

MI LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XCI No. 10

michiganlegion.org

October 2023

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Strengthening America. That's the motto of the American Legion, and Michigan Legionnaires take seriously their commitment "to enhance the well-being of American's Veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by their devotion to mutual helpfulness."

It's fitting that Fisher House has become part of the mission for Michigan Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Legion Riders, and Sons of the American Legion. Since 2018, when American Legion Post 46 and past-State Commander Steve Striggow kick-started state-wide Legion support, the American Legion Department of Michigan Family has been hosting events, bringing casseroles, making cash donations and more, for the construction & operations of the Fisher House at VA Ann Arbor and the future Fisher House for VA Detroit. What's more, they're making their membership aware that Fisher House is a beautiful resource for them and for their families.

This year, with your help, State Commander Brian Mohlman is doubling down on the Legion's commitment to Veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

Commander Mohlman Said "As we continue our efforts to raise at least \$1 for to honor each Veteran living

in Michigan, we challenge other members of our community to do the same. Will you help match the Legion's \$568,000 challenge?"

Take the Patriot's Pledge, presented by the American Legion Department of Michigan, and join thousands of donors who will help meet the \$568,000 match challenge. Why \$568,000? That's \$1 for every veteran who calls Michigan home. If it only takes one dollar per Michigan veteran to meet this match, how many veterans will you honor with your gift?

Make a gift between now and 12/31/2023, and help us pledge another \$1.14 million to aid construction in Detroit and to support the families currently staying in the Ann Arbor Fisher House. Every little bit helps, and it counts TWICE during the Patriot's Pledge!

Thank you for entrusting Fisher House Michigan to deliver meaningful results to the thousands of veteran family members who stay in Michigan Fisher Houses each year. You are making a positive impact with every gift - but don't take my word for it. Hear it directly from those we serve in the current issue of The Blessings Business.

October 2023



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Greetings Legionnaires!



Brian Mohlman
Department Commander

Following a Summer that was packed with Conventions, Elections, Committee Appointments, and Training, we're off and running into the 2nd Quarter of the 2023-2024 Year!

I'd like to commend Post, District, and Department Leadership for catapulting past the 50% Goal more than a week ahead of time! I know how much work goes into this, and a hearty congratulations go out to all of you!

More and more, as I travel across this great State, it is clear that Posts are becoming much more active in their communities. Activities such as veteran festivals, memorial dedications, participation in local events, and children's activities are all getting your Post into the limelight of your community, and local citizens and younger veterans are taking notice. To help you along, make sure you let your local media know about these activities, and they'll be more than happy to help spread the word.

Now, on to the meat of why we serve our fellow Veterans in this great organization, The American Legion. For the past year or so, we've heard about the "Be The One" initiative, and many have asked, "What is that all about?" In his powerful and moving acceptance speech, newly elected National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer put

it this way, "... with all this talk about numbers on this very subject, the only number I want us to push is 'one,' as in *Be the One to save one, yes, one veteran, or even their spouse, from taking his or her own life.*"

Veteran suicide is an epidemic that we must get a handle on. Just one Veteran's life is too many, so where do we start? One of the most basic steps we can take is to know our members, and there is no better way than to keep up with our Buddy Checks. Buddy Checks are NOT about membership, but more importantly, they're all about starting an open and comfortable dialogue between members of your Post. When we're not feeling quite the way we think we should about things, an open and caring voice may allow us to talk through to the heart of the issues. Just starting a conversation may be all it takes to give that Veteran or family member the time to think about things a little deeper. Let's all learn what to do when we run into those situations, and your Post Service Officer is a great starting point. Your Service Officer has a wealth of resources designed especially for these situations. Start the conversation, then get them the assistance and helping hand they are calling out for.

I'm looking forward to seeing many more of you through my travels this year, and if I can ever be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at commander@michiganlegion.org at any time.

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander. Brian Mohlman
 State Adjutant. Ron Runyan
 1st Vice Commander Dan Cooper
 2nd Vice Commander Wayne Blank
 1st Zone Robert Kamin
 2nd Zone. Duane Miller
 3rd Zone Jerry Kunzelman
 4th Zone Randy Gilbert
 5th Zone Ray Carlson
 Chaplain. Norm Soli
 Finance Officer. John Bradford
 Historian Robert Higley Jr.
 N.E.C Larry Money
 Judge Advocate. Barry Wood
 Sergeant-at-Arms Bob Salamon
 Immediate Past Commander- Marilyn Britten
 Alt. N.E.C Brett Holt
 VA and R Director Gary Easterling

DEADLINE DATES

November 2023 is October 13th

Circulation: electronic

HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

Publisher: Ronald Runyan

Editor: Jim Showers

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kim@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 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

517-220-2747

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LEGION
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RUNYAN'S RAMBLINGS



Ron Runyan
Department Adjutant

The national dues for the year 2025 are scheduled to increase, and this change is set to take effect

on July 1st, 2024. This information suggests that members or organizations affected by these dues should be prepared for the higher fees starting from that date. It's advisable to discuss details on the specific changes and how they may impact you or your post.

The Department is not planning to increase your dues by the full \$5 initially proposed. Instead, they are considering a partial increase of \$2.50. To cover the remaining increase in dues, they plan to allocate funds from the newspaper portion of the dues. This decision appears to be a response to a prior decision by the National organization, which has led the Department to take this action earlier than originally expected.

This information suggests that while dues will increase, it won't be as substantial as initially anticipated due to the Department's efforts to mitigate the impact on members. It's essential to stay informed about the details of this proposed resolution and how it might affect your membership or participation in the organization.

Indeed, it's crucial to be well-informed about any potential changes in dues structures, especially if your post is considering an increase. Early discussions and planning can help members prepare for any financial adjustments and ensure transparency in the decision-making process. It's also an opportunity to gather input from members and assess the impact of the proposed changes on the organization's financial health and member satisfaction. Effective communication and collaboration during this process can lead to a smoother transition and better member understanding of the reasons behind the changes.

Membership & Post Activities



Dan Cooper
1st Vice Commander

It has been two months since the Department Convention and this year's membership has taken off like a rocket ship. September 13 was the 50% membership deadline; we already have 11 of our 15 Districts above the 50% mark. The 19th District was the first to achieve this goal; congratulations, Commander Bob Wallin, for leading the way.

October 18 is the 55% deadline. Many Districts, 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 19th are over the 55% mark. Keep up the good work.

The Ford Motor Company Post 173 has already achieved 100% of its goal. Congratulations to Post Commander Craig Tillman and his team for this achievement.

If you need help or training with membership, please let me know, and the membership team will come to you and provide the training you need. I have been setting up a schedule to attend meetings in each District and can answer any questions you may have. Please attend your district meetings and share your successes.

Many membership awards are available for you to earn, and I want to give away as many as possible. Please check the membership tab on the website for the awards you can earn.

We are currently in 21st place at National. Let's all work together to get Michigan to the top with 110%!

Keep Americanism Alive



Wayne Blank
2nd Vice Commander

I hope everyone had a great summer and a great fall Conference, but now it's time to get Busy. The American Legion programs are upon us.

The registration dates have all been set, and final registration dates for applying for some programs are coming up quickly.

Our programs are at full speed ahead this year and ready to go. Now, Posts need to get ready to implement these Legion programs

The first program is Junior Shooting Sports. September 1 was the opening day for registration.

November 1 is the final date to register teams. Oratorical is the next program, and the final date to register for it is December 1. Law officer and Firefighter of the year applications are due by January 8

The Law Officer of the Year must be in by January 8, and the Firefighter of the Year is on the same date. The student trooper's final date is not until May 10.

