



Sons of The American Legion Newsletter

Detachment of Michigan



Detachment of Michigan
Commander Patrick Pustay
2009-2010

It is hard to believe that we are one quarter of the way through the 2009-2010 year. I am pleased to say as a detachment we have started out pretty well. At the Fall Conference it was reported that 30 squadrons had not yet turned in their list of officers. That number now stands at 25 squadrons. Please make every effort to get your lists in and help make this a 100% year for the Detachment.

Both membership renewals and new member applications started out a little slow but I have seen a great effort by many squadrons to pick up the pace for our second quarter. I am confident we will have our membership numbers right on track by January 13th, our next target date. Please keep up the good work.

My Commander's project, the American Legion Personal Home Assistance (ALPHA) program has had an outstanding response in the first quarter. You, as Sons of The American Legion, always amaze me when you are asked to help. I'm asking you continue with your help and donations for our veterans. We need you to continue to make all efforts to locate elderly and disabled veterans in your community so we may help make their lives a little easier.

In the Grand Rapids area we now have several electricians from Squadron 258 that said they would help with local projects. I have been personally involved with several veterans' projects and my personal VA&R hours are over 160 for this year. This may sound like a lot and some may say they don't have that kind of time to commit. However, spreading these hours over the course of the year averages just 3 hours a week. My time has been spent mainly doing yard clean-ups, painting and roofing and all I had to do was ask a veteran if I could help.

The annual Consolidated Report Form will be delivered to every squadron in the spring and can sometimes be confusing and frustrating. We are working on several plans to help you to understand and make it easier to fill out. One thing you can do to help yourselves is to maintain a list of everything you do and donate for veterans, children, and community. Don't wait until May and try to remember.

I have often been asked "why are these reports so important". The answer is simple. National Headquarters compiles all the numbers and heads off to Washington. These numbers tell our congressmen and senators that our veterans are important and that the Legion Family stands united in its resolve to promote our veterans well-being. This year 25% was cut from the budget for our veterans' service officers. This was the largest percent of any cut in the Michigan budget. Our consolidated reports tell all government officials of our involvement and in return they will support what they consider to be a good investment. Last year we received only 25% of the consolidated reports and we can only tell these officials about what is turned in. Be proud of your accomplishments and report them, it will truly help our veterans.

Committee Reports

5th Zone Commander: Dwaine Verville

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Take time to make someone's Christmas more enjoyable this year, even if it's only taking time to visit with them.

In October we had a meeting at Post #21 in Iron River, along with the Legion and Auxiliary. Several squadrons were in attendance along with some legion members.

The U.P. Mid-Winter tour will be the 3rd week of January with the Conference being held at the Island Casino Resort and Conference Center. If there is a tour stop at your Post, or in your area, please try to attend. I will notify the squadrons of the meeting times as soon as I know.

Membership seems to be a problem in the 5th zone. If your squadron is having problems or is in need of assistance please let me know so I can help or answer questions. Do not hold paid memberships. **SEND THEM IN.** Membership dues are not considered paid until they get to Detachment and National.

I would like everyone to know that I am doing fairly well. I am still under doctor's care but doing better. Hopefully I will be at the winter meeting in February.

Membership Chairman: Greg Price

We need to raise the membership goal bar higher. In my last membership report, I stated that the membership goal for this year would be to add an additional two (2) members to every Squadron membership total by the time of our State Convention. The National 2010 membership data reports are coming out and I noticed that our 2010 membership goal is increasing with every report.

I spoke with John Kerestan and John Zgoda from National, as well as Barbara at Department about our membership drive. It appears that some Squadrons are still sending in 2009 renewals, and are still issuing 2009 membership cards to new members.

Our 2009 membership total continues to increase but it is not helping our 2010 Detachment goal which continues to go higher. After speaking with Commander Pustay and Barbara, we felt with an increase of another two (2) members per Squadron, we will be able to meet or exceed our goal at the National level. I know as a team we will be able to meet this challenge.

