



MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 4



Plan early

BASEBALL IN NOVEMBER??



What do Ted Williams, Yogi Berra and Reggie Jackson have in common? If you said baseball you are only half-correct. The answer is American Legion Baseball! More than half of current major-leaguers played Legion Baseball.

The program is always growing, and participation is easy.

About 5,000 teams Nationwide compete each year, so there's ample opportunity for new players to join, and for coaches who want to start a team. The league also requires a number of umpires and volunteers.

To coach:

Coaches who want to start a team should contact the Zone baseball chairman in their area.

Jeremy Bell - Zone 1 - Districts: Detroit 1 and 16
(313) 319-7723 nujay425@yahoo.com

Tom Romain - Zone 2 - Districts: 2, 3, 4, 5
(517) 263-5921 tromain@summitfinancialgroup.net

Bob Eggert - Zone 3 - Districts: 6, 7, 8, 17, 18
(810) 516-3293 bobedent@aol.com

Nelson Cronkright - Zone 4 - Districts: 9, 10, 19
(989) 631-1444 nelsoncronkright@mcardle-midland.com

Mike Trickey - Zone 5 - Districts: 11, 12
(906) 226-6404 mvtrickey271@yahoo.com

A coach must first fill out a new team registration form online at: baseball.legion.org starting January 1, 2015. The department then will send copies of the state and national rules, and registration forms.

To play:

Contact your local Legion post. Look for the address and phone number in the local White Pages or at www.legion.org/post

To volunteer:

Legion Baseball can always use your help. Volunteers can serve in a variety of ways, ranging from statisticians to serving Gatorade during games. For more information, contact your local post.

There are also scholarship opportunities within Legion Baseball for up to \$5,000!

If your post does not currently have a Legion Baseball team, please consider forming one. Baseball is a great way to get the youth involved in Legion programs, and a great way to engage in your community.

For God and Country,

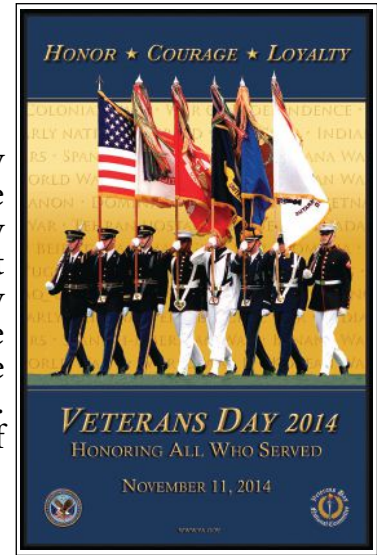
Nelson Cronkright

Department Baseball Chairman

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!!

November 11th, 2014 is Veterans Day to the rest of America, but here at The American Legion we know that "Every day is Veterans Day". As we scatter about the state attending services for this day and we say thank you to everyone we come in contact with that served in the armed forces at some time in their lives. The American Legion Department of Michigan wants to say.

THANK YOU!



Michigan's Legislative Committee Leads the Way

Resolution No. 12: Support Joint Services Transcript Evaluation of Military Training and Experience of Veterans, Active-Duty, Reserve and National Guard Personnel

Origin: Register Resolution No. 2704 (MI) Department Executive Committee

Submitted by: Veterans Employment & Education Commission

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 15-16, 2014, That The American Legion support efforts of academic credit evaluation by colleges, universities and vocational technical schools via the Joint Services Transcript system for military experience as evaluated college, university and vocational technical school credit; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion support efforts to increase the understanding that without this required evaluation of Joint Services Transcripts that the Department of Veterans Affairs education funding through the GI Bill oftentimes duplicates funding for military training already received by the Department of Defense (DOD); and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That DOD and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) change the current required degree plan used by colleges, universities and vocational technical institutions of higher learning to be in receipt of DOD Tuition Assistance or VA GI Bill funds be required to evaluate and report the Joint Services Transcript of veterans, active-duty military, Reserve and National Guard just as they would for any other transcript from an institution of prior learning.



MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

(USPS 010637) is published monthly except February, May, August, and December by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$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

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014 - June 1, 2014

Circulation: 97,687

Printed: 7-3-14 · Mailed: 7-7-14

LEGION STATE HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

Publisher: Patrick W. Lafferty
Editor: Mark Sutton

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 -
deanna@michiganlegion.org

Legion Finance - 17 -
denise@michiganlegion.org

Programs, Boys State, Scholarships, Baseball, Website and History - 23 -
roxanne@michiganlegion.org

Veterans Service -12- Wednesday only

Public Relations - 16 -
mark@michiganlegion.org

Administration -13 -
kim@michiganlegion.org

Do you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use? E-mail it to us at info@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Mark Sutton.


Please keep the photo at least 200 dpi or larger. If you are submitting a hard copy photo, please note photos printed from a home printer cannot be used, nor can photos clipped from newspapers.

We look for photos showing Legion caps in action whenever possible.

Interested in placing an ad in the Michigan Legionnaire? Please Contact Mark Sutton at: info@michiganlegion.org or by phone at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

LEGIONNAIRE INSURANCE TRUST

Over Four Decades of Partnership for a Healthy America



For more information about the Legionnaire Insurance Trust affordable insurance plans and superior service call toll-free, 1-800-235-6943, or visit our Web site at: www.theLIT.com

24180 © 2010 AGIA


Come Join The American Legion Post 459 Family and Friends

Presents the Four Chaplain Story

To honor and celebrate 4 men, who were not lost at sea; they gave us a life lesson that is still true today.

At the Gerald R. Ford Museum
January 24th, 2015
303 Pearl St., Grand Rapids, MI

For information contact Rose Mary Maciejewski (616) 822-8136 or email rammac999@yahoo.com



MILEGIONNAIRE OPT OUT FORM

YES! I would like to view the Legionnaire online at www.michiganlegion.org instead of receiving it through the mail. Please permanently remove me from the Legionnaire mailing list. This option will not effect any other Legion mailings.

Name: _____ Member ID #: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

Chaplain

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

MAKE EVERY EFFORT!



Someone had asked me the question, "What was the most stressful time in your military career?" It would have to been my training at the FT Campbell, Ky. Air Assault School, when I first joined the Army as a Chaplain in 1981. It was "highly recommended" by my Commander to be like the other soldiers. It was a rigorous ten days of fast pace training, consisting of an obstacle course, a two mile run, a hook-up load underneath a CH-47 or UH-60. Then, three days of rappelling off a tower and from a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter hovering at 90 feet. The stressful event for me was being on that tower and looking down, and the only way down was the rope that I held. So, we listened very intently to the instructor

on how to tie a Swiss seat and then hook up to a rappel rope with your equipment. It was very important to tie it correctly and learn how to hold the rope behind your back as you come down the 34 foot tower. I made every effort to follow his instructions 100% without error, or it would have meant an accident waiting to happen! Talk about stress!

The good news is, I did it! And then I completed my training with a ten mile march with a ruck sack. I graduated, and now, proudly wear that badge, the Air Assault Badge! Now, I still remember those special words very well from the Trainer. **"MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GET IT RIGHT!"** Did you know that the Bible, also, says it clearly several times as well? It encourages me to "Make every effort" to grow my Christian values in my life. It says we are to

"Make every effort to be at peace with one another." (Ephesians 4:3) Especially, are the words that says, **"To make every effort** to add to your Faith - Goodness, then, add Knowledge, and then, Self-Control, and then, Endurance, and, then, add Brotherly Kindness, and then to top it all off, add Love." (2 Peter 15-7) It seems like we should take those words seriously like listening to an Air Assault Instructor.

One of my joys has been teaching the Civil Air Patrol Cadets the Character Development Class once a month, and to instill in them their Core Values of Integrity, Excellence, Respect, and Volunteerism. The American Legion ought to have core values as well. What are yours? Whatever they may be, let us, then **"MAKE EVERY EFFORT"** to teach and practice them in our daily living.

STATE OFFICERS

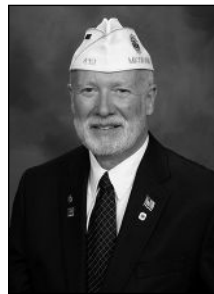
State Commander Jim Wallace, Pinckney	Finance Officer .. George Dolan, Grand Blanc	Alt. National Executive Committeeman Roger Webster, Croton
State Adjutant. . . . Patrick W. Lafferty, Farwell	Historian Mitch Louth, St. Johns	Immediate Past Commander Ray Moore, Lake
1st Zone. Joe Callahan	Chaplain Larry Volink, Ypsilanti	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director Gary Easterling,
2nd Zone Jim Carlin	Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Flores, Madison Heights	Membership Dir. Steve Striggow,
3rd Zone Marilyn Britten	Judge Advocate. Elmer White, Muskegon	Public Relations Director Mark Sutton, Eaton Rapids
4th Zone Joe Renis	National Executive Committeeman	
5th Zone. Jim Dougovito John Skinner, Schoolcraft	

Headquarters



Jim Wallace, State Commander

Working Together for a Job Well Done



Jim Wallace
State Commander

High School has been in session for about 2 months. The new 2015 American Legion Scholarship flier is out. Now is the time to match those two items up. It is never too early for a trip to your local school to make sure that they are in possession of the Scholarship informational packet. We need to make our presence and programs known. The sooner we start contacting the schools, the bigger the return we will have in securing that the students will have the information needed to attend. The list of programs is many which include Boys/Girls State (between the

11th and 12th grade), Student Trooper Program (boys or girls-16 to 18 years of age in the 2015-2016 school year), Brewer & Wilson Scholarship (review each scholarship for the requirements to apply), Oratorical Contest (9th, 10th 11" & 12th grade and may apply more than once). This is over \$40,000 in available scholarships and we have several other programs and activities available to students, so please, make yourself informed and head on out to promote the Legion and obtain those students.

