

MI LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XCIII No. 11

michiganlegion.org

May 2025

SUMMERS COMING!



Welcome to the month of May, hopefully winter is finally behind us.

We will all be busy this month getting ready for Memorial Day Ceremonies, events, and parades that we host and participate in. We must never forget those who gave their lives for our freedom. May your Memorial Day be a day of Honor and Remembrance as we place flags on the

graves of Veterans who are no longer with us.

Just as the seasons change, so must the administration of the American Legion. May is the month when the Districts and many Post select the new officers for next year. In many cases, it will be the 107th time this will be done.

Obviously, we are an organization with a long history, and we plan on being around for many years to come. But this all depends largely on your wise selection of leadership at every level.

The fact that a person is popular or hangs around the post almost every day does not necessarily make them a good leader. Seek out those individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to the ideals and principles for which the Legion stands. Try to choose candidates who have availed themselves of the numerous educational and training opportunities the Department and National offers.

But above all - if they are sincere in their desire to guide their fellow Legionnaires throughout the next year, give them your support. Failure is the only option without their peers' support and encouragement.

By now everyone in the Department knows that supporting "Paralyzed Veterans of Michigan" is my project this year. Thank you for all the donations, and for those who have not donated, please consider donating to a worthy project helping veterans within our own state.

I have asked each Post to donate 50 cents per member. So far, some Posts have generously donated. In addition, we have

received donations from individual Legionnaires, some very generous. Still, the fact is that with 9 months behind us, we are less than halfway to that reasonable figure. In August, when the Department presents a check to the "Paralyzed Veterans of Michigan" I want to say that Michigan cares about our Veterans. This is an extremely worthwhile cause, and if yours is a Post that has not sent in a contribution, now is the time to do so. Time is running out!

While the year is winding down, we still have some exciting events left to go. The Boys State program is in June, and we are asking each Post to send two boys to this nationally acclaimed curriculum. Let's not forget Student Trooper and the many other programs the American Legion offers.

I want to thank everyone for their efforts in our programs. I am aware of what you are doing, and it shows. The reports at the District meetings are very informative. I also know your road this year has not been smooth, but you have kept moving and fighting. Thank you.

Membership is still on the front burner. We failed to meet our national target for April, and our momentum has slowed. We have fallen from 5th to 8th place nationally; however, we are still on the hunt. I am asking every post to help the Department meet our membership goal of 100% this month, which we only need 7.5%. We can do this!

I am also asking every Post for one more very important thing. We really need every Post in the Department to fill out a Consolidated Post Report to ensure that when we go to Washington next year and sit in the hearing with our National Commander, we want to be able to give Congress correct and current information on how much we do to accomplish the core objectives of the Legion. These are not hard forms to fill out. Fill one out even if your Post does not do much. Every hour, every dollar spent, and each time you did anything in your community, put it down. It all counts for something. If you have a question or need help, please reach out to the Department. We are here to help.

In closing, thank you to everyone who attended the wonderful Department Testimonial Dinner last month.

Auxiliary President Julie Becker, SAL Detachment Commander Todd Van Dam, and I were honored and humbled by your support and friendship. I would also like to thank Post 179 for hosting this event and providing a fabulous meal.

We should all remember that the foundation of our four pillars is the Posts. You are a part of this magnificent movement. Let's make the foundation for the Department of Michigan strong for today, tomorrow and the future.

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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WE'LL GET YOU HOME.



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*This information is only an outline of the plan's features. The full terms, benefits and conditions of the plan are shown in your Member Benefit Guide. Please read it carefully. ©2016 Worldwide Rescue & Security 40064



DEADLINE DATES

May 2025 is May 14th

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& BASEBALL

EXT. 123 legion@michiganlegion.org

VETERANS SERVICE

EXT. 112 **Tuesday & Friday**

WEBSITE, PR, NEWSPAPER & SOCIAL MEDIA

Ext. 116 media@michiganlegion.org

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

media@michiganlegion.org

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Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Salamon
Immediate PDC. Brian Mohlman
Alt. N.E.C Brett Holt
VA and R Director Gary Easterling



Ron Runyan
Dept. Adjutant

In this edition of Runyan's Ramblings I wanted to bring some great information to all the veterans who have VA benefits and make sure spouses know these benefits as well. I am also a new recipient of VA benefits and had no idea what other benefits I had besides those from the VA. I encourage you to review the list provided to me by our outstanding Veteran Service Officers here in Michigan! Keep up the GREAT work you all do every day for us!!!

Runyan's Ramblings Know your Benefits

Federal Benefits and Healthcare Benefits Available

Veteran Benefits Based on VA Disability Ratings (0% - 100%)

0%-20%

- Monthly Compensation
- VA-backed home loan eligibility
- Basic burial allowance
- Limited VA Healthcare services for service-connected conditions (See *Priority Groups*)
- 5-point Veteran preference for federal jobs

30%-40%

- Monthly Compensation to include dependents
- Travel Pay for VA healthcare related to service-connected disabilities
- Access to additional services within priority group 2 (See *Priority Groups*)

50%-60%

- No-cost VA inpatient/outpatient care and prescriptions (See *Priority Groups*)
- VA home loan fee waiver
- Concurrent Retirement Disability Compensation (CRDP) eligibility
- Commissary, exchanges, and MWR access

70%-90%

- Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) support
- Dependent Educational Assistance (DEA) for children and spouses (under TDIU)
- Free urgent care visits
- Burial plot allowance

100% Disability rating:

- Property tax exemption (state-dependent)
- Lifetime commissary and exchange privileges
- Comprehensive healthcare coverage beyond VA, including dental care
- Space-A travel on Department of Defense Aircraft
- Premium-free Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI) and other specialized insurance programs.

Veterans' Health Care Priority Groups Explained:

Priority Group 1:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or more
- Veterans deemed unemployable due to service-connected conditions.
- Medal of Honor recipients

Benefits: Full access to VA Healthcare with no copays

Priority Group 2:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 30% or 40%

Benefits: Comprehensive healthcare services with reduced or no copays

Priority Group 3:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 10% or 20%
- Purple Heart recipients
- Former prisoners of war (POWs)
- Veterans discharged due to a service-connected disability

Benefits: Access to VA healthcare with minimal copays

Priority Group 4:

- Veterans receiving aid and attendance or housebound benefits
- Veteran determined to be catastrophically disabled

Benefits: Priority access to specialized care and services

Priority Group 5:

- Veterans with a non-service-connected disability or a 0% service-connected rating
- Income below VA's national income threshold
- Veterans receiving VA pension benefits or Medicaid

Benefits: Access to VA healthcare with income-based copays

Priority Group 6:

- Veterans with compensable 0% service-connected disability
- Veteran exposed to environmental hazards (AO, Camp Lejeune water)
- Combat veterans discharged within the last 10 years

Benefits: Access to care for specific conditions related to service

Priority Group 7:

- Veterans with income below the geographic income threshold

Benefits: Access to VA healthcare with copays for most services

Priority Group 8:

- Veterans with income above the geographic income threshold

Benefits: Limited access to VA healthcare, often requiring copays

COMMANDERS PROJECT

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE PURCHASED A COIN AND TO THE POSTS, UNITS, SQUADRONS AND DISTRICTS THAT HAVE ALREADY DONATED. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND ARE GOING FOR A GREAT CAUSE TO SUPPORT PARALYZED VETERANS IN MICHIGAN.

Commanders Project

Supporting Paralyzed Veterans in Michigan with spinal cord injuries, and to help Veterans regain independent living.



Front

Back

\$10.00 each

Please see Commander for Coin or buy from the Department with a credit card

2025 Membership: April 28th Goal = 55,154
Current Total: 51,173 - 92.78%

Membership Report



Wayne Blank
1st Vice Commander

Legionnaires, we are in the home stretch of membership. May 14 is the finish line for the American Legion Department of Michigan's membership 100% goal. Are we going to make it? Are posts going to make an effort to engage their unrenewed members?

Even obtaining new members should be addressed. A new member would not be required to renew until December 31, 2025. So don't wait. You may lose them by waiting too long.

I want to thank you for working as hard as you have been working. How hard do we have to work to get to 100%? I will give the first District to reach 95% \$500.00, and I will give a District that reaches 100% by the final due date of May 14 \$500.00. Your post can do this by contacting all unrenewed members to urge them to renew. Show your post members that your post truly cares about them. Do you care? I Do.

I want to share something regarding the conduct of membership during your meetings. When approaching the stage/head table, members should approach the U.S. flag on the left side of the stage/head table, stop & salute the flag, and then enter the stage or head table area. When departing the stage/head table, members should leave to the right of the stage, stop & salute the colors and then return to their seats. Members should never walk or reach the area between the colors when posted. This is considered sacred ground and Should never be violated.

District #7 Happenings

Robert Montgomery, 1st Vice Commander 7th District

As we go through this world, we have people who positively impact us, and during our winter meeting in February, Bill Livesay and Steve Way from post #382 St Clair did just that. What impressed me was their thirst for knowledge. They were reaching out to anyone who would hear their concerns and needs so they could put their post on sound footing, with not just current members but for the next generation of legionnaires to come. They wanted to move the post to the digital age and admitted they were in left field with a hockey stick and were unsure how to proceed. After replacing the hockey stick with a fielder's glove, we went to work, and the results spoke for themselves. They can confidently see the future of the post and how membership and finance work together to form a more solid Legion, not just at the post level but at all levels. If you feel your post is ready for this, please let me know, and I will bring another fielder's glove.

Post #566 will have a name-changing ceremony on Memorial Day this year. They will be adding the Scribner name after Merrick Potter. It will be in honor of Gary Scribner, who was KIA on 1/24/1968 during the battle of Khe Sanh. The Gold Star family will be present, and my hat is off to the post members of #566 to make this a reality. Speaking of #566, they lead our district in membership with 116.67% at the time of this article with 70 Members.

Our next district meeting is May 18 at 1701 W Genesee in Lapeer, Post 16 at 2 PM. Gather at noon for training and lunch at 1 PM. It is our memorial district meeting to pay tribute to our members who have passed. Please send me their names, and I will ensure it gets to the proper hands.

Americanism Report



Jim Austin
2nd Vice Commander

Wow, what a month! I hope you are all enjoying spring. Time is certainly flying by. This is my second to last article, but that doesn't mean the work stops. Americanism is every day, and the programs must be worked all year. All the programs have different deadlines and are awarded throughout the year. On the benefit side, these programs keep the American Legion on the front lines of our lives.

