



LEGIIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXX No.5

RESERVATIONS — PG. 7

NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET SET FOR FLINT

National Commander Jimmie Foster, a retired U.S. Army and Marine Corps veteran from Alaska, will be make his official Michigan visit during the National Commander's Banquet hosted by state headquarters in Flint, Friday, February 18, 2011. Reservation form is located on page 7 of this issue or at www.michiganlegion.org the state headquarters website.



A native of Delaware, Okla., Foster is a 1972 graduate of Northeastern A&M College in Miami, Okla., with a degree in agriculture education. After working in the textiles and grocery business, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he served at the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif. from 1973 to 1976. Following a short break in service, he reenlisted in the U.S. Army, ultimately retiring with 20 years of military service on Aug. 1, 1994 as the chief legal noncommissioned officer at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Foster's 29 years of American Legion experience include offices and appointments at all levels. He served American Legion Spenard Post 28 as adjutant for many years, as well as other offices, ultimately serving as post commander in 1989-1990. He served

on many state level committees including Americanism, the Citizens Flag Alliance, Economics, Veterans Employment, Internal Affairs, Legislative, Membership & Post Activities, Military Affairs, National Security and Naval Affairs. During his term as membership chairman, the Dept. of Alaska finished number one in the nation for membership. He served as state commander in 1999-2000.

Nationally, he served on the organization's board of directors as National Executive Committeeman from 2002 to 2006 for the Dept. of Alaska as well as the National & Homeland Security Council, Economics, Internal Affairs and Legislative Commissions and, most recently, served as chairman of the National Legislative Commission from 2006-2008.



Michigan Governor Rick Snyder (L) met with Michigan veterans organizations leaders at Lansing's American Legion State headquarters prior to Election Day to discuss the delivery of veterans services in Michigan. He was briefed on the decrease in services to all Michigan veterans due to the current government's disproportionate 25% funding reduction to these organizations as state subcontractors for these services since 1926. He noted his administration would seek veterans organizations' participation on veterans issues. Shown (l-r) Governor Rick Snyder, American Legion State Adjutant Patrick W. Lafferty, American Legion State Commander William Hafeman, and American Legion State Veterans Service Director James Topps.

Wilwin!...What's that?

Presented by the Wilwin Lodge Special Committee November 29, 2010

Many Legion members have seen "Wilwin Lodge" in photo descriptions in the Michigan Legionnaire. Or, other members returning from Legion meetings have mentioned it. But we think you deserve to get a full story about the property and the happenings there; now and in the future. If you have access to a computer, type in this link to see many photos and other information: www.michiganlegion.org/pages/troutlake

In May of 2010 a visit was made to a 520 acre wooded parcel in the UP's Mackinac County that was offered to the Michigan American Legion as a gift. Then State Commander Carnie Jackson accepted this no-strings-attached offer in late 2009 and appointed a Special Committee to start the process of looking into the potential for its use. Several visits and a number of committee meetings have taken place and many tentative plans have been laid. These plans will be firmed up soon depending on the formation of a corporation and the amount of donations promised for future development.

Located 4 miles northwest of Trout Lake, which is about 34 miles northwest of the Big Mac Bridge, the property contains a beautiful 6 bedroom lodge that

was built in 1916 to house lumber buyers and is in excellent condition. In addition a guest house was built in 1995 that has 4 bedrooms. There is also a large garage/shop as well as a corn crib and a stable. The property has no vehicle access except at our gates, and

See WILWIN on page 8



Grayling Post 106 Commander Steven Green presents an \$850 donation to post member Phil Lennert, founder of the "Wishin' We Could Go Fishin'" organization designed to take 60% or higher disabled veterans on non cost half day fishing charters on Lake Michigan from April – September.

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Spread the Word - Please forward this Michigan Legionnaire on to another veteran or to a public waiting room.

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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- Administration - 13 - support@michiganlegion.org

Do you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use? E-mail it to us at info@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Warren Stensrud. Please keep the photo at least 200 dpi or larger. If you are submitting a hard copy photo, please note photos printed from home printers 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 Warren Stensrud at: info@michiganlegion.org or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

Veterans Service Directory Page 10



Chaplain
Eddie W. Brown, State Chaplain

“NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS”

Is a New Year really a new beginning? Yes, it can be. With every New Year, many people examine their lives and experiences from the past year and then make resolutions. They do so because they hope to make their lives better during the coming year. This self-examination is healthy as long as you keep it in context. By that I mean you need to consider both the good things as well as the bad. And, too, you need to learn to see that good things can also come out of the bad events. And as I mentioned before, in all things remember to give God praise.

There are times in our lives when we have life-changing experiences. In the past year I have had a few that I will share with you. The first is an episode with my heart, which was totally unexpected as I had no signs or symptoms and which had not been revealed in any previous exams or tests. It was the reason I missed Fall Conference and the September district meeting. I want to thank you for the many messages of concern and mainly for your prayers. For the first time in my life I have to take maintenance medications, make a few changes to my lifestyle, and am try-

ing new ways to manage stressful situations.

The next thing that I'll share is the loss of our good friend and PDC Bill Anderson. We know Bill had some health issues and that some of them could be life threatening, but his passing was still a shock and too soon for those of us who loved him. Bill loved his American Legion Family. It concerned him when he couldn't get out and had to miss some meetings and gatherings. When we got back, he always wanted the news and to know what topics were discussed. Bill will be missed. I'm sure that Donna and Carl appreciated the outpouring of love and let's continue to keep them in our prayers. Joe Callahan and I were talking about this the other night and I made a resolution then to contact my family and friends more and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Another thing I'll share is that God has graced us with birth of our first granddaughter, Makenzie Lee Predhome. I know, I don't look old enough to be a grandpa (lol) but I am and very happy about it. Caroline and I hardly have words to express our joy. As I said before, I believe in

miracles. As I held her in my arms the day she was born, I resolved to help support her, to be the best example I can be, and to teach her about our loving God and his goodness. And so, going into the New Year, I don't want to just make resolutions, I want to develop plans on how to carry them out. The power is in the action and not just in the words.

The American Legion has many noble purposes that we talk about before every meeting. And, we have many programs to carry out these goals. So this year, let's all try to find even one of these to engage in and put our words into action. James 2:14 - 17, "What good is it, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith (speak the words) but has no actions to prove it? ... Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food and someone says to him, "Shalom! Keep warm and eat hearty!" (Well-wishers) without giving him what he needs, what good does it do? Thus faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead." Thank you my brothers and sisters for all you do. God bless and keep you all and may we have another fruitful year.



At a recent 18th District Meeting, State Historian Ron Runyan (r) presents Immediate Past State Commander Carnie Jackson with the history/scrapbook assembled from his year in office.



February 14, 2011



A wooden American flag made by Ontonagon Legionnaire Donald Bussiere, was presented to Ludington Post 76 Commander Irving Fulker by Nicholas Matiash (l) shown with 4th Zone Commander Nancy Frye during a post visit. The flags stars are comprised each state's quarter.

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander William Hafeman, Carney	Finance Officer David Buist, Grandville	Alt. National Executive Committeeman Thomas G. Holzgen, Grandville
State Adjutant Patrick W. Lafferty, Mt. Pleasant	Historian Ronald Runyan, Wyandotte	Immediate Past Commander Carnie Jackson, Clarkston
1st Zone Floyd Plowman, Dearborn Heights	Chaplain Eddie Brown, Southgate	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director James Topps, Adrian
2nd Zone Cliff Rose, E. Leroy	Sergeant-at-Arms Ernest Berry, Woodhaven	Membership Director Louis Oberle, Engadine
3rd Zone Terry Montgomery, Redford	Judge Advocate..Hon. James A. Callahan, Grosse Pointe	Public Relations Director. Warren F. Stensrud, Holt
4th Zone Nancy Frye, Holton	National Executive Committeeman Darwin Krieger, Bridgman	
5th Zone Ron Pearson, Marquette		

Headquarters

Legionnaires Make a Difference Every Day

William Hafeman, State Commander

2011 – A Promising Year of Innovation



William Hafeman
State Commander

Happy New Year every one! May this year be a great year for every Legionnaire in the state! I hope each of you had a merry holiday season. Further, I thank each and every one of you for the great work you did for the Legion and your community this past year. You do make a difference!

The elections are over! Thank God! However, there has been a drastic change in our Michigan Legislature. I ask each and every one of you to get to know your State Representative and State Senator on a personal basis. If you are unable to do this, keep in constant touch with all legislation that concerns you, your family, and all our veterans. Write or e-mail them on a regular basis expressing your concerns.

I recently visited the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and helped them with their Christmas Gift Shop. This endeavor is expensive and all gifts are donated to the Home. It is unbelievable how many posts and Auxiliary units donated to this cause.

However, talking to Sarah Brooks, Auxiliary Hospital Representative, mailing gifts for our fellow shut-ins will cost approximately \$3,000. Sarah is a sweetheart and has been doing this job for about 50 years. I promised her I would ask the down-state posts to send money to her to help offset some of these expenses. She certainly can use the money. The U.P. posts support the Jacobetti Home and you can send monies to our VAVS Co-Coordinator, James Feliciano, at 446 Rock Street, Marquette. This way the posts will receive credit for their donation.

