Win up to $5,000 in the Department Summer Sweepstakes

The 2020 Summer Sweepstakes is still on; we have a new location for drawing the winning tickets.

Will one of them be yours?

The 2020 Department Annual Convention has been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but we have received authorization to change the location of the drawing. The tickets will be drawn on June 27, at TAL Department headquarters. We will broadcast the ticket drawing on the Department Facebook page, watch for details for the time at michiganlegion.org.

Congratulations to SAL Member Phil Smith of Three Oaks, our $5,000 Fall Sweepstakes Winner!

Phil Smith is going into the spring season $5,000 ahead. Would $5,000 in July help 2020 go a little better, especially after the spring we have had? Would $500 help? We will find out on Saturday, June 27, 2020, at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo.

The Sweepstakes Keeps the Department on Track

Remember, the sweepstake has larger prizes now. First place is $5,000, second place $2,500, third place $1,500, fourth and fifth prize $1,000, and our sixth prize $500. Still $11,500 in total Sweepstakes, but a chance for you to WIN MORE MONEY! Return your tickets to WIN today.

On Track for Our Fellow Veterans and Their Families

We believe our Michigan Department Veteran Service Officers are the best in the business. Your support keeps them working hard for our veterans. For the fiscal year 2019, our Department Veteran Service Officers brought back over $120,000,000 in new claim rewards to our veterans. YES, $120,000,000! That is the money going directly to the veteran. Your donation keeps them working for our veterans.

Our Programs Serve the Community and Youth

Boys State, Baseball, Scouting, Student Trooper, Oratorical, and scholarships are ways for the Legion to engage and support our communities and youth. Your donation helps keep our programs and scholarships available to our youth. They provide needed money for college, and they teach Americanism to them. A subject in desperate need of being taught. Your donation keeps those programs strong.

Your Donation Supports Our Veteran Service Officers and the Legion programs

Your donation of $25-$35-$45-$55 or any other dollar amount will go to train and support the Department Veteran Service office and the officers who are deployed around the state. Your donation will also help continue our great programs to teach the importance of citizenship to our youth.

MVAA continues serving veterans amid COVID-19 pandemic

Zaneta Adams, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director

Despite the state budget constraints and lack of face-to-face interaction caused by the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has remained operational and continues connecting veterans to benefits in innovative ways.

As the state's coordinating agency for Michigan's more than 550,000 veterans and their families, the MVAA in mid-April launched “Check on MVet,” in which a representative from MVAA or partner organization conducts a benefits evaluation with veterans by phone. You can access the CHECK ON MVET form at the top center of our homepage, MichiganVeterans.com.

We are working with counties across Michigan to help them use some of their County Veteran Service Fund (CVSF) grants for emergency relief directly to eligible veterans and their families. This effort will help veterans buy groceries, pay medical bills, make essential home and vehicle repairs, and more during this difficult time.

Our series of Virtual Coffee Hour Q&As have kept veterans informed on the latest COVID-19-related changes to education, employment, emergency relief, and other key issues, with guest speakers from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, and other organizations. Visit Facebook.com/MIVeterans for the latest.

Through Operation Veteran Care Package, we partnered with Veteran Navigators to check in with nearly 100 Lansing-area veterans and hand out care packages at a safe, drive-through event. More of these events are being planned in the state.

While in-person appointments with Veteran Service Officers are limited, VSOs are still able to answer questions and process claims by virtual and electronic means. The nonprofit Veterans Community Action Teams (VCATs) are also still available, though the resources they provide may be limited due to the pandemic.

At the core of our veteran outreach efforts is our award-winning Michigan Veteran Resource Service Center (MVRSC), a 24-hour call center staffed by trained technicians knowledgeable in all areas of veteran benefits and resources. Veterans can call 1-800-MICH-VET to request copies of their discharge documents, inquire about available benefits including medical, compensation and pension, or be connected to a VA-certified Veteran Service Officer who can walk them through the claims process.

So, as we continue navigating the myriad fiscal and societal effects of COVID-19, the MVAA remains committed to using both new and proven methods to support the unique needs of Michigan veterans through all phases of their lives.
Are you affected by the Edenville Dam and the Sanford Dam?

The American Legion has two programs to help Legionnaires affected by the floods.

#1. The National Emergency Fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than $8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.

The fund provides up to $3,000 for qualified Legion Family members and up to $10,000 for posts. The eligibility requirements are:

- Applicants must have been displaced from their primary residence due to damage sustained during a declared natural disaster.
- Applicant must provide copies of receipts of items required to meet immediate needs (such as temporary housing, food, water, clothing, diapers, etc.) during the period immediately following the disaster.
- Membership must be active at the time of disaster and the time of application.

Learn more at legion.org/emergency

#2. The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of current active duty or American Legion members. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities, and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment.

Who is eligible for a grant?

The minor child must not be older than 17 or 20 if still enrolled in high school or is physically handicapped. The minor child must be the biological child, stepchild, or in the legal custody of a qualifying veteran. A qualifying veteran is defined as a member of the United States Armed Forces serving on federal orders current under Title 10 of the United States Code, inclusive of all components, OR any veteran possessing an up-to-date membership in The American Legion. Active duty applicants can be considered without being a member of The American Legion. A single onetime non-repayable Temporary Financial Assistance grant of up to $1,500 will be permitted for the minor child(ren) of a qualifying veteran.

No child is considered eligible for Temporary Financial Assistance until a complete investigation is conducted at the post or department level, a legitimate family need is determined, and all other available assistance resources have been utilized or exhausted. Additionally, the TFA application must originate and be filled out by someone at the local level.

Learn more at legion.org/financialassistance

He tells his story as he battled COVID - 19 for 25 days (15 days in the ICU). “I thought no idea that I could survive the COVID-19, but I had peace within to help me thru it. I literally felt a hand on my arm.” Now resting at his home, he is thankful for the goodness of God to be alive! Victory is given to God.

In the last two months, we have seen our lives changed from normalcy to cancelation of many things in our posts, in our schools, sports events, shopping, and not hanging out with our close friends. But we know what has not changed – our freedoms to live in our homes, freedoms to blessed in our country who still care for our health and wealth. We know that the Bible tells us God hasn’t changed, as in Malachi 3:6, “I change not.” The sacrifice of men and women who have given their lives for us hasn’t changed. Thanks be to God for families whose loved ones are buried at sea and in cemeteries around our nation and the world.