Our 60% goal date is approaching quickly and there are many Squadrons who still show Zero (0) membership. Some of these Squadrons still have their 2010 membership cards sitting at Department. To receive your 2010 membership cards the Department must receive your Squadron Officers List and \$10.00 for the 2010 Squadron Bond. All 2009 Membership cards will expire on 12-31-2009. On January 1st All Squadron members will need a 2010 Membership card to continue enjoying their American Legion privileges.

Adjutants; if you have not sent in your 2010 Squadron Officers List, or the \$10.00 for your 2010 Squadron Bond to Barbara at Department yet, please do so.

Membership Goal Dates:

January 11, 2010	60%	April 12, 2010	90%
February 8, 2010	75%	May 10, 2010	100%
March 8, 2010	80%	July 26, 2010	105%

MAKE-A-WISH of Michigan: Danny Poole

We, the Sons of The American Legion, supporters of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, have once again started our fiscal year off with a grand slam! I would like to thank Commander Pustay for his continued confidence in me as your Make-A-Wish Chairman. Please continue your efforts and send all contributions to:

Danny Poole
1901 Orion Rd
Oakland, MI 48363.

Make your checks payable to: 'Make-A-Wish of Michigan'.

For further info or future events please contact me at 248-693-7918.

PDC1/PUFL: Greg Price

I enjoyed the summer months by attending picnics that were being celebrated by different Posts. The 1st Zone held its second annual Zone picnic where all of the Posts from the 1st and the 16th Districts were invited to enjoy one great party. There was also chrome and leather galore when several Chapters from the American Legion Riders got together for their annual picnic.

Speaking of the Legion Riders and having fun. I was asked to be one of the speakers at the Legion Riders 15th anniversary festivity. As one of the nineteen founding Legion Riders members, I had an opportunity to tell stories that occurred when we were trying to establish the 1st Chapter of men & women. Now there are over 1,000 Chapters across 50 states, and 3 Regions outside the United States. Our membership is now over 100,000. Thank you to Commander Pustay, and to the National and Detachment officers who are also Legion Riders members for coming out and offering your continued support.

There was a lot of support during the various committee meetings at the Fall NEC in Indianapolis. I went there to talk to the National Membership Committee and to attend some of the other committee meetings and schools. I would like to say the members who represented our Detachment were very involved during these committee sessions.

The House Bills for the MIAP are moving forward. I was proud to sit next to Department Veterans Legislative Chairman Doug Williams as we testified in support of HB 5245 & HB 5246 at the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee meeting in October. The Bills were voted on, and moved out of committee, and onto the Senate. While in front of the Senate, the Bills were voted on and passed with 34 yeas- 0 nays and 3 excused. It however came out with a tie-bar, meaning the Bills were tied together and had to return to the House Committee to see if they will agree to an amendment before moving forward. I am happy to say that it came out of the House Committee quickly and has moved to the Governor to be signed into law. We are getting closer to giving these veterans the respect and honor they so justly deserve.

“PUFL”...Paid up for life

We are continuing to gather information for a possible “Paid up for Life” program for our Detachment. Thank you to Joseph Lafnear Sr. for sharing the formula for the “Paid up for Life” application and fee schedule that Squadron 143 uses for its membership.

In addition, we still need each Squadron to get the “Date of Birth” information for all their members.

N.E.C. / Homeland Security: Ronald R. Wyatt

I attended Fall NEC which was held in Indianapolis on October 9th and 10th, 2009. The annual Commander and Adjutant schools were held and all of the committees and commissions had meetings as well. I went to several of them and found that goal setting for the year was a common theme.

One resolution that was passed was to recognize George Evans for the work he has done for the Legislative Commission.

