RESOLUTION NO. 38: VISION AND MISSION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

TAL Adopts new Vision and Mission Statement
The American Legion National Executive Committee passed national resolution no. 38 on their National Fall Meeting via video conference. Resolution no. 38 adopts a new vision and mission statement for The American Legion.

It is passed in an effort to have a more succinct and concise vision and mission statement that is increasingly relevant. The following was passed:

Our vision: “The American Legion: Veterans Strengthening America”

Our Mission: “To enhance the well-being of America’s veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

That is our Vision and Mission; how are the posts fulfilling the vision and mission of The American Legion? With a clear vision, potential members should want to join the cause.

America needs renewal, a revitalization of patriotism, and service to others to become stronger. The American Legion is positioned to make that possible. Will you help us with our mission?

More information will be released soon to help promote this new vision and mission.

2021 ORATORICAL SPEECH CONTEST INTENT TO COMPETE ENDS NOVEMBER 13

Do you know a high school student looking for a challenge?

A student wanting to compete for up to $25,000 in scholarship money?

A high school student who wants a reason to learn more about the U.S. Constitution?

For students who are looking for an academic challenge and an opportunity to gain scholarship funds, The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program is a natural fit. Students learn about our country’s Constitution in a contest that has been held by The American Legion for more than 80 years. michiganlegion.org/oratorical
He is the THREE ANONYMOUS HEROES IN THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN.

He is the OLD GUY bagging groceries at the supermarket – palsied now but in the past, liberated a Nazi death camp who also wishes his wife was still with him to comfort him.

He is an ordinary yet extra-ordinary person who offered his/her life and sacrificed his/her life’s ambitions, so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He/She is a SOLDIER against the darkness and the greatest testimony to the finest nation ever known.

Each time you see someone who has served our country, lean over and say, “THANK YOU! ” That’s all most people need, and sometimes it’s more valuable than all the medals they wear. Two little words but mean a lot, “THANK YOU!” It is the SOLDIER, not the reporter, who has given us freedom of the press.

It is a SOLDIER, not the poet, who has given us freedom of speech.

It is the SOLDIER, not the campus organizer, who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.

It is the SOLDIER, who salutes the flag, who serves beneath the flag, and whose coffin is draped by the flag, and allows protestors to burn the flag.

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jiggered scar, a certain look. Others may be inside of them, and a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg. These men and women have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem, except maybe in some parades. BUT YOU CAN’T TELL BY JUST LOOKING!

“What is a VET? He is the COP who spent six months in Saudi Arabia, making sure the armored tanks didn’t run out of fuel.

He is the BARROOM BRAWLER, whose behavior was realized in his bravery near the 38th parallel.

He or she is the NURSE who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two years in Da Nang.

He/She is the POW who went away one person and came back another or did not come back at all.

He/She is the Quantico DRILL SGT who never saw combat – but saved countless lives and turning red-necks into Ma.

He/She is in the parades, like other Legionnaires pinning on his/her medals with a prosthetic hand or leg.

He/She is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass by, smiling and saluting.

HE is the 245TH Birthday

Marine Corps!

Semper Fidelis!
Happy Holiday’s

Barry Wood
Department Commander

The Department has been receiving questions about what actions need to be taken in regard to the Governor’s executive order. Our response has been for you to stay safe and to check with your local health authorities. Local health departments may have rules that need to be followed. Do not risk losing any of the licenses you need to operate by not following the local rules. Above all, protect your members, their families, and your community. You know what makes sense, so please be safe in whatever you plan to do at your post this holiday season. The virus is here, and it has no rules.

The holiday season is a special time for the American Legion family to reach out to others. For instance, many posts put on special events to serve veterans, families, and the community. Adopt-a-family programs, VA hospital Christmas shopping, and food box programs are just a few of the many activities one can participate in to reach out and let veterans know how much they are appreciated. Please, if you can find a way to reach out, do so.

In the past, I have expounded upon the gift of virtual video communications, and I want to continue to express the importance of this means of staying in contact. Due to the pandemic, many have already missed birthday and holiday celebrations together with loved ones. While it is not the same as experiencing a grandchild’s birthday or holiday celebration in person, experiencing it virtually is an option that many now have.

The holiday season, for many, is a joyous time. However, the holiday season can be an especially lonely time for many and even more so during the pandemic. Thus, I am continuing the push for the need to do “buddy checks” as a way to stay in contact with our members. I will echo National Commander Oxford’s words: “If ever a veterans-service program was built for pandemic relief, it's the Buddy Check. In communities large and small everywhere on the map, Buddy Checks are making big differences for veterans, their spouses, and families. Hundreds of posts are reaching out in their local communities, especially to veterans whose age puts them at risk for infection. Legionnaires are using the phone, email, and social media to safely determine how these veterans are doing and what we can do to help them. They might need something from the store or pharmacy. Sometimes, for a veteran who is alone and on orders to stay home, the most important thing is a phone call. Let's follow Commander Oxford’s lead and do “buddy checks.”

In-person meetings may have been canceled for the last few months; however, there are other means to hold meetings in person and over computers. Members of all ages use technology nowadays; so, using the comeback of “our members are too old” does not hold water anymore!

With freeconferencecall.com, all members can participate in the meeting via their telephone.

Administration: Annual membership renewal can be a make or break for a post each year. Step one is to make sure the new membership year cards are ready to be distributed on July 1. Even though memberships do not expire until December 31, Legionnaires receive their first renewal notice in June usually. Be ready.

Step two: When membership dues come in by mail, are you processing those memberships immediately? One of the biggest complaints at the department from members is that they have paid by check to the post, and two months later, they are still receiving renewal notices because the: CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
YOUR Membership Committee

Brian Molhman
Membership Director

Congratulations to all Posts in the Department of Michigan who hit the 50% & 55% Target Dates! As a whole, we're well on our way to a successful Membership Year. This year brings unique challenges to all of us, but creativity, getting back to basics, training, and just plain hard work will ensure solid growth for your Post.

There are a number of tools available to your Post’s Membership Team that I encourage you to take advantage of. One such tool is MyLegion, the online Membership Application. This one-stop Membership Tool can help grow your Post in several ways. Renewals, New Member Applications, and Paying Post Transfers can be quickly accomplished through MyLegion’s Membership Processing application. All transactions processed through MyLegion have an immediate effect on your Post’s Membership numbers. There’s no need to submit the card stubs, no need to write a check, and no need to make that trip to the Post Office; everything’s entered and paid online, saving your Post valuable time & resources.

Also within MyLegion, is a very powerful reporting tool that can actually help you grow your Post’s Membership. Reports available under Revitalization enable you to gain valuable contact information about Headquarters Post 225 Members in your neighborhood who would love to support their local Post. All you have to do is ask! I’ve run into several multi-year Headquarters Post Members who have told me that I was the first person who’s ever knocked on their door!

Don’t hesitate for a moment to invite Headquarters Post 225 Members into your Post just because they live outside your town; yours may be the only Post that has contacted them!

Starting September 23, online Membership Training sessions will begin. Using Zoom Meetings, your Department Membership Committee will provide your Post’s Membership Team with the same Training Tools that our National Headquarters provided to your District Leadership. Don’t miss your opportunity to learn all the ins & outs of Membership to help your Post become a valuable asset to your Community!

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I want to take this opportunity to report on our visit from ALA National President Nicole Clapp. She arrived in Grand Rapids on September 12, 2020, and was escorted by NEC Deborah Williamson. NP Nicole spent Saturday night in the main house at Wilwin at Cygnet Cove. PDP Sue Verville was our guest chairman and took on the responsibility of escorting NP Nicole. We attended the auction, and NP Nicole was asked to speak. We left for Frankenmuth on Sunday morning to visit the Michigan Heroes Museum and Bronner's. We could not visit Frankenmuth without having dinner at Zehnder's, enjoying their family-style dining. We spent the night at the Bavarian Inn. Monday morning, we headed for South Lyon to visit the War Dog Memorial. Madame President was very impressed with the Memorial and recognition of these service dogs. She even found a few named Nicci. We continued on to Troy to visit our Polar Bear Memorial. Madame President was very impressed with the Memorial and recognition of these service dogs. She even found a few named Nicci. We continued on to Troy to visit our Polar Bear Memorial. The 18th District representatives showed up to honor Madame President and share their history of the Polar Bear Memorial. We continued on our tour to visit the Great Lakes Cemetery, where President Nicole placed a wreath on an honored Veteran’s grave. Our next stop was Chesterfield, to have an evening of reminiscing and relaxation. September 15, we visited Selfridge Air Force Base, where President Nicole met a WWII veteran and engaged in a meaningful conversation with him. TheALA is very BLESSED to have NP Nicole; she is devoted to our mission, and our veterans and their families; she has a wonderful way of encompassing those around her.

The men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces military make sacrifices every day to ensure that Americans continue to enjoy the freedoms that we hold so dear. Veterans Day is a day to honor those who have served and are currently serving in our military. This is just one of the ways that we’re able to honor veterans, the military, and their families. Putting Veterans first also means support and care for their families. It is why President Lincoln famously included widows and orphans when he promised to “Care for him who shall have borne the battle.” Veterans are everywhere – sometimes proudly wearing a service cap or military t-shirt and other times quietly blending in the background.

