, and churches, and communities, we are feeling the same thing… slowly! It is a good thing, I hope, as we look for ways to be safe as we approach this season. There are so many jokes about being slow, but hopefully, people won’t view us as a joke! But if we take our life seriously, we can persevere and finish with some resiliency in our approach to getting back to normal again.

**AS A NATION,** it is important for us to carry with us as a nation a spirit of resiliency. In times of storm and stress nationally, it is easy and tempting to become cynical and despairing. But in the midst of such days, we need some perspective.

Our predecessors were remarkably resilient people. I came across something Thomas Jefferson once wrote. He said, “It is part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate.” And he earned the right to say that, considering the rugged circumstances of his personal life with the early deaths of his wife and of all their children, save one - as well as the fragile hold on the life of a new nation that he did so much to nurture.

Scenes like that first Thanksgiving of the Pilgrims, when the survivors of that first rugged Hinter gathered to thank God - like the bleak days of the Revolutionary War when George Washington knelt in the snow at Valley Forge and prayed with the ragged soldiers - like the sorrowful days of the Civil War when a nation was torn asunder, and later when Lincoln called his countryman to “bind up the nation’s wounds” - like the days of the Great Depression that some can remember as affecting us as children and youth when we were very poor in things, but very rich in love and friendship and simple pleasures and not-so tarnished values. Said Lincoln, again and again, ••• I have been driven to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go”.

It may never be back to normal, or back to nostalgia, but it will be on to something worth having --maybe with greater integrity and some sturdier values and greater love and appreciation for one another. I salute the resilient people that I have known. Sick people, perhaps faced with an uncertain future but cheerfully engaged in a gallant struggle. Grieving people, stung by death of one dearly cherished, but facing the future with courage and hope. Working people phased out of one job, but training themselves for another. Single people, deprived of or uncoupled form a marriage, but avoiding self-pity, and building useful lives. **RESILIENCY IS A GOOD THING! HELP US TO FINISH STRONG!** Amen.

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**WILWIN AT CYGTEN COVE**

Open House/fundraiser

All are Welcome

September 12 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be music, a live auction, food, and celebration.

The property will be open starting at 9 a.m. if you would like to visit early, activities will start at 1 p.m. If you have an item to auction off or have questions about the event, email info@wilwinlodge.com.

The address is 3383 E. Hawley Rd. Custer, MI 49405

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**MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIARY**

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**HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY**

Publisher: Ronald Runyan  
Editor: Mark Sutton

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan  
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915  
(517) 371-4720 Fax: (517) 689-6100  
michiganlegion.org  
info@michiganlegion.org

**Extension**

**LEgion and Sal Membership** 124  
**Legion Finance** 117  
**finance@michiganlegion.org**  
**Programs, Boys State,** 123  
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**Public Relations, Website, Newspaper,**  
**Social Media, History**  
**mark@michiganlegion.org**  
**Administration** 113  
**kim@michiganlegion.org**

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  
info@michiganlegion.org  
517-371-4720 ext 116.
WERE WE EXPECTING THE CURVE BALL?

Barry Wood
Department Commander

We all know that as we stand in the “batter’s box” of life, different pitches get thrown at us, and we are able to handle them, most of the time. In those times we can’t, there seems to be someone there to assist us in getting by. But, when that proverbial “curveball” gets thrown to everyone at the same time, it can turn things upside down. Over the last four months, it seems there has been nothing but “curve balls” thrown. COVID, floods, job losses, mortgages due, rent due, schools closed, stay-at-home orders, no visitations of families, and on-and-on. How does one handle all this?

During this COVID-19 Pandemic, The American Legion has been there helping within the communities. Blood Drives, Food give-a-ways, Fund Raisers, and more. Even as some Posts were wondering how they were going to remain soluble, Legionnaires kept working to make sure they will be around long after this crisis is over.

If nothing else, I hope this crisis has put us on notice that anything can be around the corner, and we need plans in place to help get us through what seems like dire situations. Action plans and rainy-day funds might be created to help prepare for the next crisis. One never knows if or when another could happen. The Boy Scout motto, “Be Prepared,” might be a good one to adopt.

A good plan to have at any time is a communications plan. For this to be effective, your Post, District, and Department leadership need an efficient means to contact you. The best means is a good email address, as this allows the most accurate and quickest way to get information to you. Phone tag and snail mail are just not an efficient way to communicate these days. Please ensure your contact information is up to date and supplied to your Post and District Adjutants. This allows them to get communications out to you quickly.

An active post can handle many situations because the team has been working together in many aspects of the post’s life. It will be almost natural to continue working together, no matter the situation. Examples are those posts that have continued to support veterans and the communities during this shutdown.

These last four months have been tough on many Legionnaires. Some of them might be right in your own post. You can reach out to these individuals through the “Buddy Checks” that have been mentioned over and over during these last few months. Please be part of your post’s “Buddy Check” team and check in on your buddies. I can tell you; it will be appreciated both as a caller and the one being called. I have both called and been called. In all situations, it has felt good knowing you have friends out there thinking about you.

Get into the batter’s box and get ready to take your swings. Practice being a part of the team. Learn which position you play best, so when the time comes, you will be able to step into the position and play like a professional because you know you are part of the team. You will be ready for whatever life throws at you. You can hit it out of the park, even if it is a curveball.

Michigan’s New Car Insurance Legislation has gone into effect

Ron Runyan
Department Adjutant

As I am sitting at my desk here in Lansing, I’m exploring ideas about what important information you as members should know about. Being so close to our state capital and knowing the new insurance reform is about to take place, this was a good topic everyone should know about. This is for all ages if you are a registered car driver that pays car insurance.

Starting July 2, 2020, the new insurance reform took place. This could mean an increase or a decrease in your insurance premium that you pay. In no way is The American Legion advising you to make choices based solely on this article, but we want to inform our membership of legislation and options that you, as consumers, should be aware of.

PIP – Personal Injury Protection is the focus of the new legislation. All Michigan insured drivers have paid PIP and MCCA since 1972. This insurance protection was very inexpensive back in 1972 but now has escalated where many Michigan drivers opt to not pay for car insurance at all due to its expense. The new legislation allows you as an insured driver to opt-out or alters how much insurance you think you need, whereby saving money on your premium. There are six options for PIP that you can choose from, depending on your age and health coverage.

1) Unlimited coverage: which is what we all have been paying for since 1972
2) $500,000 Coverage
3) $250,00 Coverage
4) $250,000 Coverage with persons excluded
5) $50,000 with Medicare
6) PIP OPT-OUT: which is for Medicare A & B and must be 65 years of age

Adjusting your insurance must make sense to you and your family. In many cases, if you modify the current Unlimited coverage, typically, the premiums are going to be decreased. However, there are some cases bases on a region you live in or is continuing with the unlimited PIP plan the rates could be increased.