Brewer and Wilson scholarship applications are due by January 22, 2024. Eagle Scout of the Year is due by March 1, 2024. Nominations for Teacher of the Year are due by April 1st.

Please take this information and work with your post to promote the Americanism Programs in your Community.

Click here to go directly to [Programs.](#)

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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 \$12 for member to receive the publication.

District Meetings

First District

Meetings start at 1 pm.

October 15, 2023

American Legion Post 32
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

November 19, 2023

American Legion Post 147
100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

January 21, 2024

Knights of Columbus Post 390
19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI . 49152

February 18, 2024

American Legion Post 32
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

April 21, 2024

American Legion Post 147
100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

May 19, 2024

Knights of Columbus Post 390
19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48152

June 16, 2024

American Legion Post 32
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

July 21, 2024

American Legion Post 147
100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

Second District

Meetings start at 11 am with the SAL followed by the Riders at Noon with a Lunch VSO starts at 1 pm and Legion meetings are at 2 pm.

October 8th, 2023

Dexter Post 557
8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd. Dexter, MI 48130
734.426.4511

January 14, 2024

Post 514 Ida
11601 Lewis Ave. Temperance, MI 48182
734.854.5910

March 10, 2024

Post 550 Onstead
333 Connor St, Onsted, MI 49265
517.467.0191

May 19, 2024

Jackson- Rose City Post 324
1190 Falahee Rd. Jackson, MI 49203
517.662.3387

Third District

Meetings Officers at 11:30 am, Lunch is at 12pm, and Business at 1:00 pm. Training will take place once the meeting is adjourned.

November 12, 2023

Battle Creek Post 298
228 N 20th St. Battle Creek, MI

January 7, 2024

Charlotte Post 42
1000 W. Lawrence Hwy. Charlotte, MI

March 3, 2024

Battle Creek Post 298
228 N 20th St. Battle Creek, MI

May 5, 2024 TBD

Fourth District

Service officers training at 11:00 am Dinner at 12:30 pm Meetings at 1:30 pm.

November 5, 2023

Constantine

269-5357188

January 7, 2024

Dorr
269-281-2133

March 3, 2024

Bangor
269-301-3549

May 5, 2024

Hastings
269-331-0623

Fifth District

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Dinner @ 5:30 pm and Meeting @ 7 pm. For more information.

TBA

Sixth District

Service Officer School at 11:10 am (when scheduled), Lunch at Noon, Meetings at 1 pm

November 12, 2023

Bernard A. Bendle Post 294
3440 Morrish Road Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-7333

January 14, 2024

Devereaux Post 141
3265 W Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48855
517-546-2534

March 10, 2024

Pinckney Memorial Post 419
9807 Whitewood Road Pinckney, MI 48169

January 14, 2024

Buck-Reasoner Post 238
1785 Cedar Street Holt, Michigan 48842

Seventh District

Lunch at 12:30 with meetings at 2:00

October 8, 2023

Sebewaing post #293
8255 Unionville rd, (m-25)

January 8, 2024

lapeer post #16
1701 W. Genesee

March 10, 2024

Vassar post #15
651 State rd; (M-15)

May 19, 2024

Lapeer post #16
1701 W. Genesee

Eighth District

Trainings will start at Noon, Dinner at 1:00pm with Legion and Auxiliary meetings immediately following.

November 19, 2023

Saginaw Post 439
5190 Weiss St. 989-792-2000

January 21, 2024

Owosso Post 57
201 E. Mason St. 989-723-4046

March 17, 2024

Carson City Post 380
121 N. Mercantile St. 989-584-2455

May 19, 2024

Greenville Post 101
1320 W. Washington St. 616-754-5063

Nineth District

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

December 2, 2023

Post 381
Croton, MI

March 9, 2024 Post 76

Ludington, MI

May 11, 2024 Post 69

Whitehall, MI

Tenth District

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

November 4, 2023

St. Helens, Post 416

January 6, 2024

Sandford, Post 443

March 2, 2024

Morely, Post 554

May 4, 2024

Luzerne, Post 162

Eleventh District

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

October 14th, 2023

Gladstone Post 71
802 Delta Ave
Gladstone Mi, 49837
906-428-1050

Future meetings details TBD

Twelfth District

Social hour at 10 am, meetings at 11 am, & Lunch following.

Early December, 2023

Ironwood Post 5
320 E McLeod Ave
Ironwood, MI 49938

Future meetings details TBD

Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm.

October 10, 2023*

Riverview 389
734-767-3786

November 14, 2023

Flat Rock Post 337

December 12, 2023

* Southgate Post 478

January 9, 2024*

Stitt Post 232

February 13, 2024*

Fort Dearborn 364

March 12, 2024

Wyandotte 217

April 9, 2024*

Trenton Post 426

May 14, 2024**

Lincoln Park Post 67

313-388-2088

June 11, 2024

Garden City Post 396

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 p.m

TBA

Nineteenth District

Meetings will be held at the Gaylord Bowling Center, 1200 Gornick Ave, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Meetings start with 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.

2024 Membership: October 1st Goal = 54,119
Current Total: 30,515-56.39%

3rd District Report



Sonja Patrick
3rd District Commander

A new year in the American Legion has begun, and with it comes new opportunities. We have a highly energetic and motivated group of District Officers who look

forward to serving all Veterans in Eaton, Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch, and Hillsdale counties. Our District meetings this year will be shorter, with training after each meeting. Our next meeting is at Post 298 in Battle Creek on November 12. District Officers will meet at 11:30 am, lunch at noon, and the meeting will be at 1 pm. All meetings will also be available on Zoom. Follow the Michigan Legion District 3 Facebook page or email me at michiganlegiondistrict3@gmail.com for access to Zoom.

I'd like to welcome our three new SAL squadrons chartered at Post 36 (Kalamazoo), Post 55 (Albion), and Post 156 (Montgomery). This year, we will also welcome the American Legion National Oratorical Contest, which will be held at Hillsdale College from now on. Participants and their families will be arriving in our District from all over the country. Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact me.

I just attended the inaugural Touch a Truck at Post 298, where over \$1,300 was raised for Talons Out and over \$300 was raised just from the dunk tank. The Auxiliary, and the SAL showed up to help make this a special day for kids. Plus, the business owners and Springfield Fire Department were all very interactive with the kids. This was a great learning experience and a day of fun for the entire family.

Marshall Post 79 just finished volunteering an entire week at the Calhoun County Fair. A new Post is being chartered in Kalamazoo (Post 420). If you are interested in helping them get their feet off the ground, please contact me.

I have begun making phone calls and sending emails to our Veteran members. I intend to see these men and women receive the care they have earned through the VA (if eligible). I also want to make sure that no Veteran is homeless or struggling with physical or mental stressors. I also want to ensure you see the value behind your membership in the American Legion. If you have a concern or suggestion, please reach out to me. I can't fix something if I don't know it's broken. You are also invited to attend our District meetings and speak with me. I will never turn a Veteran away or make you feel like you don't matter. Remember, this organization belongs to you. The possibilities are endless as to what you can do in the American Legion, and it's up to all of us to keep following the founding principles behind the American Legion so that we will continue to be a strong advocate for the rights of all Veterans for generations to come. I can be reached at 517-231-1818. Thank you for all you do to serve.

