



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

EXTRA EXTRA

Michigan Announces 2015 Scholarship Programs

The American Legion supports the youth of Michigan

Every year The American Legion Department of Michigan provides opportunities to Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, war-time Veterans, and their descendents to win scholarship money. Scholarship awards range from \$250 to \$20,000. In today's economic climate help with the rising cost of education is welcome. Two of our scholarship programs are open to ALL Michigan residents.

Learning by Doing

The American Legion believes in the youth of American, they are our future leaders. The National Scholarship programs seek to find well rounded youth who want to learn about how government works, through our Boys Nation and Girls Nation programs; our oratorical contest encourages the reading and presenting a speech on the United States Constitution.

Boys State Learn Government by doing

The Michigan Legion offers several scholarships on the Department level. Five of the scholarships require the applicant be a descendant of a war-time veteran or Legion Family member. Two are open to all Michigan residents.

Awards range from \$500 to \$20,000

We have several ranges of scholarships, from \$500 for our marksman award in the Michigan State Police Student Trooper program, to \$20,000 from the Samsung Scholarship award through the Boys/Girls Nation program.

Do you know high school students, family, or friends who have students needing money for college?

Does your Post participate in any of the School Scholarship programs? These programs offer a great opportunity to show the community that we support them. As a Legionnaire do you know a high school student who would benefit from these programs?

Get your Post involved

Sponsor a young man and young lady to Boys State and Girls State, as well as , sponsoring one to Student Trooper. These are great experiences for the young people. It helps them see a different world, learn by doing, and make new friends.

Learn more at www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships

Scholarships

- Boys/Girls State - participants who are descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$1000 and/or a \$20,000 scholarship
- Guy Wilson Scholarship – descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship - descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- Oratorical Contest – Students compete for \$800-\$1500 on the Department (State) level and up to \$18,000 if they proceed to the National competition.
- Michigan State Police Student Trooper – Students could win 1 - \$1000 or 1 of 3 \$500 awards
- Eagle Scout of the Year – A Eagle Scout associated with the American Legion could win a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dept. of Michigan and a \$10,000 National scholarship
- The American Legion Baseball Scholarship – Members of Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win one of several national awards.
- The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship - Members of Michigan Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship.

No Return Postage Requested

War-Time Service Dates

US Army, Navy Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Service from December 7, 1941 - August 15, 1945

Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990 - Cessation of hostilities, as determined by US Government

PanamaDecember 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990

Grenada/Lebanon .. August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984

Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

Korean War June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

World War IApril 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918

**Everyone says “we need more young people to get involved”
The American Legion teaches them how.**

Boys State Program

Learning through doing.....

Helping to Build the Leaders of Tomorrow Every year The American Legion Boys State program and The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program teach young men and young women in their junior year of high school the function of government, a glimpse of life in a college dorm setting, leadership, management and communication skills. In the course of 7 days they will also develop friendships that will last a life time.



“I am so grateful to you for this chance of a lifetime. I did have the

time of my life! Boys State is going to go down as the best activity I’ve done in high school. It really sparked my interest in how the government works – at all levels. I can’t wait to start participating in voting and politics.” –Alec F. class of 2010

**2015 Boys State is at Northwood University in Midland Michigan
June 14 - 20, 2015**

What is Boys State?

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by the American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. Our motto is “Learn by Doing”. The Boys State educational staff’s goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves, and to run their own state.

Boys State is...LEARNING.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn more about their city, county, and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting. Boys Staters meet with elected and appointed officials to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of a variety of positions in government from people on the “inside.” Additionally, in Boys State, each citizen has the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is just what he makes it.

Boys State is...POLITICS.

The first half of your Boys State experience will expose you to the world of politics. You will nominate candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices on the city, county, and state level. You will also no doubt, be exposed to the “seamy” side of politics...the wheeling and dealing, the promises that cannot be kept, the vote trading, and the cajoling, to give a candidate or a party that “extra advantage.”

“This program changed my life. It has allowed me to establish lifelong friendships, learn from some of the best counselors, and allowed me to meet some very honorable American Legion members.” –Ian M. class of 2010

Boys State is...GOVERNMENT.

When the dust has settled from the conventions, campaigns, and elections, Boys State needs to be governed for four days by its elected and appointed officials. Boys Staters will find themselves performing exactly the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world. Education and University Boards must make policies for their areas of responsibility. City councils, county commissions, and the state legislature must make ordinances and laws for their constituencies. Executive departments and other administrators must see that laws and policies are properly interpreted.

Boys State is...INVOLVEMENT.

Come to Boys State determined to become as involved as possible in the many activities that are available to you in this mythical 51st state. The more active and involved you are, the more you will benefit from the program.

Boys State builds strong leaders of the future

- Rush Limbaugh Jr. (radio personality)
- Tom Brokaw (TV news anchor)
- Bill Clinton (Former U.S. President)
- Michael Jordan
- Dale Kildee (U.S. Rep, MI)
- Mark L. Wahlberg (Actor)

Boys State is...FRIENDSHIP.

You may arrive at Boys State knowing no one else. However, one of the fringe benefits of Boys State is how easy it is to get to know people, many of whom may remain your friend for the rest of your life.

Contact Jerry Kelley at (734) 434-8272 / jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net
or Headquarters at (517) 371-4720 ext.23 /
programs@michiganlegion.org

**Participants in Boys State, who are direct descendents
of a wartime era veteran have the opportunity to win
a \$1000 scholarship and up to a \$20,000 scholarship
from Samsung**

Frequently Asked Questions

What if someone cannot afford to send a young person to Boys/Girls State?

- Check with your Post, Posts provide sponsorship money for this program, but sometimes have a hard time finding an interested person. Kiwanis Club’s and Rotary Club’s have sponsored kids as well. Be sure to ask them. A local business is also an excellent source.

Our Post has set aside money, but we are having trouble finding a young person to attend Boys/Girls State, will department help us find one?

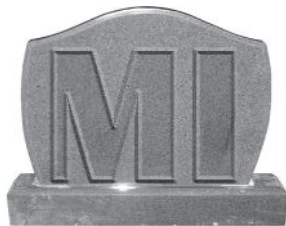
- Yes the teachers on our educational staff have a network of educators throughout the state and can assist in finding someone who is interested.

What is the requirement for the young man or young lady?

- They must be a Junior (11th Grade) in High School or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited home-school program, must be 15+ years old by June 4th, 2015 and have an interest in government.

Application is due April 30, 2015





Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 3

LEGIONNAIRE

Nebraska Legionnaire elected American Legion National Commander



CHARLOTTE (Aug. 28, 2014) – Michael D. Helm was elected national commander of the 2.4 million-member American Legion on Aug. 28, 2014 in Charlotte, N.C., during the 96th national convention of the nation's largest veterans organization.

A U.S. Army veteran during the Vietnam War, he served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Fort Bragg, N.C., and earned his Ranger tab in 1972. He has been a member of Jack Helt American Legion Post 313 at Lebanon, Neb., since

1972. Born in McCook, Neb., he grew up in Norcatour, Kansas, where he

currently resides. He is a retired U.S. Postal Service rural mail carrier with more than 33 years of service.

Helm served as commander of the Department of Nebraska from 1987 to 1988 and as a national vice commander from 2003 to 2004. He also served as the national commander's representative to the National Legislative Commission, the chairman of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission.

He was Nebraska's first Vietnam era veteran elected as department commander. Mike takes great pride in having been selected to serve as Nebraska's official American Legion representative at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

Mike's wife Debbie is active in The American Legion Auxiliary having served as District 9 president and as the Department Junior Activities Chairwoman. They are the parents of five young Legion family members. Aaron and his wife Robie, both graduates of the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; Rebecca and her husband Jaron Cox, both graduates of Kansas State University; Jacob, a senior cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy; Matthew, an Army ROTC cadet at Kansas State University and Timothy, a student at Decatur Community High School in Oberlin, Kansas.

Nominations must be submitted by October 17th, 2014

Do you know a Vietnam Veteran, Michigan can honor on November 8th, 2014?

The Metro Detroit Veterans Coalition, in cooperation with the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, will be hosting the 2014 Detroit Veterans Day Parade on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

One of the objectives of the United States American Vietnam War Commemoration is to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States of America and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

Tens of thousands of Metro Detroiters served in the Vietnam War. In a ceremony after the parade we will be recognizing ten (10) local veterans who served during the Vietnam War. We are telling their stories for this event to explain to our community the service, valor and sacrifice of all Vietnam veterans.

We are looking for nominations for Vietnam veterans that you feel should be recognized. They do not

have to be combat veterans. They can be from any of the services, any rank and can come from all walks of life. They do not have to hold decorations but maybe they do and no one knows about it. Maybe they are a community leader, teacher, fire fighter, law enforcement officer. Or maybe they are just the person next door that came home and went to work and raised a family. All are our **Silent Heroes in Our Community.**

To nominate a silent hero visit www.detroitveteransdayparade.org/special-events to download a form. You may also send a letter with the Veterans full name, dates of service, branch of service, any awards earned, reason for the nomination and your contact information in case there are questions. You may add additional documentation, copies only; we cannot be responsible for original documents. Email to mdvc@detroitveteransdayparade.org OR Mail To: Dick Chatman, 20209 Briarcliff RD. Detroit, MI. 48221 Questions Call: Dick Chatman (H) 313.861.6852 (C) 313.204.7227

Saturday November 8th, 2014

Salute the Troops During the Detroit Veterans Day Parade

Do you want to show your support for our Michigan Veterans? Come and cheer, clap your hands, and show your appreciation on Saturday November 8th, 2014 at the Michigan Veteran Coalition Detroit Veterans Day Parade. The parade steps off a 11 AM at 2951 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan,

this is north of Tiger Stadium. After the parade go to Comerica Park as Michigan remembers the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and honors 10 Vietnam Veterans for their service.

Bring the family and tell your friends. See you November 8th, 2014.



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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.



**The American Legion
Department of Michigan
Legacy Ride 2014 participants**

31 members from the department participated in the Legacy ride 2014

ABRAHAM, DEBRA	ANZALDUA, ABEL	BOUFFARD, ROY
BRODOCK, WALTER	CADMUS, THOMAS	CHAPMAN, CARL
CIEMNCKI, STACY	CLARK, CHARLES	DURBIN, EDWARD
DURBIN, RON	FITZSIMMONS, TOM	HARMON, EDMOND
JACKSON, WILLIAM	JOYNT, SHIRLEY	KELLER, BRIAN
KENNEDY, RONALD	LAMBERT, LARRY	LAMOREAUX, TIM
McNAIR, WILLIAM	MENNEL, DAVID	MILLS, DOUGLAS
NEWBILL, LESLIE	ROOTES, LEO	ROSENBERG, JAMES
RUTTKOFSKY, EARL	SHELLY, GARRY	SPANOGLE, ROBERT
STAUFFER, LARRY	STEVENS, JAMES	WHITE, WILLIAM
WYSS, JON		

Chaplain

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

“DO I REALLY MATTER?”