If you do nothing with your current insurance or provider, your current coverage will continue as is with the Unlimited PIP plan in place.

Here are four things we want to promote:

1) Contact your agent or current provider for information
2) Know your medical risks with changes
3) Know the area you live in or if moving to and how this can affect rates
4) Keep up to date with your carrier or agency

There are also many videos you can watch on YouTube to become more educated and make wise decisions for you and your loved ones.

Mayor Mike Duggan https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zez3UVgw5Uo

Stay safe and healthy, and we will be here for you if needed.
**Membership News**

**An Active Post is a Growing Post**

Brian Mohlman  
Membership Director  
Especially during a crisis

My name is Brian Mohlman, I am a member of Post 257, in Battle Creek, and I am humbled to have been asked by Commander Wood to be the Membership Director for 2020-2021. The Membership Team also includes assistant Membership Director Scott Nichols, from Post 412, in Bath, U.P. Membership Director David Spencer, from Post 323, in Pickford, and DMS Coordinator Jena Wilmers, from Post 1111, in Walker, along with the departments five-zone commanders.

Our focus will be providing direct support to your Post Membership Teams. We know the COVID-19 pandemic has been hard on some Posts and members, but we are here to help. Do you need help with training, Buddy Check’s, or understanding of programs? Let us help raise the membership in your Post.

Membership is an ongoing process for every Post. I know from experience that it can be challenging to recruit new members, and ask current members to renew membership year after year. When I became a member of Post 257 a few years ago, the Post had 50 members, but only three showed up to the meetings. There was talk that the Post should be disbanded, since there was little activity, and we met on the Michigan National Guard Base in Battle Creek at the time.

However, after joining, encouraging, volunteering, and finding other like-minded members, the Post now has 138 members, we recently acquired an old church for a Post home, and we are ACTIVE. During this COVID Pandemic, I am more convinced than ever that an active Post is a growing Post. Your Post can grow too, because...

**Programs and services to the community drive membership.**

As we emerge from the fog of the Coronavirus pandemic, the picture is crystal clear, Posts that focused on programs of The American Legion are not only in a better position to succeed but have experienced growth during the last few months. Programs that focus on service to our community and its Veterans have brought an influx of new interest among Veterans and their family members. Communities have a strong desire to be a part of an organization that makes a difference in their daily lives through volunteerism and service.

The Department Membership Team is ready to help you and your Post be successful in 2020-2021. In addition to the tools and support we will be providing to your Post, we have also developed a new results-based membership Incentive structure. The results will be based on the membership report released on May 21, 2021. The goals of this new structure are to provide an incentive that is substantial... worth your effort, promotes competition, not everyone gets a trophy, and carries you to the finish line.

**1st District**
- July 12, via ZOOM
- Sep. 6, Post 207, Portage
- Nov. 8, Post 298, Battle Creek
- Jan. 10, 2021, via ZOOM

**2nd District**
- Jul 7, Post 154, Wyoming
- Jan 14, 2021, Post 179, Grandville
- Mar. 11, 2021, Post 6, Holland
- May 13, 2021, Post 28, Grand Haven

**3rd District**
- Post Membership Incentives will have three categories, with the winner of each category receiving $2,000, 2nd Place receives $1,000, and 3rd Place receives $500.

**Category 1** – Post that exceeds Goal by Highest Percentage (Favors small to mid-size Posts)

**Category 2** – Post that exceeds Goal by Highest Number of Members (Favors mid-size to Large Posts)

**Category 3** – Post that is most improved from the immediately previous year (Based on % above last year in whole numbers + actual number of Members above goal) Any size Post can win

We look forward to working with you during this new membership year, and we are ready to provide you with the tools, training, motivation, and inspiration you need to continue your service to our community, State, and Nation!

**The New Membership Year Begins Today!**

**Are you ready to get started?**

Do you have your 2021 Membership Cards from Department? If not, have the post adjutant send the post officer list, a post-audit, and the post indemnification insurance form with $10 to the department. Those forms were sent to each adjutant a few weeks ago.

Once Deanna has that information, she will send the post their cards.

Assemble your post membership team. There was a great guide created by the national organization several years ago called the “Membership Team Training Guide.” Although the print version is no longer available, we have placed the PDF version on the Michiganlegion.org/membership website for download. I highly recommend it to a post that is serious about growing membership.

It talks about having three teams for membership with different roles. Those teams are the contact team, new member team, and retention team. Each team has specific duties to concentrate on and should develop systems to be used by future teams for the post. The guide explains in detail what each team should focus on. This guide makes an excellent beginning for the new membership year.

**Recruit – Renew – Retain**

- **District Meetings**
  - **1st District**
    - July 12, via ZOOM
  - **2nd District**
    - Jul 7, Post 154, Wyoming
  - **3rd District**
    - Post 6, Holland
    - Nov. 8, Post 298, Battle Creek
    - Jan. 10, 2021, via ZOOM
  - **Executive Board at 11:30 am, Meeting at 1 pm**
  - **4th District**
    - Jul 9, Post 6, Holland
    - Sep. 10, Post 376, Marne
    - Nov. 12, Post 154, Wyoming
  - **5th District**
    - Jan 14, 2021, Post 179, Grandville
    - Mar. 11, 2021, Post 6, Holland
    - May 13, 2021, Post 28, Grand Haven
  - **6th District**
    - Memorial at 11 a.m. - Lunch at noon – Meeting at 1 p.m.
    - Sep. 13, Post 419, Pinckney

- **7th District**
- **8th District**
- **9th District**
- **10th District**
- **11th District/12th District/UP Association Meetings**
  - **16th District**
    - Sep. 8, Post 409, Allen Park (Dual)
    - Oct. 13, Post 389, Riverview (Serv. Off. Sch.)
    - Nov. 10, Post 337, Flat Rock
    - Dec. 8, Post 478, Southgate (Serv. Off. Sch.)
  - **17th District**
    - Jan. 12, 2021, Post 232, Dearborn Heights
    - Feb. 9, 2021, Post 364, Dearborn (Serv. Off. Sch.)
    - Mar. 9, 2021, Post 217, Wyandotte
  - **18th District**
    - Apr. 13, 2021, Post 426, Trenton (Serv. Off. Sch.)
    - May 11, 2021, Post 67, Lincoln Park, Memorial/Elections
    - June 8, 2021, Post 396, Garden City
  - **19th District**

Please send district meetings to info@michiganlegion.org

**Renew your membership TODAY!!**

Visit www.legion.org/renew

Save time, use a credit card on a secured site, avoid renewal notices.