It is up to us to ensure that every Veteran feels that his or her service to this country is appreciated by their fellow Americans. There are many tangible ways that we can acknowledge their sacrifice, but the easiest is to simply say, “Thank you for what you have done for our country.”

As a nation, we should commit to serving our Veterans as well as they have served us. Twenty Veterans a day take their own lives. This is a tragedy for all Americans since so many of these Veterans have never recovered from invisible wounds that they incurred while defending us. If a Veteran is showing signs of unhappiness or depression, encourage them to seek help through the VA immediately. If she/he has had difficulty obtaining the benefits that they are entitled to, let them know that The American Legion has thousands of trained service officers nationwide that will help navigate the bureaucracy free of charge.

Veterans Day is a time to honor not just those who have fought for us in battle, but, in fact, all of the outstanding men and women who served in our nation’s Armed Forces. Refalaforyourveterans.org

With the Covid-19 Pandemic continuing to threaten our society, we need to seek alternative ways to serve our Veterans in the VA Hospitals and the VA Homes. Most of the Gift Shops have been canceled. Suggestions have been made to make Christmas stockings for Veterans. Check with the VA&R representative in your area for more detailed information on the needs of our Veterans. Our representatives have not been at the facilities but may have some suggestions or recommendations.
Parliamentarian Report
Ruth Gott, Parliamentarian

A brief summary of what Parliamentary procedure does, it expedites the proceedings during meetings in an orderly fashion and with the least amount of confusion.

Parliamentary Law means: Courtesy and Justice to all, partiality to none, the right of the majority to rule; the right of minority to be heard, the right of the absentee to be protected, and handling one thing at a time.

The objectives are: To accomplish the objectives of the organization, to expedite business, to maintain order and to insure justice and equality to all.

The value of using Parliamentary Procedure is that: You learn to respect another’s viewpoint, you discover that you can even “disagree” agreeably, and you school yourself in using patience.

A Parliamentarian should keep a straight face and keep quiet, which is easily said but sometimes hard to do. She should not make any motions or talk on the subject being discussed. A Parliamentarian may be asked to explain a point or to give an opinion, but the presiding officer and ONLY THE PRESIDING OFFICER CAN MAKE A RULING.

A member of an assembly who acts as its parliamentarian has the same duty as the presiding officer to maintain a position of impartiality, and therefore does not make motions, participate in debate, or vote on any question except in the case of a ballot vote. She does not cast a deciding vote, even if her vote would affect the results, since that would interfere with the chair’s prerogative of doing so. If a member feels that she cannot properly forego these rights in order to serve as parliamentarian, she should not accept that position. Unlike the presiding officer, the parliamentarian cannot temporarily relinquish her position in order to exercise such rights on a particular motion.

All inquiries for the parliamentarian should be in writing. Please be reminded, the proper procedure is to first consult your UNIT PARLIAMENTARIAN, then the DISTRICT PARLIAMENTARIAN, then the DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN.

Have a bountiful Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

Community Service Report
Peggy Nolff, Chairman, pegnolff1956@gmail.com

As Holidays are approaching, many Units or members are involved in activities in their local areas.

It can be a local food closet donation, a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family, participating in a Christmas parade. Reach out to veteran families during these trying times. With so many students are doing schooling at home, many may need more support right now. Reach out to community forums and social media sites, either offering services or promoting your projects.

Report those hours and monetary donations in your mid-year reports. Many of the programs we participate in the overlap. If you report numbers in another program, you can still report about it in your mid-year and year-end reports. I would love to see 100% reporting from all our Districts.

National has a special certificate for those Units that provide service in their communities during the pandemic. Submit your Units activity in narrative form, and all Units that submit narratives will be awarded a certificate; these narratives can be submitted to me at any time.

At year-end, all submitted narratives will be reviewed for one Annual Award.

In your program guide, there is a hour reporting form for your use. The number of hours reported is an important part of Community Service. Be sure all members have this information; this will let them keep track of what they do as an individual. Be sure that you have one available at each of your events so the chair can track members participating and time spent. Please check your 2020-2021 Community Service Guide; there have been a few changes.

Don’t forget we have the Department Community Service Project “One Pair Can Make A Difference” that is continuing for 20-21. Donations are given to your local needy and homeless shelters. Count how many pairs, send me a picture, tell me how many centers were donated to. If you don’t do it as a Unit and do it as a great individual, you can report to me as an individual.

Remember, information, ideas, and assistance is only an email, text, or website away. Use the tools we have available. National E-Bulletin always has an article with positive impact ideas, join the ALA Community Facebook page for Community Service, read your Community Service Action Plan from Department and National.

9th District Report
Sharon Reynolds, District President

Many units in the 9th have been busy doing all they can to fulfill “our” Mission.

Some of the activities include: collecting cans and bottles for the Poppy Fund, having dinners, and Fish Fry’s (take-out).

Unit 35 held its annual yard sale and cheese sale.

Unit 10, in Manistee, accepted the responsibilities of planting flowers and the care of them on the “River Walk” on the channel. They held raffles, auctions, and the sale of candy bags to help with the committees and the community.

In August, Wilwin Lodge held their annual “Fundraiser.” It was a great success, even with the cool, rainy weather. There was live music, a raffle, auction, and the best hot dogs and pulled pork with sides.

All donated, cooked, and served by the S.A.L. There were special guests- A.L.A. National President, A.L.A. Department President, A.L.A. Past Department Presidents, A.L. Department Commander, A.L. S.A.L. Detachment Commander, and many other officers from Department, District, Posts, and Units.

It was an honor to be there and to meet with everyone.

There were many Units and Posts represented. There were “golf cart” tours given for anyone that wanted to tour the grounds. It was a wonderful day.

Please, Everyone, Stay Safe

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Public Relations Report
J. Barbara Hoaglund, Chairman

Our mission has certainly been stressed under the current health crises. But it has opened new ways to use social media platforms. We can hold meetings by “Zoom,” “Facetime,” etc. Our websites allow continued communication between our members, recruiting new members, the Legion Family, and the public. Be proud to share what is happening within your Unit. “Sell” your fundraising ideas/events locally and state-wide by “click-send” to our ALA Michigan Department website. Show your volunteers (can be non-members) in action. Always convey a good clean platform. Convey not what we think is good, but what is.

Even though Fall Conference did not occur, Department Guides are updated and tools available for posters, flyers, the Legion Family logo, etc. in the 2020 Branding Guide under Public Relations www.ALAforVeterans.org.

National is emphasizing the use of our “brand” (emblem and name) be used correctly universally so the public will recognize our trademark, i.e., Disney, Coca-Cola, etc. It is recommended that we use our emblem, name, and full address at the top of our stationery and the “wave” at the bottom. Colors, fonts, etc. are stated/shown in the Branding Guide. Remember, use the full name, American Legion Auxiliary, when communicating with the public. All communication identifying the ALA should reflect our mission and values. Unit Public Relations Chairman and committee members should incorporate the Branding Guide into their program.

Serving Veterans is a topic most news sites believe their readers will care about, along with Children and Youth. If it is not printed/viewed on TV/radio aired the first time, continue to submit ideas. A simple message plus a photo conveys a great story.

Looking ahead to American Education Week. I doubt that we can visit the schools, but individual certificates would remind them how much they are appreciated – especially now. If several members are working on them, they would be done in no time!

We are all responsible for getting our news to the public for all we do – that is effective Public Relations! It never stops! There is always an event or holiday!
Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

SAL Detachment Commander Comments

See You Later Alligator

Mike Holley
SAL Commander

There was a good time had by all, auction, garage sale, and food. It was set up for a fundraiser for future events. National Auxiliary President Nicole Capp visited, along with Department President Georgia (mom) and other auxiliary officers. Department Commander Wood, and Department Adjutant Ron Runyan, along with many S A L members, were there.

From there headed down to Grand Rapids, spent the night with past PDC Pat and wife Anita, then off to the 4th district meeting in Dorr on Sunday.

Travels may be few and far between but remember, all officers and chairmen are here for you. Just let any of us know what is needed, and we will work on trying to figure out. (Hopefully)

I know a lot of squadrons are working on 2021 membership. We still have 2020 cards that need to be turned in, I know with the shutdown, it has been hard getting cards, but hopefully, all 246 squadrons in our great state will get all cards turned in to the department.

Honor Thy Veteran.

Membership Report

Houston we have a problem

Carvin Chapman, Chairman

Gentlemen, if I were an astronaut, I think my comment about membership four months into the new membership year would be “Houston, we have a problem.” However, like the Apollo 13 crew and the NASA support they had, I believe we can bring this membership home at the goal set forth.

We have our goal from national, and it is 24,808 members. I am assuming that the pandemic has stalled efforts to receive membership and send membership out. As of this writing, on October 26, the date of our third goal of 35% we are way behind at less than 20% submitted.

We now have a current report at our website https://sons.michiganlegion.org/membership and will be updating the report weekly.

I currently have 13 squadrons who have not sent in their officer list, bond, and audits to Deanna, to receive the squadron cards for 2021. I am in the process of calling each of the commanders and adjutants, so they can get those cards in hand to distribute them. If you do not have your cards yet, call me, please.

Squadron commanders, adjutants, and membership chairs, about half of our squadrons, as of today have not sent any renewals or new memberships for 2021. Are members truly, not sending in membership to process? Are you having difficulty getting the mail because the post may be closed? How can I help? What are the obstacles you are facing?

