

MI LEGIONNAIRE

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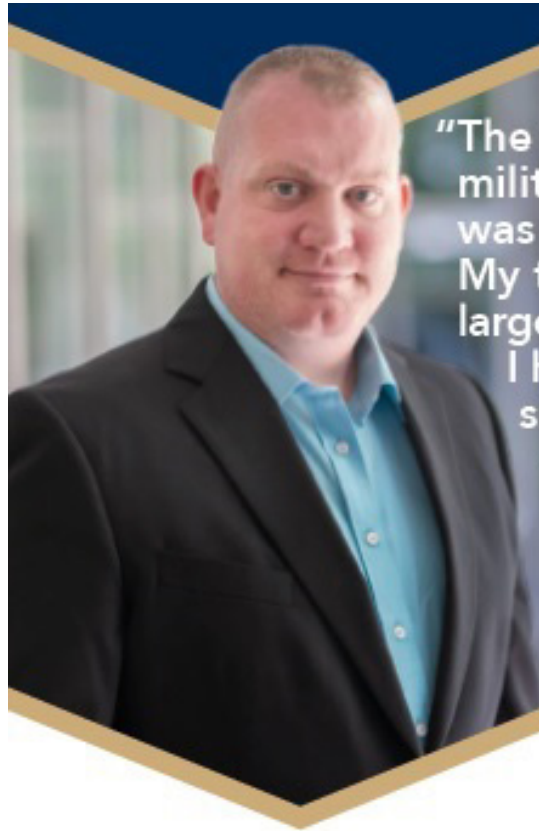


AMERICAN

LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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"The transition from military to civilian life was a complete change. My time at CSU has largely given me the tools I have needed to succeed professionally."

— Joshua McGinnis, Master of Public Administration

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DEADLINE DATES

July 2025 Deadline is June 14th

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If you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or web-site use,E-mail it to us at media@michiganlegion.org or mail it to Department, Attn: Jim Showers. Please keep the photo at least 200 dpi or larger. If you are submitting a hard copy photo, please note photos printed from a home printer cannot be used, nor can photos clipped from newspapers. We look for photos showing Legion caps in action whenever possible. Interested in placing an ad in the Michigan Legionnaire?
Please Contact Jim Showers
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STATE OFFICERS

State Commander.	Dan Cooper	3rd Zone	Mike Fitzgerald	N.E.C.	Larry Money
State Adjutant.	Ron Runyan	4th Zone	Charles Bowman	Judge Advocate.	Brett Holt
1st Vice Commander	Wayne Blank	5th Zone	Tom Chernetski	Sergeant-at-Arms	Bob Salamon
2nd Vice Commander	Jim Austin	Chaplain.	Mike Schlaack	Immediate PDC.	Brian Mohlman
1st Zone	Gary DeMars	Finance Officer.	Leo Cowdry	Alt. N.E.C.	Brett Holt
2nd Zone.	David Buist	Historian	Robert Higley Jr.	VA and R Director	Gary Easterling

Commander's Comments!

Dan Cooper

Department Commander

Even with a little rain, we had a great Memorial Day weekend with many parades and ceremonies throughout the state, which many of us had the honor of participating in while honoring and remembering those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We must never forget.

During the month of May, I have had the pleasure of attending the National Spring Meeting in Indianapolis along with Officers from other Departments. We had some very productive and informative meetings.

Congratulations to all the newly elected Post Officers. I hope each of you will continue your service to local Veterans and your Communities. As your Post transitions to a new leadership team, it is important to carry the core values of your membership into your new terms. Traditions, Information, Knowledge, and Customs are all a part of what makes your Post functional and valuable to your Community.

By the time you receive this Legionnaire, there will only be a little over a month left in the current Department Administration's term. For the past year, I have been speaking to you – either in person at meetings and events, or through these monthly compositions – with the intent of sharing information, inspiring you with our accomplishments, and hoping you will become more involved in our great organization. Whether or not I have been somewhat successful is for others to say, but as I sit here writing this page, my pride in The American Legion has never been greater. People everywhere now see and understand that we are the Premier Veterans'

Organization, looking out for and helping those who have worn our Nation's uniform.

During my travels, I, like other Commanders before me, have done radio programs, television broadcasts and newspaper interviews. Still, I have realized that these things occur every week at the Posts throughout our Department. You, whether a Post Member or a District Officer, carry the pride and representation before the public. It is you whom the public thinks of when they hear the word "Legionnaire." With this comes a great responsibility, which I am confident you all recognize. Americans are justly proud and supportive of our Veterans, and thanks to you, the Country has learned to honor them, and The American Legion is the Veterans' Strongest Ally.

We have reached a time of the year when membership is harder to achieve, but please, let's give a final push, achieve that 100% membership, and make this an even greater year. I applaud the Posts that have met or exceeded their goals.

Student Trooper and Boys & Girls State are just around the corner. I hope that every boy or girl who applied has the chance to attend. These programs are, in many ways, life-changing experiences for future leaders. Friendships will be made that will last a lifetime!

The Department Convention is fast approaching, and I would like to encourage you to consider participating in this year's Annual Department Convention in Sault Ste. Marie. This is your opportunity to make your vote count at the Department Convention. There are a large number of Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions that you will be able to voice your opinion on. Your Vote Counts.

Never stop Learning because Life never stops teaching.

Runyan's Ramblings

Your Annual Legionnaire Insurance Trust "LIT" Update

Ron Runyan

Dept. Adjutant

On behalf of the Legionnaires Insurance Trust and its officers and trust directors, they have extended a huge thank you to everyone who has participated in all the benefits and potential savings that we have taken advantage of for 2024.

A few weeks ago, I attended our annual meeting as your trust director for The LIT. A few topics were brought to my attention that have a huge effect on our Department and all the Legion Family in Michigan.

1) Since many of you take advantage of the free AD&D, paid AD&D, Travel EA+, Healthcare supplement and Medicare supplements, our 2024 royalty income back to our Department exceeded \$85,000. That is great news since our budget was \$20,000 less than we received! These funds offset funding deficiencies for our programs and service officer work.

2) ALL Posts, Units, and SAL squadrons can now take advantage of a low-cost Accidental Death & Dismemberment plan "AD&D" for very little out of pocket. This AD&D policy is written based on the officers of each group. It is not done by a named person, but by the title of who is covered. For example, a Post with five officers: Commander, Adjutant, Finance, 1st Vice and Service Officer can be covered. The cost for a \$25,000 policy on

each person is \$3.24, and for a \$50,000 policy on each officer, it is \$6.48 each. What better way to protect and show loyalty to your officers than placing this low-cost coverage on your officers? I am sure that each of them does an abundance of work for your Posts, Units and Squadrons, so I would highly encourage you all to get one of these policies! The deadline for submission for these policies is JULY 15, 2025. Another great thing is that next year, when your officers turn over, the policy can be renewed without resubmitting a set of names, because the policy is written based upon the titles of your officers. **DETAILS IN MIDDLE INSERT!**

*** This AD&D insurance CANNOT be bought separately or by individuals ***

These policies and other benefits can be seen at www.thelit.com or by calling 844-640-0095.

Did you know that The LIT also sells Medicare supplements for our aging members? That's right, and possibly the same carrier you currently use, take a look. The benefits and insurances they sell and assist our members provide a typical 6% royalty back to OUR Department. This is a great way to continue supporting the organization, what it does and helping veterans!

Lastly, it has been a pleasure working for our Department Executive Committee, all committees and their members, and I wish the very best to those who are completing their year and to those who will be stepping up for the next Legion year.