National has determined it needs to select the best qualified persons to fill committee and commission seats. The NEC and the Detachments will need to submit names of persons for committees and commissions at the National level. We will need to have these names submitted by March 1, 2010. Anyone wishing to be considered for a National Committee or Commission must submit a short resume. Explain why you would like to sit on a committee or commission along with which one you are interested in. At the Mid-Winter Conference the NEC and PDC will be having a meeting to decide which names to submit. Please send your information by February 1, 2010 to:

Ron Wyatt
2113 Charles Dr.
Stevensville, MI 49127

Any further questions, call me at 269-208-0886.

Homeland Security

I attended the meeting on Homeland Security at fall NEC. Discussions were held about setting a background and framework for the committee.

You can find info at www.ready.gov or you may go to The American Legion website for the following documents. The committee is using them as guidelines, please check these out.

1. War on Terrorism: Guide to Building Public Awareness
2. Disaster Preparedness and Response for Am Legion Posts
3. National Security Resolutions from the 89th National Convention
4. Disaster Preparedness Booklet
5. NEC 2008 Resolutions
6. Legion Policy on Illegal Immigration Pamphlet
7. Guide to Defending American Values

VA&R Report: Earl Ruttkofsky

There are a lot of ways we can help our veterans. We, as Sons of The American Legion, need to continue to look at different ways to seek out the best methods to help where it is needed.

A National Suicide Hotline just for veterans and their families is being provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Read the following and, if you know of someone who needs this type of help, please give them the information.

**NATIONAL SUICIDE HOTLINE
1-800-273-TALK**

The Department of Veterans Affairs National Suicide Hotline continues to be used by our ever growing population of veterans. As of August 2009 over 160,000 veterans have called 1-800-273-TALK, pressed 1 for veterans and have used this service. Over 50,000 rescues have come

from these calls. The VA continues to move forward in the area of mental health with a new On Line Chat Service. On July 3, 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs launched a pilot on-line Chat Service, in partnership with Lifeline. The Veterans Chat Service is located at the VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Veterans Chat enables veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If the chats are determined to be a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the chatter to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline. At this point, further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

This feature is intended to reach out to all veterans who may or may not be enrolled in the VA health care system. It is designed to provide them with online access to the suicide Prevention Lifeline. It also gives veterans an anonymous way to access VA's suicide prevention services.

Veterans, (family members or friends) can access Veterans Chat through the Lifeline suicide prevention website Suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx. A community based training guide in the form of a power point presentation called "Operation S.A.V.E." can be found at the same website. It is designed to help people recognize veterans who are at risk. Walled cards, bumper stickers, stress balls, refrigerator magnets are readily available at your local VA Medical Centers as well. We, the members of The Sons of The American Legion, can be a great benefit to our returning veterans who are suffering from mental health disorders. We can spread the word of this life saving service offered by the VA. I urge every member to get the word back to their Squadrons and Posts so that we can help our HEROS who have served our nation. Let us show that we do care.

Veterans In-home Service Program: Jeff Meulendyk

Outstanding! The first quarter response to the Commander's ALPHA project has been great. This is just another reason I am so proud to be part of the Sons of The American Legion. Our goal for donations from the squadrons is \$19,927; one dollar for every member of the Detachment of Michigan. Our first quarter response stands at \$3,197 from 2,672 members from 24 squadrons. This represents \$1.20 per member and 16% of our goal. Please keep the donations coming as we now have enough funding to start on projects. I will be forwarding the program guidelines and the required forms to Detachment so they can be posted on the website for downloading. Remember, the donations to this program and the time you spend on any veteran related project can and should be recorded on your Consolidated Report Form under VA&R. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

The ALPHA (*American Legion Personal Home Assistance*) program has been changing over the course of time and is now in the process of becoming an on-going program for the Detachment of Michigan. At the request of our new National Commander Mark Arneson, I took the ALPHA program concept to the National Convention in Louisville KY. National VA&R Chairman Bruno Williamson would like to see the program adopted nationally and I will be presenting the final project to the NEC next spring.