BOYS STATE PROGRAM

State Headquarters does not normally get involved with post programs and how they spend their monies; however, please give consideration this year in obtaining a boy or two for "Boys State." This program will be moved to Michigan State University in 2011. We are still with Northwoods University for another year due to conflicting dates at Michigan State. Scholarship monies are available if your post cannot afford to send a boy. Remember, these important points when talking to a potential candidate:

1. Within a year these young men will be headed for college, the military, or in pursuit of a vocation.
2. This summer will be a pivotal for them and Boys State will do much to prepare them for the future.
3. This one event can assist them in preparing for the future by providing the experience of living in a college environment; learning of leadership and management skills and serving them in any career path they choose.
4. They will bond in friendships which may last a lifetime; combined with teaching them about a vital part of every citizen's life.
5. They will learn how our Michigan government operates and functions on city, county, and state levels, all through a nonpartisan education approach.

I am starting a "Speaker's Bureau" within the Department of Michigan. This will be broken down in two parts:

1. Veterans in the schools where veterans

can speak about their experiences in the military to our youth, answer questions and instill in them the values of Americanism and patriotism and that the freedoms they enjoy did not come cheaply.

2. Speakers in the community where speakers could speak on various topics dear to the American Legion such as our Four Pillars: Americanism and Community Service; Children and Youth, National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

This program would be used to promote the Legion in the community. A record of volunteer and professional speakers would be kept on file at headquarters and when a speaker is requested we would access the file for the closest speaker available. Speeches could also be written for the speaker by the headquarters' public relations person. Once established, this program will be publicized.

Remember, Legionnaires make a difference every day. Keep up the good work. I look forward to visiting with you at district and post visits as well as seeing you at the Winter Meeting and National Commander's Banquet in Flint in February.

Patrick W. Lafferty, State Adjutant



Patrick W. Lafferty
State Adjutant

During "February is Americanism Month" activities, Legionnaires are encouraged to promote Americanism topics in their communities. This also includes proper American flag display.

State headquarters regularly receives flag display inquiries. Currently, the most common one is a misconception that the Legion somehow mandates the POW/MIA flag, when flown, must be placed directly beneath the American flag. This is a misconception. There is nothing in the U.S. Flag Code, the document that provides proper flag etiquette guidelines, that mandates this positioning; it's a personal choice.

To further assist you with flag display questions, I'm reprinting the more common questions and answers per the U.S. Flag Code, at www.legion.org, the national headquarters website. There is a wealth of additional flag information on their site for those seeking more detail.

Common Flag Display Questions & Answers

Can a flag that has covered a casket be displayed after its original use?

There are no provisions in the Flag Code to suggest otherwise. It would be a fitting tribute to the memory of the deceased veteran and his or her service to a grateful nation if the casket flag is displayed.

Can the U.S. flag be displayed in inclement weather?

The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, with the exception of an all-weather (nylon or other non-absorbent material) flag. However, most flags are made of all-weather materials.

What is the significance of displaying the flag at half-staff?

This gesture is a sign to indicate the nation mourns the death of an individual(s), such as death of the president or former president, vice president, Supreme Court justice, member of Congress, secretary of an executive or military department, etc. Only the president or a state governor may order the flag to be displayed at half-staff. The honor and rever-

ence accorded this solemn act is quickly becoming eroded by those individuals and agencies that display the flag at half-staff on inappropriate occasions without proper authority to do so.

When the flag is not flown from a staff, how should it be displayed?

It should be displayed vertically, whether indoors or out, and suspended so that its folds fall free as though the flag were staffed. The stripes may be displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, and the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right (that is, to the observer's left). When displayed in a window of a home or a place of business, the flag should be displayed in the same way (that is, with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street).

How are unserviceable flags destroyed?

The Flag Code suggests that when a flag has served its useful purpose, "it should be destroyed, preferably by burning." For individual citizens, this should be done discreetly so the act of destruction is not perceived as a protest or desecration. Many American Legion posts conduct disposal of unserviceable flag ceremonies on June 14, Flag Day. Such ceremonies are particularly dignified and solemn occasions for the

retirement of unserviceable flags.

Can the flag be washed or dry-cleaned?

Yes. No provisions of the Flag Code prohibit such care. The decision to wash or dry-clean would depend on the material.

Are you required to destroy the flag if it touches the ground?

The Flag Code states that the flag should not touch anything beneath it, including the ground. This is stated to indicate that care should be exercised in the handling of the flag, to protect it from becoming soiled or damaged. You are not required to destroy the flag when this happens. As long as the flag remains suitable for display, even if washing or dry-cleaning is required, you may continue to display the flag as a symbol of our great country.

What is the proper method for folding the flag?

The Flag Code does not require any specific method. However, a tradition of folding has developed over time that produces a triangular-shaped form, like that of a three-corner hat with only the blue union showing.

Membership

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

NOT JUST ABOUT NUMBERS



**By Louis Oberle,
State Membership
Director**

As my family celebrated our Thanksgiving Holiday I was reminded that in the homes of many, a loved one was spending their day in harms way or apart from their families to give us the blessings we sometimes take for granted. As we look forward to a joyous Christmas Season and a Happy New Year, please remember to include your prayerful thoughts for all who are serving and their families.

This is what membership in our American Legion is about. It's about our programs, our community, our veterans and their families. While our loved ones are deployed, we assist with the Legion Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach to name just a couple of our programs. It is also important to reach out to a homeless veteran or to one who may be in a home being cared for. Remember, each of them this Season of Giving.

Membership is about pride, honor, sacrifice, devotion, and sincerity. It is not just about numbers or a contest for bragging rights. It is about setting goals, however, and about reaching specific targets and reaching out to enlist new members and to renew a delinquent member.

Our department has reached its 75% goal and is on its way to 80% by January 18th because of your hard work and continued efforts. You, your post and district membership teams are to be commended for your labor. Our department membership team thanks each of you. By the time you read this, our team will have visited

each zone to express our thank you and to collect any membership renewals or applications you may have to turn in. We anticipate we can continue to stay on top within the regions and to reach Minneapolis as a 100% Department. This is and continues to be our objective and our attainable goal.

The November 24th membership report shows District 6 in the lead, Thank You to Commander Bill Hilgris, Vice Commander Tim Hastings and your team, and to Post 342 for being the first post in your district to obtain 100%. Well done; your rebate money is in the bank. See how easy it is! December 31 is the deadline for \$ 1.00 / per goal member rebate for your post. So far, if I have counted right, we have 14 posts at 100 % or greater. It is time to make that final push to the top, don't put it off. The 5th Zone under the leadership of Commander Ron Pearson is on top. U.P. Membership Director Mike Bruntjens is working very hard to stay there.

New posts are being formed and revitalization of others is being worked on. Membership, post development and public relations teams are out and about working on promoting and selling the American Legion. Give us a call, our website has all of the information you need.

As another new year approaches, we are confident, encouraged, optimistic and positive we will see a greater New Year. Our "team" extends best wishes for a joyous Christmas season. Remember, membership is not just about numbers. It's about our Legion Family and our Veterans and their families. Wouldn't it be great that at this time next year, every veteran and their family could say they are members of our American Legion Family?

Joint Testimonial

WHAT is a testimonial you may ask? According to the dictionary, it is: "A character reference; expression of esteem or appreciation". Or a time to show your person in command, your appreciation for their work and time involved to help lead our great family organization.

WHO is invited? Any & all members of the American Legion Family and their guests.

WHEN: April 16, 2011. Hors D' Oeuvres & drink hour starts at 1700 (5:00 p.m.); Dinner at 1800 (6:00 p.m.) with a 'roast' to follow. This will be a joint testimonial. This means all 3 of the Legion Family in command: Legion Department Commander - Bill, Auxiliary Department President-Jan, and S.A.L. Detachment Commander-Dave.

WHERE: The Ballroom of the American Legion Post 16, Lapeer, MI.
COST: Hors D' Oeuvres, 2 drink tickets, and dinner, all for just \$35.00 per person.
LODGING: Block rooms have been reserved at Best Western Lapeer Inn - from \$89.00 to \$101.00 Group name: AMERICAN LEGION DINNER - cut off date - 3/16/2011 phone: 810-667-9444 OR The Lapeer Hotel (soon to be Holiday Inn-Express) \$73.00 810-245-7700. Again cut off date is 3/16/2011. Rooms are on your own.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS:

NAME: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS - (for verification of receipt) _____

(tickets will be held at the door)

TOTAL NUMBER OF TICKETS _____ X \$35.00= _____ (AMOUNT ENCLOSED)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMERICAN LEGION JOINT TESTIMONIAL

MAIL TO: AMERICAN LEGION JOINT TESTIMONIAL
c/o ANITA MENNEL
6040 DRYDEN RD., DRYDEN, MI 48428

Questions call 810-796-9844 - PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY APRIL 3, 2011

District Meetings

1st District

- Feb. 7, Detroit VAMC, 7:00 pm, (nominating meeting)
- April 4, Detroit VAMC, 7:00 pm, (annual meeting)
- May 2, Detroit VAMC, 7:00 pm, (mem.day/joint legion family)
- June 6, Detroit VAMC, 7:00 pm, (state conv. meeting)

2nd District

- Jan. 9, Manchester Post 117, 2:00 pm, Serv. Off. School 1:30 pm
- March 13, Morenci Post 368, 2:00 pm, Serv. Off. School 1:30 pm
- May 22, Jackson Post 324, 2:00 pm, Mem. Serv. 12:30 pm

4th District

- Jan. 9, Constantine Post 223
- March 6, Buchanan Post 51
- May 1, Bridgman Post 331

5th District

- Jan. 13, Comstock Park Post 47, 7:00 pm
- March 10, Grand Rapids Post 311, 7:00 pm
- May 12, Grand Haven Post 28, 7:00 pm

6th District

- Jan. 9, Leslie Post 491, 1:00 pm, Serv. Off. School 11:00 am, lunch noon
- March 13, Brighton Post 235, 1:00 pm Serv. Off. School 11:00 am, lunch noon
- May 1, Stockbridge Post 510, 1:00 pm, Serv. Off. School 11:00 am, lunch Noon

7th District

- Jan. 9, Harbor Beach Post 197, 1:00 pm
- March 20, Caseville Post 543, 1:00pm
- May 15, Port Huron Post 8, 1:00pm
- June 24, Grand Rapid at Conv.