While Americans have mourned the loss of two great comedians, Robin Williams and Joan Rivers, in the last few weeks, I am sure many times they have asked the question to themselves, “Do my jokes really matter to my audiences?” Not only them, but politicians ask if they are making a difference in their leadership endeavors, and teachers wondering if they made an impact on their students. Song Artists, Authors, Preachers, Administrators, Parents and Grandparents ask themselves constantly the question, “Do I really matter at all to anyone?” In the American Legion, we are always wondering the same.

Every day we work hard, hoping, even expecting to reap a reward someday for our labors. We search for things that will give us significance through our work, relationships, education, and for me, my ministry. God has instilled in us that longing to matter and to make a difference in this life. We want to know that in the end of all that somehow our life counted for something.

How many times have we worked long hours filled with a lot of good

works for people around us and we ask ourselves, “Does it really? When in reality what we really mean to say is “Do I really matter?” God’s Word has an answer for us from Luke 12:24, “Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn, and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds?”

So, if God takes care of the ravens and birds, who neither sowed or reaped, then all of the toil we exhibit during our week, he values so **MUCH MORE!** Yes! Yes! I do matter to God! He values me! Not only does He see our work **BUT** He values it!

In the American Legion, can we find people, especially, our friends and family members, who really matter? Go out of your way to greet them, to thank them, and listen to them. Focus on being present in their life, Bring laughter and joy in their life. Tell people and tell them often how much they matter! You will find yourself saying, **“Thank you Lord, for telling me that I truly do matter through my heart, my words, and my prayers. I love that I matter to You in all that I do, today and forever. Amen.”**

STATE OFFICERS

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



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Fall Sweepstakes Winners

Last Name	City, State	Amount
Bailey	Midland, MI	\$100
Thayer	Kingsford, MI	\$100
Thayer	Kingsford, MI	\$100
Borchardt	Canton, MI	\$100
Harmer	Hudson, FL	\$100
Letang	Waterford, MI	\$250
Myers	Hopkinsville, KY	\$250
Milton	Pickney, MI	\$250
Welhusen	Lansing, MI	\$250
Burgess	Croswell, MI	\$250
Bukowski	Fremont, IN	\$250
Dunham	Harrison, MI	\$250
Walsh	Port Huron, MI	\$250
Frisch	Grand Haven, MI	\$500
Schilinski	Farmington Hills, MI	\$500
Smith	Kent City, MI	\$500
Young	Sault Ste. Marie, MI	\$1,000
Paulson	Holland, MI	\$1,500
Nelson	Sun Lakes, AZ	\$4,000



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox



Summer has come and gone and fall is in the air. By the time you get this article the fall conference should be over and each of you that attended has learned a small change and taking it back to your units. I am thankful for all that attended and hope you enjoyed yourself.

Last month article for me was the ABC'S for being a good member. This month is

"What it takes to be a good Leader."

1. BE HONEST
2. BE AMBITIOUS

An ambitious person wants to improve things that can and should be improved; herself, her organization and her community. Ambition is merely wanting better things for everyone.

3. BE ENTHUSIASTIC

An enthusiastic person is a happy, cheerful

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

person. She enjoys life.

4. BE CURIOUS.

A curious person is not a trouble-maker, and she is never concerned with personalities, as such. She has the ability to distinguish right from wrong, and make a stand for the higher qualities.

5. BE POISED

To be poised is to have the ability to think fast and adapt to situations, to be able to put others at ease. A poised person is tactful, kind and considerate, cultivates a sense of humor and is able to accept criticism graciously.

6. BE SELF-CONFIDENT

A self-confident woman leads a good life as far as she can. She does the best with what she has and is proud of it. She is an individual, not a carbon copy; she is reasonable and tolerant.

7. KNOW YOUR ORGANIZATION AND ITS PROGRAMS

The ability to seek out and assimilate information needed to help in the administration of

programs is one of the requirements of a leader, but actual practice in the programs themselves is the only way of developing this skill.

8. LOOK THE PART

Our leaders represent our organization in the community. What the community thinks of our leaders. Common sense will often tell you what is right and what is not.

Volunteer: It Improves the Quality of Life for Our Veterans

Bonnie Holt, Hospital Director

For the 2014-2015 year as your Hospital Chairman, I would like to stress out how important it is for EVERYONE to keep track of your volunteer hospital HOURS each day when working at your VAMC Hospital. So much gets lost or forgotten when the time comes to do reports. Tell your unit VA Chairman and your district VA Chairman and keep a notebook for yourself. I would like to visit your VAMC Hospital during your Christmas Gift Shop. If not that time, than some time after.

A few of us can spend a lot of time with our volunteer work. But if many of us could spend a little time volunteering, what a great difference we could make in improving the quality of life to our Veterans. Even volunteering once a month can fill a big void in the VAVS program, just tell your VAVS Representative what time you would be willing to give and she, along with her Chief of Voluntary Service can find something in your time-frame and of interest to you. The demands are few, but the rewards are many. Please help serve those who served you.

Let's do little change big difference for our Veterans and volunteer at your VAMC Hospital.

National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules

Good news ... the updated American Legion Auxiliary National Constitution & Bylaws and Standing Rules are now posted on the national website, and will soon become available for purchase from Emblem Sales. The updated version incorporates all the changes to the Standing Rules adopted at the 2014 National Convention.

The 2014 ALA National C&B-Standing Rules can be found at ALAforVeterans.org, in the Members Only section, under Administrative Committees – Constitution & Bylaws.

It's in the same booklet format – and you will be able to tell at a glance that it is the new version because on the color cover we changed the pictures and included "2014 Update".

The four changes to the American Legion Auxiliary Standing Rules adopted at the 2014 National Convention are:

a) Added a new rule number "11." to the National Standing Rules Section V. National Executive Committee Standing Rule: Established a 5-member executive committee to the National Executive Committee that shall be subordinate to the National Executive Committee and shall report to, be accountable to, and its actions ratified by the National Executive Committee. The National President, National Vice President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Finance Committee Chairman shall comprise the executive committee to the National Executive Committee. The purpose of the executive committee to the National Executive Committee shall be 1) to review, research and make recommendations to the NEC on matters requiring NEC action; and 2) to address and act on time sensitive

matters subject to ratification by the NEC

b) Amended National Standing Rules Section VI. Committees, Core National Standing Committees, Audit Committee: Granted voting privilege to the two liaison members of the National Audit Committee and clarified that a liaison member of the Audit Committee cannot be appointed to chair the Audit Committee

c) Amended National Standing Rules, Section VI. Committees, Core National Standing Committees, Constitution & Bylaws Committee Standing Rule: Increased by two the number comprising the National Constitution & Bylaws Committee

d) Amended National Standing Rules, Section VI. Committees, National Committees – Member/Organizational Support, Leadership Committee: Increased by five National Division representatives the number comprising the National Leadership Committee

Many thanks to ALA NHQ's Cathi Taylor and Aaron Meyer along with National Convention Parliamentarian Chris Dickey for their help in getting this accomplished so quickly, and to ALA webmaster Travis Perkins for getting it posted online right away!

Mary "Dubbie" Buckler | Executive Director/ National Secretary | American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters, 8945 N. Meridian St., Suite 200 | Indianapolis, IN 46260 | Direct: 317-569-4506; Fax: 317-569-4502; Cell: 317-220-1507 | DBuckler@ALAforVeterans.org | www.ALAforVeterans.org | In the Spirit of Service Not Self for Veterans, God and Country



May 3, 2014 marked the 65th Anniversary of Dexter American Legion Post 557 Auxiliary. From the original members six women were given citations for their continued service of 55 years. The Luna Pier Post did the installation of the women back in 1949. Current members honoring the event were: Marge Hintzen, Judy Mast, RickiJo McQuarrie, Della Blanchard, Nanette Scarberry, Christine Gatward, Donna Howard, Carol Burke, Krystal hall, Kim Henry, Colleen Asel, and Beth Chamberlin. In commemoration the Auxiliary established a Memorial Garden for past members.

Ways to Retain and Increase Membership

**Mary Dubay,
Eastern Area Membership Chairman**

Invite members and potential members to meetings and ask them to participate in volunteer projects. Perhaps have a speaker or a special program to make a meeting more interesting or to explain about a volunteer opportunity that you are looking into participating in.

Publicize opportunities to participate. Some members don't like to attend or can't attend meetings. However, they are willing to do "hands-on" work. For example: a mother with small children may be willing to make phone calls; someone else might be willing to help with the annual gift shop.

Use positive reinforcement. Make sure that everyone knows that their participation is appreciated. Welcome new members, ask them to tell the unit something about themselves, and never let them sit alone. Be sure to always say thank you! Request feedback. What works and what doesn't. Why have people stopped participating or coming to meeting? What can be done to bring them back? Listen to what they have to say. Do not let the dues notice from National be the

only contact you have with a member. Treat each other with courtesy. We do not have to like everyone in our unit, district, etc. However, we do have the responsibility to treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

Personal contact is also a way to attract new members. Make use of traditional and social media to show the unit/district/state's involvement in what we do in our community and our support for military servicemen and their families.

Increase visibility in your community. When participating in a volunteer project wear your auxiliary emblem to increase awareness of who we are and what we do. Potential members might ask you about the emblem and it gives you a perfect opportunity to explain who we are and what we do. Engage other community based organizations to assist in such projects as welcome home/deployment events supporting military families and also in helping to provide services for those families of deployed such as plumbing, lawn care, child care, volunteer at schools, flag demonstrations, etc.

Share with potential members the benefits of and the values of belonging. Be welcoming.

What is History?

Deborah Williamson, Historian

Let me begin by saying thank you to everyone who encouraged me to run for Historian; and to everyone else, thank you for your support. My congratulations to all our newly elected District and Unit Historians.

What is history? History is a chronological record of significant events. It is also a full account of the past; a narrative or story. What are memories? Memories are the power of remembering, something remembered. It is also, recalling to the mind things that are past. History and memories seem to go hand in hand, so I would like to share some of my memories of this organization, which is also history.

Let me first begin by telling you I grew up in this great organization we call the American Legion Auxiliary. I have been a member since 1954. I was an active Junior member attending meetings every month. When I was a little older, I held many offices and chairmanships, including Junior President. I attended almost every state convention until I married and started a family. As a junior member I was a page at every convention held in Grand Rapids. I was a personnel page for my mother when she was Department President. I was a page (and District President at the time) at the National Convention in Reno, for Department President Ruth Gott. I was a citizen at Girls State. I was on the Girls State Committee for approximately eleven years until I became Girls State Chairman for two years. There is so much more, but space does not allow, thank goodness. Do you see how memories and history go hand in hand? My Unit does not have many history and/or scrapbooks for me to see, but I do have my memoirs. Not everyone has the privilege of so many memories, which is why history books and scrapbooks are so important.

Unit and District Historians, your office is very important to everyone in order to have this history and the memories for years to come. To be successful in this endeavor, keep a pad of paper and a camera ready for use at all times. Please, do not forget our veterans. Honor a veteran or two with the Veterans History project.

I am looking forward to seeing all the history and scrapbooks books at convention.

LEGISLATIVE--- WE CAN DO IT

Sue Verville, Legislative Chairman

Our Legislative goal this year is that all our members will become united in advocacy for our Veterans, their families, our active duty military and that we will support the legislative agenda of The American Legion. We are a strong force when it comes to expressing our views and opinions over certain things and issues. We need to be swift and effected with contacting our legislators about the issues facing our military and our Veterans. We also need to be consistent and relentless in getting our point across to our legislators.