**After you renew print the receipt with the temporary card pictured and see your Post Adjutant for your new 2021 card.**

2020 Membership Goal: 64,290  June 25, Total: 57,903-90.07%
A Year of Change, and Challenge

It does not seem like another year has passed already. Our 2019 – 2020 year has been quite eventful. Numerous obstacles have been overcome, and the laying of the path to a successful future is in process. There have been changes made to help us grow and become more efficient with our programs and our accounting system. We have had to develop procedures to continue operation under the pandemic. This indeed has been a year of change, and challenge, I commend our Department Officers and our Committee Chairmen for being perseverant. I want to thank our District officers and our Unit officers for being there for our membership as we continue to grow. The pandemic may have temporarily grounded the majority; however, we continue to serve our Veterans and their families in many ways while practicing safe distancing.

The Auxiliary member is strong and endures many challenges as they meet them head-on.

I look forward to the Fall Conference and the sharing of ideas and reporting.

I want to thank Brandy and Carol for all the work they have accomplished while the office has been closed. We have all been working from home. I don’t know what we would do without the internet!

I was very surprised, and I accept the challenge and look forward to more exciting and rewarding experiences, as 2020 – 2021 unfolds.

Thank all of you for your support, and please practice safe distancing. Stay safe and healthy.

God Bless our Veterans and their families and our active-duty military.

In Memory...
Kimberly S. Champion, Department Chaplain

Almighty and Eternal God, we thank thee for Thy many mercies; save, preserve and bless the people of this great land; grant peace to the world, to all civil authorities, to our Armed Forces both present and past, to all Thy people; for every good and perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from Thee, the Creator of Light. Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, always, both now and forevermore. Amen.

I hope this finds everyone and their families during this difficult time well and staying safe.

MEMORIAL GARDEN
Virginia Johnson, Unit 47, District 5
Vera Oom, Unit 28, District 5
Irene Johnson, Unit 27, District UPPA

Respectfully submitted,
For God and Country

Supporting Frontline COVID Workers
ALA Unit 119

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 119, in Linden has shown support and appreciation for COVID-19 pandemic medical personnel by delivering trays of orange snacks for 15 medical stations at Ascension Genesys, McLaren and Hurley Hospitals in Genesee County. Picture is Left, Betty Smith, Right Pat Lozano, Center Nurse Sophia of Hurley Hospital. Donations provided by Linden Alpine MarketPlace and Detroit Lucido & Sons Produce. Laurie LaLonde of ALA 267 Davison and Diana Warden of Fenton ALA 38 Fenton assisted with deliveries.

Do you have something to share with other Units?
Do you have pictures and a story of an event or program your Unit participated in?
We want to share your Units successes with everyone!
Send a high resolution picture, with names, and a short story about what they were doing.
Send them to info@michalaux.org.

Next deadline is August 1, for the September issue.
Auxiliary Membership Report
Anita L. Mennel, Membership Chairman

Welcome to the temporary new way of life! I am optimistic, perhaps a bit of a rebel, and chose not to accept this as the “new normal.” It may take a while, but I believe we will get thru this and back to “normal” as we know it. We are “wrapping up” our membership year, and awards accomplished will be handed out at our first conference-prayerfully in September. BUT we are not finished YET. We were on a great forward motion, and now seem to be standing in place. As madame President Georgia reminded us last month, there is a challenge in place with Kansas. It is STILL very close, so we need to meet those dates, please get those last renewals/rejoins/new members sent into Dept. There is a separation of membership years, even with the ‘continuation as is,’ caused by COVID-19.

How did that One week of caring and sharing go in your unit? Did SOMEONE complete and send in the report? Maybe that SOMEONE is you! There is another individual award deadline quickly approaching: R/R5 Recruit/Rejoin 5 • Award: Special gift from the National Membership chairman (gift will be different for each deadline) • Presented to Members who recruit or rejoin five or more Auxiliary Junior or Senior members into the 2020 membership year. Note: Rejoins must not have paid dues after the 2017 membership year. That date is Flag Day: June 14th. Again, with the L.E.G.I.O.N. Act, the spouse of a veteran is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

It’s been a good year with a crazy ending, and I am so excited to report our amazing member’s hard work, show in our numbers. Now a challenge, change those numbers into members! As we in Michigan begin to open up, we have our work cut out for us to get back to working our mission and keeping our moto-to-Service, not Self. I can assure that first gathering will be very different, make sure you are there

Be kind to yourself, take care, be safe, and complete and turn your success stories!

Hugs till then... R/R/R

For God and country

Attention Veteran Stakeholder
Ryan Engle, MVAA Partner Coordinator

As a veteran stakeholder, you may have been familiar with the Buddy-to-Buddy program previously operated by University of Michigan Medicine’s Military Support Programs and Networks (M-SPAN). Recognizing the value of veteran mentorship in the State’s communities, MVAA has worked collaboratively with M-SPAN to transition elements of their former program to MVAA, and to ultimately implement it into an MVAA initiative: MVAA Buddy to Buddy. The below was shared with you merely for awareness, and for you to share as appropriate within your network(s) of veterans. If you know of veterans interested in participating as a volunteer veteran mentor, please feel free to send them the information I included below.

Lastly, if/as you share this information within your network(s), I request you perhaps take an additional moment to consider; specifically, the demographic of veterans you have the capability to reach and/or encourage to be a mentor. To MVAA, it’s important we ensure all veterans, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or other identifiers, have equitable access to benefits, resources, and information. They served us. We serve them. Similarly, veterans looking for a mentor may thrive and benefit more from a veteran mentor possessing a similar background and/or experience(s). Ensuring we have the ability to provide such connections based on individual desire is important to us. I merely request you consider that in any outreach on this, you conduct, as we certainly will as well. Summarily, does the opportunity exist to reach often underrepresented or underserved veteran populations through your networks, to create a diverse network of veteran mentors to serve our diverse veteran population in Michigan?

I hope this finds you well.

The MVAA is calling for volunteers for its new Buddy to Buddy Veteran Mentorship Initiative, which will support service members and veterans of all eras in Michigan by linking them to resources that address a variety of issues. The initiative, which replaces the University of Michigan program of a similar name, is intended to be active in all Michigan counties and ultimately help service members and veterans thrive. It’s about one veteran helping another.

If you’re interested in volunteering, fill out the application form bit.ly/3c-qVYKq and email it to MVAA-B2B@michigan.gov or contact the Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET to have the application mailed to you.

