

MI LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XCV No. 2

michiganlegion.org

October 2026

Big Week at The National Convention



COMMANDER'S COMMENTS PAGE 3

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

In this Edition

Commander's Comments	Page 3
Runyan's Ramblings	Page 3
1st and 2nd Vice Commanders Article	Page 4
Passport Spotlight	Page 5
Auxiliaire	Page 8
Sons of the American Legion	Page 14
District Meetings	Page 13
Find a VSO	Page 16
Around the State	Page 19



DEADLINE DATES

November 2026 Deadline is October 15th

Circulation: Electronic

HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

Publisher: Ronald Runyan

Editor: Jim Showers

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

michiganlegion.org

media@michiganlegion.org

STATE ADJUTANT

EXT. 114 adj@michiganlegion.org

LEGION AND SAL MEMBERSHIP

EXT. 124 member@michiganlegion.org

LEGION FINANCE

EXT. 117 finance@michiganlegion.org

PROGRAMS: BOYS STATE, SCHOLARSHIPS, & BASEBALL

EXT. 123 legion@michiganlegion.org

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
website use, E-mail it to us at

media@michiganlegion.org or mail it to

Department, Attn: Jim Showers.

Please keep the photo at JPG. Do not submit
a hard copy photo, Also photos printed from a
home printer cannot be used, nor can photos
clipped from newspapers.

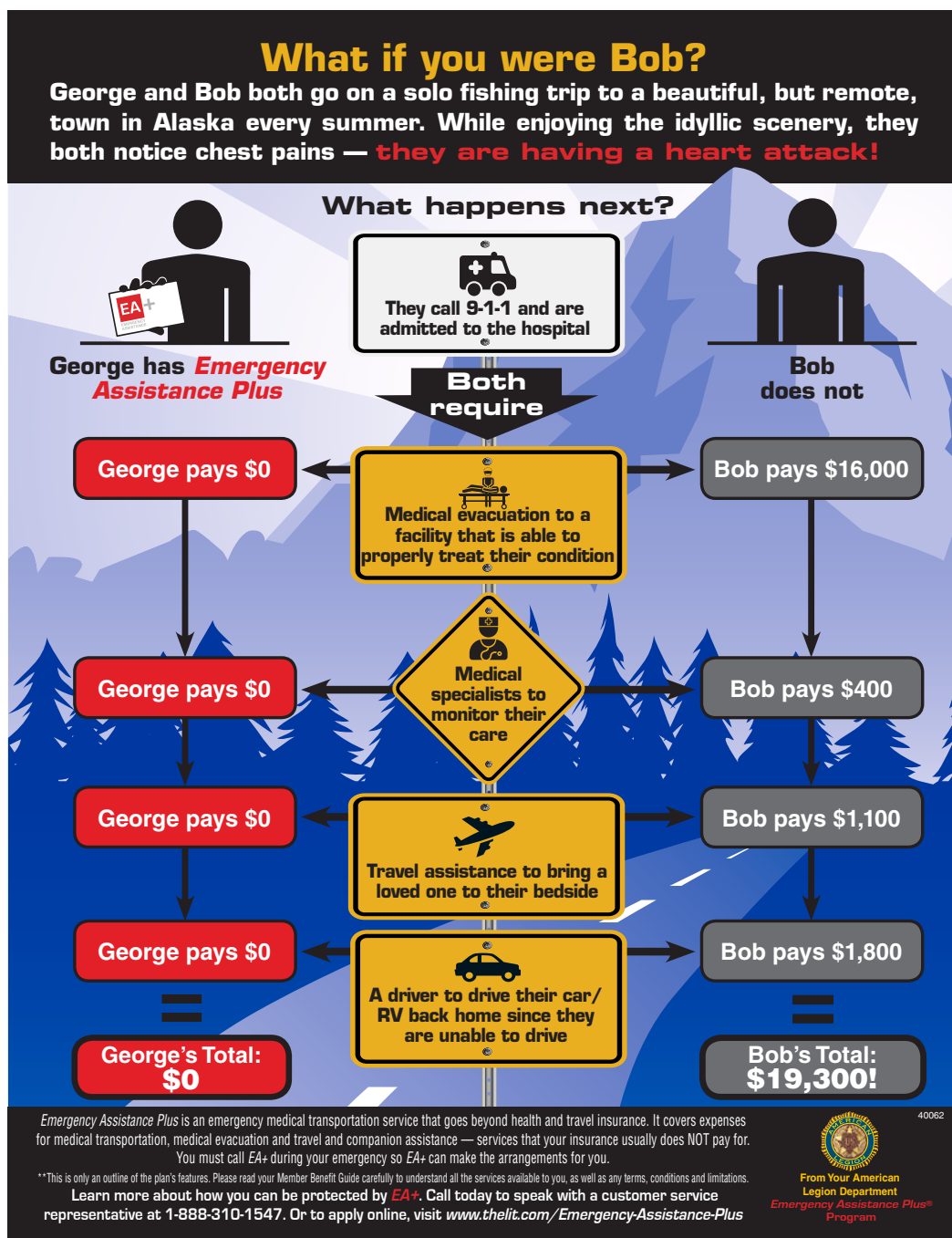
We look for photos showing Legion caps in
action whenever possible.

Interested in placing an ad in the Michigan
Legionnaire?

Please Contact Jim Showers

media@michiganlegion.org

517-220-2747



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

is published monthly by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$24 for member to receive the publication.

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander. Jim Austin
State Adjutant. Ron Runyan
1st Vice Commander. Roger Deaton
2nd Vice Commander. David Yahr
1st Zone. Mark Holthus
2nd Zone. Sheila Overholts

3rd Zone. Tim Shosey
4th Zone. Ed Herter
5th Zone. Mark Maida
Chaplain. Rodney Tolbert
Finance Officer. Scott Nichols
Historian. Pete Ramik

N.E.C. Brett Holt
Judge Advocate. Brett Holt
Sergeant-at-Arms. Duane Miller
Immediate PDC. Roger Avie
Alt. N.E.C. Brian Mohlman
VA and R Director. Gary Easterling

Greetings From the Road!



Jim Austin
Department Commander

Welcome back from the National American Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I always come back from these things fired up. The Passion, integrity and commitment of all these

legionaries raise my spirits more than normal. I wish I could bottle up this energy and share it with all of you. Congratulations to our new National Commander, Jay Bowen. His rally cry this year is a continuation of "Be the One", as well as his new slogan, "B.P.O.T.S.", an acronym for "Be Part of the Solution". I look forward to sharing his enthusiasm and message as I travel through the department, starting with the Upper Peninsula tour I just returned from.

Speaking of Convention, the Department of Michigan received The General Pershing Award, a National Award for having the most 100% post membership before last year's deadline. I want to thank our outstanding Membership committee once more for all of their hard work and dedication in achieving this goal. You guys keep making me look great.

We have also already met our September Membership goal of 50%. However, this is no time to relax. Now is the time to double down and work our membership and all programs. Program due dates will be here sooner than it may seem.

Start preparing for this year's Fall Conference at Gaylord. Be sure to check the online schedule regularly, as training times and Committee meetings may change as we get closer to the conference. Also, stay connected with your committee if you are on one. Be prepared to make the most of your time there.

As always, your leadership stands by to offer any assistance to



make sure our collective projects can be completed. If you have any questions, reach out to your Department, Zone, or District Leadership.