As our world begins to change from getting back to normalcy again, big or small in its endeavor, may we find our Unchanging God. Yesterday, today, and forever he is the God who is “gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made” (Psalm 45:8-9). Change can be an energizing force for power and progress … or, if not handled well, can also be a force for stagnation and regression. The Bible is a book about changes; those handled well resulted in great gains, and those handled poorly resulted in great losses.

Therefore, CHANGE, in the hand of the CHANGELESS God, is safe and positive and will yield good fruit to those that respond correctly and embrace it.
COMMANDEr’S 2019-2020 REPORT

Barry Wood
Department Commander

Michigan Legionnaires – thank you for entrusting me to represent you for the 2019-2020 membership year. It has been an honor to serve as the Commander for the Department of Michigan. The year started busy and continued that way until March 14, when the coronavirus pandemic put a halt to almost everything.

Many exciting things took place for the first two-thirds of this year, and I cannot mention them all in this space, but let me say to those that do not have mention here, Margaret and I enjoyed them all.

A number of the gatherings were at posts celebrating their 100th year of existence. I was able to swear in district and post officer. I wore red flannels in public, and I attended two four-chaplains services, each uniquely done but both very special and moving.

I had the opportunity, with Gary Tanner (Reconnect Chairperson), to travel to North Scouting Camporee. I, along with a number of Department Family members and other scout leaders throughout the State, participated in a very successful weekend. Thank you, Clyde Sinclair, for guiding us through this process. We look forward to a second successful event this October.

The American Legion received special recognition at the 2019 Detroit Veterans Day Parade for its 100th Anniversary. As the Department Commander, I served as the Grand Marshall. It was a privilege. Thank you, PDC Chatman and the parade board, for this honor.

A fun night was had by Margaret and me at the 100-year Auxiliary Gala in Wyandotte. Wow, what a celebration. This was an “all-out” celebration of the Auxiliaries 100 years of support to The American Legion and America’s veterans. Thank you, Carrie Salomon and your team, for the invite and the work you put into this gathering.

Margaret and I were privileged to work at Christmas workshops in Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, and Saginaw this past year. It is wonderful to help bring Christmas to veterans that otherwise might not have one.

Some firsts for the Department:

- The Department became a major sponsor for the Eagle Scout Celebration in Novi.
- The Department took over as a major sponsor of the I-500 from the DAV.
- The Department, as mentioned, held its first, Scouting Camporee at WILWIN.
- The Department, again, as mentioned, initiated a relationship with the ClownVets.

This year’s U.P. Tour had a lot less snow than last year but was just as exciting as we were able to visit a number of posts. We visited the Thomas St Onge Vietnam Military Museum in Hermannsville, had a tour of “The Moving Wall” in White Pine where we saw how the panels of the wall are made, visited the DJ Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette and the Oscar G Johnson VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. Thank you, 5th Zone Commander Wendy Sexton, for arranging and guiding us through the tour.

It was a real honor to attend the Lincoln Pilgrimage in Springfield, IL, representing the Department, where I was able to place a wreath at the Lincoln Tomb.

Of course, there were National meetings and workshops to attend along with the Washington Conference, where we spoke with our legislative representatives about the Legion’s legislative agenda. At each of these National gatherings, we have the opportunity to talk to our National leaders about issues that concern us specifically.

The really big issue that is closing out this year is the COVID-19 pandemic and what it has done to all of us. As you know by now, most of all events of The American Legion at National and the Department have been canceled. We are now holding the Department Executive Committee (DEC) meetings via video conferencing. We are still carrying on the Legion’s business the best we can by telephone and email. We are still here, so please contact us as the need arises. We will get back to you as soon as possible.

I praise the staff for the work they are accomplishing during this time. It would be impossible to accomplish tasks without the assistance of our headquarters staff. They have a tremendous amount of institutional knowledge and real-time experience. Thank you, staff, for your guidance and support. They are working from home during this COVID-19 pandemic without a lot of the equipment that makes their jobs possible. Staff is taking turns going into the office to maintain the “Stay Home, Stay Safe” order from the governor. So, some things may take just a little longer than normal to accomplish. As you get a chance, please thank them for all they do. And remember, Gary Easterling and his team are still out there doing their jobs from home. Thank you, one and all.

Due to the Pandemic, as mentioned, all Legion gatherings at the National and Department have been canceled. It has been decided by the National Executive Committee and the Department Executive Committee that the National and Department Officers, respectfully, from this year will continue to fill their positions for this next year. This is all unprecedented; however, our National and Department leadership teams felt this action necessary. I will do my part to support this decision, and I ask you to please join me in this effort.

It has been a pleasure working with Department Auxiliary President Georgia Downs and Detachment Commander Mike Holley. Thank you for being there and being outstanding representatives for the Legion Family.

Be safe. Please continue with “buddy checks.” Reach out to the 225 members in your areas. A previous email was sent from the Department with a list of 225 members and their contact information. If you do not have the email, please contact your District Commander. Hopefully, we will be able to gather again soon. Until then, let’s take care of our families and each other.

Stay current with information about the Coronavirus on our website: www.michiganlegion.org
Annual Report

The purpose of the Membership Committee is to formulate and recommend policies, to oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to the enrollment of members, the functioning of Zones, Districts, and Posts, and, in conjunction with the national office, to retain members and the promotional activities necessary to the foregoing.

The membership committee started the 2019-2020 membership year by attending the 30th meeting at Department Headquarters. Committee members also attended the membership workshop in August of 2019 hosted by National headquarters in Indianapolis. A membership incentive program was developed and distributed to the district and zone commanders on the return trip from the membership workshop. This year has been especially challenging since National added 4,339 members to our goal from where the Department of Michigan membership stood at the end of the 2018-2019 membership year. This goal was established to encourage posts to transfer encumbered Department Headquarters members (Post 225) to transfer to local posts.

The membership director and assistant membership director have attended meetings of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 17th district meetings. We intended to go to the 4th, 5th, and 9th district meetings, but the COVID-19 emergency orders prevented us from doing so. The UP-member director visited 16 posts in the UP and attended the Mid-Winter Tour, which consisted of visiting two posts per day for six days and attending the UP Mid-Winter Conference. With assistance from Brian Molman, the membership committee sent a request to transfer letters from members of the Headquarters Post 225 to local posts they wished to transfer to. The membership committee also conducted training sessions at the Fall Conference and Winter meetings. All committee members were in attendance for the training.