Rest Area Signs are Installed

In 1968, the U.S. Congress designated I-75 from Sault Saint Marie, down to the tip of Key West Florida as The American Legion Memorial Highway in honor of the Legion’s 50th anniversary. The Department of Michigan worked with the Michigan Department of Transportation in 1968-1969 to have signs placed at each of the rest areas along I-75 in Michigan. In 2018, the Department of Michigan, to celebrate the Legion’s 100th anniversary, the Department Centennial Committee started a program to replace the 50-year signs. With the generosity from Legion Posts, Legionnaires, and SAL Squadrons, the Department was able to purchase 19 new signs. Some of the original signs had fallen into disrepair or were missing altogether.

As of July 1, the 100-year signs have been placed at each rest area (except for one along southbound I-75 just north of Grayling; building restrictions do not allow a sign there.) If you are traveling I-75 in Michigan this summer, check out the signs and share a picture with hash tag #MILEGION on social media.
**Training: Tips for Post Adjutants - Let's Begin with the Basics**

Welcome aboard Post Adjutants! With a new membership year beginning July 1, it is a good time to go over the basics for Post Adjutants to make sure your Post is compliant with State and Federal requirements.

Whether you have been doing the adjutant position a while or not, the following is helpful to know:

Have you read the Post Bylaws, understand the requirements for expending money, quorums, and other specifics the Post bylaws require?

Have you read the Department Bylaws (visit michiganlegion.org)?

Have you read the latest issue of the American Legion Post Officer Guide and Post Adjutant Manual? Visit legion.org/publications for PDF versions. Your District Commander should have a copy for you.

Is the Post registered and using MYLEGION.ORG? Note: only one account is given to each Post, and national will give access to the Post Commander registered with national. If you have questions about mylegion.org, contact Deanna Clark at (517) 371-4720 ext. 124

Answer the following questions regarding your local Post. Check to ensure these items are completed or looked into so the Post stays current. Some questions might not apply to your Post.

**TAXES**

1. Federal Taxes: Do you file 990 tax forms? Have the forms been filed each year?
2. State Taxes or fees: Is the Post current on payments to the State of Michigan for employment taxes, gaming, sales tax, or liquor fees?
3. If the Post pays property taxes, are they current?
4. Are copies of returns and payments on file at the Post?

**CORPORATION STATUS**

1. Are the incorporation papers of the Post current?
2. Are the Michigan License And Regulatory Agency Corporation fees paid and renewed? Michigan.gov/lara

**INSURANCE**

1. Does the Post have an adequate amount of insurance coverage for Fire, Theft, General Liability, Special Events/Rentals, Bond for those who handle money, and DRAM Shop or host liquor liability?
2. Have the policies been reviewed, so the Post is certain they have proper coverage?
3. Is the amount sufficient?

**GENERAL LEGAL PROTECTION**

1. Does the Post have a lawyer?
2. Does the Post have a CPA?
3. Has the Post had an outside audit by a CPA conducted? This should be done annually.
4. Are contracts and agreements with employees (if any), vendors, and facility providers reviewed by a lawyer?
5. Does Post maintain and use Department and National Constitution and By-Laws and guidelines for the of Posts such as Officers’ Guide and Manual of Ceremonies and Post Operation Guide?

**Training: Tips for Post Commanders**

Being entrusted as the Post Commander by your peers is an honor and a privilege. The members have placed their trust and confidence in you to lead the Post in the coming 12 months. What if you became commander, and you are not sure precisely what it is the commander duties entail? Let's start with some basics.

Have you taken The American Legion Basic Course available at www.legion.org/alei? If not, please do and learn about the history of this great organization.

Some things to remember, the commander position does not mean you are the only one working; all of the work does not fall on you. Develop a team of members who will help you achieve goals for the year.

What kind of teams do you need? Team up with your post adjutant and finance officer to ensure the financial position of the Post is sound.

Ask for volunteers to create a membership team that will Recruit, Retain, and Renew members.

- Read the Post Bylaws, and follow the procedures they might layout for your Post to follow.
- Read the 2020 Post Officer Guide
- Read each issue of the Michigan Legionnaire
- Read Parliamentary Procedures booklet from Emblem Sales. (Call department they might have some in stock to send to you.)

For your meetings, have a meeting agenda prepared with the help of the Post adjutant to know what you will be discussing. Remember, you have help; if you have questions, start by asking Past Post Commanders questions, get to know your District Commanders, and attend District Meetings, Department Conferences, and Conventions. Don't forget the help Department is available; the staff is always willing to answer questions you might have.

The strength of The American Legion is at the Post level; if the Post is strong, the organization is strong.

**CLUB LIQUOR LICENSES**

1. Has the Post filed appropriate fees with Michigan Liquor Control Commission? Michigan.gov/lcc

Do you have your 2021 membership cards? If not, have you sent in your 2021 Office list, audit form, and $10 Post Indemnity Insurance to the department? Department will not send membership cards until they receive all three of those items. Contact Deanna Clark at (517) 371-4720 ext. 124.

How can the Post receive American Legion brochures, applications, early-bird stickers, and booklets? Contact Deanna Clark, email member@michiganlegion.org.
8th District, Improvising, and Adapting, Saying Thank You to Truckers
Art Diffin, District Commander

Posts in the 8th District have been busy these last few months. Membership was on everyone’s mind as we headed into the final weeks of the drive. The District did an outstanding job finishing the year amid the pandemic with a record number of renewals, transfers, and new members joining. We had four posts achieving 100% renewal, with some growing by more than 20%. Members conducted a district-wide revitalization that generated more than 30 new members. The revitalization was an amazing effort, and the district leadership team wants to thank each and every member for their hard work.

Even during the initial shut down, the District found ways to give back to the communities they serve. Elsie Post 502 organized an event at two major truck stops to show appreciation to front line workers who kept our Country going during the early days of the pandemic. CDR. Nethaway brought together more than 20 members from two different posts as well as community volunteers for the event. The group gave away homemade cookies, bottles of water, face masks, and C/D’s donated by a local musician to truck drivers who have stopped to rest or refuel. The group will be at the Road Trip Oasis in Perry on July 11th and Loves Truck Stop in Grand Ledge on July 16th from 10 am – 2 pm both dates. Contact CDR Nethaway (989-277-3480) if you’d like to help or donate to the event.

The Legion Coordinates Food Box Distribution in Southeast Michigan

The American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee partnered with the Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition and Gleaners Food Bank of Michigan to distribute food boxes to Veterans, seniors, or families in need.

Legionnaires, Veterans, and community volunteers distributed 500 food boxes at 2951 Woodward Ave in Detroit on Monday, June 29. Veterans at the Michigan Veteran Foundation, and at Piquette Square received boxes of food as well.