8th District

- Jan. 9, Carson City Post 380 follows 1:30 pm lunch, Serv. Off. School noon
- March 6, Greenville Post 101 follows 1:30 pm lunch, Serv. Off. School noon
- May 1, Bath Post 412 follows 1:30 pm lunch,

Serv. Off. School noon

9th District

- March 12, Hesperia Post 411, 2:00 pm, Exec. Bd. noon, Serv. Off. School 12:30 pm, lunch 1 pm
- May 14, Croton Post 381, 2:00 pm, Exec. Bd. noon, Serv. Off. School 12:30 pm, lunch 1 pm

10th District

- Jan. 8, Sanford Post 443, 1:00 pm, lunch noon
- March 5, Linwood Post 239, 1:00 pm, lunch noon

May 1, Midland Post 165, 1:00 pm, lunch noon (mem.serv.)

June 4, Mikado Post 254, 1:00 pm, lunch noon (installation)

11th & 12th Districts

Jan. 21-23, Marquette Post 44 (U.P. Mid-Winter Conf.)

16th District

- Jan. 11, Dearborn Heights Post 232, 7:30 pm
- Feb. 8, Dearborn Post 364, 7:30 pm, Serv. Off. School 6:30 pm

March 8, Southgate Post 478, 7:30 pm

April 12, Allen Park Post 409, 7:30 pm, Serv. Off. School 6:30 pm

May 10, Lincoln Park Post 67, 7:30 pm, Mem. Serv. & Elections 6:30 pm

June 14, Garden City Post 396, 7:30 pm, Serv. Off. School 6:30 pm

17th District

- Jan. 16, Plymouth Post 391, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 16, Livonia Post 32, 7:00 pm
- March 16, Northville Post 147, 7:00 pm

April 20, Livonia Post 32, 7:00 pm

May 18, Livonia Post 32, 7:00 pm

June 1, Livonia Post 32, 7:00 pm

18th District

- Jan. 9, Berkley Post 374
- March 13, Milford Post 216
- May 15, Pontiac Post 377
- June 12, Farmington Post 346

19th District

May 21-22, (location open - conv. meet)

CURRENT TOP MEMBERSHIP COMMANDERS



Top Zone
Commander
Terry Montgomery
3rd Zone
80.72%



Top District
Commander
Raymond Capouch
2nd District
82.85%



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

2010 - 2011 Department President, Jan Kintz



It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is over and a New Year is beginning. (Is it just me, or are the years going faster?) I hope each and every one of you had a joyous Holiday and were able to spend time with family and friends.

As we begin this New Year, let us renew ourselves to the "aims and purposes" of the American Legion Auxiliary. Let's pledge ourselves to a new and exciting year when it comes to our veterans, their families and our community. It is time to set our differences aside so we can better serve our God and the Auxiliary programs. As we promote our programs, don't forget the Legion Family. Include the Legion, the SAL and the Juniors when preparing for

functions, as we are all working towards the same goals--Serving Our Veterans. **Remember:** The more hands we have, the more we can accomplish.

Several functions are soon coming up: Legislative Reception on Feb. 9th from 7:00 pm-9:00 pm in Lansing, and the Mid-Winter meeting being held Feb. 18th-19th. For the Auxiliary, the Mid-Winter Meeting is aimed at having fun, as well as learning a few more tidbits. This will be a very informal gathering and I hope to see many of you there. On Saturday, Feb. 19th, there will be a Girls State auction, so if you have any items to donate, please contact Brenda Dees, Chairman, or any committee member. Also, April is Children & Youth month, so begin planning your activities early.

At this time, I would like to address an issue, which has been addressed in the past, that I am hearing of a little too often. The

issue deals with conflict between the Auxiliary and the Legion. **REMEMBER** protocol when it comes to resolving issues at the Unit level. **First--**Try to resolve the problem at the Unit level by sitting down and discussing the problems at hand, preferably before they escalate. If needed, have someone who's not involved, sit in as a mediator. Don't forget your Past Presidents, as they are a great source of knowledge. Communication is a key step in resolving problems/issues before they get out of control. We all have "family spats" that generally can be resolved through talking. **Second--**Involve your District President (and Commander if needed). Part of their duties is to attempt resolution of problems/issues before they escalate to a point of being unable to resolve. If the District President is unable to resolve the issue, then she will contact Department for guidance. **Please**

Do Not Call the Department Staff or National Headquarters for assistance, as they will direct you back to your District President. If the Department President, after consulting with her Advisory Board, deems the issue requires assistance from National Headquarters, she will contact National and contact you with their response. Get to know your District Officers, so you know who to contact, as most issues can be resolved without Department intervention.

I wish everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Also Special Thanks to the office staff--Bonnie, LeAnn & Sandy--for all your assistance the past few months since I have been unable to make trips to Department. Thank goodness for phones and email!

God Bless Our Troops and God Bless America

Secretary-Treasurer Attends Plymouth Veterans Ceremony

I had the honor of attending my first Veterans Day ceremony as Secretary-Treasurer at the Plymouth Veterans Memorial Park. I was told that they had a nice memorial park. My, I was truly impressed. The marble sandblasted memorials were absolutely beautiful. The landscaping was lovely and the atmosphere with the crowd was solemn and respectful.



Veterans from World War II

around the memorial park. After the ceremony, I joined them at Post #391 for a very good lunch. It was just a lovely day. Mr.

Giles sent me the pictures shown.



Me with the Commander of Post #391, Memorial Park at Plymouth.
Frank Pawelak

If anyone is looking for a good venue next year to commemorate the veterans, I would recommend they consider the Veterans



Local veterans honoring their fallen comrades at the Plymouth Veterans Day ceremony



Standing in front of the flag memorial, and displaying some of the other war memorials.

I would like to sincerely thank Mr. and Mrs. Henry Giles who befriended me there and showed me all



Veteran honor guard used during the ceremony

AUXILIARY HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY 517-267-8809

Auxiliary Administration - 21 - info@michalaux.org

Auxiliary Membership/Girls State - 19 - svandlen@michalaux.org

Auxiliary Poppies/Scholarships/Bookkeeping - 22 - lknott@michalaux.org

Carrie Bowerman Endorsed for Department President



At a regular scheduled meeting of Greenwalt-Flattery Unit 42 on August 9, 2010 and the Third District Association, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan on September 12, 2010, Carrie F. (Mrs. Charles P.) Bowerman was endorsed for the office of President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan for the year 2011-2012.

Carrie became eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of her husband Charles P. Bowerman, a Vietnam Air Force Veteran. She has

been an active Auxiliary member for twenty-seven years.

On the Unit level, she held the office of President in 1994, Secretary two years, Treasurer eight years, First and Second Vice President and Historian one year. She has held most chairmanships over the years and presently serves her Unit as Membership Chairman.

In the Third District Association, Carrie has served as Chaplain for 2 years, Secretary one year, Historian, First and Second Vice President, and was District President in 1998-1999. She currently serves the District as Treasurer and Publications Chairman.

On the Department level, Carrie has served on the Juniors, Community Service, Girls State and Finance

Committees. She served as Department Membership Chairman in 2003-04. She has held the offices of Department Historian and Chaplain and presently serves the Department as First Vice President.

In addition to her Auxiliary activities Carrie serves her community as President of the Potterville Housing Commission. She is a member of Salon 445, Eight and Forty and Cabane 946, La Societe de Femmes. She is currently employed as Deputy Treasurer for the City of Charlotte.

Carrie has two children, Carrie Belle and Michael, each has been a member of the Auxiliary and the SAL.

We, the members of, Third District Association, feel that Carrie has

demonstrated the ability and has the experience to fulfill the duties of this Department office. We ask for your consideration and endorsement of our candidate for the office of President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan for the year 2011-2012.

*Corina Kramer
President Greenawalt/Flahert
Unit # 42
Candace Patterson
Secretary Greenawalt/Flaherty
Unit #42
Linda Bowers
President Third District Association
Norma Wojack
Secretary Third District Association*



Mary Anne Yuncker Endorsed for Department 1st Vice President

At a regularly convened meeting of the Glen Hill American Legion Auxiliary Unit #287, held on November 8, 2010, Mary Anne Yuncker was endorsed for the office of Department First Vice President for the Department of the State of Michigan for the 2011-2012 year.

Mary is eligible for membership by the service of her father, Adrian Penninga, who served in the Army Air Corps during World War II, and also by the service of her husband, William T. Yuncker, who served in the US Navy during the Viet Nam

Era. She has been a member of the Auxiliary for 18 years.