P.S. - If any post is interested in my picture to add to your wall, the picture can be downloaded from the Department of Michigan website: <https://michigan-legion.org/about/department-commander/>. Just click on my picture, and it will download to your device.



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!



Ron Runyan
Dept. Adjutant

I hear daily, weekly and monthly how information flows and is communicated to Posts, Units and Squadrons. Well, it is time to flip the pyramid. Let us all think about how the organization is made up. Posts, Units and Squadrons are the pinnacle of our organization. Without you and what you do, we might close up shop and turn off the lights.

I am encouraging us to think of National as the base, the bottom of the pyramid. Then come the State Department, Zones and Districts and sitting atop of the pyramid are the Posts, Units and Squadrons. Information flows UP. So the next time we are com-

Runyan's Ramblings: Keeping the information Flowing

municating, remember the direction the information flows is up to the most important entity, and that is all of you, the members!

Lastly, we just returned from our National convention in Louisville, Kentucky. As you can read in the Auxiliary article in this edition, a vote was taken and made effective immediately that the Auxiliary is now also open to brothers and fathers. I, for one, have the application on my desk to join using my brother's US Navy service as my eligibility to honor and remember him. This will make me a triple member, as Legion, SAL and now the ALA. THANK YOU to everyone who joined us in Louisville, and look forward to next year in Kansas City!



Membership

Roger Deaton
1st Vice Commander

Congratulations! Wow, 217 posts achieved the 50% membership goal on September 10th. Thank you very much to all the Department, District and Post membership teams who keep doing the hard work to make us all look good. The next membership goal is 55% on October 14.

We have a new incentive for those who renew by Veterans Day: \$500.00. Your name will be entered automatically into a statewide raffle for \$500.00. PUFL and multi-Year paid members will also be placed into this raffle. The Drawing will be on November 12th, and the membership team will notify the winner.

A big thank you to the Department Reconnect team of Samantha Myers and Frank Roche. They have been leading the charge to support the 127th Air Wing currently deployed to the Middle East. Due to OPSEC protocol, we are often not at liberty to share specifics, except that we are doing what we are supposed to do: support our Active Military, their families, Communities and our Veterans. Recently, Samantha and Frank led a group of Legionnaires and Auxiliary to Selfridge ANG, where they presented a check and truckloads of requested items. I cannot praise this group enough. Please note that this is not a one-time support event. We will support these Airmen throughout their entire deployment and for the Holiday season.



We have many meetings coming up: the Dept of Michigan fall conference in Gaylord, MI, November 6th-8th; Membership has a meeting scheduled at 0900 on November 6th, 2026, in the Superior Conference Room. Scheduled training at 0930 on November 7th in the Michigan Conference Room. Topics to include Retention and utilizing the Post 225 list.

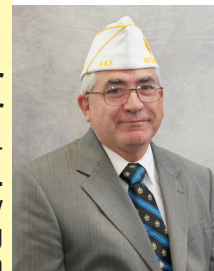
I wanted to thank the Department of Michigan Staff and my Membership team for all their hard work so far. The seeds we are planting will bear positive results for years to come. Thank you, Legion Family, for all your support.

Americanism

David Yahr
2nd Vice Commander

Welcome to October! The Michigan Legion Americanism Facebook page is live. Send me your flyers so other posts know what Americanism events you have going on. Let's get out and support Americanism events throughout the state. This goes very well with the Passport Program. While you are out supporting other Americanism events, you can get your passport. This month's Passport Spotlight featured Oscoda Post 274, which sits on Lake Huron. I was fortunate to be there on September 12 for their car show. Benefits from the car show go to the Veterans Park and Friends Together, which supports those with cancer.

Keep getting out in your community and show what the American Legion has to offer. Remember we have Oratorical coming up as well as the Brewer/Wilson awards. I have information on both posted on the Michigan Legion Americanism Facebook page. Check out : <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganlegionAmericanism>



Let's have a great month and show our Americanism pride!

Program Dates

December 2026

December 4th- Oratorical Registrations deadline
December TBD- JSSP First round postal match competition target set sales and registration closes
January 2027

January 1st- Baseball registration opens on baseball.legion.org
January 4th- Brewer/Wilson Scholarship submission deadline.
January 8th- Law Officer of the Year submission deadline
January 8th- Firefighter of the Year submission deadline
January 24th- District Oratorical Contests deadline

February 2027

February TBD- JSSP Targets due to the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP)
February 27th- Zone Oratorical Contests deadline.
February TBD- JSSP Second round postal match competition targets mailed out by CMP.

March 2027

March 1st-Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline
March 5th- Teacher of the Year Nominations deadline.
March 27th- Oratorical State Contest, Location TBD.
Stay up to date at: <https://michiganlegion.org/programs/>

2027 Membership: September 30th Goal = 51,500
Current Total: 29,080 - 56.47%

Passport Post Spotlight

Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274 in Oscoda A View and a Future

Come for the stunning Lake Huron waterfront and stay for the food, fellowship, and fun at Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274 in Oscoda.

Located along one of Michigan's most scenic stretches of shoreline, Post 274 offers visitors something a little different. Step through the east-side entrance to the Can-



tina and social area and you'll be greeted with beautiful views of Lake Huron, friendly faces, and plenty of hometown hospitality.

Oscoda itself makes the trip worthwhile. This close-knit community is surrounded by the natural beauty of Lake Huron, the AuSable River, and Huron National Forest. Whether you enjoy summer days along the water, canoeing the AuSable, spectacular fall colors, or snowy winter adventures, there's something to enjoy in every season.

Inside the Post, you're likely to meet friendly veterans, active community volunteers, and members who are always ready



to share a story, a laugh, and a warm welcome. The Post is open daily from noon to 10 p.m., making it an easy stop while exploring the area.

Be sure to plan your visit around one of Post 274's popular activities. Weekly Bingo, Burger Night, and Coney Night keep the Post hopping and give visitors a perfect opportunity to meet members. And while you're there, make sure to take in those Lake Huron views.

Post 274 also plays an active role throughout the Oscoda community, supporting veterans, patriotic programs, and local celebrations. One of its major events is its America's 250 Celebration, held following Oscoda's Fourth of July Parade.

The Post home has an interesting history of its own. Before becoming a gathering place for veterans and the community, the building was a furniture store. Today, it has been transformed into a welcoming home for veterans and their families.

Ask members what they are most proud of, however, and the

answer is simple: their volunteers. They are the heart of Post 274 and the reason the Post continues to serve veterans and the Oscoda community.

The Post is named Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274, honoring local veterans whose service and sacrifice continue to be remembered by the community.

So grab your Michigan Legion Passport, head toward Lake Huron, and make Post 274 your next stop. GPS will bring you right to the door—just look for the east-side entrance and the view!



l to r Dave Schorffhaar, Scott Failing SAL Adjutant, Mark Soroka SAL Comander, Bill Bickle 2nd vice Doug Miller

See Other Passport Posts or Register at <https://michiganlegion.org/passport/>

Making Memberships Growth Through...Programs!

Jim Leiby Post 197 Historian

Post 197 in Harbor Beach has been very busy in 2025 and 2026. We added new fundraising activities, including a soup and pie dinner held twice a month and the Auxiliary's Bingo, which supports their projects. Other Post activities include various Veteran and community events. We had Flag Etiquette programs at local schools and a Flag Retirement Ceremony held at the July meeting. We hold blood drives three times yearly to support the American Red Cross.