The Ninth Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade is Saturday, November 8, 2014. This will be hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Detroit Chapter 9. The parade will start at 11 AM. The Committee is seeking to honor ten Vietnam Veteran "Silent Heroes" during the parade. The First Lady and

I will be in attendance to join in on the festivities and excitement of being with active duty service personnel as well as veterans of all eras. I hope to see you there.

The Holidays are coming soon. I am certain that you and your family will enjoy this special time of the year. However, we still need to "Stay the Course" and work toward promoting/ securing membership and proudly presenting ourselves as the American Legion. The more the community sees us and knows who we are the easier we will attain our goals within the Legion Family.

As many of you may be aware of or have heard before, membership is the "Life Blood" of our organizations. Without continuing and increasing membership we do not have the finances to help veterans, their families and the com-

munity. We will not be able to help the children and youth with our programs and activities. We are not able to have Veterans Service Officers help in developing claims for the veterans (and/or family members) that have borne the physical and mental wounds of their service to these United States of America. Both are pillars of the American Legion. The Membership Committee, Zone, District, Post Commanders! Officers and every Legionnaire is hereby challenged to obtain new members, renew last year's members and reconnect with those that did not pay before last year. We need them all. There are many ways to complete our task. Everyone has an idea I am sure. Please share that with other Legionnaires and Posts.

By all of us working together we will reap the benefits of a job well done.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Legion Riders Clarification



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

I have just returned from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Commander Wallace, Pat, and I traveled down to the annual Fall Meetings there for Commander and Adjutant training. I am always impressed with the meetings I attend at the national level, the information and training they give is always first class. I am still trying to wrap my hands around everything that was shared in those 4 days in Indianapolis.

One item that was brought up was the Legion Riders. They gave us a sheet with some frequently asked questions and responses to them. I would like to share a couple of them:

Q. Is there a national constitution and bylaws for ALR?

A. No. However, a suggested constitution and bylaws template is available online here for anyone interested in developing a local chapter or state program. This template is based on and fully complies with Resolutions 35 and 32. Note that many posts and chapters do not require their chapters to develop a full constitution and bylaws. Simpler SOPs or other organizational documents may be sufficient for meetings, elections, and officer duties, as needed.

Q. How do I start a chapter at my post?

A. The process is easy. No charter paperwork is necessary, but a chapter must be supported by a post or department. There is no national or "at large" chapter. The following steps are suggested:

- Get the approval of the your post. A copy of the minutes of any regular post meeting approving the formation of a chapter is your authority to start organizing a new chapter.
- Contact your department headquarters for additional guidance or information from the department. There may be a department ALR committee to assist you, a state ALR SOP or constitution, or even state officers in place to help you.
- Check to see if another ALR chapter is nearby using the chapter locator www.legion.org/riders/chapterlocator. If so, ask them for information on how that chapter is set up. The members of that chapter will very likely be willing to assist.
- Set up a meeting with your new ALR members to discuss how your program should be governed, and develop a chapter constitution and bylaws (or SOP) for

the review and approval of your post's leadership.

- At later meetings, nominate chapter officers per your approved constitution and report your chapter's existence to your department headquarters. Finally, contact national to add your post to the chapter locator.

Q. Are there many restrictions on how we set up a chapter constitution or SOP?

A. As a subordinate organization of The American Legion, all riders chapters must take certain steps to protect their right to wear the trademark patch and to use the words "American Legion Riders" as a description of their activity. Federal trademark law requires departments and posts to "maintain continuous control" over subordinate activities entities and to follow certain rules, which include:

- All ALR officers must be confirmed or named by the hosting American Legion post. In practice the Riders elect their own officers, who are then "installed" (confirmed) by the post at an appropriate ceremony. Another way to accomplish this is for the chapter to report the election of officers during a normal post meeting. The election is valid after the report is duly accepted by

the post.

- The Riders must render an activity report and a financial report at the regular post meetings.

A post or department officer (typically the finance officer or treasurer) must be designated as signatory on all chapter bank accounts.

The chapter constitution and bylaws (or other organizational documents) must be approved by the host post.

Any subsequent changes made to such documents must also be approved by the host post.

If your constitution includes these provisions you are not in conflict with trademark law. (Please note that these federal trademark rules apply to all subordinate programs such as Baseball, Oratorical, or Sons of The American Legion or other activities of The American Legion.)

Those are 3 of the most asked questions received, there are other FAQ's and I will share those soon. In the mean time, as the riding season in Michigan comes to end for most riders I hope these questions help your Post think of starting a riders chapter or clarify questions with your current rider chapter.

As we enter the holiday season Christy and I want to wish every Legion Family member a safe and exciting holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to all

100% is the Goal!

How well do you know your membership?



Steve Striggow,
Membership Director

As the Fall Conference just concluded, there was a great deal of discussion about when dues get paid. How well do you know the membership of your post? My bet

is you know who will be the last to pay or will wait until they return from their sunny winter in the south. Why not start working on them now? A head start is better than a frantic push to get them to pay at the last minute. I will also bet that in most cases there is only one person responsible for membership at your post.

This year we are stressing TEAM in all phases of membership. It is not an acronym for any fancy program, it is simply what it says, working together to achieve a common goal. Working on membership involves everyone. At Department we have added an Assistant Membership Director Larry Money, who is responsible for the west side of the state. DMS Coordinator Holt is traveling the state instructing the Adjutants in using MyLegion.org to make their job easier, and more efficient. In the U. P., Director Koivisto is working diligently assisting the posts and Zone Commander. The Zone Commanders are doing a wonderful job visiting Posts, and helping them with ideas to recruit and retain members.

Another asset that we tend overlook is the rest of the Legion Family. To bring awareness to the potential the family working together can have on membership, we have instituted a new incentive. Working with Auxiliary Membership Chairman Kim Champion and SAL Chairman Mike Boughner, a 100% Family Ribbon program is being instituted. This ribbon will be awarded to the Post, Unit, and Squadron when all 3 achieve 100%. Each will be awarded a 100% Family ribbon for their colors. I know this will not apply to all posts however, we felt we needed to do something to get them working together on membership.

Let us all work together to achieve 100% in membership.

Early Bird Drawing

There will be one name drawn from each District of those who have paid their dues by Veterans Day. Those Legionnaires will be reimbursed for their 2015 dues by Department.

Posts that are 100% by December 31st will receive a blazer for the Commander and a 100% plaque.

Posts that are 100% by April 30th will receive a plaque.

District and Zone Commanders that are 100% by Convention will receive a Blazer.

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

Updated 10/10/2014

1st District

Dec 1, 2014 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI
Feb 2, 2015 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI
Apr 6, 2015 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI
May 4, 2015 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI (District Family)
May 25, 2015 @ Roseland Park, 29001 Woodward Ave., Berkley, MI
June 1, 2015 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI

2nd District

Jan 11th, 2015 @ Dexter, MI
SAL Meeting at 11AM - VSO School at 1PM - AL Meeting at 2PM
March 8th, 2015 @ Jackson Post 29
VSO School at 1PM - AL Meeting at 2PM
May 10th, 2015 @ Hudson Post 180
SAL Meeting at 11AM - VSO School at 1PM - AL Meeting at 2PM

3rd District

Executive Committee @ 11:30 AM
Lunch @ 12:00 Noon
Meeting @ 1:00 PM
Nov 2nd 2014 @ Post 42 - 1000 W. Lawrence, Charlotte, MI
Jan 11th 2015 @ Post 298 - 228 N. 20th St, Battle Creek, MI
Mar 8th 2015 @ Post 53 - 1611 Steamburg Rd, Hillsdale, MI
May 3rd 2015 @ Post 55 - 1230 Edwards St, Albion, MI

4th District

November 2, 2014@ Stevensville
January 4, 2015@ Allegan Post 89
March 1, 2015@Constantine
May 3, 2015@ Bridgeman Post

5th District

Meetings @ 7PM
Nov 13th, 2014 @ Post 2 - 401 North Park NE, Grand Rapids
Jan 9th, 2014 @ Post 154 - 2327 Byron Center Ave, SW, Wyoming, MI
March 12, 2014 @ Post 102 - 330 Rockford Park Dr., Rockford, MI
July 9th, 2015 TBA

6th District

Lunch @ 12:00PM
Meeting @ 1:00PM
Nov 2, 2014 @ Post 64 - 4314 W. Carpenter Rd, Flint, MI
Jan 11, 2015 @ Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney, MI
March 8, 2015 @ Post 269 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI
May 3, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison, MI

7th District

Jan 11th, 2015 @ Lapeer Post
March 8th, 2015 @ Caro Post
May 17th, 2015 @Lapeer Post
June 2015 - Department Convention

8th District

Nov 2nd, 2014 @ Owosso Post 57
Jan 4th, 2015 @ Hubbaidston Post 182
March 1st, 2015 @ Stanton Post 175
May 3rd, 2015 @ Saranac Post 452

9th District

December 13, 2014 Cadillac Post 94
March 14, 2015-Hesperia Post 411
May 9, 2015-Traverse City Post 35

The usual schedule: Exec Cmte at Noon; Lunch at 1:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

10th District

November 1, 2014 @Mikado Post 254.
January 3, 2015 @Bay City Post 18.
March 7, 2015 @ Prudenville Post 245.
May 3, 2015 (Memorial Service) @Sanford Post 443.
June 6, 2015 T.B.A.
All Luncheons will be at 12:00 Noon
Meetings at 1:00P.