One of the main frustrations members face is sending in payment for membership Adjutant Ron Runyan, along with many S A L members, were there.

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One of the main frustrations members face is sending in payment for membership, but not receiving a card in a timely manner. Being attentive to our membership helps retain members from year to year.

The detachments goal of 45%, or 11,164 members, is November 30, however firearm deer season opens November 15. I am asking that if you hunt, to process your membership either online, or send it to Deanna at headquarters, remember detachment dues are $11 for 2021, before you head out to the woods.

continued on page 8....
Membership Report continued from page 7
Carvin Chapman, Chairman

Lastly, one question I have received from members, is because of COVID and the lack of activities, is why members should renew? Most of the time that comment comes from a member who is at a squadron that has a building and a club license. My response is simple, did you join the S.A.L. to receive discounted drinks, or did you join to honor the legacy of your Veteran? Being a member of the S.A.L. is an honor, and our membership dues support the programs we have, like the Child Welfare Fund, Legacy Scholar-

ship fund, and Legion Charities. Our members are the legacy of our Veterans, we are still supporting those funds, we are still supporting the programs of The American Legion. This pandemic will be over, and when it is, we need to be ready to get back to work. Remember the Legion was founded in the middle of a world-wide pandemic in 1919, and the organization has survived through several others since then. We are strong because of your membership, stay strong, stay supportive, and Thank you for your passion.

1st Zone Report
Greg Price, Commander

Despite COVID 19 continuing to affect the way we go about our daily lives, people are ready to get together and enjoy each other’s company. American Legion Family members are starting to do that now that American Legion Posts have begun to open in our communities.

Many posts have not been able to have meetings because of the restrictions on limiting the number of people attending. Some posts have held video meetings, while others have located a larger place to meet so that they would be able to have a quorum.

It is difficult for me to answer our Detachment Commander Mike Holly or Detachment Membership Chairman Carvin Chapman questions about how membership renewals are doing with most Squadrons not being able to hold a meeting. They may not know the answer to that question, but without a meeting, it would be difficult to share their membership report. When meetings start up again, a squadron will be able to vote on those that would like to become a new member and be part of what we do as Sons of the American Legion.

Many Squadrons in the 1st & 16th Districts still have members who have not paid their dues for 2020. They have until 12/31/2020 to do that. There are Squadrons that still have not sent in a 2020-2021 Squadron Officer List or sent in for their Bond (along with the $10.00 Bond fee) or sent in any Early Bird 2021 Membership. Remember that if you do not pay your 2020 dues and decide to get a new 2021 membership card instead, you will lose your consecutive years as a member of your Squadron.

If you believe you have paid your 2020 dues and have not received a 2020 membership card, you may want to contact your Squadron Adjutant. Monies from our Squadron dues that go to our Detachment and Nation Headquarters support many of the programs we have for Veterans and their families.

When you have your Squadron meetings set up and would like me to attend, you can contact me at grinnerman@msn.com.

Be careful during this COVID 19 Virus time.

Missing in America Project
Greg Price, Chairman

With our Nation going through this difficult time dealing with the COVID 19 Virus that has affected many things that are a part of our lives.

COVID 19 has also changed the way that Ceremonies for the Interments of Unclaimed Cremains of American Veterans are performed at National Cemeteries.

On October 5 in South Carolina, only ten people were allowed to enter Florence National Cemetery to honor (4) Veterans at their final resting place.

On October 6 in Alabama, the service of (4) almost forgotten Veterans that was held at Alabama National Cemetery was not opened to the public. The service was shared by video on the Support Committee Alabama National Cemetery website.

Arizona held two services for the Cremains of Forgotten Veterans that had been located. On October 16, a ceremony for 34 Veterans was held at the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Camp Navajo. The second service to honor 30 Forgotten Veterans was held at Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Marana. With the cemeteries being closed to the public, both ceremonies were Virtual Services aired by the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

On November 10, Florida will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 19 veterans and seven spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed since 1952.

As of this time, due to coronavirus issues, the National Cemetery Administration and local government will decide policies regarding the number of individuals that can attend the service. This service will not be publicized or open to the public.

To those who may have the opportunity to try to locate these Forgotten Heroes, please be careful dealing with the COVID 19 Virus.

For God & Country

4th Zone Report
John P. Brown, Commander

Greetings, sons, and families of the 4th Zone. I hope all of you are healthy and trying to stay safe.

The Detachment hopes everyone now has their membership cards. As dues monies and new members come to our squadrons, please forward these dues to the Detachment. Please do not sit on dues monies.

On a personal note, the Jackson-Koster-Grey Squadron 300, Lake City, recently awarded a deer blind and trailer to a Lake City resident, Darby Schaub, of Lake City.

I would love to hear what’s going on in your squadrons. Please call or email news to let me know what your squadrons are doing.

I hope all of our members voted. It matters not whom you voted for, but our voice can only be heard through us voting.

The holiday season will soon be upon us. I sincerely hope all of the 4th Zone members and their families have a wonderful holiday season.

Stay safe; stay healthy. See you in 2021.

If your squadron needs any assistance, please feel free to call me or email me. Cell: (734) 634-7733, email: johnbwn421@aol.com

Sons of the August Mattson American Legion Squadron #71 Host Croatian Chicken Dinner to Support St. Vincent De Paul Food Closet.

Over 100 chickens were on the charcoal grill in Gladstone as Sons Squadron #71 held their Annual Croatian Chicken Dinner.

Led by 5th Zone Commander Bill Germain and his crew of Bar be Que experts of Squadron #71, 100 chickens were served up, along with potato, coleslaw, rolls, and desert. This is a big fundraiser for our squadron, according to current Commander Randy Bruntjens. All proceeds go to charitable groups in the community, including the local food pantry of St. Vincent De Paul. Phone orders were taken ahead of time, and social distancing was practiced in the post dining area.

Photo below: William Starnes, Squadron #71 Commander Randy Bruntjens, 5th Zone Commander Bill Germain, Jeff Ware.

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Good customer service leads to repeat business, continued from page 3
Ron Runyan, Department Adjutant

do not wait to process it. Now that membership can be processed on mylegion.org, the process is fast and straightforward. The goal should be to eliminate the member from receiving a duplicate renewal notice after they have paid.

If your post does not process membership on mylegion.org, then send those memberships to the department as soon as possible. At the very least once a week, no matter how many memberships have been received. If you only have one membership for the department to process, we will process it.

Encouraging members to renew online at www.legion.org/renew can eliminate the renewal notice for the member, but are you watching on a regular basis who is renewing online and sending out membership cards? Or are you waiting until you receive the check and list from the department, which can take up to eight weeks to obtain from the time the member renews? Use mylegion.org to regularly track who renews online and send them their card.

Being attentive to Legionnaires membership cards and renewal is a big step to great customer service.

Community Service: In 1919, when the organization started, it was about how we, as veterans, could give back to our communities and help veterans. Having leadership and members of a post knowledgeable about how to assist veterans locally when the need arises is very important. Some posts do not have the funding to pay for something a veteran may need or requires, but that shouldn’t stop your post from helping.

Knowing other agencies or services within the community can be just as good. It is suggested to get out into the local community and work with companies and services to know how you all can work together to solve problems and help veterans. Do not forget that 800-MICH-VET is a resource.

Does the post have room for a blood drive? If so, you might want to consider hosting a blood drive for the community. It shows you care about the community and gives the community the opportunity to see and learn more about the post.

Even in this time of COVID, blood drives are critical. Will the post make money? Not today, but goodwill is like money in a savings account; one day, it might pay handsomely.

Giving back to your community is essential. When the local community is looking for a building to have an event, maybe the post could host it. Perhaps a special project is being done locally, and the group is asking for volunteers; possibly your post members would be willing to chip in. Do your local Scouting organizations need or have a sponsor or a place to meet?

An Active Post is a Growing Post: When an American Legion Post is active within the community and seen by its residents, membership will grow, and the post will have meaning! Being a part of something big that others can talk about, and they can recommend to others. It promotes their need to be a part of our Great organization.

My last thought is I want to wish everyone a very safe and happy holiday season. Please stay healthy, safe, and thoroughly enjoy your families. If you know a veteran who will be alone during the holidays, please give them a buddy check, let them know how much they are appreciated and wish them a happy veterans day.

Boys State Report
Jerry Kelly, Chairman

Our challenge this year is for 50% of our Legion Post and 50% of our SAL Squads to reach out and provide the Boys State experience to at least one eleventh-grade young men in their community. We will need to be creative in how we recruit delegates to Boys State.

To start you on the path to being successful in sponsoring young men to attend Boys State, make initial contact with your local high school or other organization that serves young men, i.e. Scout Troops, Church Youth Groups, Sports Teams, etc. To contact schools:

Contact the school principal either by email or phone. If by email, be sure to send information about our Youth Programs, especially Boys State. If you are able to speak with the principal, be sure to talk about Scholarships, Oratorical, Boys State and Girls State. Also, make sure to send handouts to the principal explaining our programs.

Ask the principal for a contact in the building and an introduction to that person. Either email or set up a phone call with the contact.

Put plans in place to stay in contact at least once before the new year and set a goal for the number of students that you want to attend Boys State from the school.

After the first of the year, ask the contact for students to talk with or email about Boys State. Be sure to include parents with information.