Zone 1 Report



Robert Kamin
1st Zone Commander

I hope this finds everyone in good health. As we prepare for the holiday season, please remember the veterans who do not have family or are shut in

due to health reasons. Don't wait till the week before the holiday. Start reaching out now, phone call or even go by their residence. Spend some time and see if there is anything that they need. If your post is doing a Thanksgiving or a Christmas dinner, make sure you invite them. If they cannot get out of the house, ask if you can bring them dinner. Maybe some of the veterans need a ride. See if someone can pick them up and bring them. If you have a young veteran family in a tight spot, get with your Auxiliary, S.A.L., and Riders to chip in and help them out. We need to look out for those veterans that need it.

I have been asked multiple times by people, "Why do you spend all your time doing the things that you do?" My answer is always the same: if we do not look out for each other, who will? I would like to wish Everyone a Happy Veterans Day and Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Zone 2 Report



Duane Miller
2nd Zone Commander

Greetings, Zone 2 members. By now, every district has held a September meeting and hopefully had good attendance. The membership numbers

are coming along as of 13 September: 3rd District is at 51,917, 4th District is at 48,782, and 5th District is at 49,765. The next goal is 18 October at 55 percent. Please don't sit on renewals. If you use mylegion.org, please try to do it every few days to keep the numbers growing. If you are not using mylegion, you can keep submitting to Deanna by mail or dropping off in person. Either way, keep up the good work you do at your posts. My email:

duane.miller54@yahoo.com,
and my cell is 517.256.0298.

Hopefully, all that attended the Fall Conference came home with some new information and learned new ideas or procedures for your post to adapt. The Fall meeting is for education of importance to every post. This is the time to ask questions, network with others and find new ideas that might work for you and your posts. Consider traveling to one in the future and try these meetings and see what new things you can learn. Even if just attending for the day would be a benefit to you.

You may have heard this before, but all posts should review their constitution and by-laws to ensure they are up to date. It seems time passes quickly, and these documents easily become outdated. Maybe you have heard next membership year, National has voted in a \$5 increase. If your dues amount is in your by-laws, now is the time to update and remove this item. Updating by-laws takes a few months to complete and then submit to the State Judge Advocate for approval.

Again, thank you all for what you do.

According to the National organization, starting this fall or close to the end of the year, members will be able to Renew their dues membership for multiple years. You can continue to

renew for only one year, but there is going to be an option to renew your dues for up to three years at once.

Why is this important? Yes, National is raising their dues! Your Post may be raising dues, too! So, if you ACT NOW, you can renew your dues at the current rate up to three (3) years. Members who have already renewed their dues can add up to two more years on top of the current year. And Paid Up For Life is always the best way to save on future increases **800-433-3318**.

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**NEW MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL INCENTIVE**



AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

October 2023



Kim Champion
Department President
2023-2024

It has been a very interesting adventure since the Department Convention. I could only attend a few days at the National Convention because I became a Grandmother again. It was very hot in North Carolina. The newly elected national President is Lisa Williamson from Alaska. The National Vice President, Trisha Ward, is from the Department of Iowa, and Carol T. Robinson was selected as the Central Division Vice President, is from the Department of Ohio.

Fall Conference has come and gone. What fun we had with our theme, "Champions for our Veterans with PTSD." My special Project is the PTSD Foundation of America.

I hope everyone who came learned a lot and had fun. I want to thank all the chairpeople who presented their programs at the fall conference and our honorary Junior President for presenting her program, Guardian Angel Dogs. As she has stated many times, if we save one veteran's life, then it is worth the cost.

District Presidents and those who attended, please remember to share the information you received. Let's not keep it a secret. Our programs and our organization depend on communication. Please remember to promote the "Be the One" and the Veterans Hotline 998. With the uptick in veteran suicide, we must do our part to help prevent these from happening.

Did you know?

- 60% of veterans who die by suicide have not been seen by the VA in the past two years.
- Family members have a 35% greater risk for anxiety-related disorders
- Military suicides have risen to unprecedented levels
- Active-duty suicides rates increased in 2023 vs. the same time period in 2022
- 70% of suicide deaths are firearms-related, and 90-95% of those are successful
- All other methods are a mere 5% successful
- Reduced access to lethal methods decreases suicide rates
- About 90% of people who survive a suicide attempt do not die by suicide later
- 30% increase in suicide in the United States in the last 25 years
- Each death by suicide affects an estimated 135 individuals
- 70% of suicide deaths happen within one hour from first thought to action
- Building time between the impulse and the act to harm oneself can save a life

"IT'S OK TO SAY YOU'RE NOT OK!" BE THE ONE. Ask Veterans in your life how they are doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk. Reach out when you think a veteran might be struggling.

These are some of the statistics we learned at the National Convention. We need to change how people feel about asking for help and Mental Health support. This starts with changing your attitude about suicide. Be the One to make a change, Be the one to reach out, Just Be the One. Sometimes, a phone call just to say, "Hey, how's it going?"

Now let's remember to also be the champions in membership before our deadlines. Sara, our new staff at the Department handling membership, is working diligently on all the transmittals and trying her best to keep on top of membership this year. Shyllynn Jones, our Department Membership Chairperson, hopes that we will be the Champion in membership at the end of the year. Although we ask each unit to gain at least one member (Champion Foals), don't stop there. You can Recruit ten members and receive a gift selected by the National Membership Chairperson. Let's not forget about signing up junior members. (Pretty Ponies)

Remember to "Be The One" for our veterans. Check out the guides on our Department Page. I hope to see Michigan in the Winners Circle this year as we race to be the Champion for our Veterans.

So Long Summer - Hello Fall!



Shannon Werner
Executive Director,
Secretary and Treasurer

The summer rushed by as we honored our Veterans and the fallen. We volunteered, assisted and supported. There were so many opportunities across our State to participate in Auxiliary and Legion events while raising money to assist our Veterans, children and youth, and communities. There were parades, euchre tournaments, fish fry nights, soup and salad bars, car shows, etc. Please seek out these events, meet new folks and visit new areas.

As announced at the Fall Conference, the PUFL credits have been processed and completed. I am working on dues paid online from May 2023 to June 30, 2023. I have already begun getting the new 2023-2024 Guides uploaded to our website, www.michalaux.org. The unloading and unpacking process takes a bit, so I am still getting situated back at the Department.

Sara and I are working on the format of the Membership Reports and hope to get those posted on the website this week for your information. I appreciate each of you who brought concerns, questions and suggestions to me during the Fall Conference in Muskegon. We can't get better unless we share information and ideas. Thank you!

American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

Kathleen Copeland, Chairperson

Mission: "To provide temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and to promote awareness and knowledge of the program."

In June, I was listening to the news. I couldn't help but hear the weather reports across our Country of tornados day after day and the many people adversely affected. June 15, in Michigan, Monroe County, a tornado EF-1 left crops damaged by hail, and in Texas, an EF-2 tornado. I hoped the many affected were members of the American Legion Auxiliary and knew we had a means to possibly assist them.

Then, on August 25, 2023, 7 Tornados of EF-I magnitude hit Southeast Michigan, with five dead. Wayne, Monroe and Kent Counties were EF-I and Ingham, and Livingston Counties started as EF-1 and upgraded to EF-2. This is just Michigan, and more weather-related damage and power outages have affected so many more for days.

Weather and other miscellaneous actions have wreaked havoc all over our Country and the world at

large. We were horrified by the burning in Maui and the hundred deaths and so many missing. A community is devastated. Now, bring in the wild-fires, torrential rains and collapsing roads, flooding and power outages, changing many lives, including those in Michigan. Let us add to these tornados and hurricanes in the south and on the east coast.