11th & 12th District

Winter Meeting Jan 16-18, 2015 @ Gladstone Post #71

16th District

Meetings begin at 7:30PM
* Service officer School at 6:30PM
Nov 11th, 2014 @ Flat Rock Post 337
Dec 9th, 2014 @ Southgate Post 478*
Jan 13th, 2015 @ Stitt Post 232
Feb 10th, 2015 @ Fort Dearborn Post 364*
March 10th, 2015 @ Wyandotte Post 217
April 14th, 2015 @ Trenton Post 426*
May 12th, 2015 @ Lincoln Park Post 67 Memorial Service & Elections
June 9th, 2015 @ Garden City Post 396

17th District

Meetings start @ 7PM
Nov 19, 2014 @ Post 391, Plymouth
Jan 21, 2015 @ Post 147, Northville
March 18th, 2015 @ Post 391, Plymouth
May 20th, 2015 @ Post 32, Livonia*
*Memorial service prior to meeting at 6:30PM

18th District

Meetings start @ 2:00PM
Nov 9th, 2014 @ Post 143
Jan 11th, 2015 @ Post 20
March 8th, 2015 @ Post 374
April 12th, 2015 @Post 216 Memorial Service
May 17th, 2015 @ Post 346 - Elections
June 14th, 2015 @ Royal Oak Post #253

19th District

December 14th, 2014 @ Post 458 Gaylord at the Eagles building S Otsego Ave. Social hour at 11am
March 14, 2015 Post 121 Roger City at VFW Post 607 1316 W. Third st. Roger City
Social Hour at 11am, Lunch at Noon, Meeting at 1pm
May 16th, 2015 @ Post 317, Onaway - Social Hour 11am
Lunch at 12, Meeting at 1PM



AUXILIAIRE

Page 5

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2014

*From the Desk of the President**2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox*

The Change of the Seasons



Well, the time has come to put away all the summer toys and begin with the much cooler weather. It is also a time to start thinking of the ways to help our Veterans in our community that might just be needed this time of the year. There is so much to do, raking the leaves, cleaning gutters and then comes the S word.

So you can see lots to do. Please take a moment to find that someone special to lend a hand.

The Fall Conference is behind us, and all units should be starting the programs that we offer. Hope everyone had a good time and picked up at least one new idea and will run with it. I do think that my "one little change" is making a difference, because on my

travels I am hearing lots of good things already in the works. So please keep up all that you are doing, because the Auxiliary will make a difference this year.

November seems to be a very busy month, with Veterans Day, (A parade in Detroit on Nov 8th). Also, being Breast Cancer Awareness Month and of course the VA Hospitals are getting ready for the gift shops. Our veterans really rely on the proceeds from the gift shops to have presents for not only themselves, but also for their families. So let's get going. Send in the unit monies to department and earmark the check for gift shop or have unit members purchase the gifts and send them to your respective veteran hospital or home.

Winter Meeting is coming up quickly. We are planning the activities and schedule. There will definitely be a Girls State lunch featuring a tea. There will also be a Self-Defense class under

the National Security program along with a DEC meeting. Since the poppy selling feature was so popular at Fall Conference we are considering having a poppy table also at Winter Meeting. The biggest problem is finding someone to bring the GR Poppy Supervisor to Flint to sell the poppies. If you are interested in providing that service, please notify Bonnie at department.

Congratulations to the units for getting in their membership. At the time of printing, department was nationally at 35%. Let's continue to work hard and get in as many Early Bird renewals as we can before Veterans Day.

My family and I want to wish each of you the Happiest of Holidays and stay safe throughout this busy season.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

National Remains Silent Regarding "Step" Relatives



The following memo was released from the national office on September 12, 2014. I have underlined and bolded some items for emphasis and clarification.

From: Dubbie Buckler,
ALA National Secretary

The question of "step" relatives continues to come up. This subject was addressed in length at the C&B pre-Convention meeting prior to the opening of the 2013 ALA National Convention. What was stated as well as circulated in writing to all national and department leadership is:

The eligibility information stated in the ALA National Constitution & Bylaws has never mentioned step-relatives. This eligibility matter is not contained or addressed anywhere in The American Legion's national governing documents. While such membership eligibility descriptions represent a long-standing practice in the ALA, this eligibility practice has never been stated in the ALA's Constitution & Bylaws, and cannot be stated in writing in the ALA's national governing documents because a) the ALA eligibility wording cannot conflict with the Legion's federal charter; and b) because of how both national organizations are classified by the IRS for tax exemption. Therefore, national ALA governing document must remind silent on step relatives.

Because the national ALA governing documents must remain silent on step relatives, nationally produced membership materials cannot

make any reference to step-relatives, and the new versions of such materials do not.

A unit determines an applicant's eligibility for membership in the ALA. As provided in the ALA National C&B, if an applicant or member disputes the unit's determination of her membership eligibility, the applicant or member may appeal the unit's determination to the department. The Department is the final authority on an individual's membership eligibility. The department's decision regarding an individual's member eligibility is not appealable to the National organization. The National organization only has authority to consider an appeal from a unit regarding the department's action to suspend, cancel or revoke the unit's charter. The National organization has no authority to consider eligibility or discipline appeals from members. The department is the final authority on a woman's eligibility and a member's discipline.

Thirdly, these and additional matters of membership eligibility have been studied over the past three years by both The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. Nothing further on the subject of step-relatives will be provided in writing. The Legion's federal charter does not support including nieces, as nieces are not direct descendants. The matter of membership for the wives of the Sons of the American Legion and male spouses of female Legionnaires was also studied in depth by the Legion. For reasons cited above, the Legion will not be taking any action to expand membership eligibility beyond what is currently allowed.



Poppy Chairman Margo Forrester made a trip to the UPAA to promote the Poppy program. While there, she went to Wilwin and presented the book "The Poppy Lady" to Wilwin board member and PDP Pat Laine and the UPAA District President Krystle Oberle for the Wilwin library.



Unit 32 of Livonia, presented a Membership Tea and initiated 13 new members. Among the guests were President Nancy Knox; NEC Sandra Snyder; Department Membership Chairman Kim Champion; District President Ann Fenner; Eastern Area Membership Chair Mary Dubay; Unit President Linda Roman; Unit Membership Chair Rosemary Truskowski; and 7th District President Kathy Copeland. members. Among the guests were President Nancy Knox and NEC Sandra Snyder.

Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain

Since the Chaplain's article was mistakenly left out of the October issue, this issue is featuring two articles.



Our Time is Now!!!

"Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them." Deuteronomy 4:9

Have you thought about someone recently that you haven't had contact with in a while? Have you thought about times with someone that you are thankful you had? Do you have a Veteran that you are particularly thankful for?

If you can answer yes to any of the above and can tell them, now is the time to do it. Don't wait. We all have so much to be thankful for and there are people that we have not told. If you are thankful for the time you have spent with old friends, family, co-workers, Veterans, or anyone else that might have crossed your path in a good way, now is the time to tell them. If not, you might regret it for a very long time.

Below is a poem which was given to us at National American Legion Auxiliary Convention. It was written by Shelley Riggs, National Chaplain 2013-2014.

"NOW"

If you have work to do
Do it now.
Today the skies are clear and blue
Tomorrow clouds may come in view
Yesterday is not for you. Do it now.
If you have a song to Sing, Sing it now
Let the notes of gladness ring
Clear as a songbird in spring,
Let every day some music bring
Sing it now!

If you have kind words to say, say them now!
Tomorrow may not come your way
Loved ones will not always stay
Say them now!

If you have a smile to show, show it now
Make cards happy, roses grow
Let the friends around you know
The love you have before they go
Show it now!

THIS IS HALLOWED GROUND

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27

Peace is something that all of our Veterans deserve, whether it be while they are still with us, or after they have done all they can on this Earth and have moved on.

Often we are reminded that we are never supposed to cut the colors at meetings, dinners, etc. If the flags are placed in their proper locations, the American Flag is placed at the left end, as the audience is facing the table and the American Legion or Auxiliary Flags are to be placed to the right. So often we are thinking about something and just walk up to the table to say something without even giving a thought to cutting between the colors. Below is a poem that explains why we must never do this but salute the American Flag and walk around the end instead.

This is Hallowed Ground

**Between thee flags that proudly fly
Let no man dare to stand,
For here our fallen comrades lie;
We call it Hallowed Ground.
A symbol, yes, but mark it well;
Here let us ever humbly pause
In memory of the lad who fell
While fighting for our sacred cause.
On Sea or Land these buddies died.
Some lie beneath a foreign sod
In graves caressed by winds and tide,
In spots unknown to all but God
And so, this place is Hallowed Ground.
And it shall be forever blessed
As tho it were a grassy mound
Beneath which gallant heroes rest.**

**Be ever watchful, Legionnaire,
Of those two flags which signify
That we should guard this spot with care
Where our departed comrades lie.
And, if a man should dare to tread
This spot where lie our gallant brave,
He desecrates those noble dead
As tho he walked upon their grave.**

I pray that we never again forget, in our haste, to take the moment to remember to go around the end of the table rather than straight forward. It only takes another second and it is so very important. Please pass this on to anyone that you think might need to know the reason we never cut the colors.

Community Service

Harriet Sturim,
Community Service Chairman

We are the "Voice for Veterans" in all our community service projects. If we are sending our coupons to help the servicemen overseas; or planning a welcome committee for the arrival of servicemen at the nearest airport to our city; or planning a Stand Down for our female veterans; or work in the classroom at a school, or doing a Flag project for an elementary school on Flag Day -- This is our Community Service. Perhaps you attend a special prayer service in your house of worship for Veterans Day. Make sure your Post marches in a Veterans Day Parade. All these make the American Legion Auxiliary what it stands for as we hold our heads up high and proud. For by doing all these and many more we are the "VOICE for the VETERAN". Let us go far and wide in the great land of ours and shout loudly the "Voice for the Veteran". Let our VOICE be heard by all in government so they understand we are behind our VETERANS 1,000% and whatever they may need we will be getting it for them, so they understand no VETERAN will be hungry or homeless or in need of medical care.

YOU are the "Voice for the Veteran" use it justly and loudly.

Let's Strive for Our Goals

Krystal Oberle,
UPAA District President

You don't have to look very far to see that the American Legion Auxiliary is alive and well. Attending the Fall Conference in Muskegon Michigan was a boost in my enthusiasm to dig in and reach out to our veterans and our communities.

Although our district covers a 300 mile span units are getting down to business. Reports are coming in of Veterans Day Observances, fall bazaars, participation in school functions, flag presentations, and the list goes on!

The workshops at conference were geared towards giving us examples of how to work our programs. Let's implement those examples ladies and make our presence known in our communities!