Thank you to the Detroit Police Department for helping with the event and taking boxes to a shelter nearby.

On May 29, the Committee held their first of 5 total distributions at the Edward C. Headman Post 217, in Wyandotte. With help from Legionnaires, Veterans, the Downriver Firefighters, and Wyandotte Police, 400 boxes of food went to needy Veterans, Seniors, and families.

The events were contactless distribution; drivers stayed in their vehicle while volunteers loaded a food box into the trunk or rear of the car.

Check the michiganlegion.org website for three events in July.
SCOUTING NEWS

Continuing the Legacy

Jason Sansburn, District 10 Scouting Chairman

Looking through some old photos, I came across some black and white photos. Two young boys in Scouting uniforms stood next to my grandfather. One wore a Boy Scout uniform and the other a Cub Scout uniform of the early ’60s. The younger boy was my father, and the other was my uncle Bill. Even at an early age, my family realized the importance of the Scouting program. My grandmother was a Den mother, and eventually, my father moved up to the Boy Scout program.

My uncle enrolled his son in the Scouting program, and in 1990 he earned his Eagle Scout. While growing up in the Scouting program, my cousin Rick saw the value of the program. When the time came, his family enrolled their son in Cub Scouting. When their daughter came of age, she was signed up for Girl Scouts of the USA. His son is currently in Scouts BSA and a Star Scout. My cousin’s daughter is a Girl Scout who has earned her Bronze award. My father advanced into Boys Scouts and attained the rank of First Class. When it was time for his sons to enter the program, we were both enrolled in Cub Scouting. Both myself and my brother earned our Arrow of Lights in Cub Scouting and attained the rank of Eagle Scout in 1994 and 1999, respectively. My youngest son earned his Eagle Scout in 2017. My nephew is currently a Life Scout working on his Eagle Scout.

Our father is an Assistant Scoutmaster at the time; my brother and I were able to spend a little more time with him. He taught us many things in the Scouting way. He and my uncle too reminisced about their time as Scout. When he formed Troop 101 in 1991, my brother and I, of course, followed. Completing merit badges and working toward my Eagle Scout, I was the senior Scout of the troop. My father ensured that I developed good leadership and learned what it was to be a servant leader. He had completed the Wood Badge and passed that information along to both my brother and me.

Regrettably, our father passed away in October of 2013. Only eight short months after my son crossed over into Boy Scouts. Neither my son nor my nephew had the ability to Scout with their grandfather, who was still very active in troop and district affairs. It is those times that I know he would grumble as he rolled out of his cot on a weekend campout to be there with his boys. The smile was coming from under that more salt than pepper mustache as he worked with all Scouts. There are many times that I feel him there, with a hand on my shoulder guiding me.

Cold days huddled around a campfire trying to stay warm, years of going to summer camp at Camp Rotary or Paul Bunyan Scout Reservation, making the proverbial Schrodinger meal (both cooked and raw at the same time), these are the memories I have of Scouting in my youth with my father and brother. These same experiences are what I wanted to have (and have had) with my son and now possibly with my grandsons and granddaughters.

One of the benefits of having been a Scout is sharing that enthusiasm with your child. Doing the hard work for a pinewood derby car and being there for them even if they come in last. While they grow through the program, adding their memories to yours in hopes that one day there will be a third-generation (or fourth in our case) of Scouting in the family. Sharing in their experiences whether it is a weekend campout, National Order of the Arrow Conference or National Jamboree if you are privileged enough. I was lucky enough to be my son’s Scoutmaster for his Troop, National Jamboree Troop in 2017, and attend the 2018 NOAC with him at Indiana University Bloomington. Attending these events in his twilight years of Scouting as a youth made it mean that much more. To any and all Scouting parents’ past and present reading this, thank you for your work and continue your legacy, it never ends.

It is the belief that the Scouting programs, whether Girl Scouts of the USA or Scouts BSA, can still benefit the youth of today. They instill morals, teach skills not always found in a book, an appreciation for the world around us, and a code to live life by. When asked what Scouting has done for me, the examples are too numerous to give here. As a veteran and Scout leader, what I live for is that look on a Scout’s face when they have understood something or mastered their first knot or lashing, receiving their first rank advancement, merit badge, or event patch. By teaching the skills that I had learned in Scouting as a youth and some from my time in the Marine Corps, my goal has always been to ensure that Scouts can become young men and women, self-sufficient, and pass on the knowledge to those that come after them.

MI Legionnaire Opt Out

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

Name: _______________________________________________
Member ID #:__________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________
City: ________________________________________________
State: _____ Zip Code: _____________________________
E-mail Address: ______________________________________
Signature: __________________________________________
Support the Michigan Boys State Program
Golfing for a Good Cause

Join us Thursday, September 17, 2020
at the Genesee Valley Golf Course
5499 Miller Rd., Swartz Creek 48473

$65 per golfer includes:
- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Hot dog, chips, & Pop at the turn
- Dinner at GVGC after golf (dinner only $20)
- Awards for closest to the pin and longest drive.

Option events:
- Skins, $20 per team
- Raffle & Prize tickets
- 50/50 drawing

Register by September 1, 2020
Shotgun start at 8:30 a.m.

Message from Boys State Director
Jerry Kelley

Boys State 2020 was canceled due to the coronavirus. So, we are excited to be working on plans for Boys State 2021 and activities that will help us with recruitment and fundraising.

At this time, we are also planning for our annual Golf Outing on September 17 at the Genesee Valley Country Club. While we are looking for a record number of golfers, we are also asking all Posts, SALs, and Auxiliary Units for help to provide items for our silent auction, which will be held on the 19th hole. Golf Team applications and Hole Sponsor applications are available on the Boys State and Girls State web-sites and Facebook Pages.

As we plan for 2021, we are looking for a committee member and an alternate from the UP. We also need a doctor, nurse, or EMT for the week of Boys State. Any help with these two items will be much appreciated.
**More Scouting News**

**Scouting Sub-Committee Report**

Clyde Sinclair, Chairman

Outstanding! The history-making accomplishments of the last year are evidence of what can be accomplished when dedicated Legionnaires come together, committed to doing something great.

During the weekend of October 18 – 20, 2019, the Department held its first camporee at the Wilwin property. In attendance were 15 Scout Troops comprised of over 200 scouts and leaders from all areas of the state. In addition to the scouts, 20 Legionnaires, Scouters, and other volunteers worked together as Camporee Staff, providing great leadership and encouragement to the attending guests.

The scouts were provided with numerous activities, including signaling, lashing, compass, first aid, fire building, memory work, and animal tracking.

