

LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 2

Ron Runyan

The American Legion Department of Michigan Appoints a New State Adjutant



At the 2014 Winter Meeting current State Adjutant Pat Lafferty announced he would be retiring in March of 2015. The search began for a new state adjutant. Many applications were received and the committee conducted interviews in August.

The committee lead by State Commander Jim Wallace has appointed Ron Runyan to become the new State Adjutant for the Department of Michigan. Ron is a US Navy veteran from the Persian Gulf War era, a member of American Legion Post 217, and resident of Clark Lake, Michigan. He has served as Post Adjutant, Post Commander, District Commander, and held a variety of Department and National appointments over his 18 year membership in the Legion.

Ron will begin the transition process after Labor Day.

9th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade will end INSIDE Comerica Park*

The 2014 9th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade will be Saturday November 8th, 2014 starting at 0900 (9AM) at 2951 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan. This year's event will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. *If the Detroit Tigers make it to the World Series and a game is played that day, alternate plans will be implemented. A special program will be held inside Comerica Park attended by Local and State Officials to welcome our veterans home.

Participants, Floats, Bands, and Veterans Wanted

The Parade committee is seeking marching participants to be in the parade. If you, your Post, or a spe-

cial group would like to participate in the parade you may download registration forms by visiting www.detroitveteransdayparade.org. Registration is due by September 30th, 2014, if you have questions contact email : mdvc@detroitveteransdayparade.org or call 313-861-8652

Bring family and friends down

On November 8th, 2014 bring the whole family down, friends, and everyone who appreciates the sacrifices our veterans and military service men and women have made.

See you November 8th, 2014

In Comerica Park following the parade

The Metropolitan Detroit Veterans Coalition Needs Help to Honor 10 Vietnam Veterans

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 person-

nel 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 veter-

ans.

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.

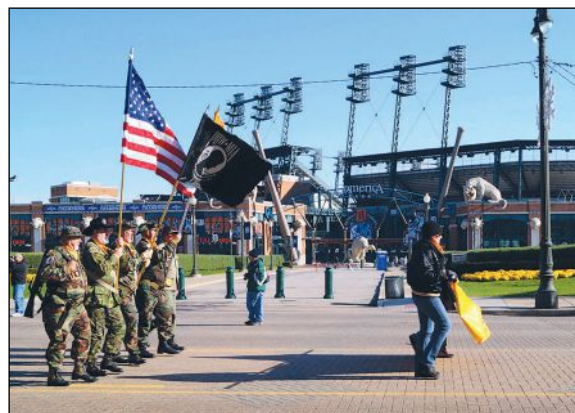
Email to mdvc@detroitveteransdayparade.org OR Mail To: Dick Chatman, 20209 Briarcliff RD. Detroit, MI. 48221 Questions Call: Dick Chatman (H) 313.861.6852 (C) 313.204.7227 Nomination due by Oct. 17, 2014.

"If you ever wanted to say 'Thank you' to a Vietnam Veteran for their sacrifice and courage then you need to come to this event. Let's fill Comerica Park."

General Mike Stone



Images from the 2013 Detroit Veterans Day Parade marching in front of Comerica Park.



No Return Postage Requested

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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 Only Written Official Call
Annual Fall Conference
American Legion, Department of Michigan
September 26-28, 2014
Holiday Inn Muskegon, Michigan
State Commander Jim Wallace

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

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

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

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, September 26th, 4:30 p.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings – Friday, September 26th- meetings begin at 9 am See schedule page 14 or at www.michiganlegion.org (subject to change)

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

Schools of Instruction: Saturday, September 27th

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, September 28th, 9:00 a.m.

Chaplain

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

“WHY REMEMBER 9/11?”



Today, people are still asking the question, “Why should we still remember 9/11/2001?” Years ago, I answered that question with an article that still holds true. I would like to re-print and see if you believe in the importance of remembering 9/11 again.