Let's strive to reach those goals we have set, not only in numbers but in making our Auxiliary stronger.

Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center -- Iron Mountain

Barbara Larson, Department Representative

A new year has started and a lot to be done. We are in need of volunteers to help with the programs as some of the volunteers are getting old and can't do it anymore or are in ill health. We continue to do bingo twice a month and also help out at other recreational activities.

We are supporting the development of a small work shop in the activity room for the Community Living Center (CLC) residents. Our recreation therapist has completed her evaluation of numerous tools to meet the needs of our residents with decreased fine motor coordination, cognitive impairments, decreased endurance, severe respiratory problems, etc. She anticipates the workshop

to be fully operational by the end of December.

We continue to support the recreation music library for CLC residents through the purchase of iPod Shuffles and iTunes cards. This is proving to be more cost effective means of accommodating numerous and varied music interests of our veterans in the unit. We also support recreation therapy with the med luncheons or socials and closely work together with her to assist in promoting a since of community for our residents. We not only provide funds for programs, but volunteer our time.

Our Christmas Gift Shop this year is December 2nd and am looking forward to a better year this year as we will be helping veterans in the nursing homes in the area and those of low income. As usual, we are looking for donations

or new clothing (any size) mainly men's but also women's and children. These items can be sent to me in care of the hospital and donations to department and earmarked for the gift shop at Iron Mountain.

The hospital continues to be under construction as our front entrance is being renovated and entry is only thru the outpatient entrance and the elevators are being updated.

In conclusion, this is only a partial listing of programs as we also help with the mental health area and do decorating in the hospital at holidays as well as assist in the coffee area, escort area, and assist the volunteer director. Many thanks to my Deputy, Deb Jafolla for all her help because without her it couldn't be done. Have a happy holiday.

**The Only Written
Official Call
Annual Winter Conference
American Legion, Department of Michigan
February 13-15, 2015
Holiday Inn Gateway
Flint, Michigan**

Purpose: To implement plans for the upcoming year and otherwise conduct the business of the American Legion, Department of Michigan, through meetings of the Department Executive Committee, taking reports from called Department Committees and Chairmen, presenting public recognition awards, and conducting applicable Schools of Instruction.

Aside from the Department Executive Committee, only the Department Committees and Chairmen listed below are called to officially participate in the Winter Conference. See Program Book for all specific locations.

Registrations • Registration fee of \$15.00 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Saturday, February 14th, 2015, 4:00 p.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings – Saturday February 14th, 2015 - See schedule at www.michiganlegion.org (subject to change)

- Baseball, Boys State, Education & Scholarships, Finance/Personnel, Internal Affairs, Leadership College, Legislative, Membership, National Security & Foreign Relations, Permanent Time and Place, Post Development, Public Relations, Reconnect, VA & R, and VAVS/VHVS

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, February 15th, 2015, at 8:00 a.m.

The Michigan Freedom Center at Detroit Metro Airport is Seeking Volunteers

Many of you know I volunteer at the Freedom Center (our version of a USO) at Metro (Delta terminal) once each week. Next month the center will celebrate its 3rd anniversary. To date the center has hosted over 106,000 (not a typo) veterans, active military, and their family members. They could use more support since they are hoping

to open a second center at the North Terminal that serves all other airlines at Metro. If you or your group can help contact John or Diane at 810-545-8343 or via email at donation.coordinator@mifreedomcenter.org. We are currently missing 25% of the troops passing thru Metro since there is nothing at the North terminal so your help is important!

INFO FOR ALL LEGION FAMILY- NOTICE OF CHANGE IN TABS FOR TOTS PROGRAM



**Ron Geiger,
Dept. Children & Youth Chairman**

THE TIME HAS COME FOR A CHANGE! (In talking with District Commanders and Legionnaires at the Fall Conference, there is quite a bit of confusion about the Tabs for Tots Program)

A resolution, at Department Convention, in June 2014 was passed to end the Tabs for Tots at DEPARTMENT level and let each District handle their own program. This change is being made because many Districts are conducting their own programs already and that donations have decreased dramatically in the past few years.

I am asking each District to help in reviving Tabs for Tots! This can be done by re-educating each Post and their members and to let the community know the history of the program. In the last 25 years; 177 pieces of Pediatric Equipment have been placed in Hospitals and EMS Units throughout the state. Let's keep pulling the Tabs for Tots! Many of us belong to other organizations so please explain what Tabs

for Tots is and how they may help. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Bowling Alleys are good sources to help us out. If they do, be sure to thank them. When you take tabs to the recycler many of them will bump up the market price if you explain what the program is all about. Please be sure to thank them as well! Even to give a "Certificate of Appreciation" annually is fantastic.

For ways to accomplish this change my District the 19th created a 3 member committee (including the District Finance Officer) to handle the funds and the committee can then give a report at each District Meeting. The District sets a dollar amount goal and decides which Post will get the distribution. Let's get competitive among all Posts and put some new life back into Tabs for Tots! Also DON'T FORGET to put a label on the piece of Pediatric Equipment that is being donated to show that it came from the American Legion along with your District. Also, when making the equipment presentation try to get the local TV station and the newspaper there. And, last but not least, TAKE PHOTOS for the Michigan Legionnaire!

In closing, remember that the program itself is still the same the only difference is that NO MONEY gets sent to Department! Districts let's keep this no money out of pocket program going for another 25 years and KEEP PULLING TABS FOR TOTS!

FREEDOM CENTER

Volunteer today at Metro Airport and
be the one who welcomes our military
personnel, veterans, and military
dependents to Michigan
Located at Gate A43
Call (734) 247-2762
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Celebrating 612 combined years of continuous membership Jonesville Post Celebrate 50 plus years



Bob Snow, Post Commander

Over 65 members of the Jonesville American Legion met on Saturday October 4th to celebrate the continuous memberships of 11 of its members with 50 years and more. They are the following:

Bottom left to right--George Newell 50 Years, Garry Sarles 70 years, Bill Dobson 51 years, Floyd Bordner, 60 years, (standing back) Dale Smith 50 years, Frank Molinaro 53 years, Ted Fox 50 years, Darrell Turner 52 years, John Bricker 55 years & Gilbert Bartell 60 years.

Carl Cooley who received a 61 year pin was on the phone from Florida. 2nd Zone Chairman Commander James Carlin was present and assisted in the program.

All received Certificate of Membership, Pins with years of service and an American Flag.

2014 WILWIN UPDATE

Bill Hafeman, PDC and Director Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge

Wilwin closed November 1st for the winter months and will reopen May 1st, God willing and the snow doesn't get any worse than it did last year.

The care-taker's cabin is completed and will remain heated for the winter to let the drywall set properly. The cabin is still in need of furniture (see Wilwin "Wish List" on our website). A green metal roof was put on the lodge and looks great. The kitchen flooring in the lodge has been replaced along with the entranceway and laundry/bathroom. The latter two rooms have been repainted by volunteers.

The Board of Directors of Wilwin wants to thank each and every one of you who has contributed toward the operation and growth of Wilwin this year, whether financially or as a volunteer. The facility's use by our wounded warriors has nearly doubled this past year.

A special thanks to Paul Cole of Lake Orion Window works for installing commercial blinds in the conference center and veteran's retreat. These blinds are a tremendous addition to Wilwin. Paul is an American Legion Member of Post 233, Lake Orion.

This is to acknowledge a special thank-you to Stan Ellis for his contribution of time and equipment to Wilwin for the excavation and landscaping around the care-taker's cabin. Stan is a S.A.L. member of Post 80, Trout Lake.

Another special thanks goes to Bonnie Pond of Brooklyn for her hard work and perseverance in putting on a golf outing the past two years in memory of Iraqi War Veteran SSGT Lee Przytulski. Her check for \$5145.30 will be applied to a future veteran's cabin in the name of Lee.

Another thank you goes to past Boy's State Chairman Nelson O'Bryan who graciously volunteered to install a new lock system at Wilwin and bringing the fire exits up to State Code.

Sheryl Mankel came back twice this summer to give equine therapy through Dr. Kane's and his veterans. Sheryl's

friend, Amber Blackler, also came along to introduced canine therapy to the veterans at Wilwin. Thanks, again for a job well done and appreciated.

A final special thanks goes to Earl and Beverly Ruttkofsky who not only did a magnificent job as care-takers this past summer, but took the extra time to listen to those wounded warriors who wanted to "talk" and giving them a real sense of belonging while retreating in the ambience of Wilwin. A little time and a little listening go a long way in healing the soul. In addition, Earl and Bev, Louie Oberle and I gave over 100 tours of Wilwin.

Wilwin and the Board of Directors recently teamed up with Nashville Country Music recording star Richard Lynch to promote Wilwin on future tours around the United States. Wilwin will receive a percentage of profits from Richard's newest record "Love Tattoo" which should be released by year's end. "Love Tattoo" is a poem (song) about a soldier who was asked by a young child about all the scars he had. The soldier told the story about how he fought for the love of his Country and that they were his "Love Tattoos." The song is very heartening and will bring tears to your eyes. We, at Wilwin, encourage everyone to purchase a copy when it is released.

National Commander Dellinger visited Wilwin in early August. Another special thanks to Paul

Wandrie, Commander of American Legion Post 299, Mackinac Island, for hosting the tour of the National Commander on his visit to the "Island." Paul has done a tremendous job hosting the past 3 National Commanders—4 if you count our own Tom Cadmus, only once. Commander Dellinger also donated a billiard table to Wilwin through the American Legion's Comfort Warrior Fund.

Financially, Wilwin has become self-efficient for the second year in a row, thanks to your donations and volunteerism. Wilwin financial statements are available at each Department's Finance Meeting. All individuals writing checks for yearend tax planning please keep Wilwin in mind.

Remembering Sept 11th, 2001 Night of Thunder

Sandy Blank, ALR Post 514 Secretary

On September 11, 2014 the American Legion Riders and Post 514, Ida, MI hosted a night to remember. Coordinators, Wayne Blank and Bill Zornow of the Legion Riders, put together a very heart felt and tearful program honoring the fallen hero's of the September 11, 2001 atrocity against the United States.