At the Unit level, Mary has served in every office and most committees, sometimes several times over. She was President of Unit #267 for three years, At the District level; she filled each office and many committees there as well. She was District President for the sixth District in 2002-2003. After moving to the fifth district in 2004, she served as Secretary and Parliamentarian for Unit #287, and Music Chairman and Executive Board member for the District. At Department level, Mary has served on several committees. She was

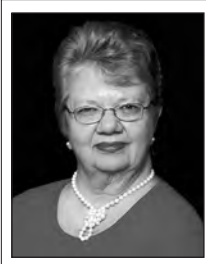
Leadership Chairman in 2005-2006, bringing home the National President's Award for Michigan. Since that time, she has served as Department Music Chairman, directing the Convention Choir and providing the music for our Conferences and Convention. She also served as Department Historian for the 2009-2010 year. She is currently serving as National Security Chairman and Second Vice President for the State of Michigan.

Mary Anne is an active partner of the 8&40. She is Demi Chapeau Passe of Genesee County Salon #230 and presently Demi Chapeau Premier of Cedar Rock Salon #862.

She also serves as the Music Chairman Departmental de Michigan,

It is with great pleasure and pride that we endorse Mary Anne for this position. We feel she is well qualified, having a good knowledge of our Auxiliary, and the leadership skills to lead and exemplify what our Auxiliary stands for. Please consider our endorsement and place Mary Anne's name up for nomination for Department First Vice President for the year 2011-2012. Thank You.

*President Gail Christine Merlington
Past President Mary Galler-Kitts*



Sandra Snyder Endorsed as Department 2nd Vice President

At a meeting of the Myron H. Beals, Unit #32, of the American Legion Auxiliary, held November 3, 2010 and a meet-

ing of the 17th District, held on November 17, 2010, Mrs. Carl E. Snyder, Sandra Jean, was endorsed for the office of Second Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2011-2012. Sandy is eligible through the service of her late husband, Carl E. Snyder, a US Army veteran who served during the Vietnam era.

Sandy is a twenty-eight year member of the American Legion Auxiliary

having originally joined the Redford Unit #271 where she served as President and all chairmanships before transferring to the Myron H. Beals Unit #32. She has served her Unit as President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and many chairmanships. She served as the National Legion Chairman for the Department of Michigan family luncheon for our National guests in 2009.

In the Seventeenth District, Sandy has service as District President for 5 terms. She also served her District as First Vice President, Second Vice President, Historian and Chaplain and has served many chairmanships in her District.

On the Department level, Sandy has served as a Eastern Area Membership chairman, Department Membership chairman, Children and Youth chairman 2 years, and one year as a committee member, Junior Activities committee member 2 years, Leadership committee 1 year, Publications committee 1 year, Finance committee three years. She is currently serving the Department as Chaplain.

She is a member of Salon 224 of the 8 and 40 having served the Departmental as Chapeau in 2008-2009.

She has four children, ten grandchildren and one great grandson, all members of the Legion family.

She is an active member of St. Matthews Lutheran Church having served on many committees for over thirty-nine years.

She is retired from AM General Corporation where she was employed for thirty-two years. She was an accountant having served the Company as an accountant for military contracts.

The members of the Myron H. Beals Unit #32 and the 17th District feel Sandy is well qualified to serve the Department of Michigan. American Legion Auxiliary as Second Vice President for the year 2011-2012. We ask for your consideration and endorsement of our candidate for this office.

Ernest Berry Endorsed for State Sergeant-at-Arms



Ernest Berry

The American Legion Edward C. Headman Post 217 and the 16th District Association proudly endorse Ernest Berry for State Sergeant-at-Arms 2011-12.

Eligibility: U.S. Army 1953-55, Korean Era.

Post: 15 year member of Edward C. Headman Post 217-PUFL-commander-sr. vice commander-historian-4 year executive board member-past commanders honor guard.

District: Commander, vice commander, chaplain, sergeant-at-arms, member of ritu-

al team-steering committee-past district commanders club.

Department: Assistant sergeant-at-arms 5 years-appointed sergeant-at-arms 2009-elected sergeant-at-arms 2010.

National: Assistant sergeant-at-arms 4 years-life member of national sergeants-at-arms club.

Other Activities: Life member and post commander of Amvets-GNUTS-member of 40 et 8 Voiture 1002-past president of Woodhaven Rotary Club-Past president of Woodhaven Lions Club-Past president of Woodhaven Goodfellows.

Personal: Retired deputy chief of police from Woodhaven Police Department-Graduate of Madonna University-B.S. in criminal justice-B.A. in sociology-M.A. from Eastern Michigan-Graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy-Member of the Woodhaven Bible Church.

Rex Lambert Endorsed for State Historian



Rex Lambert

Northeastern Post 459 and the 5th District proudly present Rex Lambert for State Historian 2011-12.

Eligibility: U.S. Air Force 1974-79 -

Vietnam Era veteran. Post: Commander 3 years, Adjutant 1 year, Jr. Vice Commander 1 year, Sergeant-at-Arms 2 years, BOC 5 years, Executive Board 7 years, Building

Committee 2 years. Michigan Leadership College and Post Color Guard. Gold Brigade. Leads and participates in many other post committee and fundraising activities. District: 5th District Liaison to SAL 2years, Chairperson for Boys State/Student Trooper. Department: GNUTS. Other Activities: Performs the National Anthem for 4 Chaplains, G.R. Griffins, Metro Cruise, and other functions. Three sons serving in the U.S. Army - two married and two grandsons.

Learn more about him and his post at: facebook.com/rex.lambert459 & www.post459.org

Letter Registering Makes a Difference

Did you know your registration for a conference or convention may make a difference? As of our extended deadline date of September 5th, we had 312 registrations for the 2010 Fall Conference.

While scheduling meeting rooms with the hotel for the conference, meeting rooms were released due to low numbers, so another program was scheduled at the hotel. Between the deadline date and the start of the conference, we had 368 registrations and by the end of the conference we had 471 registered attendees. Those 159 would have made a difference at the hotel. We would have had the use of all the meeting rooms and fewer guests to compete with for the elevator and restaurant.

We also printed 400 copies of the program booklet, so we did run out. Keep this in mind for next year's Fall Conference at the Troy Marriott. Make a difference in the future.

Shannon Wawruck, 18th District Association



GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION IS PROUD TO PRESENT

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET AND WINTER MEETING - FEBRUARY 18 - 20, 2011

REGISTRATION: \$10.00 per person, you must be registered to attend.

PAYABLE TO: Genesee County Convention Corporation.

MAILED TO: Wayne Bortner, 115 Bella Vista #36, Grand Blanc, MI 48439.

Checks only please.

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary Sons

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary Sons

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary Sons

Name _____ Legion Auxiliary Sons

Number x \$10.00 = Total _____

All room requests and special needs are to be placed through:

THE HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CENTRE

5353 GATEWAY CENTRE, FLINT, MI 48507

PHONE: 1-800-232-5300 or 1-800-465-4329

CODE: ALM - DEADLINE: JANUARY 18, 2011

Flint Mailing Address Only - Located in Munday Twp. - Hill Road at Gateway Center

NOTE: This Code # ALM will allow the hotel to access the room rate of \$70.00 plus 11% tax. All usual credit cards are usable. Those coming one day early will receive the \$70.00 room rate.

If you have asked the hotel for any special needs and would like us to verify in advance of your arrival, please drop a note in with your registration and we will do so.

Feel free to contact:

Bernie Langlois - 810-653-6517 Wayne Bortner - 810-348-3818

Dolores Smith (Aux) - 810-694-6018

Please Reserve Rooms Early to Assure Availability



2011 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Friday, February 18, 2011

At The Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI
Cash Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

\$25.00 per person

Select # of Each: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for a total of _____ tickets at \$25 each

IMPORTANT: List all persons attending, and the number of tickets per person, attaching an additional page if necessary. Otherwise all tickets will be held in the name of the person listed below.

THERE WILL BE NO ASSIGNED SEATING

NAME _____ DISTRICT # _____

ADDRESS _____ POST/UNIT # _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (_____) _____

Make checks payable and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Michigan, Attn: Kim, 212 N. Verlinden, Ste A, Lansing, MI 48915

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

FEBRUARY 11, 2011

32 STATES PARTICIPATE

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE GRADUATES NATIONAL COLLEGE

INDIANAPOLIS (October 29, 2010) -- A new generation of leaders came to Indianapolis from 32 states of The American Legion. For the 54 students, including Beverly List of Livonia Post 32, the National American Legion College honed their leadership, team building, communications and mentoring skills to pass the intensive course. They received diplomas from National Commander Jimmie L. Foster during a ceremony held here this morning.

Members of the class completed the six-day crash course of the

nation's largest veterans organization that saw them lay a solid foundation for Legion post revitalization in a variety of geographical settings to include a rural area, the inner city, suburban communities, a metropolitan area and a cyber post. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for



American Legion activities at their respective posts for presentation at a mock district meeting.

The National American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer's leadership, management and communication skills. This helps prepare young members of The American Legion

to lead the nation's largest wartime veterans organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship for both other members and special groups in the community was a central point to several of the activities for the class.

"You had a hectic schedule and a plethora of data to absorb but you all assimilated it like champions," American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster told the graduating class. "When you get home to your communities, share what you learned and make a difference for our great organization."