“It hardly seems possible that a year ago we saw those fateful television images of blue sky, white buildings and an orange-black fire ball. We saw the tumbling of the World Trade Centers, unbelievable thoughts of the Pentagon on fire and a plane going down in a field in Pennsylvania. We saw the horror, the bravery of rescuers and the anguish of family members, searching for their loved ones. We will never forget that day! Over 3,000 people died in one day and later, some of our soldiers dying from the fighting in Afghanistan and then, their

people dying as well. Teenagers as well as adults have said this day had changed their lives and that “America will never be the same!”

“So, why should we remember that day, 9/11? Some Americans will tell us, “Why remember something so terrible as this? These people are gone. You can’t bring them back. Why relive the tragedy all over again? Why go through that pain and suffering again?”

“Why remember 9/11? SIX reasons why! 1. To remind us that America is vulnerable and can be attacked from within and that the enemy does not have to have great military might to attack our nation. 2. To tell families of those who died, that we still grieve with them and their loved ones did not die in vain. 3. To say thank you to those who rescued and served night and day in their efforts at Ground Zero. 4. To tell our President that he has our prayers

and support in leading the fight against terrorism. 5. We will continue to love our flag and country with the greatest respect because we love America. Lastly, 6. We will remember because we called upon God to bless our nation and to heal our wounds and HE answered the call! God gives healing and hope in the midst of uncertainty. HE gives to us a heart to remember, so as God’s people we will ALWAYS remember 9-11!

“Someone has said of God: “There is no disaster that He can’t repair! There is no conflict, that He can’t bring final harmony! There is no failure, that He can turn it into His plan! There is no grief, that He can’t bring encouragement by another person!”

It’s great to be back to serve as your Department Chaplain. Thank you for our past leadership from our Department Chaplain, Jennifer Smith for the past years. God bless you!

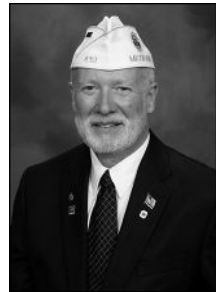
STATE OFFICERS

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

Headquarters



Jim Wallace, State Commander



Jim Wallace
State Commander

I am proud to be a part of the Legion Family. I have and will continue to work diligently in assisting all organizations, programs and activities within the Legion Family to maintain, grow and expand. I talk the talk and continue to walk the walk, how about you! How do we do that? First, by meeting on equal ground and discussing what each of us do to help veterans, their families and the community and how we accomplish our goals. We might find that we are doing the same things for our programs and repeating the work to accomplish what we are trying to do. Second, we must work together to promote each other and spend our time wisely. We can promote each ones membership into our Family. If you are talking to a veteran, ask about a spouse and any

children. Ask if they enjoy motorcycles. Ask if they are interested in a special program or activity within the Family. Don't stop there; I am sure you have many other ways to help grow membership. Use them. As you have heard before, membership is the life blood of our Family, our programs and activities.

The Legion Family must promote each other by patting ourselves on the back when we do activities within the community. We must let the general public know we are in the area and that we have an active American Legion Family. Try this, it just might work. If they don't know, they will not come. With that being said.....

"NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS TO COME TO THE AID OF THE VETERANS"

As Commander I am asked to announce a project to help veterans, their families and/or the American Legion. I believe I have chosen a project that will help all of the above. It is the.....

PATROIT FUND

Several months ago while searching for the project that would best describe the American Legion and its ideals, I happened to be talking to Gary Tanner, Chairman of the Reconnect Committee, Department of Michigan. During our conversation he mentioned that one of his funds for Reconnect (Patriot Fund) was out of money due to the large request for assistance. This program was usually funded by ACO Hardware annually. ACO Hardware was merged into ACE Hardware and ACE Hardware could not donate funds this year due to the acquisition. The Patriot Fund is funded by donations only, therefore, it was left high and dry.

The Patriot Fund was created to provide Emergency Temporary Financial Assistance to all Veterans, Active Duty Service members and their families in time of need and is specifically intended to help veterans who do not qualify for other existing Financial Relief programs. This fund is one of the few, if not the only fund available, to as-

sist non-wartime veterans in our state.