The program consisted of an open invitation to all motorcyclists and street rod enthusiasts to come to Post 514, 11601 Lewis Ave. on, Thursday, September 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Once at the Post, everyone joined in on good food, provided and served by the Ladies American Legion Auxiliary, plus adult beverages provided by Post 514 and served by the ALR. DJ Randy Kemp provided the music for the evening. Half the proceeds designated for the Michigan Armed Forces Freedom Hospitality Center at the Detroit Metro Airport.

The night began slow but progressed as time went by and the bikes and cars started rolling in. By about 8:00 p.m. there were at least 200 to

225 bikes and cars in the parking lot. The Bedford, LaSalle, and Ida Fire Departments each sent a fire engine in commemoration of the Firemen who lost their lives trying to save lives and those who survived.

Bill Zornow gave a tearful reading of the firefighters, and military personnel, and civilians who perished in the attacks. The raffles were done according to those numbers; 343 tickets sold represented the number of firefighters lost, 180 tickets sold represented the number of military and civilians lost at the Pentagon, and 60 tickets sold represented the number of casualties on United Airlines Flight 175 that hit the South Tower of the World Trade Center. There was a 50/50 raffle plus door prizes given out.

At precisely 9:00 p.m. Master of Ceremony, Wayne Blank, announced "Riders to Your Bikes!" and at 9:11 p.m. the engines roared like thunder, lights flashed and sirens blared! There were cheers and tears. It was wonderful and heartwarming. Next year we hope to make it bigger and better. AL Post 514 wants to send a special thank you to all of the participants, guests, and workers on a job well done.



Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Wausau, Wisconsin



left to right are John Brunswick, Mike Paine, Dan Fitzpatrick, Ron Powell, Jerry Talamonti, Ray Provost, and Jim Wicklund



l to r, Jim Campbell (Co-Founder of the Never Forgotten Honor Flight), Jim Wicklund (Commander of SAL), and Don McDonald (WWII Veteran).

Don McDonald and Ron Powell were able to participate in the Never Forgotten Honor Flight from Wausau. Don went on the 17th Flight on Sept. 8 and Ron on the 18th Flight on Oct 6. The Never Forgotten Honor Flight is a Wausau based organization formed in November of 2009. Their goal is to fly as many Veterans as are able to Washington D.C. to experience their memorials built in honor of their service to our Country. The Honor Flight provides a special kind of honor for the sacrifices of America's veterans, all

at no cost to the veteran. The Son's of the American Legion of Reino Post 21 sponsored both flights with a \$1000.00 check presented to Jim Campbell.

To raise money to fund these trips, the SAL holds a breakfast (open to the public) the first Sunday of every month at the Legion Hall. They will also have a spaghetti dinner in the near future. Please support these fundraisers so the SAL can sponsor more veterans on the Honor Flight. Future flights scheduled are April 27, 2015 and May 11, 2015.

The American Legion and the Oak Ridge Boys Team Up

The American Legion and Grammy Award-winning artists, The Oak Ridge Boys, are uniting to raise awareness and support for needs of U.S. military veterans, including better detection and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), help with the VA benefits process, and education and career opportunities for those who served our nation in uniform. The American Legion is the country's largest veterans service organization, with 2.4 million members who work every day on behalf of the men and women who have served our nation in uniform. The Oak Ridge Boys will participate in a national fundraising and awareness campaign to support the detection and treatment of mental health issues

among veterans, 22 of whom are lost each day to suicide.

Bonsall, a member of The Oak Ridge Boys since 1973, penned an inspirational biography about his veteran parents titled G.I. Joe and Lillie: Remembering a Life of Love and Loyalty. Joe's father spent much of his life living with the wounds of war, both seen and unseen, as told in the book. A song by the same name was included in the Oaks' album, Colors. "I know firsthand the ongoing care of our nation's veterans is critical and how it impacts the entire family unit," Bonsall said. "Uniting with The American Legion to raise awareness of those who are suffering, as my father did, is work we are proud to champion."

Michigan Post 225 member Honors the Military

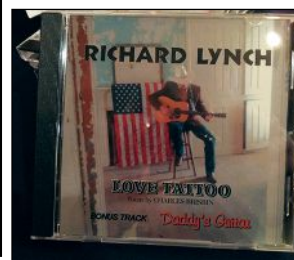


Legionnaire Arthur H. Rhodes III from Utica, Michigan has dedicated his recumbent bike to be used as a reminder of the dedication and sacrifice of those who have served.

He rides his bike to White Chapel Cemetery in Troy, MI on Memorial Day and other holidays as a tribute to the military.

Love Tattoo Supports Wilwin Lodge

Country music singer Richard Lynch has teamed up with the Wilwin Lodge Corporation to help raise money for their mission. Mr. Lynch came to the Department of Michigan's Fall Conference to introduce himself and his song "Love Tattoo". Mr. Lynch will be donating the proceeds from this single to Wilwin Lodge. The song was played at The American Legion National Convention in August. The American Legion Department of Michigan says THANK YOU for your support Richard Lynch.



Save the Date! Register early!

2015 "Tight Lines for Troops" will be

May 15th & 16th, 2015

Save your spot for a day of fishing and camaraderie with fellow veteran on Lake Michigan.

To learn more and register visit www.tightlinesfortroops.com

or contact Bonnie Livingston, ezlivin100@Hotmail.com or (231) 832-4323



The Michigan Patriot Fund Needs your Help!

Gary you can count me in to help my fellow veteran.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

For the cost of a venti cup of coffee together we can have a huge impact on our veterans.

Skip a day at Starbucks and give 5 Bucks



Veteran's Service

Meet Gary Garvin, Department Veteran Service Officer



U.S. Army retired, 27 year Veteran with deployments to Desert Shield / Desert Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Jordan. Native of Ohio,

who now calls Southeastern Michigan home. Married to a native Michigander, we have three sons, two attend Michigan State University, and one attends Aquinas College in Grand Rapids.

I joined the Army in 1985, where my first posting was in Berlin, Germany as a military policeman. I initially joined for the college money; however, as my enlistment was coming to an end I wasn't ready to End Tour of Service (ETS). Not yet ready to call it a career; I re-enlisted into the Military Intelligence Corps. While stationed at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), in Colorado Springs, I determined to make the Army a career, and transitioned from the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corps as a Sergeant First Class into the Officer Corps in 1997, as an All-Source Intelligence Analyst, 350B. It was from

this that I retired in 2012 as a Chief War-rant Officer Four.

I joined the Detroit Regional Office (DRO), of the American Legion in February of 2013, as a Veteran Service Officer (VSO). It is through this job I continue to serve our country, by serving those who have served our Nation. I enjoy my job at the Legion, for the Legion serves every Veteran, regardless if the Veteran is a member or not. It is this sort of self-less-service I grew up with in the military, after-all how many national organizations have been around since 1919, serving those who have served our nation; immaterial of the Veteran's race, creed, ethnicity, religion, sex, and yes even membership.

Of course I recommend to any Veteran, membership in the American Legion and do so proudly. For it's through our membership we can continue to serve. I would remind the Veteran, it is their continued service with the American Legion, which makes it possible for me to take care of Veterans in a myriad of ways. The primary goal is to assist Veterans in receiving the benefits from the Veterans Administration that they're entitled to, which they have EARNED. That's where I come in.

Veterans Serving Veterans

The Legion Partners with the Downriver Community Conference

For over 34 years the Downriver Community Conference has supported the residents of 22 communities by bringing together the resources of local, state, and federal departments and organizations into one location. As of July 2014, they have added an American Legion Veteran Service Officer to their "one stop shop" for services. The DCC has been assisting residents with job seeking help, home heating assistance, food assistance, and many other resources, but now they are adding veterans assistance to the list of services they provide.

Don Howard, Post 217, Chairman of the VA & R committee has been working with Jim Perry, the Executive Director for a couple of years on this idea. Don expressed how veterans, if they were in need of filing a claim, had to drive to the Detroit office in order to receive help. They would have to pay for parking, and make it through the federal building security then up to the 12th floor to see a service officer. The location of the DCC Southgate center is at 15100 Northline Rd., Southgate,

MI, the center now hosts a VSO every Thursday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Since opening in July the new VSO Office has seen over 200 veterans, the residents and the veterans are extremely happy with the location. Easy access, free parking, and better handicap accessibility make the Southgate location a great opportunity for The American Legion to help the veterans in need. There is no residency requirement for seeing the VSO, as long as they are a veteran or family member seeking information they are welcome.

The office also gives more resources to our VSO when speaking with a veteran. For a veteran who maybe struggling financially the service officer can direct the veteran to see if there are home heating credits or support, or a food pantry that might be able to help. All under 1 roof.

If you are a veteran in the Downriver area and need to see a veteran service officer head down to the Southgate location on Thursday's from 8AM to 4PM and let The American Legion help you face the VA. Don't face the VA alone.

Department of Veterans Affairs Partners With Walgreens to Expand Real-Time Sharing of Medical Information of Vaccines Provided by Walgreens to Enrolled Veterans

Pilot Immunization Program in Florida Expands Nationwide

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. This partnership grew out of a successful pilot program that began in Florida to provide flu vaccines to Veterans throughout the state. Based on those results, VA is expanding the pilot nationwide.

Through its nearly 8,200 locations nationwide, Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to Veterans. Pharmacists can administer vaccinations to Veterans and will leverage eHealth Exchange, through its Walgreens Cloud Electronic Health Records platform, to securely share immunization records with VA to help ensure complete patient medical records.

Vaccinations are available daily during all pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary and are subject to availability.

"VA is proud to partner with Walgreens to provide needed vaccines to our nation's Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "This partnership is a great example of how government and the private sector can work together to effectively and efficiently provide Veterans the care and benefits that they've earned."