National Veterans Assistance Day May 15, 2010

Now is the time to start planning in order to have a successful Veteran's Assistance Day.

Goal: Show respect for this grateful Nation's veterans and the role they have had in securing the freedoms we enjoy.

Agenda:

1. Promote May 15, 2010 as National Veterans Assistance Day in local communities at city hall, county court houses, and State Capitols, schools and veterans facilities.
2. Encourage participation within your Post, Unit and Squadron with special events designed to honor these brave men and women.
3. Obtain the National Veterans Assistance Day poster from National Office and hang it in your home Post, nursing homes and other veteran's halls. Publicize your events in the media, on websites and in newsletters.

Best Practices:

1. Seek out a veteran or veteran's family needing help by getting a family member to an appointment, getting groceries.
2. Work in their yard work or perform simple home or car repairs.
3. Take them prepared meals.
4. Involve the squadron with repairs or clean up around the Post.
5. Hold a special dinner or breakfast for these veterans.
6. Visit VA nursing homes or local nursing homes and sit and talk with the veterans.
7. Publish thank you letters for service in the newspapers, websites and newsletters.
8. Honor them on this special day in some small way.

Let us now what project you are doing or have done for Veterans Assistance Day this year. Send all submissions and photos to **publisher@michsal.org**.

Detachment Chaplain: Rodney Tolbert

My S.A.L. life has been great over the past few months. I went to my first S.A.L. National Convention, and also my first Service Officer School. I went to Detachment Fall Conference in Roseville and it was nice to see everyone there. I went to NEC fall conference, where I got an enjoyable tour national headquarters with Commander Pustay. I also became a C.A.T. [Children Action Team] member through the Child Welfare Foundation. I would like to see all detachment officers become a C.A.T. It is a great program and if you would like to learn more please contact John Kailunas, Ron Wyatt, or me.

I would like to thank Roger Dees for his leadership and his help with our legislative program, it really opened my eyes. I would also like to thank Commander Pat Pustay [you big rat] for all his leadership, letting me be joined at the hip, and for putting up with all my questions and rantings. He is truly a saint for putting up with me. Let's also keep in our prayers of the families of the S.A.L. members that we have recently lost.

Psalm 57; 1 Be merciful unto me O God, for my soul trusteth in thee, yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be over past.

God bless America and God bless you.
GO BLUE

Publications Chairman: Jeff Meulendyk

Due to some unforeseen circumstances Joseph Radiger III has stepped down as the Publications Chairman. Commander Pustay has asked me to step forward, along with Brad Koch and Joe Hollomon, to put the last three newsletters together.

This newsletter is our means of communication not only from the Detachment to the Districts and Squadrons but also between each other. We are looking for articles on what is happening in your Squadron and your District. We want to hear about your events, your volunteerism, your successes and any problems you may have encountered. When you celebrate, we want to celebrate with you. When you have a problem sometimes sharing it with others can result in unexpected solutions.

Each year we continue to be a group of separate islands within the Detachment working on our own projects without any focus. Let this publication be our bridge to bring us together for the betterment of The Sons of The American Legion, Detachment of Michigan.

The Deadlines for the 2009 - 2010 newsletters are:

- February 20th (at or before winter conference)
- April 15th
- June 5th (at or before Convention)

Once again all articles are to be sent to: **publisher@michsal.org**.

Community Service Chairman: Brad Koch

Greetings to all, I hope you all got a chance to participate in a Veterans Day activity around your area. I would like to reiterate a few opportunities for us to help in the area of Community Service. In the most recent MI Legionnaire magazine, Auxiliary Department chair Pam Lajewski-Pearson laid out three projects the Auxiliary will be working on this year. Any help you all can give your local Units would be greatly appreciated.

First is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program. The Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Pam is encouraging us to hold a CERT train the trainer program at our Post. More information can be found at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/>.