First thing we need to do is: **KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS.**

It is very important that we get to know our local officials, our mayor and our council members, along with our state and national legislators. They can be a great support and ally to our Veterans, their families and our military. Keep in contact with them on a regular basis. Invite them to participate in any Legion Family activities. Visit your local officials and your state and national legislators whenever possible. Hold Town Hall Meeting, Rallies and meet the candidate's nights. Join the Legislative Council. The ideal council member is the person who has established a relationship on a first-name basis with the legislator and staff.

Remember that elections will be coming up soon. We might have new faces settling into offices on local, state and national levels. These members will not know who we are or what we stand for. So help spread the word by getting to know your legislators on all levels, local, state and national. Our success is only as good as our members make it. So I am challenging you to write your legislators on behalf of all our Veterans, our military and their families. **WE CAN DO IT!!**

This year the committee members are myself (Sue Verville), Beverly Ruttkofsky and Bobby Jean Yates. If you have any questions, please contact anyone of us and we will help you.



Pictured from left to right: Richard Chatman, Mary Anne Yuncker, Bill Yuncker, Jim Wallace, Comander; Linda Wallace, Craig Tillman, John Burke, Dan McCrary, and Joe Callahan as they celebrate the opening of Piquette Square for homeless veterans.

Headquarters



Jim Wallace, State Commander

RIDE, RECRUIT AND RETAIN MEMBERSHIP



Jim Wallace
State Commander

WOW! Isn't autumn a beautiful time of the year. It is even better if you ride a motorcycle. Getting a chance to enjoy Mother Nature's most remarkable scenery while being close to her on a bike is terrific, whether you ride alone or with friends. During this time of the year, I really look forward to riding along Huron River Drive between N. Main Street in Ann Arbor and N. Territorial in Dexter at the peak color show. What an awesome feeling seeing the full colors of Mother Nature at her best. I am sure you have your special areas to enjoy this fall season. Please try to find the time to ride, however, please be careful and

obey all the rules of safe riding.

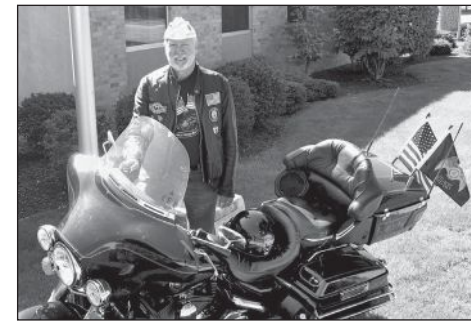
As you may know I am a Legion Rider. While I am enjoying the time I get to ride, when I stop for gas, food and other essentials, I am always looking for additional riders to join this organization. What a better way to promote the American Legion and the Riders than to have the opportunity to talk bikes and to recruit membership. A lot of veterans enjoy riding motorcycles and that makes the connection mutual. If talking to Riders, either from the Legion, Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion, I encourage them to continue their connection to this great organization by retaining their membership within the Legion Family.

The Legacy Scholarship Fund is a program of the American Legion Riders (ALR). This fund is set up to assist children getting

into college if their parent was killed during or because of the War on Terrorism. Since this fund was started it has been the "go to program" for the ALR, as they promote the Legacy Ride. This past year the Legacy Ride started at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana and approximately 600 riders signed up to ride to the American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina. During this year's 5-day ride they collected approximately \$435,000. While at convention, through donations made on the convention floor, a total of over \$1,000,000 was raised for the Legacy Fund. This is the first time that much money has been raised. Nine Legacy Rides have risen over \$5,000,000 for the children of our fallen brother & sisters. I was proud to be part of this joyous and humbling occasion. Hopeful-

ly, next year we, as a Department, can be a bigger part of the program. All Chapters, Post, Units and Squadrons are invited to promote activities that will help the Legacy Scholarship Fund at the next Legacy Ride to the National Convention at Baltimore in 2015.

We should take pride in knowing that the American Legion Riders are an asset to this organization through their dedication to the veterans, their families and the communities they serve.



Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Latest Update

First Day on the Job



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

A life changing moment recently happened to me, and I am glad to report all of you were a part of it. On August 29, 2014, I reported to my first day on the job here at Department headquarters. This is my "Superbowl" moment, I like to refer to it. This has been a goal of mine, that now I have obtained. There are many members within the Legion family I have learned from and taken guidance from. I thank them all for the wisdom they have given me which I will now put to good use as the new adjutant. From my background as a software engineer and customer support specialist, I look to take from that and make improvements as needed in the department. Finding issues and problems and then finding solutions comes naturally. I look to improve upon what we already have and also make some small changes in the future.

Now, where do I start. My number one objective for the next five or so months is to learn from the "Great One" Patrick. Pat is a wealth of knowledge and I need to gain as much of his know how for me to also be as successful as he

was. We have set the bar high in Michigan for the Adjutant, it is a feat I know I can accomplish. Patrick, you will be missed by us all after as you retire soon. Thank you for all of your years of selfless dedication to our organization and helping our veterans!

Since my two weeks in office there has been several post related situations that have been coming into the office. I want to remind our post, its officers and members that the Department cannot always help on your post related issues. We will try to help to the best of our ability and give some guidance. Remember there is a "Chain of Command" which exist in The American Legion. You must utilize your district and zone commanders for advice and guidance. There are many times when members contact the Department, the issue is sent back to those officers anyhow, which delays a quick result. Do not make harsh decisions in the heat of the moment and then find you or your post in a situation it does not need to be in.

I look forward to many great years working for all of you. If there is anything I can help with or questions you may have, please feel free to contact the Department and our great staff to assist you.



The Michigan Patriot Fund Support the Commanders Special Project

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Post: _____

Send check to:

The Michigan American Legion
ATTN: Commanders special project
212 N. Verlinden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915
Memo line: Patriot Fund

Thank You

Membership

By May 1st 2015

THE GOAL 71,039



That is our Membership goal for 2015. We have established some membership incentives for the year. In an effort to renew some of those that are always last to renew, start the year off with an Early Bird Drawing. The Department will hold an Early Bird Drawing from those that have paid their dues by Veterans Day. We will pay the 2016 dues for one Legionnaire from each District whose name drawn. We encourage every post to do the same.

Posts that are at 100% by December 31st will receive a Blazer for the Commander and a Plaque for the Post. Posts that are 100% by April 30th will receive a Plaque. District and Zone Commanders that are 100% by Convention will receive a blazer. We will continue the 10, 20 and 30 Recruiter awards, as well as National Membership incentives. With the membership goals being almost the same as last year, I have no doubt that the Department of Michigan can achieve 100% this year. 3rd Zone Commander Britton has scheduled an Old Fashioned Membership Rally for the 3rd Zone on October 25th, at the Lapeer Post starting at 9 AM. This is an effort to get the year started off right. I urge all posts to start now and work to renew those chronic late and last minute dues payers.

We would like to congratulate Ron Runyan on being hired as Adjutant for the Department of Michigan. We will miss you on the Membership Team as DMS Coordinator, but look forward to working with you as adjutant. The Membership Team welcomes Brett Holt, who was appointed by Commander Wallace, to take over as DMS Coordinator. It was a great selection, and we look forward to working with Brett. Brett will be giving classes on Mylegion.org for adjutants upon request. This is a good class for a district or Zone setting. He will be making a presentation at the 3rd Zone membership Rally.

Remember the Membership Team is here to help you in any way we can to obtain your 100% Membership goal.

Membership Incentives

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 have their 2016 dues paid 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

1st District

Oct 6th, 2014 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI
 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

Oct 12th, 2014 @IDA Post
 SAL Meeting at 11AM - VSO School at 1PM - AL Meeting at 2PM
 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
 Jan 11th 2015 @ Post 298 - 228 N. 20th St, Battle Creek
 Mar 8th 2015 @ Post 53 - 1611 Steamburg Rd, Hillsdale
 May 3rd 2015 @ Post 55 - 1230 Edwards St, Albion

4th District

November 2, 2014@ TBA
 January 4, 2015@ Allegan Post 89
 March 1, 2015@TBA
 May 3, 2015@ South Haven Post 49

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 2nd, 2014 @ Post 64 - 4314 W. Carpenter Rd, Flint
 Jan 11, 2015 @ Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney
 March 8th, 2015 @ Post 269 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett
 May 3rd, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison

7th District

Oct 12th, 014 @ Sebewaing Post
 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

October 4, 2014-Lake City Post 300
 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

Fall Meeting October 11th, 2014 @ Post 349 Little Lake Service Officer School at 9AM
 District Meetings at 10:30AM
 Association Meeting 1PM
 Leadership Training for Commanders, Vice Commanders, and Adjutants, starting at 9 AM
 Winter Meeting Jan 16-18, 2015 @ Gladstone Post #71

16th District

Meetings begin at 7:30PM
 * Service officer School at 6:30PM
 Oct 14th, 2014 @ Riverview Post 389*
 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

October 11th, 2014 @ Post 122 Wolverine Service Officer School 11am
 December 14th, 2014 @ Post 458 Gaylord at the Eagles building S Otsego Ave. Social hour at 11am
 March 2015 TBA
 May 16th, 2015 @ Post 317, Onaway - Social Hour 11am
 Lunch at 12, Meeting at 1PM



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

Harley "Butch" Maxwell, Detachment Commander

Hello from the Detachment of Michigan. Let me start by congratulating all of the newly elect-

ed officers on the state level, American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion. I look forward to working with and spending time with Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda, and the Auxiliary President Nancy Knox and her husband John.

This year as Detachment Commander has started out busy, first was the Showboat Parade in Chesaning, then the 16th District instillation of officers; the food at the Stitt Post is always excellent, but not good for my weight loss program. The next event was a trip to Trout Lake in the U.P. at the Wilwin Lodge. I think this is probably going to be the highlight of my year, spent time at Wilwin with National Commander

Dan Dellinger of the American Legion, Department Commander Jim Wallace and President Nancy Knox. While we were there we went on a tour of Mackinac Island. It was a real treat to have Paul Wandri, the Commander of Post 299 on the island as our tour guide, who knows all the history of the island.

Then to the Mint Festival Parade in St John's - It was incredible to see over 500 flags lining the cemetery roads.

Next the National Convention in Charlotte NC - it was a pleasure to hear Outgoing National Commander - Joe Gladden speak of his amazing year. He spoke of all the events he attended and all the programs supported by the American legion. Then to hear the President of Boys Nation was just incredible.

Congratulations Michael Moss, we wish him a great year and can't wait to see what he does as National Commander

And of course we need to talk about membership the key to supporting veterans. As the American Legion family, we need to work together to keep the membership growing, supporting each other and our programs. I am looking forward

to working as a family and continuing learning more about all the programs we support. Homeless veterans, American Legion baseball, boy's state, girl's state poppies, child welfare, make a wish and the legacy fund are just a few of the important things we need to continue support.