"Walgreens is committed to supporting our Veterans, and we are

proud to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide convenient access to vaccines," said Walgreens President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Wasson. "This is an excellent opportunity for our pharmacists to help VA educate Veterans about the importance of vaccinations, to improve immunization rates through greater access and to contribute to helping veterans get, stay and live well."

"The VA-Walgreens partnership gives Veterans greater choice in time and location for getting their flu shots without having to complete any other VA forms," said Interim Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Carolyn Clancy. "With this program, the Veteran patient's record is integrated, and VA maintains a complete immunization record that allows us to more effectively provide patient-centered care."

Vaccines are subject to availability. Age, state and health related restrictions may apply. Many immunizations may be covered by commercial insurance plans, Medicare Part B or Medicare Part D. As part of this launch and under the agreement, VA funding can provide approximately 75,000 flu shots for enrolled veterans. Patients are encouraged to check with their health plan for specific coverage details. To find the nearest Walgreens, veterans can call 1-800-WALGREENS or visit www.walgreens.com. For more information about VA's immunization program, visit <http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>

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. Assist you and your Dependents in getting the Benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.



Gary Easterling
Director

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
Mr. Gary Easterling, Director
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210
477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226
Office Phone (313) 964-6640 or (313) 964-5697
e-mail - Gary.Easterling@va.gov
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Erna LaBeau, Director's Secretary - ernawati.laueau@va.gov
Lannie Thomas, Department Service Officer - lannie.thomas@va.gov
Tripp Cantwell, Department Service Officer - trip.cantwell@va.gov
Tom Kaiser, Department Service Office - tom.kaiser@va.gov
Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

NINTH DISTRICT—Proud of Our Accomplishments

**Ruth E. Gott,
9th District President**

The Ninth District has fifteen (15) Units within its boundaries. I have visited three of the units with six more scheduled. I found them all already working the programs of the Auxiliary. Our District, Public Relations chairman, Becky Lawrence has set up a face book account for the District and putting on it things happening in our District. Our first District meeting will be in Lake City at Post 300 on the 4th of October. Let us have a big turn out as this is the meeting after the Fall Conference and we should have or getting our plan of work for the 2015 year.

The District has participated in parades, holding dinners to raise money for our programs, handing out flags, and helping with food

drives for those in need in their community. We are all proud of the many accomplishments that all our Units have.

Our District, which will include Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L., and Legion Riders's project this year will be the Freedom Center at the airport in Detroit, which serves our active duty service men and women as well as our veterans. Remember our first goal of all American Legion Auxiliary Units is to serve our Veterans and active duty service personnel. They come first of all in our programs as that is our mission. God bless all of those that have served our country and those that continue to do so. May all of Michigan stand tall this year as we go about accomplishing the goal of helping them have a better life and looking forward to the years ahead.

Greetings from the 16th District

**Laura Chappell,
16th District President**

Heights.

I just wanted to thank everyone who supported me by electing their 16th District President for the 2014-2015 year. I am really excited and anxious all at the same time. The 16th District has some pretty exciting events planned already for this upcoming year: October 4, 2014 our Legion Family hosted the 16th District Tour at the Wyandotte Post 217. Lots of people came out to see the mighty sixteenth. 16th District Auxiliary had their Membership Rally on October 15th at the Carl E Stitt Post and many people also attended. If interested in more membership details, you can e-mail 1st Vice President and Membership Chairman Pamela Globke at ponytailmike@sbcglobal.net. February 7th, 2015 16th District Family is hosting Americanism Banquet being held at the Carl E Stitt Post 232 Dearborn

The 16th District goal is to reach and exceed the 100 percent mark in membership. The one thing I would want to express this year is Mentorship not only is it vital but a necessity for anything to continue on. Districts and Units are finding it harder in getting members to volunteer for an Office or Chair. There are always so many reasons as to why not: I am a new member and I don't have enough experience or knowledge for me to hold any office, I not comfortable being in the forefront, what if I make a mistake, and I was that person. Fortunately, I have great mentors that offer me their patience, knowledge, and support me even when I make a mistake. Please next time a member ask you a question, please give them an answer it might be your next volunteer or officer.

Please do not forget to Thank a Vet.

Ways to Increase Membership

**Frances Babbage, Southern Area
Membership Chairman**

As of July, 2014 we lost over 25,000 members from the year before. It is Time to change the trend but we need to do it together.

**MEMBERSHIP IS EVERY MEMBER'S
RESPONSIBILITY NOT JUST THE
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRWOMAN'S**

WE NEED TO ENGAGE OUR MEMBERS

Suggestions to accomplish this are:

• COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR MEMBERS OFTEN.

Find out what they would like to do and what they feel is important for your unit to accomplish

Listen to their ideas

Once you find out what they want to do find ways to accomplish it.

Make them feel their opinions matter and that they are a part of the unit.

Be Positive Never say "we cannot do that" find out ways to do it

Be welcoming kind and respectful of all ages and backgrounds

Find something that keeps every member involved

Some members need to feel engaged If not connected you will lose them

We often lose a member after 2 or 3 years because they do not feel a part

of the unit

Establish a committee that calls or makes a personal contact with members that did not renew

Say "Hey we miss you but so do our veterans" and find why they left the unit.

Once you find out this reason, share it with your unit and figure out ways you can correct it.

**SOLVE YOUR DROPOUT
PROBLEM**

For example if they cannot get to meetings because of their children. Invite the children and provide an activity for the children to do while the meeting is going on.

If they **cannot drive** at night ask if another member can pick them up

If they **do not feel included**, make them feel a part of the group
Do not be cliquish
Be respectful and considerate of all members

If they feel there is **too much bickering** in the group
Promptly address and resolve these conflicts

If they feel your **meetings are boring** find ways to make the meeting more interesting

Do activities at your meetings that members can help with
Such as

- folding and packaging pocket flags
- packing Soldier gift boxes
- making sleeping mats for the homeless
- making goody bags for the homeless
- making gifts for hospitalized vets
- writing cards with a personal note in it and sending them to our soldiers, homeless vets and hospitalized vets
- sending notes of encouragement to military families while their loved ones are away from home

Everyone has different likes and dislikes work with what they like to do.

Some may not be able to make meetings but they can do other things like

- clipping coupons
- making calls for asking for volunteers for various activities or soliciting donations for soldier packages
- ewing items such as mats for the homeless
- Making cookies to distribute on veterans day
- Making a dish for a fundraiser meal or for a meal for veterans

REMEMBER TO RECOGNIZE ALL MEMBERS OFTEN FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS

It is nice to be appreciated and recognized for your endeavors

ENCOURAGE members to bring their Friends to activities and meetings

When dealing with **NEW MEMBERS** Provide them with welcome letters within first 30 days

- Develop a new member packet
- Assign big sisters to mentor them and get them involved
- Send them text messages and/or emails encouraging them to participate in your projects
- If the member does not engage in technology, make Phone calls or personal visits

Also remember your **AGING MEMBERS**

Visit and communicate with members in nursing homes or shut ins

Encourage units to pay dues of members in nursing home

And Finally

- Develop a script of what you are and what your unit does for veterans and their families make auxiliary a positive thing to belong to
- Share the benefits and value of belonging
- Visibility is important
- Publicize your activities.

MANY DO NOT KNOW THE AUXILIARY EXIST INCLUDING THE VETERANS

When people hear and see all the good things you have done for veterans and their families they will understand and appreciate

WHAT A GREAT ORGANIZATION THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY IS and they will always want to be a member and they will encourage others to join.

DISTRICT AUXILIARY SCHEDULES FOR 2014-15

District	Date of Meeting	City	Unit/Post # & Name	Time
1	9/8/2014	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	10/6/2014	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	11/3/2014	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	12/1/2014	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	1/5/2015	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	2/2/2015	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	3/2/2015	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	4/6/2015	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
1	5/4/2015	Detroit	375 Joe Lewis	06:00 PM
2	10/12/2014	Ida	514 Lynn C. Weeman	02:00 PM
2	1/11/2015	Dexter	557 Dexter	02:00 PM
2	3/8/2015	Jackson	29 Richard F. Smith	02:00 PM
2	5/17/2015	Hudson	180 Hannon Colvin	02:00 PM
3	9/7/2014	Kalamazoo	36 Joseph B. Westnedge	01:30 PM
3	11/2/2014	Charlotte	42 Greenawalt-Flaherty	01:30 PM
3	1/11/2015	Battle Creek	298 Captain Oscar Brady	01:30 PM
3	3/8/2015	Hillsdale	53 Leighr A. Wright	01:30 PM
3	5/3/2015	Albion	55 Patrick Leo Hanlon	01:30 PM
5	8/12/2014	Cedar Springs	287 Glenn Hill	07:00 PM
5	10/21/2014	Grandville	179 Neal E. Fonger	06:30 PM
5	1/20/2014	Kent City	123 Evans Swanson	07:00 PM
5	3/17/2015	Marne	376 Marne	06:30 PM
5	5/19/2015	Grand Rapids	258 Boat and Canoe Club	07:00 PM
6	9/14/2014	Leslie	491 Lyle Edwards	01:00 PM
6	11/2/2014	Flint	64 Oakley-Traynor	01:00 PM
6	1/11/2015	Pinckney	419 Pinckney	01:00 PM
6	3/15/2015	Haslett	269 Chief Okemos	01:00 PM
6	5/3/2015	Davison	267 Charles N. Skellenger	01:00 PM
7	8/10/2014	Mt. Clemens	4 Harry Ollrich	01:30 PM
7	10/12/2014	Sebawing	293 Starnitz-Lindeman	02:00 PM
7	1/11/2015	Lapeer	16 Lapeer	02:00 PM
7	3/8/2015	Caro	7 Therron W. Atwood	01:30 PM
7	5/17/2015	Lapeer	16 Lapeer	01:30 PM
8	9/7/2014	Elsie	502 Huffman-Hammond-Rand	03:00 PM
8	1/4/2015	Hubbardston	182 Walter T. Roach	03:00 PM
8	3/1/2015	Stanton	452 Staton	03:00 PM
8	5/3/2015	Saranac	175 Leroy L. Dausman	03:00 PM
16	8/12/2014	Garden City	396 Garden City	07:30 PM
16	9/9/2014	Allen Park	409 Allen Park	07:30 PM
16	11/11/2014	Dearborn Heights	2 Carl E. Stitt	07:30 PM
16	3/10/2015	Riverview	389 Claough- Lambrix	07:30 PM
16	5/12/2015	Lincoln Park	67 Lincoln Park	07:30 PM
17	9/17/2014	Livonia	32 Myron H. Beals	07:30 PM
17	10/15/2014	Livonia	32 Myron H. Beals	07:30 PM
17	11/19/2014	Plymouth	391 Plymouth	07:30 PM
17	1/21/2015	Northville	147 Lloyd H. Green	07:30 PM
17	2/18/2015	Livonia	32 Myron H. Beals	07:30 PM
17	3/18/2015	Plymouth	391 Plymouth	07:30 PM
17	4/17/2015	Livonia	32 Myron H. Beals	07:30 PM
17	5/20/2015	Livonia	32 Myron H. Beals	07:30 PM
18	9/21/2014	Holly	149 Amel Swartz	02:00 PM
18	11/9/2014	Auburn Hills	143 Hill-Gazette	02:00 PM
18	1/11/2015	Pontiac	20 Pontiac	02:00 PM
18	3/8/2015	Berkley	374 Berkley	02:00 PM
18	4/12/2015	Milford	216 Ernest F. Oldenburg	02:00 PM
18	5/17/2015	Farmington	346 Groves- Walker	02:00 PM

