

# Good of the Legion

Items to share with your post members at your next post meeting or to display on the bulletin board.

## **Junior Shooting Sports: Department Individual and Team Champions Named**

**Congratulations** are in order for our Junior Shooting Sports Teams that are participating in the National JSSP Postal Tournament. The results are in and the following individuals and teams are at the top of the charts for our state:

- ♦ Individual Department Champion in the Sporter discipline: Connor Kendrick from Genesee Career Institute HS-sponsored by Post 294.
- ♦ Individual Department Champion in the Precision discipline: Lillian Warren from Grand Rapids Rifle & Pistol Club-Sponsored by Post 154. *Lillian will go on to shoot in the 2nd round of the Tournament to see where she ranks across the nation.*
- ♦ Department Team Champion for the Sporter discipline: Genesee Career Institute HS
- ♦ Department Team Champion for the Precision discipline: Grand Rapids Rifle & Pistol Club

*A quick fun fact:* Wisconsin's Department Champion in the Precision discipline is Emme Walrath of the Grand Rapids Rifle & Pistol Club who is sponsored by Michigan American Legion Post 154!

We hope to invite these teams and individuals to our State Convention in June so that they can be recognized at the department level for all their hard work and dedication to Junior Shooting.

## **Reminder: Teacher of the Year Nominations Due April 4th**

Teacher of the Year nominations are starting to come in from school administrators across the state. The Education and Scholarship Committee will select a total of five recipients who will receive a \$500 grant and a plaque recognizing their dedication to patriotism, Americanism, and community service. If you know of an outstanding teacher in your community visit [www.legion.org/teacher](http://www.legion.org/teacher), print the form, and have the school administrator complete it. ***Nominations are due April 4th!***

### **The American Legion Department of Michigan Training Workshops**

March 19, 2022

Saline American Legion Post 322  
320 W Michigan Ave  
Saline, MI 48176

March 20, 2022

Mt. Clemens Post 4  
401 N Groesbeck Hwy  
Mt Clemens, MI 48043

Pre-Register BY EMAIL: [support@michiganlegion.org](mailto:support@michiganlegion.org) or call 517-220-2753

TOPICS COVERED: Leadership, Protocol & Procedures, Programs, Technology, Membership and Post recruiting, Parliamentary Procedures, Duties of Officers, Resolutions, Bylaws

## THE AMERICAN LEGION

American Legion Boys State

**What:** The American Legion Boys State program is a non-partisan, non-political mock government exercise in a model state designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government. It is intended to instill character, the importance of civic engagement and patriotism among rising high school seniors.

**When:** June 12-18, 2022

**Where:** Grand Valley State University- Allendale, MI

**Eligibility:** Male high school juniors going into their senior year in the fall of 2022.

**Application Deadline:** May 9, 2022

**Cost: \$25 Delegate Application Fee**  
**\$400 Sponsor Fee**

**Sponsor:** A sponsor can be an American Legion Post, Son of the American Legion Squadron, an American Legion Auxiliary Unit, but it can also be the boy's parents, a business owner, a school, or other organization like the Elks, Knights of Columbus, or a Moose club.

**Scholarships:**

**Samsung Scholarship:** limited to students between their junior and senior years of high school who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership. Up to \$10,000 scholarship awarded.

**Additional Information:**

Visit [www.michiganboysstate.org](http://www.michiganboysstate.org) for additional information on our Boys State Program or to download the application.

Questions can be directed to Ashley Zimmer, 517-220-2754 or [legion@michiganlegion.org](mailto:legion@michiganlegion.org).

American Legion Auxiliary Girls State

**What:** The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a non-partisan, non-political mock government exercise in a model state designed to mirror the structure and operation of its respective state government. It is intended to instill character, the importance of civic engagement and patriotism among rising high school seniors.

**When:** June 12-17, 2022

**Where:** Virtual

**Eligibility–** Female high school juniors going into their senior year in the fall of 2022.

**Sponsor Reservation Deadline:** April 30, 2022

**Online Delegate Registration Deadline:** May 31, 2022

**Cost: \$30 Delegate Registration Fee**  
**\$175 Sponsor Fee**

**Sponsor:** Girls State delegates' registration fees are paid for by the sponsoring local American Legion Auxiliary unit with additional support and funding sometimes coming from various civic and nonprofit organizations.

