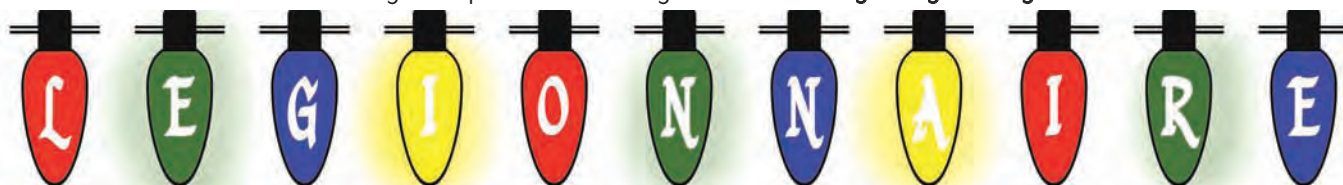




# MI



Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXX No.4

\$634,000

## 2010 LEGACY RUN BLOWS GOAL OUT OF WATER

Surpassing its goal by nearly \$200,000, this year's Legacy Run brought in more than \$634,000 for The American Legion Legacy scholarship Fund.

The American Legion Riders traveled from Indianapolis to Milwaukee over the course of five days with more than 240 motorcycles covering 1,400 miles and traversing six states. The Legion Riders collected funds prior to the ride and then received contributions from Legion posts and non-Legionnaires along the way.

Immediate American Legion Past National Commander Clarence Hill participated in the entire run, which started in Indianapolis Aug. 22 and traveled through Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota before reaching

Wisconsin.

"The biggest impression I got was on all the stops that we made," Hill said. "People who gave \$1, the worker who gave me 50 cents, people who gave \$5, \$10, \$20; on every stop, when we explained what we were doing, we got a donation. Everyone identifies with the need to educate our children, and they understand the hardships associated with doing that when a family has lost a parent. This cause is an easy one to support."

The Run, in its fifth year, has generated more than \$2 million for the Legacy Fund, which raises funds to cover college expenses for the children of U.S. servicemembers killed on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.



**Charlotte Post 42 Legion Riders Director Tom Howard (l) presents the group's \$13,100 American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund donation to National Adjutant Daniel S. Wheeler during a recent special trip to national headquarters in Indianapolis. The Legacy Scholarship Fund provides higher education scholarships to children of military personnel who have lost their lives since September 11, 2001. Shown (l-r) with group National Executive Director Marty Justis, Howard, Wheeler, and National Americanism & Children and Youth Deputy Director Jill Druskis.**



**Winter Meeting & National Commander's Banquet - See Page 7**

## Legion Wins Long Fight For Gold Star Parents

*Congress awards state veterans home privileges to all parents of fallen warriors*

WASHINGTON (Sept. 21, 2010) – After a decades-long campaign waged by The American Legion and sympathetic advocates, the U.S. Senate last night cleared legislation that will grant state veterans home care privileges to all Gold Star mothers and fathers; parents who have lost sons or daughters during military service. Heretofore, since the post-Civil War era, only parents who had sacrificed all of their children in service were eligible for veterans' home residency. The passage by unanimous voice vote followed overwhelming passage of similar legislation at the end of June.

"To lose one's child to the service of our country is the ultimate sacrifice a parent can make," said Tim Tetz, Director of The American Legion's Legislative Division. "We owe them much more than a debt of gratitude. It is heartening to see that Congress is now making an honorable payment on that debt."

Tetz, formerly the Executive Director of the Nevada Office of Veterans Services, was among those who urged Senator John Ensign (R-Nev.) to introduce enabling legislation into the Senate making that state one of the prime driving forces behind the move to open veterans' home care to more Gold Star parents. Tetz credited Ensign as being "hugely supportive" of the Senate measure. Nevada's Gary Bermeosolo, Legislative Chairman of the National Association of State Veterans Homes, also offered his thanks by saying "(we) appreciate the efforts of Senator Ensign and Congressman William "Mac" Thornberry of Texas (who introduced the House bill in late January) to correct the inequity created by the onerous definition requiring Gold Star Parents to have lost "all" of their children to wartime service in order to be considered for admission to a state veterans home. We prayed that they would be successful with their efforts."

The American Legion's effort to honor all Gold Star parents with much deserved care goes back many years. It was a special project

of Paul Morin, who served as the Legion's National Commander in 2006-2007 and was superintendent of a veterans home in his native Massachusetts. "The contribution of Commander Morin and fellow American Legion movers and shakers in correcting this inequity cannot be overstated," concluded Mr. Tetz.

The House and Senate bills will now be presented to a joint conference committee for reconciliation of any differences with the final version to be forwarded President Obama for his signature.



**State Commander William Hafeman (r) presents the headquarters annual Carleton L. Seaman – Best Post Veterans Service Officer award to Robert Williams of Oxford Post 108, and the Albert R. Thiel Sr. – Best District Veterans Service Officer award to 17th District Veterans Service Officer Beverly List during the recent Fall Conference in Troy. State Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee Chairman Raymond Moore (l) participated in the presentation.**

November/December 2010

1st Place NALPA Publication Winner 2010 1st Place NALPA Website Winner 2008  
2nd Place NALPA Publication Winner - 2007 & 2009 3rd Place NALPA Publication Winner - 2008

### THE ISSUE

Membership.....	4	National Commander's Banquet.....	7
Section Two.....	5,6,11 & 12	Fall Conference Photos.....	9
Winter Meeting & Leadership College.....	7	Veterans Service .....	10

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

**MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE**

(USPS 010637) is published monthly except February, May, August, and December by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliaire, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$10.00 non-members, members receive the publication as part of their dues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Legionnaire, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297.

**DEADLINE DATES**

JAN./FEB. - DECEMBER 1, 2010

Circulation: 98,966  
Printed: 10-25-10 • Mailed: 11-02-10

**LEGION STATE HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY**

PUBLISHER: PATRICK W. LAFFERTY  
EDITOR: WARREN F. STENSURD

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan  
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915  
(517) 371-4720 • Fax: (517) 371-2401  
Web Site: www.michiganlegion.org  
Email: info@michiganlegion.org

- Legion and SAL Membership - 24 - [member@michiganlegion.org](mailto:member@michiganlegion.org)
- Programs, Boys State and Scholarships - 11 - [programs@michiganlegion.org](mailto:programs@michiganlegion.org)
- Legion Finance - 17 - [finance@michiganlegion.org](mailto:finance@michiganlegion.org)
- Baseball, Website and History - 23 - [activity@michiganlegion.org](mailto:activity@michiganlegion.org)
- Veterans Service - 12 - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
- Public Relations - 16 - [info@michiganlegion.org](mailto:info@michiganlegion.org)
- Administration - 13 - [support@michiganlegion.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@michiganlegion.org) or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

**Veterans Service Directory Page 10**



**Chaplain**  
**Eddie W. Brown, State Chaplain**

**“WE GIVE THANKS”**

As I have said before, I love this time of year. As we enter into the “Holy Days” seasons for so many different religions it seems to not only bring about a change in the weather, it seems to bring on feelings of good will and love for one another. We as a nation have so much to be thankful for. So, as we sit around our tables to celebrate Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Ashura, Yule and/or Christmas let us remember our national religious heritage and the reason for these holidays.

As we all know, throughout history God has provided a way of salvation for his people. We need to thank Him and take time out to listen to Him. Isaiah

55:2-8 ... “Listen carefully to me, and you will eat well, you will enjoy the fat of the land... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not my ways,” says ADONAI (God). “As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts (higher) than your thoughts.”

As we enter into Thanksgiving, we remember how a long time ago, through the generosity and goodwill of one people to another, some of our pilgrim forefathers survived. In the years that followed as they flourished, these Christian settlers shared their bounty with the Indians. Later on, many of the colonies and states declared Days of

Thanksgiving. After Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln signed into law the National Day of Thanksgiving as the last Thursday of November, so that we as a united people could give special thanks to God. And then, in the 1920’s the Detroit Lions came up with the idea of a Thanksgiving Day football game. This single event has taught us fans much in the way of humility (and sometimes indigestion) and is the source of many prayers (Dear Lord, not again). But then, we also have the parade.

Yes, we have so much to be thankful for here in America. We have created laws that protect our freedom of worship and we preach love and tolerance. But we have to remember though that others do not believe as we do and would try to take our freedoms away. So, as we go out and vote, we need to elect good men and women who believe the same and hold true to our heritage. And too, we need to rely on the word of God and give Him thanks and praise.

God has promised to help us. These are powerful words. As well as from the fruits of our own labor, if we listen to and abide by the ways of God He will provide for us and we “will enjoy the fat of the land.” But, we do not always get the answer from God that we want, when we want it. Often, we cannot see the forest for the trees that surround us and we do not know if we will find a way out or how we will survive. But, it’s good to know that there is someone above us as “the heavens are higher than the earth.” He sees the way out for us if we trust in Him whose ways are higher than ours. He sees the big picture.

God loves us and His “thoughts are not ours and ways higher than ours.” Those of us who are Christian find this season to be of particular important because to us, the birth of Christ was the ultimate gift from God and way to salvation. But in all faiths, God shows His love for His people. So regardless of your religion, let us never forget the religious beliefs that are the basis for the laws that provide the tolerance of open religious expression. We are the Land of The Free because of the sacrifice of the brave. During these holidays, please remember to thank God for the men and women willing to risk their lives to protect our rights. God bless and keep you all.