The Post provides funeral Honor Guard Ceremonies for any Veteran and Honor Guards at various community events, including football games and parades. Our Post also supports youth sports activities within the local community. Additionally, the Post helps maintain and identify veteran gravesites that were previously unknown at local cemeteries. Currently, Post 197 maintains 833 gravesites.

Commander Bill Wells is working with the district commander, Robert Montgomery, to establish a Son Of The American Legion Unit at Post 197. 21 sons have signed up to join and we'll apply for a charter very soon. Lastly, we are very proud to say we have already reached half of our 2026 membership recruiting goal of 6 new members!



The Officers of Post 197 Commander Bill Wells, Jr. Vice Commander Ken Paulin, Sr. Vice Commander Jason Claes, Finance Officer Al Kleinknecht, Historian/Judge Advocate Jim Leiby, Sergeant At Arms Tim Robinson

Great Lakes National Cemetery Update

PDC Steve Striggow

Great Lakes National Cemetery continues to stay extremely busy. So far this fiscal year, which began October 1, there have been 3,868 burials. August alone saw 484 burials, and since the cemetery opened in October 2005, a total of 74,502 veterans and eligible family members have been laid to rest there. On some days in August, the cemetery handled as many as 40 burials in a single day.

GLNC is currently the fifth-busiest cemetery among the 157 cemeteries in the VA National Cemetery system. By the end of this fiscal year on September 30, it is projected to move into fourth place. The cemetery is now averaging about 4,200 burials each year, and unfortunately, that number continues to grow.

The good news is that GLNC is finally being allowed to add more staff, both in the field and in the office, to help keep up with the increasing workload. When the cemetery was originally designed, no one expected the number of monthly burials to reach the level it has today. In fact, some national cemeteries handling only about one-third as many burials each day have three times the staff. Even with those challenges, the pride of the employees and volunteers at Great Lakes National Cemetery is easy to see. They take their responsibility to our veterans and their families very personally.

Committal Shelter 4 is now in service, although a few remaining issues will be corrected later. Honor Guard firing pads are also expected to be added next year. With Shelter 4 now available, Shelters 1 and 2 will each be taken out of service, one at a time, for refurbishment beginning this month. Neither shelter has received a major update since being placed into service about 20 years ago. Once those improvements are complete, Shelter 3 will be permanently taken out of service.

The American Legion Department of Michigan is a member of the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council. The council helps coordinate and oversee events held at the cemetery outside of regular burial services.

There are also several opportunities for volunteers to get involved. Every Monday at 9:00 a.m., a group meets at the cemetery to walk the Avenue of Flags and inspect the 100 American flags on display. Any damaged flags are replaced with new ones. If you live nearby and are looking for a meaningful way to spend a Monday morning, you are welcome to join us. The group meets in the circle near Sections 1, 2 and 3.

Twice each year, in April and October, volunteers also gather for headstone cleaning. The next cleaning will take place on October 17 at 9:30 a.m.

To learn more about activities and volunteer opportunities with the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council, visit glncac.org.

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY ADVISORY COUNCIL

HONOR THEM.

FALL

HEADSTONE

CLEANING

A morning of service at Great Lakes National Cemetery

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 17, 2026 • 9:30 A.M.

VOLUNTEER DAY

REGISTER BY Pre-register by email or scan the QR code.

OCTOBER 10

 **GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY**
4200 Belford Road • Holly, Michigan 48442

Check in at the Maintenance Building

 **CHECK IN**

9:30 A.M.
Instructions begin at 9:30

 **BRING**

5-gallon bucket
Soft scrub brush

 **AFTERWARD**

Hot dogs, chips
and drinks

 **SPECIAL REQUEST**

Want to clean near a loved one or friend?
Include their section when you pre-register.

PRE-REGISTER TODAY

greatlakesnationalcemeteryac@gmail.com

Questions? Contact Sue Ellen Andrews

Register prior to October 10, 2026

All volunteers must check in at the Maintenance Building.



SAME
IDEALS.
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW.

250th ANNIVERSARY

★ CELEBRATION ★

PAST ★ PEOPLE ★ PURPOSE ★ A STRONGER TOMORROW

HONOR
SERVICE
CITIZENSHIP
STRONGER
AMERICANS

Commemorative 1911 Handgun

We the People

A MORE
PERFECT UNION
STILL INSPIRES

*A Patriotic Fundraising Promotion
Honoring America's 250th*



1776
—
2026

FREEDOM
THROUGH
GENERATIONS

AMERICA ★ 250 YEARS ★ ONE ENDURING LEGACY



Gun by A&A Engraving

Proceeds Go To The

AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION

Supporting Michigan Boys State



**MICHIGAN
BOYS STATE**
LEAD ★ SERVE ★ BELONG



Drawing:
Monday, June 21, 2027
at 11:00 AM



Tickets:
\$20 each
Limited to 500 tickets



Location:
State HQ

*Same
Spirit
Brighter
Futures*

★ ★ INVESTING IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS ★ ★

**TO PURCHASE NOW WITH CASH, CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD CONTACT
ABBY AT 517-220-2753 OR SUPPORT@MICHIGANLEGION.ORG**



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

October 2026

Anita L. Mennel
Department President
2026-2027

Change Versus Improvement



Kudos to all of you who worked so hard during the 2025-2026 administrative year. Congratulations to our National Miss Poppy, Aurora Vogel – Michigan Unit 108! And the National Junior Member of the Year, Abbie Jones- Michigan Unit 108! Be sure to attend your next district meeting and learn about the exciting news from our National Convention. Now is the time to “start over,” not from the beginning, just the beginning of the reporting year, which starts in April. As we move forward, start now by recording your hours, your events, and everything needed to complete those year-end reports. This is a great way to help our veterans- how so, you might ask? Reporting goes up! From the Unit to District to Department to our National organization, then over to the American Legion, where the National Commander gives testimony as well as the American Legion’s Washington, D.C. office, who work hard in communication with all Legislators. Those numbers speak loudly, also known as impact numbers, and they do indeed make an impact.

I have shared this numerous times, but it remains of great importance. We often don’t ‘blow our own horn’ – most of our members work our programs for the cause, and not the applause. How will the world know why we matter, if we don’t tell them? So, please remember that reporting is sharing our accomplishments- letting others know why and what we do in support of our mission. Our National President, Coral Grout’s theme is ‘A Beacon for Veterans’. Michigan’s theme of L.O.V.E. complements that. Speaking of our National President, a reminder: plans for President Coral’s Michigan visit have been set for the weekend of our Fall Conference, November 6th & 7th, at the Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Some registration information and forms are on our website at www.michalaux.org or at www.michiganlegion.org, which the American Legion Department of Michigan runs. A meet & greet/question and answer/social-time is scheduled for Friday evening immediately following our opening.

ALL members are encouraged to attend this exciting conference. Our Program chairs and their committees are working diligently to make this time very informative about our programs. I hope to see many of you there.

Our Headquarters staff needs our cooperation in following the chain of command. Direct questions to the district first. You have elected knowledgeable presidents; use them to help with your questions. When was the last time you looked at our website? When was the last time you looked at our National Website? Most answers are found with a little research. I challenge all of you to complete at least two ALA Academy courses by the end of January. Especially those on conflict resolution!

Thank you for all you continue to do to support our mission. WE are indeed amazing! Keep L.O.V.E. in your life.

Chaplains Corner

Darlene Jones, Chaplain

With the passing of PDP Priscilla Kelsey and member Alicia Larche-Minster, we have lost two truly wonderful and dedicated ladies who gave so much of themselves to our organization.