**Scholarship:**

**Samsung scholarship:** limited to students between their junior and senior years of high school who attend the current session of either an American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership. Up to \$10,000 scholarship awarded.

**Additional Information:**

Visit [www.michalaux.org/girls-state/](http://www.michalaux.org/girls-state/) for applications, sponsorship information and additional details.

Questions should be directed to Beryl Robbins, 313-318-6845 or [alamigirlsstate@gmail.com](mailto:alamigirlsstate@gmail.com)



## **Can Girls Play American Legion Baseball?**

As the Department Programs Coordinator, I receive phone calls from individuals with a variety of questions. I can answer just about any question I get, or I can find an answer rather quickly. I was recently asked a question that I couldn't readily answer, it stumped me. What was the question; *can girls play American Legion Baseball?*

This question led me first to our rule book, then National's rule book, and finally I decided to phone a friend at National. I was enlightened for several minutes before the conversation ended. The quick answer is, YES! Girls can play American Legion Baseball. Just like their counterparts, girls have been trying out and playing Legion Baseball for a while. They may not be in the majority but they are certainly present.

In my search for an answer, I came across a lady by the name of Margaret Gisolo, the "Girl Babe Ruth", and I was fascinated. Gisolo was born in 1914 and grew up the youngest of six children in Blanford, IN. She learned to play baseball with her brothers in a sandlot near her father's grocery store.

In 1928, Gisolo earned a spot on the roster of a newly created American Legion junior baseball team named the Blanford Cubs. At the time she was the only girl playing on *any* American Legion team. She played multiple infield positions and excelled as a base stealer, pitcher, and batter. Her involvement in baseball was low-key until a defeated rival team filed a complaint against her eligibility. Sportswriters across the country picked up the story, calling her the "Girl Babe Ruth". Long story short, after Legion officials consulted with MLB Commissioner Kenesaw Landis, it was decided to allow Gisolo to stay on the team and play for the remainder of the tournament.

Margaret Gisolo and her team won the Indiana state championship and went as far as the regional tournament in Chicago. She was a standout not just for her gender but for her impressive on the field abilities. Gisolo went on to play on a variety of other sports throughout her life. She graduated from Indiana State Teacher's College and was a Girls Scout director before joining the Navy WAVES during World War II. Gisolo passed away in 2009 at the age of 94 but her story still inspires other girls to follow their athletic dreams.

Unfortunately, in 1929, American Legion officials reversed their 1928 decision, effectively banning girls from playing legion baseball. Thankfully that decision came to an end sometime in the 1970's. Now, the American Legion Baseball program has one of the fairest rule books when it comes to allowing youth to play sports. Instead of taking the "no girls allowed" approach of the past, the American Legion lets talent determine who lands a spot on a team.

A simple Google search provides names of other young women making their mark on American Legion Baseball. Names like Donna Williams, Marti Sementelli, Emiko Phillips, and Rylee Kara, all baseball players who are paving the way for more young women to play American Legion Baseball.

Will your Post have an American Legion Baseball team this year? If so, will you encourage girls try out for your team? You should because you never know if it will be *your* team who has the next "Girl Babe Ruth".



**SAVE THE DATE!!!****2022 Dept. of Michigan American Legion Riders****Legacy Scholarship Fund Run****June 10, 11, 12th**

Hosted by: Lapeer Post #16 American Legion Riders  
1701 W. Genesee Street.

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS****June 10, 2022**

Location: Lapeer Post #16  
Meet & Greet: 7-11 pm  
Early Registration/Social Hr: 6-7 pm  
Dinner: 7 pm  
Cash Bar, Live music, raffles, 50/50

**June 11, 2022**

Start Location: Lapeer Post #16  
Registration and Breakfast: 7-8:30 am  
Kickstands Up: 9:00 a.m.

**Day One Stops:**

Swartz Creek-Post #294-(Bloody Mary Bar)  
Lansing-Post #183 – Lunch Available  
Hastings – Post #45  
Grand Rapids-Post #2  
Grand Haven – Post #28- Dinner Available

**June 12, 2022**

Registration and Breakfast – 7-8:30 am  
Kickstands Up: 9:00 a.m.