With all the things going on with Veterans Administration we need to support them as much as possible and try to get these issues straighten out. We also need to help our veterans coming home get into programs at the VA and make it easier for them to get help, without going thru weeks/months of paperwork it can be frustrating for soldiers coming home who think they can go to VA for treatment then have to wait for the paperwork to go thru for weeks before getting appointments.

As Sons of The American Legion we must remember that our main goal is to support veterans in any way we can. We need to start at our home post, support

the post and post activities any way we can. If your post has events or fund raisers volunteer to help, you don't have to do the complete event. You could start by volunteering to do set up or clean up. If you have time help with yard maintenance or building maintenance anything that will help keep your veteran's posts running smoothly. Another way to keep the post running smooth is try not to cause conflict in the Legion family, as sons we must remember that we are a guest of the American legion at our home post. Sometimes we think we are doing things to make it better at the post, but causing conflict instead because we just do it. Remember everything we do for the post we must get approval from the post, this makes things run smoother. So let's try to keep the family happy and work together to support our veterans and post. I look forward to serving The Sons of The American Legion in any way I can. THANK YOU VETERANS FOR OUR FREEDOM

ADJUTANT UPDATE

Life is not easy. Wars and government rearranging our lives, uncertain weather patterns and destruction of whole communities, yet we still persist. We have family, God and country.

We have a purpose and goals to meet. It is very hard at times to see that we are accomplishing anything of value when things are being destroyed or taken from us, but we are succeeding in life. We have lost and continue to lose Legion family members and that is why we strive to find new family members. We try to teach and instruct our youth in the principles that our fathers and forefathers have fought and died to preserve. We continue to enjoy life through our success.

Times change and we adapt to the change and learn to control it rather than allowing it to control us. Our Legion family is strong because of our devotion to God, country and each other. The four pillars on which we stand have supported us for 96 years.

Our newly elected Officers for 2014-2015 will need us to give again in support of our veterans and our forefathers. Membership is always an issue we hear about and we each need to try to bring one new member in to assist with all we are tasked to achieve. VA&R is in greater need of assistance as the Veterans Administration tries to rebuild and care for those who have served their country with programs like Comfort Warrior. Our Children and Youth programs need assistance so we can pass on our legacy to the next generation through scholarships and other programs. We must continue to preserve our freedom

for which so many have paid the price and for those who are now serving by supporting the Legacy Fund and programs that help our servicemen and servicewomen. We have to work to secure our homeland and those who have lost their homes and communities with support to the National Emergency Fund and other relief funds as well as those to assist our homeless veterans.

There is no easy answer as to how we will accomplish what we are asked to do but what is certain is that we will. We just have to do our part and as others do their part the whole is completed.

I am asking that each of you try to do just one thing this next year to assist our Legion family.

You can donate your time, money or service. You can recruit a new member. Just ask someone to join.

With all the programs The American Legion has you can find something you enjoy doing and can assist with a fundraiser. I want to thank those of you who have given of your time and efforts because it is reflected in the consolidated reports that are turned in annually. When the consolidated reports of what the individuals have done for the year are totaled; it is amazing to see what our Legion family has accomplished. Please do something this year to assist our Legion family and please submit a consolidated report to reflect what you have accomplished.

Thank you for your service or for serving our veterans.

For God, country and family,
Zack Pendell, Detachment Adjutant

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION ELECT MIKE MOSS NATIONAL COMMANDER



On Aug. 24, during the 43rd Sons of The American Legion national convention in Charlotte, N.C., Mike Moss was elected the SAL's national commander for the 2014-2015 membership year.

Moss lives in Colorado and has been and still is very active in the Colorado Detachment. He has served on the national level as the Mid-West national vice commander and is a past chairman of the National Children & Youth Commission.

Moss' eligibility for SAL membership is through his father, a Korean War Air Force veteran who flew B-29s and a 54-year member of The American Legion. One of Moss' earliest memories of The American Legion was when he was 8 years old and going to the local grocery store with his mother, also a 54-year member of the Legion Auxiliary, to sell poppies to raise money.

Moss' motto is "Building Bridges To The Future." He knows that our future lies with our young people, and he would like membership to be at 100 percent by May 1, 2015 and have the renewal rate of or over 90 percent.

Moss' goals for this year include raising:

- SAL membership to 370,000 members,
- \$50,000 in donations for the Legion's National Emergency Fund,
- \$400,000 in donations for The Legion Child Welfare Fund, and
- \$90,000 in donations for the Legion's National Endowment Fund.

Other elected SAL officers include National Vice Commander's Greg "Doc" Gibbs (East), Jeff Evans (South), Ron Wyatt (Central), Charles Keith (Mid-West), and David Swafford (West). And National Membership Chairman George Lasinski, National Adjutant Brian O' Hearne, National Chaplain Harl Ray, National Commander's Aide Ken Yanke, National Historian Mark Klilstrom, and National Liaison John Kerestan.

V A & R REPORT

I would like to give you and update on our veterans retreat, Wilwin Lodge. This year has been outstanding for those veterans and their families that have stayed there. The 600 acres and 10 miles of trails have been in use a lot with bikes and walkers. The families find it very surreal and love the quite time they have. At the facility our number one mission is for the families to re-connect with each other and this year has been a great success.

The soldiers that have come to Wilwin with their families have given us positive feedback on it. They feel this is a place that they can talk and have fun with no one judging them, they feel very comfortable around the fire and know that they are in a safe place. That is what it is all about and this is very rewarding for us.

Another mission we have is the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. We have had the Scouts from Virginia come to visit us for the night and they want to come back next year. Here is a picture of the scouts at our facility

The next mission is PTSD and TBI veterans. Dr. Kane out of Big Rapids brings a group up to our facility twice a year to have quiet time



and counseling sessions. They have a great time with the equestrian horses. Another group we had this year is from the Lovells VA facility in Chicago Illinois, we had 7 veterans and family to come and visit and they felt this to be a good downtime for them with the ones that they went through their program with. They have already scheduled for the 2015 year. Also some of them are coming back in October. To us this shows that we are helping our veterans

in a way they can't get in the city.

The National Commander of The American Legion came to visit and was very impressed what we were doing. The last two Commanders have donated a massage chair that everyone likes and a pool table and ping pong table for our veterans and families to enjoy.

I believe Wilwin has turned out to be one of the best missions of The American Legion. Words alone cannot express the heart worth feelings they get out of being at Wilwin.

Thank you for your service and appreciation of our facility.

Earl Ruttkofsky
Chairman VA & R

MEMBERSHIP

A Big Thank You goes out to our past Zone Commanders and past Membership Chairman Dwaine Verville for a great 2014 membership year. As of August 27th our Detachment is at 99.96% and I am sure that by October when this article is published we will be at 100% since we only need 7 more members.

For 2015, our first membership target date of 10% by Sept. 10th has come and gone, so let's work hard and hit, (I mean surpass) our 25% membership goal by Oct.8th.

Another big goal this year is to increase our member renewals while still obtaining new members. So, Squadron and Zone Commanders, I need your help to get our current

members renewed. And also don't forget to recruit new members to keep our great organization growing.

Remember, the more members the more we can help our Veterans!

I look forward to working with the newly elected Zone Commanders this year to make the Detachment of Michigan the BEST in the Central Zone for membership this year. If anyone has any questions, please email me at mdot2001@yahoo.com and I will do my best to assist you.

Mike Boughner
Membership Chairman
"For God and Country"

2015 Convention

The Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan

Hosted by: Grand Rapids Northeastern Squadron 459



The Detachment of Michigan 2015 Convention will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan at the Riverfront Hotel.

June 5th, 6th & 7th 2015

Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly

Riverfront Hotel

24/7 Reservations - 1-866-257-5990

270 Ann Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49504

Hotel Rate: \$99.00

Refer to the Sons of The American Legion Convention when booking your room.

Block Rate of \$99.00 per night expires May 6, 2015

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN REPORT

Please allow me to start by thanking everyone for your trust in electing me to be your NEC for the next 2 years. Knowing I have big shoes to fill, I will do my best to represent the detachment of MI, as efficiently as possible.

My term started by joining over 400 ALR members, including our own Tom Howard and then - S.A.L. National Commander Joe Gladden, riding in the Legacy Run. What an experience, even in 2 days of hard rain. On the road, we collected approximately \$420,000, with a grand total of over \$1, 000,000.00 by the end of the American Legion Family National Convention.

I bring you greetings from our newly elected National Commander, Mike Moss, from Colorado. Cmdr. Moss's Moto is BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE FUTURE. PROJECT MEMBERSHIP: RE-

CRUIT- RETAIN-REINSTATE—He has set a goal to retain membership and to increase to 370,000 members stronger. Special projects are: raising \$50K for National Emergency Fund, \$90K for the Endowment Fund and \$400K for Child welfare.

Congratulations to "Michigan's own"- Ron Wyatt, our newly elected Central Vice Commander. Also Congrats go out to: Greg Price and Sandy Lipman on their commission appointments. Good luck to Mike Boughner as he enters his second year in N.M.I.

As you can see, our National Commander has set some pretty high goals, but together we can build a stonger bridge, to carry the weight well into the future, in support of our Veterans. Let's keep working hard together.

For God and Country,
David J. Mennel, NEC

SEPTEMBER 2014 MIAP REPORT

By **Greg Price, MIAP**

Mary Coupeau is the MIAP State Coordinator for the State of Michigan. She sent me a very nice Thank You to us Sons, for the \$1,000.00 Donation we contributed to the Missing in America Project. Mary and I have attended the Internment of Veterans at The Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. The Ashes of these Veterans had been forgotten in various Funeral Homes. With your help, and the help of the MIAP, the Cremains of these Veterans were Located, Identified, and Laid to Rest with Full Military Honors.

Recently Mary and I attended the Interment of one (1) of the one hundred and sixty eight persons (168) whose unclaimed bodies had been located in a Refrigeration Unit at the Wayne County Morgue in Detroit. The Service was held at the Our Lady of Hope Cemetery in Brownstown; Mi. after a Jewish Foundation stepped forward and offered to pay for the burials of all these individuals. The reason they only interned one (1) person, was to allow those working with the MIAP to work with Veterans Service Organizations to see if any of those that have gone unclaimed were Veterans. Those that are not identified as Veterans will be buried in the Brownstown Cemetery.

Thirteen (13) of those unclaimed persons stored in that Refrigeration

Unit were Veterans. On September 11th at 11:30am; Mary and I, along with many others, will be in Holly at The Great Lakes National Cemetery honoring these Heroes as they are laid to rest with Full Military Honors, as their brothers & sisters say "Welcome Home".

Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council members helped to Intern six (6) Veterans who Ashes had been sitting on shelves in Funeral Homes. The Interment was held at Great Lakes National Cemetery just after their Memorial Day Ceremony.

Livonia American Legion Post 32 members, their Honor Guard, along with members of their American Legion Riders, Legion Riders from Garden City Post 396, and six (6) Riders from Canada, escorted the Cremains of nine (9) Veterans, and fifty nine (59) Cremains of persons that were not Veterans to Rural Hill Cemetery in Northville MI. on June 20th (those that were not Veterans were buried in one (1) casket). Post 32 Honor Guard preformed the Military Honors for the Veterans. One (1) of the Veterans laid to rest was a Spanish American War Veteran. Thank you to Post 32 and the L.J Griffin Funeral Home for making this very important ceremony happen, they are now a part of our family.