If you chose to contact other sources, i.e., Scout Troops, Church Youth Groups, etc., make sure the delegates and their parents have information and application form for Boys State.

Have the delegates complete the application and submit it. Send a check to the Department for $375 for each delegate.

Don’t have enough money for all of your delegates to Boys State. Let us know, and we will help.

To help each Post and SAL Squadron find, recruit and sponsor a young man from their community, each District has a District Boys State Chair to work closely with every Post and SAL Squadron in their District. Their job is to encourage Posts and SAL Squadrons to have a Boys State Chair and to sponsor at least one young man from their community to attend Boys State. For more information about Boys State, visit our web site: <www.michiganboysstate.org>

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The American Legion, Seventh District Association endorses Richard Dubay for 2021-2022 Department Commander
Tim Shosey, District Commander, Kenneth Pierce, District Adjutant

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Seventh District Association of the American Legion, Department of Michigan held on October 11, 2020, Richard T. Dubay was endorsed for the office of Department Commander for 2021-2022.

Richard is a Vietnam Veteran who earned his eligibility for the American Legion by serving in the Air Force from 1966 to 1968. He has been a dedicated Legionnaire for 34 years.

At the Post level, Richard has served as Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, Junior Vice-Commander, Executive Board, and Judge Advocate. He has also been a member of the Honor Guard. Richard was SAL Chairman for seven years and also served as the liaison between the Post and Scout Troop #75. He has served on various committees and is an Honorary Life Member of Post #4.

Richard has served the District as 3rd Zone Commander, Historian, and on the Department Executive Committee. He was a member of the National Security and Foreign Relations Committee for eight years; Post Development Committee for two years, one as Chairman; and 3rd Zone Chairman of the Education and Scholarship Committee for three years. Richard is a graduate of Michigan Leadership College and is currently serving the Department on the Finance Committee.

On the National level, Richard was National Historian from 2017-2018. He has also been a member of the National Security Council from 2014-2017; National Homeland and Security Council Vice-Chairman from 2009-2014; and the National Legislative Council from 2013 to Present. He is currently serving the National organization as a member of the National Security Council.

Richard is a member of SAL Squadron #351, Voiture 1061 40 & 8, and ANAVICUS. He is a Life Member of VFW Post #1794 and Amvets Post #29. He is also a former Cub Scout and Boy Scout leader, as well as a Little League and Soccer Coach.

Richard and his wife, Mary, have been married for 50 years and have four children and 11 grandchildren.
Over 200 Scouts attended the 2020 Second Annual Camporee at Wilwin

The American Legion Department of Michigan Americanism and Scouting Committee held the second annual camporee at the department’s 1,183-acre Wilwin at Cygnet Cove property in Custer over the weekend of October 16-18.

Over 200 scouts and their leaders were separated among three campsites on the property to comply with COVID regulations by the Boys Scouts of America. A great time was had by all. Several American Legion Post sponsored troops were present, like Neal Fonger Post 179, Hastings Post 45, and the Gladwin Post. Three Scouting Troops of girls were there to participate in the camporee, as well.

The theme of the camporee was “Star Wars,” the scouts practiced their lightsaber swordsmanship, repaired the Millennium Falcon, learned to walk on ski’s as a team to walk in the snow, built a battering ram for the Death Star front door, started a fire on the planet Hoth, and worked on their galaxy navigation skills.

Weather was mixed; over the two nights, the scouts camped at temperatures hovering around the freezing mark, with some rain and sleet mix on Friday night, and 57-degrees sleeping weather Saturday night, but with sustained winds of up to 60 mph at times.

On Sunday, Department Commander Barry Wood presented his “Eagle Scout” coin to all the Eagle Scouts present. He told the scouts how important his time in Scouting was to him and how his scout leaders taught him lessons he still holds with him today.

The American Legion has supported Scouting since 1919; it was the first program delegates at the first convention approved through resolutions. The Department of Michigan has over 70 Scouting troops sponsored by American Legion Posts. Is your post one of them?

Scouting builds character, builds leadership, and love of country. The Loud Merkel LaPlante American Legion Post 274 in Oscoda is active with their troops. They are going plane rebuild classes and developing young women to be outstanding troops. Two have achieved the Order of the Arrow from their Venture Crew.

Scouting is a great program to engage with the community for a post. If you would like to learn more about starting a scouting program in your post, contact the Department Programs Coordinator, Ashley Zimmer, at 517-371-4720 ext 123 or email Legion@michiganlegion.org.
The American Legion and Scouting: Building Character in Youth together.

The Loud Merkel LaPlante Post 274 in Oscoda has had a busy 2020 for their Scouting Programs

Background: The Loud Merkel LaPlante Post 274 is the charter organization for Scouting Troop 7G and Venturing Crew 7. Scouting Troop 7G is for young women aged 11 thru 17. Girls may join when they complete 5th grade or turn 11, whichever comes first. The Troop meets at Hope-St. John’s Church at Mill Street on the beach in AuSable every Wednesday from 5:15 to 6:45 PM.

Venturing Crew 7 is for young men and women who are 14 thru 20. Interested youth may join when they turn 14 or finish 8th grade. The Crew meets every other Sunday evening at Hope-St. John’s Church from 6:30 to 8:15 PM.

Scouts from Scouting Troop 7G and Venturing Crew 7 Learn to Build an Airplane

One Scout and five Crew members from the Loud Merkel LaPlante Post 274 were accepted into a program to rebuild a 1962 Cessna 150B at the Oscoda-Wurtsmith Community Airport this past summer. Scout Paige Gower, from Scouting Troop 7G, and Crew members Nickoli D’Agrella, Rhea Gereau, Jenya Torsch, Dillon Mochty and Edward Klenow were accepted into the program from Crew 7. However, due to other obligations, Dillon and Edward were not able to attend.

Each week the students worked on different aspects of the aircraft starting June 17 until its completion in August 2020. Each student fulfilled 20% of 400 hours required for a certified aviation maintenance experience. Here are a few of the instructors and skills learned.

Mark Evans of Evan’s Avionics in Traverse City taught the students how to wire avionics for the aircraft. Students measured wire, read schematics, soldered, squeezed pins on to wires, and built wiring harnesses. In all, Mr. Evan’s supervised the installation of $67,000 of high-tech electronics equipment into the aircraft.

Gary Pietroski of Tawas Auto and Boat Upholstery showed the students how to create seat forms, seat covers, panels, and a headliner. They also learned how to cut Kevlar fabric and use a commercial sewing machine.

Rollin Tomlin, a teacher at the Great Oaks Aviation Maintenance School in Laurel Oaks, Ohio, supervised the general aviation maintenance and repair portion of the class.

Marv Poland, the airport manager at the Iosco County Airport, also a retired Air Force Master Sergeant, and licensed FAA Airframes and Powerplant Mechanic taught the class how to disassemble and inspect the Continental O-200, four-cylinder, horizontally opposed, air-cooled aircraft engine, capable of developing 100 horsepower at sea level.

Sasha Lazic, a maintenance supervisor at Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport from Wilmington, Ohio, supervised installing the wings and tail sections, all-new stainless steel control cables, and the landing gear during week 9. Sasha returned a couple of weeks later to supervise the final assembly of the aircraft.

Paul Kline of Kline Aviation in Brooklyn has over 40 years of experience assembling aircraft engines. Paul walked the students through the process of reassembling the engine and attaching the engine to the aircraft.

Imagine the answer these students can give to their teacher and classmates when asked: What did you do this summer?

Oscoda Women make Michigan Scouting History

Savannah Webster, 16, and Erykah LaLonde, 18, from Venturing Crew 7 in Oscoda were elected to be inducted into the Order of the Arrow. After two cancelations of their final attendance in a weekend-long ordeal in April and June, due to the pandemic. The BSA rescheduled their ordeal for October at the D-Bar-A Scout Ranch near Metamora.

On the evening of October 3, after a full day of service, Erykah and Savannah were brought together with other inductees for the ceremony admitting them to the Order of the Arrow. As it turns out, they are two of the first three women in Michigan who are participants in Scouting programs to gain admission to the Order of the Arrow. The third young woman was Natalie Norris, a twenty-year-old Venturer.

All three young women are happy to serve and proud of their accomplishments! It is remarkable that two of the three hail from Oscoda.
National Executive Committee Of The American Legion passed Resolution No. 6: Minority Veterans at their virtual meeting October 12-14.

WHEREAS, Recent Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) statistics listed minority veterans represented about 22 percent of the total veteran population of 18.6 million; and

WHEREAS, VA projects minority veterans will make up approximately 36 percent of the total veteran population by 2040; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics estimated that the minority veteran population totaled nearly 4.7 million at the end of 2017, which was estimated to be about 1 in 5 living veterans in the United States; and

WHEREAS, That proportion is projected to increase to about 1 in 3 living veterans in the United States by 2045; and

WHEREAS, According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services data, disparities in health care have persisted over time in the United States for a wide range of conditions; and

WHEREAS, These disparities are associated with worse health outcomes and the presence of unmet health-care needs for minority veterans; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that minority veterans are more likely to depend upon the VA to provide all or some of their health care; and

WHEREAS, Across all veterans, significant disparities were detected between traditionally underserved minority groups and white veterans in their ability to obtain needed medical care; and

WHEREAS, Although VA’s recent transformation achieved performance improvements in process of care measures for all veterans, gaps in clinical outcomes still persist for hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion urge the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure that the health-care needs of all current and future minority veterans are met; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA increase the amount of outreach to minority veterans through awareness campaigns, benefits education and community organizations; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA continue efforts to focus on preventing, detecting and controlling clinical issues related to hypertension, cardiovascular care and diabetes care; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the VA continue to develop veteran-centered care initiatives for minority veterans, which can include delivery of culturally sensitive care in VA facilities; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That the VA continue research that identifies causes of minority disparities in veterans’ health and health care and as evidence-based treatments develop provide interventions to reduce these disparities.