2025 Membership: April 28th Goal = 55,154

Current Total: 51,173 - 92.78%

Americanism Report



Jim Austin
2nd Vice Commander

Hello Summertime! Mother Nature seems to have finally gotten her ducks in a row, and programs have continued to be in full swing. By the time you read this article, you should be deep into your post reporting. We need these reports to determine how well we are managing these

programs as a department. Everybody must work together to ensure that we move forward. Not only do we need these reports to let us know what is working and what improvements we could make, but we would never know what to fix if we do not know what the problems are.

On top of that, your CPR is necessary to receive next year's membership cards. You, the members, have done a great job this year. The success of the Legion is dependent on all of us.

The National Oratorical contest that was held in Hillsdale went very well. The winners will be announced shortly, and thank you to all the Michigan volunteers who helped to make it a great success.

This is my last article as the Second Vice Commander. I want to thank everyone for their dedication, support and commitment to making this the best Department the Legion has to offer. Whatever my Legion career path leads me down, I look forward to working with all the dedicated Legionnaires who make everyday Americanism a real thing.

This article is intended for any post that rents any part of their facility to members or the public.

As a result, every post should review their rental agreement to ensure the following questions are covered:

Does the post require the deposit to come from the person signing the contract rather than a third party?

Does the post approve of political groups renting the facility, and if they do, are all political parties given equal opportunity to rent the facility in order to maintain non-partisan status? This is a must as the Constitution and Bylaws require it.

I would recommend that posts with rental agreements have them reviewed by an attorney to ensure all legal requirements and loopholes are covered.

The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____

(Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) _____

(E-mail) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female (Gender) _____ (Dues) _____

☐ I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

☐ Global War on Terror	☐ U.S. Army
☐ Gulf War	☐ U.S. Navy
☐ Panama	☐ U.S. Air Force
☐ Lebanon/Grenada	☐ U.S. Marines
☐ Vietnam	☐ U.S. Space Force
☐ Korea	☐ U.S. Coast Guard
☐ WWII	☐ Merchant Marines (WWII only)
☐ Other Conflicts	



The seal of the American Legion is a circular emblem. It features a central five-pointed star with the letters "U.S." inside. The star is surrounded by a wreath. The words "AMERICAN LEGION" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____



AUXILIAIRE

June 2025

From the Desk of the President

Julie Becker
Department President
2024-2025

June Dates to Remember!

Hello Auxiliary Members. I want to give you all a great big THANK YOU!!!

The work you have done this past year is amazing. As I have been compiling the year-end impact numbers submitted by the Districts, I am in awe. Keep up the great work!

June is another busy month for us. June 6th is the anniversary of D-Day, when we remember the storming of Normandy by the Allies in WWII. General Dwight D. Eisenhower issued his order of the day to encourage Allied soldiers taking part in the D-Day invasion. Many sacrificed their lives for the liberation of Europe.

Flag Day, June 14th, is when we honor the United States flag and the adoption of the first American flag in 1777, which initially carried the thirteen stars and stripes to remember the original thirteen colonies. On June 14th, we also celebrate the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army. On this date in 1775, the Continental Congress authorized the creation of the Continental Army, consisting of Patriots from all thirteen colonies. Pause for the Pledge Day is also observed on June 14th.

June 23rd marks the birthday of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the all-volunteer component of the Coast Guard, that assists the Coast Guard by performing duties like vessel safety checks, harbor patrols, boating courses, search and rescue, and marine environmental protection.

June 27th is National PTSD Awareness Day. It aims to raise awareness of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. This mental health problem may develop after a person is exposed to one or more traumatic events. Many veterans are affected by PTSD, which can significantly impact a person's ability to function at work, at home, and socially. It can also lead to other mental health conditions like depression or anxiety.

As you can see, there are many things to keep in our minds and hearts as we head into the summer. Thanks to all the Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Members for continuing our mission to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. Keep Rocking 4 Our Veterans!

Framework for Success

Sharon Schulte, Constitution and Bylaws Chair

Just as a house needs a firm foundation to withstand storms, a Unit needs a firm foundation to weather the ups and downs of relationships within a diverse organization. Well-written governing documents provide that foundation. These provide the framework that keeps the roof from falling in when situations become tenuous.

All Units go through difficult times due to differing opinions, difficult interpersonal relationships and sometimes, power struggles. Well-written governing documents can be a tremendous asset in smoothing out those difficulties. The governing documents are the legal underpinnings of how we have agreed, by vote of the Unit membership, to handle our operations as a non-profit organization. They must not conflict with state statutes, the Department or National

governing documents. They should be broad enough to cover the most likely areas of contention- elections, finances, officer and chairman responsibilities. They should also include guidelines for handling situations that violate the approved rules, policies and procedures.

Our governing documents are not limited to the Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, although these are primary. They can also include your formal budget and financial policies (if set up as a separate document). Your documents need to be written in clear, concise language. Well-written documents do not allow for interpretation. They mean exactly what they say. For example, if you use the word "shall", it means that action will be taken every time, no exceptions. If your document says "may", you have options.

When an issue arises in your Unit, and it will, verify what your governing documents, Department and National documents, and then Robert's Rules of Order (in that order) say regarding the question at hand. Follow those instructions. If you find nothing on point, the Unit needs to engage in a calm and civil discussion of the issue, always keeping the organization's best interest foremost in your mind. Once a decision is reached, you may want to include the decision in the next revision of your documents.

Most issues can be easily resolved with proper documents without creating unnecessary animosity and divisiveness. More cohesion and faith in the process within your Unit will lead to more participation and better outcomes.

Something Happening at your Unit? Submit it to the Michigan Auxiliaire!

Send your articles and Pictures (with Outline) to : info@michalaux.org

American Legion Auxiliary State Headquarters

I attended my first DLNC event that was held in Indianapolis sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. It was well worth the time, I learned so much. I met many folks from other states along with the National representatives. I was very impressed with their energy, great ideas and the direction of our organization. We talked about proper procedure and guidelines, but it didn't stop there.

I was honored to hear the stories of two Veterans who spoke during the conference. The first speaker was a female Veteran who experienced several unfortunate events. She talked about how it all made her feel and how she got through it. The other was a male Veteran who shared a very personal story of loss, love and triumph. I didn't expect to be emotional, but I was moved

to tears many times throughout the conference.

The Veterans, families and members of the community we serve are so important. They deserve our respect, kindness and assistance when we are called upon. Please remember that everyone has their own unique history. You could have a positive effect just by having a casual conversation with someone. Take advantage of every opportunity presented.



*Shannon Werner
Executive Director,
Secretary & Treasurer*

Breathe...

By Suzanne Knapp, VA&R Chairperson

President Trump and his new administration will mark their first 100 days in office in the coming days. To say these 100 days have been hard to follow would be a gross understatement. As I scroll through my social media feeds, I see energy on both sides of how the current administration is conducting itself. I want to encourage everyone to BREATHE.

I am not taking sides; I am watching. In February, the Department of Government Efficiency recommended that all new government hires still on probation be released. The US Department of Veterans Affairs had approximately 43,000 who fit the criteria. The department only released 2,400 of them because most of the hires made were mission-critical. Remember, the American Legion fought to pass the PACT Act in Congress, which required more manpower. Those hires have stayed for now. Veterans and dependents are still receiving their monthly compensation checks, and frontline healthcare workers still support our Veterans.

Does this mean that we have nothing to worry about? No, it does not. We must stay vigilant. If you see something on social media that doesn't have a reference, ask the person who posted it to provide the news story, quote, or congressional bill for reference. If you see something that doesn't support our Veterans, contact your congressperson. We won't all agree on the approach, but saying nothing should change is not the correct answer.