74 YEARS OF LEADERS

**BOYS STATE ENDOWMENT FUND SEEKS UNDERWRITING OFFSET**

The American Legion, Department of Michigan, the state headquarters for Michigan American Legion members operating as a 501 (C) 19 non-profit “war veterans” organization, received legal confirmation allowing it to create and seek endowment funds to augment the perpetuation and conduct of its various public programs, effective April 20, 2009.

Consequently, the Legion created the Boys State Endowment Fund deemed one of the most essential programs to augment in light of state budget cuts which have severely diminished the organization’s role to better the life of Michigan’s veterans and their families.

Boys State Endowment Fund - Financial contributions to this fund, the distribution of which will only occur upon the approval of the State Adjutant in concert with the Boys State Chairman, will be used to offset the “underwriting” cost of the American Legion as it continues to bring this “hands on” five-day experience in American democratic methods to Michigan’s high school students who will eventually be franchised voters and/or well-versed public office candidates. Contributions to this endowment fund will help insure the Michigan

American Legion’s ability to continue offering this program to the state’s young men at an affordable rate, just as it has since 1936.

The American Legion, Department of Michigan assures contributors, their donations will be used exclusively for the intended purpose. Contributions can be accepted at any time and as often you wish.

**How to Contribute**

Tax-deductible contributions to the Boys State Endowment Fund is legal, Appreciated, and will be acknowledged.

To contribute, please make a check, in whatever amount affordable, payable to:

American Legion Department of Michigan - attn: Accountant,  
212 N. Verlinden, Ste. A,  
Lansing, MI 48915

specify “Boys State Endowment” in the check’s “memo” line .

Or you can make a Visa or Master Card credit card payment by phone to: 517.371.4720 , ext. 17 providing you name, type of card, card number, and expiration date.

**STATE OFFICERS**

- State Commander . . . . . William Hafeman, Carney
- State Adjutant . . . . . Patrick W. Lafferty, Mt. Pleasant
- 1st Zone . . . . . Floyd Plowman, Dearborn Heights
- 2nd Zone . . . . . Cliff Rose, E. Leroy
- 3rd Zone . . . . . Terry Montgomery, Redford
- 4th Zone . . . . . Nancy Frye, Holton
- 5th Zone . . . . . Ron Pearson, Marquette

- Finance Officer . . . . . David Buist, Grandville
- Historian . . . . . Ronald Runyan, Wyandotte
- Chaplain . . . . . Eddie Brown, Southgate
- Sergeant-at-Arms . . . . . Ernest Berry, Woodhaven
- Judge Advocate..Hon. James A. Callahan, Grosse Pointe
- National Executive Committeeman . . . . . Darwin Krieger, Bridgman

- Alt. National Executive Committeeman . . . . . Thomas G. Holzgen, Grandville
- Immediate Past Commander . . . . . Carnie Jackson, Clarkston
- Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director . . . . . James Topps, Adrian
- Membership Director . . . . . Louis Oberle, Engadine
- Public Relations Director. . . . . Warren F. Stensrud, Holt

# Headquarters

## Legionnaires Make a Difference Every Day

William Hafeman, State Commander

### Leadership



William Hafeman  
State Commander

**“Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way.” General George Patton, Jr.**

With Leadership College Chairman Brett Holt and his staff traveling the state putting on seminars over the next few months, what a great time it is to write on leadership.

Too many posts within Michigan are not as active as they should be due to a lack of leadership—or is this really true? EVERY LEGIONNAIRE has the ability to lead; it only takes initiative and as little time that you want to put into it.

Leadership, according to Wikipedia, can be defined as the process of social influence in which one person (you) can enlist the aid and support of others (post membership) in the accomplishment of a common task.

Years ago when I had to be away from my business for a period of time, I always told my managers that there are two ways to manage the business—my way and their way and both ways are right. I told them this

so they could and would take a leadership position in decision making on their own, and they always performed. When I got back and discussed the problems that came up, I always accepted the decisions they made even though I may have done some things differently. The point is that the people who made the decisions thought they were the right decisions at the time and that's important in leadership. They, in fact, became leaders and decision makers instantly without actually realizing they ever had the ability at the time.

**See how easy leadership can be! Vadlim Koteinikov's book on "Effective Leadership" lists five items on what leadership is all about:**

1. 35% Vision
2. 33% Energizing people
3. 19% Communication
4. 9% Charisma
5. 5% Competence

As a member of your post, you bring up an idea and the membership is excited about your project, your (Vision, 35%) just energized (33%) of the membership through your communication (19%). Do you realize that you have done 87% of the work getting

a project idea) going for your post through your leadership and you don't have to have the competence to get the job done. (Sounds like our political leaders in Washington). All we have to do is follow the project through to completion.

**Signs of a losing organization can be summed up as follows:**

1. **Apathy: Current officers not caring about the post**
2. **Fear of Change: Just keep the status quo and we're happy**
3. **Lack of Growth: Failure to recruit new and younger members**
4. **Micromanagement by Current Officers: Failure to let any other Legionnaire do work on their own**
5. **Failure to hold regular post meetings using the Legion ritual manual**

Remember, post elections are next spring. Step up and take a leadership position. If your post is a very active post with excellent leadership, have that leadership step up to the next level and get involved in department affairs on the district, zone, and committee levels. Department continuously needs new

leadership.

In closing, I ask all post and district officers and those individuals aspiring to get into a future leadership position to attend a "Leadership Seminar" at the location nearest to you. You and any American Legion Family Member are welcome to attend any seminar, at no cost, regardless where you live. The registration form is available under the "FYI" button at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org), our state headquarters website and on page 7.

On a late note, I learned upon my return from the National Fall Meetings in Indianapolis that the first Leadership Seminar held at Battle Creek Post 298 was a huge success. Our 2nd Zone Commander Cliff Rose commented, "Brett Holt did a great program with his two assistants, and everyone who attended stated the seminar was a good learning one".

Please attend Legionnaires and Legion Family members. These presenters are very knowledgeable. You will walk out of the seminar a much more knowledgeable person.

**“Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it.” General Dwight D. Eisenhower.**



Patrick W. Lafferty  
State Adjutant

Patrick W. Lafferty, State Adjutant

### GI Bill Testimony Calls for Modernization

With Veterans Day being celebrated nationally in November, I have chosen to reprint the following national headquarters GI Bill article. It succinctly demonstrates

the Legion's commitment to its veterans by calling for veterans to have the best "real time" opportunities available to them.

The original World War II GI Bill, which as a former American Legion State Veterans Service Officer, I have always regarded as the "Gold Standard", so to speak, for veterans was actually drafted and lobbied by the American Legion. As such, it dramatically changed the face of America. Veterans, collectively speaking, for the first time had guaranteed access to education, housing, and other opportunities. There is no one in the Department of Michigan membership who hasn't benefited directly, or indirectly, from that original legislation. Many of us bought homes and furthered our education via that unprecedented law.

Today, the aptly named "new" GI Bill, which can be accessed through [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) our state headquarters website, expands those original opportunities relative to the realities of modern American

life, save principally the need to expand into covering non-degree higher education.

The traditional academic four-year bachelor's degree which is still our nation's academic "Gold Standard" in its own right is not necessarily the best option for all veterans. With today's economic realities calling for some very specific trade skills, the new "GI Bill" needs to expand its options to include those veterans wanting to pursue those careers. In doing so, they will become actively employed, pay expected taxes, contribute to the communities, and in general stimulate the economy through their successes.

In that light, please read the following article and applaud the American Legion's Congressional testimony as evidence of its continuing, relevant veterans' advocacy. And, let us hope the testimony is understood and incorporated into the GI Bill by our federal government in the very near future.

-Pat

#### Legion-GI Bill Needs Non-Degree Coverage

By Lauren Maffeo, The American Legion

Many veterans have decided to pursue vocational school or job training after serving, and The American Legion thinks the

Post-9/11 GI Bill should cover them.

The American Legion testified to Congress on Sept. 16 that the Post 9/11 GI Bill, which provides veterans with the most comprehensive education benefits since World War II, should be extended to cover courses at non-degree granting institutions.

Testifying before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Robert Madden of The American Legion said in his written statement that "a veteran or family member may choose a more traditional path and attend a non-degree institution, but cannot use their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to complete these courses. Most of these education paths consist of a shorter training time and can lead to immediate employment. The American Legion believes that veterans should never be limited in the manner they use their educational benefits."

Madden, assistant director of the Legion's Economic Division, stressed the importance of informing student veterans and university administrators of the opportunities that the GI Bill provides, emphasizing that The American Legion has been a leading supporter of the bill since it was introduced by Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va.

Last month, The American Legion conducted a two-day "Veterans on Campus"

education symposium in Milwaukee. The event, which Madden referenced in his testimony, focused on the unique needs of veterans in their transition from military life to the more relaxed world of academia.

"We found that a large number of student veterans... did not have sufficient information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. VA needs to provide more outreach to colleges and universities around the country to ensure these student veterans have a full range of knowledge concerning their education benefits," Madden told the subcommittee.

Helping veterans with their education benefits is especially important, Madden said, given VA's initial difficulties in delivering those benefits in August 2009, when thousands of student veterans failed to get their GI Bill payments on time. VA had to provide many of them with emergency payments of up to \$3,000.

"Now, there are reports of veterans and their family members losing all of their future payments," Madden said. "There have been reports of schools being overpaid, which is why many schools are waiting for the add/drop period before sending in the veteran's enrollment certification."