National Executive Committee Of The American Legion Resolution No. 25: Funding For Protection Of The National Power Grid Against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack

WHEREAS, The American Legion has established the four pillars of service of our great organization, namely, national defense, Americanism, children and youth, and veterans affairs and rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The United States depends on a power grid for virtually all modern life functions and necessary essential services; and

WHEREAS, The United States power grid is vulnerable to electromagnetic pulse (EMP), high altitude electromagnetic pulse (HEMP) and solar flares; and

WHEREAS, EMPs affect all electronics including military and civilian communications, computers, cellphones and transformers; and

WHEREAS, Adversaries and potential enemies have current capability to create EMPs with missile capability to deliver high altitude nuclear weapons over the United States; and

WHEREAS, Such EMPs can impair our defense capability for as much as five years, thereby compromising United States security; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The National Executive Committee Of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That the American Legion urge Congress to approve funding to harden and protect the deteriorating United States power grid, such action being necessary for the continued defense of the United States should an electromagnetic pulse attack on the United States occur.

National Executive Committee Of The American Legion Resolution No. 8: Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of “Vietnam Era”

WHEREAS, The Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975; and,

WHEREAS, The Department of Defense recognizes November 1, 1955, as the beginning date of the United States military involvement in the Republic of Vietnam, when the U.S. Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG), composed of roughly 5,000 officers and enlisted men began operations; and

WHEREAS, According to Title 38, United States Code, Section 101(29)(A), the Department of Veterans Affairs currently defines the “Vietnam Era” as (1) the period beginning on February 28, 1961, and ending on May 7, 1975, in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that period, or (2) the period beginning on August 5, 1964, and ending on May 7, 1975, in all other cases; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee Of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled virtually on October 14-15, 2020, That The American Legion supports legislation to amend Title 38, United States Code, Section 101(29)(A) to revise the definition of the “Vietnam Era” to begin on November, 1, 1955.
Greetings and SALutations,

I never thought that I would be saying this, but I MISS MEETINGS. All the conventions and conferences that we used to attend, and hope to again soon. I miss the face to face conversations with real people! This isolationism of the governor’s restrictions is putting a crimp in my style. How about you? If any of your Squadrons are having an event that could be a Legion Promotional / Community Outreach type of affair, I would like to visit. That’s how we Zone Commanders get some of our information for articles like these. It’s how we know what to pass on to other Squadrons as to what programs work for our members. Yes, I’m referring to good old-fashioned networking. When a handshake, a funny story, and even a brief conversation were all that it took to spread the words and deeds of an organization as fine and dedicated as The American Legion.

Next June at our Detachment Convention, a few positions will be opening on the Detachment Executive Committee. One of which is the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman. I have received an endorsement from both my Squadron and the 18th District to run for that office. It is an office that I have held once in the past, shortly after my year as your State Commander. I know what is involved, and I believe that I can represent the Detachment of Michigan in the best way possible.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention this year, and I hope that I can count on your support in my bid for A.N.E.C.

Yours in Americanism,

David Mennel, District Commander, & Sandy Lipman, District Chaplain

Just thought I would bring you an update about what is going on in our District, Our District Association goes back to 1996, and it is a strong part of our Legion Family! We, along with the 16th District S.A.L. Association, will be hosting the 2021 Detachment convention at the Holiday Inn in Southgate; please join us!

We hold our meetings on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM. Our November meeting will be at the Lake Orion Post and our December meeting at the Chief Pontiac Post. At the December meeting, we will draw our winners for our annual fundraiser tickets. The cost of the tickets is $10 and only 200 are sold. The winner gets $500, and there are five $100 prizes to follow if you want tickets to contact Sandy Lipman or Tony Licari.

The Charles Edward Squadron in Troy is having a cash raffle drawing with five prizes; first prize is 30%, 2nd 10%, 3rd 5%, 4th 3%, 5th 2%, which comes out to 50% of the income. The drawing will be held on Super Bowl Sunday! Contact me sandylipman95@hotmail.com if you would like tickets,

These fundraisers help support the Legion Charities and functions within our great state and nation. At our last meeting, the District donated to the C.W.F., NEF, and the Legacy Scholarship Fund, and Wilwin Lodge in our state; please support!

All of the 18th District officers and members want to wish you a fantastic, safe, and healthy holiday season!

Sandy Lipman, Chairman

It was indeed an honor to sit in on the American Legion Child Welfare Fall meeting as well as the CWF Virtual selection meeting on Tuesday, September 15. The call and meeting started at 3 PM and ended at 5:30 PM; needless to say, it was educational and interesting.

The national Sons Commission was given 50 grant applications to look over approximately one month earlier. We then selected 12 to recommend to the board. Of our 12 recommendations, eight were selected to receive grants. Nineteen grants were selected with $740,899 being given to these organizations (a list will follow soon). Donations were down this year as to be expected: overall, we raised $503,000, of which the Sons raised over 50% or approximately $254,000. Great job once again, Sons! Please continue to raise funds for this and all of our great causes!

Once again, we have the Sons for Kids Aprons on sale for $20 each, and if you could add a dollar or more to help with the shipping, it would be appreciated! See if there is interest from the post, and get a quantity that will be shipped directly to the post! We also have piggy banks, and they too can be shipped from Indy!

Again Mother Nature has been cruel to our nation, hurricanes, wildfires, and more! Donate to the NEF; when you make these donations, please send me a copy for my records. We thank you ahead of time for all you do!

As your editor, I am extremely disappointed in response to this newsletter! As of September 21, I only received five articles, plus mine. Why is this? We still are doing things at our posts and within our communities for our Veterans and their families. Brag about it, take pictures, write articles; Stand tall, and be Proud. Detachment Officers Let’s hear from you. My email is sandylipman95@hotmail.com, snail mail 13633 Vernon Oak Park 48237, cell 2484831119. A side note from Carvin, don’t forget that per diem for 2021 is now $11.00.

Recently we had the honor of being joined by National President Nicole Clapp and our own three leaders of the American Legion Family Commander Wood, President Downs, and SAL Commander Holley at our annual fundraiser. The fundraiser this year was organized by Duane and Barb Miller. There were approximately 75 people in attendance due to not the nicest of weather! Our auction and fundraiser were a great success, and the numbers are still being counted.

We want to thank the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons, who took part and helped with the event donations. A big shout-out goes to the Underwood-Orr Squadron 34, Tecumseh, for cooking and serving the food. We also want to thank Hooligans Flight Team for the great flyover they did!

Don’t forget that a huge part of the success of this program is the donations we receive from members, friends, and family. If you could not make it to the fundraiser, please go to our site www.wilwinlodge.com and donate! If you have never seen our Lodge, please stop in. Once again, Thank you all!

Sandy Lipman

Freedom in America is not really Free. It is up to American Patriots. It is up to you and me. We owe so much to them. Whom kept us safe from terror. So, when we see a uniform, let us say Thank You to every wearer.

Lord, we ask for blessings on our service men and women. We ask protection for all our men and women in uniform both here and around the world. We are grateful for their service and their dedication to keeping our nation safe.

We pray that you would keep them and our nation safe. We thank you for our blessings of life and liberty. May our country continually show love and honor to you. May our dedication to you cause us to reach out to all the other nations and people groups with a strong desire for peace and harmony to be displayed whenever possible. We ask all these things in your name. Amen.

Sandy Lipman

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Sons of the Underwood Orr Squadron 34 are staying busy during a difficult year
Scott Gregory

To say this year has been different is an understatement. Most of us have had to do the uncomfortable, and that is to change our everyday routines. For example, at the Underwood Orr Sons of the American Legion Squadron 34, in Tecumseh, they have found ways to raise money (following social distancing guidelines) and positively occupy free time, despite obstacles.

The Sons of Underwood Orr Squadron 34 held a successful golf outing in August to raise money for Fisher House of Michigan, Wilwin at Cygnet Cove, and Housing Help of Lenawee, an organization that helps homeless and veterans in need. A check was presented on September 30 by Squadron 34 to that organization for $3000. This money is earmarked to help homeless and dire need veterans. Rodney Tolbert, if you are reading, how about that! And Go Blue!

The Sons of 34 have also not forgotten our departed and spent time maintaining a memorial at Brookside Cemetery, our local cemetery. The monument pays tribute to our dearly departed Post 34 American Legion and Auxiliary members. Recently with the gracious permission of our Legion Veterans, the Sons were allowed to add new markers honoring our departed S.A.L members, along with all P.O.W. and M. I. A.

I hope our Michigan Legion Family is doing well and finding ways to adapt and spend time in this temporary “new normal.” We will be back to business as usual in no time, and I hope to see you all soon!