Please continue to do your great work.

FIRST ZONE COMMANDER REPORT

Many of our Squadrons have been participating in fund raisers at their Posts. Some of the proceeds have helped with Child Welfare Programs, and some proceeds have helped to benefit Veterans. A handful of these Squadrons members have bragged about Auxiliary and Legion members from their Posts who not only helped with contributions, but with sharing their time to help make those events successful. Isn't it marvelous when the Legion Family pulls together to make a wonderful thing happen!

Many of our members have been spotted either marching in, or riding their motorcycles in their community parades. I am sure you will see some of our members taking part in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade November 8, 2014. The Parade will end inside Comerica Park.

I had the pleasure to Install Squadron Officers, and enjoyed watching our Detachment Com-

mander Harley (Butch) Maxwell, install the 16th District S.A.L. Officers at the Carl E. Stitt Post 232 located in Dearborn Heights.

If you have the chance, please come join us for the 16th District Tour that will be on October 4, 2014. It will begin at 8:30a.m. The starting point will be at Edward C. Headman Post 217 (Wyandotte on the water) 2817 Van Alstyne Wyandotte, Mi.

The Annual 16th District Americanism Dinner will be on February 07, 2015 at Carl E. Stitt Post 232...23850 Military Rd. Dearborn Heights, Mi. Doors open at 5:00p.m. Dinner at 6:00p.m. Program to follow dinner. Hope to see you there.

We Sons enjoy doing things with the American Legion Family, like supporting our Communities and the Veterans that live within them.

For God & Country,
Greg Price

SECOND ZONE COMMANDER REPORT

My name is Danny Gleason at our convention in June in South Haven I was elected your 2nd Zone Commander .I am a 25 year member of Buchanan sq. 51 My goal this year is to jump start some of our Districts than are having some problems. Ive attended some squadron meetings and am looking forward to seeing you at your

posts.If you are having any events that you wish me to attend please feel free to contact me by e-mail at commanderdan@sbcglobal.net or cell ph. 574-340-3269 and i will do my best to be there.

For God and Country
Danny Gleason
2nd Zone Commander

THIRD ZONE CMDR REPORT

Thank you for allowing me to be your Third Zone Commander for the year 2014-2015. I have already visited numerous Posts and Squadrons within the zone and will continue to visit more. If your post needs any help in getting a squadron going or setting up meetings please let me know and I will be more than happy to assist. Any questions contact me Carvin "Huey" Chapman at 248-435-0371 Or cchapman0371@gmail.com.

Carvin "Huey" Chapman
3rd Zone Commander



www.mysal.org

Squadron Commanders and Adjutants -

Manage your membership online

Register today

GOLD STAR SON HONORED FOR PAYING IT FORWARD



Cameran Richardson - August 1, 2014

Myles Eckert found a \$20 bill in the parking lot of a Cracker Barrel, wrapped it in a note and handed it to an Air National Guardsman dining with his family inside. The note read, in part, "My dad was a soldier. He's in heaven now. We like to pay it forward in my family. It's your lucky day! Thank you for your service."

Paying it forward to servicemembers makes the 9-year-old Gold Star son from Waterville, Ohio, "happy, happy, happy," he says, "because it reminds me of my dad."

His heart-tugging story aired on CBS Evening News and whipped up a wave of social media buzz.

Army Sgt. Gary Eckert was killed in Iraq in 2005, when Myles was four weeks old. The boy says he feels "like the spirit of my dad is in

me" when he wears his father's dog tags and wedding ring around his neck, which he did May 16 when the American Legion Family of Ohio honored him alongside his mother Tiffany and 10-year-old sister Marlee during the 51st Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Ohio Convention.

"In one instant, a young man personified everything our organization is about: paying it forward to veterans," said Jason Graven, the Department of Ohio's internal affairs director.

Myles received an honorary lifetime SAL membership to Squadron 587 in Toledo, Ohio, and a \$5,000 donation was made in his name to the Folds of Honor Foundation. He also received other gifts, including a plaque from American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger.

"They say integrity is doing the right thing when nobody is looking," SAL National Commander Joe Gladden said when recognizing Myles. "That's what you did that day."

As for the boy, the sight of a soldier always brings his dad to mind. "You should respect soldiers every day," he said.

RON WYATT ELECTED AS NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER



At the 2014 National SAL Convention Michigan's Ron Wyatt was elected and sworn in as the National Vice Commander for the Central Region. L-R Mike Moss National SAL Commander and Ron Wyatt.

NATIONAL SAL DELEGATION



Delegates from the Michigan SAL Detachment attend the National SAL Convention in Charlotte, NC.

FROM THE U.P. SUMMER CONVENTION WHERE CMDR. MIKE PRESENTED THE DETACHMENT AWARDS TO SQUADRON #146 MENOMINEE



Detachment Commander Mike Boughner presenting small Squadron Children & Youth award to Squadron #146 Commander Steve Van Eyck



Detachment Commander Mike Boughner presenting small Squadron VA&R award to Squadron #146's Steve Van Eyck and David Lang.

CHRISTMAS JOY

A FAMILY AFFAIR AT POST 28



The American Legion Family in Grand Haven, Post and SAL 28 and Auxiliary Unit 28 work together along with several community partners to bring toys to the local community during Christmas. The lists of needy families are received through the Welfare Department, Red Cross, ADC, and the Salvation Amy. During the last few years the Goodfellows have been able to be a little more generous to each child remembered because of the cooperation of not only the Legion family of Legionnaires, SAL, Auxiliary, and Riders, but also community groups' support. In 1939, we delivered gifts to 25 families and last year we delivered to 145 families, for a total of 306 happier children at Christmas time.

Veteran's Service

I AM THE LUCKIEST VETERAN IN THE WORLD

Who is Patrick J. Kline?



I was born in Petoskey Michigan, and have three other brothers and one sister, she is my oldest sister. We lived in Petoskey until I was three or four and then moved to Midland Michigan, where I attended a Catholic school for nine years, and graduated from Midland High school.

I started working at about age 11 pushing a popsicle cart in the summer all around Midland, stopping at the Dow clock rooms, the ball parks etc. and made the big money of about \$3.00 a day, a popsicle was only a nickel and an ice cream bar was dime, it took a lot of popsicles. Then at age 15 that summer I started working in a small meat market, and learned how to serve store customers and how to cut up and skin deer, bear, moose and elk. The store rented freezer space to the local hunters and residents. I worked at the meat market until I graduated High School; I then had the opportunity to get a job on a 110 foot tug boat call the North American, this was out of Petoskey, we carried cement to Chicago, Detroit, Milwaukee and Holland Michigan. My job was as an engineman oiler/wiper. I worked my way up through Coast Guard testing to 3rd Assistant Engineer. By this time I had moved to Roen Steamship Co out of Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin. I worked for them until President Nixon eliminated all deferments, I did not know I even had a deferment; it was for the betterment of the country.

On December 26, 1970 I received a letter, thank you from your friends and neighbors, I was drafted. I had two brothers in the Marines, and one in the Navy, I was going to join the Marines, but my brothers wouldn't let me they talked me out of it, they said just go in the Army put your two years in and get out.....right.

It was off to the Army and during basic training, I was told I was going to Fort Leonardwood, MO. As a combat engineer, I just figured I would learn to operate heavy equipment and blow things up. This was not to be, about four days before graduation my Drill Sargent came to me and said my orders had been changed, he laughed, and said I fell into a pile of s%&+ and came out smelling like a rose, I said what do you mean? Sgt Collins said I was going to Fort McArthur, California. He never even heard of this Fort, it was in San Pedro California, they put me on a 65' Picket Boat, our main mission was to patrol a rifle range that fired over the ocean about a mile from Marineland, to keep any civilian boats out of harm's way. After about 3 or so months, I received my orders for Vietnam.

My brother Jim had been in Vietnam in 1966 and 1967 with the Marines. Now it was my turn, not only that but I had a critical MOS Marine Engineer, for the first four months of my tour I was on a Mark II PBR 32' gun boat. We had twin .50 Cal machineguns on the bow and a couple M60's

and rocket launchers on the stern.

Patrolling South and West of Saigon on little canals, and rivers looking for the enemy, they usually found us. We turned the PBR's over to the Vietnamese. The Army then put me onboard a 180' Tanker hauling 280,000 gallons of JP4 JP5 and high Octane aircraft fuel, to the many bases and outpost throughout South Vietnam, from Saigon to the Cau Mau Peninsula the very bottom of the country including the Udan Forest, in the south west to Ahn Loc north of Saigon. During this time I was 1st assistant engineer and when the Chief Engineer left country, I was the Chief Engineer until his replacement arrived. We had a Vietnamese crew that operated the Engines when we were underway, I was then on a .50 Cal. Machinegun Ma deuce, lots of fun and anxiety.

After Vietnam I returned home, one day I was in Vietnam the next I was in Midland Michigan, talk about culture shock. I went back to Petoskey, I had said a few prayers while in Vietnam, just get me back alive I just want to be in Petoskey. I enrolled in College worked full time as a bar manager at Victory Lanes from noon till 7 PM that way I could go to college in the morning and a couple nights after work. I did this for about 5 years and then graduated.

After graduating college I worked several jobs, including opening my own business and working for the Post Office. Then an opportunity presented itself to go in to the "plastics business". I worked for the Petoskey Glass Alternatives, which made scratch resistant coatings for the automotive industry. Business was doing well until that day in 2001, September 11th, a Tuesday. The future did not seem so bright and the industry fell on hard times.

It was then an opportunity came to work for The American Legion as a Department Veteran Service Officer. I have been working with veterans as far back as the 1980's, I was the State Commander for the Vietnam Veterans of America, and was part of a new program where I went to school at the American University in Washington DC for three summers for veteran law and advocacy, taught by the same people that are now doing our training in Washington DC every spring and at Indianapolis in July. Way back then I was volunteering my time to help veterans file claims. I am a 40 year member of the American Legion; I have been active in Department prior to my employment, as Post Commander, District Commander and Department Vice Commander Fourth Zone. It has been a fantastic time for me and all of the legionnaires I have had the privilege to know, so many that have left us, but never forgotten. I have learned so much from our training and from the veterans we have served. It is a privilege to be a part of such a dynamic organization, which has become such a huge part of my life. I am but a small cog in this huge wheel of life, devoted to changing veterans and their families' lives through the American Legion.

Veterans Expo

Spread the Word Detroit

On November 7th and 8th, 2014 at Cobo Hall in Detroit, MI the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is hosting a Veterans Expo a "One Stop Shop" for Michigan Veterans. Veterans will have the opportunity to learn about the state and federal resources available to them. Accredited veteran service officers will be on hand to handle any questions about a veteran's application for compensation or pension, as well as, help veterans who need to file a claim.

Veterans Seeking Jobs

Hiring Our Heroes will also be at the event on Saturday Nov 8th, 2014 with a group of employers looking to hire.

The Expo will be open Friday Nov 7th, from 11am to 8pm and Sat. Nov. 8th, 9am to 3pm. To register for the event call 517-324-8330 or visit www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo



2014 VETERAN EXPOS

THE "ONE-STOP" SHOP FOR MICHIGAN VETERANS:
OFFERING JOBS, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, BENEFITS AND MORE!