Veteran Suicides are not declining; some argue they are going up, even after millions of dollars have been spent over the past decade to combat it. Veterans are still traveling hundreds of miles for care at a VA facility. What's wrong with community care? Lastly, why does it take so long for veterans to receive the benefits and compensation they deserve? All problems should be addressed for the benefit of our Veterans.

I encourage you to go to YouTube and watch the interview with VA Secretary Doug Collins and Shawn Ryan. Search "Doug Collins with Shawn Ryan." It should be the first one that comes up. It's a great interview, and it gives an insight into how the secretary approaches his job.

Thank you for your dedication, commitment, and energy towards our Veterans. Stay vigilant.

Updates and reminders

Deanna Cortright, Finance Chair

It is hard to believe that another year is coming to an end. There are a few items that may still need to be done. Please be sure that all donations are in by June 1. If you are holding onto something in hopes of presenting it at Convention, DON'T! We don't want you to miss out on getting credit for your donation. This is imperative, and there will be no exceptions.

You will elect officers in the next few weeks if you haven't already done so. Officers must be updated in ALAMIS if you have the necessary access, by form turned in to State headquarters by mail or email at info@michalaux.org or entered in the fillable form located on our website at www.michalaux.org. We have many units that contact us during the year because their Treasurer or President isn't getting notified of things, and it is, in most cases, because the officers have changed, and the change was not completed. Maybe your Unit dues form, including your remit to person, was not completed and sent to the State headquarters.

A key piece of needed information is the list of names of those selected as Delegates. When you arrive at the Credentials Desk for the Convention, these will be checked. If you are not the listed Delegate, you cannot pay the Credentials fee. If something changes and your delegate cannot attend, please notify the Department of any Alternates that will be replacing them by emailing info@michalaux.org.

If you have receipts or items that need reimbursement, send the reimbursement request form to info@michalaux.org by June 1, 2025, so Shannon can get them processed and paid.

There are a lot of changes during this time of year; did you change your Unit Dues? Did you change your Standing Rules to reflect the new information? They must be updated and sent to the Constitution and Bylaws Chair, Sharon Schulte, for approval and acceptance at sharonschulte_sharon_7@msn.com or info@michalaux.org.

If you are a new Treasurer, please be sure that the previous Treasurer explains and shows you how to do the 990 for your Unit. This is necessary to maintain your Unit's Non-Profit status. If this is done annually, you can do the 990 Postcard. It is a simple process and takes just a few minutes. If you have to do the long form, it is very time-consuming.

I hope you all have a wonderful end to your year and hope to see you in Sault Ste. Marie.

Expecting Different Results

Pat Lozano, 6th District President

Wow, this administrative year passed fast. My notes show some great successes, the 6th District achieved and some disappointments. We will have several District Awards to present to our units at our next District meeting and potential Department Awards at the Department Convention.

The Bad, The Ugly, followed by the really Good. We started our year with insufficient attendance to meet quorum, thus no election of officers. A special meeting was called. We were able to fill all but one position. At our next regular meeting, we brought "new blood" into our team with the election of our final officer, the Historian. At the beginning of the year, we held an Executive meeting and surveyed our district officers and chairs. This allowed us to focus on where we needed to start moving. At year-end, we noticed, once again, poor participation in year-end reporting. We now have a "Lessons Learned" list and the beginning of actions to improve. For example: *Unit members don't see the value of attending District meetings, and meetings are the same each month. *Although available, unit members don't have contact information for each District officer and chair. *Units have experienced difficulties that may be related to being "out of the loop" on American Legion Auxiliary processes, support and resources. *Units don't report their activities because they either see no value, don't know reports were expected/required, or don't know the correct reporting formats.

Next year, we intend to correct our deficiencies by not "Doing the Same Thing". For example: 1) We will survey to obtain input from all auxiliary members in our district. 2) We will assign a team to visit units in our District regularly. 3) We will change the format of our District meetings to incorporate more fun learning activities instead of reports and lectures. 4) We will provide detailed information in a "Take Away" form, ample to deliver to each unit member. 5) We will provide easy access to printed and online contact information for each unit member to reach District officers and chairs. 6) To encourage better participation, we will provide physical "Reporting Kits" at the end of the year to all unit chairs.

This coming year, we don't intend on being a District that "Does the Same Thing, Expecting Different Results".

MEMBERSHIP

Candie Chase, Chair

It's been a great year in membership, and it seems like we just started the year yesterday. The year has flown by so fast. Our membership numbers have increased steadily, and our momentum has been strong all year. Districts 6 and 20 (Lansing) are over 100%, and we now have 80 Units at or above 100%. We have earned two of the five possible National membership awards.

As of this article, we are at 95.36%. The next goal is 100% by July 4 and 102% by July 26. We can do this! We... You are so close to breaking 100%. We are currently in 2nd place in the Central Division behind Ohio. I very rarely say this but....LET'S GO BLUE!! Remember that seating at the National Convention is based on each department's percentage of their 2025 membership goal, from highest percentage to lowest.

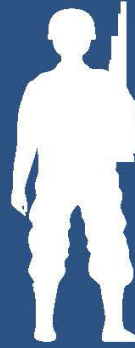
Congratulations to those Units that reached at least 100% by January 31, 2025. National has sent 100% ribbons to the Department, which will be awarded at the Department Convention. The Department representatives will present all



American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:



- MOTHER
- DAUGHTER
- SISTER
- GRANDMOTHER
- GRANDDAUGHTER
- SELF — FEMALE VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED
- MALE or FEMALE SPOUSE

ELIGIBILITY PERIODS: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE

The potential member is related to a living veteran by one of the relationships stated above and the veteran is living AND a current member of The American Legion.



If the potential member is a female veteran, she only needs to have served during the eligible time periods to be eligible for ALA membership.

PATH TWO

The potential member is related to a deceased veteran who served during the eligible time periods and was honorably discharged.



The deceased veteran did not have to be a member of The American Legion in order for the potential member to join the ALA.

For more information, visit www.ALForVeterans.org

other awards and 100% ribbons for the Units at the convention. The 30-day cut-off date is June 10, 2025.

Remember, we must work together; this is a membership-based volunteer organization, and many hands make light work. Membership is the backbone of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you to all who have worked so diligently to recruit and renew this past year. It is much appreciated. Rock On!



3RD DISTRICT

Dan Holdridge, Commander

The Third District has much to reflect on with pride in our achievements, respect for those we've lost, and a renewed sense of purpose for the year ahead. It was a year defined by growth, innovation, and unity throughout

our Posts and Communities. The year marked the launch of the District's new traveling G.O.A.T. trophy, an award recognizing the "Greatest of All Time" in percentage of annual membership goals achieved. The trophy has sparked a spirited competition across the district, encouraging Posts to push beyond expectations and elevate their efforts in recruitment and retention. We proudly congratulate SGM David Mims Post 420 out of Kalamazoo, as our first ever winner of the 3rd District G.O.A.T. Trophy, for their exceptional performance in membership achievement. Their hard work and dedication set the gold standard for what it means to lead by example.

We also had the honor of being represented at the National American Legion College this year. Steve "Radar" Caudill attended on behalf of the Department of Michigan as one of two Representatives out of Michigan. Steve brought home invaluable knowledge and leadership tools that will continue to benefit our Posts and programs for years.

Our posts remained deeply engaged in their local communities, organizing veteran outreach events, hosting educational programs, and participating in public service efforts. We also witnessed the strength of our Legion Family and the broader community during a time of great loss. In April, we were deeply saddened by the passing of SSG Troy Knutson-Collins, a soldier from the Battle Creek area who died during a training

accident while deployed to Lithuania. The response from our Legionnaires and local residents was overwhelming. On May 2nd, the community united in a powerful display of unity and gratitude during his funeral procession and final ride. He was laid to rest with full honors at Fort Custer National Cemetery. It was a moment that reminded us all of the Sacrifice, Dignity, and Brotherhood that bind us.