Continued

WILWIN

it is bordered by mostly state land. Some logging was completed this year and it thinned out some of the canopy that prevented undergrowth, but the property is still heavily wooded.

We now have a committee of seven, including Auxiliary and SAL members, plus a recording secretary, but the process has begun to replace the committee with the Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge Corporation. The corporation will be a "Not-for-profit" char-



itable organization under chapter 501(C) 3, which allows for the best IRS tax deductions. IRS confirmation of the corporate application is expected by the time you read this so that our members can solicit individuals and companies for donations, big and small.

The number one goal for Wilwin is to provide for free vacations for service peo-



ple returning from active duty so they can unwind and reunite with their families. Next, Boy and Girl Scouts will be encouraged to visit as well as members of the Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary. Members from Legion Family organizations will be asked to cover some costs of operations and these should be established by the spring opening. In addition, meetings of the various levels of the Legion Families

as well as other organizations can take place there as the capacities of the property increase to support the needs.

The buildings are now closed for the winter and will be re-opened by early May of 2011. One of the earliest projects for the property will be a rustic campground for self-contained RVs or tents. Other projects will be a dining and meeting building, pavilion, bunk houses, and a shower/toilet facility. On our website, there is a wish list for smaller objects as well as a project list for major items requiring donations.

State Commander William Hafeman has asked for a 5 year plan for the Wilwin Lodge and property to be ready for the Winter Meeting in



Flint. We want to have this plan ready so that all members of the Legion Family can be properly informed, submit ideas and offer to help

support Wilwin, and plan visits there themselves. In the meantime, members with ideas and questions may contact the Wilwin Committee listed on the Wilwin web page mentioned above.



Immediate Past State Commander and Chairman of the Wilwin Lodge Special Committee Carnie Jackson (l) presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Ferndale Post 330 Commander Frank Flores recognizing the post's \$5,000 Wilwin Lodge donation.



LIBERALIZED RULES

VA BEGINS AGENT ORANGE PAYMENTS

By The American Legion

(November 2, 2010) The Department of Veterans Affairs has begun distributing disability benefits to Vietnam veterans who qualify for compensation under recently liberalized rules for Agent Orange exposure. Up to 200,000 Vietnam Veterans are potentially eligible to receive VA disability compensation for medical conditions recently associated with Agent Orange. The expansion of coverage involves B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease.

The American Legion – which more than 25 years ago sponsored an independent study with Columbia University on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam War veterans – applauded VA Secretary Eric Shinseki for the change in the rules. Shinseki said VA has launched a variety of initiatives – both technological and involving better business practices – to tackle an anticipated upsurge in Agent Orange-related claims.

Providing initial payments – or increases to existing payments – to the 200,000 veterans who now qualify for disability compensation for these three conditions is expected to take several months, but VA officials encourage all Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and suffer from one of the three diseases to make sure their applications have been submitted.

VA has offered veterans exposed to Agent Orange special access to health care since 1978, and priority medical care since 1981. VA has been providing disability compensation to veterans with medical problems related to Agent Orange since 1985.

In practical terms, veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a “presumed” illness do not have to prove an association between

their illnesses and their military service. This “presumption” simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The three new illnesses – B-cell (or hairy-cell) leukemia, Parkinson's disease and ischemic heart disease – are added to the list of presumed illnesses previously recognized by VA.

Other recognized illnesses under VA's “presumption” rule for Agent Orange are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia
- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)
- AL Amyloidosis

The Legion also has lobbied for similar relaxed restrictions on presumption for “Blue Water” Navy veterans who served during Vietnam. The American Legion has a resolution stating that the presumption of exposure should apply to Navy veterans who served on ships located in the territorial waters of Vietnam.

Veterans interested in applying for disability compensation under one of the three new Agent Orange presumptives should call 800-827-1000 or contact a Michigan American Legion Service Officer from the list on page 10.

USER FRIENDLY SYSTEM

ON-LINE BASEBALL REGISTRATION OPENS 2011 SEASON

As American Legion Baseball swings into its 86th year, the 2011 season gets under way with online registration beginning Jan. 1 via www.legion.org, the national Legion website.

This year marks Legion Baseball's second season for online registration, which was launched to tighten administrative communication efforts and provide additional value to players and fans. With online registration, coaches no longer have to collect, complete and mail registration forms, insurance forms and payments to various locations for pro-

cessing. The user-friendly online capabilities simplify the entire registration process, allowing coaches to enter game schedules and team rosters for parents and fans to view.

Furthermore, because of improvements recently made to the Legion Baseball website, coaches will have better access to

detailed, printer-friendly reports along with the ability to transfer player profiles from the previous season to the upcoming one.

For questions or concerns regarding 2011 baseball registration e-mail baseball@legion.org.



Presidents Day
February 21, 2011



Croton Post 381 hosted 26 men and women from the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans for a “color tour” last fall. Upon arrival, many volunteers served breakfast before the tour.



The Grand Rapids Veterans Day Parade and ceremony found many area members participating, including (l-r) Cassie Bilinsky of Unit 258, Past Post 258 Commanders Theresa Robinson and Robert Bianchi, Unit President Deborah Williamson, and Unit Historian Kathy Eddington. Also participating, but now shown were 5th District officers, Commander Lawrence Gibbons, Finance Officer Dale Gould, and Service Officer Wayne Pitch.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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, and activities.

Detroit Office

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building,
Rm. 1210

477 Michigan Ave., Detroit, MI 48226
Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Phone: 313-964-6640 or 6641 or 6642 Fax: 313-964-5697 Email: toppsjamesc@yahoo.com



James C. Topps, VA&R State Director
Robert Rasche, Veterans Service Officer
Tripp Cantwell, Veterans Service Officer
Michael Assenmacher, Veterans Service Officer

Robert Rasche covers Genesee County Office of Veterans Affairs – Flint, MI
810-257-3068/Mondays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Mike Assenmacher covers the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center on Wednesdays 8:00 am - 4:00 pm 313-576-3506

Field Veterans Service

Martha Wieland, Veterans Service Officer Cell Phone – 269-330-6539 – e-mail – wielandmartha@yahoo.com

Grand Rapids CBOC – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesdays and Fridays except the 1st Friday of the Month

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans – 1st Friday of Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans – Any 5th Wednesday of the Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Muskegon Co OVA Office – 165 E. Apple Suite 201 – Every Monday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Van Buren Co OVA Office – Paw-Paw – 1st Wednesday Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Barry County OVA Office Hastings - 2nd Wednesday Each Month – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Belding AL Post – 2nd Wednesday Each Month - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Kalamazoo Co OVA Office – Kalamazoo – 1st and 3rd Thursdays – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Allegan Co OVA Office – 3255 122nd Ave Suite 102 – 4th Wednesdays 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Allegan AL Post – 4th Wednesdays - 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Holland AL Post – 3rd Wednesday Each Month – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

South Haven AL Post – 3rd Wednesday – 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Croton AL Post – 2nd Thursday Each Month – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Morley AL Post – 2nd Thursday Each Month – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Grand Haven AL Post – 4th Thursday Each Month – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Louis Teistler AL Post 47 Comstock Park – 4th Thursday of Each Month 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Any 5th Thursday Will be Administrative Day (Available of Phone Calls) 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Patrick J. Kline, Veterans Service Officer Cell Phone 989-280-3009 – pjcline@michiganlegion.org

Saginaw VA Medical Center – Tuesdays – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm 1500 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI – Room 115

Bay County Office of Veterans Affairs – 515 Center Ave – Room 212 1st Wednesday of Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Kalkaska Co OVA – 1st Monday of Each Month – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Grand Traverse Co OVA – 1st Monday Each Month – 1:00 pm to 4:00 PM

Gaylord VA CBOC – 806 S. Otsego - 2nd Monday Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Alcona Co OVA Office – 1st Thursday Each Month – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Oscoda VA CBOC - 5671 Skeel Ave – Suite 4 – 2nd Thursday Each Month 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Alpena VA CBOC – 180 N. State Street – 1st Friday Each Month – 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Presque Isle Co OVA – 1st Friday Each Month – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Clare VA CBOC – 11775 N. Isabella Rd – 2nd & 4th Wednesday Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Emmet Co OVA Office – 200 Division St. – 2nd Friday Each Month 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Charlevoix OVA Office – 301 State St – 2nd Friday Each Month - 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Gladwin Co OVA Office – 555 W. Cedar – 4th Thursday Each Month - 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Roscommon Co OVA – 500 Lake Street - 4th Friday Each Month – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Ogemaw Co OVA – 205 S. Eighth St – 4th Friday Each Month – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Cheyboygan Co OVA – 3rd Friday Each Month – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Third Week of Each Month Pat Will is In the U.P

3rd Monday Each Month – Manistique Co OVA Office 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

3rd Monday Each Month – Rapid River AL Post 301 – am to 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

3rd Tuesday Each Month – Marquette AL Post 44 – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

3rd Wednesday Each Month – Munising AL Post 131 – 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

3rd Wednesday Each Month – Newberry AL Post 71 – 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm

3rd Thursday Each Month – Sault Ste Marie VA CBOC – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Phillip “Phil” McCaskey, Cell Phone 269-330-6543 – p_mccaskey@yahoo.com

Ann Arbor VA Medical Center – Room B-156 First Floor Every Monday and Thursday Each Week
8:00 am to 4:00 pm - 734-845-5924 PLEASE NOTE YOU MUST CALL THE AA VAMC OFFICE NUMBER CELL
PHONE WILL NOT WORK IN THIS LOCATION

Cass Co OVA Office – 1st Tuesday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Branch Co OVA Office 2nd Tuesday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Eaton Co OVA Office 3rd Tuesday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Hillsdale Co OVA Office 4th Tuesday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Lansing Headquarters Office – 212 N. Verlinden Ave Every Wednesday Each Week

8:00 am to 4:00 pm - 517-371-4720 extension 12 or Cell 269-330-6543

Battle Creek VA Medical Center – Every Friday – 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Building 2 – Cell Phone 269-330-6543

Please Call to Assure Times and Locations

PLEASE NOTE SCHEDULE TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

Veterans' Service



RH Insurance?