"In spite of this move by the schools, the

See ADJUTANT on page 14

# Membership

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

# HARVESTING OUR GOAL



**By Louis Oberle,  
State Director**

Many of us have just returned from a very informative and successful Fall Conference in Troy and are reflecting on the information we received from some very exceptional leaders and the volumes of good information. A "thank you" is extended to our school instructors and our national staff people who traveled to Michigan to share the conference with us.

Traveling home to the Upper Peninsula, I was enjoying the early signs of fall and the imminent change of seasons. The "color season" is fast approaching and it has already "peaked" in parts of the U.P. I am reminded that everything has a season and that we must not be idle about getting our business done. Make your contacts early and often. Don't hesitate to work on your goal. I enjoy the harvest that we receive from our gardens and orchards, but most of all I am reminded that they had their season. We have just started ours and now we have a great task ahead; our work has just begun. Share the work and let us get it done.

There are many veterans just waiting to be asked. We have just 10 % of the veterans in Michigan as American Legion members. We can and should do better. Our programs are second to none. Our mission, our service to veterans and their families, our community outreach, and our veteran advocacy are what make us the nation's largest veterans' service organization. The responsibility of our success belongs to each of us; let's do our parts.

Our membership teams have been out

and about renewing and recruiting with 1,028 new members effective September 21st. The 5th District is commended for obtaining the highest number of new members to date -121. The "mighty" 11th District continues to be the leader of the pact and its goal of 65% has been met. But, we know it takes a team effort to get to the top. Remember the words of our commander, "membership is everyone's business". Let's remind each other of this. We run into our members every day. Ask them if they have renewed or recruited a new member? It's fun to brag when you sign up a new member and we even challenge each other to get out and do recruiting. I had one Legionnaire tell me he goes to the cemetery every day to see if a veteran has come back to life and has not renewed! He also told me that every veteran in his community is a member of the American Legion; all 55 of them.

There are a number of posts that have not sent in their renewals to date. I hope you are not holding back these submittals for one reason or another. Your members who have paid their dues could lose valuable benefits if you "hold" their renewal and the post will be responsible for any loss. I encourage posts to make weekly submittals. Our next goal of 65% is by November 15th and 75% by December 6th. Remember to achieve 100% by December 31, 2010 so you will qualify for a rebate of \$1.00 per member for your post.

As always, our team is available to assist where ever and whenever we are needed. Continue to educate yourself, communicate and cooperate with each other and by doing so, you will be able to **know, believe in, promote** and **sell** our product - our American Legion.

## Congratulations

To the first Public Relations Contest winners sponsored by the State Public Relations Committee to improve communication between posts, districts and zones. The selections were awarded during the 2010 Fall Conference in Troy.

Rex Lambert of Grand Rapids Post 459 - \$75

Steve Rogers of Holt Post 238 - \$50

Arnold H. Koehn of Harbor Beach Post 197 - \$50

-Dick Chatman, State Public Relations Committee Chairman

## CURRENT TOP MEMBERSHIP COMMANDERS



Top Zone  
Commander  
Ronald Pearson  
5th Zone  
67.37%



Top District  
Commander  
William Hilgris  
6th District  
68.89%



**Otisville Post 321 presented 2011 membership cards to three members whose membership years total 197. Shown (l-r) Joe Barden-64 years, John DeClute - 68 years, Ford Birtles - 65 years.**

## District Meetings

### 1st District

Dec. 6, Detroit VAMC, 7:00 pm, (boys state attendees recognition)

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)

### 4th District

Nov. 7, Sturgis Post 73

Jan. 9, Constantine Post 223

March 6, Buchanan Post 51

May 1, Bridgman Post 331

### 5th District

Nov. 4, Grand Rapids Post 2, 7:00 pm

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

Nov. 7, Pinckney Post 419, 1:00 pm, Serv. Off. School 11:00 am, lunch noon

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

Nov. 7, Breckenridge Post 295 follows 1:30 pm lunch, Serv. Off. School noon

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

Dec 11, Cadillac Post 94, 2:00 pm, Exec. Bd. noon, Serv. Off. School 12:30 pm, lunch 1 pm

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

Nov. 6, Skidway Post 370, 1:00 pm, lunch noon

Jan. 8, Sanford Post 443, 1:00 pm, lunch noon

March 1, Linwood Post 239, 1 pm, lunch noon

May 7, 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

Nov. 9, Flat Rock Post 337, 7:30 pm

Dec. 14, Wayne Post 111, 7:30 pm, Serv. Off. School 6:30 pm

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

Nov. 17, Livonia Post 32, 7:00 pm

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

Nov. 14, Auburn Hills Post 143

Jan. 9, Berkley Post 374

March 13, Milford Post 216

May 15, Pontiac Post 377

June 12, Farmington Post 346

### 19th District

Dec. 12, BJ's Rest. Gaylord, 1:00pm, lunch noon

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



# AUXILIAIRE



## From the Desk of the President

2010 - 2011 Department President, Jan Kintz



This is probably the shortest article that you will receive from a Department President as I am laying in a hospital bed, doped up on medication, as I write this. If you

haven't figured it out yet, I am a great procrastinator and always wait until a week before the article is due before writing it. I guess it's my way of not second guessing what I should write about and I don't have time to change anything prior to printing time.

It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is already upon us, so please keep our service personnel, and their families, in your thoughts and prayers, especially

those who will still be abroad protecting our country and freedom. I encourage everyone to still continue sending care packages to our service men and women as this is one way of showing how we continue to support our troops, plus it gives them a bit of home and lets them know they are not forgotten. The VA Christmas Gift Shops will also be starting, and I hope our Hospital Directors can still rely on your continued support for this great program.

I have been to many Units and Districts since June and have enjoyed the hospitality that has been extended to me. It is always great to meet old friends and make new ones along the way. Thanks to each and every one of you for all you do for this organization. As a member, you may not feel appre-

ciated as the "Thanks" is often blocked by criticism, but be reassured that you are appreciated, as you are what makes this organization a success.

In a prior article I stated that I would keep you informed on the proposed dues increase at the National level. Well they did not propose an increase (though a brief statement was made), but be assured it will be brought up at next year's National Convention.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Donna Fuelling on her election to Central Division National Vice President. Donna, Michigan is proud and we know you will represent us well at the National level.

Remember with "The Power of One" and "These Two Hands" we can do anything!

## Saginaw VAMC

By Bonnie Holt

This year at the Saginaw VAMC we are under heavy construction. In fact, there is no room to store the Christmas Gift Shop boxes. The boxes will be coming to my address for storage. On the other hand, our volunteer room will be getting a new room of carpet, painting and storage lockers. Our Christmas Gift Shop will be as planned. We will be setting up on Monday, November 29th. This will include all the driving back and forth, bringing the boxes to the hospital. November 30th and December 1st we will be open for our Veterans to shop. We have enough volunteers for each day.

Wednesday we volunteer and take our carts around to our Veterans. We give out ditty bags filled with personal items, a phone card and throw. One of our most popular items are stuffed animals. Our Veterans can't seem to get enough of them.

Last year we went to our local Dollar Daze asking for donations. Instead, the owner said she will have a store wide donation day. They raised \$630.36. In June of this year, she did the same and raised \$1,010.47. This coming October, she has 14 Dollar Daze in the 8th and 10th district to raise donations. We are excited to hear the outcome.

Thank you for volunteering at the Saginaw VAMC and your tender care for our Veterans. Thank you for all your generous donations and thank you Jan for this appointment.

## Olson Installed as Auxiliary Department Secretary-Treasurer

Bonnie Olson, of Holt, was installed as the Auxiliary Department Secretary-Treasurer on Friday, September 24, at the Annual Fall Conference



Bonnie Olson's professional experience includes: Secretary for the President of a Chamber of Commerce, Secretary for the Vice-President of a steel service company, co-owner of a printing company for over twenty-five years and administrative assistant for a local cemetery.

"My responsibilities in the printing company were primarily book-keeping, personnel training and overseeing production." Olson said. "However, a small business owner is required to wear many hats, sometimes all in the same day. I think my varied business experiences have prepared me for this position. I am very excited for this opportunity."

Olson attended Michigan State University on a full voice scholarship, and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education. Between her sophomore and junior year in college, she studied music in Vevey, Switzerland through an overseas program at Syracuse University in New York.

When not working, Bonnie is a member of a local arts chorale, and enjoys line dancing and making appliquéd sweatshirts. She is married, has two children and four grandchildren.

### OLSON'S REMARKS AT FALL CONFERENCE

*"I would like to thank the women who were involved with the interviewing process, and selected me to fill the position of Secretary/Treasurer for this organization. I pledge to do everything I can to maintain the high standards of my predecessors, and to present new ideas to further build and strengthen our Auxiliary, and to always bear in mind the duty and sacrifices our service men and women have made to allow us the freedoms we all enjoy. Thank you."*

### AUXILIARY HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY 517-267-8809

Auxiliary Administration - 21 - [info@michalaux.org](mailto:info@michalaux.org)

Auxiliary Membership/Girls State - 19 - [svandlen@michalaux.org](mailto:svandlen@michalaux.org)

Auxiliary Poppies/Scholarships/Bookkeeping - 22 - [lknott@michalaux.org](mailto:lknott@michalaux.org)

## Girls State

By: **Brenda J. Dees**

The 2011 session will be the 71st for the State of Michigan. It will be held at MSU in Shaw Hall from June 19, 2011 through June 25, 2011. The cost to sponsor a Delegate will be \$310 if paid by December 31, 2010. After December 31, 2010, the cost will be \$325. This is an incentive program to get the number of citizens we will be having at the 2011 session earlier so we can plan for how many counselors, Auxiliary Staff and Government Staff we will need. It makes it easier to plan for the session the earlier we know how many citizens we will be serving. For example, if we have over 370 citizens we will increase to 5 counties with 15 cities. If we have less than 370 we will stay with 4 counties and 12 cities. For 15 cities we will need additional counselors and County Advisors. Please help us increase our numbers and do it early. You don't have to have your Delegate and Alternate until April.