**Day Two Stops:**

Hesperia – Post #411-(Bloody Mary Bar)  
Ludington – Post #76-Lunch Available  
Gas Stop/Short Break Halfway point  
Frankfort – Post #221  
Fife Lake – Post #219 – Dinner Available

Rider	Passenger	Car
\$40	\$40	\$40

**Hotel Information: DEADLINE TO RESERVE ROOMS MAY 12<sup>th</sup>****JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>****Lapeer – Best Western**

770 West Street  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
810-667-9444

**83 Rooms available**

2 Queen Beds \$80  
1 King Bed \$82  
Suite Rooms \$98-\$120

**JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>****Baymont by Wyndham Hotel-Grand Haven**

1500 S. Beacon Blvd  
Grand Haven MI  
616-842-1999

**83 Rooms Available**

2 Queen Beds \$248.40  
1 King Bed \$248.40

When making reservations you must mention American Legion Riders to receive the discounted rates.

**Contact:**

Tom Lossing, (810-488-4046) or email: [tomlossing@gmail.com](mailto:tomlossing@gmail.com)

Steve Clark, [steveclark2841@gmail.com](mailto:steveclark2841@gmail.com)

Updates and new information available on Facebook:

[American Legion Riders Chapter 16](#)

## **Important dates for 2022 American Legion Programs**

### **March 2022**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**-Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline

**March 5<sup>th</sup>**-Oratorical State Contest at Dept. Headquarters (1:00 P.M.)

### **April 2022**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**- End of 2nd round postal match competition. Targets due to the CMP -must be postmarked on or before April 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for scoring.

**April 4<sup>th</sup>**- Teacher of the Year submission deadline

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**-National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, IN

### **May 2022**

**May 9<sup>th</sup>**-Boys State Application submission deadline

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**- Baseball insurance purchase deadline

### **June 2022**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>**- Final day for Baseball teams to register

**June 12<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>**-Boys State Program at Grand Valley State University-Allendale Campus

### **July 2022**

**July 1<sup>st</sup>**-Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship submission deadline

**July 20 - 23** - JSSP American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament)

**July 27-30**- Class AA Baseball State Tournament in Mt. Pleasant.

**July 27-30**- Class A Baseball State Tournament in Trenton.

### **August 2022: SPECIAL EVENT**

**August 3-7**- American Legion Great Lakes Regional Baseball Tournament held in Midland.

## **STEP BACK IN TIME**

*Spring Outing*

\* Organized Camping Encouraged



\* Units may present their own skills at their provided site

# **May 20-22, 2022**

Old times skills and activities:

- \* Flint Knapping
- \* Fire Skills
- \* Blacksmithing
- \* Gold Panning
- \* Basket Weaving
- \* Woodcrafting



Open to everyone!

Registration for the Spring

Outing can be completed

online at:

[www.wilwinlodge.com/scouting](http://www.wilwinlodge.com/scouting)



**WILWIN LODGE**  
AT CYGNET COVE

## **Important Numbers:**

Don't Face the VA Alone! Use an American Legion accredited Veteran Service Officer. Find one near you by calling 313-964-6641.

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency: 800– mich-vet (642-4883)

Veteran Suicide Hotline—800– 273-8255

VA Veteran Homeless resources—877-424-3838

Department of Michigan Headquarters: 517-371-4720

## **2021-2022 Commander Coins Still Available!**

Commander Richard T. Dubay would like to help assist with ending Veteran homelessness. Your contribution will go towards our program aimed at helping veterans with homelessness in Michigan. A \$20 donation for each coin is requested. Use the order form below or visit [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) to order online through the PayPal link at the bottom of the homepage. Thank you for your support!



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## **2021-2022 Commanders Coin Order Form**

YES! I want to Support Commander Dubay's project: Reaching Out to Veterans

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ at each \$20 donation to the following address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclosed is my check/money order for qty: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 donation Total: \_\_\_\_\_**

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Make check to Michigan American Legion Memo; Commanders Coin. Send to Michigan American Legion Attn: Commanders Coin 212 N. Verlinden Ave. Lansing, MI 48915. Price includes shipping/handling/taxes.