It may be the financial impact that affects many involved in these situations. Can we be there for our Auxiliary members? Can we help those who have looked at other places for assistance? Can we be there for a hand-up and not a handout? Hopefully, your donations today may never be needed by you, but if you need to turn to AEF, it will be here for you because of your support.

It is imperative that we work harder than ever on our AEF fundraisers to get these funds collected and turned into our National organization so that we can assist our Auxiliary families. We never know if it will help our members, neighbors or ourselves. Our members seeking assistance may have a Veteran or a junior in their home, and by helping the member, we are helping them. Those

of us who are fine and able to keep this worthwhile fund growing need to give a little more, and many hands will make the work lighter for others. Encourage your members to pay their dues in a timely manner.

There are Awards. With your single or monthly donations to AEF totaling \$100 or more annually, you will receive a "Members Helping Members" lapel pin to proudly display your support. These donations need to be sent directly to National, not through the Department. ALA Department and Unit Annual Awards are the Unit Award: Awarded to the unit contributing the largest amount (per capita) between October 1 and June 1. The Department Award: Awarded to the Department contributing the largest amount between October 1 and June 1. The Department Award: Awarded to the Department contributing the largest amount (per capita) between October 1 and June 1.

THE BEST NEWS EVER, THE GRANT IS NOW \$3,000.00.

Education is the Key to Success

Kim Lipman, Education Chairperson

Hi everyone! I'm Kim Lipman, and I am your Education Chairperson this year. I am very excited about this appointment. The committee will be Bonnie Schuitema and Molly Lynch. We will be working very closely to ensure that we have an awesome year.

Besides the scholarships, we will promote the Give 10 to Education project this year. Our theme is "Be a friend, give 10 to Education". I would like to see as many Units participate in this program as possible. It's simple and easy. Look for more information at Fall Conference 2023.

A simple question to ask yourself – What does education mean to me? Education is a lifelong process of learning and

acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that contribute to personal growth and development. Some of the key elements are empowerment, opportunity, and social development. Education empowers individuals by providing them with the tools to understand the world, make informed decisions and take control of their lives. Education is often seen as a pathway to better opportunities in life. It opens doors to higher-paying jobs and career advancements. Education also plays a crucial role in shaping responsible and engaged citizens by instilling values such as empathy, tolerance, and respect for diversity.

Along with the basic education our children get, these values need to be introduced to them starting in grade school so that, hopefully, they will be better prepared for their studies and everyday life by the time they reach high school.

There is strength in numbers! The more we get involved with our children's education and teach them the values of everyday life, the more impact it will have on the success of their adult lives.

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

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

Constitution and Bylaws

Sharon Schulte, Chairperson

The Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules are necessary to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of your Unit operations. In Michigan, each Unit is required to accept the Uniform Unit Constitution and Uniform Unit Bylaws. The most current version can be found on the Department website (www.michalaux.org). All Units should have a copy readily available at all Unit meetings for reference should the need arise. Please take some time at a Unit meeting to review the contents of these documents. These fundamental rules of our organization state how our membership agrees to govern itself and guarantee we are not in conflict with the requirements of the Department or National organizations.

Your Unit Standing Rules delineate the processes by which your Unit will be administered. When and where will your Unit meetings be held? When and how elections will be held? What are your annual dues, and do you have a separate initiation fee? Detailed information about your financial structure- these are a few items to include.

These documents supply continuity to Unit operations. They help organize Unit activities and provide a resource when questions arise and clarification is needed. They allow every member to know what is expected and keep them on the same page.

Because of the importance of these documents, they need to be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary. Keeping your governing documents up to date and making them available to all members is vital to a healthy organization that functions as a team to support our veterans, military, and their families. If there are no changes, send the "No Change" to the Chairperson for the file. The form can be found on the website in the Constitution and Bylaws Guide. When your Unit does vote to revise its Standing Rules, before they can take effect, please send three copies, correctly signed, to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairperson for review and approval.

Donation for the IXL Museum



Unit 340 Auxiliary from Hermansville handing over a donation check to the IXL museum in Hermansville. Pictures are Marilyn Popp, Lynda Gurgall, and Ella Gurgall of Auxiliary presenting to Barb Peters, President of the IXL museum.

Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System

Krystal Hall, ALA VAVS Representative

Due to the COVID-19 situation(s), a 'typical' annual report with detailed figures could not be compiled as in previous years. On-site Volunteering was discontinued in mid-March of 2020. In January of 2023, restrictive levels of volunteer involvement had been permitted, and starting in June, Volunteers are allowed within the medical center, but actual volunteer involvement is still low. Although on-site Volunteer involvements have been limited, there is much to report from the Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center.

Since 1953, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has provided state-of-the-art healthcare services to the men and women who have proudly served our nation. The Department of Veterans Affairs designated the Ann Arbor Medical Center as a 1A facility, the highest level of complexity of care. Neurosurgery, coronary artery bypass, and laparoscopic surgeries are examples of the sophisticated level of care provided at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center. The facility includes state-of-the-art ambulatory care clinics, operating rooms, a cardiac catheterization suite, intensive care units, laboratory, and diagnostic services.

The Ann Arbor System, with the main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor and with clinics in Canton, Jackson, Flint, Lansing, and Toledo, has serviced over 78,300 Veterans living in a 15-county area of Michigan and Ohio during the past fiscal year. The main hospital in Ann Arbor is a referral center for specialty care and operates 114 acute care beds and 40 Community Living Center beds. Over 681,350 outpatient visits were made, and more than 5,234 inpatients were provided in the hospital and extended care center.

The American Legion Auxiliary is one of 39 service organizations that volunteer at and support the Veteran needs in the Ann Arbor System. We are privileged to serve Veteran healthcare needs in any way we can. Due to COVID-19, many of the Auxiliary Member involvement/activities have been greatly reduced. Although on-site visits were/are restricted, Michigan Auxiliary Units continue to provide monetary and in-kind donations.

VAAHS is active in several programs. Some are presented here: the campaign to end Veteran Homelessness; Veteran Justice Outreach, Telehealth Clinics; My HealthyVet web-access services and information for veterans; Click 2 Benefits; #BeThere, a program to help prevent Veteran suicide; and No Veteran Dies Alone. This past December, the Center hosted its tenth annual Baby Shower event via drive-through.

Auxiliary members from the 2nd and 18th Districts continue participating in the Annual Gift Shop. Overall, Auxiliary Units were generous with cash and in-kind donations totaling \$6,688; special need donations such as flat-screen TVs, Microwaves, and iPads for patients to communicate with families/friends. Finally, our annual Father's Day program was canceled.

Since opening in 2020, The Fisher House has hosted over 3,900 veteran families, with the average stay being 4 and the longest of 53 days. The Fisher House is a beautiful home away from home that provides high-quality, temporary lodging to families and caregivers of Veterans and Servicemembers undergoing care at the VA facilities. I was proud to attend the Fisher House's Dedication Ceremony on September 23 and be one of the Volunteers who assisted in the tours/walk-throughs at the first Open House on June 27 for the VA Medical Center staff members.

The goal will be to provide the best care and support for our country's veterans and to support the VAAHS programs. As I complete my tenth year as the Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary appointed representative, one of my goals continues to be gathering donations to support the needs of the Fisher House in Ann Arbor and to have a successful Gift Shop. 2023 is tentatively planned for November 28 - 29th at the AA VA--overjoyed to be 'back' on-site.