Second, Pam is encouraging us to participate in the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service 2010. Last year more than 13,000 service projects took place across the country, more than double from the year before. Americans made it “a day on, not a day off” by delivering meals, refurbishing schools, reading to children, signing up mentors, and much, much more. More information can be found at <http://www.mlkday.gov/>.

Finally, Pam has recommended that we partake in the Army’s Community Covenant Program. The program is designed to foster and sustain effective state and community partnerships with the Army to improve the quality of life for Soldiers and their Families. More information can be found at <http://www.army.mil/community/>.

Remember, if your Squadron decides to take on one of these projects or any other project, record your hours and donations for your end of year reports.

The Community Service Award for the best scrapbook will be awarded at the 2010 convention in Tecumseh. Taking pictures of all of your Squadron’s projects will help you to create your scrapbook. Have fun with it and be proud to report and show all the great things you do.

Enjoy the rest of your winter and continue to have a great Legion year for 2009-2010.

Adjutant: Sanford Lipman

It is nice to see that we have the newsletter back up and running. First, from the Lipman Family, Sandy, Kim and Joe, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Healthy and Prosperous Holiday Season. Our condolences go out to our Chaplain on the loss of his companion and best friend Sammy. She will be missed. Also another innovator Randy Cramer of the Sanford Post, the first SAL Legion Baseball manager, passed away in July which I just found out about.

I want to congratulate everyone on our membership drive. We are doing well but remember my theme as Commander was - Recruit-Retain-Reinstate. Do not forget how important renewals are to our membership and the Legion Family as a whole. Some of you may know the Legion is going electronic from head to toe to save money. I am asking everyone to send me any and all e-mail addresses that you may have from your Squadron, Post and Unit. If you have an active website please let me know the address at adjutant@michsal.org or snail mail at:

Detachment Adjutant Sandy Lipman
13633 Vernon
Oak Park Mi 48237

Please review Ron Wyatt’s article about a new policy regarding resumes for representatives selected for national committees and commissions. We are asking anyone interested in running for a National committee or commission to please send in a brief resume to Ron Wyatt for review. It should include your qualifications along with a letter of endorsement from your Squadron

Many good things go on within this Detachment, and I ask that you please inform me so I can get your information out on the internet and to the local media. Public Relations are important to the

image and growth of The Sons of The American Legion. Don't be afraid to brag about yourself because if you don't, chances are no one else will.

Again Happy Holidays to all and be safe. Yours in God and country.

Legislative Chairman: Roger Dees

The American Legion's National Commander, Clarence Hill, has praised the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 1016, the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009. This measure would provide the Department of Veterans Affairs with advance appropriations each fiscal year to begin on October 1, whether the rest of the annual Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations have been signed into law or not. "This action is unprecedented at this funding level," said Hill. "Although The American Legion deeply appreciated the significant increases in VA's overall appropriations in recent years, not knowing when the funds would arrive made managing the VA health care system a major challenge."

The goal of advance appropriations is to make sure VA medical care funding is timely, predictable, and sufficient.

"It will still require a great deal of work on our part to make sure the annual appropriations will be sufficient," Hill said. "As Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom continue, this nation has a moral, ethical and legal obligation to care for the men and women placed in harm's way, but we cannot meet these new health care challenges by asking veterans of previous conflicts to move aside in order to provide timely healthcare access to the newest generation of wartime veterans."

In 1996, the VA health care system made a significant transition into the "best care anywhere" as cited by Phillip Longman in his book *Best Care Anywhere: Why VA Health Care is Better Than Yours*. "Clearly, every federal dollar invested in VA health care is providing the most cost-effective, quality health care in the nation," Hill said. "Many health care experts agree, the VA health care system is the role model for the rest of the health care industry."

Advance appropriations will help allow VA health care professionals to achieve both short and long-range management decisions without wondering if "the check is in the mail."