This month, the National Oratorical Contest will be held at Hillsdale College in our very own Hillsdale, Michigan. However, volunteers are still needed. The applications are online for your convenience. I have received positive reports from several other programs, including the new Veteran Construction Apprenticeship Program. Being a Skilled Trades (Millwright) Journeyman myself, I can appreciate the importance of this program. I also hear very good numbers for our Boys and Girls State programs. What great ways to keep up the good work.

Remember, WE are the American Legion. We need to participate, support, and promote all the American Legion offers. BE THE ONE. Enjoy the fresh start that spring brings, and I look forward to seeing you all soon. Summer Convention is right around the corner!

Chaplains Corner

Sherri Gramlich,
Assistant Department Chaplain

May is a special month for us, a time of remembrance, renewal, and gratitude. It's Military

Appreciation Month when we recognize and honor all who have served and continue to serve our great nation. Memorial Day is at the heart of this month, a solemn occasion where we pause to reflect on those who made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our freedoms.

Memorial Day is not just the unofficial start of summer—it's a sacred moment to remember our fallen heroes. Whether they fought in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, or more recent conflicts, their courage and sacrifice must never be forgotten. Let's take the time to visit cemeteries, place flags on graves, and share the stories of these brave men and women, keeping their memory alive in our hearts and our communities.

May also brings the renewal of spring. The blooming flowers and longer days remind us of the hope and resilience that define our nation. As Legionnaires, our mission is not only to honor those who have passed but to support the living—our fellow veterans, their families, and those who need encouragement. It is a season of action, an opportunity to extend our hands in fellowship, volunteer at local events, and show appreciation to those who continue to serve.

As we reflect on our many blessings this month, let us remember the words of President Donald Trump: "We cherish our freedom. We cherish our Constitution. We fully recognize that our rights come from God, not the government." May God bless you, your families, and the United States of America.



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

May 2025



Julie Becker
Department President
2024-2025

Happy Spring Everyone!

The trees are budding, and the flowers are blooming. The most important flower is the poppy. This beautiful red flower symbolizes the remembrance of the fallen soldiers of World War I. The iconic poem, In Flanders Fields, speaks of the duty of the living to carry on the fight and honor the sacrifice of those who gave their lives. On September 27th, 1920, the poppy became the memorial flower for the entire American Legion Family. The Auxiliary pledged to use 100% of the poppy program's profits to assist servicemen, service-women, and their families. May 23rd, 2025, is National Poppy Day. Why is this so important? Because this is when we get out into our communities and distribute poppies for donations and remind people of our fallen soldiers. Our remembrance extends beyond just Poppy Day. Poppies can be distributed all year if you choose. Some Units have a poppy donation set up all year at their American Legion Post. Show your ALA PRIDE! Remember to wear your ALA attire while distributing poppies and remind the community of who we are, what we do, and why we do it.

Response Poem to In Flanders Field:

We Shall Keep the Faith
Oh! You who sleep in Flanders' fields, Sleep sweet - to rise anew,
We caught the torch you threw, And holding high we kept
The faith with those who died. We cherish too, the poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led. It seems to signal to the skies
That blood of heroes never dies, But lends a lustre to

the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead In Flanders' fields.
And now the torch and poppy red Wear in honour of our dead.
Fear not that ye have died for naught We've learned the lesson that ye taught
In Flanders' fields.

Additionally, I have been receiving some year-end reports. I am so proud of the amazing work you all have done and are doing. I appreciate all of you. As we all know, Spring is when we plant our gardens. A garden needs water, sun, and upkeep. Like a garden, the ALA needs mentoring, involvement and care. Without these things, we cannot grow strong and sturdy roots. My goal at the beginning of my year as your President was to return to our roots (aka basics). The focus this year is Policy, Procedure, Protocol, and our Governing Documents.

Take the time to read your Unit's Governing Documents. The calls and communications have improved. More members are following the Policies, Procedures, and Protocols, but we have more work to do. Read all the directions on all of the forms you fill out. Please refrain from contacting the ALA staff at State Headquarters with unwarranted and misguided questions. The staff at headquarters are busy running the day-to-day business aspects of the organization and do not have the resources to provide training. Training and other information is available in ALAMIS and via our Department website www.michalaux.org. Remember the golden rule! We are all in this together.

Happy Spring

Happy Spring! I know you are all very busy supporting our Veterans, the children and our communities, but please remember to take time to enjoy the sunshine and smell the flowers. We can get so overwhelmed with tasks and work that we don't take the time necessary for our own health and happiness. We all want to serve our organization and that isn't possible unless we are taking care of ourselves.

In the last 30 days at my home unit, we have managed, supported and provided food for a cornhole tournament, two euchre tournaments, bingo, an entire weekend of baseball tournaments, a funeral luncheon, an Easter egg hunt for the community, and various other activities-if you know, you know.

It's a hectic time for our Auxiliaries with all of the reports, documentation, nominations and placements that are due-once those are complete, we all breathe a sigh of relief. Maybe this is the time you can finally slow down and enjoy the result of everyone's efforts. I challenge you all to do something special for yourself. You all deserve it. And Keep rocking 4 our Veterans!



Shannon Werner
Executive Director,
Secretary & Treasurer

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

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

Public Relations

Anita Mennel, Chair

How did you celebrate the month of Military Child, and especially April 15th, Purple Up Day? How did you celebrate "Legion Family Day" on April 26th? Be sure to send some pictures and include them in next year's Public Relations Report. Having activities on these days and sharing them in your local newspapers, billboards, and radio stations are great ways to share with your community who we are and why we matter. May 23rd is National Poppy Day this year. This is a great opportunity for the ALF (American Legion Family) to reach out to their communities. Share with your local media what the Poppy program is about and how you will distribute them. Again, be sure you are 'branded,' and report your success.

Building a good reputation: 1. Be good at what you do 2. Be known

for your purposes and values. Focus on your target group and utilize one or more ways to establish good PR, newsletters, and local media: radio, TV, businesses, schools, government, email, and social media. Always remember who you are and what your focus/mission is. Don't create or allow negativity on your social media pages. If your 'ALF' gives scholarships, share those success stories. Again, utilizing social media is a wonderful way to reach out to many with just a few clicks. The more we are in the public eye, the more others may want to know more about who we are, maybe even come and join in.

Here is a great example: On March 21st, Christine Merlington's entire team at Grand Rapids Foam Technology got together and participated in the "RED" shirt Friday event. Christine was truly honored and proud of her Company and its owners for letting them do it.



Michigan Veteran HomeChesterfield

Marie Gomez, MVHCT VA&R Deputy

MVH Chesterfield has been open a little over 4 years, serving our Veterans in the Metro Detroit area (Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties). There are 118 residents of a possible 128. The facility offers Veterans short-term and long-term care, rehabilitation therapy, dementia, memory and palliative care. For many, this place is called "home".

I want to express my deepest appreciation to all of you for supporting our work in the Auxiliary for our Veterans! There have been monetary donations, gift cards, goodies, and even hand-made items like blankets. The facility is very thankful for the large ticket items that were approved during the Winter Meeting and Fall Conference.

From the friendly staff to soft-hearted volunteers, the Veterans are full of smiles when we are on-site making deliveries, helping with activities or hosting parties. To say our Veterans are "grateful" for everything we do is an understatement.

Some of our greatest achievements over the last several months have been providing loads of snacks and beverages, the Christmas Shoppe (donating over \$12,000 in retail), and the Valentine's party (with a DJ, food, games and cash prizes). The highlight was purchasing a Tovertafel table with accessories that cost approximately \$20,000. The Tovertafel projector is an interactive program that allows veterans to enjoy catching fish, feeding butterflies, or shooting pool with fellow veterans. You should see the smiles this therapy time brings

The support from Department, three districts, 13 units, and volunteers within our legion family and all the donors have made this year very successful! You ALL should be very proud! Together, we have brought so much joy and happiness and have spread the true meaning of "Love and Kindness" to these Veterans!

Chaplain's Corner

Christine Merlington, Department Chaplain

Traditionally April rains bring the flowers of May to brighten our spring. What you may not know is that there is a prayer dedicated to the month of May and a few items of fact you might not know about our fifth month:

In this blessed month of May, I fervently declare in the mighty name of Jesus, that in every sphere where the Lord has granted you rest or peace, let there be a hedge of protection against any turbulence or discord instigated by the adversary.

May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, Mother of God. During this month we honor Mary and seek her prayers for the world. For all those who have no peace, let us invoke Mary, the woman who brought into the world the Prince of Peace.

May is often seen as a month of grace and favor. May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope. Ambriel is an angel who is associated with the sun sign of Gemini and the month of May.

May is considered a special month in many countries worldwide, including Nigeria where they celebrate Children's Day, Mothers' Day and Women. May Day is a public holiday celebrated internationally on May 1st of every year. I hope May brings you many blessings.

4th District

Kathie Hartman-Gleason, President

We are very focused on building our membership in the 4th District. Remember, spouses of a Veteran (male or female) can join the auxiliary. The auxiliary eligibility extends to females and males. Spread the word and let's grow our membership. I want to thank my units that have met the 100% goal, and they are Unit 45 Hastings, Unit 127 Dorr, Unit 160 Bangor, Unit 169 New Buffalo, Unit 204 Three Oaks, Unit 344 Galien, Unit 454 Colon, and Unit 484 Hickory Corners-way to go!

I thank all members in the 4th District who are working hard to meet our goals. At the time of this writing, we are at 92.88% of our goal. Let's keep working hard to achieve 100%.

I know it is a big challenge to get members to attend meetings at the unit or district level. In the 4th District, I get about six ladies, and those six ladies are my officers. A big thank you to all my Officers, I could never do this job without you.

As you may know my special project is Wilwin Lodge. I love it up there. Last year, I raised funds to clean up the swing set down by the cabins. I'm glad to tell everyone we finally got the swing set torn apart, moved, cleaned all around the swing set area, pulled trees and weeds, moved dirt, and brought logs up with tractors. We have rubber mulch on order, so the swing area should be done this spring.

A special thank you to my husband Danny, caretakers at Wilwin Dwayne & Barbara, Miss Julie, and Zach for all your help. Keep rocking 4 our veterans!

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

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

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Gary Easterling
Director

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Gary Easterling, Director
Cell (313) 549-8557
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8th District



Gene Nethaway
Commander

Can you believe Memorial Day is coming up? We've had some windy weather and

lots of rain, too and plus, A tornado hit in our area, so though it's not snowing, lcey and freez-ing, the weather is handing out everything but warm weather now for quite a while. But it will get warmer, and I hope this update finds everyone well. I hope you enjoy these upcoming warm days and plan special things at your Posts.