DETROIT
November 7 & 8

Hiring Our Heroes Job Fair - November 8

Cobo Center

1 Washington Blvd | Detroit, MI 48226

Expo Hours: Friday 11am - 8pm & Saturday 9am - 3pm

To Register, Please Contact: 517-324-8330 or Visit www.events.mphi.org/vetexpo



For more information about the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, please visit www.MichiganVeterans.com or call 1-800-MICHVET (1-800-642-4838)



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

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Tripp Cantwell, Department Service Officer - tripp.cantwell@va.gov
Tom Kaiser, Department Service Office - tom.kaiser@va.gov
Elizbeth Cuddington, Department Service Office - elizbeth.cuddington@va.gov
Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

Michigan Boys State

Jerry Kelley, Chairman

What are the answers to the following questions?

1. What is Michigan American Legion Boys State?
2. Where is it held?
3. Who may attend?
4. What happens at Boys State?
5. Who may sponsor a young man to attend?
6. How many members in your Post can answer these questions?
7. Does your Post have a Boys State Chairperson?

If you can answer the first five questions, you deserve an A+. Please share your knowledge with everyone you meet. If you were not able to answer the first five questions, please continue to read the answers.

1. A weeklong "National Civics Leadership Program".
2. Michigan Boys State is held on the campus in Northwood University, Midland,

Michigan.

3. Any young man who has completed the 11th grade and is interested in leadership and learning about how our government works.
4. Boys are assigned to cities, counties and political parties. They elect officials at city, county and state levels and function trying to solve challenges that are presented at each level – no money for roads, the sewer system needs an upgrade, or a current problem of today.
5. Anyone may sponsor a young man to attend – American Legion Post, Service Organization, Business, Parents, etc..

Is your Post able to answer "every member" to questions number 5 and "yes" to questions number 6. If not, please work on completing questions 5 and 6.

The Boys State Committee stands ready to help and assist your Post. Please let us know how we can help your Post support Boys State.

2nd District Commander

Michael Kraus, 2nd District Commander

As your newly elected 2nd district commander, I would like to thank each and every one of you. I consider it a great honor to serve you in this position. I strive to not only reach but exceed your expectations of me.

I look forward to seeing post officers and members come to district meetings, to get more information about what is going on at the state level and information from guest speakers. I and the District Officers are here to help you in any way we can.

I am looking forward to working with you we need to get the word out about the different pro-

grams that we have to offer the community and the students of your school district.

We need to really push Boys State, Student Trooper, and Scholarship Programs and most important is membership. We need 2nd to none effort in this area to sign new members, and bring back people we have lost, maintain the ones we have. We are working closely with the Auxiliary and SAL, and Legion Riders to bring unity back into the family.

With your help we can make this a very exciting year and my door is always open. You can reach me at 517-262-9801. My email is mik.ekraus@hotmail.com

9th District Report

Neal L Horning, 9th District Commander

Greetings to all, thank you all for supporting me for another year of service as the 9th District Commander. This year my goal is to visit and communicate with the Posts in our District in a more effective way. The Post Commander and his Officers is a very important part of this Goal. I think it would be a great help if each post would e-mail me or regular mail send their officer list with phone numbers to establish better communications between you and myself. My purpose is to assist and support you Post in anyway I'm able.

e-mail address: lhorning@charter.net
mailing address: 6602 Boone Road, Traverse City, MI
Cell Number: 231-883-4369

Traverse City American Legion Junior Baseball experienced another great year of baseball. Recently a letter was published in the Traverse City Record Eagle from an appreciative parent.

Quote: "CAPS OFF FOR LEGION – Caps off to the American Legion Post 35 for another great year of youth baseball in Traverse City. The Legion has long been committed to providing a well-run, affordable, and inclusive league. Hundreds of if not thousands

of kids have learned about sportsmanship and community on their American Legion Teams. And this summer, thanks to the efforts of Cory Dean, (Sons of American Legion member) was instrumental in reviving the AA League to give high school boys a competitive hometown opportunity for summer baseball.

My son has grown up with Legion Baseball from T-ball to Double A, and we've enjoyed many summer evenings watching the kids play and visiting with other families. We are grateful to many volunteers and sponsors who support this proud community tradition."

Janet L., Traverse City

NOTE: This year we had 45 teams a minimum of a Coach and 2 Assistant Coaches for each team, not including American Legion members, parents assisting. We give special thanks to all the sponsors for supporting our baseball program. American Legion Post 35 has conducted American Legion Jr Baseball every year since 1949. Post 35 has set a high standard for Children and Youth Pillar, and Community Service.

Looking forward to seeing you in the near future!
God Bless You! God Bless the American Legion

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NINTH DISTRICT— Busy All Year Long

**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 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 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.

On behalf of the Ninth District we send our sincere sympathy to our Department Secretary in the loss of her loved one. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

“WHAT IS THE AEF?”

**Linda Wallace, Auxiliary
Emergency Fund Chairman**

The AEF, commonly known as the “Auxiliary Emergency Fund” provides temporary emergency aid to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary through a national grant assistance program. The program is set-up to help those in need when:

1. A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member without housing or food
2. A financial crisis occurs which results in a member having no resources for housing, food or utilities
3. Educational training in extreme circumstances for a member who may lack the necessary job skills for employment

In order for a member to be eligible for assistance, dues must be current and have maintained American Legion Auxiliary membership for three consecutive years. Funds are granted on a case-by-case basis up to \$2,400.00

Many of us may have known someone who needed temporary assistance when a fire, tornado, flood or hurricane occurred. In order for this program to assist those seeking aid, we need to continue to help fund the program.

Ask your members to consider mak-

ing an individual contribution and your unit to sponsor a fundraiser in order to help replenish this fund. Remember: “NO DONATION IS TO SMALL”

It is our obligation to promote this program in order to help any auxiliary sister in need. Therefore, share your fundraising ideas through newsletters, bulletins and during unit meetings. Be unique in thinking of ways to help raise funds. Have your unit consider sponsoring a bake/bakeless sale, a raffle or by placing a decorative jar labeled AEF at your unit meetings and asking members to contribute their loose change. Be sure to include the “Legion Family” when asking for donations. By doing this, we are keeping in mind our Department President Nancy’s theme “Little Change – Big Difference.”

Reminder: All checks for the AEF should be sent to Department Headquarters earmarked on the memo line “Auxiliary Emergency Fund.”

Be sure to check your guide for application forms, frequently asked questions flier and National and Department awards.

I would like to remind any member who contributes to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund that you are giving a fellow auxiliary member NOT JUST HELP, BUT HOPE!!!

BATTLE CREEK VAMC Needs Your Help

**Barbara Parks, Battle Creek VAMC
Representative**

The American Legion Auxiliary programs at the Battle Creek V.A. Medical Center needs your help. As Representative at Battle Creek V.A. for the last four years my husband and I have taken on the responsibility of all the Units in the 3rd, 4th, and 6th Districts, with the help of Units in the 4th District and one unit from the 6th District. This year due to my health problems I felt I could no longer continue doing the monthly parties. After President Nancy Knox could not find anyone who was willing to become Representative, I agreed to take the appointment with the exception of the monthly parties. I have asked for help on these from the units. (It should not be the responsibility of only the representative, this is an Auxiliary program and the 3rd, 4th, and 6th Districts are assigned to Battle Creek.) I am asking ONE DAY A YEAR for our Veterans. Taking over the monthly parties are very rewarding and fun. I just can no longer do the shopping and all of the work. I am more than willing to be at the hospital to show anyone who volunteers the things we do and will be glad to give information on what items need to be purchased. You would also be accompanied by a Recreational Therapist at all times. It takes about four or five people and Legion and S.A.L. Members are a great help. The donations made by several Units are a great help but volunteers are badly needed. Won't you and your unit PLEASE step forward and give ONE DAY A YEAR FOR OUR VETERANS? You can contact me at 1-269-684-3411.

I have agreed to take responsibility for coordinating the Carnival on October 9th. With the help of the Colon Unit from the 4th District (My District) I am also coordinating the Gift Shop, the Spring Golf Outing and the Fathers' Day Program. Lawrence Unit from the Fourth District and Swartz creek from the Sixth District have volunteered to host the September 2014 and June 2015 parties. But other units need to

step up. Money is available to defray expenses if the volunteer units cannot afford all of it. Most of what is needed is the volunteers. Hickory Corners Unit in the 4th District are also willing to do the evening Bingo in the winter months, something they have done for several years, if no one will step up ONE DAY A YEAR.

Battle Creek Gift Shop will be held in Building 6 on Wednesday and Thursday December 3rd and 4th. Information will be coming out from Department shortly on gifts for our Veterans and also the need for volunteers for the two days. Members of the Lawrence Unit have volunteered to do the shipping I have done in the past for the Ladies and anything else I feel we will need. So please put December 3rd and 4th on your calendar. Ribbon Cutting will be on Wednesday about 10:00 a.m. But volunteers are needed both days. Over the last few years we have had a wonderful turn out of volunteers and units have sent great gifts. Several Legion and S.A.L. members have helped in the past and I thank all of you for your help and hope to see all of you in the future.

Battle Creek will also continue with the Fathers' Day Program. Donations of general Fathers' Day Cards will be needed as well as monetary donations for canteen books. \$5.00 in canteen books will be included in the cards for male Veterans and Thinking of You Cards and canteen books will be given to female Veterans. Members of the Climax Unit have helped stuff the cards the past several years.

Donations for the monthly parties and other programs at Battle Creek are always greatly needed and appreciated. I am also attaching a copy of needs requested from the hospital.

My special project will continue to be shoes for Veterans along with other clothing needs as requested by the hospital.

Thank You to all of you for your help and PLEASE, PLEASE give our Veterans ONE DAY A YEAR.

VA&R: SOMETHING NEW

**Sharon Therrien,
Service To Veterans Chairman**

Beginning with this year, 2014-15, “Field Service” and “Home Service” have become one program operating under on title—“Service To Veterans.”

A new “Service To Veterans” pin has been designed to display your Hours earned and reported during the report period of April 1st through March 31st.

All Hours must be handed in to your Unit VA&R Chairman no later than March 31st, who in turn mails the Hours for Pins/Hour Bars to the

Department “Service To Veterans” Chairman: Sharon Therrien, 5570 Oakwood Rd., Ortonville, MI 48462, therrien@chartermi.net, (248) 342-7011, no later than April 30th. If you need the “Service To Veterans” Personal Log Sheet or the “Service To Veterans” Annual Report Form, please contact me.

Definitions of Service To Veterans which earn Pins/Hour Bars:

--Work done in your home for the benefit of homebound, sick or injured service members or veterans. These activities might include sewing, mending, laundry, babysitting while

the veteran attends medical appointments or rehab sessions.

--Preparation or creation food, lap quilts, Knitted or crocheted lap blankets, booties, ect., pocket flags or soldiers, flag cases or gift baskets/packages for homeless, hospitalized or any veteran in need.

--Work done on behalf of veterans in state or community based nursing homes/soldiers' homes, contract veterans' homes, day care centers, foster homes, halfway houses, hospices, homeless shelters or veteran gravesites or cemeteries.