Another goal for this year will be to increase the number of ALA volunteers (both in Ann Arbor and Toledo) and to increase volunteer opportunities within the VA /clinics. I suspect the volunteer involvement will challenge recruiting new and returning volunteers in the coming year; I welcome that challenge.

In closing, I am honored—and humbled—to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated staff, volunteers, and other supporters, including 'my Deputy' Ethel Putala. Thanks, Ethel, for all you do. Here at the Ann Arbor VA Health System, we service and support our Veterans.

Chaplains Corner

Norman Soli
Department Chaplain



On December 2, 1863, the following words were contained in a letter written by President Abraham Lincoln, "Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his Country's cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause..."

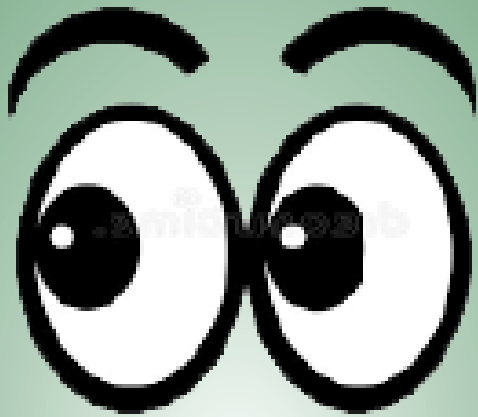
In reading these words of President Lincoln, I consider this a directive that applies to all ages. Specifically, the part that says to give honor to those who bravely bore their Country's cause. On August 9 of this year, I met with Don Moody, Chaplain of Post 29 in Jackson. With him was his wife, Marge Moody, a member of Post 29 Auxiliary. We assembled at Legacy Assisted Living to recognize Ed Klum, a Navy veteran.

The ceremony we had for Mr. Klum only lasted 10 minutes. Still, he was very appreciative of our time and the Navy lapel pin and certificate recognizing his honorable service from the American Legion. I've spoken with several Legionnaires who belong to Posts' who have similar ceremonies for veterans. I would like to encourage all Posts' to adopt and implement such programs to honor those who put their lives on hold to serve their Country.

Consider the following passage in the New Testament. Romans 13:7, "Give everyone what you owe him: if you owe taxes pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." Perhaps President Lincoln had read this passage, which inspired him to write the above-mentioned letter. Nonetheless, these are two important sources that instruct us to respect and honor our fellow veterans.

In closing, let us not forget to give the highest praise and honor to the Great Commander of us all. He is the Creator of all that is seen and unseen, Who is worthy of all honor and glory now and forever.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR



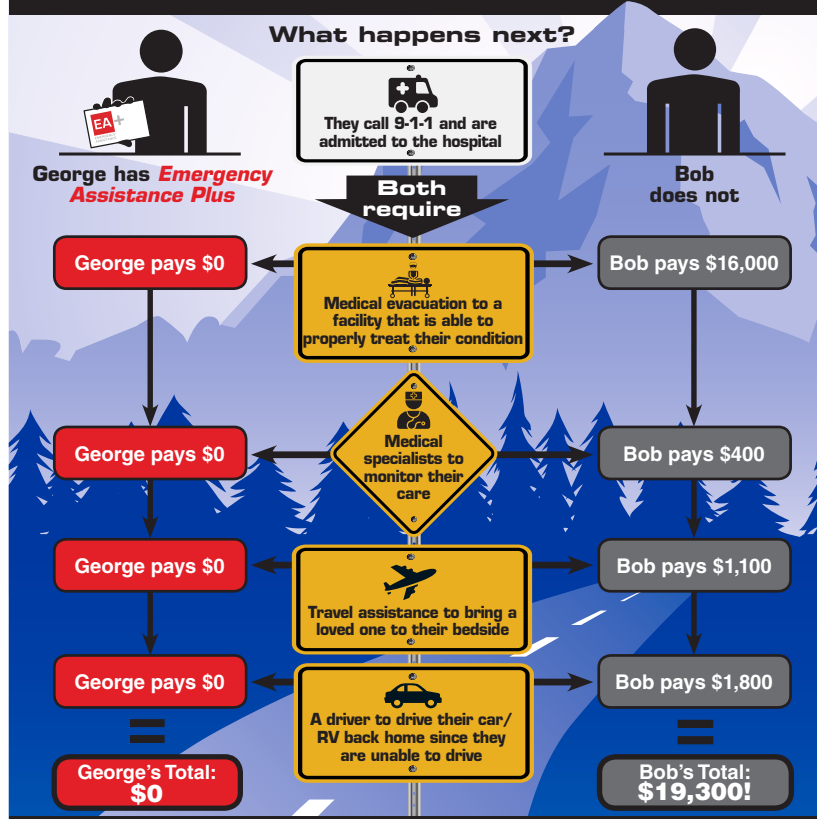
NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INCENTIVE

According to the National organization, starting this fall or close to the end of the year, members will be able to Renew their dues membership for multiple years. You can continue to renew for only one year, but there is going to be an option to renew your dues for up to three years at once.

Why is this important? Yes, National is raising their dues! Your Post may be raising dues, too! So, if you ACT NOW, you can renew your dues at the current rate up to three (3) years. Members who have already renewed their dues can add up to two more years on top of the current year.

What if you were Bob?

George and Bob both go on a solo fishing trip to a beautiful, but remote, town in Alaska every summer. While enjoying the idyllic scenery, they both notice chest pains — they are having a heart attack!



Emergency Assistance Plus is an emergency medical transportation service that goes beyond health and travel insurance. It covers expenses for medical transportation, medical evacuation and travel and companion assistance — services that your insurance usually does NOT pay for. You must call EA+ during your emergency so EA+ can make the arrangements for you. **This is only an outline of the plan's features. Please read your Member Benefits Guide carefully to understand all the services available to you, as well as any terms, conditions and limitations. Learn more about how you can be protected by EA+. Call today to speak with a customer service representative at 1-888-310-1547. Or to apply online, visit www.thelit.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus

INTERESTED IN A PUFL?

Paid Up For Life-800-433-3318



Charlotte was humid! Victor Fisher, Marilyn Britten walking to the SAL General Session.



Past President and PDC Dubai at the Michigan Party



Earl Ruttkofski, PDC Marilyn Britten and Past Detachment Commander Victor Fisher after presentation of the "Triple Nickel"



Commander Mohlman Promoting his Special Project. "Make a \$20 Donation to Fisher House Detroit, and get his Challenge Coin as a gift!"





Keynote Speaker Kenny Thomas performs the National Anthem



Detachment National Security and Foreign Affairs Chairman Dave Mennel



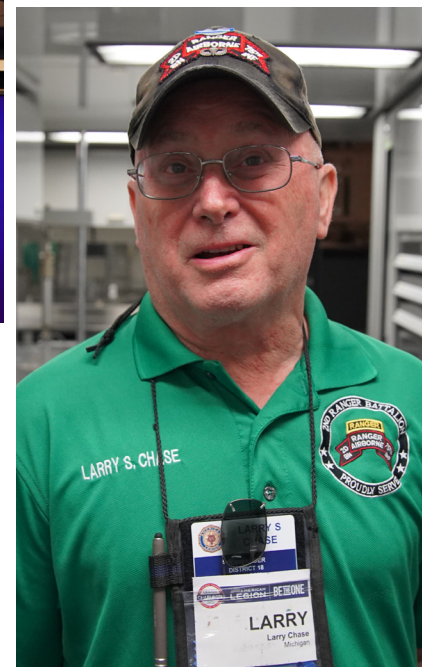
PDC Larry Money is ready to race during the Michigan Party inside the NASCAR Hall of Fame



PDC Marilyn Britten, Jim Austin and PDC James Wallace Presenting Legacy Rider's Donation of \$83,916



The Next Generation of the SAL



More Pictures at michiganlegion.org/natconv2023/



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

JOHN BEEMAN

Detachment Commander 2023-2024



It is still a great privilege and honor to be your Detachment Commander. I could not attend the National Convention in North Carolina due to a previous engagement, but I am very proud to hear our Detachment of Michigan won seven national awards. The Detachment membership is at an all-time high, with over 26,000 members. So, my hat goes off to every one of you that made it possible. It would not have happened without each and every one of you, from the officers to the committee chairmen and to you, the blue cappers. It shows that if we work together, we are much stronger, and we can get more done to help our Legion Family help our nation's veterans!!!