VA Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance Options

By Robert Rasche, State Veterans Service Officer

I was speaking to a Vietnam veteran recently who had been diagnosed with prostate cancer. He had undergone surgery followed by chemotherapy. He was very happy to tell me that since the treatment his doctor had informed him that his follow-up reports were very favorable.

This veteran had served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam. He had filed a claim for service connection and had been granted a 100 % rating initially. His rating had since been reduced to 40 % based on residuals of the prostate cancer; mainly the residuals of the surgery and chemotherapy. He told me he felt good again, and he was happy with his doctor's prognosis. He told me that prior to development of the prostate cancer, he had been in good health and had not taken the initiative to obtain life insurance. He related to me that he was sorry now that he waited to obtain life insurance, because most life insurance companies didn't show any interest in selling him life insurance. The few companies that did offer it to him had expensive premiums or had disclaimers that significantly reduced the amount payable to his beneficiaries.

I asked him if he had heard about “Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance”, perhaps better known as “RH Insurance.” He replied, “no”! I informed him the Department of Veteran Affairs offers RH Life Insurance for veterans with a service connected disability for that very reason because once a person is diagnosed with life threatening disabilities, it is very difficult for that person to obtain life insurance.

I explained to him that when a veteran obtains his grant of service connection, the veteran has up to two years to apply for RH Life Insurance. If the veteran received his initial service connected disability rating more than two years

ago, the veteran could be eligible if granted service connection for a different disability. **EXAMPLE:** The veteran was granted service connection for a disability of his left knee in 1975. He was granted service connection for a heart condition February 10, 2010. The veteran has up to February 10, 2012 to apply for RH Life Insurance through the Department of Veteran Affairs. Other qualifying factors include that the veteran had to have been released from active duty on or after April 25, 1951 under other than dishonorable service. The veteran has to be in good health, other than the service connected disabilities. The policy is limited to \$10,000 or less.

VA offers a number of different types of Life Insurance. Most accrue cash value, and the insured can borrow against the accrued value of the insurance. VA also offers a 5-year level premium term insurance policy that does not accrue cash value, and which is renewable every 5 years. That is the least expensive policy.

VA will waive the premiums if the veteran becomes totally disabled prior to their 65th birthday for any conditions or health reasons. To qualify, the veteran must remain totally disabled for six or more consecutive months.

In cases where VA waives the premiums based on total disability, the veteran can obtain up to \$20,000 additional insurance coverage. The premiums cannot be waived on the supplemental insurance.

In cases where the veteran is terminally ill, this benefit should be applied for at the earliest possible time (consult your service officer regarding the timing to apply). This is a way to provide life insurance proceeds for a surviving spouse, children, or cherished relatives or friends. It is very easy to overlook this benefit when suffering due to pain, fatigue, and other disabling symptomatology.

Contact your service officer for assistance to apply for this benefit.

Children and Youth Program is a Year Round Effort

By Sue Verville, Children and Youth Chairman

There are many different ways to help our youth. Units can help in local area schools, churches, health departments, hospitals, foster homes, nursing homes, court system and with other organizations. There are many children across our state which have a family member or members deployed overseas or serving in the military. Only by promoting our programs and events that involve our children can we make a difference: programs like Halloween Safety, Boys State & Girls State, Legislative, Junior Members, Legion Baseball, Child Welfare Foundation, Community Service, Education and Children's Miracle Network. As the "**Legion Family**" we are here to help provide care and protection to our children and to encourage and initiate activities that will promote family strength and integrity. We work with other organizations in our local area to present our community with family activities and projects. We hold events for Veterans and Military Families that offer support and encouragement that are beneficial for children and our communities. As the "**Legion Family**," it is important to continue in our beliefs that the family is the backbone and strength of our organization and community. Our dedication to our Veterans and Military families is the source of our values and traditions.

This year the **Children & Youth Special Project is the Sparrow Foundation**. It is a Children's Miracle Network affiliated hospital in Lansing. The Sparrow Foundation provides Newborn Care, Pediatric Care, Intensive Care and Special Needs Care. They also provide acute care, 24-hour emergency care, diabetes services, and inpatient & outpatient services for children with cancer. Just like the Auxiliary, they have a strong emphasis on family education and communication.

There are so many ways that we as Auxiliary members can help the children in our areas. Units can help not only our Veterans and Military families, but all our children. Remember to keep track of the hours the Unit has given, the amount of money the Unit has spent and how many Veterans, Military and local children the Unit has helped. Now **REPORT IT!!!!** Annual Reports will be due before you know it, and Units should have written what they did for April (2010) Children and Youth Month. This year, pictures can be submitted with reports. Units are asked to contact their local TV, radio station, or newspaper to find nominations for the Youth Hero Award or Good Deed Award.

So it is our MISSION as Auxiliary members to have "THESE TWO HANDS" AND "THE POWER OF ONE" helping to support, care and protect our VETERANS, MILITARY FAMILIES AND MOSTLY OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH.

ACTIVITIES GOING ON IN THE 7th DISTRICT

By Gladys Riehl, District #7 President

On August 8th, Unit #4 Mount Clemens had an outstanding Installation meeting.

In October, we met at Sebewaing. We had a very nice luncheon that was enjoyed by the group that attended. Unhappily, I had to announce that Unit #533, Bayport was closing due to lack of active members.

Suzanne Knapp Unit #4 and Connie Kovacs Unit #32 passed a Red Crayon Bank around for donations to help support our one remaining American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, OK. There are now 44 boys and girls remaining after eight-

een had been removed. The ladies are also collecting money, clothing, and linens. I later received an e-mail notice that because of lack of funds they would be closing at the end of the year. New news came the next day that with less staff and less boys and girls, they would be able to remain open.

I have received two invitations so far to visit in December.

I would really enjoy being invited to your meetings next year. However, in lieu of a gift, please send a donation to Department for a veteran project.

Our next meeting is January 9th, 2011 at Harbor Beach.



Sandra Snyder, Department Chaplain

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER TAKE TIME TO BE QUIET; It is the Opportunity to Seek God

When my children were all tucked in bed, and the house was still, this was my time to be quiet. It still is even though they are all grown up. I look at my day and ask God to look at it with me. I know He has been there all day, but this is my time to talk to Him about it. Some days have gone well and others not. Find time in your day to seek out your God.

January brings with it a new beginning – we will lose weight, not eat junk food, be on time, etc. you know how it goes. This year let us seek PEACE instead.

I would like to share this with you. It was written by Giles Harcourt.

*Peace is so hard to build so easy to destroy.
Peace of mind – Peace of heart*

*– Peace of home – Peace of land
We thank you Lord this day for
all those who have given their
lives in war,
that we might live in peace,
and, in gratitude, become in turn
living instruments of peace:
Peace in mind – Peace in heart –
Peace in home – Peace in land.*

God of all time, thank you for this past year of life. There is still war and violence, poverty and a sense of helplessness in the face of the world's troubles. But there is great goodness, too. There is kindness among strangers, gentleness within families, and peace among most nations of the world. Be with those who are sick. Keep our troops in your loving care. Let us go forward this year seeking time to serve God and Country. Amen.

Proper Preparation Makes for a Better Article

By Deborah Chambers, Public Relations Committee

Holiday decorations have been packed away and it's now 2011. I hope all the auxiliary events we all enjoyed during the holidays were a huge success. As we all write those articles for our newsletters, I thought of some helpful pointers that might be useful.

Have you ever read an article that is just captivating? More than likely, plenty of time and thought went into what the writer wanted to say. Giving yourself time will help you put your thoughts together. I've found jotting thoughts down as you think about them, and putting them in order later will make it easier. Otherwise, I won't remember half the initial ideas I had. The more you have, the easier it is to transition from one thought to the next.

Now that you have your topic and some ideas in place, start writing the article. I've always been taught to remember the three Ts. Tell your readers what you want to say, tell them, and close by telling them what you just said. I know it sounds strange

but it works. Make a rough draft of the article, putting your thoughts on down. At this point you really don't have to worry about spelling, grammar or placement of the sentences, remember, this is just a rough draft.

Editing will be much easier if you read your article out loud. Did the article make you want to continue reading? Did it make sense? Now is the time for changes and moving things around. Sometimes just small changes can captivate an audience. Computers are great when it comes to writing, by using the spelling and grammar check, or moving sentences. Your article should now be about ready to go final. Read the article one more time out loud to insure it sounds the way you want it to, and that it's getting the intended message out. If you're satisfied, then you're ready to submit.

There is nothing better than reading an article with correct spelling, grammar and well thought out. A well written article will be remembered, and so will the topic. If you're trying to get the word out for an upcoming event, a little extra time will make it worth the effort.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Serves Veterans All Year Long

By Sarah Brooks, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Representative

I would like to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our projects this year a great success.