--Any interactions where you can

reach out and touch the Veteran such as: Visiting or driving homebound, sick, wounded or injured veterans. Throwing a Unit Luncheon/Dinner for a group a Vets. Attending the funeral of a Veteran's family member (the veteran must be alive for you to be supporting him). Participating in activities or parades in which you are interacting with the veterans, giving hugs, feeding, handing out Poppies or gifts, ect...

**Hours spent caring for a relative are not eligible for credit of volunteer hours. Check an Auxiliary Membership Form for definition of “relative.”

Standing Rules: Administration of the Unit

Diana Bancroft Mella, Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

Each year, units are reminded to review their standing rules. Standing rules are rules and regulations which relate to the details of administration for the unit. A few examples of standing rules are: the day, time, and place of monthly meetings; how much the unit's dues are; when elections will be held and whether the secretary and/or treasurer are elected or appointed; and when installations of officers are held. Standing rules need to be updated at least every three (3) years and sent to the Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman for approval. Even if there are no changes since the last standing rules, a form stating there are no changes must still be sent to the department chairman.

Districts are also required to update their bylaws and standing rules every three (3) years, using the same procedure. Because there are no uniform bylaws for the district, the Department of Michigan

Standing Rules state, "each district shall organize and compose bylaws in conformity with the Department and National Constitution and Bylaws". All new bylaws become effective only after approval by the Department Constitution and Bylaws Chairman.

Each unit and district should have copies of the latest revision of the National Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules, Department of Michigan Constitution and Bylaws, and District Bylaws and Standing Rules. Also, each unit member should be provided with a copy of their unit standing rules. By familiarizing themselves with this document, meetings will be shorter and will run more efficiently and smoothly. Items that are repeated annually, monthly or periodically that are included in your standing rules would not need long discussions.

With President Nancy's motto this year, "Little Change, BIG Difference for Our Veterans", let's all strive to make a difference by making sure all unit and district documents are up to date.

Who We Are—What We Do— Why We Matter

Mary Jorae, Public Relations Chairman

Public Relations is about telling the story of Who We Are, What We Do and Why We Matter. The story could be as short as an advertisement for an upcoming event or as detailed as explaining one of our programs. It could be written or verbal. It could be local or widespread.

Who We Are - we are the ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary - the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. While our numbers have dwindled over the past few years, we are gearing up for the Centennial anniversary in 2019. Our goal is to be 1 million members strong by that anniversary.

What We Do - In the spirit of Service, not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support the Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our Veterans, military and their families, and our communities. We do this through our many programs such as serving the Veterans and active military through VA & R and the Poppy program; we help the families through such programs as Children & Youth, Girls State, and Education; we help our communities through Community Service and Americanism. These programs often overlap in their scope and execution. Public Relations should be a part

of each endeavor so that we can tell our story to those who do not know. Promoting what we do is one way to help reach that million member goal.

Why We Matter - Over the years, the American Legion Family has influenced considerable social change in America, won hundreds of benefits for Veterans, helped military families through transition and produced many important programs for our country's youth. Our Veterans, as well as our military families, deserve all the respect and support we can offer them. Last year the ALA served over 3.5 million Veterans and military families, raising/spending over \$20.7 million dollars for our Veterans and military families, and donating over 5 million volunteer hours. This is why we matter.

I encourage each Unit to develop a Public Relations plan to get the word out in your community. If you have not already done so, check out all the useful tools and resources at the national website : www.ALAforVeterans.org. From posters and brochures to the ALA Branding Guide, from prepared PSAs to the Honor Their Service button order form, there are many tools available. Discuss your successes and challenges at your District meetings. Share your story - a good Public Relations plan will help you be successful with your other programs and let everyone know Who We Are, What We Do, and Why We Matter.

John D. Dingell V.A.M.C.: Making Changes to Better Serve Our Vets

Artensia Wynn, John D. Dingell VAMC Representative

Located on the border of Detroit Medical Center since 1995, Dingell VAMC is changing all services for mental illness. They are now in one location. The chemo lab has a new warm feeling. The pharmacy waiting area has a new look. There's additional parking. Other changes are coming of which will be an expanded emergency room. We extend our support where needed. This past winter (you do remember this past winter) called for us to provide single serve soup to the U.C.C.R. program. We also helped out in the warming center at the hospital.

There's a beautiful tranquil garden and I'd like to see an-

other one in the nursing home and hospice floor. They look like neighborhoods with their lace curtain affects and mailboxes. Listed are just a few areas of the large center.

We annually help with the June patient carnival, the February Art show, the Salute the hospitalized Veterans week, and twice a year we provide bus tickets and passes for Valentine's Day and we make Mother's Day gifts for our female veterans. We partner with other organizations. Our Christmas gift days are December 8, 9, and 10th.

We have a special project and it is hopefully to get computers for various areas in the hospital. We'll still need support for all of our activities.

Let's Be Proactive for Our Students

Jan Hafeman, Chairman, Education Committee

The school bell is ringing our American Legion Auxiliary needs to be proactive for our students.

Remember that a portion of our students do not have the resources to purchase school supplies. Your Unit can assist them and through the "Give 10 to Education" program and earn a national award by doing so. Sponsor a drive for school supplies and donate these to the schools. Things that you might include are backpacks, pencil boxes or bags, No. 2 pencils, pens, erasers, crayons, markers, colored pencils, scissors, tape, rulers, pocket folders, calculators, loose-leaf paper, notebooks, composition books, three ring binders, computer flash drives, and Kleenex. Don't forget that these items are also needed throughout the school year, so if they are not used right away, they will be. And don't forget that winter weather is coming up. Sponsor a coat, hat and mitten drive.

This is also a good time to visit school counselors, school principals and government teachers and English teachers to remind them of some of the programs the American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion have. These include the Americanism Essay Contests, the American Legion Oratorical Competition, Girls State and Boys State, and scholarship opportunities. Bring along information on these programs, and set up a date to talk to students about these. Also, suggest that a member of your auxiliary be on hand

for Parent Teacher conferences to talk to parents about these opportunities. And if you do go, bring along literature on the programs.

Now is a good time to survey your Legion members to see who would be willing to talk to students about their service experiences. The Veterans in the Classroom project gives students first person accounts of what they experienced, and since all of our Legionnaire's are war-time vets, this can help students gain knowledge and enthusiasm about our history. Talk to your principal or teacher about the project and make arrangements to visit classrooms.

Schools are always in need of help. If any of our Auxiliary members have time on their hands, volunteering at schools is very rewarding. You might read to or with students, help teachers get materials together, help chaperone field trips or other events, or assist in a number of ways. Check with your school for opportunities.

We've sent our students off to college, and it is a good time to remind them that we care about them. Care packages are always appreciated, especially if students are far from home.

Education week is November 17th through 21st. This is the time to thank school personnel. An apple, a card, or a small memento recognizes their work, thoughtfulness, creativity, caring and dedication to our students. It's not just teachers who need to be thanked; administrators, support staff and volunteers need recognition as well.

10th District Report

**Kenneth B. Burtch, Jr.,
District Commander**

Well, it looks like you are going to have to put up with me for another year. Having been nominated as the 2014-2015 District Commander, I hope to do a more efficient job this time. I also hope that the communication between all 30 Posts, and myself will help the Mighty 10th to reach greater goals in membership. I have also set up a 10th District Facebook page to help with that endeavor. I want to encourage all 10th District members to use this Facebook page to advertize their Post activities, weddings, anniversaries, death notices, etc. Please do not use it to sell personal items. Post sales which add to our comradeship are welcome. You can find this Facebook page by search for "Michigan 10th District of American Legion."

It is set up so any member can post to

it. I will continue my slogan, "Become a walking billboard" this year, it is important that we "Show off our Organization". We need to shine our light in our communities; down south we refer to that as, "Drinking our own bath water". Comrades, it does not hurt us in any way as long as we have something to brag about.

Last year I visited 26 of 30 posts and look forward to seeing the other 4 soon, as well as visiting the other Posts as time allows. I again covet your prayers for safe travels and wisdom as I travel the 14 counties that the 10th District covers. I would also like to ask each post commander to attend the District meetings or have a representative there.

If there is anything I can be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to call me. I am here to help. (989) 941-8412 or email kennethburtch69@gmail.com

4th Zone Report

Joe Renis, 4th Zone Commander

Greetings to all in the 9th, 10th and 19th Districts. I am your new Zone Commander and I am looking forward to meeting you and visiting your Posts this year. I know that there are many new Officers in each of the Posts. I recommend that those that are new to their position attend the Department Fall Conference in Muskegon, 26-28 Sept. This is a teaching conference and although it would be nice to be there the entire time, the important day is Saturday, the 27th. Classes will be held on membership, finance, Boys State, and Service Officer updates. Please try to

plan to attend to increase the effectiveness of your Post. I also challenge each Post to do something new. Whether it be Americanism, supporting the schools for Children and Youth, or increasing activities is reaching out to Veterans. I know you can't do it all, but look at what programs are available and continually improve what your Post can do. I also challenge your Posts to get their members to recruit new members. Your Legionnaires are out there and provide the closest contact to veterans that are not members. All they have to do is ask. I hope everyone had a great summer and am looking to see you throughout the upcoming year.

American Legion Post 195, Jonesville, MI

Promoting "Old Glory" - Americanism

By Mark Sutton, PR Director

Like any Post that wants to be active, the Post must decide what they will be active with. The American Legion has over 20 different programs under the 4 founding pillars that a post can promote and actively work. The Boyce-Bunce-Carpenter Post 195 in Jonesville, Michigan actively promotes "Old Glory", the Stars and Stripes of our great country. They do this in 2 ways.

The first way they do this is by promoting and selling flags through the American Legion Emblem Sales Flag reward program. In 2013, this post ranked 9th in the entire country for "Flag Rewards" and number 1 in Michigan. Selling through the Flag Rewards program earns the post credits they can use at Emblem sales. To learn more about Flag rewards visit emblem.legion.org and click Flag Rewards on the left side at the bottom.



American Legion Post 203

Honoring Our Veterans, Locally

On August 31, 2014, the Belding, Michigan, Hugo Fales Post # 203, held a memorial dedication of a new special monument to honor the veterans of the Great War, World War 1.

The new monument had a picture of Mr. Hugo Fales etched onto the stone, he was a WWI veteran, a prominent citizen and Post # 203 was named in his honor!

Post # 203, Commander Scott Hutchison made a fine dedication speech, after which, Commander Hutchison and Michigan, 8th District Commander Lee Bolton unveiled the new monument.



Logistics industry needs your experience

HELP WANTED!! MILITARY EXPERIENCE PREFERRED

Every day, our normal lives are impacted by the logistic sector of our economy. From the gas we pump, the food we eat, the medications we take, to the cars we all drive are each available to us because of logistics. And logistics is not a simple industry. Logistic jobs range from the dispatchers to the long-haul truck drivers and everything in between. Logistics is the forklift driver, the short-run truck hauler, the FedEx delivery worker, the medical supply delivery, and the workers in a shipping yard moving freight to where it needs to go.