The American Legion has a great challenge ahead of us. We don’t know when the COVID-19 pandemic will end. We don’t know when we will be able to open our post homes, fundraising rooms (club rooms and halls), or even hold in-person meetings. During this time, we need to get inventive. Post meetings can be held via Zoom conference/video calls utilizing Zoom, Microsoft Team, or GoToMeeting. Membership recruiting will be more difficult, but I believe it can still be done through our connections with friends and family. Most importantly, we need to make sure our current members are healthy, and their needs are taken care of. I encourage every post to utilize the Buddy Check program to accomplish this. This is also an important time for posts and districts to share their success stories. We all need ideas that we may not have thought of to stay connected with our current members and recruit new members. Please remember without membership, the post dies, and our current members and recruit new members. Please remember that if he/she wins at the Zone finals, they will receive the $800 scholarship.
From the Desk of the President

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Service, not self

It doesn't seem like a year has already gone by since I was elected and installed as President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan. What an honor it has been for me. I have had an amazing year with many challenges and new experiences. In my travels, I have met many great leaders and members of our organization. The exuberant passion expressed by many as they focus on our purpose of “service, not self” will be forever remembered. I am so very proud of the accomplishments of your Auxiliary during my time as your President. I am at a loss of words of appreciation for the volunteers who came together to assist with the success of our National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, held in Kalamazoo at the Radisson in October 2019. Michigan received the highest praise from the National President and Past National Presidents who were in attendance at the festival. Ms. Gillespie from the National V.A. gave words of praise in her speech for our Hospitality room and our Game room. Michigan is keeping President Lincoln’s Promise.

As I review my calendar, I would like to mention a few events which I had the privilege of attending before Covid-19 starting showing up and creating havoc with us. Several Posts and Units held their Gala Centennial Celebrations with banquets and parades. The Detroit Veteran’s Day parade was a great success, even though Past Department Commander Richard Chatman keeps saying, “You’re going the wrong way, Madam President” I will never like driving in Detroit!

Wilwin Lodge at Cygnet Cove is amongst one of my most favorite places to visit. The refuge it provides for our returning combat soldiers and their families to get reacquainted cannot be put into words; it is a must-see place to visit—Mark your calendars to visit the open house in August. The cabins have been furnished by the Auxiliary Districts.

The Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary has put in place the Emergency Procedures and Bylaws for all of our Districts and Units to continue to function during this pandemic. I am very proud of, and credit should be given to the Department Executive Committee and Constitution and Bylaws Committee for working so diligently in preparation of the protocol to follow. Thank you for all that you do for our great organization.

Due to the pandemic and National's decision to keep their officers in place for 2020 – 2021, Michigan has decided to follow National, also keeping our officers in place.

Many churches have suspended their services due to increased concerns about spreading the virus in large gatherings. Our way of life has been greatly impacted. We have never had to face a situation like this before. Fear, uncertainty, and sadness follow us each day. We find that many people are ignoring the mandates set down by our leaders, making it even more difficult for those of us who are following them. During this time of social distancing, it is important that we find ways to connect. A simple call can make a big difference in someone's day.

Keep our soldiers and their families in your prayers. Please keep those who have been affected by the Covid-19 virus and our frontline workers in your prayers and remember to thank them for all that they do for us.

I look forward to another year (now that I've had a practice year), maybe I will be able to please more people.

I am very humbled to serve as your President. God Bless all of you, and thank you for your support.

**CoronaVirus Update**

as of May 27, 2020

Due to Governor Whitmer's Executive Order the Department Headquarters is limited in its ability to conduct business. The best method of communication is via email at info@michalaaux.org, you may call and we will return your call as soon as we are able.

Thank you for your understanding. Follow our website at michalaaux.org for the latest information.
Anita Mennel, Membership Chairman

Membership Report

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 through 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 motto-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

Chaplain’s Report

Kimberly S. Champion, Department Chaplain

Spiritual leadership is also important when members face illness or are “shut in”, like our status currently. Offering assistance and comfort by phone or sending a card is equally as important.

The Chaplain has a responsibility with others to be open and available at all times. Every effort should be made to reach out to veterans as soon as possible when they are in need. This can be accomplished through concerned communication. During these very difficult times amidst the pandemic it is very important to keep in touch with your family, relatives, friends and Legion Family but by cellphone, home phone or email.

Almighty God, who hast dominion over life and death, grant us grace to remember with love our departed Auxiliare, grant peace and eternal rest to those who have gone before us. Strengthen and console those in sorrow and bestow upon us Thy everlasting blessing. Watch over all of us and keep all safe and healthy. Amen.

MEMORIAL GARDEN
Mary Louise (Bernia) Schultz, Unit 28, District 5
Mary Helen Ten Hagen, Unit 28, District 5
Virginia Tyrone, Unit 459, District 5
Michelle Zoerman, Unit 459, District 5
LaDonna Burzyck, Unit 158, District 6
Jeane Henry, Unit 158, District 6
Janet Moritz, Unit 158, District 6

A New Take on Poppy Donations and Distribution
Huron Valley Post 231, New Boston Post Adjutant Bob Longlios

Sometimes thinking out of the box means buying a box. Due to the COVID-19, the state shut down and cancellation of our Memorial Day poppy drive, we at American Legion Post 231 have had to “improvise, adapt and overcome.” A year ago, we came up with the idea about placing donation boxes in the community but never acted on it until the COVID virus hit us, and our hall was suffering from the loss of hall rental income.

Thus, it was time to act; we went received donations from our post officers and bought them. This was so not to incur any more post expenses. Then we came up with the idea to offer Poppies in exchange for donations. We purchased a block of white foam, cut it to size, and glued it to the Poppie box in front.

Next, we had to insert a bundle of Poppies into the foam in 1/2” spaces 1/2” deep up to three rows, and it worked out perfectly for a bundle of 25. They look like their blooming!

Finally, we developed our sign artwork, and boxes were ready before Memorial Day so we could get a head start in where to put them as many businesses are still not open, so truck stops and gas stations in the community worked for us.
Attention Membership

Department is still processing membership even though the building is closed. Send those transmittals in!

Please submit your Dues Forms and Officer's Lists in ASAP if you haven't already done so.

The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan website is regularly updates with important information.

Visit the website regularly to stay informed!

michalaux.org

Did you know the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan has a Facebook page? Follow us for updates and Auxiliary news!

New!
Department E-Newsletter

In order to save costs and to adapt to more efficient and safe forms of communication we are no longer going to send out a "Unit Mailing" via US Postal Service.
We have transitioned over to an e-newsletter format. If you are the designated person in your unit to receive the unit mailing and have not received the e-newsletter please email Department at info@michalaux.org
From the American Legion Auxiliary National Blog:

College student draws on resilience gained as military child

Samantha Daulton, 20, of Chicago, Ill.