Priscilla was a caring, devoted member who touched the lives of many through her leadership, friendship, and willingness to mentor others. Her dedication to our organization and the people within it will long be remembered.

Alicia was a friend of mine; I have known her since she was a junior member. Alicia also dedicated many years of service to our organization and served our department with commitment and pride. Her contributions and devotion have left a lasting impression on all who have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her.

As we mourn the loss of these two remarkable women, our thoughts and prayers are also with all the Units, Districts, and Department members who have lost a loved one. May God bring comfort, strength, and peace to each of you during this difficult time. May their memories live on

in our hearts, and may their years of service never be forgotten.

Please remember to check the Memorial Garden for your deceased member’s name. Please send the deceased membership forms to headquarters or report them to me as your Chaplain. The form is located on www.michalaux.org under “forms.” Scroll down and click on the Deceased Membership Form. Please fill it out and send it to headquarters at 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Suite B, Lansing, Michigan 48915. Contact me at darlenejones5027@yahoo.com if you need any help.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.*

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

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

ALA Girls State

Beryl Robbins, Chairman

It's Time to Start Recruiting

Your ALA Girls State Committee met on August 11th to begin planning for our 86th annual ALA Girls State program. Our program is scheduled for June 13-19, 2027, on the campus of Michigan State University. The 2027 pledge form, reservation form and flyers have been updated and are available on our website for your use: <https://michalaux.org/girls-state/>. Please check it regularly for additional updates!

Please note that the Committee recommended increasing the reservation fee to \$450; it was proposed to the DEC, an email vote was held, and the increase passed by a 2/3s margin. It does not affect the registration fee; students will still be required to pay \$25 to register. We encourage you to use our pledge form as soon as your ALA District or ALA Unit makes the decision to sponsor one or more students for the 2027 ALA Girls State program. This form is simple to complete and extremely useful when we're trying to locate sponsors for students who apply to our program from your area.

Our 2026 ALA Girls State application included your delegates' high school counselor's name and email address. This tool helps you recruit students for 2027 by providing a contact person at schools in your area. Contact those counselors in September, let them know you sponsored one of their students in 2026, provide the application flyer and ask them to share it with students they believe would be a great fit for our program. Contact the student(s) you sponsored

and ask them to help recruit students. If you did not retain their applications, contact me, and I can provide that information. If your ALA Unit or District did not sponsor a student last year, I can provide you with the name and contact information for every principal and superintendent in the State of Michigan.

We have placed an order for additional fleece jackets that we plan on selling at Fall Conference. To guarantee we have one in your size, please contact me to pre-order! Please remember, they seem to run a little small, so many members purchased a size larger than they normally wear when we sold them at the last Winter meeting.

As a fundraiser for 2027, we will be raffling an impressive, hand-made, twin-bed-size quilt for a \$5 ticket. A picture of the quilt design is included with this article. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Winter Meeting in February 2027. Tickets will be available at the Fall Conference for you to purchase, or you can check out a batch to sell to your District and Unit members.



Legislative News

Dawn Gilbert, Chairman

favor any candidate or party over another, we encourage our members to exercise their right to vote as citizens. That said, we received a special message in July from our current Central Division Legislative Chair, Kristen Hensley. That message reads as follows:

"We are still in a 'stand-down' that was requested over a month ago, a request from the American Legion Legislative Team, asking the Auxiliary not to share American Legion Legislative Agenda items on social media, including those with the official backing of National TAL containing the American Legion logos and Emblems. It was confirmed late last week that this request is still in effect.

It is not the intention of the American Legion Auxiliary to deny anyone's First Amendment rights; however, caution is necessary to ensure your comments and/or postings are not taken as the 'official stance' of the American Legion Auxiliary nor any of the other Legion Family entities. Some very heated opinions, threats and drama are unfolding around some of the agenda items, and it is important that the Auxiliary stay out of the online fray.

We are requesting that if you choose to share your opinions, support, or commentary on your social media regarding any American Legion Legislative agenda items, please make it VERY clear that you are speaking as an individual American citizen only and not on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary nor any organization that you may be affiliated with. With this caveat, please be mindful of the things that you are posting and commenting on, especially if your profile is tied to the ALA (such as listing your ALA position as a 'workplace'), it is imperative to comply with the social media policies outlined in the National American Legion Auxiliary Policies, available for review on the National Website."

Please help us stay out of the drama and follow the request we received. Work the Legislative program by subscribing to the American Legion Legislative Action system to stay informed. You can find it on the American Legion website at www.legion.org/legislative. You can also subscribe to the Weekly Legislative Update for detailed reports of current legislative activities of the Legion. Visit: www.legion.org/newsletters. Remember to keep copies of your communications and share them with your District chairman for reporting purposes.

BE THE ONE

 **AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY**

Public Relations

Pam Wagner, Department Public Relations Chair

At one time or another (and hopefully not often), we have heard or said: “No one told me that!” Miscommunication is one reason things don’t get moved down the great “Information Highway!” We can all relate to not hearing about something we would have liked to be involved with, or not getting all the information we needed to know. Getting our ALA information into members’ hands is a BIG key to our Units, Districts and our Dept. being successful with our programs.

In a nutshell, Public Relations is about effective communication, relaying and relating information to get something done. Our program’s purpose is to move our organization forward and make our units visible in our communities. When we do that, we can accomplish our aims and goals.

Information can be in the form of old-fashioned letter/card writing, phone calls, emails, flyers, posters, personal visits, and now more than ever through the use of social media. News and information are at our fingertips. Each and every member of the ALA should be a conductor of information.

Our Department Chairs are working hard to provide program guides for our Districts and Units throughout Mich-

igan. Our programs are important; they provide knowledge, activities, and vital information, not just for members, but for the public, our neighbors, our communities. Benjamin Franklin said, “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”

Public Relations is about imparting knowledge: who we are, what we do and how we do it. It provides many of the tools you need to accomplish our mission through our program guides.

To grow as an organization, we need to build relationships, share our story, manage our reputation and help and support our veterans. We can do all that by identifying and providing resources (programs, activities) to our members and relaying and relating information. It is up to each of us to be a “conductor” of the ALA’s purpose, mission and vision – communicate, cultivate, connect.

Our Department of Michigan website, www.michalaux.org, has resources for all our programs. Information is right at your fingertips, whether you are using your phone, laptop, iPad or tablet. For more information, make plans to attend the Fall Conference in November. National President Dr. Coral May Grout will be in attendance, and you don’t want to miss that!

Battle Creek VAMC

Chris Reed, Representative

Hello fellow Auxiliary members from the Battle Creek VA! It’s been a good summer at the VA, and since my last article, we’ve been busy!

I want to start by reaching out to Units – especially those in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Districts for help with our Monthly Bingos. Currently, Bingo is held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. and the second Saturday from 1:00-3:00. I know for some Units, it may be a long drive, but please consider volunteering for this event. Some Units have stepped up, but others can no longer support it. Please go back to your members and see if hosting a Bingo might be something of interest. We want to keep this tradition going, and I hope you can help us. Even volunteering once a year would help a lot.

Many events take place at the Battle Creek VA. We are always looking for volunteers to join in the fun. We would love to see some new faces, and so would the Veterans! If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me. We also accept monetary donations throughout the year. These funds help support all activities at the Battle Creek facility. Please make donations payable to the ALA Department of Michigan and mail them directly to our department headquarters at 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Suite B, Lansing, Michigan 48915. Please earmark your check with “Battle Creek VA.” Your support is always appreciated.