I visited Freeland Post 722 on April 21 to visit with the veterans and present awards. I've visited most of the Posts this year and shared a lot of information that the Posts have been getting right. The 8th District passed our Constitution and By-Laws and re-did our Standing Rules. They are with the Department Judge Advocate, and it won't be long before they are returned. If your posts haven't gone through your Constitution and B-Laws, they must be reviewed every 5 years.

The Department Convention is on July 10 through 13 and once again at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan. The Department is getting out the Delegation form. Please fill it out and get it back to the Department soon. Lastly, the National Convention is scheduled for August 20 through 29 in Tampa Bay, Florida.

I've also been giving away Vietnam Lapel Pins, and requests are coming in because the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War will conclude on November 11.

Save The Date

June 27th & 28th

MICHIGAN LEGION RIDERS PRESENTS THE 9TH ANNUAL LEGACY RIDE 2025

RICHARD F. SMITH POST
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12 CAMPING SPOTS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
LEGION
CAMPERS CAN BE RENTED AT LARRY'S RV
LOCAL HOTELS AVAILABLE
STAY IN JACKSON THE ENTIRE TIME

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

Proposed Amendments to the Department Constitution and Bylaws

Reference guide to all Proposed Amendments

Amendment	Subject	Brief	Author
25-CA-1	Constitution, Article IV, Section 4	Removing the words	Dept JA
25-CA-2	Constitution, Article IV, Section 6	Replace "Department Executive Committee" with "Department Administrative Committee."	Dept JA
25-CA-3	Constitution, Article VI, Section 3	Adding the words, "Assistant Adjutant"	Dept JA
25-CA-4	Constitution, Article VII, Section 2	Post formation Requirements	Dept JA
25-CA-5	Constitution, Article VII, Section 6	Remove restrictions in number of members	Dept JA
25-CA-6	Constitution, Article VII, Section 12	Change Post Delegate Verbage	Dept JA
25-CA-7	Constitution, Article XI, Section 4	Rewrite Section 4	Dept JA
25-CA-8	Constitution, Article VII, Section 15	Change Verbage regarding Appeals	Dept JA
25-CA-9	Constitution, Article VIII, Section 1-7	Remove all of Article VIII	Dept JA
25-CA-10	Constitution, Article IX, Section 8	Replace District "Commander" with "Officers"	Dept JA
25-CA-11	Constitution, Article VII, Section 14	Replace with National Bylaws	Dept JA
25-CA-12	Constitution, Article XI, Section 6	Change "standing" to "convention" committees	Dept JA
25-CA-13	Constitution, Article XII, Section 1	Removing unnecessary words	Dept JA
25-CA-14	Constitution, Article XIII, Section 1	Rewrite for Clarity	Dept JA
25-CA-15	Constitution, Article XIV	Deleting Sections 2,3, and 4	Dept JA
25-CA-16	Constitution, Article XVI, Section 4	Adding a Section 4	Dept JA
25-CA-17	Bylaws, Article II, Section 2	Change "Article IV, Section 1" to "Section 4"	Dept JA
25-CA-18	Bylaws, Article II, Section 4	Changing County & City Councils to Zones	Dept JA
25-CA-19	Bylaws, Article III, Section 1	Replace "annual" with "regular."	Dept JA
25-CA-20	Bylaws, Article III, Section 3	Replace "annual" with "regular."	Dept JA
25-CA-21	Bylaws, Article III, Section 4	Remove discription of Fall Canference	Dept JA
25-CA-22	Bylaws, Article III, Section 5	Removing dates and locations of Meetings	Dept JA
25-CA-23	Bylaws, Article III, Section 6	Remove words for clarity	Dept JA
25-CA-24	Bylaws, Article III, Section 10	Remove " telegram and/or fax"	Dept JA
25-CA-25	Constitution, Article VI, Section 1	Removing 1st and 2nd Vice Commander	Dept JA
25-CA-26	Bylaws, Article V, Section 3	Change 1st and 2nd Vice Commanders Duties	Dept JA
25-CA-27	Bylaws, Article V, Section 4	Remove Zone Commander term Restrictions	Dept JA
25-CA-28	Bylaws, Article V, Section 7	Appointment of Assistant Judge Advocate	Dept JA
25-CA-29	Bylaws, Article V, Section 8	Change Department Historian's Timeline	Dept JA
25-CA-30	Bylaws, Article V, Section 9	Change Department Chaplain Requirements	Dept JA
25-CA-31	Bylaws, Article V, Section 10	The appointment of Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms	Dept JA
25-CA-32	Bylaws, Article V, Section 11	Remove the necessity of DEC meeting	Dept JA
25-CA-33	Bylaws, Article VI, Section 9	Remove insurance company stipulations	Dept JA
25-CA-34	Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7	Remove the section	Dept JA
25-CA-35	Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1	Remove Annual Reports from Department Annual History	Dept JA
25-CA-36	Bylaws, Article X, Section 6	Change "Department Commander" to "Department Adjutant"	Dept JA
25-CA-37	Bylaws, Article XI, Section 1	Clarify Disciplinary Procedures	Dept JA
25-CA-38	Bylaws, Article XII, Section 4	Add Section Defining Amendment Timeline	Dept JA
25-CA-39	Bylaws, Article IV, Section 5	Clarify Post Level membership application	2nd Dist
25-CA-40	Constitution, Article IX, Section 9	Change Dist Commander Residency Restriction	Dept JA
25-CA-41	Constitution, Article XI, Section 2	Removing:" in paper form"	Dept JA
25-CA-42	Constitution, Article VI, Section 2	Add All Past Department Commanders	Dept JA
25-CA-43	Constitution, Article VI, Section 4	Removing Article VI, Section 4	Dept JA
25-CA-44	Bylaws, Article V, Section 1	Change Department Commander Eligibility	Dept JA

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-3

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VI, Section 3, which now reads:**

"The following special Department Officers are authorized but shall not serve on the Department Executive Committee: Department Communications Director, DMS Coordinator, Upper Peninsula Membership Coordinator, Assistant Membership Coordinator, Assistant Judge Advocate, Assistant Department Chaplain and Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms. The Officers may be appointed by the Department Commander, with approval of the Department Executive Committee. Department Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Director, with voice, but without vote, and Department Service Officers, who shall have neither voice or vote, are Department Officers per job description"

To be Amended by: Adding the words, "Assistant Adjutant" **So that when amended, Article VI, Section 3 shall read:**

The following special Department Officers are authorized but shall not serve on the Department Executive Committee: Assistant Adjutant, Department Communications Director, DMS Coordinator, Upper Peninsula Membership Coordinator, Assistant Membership Coordinator, Assistant Judge Advocate, Assistant Department Chaplain and Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms. The Officers may be appointed by the Department Commander, with approval of the Department Executive Committee. Department Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Director, with voice, but without vote, and Department Service Officers, who shall have neither voice or vote, are Department Officers per job description.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-4

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VII, Section 2, which now reads:**

"Any group of qualified Veterans desiring to form a Post shall apply for the proper application blanks to the District Commander of the District in which such proposed Post is to be located; said proposed Post shall then get the approval of said District at a regular meeting with the required quorum present. Upon District approval it shall then be the duty of the Department Post Development Committee to examine the discharges of said applicants and to investigate their Charter and qualifications to determine their eligibility for membership. The Post Development Committee Chairman shall transmit to the Department Adjutant the completed application, certificate of eligibility, copy of the minutes of the District meeting giving its approval of said proposed Post, a written report of the Committee's investigations, and the Committee's approval or disapproval of the application. The application, upon approval of the Department Executive Committee, shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters. Upon approval by National Headquarters, a temporary charter will be issued."

To be Amended by: Removing the word, "blanks" and removing the sentence, "Upon District approval it shall then be the duty of the Department Post Development Committee to examine the discharges of said applicants and to investigate their Charter and qualifications to determine their eligibility for membership."

So that when amended, Article VII, Section 2 shall read: Any group of qualified Veterans desiring to form a Post shall apply for the proper application to the District Commander of the District in which such proposed Post is to be located; said proposed Post shall then get the approval of said District at a regular meeting with the required quorum present. The Post Development Committee Chairman shall transmit to the Department Adjutant the completed application, certificate of eligibility, copy of the minutes of the District meeting giving its approval of said proposed Post, a written report of the Committee's investigations, and the Committee's approval or disapproval of the application. The application, upon approval of the Department Executive Committee, shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters. Upon approval by National Headquarters, a temporary charter will be issued.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-1

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article IV, Section 4, which now reads:**

"All applicants for membership must fill out the regular form of membership application and, in addition thereto, present for examination by a duly qualified officer of the Post or the Department, either their original discharge from service, DD-214, a certified or photo static copy of either, or proof of honorable service."

To be Amended by: Removing the words "the regular form of", "in addition thereto", and " or the Department, either their original discharge from service, DD-214, a certified or photo static copy of either, or" **So that when amended, Article IV, Section 4, shall read:** All applicants for membership must fill out a form of membership application and present for examination by a duly qualified officer of the Post proof of honorable service.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-2

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article IV, Section 6, which now reads:**

"No person who has been expelled by a Post shall be entitled to membership in another Post without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, that person may then appeal to the Department Executive Committee for permission to apply for membership in another Post and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted."

To be Amended by: Removing the words "Department Executive Committee" and replacing with "Department Administrative Committee."