Wanted!

An American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan member who has written Grants. Girls State is looking to become self-reliant and therefore we need financial help. We can see that there are many opportunities through grants.

Someone to write and maintain a blog...We are hoping to go with a totally paperless news report this year modeled after the Girls Nation reports.

- Someone to work in PR...Not enough young women know about Girls State and what it is about. We have ads for both T.V. and radio but need to distribute in all markets in Michigan
- Strong women who can work 19 hour days for a week straight and still have a positive outlook. There will be a lot of walking so make sure you wear comfortable shoes. Shaw Hall has elevators but in case of inclement weather you must be able to walk down stairs to seek shelter in the basement.
- Please submit your resume to the Girl State committee. We are months from delivering our Premiere Program.
- There are no wages for these positions. Most will cost you. You will be charged \$75 to have air conditioning during the session. You will also have to bring your own bottled water and buy your own shirts. You will be responsible for the cost of meals before and after session. This is communal living so everyone shares the same bathroom.

The reward is the knowledge that you are part of making this country a better place with more informed citizens and young women who are better equipped to go to college. We do change lives, even our own.

Units please plan ahead, find your delegates and get your applications and money in early!

Why M.A.L.P.A.?

The Michigan American Legion Press Association is a group of American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Legion Riders who share a common mission: To Encourage, Promote, Communicate, and Recognize. We Encourage the exchange of ideas, Promote the development of local newsletters & public relations activities, strive to Communicate the goals of The American Legion Family organizations, and Recognize achievement through the annual M.A.L.P.A. awards program.

In modern life, Communication is Key! Nowhere is this adage truer than Here in our American Legion Family and Now when many Posts are closing due to decreasing membership. We need to communicate by any means possible the goals and accomplishments of the American Legion to the public. Only then can we hope to not only support the Four Pillars on which our organization is based but survive to continue into the future. If our doors close, we can no longer help our veterans, their families and our communities.

We at M.A.L.P.A. are the "image-makers and communicators", we strive to inform the public what The American Legion is, what we stand for, and who we help. All Legion members hear about the national agenda from National Headquarters' publications, but many don't always know what's happening in their own back yards. Post newsletters bridge that gap. Posts with newsletters typically have a more active membership that is greater in numbers. When members get post information in their hands, they know what is going on and can share it with potential members, as well as take action to make a difference for veterans and their families. For many members, newsletters might be the only communication they have with their post. All members deserve to know what is going on in their post!

M.A.L.P.A. wants to help you create an effective post newsletter; printed or email, one that will promote the Legion's goals and objectives and act as the voice for the officers and membership of your post. The use of a post website, Facebook page, Twitter, YouTube and other social media is also key in communicating the American Legion's goals to your membership and the public.

Joining M.A.L.P.A. is easy and inexpensive, dues are only \$5 per year! To join, contact President Nedra Beal at nedrab@comcast.net Secretary Rachelle DeBroske at debroske@gmail.com or Treasurer/ Membership Kay Bauer at Godisgood1938@att.net M.A.L.P.A. meetings are held during Fall Conference, Winter Meeting and State Convention each year.

Carol Philp
Farmington, MI Unit 346 member since 1969
Editor of the Groves-Walker Bulletin newsletter
Admin. of the Post 346 website - www.americanlegionpost346.org
Recipient of 5 M.A.L.P.A. awards, 1 N.A.L.P.A. award and 1 Department of Michigan media award since 2011.

Open letter to Posts

Boys State Needs More Legion Post Support

**Tom Ranta,
Post #44 and Boys State Committee member**

I have a real concern with the very low number of American Legion Posts across the state that sponsors young men to attend Boys State.

The American Legion Boys State Program just completed its 77th year. The Boys State Program is outstanding, respected and held in high esteem by colleges and career jobs. Most important it is a great learning experience for our high school senior bound boys. It is the one program we cannot afford to forget about and one we should be very proud of.

In 1967 I had the honor of attending Boys State. We had over 1200 young men at that time and this past June we had only 244 participates in the Program. Talking with our excellent training staff, they stated that if the numbers drop below 230 they would have to reduce the number of counties (from

4 to 2) and cities (from 8-6). For example in 1967 we had 12 counties and 24 cities in this model state (Boys State). Each city had at least 50 boys, this past year we were lucky to have 30. The training staff noted that cutting the number of counties and cities does reduce the effectiveness of this program.

We can solve this issue very easily by having each post send at least one boy each year. That would put our numbers between 400-500, thanks to those posts that sponsor a number of boys every year. It is a \$325.00 investment in our youth that pays dividends immediately and in the years to come.

I urge all posts to make this investment and bring this program back to where it belongs. If you need any assistance or have questions please contact any committee member or myself at (906) 228-8220. Our goal is contact every High School in the state and get as many 11th grade boys to Boys State in 2015.

Monroe, Michigan

American Legion Post 40 to host the 79th Bowling Tournament

The Post and bowling establishment has been changed for the 2015 bowling Tournament. It will now be hosted by Matt Urban post 40 in Monroe. At this time Tom Jones is the contact person for post 40 (subject to change).

The bowling establishment shall be the Monroe Sports Center which is managed by Shane Held. Information packets for the 79th tournament will be mailed in late December to the team Captains of record from the 78th tournament.

Packets shall not be sent out to the individual posts statewide as in the past. However, anyone

wishing to obtain a packet may contact us by calling 734-422-8670 (please speak slowly)

or by email to malbowl@sbcglobal.net and leave your address. Info packets contain a Entry form, rules, post and bowling establishment numbers and the relaxed eligibility requirements. Hopefully, word of mouth will help get our numbers back up. Posts that may be interested in hosting the 2016 tournament and/or beyond may use these contact numbers.

As Always Yours in Comradeship; Don, Ellen, Elsie and Scotty (Director)



2014 MALPA Awards

Class A "Best Publications"

1st Place Ralph & Carol Philp - American Legion Post 346

Class B "Best Publications"

1st Place Tim Hernandez - American Legion Post 267

Class C "Pen & Ink"

1st Place - Frank Rodman - American Legion Post 340

Class E "Best American Legion/Auxiliary Public Relations"

1st Place Frank Rodman - American Legion Post 340

Class G "Internet Connection"

1st Place Carol Philp - www.americanlegionpost346.org



National Fundraising campaign

Legion Direct Response TV Ads Coming Soon

Mark Sutton, National Marketing Committee member

Starting this month a national ad campaign will be launched by The American Legion to help raise funds to support the American Legion programs. The premise of the ads will be what is called "direct response" which asks the viewer to call a phone number or visit a website to donate money. They will be asking for donors to give \$19 per month to support TAL efforts to help veterans and their families.

How does this affect your post?

All the funds raised through the ad via phone calls and the website, will not trickle down to the departments or the posts, however, because of the nature of the ads message your local post might receive phone calls from members of the community and veterans. Some maybe asking for assistance and some may want to

donate to their local post instead of to the national organization. Some may want to become a member.

If a person wants to donate straight to your local post, there is no restriction in accepting such a donation at the post level directly. If you receive a call from a veteran looking for help be ready to respond. Know the number to your local veteran service officer, or have them call (313) 964-6640 to reach a department service officer. If they are, possibly, in a state of stress and maybe suicidal then they should call the VA Crisis hotline at 800-273-8255 press 1 for veteran.

As we receive updates from TAL on TV Stations and possible areas we will pass them along on our facebook page and other social media sites. If you have any questions you may contact me at info@michiganlegion.org.

2nd Zone Commander Report

Jim Carlin, 2nd Zone Commander

Although only into my 4th month as 2nd Zone Commander, I have taken advantage of the favorable weather and been off and running since the Livonia Convention.

Presently, there are 130 Posts in my zone, and I have already visited 68 Posts within the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Districts, attending all of their district meetings. Membership goals and the American Legion mission are focal points during all my travels. Visits have been made to the Grand Rapids Veterans Home, as well as leading a Legion delegation with Past Department Commander Richard Chatman, to the unique model of Silver Star Homes in Battle Creek. As you all know, Commander Chatman has a deep passion to help homeless veterans and plans are afoot for a similar veterans complex in

Flint. Silver Star is also on track to expand with a Phase 3 building in the Spring for 75 more homeless veterans, and we are planning another tour in the near future that will include Commander Jim Wallace.