July was the Carnival at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans with over 2,000 members and their families attending. August we kicked off the white sock drive for the members which continues year round. September we distributed hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves

for the members at the Home. October was the blanket drive for the homeless veterans, delivering over 90 blankets to four different shelters. November we held a luncheon honoring the women veterans at the Home, including the widows. December we worked a Stand Down, and the Christmas Gift Shop, serving over 700 members at the Home.

Year round projects include the Ladies Tea/Bingo on the second Wednesday of each month, Service Cart on the first and fourth

Wednesdays of the month, and Bingo on the third Thursday of the month. We also help with special events such as Las Vegas Day, Halloween Party, and bus trip escorts. April was the Mother's Day Card Program. In May we held a Poppy Bonanza, with the veterans demonstrating how poppies are made. June we worked another Stand Down, and also held our annual Cook Out at the Home.

Our biggest project is the Christmas Gift Shop where we serve over 730 members. Each

member can choose up to five gifts for family members. They are then wrapped, and if necessary, mailed to the family member. Without the help of our Auxiliary Units, we could not continue the success of these programs, so thanks to each and every one for all your help.

We also donated 50 bags of toiletries to three shelters, plus 50 different articles to a Children's Hospital in Africa. The Auxiliary is devoted to helping veterans and children, and that is what we continue to do.



Members of the Fifth District helping to take the service carts on the floors.



Preparing to deliver blankets to the homeless veterans at one of the shelters.

Try Out New Uses for Poppies During Poppy Days



By Kimberly Champion, Poppy Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary continues to distribute the Memorial Poppy. This has taken place for over 85+ years.

As always, many distributors are needed this year, not only for the older Veterans, but for the many men and women serving our country today.

The Memorial Poppy reminds us about the millions who sacrificed their lives to keep us free. The program is one of the oldest, plus one of the most beneficial Auxiliary programs for veterans and their families. Help to support our veterans, past and present, by distributing the Poppy on Poppy Days, May 19, 20, 21, 2011. Everyone can help no matter what age. Also on April 30,

2011 we will be having a Poppy Bonanza at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 10:30 a.m. Here the veterans will demonstrate how poppies are made and also give you an opportunity to do some hands-on poppy making of your own.

It was suggested this year by National to try something new rather than the same programs you have been doing for years. Get involved at your neighborhood school. Explain to them how veterans earn money by making poppies and get them involved in creating Poppy Posters. Encourage your Juniors, the SAL, the Legion and the Auxiliary to get involved with distribution, even if they can only donate an hour. The more time each and every one of us spends out in our communities during Poppy Days not only helps with

the donations, but also spreads awareness.

Use the poppy for various functions at your Post homes. Make poppy centerpieces, poppy corsages for special dinners at your Posts/Units. Display the poppy in a window display. Visit your local hospital, and give each veteran in the hospital a poppy. Thank them for serving our Country to keep us safe and free. Remember, the more you promote, the more others will know about the Poppy Program.

Lastly, don't forget, if you want to enter the Poppy Usage contest the entries must be sent to me by February 1, 2011. The entries must be judged and then forwarded on to the National Poppy Chairman by February 15, 2011.

I hope everyone can help make this year a successful, informative and fun year.

New Unit Coming to 8th District

By Brenda Spolarich, 8th District President

We are in the process of working on a new Auxiliary Unit in our District. Birch Run Post #125 submitted the letter of intent. We hope to have the process completed by spring. These new ladies are all very eager to get started in the district and with their post. They have a lot of neat ideas to work on.

8th District ladies, we need more of you to attend our District meetings. It's only one Sunday every two months. Be sure to work on membership in each of your Units. My special project this year is "Girls State".

Finally, Jan, it's a real pleasure working with you this year. Our thoughts and prayers are always with you.

TABS FOR TOTS EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION

Equipment	Hospital	Location	Date	Amount
District 1		Starting Balance		\$17,128.48
Interacoustics Digital Audiometer	Children's Hosp. of MI	Detroit	10.06.08	\$ 2,295.00
		District Total		\$19,423.48
District 2		Starting Balance		\$14,459.00
Misc Pediatric Equipment	Volunteer Fire Dept	Ida	03.03.05	\$ 2,744.00
Misc Pediatric Equipment	EMS	Morence	03.22.06	\$ 2,498.78
		District Total		\$19,701.78
District 3		Starting Balance		\$16,794.14
Misc Pediatric Equipment	First Responders	Bellevue	01.25.06	\$2,062.00
		District Total		\$18,856.14
District 4		Starting Balance		\$12,040.00
Misc Pediatric Equipment	Marcellus Ambulance	Marcellus	04.07.05	\$ 2,772.70
2 Recliner/Rockers	Lakeland Health Foundation	St. Joseph	04.18.07	\$ 2,454.00
		District Total		\$17,266.70
District 5		Starting Balance		\$24,147.70
SmartMonitor 2	North Ottawa Comm Hosp	Grand Haven	07.27.05	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$26,947.70
District 6		Starting Balance		\$21,253.10
Misc Pediatric Equipment	N.I.E.S.A	Haslett	11.26.07	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$24,053.10
District 7		Starting Balance		\$14,379.00
Misc Pediatric Equipment	Regional Medical	Mt. Clemens	12.13.07	\$ 2,000.00
Misc Pediatric Equipment	Scheurer	Pigeon	09.11.09	\$ 2,109.32
		District Total		\$18,488.32
District 8		Starting Balance		\$12,290.45
No new equipment placed		District Total		\$12,290.45
District 9		Starting Balance		\$14,855.00
Masimo Pulse Oximeter	Paul Oliver Memorial	Frankfort	10.18.06	\$ 2,445.00
		District Total		\$17,300.00
District 10		Starting Balance		\$20,290.04
Ped. D. H. Stethoscope, etc.	Oscoda Cnty. Amb. Srv.	Mio	10.24.08	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$23,090.04
District 11		Starting Balance		\$14,028.90
Pediatric vacuum mattress set	Rescue Squad	Hermansville	08.16.05	\$ 2,675.00
Scientific Isotemp Refrigerator	Mackinac Straits hlth. Sys.	St. Ignace	10.15.10	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$19,503.90
District 12		Starting Balance		\$15,171.55
Tumble Forms 2 Vestibulator IV	Marquette General Fdtn.	Marquette	2.14.08	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$17,971.55
District 16		Starting Balance		\$21,907.63
Misc. Pediatric Equipment	Heathcare Foundation	Oakwood	02.22.06	\$ 2,747.00
Misc. Pediatric Equipment	Woodhaven Fire Dep.	Woodhaven	01.05.09	\$ 2,686.00
		District Total		\$27,340.63
District 17		Starting Balance		\$12,264.00
Warmers/Bassinets/Rockers	St. Mary's Hospital	Livonia	04.05.07	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$15,064.00
District 18		Starting Balance		\$17,534.09
Syringe pumps	Huron Valley-Sinai Hosp	Detroit	05.25.05	\$ 2,447.00
Pediatric Crash Cart	Botsford General Hospital	Farmington Hills	10.04.06	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$22,781.09
District 19		Starting Balance		\$17,835.00
Baby/Junior CPR Equipment	Fire Department	Alanson	05.04.06	\$ 2,035.46
Misc Pediatric Equipment	Fire Department/EMS	Lewiston	02.12.07	\$ 2,024.64
Simulaids Stat Baby Manikin	Onaway Area Ambulance	Onaway	10.06.08	\$ 2,800.00
		District Total		\$24,695.10

DEPARTMENT TOTAL DONATIONS:
DEPARTMENT TOTAL BALANCE:

174 Pieces of Equipment
\$324,773.98 as of 11/16/2010

RELAX! THIS IS NOT ANOTHER RESOLUTION FOR YOU!



**By William F. Miller PDC,
 State Law and Order
 Chairman**

Take a couple weeks to forget most of your resolutions. Then get used to the winter. Now, please think about our very important

Legion programs. These programs give The American Legion its reasons to exist. But thinking about them is not enough – at least some small action on everyone's part is needed. If you have never contributed to making any of our programs successful, try it. You will find it very satisfying and not at all difficult.

All our programs need support from all Legionnaires to be successful. Several of them need early action and later follow up, such as getting scholarship applications in correctly, recruiting Boys State and Student Trooper candidates, and helping them find sponsor fees.

Since the Trooper Program is my main responsibility I will remind you the deadline for the early Academy session is May 2, and the late session deadline is June 6. Please go to www.michiganlegion.org/pages/trooper.html for applications and full details. Since it is now already January, you should know who to contact in your schools. When you visit or call them, make sure they have received the program information, (and that they remember where they have placed it). And tell them our programs are for the students' benefit. Do not expect results from your first contact as it often requires a second visit or call. If you can arrange for a talk to a group of students at one time it can be helpful. Also, give the school and the students the web address.

Securing sponsor fees from outside of the posts has allowed an increase in applications. The posts should try to cover the fee but even a partial amount can allow the family and friends and even other organizations to complete the \$300 amount. If you go to a local business, let them know they will get recognition from your post members for any contribution, and if you sense the amount may be a problem, mention splitting it between a couple of businesses or organizations.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS – A PUBLIC RELATIONS TIME OF YEAR

By **Richard Chatman, State Public Relations Chairman**



The holiday season is one of my favorite times of the year. It is the only time of the year that reminds me of the old days. People greet you with a smile, folks offer to help you with your packages, people say things like, sorry, excuse me and have a good day.