So that when amended Department Constitution, Article IV, Section 6, shall read: No person who has been expelled by a Post shall be entitled to membership in another Post without the consent of the expelling Post, except that where such consent has been asked for and denied by such Post, that person may then appeal to the Department Administrative Committee for permission to apply for membership in another Post and shall be ineligible for membership until such permission is granted.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-5

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VII, Section 6, which now reads:** “The Department of Michigan shall consist of all of the chartered Posts in the State of Michigan. Each Post may restrict its membership as it desires, subject, however, to the provisions of National and Department Constitution and Bylaws. Each Post may be restricted in number of members by the Department Executive Committee.”
To be Amended by: Removing the sentence, “Each Post may be restricted in number of members by the Department Executive Committee.”
So that when amended, Article VII, Section 6, shall read:
The Department of Michigan shall consist of all of the chartered Posts in the State of Michigan. Each Post may restrict its membership as it desires, subject, however, to the provisions of National and Department Constitution and Bylaws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-6

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VII, Section 12, which now reads:** “In addition to the newly elected Post Commander, each Post may select one (1) Delegate for each fifty (50) paid-up members, or major fraction thereof, to represent such Post at the annual Department Convention. Each Post may select an Alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant no later than the close of business on the Friday before the opening date of the annual Department Convention.”
To be Amended by: Add after Post Commander “or their designee.” Remove, “one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) paid up members, or major fraction thereof,” Add “two (2) delegates” at the end of each Post may select, and add “for a total of three delegates.”
So that when amended, Article VII, Section 12, shall read:
In addition to the newly elected Post Commander or their designee, each Post may select two (2) delegates for a total of three (3) to represent such Post at the annual Department Convention. Each Post may select an Alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant no later than the close of business on the Friday before the opening date of the annual Department Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-7

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XI, Section 4, which now reads:** “Representation in the annual Convention shall be by Delegates and Alternates, duly elected by Posts of the Department and, in addition thereto, the Past Department Commanders and the members of the Department Executive Committee, with the exception of the Department Adjutant. Each of the above Delegates shall be entitled to one vote. Each Post having fifteen (15) or more paid-up members at the Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the PRIOR YEAR’S Convention shall have representation at the annual Convention on the basis of one Delegate for such Post, who shall be the newly elected Commander and one additional Delegate for each fifty (50) members or major

fraction thereof. Newly formed Legion Posts that have been chartered after the last Department Convention will have their delegate strength determined thirty (30) days prior to the next convention. Each Post represented at the Department Convention is entitled to cast the voting strength of its Post, provided all annual dues and debts to the District of which it is a part and the Department are paid.”
To be Amended by: Removing “ Each of the above Delegates shall be entitled to one vote. Each Post having fifteen (15) or more paid-up members at the Department Headquarters thirty (30) days prior to the opening date of the PRIOR YEAR’S Convention shall have representation at the annual Convention on the basis of one Delegate for such Post, who shall be the newly elected Commander and one additional Delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof. Newly formed Legion Posts that have been chartered after the last Department Convention will have their delegate strength determined thirty (30) days prior to the next convention.”
So that when amended, Article XI Section 4, shall read: Representation in the annual Convention shall be by Delegates and Alternates, duly elected by Posts of the Department and, in addition thereto, the Past Department Commanders and the members of the Department Executive Committee, with the exception of the Department Adjutant. Each Post represented at the Department Convention is entitled to cast the voting strength of its Post, provided all annual dues and debts to the District of which it is a part and the Department are paid.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-8

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VII, Section 15, which now reads:**
Post officers may be removed by the Post for cause on written charges of which the members of the Post shall be the sole judges. The procedure and right of appeal shall be the same as provided for members in Section 14 of this Article.
To be Amended by: Removing the words “provided for members in section 14 of this article” and Add “the appellate section of the Department Trial Procedures.”
So that when amended, Article VII, Section 15, shall read:
Post officers may be removed by the Post for cause on written charges of which the members of the Post shall be the sole judges. The procedure and right of appeal shall be the same as the appellate section of the Department Trial Procedures.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-9

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VIII, Section 1-7, which now reads:**
Article VIII CITY AND COUNTY COUNCILS
Section 1: There may be formed by the Posts of any County in this State, a County Council to carry out the principles of The American Legion and to promote the so-

cial welfare and the patriotic and fraternal spirit of the Legionnaires within such County.
Section 2: Whenever a majority of the number of Posts in a County, or a majority of the Posts outside of the City wherein there is organized a City Council shall determine to form a County Council, they shall transmit an application for permission to organize to the Department Commander, who shall designate a District Commander of the District in which such County is situated to call a meeting of the Posts of such County for the purpose of perfecting the organization of a County Council. No Post in a County shall be compelled to join such a County Council.
Section 3: All City and County Councils, when organized, shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws effective only after approval of the Department Judge Advocate. An approved copy of such Constitution and By-Laws shall be filed in Department Headquarters.
Section 4: The Department Executive Committee may, upon recommendation of the Department Judge Advocate, suspend any provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of a City or County Council, when in the judgment of such committee it contravenes the provisions of the National or Department Constitution and By-Laws or the established policy of the Department.
Section 5: Representation of the Posts in such County Council shall be on the same basis as such Posts had at the preceding Department Convention, or such other basis as said Council may decide.
Section 6: A City Council may be organized in any city having three or more Posts within its corporate limits, when a majority of such Posts so determine and by the same procedure as provided for the organization of County Councils. Such Posts may also belong to a County Council. No Post shall be compelled to join a City Council.
Section 7: No member Post of the County Council organization shall be liable to such County Council organization for more than the amount of the assessments stipulated in the By-Laws of such County Council organization. Member Posts shall not be liable for any of the debts and liabilities incurred by such County Council organization and for their protection and security may require the County Council organization to incorporate under the appropriate laws of the State as a condition precedent to continued membership therein.
To be Amended by: Removing the entire article and re-numbering following articles. So that when amended Department Constitution,
So that Article VIII, Section 1-7, shall read:
The article will be eliminated in its entirety.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-10

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article IX, Section 8, which now reads:**
“Each District shall elect its District Commander by one of two (2) methods:
a) At a regular District Meeting to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Annual Department Convention, using a method defined by the District Bylaws. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Commanders.
OR,
b) By vote of the Delegates representing Posts in the said District in attendance at the Annual Department Convention prior to the adjournment thereof, using a method defined by the Delegates in attendance. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Commanders.
c) If method in Paragraph A is used to elect the District Commander, method in Paragraph B cannot be used to override the election of a District Commander.”
To be Amended by: Replace “District Commander” with “District Officers” in all four locations of this Article and Section.

So that when amended, Article IX Section 8, shall read: Each District shall elect its District Officers by one of two (2) methods:

a) At a regular District Meeting to be held not less than ten (10) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the Annual Department Convention, using a method defined by the District Bylaws. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Officers.

OR,

b) By vote of the Delegates representing Posts in the said District in attendance at the Annual Department Convention prior to the adjournment thereof, using a method defined by the Delegates in attendance. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Officers.

c) If method in Paragraph A is used to elect the District Officers, method in Paragraph B cannot be used to override the election of a District Officers.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-11

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VII, Section 14, which now reads:**

Each Post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws; but no Post shall suspend or expel any member thereof, except upon charges duly brought in writing and after a full and fair trial, only upon the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion", of which said charges, the members of such Post shall be the sole judges; Provided, that an appeal from such Post decision may be taken to the Department Executive Committee by filing written reasons therefor with the Department Adjutant within thirty (30) days following final action by the Post. The decision of the Department Executive Committee shall be conclusive. The Department Executive Committee may formulate rules to govern the trial by a Post of any of the members thereof.

To be Amended by: Removing the entire section and replacing with Article IV Sections 1,2, & 3 of the National Bylaws. Section 1 of the National Bylaws to be numbered 14 and sections 2 & 3 to be numbered 15 & 16. Following sections to be renumbered accordingly.

So that when amended, Article VII, Section 14,15 & 16 shall read:

Section 14. Each Post of The American Legion shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws, except that no person who is a member of an organization which has for its aim the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence, or who subscribes to the principles of any group opposed to our form of government, shall be eligible to become or remain a member of The American Legion.

Section 15. A Post may suspend or expel a Post member from The American Legion only after providing the member due process and a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty and/or conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose their membership until given a fair trial by the Post or Department in such manner and form as the Post or Department By-Laws and Post or Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Section 16. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right of appeal to

their Department Executive Committee, or to the Department Convention, according to the provisions in the By Laws of such Department. The decision of the Department shall be final.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-12

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XI, Section 6, which now reads:**

"A majority vote shall be required upon all matters, unless otherwise specifically provided. The National Executive Committeeman, the Alternate National Committeeman and all elected Department Officers shall be elected by plurality vote if three (3) or more candidates run for any one position. Votes shall be recorded by Districts on all matters wherein a roll call shall be taken. Each District shall cast its vote in the manner to be provided by the rules of the Convention, but no Delegate shall be prevented by any rule from casting their vote as they so desire. Alternates may be seated with Delegates at the Department Convention. The Annual Convention shall authorize the appointment of such standing committees of this Department as it deems proper."

To be Amended by: Change standing committees to convention committees. Also adding "Executive" to Alternate Committeeman.

So that when amended, Article XI, Section 6, shall read:

A majority vote shall be required upon all matters, unless otherwise specifically provided. The National Executive Committeeman, the Alternate National Executive Committeeman and all elected Department Officers shall be elected by plurality vote if three (3) or more candidates run for any one position. Votes shall be recorded by Districts on all matters wherein a roll call shall be taken. Each District shall cast its vote in the manner to be provided by the rules of the Convention, but no Delegate shall be prevented by any rule from casting their vote as they so desire. Alternates may be seated with Delegates at the Department Convention. The Annual Convention shall authorize the appointment of such convention committees of this Department as it deems proper.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-13

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XII, Section 1, which now reads:**

"The elective Department Officers shall be chosen annually at the Department Convention by a roll call vote of the Districts of the Department, with the exception of the Zone Commanders, who shall be chosen at the "Zone" Caucuses by the Districts making up the "Zone" which that individual Zone Commander is to represent. Each Zone Commander so chosen must be and shall remain a member of a Post within their respective Zone or the office shall be declared vacant."

To be Amended by: Removing the words "roll call" and the sentence ". Each Zone Commander so chosen must be and shall remain a member of a Post within their respective Zone or the office shall be declared vacant."

So that when amended, Article XII, Section 1, shall read:

The elective Department Officers shall be chosen annually at the Department Convention by a vote of the Districts of the Department, with the exception of the Zone Commanders, who shall be chosen at the "Zone" Caucuses by the Districts making up the "Zone" which that individual Zone Commander is to represent.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-14

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XIII, Section 1, which now reads:**

"Between the Department Conventions, the executive, legislative, and judicial powers shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee which shall be composed of the following: Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, District Commanders, Department Finance Officer, Department Judge Advocate, Department Historian, Department Chaplain, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, immediate Past Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, all with vote, and the Department Adjutant, who is without vote. Each member of the Department Executive Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote. In the absence of a District Commander such vacancy shall be filled by their Alternate District Commander and in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman such vacancy shall be filled by the Alternate National Executive Committeeman."

To be Amended by: Add "Zone Commanders," Remove "their Alternate District Commander," and replace with "an Alternate" and moving "Judge Advocate" from the current location to after Department Adjutant adding the word "and" in front of "Judge Advocate" and changing "who is without vote" to "who are without vote."

So that when amended, Article XIII, Section 1, shall read:

Between the Department Conventions, the executive, legislative, and judicial powers shall be vested in the Department Executive Committee which shall be composed of the following: Department Commander, Department Vice Commanders, Zone Commanders, District Commanders, Department Finance Officer, Department Historian, Department Chaplain, Department Sergeant-at-Arms, immediate Past Department Commander, National Executive Committeeman, all with vote, and the Department Adjutant and Department Judge Advocate who are without vote. Each member of the Department Executive Committee shall be entitled to one (1) vote. In the absence of a District Commander such vacancy shall be filled by an Alternate and in the absence of the National Executive Committeeman such vacancy shall be filled by the Alternate National Executive Committeeman.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-15

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XIV, which now reads:**

"Section 1: The American Legion, Department of Michigan recognizes an Auxiliary organization, known as the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan.