There will be a change to the Annual Report for Girls State. National is asking for 3 questions we

have never been asked before, so I will be adding 1 additional to the required questions I need to complete my report for the Annual Book of Reports for Convention. The information will still come from the 2010 session. The question National wants an answer for is: how many veterans/families were served? You will need to contact your 2010 delegate and see if they were affiliated to a veteran to answer this question. The other two questions I can answer from the information I receive from you.

The Girls State Committee will be keeping the Units informed on the program throughout the year by fliers in the Unit monthly mailings. So if you are the Girls State Chairman for your Unit, be sure your President gives you these fliers. There was a reservation form for the 2011 Girls State Session in the October Unit monthly mailing. We are ready to start accepting reservations! Please sponsor a delegate or donate to this program and we will add your donation to others and find girls to fill those spots.

Thank you in advance for making the 2011 session a great SUCCESS!!

## WHY A PARLIAMENTARIAN?"

By **Sandra A Knapp**

Many members ask, "Why is a Parliamentarian necessary?"

She serves as a consultant who advises the President, other officers, committees and members on proper procedure. Mostly she is seen and not heard. Her role during a meeting is purely advisory since parliamentary law gives the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order and inquiries. She also, helps to keep the presiding officer on track.

The President should confer with her prior to the meeting and during the recess to anticipate problems that may arise. Consultations during the meeting should be limited to advising the Chair and to other members when requested by the Chair. It is also the parliamentarian's duty to call to the Chair's attention any error in the proceedings that may affect the rights of the members or otherwise do harm.

Members make motions, which are proposals to get things done.

The member secures the floor and waits to be recognized by the Chair. The member then states the motion, "I move that... and then another member seconds the motion. The Chair then states the motion which opens the floor for discussion of the motion.

Parliamentary Law includes the rules and customs that govern assemblies. The objectives are to enable the assembly, with the least possible friction, to accomplish the objectives of the organization, expedite business, maintain order and insure justice for all.

If Parliamentary Law is used correctly, you will discover that you can even "disagree" agreeably, respect another's viewpoint and school yourself in using patience.

A Parliamentarian cannot settle personality differences and should not be asked to take sides on any issue.

If I can assist you with questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

## Community Service begins with the power of "ONE"

By **Linda Dick, Dept. Community Service Committee**

Today is the day for you to take individual responsibility and take "ONE" step forward in helping to serve our veterans and their families. Part of being a person is about helping others.

Begin with thinking of ways you can help. Share your interests and talents by connecting with individuals around you. Volunteer in your local schools by helping a child to read. Share your talents with our youth, or, if you are a parent or grandparent share your love with a child who has a parent in the military. Support them in their needs as they adjust to being separated from a parent.

Assist Veterans with shopping, doctor's appointments or by taking time to visit and brighten their day. A simple smile can make such a positive difference in their day. Volunteer in homeless shelters or a VA hospital.

Your rewards will be beyond the obvious and tangible. National Family Volunteer Day is November 20th. How can you and your family make a difference? Begin by helping a family who could use your support by becoming "ONE" united family helping others with random acts of kindness. This is a great start in making "ONE" committed to service for the American Legion Auxiliary organization.

Don't forget to jot down those volunteer activities and record and submit those hours at your Unit meeting each month. You will be surprised at how quickly the hours add up by the end of the year. Your "ONE", will have contributed to "ONE" Unit who has served its veterans and their families well.

Marian Edelman wrote "Service is the rent we pay for living, it is the very purpose of life and not something you do in your spare time".

Have you paid your rent?

## REINO UNIT 21 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS

On May 18, 2010, Reino Unit 21 in Iron River, Michigan presented seven West Iron Senior girls with \$600 scholarships to the schools of their choice. All of the girls are related to veterans and most are granddaughters. In order to qualify for consideration, each applicant submitted essays telling how they were related to a veteran and what plans they had for their future education. Auxiliary President Rosalyn Johnson welcomed the recipients and presented them with their awards.

Unit 21 has been providing these scholarships for many years. To date

the value of the scholarships have totaled more than \$40,000.00, through the efforts of a devoted chairman and her crew. The money is raised through the proceeds of the Sunday night Bingo, held at the Post Home. Congratulations to Reino Unit 21, on a job extremely well done.

Pictured, from the left: Unit President Rosalyn Johnson, seniors Ashley Stevenson, Dylan Powell, Kristina Comish, Selina Mottes, Kristina Gustafson and Unit Bingo Chairman Jan Stello. Not pictured are seniors Jess Remer and Samantha Spence.





## The American Legion Department of Michigan Leadership College 2010/11

Leadership College classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., with a provided on-site one hour for lunch provided by the Committee at Headquarters. Check in begins at 8:30 a.m. with continental breakfast provided.

October 9, 2010	Zone 2	Post 298, 228 N. 20th St, Battle Creek 49037
October 23, 2010	Zone 4	Post 76, 318 N. James St, Ludington 49431
November 6, 2010	Zone 3	Post 294, 3440 Morrish, Swartz Creek 48473
December 4, 2010	Zone 5	Post 349, 1835 E. M 35, Little Lake 49833
December 5, 2010	Zone 5	Post 74, 7964 State Hwy M-123, Newberry 49868
January 15, 2011	Zone 1	Detroit VA Hospital, 4646 John R St, Detroit 48201

Some classes presented by experienced Legionnaires are: Protocol, Meeting Rituals, Roberts Rules of Order, Conflict Resolution techniques, Resolutions, Leadership Skills, Importance of Reports (CPR's), Legion Family, Post/District/Dept. Relationship, Post Revitalization, Membership and Public Relations (working together)

Please register early! There is no cost to you! So, don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to learn more about The American Legion – especially those of you who are just becoming active in your local posts (new commanders, senior and junior vice commanders and other officers).

Mail completed registration form to:

The American Legion Dept. of MI, Attn: Leadership College, 212 N. Verlinden Ave, Suite A, Lansing, MI 48915 or e-mail your information to [activity@michiganlegion.org](mailto:activity@michiganlegion.org) subject line: Leadership College Registration

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Post #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

What other topics you would like to see covered either this time or in the future:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mark which class you will be attending:

- |   |        |                       |
|---|--------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> October 9, 2010  | Zone 2 | Post 298 Battle Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> October 23, 2010 | Zone 4 | Post 76 Ludington     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> November 6, 2010 | Zone 3 | Post 294 Swartz Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 4, 2010 | Zone 5 | Post 349 Little Lake  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> December 5, 2010 | Zone 5 | Post 74 Newberry      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> January 15, 2011 | Zone 1 | VA Hospital Detroit   |



At the conclusion of the 2010 Legacy Scholarship Run, the Riders from the Founding Chapter at Garden City Post 396 presented a \$2,500 donation for the third consecutive year. Shown is then National Commander Clarence Hill accepting the contribution from member Rob Shaw.



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**



## 2010 AMERICAN LEGION STUDENT TROOPER GRADUATES



The following students graduated from this law enforcement career program that has offered thousands of Michigan high school students the opportunity to help make a career choice since its 1969 inception in conjunction with the Michigan State Police Training Academy in Lansing, Michigan.

The program, now offered in two annual sessions, provides \$5,000 in scholarships. The top scholarships of \$1,000 each, are awarded to the Student Trooper of the Year in each session. The

### 1st Session:

Benjamin R. Anderson – Fenton  
 Dillon R. Bagley - Montague  
 Konner Bartlett - Marshall  
 Sarah A.M. Bartrum - Comstock Park  
 James R. Bosk - Gladstone  
 Peter R. Brouwer - Cadillac  
 Arron R. Brown - Mason  
 Michael J. Burger - Roscommon  
 Jesse R. Chaney - Spring Lake  
 Taylor K.C. DeBottis - Howell  
 Zachary T. Dorr - Alpena  
 Kevin R. Fraser - Wyandotte  
 Richard J. Furtah Jr. - Lexington  
 Adam J. Gendron - Iron Mountain  
 Dylan R. Gross - Swartz Creek  
 Tyler J. Harrell - Coldwater  
 Michael J. Janisse Jr. - Roscommon  
 Nathan T. S. Keeler - Manistee  
 Tyler J. Kinsey - St. Johns  
 Nikki M. Kleiman - Powers  
 Katie E. Kleiman - Powers  
 Taylor L. Klotz - Vermontville  
 Karl J. Krycia - Gladstone  
 Jacob M. Krycia - Gladstone  
 Mitchell R. Lemire - Marquette  
 Cody D. Longrey - Coldwater  
 Wesley P. Mandeville - Lansing  
 Ian W. May - Roscommon



Christopher M. Mayo - L'Anse  
 James D. McCracken - Sheridan  
 Shandon N. Miller - Frankenmuth  
 Tyler J. Myrick - Escanaba  
 Hunter D. Osborn - Holt  
 Treven C. Padilla - Hart  
 Kellen-Joy K. Pety - Mt. Pleasant  
 Dylan J. Poley - White Pigeon  
 Andrew L. Ringling - Zeeland  
 Alexander C. Schulz - Ludington  
 Dreyton K. Scott - Farmington Hills  
 Cody J. Smith - Clarkston  
 Richard L. Spencer II - Bay City  
 Daniel H. Stacks - Cheboygan  
 Cannon Stehlik - Elsie  
 Tyler Z. Stornant- Lansing

scholarship balances are then shared by the Top Marksmen, Top Academics, and Class Orators.

