



# Good of the Legion

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

## **Baby it's COLD OUTSIDE!!!!**

### **Do you know what to do if you run into a Veteran who is homeless?**

Winter might not officially be here until December 20, but the winter weather is here now. The cold, wind, rain, snow, and ice are here to stay for the next few months. That means hundreds of veterans around the state could be living in this winter weather. As much as we would like to eliminate veteran homelessness, the truth is that as veterans find housing and employment, other veterans are returning home from service, or going through difficulties and just starting the cycle of homelessness.

As veterans, we want to help our fellow veterans, but we don't always know-how. When it comes to helping a veteran who is homeless we can sometimes feel helpless. The good news is, as veteran advocates, we don't need to know the answers, but we want to know who to call.

In 2010, the Veterans Administration took a more active role in dealing with Veteran Homelessness. With the help of funding from Congress, many support programs were created to help these veterans. One resource created included a hotline for you, or the veteran who is homeless may call for help.

**When Veterans face homelessness,**

**MAKE THE CALL!**

Help for Homeless Veterans  
**877-4AID-VET**  
 va.gov/homeless | (877) 424-3838

#### **For Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, VA is here to help.**

VA has trained supportive professionals available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect Veterans with the services they have earned.

Confidential chat at [www.va.gov/homeless](http://www.va.gov/homeless)



That phone number is (877) 424-3838.

Michigan VA Medical Centers have Homeless Coordinators that are ready to serve. If you are near one of these centers, you may want to connect with them to see how you and your post can help.

Ann Arbor, MI Coordinator, is Shawn Dowling  
 Battle Creek, MI Coordinator, is Daleth Jean-Jules  
 Detroit, MI Coordinator, is Dr. Gerald Curley  
 Saginaw, MI Coordinator, is Carly Huffman  
 Iron Mountain, MI Coordinator, is Richard Holmstrom, (906) 774-3300 ext. 32756

#### **Learn your local resources, try to prevent homelessness from happening.**

Sometimes veterans are too proud to ask for help until it is too late. They fall into a financial situation

and need a little hand up to make through a rough patch. There is help for this; there are many resources available that a veteran might qualify for financial assistance or other assistance. In this case, here are a few numbers to call for information and assistance.

**The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency – (800) MICH-VET**

They could direct the veteran to help with utility bills, the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund, or local resources near the veteran.

**Feeding America** – an organization dedicated to helping families in need of food. How do you find a food bank near you? Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).

Call **Michigan 211** service – On your phone dial 2-1-1, or visit [www.mi211.org/get-help/housing-shelter](http://www.mi211.org/get-help/housing-shelter), they maintain a database of service providers in Michigan who can help with certain requests.

**Salvation Army** - Do you have a local office in your area? Some offices have more resources than others.

**Goodwill** – Has resources to help the veteran with employment training and placement. Services vary from location but find your local provider for more information.

NOTE: If you feel the need to help a homeless veteran, don't give them cash directly. Buy a store gift card, or give them material items, or bring them food, but the best advice is to call the VA and let the VA Homeless Coordinators connect with the veteran.

**Quick connections using your mobile device**



Watch the VA video on How to Help a Homeless Veteran.



MI 211 Homeless Resources web page



Feeding America Website, find a food bank near you.



Salvation Army in Michigan with Emergency Shelter assistance.

You will need a QR Code scanner on your phone to access link to these sites.  
Go to the Google Play store or Apple Apps store to find a QR Code Scanner or Reader. I personally use one by Kaspersky Labs.

## **Important dates for 2020 American Legion Programs**

### **January 2020**

January 1<sup>st</sup>- Baseball registration opens on <https://baseball.legion.org>

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Law Officer of the Year submission deadline

January 10<sup>th</sup>-Firefighter of the Year submission deadline

January 13<sup>th</sup>-Brewer Scholarship Application submission deadline

January 13<sup>th</sup>-Wilson Scholarship Application submission deadline

### **February 2020**

February 10<sup>th</sup>-All Zone Oratorical Contests must be completed before this date.

### **March 2020**

March 2<sup>nd</sup>-Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline (applications available from National Oct. 2019)

March 7<sup>th</sup>-Oratorical State Contest at Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids.

### **April 2020**

April 3<sup>rd</sup>- Teacher of the Year Submission deadline

April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>-National Oratorical Contest, Indianapolis, Indiana

### **May 2020**

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

May 18<sup>th</sup>-Student Trooper Application Submission deadline

May 26<sup>th</sup>-Boys State Application Submission deadline

### **June 2020**

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

June 14-20<sup>th</sup>-Boys State Program at Grand Valley University- Allendale Campus

### **July 2020**

July 3<sup>rd</sup>-Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship Submission deadline

July 12-17<sup>th</sup>-Student Trooper Program, Michigan State Police Academy, Lansing

July 22<sup>nd</sup> – July 26<sup>th</sup>- Class AA Baseball State Tournament in Midland.

July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>- Class A Baseball State Tournament in Marquette.