Amidst the year's triumphs, we also bid farewell to many lifelong Legionnaires called home to the Post Everlasting. These devoted members built the very foundation on which we stand, and their legacies will forever live on in the halls of our Posts and the hearts of our Members. We remember them not only for their years of service but also for the lives they touched and the communities they helped shape.

As we enter a new Legion year, the Third District stands ready to build upon our successes while honoring those who paved the way. With strong leadership, revitalized Posts, new traditions like the GOAT Trophy, and a deep commitment to our Four Pillars, the Third District continues to set the pace for what a united, mission-focused Legion can accomplish.

To every member of our Legion Family, thank you for your service, passion, and unwavering commitment. Together, we are the heart of the American Legion in Michigan. As we close this chapter, I want to thank each of you for the confidence you placed in me over the past year. It has been an honor to serve this District, and I am truly grateful for the support, encouragement, and trust you have given me. A Special and heartfelt thank you goes out to our District officers, without whom this year would not have been possible: your unwavering commitment, countless hours, and steadfast dedication to our mission. Your teamwork and Leadership have been the backbone of everything we've accomplished together.

District #7

Robert Montgomery, 1st Vice

It's that time of year again folks, time to start thinking about membership and how we will tackle this very important goal, we always seem to have a hard time with 1 year renewals, I was talking to officers at Smiths Creek #525 and Vanessa at Port Austin #499 and they both plan on having a membership drive to invite all members to the post for a meet and greet to get to know the new post officers and what makes the post go.

Speaking of Smiths Creek, they have a really cool Tractor-pull coming up that I encourage the district to support. It sounds like a great family-friendly event. If you have a big event coming up at your post, please let me know so we can spread the word.

The State Convention is around the corner in Sault Saint Marie, July 10, 11, 12, 13th, and we would very much like to see a good showing from our district. We have several things we need to tackle, and your input will be crucial. After the Convention, our next District meeting will be at the Memphis post #566 for the swearing in of newly elected district officers. Please plan on attending.

Last, I know some posts do not hold all of their meetings during the summer months to better spend time with family and friends, which is great. However, please remember that Membership must still be processed the entire year according to our state By-Laws.

12th District Update



Tim 'Stubby' Walters

Commander

During the spring conference, the 12th District held its elections at Little Lake Post 349. Jim Wallis, the current Commander of Post 44 in Marquette, will be the next 12th District Commander. After that meeting, there was a post-level training session, and we will continue to host and support the training and learning for our many post-level Officers going forward.

As an Officer or Leader within the American Legion, it is our job and mission to teach, mentor and train those following us to do our job(s) better than we are doing them, without any reservations about their political views or opinions about anything. As long as it follows the constitution and bylaws of the American Legion, how they go about it is their choice; it is our job to make sure they understand what is and is not required of them.

The American Legion "DOES NOT" run in a vacuum or keep secrets from our members. If a situation or circumstance related to nearly anything affecting the Legion happens, the members at all levels must be made aware of it. This is how we keep from repeating the same mistakes. Every "bad" thing that happens is a teaching/learning experience for the rest of us. Bad behavior or mismanagement must not be swept aside and hidden. It needs to be talked about and lessons learned to prevent repeat instances from ever happening again.

Saying, "That is how we have always done it," has never made it right to keep doing it that way. If it was wrong back then, it will be wrong now, or maybe it was okay back in the past, but now Bylaws and civilian laws have changed and must be followed. This goes for every level and officer, from the Current and Past National Commander(s) to every current member at every Post in the Department and Nationally.

If you joined the American Legion to help Veterans and your community, that is a great and commendable reason. If you joined to stoke your ego or take more than you give, maybe you need to rethink why you became a Legionnaire, Auxiliary or SAL member!

1st Zone Update



Gary DeMars
Commander

The American Legion 1st Zone plays a vital role within the state, demonstrating its strength through a network of three distinct Districts and a substantial 61 local Posts. This extensive infrastructure enables the Zone to serve over 8,000 members. The 1st Zone boasts a distinguished and commendable history of service and community involvement. A notable trend in recent years has been the consistent growth in the Zone's membership numbers, indicating its increasing reach and relevance. This positive outlook can be attributed mainly to the Zone's proactive and effective outreach initiatives, designed to connect with and engage potential new members. Furthermore, the 1st Zone is committed to serving the diverse needs of veterans and their families, providing crucial support and resources. A significant undertaking involving the transfer of Post 225 members to various local Posts also contributed to this membership growth, strengthening the individual Posts and enhancing their local impact.

In conclusion, the American Legion 1st Zone is a robust and dynamic organization dedicated to serving the veterans and their families within its jurisdiction. While acknowledging the ongoing challenges inherent in any large and evolving organization, the 1st Zone possesses the intrinsic strengths, dedicated leadership, and proactive strategies necessary to overcome these obstacles effectively. With a continued focus on its core mission and the careful implementation of the proposed recommendations, the 1st Zone is well-positioned to not only maintain its current level of success but also to experience continued and significant growth in the years ahead, further solidifying its position as a cornerstone of support for the veteran community.



Chaplains Corner
Mike Schlaack, Dept. Chaplain

"For God and country." These are the first four words of the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion, and they provide us with both purpose and direction. Since its founding in 1919, the American Legion has stood for working towards a better tomorrow for the veterans who so faithfully served our nation. While our efforts are certainly focused on the individual, we must never lose sight of the "bigger picture." Most veterans are not only citizens of the United States, but most importantly, they are also children of the Creator, made in the image of the One Who guides and protects our nation. For our service to have real meaning for all United States military veterans, it must include both God and country. Our service to our fellow human beings is how we perform that duty to God, and our love for God is actualized through our love for our neighbor.

However, when we lose sight of our purpose, we become nothing more than a group of drinking buddies, focusing more on the past without much thought about the future. We become an insulated club that, by our own indifference to the needs of others, drives away those who care about the welfare of their community. "For God and country" not only acknowledges the past but also looks forward to the future, for God

Brian A. Mohlman

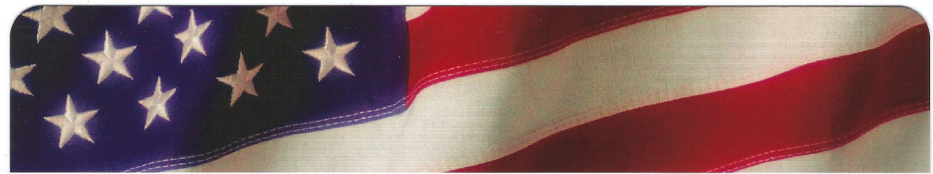
For

**Alternate National Executive
Committee**

**The American Legion
Department of Michigan**

2025-2026

- **Delivering your voice to the National Level**
- **Building important relationships between the Department of Michigan and Representatives from across the Nation**



Jesse B Cooley Post 235 Brighton, Michigan

American Legion District 6

Endorses

Roger

DEATON

For

**Department 2nd Vice CMDR
in 2025 -2026**



NAVY VETERAN



is timeless, and those "self-evident" truths enumerated in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States are reflected in the Preamble of the American Legion as well. Our pledge to devote ourselves to a better nation embodies the truth that we are all endowed by our Creator with the same unalienable rights. As veterans of the armed forces, we understand that our sacrificial service was not only for the benefit of ourselves and our families, but to others as well; people we never knew who also wanted the opportunity to enjoy "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." While the Constitution guaranteed these rights, the members of our great nation's armed forces secured them. We, as Legionnaires, pick up that mantle of service to our nation as we continue to pledge to support our fellow veterans, so that they may enjoy the blessings of all the good things that the United States of America can offer, while not forgetting their responsibility to current and future generations.