The 2010 Student Troopers of the Year are Isaiah R. Townsel of Montague and Chyann E. Compeau of Ludington.

The 2011 Student Trooper Program sessions information and applications are available under "programs" at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org), the state headquarters website: 1st Session - June 26-July 1, and 2nd Session - July 24-July 29.

Robert A. Swoffer - Port Huron  
 Isaiah R. Townsel - Montague  
 Ryan M. VanSickle - St. Johns  
 Jeffrey E. Walto - Holland

### 2nd Session:

Jacob J. Anderson - Harrison  
 Phillip L. Baranowski - Calumet  
 Tiffany J. Birgy - Fife Lake  
 Ashley K. Brauer - Holt  
 Chyann E. Compeau - Ludington  
 Royce G. Cook - Portland  
 Ryan Curtis - Tecumseh  
 Denzell Daniel - Flint  
 Michael J. Domzal - Lenox  
 Shannon M. Fick - Midland  
 Jon Gregory - Merrill  
 Moriah K. F. Gromer - Ottawa Lake  
 Allison A. Gust - Essexville  
 Collin Myers - Brighton  
 Miles E. O'Brien - Flushing  
 Sarah Ohman - Montague,  
 Aaron S. Reyes - Midland  
 Destiny M. Scott - Fife Lake  
 J'Amie V. Sirvaitis - Dexter  
 Eric Stelzer - Otsego  
 Dallas Swinehart - Shelbyville  
 Emily P. Talley - Flint  
 Jacob A. White - Taylor



**2010 Student Trooper of the Year – 1st session – Isaiah R. Townsel of Montague receives his award during the recent Fall Conference in Troy. He is shown with his parents and State Law and Order Committee Chairman William Miller.**

### 2011 Michigan Membership Target Dates

THEME	DATE	%
Vetrans Day	November 15, 2010	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	December 6, 2010	75%
Mid-Winter	January 18, 2011	80%
President's Day	February 7, 2011	85%
Legion Birthday	March 7, 2011	90%
Children & Youth	April 11, 2011	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 9, 2011	100%

Membership transmittals must reach the American Legion, Department of Michigan, attn: Membership, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Ste. A, Lansing, MI 48915 by the following Mondays to be applied toward your membership goals.

LEXINGTON + SARATOGA + YORKTOWN  
 BARBARY WARS + LAKE ERIE + NEW ORLEANS  
 MONTEREY + VERA CRUZ + BULL RUN + SHILOH  
 ANTIETAM + CHANCELLORSVILLE + GETTYSBURG  
 INDIAN WARS + SANTIAGO + MANILA  
 BELLEAU WOOD + MEUSE - ARGONNE + MIDWAY  
 GUADALCANAL + ANZIO + BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC  
 NORMANDY + ARDENNES - ALSACE + IWO JIMA  
 BERLIN AIR LIFT + PUSAN + INCHEON + SEOUL  
 GULF OF TONKIN + ROLLING THUNDER + DAK TO  
 KHE SANH + TET OFFENSIVE + COLD WAR  
 GRENADA + PANAMA + GULF WAR I + BOSNIA  
 SOMALIA + KOSOVO + TORA BORA + KANDAHAR  
 FALLUJAH + SADR CITY + BASRA

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

# Veterans Day

November 11, 2010

### The Origins of Veterans Day"

*(Taken in part from the Celebrating America's Freedom Series)*

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, one a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England France and these memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918. Thus the "11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month" became known as "Armistice Day".

Armistice Day was officially received its name in America through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday twelve years later by similar Congressional action.

World War I was also known as "the War to end all wars", but history took a different turn and World War II consumed the entire world.

Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part with four hundred seven thousand of them dying in uniform.

Obviously the name "Armistice Day" had to be revised. In 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as "Veterans Day."

For a while, the observance date was changed. A law was passed in 1968 changing Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. The unpopularity of this became quickly apparent and in 1978, Congress returned the observance to November 11th.

## 2010 Fall Conf. - Troy Marriott



Wilwin Lodge Guest Soldier

Charlotte Post 42 Riders Award

Wilwin Lodge Donation

Conference Welcome!

History Book Awards

Veterans Services

Schools of Instruction

Student Trooper of the Year -1st Session

MALPA Award

Posting Colors

State Veterans Service Awards

National Commander Candidate Fang Wong & Michigan Officers

Legion Racing Award

Sons of the American Legion

American Legion Auxiliary

Ferndale Post Donation

Registration



**National Commander Candidate Fang Wong, a Special Guest of the Department of Michigan's Fall Conference in Troy, draws a winner's ticket from those collected for the annual headquarters raffle. Tending the ticket tumbler are Assistant Sergeants-at-Arms Mike Buda (l) and Steve Kintz.**

### 2010 Raffle Winners

- Martin L. Walsh – Dexter, MI
- Carroll D. Othberg – Howell, MI
- James F. Hewson – Livonia, MI
- Nora A. Raymond – Westland, MI
- James O. Smith – Indian River, MI
- Gerald R. Devowe – Trout Creek, MI
- Jeremy Myers – Millington, MI
- Alex Deforge Jr. – Painesdale, MI
- Bernard A. Bendle Post 294 – Swartz Creek, MI
- David C. Jarrett – Skandia, MI
- Donald Mraz – St. Helen, MI
- Walter H. Schwenk Jr. – Milford, MI
- James Holton – Fenton, MI
- Bruce Stanley – Waterford, MI

## 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**  
Muskegon County Office of Veterans Affairs  
Mondays - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm  
165 E. Apple Avenue - Muskegon, MI  
231-724-7143 / 231-878-1689

Grand Rapids CBOC  
Tuesdays - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm  
3019 Coit Avenue N.E.  
616-365-9575 ext 37574 / 231-330-6543

Martha visits the following Counties: Allegan,  
Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Ionia, Barry, Newaygo  
(Croton AL), Mecosta, Holton & Hesperia AL  
Posts

**Patrick Kline, Veterans Service Officer**  
**Cell Phone 989-280-3009**  
Saginaw VAMC Office  
Every Tuesday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
1500 Weiss Street - Saginaw, MI  
Cell: 989-280-3009 Office: 989-497-3500 or  
800-406-5243

Pat also visits the following Counties: Clare,  
Roscommon, Gladwin, Crawford, Kalkaska,  
Alcona, Otsego, Alpena, Charlevoix, Emmet,  
Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Ogemaw. UP Counties:  
Alger, Chippewa, Marquette, Delta, Schoolcraft,  
Luce, Mackinaw  
Call for dates and times - 989-280-3009

**Phillip "Phil" McCaskey, Veterans Service Officer**  
**Cell Phone - 269-330-6543**  
Ann Arbor VAMC Office  
2215 Fuller Road - Room B-156  
2nd, 3rd and 4th Mondays - Thursdays  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
734-845-5924 - Note: NO CELL CALLS

Battle Creek VAMC Office  
5500 Armstrong Road - Bldg 2  
Fridays 9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Cell: 269-330-6543

Phil will make visits to the following Counties:  
Hillsdale, Eaton, Ingham, St. Joseph, Berrien, Cass,  
Branch, Calhoun  
Call for dates and times - 269-330-6543

# Veterans' Service

## What is a State Veterans Service Officer?



**By Patrick Kline,  
State Veterans  
Service Officer**

American Legion State Veterans Service Officers ... what do you think of when you see that title? It should conger up thoughts of teamwork, professionalism, knowledge, and dedication to our veterans, their families, and widows.

What makes a good veterans service officer? First and foremost, I believe you must have empathy for the veteran with the ability to not only listen, but hear, what that veteran is saying to you without being judgmental. It is most important that the veterans service officer be able to communicate effectively what options the veteran may have in either filing a claim for compensation, pension, DIC, VA healthcare, or even the simple request for a copy of his or her DD 214. This Department of Michigan Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VAR) Staff listed on this page and under veterans service at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org), the headquarters website, is the best trained in the nation. Because of that, it and its leadership are able to make a difference every day in the lives of veterans throughout Michigan.

We have gone through some tough

times recently because of our state budget cuts and, yes we have had to make changes in our staff. John Nelson, Ray Moore, Chuck Fettis are retired. Their leadership nurtured and stood up for the veterans throughout the State of Michigan for over 20 years. Their dedication and knowledge helped create the finest Veteran Service Officer Program in the country. They haven't ridden off into the sunset; they are still part of our American Legion Family. John Nelson is part of the Legislative Committee where his vast knowledge of how politics works will be a great asset in the future. Ray Moore is still part of VAR as chairman of the VAR Committee. They led the way for our current leadership to carry on even in the toughest of times.

Our new VAR Director Jim Topps is showing his leadership in representing the American Legion with the newly formed Veterans Organizations Coalition, consisting of the VFW, DAV, Marine Corp League, and Military Order of Purple Heart. These organizations have just together completed, for the first time, a training seminar put on by the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Custer along with speakers from the Milwaukee Pension Center and Detroit Regional Office. This training session was a great success and everyone there

shared the same desire to work together as a team for the good of all veterans in the State of Michigan.

Now back to the original question. What makes a good veterans service officer? It takes dedication, knowledge, and a whole lot of patience. This means being understanding with the first veteran and just as understanding after the 30th veteran at the end of the day. It means answering questions that are never unrealistic. It means answering the phone at all times of the day and night, including weekends, and most of all it means follow up and following through to get the job done.