Section 2: Membership in the Auxiliary shall be prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary.

Section 3: The Auxiliary shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by The American Legion, Department of Michigan.

Section 4: In the absence of rules and regulations governing the Auxiliary, promulgated by the National Executive Committee, the Department Executive Committee may provide for the organization and administration of Auxiliary units within the Department.

To be Amended by: Deleting Sections 2,3, and 4 in their entirety.

So that when amended, Article XIV, shall read: Section 1 only.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-16
A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XVI, Section 4, which currently does not exist:**
To be Amended by adding: "Section 4: All amendments approved by the delegates of a convention shall take effect at the close of the convention unless otherwise stated by the amendment."
So that when amended, Article XVI, will include Section 4 as written.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-17
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article II, Section 2 which now reads:**
"No person shall be eligible for any office in The American Legion, Department of Michigan, or any of the Posts thereof, nor if elected, shall such person continue to hold such office, unless within thirty (30) days after such election such person shall have furnished proper and satisfactory evidence of honorable service, complying with Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, to the Department Adjutant, in the case of Departmental officers, District Commanders and Alternates, and to the Post Adjutant in the case of Post Officers. Department and Post Commanders shall examine the evidence of eligibility of their respective Adjutants."
To be Amended by: Changing Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution to Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution.
So that when amended, Department Bylaws, Article II, Section 2 shall read: No person shall be eligible for any office in The American Legion, Department of Michigan, or any of the Posts thereof, nor if elected, shall such person continue to hold such office, unless within thirty (30) days after such election such person shall have furnished proper and satisfactory evidence of honorable service, complying with Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution, to the Department Adjutant, in the case of Departmental officers, District Commanders and Alternates, and to the Post Adjutant in the case of Post Officers. Department and Post Commanders shall examine the evidence of eligibility of their respective Adjutants.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-18
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article II, Section 4, which now reads:**
"Except Department Executive Committeemen, all officers of District Associations, County Councils, City Councils and Posts in this Department shall be elected as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws of each organization, respectively. All questions affecting the election and eligibility of any of the above-named officers shall be referred to and determined by the Commander of the District in which the organization is located, with right of appeal to the Department Executive Committee by such procedure as shall be determined by the Department Judge Advocate."
To be Amended by: Adding "Zones," and removing "County Councils, City Councils."
So that Article II, Section 4, shall read: Except Department Executive Committeemen, all officers of Zones, District Associations, and Posts in this Department shall be elected as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws of each organization, respectively. All questions affecting the election and eligibility of any of the above-named officers shall be referred to and determined by the Commander of the District in which the organization is located, with right of appeal to the Department Executive Committee by such procedure as shall be determined by the Department Judge Advocate.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-19
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 1, which now reads:**
"There shall be five (5) annual meetings of the Department Executive Committee. Two (2) of these are dependent upon the time and location of the Department Convention."
To be Amended by: Remove "annual" and replace with "regular."
So that when amended Article III, Section 1, shall read: There shall be five (5) regular meetings of the Department Executive Committee. Two (2) of these are dependent upon the time and location of the Department Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-20
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 3, which now reads:**
"The second (2nd) annual meeting of the Department Executive Committee shall be within forty-five (45) days, and no more than fifty-five (55) days, of the adjournment of the Department Annual Convention provided, however, that the Department Commander shall have authority to extend said forty-five (45) day period for sufficient reasons to the Commander appearing, upon approval of the Department Executive Committee."
To be Amended by: Remove "annual" and replace with "regular." Remove "within forty-five (45) days, and" & "provided, however, that the Department Commander shall have authority to extend said forty-five (45) day period for sufficient reasons to the Commander appearing, upon approval of the Department Executive Committee."
So that when amended, Article III, Section 3, shall read: The second (2nd) regular meeting of the Department Executive Committee shall be no more than fifty-five (55) days of the adjournment of the Department Annual Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-21
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 4, which now reads:**
"The third (3rd) meeting of the Department Executive Committee is to be held in September or October, after the adjournment of the National Convention, during the Fall Conference at which is provided Schools of Instruction for Commanders, Adjutants, Service Officers or other topics."
To be Amended by: Removing " during the Fall Conference at which is provided Schools of Instruction for Commanders, Adjutants, Service Officers or other topics."
So that Article III, Section 4, shall read: The third (3rd) meeting of the Department Executive Committee is to be held in September or October, after the adjournment of the National Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-22
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 5, which now reads:**
"The fourth (4th) meeting of the Department Executive Committee, to be known as the Winter Meeting, is to be held within the first three (3) months of the year. Dates and locations of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) meetings will be determined one (1) year in advance by the Department Executive Committee when assembled in Fall Conference, upon the recommendations of the Permanent Time and Place Committee."
To be Amended by: Removing "Dates and locations of the third (3rd) and fourth (4th) meetings will be determined one (1) year in advance by the Department Executive Committee when assembled in Fall Conference, upon the recommendations of the Permanent Time and Place Committee."
So that Article III, Section 5, shall read: The fourth (4th) meeting of the Department Executive Committee, to be known as the Winter Meeting, is to be held within the first three (3) months of the year.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-23
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 6 which now reads:**
"The fifth (5th) and last meeting of the Department Executive Committee shall be known as the Pre-Convention Meeting, taking place at the site of and just prior to the next year's convention."
To be Amended by: Removing "and just prior to the next year's" and adding the word "the".
So that when amended, Department Bylaws, Article III, Section 6 shall read: The fifth (5th) and last meeting of the Department Executive Committee shall be known as the Pre-Convention Meeting, taking place at the site of the convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-24
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article III, Section 10, which now reads:**
"A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Department Executive Committee when a majority thereof shall be present, or shall have replied to letter, telegram and/or fax or such other electronic conveyance."
To be Amended by: Remove " telegram and/or fax".
So that when amended Article III, Section 10, shall read: A quorum shall exist at any meeting of the Department Executive Committee when a majority thereof shall be present, or shall have replied to letter or such other electronic conveyance.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-25
A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article VI, Section 1, which now reads:**
"The Department organization shall consist of the following officers: the Department Commander, First and Second Vice Commander, Zone Commanders, Department Adjutant, Department Finance Officer, Department Judge Advocate, Department Historian, Department Chaplain and Department Sergeant-at-Arms."
To be Amended by: Removing Removing First and Second Vice Commander.
So that Article VI, Section 1, shall read: The Department organization shall consist of the following officers: the Department Commander, Zone Commanders, Department Adjutant, Department Finance Officer, Department Judge Advocate, Department Historian, Department Chaplain and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-26
A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 3, which now reads:**
"a) The Department First (1st) Vice Commander shall be elected in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term in this office. The Department First (1st) Vice Commander shall be the Department Membership Committee Chair and responsible for creation and promotion of Department membership incentives, coordination of efforts to encourage retention and growth throughout the Department. They shall assume the duties of the Department Commander, when necessary.
b) The Department Second (2nd) Vice Commander shall be elected in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term in this office. The Second (2nd) Vice Commander shall be the De-

partment Americanism Committee Chair and responsible for the promotion and fulfillment of Department Americanism Programs (ie.: Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Student Trooper, Law Enforcement/Firefighter/Eagle Scout of the Year, etc.) They shall assume the duties of the Department First (1st) Vice Commander, when necessary."

To be Amended by: Removing from a) "The Department First (1st) Vice Commander shall be the Department Membership Committee Chair and responsible for creation and promotion of Department membership incentives, coordination of efforts to encourage retention and growth throughout the Department." Removing from b) "The Second (2nd) Vice Commander shall be the Department Americanism Committee Chair and responsible for the promotion and fulfillment of Department Americanism Programs (ie.: Boys State, Junior Shooting Sports, Student Trooper, Law Enforcement/Firefighter/Eagle Scout of the Year, etc.)" **So that when amended, Article V, Section 3, shall read:** Department Vice Commanders: a) The Department First (1st) Vice Commander shall be elected in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term in this office. They shall assume the duties of the Department Commander, when necessary. b) The Department Second (2nd) Vice Commander shall be elected in accordance with Article XII, Section 1 of the Department Constitution and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term in this office. They shall assume the duties of the Department First (1st) Vice Commander, when necessary.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-27

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 4, which now reads:**

"Department Zone Commanders: The Department Zone Commanders shall perform such duties as may be required of them by the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee. They shall attend all District Conventions within their Zone, so far as possible, and to initiate constructive programs and policies for the furtherance of the interest of the Posts therein. The Zone Commanders shall not be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive years. The Districts and Zones will be determined by the Department Executive Committee and published in the DEC Manual each year."

To be Amended by: Remove The Zone Commanders shall not be eligible to serve two (2) consecutive years. The Districts and Zones will be determined by the Department Executive Committee and published in the DEC Manual each year."

So that when amended Article V, Section 4, shall read: Department Zone Commanders: The Department Zone Commanders shall perform such duties as may be required of them by the Department Commander or the Department Executive Committee. They shall attend all District Conventions within their Zone, so far as possible, and to initiate constructive programs and policies for the furtherance of the interest of the Posts therein.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-28

A proposed change to the Department CBylaw, **Article V, Section 7, which now reads:**

"The Department Judge Advocate shall advise the officers of the Department upon all legal matters of The American Legion, including interpretation of the Department Constitution and Bylaws, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of the position by the Commander or the Department Executive Committee. The Department Judge Advocate, by and with the approval of the Commander and Department Executive Committee, shall appoint such Assistant Judge Advocates as may be necessary. The Judge Advocate shall receive such reimbursement for expenses of the office as shall be determined by the Finance/Personnel Committee, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee."

To be Amended by: Removing ". The Department Judge

Advocate, by and with the approval of the Commander and Department Executive Committee, shall appoint such Assistant Judge Advocates as may be necessary."

So that when amended, Article V, Section 7, shall read: The Department Judge Advocate shall advise the officers of the Department upon all legal matters of The American Legion, including interpretation of the Department Constitution and Bylaws, and shall perform such other duties as may be required of the position by the Commander or the Department Executive Committee. The Judge Advocate shall receive such reimbursement for expenses of the office as shall be determined by the Finance/Personnel Committee, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-29

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 8, which now reads:**

"Department Historian: The Department Historian shall prepare a history of this Department during their term of office and shall submit such history to the Department Convention. They shall collect such other information as may be required to complete the History of the Department from its inception. They shall receive compensation for monies spent conducting their assigned duties."