We should never forget that "freedom of religion" does not mean "freedom from religion," and that each of us has the right to practice our faith as our conscience and tradition guides us. This is one of the "self-evident truths" that our nation's Constitution espouses, and it is what makes "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" more than a self-centered ideal. It becomes the focal point of our lives, through our service to both God and country.

ATTENTION AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT!



It is time to sign your team up for Accidental Insurance Protection!

The annual offer for Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance is happening now. Please ensure that your Officers are covered with **\$25,000 or \$50,000** of insurance in the event that they are killed or dismembered due to an accident while on Official Legion Family Business*.

This is important. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust is offering this valuable protection at competitive rates. Make sure to take advantage of this offer to provide essential coverage for your team. You can elect coverage for department staff too!

\$25,000 of Coverage

• **\$3.24** ANNUALLY per person**

\$50,000 of Coverage

• **\$6.48** ANNUALLY per person**

** Rates may vary by state, see enrollment form

PLEASE DON'T WAIT! This is important Insurance for your Officers.

To enroll, follow these 3 simple steps:

- 1 Complete the attached enrollment form
- 2 Submit a roster of officers to be covered (listing by name and title)
- 3 Pay the premium

Enrollments must be made annually to properly reflect any changes in the number of officers to be covered. The premiums should be calculated and made payable to AGIA and sent to our Scottsdale office for processing. **This must be paid by July 15, 2025.**

Make sure to take advantage of this offer to provide essential coverage for your team. If you have any questions, please reach out to Cristina Garibay at 805-566-9191 ex. 2252 or cgaribay@agia.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and helping ensure that your Officers are protected!

*Official Legion Business means traveling to, attending, or returning from a function when the Officer is representing the American Legion in an official capacity. Examples include representing the Legion Family at public ceremonies & events, attending District/Area meetings and many more! Please note: if you have already signed your officers up for the 2025/2026 coverage period, we thank you and please disregard this message.

Underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company.
Policy form series 17-50925. Full terms & conditions, including benefits, exclusions, & limitations, are found in the certificate/policy. Benefits may vary and this program may not be available to residents of all states. Availability of this offer may change. In the event of any discrepancy between this information and the policy/certificate, the terms of the policy/certificate will apply.
Matt Bishop MI License No.: 8493373
Offered by: A.G.I.A., Inc.

The American Legion Family Officers'
\$25,000 / \$50,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance
Underwritten by: Securian Life Insurance Company St. Paul, MN 55101
Offered by: A.G.I.A., Inc.

2025/2026 Enrollment Form

1. Please indicate:

☐ The American Legion ☐ The American Legion Auxiliary ☐ Sons of The American Legion

2. State: _____

3. Street Address: _____

4. City/State/Zip Code: _____

5. Telephone: (____) _____

6. Please select coverage level: ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$50,000

<i>For \$25,000 of coverage:</i>	<i>For \$50,000 of coverage:</i>
\$3.24 annually per person	\$6.48 annually per person
\$2.64 annually per person in CO & ND	\$5.28 annually per person in CO & ND
\$2.40 annually per person in DE, IN, NH	\$4.80 annually per person in DE, IN, NH
\$2.16 annually per person in MN	\$4.32 annually per person in MN

Underwriting Information:

7. Total number of officers/ office holders to be covered: _____

8. Premium due for the 2025 / 2026 policy year equals sum of \$_____

9. Define all officers to be covered by title/position: _____

10. Are any "Staff" or other class than above to be covered? ☐ Yes (see below) ☐ No

If yes, please describe by title and function: _____

11. Is a roster of officers to be covered available? ☐ Yes ☐ No

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 1, 2025

Signature and Title

____/____/____
Date

The Subscriber named above hereby adopts the provisions and conditions of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, so that its Officers, Committee Chairmen, Committee members and staff, as shown in the Eligible Persons description in the policy, may participate in Insurance Benefits provided under certain insurance policies it holds for the benefit of the eligible persons previously described. The Subscriber agrees that it will be bound by the terms of the Trust and insurance policies under which its members become insured. Members under age 18 are not eligible.

Note: The Application, Roster, AND a check for the premium amount payable to: AGIA should be returned to Cristina Garibay at: AGIA Affinity, 300 E. Esplanade Dr, Suite 2010, Oxnard, CA 93036-1238 no later than July 15, 2025.

National Security & Foreign Relations

Michael Buda

I wish to thank Commander Dan Cooper for the appointment as Chairman of this Committee and all the members of the American Legion who attend our meetings.

National Security: A few months ago, while on a ride around town, I met a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol member at a park in Trenton, Michigan, where my Wife and I were visiting on the Straits of Detroit. Thinking this is not an entry point I was talking to this agent, he informed me that they patrol the water ways in Michigan looking for illegal aliens who enter America by Michigan's water ways, the mode of entry as he described it was a boat will leave the Canadian side of the Straights (River) turning all of the lights off and cruse over to the Michigan side disembarking those wishing to enter and return to Canada, as soon as it is away from America they turn on their navigation lights and that is why they patrol looking for those entering by this method.

In addition, there are 2618.35 miles of border between the U.S. and Canada, where you can walk into America. The southern border is roughly 1442.25 miles along a waterway that stretches from San Diego to the Gulf of Mexico. On the Northern border, one can walk into America. This makes it challenging to stop entry; the Military flies planes that gather intelligence & surveillance to provide the information of illegal crossings, leaving us to think precisely how to prevent entry into America.

Red Cross: All blood types are critically needed. Giving the "gift of life," donating blood saves countless lives. This is why we stress donating blood. Accidents happen, and blood is needed to save someone. Setting up a Blood Drive at your post is easy; just call the Red Cross, and they will assist you.

POW/MIA: Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the POW/MIA issue concerns the fate of United States service members who were reported as missing in action (MIA) during the Vietnam War and associated theaters of operation in Southeast Asia. Following the Paris Peace Accords of 1973, 591 U.S. prisoners of war (POWs) were returned during Operation Homecoming. The POW/MIA program seeks the fullest accounting of those still listed as POW/MIA in Southeast Asia and anywhere else, regardless of the conflict from which they went missing or were captured. For updates, go to www.dpaa.mil. Other sites you may wish to explore are: www.usni.org. This site gives you daily updates on what the Navy is doing and what the military is doing.

Blood Eye & Vital Organ: Type in Blood Eye and Vital Organ Donations, you will get the full update and can download the Veterans Affairs VHA directive 1101.03. Also, you will find information from the Michigan Organ Donor Program.

The 8th District Proudly Endorses



**FOR
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN
2025-2027**



Wayne BLANK

FOR
COMMANDER AMERICAN LEGION MICHIGAN
2025-2026 AIR FORCE
Nuclear Weapons Technician
VIETNAM ERA VET 1967-1971
20 YEAR Member
Held many offices from Post, District, Zone and Department
including 2nd Vice Commander and 1st Vice Commander
ELECT ME FOR CHANGE
LEGION STRONG

Michigan American Legion Foundation

Jim Wallace, Trustee

The Michigan American Legion Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) 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. The Corporation Officers are President, Vice-President, Secretary, Finance Officer and a Board of Directors. These individuals handle the day-to-day and annual functions and report them to the shareholders through an annual meeting. Periodic reports and a yearly audit by an independent accounting firm. This report is one of the periodic requirements. As Retiring President of the Foundation, I would like to thank Roger Avie, Vice-President, Scott Nichols, Secretary, Larry Money, Finance Officer and Trustees Randy Gilbert and Trustee Howard Crumit. The Board of Directors warrants special recognition for their outstanding efforts this year. The Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) changes are now in place, along with the new Standard Operating Procedure for TFAs currently being used.