I have been to several events since the last issue, from squadron meetings steak dinners, car shows, golf outings, parades, and memorial rides. I am doing whatever I can to promote the Legion Family and show unity in our organization. Until we meet again, or you read the next issue, remember we get more done working

together.

For God and Country
Your Detachment Commander

DENNIS LARSON HONORED BY GOVERNOR WHITMER



Left to right- Governor Whitmer, Barb Larson, Dennis Larson

Governor Whitmer was on hand to present a very special award at the U.P. State Fair to Sons of The American Legion 5th Zone Commander Dennis Larson of Squad #50 Iron Mountain.

The Veterans Support Recognition Award was presented as part of the Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year program. Larson was recognized for his over 36 years of membership in the Sons of the American Legion at the Squad level and as past State Detachment Commander. Dennis has served the U.P. Veterans at the Oscar Johnson VA Hospital as a volunteer for over 25 years and over 540 Hours as the State Representative on the Hospital Committee. Dennis has done food and clothing drives, plus many other fundraisers for the American Legion Post #50 and V.F.W. Post 3674. He was instrumental in starting the Dickinson County Hockey Association and did volunteer fundraising for the present-day hockey arena.

Dennis is a guiding light in spending 18 years fundraising and building the Upper Peninsula Veterans Memorial on top of Pine Mountain at the base of the Ski Jump, which has become a major tourist attraction for Dickinson County and the City of Iron Mountain. Not only has he sacrificed his own time, but he has also assured us that there is enough money to make sure the memorial will continue long after he is gone.

PAST DETACHMENT CAMMANDER FISHER GREET'S LEGACY RUN

The 2023 Legacy Run took place August 20-24, 2023. Starting at American Legion Post 6 in Kokomo, IN and ending at Hendrick Motorsports Campus in Concorde, NC. The Legacy Run made stops at various locations along the route. On day two, the riders stopped at American Legion Post 396 Garden City, MI, the very first Legion Rider Post.



PDC Marilyn Britten, SAL National Commander Christopher Carlton, Past Detachment Commander Fisher at the birthplace of The American Legion Riders, Otto Miller Jr, Post 396 Garden City Michigan



Victor Fisher with one of the founding riders Chuck "Tramp" Dare

DETACHMENT SCORES SEVEN NATIONAL AWARDS INCLUDING

THE TRIPLE NICKEL



Victor Fisher
Past Detachment
Commander

I hope this article finds everyone well. I had the pleasure to represent over 26,000 SAL members at our 51st National Convention as our Delegate Chairman. This year's convention was held in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was an amazing weekend, which began Friday evening through Sunday. I want first to thank my son, our Detachment SGT-at-Arms, who accompanied me on the trip. I also want to thank my brother, Zone 1 Commander Greg Price, who made the trip to support us and the convention. Also, thanks to Zone 2 Commander Todd Van Damn for filling in as Delegate Secretary for the Convention, sitting in for Commander Beeman, who had a prior commitment. The opening for the convention was Friday Night, during which our Detachment Of Michigan won 2 awards: the first was for the National Legacy Scholarship Regional Donation Award for achieving the highest Detachment donation in the Central Region. The second award was the National Emergency Fund Regional Per Capita Award, achieving the highest Detachment per capita donation in the Central Region.

On Saturday, I am happy to announce that our Detachment won 5 membership awards. We won the following awards:

- 1) First Quota Detachment Regional Membership Award, in recognition of being the first Detachment in the Central Region to achieve 100% of its goal.
- 2) 90% Renewal Membership Award for achieving and exceeding 90% in membership renewals.
- 3) National Renewal Percentage Regional Membership Award, recognition of having the highest renewal percentage in the Central Region.
- 4) Arthur D. Houghton Category V, for achieving the largest increase in membership from the previous year.
- 5) Triple Nickel Award for achieving all three membership goals of 105% Membership, Chartering five new Squadrons and 85% membership renewal.

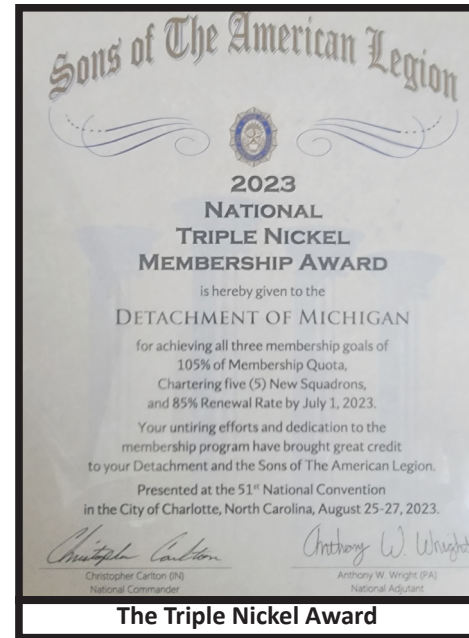
I want to thank you for helping us achieve these great awards. I am proud of all the awards, especially the Triple Nickel Award. Our Detachment had never won the Triple Nickel in the past. It's also unheard of for a Detachment of our size to win it. The Detachment finished at 107.1 % Membership 91.7 % Renewal rate—7 new Squadrons. I also want to thank PDC Marilyn Britten and PNC Earl Ruttkofsky for accompanying me on stage to receive The Triple Nickel Award. Shout out to SAL member Jim Showers from the Department, who took pictures on Saturday.

Remember, membership is the lifeline of our organization. Thanks to all the Blue Cappers who helped achieve our goals. If you signed up one member or 50, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Speaking of signing up new members, I would love to acknowledge 2 of our members. These two members signed up over 30 new members and will receive Blue Brigade jackets. The two gentlemen are Robert Bunton from Squadron 217 Wyandotte. And John Pickard from Gladstone, Squadron 71 in the Upper Peninsula. John also helped start two new squadrons in the U.P. Great job to both men. Also, thanks to all the Zone, District and Squadron Commanders who pushed membership all year. I also want to thank Deanna Clark from the department. Deanna did an amazing job processing our membership new squadron applications and communicating and corresponding with National and myself. Tremendous job.

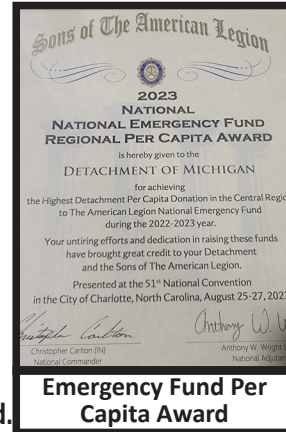
I want to commend the excellent job done by everyone who started a new squadron. There is a lot of work to start one. Great job. We appreciate it. Thanks to all who helped us start 7 new squadrons in 2022-2023.