Cornhole Fever in Lake Orion
Bob Gritzinger, Commander, Squadron 233, Lake Orion

Faced with an inability to conduct normal fundraising activities to support programs such as its 12 Families of Christmas family assistance effort, Lake Orion Sons of The American Legion Squadron 233 launched the Lake Orion Downtown Cornhole League to help fill the funding gap.

The inaugural season, shortened by a few weeks due to COVID restrictions, launched in June with 12 sponsored teams competing for top bagger honors. The summer season wrapped up Aug. 29 with an all-day, double-elimination tournament, finally won late in the day by the team sponsored by local restaurant Fork ‘n’ Pint.

Not satisfied with the success of that first season, and with overwhelming demand to continue the league, the Sons began registration for a fall league, signing up 16 teams to play along with additional team sponsors. The fall league kicked off Sept. 12, playing every Saturday afternoon through Nov. 7, weather permitting.

Hats off to SAL 233 Junior Vice Commander Lloyd Coe for his work in securing sponsors to pay for every cornhole board and equipment for the league, while putting funds into our 12 Families program. SAL 233 Sgt.-At-Arms Darren Ackley is another key partner, serving as an administrator of the league as well as a strong assistant for Commander Lloyd Coe for his work in securing sponsors to pay for every cornhole board and equipment for the league, while putting funds into our 12 Families program. SAL 233 Sgt.-At-Arms Darren Ackley is another key partner, serving as an administrator of the league as well as a strong assistant

Charles A. Conklin Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 Support Community
Dr. Chris Petras, SAL Squadron 28 Grand Haven/TALMA

Charles A. Conklin Sons of the American Legion Squadron 28 (Grand Haven, MI) Teams with local Love In Action and Salvation Army Organizations to Deliver Food Items to Local Families in Need

Supporting local families in need is one of several philanthropic missions SAL Squadron 28 in Grand Haven, MI fulfills each year. For the past five years, Squadron 28 has donated $5,000.00 annually for food items, to assist local families in need.

On September 4, 2020 Squadron 28 volunteers converged at the Meijer store in Grand Haven to load food items for delivery to local Love In Action and Salvation Army charitable organizations, for distribution to local families in need.

SAL Squadron 28 donates $2,500.00 to purchase food items just before Easter and another $2,500.00 for food items, when it comes to setting up the equipment each week. Squadron Commander Bob Gritzinger also helps oversee league operations.

Sponsors of the league are: Cookies & Cream, Motor City Granite, Builders Custom Flooring, In Memory of Alexandria Lambert, Oat Soda, Old School Contracting, Beier Howlett (Village Attorneys), Fork ‘n’ Pint, McKenna (Village Architects & Planners), Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority, Hubbell, Roth & Clark (Village Engineers), Great Lakes Insurance, Broadway Embroidery, Haney Farm Bureau and E.R. Tool Co.

To date, SAL Squadron 28 has donated $25,000.00 to ensure local families in need receive food items. SAL Squadron 28 Adjutant, Paul Kubicek said “the Squadron is blessed to have the ability to support various local causes that enhance the quality-of-life for those in need.” SAL Squadron 28 Commander, Ross Berens notes that “SAL Squadron 28 is honored to support our Post in fulfilling the mission of the Legion’s Four Pillars.”

Anthony “Tony” Sustarich, age 75, of Gladstone, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, September 25, 2020.

Tony was born on January 9, 1945, in Lake Linden, Michigan, the son of Joseph and Jeannette (Saladin) Sustarich. He was a member of the Gladstone American Legion Post 71. He was active with the Sons of the American Legion, served with Color Guard and Honor Guard for over 25 years, and helped maintain the Legion, Veteran's Park, and the Loan Locker for many years. He loved being outdoors and spending time at his place on the Escanaba River.

A celebration of Tony's life will be held at the Gladstone American Legion Post 71 in June of 2021 and will be announced by the Skradski Funeral Home in Gladstone.
Chaplain Report
Kimberly Champion, Department Chaplain

My wish is our Legion Family is well and staying safe. Remember to say prayers at the beginning and end of your meetings, be it whether they are in person, by teleconference, or by Zoom. Please let me know if you need any assistance in any way. I truly miss our interactions during Conference, Convention, and other times throughout the year. I so look forward to being with all of you in the future.

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 Thy churches, to the clergy, to all civil authorities, to our Armed Forces, and 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.

For God and Country.