We will be welcoming Leslie Jones to our group. Penny Wright will move to 1st Deputy, and Leslie will take over as 2nd Deputy. Leslie is a member of Unit 484 in Hickory Corners and has been volunteering at the VA for quite a while. We want to welcome her, and we look forward to a great year with her support.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to continue serving as VA&R Representative for Battle Creek, and I thank all of you for your help and support over the past several years. Please contact me if you need further information. You can reach me at 269.420.1488 or ckhud@mei.net.

Members Helping Members

Sheila Maxwell, AEF Chairman

The Michigan Legion Family came together this summer to support our brothers and sisters affected by the devastating flooding in West Virginia. Members collected and donated needed items, including diapers, cleaning products, first-aid kits, non-perishable and canned foods, teddy bears, and more. This is just one way members help members in a time of need.

Another way the Auxiliary helps is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). This fund supports Auxiliary members who may need Disaster Assistance or Hardship Assistance.

Since the Auxiliary Emergency Fund was established in 1969, it has awarded more than \$6 million to more than 6,500 members. This has all been made possible because of MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS—the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission of “Service Not Self” in action.

Many members don’t realize that assistance is available, or they may not want to ask for help. When these types of situations arise, we may not know where to go or where to start. The AEF is a great place to start. Grants may be awarded for up to \$3,000 for Disaster or Hardship Assistance.

You can find applications at www.ALAForVeterans.org/AEF and submit them to AEF@ALAForVeterans.org.

This past year, the AEF awarded grants totaling \$151,000.

You, or a fellow Auxiliary member, may one day find yourself in need of the important assistance provided through the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. That is why we should take the time to donate, raise awareness, and be there for one another in a time of crisis. Ways to donate:

Online: You can set up a one-time or monthly recurring contribution directly through the ALA Online Giving Portal. <https://www.legion-aux.org/AEF> Text to give by texting AEF to 1-844-940-3450 and click on the giving link to complete the donation form. Mail: American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, ATTN: Development Division, 3450 Founders Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268.



**Shannon Werner Executive
Director, Secretary-Treasurer**

American Legion Auxiliary — expanding eligibility and allowing more family members to join the ALA. The Legion has authority over the ALA's membership eligibility; this gender-neutral language change allows more people into our organization — strengthening our ability to better serve our veterans, military, and their families. The eligibility changes are effective immediately. Check out the ALA blog to learn more.

Membership

**Candie Chase,
Membership Chairman**

So, they had a plan...well, we all know that things don't always go as planned. That's the story of National ALA and A.L.A.M.I.S. It didn't all go as planned. But they've worked out all the updates and snags, except for a few minor details. Please watch the how-to videos and learn about the updates. Soon, we'll be using it like pros.

This year's membership theme will focus on being strong, kind, and loving.

**Strong Like a Polar Bear, Kind
Like a
Purple Heart, Bound Together
by Love**

The Districts (Polar Bears) and the Units (consisting of Cubs) will work diligently to increase and retain their members. In addition to the usual Department awards, there will be two additional opportunities to earn awards for the Polar Bears and Cubs with the highest percentage of goal 30 days before Department Convention. So, get those Polar Bears and Cubs on the move! Unit goal objectives will be computed soon, and those numbers will be sent to the districts.

A "Virtual Schools of Instruction Roll-Out" is scheduled for Saturday, September 19th. The school will include Americanism, Junior Activities, VA&R and Membership. Stay tuned for more details.

The updated membership guide will be published on the Department's website and will contain the complete list of Department and National awards, along with more detailed membership information.

Membership is everyone's responsibility. Growing membership starts with everyone. Membership success is a shared responsibility: everyone recruits, everyone retains, and Membership thrives when everyone participates.

NEW AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY ELIGIBILITY

More Family Members May Now Be Eligible!

At the 2026 American Legion National Convention, new membership eligibility language was adopted, expanding eligibility with gender-neutral family terms.

STRONG
FAMILIES
STRONGER
TOMORROWS
PEOPLE
SUPPORTING
VETERANS



WHO MAY NOW BE ELIGIBLE?



Grandparents



Parents



Siblings



Spouses



Children



Grandchildren

Includes qualifying male and female family members.

WHAT CHANGED?

Previous wording

Grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct or adopted female descendants.

New wording

Grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity.

WHAT DOES 'TWO DEGREES OF CONSANGUINITY' MEAN?

- 1 **1st Degree:** Parent or child
 - 2 **2nd Degree:** Grandparent, grandchild, brother, or sister
- ★ A spouse is also specifically included.
 - ★ More distant relatives, such as great-grandchildren, are outside the two-degree limit.



IMPORTANT ELIGIBILITY RULE

- ★ If eligibility is based on a living veteran, that veteran generally must be a current member of The American Legion.
- ★ If eligibility is based on a deceased veteran, the veteran must have served during an eligible period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge.
- ★ Women eligible for The American Legion based on their own military service also remain eligible for ALA membership.



DUAL MEMBERSHIP

A person may qualify for both the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

*Different Paths.
Same Purpose.
Stronger Together.*

HONOR
FAMILY
SERVICE
COMMUNITY
ALWAYS

*Today's
Families.
Tomorrow's
Stronger America.*

★ EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY ★

The new eligibility requirements are in effect now.
Learn more: [ALAforVeterans.org](https://www.alaforveterans.org)

UNITED
BY FAMILY
INSPIRED
BY SERVICE



Serving veterans, military families, youth, and communities.



Renew NOW!

Just click on this box to start your Auxiliary membership renewal

<https://www.legion-aux.org/renew>



American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name (First)		(M.I.)	(Last)
Address			
City		State	ZIP
Home Phone		Cell Phone	Email Address
/ /		☐ Birth to 17 ☐ 18 and over	
Date of Birth (Required)		Unit #	Location
Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No (If yes, fill in below.)			
Previous Unit City/State		ALA ID # (if known)	
		/ /	
Signature of Applicant (or legal guardian if under 18)		Date	

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible Through—Name of Veteran (Female Veterans: List Your Own Name)

If Living: American Legion Member ID # (Required) Post # City State

☐ Deceased—If veteran is deceased, contact ALA unit about the necessary military records.
For Veteran's DD214 Discharge Papers: www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Veteran Served:

☐ WWI (4/6/1917-11/11/1918)

Anytime After 12/7/1941 (check all that apply):

☐ Global War on Terror	☐ Panama	☐ Vietnam	☐ WWII
☐ Gulf War	☐ Lebanon/Grenada	☐ Korea	☐ Other Conflicts

Applicant's Relationship to the Veteran:

☐ Spouse	☐ Parent	☐ Sibling	☐ Grandparent	☐ Grandchild
☐ Child	☐ Self (Veteran or Current Servicemember)			

To be Completed by an Officer of The American Legion or American Legion Auxiliary

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Officer Membership Verification / / Date

HELP US GET YOU CONNECTED!