The Detachment of Michigan is extraordinarily strong. We hit an all-time high of 26,021 in membership, congratulations. I am so proud of our Detachment and our accomplishments this past year. All seven awards will be brought to our Fall Conference D.E.C. in Muskegon so everyone can see them. See everyone at our Fall Conference September 22-24, 2023

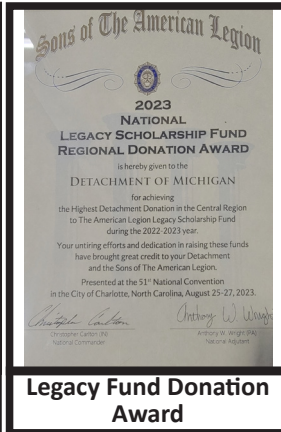
Continue To Be A Guiding Light For Our Veterans,
Victor Fisher



The Triple Nickel Award



Emergency Fund Per Capita Award



Legacy Fund Donation Award



First Quota Award



90% Renewal Award



Renewal Percentage Award



The Arthur D Houghton Award

Zone I Report

Greg Price Commander

Recently, I was with members of the American Legion at the S.A.L. 2023 National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. It was nice to see Past Detachment Commander Victor Fisher looking like Perpetual Motion as he represented Michigan by going to the Main Podium (7) seven times to accept awards that Michigan Sons of The American Legion had been recognized for their outstanding support of the programs to help Veterans and their families.

One of the awards Commander Fisher received was the Triple Nickel, an award that consists of an increase in Membership - Membership Renewals - and New Squadrons. Out of (50) fifty States and (5) Countries, there were only (6) six of these awards presented to Detachments that had attained those goals. Not only was Michigan (1) one of the (6) Detachments Honored, but it was also the First Time Michigan had ever received this Distinguished Presentation.

I would like to Thank the Squadrons of Districts (1) - (2) - & (16) that make up the 1st Zone for their efforts in helping to make those membership goals possible.

Another amazing event that happened in the 16th District was the Legion Riders on the American Legion Legacy Run visit to the Garden City Otto Miller Post #396 to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the American Legion Riders at the Post where it was founded. As the over 300 motorcycles arrived at the Post, they were excited to see our community's support by their Cheering - flag-waving - and Smiling Faces. Not only did the Post welcome them with Honors, but also a delicious meal before presenting them with a check for \$10,000.00 to support their program. The riders also wanted to meet the 19 founding members of the Legion Riders. There were 11 of us there 8 of the founding members have passed away. It was exciting to enjoy the camaraderie that everyone felt.

THE HERMANSVILLE SAL DONATES TO THE IXL MUSEUM



L-R Barb Peters , Chad Knodl, Marilyn Popp

The Floriano-Stecker-Kelly Squadron out of Hermansville presented The IXL Museum a check during IXL vintage days.



American Legion Auxiliary

MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY EXPLAINED

RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN:



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

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

TWO PATHS FOR ALA ELIGIBILITY

PATH ONE

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



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

PATH TWO

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



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

For more information, visit www.ALforVeterans.org

THE FREEDOM TORCH FALL OUTING FREE EVENT FOR ALL SCOUTS

Activities:

- *Flag Etiquette
- *Flag Retirement
- *Honor Guard Training
- *Team Building Challenges
- *Rope Challenges
- *Obstacle Course
- *Games
- *Stories with Veterans

Free Camping Sites

Water Available

Generators OK

NO PETS ALLOWED



October 13-15, 2023

Register at www.wilwinlodge.com/scouting

Registration ends 10/6 & space is limited to 120 scouts

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3383 W. Hawley Rd, Custer MI

231-757-0140 231-742-6614

Wilwinscoutmaster1193@gmail.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2023 FALL CONFERENCE SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS !!

GRAND PRIZE \$5,000

L. Silvestri, St Clair Shores, MI

2ND PRIZE \$1,500

J. Mondrella, Rodney, MI

3rd Prize \$1,000

M. Walsh, Wyandotte, MI

4th Prize \$500

J. Garcia, Holt, MI

5th Prize \$500

R. Goddard, Harrisville, MI

6th Prize \$500

C. Ekrot, Lapeer, MI

7th Prize \$500

D. Compton, Lincoln Park, MI

8th Prize \$500

G. Mize, Canton, MI

9th Prize \$500

J. Farley, Hillsdale, MI

\$100 Prize Winners

M. Putz, Birmingham, MI

E. Roy, West Roxbury, MA

R. Wiseman, Muskegon, MI

R. Rosenberg, Kingsford, MI

C. Jackson, Jackson, MI

R. Luce, Bath, MI

M. Parsley, Algonac, MI

D. Mucha, Dearborn, MI

G. McKinney, Washington Twp, MI

L. Montle, St Johns, MI



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



— Joshua McGinnis, Master of Public Administration

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*GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government website at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill. **Paid ad. No federal endorsement of advertiser(s) intended. Any reference to U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) personnel, products or services does not constitute or imply endorsement by the DoD.

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 558

400 E. Ludington Dr.
Farwell, MI 48622
Hours: Tuesday 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: Wedbesday 8a-4pm

AL Post 76 318, N. James St.

Ludington, MI 49431
Hours: 1st & 3rd Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

AL Post #245

3564 S. Reserve Rd.
Prudenville, MI 48651
Hours: Tuesday 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 9am-2pm

AL Post 305

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

AL Post 443

2080 N. Meridian Rd
Sanford, MI 48657
Hours: 2nd & 4th Thurs 8-4

AL Post 396

6860 Middlebelt Rd,
Garden City, MI 48135
Hours: Friday 8am-4pm

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, Room
104
Gaylord, MI 49735
Hours: Wed, Thur 8am-4pm

Presque Isle County Veterans

151 E. Huron, 3rd flr.
Rogers City, MI 49779
Hours: M,W,Th 9am-4pm

Saginaw VAMC, 1500

Weiss st
Saginaw, MI 48602
Hours: M,T, W- 8am-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 8am-4pm

Wyoming CBOC

5838 Metro Way SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
Hours: Tues 9-2, Th 8-4

Downriver Community

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

Grand Rapids Vet Center 2050

Breton Rd SE Grand Rapids,
MI 49546
Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm
Phone: 616.268.8073

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

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

Call for a Service officer in your area:

833.648.3826 Option 1

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Elizebeth Cuddington
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Thomas Kaiser
Rebecca Lewis
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Patty Breas
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Tommy Simpkins
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Rd, Gwinn, MI 49841
Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

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

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE!

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

HELL TO PARADISE UPDATE

Where did the summer go? Fall is in the air, and temperatures are dropping. As many of us are putting our bikes away for the season, we are just warming up in preparation for this ride.

ALR RIDERS CHALLENGE:

This challenge started when Laingsburg Post ALR 248 donated \$500 to our ride and challenged all other ALRs to join in. Next Baraga ALR Post 444 donated \$501. Not to be outdone, ALR Post 29 Jackson upped the ante to \$1000. ALR Post 3 Sault Ste Marie said the challenge was accepted and donated \$1400. We are so extremely humbled. We know not all posts can donate large amounts. But if you would like to join in anyway, email us at alrhell2paradise@gmail.com or message us on our [Facebook page](#)

Sponsorship updates:

Zip's 45th Parallel Harley Davidson in Gaylord has joined us as a major sponsor. They will be hosting us the night of July 26. Food trucks and entertainment will be on hand. As well as securing our parking and food vendors, they have

also worked with local hotels to get us discounted room rates. We are happy to have them on board and cannot thank them enough for their support.