In addition to the exciting activities noted above, scouts attending the camporee had the special opportunity to participate in the 2019 Jamboree On The Air (JOTA). Jamboree-on-the-Air, or JOTA, is the largest Scouting event in the world. It is held annually on the third full weekend in October. JOTA uses amateur radio to link Scouts and hams around the world, around the nation, and in our communities.

Relying on their military experience, our comme guys rigged a field radio and assisted the scouts in participating in JOTA. As the day progressed, members of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association arrived in their radio van and assisted in the JOTA. We owe the Grand Rapids radio men a special thank you.

Planning for the 2020 Camporee is already in progress, and it promises to be even bigger and more exciting for all who attend. The camporee will be held on October 16 – 18 and will again coincide with JOTA.

The continued development of the Wilwin Lodge property into a popular Scouting area is key to our mission of supporting Scouting and all youth. It is through this kind of involvement that we can best instill the character of Americanism into our youth and tomorrow’s leaders.

The committee is currently discussing various improvements to the scouting area, such as installing a permanent flag pole, storage shed, campsite signage, pavilion, toilets, and many other ideas. We ask that all legion members support our efforts with a generous financial donation.

This year we were presented with two applications for the Eagle Scout of the Year Scholarship, each being a great candidate. After reviewing both applications, the candidate committee selected Thomas Witten of Troop 360, chartered by the St. John Fisher Chapel of Auburn Hills.

Regular communications with all Legion chartered scout units are continuing in an effort to build camaraderie among Legion units. We are looking ahead to a time in the future where we can hold a Legion Unit rally at the Wilwin property.

In an effort to encourage and promote Americanism and Scouting, six articles were submitted and published in the MILegionnaire during the past year. We are indebted to the editorial staff for their continued encouragement.

In closing, part of being a Scout is going on a journey to understand who you are and what you stand for. Everyone is unique, but there are some things all Scouts and Scouters can agree on. We call these Scout values. They’re at the heart of who we are and what we do. And we think they’re rather important: A Scout is Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent.

It is the hope and goal of the Scouting Committee that each American Legion Post participates in Scouting either as a Charter Member or as a source of mentors. Our nation desperately needs a generation of young people who live by the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

“On my Honor, I will do my best to do my Duty to God and my Country, to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times, to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.”

**Junior Shooting Sports Committee**

Wayne Blank, Chairman

Congratulations to the Gene See Career Institute Army JROTC received the highest score in the Sporter discipline for the State of Michigan and is considered the Team State Champion in The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports National Postal Tournament. Bernard A. Bendle Post 294, Swartz Creek sponsors the Gene See Career Institute Army JROTC team.

Congratulations also go to the William F. Weine Post 65, Alpena, Junior Shooting team. The Post JSS team traveled to Bay City to a state tournament sponsored by the Michigan Rifle and Pistol Association and the Civilian Marksmanship Program in January. The team won three places in the individual competition, and also claimed the State Championship title in the Sporter three-position Air Rifle category. Advance ment to the CMP center in Ohio for the National Championships was canceled due to the COVID-19 stay home orders.

We look forward to seeing them compete again soon.

There are two ways a Post can participate in the Junior Shooting Sports program. One way is to sponsor a group of air-rifle shooters from a local gun or conservation club. The second way is to start a club in the Post if there is have space.

To learn more, visit legion.org/shooting or contact me at (734)770-0201 or email at blankeeman@yahoo.com.

Firearm safety and competition is a great way to engage in a local community.

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**2020 Summer Sweepstakes Winners**

The drawing was held at the Department Headquarters on June 27 after the Department Executive Committee meeting.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Richard Scovill</td>
<td>Fennville</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Willie Jones</td>
<td>Clinton Twp</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Benjamin Washington Jr</td>
<td>Grand Rapids</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>James Shadow</td>
<td>Paw Paw</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Timothy Welsh</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>William Nooney</td>
<td>Richland</td>
<td>$500</td>
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Michiganlegion.org | July/August 2020 | MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE
Fisher House of Ann Arbor is Open for Business

Dear Michigan Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons, and Riders,

It is with great joy and humble gratitude that we announce the opening of Michigan's first Fisher House! From the beginning, and with the leadership of Past State Commander Steve Striggow, you have tirelessly supported the capital build for the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House.

In fact, your efforts have meant raising over $400,000 for the $20 million goal for this capital campaign! What's more, you helped raise awareness of the Fisher House mission and were a part of getting Detroit approved as the future site of another Michigan Fisher House.

Beginning June 1, the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House will welcome families and caregivers of military members and Veterans who are hospitalized. This temporary home away from home is appointed with the finest furniture, linens, and décor. Truly, the Fisher House in Ann Arbor is a work of art.

Unfortunately, gathering hundreds of us to celebrate the dedication of this house at this time is not wise – but, when we do celebrate, you MUST be there! We have described Fisher Houses with words. We have shown you photographs and videos. However, until you set foot inside and speak to families who are directly benefiting from this beautiful resource, you still won't understand the full impact a Fisher House can have.

Your gifts are making a huge impact for Fisher House families. For those who would like to support the continuing effort to bring a Fisher House to the John D Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit, and for those who would like to help Fisher House Michigan augment support for the families staying in Ann Arbor, please learn more at https://www.fisherhousemichigan.org/

For information on eligibility, the referral process, and reservations for the VA Ann Arbor Fisher House, please contact the Fisher House Staff: https://www.annarbor.va.gov/services/Fisher_House.asp

Respectfully, and with gratitude,

Kate Melcher

Executive Director, Fisher House Michigan
Veteran Services News

2020 Post Service Officer School News

This year seems to have been a constant flow of cancelations. Unfortunately, the Richard Morrison Post Service Officer training at the Ralph McMullen Conference Center is another event that we have to cancel due to COVID-19.

However, because we have been adapting to constant change, we will be holding online webinars for Post Service Officers, some may be live to answer questions, some may be short videos for viewing. An internet connection will be required.

How do you find out about the training?

The online training curriculum is in development, point your web browser to www.mivabenefits.org, and there will be a sign-up form to receive notifications when they become available.

We know in-person training allows for more in-depth interactions with each other, and we look forward to being back at Higgins Lake in 2021.

Do you know a Veteran in need of Food?

The American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Announcement!

In partnership with Gleaners Community Food Bank and other community groups, they will be distributing 40-pound food boxes to Veterans, seniors, and families in need in July. If you know a Veteran, senior, or family in need of a food box, please let them know about these locations.