I am interested in learning more about:

☐ Volunteering for Veterans, Military, and Their Families

☐ Youth Activities, Including ALA Girls State, Junior Member Programs, and Scholarships

☐ Member Discounts and Services

☐ Other

Please contact the following individual about volunteering or joining the American Legion Auxiliary:

Name	Phone	Email
Name	Phone	Email
Name	Phone	Email
Recruiter's Name	Unit/Post #	City State

Submit this application to the ALA unit you wish to join. If unit is unknown, contact National Headquarters at (317) 569-4500 for assistance.
Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. **Membership pending approval of application.**

District Meetings

First District Meetings at 2 PM

Sunday, November 15

Location TBD

Sunday, February 21

Location TBD

Sunday, May 23

Location TBD

Second District

Meetings: 11 am SAL, Riders@Noon with Lunch, PSO training at 1 pm, Auxiliary & Legion @ 2 pm

October 11, 2026

Blissfield Post 325

451 High St.

Blissfield, MI 49228

January 10, 2027

Ida Post 514

11601 Lewis Ave.

Ida, MI 48140

March 14, 2027 (Nominations)

Springport Post 313

230 Mechanic St.

Springport, MI 49284

April 24, 2027 (Post Everlasting) Tecumseh

Post 34

300 N. Evans St.

Tecumseh, MI 49286

Post Everlasting ceremony will begin promptly at 3:30

May 16, 2027 (Elections)

Tecumseh Post 34

300 N. Evans St.

Tecumseh, MI 49286

June 12, 2027 (Organizational Meeting Promptly at 2pm)

Dexter Post 557

8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd.

Dexter, MI 48130

Third District

Brunch @10am, Meeting @ 11:00am

November, 21 2026

Post 53 Hillsdale

1611 Steamburg Rd,

Hillsdale, MI 49242

January, 16 2027

Post 465 Climax

6010 S 44th St,

Climax, MI 49034

March, 20 2027

Post 48 Grand Ledge

731 N. Clinton ST,

Grand Ledge MI 4937

May, 15 2027

Post 36 Kalamazoo

1920 E Kilgore Rd,

Portage MI 49002

Fourth District

Service officers training @ 11 am meal @ 12:30 Meetings @ 1:30

November 1, 2026

Barod

January 10, 2027

Three Rivers

March 7, 2027

Decatur

May 16, 2027

Door

Fifth District

Meal @ 5:30 pm & meeting @ 7 pm.

November 12, 2026

TBA

January 14, 2027

Post 179 2327 Wilson Ave

SW, Grand Rapids, MI

49534

March 11, 2027 (Nominations)

Post 47 3811 W River Dr

NE, Comstock Park, MI

49321

May 13, 2027 (Elections)

Post 28 700 S Harbor Dr,

Grand Haven, MI 49417

Sixth District

Service Officer School

at 11:10 am (when scheduled), Lunch at Noon,

Meetings at 1 pm

November 1, 2026

Brighton Post 235

10590 E. Grand River

Brighton, Michigan 48114

810-229-9088

January 10, 2027

Devereaux Post 141

3265 W. Grand River Ave.

Howell, Michigan 48855

517-546-2534

March 14, 2027

Buck-Reasoner Post 238

1785 Cedar Street

Holt, Michigan 48842

517-699-2235

May 16, 2027

Bernard A. Bendle Post

294

3440 Morrish Road

Swartz Creek, Michigan

48473

810-635-7333

Seventh District

Lunch @12:30 meetings at 2:00pm

October 18, 2026

Post 293 Sebawaing

March 10, 2027

Post 4 Mt clemens

May 18, 2027

Post 382 St clair

June 24, 2027

Department Convention

Eighth District

Trainings will start at Noon, Dinner at 1:00pm

with Legion and Auxiliary meetings immediately following.

November 15, 2026

Chesaning Post 212

Guest Speaker: Department 2nd Vice Commander, David Yahr

January 7, 2027

Breckenridge Post 295

Guest Speaker: Gary Tanner

March 21, 2027

Elsie Post 502

Guest Speaker: TBD

May 16, 2027

Carson City Post 380 -

Tentative

District Elections & Memorial Services

Ninth District

Executive meetings @ 11:00am with Lunch at noon. Meetings@1:00 pm

Tenth District

All meetings will start with lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00 pm.

Eleventh District

All Meetings Start at 10 am, with Lunch to after.

October 24, 2026

Manistique Post 83

Twelfth District

Coffee and Doughnuts at 9, meeting at 10 am, with a lunch and additional hour after lunch if needed.

October 3, 2026

Iron Wood Post 5

320 E McLeod Ave Iron-

wood MI, 49938 Phone:

313-381-2245

Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm

* Service Officer School at

6:30 pm

**Memorial Service & Elections

times

Eighteenth District

Meetings @ 2:00 pm

Nineteenth District

Meetings will be held at the

Gaylord Bowling Center,

1200 Gornick Ave, Gay-

lord, MI 49735

Training at 10:00 am, So-

cial Meet and Greet at

11:00 am, lunch served at

noon. The both the Le-

gion and Auxiliary will

start at 1:00 pm

Chaplains Corner

Rodney Tolbert
Department Chaplain



Serving God and caring for our fellow human beings are deeply connected, as actively loving and supporting others is

one of the clearest expressions of living faith. True service starts in daily choices: choosing honesty, showing patience (hard to do at times; ask God for help) and treating every person with inherent dignity, especially in moments when it is difficult; God is there to help.

Spiritual devotion finds its fullest expression through practical help. Feeding the hungry, comforting the lonely, aiding families in hardship and mentoring youth turn good intentions into real community impact. Our great organization, the American Legion - which has operated under the motto "For God and Country" since its founding helps ensure that vital support for veterans, military families, and civic youth programs continues across generations. I want to leave with this prayer, for guidance and service.

Heavenly Father, search our hearts and guide us to see where we can grow into better people today than we were yesterday. Grant us patience where we are quick to judge, humility where we are proud, and open hands where we are hesitant to give. Help us see the needs of our neighbors, and give us the courage and the strength to meet those needs with genuine kindness. We ask for Your wisdom and blessing upon the members and leadership of the American Legion. Strengthen their mission to care for our nation's veterans, uphold military families and serve local communities. Keep their commitment to "God and Country" vibrant and strong, and work through all of us to bring hope, dignity, and practical aid to those around us. Amen

American Legion

Child Welfare Foundation



"Dedicated to the Betterment of Children"

Award of Appreciation

PRESENTED TO

The American Legion

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

★

Heritage Circle Gift Club

PATRON LEVEL (SILVER)

In recognition of your cumulative donations made during the 2025 - 2026 contribution year. Your generosity and commitment help make a brighter future for children.

Thank you for your continued support!

★ ★ ★



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

MIKE GLOBKE

Detachment Commander 2026-2027



Greetings, fellow Sons. It has been a quiet few weeks so far. I did get to Camp Liberty for their cleanup and poker run finish. I got to meet President Larry and Vice President Jay Trochan. I will be going back to their fall festival on Sept. 26th. The funds I raise selling my coins will be put to good use there.

Thanks to Ida Post 514 for inviting Mom Anita, Daddy Jim, and me out for their 9/11 ceremony. I saw a few friends and made a few new ones. Next big trip will be the UP-Fall Tour. It should be a good time.

Now, the business side. I know it is early, but I hope to see the renewals pick up. Get them in as soon as you can. Have a great month.

Don't Wait Renew Right NOW!

Your renewal is just a click away. Click here or Log on <https://mylegion.org/personifyebusiness/Membership/SAL-Renew>



NEF, DETACHMENT DISASTER FUND FINAL REPORT 2025-2026 **Sandy Lipman**

Again, I want to congratulate the members of the Detachment of Michigan for your generosity to all Legion family Charities. As of May 26th, we have donated \$14,357.00 to CWF, \$3200.00 to the NEF, and \$90 to the recently established Detachment Disaster Fund. There were 20 donations reported to CWF, totaling nearly 50

cents per member, putting us in 2nd place in the central region, only behind Ohio.