We now have a website:

Alrhelltoparadise-ptsdride.com

As this prospect grew, we knew we had to expand. Kylie Rinna, CEO and owner of LeadXtreme Digital, contacted us. Kylie has created and will be maintaining this webpage. On this page, you will find the links to sponsors as they keep coming in. Updates and registration links. Thank you, Kylie, for jumping on board.

Registration should be up and running now. We had a few hang-ups, but we are good to go now. Please check the pages for links.

We look forward to updating you along the way and adding more and more information. We are blessed to have the backing we do. Thank you all

In Brotherhood

Scott "Hawk" Igo

REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 PATRIOT DAY

Several Posts from around the state commemorated Patriot Day with special activities.



Ann Arbor Post 46 Wreath Ceremony with Bagpiper Donald Ross of Auburn, MI.



Patriots Day program at Post 28 in Grand Haven had to be moved inside because of poor weather.



Melanie Nau and Executive Board Member Bruce Lowry present a wreath.

Larry Chase and Gary Tanner participated in a Patriot Race at the White Chapel Memorial Park Gardens.



L-R Larry Chase, David Krall White Chapel Memorial Park President and race organizer Doug Stone



Gary Tanner with the "Rosie the Riveters"



Invocation from James Warunek

Erwin Preston Post 46 Celebrates It's 100th Anniversary



Bagpiper & Sea Cadets Posting Colors



Guest Speaker Rebecca Spencer

Erwin Prieskorn American Legion Post 46 recently celebrated its 100th anniversary as a post. On August 30, a dinner was arranged at Washtenaw Community College's Morris Building. Twenty-five tables were sponsored by several different organizations and private donors. Attending were the admin and students of WCC, various American Legion posts, American Legion District 2 members, VFW Post 423, DAV Chapter 13, and other veteran organizations. Special guests included U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell, State of Michigan Jason Morgan, Department Chaplain Norman Soli, and guest speaker Rebecca Spencer, a 20-year Army veteran and former student of WCC.

The ceremonies opened with the Posting of Colors performed by Navy Sea Cadets and preceded by a bagpiper, blessings by Chaplain Bull, Missing Man Table Ceremony, and Taps. After dinner, Rep Dingell, Rep Morgan, and Chaplain Soli presented Proclamations and acknowledgments of our anniversary. Our guest speaker then gave a speech on the four pillars of the Legion. This was followed by Commander Scott Nichols presenting awards to several members of Post 46 and the Veteran Coordinator at WCC. All attendees received a newly minted Post 46 100th anniversary challenge coin. The once-in-a-lifetime event was a huge success. [More Photo's HERE.](#)

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State Rep Jason Morgan & Cmdr Nichols



U.S. Rep Debbie Dingell & Cmdr Nichols



Dept Chaplain Norman Soli & Cmdr Nichols



"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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Around the State...

Saginaw American Legion Blumfield Post 229 delivered a \$ 1,000 check to Director Judy Adams of the "I Support the 1%" Veteran Food Pantry in Frankenmuth, MI, on September 13, 2023. The Post collected the money from the Rummage Sale and Scrap Metal Drive held in August.



L-R: Virgil Norris, Judy Adams, Gary Dietrich, Dan Hanson, Earl Reinbold, Jim Kryz, Larry Prueter and Lloyd Smith.

Charles A. Conklin Post 28 Color Guard Wearing Purple Honoring Those Battling Cancer at the Bucs Pride Soccer Match



L-R Past Commander #93 David MacKellar, Harold Weaver, Past Commander Garrett Veihl, Past Commander Gary Doc Doublestein, 2nd Vice Commander Ole Walter Pedersen, Past Commander #101 John Bilski.

Cole-Briggs Post 48 in Grand Ledge Opens New 'Canopy'



Thank you to the American Legion Riders and to the Bradley Rappuhn Family for making this happen.. Our canopy is ready to be rented out!!

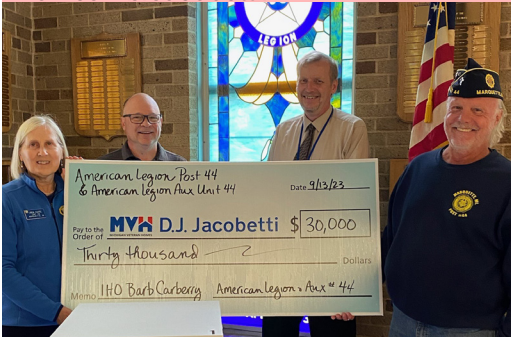


2nd Zone Commander Duane Miller cuts the ribbon on new rental space at Post 48 in Grand Ledge.



L-R: Lynette and Jimmy McKinley Airforce and Marine , at American Legion 216 Annual picnic at Camp Dearborn

The American Legion Post 44 and Auxiliary Unit 44 of Marquette, MI, donated \$30,000 for state-of-the art UV disinfection equipment to Michigan Veteran Homes D.J. Jacobetti.



L-R Linda Kaare Unit 44 President, Cary Lincoln D.J. Jacobetti Director of Nursing, Ron Oja D.J. Jacobetti Administrator, and Commander Leo Smith

Donation in Honor of Barbara G. Carbery who passed in 2021. Barbara served in the U.S. Army Nurses Corp in the 1950s and was Commander of Post 44, President of Unit 44, and in the American Legion Honor Guard.

Boys State Candidate Josh Lyons Visits Post 54 in Battle Creek



Josh Lyons with Post 54's Boys State Coordinator, Joe Blythe

American Legion General Custer Post 54 Welcomes Boys State Candidate. Josh Lyons. Mr. Lyons attends Lakeview High School and is currently a senior; he is still debating how to further his education. Mr. Lyons is contemplating attending West Point.

Scout Support at South Haven Flywheelers



American Legion Post 49 collaborated with Post 160 on September 7th to support local Scouts and their ceremonial disposal of unserviceable American flags service at Flywheelers in South Haven. Each scout is holding 3 polished/mounted shell casings to commemorate the event, produced and awarded at the end of the ceremony by American Legion member John Wallet (standing second from right).

Holt Post 238 Sponsored 1st Annual BBQ and BREW



L-R: Post Commander, John Brauer, 6th District Auxiliary President Suellyn Green & Michael Grant



THE MICHIGAN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION

BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

We are raising money to help support our veteran services and youth programs. The bricks will be placed at the front entrance of the Department HQ. Bricks can be either 4x8 for \$50 or 8x8 for \$100. Legion family and military emblems can be added for an additional \$25 with orders on the website.

The bricks will be engraved as printed below, double check spelling and layout.

All American Legion Family and veterans as well as family of veterans in remembrance are welcome to participate.

4 x 8 Grey Brick

8 x 8 Grey Brick



4 x 4 Black Grantie
Replica Tile



12 x 12 Grey Brick



Color & Size	Price without Clipart	Price with Clipart
4 x 8 Grey Brick	\$50.00	\$75.00
8 x 8 Grey Brick	\$100.00	\$125.00
12 x 12 Grey Brick	\$200.00	\$225.00

CLIP ART SELECTIONS

Below each clip art is a number that denotes which one selected



Limited time only – Bricks will be sold until space is filled
If you have any questions, please call 517-371-4720

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<https://polarengraving.com/themichiganamericanlegionfoundation>

ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH)
ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- 4 x 8 Brick (\$50) 8 x 8 Brick (\$100) 12 x 12 Brick (\$200) With Clip Art Graphic (Add \$2)

EXAMPLE

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