Growing up in a U.S. military family, college student Samantha Daulton developed, among other things, resiliency in the face of adversity. It showed when Daulton found herself in a quickly unfolding, almost chaotic situation, while in Italy as part of Loyola University’s study abroad program. She was there just before the deadly and highly contagious COVID-19 virus was breaking out in parts of that country.

In mid-January, Daulton left Loyola in Chicago and arrived at the university’s satellite campus in Rome — living out her longtime dream to travel and study overseas. She was using GI Bill education benefits earned through the U.S. Army service of her father, Col. Scott Daulton.

The college sophomore worked hard toward her study abroad aspirations, saving money to cover some of her education-related expenses not covered otherwise. And, she earned the grades necessary to get to that point.

At first, things were going great. Then, there were mild warnings from school officials. The main warning was for students at the satellite campus to be careful about traveling to certain Italian regions because the students could get stuck there if a lockdown was imposed in response to the COVID-19 outbreaks. By the end of February, things took an abrupt turn.

“It went from, ‘Oh, this is a little weird’ to suddenly super-bad all at once,” Daulton said. “It was like nobody took it seriously until one day, we woke up, it was super serious and we had to go.”

The uncertainty and persistence spread of this new and dangerous virus — plus the heavy restrictions toward which all of Italy was headed — prompted Loyola to recall its students there back to America months before the semester would’ve normally ended.

Daulton’s flight arrangements included a stopover in Munich, Germany, then on to Chicago. While at the airport in Munich, she was subject to German authorities’ unusually thorough and lengthy baggage search — and unnerving jokes.

“Every single person in the German airport was making jokes about having us quarantined. They were like, ‘Yeah, this is a massive group of students from Rome. We might as well lock down this section of the airport.’ They were all saying it seriously, and then they’d turn to each other and laugh. There was already a language barrier, and they were saying very little in English. It was very stressful,” she said. Still, Daulton remained calm. She cooperated with airport authorities, remained respectful, and was able to make it to her flight to Chicago.

Daulton made it home March 4. She quarantined at her parents’ home, but away from her family, for two weeks to be sure she didn’t have the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. She got through the quarantine period without experiencing any health issues, she said. With distance learning, Daulton completed the rest of her sophomore year in early May.

But the lesson that sticks with Daulton is the one she learned about herself from the entire ordeal. Daulton said she saw how resilient she can be when faced with unexpected challenges. She is certain she developed resiliency while growing up in a military family.

Daulton demonstrated other positive attributes and characteristics that are often cultivated through life as a military child. For example, she quickly put her plight into perspective amid this tremendous worldwide health emergency. Daulton realizes that there are people who have died from, or are seriously ill because of COVID-19. She got through the quarantine period without experiencing any health issues, she said. With distance learning, Daulton completed the rest of her sophomore year in early May.

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Daulton demonstrated other positive attributes and characteristics that are often cultivated through life as a military child. For example, she quickly put her plight into perspective amid this tremendous worldwide health emergency. Daulton realizes that there are people who have died from, or are seriously ill because of COVID-19. She knows that many individuals are out of work — and/or face other major uncertainties regarding food and shelter — because of community-wide steps taken to slow the spread of the virus. And she is aware that some people can’t hug or kiss their loved ones for fear of getting them sick.

But Daulton is perceptive enough to know not to compare her problems to those of other people. Yet, she understands that she must deal with what’s in front of her, and the emotions that stem from that, the best way she can.

Someday, when it’s safe for her to do so, Daulton will travel again. That’s one goal she will never let out of her sights … no matter how long it takes to achieve it.
National Executive Committee Report

John Knox
National Executive Committee

What a year this has been. I started out visiting all districts in Michigan, but I didn’t manage to make it to three Districts because of COVID-19. We all know this has shut down the Legion year. But we did see the National Vice Commander at the Fall Conference in September. We got to see the National Commander at the mid-winter conference in Flint. Then I went to Washington, D.C. came home on March 11, was going to bring the message to you than COVID-19 shut down the Legion year. We have still work to do for membership, buddy checks, and C.P.R reports before the year ends in August. National has canceled all Legion functions until October 1, at the National level. All and all, this has been a good year; hope 2020 through 2021 will be a better year. Thank you for all your support.

1st Zone Commander’s Report

Gregory Spight

To say that 2019-2020 Legion year, for the 1st Zone and the 1st and 16th Districts, has been an extraordinary year, would be an understatement.

The COVID-19 outbreak and the spread in America, has affected every aspect of our lives. As of May 10, 475,369 Michiganders have died from the pandemic. The 1st Zone, city of Detroit, and Wayne County has suffered the brunt of the fatalities (Detroit – 9786 cases / 1187 deaths, Wayne County 8289 cases / 910 deaths)

Too many of our Posts have lost someone they know, a post member, or loved one. The 1st Zone lost our 1st District 2nd Vice Commander, and Mexican-American Post 505 Commander Guadalupe Luna. In addition, the Department had to close, Posts have had to cease activities at their Post homes, and the Department Annual Convention had to be canceled. Through it all, the old 1st District and 17th Districts managed to complete their merger and finish the membership year, as a united and merged 1st District. The 1st District played a key role in supporting the hugely successful Vietnam War Memorial event in Livonia. The Myron H. Beals Post 32, Livonia, hosted the 1st District’s Membership Roundup on March 14, in which we were able to transfer 52 members, from Post 225, and get 12 new members into District posts.

Congrats to 1st Zone Posts 126, 202, 231, 372 and 375, for achieving 100%. A special shout out to 1st District Commander, Jeff Haeseker, and 16th District Commander, Ed Gorecki, for their leadership and support, during 2019-2020.

As a reminder to all posts, please send in your CPRs, online is the easiest way. I look forward to serving with them again, during 2020-2021, during 2020-2021.

4th Zone Commander’s Report

Gary Walter

As we look back on this last year, we have had many hurdles to overcome. With the thoughts of redirecting and drawing new zones, the year started with many tasks to be done this year. Then shortly after the first of the year, the Corona pandemic started, which has pretty well shut down all or most activities of a Post and District. We have been able to select how the districts and zones are going to be divided up, but since the convention has been canceled, it will probably be delayed for another year. Many Posts and Districts are following the National’s advice and are remaining with the same officers.

Here are some highlights of what we were able to get done between fall and winter conferences:

Our Zone has closed two Posts and is starting to merge two Posts into one. Other Posts are working through getting new bylaws and resolving monitorial issues within their Post.

After the first of the year, recruitment for new members, and getting members to pay their dues, really slowed down, which hurt our final figures on membership. We must begin the next year with renewed efforts to get these members back into the American Legion.