To be Amended by: Removing "Department Convention and replacing with " Fall Conference the following year." Removing "They shall collect such other information as may be required to complete the History of the Department from its inception."

So that when amended, Article V, Section 8, shall read: Department Historian: The Department Historian shall prepare a history of this Department during their term of office and shall submit such history to the Fall Conference the following year. They shall receive compensation for monies spent conducting their assigned duties.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-30

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 9, which now reads:**

"Department Chaplain: The Department Chaplain shall perform such divine and non sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time. Such an appointment of a Chaplain shall be in the spirit traditionally practiced in The American Legion on the National and Department levels; that the rotation of a Chaplain among the three (3) major faiths be continued whenever a Chaplain is available."

To be Amended by: Removing "Such an appointment of a Chaplain shall be in the spirit traditionally practiced in The American Legion on the National and Department levels; that the rotation of a Chaplain among the three (3) major faiths be continued whenever a Chaplain is available."

So that when amended Article III, Section 10, shall read: Department Chaplain: The Department Chaplain shall perform such divine and non sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-31

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 10, which now reads:**

"Department Sergeant-at-Arms: The Department Sergeant-at-Arms shall have charge of the ceremony of advancing and retiring the colors at the official Department meetings, and shall be in charge of the ushering, seating and keeping order during all official Department meetings. Sergeant-at-Arms shall be empowered to appoint such Assistants as may be necessary to carry out his/her duties, with the approval of the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee."

To be Amended by: Removing "Sergeant-at-Arms shall be empowered to appoint such Assistants as may be necessary to carry out his/her duties, with the approval of the Department Commander and Department Executive Committee."

So that when amended Article V, Section 10, shall read: Department Sergeant-at-Arms: The Department Sergeant-at-Arms shall have charge of the ceremony of advancing and retiring the colors at the official Department meetings, and shall be in charge of the ushering, seating and keeping order during all official Department meetings.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-32

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article V, Section 11 which now reads:**

"Vacancies occurring in any of the elective offices of the Department shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Department Commander, the Department Adjutant shall forthwith call a meeting of the Department Executive Committee to be held within seven (7) days thereafter to fill such vacancy. The Department First Vice Commander shall serve as Department Commander until the vacancy is filled by the Department Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National Executive Committee member, the Alternate National Executive Committee member shall become the National Executive Committeeman. The vacant position of the Alternate National Executive Committeeman will be filled by the Department Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of First (1st) Vice, the Second (2nd) Vice shall become the First (1st) Vice. The Second (2nd) Vice position will be filled by the Department Executive Committee."

To be Amended by: Removing, "In the event of a vacancy in the office of Department Commander, the Department Adjutant shall forthwith call a meeting of the Department Executive Committee to be held within seven (7) days thereafter to fill such vacancy."

So that when amended, Department Bylaws, Article V, Section 11 shall read: Vacancies occurring in any of the elective offices of the Department shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee. The Department First Vice Commander shall serve as Department Commander until the vacancy is filled by the Department Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of National Executive Committee member, the Alternate National Executive Committee member shall become the National Executive Committeeman. The vacant position of the Alternate National Executive Committeeman will be filled by the Department Executive Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of First (1st) Vice, the Second (2nd) Vice shall become the First (1st) Vice. The Second (2nd) Vice position will be filled by the Department Executive Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-33

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article VI, Section 9, which now reads:**

“The Finance/Personnel Committee shall be charged with the duty of fixing the amount of and providing a proper and adequate fidelity and crime insurance for the Department Adjutant, the Department Finance Officer and all other Department officials and employees who handle Department funds; in an insurance company or companies approved by the National Adjutant. The expense of the insurance provided for herein shall be borne by the Department. The Finance/Personnel Committee shall also be responsible for the investing of all trust funds, excepting those funds left in trust for purposes of the authorized subsidiary corporation.”

To be Amended by: Removing, “in an insurance company or companies approved by the National Adjutant.”

So that Article VI, Section 9, shall read: The Finance/Personnel Committee shall be charged with the duty of fixing the amount of and providing a proper and adequate fidelity and crime insurance for the Department Adjutant, the Department Finance Officer and all other Department officials and employees who handle Department funds. The expense of the insurance provided for herein shall be borne by the Department. The Finance/Personnel Committee shall also be responsible for the investing of all trust funds, excepting those funds left in trust for purposes of the authorized subsidiary corporation.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-34

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article VII, Section 7, which now reads:**

“Public Solicitation: No Post, City or County Council shall engage in any activity where money or property is solicited from the public, without first notifying the District Commander of said District. Violation of this provision shall be reported to the Department Commander by the District Commander.”

To be Amended by: Removing the section in its entirety and renumber subsequent sections of this article.**So that when amended Article VII, Section 7, shall read:** As Article VII, Section 8 currently reads.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-35

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article VIII, Section 1, which now reads:**

“Reports - It shall be the duty of all officers and chairpersons to make annual detailed written reports for publication in the Michigan Legionnaire, setting forth the activities of their respective offices or committees for the preceding year. Any supplemental reports shall be read during the Convention. The reports shall be entered in their entirety in the minutes and shall be filed with the Department Adjutant for publication in the Department annual History.”

To be Amended by: Remove, “The reports shall be entered in their entirety in the minutes and shall be filed with the Department Adjutant for publication in the Department annual History.” And adding Department in front of officers and chairpersons**So that when amended, Article VIII, Section 1, shall read:** Reports - It shall be the duty of all Department officers and chairpersons to make annual detailed written reports for publication in the Michigan Legionnaire, setting forth the activities of their respective offices or committees for the preceding year. Any supplemental reports shall be read during the Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-36

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article X Section 6, which now reads:**

“Any other use of the name “The American Legion” or the emblem or brand shall be subject to the approval of the National Adjutant, provided that the approval of the Department Commander has first been granted.”

To be Amended by: Change “Department Commander” to “Department Adjutant”

So that Article X Section 6, shall read: Any other use of the name “The American Legion” or the emblem or brand shall be subject to the approval of the National Adjutant, provided that the approval of the Department Adjutant has first been granted.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-37

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, **Article XI Section 1, which now reads:**

“The Department Executive Committee may, by two-thirds (2/3) vote of all of its members, remove from office any officer or committee member of the Department for malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office or for conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion. Complaints seeking removal of such officer or committee member shall be reduced to writing, signed by a member of the Michigan Department and verified by oath that the charges therein contained are true of the member’s own knowledge. Such complaint shall be immediately referred to the Department Administrative Committee, which shall cause the matters therein set forth to be investigated by the Department Judge Advocate, unless the Judge Advocate be an interested party or necessary witness, in which case the Department Commander or the Department Administrative Committee shall appoint a special Judge Advocate for such purpose. The Department Judge Advocate shall cause a copy of the complaint to be sent by registered letter to the official address of the accused and shall afford the accused opportunity to reply thereto. The result of such investigation shall be reduced to writing and promptly returned to the Department Administrative Committee, with the recommendation of the Department Judge Advocate endorsed thereon. Unless the Department Administrative Committee shall, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of all the members, find the complaint to be without merit, the matter shall be referred to the Department Executive Committee. It shall be the duty of the Commander to forthwith call a special meeting of the Department Executive Committee to convene within twenty (20) days thereafter to consider and act upon the complaint. Upon failure of the Department Commander to call such a meeting within a period of five (5) days after the complaint shall have been referred to the Department Executive Committee by the Department Administrative Committee, any other officer of the Department shall be authorized to call such meeting. The Department Executive Committee shall, by resolution, determine the manner in which such complaint shall be heard and action taken thereon. The action of the Department Executive Committee shall be final and conclusive.”

To be Amended by: Remove in its entirety and replace with “ Discipline shall be as outlined in the Department Disciplinary Procedures as approved by the Department Executive Committee.”

So that when amended, Article XI Section 1, shall read: Discipline shall be as outlined in the Department Disciplinary Procedures as approved by the Department Executive Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-38

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article XII, Section 4, Currently does not exist**

To be Amended by: Adding, “ Section 4: All amendments approved by the delegates of a convention shall take effect at the close of the convention unless otherwise stated by the amendment.”

So that when amended, Department Bylaws, Article XII, Section 4, shall read: Adding, Section 4: All amendments

approved by the delegates of a convention shall take effect at the close of the convention unless otherwise stated by the amendment.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-39

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article IV, Section 5 , which now reads:** “Each Post shall be the judge of the qualification of its members provided such members are eligible for membership in The American Legion, and each Post may set such other reasonable standards of qualification for membership as it may determine. Race, religion, sex, creed, or national origin shall not be a barrier to membership.”

To be Amended by: Inserting “and shall judge the new membership application or existing member transfer based on each posts’ own constitution and by-laws, notifying the Department of all rejected members and the cause within 45 days of receiving all applications.”

So that Article IV, Section 5 , shall read: Each Post shall be the judge of the qualification of its members and shall judge the new membership application or existing member transfer based on each posts’ own constitution and by-laws, notifying the Department of all rejected members and the cause within 45 days of receiving all applications and provided such members are eligible for membership in The American Legion, and each Post may set such other reasonable standards of qualification for membership as it may determine. Race, religion, sex, creed, or national origin shall not be a barrier to membership

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-40

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article IX, Section 9, which now reads:**

“Each District Commander shall hold office from the close of one Department Convention until the close of the next Annual Department Convention; provided, however, that a District Commander shall hold office only during such term as their membership remains in the District from which they were elected. A vacancy in the office of District Commander shall be filled by the Alternate, and a new Alternate shall be selected in accordance with the District Association By-Laws.”

To be Amended by: Removing “provided, however, that a District Commander shall hold office only during such term as their membership remains in the District from which they were elected. A vacancy in the office of District Commander shall be filled by the Alternate, and a new Alternate shall be selected in accordance with the District Association By-Laws.”

So that Article IX, Section 9, shall read: Each District Commander shall hold office from the close of one Department Convention until the close of the next Annual Department Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-41

A proposed change to the Department Bylaws, **Article XI, Section 2, which now reads:**

“Notice shall be given of the Annual Department Convention by the Department Adjutant to all Posts of the Department of the time and place of the Convention, which notice shall be entitled “Call of the Annual Convention”, and which shall be published electronically on the Department website at least sixty (60) days prior to said Convention and be published in paper form in a spring edition of the Michigan

Legionnaire. There shall be no other official notice of the Department Convention."