Memory Garden
January 1, 2020 –
October 21, 2020
MI UNIT 0002 Thelma Leys
MI UNIT 0003 Ida E Kraft
MI UNIT 0006 Chris Stjohn
MI UNIT 0008 Ann Cleaver
MI UNIT 0008 Claradene Wherwein
MI UNIT 0008 Diane A Herber
MI UNIT 0008 Doris J Sheffer
MI UNIT 0008 Katherine Barr
MI UNIT 0008 Lynn Lloyd
MI UNIT 0010 Marie Popielarz
MI UNIT 0016 Arlene C Good
MI UNIT 0018 Donna A Hare
MI UNIT 0021 Sally A Blyze
MI UNIT 0021 Shirley L Peterson
MI UNIT 0027 Arlene M Gierl
MI UNIT 0027 Gloria Kuster
MI UNIT 0027 Irene M Johnson
MI UNIT 0028 Ann R Kammeraad
MI UNIT 0028 Jeanette Hoag
MI UNIT 0028 Mary E Skiio
MI UNIT 0028 Mary L Schultz
MI UNIT 0028 Nancy C. Keech
MI UNIT 0028 Vera A Oom
MI UNIT 0028 Virginia M Beekman
MI UNIT 0029 C M Ackerman
MI UNIT 0029 Cynthia A. Slope
MI UNIT 0029 Joan M Barron
MI UNIT 0029 Myrna K. Battin
MI UNIT 0032 Linda Shirkey
MI UNIT 0035 Margaret Kozelko
MI UNIT 0035 Rebecca L. Lawrence
MI UNIT 0041 Jeanne M Hicks
MI UNIT 0044 Karen Lohf
MI UNIT 0044 Marlene A. Grange
MI UNIT 0044 Patricia H. Akkala
MI UNIT 0045 Bonnie J Sherman
MI UNIT 0045 Verna M Bachelder
MI UNIT 0047 Nancy Pagel
MI UNIT 0047 Virginia F Johnson
MI UNIT 0049 Bertha Dewey
MI UNIT 0049 Joan A Hoyt
MI UNIT 0049 Marilyn L Geier
MI UNIT 0051 Gaynelle Tate
MI UNIT 0054 Elizabeth Peckham
MI UNIT 0054 Mildred L Forrest
MI UNIT 0054 Shirley J Hibbard
MI UNIT 0064 Coleen Margetson
MI UNIT 0067 Stella A Locke
MI UNIT 0072 Cindy K Marsh
MI UNIT 0072 Nancy Laney
MI UNIT 0074 Bethel J Whalen
MI UNIT 0074 Joan Karlson
MI UNIT 0074 Ruth A Wendrow
MI UNIT 0076 Agnes Bellanger
MI UNIT 0076 Marsha J Funk
MI UNIT 0076 Mary E. Vandenheuvel
MI UNIT 0085 Jean Porter
MI UNIT 0097 Conniedale Lambert
MI UNIT 0097 Ruth J Disbro
MI UNIT 0101 Charlene L Hodges
MI UNIT 0101 Marilyn Riker
MI UNIT 0101 Virginia Holstad
MI UNIT 0104 Donna L Watz
MI UNIT 0104 Linda Ahleman
MI UNIT 0104 Tina DuRussell
MI UNIT 0108 Catherine Jarrett
MI UNIT 0108 Gayle K Tucker
MI UNIT 0108 Rose V Padubny
MI UNIT 0114 Susan Vahama
MI UNIT 0122 Roberta J Vroman
MI UNIT 0131 Joan M Anderson
MI UNIT 0141 Geraldine Holden
MI UNIT 0141 Joyce Cooper
MI UNIT 0146 Joanne M. Quick
MI UNIT 0146 Joyce C. Kramer
MI UNIT 0146 Mary Ann Otradovec
MI UNIT 0146 Valentina Rodgers
MI UNIT 0150 Leona Reinert
MI UNIT 0154 Barbara J Peters
MI UNIT 0154 Jan Demerest
MI UNIT 0154 Lauren K. Eissiliones
MI UNIT 0156 Judith Dowell
MI UNIT 0157 Jacqueline Deline
MI UNIT 0157 Lorene Youngs
MI UNIT 0158 Dorothea A Peters
MI UNIT 0158 Elizabeth Crowley
MI UNIT 0158 Janet Moritz
MI UNIT 0158 Jeanne Henry
MI UNIT 0158 Ladonna M Burzyck
MI UNIT 0159 Linda C. Macdonald
MI UNIT 0159 Mary F. Redmond
MI UNIT 0160 Janet Hall
MI UNIT 0160 Patricia M Veliones
MI UNIT 0165 Joyce L Deverney
MI UNIT 0170 Jean M Johnson
MI UNIT 0172 Mary M Tucker
MI UNIT 0179 Alfreda J Tenhopen
MI UNIT 0179 Cindy Bricault
MI UNIT 0179 Jessica M. Sanabria
MI UNIT 0180 Dorothy Meredith
MI UNIT 0180 Kathleen Kubik
MI UNIT 0181 Viola G Petiprin
MI UNIT 0198 Betty Crawford
MI UNIT 0198 Mary A Fettes
MI UNIT 0198 Shirley F Hofer
MI UNIT 0200 Patricia J Miller
MI UNIT 0203 Barbara M Smith
MI UNIT 0216 Ina Morbitzer
MI UNIT 0216 Judith J Rickert
MI UNIT 0216 Kathleen A Kotas
MI UNIT 0216 Shirley J Maxwell
MI UNIT 0216 Vianne Tunney
MI UNIT 0217 Jean Chechino
MI UNIT 0217 Joan K Ford
MI UNIT 0221 Dianna S Cutler
MI UNIT 0224 Jayne M. Deering
MI UNIT 0224 June M Wright
MI UNIT 0225 Eunice Wagner
MI UNIT 0225 Marian Cropsey
MI UNIT 0225 Violet Renius
MI UNIT 0226 Maryann Stephan
MI UNIT 0248 Shellie A Stec
MI UNIT 0253 Marie F Edensrom
MI UNIT 0254 Loretta V Voisin
MI UNIT 0255 Virginia Vanconant
MI UNIT 0267 Maxine Thompson
MI UNIT 0268 June Criss
MI UNIT 0269 Mary E. Pierce
MI UNIT 0274 Edith Clements
MI UNIT 0281 Shirley A. Sterly
MI UNIT 0282 Ellen C Irvin
MI UNIT 0287 Beatrice Kelley
MI UNIT 0290 Darlene M Shoemaker
MI UNIT 0293 Ella Schmidt
MI UNIT 0293 Monica C. Begg
MI UNIT 0294 Ione H Walls
MI UNIT 0294 Margaret Nemecek
MI UNIT 0294 Sue Bross
MI UNIT 0295 Kathryn A Doran
MI UNIT 0295 Nancy A Patrick
MI UNIT 0295 Sharon L McCarrick
MI UNIT 0296 Shirley Vellyngton
MI UNIT 0297 Barbara Rogers
MI UNIT 0297 Marlene G. Curtis
MI UNIT 0297 Ruth Stiver
MI UNIT 0297 Wilma Evans
MI UNIT 0298 Diane L. Harkness
MI UNIT 0298 Dorothy Vinski
MI UNIT 0298 Karen Burkart
MI UNIT 0300 Sara A. Nettle
MI UNIT 0315 Doreen E Turner
MI UNIT 0315 Maxine J Heie
MI UNIT 0317 Mildred I Wildersspin
MI UNIT 0322 Betty L White
MI UNIT 0331 Joyce Lehmann
MI UNIT 0340 Colleen Rodman
MI UNIT 0340 Joyce Gennara
MI UNIT 0340 Rita Reid
MI UNIT 0344 Eleanor Longfellow
MI UNIT 0344 Joyce E Chase
MI UNIT 0344 Tula Crow
MI UNIT 0346 Carol A. Pinkerton
MI UNIT 0346 Concetta C Crissman
MI UNIT 0351 Reina Svacha
MI UNIT 0360 Betty I Aemisegger
MI UNIT 0360 Bonnie K Thompson
MI UNIT 0362 Olive L. Johnson
MI UNIT 0362 Suzanne M. Young
MI UNIT 0364 Cynthia Parsell
MI UNIT 0370 Bertha I Ashby
MI UNIT 0370 Diane L. Fuller
MI UNIT 0370 Katherine I Swanson
MI UNIT 0370 Ramona A. Hamilton
MI UNIT 0374 Constance M. Phillips
MI UNIT 0375 Jacqueline Quick-Bennett
MI UNIT 0376 Marie Nellist
MI UNIT 0377 Beatrice Hockey
MI UNIT 0377 Bobbie J Yates
MI UNIT 0380 Johanne A. Cook
MI UNIT 0380 Laurie Sweet
MI UNIT 0380 Lillian M. Kaleыта
MI UNIT 0380 Michelle L. McCrackin
MI UNIT 0393 Eleanor Stanley
MI UNIT 0397 Fern Crysler
MI UNIT 0404 Audrey Winarski
MI UNIT 0404 Helene Showen
MI UNIT 0409 Jeanette E Fogarty
MI UNIT 0413 Gloria Walstad
MI UNIT 0413 Sally Sabo
MI UNIT 0416 Dorothy F Huger
MI UNIT 0416 Sylvia L Rose
MI UNIT 0419 Geri Ritchie
MI UNIT 0419 Janet R Bowles
MI UNIT 0422 Arlene M. Webb
MI UNIT 0422 Barbara Caverly
MI UNIT 0422 Gaye L. Filarski
MI UNIT 0439 Betty C Egerer
MI UNIT 0439 Geraldine Roth
MI UNIT 0439 Gerry Lintern
MI UNIT 0439 Julia Attridge
MI UNIT 0439 Marian S Hales
MI UNIT 0439 Marie E Wasney
MI UNIT 0439 Mary E Sierocki
MI UNIT 0443 Sue A Varnum
MI UNIT 0444 Barbara Brodbeck
MI UNIT 0444 Olympia Meteor
MI UNIT 0449 Nancy J Delong
MI UNIT 0459 Lucille A Williams
MI UNIT 0459 Michele M Zoerman
MI UNIT 0459 Virginia A Tyron
MI UNIT 0463 Caroline L. Nolf
MI UNIT 0475 Laurette Riddle
MI UNIT 0528 KC S. West
MI UNIT 0540 Susann M Binola
MI UNIT 0540 Viola Cole
MI UNIT 0557 Lynn A Miller
MI UNIT 0557 Mary A Alstrom
MI UNIT 0568 Joyce Both
MI UNIT 0568 Wilma G Killips
WASHINGTON — To better support Veterans impacted by COVID-19, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it is partnering with Blue Star Families (BSF) for the COVID-19 Military Support Initiative (CMSI).

The mission of CMSI is to share information, maintain engagement, and develop best practices and policy approaches to ensure our military families receive the support it deserves.

“Our nation, military families, and communities are facing a challenge like we have not seen in one hundred years,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “In dealing with COVID-19, our national security depends on ensuring we provide our military families with as much understanding, information, and support as possible.”

CMSI builds upon previous work between VA and BSF to include comprehensive coverage of the federal response with a daily newsletter, hosting virtual town halls on the key issues impacting the military, identifying best practices and policy solutions, and creating a repository to capture frequently asked questions.

VA and BSF joined forces with the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) and participants of the White Oak Collaborative to create a united, national platform to provide resources and expertise to support communities, states, and military families in crisis. ADC is also a connection point for civilian and military leaders on community-military issues.

###

VA, Blue Star Families to support Veterans impacted by COVID-19
Press release from VA 10-15-2020

Visit the Department website
https://michalaux.org/programs-2/

10X10 Awards are due to Department no later than Monday, November 9th, 2020

R/R5 Awards are due to Department no later than Monday, December 7, 2020

Forms can be found on michalaux.org
**Veteran Services News**

**Secretary Wilkie Thanks President for Making “988” America’s New National Suicide Prevention Number**

**VA PRESS RELEASE**

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie released the following statement after President Trump signed the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act:

“People in distress and in need of timely care should face the fewest obstacles possible to get help. The bill President Trump signed today will soon make it easier for those at risk to be quickly connected to a trained responder and will help save lives.”

Currently, anyone in need of timely crisis suicide prevention resources can reach the National Suicide Prevention Hotline by dialing 1-800-273-8255. Veterans who call that number can press 1 to be connected to the Veterans Crisis Line.

During the transition to 988, Americans who need help should continue to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by calling 1-800-273-8255 (1-800-273-TALK) and through online chats. Veterans and service members may reach the Veterans Crisis Line by pressing 1 after dialing, chatting online at www.veteranscrisisline.net, or texting 838255.

**Secretary Wilkie Applauds President Trump for Signing Suicide Prevention Bill**

**VA PRESS RELEASE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie released the following statement after President Trump signed the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, into law.

“This legislation moves America closer to a goal that all citizens can support: increasing the local resources available to our men and women who answered the call to defend this Nation. This law will expand mental health care services at VA facilities and at the same time provide grants to make it easier for Veterans to access non-VA resources in their communities.

“Care in the community is a critical component of our effort to end Veteran suicide. About 60 percent of the Veterans who die by suicide aren't getting care from VA, so it's vital we do all we can to offer intervention and care to Veterans where they live. This bill takes a strong and meaningful step in that direction.”

**VA guarantees more than 1 million home loans in record year**

**VA PRESS RELEASE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it achieved a record year in its home loan program, by guaranteeing more than 1.2 million home loans in fiscal year 2020, totaling more than $363 billion, to help Veterans afford homeownership.

This record loan volume equates to approximately 3,200 loans per day and represents the most home loans guaranteed in a single year in the history of the program.

Established as part of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, or “G.I. Bill,” the VA Home Loan Program's mission is to help Veterans purchase and retain their homes. This includes the opportunity to refinance home loans under favorable loan terms.

“Accomplishing what our employees and lenders have achieved in 2020 would’ve been unimaginable years ago, let alone when this program was first created more than 75 years ago,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA has now backed more than 25 million home loans since the program’s inception and this record is indicative of the level of support we provide Veterans in helping them attain the American dream.”

VA-guaranteed loans are made by private lenders. VA's guaranty effectively eliminates the need for a down payment, helping Veterans afford home ownership.