As District 10’s Commander pointed out to me in his end of the year report, communication is key to the success of our organization. Having the adjutant and membership personnel working together, using my legion.org for processing membership, is a valuable tool.

District 9’s Commander is working closely with a Post reestablishing legion policies and bylaws.

District 19 has far outshined my other two Districts by having the Department Oratorical winner, and also, the Junior Shooting team win the Department competition.

We are looking forward to the time that we don’t have these restrictions from Covid-19, and we can gather together for the mission of the American Legion Department of Michigan.

5th Zone No Report

1st District Commander Report

Jeff Haeseker

As a crazy Legion year comes to an end, who knew? Unfortunately, the COVID-19 virus outbreak has forced the cancellation of all of our youth programs (which we were making a lot of progress on), not to mention canceling the State and National Conventions. However, the first year with the newly merged 1st District has gone fairly well. There are a lot of awesome post commanders in the District, and they are making an impact.

I am always proud of our Livonia Post 32 Honor Guard. This group of members assists in many military honors for deceased veterans throughout the year and will provide a 21-gun salute. They did exactly that at the Vietnam War Memorial when it came to Livonia in August. The Honor Guard was on-site 24/7 for this entire event. PDC Dick Chatman was the honored guest speaker for the Opening Ceremony, while our Finance Officer Rogar Avie addressed the crowd on that Friday evening. The Honor Guard also performed a 21-gun salute at the graveside service for the funeral of former Congressman John Connors Jr.

Dan McCrary, the 1st District Americanism Chair and the Commander of Grose Pointe Post 303 is doing an amazing job with our District Junior Shooting Program. Dan is the SSP SPOC, and John Burke, Post 86 Commander, is our JROTC SMSAP SPOC. These programs are running very strong on the east side of the District. Both Post 303 and Post 86 are always happy to support recognition awards for these high schools. The 1st District Oratorical Contest was also completed by Dan McCrary, with a winner and two runners up sent to the 1st Zone.

The 1st District passed our “Resolution of Support” to the Restormel of the Brodhead Naval Armory,” located in downtown Detroit next to Belle Isle. Several of our posts had passed the resolution before it was to be voted on at our March 9th District Meeting. The resolution was presented to Jim Semerad, CDL, USN (Ret), Chairman of the Board for the Brodhead Association.

Our District has many volunteers from a couple of different posts that volunteer to help staff the Freedom Center at Metro Airport on a regular basis, as well as one member on the Board of Directors. We are proud of the work that they do.

Sadly, the District recently lost our 2nd Vice Commander Guadalupe Luna to the COVID-19 virus. Guadalupe was also the Post Commander for Post 505 in Detroit. We also lost Freeman Chandelier, who was the Sergeant-at-Arms for Post 86, to his long battle with cancer. They will be missed.

District Adjutant Gary DeMars developed and maintained our web page “1st District Blog” (https://al.aldist1.org/), to provide an informative portal that has access by any web browser. It contains notes, articles, and links to sites the Post Commanders and members that may be interested in reviewing. It is an excellent place to start for retrieval of information about our District, the VA, or any of the National American Legion programs.

It has been an honor to serve as our 1st District (and 17th District) Commander for the last couple of years, and I hope that I have served you well. Please, everyone, stay safe, and we’ll see you on the other side.

-May you have fair winds and following seas!

2nd District Commander Report

Terry Beck

To all my comrades in the 2nd District Of Michigan, which are Jackson County, Lenawee County, and Monroe County.

I hope you are doing well with this pandemic going around Michigan. I want to thank you for doing a great job this year with membership. Either with new members or transfers from 225. I am hoping that most of the Post had a chance to log into my legion.org; it is a great tool to use for your Post.

I know with the added number of new members that were put on us this year was a hard job to accomplish. I would like to thank the Post that did get 100 + and I will send my legion.org to transfer in members out of 225. I know there’s a lot of posts that don’t have computers, but we’re going to have to get into the 20th century because I look down the road everything will be done on the computer, so the Post that doesn’t have a computer I think it’s time to look into one. Enough said about that.

I know the last two months have been hard on everybody. We just have to be patient and wait for everything to go back to somewhat normal, which might take a long time. This coronavirus has everybody on edge waiting for things to open back up. I am hoping that sometime soon, the governor will let us start having meetings again. With the pandemic in the United States, the American Legion National and District leaders are all going to stay the same for the rest of this year until June 2021. And they asked The DEC to stay in place throughout 2020 and 2021. Hopefully, we will be able to have a Department Fall Conference; and in 2021, we can have a convention and election of new officers.

This past year I know I have not been to your Post, but this year I am hoping to see more of you. The last six months have been very trying for me. Lost A very good friend and comrade 2nd District Sergeant of Arms Rudy Alanz. We will all miss him.

2nd District has four County commanders that have worked with me for the last two years, and I must give them thanks and praise for doing such a great job. And they are Jackson County, William McMurray, Lenawee County, Dave Loop, Washtenaw County, Gary Bourdeau, and Monroe County, Linda Lefcheck.

Being District Commander is not a tough job if you have good officers next to you, and my executive board have all done a great job for me this year. I am hoping that the rest of this year and the new year will be better for us as a membership.

I have asked my four County Commanders to say a word about their Post

Jackson County Commander’s report to District Commander Terry Beck

I want to start by telling all my Posts “good job,” You strive with a great attitude to maintain your Posts and membership. After I took office, there were just a couple of Posts that hadn’t gotten registered yet, and I met with the Commanders and Adjutants, with a little encouragement, they have gotten in compliance with the Department of Michigan. I have tried to attend every meeting of my Posts. I have eight Posts to work with; two are top-heavy with senior veterans, struggling to have meetings, one is having meetings but is afflicted with apathy. The rest are healthy and functioning. Every one of my Posts has added members from Post 225 and off the streets; it’s a great tool to use for your Post.

Michiganlegion.org | June 2020 | MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILLIAIRE 9
The Upper Peninsula State Fair, August 2019, was a big hit this year in which both Districts participated in and pushed out information to veterans regarding the New Legion Act, Legion Programs, and Legion Family Memberships. Our Zone Commander, Wendy Sexton, was the head of this event, and the event was received with a magnitude of great responses from the community.

The Houghton County Fair followed August 27 to the 31st and was headlined by Rod Guilbault, Post Commander of Hancock Legion Post, pushed Legion Membership in their area. Part of the event was an honor guard ceremony to open the swearing-in of new military recruits following the Grand Stand Events.