To be Amended by: Removing "in paper form" So that Article XI, Section 2, shall read: Notice shall be given of the Annual Department Convention by the Department Adjutant to all Posts of the Department of the time and place of the Convention, which notice shall be entitled "Call of the Annual Convention", and which shall be published electronically on the Department website at least sixty (60) days prior to said Convention and be published in paper form in a spring edition of the Michigan Legionnaire. There shall be no other official notice of the Department Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-42

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 2, which now reads:

"The Executive Committee of the Department shall consist of the Officers of the Department, the Immediate Past Department Commander and National Executive Committeeman, together with Zone Commanders, District Commanders, as hereinafter provided. The Department Commander shall serve as the Chairman of the Department Executive Committee."

To be Amended by: Adding the words "All Past Department Commanders"

So that when amended Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 2, shall read:

The Executive Committee of the Department shall consist of the Officers of the Department, the Immediate Past Department Commander and National Executive Committeeman, together with All Past Department Commanders, Zone Commanders, District Commanders, as hereinafter provided. The Department Commander shall serve as the Chairman of the Department Executive Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-43

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 4, which now reads:

"All Past Department Commanders, other than the Immediate Past Department Commander, as noted in Section 2 of this Article, shall be ex-officio members of the Department Executive Committee with voice, but without vote and without expenses for so long as they remain a member in good standing of a duly chartered American Legion Post in the Department of Michigan. They shall be accorded all the courtesies of the floor of the Department Executive Committee, with the privilege of making and seconding motions and of speaking on any motion or subject before the Department Executive Committee but shall have no right to vote."

To be Amended by: Removing Article VI, Section 4

So that when amended Department Constitution, Article VI, Section 4, shall be eliminated.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT 25-CA-44

A proposed change to the Department Constitution, Article V, Section 1, which now reads:

"Department Commander shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Department and shall be empowered and directed to do such acts as may be necessary and proper to conduct the business of the Department. The Department Commander shall preside at the Annual Convention and at all meetings of the Department Executive Committee and shall issue all necessary orders and may direct the Adjutant or any other Department Officer, when necessary, to proceed to any place on American Legion business. The Department Commander shall appoint all standing committees, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided. The Department Commander shall represent the Department in all of its relations with the federal, state and local government and with the people of the State of Michigan. The Department Commander shall see that all provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws and all policies established under them are duly observed. The Department Commander shall be reimbursed up to the budget allowance for necessary actual travel expenses while in performance

of the duties of the office, with any additional funding to be determined by the Finance/ Personnel Committee, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee. No persons shall be eligible for re-election to the office of Department Commander."

To be Amended by: Removing "No persons shall be eligible for re-election to the office of Department Commander." Replacing with "and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term."

So that when amended, Article V, Section 1, shall read: Department Commander shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Department and shall be empowered and directed to do such acts as may be necessary and proper to conduct the business of the Department. The Department Commander shall preside at the Annual Convention and at all meetings of the Department Executive Committee and shall issue all necessary orders and may direct the Adjutant or any other Department Officer, when necessary, to proceed to any place on American Legion business. The Department Commander shall appoint all standing committees, subject to approval of the Department Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided. The Department Commander shall represent the Department in all of its relations with the federal, state and local government and with the people of the State of Michigan. The Department Commander shall see that all provisions of the National Constitution and Bylaws and all policies established under them are duly observed. The Department Commander shall be reimbursed up to the budget allowance for necessary actual travel expenses while in performance of the duties of the office, with any additional funding to be determined by the Finance/ Personnel Committee, subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee and shall not serve more than one (1) consecutive term.

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DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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The American Legion Department of Michigan
July 10 – 13, 2025

2025 CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Contact Ray Carlson with any questions at 906-273-0130 or rcarlson9851@charter.net

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

Kewadin Casino
2186 Shunk Road
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

- Limited Rooms will be available until June 8, 2025
- Only ONE room can be reserved per person, no multiple rooms reservations can be made
- 3 NIGHT MINIMUM

Call **1-906-632-0530** for room reservations and mention Reservation Code **434** for special room rates of:

- Regular Rooms (2 Queen or King) - \$95 +tax
- Jacuzzi Rooms (King Bed) - \$115 +tax

- Suites (King with Queen Sleeper sofa) - \$135 +tax
No smoking is allowed. Additional \$10 per person per room over 2 people.

These rates will apply from Tuesday, July 8 to Sunday, July 13, 2025. Handicap rooms are available on first come basis.

Cancellations must be made at least 3 days prior to arrival date to avoid a charge for one night.

Registration fee is **\$25.00 per person**, make your check payable to:

UP Assoc. Convention Corporation
or simply to: **UPA Conv. Corp.**
Mail to: **Ray Carlson, 19 Longyear Drive, Negaunee, MI 49866-9601**

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

OVERFLOW HOTEL #1 DAYS INN 3651 I-75 Business Spur 49783 906-635-5200 \$105 per night, June 9 th deadline Reservation Code: American Legion Free Continental breakfast	OVERFLOW HOTEL #2 SUPER 8 3525 I-75 Business Spur 49783 906-632-6000 \$105 single, \$115 Double per night June 18 th deadline Reservation Code: American Legion Free Continental breakfast
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PRINT FULL NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE AND EMAIL ADDRESS: (Registration fee is \$25.00 per person)

Name: _____ Group: ☐ TAL ☐ AUX ☐ SAL ☐ ALR
Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
Cell: _____ Email: _____

OTHERS ATTENDING THAT YOU ARE REGISTERING

Name: _____ Group: ☐ TAL ☐ AUX ☐ SAL ☐ ALR
Name: _____ Group: ☐ TAL ☐ AUX ☐ SAL ☐ ALR
Name: _____ Group: ☐ TAL ☐ AUX ☐ SAL ☐ ALR
Name: _____ Group: ☐ TAL ☐ AUX ☐ SAL ☐ ALR

Enclosed Amount \$ _____ for _____ registrations



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

TODD VANDAM

Detachment Commander 2024-2025



Hello SAL Brothers. Soon, many of the organization's youth programs will take place, such as Boy's State, Girls State, Student Trooper, and Junior Shooting Sports. Be sure to see where the youth in your Squadron, Auxiliary and communities fit in and how you can support them. These programs are an amazing opportunity for all students. They are a great resume builder and look good on college applications.

Let us talk about membership. Michigan is currently 19th and still under 90%. It is vital that we continue to check in with the members who have not yet renewed and continue to recruit new members!

Operation Black Sheep is still looking for help! I am grateful and humbled by the action from the Squadrons, Districts and Auxiliary Units that have stepped forward to make a difference. We truly have a wonderful family supporting each other! Until the next issue, Be The One!



1ST ZONE

Greg Price, Commander

I want to congratulate all the Newly Elected Squadron officers. Please send in a New Squadron Officer Information Sheet

to the Department so it will be on file. The Elections for our 2025-2026 Detachment officers will be held at our State Convention in Okemos on June 6th, 7th, and 8th. Don't forget to register and book a room. Hopefully, you will be there, have fun at the picnic, participate in the meetings, and share your ideas to help improve our Detachment.

I know many Legion Family members are looking forward to summer events at their Posts, such as corn hole tournaments, barbeques, or joining the Legion Riders and planning rides to visit other posts. Some squadrons plan golf outings, car shows, Karaoke parties, or other fundraising events to support Veterans and their communities.

Membership is essential, and everyone should put time and energy into it. Maybe you could contact members of your Squadron who have not yet renewed and be a big part of helping to attain your Squadron membership goal.



4TH ZONE UPDATE

John Brown, Commander

Hello to all SAL members and their families in the 4th Zone. I hope everyone is doing well as we move into April. Squadrons, please send in your dues now. All Squadrons should have a 98% paid membership. Squadron Commanders, please try to get this close to 100%. Send reminders to your membership that a portion of their dues helps support Legion programs.

As stated in previous articles, SAL members try to share their precious time supporting squadron fundraisers. Understand that your help supports the SAL in supporting our Legion programs and the community in which you live.

It will not be long until the SAL Convention on June 6th, 7th, and 8th. This will be held at the Best Western Hotel Event Center in Okemos. Please note that all SAL members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Many issues will be discussed, and elections will be held to pick the new incoming leadership. Hope to see you there.

In my past articles, I mentioned that Post #300, Lake City, is doing a complete hall renovation. I am happy to say that the project is finally done. On March 15, they held an open house to show off the completed project. Post #300's Legion Family would like to thank the "Roots" and all who helped support this endeavor.

We can accomplish many wonderful things when the Legion Family works together from the National Department level or down to the Post level. If you have any issues or questions, please contact me; hopefully, we can resolve them.



L-R: John Brown, Zone Commander, Dean Root, SAL member, Cheryl Root, Auxiliary member, Jessie Peterson, President, Don Blue, Post #300 Commander

My Fellow sons the Detachments finances are in pretty good shape. Again this year we will send students to Boys State and Girls State. These two great programs will take place in June. Boys State will happen at the Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. Girls State will take place in Lansing on the Michigan State University campus.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Okemos for our Annual Detachment Convention. If you've never attended a convention, you should start. It is a weekend of great camaraderie, and you can learn how our Detachment works. It's definitely a great time. It is a time when we elect our officers, including our Commander, for the next year.

Oh, by the way, if anyone asks for money, you tell them, "We are broke."

FINANCIAL REPORT

Big Earl Ruttkofsky

2025 SAL Membership: April 28th Goal = 28,189
Current Total: 26,329-93.40%

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

DETACHMENT OF MICHIGAN

212 Verlinden Ave., Lansing, MI
Office # 517-371-4720 -or-fax # 517-371-2401

Detachment Executive Committee (D.E.C. 5) & Convention Notice

Date: Friday, June 6 - Saturday, June 8
Time: D.E.C. 5 at 5:00 p.m. | Convention begins at 6:00 p.m.
Location: Best Western, 2209 University Park Drive, Okemos, MI 48864

Purpose:
As always, the purpose of this meeting is to conduct any business deemed appropriate by the Detachment Executive Committee and Detachment Body of the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of Michigan. All Officers and Committeemen are required to submit either a written or oral report during this session to be eligible for expense reimbursement.

Registration:
A registration fee of \$15 will be charged. Please complete and submit the attached registration form.

Order of Call:

- P.D.C. 1, 2, & 3
- All Elected and Appointed Officers
- All Committeemen

Each of the above will receive a **two-night call**.
Attendees traveling **over 400 miles round trip** are eligible for a **three-night call**.
Any Officer or Committeeman requiring an **additional night** to fulfill their duties may receive approval at the discretion of the Detachment Commander.