The Foundation's President and Officers' insurance policy was again purchased and will be maintained by the Department of Michigan. The Department is still handling accounting matters, and a pro-rata amount is being charged to the Foundation for its costs. A forensic audit of all Programs was put in place, and the Vice President is monitoring the process of that procedure. We currently have not received requested reports from some of the program Chairpersons regarding successes or activities that affect the funds distribution of the Foundation. The Board and Officer positions were nominated and voted on at the Port Huron meeting in January 2025 for the period 2025- 2026, with Larry Money being elected to the President position, Roger Avie the Vice President, Howard Crumit the Finance Officer and Scott Nichols as Secretary, I was elected to a Director/Trustee position along with Randy Gilbert. The Department Executive Committee adopted our minutes confirming our election of officers and directors. Our 501 (c) (3) paperwork is up to date, and the annual external financial audit for 2024 is completed and has received a qualified good opinion letter. In conjunction with the Department Finance Committee, the Wounded and Returning Warrior program, Gary Tanner, Chairperson, and members were brought into the Foundation in February 2024. This streamlined the functioning of this Committee and allowed for an expansion of their work. The Foundation Board also approved an increased dollar level for the TFA's (temporary financial assistance) within this program. This increase raised the TFA's effectiveness with the participants. The TFAs to be issued now have oversight of the funds by additional members of that committee and approval by the Senior Executive of the Finance Committee and/or the Senior Foundation Officer. All documentation for the Foundation is on file at the Department and can be seen by appointment.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served this prestigious and worthwhile Foundation, helping veterans and their families as President. As Director/ Trustee, I shall continue the outstanding objective, goal and mission of assisting our military members.

POST 48 & THE 3RD DISTRICT PROUDLEY ENDORSES

DUANE MILLER

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SGT-AT-ARMS
2025-2026**



**US AIR FORCE 75-79 & US ARMY 81-06
29 YEAR PUFL MEMBER**

**POST 48 OFFICES & PARTICIPATION
COMMANDER FOR 5 YEARS**

**1ST & 2ND VICE
ADJUTANT
SGT-AT-ARMS
BAR CHAIRMAN
HONOR GUARD
LEGION RIDER**

**3RD DISTRICT OFFICES
COMMANDER**

**1ST VICE
VA BINGO CHAIRMAN**

**2ND ZONE OFFICES
COMMANDER**

**DIRECTOR AND CARE TAKER OF
WILWIN**

Rosedale Park Post 390 & the 1st District Proudly Endorses

**ROGER AVIE
FOR DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER
2025-2026**



U.S. Army 1968-1969 Vietnam Veteran

Department Experience: Finance Officer, Chairman of the Finance Committee (10 years) Assistant Chaplain, VP Michigan Legion Foundation

1st District Experience: Commander, Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Bylaws Committee

Post 390 Experience: Commander, Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Adjutant

**18th District supports
Larry Chase
for Department Sgt at Arms
2025-2026**

Eligibility: Lebanon and Granada

Post Offices : Commander, 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, Sgt at Arms, Executive Committee

District Offices: Commander, Assistant Sgt at Arms, Sgt at Arms

Zone Offices: Sgt at Arms

Department Offices: Centennial Chairman, Assistant Sgt at Arms, Sgt at Arms



Internal Affairs Committee
Barry Wood, Committee Chair

The Purpose of this report is to formulate and recommend policies and oversee the implementation of adopted policies relating to activities conducted for organizational purposes. Including, but not limited to, such matters that do not properly come within the scope of any other Department committee. And, to review and recommend administrative procedures of the Department Headquarters on matters referred to this committee by a Department officer.

Refer to the "Outline of Authorization" on the Department's website to see the makeup of the purposes of the Internal Affairs Committee and subcommittees. Current members of the committee are PDC Barry Wood, Chair; Michael Greene, Assistant Chair; James Ducey, Secretary; PDC Brian Mohlman, Leadership Develop and Mentoring subcommittee chair; PDC Brett Holt, Constitution & Bylaws subcommittee chair; Robert Kamin, ALR subcommittee chair; Constitution & Bylaws subcommittee member Carl Atkinson; Leadership Development subcommittee members Leo Cowdry and Elizabeth Cuddington; Legion Riders subcommittee member Michael Igo. Rider's Auxiliary Liaison, Angelo Snyder and Sons of The American Legion Liaison Mike Globke. Additional members: SAL Liaison NEC Larry Money, Emeritus Member Honorary PDC Robert Mayrand, Department Commander and Department Judge Advocate.

REPORTS FOR 2024-25
American Legion Riders (ALR) subcommittee 2024-25 Activities authored by Robert Kamin, ALR Chairman

The rider committee has been working on the new rules of procedure for the rider's chapters. We have also been working on a chapter information form. We hope to complete that online as a fillable form or send out with the Adjutants' packets. We have also discussed having state and district shoulder cords; that way, you could identify a state committee person or a district liaison in a group of riders. Just like the covers, it would be at the person's expense.

During a Zoom meeting on April 6th, we finish the discussion and finalized these items so they can be taken to the IA committee for approval, then move on to the DEC for final approval. Once that is done, they will be put into place.

The department's Legacy ride is pretty much set. Just waiting for the weather to break and road construction season to start to finalize the routes. We all know how the Michigan roads can be during construction season.

I worked with Ron Runyan for a general ALR email, alr@michiganlegion.org. Now, when there is a new chairman, no one has to learn a new email when they have questions, comments, concerns, or updates.

The committee worked with Jim Showers to get a "Rider Calendar" for all the rider chapters. We can now have a central location for other chapters to see what others are doing. This way, if you are going on a ride across the state, you can see what is happening where you're going.

Leadership Development Report of activity for 2024-25, authored by PDC Brian Mohlman, subcommittee chair

The Leadership Development Subcommittee has been busy presenting Legion Family Training across the Department this year. With sessions held in Battle Creek, Cedar Creek, Dorr, Livonia, and Little Lake, approximately 125 Post Leaders

| June 2025 | Michiganlegion.org |
have benefited from this valuable insight into their duties and

Responsibilities, from half a dozen expert trainers. Feedback from the sessions has been overwhelmingly positive throughout.

The Leadership Mentoring Program kicked off during National Fall Meetings 2024, with two Legionnaires participating. Aside from a few logistical hiccups, these participants picked up valuable experiences while participating in National Commission meetings. We have four Legionnaires attending National Spring Meetings this year as well. The Leadership Development Sub-Committee looks forward to great things from each participant.

The long-awaited Outline of Authorizations was finally completed and received DEC approval at Winter Meeting 2025. Hours and hours of research, review, and fact gathering culminated with a lasting final document...a one-stop shopping for Committee ROPs.

Constitution & Bylaws subcommittee 2024-24 authored by PDC Brett Holt

The subcommittee has been reviewing the Department Constitution and Bylaws continuously, looking to update to ensure the product best meets the needs of the Department and its members. The subcommittee is also evaluating suggested changes to these documents to ensure accurate and meaningful recommendations are presented to delegates at Convention. There are 45 amendments to the Department Constitution and Bylaws to be considered at the 2025 Department Convention.

On behalf of the entire Department Internal Affairs standing committee, it has been a pleasure to serve the membership of the Department during 2024-25.