The annual Upper Peninsula Mid-Winter Tour was an event not to miss, as the tour started in the east end of the UP, and the highlight of the tour included stops across both Districts. Many posts provided excellent food and camaraderie. The tour also included visits to a Vietnam Veterans Museum, the Moving Wall Museum and headquarters, and visits to the Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette and the Oscar G. Johnson VA Hospital in Iron Mountain.

And lastly, the 52nd Annual International 1-500 Snowmobile Race in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, January 31st & February 1st, 2020, was an awesome experience! This was the first year that the American Legion sponsored this event. We assembled the opening of race with a flag ceremony, and Lesley Meeks from Newberry, a Legionnaire, was awarded Official Starter for the race!

Since the COVID 19 Pandemic became prevalent in March, the entire UP has been on lockdown, and we are so far, all safe.

16th District No Report
18th District No Report

19th District Commander Report
Charles Boman

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to look back upon the many things that have happened both good and bad. Starting this fall, we had a Junior Shooting team from Alpena Post 65 win the Department Competition. We also had a young man named Adam Paga from the District win the Department Oratorical competition. Membership numbers have not reached the levels we had hoped for, however, this can be attributed to the Corona Virus that has been interrupting everyone’s life since early March. I can only look forward to moving ahead in the coming year and trying to increase the activities at Post and District level in the coming year.

Americanism Committee Report
Carl Atkinson, Chairman

The members of our committee are doing well during this unusual time of the virus pandemic. We hope and pray for all our American Legion families to stay well.

We encourage all zones, districts, and posts to continue to communicate and make plans to help promote Americanism when our society is opened again.

I listened to the Gerald R Ford Scout Council Board of Directors last night to honor all the Eagle Scouts in the GRF council. There were 188 Eagles this past year. There were two winners of the National Outstanding Eagle Scout of the year awards. One was Dr. John Fox; in his acceptance speech, he talked about “The saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” It takes a village of scout leaders and parents to help a scout to succeed. In thinking about this saying, I thought of that it takes a village of legionnaires at every level to ensure all our many important programs succeed. When the pandemic is over, all of us need to be reaching out to our local communities and our many programs to get them going again and to make them even better.

In our Americanism committee, the Scouting Sub Committee was able to have a very successful First Annual Scout Camporee at Wilwin last October and were able to award the Eagle Scout of the Year Award to Thomas Witten of Rochester Hills.

The Junior Shooting Sports had to cancel all their competitions but have been supporting all the teams and leaders by holding conference calls. They have had two successful calls and plans for a third one. They are already making plans for when things start up again.

The Law and Order Sub Committee was able to make their awards with Jeffery Ginn of Newayo, MI a conservation officer receiving the Law Officer of the year Awards and Jeremy Kurek of Dearborn Heights receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award.

Steve Striggow and Cliff Rose have been busy as our Departments liaison reps for the two Michigan National Cemeteries.

I have been busy promoting Americanism at the district and post level and spoke at the 16th District Americanism Conference at Dearborn Heights. Attended the Great Lakes Eagle Scout Honors Banquet and attending department budget meetings.

For the Americanism committee, our goal for this year due to changes in the makeup of our committee is to update our Rules of Procedure and our budget. The budget is being finalized this month, and the Rules of Procedure are being worked on.

During this pandemic, we need to unite together as legionnaires and give strong support to our American Legion 4 Pillars and to help promote the understanding and appreciation of the American Government and our American way of life through our youth, citizenship, and education. For God and Country, stay strong and well during this time.

3rd District No Report
4th District No Report

5th District Commander Report
Dan Cooper

The 5th District was the very active first half of the year. Due to the Legion Act, all of our post have gained new members, some a lot, and others only a few, but a solid group direction. We have increased our participation in the District with larger than usual attendance at District meetings.

We started a 5th District American Legion Baseball league and had six Posts sponsoring five teams for the 2020 baseball season. The White Caps game at the Fifth Third ballpark on May 21 had been designated as the “American Legion Night” with a portion of all ticket sales going to the District.

We had a new post open this year, The Stars and Strips Post Eleven-Eleven (1111) in Walker, dedicated to leadership and training for the District, the Department, and The American Legion. They have been very busy and have increased their membership very quickly. The District is committed to ensuring the success of the post.

We were pleased to have the Department and Zone sponsor a Leadership collage for the District in October, and due to the high demand, the District had scheduled a second training day in April. Our goal is to start scheduling a Leadership collage for this coming fall.

The 5th District, Auxiliaries, and SAL, has worked very hard in supporting the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The Bingo on the first and third Thursday has been very popular with the residents. Each year in July, the District hosts an outdoor Carnival, where the veterans look forward to the games, prizes, and camaraderie. The Fifth District will continue to monitor the development of the new Veterans home to ensure that our comrades are getting all the needed support.

This year has been very challenging but yet rewarding. I have been very proud to be the Commander this year, and I know that the Fighting Fifth will continue to make the American Legion Proud.

6th District No Report
7th District No Report
8th District No Report
9th District No Report
10th District No Report

District 11 & District 12 Commander Report’s
George Maciejewski, 11th District
Wendy Retzlaff, 12th District

2019-2020 has been a big year with a rough ending. On October 8, 2020, the Hancock American Legion Post hosted a celebration to honor WWII Veteran Gordan Wiitanen, a 93-year-old Korean War conflict, where he served in France for his country in the US Army from 1954 to 1959 in the October 12, 2019, Peter B. Shelafor was Marquette his country for 21 years.

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Districts, and deletions, and added a section on Criteria, with the help of volunteers, will be reaching out to all Legion Posts and Salons in the 5th District to update our Rules of Procedure and the World Series and the Regions.

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Wendy Retzlaff, 12th District

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October 12, 2019, Peter B. Shelafor was Marquette County 2019 Veteran of the Year. He served his country in the US Army from 1954 to 1959 in the Korean War conflict, where he served in France for four years and received the National Defense Service Medal. Pete volunteered at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans, where he often drove vets to doctor’s appointments at the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain. Pete was a long-time member of Marquette Post 44 and headed the Memorial Flags in Harlow Park in Marquette, Michigan, displaying over 140 flags on multiple veteran holidays. Pete sadly passed away on April 2, 2020.
Reconnect Committee Report
Gary Tanner, Chairman

Bring in the Clowns!