2025 S.A.L. Convention

June 6th, 7th & 8th - Okemos, MI

Convention Book Advertisement Rates

FULL PAGE - \$100
1/2 PAGE - \$75
1/4 PAGE - \$50
BUSINESS CARD - \$25

REMIT TO:
2025 CONVENTION
C/O CLIVE SEYDELL
2695 GILLETTS LAKE RD
JACKSON, MI 49201
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO : SAL 324

PLEASE SEND PRINTED ARTWORK OR BUSINESS CARD TO BE SCANNED WITH PAYMENT. IF YOU HAVE DIGITAL ARTWORK (.AI - .INDD - .PSD - .JPG - .PDF - .PNG) PLEASE EMAIL TO SEYDELLCLIVE@GMAIL.COM. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ARTWORK EITHER EMAIL OR MAIL ANY INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE IN YOUR AD AND WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO CREATE A STUNNING AD FOR YOU!
ALSO PLEASE INCLUDE AD SIZE AND CHECK # IN EMAIL.

Ad Submission Deadline - May 24th, 2025



2025 Convention Registration

June 6th, 7th & 8th Okemos, MI

Host Hotel

Best Western
2209 University Park Drive
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)349-8700

Hotel Registration Open

Feb - May 24th

2 Queen Standard & King \$96.00

All rooms are equipped with 50 inch tv's,
keurig coffee machines, mircowaves,
and a mini fridge.

Free Continental Breakfast.

Other Options

Comfort Inn
2187 University Park Drive
Okemos, MI 48864
(517)347-6690

Registration Contact Information - \$15 ea

Name: _____ Post #: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

NAME	DELEGATE	S	L	A	R	LUNCH
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO
	☐ YES ☐ NO					☐ YES ☐ NO

ALL MEETING ATTENDEES MUST REGISTER

REGISTRATION \$15 x _____ = \$ _____ LUNCH \$16 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____ C# _____

Saturdays lunch will be prepared by
Squadron #34

at 40et8 Voiture 946

Quality Bratwursts & Burgers
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Make checks payable to : Lansing Convention Corporation

Remit to:

Doreen Chapman
2613 South Edger Rd
Mason, MI 48854

REGISTRATION DEADLINE

MAY 24, 2025



Hello, Fellow Legionnaire's. As they say in the Air Force, "We're on final approach." That means that a pilot must be laser-focused with few distractions to land the plane. For our volunteers, we are indeed focused daily between now and June 22nd to deliver a quality product and

"A Week That Shapes a Lifetime"

land the Boys State plane. We are 60 days away. Our team can't do it alone, and that's where the 55,000 members of Michigan's American Legion come in. We need your help reaching out to high school juniors wherever you may interact with them and lead them to us. We offer these young men leadership, teamwork, character development, college resume building, and friendships for life.

For nearly 90 years, Boys State has influenced and challenged hundreds of thousands of young men across Ameri-

ca to be informed and decent citizens, active in their local and state governments. That's what this program does. Please join us in landing this plane with many qualified high schoolers from your local area. Make this program "that one more thing" your Post can be proud of. Contact Ashley at the Department today.



Mark Brejcha
Boys State
Director



American Legion Riders
Robert "Skip" Kamin ALR Chairman

Hope this finds everyone in good health. The weather is getting better every day. The Legacy Ride and the Hell to Paradise Ride teams are working very hard to make these memorable rides. I hope you can make one of the rides, if not both.

Much work has been going on with the riders at a department level. We now have a calendar on the riders tab. Please send anything you want on there for your chapter to alr@michiganlegion.org. Thank you to those who have sent in events. I hope to get more of them. If I see any on FB or get a flier, I will get them on the calendar. Just so you know, this calendar is only for Rider's event. It is to promote camaraderie between chapters. If you're planning a ride, you can find a chapter doing something on your route. It is also to promote support between chapters. We have also been working diligently on the Rules of Procedure for the Riders for the department. The Committee had a Zoom meeting on April 6 to discuss and finalize what we want in them. We voted and passed it at our meeting. Now, it will go to the Internal Affairs Committee to be approved or returned for updates if needed. If not, it will move on to the DEC for final approval at the State Convention in July. If the DEC passes it, it will come into effect at the convention's close. Your District Liaison will get the information to each chapter.

See ya on the road. Keep the rubber side down.

District Meetings

First District <u>Times and Location TBD</u> Second District Meetings start at 11 am with the SAL followed by Riders at Noon with a Lunch VSO training at 1 pm and Legion at 2 pm May 18th, 2025 Jackson #Post 29 Third District Lunch is at 12pm, and Business at 1:00 pm. May 4th, 2025 Joseph B. Westnedge, Post 36 1920 E Kilgore Rd Portage Fourth District Service officers training at 11:00 am meal at 12:30 pm Meetings at 1:30 pm. Fifth District Meetings are on the 2nd Thurs of every month meal @ 5:30	pm & meeting @ 7 pm. <u>LOCATION TBD</u> Sixth District Service Officer School at 11:10 am (when scheduled),Lunch at Noon, Meetings at 1 pm May 18, 2025 Buck-Reasoner Post 238 1785 Cedar Street Holt, Michigan 48842 Phone 517-699-2235 Seventh District Lunch at 12:30 wilth meetings at 2:00 pm May 18th, 2025 Lapeer post #16 1701 W. Genesee Lapeer, MI 48446 Eighth District Trainings will start at Noon, Dinner at 1:00pm with Legion and Auxiliary meetings immediately following May 18th, 2025 *Convention Meeting* Portland, Post #129 1324 w. Bridge St.	Phone: (517) 647-4980 Ninth District Executive meetings are at 11:00am with Lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00 pm May 3rd, 2025 Copemish Post 531 Tenth District All meetings will start with lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00 pm. May 3rd, 2025 Bay City Post 18 Eleventh District All Meetings Start at 10 am, with Lunch to after. TBD Twelfth District Coffee and Doughnuts at 9, meeting at 10 am, with a lunch and additional hour after lunch if needed. TBD Sixteenth District All meetings start at 7:30 pm May 13th, 2025 ** Lincoln Park Post 67 Phone: 313-388-2088	May 18th, 2025* Trenton Post 426 June 10th, 2025 ** Garden City 396 Phone: 313-381-2245 * Service Officer School at 6:30 pm **Memorial Service & Elections Eighteenth District All meetings Meeting for the District Legion and Auxiliary Convene at 2:00 pm May 18th, 2025 Rochester Post 172 234 Walnut Blvd Rochester, MI 48307 Phone: 248-651-2247 Nineteenth District Meetings will be held at the Gaylord Bowling Center, 1200 Gornick Ave, Gaylord, MI 49735 Training at 10:00 am, Social Meet and Greet at 11:00 am, lunch served at noon. The both the Legion and Auxiliary will start at 1:00 pm May 17th, 2025
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“I was approaching the end of my Air Force active duty career and needed to increase my education to open more opportunities in my next career. The diverse background of instructors and classmates added great value to the learning experience.”

— Patrick Austin, M.S. Organizational Leadership

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Lifeline**



Tim Poxson Legislative Chariman

We have completed The American Legion Department of Michigan's tool that will let all our American Legion Family help us pass legislation that will help veterans and their families. The process is much like National's "Legislative Alert System." The steps to become involved are as follows:

1. Go to the Department website at [HTTP://MichiganLegion.org](http://MichiganLegion.org)
2. From the home page, scroll down to "2025-2026 Legislative Priorities" and click to open it.
3. Once on the priorities page, click on one for more information on it.
4. If you agree with that priority, click NEXT, and you will be asked for your contact information. If your information remains the same the next time you sign in, all you will have to do is provide the email that you used the first time you entered your information.
5. CLICK NEXT, and your email will be sent to your elected officials based on your zip code. You will then get a confirmation email.
6. When we get notice that a bill supporting one of our priorities has been authored, you will be notified via email. With a click, you will send a new email to your elected officials asking them to support the bill.

We look forward to all our Family, American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Rider's members using this new system, and even if your family or friends wish to use it and support our efforts to make life better for all Veterans in Michigan, please have them do so.

Should you have issues with the system please email Legislative@MichiganLegion.org and let us know what the problem is in as much detail as you can.

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The American Legion Membership Application



(Date of Birth)

(Phone Number)

(Post #)

(Dues)

(Name)

(Mailing Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

☐ Male ☐ Female
(Gender)

(E-mail)

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

Date

Signature of applicant

Around the State...

Post 28 Commemorate National Vietnam War Veterans Day



American Dunes Golf Club was the site of a local celebration of National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29. members of the Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 were there for the remembrance.

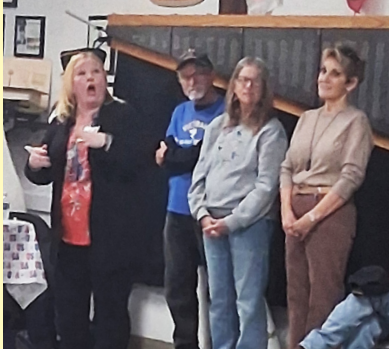


Special Thanks to Linda McCormick (Laswell) for working so hard for the Vietnam Veterans and their family's

“Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans”



South Haven Mayor Annie Brown presented a Welcome Home Proclamation and each of the 75 Vietnam Era Veterans who attended received a welcome home certificate, and a Vietnam War Veterans Pin from the DOD. Metal Of Honor recipient Jim McCloughan was in attendance and shared his thoughts.



50 Year Service Award Certificate to Earl Lash



Commander John Barkley presents a 50 Year Service Certificate to Earl Lash. Earl is also a Post 49 SAL member and recently served as the AL District 4 Commander.

Livingston County Veteran of the Year

Howell Post 141's Bobby Bright was honored as 2025 Livingston County's Veteran of the year.



L-R: State Representative Jason Woolfor, State Representative Ann Bolin, Bobby Bright, and Senator Lana Theis

The Recent Metal Of Honor Day 2025 in Washing DC



MI MOH Recipient Jim McCloughan front left at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



STEP BACK IN TIME

FREE SPRING OUTING EVENT

FOR BSA & GSUSA SCOUT TROOPS

TENT Camping only

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Sites
Provided



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Your troop provides all your own camping gear and food!
Camping and activities are FREE

May 16-18, 2025

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Fur Trapping ~ Quilting ~ Trade Blanket
Obstacle Course ~ Tomahawk Toss ~ Sling Shots

Register at www.wilwinlodge.com/scouting

Registration closes May 10th

OR WHEN

The 1st 100 Scouts are registered

Wilwin Lodge at Cygnet Cove

3383 E. Hawley Rd, Custer MI

231-757-0140 231-742-6614

Wilwinscoutmaster1193@gmail.com