- Thursday, July 9 at the Harry Ollrich American Legion Post 4, at 401 N Groesbeck Hwy, Mount Clemens, starting at 10 a.m. until the boxes are gone. There will be 500 boxes to distribute.
- Friday, July 17 at the Otter Miller Jr. Post 396, at 6860 Middlebelt Rd, Garden City, time TBA. There will be 500 boxes to distribute.
- Monday, July 20, in Oakland County, location TBA. Check michiganlegion.org for the exact date and time or the department's Facebook page.

Volunteers, if you would like to volunteer to help distribute boxes, please arrive one hour before the event. Also, email info@michiganlegion.org and indicate the number of volunteers coming in your group.

Attention Wayne County Veterans!

Did you know the Wayne County Veteran Services Office has a new director? Not totally new, but if you have not met him yet, then he is new, and he is making a difference. He is ready to help Wayne County Veterans!

Kwesi Betserai spent ten years in the U.S. Army and reached the rank of Major. His background is in logistics, so he understands about getting goods and services to those in need. He has spent the last year and a couple of months helping veterans in the county.

His message to Wayne County Veterans is that he is ready to help Veterans in need. The Wayne County Soldiers & Sailors Relief Fund is there to help needy veterans, or a spouse, widow/widower, or minor children of a veteran.

To be eligible, the veteran must have wartime era service, be honorably discharged, and be unable to provide the basic necessities of life without causing hardship to or your family.

In some cases, with Veterans and their families, they may be eligible for funeral expense assistance.
2020 American Legion Department of Michigan Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year

1992 Michigan American Legion Student Trooper Graduate named 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for the Department of Michigan

Michigan Conservation Officer Jeffery Ginn from Newaygo District 4 for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been named The American Legion Department of Michigan and The American Legion Central Division 2020 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2020.

Officer Ginn has been serving his community and state since most of his life, starting as a boy scout and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. He attended the 1992 American Legion Department of Michigan Student Trooper program, which gave him a guide to life and wanting to become a Law Enforcement Officer.

He served as a firefighter, then joined the Michigan State Police in 2000. After six years of service with MSP, he resigned and joined the DNR-LED, and had to attend a new academy for training. He has served as a Conservation officer for the past 13 years.

Officer Ginn has been recognized four times over his career for life-saving courage during his performance of his duties. First Lt. Joe Molnar, DNR nominated Officer Ginn, and Algot Johnson Post 69, in Whitehall supported the nomination.

A United States Marine Corps Veteran and Fort Dearborn Post 364 member is named 2020 American Legion Department of Michigan Firefighter of the Year.

Lt. Jeremy Kurek has been a firefighter for the past 22 years. The first four years were spent as an Aircraft firefighter in the United States Marine Corps and the past 18 years in the city of Dearborn.

From Joseph Murrey, Fire Chief, City of Dearborn says it best:

Jeremy is a decorated member of our Fire Department and has continuously undertaken his duties with courage, dedication, and selflessness. Jeremy has made a positive impact on thousands of lives throughout his time with our Department. In his firefighting duties, he has always excelled. His knowledge of our job is comprehensive and service oriented. Even more valuable than his knowledge of the job, though, is Jeremy’s willingness to share that knowledge with the younger generation of firefighters who will one day pick up our mantle. Jeremy has been instrumental in the development and training of our Rescue Task Force Teams and Active Assailant protocols. Jeremy’s work in this area has been recognized regionally as cutting edge and comprehensive. In the unfortunate event, we have an active assailant within our community; I am confident in our ability to respond thanks to Jeremy’s tireless efforts.

2020 American Legion Department of Michigan Five Zone Teachers of the Year

Each year The American Legion Department of Michigan selects five Michigan School Teachers, one from each Zone as Teacher of the Year. The nominations are due to the department by the first of April each year. Then the Department Education and Scholarship Committee selects one teacher per Zone.

Due to the coronavirus, we did not have a Department Convention to present awards to them, but plans will be made to ensure proper recognition of their achievement.

The following teachers were selected as the Department of Michigan’s Teachers of the Year.

From the 1st Zone, 1st District, JROTC Command Sargent Major Kenneth Covington from Chandler Park Academy High School in Harper Woods was selected.

The JROTC program has a drill team, an academic games team, a cadet challenge team, a rifle team, and a robotics team. Competitions are traditionally held on the weekends for interested cadets, as are parades and other JROTC events. Cadets with leadership ambitions may have the opportunity to attend the Junior Cadet Leadership Camp over the summer for one week. The Chandler Park Academy JROTC program recently received the honor of “Unit with Distinction” from the U.S. Department of the Army.

CSM Covington has his cadets participate in Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day events with local American Legion Posts.

From the 2nd Zone, 5th District, Amy Roth from Trinity Lutheran School in St. Joseph was selected.

As a Blue Star Mother, she actively engages her students to support the military. She sends care packages from her students overseas. She has classes write letters to service members and takes her students to Memorial Day parades to pass out flags.

Amy is a second-grade teacher and has developed a way to teach about the constitution by having her students write one for their class. She actively teaches about different cultures and emphasizes the values that are connected with American rights, freedoms, and responsibilities.

From the 3rd Zone, 7th District, Nicole McIntyre, English Teacher from Yale High School was selected.

Nicole was nominated due to her compassion and love for her “kids,” as well as her ability to impart the love of learning to all of her students. Nicole makes real-life connections with her students and coordinates her efforts in a cross-disciplinary manner so that her students see the importance and value of family, patriotism, and the characteristics and attributes of our countries foundations. Learning takes on a completely different feel as her students “connect the dots” of their role in helping making the love of country and the appreciation of such second nature.

From the 4th Zone, 10th District, Josh Lucas, Fifth-Grade Social Studies Teacher, from Surline Middle School in West Branch was selected.

In collaboration with the Ogemaw American Legion Post 103, Mr. Lucas created the Surline Middle School 5th Grade All American Award in the 2017-18 school year. To date, five students earned this award in 2018, and nine students were awarded in 2019.

From the 5th Zone, 11th District, Amanda Kemp, a teacher in the Brimley Area Schools, was selected.

As a substitute teacher, Amanda is uniquely positioned to touch the lives of many age groups. Because of her love of country, she has students write letters to Veterans and active military. She also volunteers for the I-500 International Snowmobile Race Queen Pageant. She organizes, trains, and choreographs a patriotic program the night before the race to crown a new I-500 Queen. In 2020, in partnership with The American Legion Department of Michigan, Commander Wood, and other Legionnaires became part of the program vote for a new queen.
The Only Written
Official Call
American Legion, Department of Michigan, Annual Fall Conference
September 18-20, 2020
Gateway Holiday Inn, Flint, Michigan
Department Commander Barry Wood

To be in compliance with current governor executive orders, the following is the official call of the 2020 Fall Conference. Call subject to change at any time if governor executive orders change. Changes will be posted at michiganlegion.org.