I attended the annual Thanksgiving Day dinner on Sunday Nov 21 that the Taylor Post has been doing. I'm told for over 20 years. The dinner is given for veterans. Volunteers pitch in and provide transportation, meals, free entertainment and camaraderie for veterans and their families, John Dingell VA Medical Center residents, and homeless veterans. What a wonderful sight sitting there watching The Legion Family, Post 200 and Michigan Legionnaires, The Auxiliary, the Sons and the Riders,

demonstrating to the invited guests, what type of citizen belongs to The Department of Michigan and The American Legion. As I walked among the veterans thanking them for their service and hoping that they had enjoyed themselves, I was overwhelmed by the expressions of gratitude to The American Legion for caring about them. I was so proud to be a Michigan Legionnaire and have that blue cap on my head.

Legionnaires, this is what public relations is all about. Post 200 connected with key demographics of the public we are trying to reach, homeless veterans, veterans residing in VA hospitals, veterans families. The Legion was performing as a family and made use of our young people, the ROTC provided the honor guard, high school students acted as servers and hosts. Service to our veterans and mentoring children and youth were on full display. It dawned on me that many of our posts, Legionnaires and Legion Family members will probably be involved in their communities doing

the great things they do for our veterans, their families and our children and youth this holiday season.

It is a great opportunity to be public relations ambassadors for The American Legion. Wear your Legion caps, and spread the word about our great organization and The Legion Family. As we sing carols in the neighborhood, provide meals and celebrations for our veterans, collect and distribute food and clothing to the needy, provide items for homeless veterans, collect toys for the tots, attend to the needs of our military veterans, there is absolutely nothing wrong in ensuring that those you are serving know that you belong to The American Legion and this is what our organization is all about.

Acts of kindness and generosity are remembered for a long time, and those affected will continue to pass the good word on to others.

Before I left the Taylor Post 200, I sought out the post commander to express my thanks to him and the Legion Family for putting on such a

great event. I told him I wanted to write an article in the Michigan Legionnaire about what occurred today and I needed his name. He thanked me for wanting to do that, but said don't mention him, he didn't do anything, his members did. That he didn't need any special recognition, they did this because they care about veterans. He never did give me his name but gave me a card which simply said "American Legion Post 200".

Typical Michigan Legionnaire, I disagree commander, you and we do great things, the public should know about it. You won't toot your own horn so I'll do it for you.

There is no question that we do these things at Thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout the year because it is the kind of organization we are, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with folks connecting good people with a good organization, The Department of Michigan The American Legion. Let the Public know what you are doing. That is good public relations.

SINCE 1935

2011 BOYS STATE AWAITS PARTICIPATION & SUPPORT

By **Nelson O'Bryan State Director**

With the holidays over, it is time to get down to serious business about the 2011 Boys State session. This year we will be back at Northwood University in Midland and we are planning to have the 2012 session back to Michigan State University in East Lansing to celebrate our seventy fifth year.

Boys State started in 1935 with 217 boys. In the early 1990's we had almost 1,000 boys. This number has been going down every year since. In 2010, there was a slight increase. I would like to see this upward trend continue. The Boys State committee can't do it alone. We need everyone's help and support and work as a team.

We need the zone com-

manders to make Boys State a higher priority when talking to the district commanders and the district commanders to urge the posts to make a commitment to increase their participation in the program.

Anyone can sponsor a boy. A post does not always have to come up with the money. There are a lot of private clubs and businesses around that are happy to help kids. All you need to do is ask. This has been an American Legion program for all these years and it is our responsibility to keep it going and growing, so please join our team.

We also need volunteers to come to the Boys State session and help us run it. Anyone is welcome to visit and see the program in action; it will definitely win you over.

Continued

ADJUTANT

May a person, other than a veteran, have his or her casket draped with the flag of the United States?

Yes. Although this honor is usually reserved for veterans or highly regarded state and national figures, the Flag Code does not prohibit this use.

What is the significance of the gold fringe seen on some U.S. flags?

Records indicate that fringe was first used on the flag as early as 1835. It was not until 1895 it was officially added to the national flag for all Army regiments. For civilian use, fringe is not required as an integral part of the flag, nor can its use be said to constitute an unauthorized addition to the design prescribed by statute. Fringe is used as an honorable enrichment only.

What is meant by the flag's own right?

The "right" as the position of honor developed from the time when the right hand was the "weapon hand" or "point of danger." The right hand, raised without a weapon, was a sign of peace. The right hand, to any observer, is the observer's left. Therefore, as used in the Flag Code, the flag and/or blue field is displayed to the observer's left, which is the flag's "own right."

Is it proper to fly the U.S. flag at night?

The Flag Code states it is the universal custom to display the flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day if properly illuminated during the hours of darkness. The American Legion interprets "proper illumination"

as a light specifically placed to illuminate the flag (preferred) or having a light source sufficient to illuminate the flag so it is recognizable as such by the casual observer.

What should be the position of the flag when displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or other public meeting place, whether indoors or outdoors, on platform, or on the floor at ground level?

When used on a speaker's platform, the flag, if displayed flat, should be displayed above and behind the speaker. When displayed from a staff in a church, public auditorium or meeting place, the flag should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Prior to the Flag Code changes in 1976, the display procedure was somewhat different. Now, the staffed flag should always be placed to the right of the speaker (observer's left) without regard to a platform or floor level.

What are the penalties for the physical desecration of the flag?

There are currently no penalties for the physical desecration of the flag. The American Legion and other members of the Citizens Flag Alliance continue working toward securing a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration.

I hope you find this information helpful as you proceed with your "February is Americanism Month" activities.

-Pat

Classifieds



Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Michigan recently granted a Rainbow Connection Wish for a trip to Florida's Walt Disney World for Alante from Clinton Township. Shown with Alante are Past Detachment Commander and Rainbow Connection Chairman Andre Svacha, Susan Svacha, Past Department Auxiliary President Brenda Dees, Past Detachment Commander Roger Dees and Alante's mother, grandmother, brother and sister.

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TAPS are located on our website to be viewed or printed at:

www.michiganlegion.org/pages/taps.html

WILLIAM ANDERSON REMEMBERED



Past State Commander William Anderson of Lincoln Park, Michigan, died November 7, 2010. He was a 22-year Honorary Life Member of Lincoln Park Post 67 at the time of his passing. Anderson, a Vietnam veteran of U.S. Army service, served the American Legion at many levels including State Finance Officer, Public Relations Committee Chairman, Reconnect Committee member, 16th District Commander, as well as Post Commander and Adjutant.

ELWIN O. KLINE REMEMBERED

Past State Commander Elwin O. Kline of Millington, Michigan, died December 7, 2010. He was a 46-year member of Millington Post 164 at the time of his passing. Kline, a Korean War veteran of U.S. Marine Corps service, served the American Legion at many levels including National Executive Committeeman, 7th District Commander, Post Commander, and State Leadership College Chairman. He also served on the State Joint Poppy, Legion Villa, and National Security & Foreign Relations Committees.



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Around the State...



South Haven Post 49 Honor Guard Officer in Charge Kevin Ferguson (c) , presents Certificates of Recognition to George Bartholomew and John Lammert for their combined honor guard service in excess of 100 years.



Michigan and Wisconsin Legion leaders toured the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) at Iron Mountain, Michigan recently. Shown standing behind American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary VAMC volunteers are: Michigan State Commander William Hafeman, VAMC Acting Director Allen Ackers, National Vice Commander John M. Mella, and Wisconsin State Commander Robert S. Batty. Iron Mountain VAMC, which also serves Wisconsin veterans, is one of five Michigan Medical Centers that include Saginaw, Ann Arbor, Detroit, and Battle Creek.



State Leadership College Chairman Brett Holt (r) presents a graduation certificate to John K. Montague at the conclusion of the first session recently held at Battle Creek Post 298. It was the first of several free one-day sessions to be held throughout Michigan's five zones in 2010 and 2011 for Legion Family members to learn about the American Legion. Topics include history, protocol, parliamentary procedures, resolutions, public relations, programs, and post revitalization. In addition to Holt, the presenters include State Internal Affairs Chairman Stephen J. German and Leadership College Committee member Franklin Hansbarger. The class schedule and reservation form is available at www.michiganlegion.org, the state headquarters website.

Wishing You and Yours a



Montrose Post 367 Commander R. Wayne White (r) presents a check to James Stewart, Chairman of the Veterans Bell Committee toward the \$6,000 the post has donated in the past two years to help build a \$200,000 memorial housing a 6 ft. tall stainless steel veterans bell in Montrose.



Wolverine Post 122 Adjutant Joseph Wildberg (l) and Commander Ronald Bush display the 634 lbs. of Tabs for Tots collected throughout the 19th District, generating a \$334.36 donation to the program once recycled. The program, that collects and recycles aluminum can tabs, provides emergency pediatric equipment to hospitals or volunteer ambulances services statewide. (See page 13)



Boys State graduate David Smith (c) of Grand Ledge was recognized with an American Legion certificate by Lansing Post 183 during the post's 69th birthday party. Shown (l-r) Boys State Chairman Billy Arnold, Smith, and Post Commander Thomas Showers. 2011 Boys state information and application as well as all other youth programs are available under "programs" at www.michiganlegion.org, the state headquarters website.