For all of this, you get to work for the greatest veterans' organization in the world, The American Legion, and the icing on the cake is that you meet heroes on a daily basis and make a difference in people's lives which makes for a better world. There is nothing more satisfying as when a veteran or a widow calls you in tears and thanks you for the award letter they just received. Because of all of the teamwork put into the claim, they can now pay their taxes, pay the mortgage, or find better transportation. This is what makes a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. I am proud to be known as an American Legion State Veterans Service Officer in Michigan.

VA BULLETIN 35-10 ( OCTOBER 4, 2010)

## C&P Prepares for the Implementation of Agent Orange Presumptives

**By Barry A. Searle, National Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Director**

In anticipation of the upcoming implementation of the regulations surrounding three new presumptive conditions associated with Agent Orange, senior American Legion officials have learned from VA that a major push to begin work on processing these claims has begun. While decisions on these claims cannot be finalized until the regulation clears an oversight period in Congress, the preliminary work has begun nationwide in VA offices.

Assuming that the process through Congress continues as anticipated, VA would be able to begin issuing decisions November 1, 2010 for what are estimated to be over 180,000 claims related to the three new conditions. These three conditions: Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's disease, and B-Cell Leukemias have been the centerpiece of a nearly yearlong process to update the presumptive list of disabilities associated with Agent Orange in accordance with the findings of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) review of the most current scientific data.

VA officials have stated that in anticipation of successful completion of the Congressional review period, they will be able to authorize prepared and rated starting October 30, 2010. Because they are able to write out the decisions in anticipation of this date, the first several weeks of authorizations should be able to produce a high volume of claims, possibly in the range of 10-15,000 claims in the first week alone. The VA stressed that they by no means anticipated that they would be able to finish all claims by the start date, but released the information to provide assurances that they are doing everything possible to stay ahead of the curve due to the high volume of claims.

VA and The American Legion also recognize that Congress fully has the power to alter this schedule based on their actions during the period of review. Therefore, information of this kind should not be used as a guaranteed basis for when any veteran would begin receiving benefits or a decision. The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Committee will continue to update on this issue throughout the process as VA moves towards final implementation.

## Finance

By Sharon Schulte, Finance Chairman

The mission of the Finance Committee is to oversee the general financial policy of the Auxiliary Unit or District and to prepare and monitor the annual budget and its expenditures. The Finance Committee of any nonprofit organization is charged with being the *fiscal conscience* of the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

The Finance Committee oversees the annual audit and recommends policies that govern the management of investments. The committee works to ensure that the Unit is in good financial health, and that assets are protected. A key task of this committee is to make sure that the entire executive board understands the financial condition which will help them in making decisions.

A successful month-to-month program depends, to a large degree, on the ability to pay the expenses incidental to it. Therefore, it is essential that a well planned budget be one of the first objectives of the

administrative year. An adequate budget ensures there will be funds earmarked for all purposes necessary to participate in the various Auxiliary programs throughout the year. A close review should be made each month to make sure that operating expenses are kept within budget. Please note that the revenue from the distribution of poppies should be carried as a separate item in the books, as such revenue is to be used solely for programs benefitting Veterans and their families.

Every District and Unit needs to have documents outlining financial policies in place to help guide the finance committee members and the general membership. The financial policy should include: job descriptions and responsibilities, define accounting procedures to be used, how the audit will be conducted and check signing authority.

Finally, please make sure that your Federal Tax 990 E-postcard is filed no later than November 15 each year.



Sandra Snyder, Department Chaplain

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This month we will be looking at the line:

**TAKE TIME TO PLAY:** It is the secret of staying young. Thanksgiving is almost here. What a great time to take time to play. When planning your Thanksgiving dinner, why not make it a theme dinner. Some of your guests can dress as Pilgrims and others as Indians. Find recipes to use that were used back then... have the children or adults make table favors to go along with the theme. A horn of plenty or teepees are good examples. Our family did this one Thanksgiving and we all had a great time.

This can be fun for both children and adults. What better way to give thanks then to remember that our country has a great freedom — Freedom of Religion. This gives you a chance to act out a skit of what our forefathers did that first Thanksgiving. Remember that Freedom of Religion is still ours

today, thanks to the men and women who have served this country.

How about taking your skit to a Nursing Home or a VA Hospital and sharing it. This could be a good family project. Make three corner hats for some and feather bands for others. Give these to the residents so they can join you in your Thanksgiving celebration.

God gives us so much to be thankful for. He would want us to share our time with others. TAKE TIME: for our veterans, their families, the sick and those who can't come to our meetings.

I will close this month with a Thanksgiving Prayer:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow...

For all the fine food and thy gifts of love,

We give Thee thanks and praise.

Look down upon us from above,

And bless us all of our days. Amen

## Membership

By Pat Alvarado, Southern Area Chairman

Another Fall Conference has come and gone. How time flies. Hope everyone enjoyed conference as much as I did. I have heard members say this was the best one they'd ever been to. It went very smoothly, everything was organized and the sessions were interesting and informative. The party Saturday night was icing on the cake.

Over and over we heard how much better each and every one of our programs will work if we come together with respect and "mutual helpfulness" as it says in our preamble. We are a well-organized team that will attract and keep more and more members if we all become team members.

By now the computer systems are all up and running. Sandy is working her fingers to the bone, and we'll start getting our membership numbers very soon. Let's

reach out to members that never attend meetings and find out why. They may respond to a friendly nudge. Make sure to make them feel welcome at meetings and events. Everyone likes to feel appreciated. Attend events at your Post. It's always good to support your Post, plus it's a good place to meet the wives, daughters, friends of Legion and SAL members. Invite them to attend an Auxiliary meeting and you might find your numbers going up.

About those meetings; venture out of your group of friends even if it's just to say hello to someone you might not usually talk to. Make your meetings informative and inviting; maybe a little fun. Hold an Initiation of New Members. This is a great way to show them what a great organization they have joined, and remind long standing members why we joined in the first place.

Number one: enjoy your membership in the Auxiliary. It will be contagious.

## 2011 GIRLS STATE IS COMING!

**The 71st Session of Girls State will be held at MSU in Shaw Hall from June 19-25, 2011.**

**Cost:** \$310.00 if paid by Dec. 31, 2010---After Dec. 31--\$325.00

The mission of Girls State is to provide an outstanding, unique and coveted educational opportunity to the young women of our nation that instills the basic ideals and principles of American government through citizenship training programs. The program is a non-partisan, non-political attempt to teach and inculcate in the youth of America a love of God and country. A national committee to direct the program was created by the 1946 Auxiliary National Convention.

The Girls State Committee will be keeping the Units informed on the program throughout the year by fliers in the Unit monthly mailings. There was a reservation form for the 2011 Girls State Session mailed in the October Unit mailing that can be copied. Also, hundreds of posters were sent to Michigan high schools advertising the program. We are ready to start accepting reservations! Please sponsor a delegate or donate to this program.

**For more information,** contact Brenda Dees, Girls State Chairman at 248-887-1723, e-mail rdees29@comcast.net, or call the Department and speak to Sandy Vandlen at 517-267-8809 ext. 19 or e-mail svandlen@michalaux.org.

## UPAA DISTRICT

By **Cyndi Hacker, UPAA President**

Hey-Hey from the UPAA! Best wishes for a beautiful autumn across the state. It's difficult to believe it's that time again, but it is here and WOW! The 38 Auxiliary Units in the UP are off and running. As we all know, we wear out several pairs of shoes as we run to fill in the holes where help is needed, and it takes a lot of volunteers to get all those holes filled. Even though Department VA & R Committee Chairman Deanna Cortright said we did a good job last year, she is asking us to recruit another 25 volunteers for the Department of MI (VAMC, Home Service and Field Service) again this year. How about if we get 25 in the UP? Don't forget the need for a Field Service Orientation first. It's necessary for recognition for your Field Service work.

My thanks to the members of the UPAA District for electing me their President for one more year. I enjoyed the first year immensely, met some wonderful people (who I'm looking forward to seeing again) and learned a lot. The learning is ongoing as are the visits. Despite the distance, it would be

wonderful if at least a couple of members from each Unit would attend the District meetings. No matter how much you know, there's always something more to learn. For instance, are you familiar with the American Legion Children's Home in Ponca City, OK? The brochure, handed out at Fall Conference in Troy last week, says it was founded in 1928 and established as an orphanage for children of veterans who could not care for their young. It's also called the American Legion's "Best-Kept Secret." Discs were given out too, and the one I received will be shown at the UPAA Fall Conference in Greenwood on Saturday, October 9th. More information can be obtained by contacting your District President or calling 1 (866) 941-0110 or visiting the website at [www.americanlegionchildrenshome.org](http://www.americanlegionchildrenshome.org)

To all the UP Units, there are so many "special" projects out there that I can't pick just one, so I'm asking each unit to choose one or two that "speak" to your hearts – and give it all you can. If we all do that, think of all we will achieve – with these two hands.

Yah, you betcha!

## Operation: Military Kids

The mission of OMK is to support deployed National Guard, Army Reserve and Active Duty Soldiers' children in Michigan. It delivers a wide range of recreational, social and educational programs for military youth. It also acknowledges the strengths and sacrifices of military kids as everyday home front heroes

through Hero Packs. The packs are backpacks filled by youth with mementos and items designed to help connect kids with their deployed parent. The Department President is supporting the Operation: Military Kids program by encouraging units, or individuals, to participate in the Hero Back program. In keeping with the spirit of the holiday season, see if your unit would like to participate with a donation to Operation: Military Kids, Hero Pack program.