If the logistics industry lacks properly trained employees, the U.S. economy slows to a crawl, regardless of the demand for goods. Turnover in parts of this industry can be as high as 92%, and one Michigan Teamster Local says 30% of his drivers will

be retiring in the next 2 years.

The good news is that logistics is a great fit for veterans since most of what we all did in the military was logistics. We understand getting from point A to point B. We understand deadlines, mission, and operational tempo. Veterans know hard work and thrive on it.

How hard is it to enter the logistics industry? According to Scott Taylor, founder of Driving for America (DFA) in Detroit, Michigan, "...about 4 weeks of hands on training." After four weeks of training the student is ready to take their CDL-A driving test and written test. Speaking with Greg Humes, the school is able to place 100% of their students who pass, "with companies who are looking for people who want to grow within a company. The companies have room for advancement and different logistic jobs, not just truck driving."

A myth about truck driving is that a person spends days on end in a truck hauling, but the truth is that up to 80% of truck drivers are home each night. It is not just about big rigs; it is also the staight trucks, FedEx, and UPS delivery trucks and other small haulers that move freight from warehouse to store or warehouse to home.

Driving for America is looking for students who are interested in a career in logistics. They are offering an incentive for referrals for post-9/11 veterans. The DFA Find the Best and Earn program offers an incentive of \$250 to anyone that refers a eligible post-9/11 veteran who registers and attends a week of class. An additional \$250 is paid to the referrer when that same veteran finishes the course and passes the CDL certification for a total of \$500 for each veteran referred to the school.

To make a referral is easy. All referrals are taken right on the website at <http://www.drivingforamerica.com/dfa-referral-rewards-program>. Fill out the form and DFA's recruiters and staff will take it from there. DFA accepts the G.I. Bill and they have a scholarship program to assist with tuition for those looking to start a career as a truck driver.

To learn more about Driving for America visit www.drivingforamerica.com or call 855-374-8350.

The second way they promote is through the proper disposal of US Flags during their Flag Day ceremonies. When you sell several flags, you receive old flags to dispose of properly.

At a spring meeting the commander told the group that one of our fire pits needed to be replaced. One of the members said "why don't we go out to NEFCO Metals Sales & Service, and see if they could make us one?"

Steve Harding, the owner of NEFCO, was happy to help and his creative workers and staff put together 2 fire pits (see picture) for the Post to use at their ceremonies. "I just wanted to give something back to those who served" Mr. Harding said. The Post now has 2 custom pits to use on Flag Day.

The pits were used at the Posts 2014 Flag Day event at "Freedom Memorial" park in Jonesville this past June. They retired 100 flags that day. Proper flag etiquette is important to the fabric of America and Post 195 is doing what it can to remind the community just how important it is.

Legion Events...



State Cmdr Wallace presented a check on behalf of Pinckney Post 419 for the National Legacy Fund



President Obama addressed the 2014 National Convention in Charlotte, NC.



Ken Miller Post 4 Commander presents a check for the National Legacy Fund from Post 4.



Ret. Marine and News Correspondent Oliver North was awarded the 2014 Public Relations Award



The National Convention was held in Charlotte North Carolina, attached to the convention center was the NASCAR Hall of Fame



L-R State Adjutant Pat Lafferty, Gov. Rick Snyder, State Cmdr Jim Wallace attended the press conference for the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency partnership with United Way service 2-1-1



State Adjutant Ron Runyan and Legionnaire Larry Money carried the colors for the Michigan Delegation in the National Parade.



L-R State Cmdr Jim Wallace, 2014 Boys State Governor Ryan Comrie, and Boys State Chairman Jerry Kelley. Ryan received an award for being elected as Governor at 2014 Boys State held in June.



PDC Gerrit Veldman with State Cmdr Jim Wallace and 9th District Cmdr Neal Horning. The 9th District presented PDC Veldman with an Outstanding Achievement Award for his work and dedication to the 9th District and the veterans he serves.



L-R Natl Leading Candidate Dale Barnett, State Cmdr Jim Wallace, and NEC John Skinner. Dale visited Michigan as he campaigns for the office of National Commander.



L-R Jim Saur 3rd District Cmdr, Al Ford, Post Development Chairman, State Comdr Jim Wallace, and 2nd Zone Cmdr Jim Carlin. Jim Carlin presents a check for \$1000 for the Patriot Fund to State Cmdr from Post332 in the 2nd Zone.



Photo to the Right: L-R Jeff McGinnis Post 217 Adjutant, Ed Gorecki, Post 217 Commander, State Cmdr Jim Wallace, and Gary Tanner Reconnect Committee Chairman. Post 217 are the recipients of the 2014 James Schutze Award.



STUDENT TROOPER

Michigan State Police Student Trooper Program

Do you know a high school student, 16 to 18 years of age?

Who is interested in learning about Law Enforcement?

They will spend 1 week at the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing, Michigan being exposed to all the areas of law enforcement.

- They will:
- Learn the proper handling of firearms
 - Experience the adrenaline of driving at a high rate speed..
 - Learn self-defense techniques
 - Learn water safety
 - Classes on crime lab and forensic
 - Along with intense physical training

Top Student Trooper of the week wins a \$1000 Scholarship
3 other categories win \$500 each

Class is being offered: July 19 - 24, 2015 (Application deadline May 29, 2015)

Cost to attend is \$390 per student. Ask your Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, civic organization, local business, or other organization to sponsor them.

Find more information at: www.michiganlegion.org/trooper or call Roxanne at (517) 371-4720 ext 23



William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship

Scholarship available to only Michigan residents who are attending high school or college – no bachelor's degree,

- Who are a son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to or are attending any nationally accredited college or university.

- Selection is based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grandparent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Submit the scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the deadline date of January 12, 2015 (not postmarked by).

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/brewer.html

The scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable.



ORATORIAL

Oratorical Contest Scholarship

The High School Oratorical Contest began in Kansas City, Missouri in 1934-1935. The primary purpose of the contest is to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

A contestant must be sponsored by a American Legion Post to qualify for the contest.

Contestants have an opportunity to win \$800 to \$1,500 in scholarship money at the department level. Those moving on to the National Contest compete for up to \$18,000 in scholarship money.

2015 Program deadlines:

- Contestant must register with the Oratorical Zone Chairman by Monday, January 2nd, 2015.
- Zone Contests must be completed by January 26th, 2015
- Department contest will be on February 21st, 2015

If you are interested visit your local American Legion Post and ask them if you can represent them at the contest.

www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical



Wilson Scholarship

Guy Wilson Scholarship

Scholarship available to only Michigan residents attending high school and

- A son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to attend any Michigan accredited college or university.

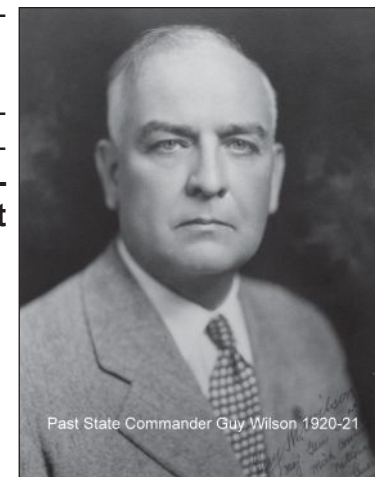
- Selection based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grand-

parent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Send scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the **deadline date of January 12, 2015 (not postmarked by).**

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/wilson.html

Scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable



Past State Commander Guy Wilson 1920-21



EAGLE SCOUT

Eagle Scout of the Year Award

Our Eagle Scout of the Year Award candidate for American Legion Michigan Department will receive a \$1,000.00 college scholarship.

By adding this \$1000.00 scholarship for our Eagle Scout of the Year this will help all of our American Legion Michigan Department scouting advocates to have something special to help promote and enlist more applicants for this award.

I want to thank all those zone, district and post scouting chairman for all your efforts in promoting scouting in Michigan. American Legion Michigan Department charters approximately 70 scout units in Michigan and involves over 2000 scouts. The American Legion charters more than 2500 scout units nation wide. The Boy Scouts of America Organization involves more than 2.7 million youth and 1.2 million adult volunteers. The American Legion has had a close relationship with the Boy Scouts since 1919.

American Legion Posts are teaming up with local scout units in a number of activities. Maybe your post can get your local scouts involved in some of the below listed activities:

- March in parades
- Flag Day and Flag disposal ceremony
- Poppy Day sales
- Help serve at special dinners for veterans and families as 4th of July and Christmas.
- Putting Flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day
- Helping with projects at our Michigan Department Wilwin Lodge

Bob Mazzuca, chief executive for the Boy Scouts of America spoke at the Legion's 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Mazzuca shared that many Boy Scouts get their start at American Legion Posts, and described how such a start ends up with impressive results. "And at the end of that boy's journey is embedded another chromosome called leadership." Mazzuca said. Other values have been embedded; service, duty to God and Country, leadership and respect for others. "I'd say that's a pretty good product." The Boy Scouts of America could not do that alone, Mazzuca said.

"But in partnership with this marvelous organization call The American Legion and dozens of others across the country, we change lives every day".

Thank you for supporting scouting in Michigan and if there are any questions please contact the office in Lansing or Scouting subcommittee chairman Carl Atkinson at (269) 945-3526

www.michiganlegion.org/eaglescout

Department deadline: March 1, 2015
National deadline: April 1, 2015

Don't Forget the Young Girls in Schools



When promoting Boys State, be sure to mention that the American Legion Auxiliary hosts a Girls State program similar to the Boys State. Theirs will be held at Michigan State University June 14 – June 20, 2015

Find information at the Michigan Auxiliary web site www.michalaux.org (select scholarships on the right)

2015 Memorial Scholarship \$500.00
2015 Non-Traditional Student \$500.00
2015 Medical Career Scholarship \$500.00
\$20,000 Samsung Scholarship through the Girls State Program See their National site for 3 more scholarships www.alaforveterans.org (under "What we do")



BASEBALL

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Any Team Manager or Head Coach of an American Legion (Post – affiliated) team may nominate one player for consideration of this award.

The scholarship application is found online at:
www.legion.org/baseball

Each Department (state) Baseball Committee will select a registered American Legion Player who best meets the qualifications as the 2015 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner.

The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship

Robert (Bob) Turner was born in 1922 in Woodsfield, OH. As a child, his family moved to Crystal, MI in 1935. Bob served in the United States Army Air Corp. during World War II from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in March of 1946; reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was stationed on Seymour Island and received a Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Star, and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In the middle 1970s, his oldest son Bryce played Michigan American Legion Baseball. Bob supported the team by attending many of the games and was a life-long fan of baseball. The initial "seeds" for the Robert Turner Scholarship were donated in honor of his life and memory. The vision and hope is that this academic scholarship fund will "grow" to support and invest in many more youth seeking to fulfill their dreams in the years ahead.



Scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2015 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and who are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. Selection is based on the application information, the student's GPA of 2.5 or higher, and two letters of testimony (one from the American Legion coach or team manager, and the other from a community leader, school official or minister). The scholarship award amount is \$500. Deadline date is July 1, 2015 (not postmarked by).

The scholarship application is found online at:
www.legion.org/baseball

For the most up to date information on American Legion Department of Michigan Scholarships please visit:

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships

For applications, email:
packet@michiganlegion.org