Thinking outside the box, I have visited Commander Larry Schlabach's LaGrange, Indiana Post 215, which is only 9 miles from Commander Norm Brown's Sturgis Post 73. Both those commanders are working together in mutual projects to benefit their Posts and communities. We may be members of different Departments in Michigan and Indiana, but we are all Legionnaires seeking to help veterans and improve the American Legion.

My 2nd Zone Face Book page www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion2ndZoneMichigan contains "On the Road Again" remarks with over 225 photographs of the Posts and events that I attend. It has a great following, and is an excellent social Internet resource to keep members advised of what is going on within the 2nd Zone.

I continue to advocate strongly on behalf of our American Legion Riders, because they are a great asset to our Legion causes. Following in the footsteps of Past Zone Commander Jerry Andrus, we held a zone meeting at South Haven Post 49, which was a huge success for the

January 11th – 17th, 2015

2015 Commander's Winter U.P. Tour

Jim Dougovito, 5th Zone Commander

It is my pleasure to announce the 2015 Commander's Winter Tour for State Commander Wallace. This is the 5th Zones opportunity to showcase the Posts locations and activities in the great upper peninsula of Michigan.

For further information please contact me at (906) 524-6799 or email at jimmyd@up.net. Thank you to all the host Posts and Legion family who are working hard to make this happen.

Sunday Jan 11th lunch will be in Engadine and dinner in Newberry. Monday the 12th we will visit with

Little Lake, Michigan for lunch and proceed to Marquette, Michigan for a tour of the Jacobetti home and dinner at the Marquette Post.

Tuesday the 13th we will have lunch in Hancock and dinner in Lake Linden. Wednesday the 14th our lunch visit will be at the Wakefield Post and dinner at the Ironwood Post. Thursday the 15th we will travel to Stambaugh Post for lunch and then on to the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain, finishing up with dinner in Stephenson. Friday we will have lunch in Menominee and finish up in Gladstone for the UP Associations winter meetings Friday night and Saturday.

Update from the 8th District

Lee Bolton, 8th District Commander

July 1st seems like yesterday when the new year began, because I have been on the run, visiting and participating in many events. I am proud to

be representing the 8th District at parades, meetings, and special events, it is an honor. I look forward to seeing as many posts and Legionnaires as the year continues.

This summer I had the privilege of being invited to my home post Elsie Dairy Days parade, the Chesaning River Parade by Post 212, and the St. John Parade with Post 153. The communities are active and treated the veterans well as we passed by, a delightful time.

Over the past 4 months I have been to several different meetings from local posts to meetings in Indianapolis. I have visited with the Bath Post 412, the 1st of several 8th District meetings, attended the department's 30 day meeting, and the first of August I traveled to National headquarters for the "Membership Workshop" with the department executive committee. The national operation's at emblem sales and headquarters is very impressive to see, we belong to truly world class operation.

In September I had the distinct honor to attend a special veteran's recognition high school football game in Chesaning. The football team wears special jerseys during the game, and the school performs a special recognition program to those who have served in the military, those still serving, and those we have lost over the years, a great program that the Chesaning Post is involved in. On September 11th I participated in a event in Frankenmuth and the local post.

I will be on the road as winter comes and look forward to seeing everyone during those visits. If I can be of any assistance please let me know.

commanders and their membership. I also had the pleasure of speaking to the newly formed Cereal City Blue Star MOMMAS (Mothers of Military Members Appreciating (their) Service), Chapter 195 in Battle Creek, and Post 298 has extended an invitation for those ladies to hold their monthly meetings at the Post. A presentation was made to the group on behalf of Commander Wallace, thanking them for their service to veterans. It was a great event and each of these Mother's have a son or daughter in the military, which potentially can build our membership. We must continue to think "outside the box" about other veterans organizations that can help build membership goals for our 100th anniversary in 2019. Remember, be sure to support your Post on Veteran's Day, November 11th.

It is an honor serving you in my Department capacity, and I will continue doing my best in fulfilling the trust you have placed in me. To all of our veterans and their families, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great Nation."



2015 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Friday, February 13, 2015

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

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

We accept all credit cards except American Express

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

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 9, 2015
No Refunds after 2/9/2015



GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION
 IS PROUD TO PRESENT
 THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
 AND

WINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 13-15 2015

REGISTRATION: \$15.00 per person, **you must be registered to attend meetings.**

PAYABLE TO: Genesee County Convention Corporation

MAILED TO: Bernie Langlois, 12248 E. Atherton Rd., Davison, MI 48423

CHECKS ONLY PLEASE

****Note**** Please print legibly or fill out the form online, print it out and mail it in.

Name _____ Legion _____ Auxiliary _____ SAL _____ Leg. Riders _____
 Name _____ Legion _____ Auxiliary _____ SAL _____ Leg. Riders _____
 Name _____ Legion _____ Auxiliary _____ SAL _____ Leg. Riders _____
 Name _____ Legion _____ Auxiliary _____ SAL _____ Leg. Riders _____

Number x \$15.00= _____

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

THE HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CENTRE
 5353 GATEWAY CENTRE
 FLINT, MI 48507
 PHONE: 1-810-232-5300

If the Holiday Inn is full please call the Courtyard 1-810-232-3500

CODE: AML

DEADLINE: January 14, 2015

Located in Mundy Twp. - Hill Rd. at Gateway Center

Note: The Code # AML will allow the hotel to access the room rate of \$87.50 + 11% tax. All major credit cards are acceptable.

When you call for your reservation you should be greeted with **"It's a great day at the Holiday Inn in Flint."** If this is not your greeting please hang up and try your call again in 10 to 15 minutes. The Flint phone # is 1-810-232-5300. If the hotel is full please asked to be transferred to **Courtyard**.

If you have asked the hotel for any special needs and would like to verify them please drop a note in with your registration and we will verify them for you.

Please feel free to contact one of the following with any questions:

Bernie Langlois (Leg.) 810-653-6517

Venus Langlois (Aux.) 810-653-6517

Dolores Smith (Aux.) 810-694-6018



Classifieds

"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."

Wanted

- Old Fishing Tackle
- Small Outboard Motors (1-5 H.P.)
- Successful Deer Hunter Licenses
- Bag Tags
- Hunting Badges

Please Call Bill Wazelle at
 1-734-728-7313

Buying Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, 40/8, VFW, DAV, Masonic, and FOE medals, badges, pins, caps, bars, membership cards, and Stamp Collections. Contact **Craig R. Wotring**, PO Box 1743 Owosso, MI 48867, **989-725-9728**
 Legion Member

Coming Soon - Legion College



Bud Hansberger,
 Leadership College Chairman

The Leadership Committee is finalizing locations and dates in January and February for Michigan Legion College.

We have 2 locations in the UP being scheduled, Detroit,

and others in process. If you are interested in being contacted before the January/February MI Legionnaire please email me at budhansbarger@yahoo.com or call Mark Sutton at 517-371-4720 ext 16. We will email those who have attended the class before as soon as we know the firm locations and dates.

This year's classes will focus on post officer training.



USAA is proud to be the
Preferred Provider
 of Insurance and Financial Services
 to The American Legion



Get the card that helps you support The American Legion.

The American Legion USAA Rewards™ World MasterCard® helps make it easier to support the mission of The American Legion. Enjoy competitive rates and legendary customer service from an organization dedicated to serving the military community.

Apply today.

1-877-699-2654 | usaa.com/legioncc

Insurance Banking Investments Retirement Advice

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its insurance, banking, investment and other companies. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them. Availability restrictions apply. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. The American Legion receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship. This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2014 USAA. 201875-0314

Around the State...



Dept. Reconnect Chairman Tanner was invited to Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday August 23rd for a wreath laying ceremony honoring Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, LTC Matt Urban of Michigan. L-R: Gary Tanner - Dept. Reconnect Chairman; Phillip Tanner; MG Marvin G. Back - Co-Chairman Matt Urban Memorial Committee



On Saturday August 9th at the 2nd annual Leslie post 491 American Legion Riders golf outing held at Hankered hills golf course, we had a hole in one. Squadron member Mr. Dennis Motes on hole 18, hit a hole in one on a 177 yard par 3 winning a 2014 Harley Davidson Low rider. Dennis seen here on the bike with team members Joe Delaney, wife Shelly Motes, and Monica Delaney along with Post Commander Steven Courtright. Dennis said that this was his first hole in one. Congratulations on his perfect shot.



James McCartney - ITPA President; Gary Tanner - Dept. Reconnect Chairman; Harold Hayes - ITPA Charitable Foundation President - International Telecommunications Pioneers Association, selected the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program as their local Michigan charity during their conference and made a donation of \$2500.00. Two individual donations were also made for an additional \$450.00 bringing the total donation to \$2950.00!



District 11 Commander Wayne Roy presents Frank Rodman with his Public Relations award for 2014 for best District Public Relations Program



Membership Director Steve Striggow presents check to State Commander Wallace for a donation to Wilwin Lodge from Post 16 family.



Richard Lynch and PNC Tom Cadmus



L-R Chris Moore of Post 499; Gary Tanner - Department Reconnect Chairman, Post 499 of Grand Rapids ran several promotions to benefit the Elmobility Room and presented a \$337.03 check at our 2014 Fall Conference in Muskegon.



Westland Post 251 received their new reflective road sign. The new sign will be posted on the city's organization display outside of the City Hall and Police Department.



District Commander Wayne Roy presents the Clark W. Wilbur Award for Best Post Child Welfare Program for 2014 to Escanaba Post 82. L-R Wayne Roy, Marcia Short Post 82 Adjutant, and Dave Wilson Post 82 Commander.



The Westgate Cyrus Free and Accepted Masons Lodge #520 of Allen Park, MI presented a \$1200.00 donation for the Michigan Wounded and Returning Warrior Program. L-R are: Brad, "Smiley" Lindsay - Director ALR 217; Joe Steagall - F&AM Lodge 520 Worship Master; Gary Tanner - Dept. Reconnect Chairman; Jeff McGinnis - F&AM Lodge 520 Past Master and Adjutant Post 217; Ed Gorecki - Commander Post 217