Send your check to: ALA Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden Ave., Ste. B, Lansing, MI 48915.

Be sure to earmark the donation for "Operation: Military Kids, Hero Packs".

For more detailed information regarding OMK, visit the Website: [www.operationmilitarykids.org](http://www.operationmilitarykids.org) or e-mail the Department: [info@michalaux.org](mailto:info@michalaux.org)



## 9th District

By **Patricia Johnson, President**

We are working hard to get our Membership up to 100%.

We are sending our Veterans boxes every month. This is a great thing for our active duty military both overseas and here in the States as well. They love to get boxes with all the goodies in them.

My project this year is "Operation Comfort Warriors". This was also my project last year and it did very well.

I plan to do a lot of Unit visits

starting October 13, 2010. Our Post 381 is putting on a play October 21, 22 and 23. It is always a great play. It will be fun to see Kathy Kailunas and Pic Webster strut their stuff.

We are working on a mitten tree for the holidays and know it will be very successful.

Until our District meeting, I haven't much to write about. With the Holidays coming, I know a lot will be going on, so enjoy the family time and always remember our veterans and their families.

## 10th District

By **Dora Freeborg, President**

My year started when I was installed as the President at Harrison in June. Then it was on to Dearborn for Department convention where I was installed again. By then, I knew I was on my way to being a very busy person.

My Secretary of the District traveled with me. We travelled over 2000 miles visiting 18 Units. What a lot of wonderful members we have in the Tenth District. I had the privilege of installing four Units and also initiated new members at three Units.

Most Units need more members to attend their Unit meetings. A lot of Units have a round table meeting, which is real nice. They

still did the ritual. This seems to make members speak up more and plan their programs better.

All Units are working very hard on membership.

It was nice to have our Department President, Jan Kintz, at our first District meeting. She spoke on her special project, Operation Military Kids, and on other things that were asked of her. We all wish her the best.

Then it was on to Fall Conference, which I thought was very informative. The timing of each presentation was well prepared. There was no running from room to room. This way we were able to attend all of the meetings.

I would like to also thank the Office Staff for all their help.

## 16th District

By **Patsy Gilmer, 16th District President**

Maybe it's years of working for the phone company and listening to "Reach out and touch someone", I think this fits into Madam President's theme, "These two hands". You have so many opportunities to become as I've suggested to the 16th District: join the T.E.A.M., Tell Everyone the Aims of Membership. We need to pull together and strengthen the membership we have and involve the new members, but most important get the job done. We have so many wonderful programs, I'm sure there is at least one that you could put your TWO HANDS into

and help to make a difference.

We keep talking about how we are a family; well just like family we have differences. Just like family we need to get past them and work harder to improve our relationship. One of the reasons I've heard that people are leaving or stepping back is because they don't like the bickering. Remember when you used to fight with your family member, you worked it out; you let that problem go and went on. Could we try that in our auxiliary family; let our feelings go and pull together for the good of the organization? We need to grow and prosper. That's only possible if you reach out, put forth the effort with "Your Two Hands".

## PLANNING AHEAD

## READY FOR THE HUNT?

By **William F. Miller, State Law & Order Chairman**

The hunting seasons have begun, but are you ready for the hunt? Real and consistent success in hunting and in

other projects depends on planning. Advanced preparations are especially needed to achieve success in our American Legion programs such as Student Trooper and Boys State as they need sponsors as well as interested students.

Also, only a couple months are left for nominations for "Law Officer of the Year", and our newly added "Firefighter of the Year" efforts. Firefighter is also an Americanism Committee project but with B. J. Arnold in charge. Set December 31 as your date to have these nominations in the mail to the state headquarters. A call to Deanna at the headquarters can get these specifications to you or a Police or Fire Department official quickly.

Don't know where to look for an outstanding public servant? Radio, TV, and all sorts of newspapers have stories about these "above-and-beyond" efforts on our behalf. Make a mental note to get details, follow up on them, and go to their department heads to suggest a nomination. They can be serving villages, cities, counties, campuses, and tribal

areas as well. Conservation Officers are also officers of the law. Make my job harder by getting a lot of nominations for me to pick the best officers from.

Our main hunts, such as the Student Trooper and Boys State Programs, do not really get much attention until 2011 begins. But, just like every other hunt, without advance preparations, success rarely occurs unless you are very lucky. Our preparations start by getting into the high schools to find out who the contact person is there. Get acquainted and tell them about the programs and make sure they have seen the colorful brochure we have sent to all schools. Give them your phone number so they can call you with questions, but do not press them for early names of interested students. Let them know that you will contact them again and even ask for a chance to talk to students, preferably in a group or assembly. And, be sure to be persistent and go back again.

Suggest that they and the students go to our website where all the program information can be found, including applications: [www.michiganlegion.org/pages/trooper.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/pages/trooper.html) Write this on the back of your business card, (or other paper), and hand it to the school official to help them find us. A couple things to point out are that the late summer Academy session for Student Trooper is a month earlier than last year and there will still be \$5000 in scholarships to be awarded in 2011. Happy Hunting!

## VETS EMPLOYMENT

## A 'FANTASTIC PLAN' FOR VETERANS

The American Legion, The Department of Labor and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce partner together to find job opportunities for veterans.

The American Legion is expressing high hopes for an ambitious new joint initiative by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Department of Labor (DOL) designed to find jobs for military veterans.

In announcing a 14-state pilot program by the partnership, Chamber President and CEO Thomas Donahue said, "We're launching this program not just to honor the sacrifices made by our veterans but because it makes sense for America's businesses."

Ray Jefferson, Assistant Secretary for the Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training (VETS) — a wounded veteran himself — said the program will bring "urgency, impact and innovation" to the joint government and private sector effort to reduce the chronically high unemployment rate among veterans. The DOL and U.S. Chamber are planning to deploy a cadre of highly trained representatives to educate local

chambers of commerce and, by extension, mass numbers of employers on the benefits of hiring veterans and the procedures for doing so.

The initiative will be limited initially to Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas and Virginia. But it will be expanded nationwide, according to Deputy Secretary of Labor Seth Harris, "as soon as possible."

"I think this is a fantastic idea," said Joe Sharpe, the Legion's Economic Commission director. "I know this is something the Department of Labor has been planning for some time, but it's great to see it's actually coming to fruition. A lot of federal agencies come up with a lot of plans," Sharpe continued, "but you don't actually see them implemented. It is a really gratifying thing to see that it's actually going to come about."

Sharpe testified before a Congressional committee earlier last week on currently failing government efforts to encourage federal contractors to recruit veterans as employees.



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce CEO Thomas Donahue (second from right) pictured with, from left, the Legion's Joe Sharpe, Bob Madden and Mark Walker. - Photo by Craig Roberts

## MAKE CONTACT NOW

## 128 NEW LEGISLATORS PIVOTAL TO MI'S VETERANS SERVICES

By **Douglas Williams, State Legislative Chairman**

Two years ago, we elected 46 new members to the House of Representatives. This year we will have elected 52 new members to the House and 30 new members to the Senate. Those facts mean Mr.

& Mrs. Taxpayer living in the great State of Michigan will have 98 Representatives with less than 4 years legislative experience and 30 new Senators, some of them with legislative experience, making decisions that will effect you for the rest of your lives. Who said term limits were smart? Could this be one of the reasons we have gridlock and inability to get things done or change our economic status? ... Just asking.

As your Legislative Chairman, I am very concerned with this because we depend upon the state to provide us with funding for our Veteran

Service Officers. And, with many of those incoming Representatives and Senators potentially being uninformed may not support our efforts.

Now that the elections are over, we must make contact with them and impress upon them why they should continue to fund and support our efforts at providing service to Michigan's veterans.

If you reside in a Legislative District that has just elected a new Representative and or Senator, please take a few minutes and make contact with him or her and help them understand who we are and what we do. It will help in our overall efforts.

Our legislative goals and priorities are posted at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org), the state headquarters website, and I encourage you to make a copy and keep it available when you talk to them.

Remember we are here to serve the veteran and his/her family. Let's be legislatively smart by staying informed and involved.



Luzerne Post 162 Commander Stan Juengel presents a \$725.68 post contribution to the headquarters Tabs for Tots Program to 10th District Commander Fred Hollister recently.

# THE AMERICAN LEGION



## *What The American Legion Does:*

- Processes more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- Gives emergency financial assistance to Legion families hit by hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other disasters.
- Urges Congress to provide enough VA funding to take care of veterans' medical needs – and provide it in advance.
- Awards college scholarships to children whose mothers or fathers have sacrificed their lives in the global war on terrorism.
- Volunteers about one million hours every year at about 160 VA medical facilities nationwide.
- Helps families of deployed troops through its Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach.
- Through its Temporary Financial Assistance program, helps the children of veterans who are suffering hardships.
- Donates about 100,000 pints of blood annually to the American Red Cross.
- Lobbies Congress to upgrade and improve Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits (the Legion wrote the original 1944 GI Bill that educated 8 million veterans).
- Through its Heroes To Hometowns program, works with communities to welcome back their returning veterans and help them make the transition to civilian life.
- Sponsors more than 5,000 American Legion Baseball teams, which are made up by more than 100,000 ballplayers.
- Raises funds to improve the quality of life for active-duty troops, with the Wounded Warrior Recognition Program and Operation Comfort Warriors.
- Offers community programs that encourage the intellectual and social growth of America's children (Boys State, National Oratorical Competition, Boy Scouts).