Since June 2019, the Department of Michigan Reconnect Committee has been expanding our comprehensive Veteran and Military Support Services. We have gone racing at various road racing tracks and continued to support and nurture the newest Alternative PTSD Therapy modality, Humanitarian Clowning in cooperation with Dr. Patch Adams and his Geundheit Institute. This was conceived and executed by and with Michigan Combat Veterans from the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids area, all of whom received the critical life-altering assistance from the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program at a pivotal time when they were all contemplating suicide due to their mounting financial hardships. The ClownVet program, coupled with their traditional PTSD therapy, has yielded amazing results for these and other veterans who have participated. After two trips to Guatemala and creating an award-winning documentary about their life-changing experiences, the ClownVet program has turned their efforts toward domestic missions to various universities and VA facilities. Early last August, the Reconnect Committee funded a domestic Clowning trip to the Capt. James Lovell Federal Health Care Center located just north of Chicago. Commander Wood accompanied Chairman Tanner to observe, or so we thought! Once we were arrived and checked in to our rooms, the Commander and Chairman Tanner were ceremoniously inducted into the ClownVets Platoon! The weekend was filled with many, many emotional and laughter filled experiences to include clowning side by side with Dr. Patch Adams himself, fellowship with veterans and staff in every unit at Capt. Lovell FHCC, healing tears, joy and laughter from veterans who never thought they would experience those emotions again and the honor of meeting Capt. Lovell himself of Apollo 13 fame. It was abundantly clear that the Humanitarian Clowning Modality had great potential to provide those suffering from PTSD with another successful option! The Reconnect Committee has continued to endorse this amazing program and has received the blessing of Patch Adams to develop and continue qualifying Veterans with the program. The goal of the H2H program is to “Assist Veterans in Rehabilitation at Home.” The program was rolled out by National in 2006 with the request that each department set up an H2H Committee. The committee was to be connected to VA&RR and work with Service Officers and appropriate local agencies and raise its own funds. Because of privacy reasons, the military could not release names of qualifying returning warriors and Veterans, so it left this responsibility to each individual program. Also, there was some crossover with other Legion programs and confusion with the naming of some other outside independent organizations. So now, it is up to each State to manage its own program internally.

Within the last year, H2H has officially been organized as a VA&RR Subcommittee, rather than being an ad hoc committee, with funds included in Michigan American Legion Foundation. As with our other Legion programs, 100% of the funds raised for H2H go to aid our Veterans. As Chairperson, I have attended the last two conference VA&RR meetings and provided information about the program and my activity. We will try to do better to inform our District and Post officers about this program and how it can assist them in their vital efforts.

In Michigan, H2H had early success, but the cases have tapered off some lately. However, we still have funds, and I am still reviewing requests. We do vetting in each case to 1) determine eligibility, and 2) verify the need. The help of local Service Officers and/or volunteers from Posts in each area is vital in aiding qualifying Veterans. We have also worked closely in the past with the Wounded Warriors and Patriot Programs. There have been some cases that, without assistance, the Veteran could become Homeless. So yes, the crossover in programs is more of a link that provides a wider range of assistance. We have also worked well with other veterans groups and county agencies. We have managed cases that include such things as handicap home remodels and providing transportation for a Veteran, so that he could get back to work. We have also formed the fund for H2H to aid our Veterans. As Chairperson, I have attended the last two conference VA&RR meetings and provided information about the program and my activity. We will try to do better to inform our District and Post officers about this program and how it can assist them in their vital efforts.

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This year was a difficult year, and pointing fingers never helps; perhaps the committee does not have a clear message on “What is our Purpose?” We’re not the awards committee. While we have nine awards for individuals, organizations, and businesses. We are not a staffing agency either. However, what I feel we can do as a committee is to connect veterans with the agencies that connect to either a career, an apprenticeship, or other training—encouraging the colleges and other training / educational institutions to recognize the value of the training our men and women have acquired while serving. Along with the training, nothing beats the experiences they have learned.

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. We can assist you and your dependents in getting the benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

Mr. Gary Eysterling, Director, Gary’s cell no. (313) 549-8557

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building
Room 1210
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226
al.vbadet@va.gov

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule
Visit us www.mivabenefits.org

Employment Service Local Office Award: Michigan Wind Energy Center
Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) of the year Deborah Bohanon

Local Veterans Employment Representative of the year Deborah Bohanon

Our awards go to:

Employment Service Local Office Award: Michigan Wind Energy Center
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Local Veterans Employment Representative of the year Shawn Scherer

Employment Service Local Office Award: Michigan Wind Energy Center

The Employers of the year are

Large: Praxis Packaging
Medium: Action Mold & Machining
Small: Legendary Parcel

Together with the strength of the American Legion Family, we will get through these unique and uncertain times. Until we’re able to meet, God bless America and take care!
Personnel and Finance Committee Report

Roger Avie, Chairman

I want to first thank my honorable committee for all the hard work each have put in this year. Those on the Committee are: Vice-Chairman Ray Carlson, Members; Marilyn Britten, Dave Buist, Ray Moore, Finance Officer Skipper Townes, Alternates David Dabbage, Bob Berger, Richard Dubay, Lyle Shanks, who help us all. Mr. Canton, Mr. R.D. Davis, Gary Easterling, Adjutant Ron Runyon and our now retired Secretary Lynn Fracker who has been replaced by Laura Knaggs. It was because of these people and their hard work and expertise this past year that we have been able to work efficiently without our Union even getting but with a surplus of funds even with the crashing of the stock market in March. I would like to thank Commander Wood for reappointing me as Chairman of Personnel and Finance and maintaining many of our committee members.

Department Headquarters has had some touch-ups done by Home Depot to enhance the front of the building, which will include new landscaping. The new door locking system, bypass card, or keyed entry has enhanced the security of the building and made the staff feel more secure. The patching and sealing of our parking lot last year exposed some water leakage and area was spot sealed. We have gone ahead and a “Request to Quote” has been sent out to a number of contractors for bids to completely remove, regrade and replace the parking lot to eliminate water leakage into the basement of the Headquarters. The old parking lot has now been completely replaced with a digital system that has allowed the staff to work from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Installation of Windows 10 Pro software has been completed on all computer workstations, and our new copier has been purchased along with a scanner to copy all of our older documents and put them into a PDF file format to be able to search and review.

We have now sold both Post 319 Ecorse and Post 199 Maple City buildings with the funds deposited to the Post Recovery fund. Due to significant cash inflows from the sale of the former, we are now working on fundraising, National sharing of fundraising, Dignity Memorial, and the receipt of funds from dissolved or deactivated Posts we have received over $250,000 in additional funding. Additionally, we have recently implemented the Governor’s Executive Order No. 77, which directs Michigan Eagles Bands to assess a fund to assist in paying our payroll and operating costs while we are unable to have meetings and fundraisers. A big thanks to Department Adjutant Runyan for identifying, applying, collecting, and managing these items and other activities that have given the Department these additional monies. The annual 2019 Department audit was completed and was approved with an excellent Letter of Opinion from our auditors.