Representative Bob Filner, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, offered the following statement on the occasion of the bill's passage: "Today, the House of Representatives took action to respond to years of chronic under funding of VA medical care. Over the last 23 years, 20 VA budgets have been passed late - and our veterans pay the price with fewer doctors, longer waiting times, and more restricted access for the 6 million veterans using VA health care. Again this year, the VA is forced to rely on funding from a continuing resolution, even though the House acted in a timely fashion and passed the FY 2010 VA spending bill in July. Members of the Committee have worked closely with veteran service organizations to pass this landmark bill and guarantee that our veterans have access to comprehensive, quality health care."

Here is the memo that was sent out by The American Legion Department of Michigan: Bill Senate Bill 250 that was approved by the conference committee on 9-24-09. This legislation is not everything we wanted but does reflect some of our requests. (For more information on this Senate Bill contact the Department Headquarters.)

The bargaining committee appointed by the Commanders Group feels that we can function with it. We know we can't continue to operate without knowing what resources we will have.

This lays out how our VSO programs will be funded and what we will be required to do in the future. The legislation changes the way we have been performing services to our States veterans and we feel it will provide for our basic needs. It also reflects the loss of one million dollars cut by the Governor in May but gives all Veterans organizations the opportunity to compete for larger grants starting April 1, 2010.

Signed,

Carnie D. Jackson, State Commander

Patrick Lafferty, State Adjutant

Douglas Williams, State Legislative Chairman

I just returned from Indianapolis, Indiana for the Fall Meetings of the National Organization of the Sons of The American Legion. I am a member of the Legislative Commission. We met to finalize the Washington D.C. dates and the Agenda for the Conference. The dates are February 28, 2010 through March 3, 2010. All of the National Legion Family will be in attendance at this Conference. Remember to frequently check the Sons of The American Legion's Website for Legislative Commission updates. You can check out the legislative web site for information to keep you informed regarding the activities of the Commission and legislation affecting our veterans and country.

With the holidays season here I want to wish everyone a safe and wonderful holiday.

Son of the Year Chairman: Victor Fisher

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Victor Fisher and I am the Detachment of Michigan Son of the Year Chairperson. I am also currently the 16th District Commander, and Squadron 396 Commander, in Garden City, Michigan.

I spoke at the Detachment Convention this past June as the Son of The Year Chairman as I presented the winner for 2009. I will try to include all or part of the winner's letter in our next newsletter.

I would like to get more nominations for the Detachment Son of the Year for our 2010 Convention. I brought up a motion at the 2009 Convention to once again add a Second Son of the Year for candidates under the age of eighteen. The motion was carried and as a result we will now have two Son of the Year awards, one for seventeen and under and one for eighteen years old and above. Separating the younger nominees allows them to compete against their peers and not against anyone over eighteen years old.

The Detachment of Michigan has many members who do a great job helping out our veterans. Unfortunately, not many Squadrons submit candidates for Son of the Year. I hope Squadrons will embrace the Son of The Year award. This is a prestigious honor is one that a member can only win once. Please submit an application for anyone who you feel is deserving of this great award.

The application for the Son of the Year award can be found on the Detachment website. Fill out the application and send it along with a separate letter describing the activities of the candidate. Remember, the candidate’s letter of activities cannot include the name or Squadron of the candidate.

Send the application and letter or E-mail to me at victorsal396@sbcglobal.net.

I would love to hear about the great things the Sons are doing for our wonderful veterans.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



NEC Ron Wyatt assisting at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Summer Carnival



Commander Patrick Pustay accepting a check for the Alpha Program from Squadron 459



Commander Patrick Pustay, NEC Ron Wyatt and VSO James Troost at the SAL booth at the GRHV Summer Carnival

The following Officers and Chairpersons had no report at this time:

- 1st Zone Commander William Sari II
- 2nd Zone Commander Danny Gleason
- 3rd Zone Commander..... Michael A. Holley
- 4th Zone Commander..... Roger Rockhold
- Boys State Youth Career Law Enforcement Mike Holley
- PDC2 / Rainbow Connection Chairman Andre Svacha
- PDC3/ Alt NEC Randy Jackson
- Reconnect Chairman Jack Helminski
- Child Welfare John Kaliunas
- Historian /Asst pin sales Raymond Gilbert
- Public Relations David J Mennel
- Education & Leadership Chairman Rusty Glass

General Information:

212 N. Verlinden Avenue, Lansing, MI 48915 / Office 517-371-4720 or fax 517-371-2401

2009-2010 Commanders

MI State Commander: Patrick Pustay (Squadron 305/5th District) (616)681-9317
Zone 1 Commander: William Sari II (Squadron 396/16th District) (734)347-3851
Zone 2 Commander: Danny Gleason (Squadron 51/ 4th District)..... (269)697-8388
Zone 3 Commander: Michael A. Holley (Squadron 141/6th District) (517)676-5786
Zone 4 Commander: Roger Rockhold (Squadron 404/10th District) (989)544-3839
Zone 5 Commander: Dwaine Verville (Squadron 17/12th District) (906)265-9848

Contact your Zone Commander if you have any questions, they will be happy to help you.

2009-2010 Officers

Adjutant: Sanford Lipman (248)542-3187
Asst. Adjutant: Jeremy Bell (313)319-7723
Chaplain/Emergency Relief Fund: Rodney Tolbert (269)861-2247
Historian Raymond Gilbert/ Asst Pin Sales (313)304-9525
Sgt-At-Arms: James Cooley (989)268-0009
Asst Sgt-At-Arms: Clayton Maxwell (248)684-1867
Judge Advocate: Skipper Townes (616)835-7895
PDC #1: Greg Price / Membership (313)550-0857
PDC #2 Andre Svacha (810)327-2563
PDC #3/ Alt N.E.C Randy Jackson (248)890-6396
N.E.C / Homeland Security: Ron Wyatt (269)208-0886
Service officer: Tony Licari (586)709-3996
Finance Officer: Christopher A Dohnal (231)894-5532
Constitution and By-Laws: Lou Scott (810)229-9294

Committee chairs:

Americanism / Awards & Trophies: Russell Merlington	(616)696-1832
Boy's state & youth career law enforcement: Mike Holley	(517)676-5786
Legislative: Roger Dees	(248)887-1723
Child Welfare: John Kailunas	(231)652-7001
Make-A-Wish: Danny Poole	(248)762-1651
Rainbow Connection: Andre Svacha	(810)327-2563
Public Relations: David J Mennel	(810)796-9844
Co-Public Relations: Doug Winkler	(734)854-3876
Publications: Jeff Meulendyk.....	(616)446-4441
Son of the Year: Victor C Fisher	(313)930-1746
Upper Peninsula Membership: Dennis Larson	(906)779-5513
Upper Peninsula Chairman: Dwaine Verville	(906)265-9848
Community Service: Brad Koch	(616)785-4771
Reconnect: Jack Helminski	(734)340-4430
S.A.L. Department Advisor: John R. Shirkey	(734)721-4626
VA&R: Earl Ruttkofsky	(231)229-5030
Education & Leadership: Rusty Glass	(248)547-0498
Special Projects: Mike Holley	(517)676-5786
Pin Sales: Terry Fraga	(248)288-1627
Alpha Program: Jeff Meulendyk	(616)446-4441

New E-mail Addresses

Detachment Commander.....	commander@michsal.org
Detachment Adjutant.....	adjutant@michsal.org
Detachment Veterans Service Officer.....	vso@michsal.org
Alpha Program Chairman.....	alphaprogram@michsal.org
Detachment Publisher	publisher@michsal.org

Articles for the Sons of The American Legion Newsletter

Please send articles in a Microsoft Word format or plain text format to: **publisher@michsal.org**.
Or you can mail them to:

Jeff Meulendyk
1601 Oswego NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504