## *In a Nutshell:*

- o If you're a veteran, The American Legion will help you. It will help you with VA health care, GI Bill benefits, sudden emergencies and the needs of your children.
- o And The American Legion does it all for free, because we have an army of volunteers – each one a wartime veteran.
- o So we understand. That's why we're here now – veterans helping veterans, servicemembers and their families.
- o To find out much more about what The American Legion does, please visit [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

# Continued

## ADJUTANT

veteran is still being overpaid; consequently, the schools send back the money, but it is not being reported back to the VA in a timely manner. Ultimately, veterans are then denied their housing allowance and book stipend until their payment is recouped by VA," he said.

Of the two million service members who have served since 2001, about 250,000 used the GI Bill in the spring 2010 semester. Madden told the subcommittee that one of VA's main challenges is to improve communication with veterans about their education benefits.

"One regional office (RO) says the veteran can do something one way and then another RO says the veteran cannot. Secondly, a veteran or family member will call the 1-800 numbers for education assistance and will ask a question. That same veteran will call back, get a different operator, and ask the same question. What the veteran receives, on occasion, is multiple answers. The veteran needs to receive the same answer so he/she can properly navigate the education process," Madden said.

As veterans determine the best means of providing income for themselves and their families, the options of vocational school, on-site job training, apprenticeships and online distance learning are becoming more

popular. On behalf of The American Legion, Madden said that each veteran should have the right to use his or her Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their full extent, and that the inability of veterans taking vocational and online courses to maximize these benefits is unacceptable (veterans enrolled in online courses are not eligible for housing allowances).

The American Legion also wants education benefits extended to Title 32 Active Guard Reserve members who have served under federal orders since 9/11, but have not been allowed to include that federal time in their eligibility requirements for the Post-9/11 GI Bill. "These men and women served valiantly and with distinction. This is a must-fix and needs to be addressed immediately," Madden said.

Additionally, the Legion wants the GI Bill extended to spouses and children of veterans who served in the 9/11 era but retired before Aug. 1, 2009, when the new education benefits were implemented.

VA has increased its number of claims processors and will implement a new IT system to streamline the process itself. "The American Legion is excited about the final implementation of the new IT for veterans," Madden said. "We hope this IT solution helps resolve many of the application, payment and communication problems that have been experienced."

DECEMBER 3, 2010

## RETROACTIVE STOP LOSS SPECIAL PAY APPLICATIONS EXTENDED

**By Department of Defense Release Oct. 1, 2010**

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay (RSLSP) has been extended to Dec. 3, 2010, allowing personnel more time to apply for the benefits they've earned.

To apply, or for more information on RSLSP, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution signed by President Obama yesterday, providing funding for federal government operations through Dec. 3.

"It's important that all those eligible for this benefit take the opportunity to apply for what they've earned," said Lernes Hebert, acting director, Officer and Enlisted Personnel Management. "We encourage those eligible to apply as soon as possible,

to avoid the last minute rush, which can increase processing time."

RSLSP was established to compensate military members whose service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009. Eligible members or their beneficiaries are required to submit a claim to their respective military service in order to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status. The original deadline for claims was Oct. 21, 2010.

When RSLSP began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts throughout the year. Efforts including direct mail, engaging military and veteran service organizations, social networks and media outlets, will continue throughout the period of eligibility.

# Statement of Ownership

# Classifieds

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

1. Publication Title: Michigan Legionnaire and Wolverine Auxiliaire

2. Publication Number: 0 1 0 6 3 7

3. Filing Date: 10-01-10

4. Issue Frequency: Monthly except February, May, August, and December

5. Number of Issues Published Annually: Eight

6. Annual Subscription Price: \$10 - Public Dues - Member

7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®): The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 North Verblinden Avenue, Ste. A, Lansing, Michigan, 48915 - 1297

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer): The American Legion & American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 North Verblinden Avenue, Ste. A, Lansing, Michigan, 48915 - 1297

9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank):  
 Publisher (Name and complete mailing address): Patrick Lafferty, The American Legion, Department of Michigan, 212 North Verblinden Avenue, Ste. A, Lansing, Michigan 48915 - 1297  
 Editor (Name and complete mailing address): Warren Stensrud, The American Legion, Department of Michigan, 212 North Verblinden Avenue, Ste. A, Lansing, Michigan 48915 - 1297  
 Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address): N/A

10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
American Legion & American Auxiliary	212 North Verblinden Avenue, Ste. A Lansing, Michigan 48915 - 1297

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box  None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address

12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
 Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
 Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 1 of 3 (Instructions Page 3)) PSM 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com

Call 517-371-4720 x 16 to place an ad!

## PRIVATE COLLECTOR BUYING

German, Japanese, U.S. military items from all wars. Top cash paid for Airborne, Aviation, Pilot, Seal, Special Forces, OSS, Ranger, Marine items. Also German medals, daggers, swords, guns, personality items and billion flags. Also Japanese swords, helmets and guns.

### Call for top cash offer

Combat wounded vet James Leslie (member), 1217 Griswold St., Port Huron, MI 48060 (810) 982-4203 IRJF

## WAR RELICS WANTED

Private collector paying top dollar for daggers, swords, medals, uniforms, etc. Call or write: William Harbowy (Life Member) 7247 Weddel Street, Taylor, MI 48180 (313) 386-2384 IRJF

The Best Thing for You Might Not Be Money In the Bank!

Annuity rates up to 5.50% Why settle for less in a Bank CD?

FREE CONSULTATIONS  
800-720-4142

Retirement / Ins / Investment Planning  
Final Expense Insurance  
Biblical Based Investments

P.J. Harper, RIA, CSA, Registered Investment Advisor, National Association of Christian Financial Consultants  
Member, Legion Member  
www.harper-enterprises.com  
Manchester, MI



TAPS are located on our website to be viewed or printed at:  
www.michiganlegion.org/pages/taps.html



Get REAL PROTECTION with the Legionnaire Vehicle Insurance Plan!

www.thelit.com

"The contents of advertisements which appear in the Legionnaire are solely the responsibility of the advertisers. Appearance of any advertisement in the Legionnaire does not constitute either a recommendation, nor an endorsement of the goods and services offered therein."

13. Publication Title: Michigan Legionnaire and Wolverine Auxiliaire

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: October 2010

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		91,800	96,140
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	91,199	95,539
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mail: Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail®)	301	301
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		91,500	95,840
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g. First-Class Mail)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	250	250
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		250	250
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		91,750	96,090
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		50	50
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		91,800	96,140
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		99.95	99.95

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership  
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the Nov./Dec. '10 issue of this publication.  
 Publication not required

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: October 2010

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).



## Get Your Team Michigan Shirts & Department Briefcase Today!

Great shirts for showing your Michigan Legion spirit whether you are working in a booth, attending an event or just running around town!

Two styles are available in men's and woman's: Short sleeve polo or long sleeve jean. It features the Legion Emblem and the phrase Team Michigan - Working Together. (Available also in Auxiliary and SAL logo by special order.)

Our Department briefcases are available in four colors: Green, Navy, Khaki and Black They are only \$20.00 each plus shipping and handling.



All profits are kept at the Department to promote Legion programs, events and mission.

Order form is available on our website at:

www.michiganlegion.org/pages/forms.html



# Around the State...



10th District Commander Fred Hollister was joined by Clare County Director of Veterans Affairs Renee Haley and representatives of Harrison Post 404, Temple Post 273, and Farwell Post 558 recently to present a State Interim Media award to the Clare County Cleaver for their coverage of American Legion and veterans events and issues.



Members of Charlotte Post 42 Legion Riders received state headquarters recognition from State Commander William Hafeman during the recent Fall Conference in Troy. The group collected over \$13,000 in Legacy Scholarship donations and delivered the proceeds to national headquarters in Indianapolis. See related story and article-pg. 1.



State Public Relations Chairman Richard Chatman (l) recently presented a State Interim Public Relations Award to Detroit Free Press Staff writer Joe Swickard for his Detroit Free Press article "Marine Finds Future After Falling Apart" which brought attention to the problems facing returning service members to civilian life. Headquarters provides these awards in recognition of individuals and entities that "go above and beyond" in assisting veterans by publishing issues that concern veterans, troops and support the American Legion's "4 Pillars": Serving our veterans, Supporting Children & Youth, Americanism, and National Security.



National Vice Commander John M. Mella of Iron Mountain Post 50 is welcomed home to Michigan from his election at the 2010 National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin by State Commander William Hafeman.



State Commander William Hafeman accepts a folded American flag from SSG Brian Brooks of the Michigan National Guard Funeral Honors Team as part of the 2010 POW MIA Recognition Day ceremonies in the State Capitol Rotunda on September 17th.



A Ferndale Post 330 Representative presents a \$5,000 Wilwin Lodge donation to department officials during the 2010 Fall Conference in Troy. Shown (l-r) Wilwin Lodge Special Committee member PDC William F. Miller, State Commander William Hafeman, Post 330 representative, and Wilwin Lodge Special Committee Chairman PDC Carnie Jackson. The donated Wilwin Lodge property located in Trout Lake is being developed by the American Legion in support of troops, veterans and children and youth retreat programs.



State Commander William Hafeman was recently joined by State Auxiliary President Jan Kintz and Sons of the American Legion State Commander David Mennel at Oxford Post 108 for a memorial and helicopter dedication ceremony in honor of Lt. Colonel Delbert Lee Waugh, a decorated U.S. Army veteran killed on October 15, 2008 while piloting an Air Angel medical transport helicopter.