As current Chairman of the Finance/Personnel Committee for the past three years, I concur with my Committee that the Department Headquarters in Lansing and the VA&R staff in Detroit do an outstanding job for all of you every day of the year! Adjutant Ron Runyan and VA&R Director Gary Easterling, along with Assistant Director Tripp Murphy, have been very well recommended for continuing such efficient operations.

Legislative Committee Report

Tim Poxxon, Legislative Chairman

It has been an interesting year and one that none of us will soon forget with the COVID-19 affecting how we have been conducting interactions with the State Legislators. Legislative Director Mark Sutton has been staying busy with a contact over the phone and other methods. We have been meeting via Zoom with State Elected Officials. Chairman Poxxon has been in contact with State Elected Officials via email, and Poxxon has also been involved with some zoom meetings with National American Legion Legislative staff in Washington D.C. While the COVID 19 may have slowed us down, this committee is not going to let it stop us altogether.

Just prior to COVID 19, many of us traveled to Washington D.C. and had meetings with this State’s Federal Elected Officials and attended meetings with the National American Legion Staff. This trip was very educational as to what is happening at the National level and issues that need to be addressed at both the State and National levels. During the past year, Department Commander Wood, Adjutant Runyan, Legislative Director Sutton, and Chairman Poxxon attended a few briefings by different groups, the National NGO’s, and a new chair was elected to the Constitution of the United States. Legislative Director Sutton spent much of his time meeting with many members of the State House and Senate. Chairman Poxxon and Legislative Committee members had some meetings and emailed many of our elected state officials.

Chairman Poxxon working with the Commander and the Department will have to see the next year bring us to point where we can start setting up a subcommittee that is made up of Legion, a member from every State of Michigan Elected Officials District, and a representative of the Legion, with each elected official in the State of Michigan. I understand that this is a goal that will take work, input, and the support of the Commander, Executive Committee, each District and Post. We are looking at a committee that will be meeting in the fall likely with a subcommittee that when this report reaches you that we are all well and that all this COVID 19 emergency is behind us.

Michigan American Legion Foundation

Roger Avie, President

The Michigan American Legion Foundation is a 501c3 Non-Profit Corporation wholly owned by the Department of Michigan. All of the stock in the Foundation corporation is controlled by the Department of Michigan. Roger Avie, President; Vincent, Secretary, Finance Officer, and a Board of Directors.

The day to day and annual functions are handled by this Board of Directors. We have received grants and funding from outside organizations. Requests will be made to the Chairmen for reports of participation and outcomes, and they will be reviewed at a future meeting. Insurance for the Foundation was purchased and will be maintained by the Department of Michigan. Accounting matters will be handled by the Department, and a pro-rata amount will be charged to the Foundation.

At the September 2019 meeting, Directors again discussed the Joint Program that we fund and what training, vetting, and accountability would be implemented to assure successful operation of these important programs. Also noted that we would begin to require from each Chairman an annual report of applications, disbursements, donations, matching, and other information. We have not discussed this information to apply for grants and awards from outside agencies. A motion by one of the Directors to inquire about a forensic audit of all Programs was put forward, and the President was directed to implement that process.

The letter, if successful, was held at the February meeting in Flint. The Chairman noted that Voiture 1002 had donated significant funds to the Boys State program that was accepted by Mr. Mella for transportation to the program college from the Upper Peninsula. It was reported by the President that we have still not received reports from some of the program Chairs. These reports should be submitted and outcomes from participants in the various programs for the funds expended so that we can apply for grants and awards to promote these activities. The question was raised that we might want to look into the Civilian Corps and the Women’s Corps if the above mentioned, these Programs and assist the Board in getting the required outcomes that we need for grant writing.

Our State Unit Wilwin was discussed in the meeting regarding the Boys Scouts camping at Wilvin and what needs the Foundation might assist in fulfilling.

Also, the internal audit is continuing into the various Programs. The Michigan American Legion Foundation will be forthcoming on the request for review by the Board. All Board and Officer positions were reappointed and maintained, all 501c3 paperwork is up to date, and the annual external financial audit is completed and was finished with an excellent opinion letter. A Director proposed that the current level of financial assistance be reduced from its current level to a lower level in some programs unless overseen by additional members of those respective committees—more on this at our next meeting. Because of the current Covid-19 virus issues, some meetings will be held electronically. All documentation of the Foundation is held at the Department and can be seen by appointment.

Permanent Time & Place 2020 Annual Report

PDC Jim Wallace, Chairman

I want to thank the members of this committee. PDC’s has been represented by Secretary Striglow, the Department staff, for their dedication and assistance throughout this past year.

The Permanent Time & Place Committee (PT&P) has a minimum of two meetings held at different times, at each conference, meeting, or convention: 1. Resolutions committee meeting; 2. Receiving of requests from convention corporations to host the Department conferences, meetings, and conventions along with any additional business that is deemed necessary.

The following is a list of the current locations of future conferences, meetings, and conventions that have been approved by the PT&P Committee.

FALL 2020 9/17-20/2020, FLINT, HOLIDAY INN
WINTER 2021, 2/11-14/2021, FLINT, HOLIDAY INN
CONV. 2021, 7/7-11/2021, SAULT ST. MARIE, KEWA-DIN CASINO
FALL 2021, 9/15-18/2021, BELLEAIRE, SHANTY CREEK
No dates or locations for WINTER 2022, CONV. 2022, FALL 2022, WINTER 2023

After the 2020 Winter Meeting, we received a request from our Michigan entity representing the Muskegon Marriott for the 2022 Fall Conference. Also, due to the COVID-19 pandemic cancellation of the 2020 Department Convention at the Kalamazoo Radisson, they will be considered for the Convention 2022. Both will be reviewed, at the Fall 2020 Conference in Flint, after the committee reviews the request to host any of the Department meetings it is forwarded to the DEC or convention delegates for approval.

Constitution and By-Laws, Article XI, section 1, it states: “The Department Convention shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by vote of the Convention, at a minimum of two years in advance.” Therefore, it is imperative that we have convention corporations eager to host this annual event. We will be continuing to meet with department meetings to the PT&P Committee for review.

The Department has guidelines for this endeavor. Any post, district, or zone can start a convention corporation. This is necessary to continue working toward our united goal of serving our active duty, veterans, their families, and our communities. See you at our 2020 Fall Meeting at the Holiday Inn, Flint, God willing, and the pandemic subsides.