U.S. NAVY 1980-1985
30 YEAR MEMBER
PAST POSITIONS
POST COMMANDER
DISTRICT COMMANDER
ZONE COMMANDER
POW/MIA CHAIRMAN
LEGION RIDERS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

LAMOND-FRANK POST 478
& THE 16TH DISTRICT
PROUDLY ENDORSE
JIM
"BIG DADDY"
AUSTIN

FOR
First Vice Commander
Department of Michigan

2025-2026

You Can Renew!

Your renewal is just a click away. Click on your organization to renew on the national website right now.

LEGION
AUXILIARY
SAL

The 3rd District Endorses



Brian Mohlman

For

Department Finance Officer

The American Legion

Department of Michigan

2025-2026

- **Bringing over 30 years of Accounting, Finance, and Tax experience to the table**

**The American Legion Pinckney Memorial
Post 419 and the 6th District Association
Proudly Endorses
Bob Higley**



**For Department Finance Officer
2025 - 2026**

Finance and Personnel Committee

Roger Avie, Chairman

I want to first thank my remarkable Committee for all the time and effort they have put in this year. Those on the Committee are: Vice-Chairman Ray Carlson, Members; Dave Buist, PDC Jim Wallace, Mike Pergande, Commander Dan Cooper, Finance Officer Leo Cowdry, Alternates: Steve Striggow, Brian Moleman, VA & R Director Gary Easterling, Adjutant Ron Runyan and our current Recording Secretary Wanda Ophaug. Because of these people and their hard work and expertise this past year, we should finish this year in June 2025 with a large gain in assets and revenue, plus meet our budget and have a good surplus. I thank Commander Cooper for reappointing me as Chairman of Personnel and Finance and maintaining all committee members.

Department Headquarters has had more touch-ups done by contractors to enhance the front of the Building, including new lighting, landscaping and the new memorial brick project. The purchase of a more suitable van to haul our equipment to conventions has worked out very well. Its new colorful markings have become a moving billboard for the American Legion wherever it goes. The Standard Operating Procedures for TFAs (temporary financial assistance) are now in place for Wounded Warrior checks to be further reviewed before disbursement and signing. Because of significant swings in the Stock Market there has been many large non-realized cash incomes and drops in our investment portfolio but with cash flow from the LIT fund, USAA, Emblem Sales, Internal fund raising, National sharing of fund raising and Dignity Memorial we have received over \$300,000 in additional funding that offsets those losses and gains and allowed us to finish the past year in June 2024 with a major surplus of funds and a good opinion statement from our auditors Yeo & Yeo. Our current financials seem to lead us again to a positive cash close for a June 2024-25 financial position with another good opinion statement. Thank you to Adjutant Runyan for identifying, applying, collecting and managing these items and other activities that have given the Department these additional funds.

As current Chairman of the Finance/Personnel Committee for the past eight years, with two prior years as Finance Officer, I concur with my Committee that the employees at both the Department Headquarters in Lansing and the VA&R staff in Detroit do an outstanding job for all of you every day of the year. Adjutant Ron Runyan, VA&R Director Gary Easterling, and Assistant Director Tripp Cantwell are to be commended for running such efficient operations.

YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE.

Now let us honor you.



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning seminar to learn about VA burial benefits available.

For more information, contact
Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com
or 586-775-2424.

*We're proud to partner with the
Department of Michigan American Legion.*

Dignity
MEMORIAL

☞ **LIFE WELL CELEBRATED** ☞

DignityMichigan.com



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

TODD VANDAM

Detachment Commander 2024-2025



Greetings, Sons of the American Legion. This year was filled with so many wonderful things and great opportunities. I never realized how many different hats most people wear in this organization. Before my time as Detachment Commander, I often wondered how many people have a role with their Squadron, District and Detachment all at the same time and for year after year, no less. Well, after all my travel this year visiting Squadrons around the State and meeting so many of our Brothers and many other Family members, the answer is a lot! It is those people who keep answering the call to represent their Family in the American Legion that I want to thank first. I thank the entire Michigan Leadership team for an amazing year of servant leadership and for building the "next guy" up! Keep honoring your family's legacy by serving those who have served the US! Proud possessors



1ST ZONE

Greg Price, Commander

I hope many of us Sons of the American Legion will be attending our 2025 State Convention that will be held in Okemos, June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Important weekend events will be the Memorial Ceremony on

Friday, the Elections of Zone Commanders and the Convention Picnic on Saturday. We will elect, on Sunday, the State Detachment Officers.

I will not be running for Zone 1 Commander this time. I want to thank everyone for all your Help and the Encouragement you gave me while I held this important position. I plan on continuing to be involved in committees that help benefit our Veterans and communities. Like all of you, I am Proud to be a Proud Possessor of a Priceless Heritage.

Our Detachment Sons 2026 membership cards will soon be available. You decide to be an Early Bird and pay your dues early. Please don't forget to contact members in your Squadron who have not yet paid their 2025 dues. They will need to pay their 2025 membership dues to continue their consecutive years of being a member in Good Standing. The 2025 cards are still current until December 31st. Let us all continue our mission to support the programs of the American Legion that benefit veterans and their families.



4TH ZONE UPDATE

John Brown, Commander

The articles for the Legionnaire are written well before their publication. That said, April was a horrible month for most of the 19th District. The Legion Family suffered an Ice Storm that decimated most of the 19th District. I sincerely hope the 19th District gets back to normal.

The SAL Convention is on June 6, 7 & 8th in Okemos. I hope some of our Blue Cappers can make it to this year's convention. Information can be found at michiganlegion.org.

All Squadrons should be at 100% membership at this time. Commanders, please reach out to those who have not paid this year's dues. Explain to them how dues money helps our Veterans programs and your Squadron.

This is also that time of the year when many of our Squadrons hold raffles to help raise funds for our veterans' programs.

SAL members, please show your support and try to help out on these endeavors as much as possible. We all lead busy lives with work and family, but offering some time can make a big difference in your fund raiser being a success or a bust. Please help out.

God, please watch over and protect all our active service members.

NEC REPORT

Mike Holley

Membership is important to all organizations. Michigan is currently in 16th position out of 55 Detachments and is 3rd in the region. We have close to 400,000 members nationwide. We need to retain our current members and grow.

National will start requiring that you send in a consolidated report for your new cards to receive. Your squadron does this throughout the year. Whether working at a dinner, marching in a parade, or fixing a veteran's step, whatever you do counts as community service. These reports can be turned in at Detachment Convention, which is coming up June 6 through 8th in Okemos. The reports can also be sent to the Department. It will not happen this year, but within a year or two. Let us start doing them now. It also helps the legion fight for our veterans' benefits.

We just returned from our spring conference in Indy, where many things are happening. National Americanism has adopted support for Flying Flags for Heroes. The goal is to reach 1,000,000 flag placements on our veteran's grave. If your post squadrons, unit, or rider chapter is placing flags, PLEASE go to the website FLYINGFLAGSFORHEROS.com by August 8 and report how many flags you placed.

Many things are happening locally, statewide, and nationally. Visit our website or Facebook page and send in what your squadron is doing.

2025 SAL Membership: MAY 28th Goal = 28,189
Current Total: 26,886-95.34%

We're inspired by the community of veterans still serving in America

For over 50 years, the Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been delivering peace of mind and financial support for veterans, their families, and the Departments of The American Legion.

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST



LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE
TRUST PROGRAM

Click here to view your
member benefits!