Veterans must meet eligibility requirements and qualify for the loan amount based on their credit and income. VA encourages Veterans to explore VA home loan options by approaching various lenders to compare loan costs and interest rates.

VA advocates for Veterans by limiting fees that lenders can charge and monitoring for unscrupulous lending practices. VA's advocacy, along with its minimum property requirements and flexible and sensible credit standards, help protect Veterans' and taxpayers' interests.

Additionally, VA has the authority to intervene if a Veteran has trouble making mortgage payments. VA can work directly with the Veteran and the mortgage company to seek a mutually beneficial resolution and avoid foreclosure, whenever possible. Through such loan servicing efforts, VA assisted almost 120,000 borrowers avoid foreclosure in fiscal year 2020. These actions saved taxpayers over $3.4 billion in avoided claim payments.

In response to the COVID-19 national emergency, VA continues to provide new ways to assist Veterans. Borrowers who are experiencing a financial hardship due to COVID-19 can contact their mortgage company directly or call 877-827-3702 to speak with a VA home loan specialist.

Eligible Veterans can obtain a certificate of eligibility (COE) for VA home loan benefits through eBenefits or by contacting their preferred lender.
CUSTER - Scouts from Troops 1193 Ludington, Troop 1155, Hart, and Troop 37, Spring Lake performed the Okpik event at the American Legion Department of Michigan’s Wilwin Lodge Veterans Retreat 7-9 February 2020.

Okpik, (Inuit for snowy owl) pronounced as (OOk‘pick) is the cold-weather adventure program created by the Boy Scouts of America’s Northern Tier National High Adventure Bases at the Charles L. Sommers Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota.

As the result of Northern Tier’s Cold Weather Training program that teaches leaders to develop their own cold-weather program, there are similar programs named after and based on Okpik offered by Boy Scout councils nationally.

With 1,185 acres available to train on at Wilwin, fun was had by all that attended. The weather cooperated, yielding partly sunny skies with temperatures during the day in the mid-20s and dropped to the teens at night.

The training went well with the Troop Leaders and three Eagle Scouts conducting training and instruction for the Troops. Below is a list of Merit Badges that the scouts earned or are working towards:

- The “worst-case scenario” shelter that was built to work towards the Wilderness Survival Merit Badge.
- There was compass work for Orienteering Merit Badge.
- The meals cooking, an Eagle Required Merit Badge, and for rank advancement.
- The tents pitched and slept in work towards the Camping Merit Badge and for rank advancement.
- There was Cold Weather 1st Aid, part of the Eagle Required 1st Aid Merit Badge.
- There was also a Polar Bear badge earned for camping at temps below 32 degrees for 18 hrs.

Dear Supporter,

The Holly Area Veterans’ Resource Center would like to thank you for supporting our center. We are contacting you to let you know we are still operating out of the Richter Campus Tuesdays and Wednesdays of every week. We are a resource center. If you need assistance for claims or other issues, please give us a call.

We are also looking for volunteers for the center. If you would like to help veterans, please contact us. Or if you would be interested in participating on one of our committees, let us know.

Covid has not been good for many organizations. We are open because of Holly Schools. We know that there are veterans and their families in need. We need your help to get them to us or we can contact them.

We will be having a Service Officer from the Vietnam Veterans of America every other Friday starting September 25th from 9am to 3pm. Please call Bruce at 734-735-4073, or Joe at 810-348-9960. When you get to Richter Campus, go to the Village of Holly entrance and follow the instructions on the door.

We are hoping to start the monthly Vet-to-Vet program again, January 2021. We will also be participating in Operation Toy Soldier which gives gifts to the children of veterans and those on Active Duty. Hometown Heroes will continue with a few changes. We are looking for current Holly area service people. Contact us.

If you would like to donate to the Holly Area Veterans Resource Center we would greatly appreciate the help. We are located at Richter Campus, 300 East St, Rm. 309, Holly MI, 48442. Come in and visit us, enter the Village of Holly entrance on the side.

We also have a very extensive military and history library. If you would like check it out, let us know.

Thank you for supporting us.

Joe Mishler
President
Holly Area Veterans Resource Center
810-348-9960, email jmm1967@comcast.net
Winter Meeting Information

Annual Winter Meeting
American Legion, Department of Michigan
February 12-14, 2021
Holiday Inn Gateway
Flint, Michigan

Purpose: To implement plans for the upcoming year and otherwise conduct the business of the American Legion, Department of Michigan, through meetings of the Department Executive Committee, taking reports from called Department Committees and Chairmen, presenting public recognition awards, and conducting applicable Schools of Instruction.

Aside from the Department Executive Committee, only the Department Committees and Chairmen listed below are called to officially participate in the Winter Meeting. See Program Book for all specific locations.

Registrations • Registration fee of $15.00 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Saturday, February 13, 2021, 4:00 pm
Called Department Committee Meetings – Saturday February 13, 2021 - See schedule at www.michiganlegion.org (subject to change)

The following COMMITTEES are called to Winter Meeting: Boys State, Education & Scholarship, Finance, Internal Affairs, and Permanent Time & Place.

The following committee CHAIRMEN are called to Winter Meeting: (please hold a meeting and provide minutes to Department HQ prior to January 31, 2021 to be able to be distributed to the DEC) Baseball, Legislative, Membership, National Security, Post Development, Media & Communications, Reconnect.

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, February 14, 2021, at 9:00 am, if necessary.

Note: Due to local restrictions and safety concerns the National Commanders Banquet will not be held Friday evening. Committees will meet Saturday morning, followed by schools of instruction after lunch.

Pictured above: In September 2019, members of the Burhans-Hagedon Post 197, Harbor Beach, began working on a Veterans Memorial Garden Project to honor the Veterans from Harbor Beach who made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war from the Korean War to the present. Through hard work by the City of Harbor Beach, businesses, organizations, private citizens, and a grant from the Huron County Community Foundation, the project will be completed by and dedicated on November 7, 2020. In addition to a plaque with all Huron County Veterans who died in wars from the Civil War until the present will be included in the project and dedicated at that time.

As of this issue we are planning a pared down version of Winter Meeting for the safety of our members. We will have more information in the January/February Issue.

Also note, any reservations made or registrations paid will be refunded if the event is canceled due to state or local orders.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.
Around Michigan...

**ERWIN PRIESKORN POST 46**

Below:

Pictured above: At the membership meeting held on October 1, the Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46, Ann Arbor, donated $2,000 towards purchasing a golf cart dedicated to the Ann Arbor Fisher House. Commander Dave Draper (pictured right) presented the check to Kate Melcher (pictured left), Director Fisher House of Michigan. The cart will be used to transport guests between the Fisher House and the VA Medical Center. Fisher House Ann Arbor held a fundraising event, and a business matched donations up to $6,000. So, in effect, our $2,000 became a $4,000 donation. The base price for the cart was $12,000. Any donations over that amount will be used for optional equipment such as an enclosure and heat. Post 46 has been a strong supporter of the Ann Arbor Fisher House, with members volunteering, donating supplies, and our initial $100,000 donation towards its construction.

The George Wagner American Legion Post 127, in Dorr, presented Legionnaire Jack Cole a Certificate of Appreciation and his 2020-21 Membership Renewal Card, compliments of Post 127. Jack turned 100 on October 8, 2020, and served his country in the United States Army. Jack Cole seated on the left, next to Lyle Shanks, others present included 4th District Commander David Buist, 4th District Son’s Commander Pat Pustay, Lewis Koster, Barb Lavigne, and many others Post members.

Erwin Prieskorn Post 46 Sponsors A Food Drive

On October 3, the Erwin Prieskorn Post 46, Ann Arbor, held a food drive to benefit Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor. Food Gatherers exists to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes within Washtenaw County. Several volunteers were present to help remove the donations from the donors’ vehicles, sort and package the donations. At the end of the event, we had two huge barrels and nineteen boxes of donated goods. By way of Food Gatherers, our post had already been successful at serving several veterans who were in need. For the posts’ first attempt at a food drive, we were delighted with the results. We are staying true to our mantra veterans serving veterans, active military, and the local community.

Photo above: Boy Scout Troop 446, Adjutant Johnston, and Commander Draper accepted donations from a generous donor.

5K benefits veteran organizations

Corey Murray | cmurray@hillsdale.net

HILLSDALE — The American Legion Leihv A. Wright Post 53, Hillsdale, presented a $100 check Monday night to the Vietnam Veterans of American Chapter 109 (Jackson), above.

The money was raised Aug. 22 in the first-ever “Running for Heroes” series, a 5K community fun run/walk.

Post Commander Chris Parks and David Hambleton, the 5K coordinator, presented a commemorative plaque and a check Monday to executive officers of the VVA Jackson chapter prior to the Hillsdale Legion’s regular business meeting. The VVA will use the funding in support of veterans of the Vietnam Conflict and in education.

The Jackson chapter visits schools, churches, and clubs presenting age-appropriate information and interactive displays of memorabilia from their service and have reached over 6,500 Michigan children to help them learn about the honorable and valiant deeds done in defense of our nation’s freedom.

The next 5K in the Running for Heroes series is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 24, with the “Got 6,” a 5K run/walk for first responders and veteran mental health and suicide prevention.

Money raised will benefit Equine Escapes, a therapeutic stable offering equine therapy to first responders and veterans.

Those wishing to participate in the 5K or volunteer should contact Hambleton through the 5K Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionPost53RunningForHeroes.