Attendees are asked to bring personnel protective equipment. All CDC protocols will be adhered to during the conference concerning PPE and social distancing.

Purpose: To implement plans for the new American Legion program year and to conduct the business of the American Legion, Department of Michigan. Department committees (who are called, see below) will meet to plan and discuss programs for the new year. The Department Executive Committee will meet to receive reports from the committee chairman. Schools of Instruction will be conducted on a variety of subjects.

The Department Executive Committee members, Department Committees, and Chairmen listed below are officially called to participate at the Holiday Inn Gateway Hotel, in Flint.

The following DEC members are called: Department Adjutant, Chaplain, Finance Officer, five Zone Commanders, National Executive Committee, Judge Advocate, Sergeant-at-Arms, Immediate Past Commander, Historian, and District Commanders.

The three Department Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms are called.

The following committees are called: Finance/Personnel, Internal Affairs, Permanent Time & Place.

The following committee chairmen are called to report to the DEC and to receive a school of instruction: Americanism, Baseball, Boys State, Children & Youth, Education & Scholarship, Legislative, Membership, National Security & Foreign Relations, Post Development, Media & Communications, Reconnect, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, Veteran Affairs Volunteer Services/Veteran Health Volunteer Services, and Veterans Employment & Education.

- Committee Chairmen listed above will hold a committee meeting between August 15 – September 14 through a phone conference or video conference method with their committees prior to Fall Conference. A meeting packet will be emailed prior to August 15.
- Headquarters will assist chairmen with arrangements if needed. Committees may utilize the department Zoom and Free Conference Call accounts.
- An invitation will be extended to the Department Commander and the Adjutant for each committee meeting.

Registrations: Registration fee is $15.00 for all members and guests.

Department Executive Committee meets Friday, September 18, at 4:00 p.m.

Department Committees that are called will meet Friday, September 18, at 9:00 a.m. See schedule in the September Legionnaire or at www.michiganlegion.org (available soon).

Schools of Instruction will be conducted on Saturday, September 19. See the September MI Legionnaire and conference brochure for a list of classes. Classes will be presented in person for committee chairmen, and the DEC, but also classes for all members will be made available via the internet, by Zoom Webinar, YouTube Live, or Facebook Live.

Department Executive Committee will reconvene on Saturday, September 19, at 4:00 p.m.

FAQ:
1. Will the DEC meet on Sunday? No, it is our intent to finish all business by 6:00 p.m. Saturday. Attendees are free to leave after the DEC meeting.
2. Will committee chairmen, be expected to stay the whole conference? Committee Reports will start at Friday’s DEC meeting, chairmen are expected to attend the school of instruction on Saturday, and per diem checks will be distributed after the school of instructions for those chairmen who gave reports on Friday.
3. Will there be a GNUTS? Due to the nature of executive orders, we will NOT have GNUTS.
4. If I am not being called to Fall Conference, may I still attend the conference? Yes, however, the department reserves the right to limit access to a meeting room if capacity levels are reached with call-in members.
5. Will training be made available to members? Yes, schools of instruction will be given via Zoom, Facebook Live, and/or YouTube Live on Saturday.

6. Are alternate district commanders allowed to attend? Yes.

The American Legion
Department of Michigan
2020 Fall Conference
September 17-19, 2020

Hotel reservations are your responsibility and may be made with our host hotel:

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre
5335 Gateway Center
Flint, MI 48507 - (810) 232-5300

A block of rooms will be available at the Holiday Inn Gateway and the Courtyard by Marriott until August 17, 2020. Mention reservation code TAL to secure our special room rate of $97.00 + 11% tax.

Courtyard Marriott Rate is $99 + tax

The American Legion requires that each person attending must register with the corporation and be issued an official badge to be allowed to attend any meeting, session or event.

Hosted by the Genesee County Convention Corporation

2020 Fall Conference Registrant Information

Please print legibly or fill out the form online and print it out.

NAME: 
ADDRESS: 
CITY/ST/ZIP: 
ADDITIONAL REGISTERING NAMES: 

$15.00 X (number of people registering) = $ (Please enclose)

Are your hotel reservations confirmed with the Holiday Inn Gateway (810-232-5300)? Yes ☐ No ☐
If not, then the Courtyard Marriott (810-232-3500)? Yes ☐ No ☐
Best Western Plus (810-233-9000)? Yes ☐ No ☐ Hyatt Place (810-424-9000)? Yes ☐ No ☐
Other accommodations? ☐ or I am commuting daily: Yes ☐ No ☐

Please provide the following contact information for registration confirmation:
Cell Ph: 
email: 

Contact Tim Hernandez with any questions at 810-653-0314 or timhmzd2@sbcglobal.net.

Registration fee is $15.00 per person.

Make your check payable to Genesee County Convention Corp. or simply to GCCC.

Mail to: Tim Hernandez, 719 E Chelsea Cir. Davison MI 48423-1204
Glenn Staley Post 422, Hale

The Glenn Staley Post 422, Hale, Color Guard participated in a Memorial Day at the American Legion Cemetery in Tawas. They have finished a memorial wall inside their Post home, and held a Flag Day retirement ceremony with Sons of the American Legion Squadron 422, VFW Post 7435 members, and members of VVA 882 participating.

Pictured above: The Fields-Myers-Smith-Dittenber Post 256, in St. Louis, awarded two $500 scholarships to local high school students. The awardees for 2020 are Jenna Jewell (l) of St. Louis High School, and Samuel Lobert (r) of Vestaburg High School.

Post 256’s scholarship program is open to local high school students who meet the following criteria. The student maintains a 3.5 grade point average, participates in two extra-curricular activities, volunteers a combined 14 hours of service to the community, school, and Post 256. They are also required to write a 500-word essay about a teacher, coach, or mentor who has made an impact in their life. The Post Officer’s review the applications and essays to determine if the student meets the requirements and are awarded a scholarship.

Union City American Legion Post 196, along with Union City Police Department, Fire Department, and Branch County Sheriff honored Veterans on Memorial Day at the cemetery, and they were able to use their new trailer for events.

The Robert Vroman American Legion Post 122, and the community in Wolverine, celebrated the life of Stan Sloan. Stan was the Post’s last World War II Veteran member, drafted in 1943, he trained at Ft. Riley and served in India, China, and Burma with the 124th Calvary division. The Post has a memorial box, and a horse carried the boots of Mr. Sloan that he wore during his tour of Burma during the celebration of his life.

Post Commander Bob Wallen, stated, “We need to appreciate and celebrate our Greatest Generation, while they are with us because we will miss them when they are gone.”

Submit your pictures and stories to info@michiganlegion.org