Post 201 and the 19th District Endorses
CHARLES BOMAN

For American Legion
Department of Michigan
**ALTERNATE NATIONAL
COMMITTEEMAN
2025-2027**

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

WILWIN LODGE

At Cygnet Cove

**Annual
Fundraiser
June 29th
1 pm**

Cookout!
by Sal Squadron 34

**Auction
& Raffle**

**Entertainment
by The
Scottville
Clown Band**



**For more information 231-757-0140
3383 E Hawley Rd, Custer MI 49405
www.wilwinlodge.com/annual-fundraiser**

Veteran Service Office Locations

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building

477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231
Detroit, MI 48226
Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
Phone: 833.648.3826 ext. 1

AL Post #257
7475 B Drive North
Battlecreek, MI 49014
Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

AL Post 349
1835 Co. Hwy EED.
Little Lake, MI 49833
Hours: 1st & 3rd TH 8am-4pm

AL Post 412
5480 Clark Rd
Bath, MI 48808
Hours: 3rd Wed 8am-4pm

AL Post 301, 10584 N. Main St.
Rapid River, MI 49878
Hours: Wednesday 8am-4pm

AL Post 194
455 Bay St.
Petoskey, MI 49770
Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

AL Post 491
422 Woodworth St.
Leslie, MI 49251
Hours: 2nd Tue 6pm-10pm

AL Post 44, 700 W. Bluff St.
Marquette, MI 49855
Hours: M, Tu, F 8am-4pm

Delta County Veterans Office
2840 College Ave, Ste 2,
Escanaba, MI 49854
Hours: Thursday 8a-4pm

AL Post 76 318, N. James St.
Ludington, MI 49431
Hours: 1st & 3rd Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

Shiawassee Co. OVA
1042 N. Shiawassee St.
Corunna, MI 48817
Hours: Friday 8am-4pm

AL Post 248
1240 W. Grand River
Laingsburg, MI 48848
Hours: 1st Wed 8am-4pm

AL Post 28
700 S. Harbor Dr
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Hours: Mon, Tues 9am-2pm

AL Post 305
9548 Cherry Valley Ave SE, Caledonia, MI 49316
Hours: 2nd & 4th Fri 8:30-4:30

VFW National Home
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827
Hours: Monday 8am-4pm

Muskegon VA Clinic
2734 E. Apple Ave,
Muskegon, MI 49441
Hours: Thursday 9am-2pm

AL Post 297
3590 Conklin St,
Ravenna, MI 49451
Hours: Wednesday 9am-2pm

Ann Arbor VAMC
2215 Fuller Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Hours: M-F 7am-3pm

Charlevoix County OVA
301 State Street
Charlevoix, MI 49720
Hours: 2nd & 4th Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

County Office, 400 River St.
Manistee, MI 49660
Hours: 2nd 4th Thurs 8:30-4:30

Department Headquarters
212 N. Verlinden
Lansing, MI 48915
Hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm

Jackson County OVA
1715 Lansing Ave. Rm 252
Jackson, MI 49202
Hours: T,2&4W,F 8am-4pm

Kalkaska County OVA
890 Isl. Lake Rd. NW, Rm 8
Kalkaska, MI 49646
Hours: 1st & 3rd Thurs 8:30-4:30

Mackinac County OVA
100 S. Marley St.
St. Ignace, MI 49781
Hours: Tue & Fri 8am-4pm

Mecosta County Office
14330 Northland Dr.
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Hours: Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

Michigan Works Bldg 401
North Lake St.,
Suite 700
Cadillac, MI 49601
Hours: Mon 8:30am-4:30pm

Otsego County OVA
225 W. Main St, Rm 104
Gaylord, MI 49735
Hours: Wed, Thur 8am-4pm

Presque Isle County Veterans
151 E. Huron, 3rd flr.
Rogers City, MI 49779
Hours: W 9am-4pm

Saginaw VAMC, 1500
Weiss st
Saginaw, MI 48602
Hours: M,T, W- 9am-4pm

Schoolcraft County OVA
300 Walnut St. #206B
Manistique, MI 49854
Hours: Tue & Wed 8am-4pm

Sault Ste. Marie CBOC
509 Osborn Blvd,
Ste 306
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Hours: Monday 8-4

Wyoming CBOC
5838 Metro Way SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
Hours: Thur 8-4

Downriver Community
Conference Building
15100 Northline Road
Southgate, MI 48195
Hours: T, W, Th 8am-4pm

West MI Vet Assistance Program
620 Century Ave SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Hours: 1st & 3rd Fri 8am-4pm

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Gary Easterling Director

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

Gary Easterling, Director
Cell (313) 549-8557
geasterling@michiganlegion.org

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director
Office Phone (313) 964-6640
Fax (313) 964-5697

Call for a Service officer in your area:
833.648.3826 Option 1

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov
[like us on Facebook @MichiganVAR](#)

Service Officers

Shay Grady
Daryl Kinder
Joshua Clark
Stephanie Fisher
Thomas Kaiser
Stephen Earle
Rebecca Lewis
Rick Wiles
Angella Barkel
Patty Breas
Phillip Babcock
Tommy Simpkins
Stacy Thill
Kieshan Counts
Courtney Thurber
Lisa Misenko

Check out all your benifits at
www.mivabenefits.org

VFW Post 5670, 54 N. Mitchell Rd, Gwinn, MI 49841
Hours: 2nd & 3rd Thurs 8-4

Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St, Garden City, MI 48135
Hours: Monday 8am-4pm

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE!

Find an American Legion Veteran Service Officer near you. Use an Accredited Veteran Service Officer. Here are where American Legion Department Service Officers are. If one is not near you call 833.648.3826 Option 1 and they will guide you to an accredited veteran service officer who will help you.

Around the State...

Post 141 in Howell's 22-A-Day Memorial

The "22-a-Day" veteran suicide prevention and awareness team provides a memorial to bring attention to the impact of military veteran suicides. The Devereaux Post 141 in Howell has planted 22 white crosses daily to symbolize the number of veterans who take their lives each day. The display has become part of the Howell community's annual Memorial Day commemorations, thanks to Vietnam Veteran and Legionnaire Jon Luker.



Reach out to 22aday.org for more information about how you can be part of this vital mission.

High School Helps Out

The American Legion Post 114 of Ishpeming needed a flag container for flags waiting for proper disposal. Westwood High School's welding class began the project immediately. With encouragement from instructor John Jessen, Tanner Annala took on this project.

The New Flag Box includes an American flag & the Westwood Patriot logo.



L-R: Tanner Annala student, Llewanne Collister Unit President, Tim Walters Post Commander

Placing Flags in Grand Haven



In May, AL Post 49 and community members met at Lakeview Cemetery in South Haven to place flags in preparation for the Jim McCloughan Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

Post 346 Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

They presented certificates & commemorative Vietnam pins to 20 vets in attendance.



L to R Vietnam Veteran Joseph Louinger, with Post 346 Commander Marya Davis

Chaplain Workshop

On April 26, the 5th District Auxiliary held its 10th Chaplain Workshop in Grand Ledge. Deb Weatherbee and her team hosted various speakers who provided insight into how to improve our local ministries.



Owen Barrett American Legion Auxiliary Unit 110, Mt. Pleasant visited the 2nd grade class at Weidman Elementary. Shared the meaning of the Poppy and our Veterans for Memorial Day.



Post 238, in Holt Sponsors Robot Team

Buck Reasoner, post 238, presented a check for \$2500 to the dedicated group of young men and women of the ROBO-RAMS learning through innovation.



John Brauer Commander, Steve Potter Robotics Director, Michael Grant Finance Officer

The Ida Post 514 hosted Cub Scout Pack 538 for their annual Pinewood Derby Race. The event also included an "adult" division, which raised more than \$200 for the pack.



June 27th & 28th 2025



Richard F. Smith Post 29
3200 Lansing Ave.
Jackson Michigan

Please use QR Code for registration
and for more information