Many changes happened last year. First, we were denied NEF grants because of how the foundation was interpreted. However, after recent changes, we can now receive grants up to \$4000. We started our own Detachment Disaster Fund with a resolution that was written and presented to the body and passed. Your squadron, district, and member donations will grow this fund. Many natural disasters have hit Michigan members, so please donate.

Child Well Being Foundation, or CWF, is a program dedicated to helping all youth, whether military or everyday children. Recently, we issued grants to our parent organizations for Youth programs. This past year, we gave over \$500,000. We are asking them to break it down by program, what it is being used for, and how much is going to each program. Additionally, we gave out 14 grants totaling \$825,000 this past year. It has been suggested that we should help more groups with smaller grants in the future.

Please continue donating to all the Legion Family Charities and supporting all the programs. Do not forget Buddy Checks and Be the One.

ZONE 1

John Beeman, Commander

Hello, Fellow Sons! Hope things are going well for all of you. Unfortunately, we lost PDC Daniel Tyack just before the National Convention. He will be deeply missed.

By now, you should have your 26-27 membership cards. If not, I would have your squadron membership chairman call Deanna at Department HQ at 517-371-4720.

As Zone Commander, I've received several phone calls, some good and unfortunately some not so good. As Sons of the Legion, we must answer to the Legion at all levels, even if we don't agree. If you do have differences, try to work them out in-house, but remember we answer to them.

On the brighter side, I went on a poker run for Camp Liberty. I started from home in rain gear, and it cleared up as the day went on. By the time we got to Camp Liberty, it was beautiful. I met up with Detachment Commander Mike (Ponytail) and had a nice conversation with him. Camp Liberty is his special project; what a great cause. Keep up with membership, buddy checks, and helping veterans. Don't forget to book your room for Fall Convention November 6th - 8th at Treetops, Gaylord.



BOYS STATE UPDATE **John Beeman, Liason**



On August 11th, we had a Zoom meeting and went over a few topics. Our next meeting will be on September 22nd. After that meeting, we should have dates set for next year and each participant's cost. I received a phone call from Mark Brejcha that he was stepping down as Boys State Director. Mark, it was a pleasure working

with you, and you will be missed. Since then, I found out that James Ellis will be the new Boys State Director. I'm looking forward to working with him and the rest of the Boys State Committee. As always, we are looking for volunteers and donations. That is all until next month.

2027 SAL Membership: September 30th Goal = 29,822
Current Total: 5,505 - 18.46%

Celebration of Life



Dan Tyack

Our Past Department Son's Commander



A celebration of life will be held at
American Legion Post 143

96 Churchill Rd
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Sunday, October 18, 2026
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Services will start at 1:00 PM and food and drinks to follow.

Anyone wishing to bring a main dish or dessert
is welcome.

Any pictures or items you would like to be displayed
please drop off at the post.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation



"Dedicated to the Betterment of Children"

Award of Appreciation

PRESENTED TO

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan**

Heritage Circle Gift Club

PATRON LEVEL (SILVER)

In recognition of your cumulative donations made during the
2025 - 2026 contribution year. Your generosity and commitment
help make a brighter future for children.

Thank you for your continued support!

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hear ye, hear ye

IS YOUR SQUADRON GET'R DONE?

TELL US ABOUT IT! SEND YOUR PICTURES AND ARTICLES TO
VICTORSAL396@HOTMAIL.COM

The American Legion Department of Michigan
Scholarship Applications NOW AVAILABLE

\$32,700 Scholarship

Full degree Scholarship Available to all Family Members, Spouses
and Dependents! Pays the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester
hours or 36 consecutive months in the selected online degree
program.

15% Tuition Discount

Tuition Discount: A 15% discount on tuition for all members, their
spouse, and any dependents.

One Course Scholarship

One Course Scholarship: This scholarship covers the cost of
tuition for one person of a member's household to take a course
at Columbia Southern University.

Apply today at: <https://michiganlegion.org/csufreeclass/>



Let Your Experience Put You Ahead.
Let Our **Veterans Flexible
Enrollment** Put You in Charge.

Military training is one of the best ways to earn course credits.
Columbia Southern University offers complimentary transfer
credit evaluation and our Veterans Flexible Enrollment option
empowers you to earn your degree at your own pace. Our
dedicated military support staff is ready to ensure you make the
most of your training and time at CSU.

Celeb Mims
B.S. Information Systems and Cyber Security



ColumbiaSouthern.edu/Veterans » 877.347.6050

Orange Beach, AL | Any reference to United States Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, products or services
does not constitute or imply endorsement by the DoD. Paid ad. No federal endorsement of advertiser(s) intended.
Veterans Flexible Enrollment is not eligible for neither Federal Student Aid nor CSU's Doctor of Business
Administration (DBA) program.



Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Gary Easterling Director

Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veterans' advocacy to Michigan Veterans and their families. They can assist with Claims Preparation, Presentation and appeal counsel in Veterans' benefits services. Let us assist you and your dependents in getting the benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

Gary Easterling, Director
geasterling@michiganlegion.org
Cell (313) 549-8557
Office Phone (313) 964-6640
Fax (313) 964-5697

Josh Scargall, Asst Director
JScargallad@outlook.com
Cell: 313-809-2002

Call for a Service officer in your area:
833.648.3826 Option 1
e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

[like us on Facebook @MichiganVAR](#)

Check out all your benifits at
www.mivabenefits.org

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE!

Find an American Legion Veteran Service Officer near you. Use an Accredited Veteran Service Officer. Find a Service Officer near you at <https://www.mivabenefits.org/find-service-officer/> OR Call **833.648.3826** Option 1 and they will guide you to an accredited veteran service officer who will help you.

Service Officer	Office Locations
Phil Babcock.....	Charlevoix, Petoskey, Kalkaska, Manistee Ludington, Big Rapids, Lake City
Patty Breas.....	Hastings, Caledonia, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Wyoming, Holland
Brian Brooks	Ann Arbor
Josh Clark.....	Benton Harbor, Battle Creek, Coldwater
Kieshan Counts.....	Bay City, Saginaw, Vassar
Gary Easterling	Detroit
Stephanie Fisher.....	Onaway, Rogers City
Shay Grady.....	Rapid River, Ishpeming Little Lake, Marquette, Gwin
Coming Soon	Farwell, Ionia, Lansing, Battle Creek Bath, Grand Ledge, Eaton Rapids, Jackson, Laingsburg, Corunna
Courtney Mills.....	Ravenna, Muskegon, Grand Haven
Lisa Misenko.....	Troy, Oxford, Rochester, Detroit
VSO TBD.....	Detroit, Swartz Creek
Matthew Schantz.....	Garden City, Southgate, Detroit
Justin Schave.....	Detroit
Tommy Simpkins.....	Saginaw
Stacy Thill.....	Escanaba, Manistique
Rick Wiles.....	Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Gaylord
Kimberly Napoleon.....	Saginaw

YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE.

Now let us honor you.



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning seminar to learn about VA burial benefits available. For more information, contact Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com or 586-775-2424.

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

Dignity
MEMORIAL

☞ LIFE WELL CELEBRATED® ☞

DignityMichigan.com

INTERESTED IN A PUFL?

