

## **American Legion Elects William Hafeman State Commander**

Several hundred statewide delegates elected Carney, Michigan, resident William Hafeman State Commander Sunday, June 20, 2010 at State Convention in Dearborn, Michigan. Hafeman, a 33-year American Legion member, earned his membership eligibility from U.S. Marine Corps service during the Vietnam Era between 1959-63.

Prior to the Office of State Commander, Hafeman served Powers Post 244 in most post positions including commander and adjutant. He further served the Legion as 11<sup>th</sup> District Commander and Adjutant and the Upper Peninsula Association of American Legion Posts as Commander and Adjutant. Hafeman at the state level, served as 5th Zone Commander, Upper Peninsula Membership Director, Upper Peninsula Direct Membership Solicitation Coordinator, and on the Education and Scholarship Committee.

# Legionnaires Make a Difference Every Day



**William Hafeman  
State Commander**

Legionnaires make a difference everyday was a phrase I “coined” from PDC Carnie Jackson and will use as my theme throughout the year. You do make a difference by just being a Legionnaire; each act you perform in helping others and each smile you give makes another’s day that

much better.

Thank you for your confidence in me to be your State Commander. I want to thank PDC Carnie Jackson for having a great year by turning some of our programs around. As promised, it is my plan to bring continuity to the State Commander’s office. Therefore, I will continue where PDC Jackson left off assuring that all his hard work will continue into the future.

**2010/11 will be a busy year. With the excitement of the November elections, perhaps we will have the opportunity to get our Service Officer funding back if the right individuals are elected. Before you vote, please make sure your candidate is veteran friendly in the true sense. It is surprising how many claim they are but when elected will**

**“sing to a different tune.” It is our desire that the new governor create a separate “Department of Veterans Affairs” giving us autonomy from the “Department of Military Affairs” where much of our service officer funding problems came into being.**

By the time you read this column, your DEC will have had their 30-Day Meeting; committee appointments approved and we will be well on our way to a super year.

And, due to the cutting of state funding for our Veterans Homes, they are in need of more and more special and personal items. Therefore, my special project for this year is supporting the needs of these Veterans Homes. All donations can be earmarked for Jacobetti or Grand Rapids. Those not earmarked will be divided according to in-house population.

State Membership Chairman is Louis Oberle, U.P. Membership, Michael Bruntjens and L.P. Membership, Jim Wallace. DMS Coordinator is Barry Wood. They are looking forward to helping the districts and posts achieve their goals. Membership incentives will be outlined in the next issue of Michigan Legionnaire.

A new format set in place is our Leadership College. Under the direction of Brett Holt, we will be utilizing our National Leadership College graduates in putting on Leadership Seminars through-

out the state in the fall. Most post officers are newly elected in early summer for the first time and personally want to know the ins and outs of running an effective post. The programs will be of great value to all newly elected Post Commanders, District Commanders, Post Adjutants, and Post Senior Vice Commanders/Membership Chairmen. Please watch for details to be sent to each post when these future seminars dates are finalized. These seminars will be “meat and potato” seminars that will cover a variety of subjects important to your post.

Post Development and Revitalization, under the direction of Al Ford, will be doing a 180-degree turn-a-round. It is our desire to eliminate posts turning in their charters and/or post mergers. If your post is having trouble obtaining or maintaining new members, or you feel that your post is at its “wits” end, please give Headquarters a call and we will do our best to help you. If you would like a new post developed in a certain area, let us know also. It will get done! Our team is professional and will help your post succeed with all the credit going to the Post Commander. (See “Posts” - pg 9.)

American Legion Baseball and Boys State is headed in the right direction. We saw an increase in teams this year due to the tier system now in effect. Boys State increased slightly this year, and has stopped the continuous downward trend. A special

Thank you goes to all posts that supported a boy for Boys State, and to those posts supporting an American Legion Baseball team. Student Trooper turned into a tremendous success after it almost got dropped two years ago. This year we are having two programs instead of one. Many thanks go to PDC Bill Miller for turning this program around.

Last on the agenda is the Trout Lake Property. As everyone knows during Carnie Jackson’s term as State Commander, we were donated 520 acres of land with a 6000 square foot lodge and a 3000 square foot guesthouse, along with several outbuildings. A committee of 5 has been named to oversee the property, assure maintenance of the property, and get it handicapped ready this year. Every Legionnaire is invited to our “Open House” July 17 & 18. There are limited RV parking facilities (rustic). Hotels at St. Ignace, Newberry and other local communities along with campgrounds in the area are listed on the Michigan Legion website, and on page 7.

I am looking forward to working with all you great “blue cappers” this year along with my DEC. It going to be an exciting year and I’m looking forward to all challenges that come my way. And, I look forward to seeing you at Fall Conference.

*Thought for the Day! The Roots of Happiness Grow Deepest in the Soil of Service*