Paid Up For Life

800-433-3318



GET YOUR



AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

MERCH HERE





Wellcare and Legionnaires Insurance Trust are proud to support veterans.

Wellcare and Legionnaires Insurance Trust are committed to helping veterans find the care they need as they strive to stay healthy and enjoy their best, happiest lives. This commitment is particularly important as we recognize the Be The One initiative and PTSD Awareness month, providing the support veterans need to thrive with coverage that respects their unique needs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Find out how we can live healthier together.

Call today to learn more:

 **844-640-0095 (TTY:711)**
8 a.m. to 8 p.m., 7 days a week.

 **Or visit www.thelit.com**

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**



THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER
OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Endorsed by your American Legion Department

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

**Prepared
and confident**



Choose the **medical alert service** that has saved more lives than any other

There's a Lifeline medical alert solution for you

Whether you need the go-anywhere protection of **GoSafe*** or the peace of mind offered by **HomeSafe**, Lifeline has you covered.



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

Special offer for Legionnaires

Save up to \$70 with free activation and free shipping

1-855-495-4356

www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services

© 2015. Button signal range may vary due to environmental factors. For new customers only. Not to be combined with any other offer and subject to change without notice. Monthly fees and applicable taxes apply. Other fees may apply. Minimum stay on service may be required. *Coverage outside the home provided where AT&T wireless network coverage is available.

PHILIPS
Lifeline

Wilwin Lodge
at Cygnet Cove

Clean Up Weekend
October 23-25

Join us for a volunteer weekend
to help get the campgrounds
ready for winter.

*Pitch in, enjoy fellowship,
and help prepare camp for the season ahead.*



7th District
Robert Montgomery, Commander

Well, folks, last month was probably the busiest I've had in a long time, but the most exciting part was going to Louisville, Kentucky, for the National Convention. I have always enjoyed going to Louisville because I get to see old friends, make new friends and get back in touch with my family's roots, and most of all, it gives me a better, wider picture of Americanism. You see, when you are on the road for 12 hours, it gives you time to think and properly reflect, with most of that on the return 6-hour trip. Sadly, I wasn't able to see my old shipmate Mike or Frank; it just wasn't in the cards, so I used the extra time to make new friends. I talked to people from, but not limited to, North and South Dakota; many from Ohio, Florida and Kentucky; but the ones that stuck with me most were 3 young ladies, Lashun, Deloris and Kenon, from Virginia. We swapped membership war stories and our love for the American Legion. We had a couple of Old Fashioneds and had a fantastic time.



The next day, I headed out to Cave Hill National Cemetery, only about 3 miles from the hotel. It gave me a chance to visit my great-grandfather's uncle, who died in a Louisville army hospital of TB during the Civil War. He was part of the Michigan 3rd at the First Battle of Bull Run and part of the Western Theater under US Grant before becoming ill. Visiting him always gives me a sense of pride and fulfills the duty I swore to uphold.

After the meetings were done and all the Midwestern good-byes were done, I headed home to my beloved Michigan. I had a six-hour drive that seemed like 14 going through northern Ohio alone, but we made it. It gave me a chance to be with my thoughts and a better understanding of what it means to be an American. The way I see it, many of the men who died in the Civil War, including my uncle, did so to keep this nation whole. He did not go to war for 2 different flags, for Democrats or Republicans, but for the American ideology that all men, in the eyes of the Lord, are created equal and just. Like Teddy Roosevelt once said, "There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americanism," you either honor our flag and our country or you don't. So I challenge all the posts in the 7th district- heck, all the posts in the state this coming year to brace what it's like to be an American, get to the schools this Veterans Day and teach not just flag etiquette, but what it means to be an "American".



Legion Legislative Report
Tim Poxson, Legislative Chair

As the election season nears its end, I still need to remind you that your Post should remain politically neutral. We are non-partisan. Do not put your Post at risk of losing its 501.9(c)(19) non-profit status. 501(c)(19) is your non-profit status as assigned by the IRS, and it is similar to 501(c) (3), but the (c)(19) gives you more operational freedom than a standard 501(c)(3) public charity. 501(c)(19) can have social activities for its members; 501(c)(3)(19) groups can engage in political veteran advocacy activities related to veteran interests, unlike 501(c)(3) groups. Please do not endanger your Post's ability or the Department's ability to retain the 501(c)(19) status. If you have questions about your status as a 501(c)(19) or its comparison to a 501(c)(3), please consult a tax expert or IRS Publication 526, and other IRS Publications on the subject.

We still have priorities that the State House or Senate has not addressed, and a few at the Congressional level. We will continue to work on them and will add additional ones that also need to be addressed. I have already been getting calls from state legislators about issues they would like to work on if reelected. I also received a call from two members of Congress, both of whom said they look forward to working with the American Legion Department of Michigan on issues that affect Veterans. We look forward to a productive Legislative session at both the State Legislature and U.S. Congress levels.

ENDORSED BY:
RAY BARKER POST #412 BATH
8TH DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

LEO COWDRY

CANDIDATE FOR DEPARTMENT
2ND VICE COMMANDER
2027-2028

BE THE ONE

AMERICAN
LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

LEADERSHIP BUILT
THROUGH SERVICE

Around the State...

Color Guard before a Petoskey High School Football game



L to R: Steve Sutton, Nick Naiukow, Tony Hoffman, Ken Van Every, and Tom Norris.

Quilts of Valor Ceremony at Post 44



Honored were Al Hendra, Will Weycker, Craig Salo and Dennis Coron

389 Volunteer Hours at MVH Chesterfield



Hilary Kuretych, Volunteer & Donation Coordinator, presents Legion Representative to the MVH Chesterfield Joe McClellan with a Certificate Recognizing his 389 Volunteer Hours In 2025-2026

**AMERICAN
LEGION**
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Rockford Post 102 to Add to Local Memorial

A grant from the Rockford Area Community Foundation helped create and install new plaques honoring Civil War & WWI veterans.



L to R: Neil Blakeslee, David Spencer, Commander Tom Mroczkowski, Gordon Pickerd, and Ed Ross

McDonald-Osmer Post 451



The Post provided the Color Guard for the Cascade Township 4th of July Parade

Post 108 Presents Flag to Grand Haven School



Commander #108 Cyndy Wierenga Presents American Flag to School Principal Shel Hammond on the 1st Day of School at Ferry School, Grand Haven

Buck-Reasoner Post 238 Sponsors Book Vending Machines in Local School



L to R: John Brauer, Commander Post 238 Holt and Ron Venner, Kiwanis Club of Holt

Post 351 Receives Community Assistance to Complete \$300,000 Parking Lot Project



Post 351 in Utica's deteriorating parking lot became unsafe for veterans, members, volunteers, and visitors & threatened the Post's ability to serve as a gathering place for them. State Rep. Ron Robinson helped the Post secure a grant for the project, and Bryan Ede, owner of Michigan Insurance and Financial Services, provided a short-term loan so the Post could accept the grant. The ribbon cutting was on Sept. 21.



THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Supporting
Veterans
Building
Communities



EARLY BIRD

RAFFLE

\$500

DRAWING

For those who renew
their memberships

BEFORE

VETERANS DAY

DRAWING TO BE HELD

NOVEMBER 12

Thank You!

for your continued support
of *The American Legion!*

RENEW TODAY
SUPPORT TOMORROW
KEEP THE LEGION STRONG!



SCAN TO RENEW