The Patriot Fund needs the assistance of the entire Legion Family to rebuild this vital, one of a kind, Veteran Assistance Fund in Michigan. The Reconnect Committee and I are asking for a donation of a minimum of \$1.00 per member from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the American Legion Riders in hopes of making this fund a self-sustaining endowment fund. The vital importance for this fund will grow due to the increasing number of veterans and the impending draw down in Afghanistan.

All contributions should be sent to Department Headquarters attention: Finance. Please make checks payable to: The American Legion, Department of Michigan w/memo line: Patriot Fund. I, along with Gary, thank you for your consideration.

I am looking forward to seeing the Legion Family at Fall Conference, Muskegon, MI September 25-28, 2014. Let's talk about what we need to do for 2014-2015 and beyond.

Patrick Lafferty, State Adjutant

Latest Update

Appropriate Documentation for IRS Membership Audit



Patrick Lafferty
State Adjutant

Legionnaires while I attended the annual membership workshop in Indianapolis spoke with the National Judge Advocate and he gave me an opinion from a law firm concerning maintaining DD-214's or complying with the IRS if your Post is ever audited. This is a brief

description of the findings. To see the full report go to www.michiganlegion.org/fyi, we will place the full opinion there.

Guidance to American Legion Posts on Appropriate Documentation for IRS Membership Audit

While no one but the assigned IRS auditor/agent can be certain exactly what documentation will satisfy an audit, the National Organization has requested an opinion from the law firm of Barnes & Thornburg LLP. A complete copy of this letter is attached.

The key points in this letter include the following citations:

1) IRS Code Section 501(c)(19): "provides an exemption from federal tax for a post... (where) (C) no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual."

2) The Internal Revenue Manual Section 4.76.26.12 (01-27-2011) which provides "guidelines to assist IRS examining agents in determining the composition of membership..." states that "...the IRS agent should review (among other things) the following: Membership applications, DD Forms 214, or {emphasis added} other discharge documents

3) And from the Director of Exempt Organizations Examinations regarding an organization's (post's) membership list: "Organizations should be informed that to satisfy this request they may provide membership applications, membership cards, or other similar documents, other than DO Form

214."

The final opinion issued by Barnes & Thornburg LLP:

"Based upon the foregoing, and subject to the limitations set forth herein, we are of the following opinion as of the date hereof:

The American Legion is not required to collect and maintain copies of members' DD Forms 214 so long as the American Legion accurately collects and maintains (and provides to the IRS agent upon a reasonable request) documentation of the composition of its membership, including the members' names, military service dates, and status information (active duty, veteran, etc.) and documentation supporting the aforementioned (including the membership applications)."

WARNING

If posts choose to require a DD-214 to be maintained, we warn of the risks and liabilities of maintaining a personal private document that contains confi-

dential data and recommend that, at a minimum, the fields containing Social Security Number and Date of Birth be marked out to the point that they cannot be read. And furthermore, posts should advise the potential member to mark out any other fields they wish to keep confidential other than Date of Entry, Date of Discharge and Armed Forces Components (branch of service). Posts electing to require a DD-214 should also be aware that asking a potential member to provide a copy (especially for retention purposes) can be a deterrent to many veterans who would otherwise join The American Legion.

In lieu of a DD Form 214, and in accordance with the IRS Manual and the Exempt Organizations Examinations directives, The American Legion National Organization recommends that posts require members to complete and sign a membership application, and that posts retain this application for IRS membership audit purposes.

2015 Membership Campaign Begins Now



First I would like to thank Commander Wallace for appointing me to serve the Department of Michigan as Membership Director. The Membership TEAM will have a slightly different look this year. Commander Wallace suggested that we add another member to the TEAM, and split the Lower Peninsula in half, to better serve the membership. To that end Larry Money has agreed to stay on the TEAM, and cover the Western half of the state. At the 30 Day Meeting I challenged 17th District Commander Kevin Gilliam to repeat his outstanding year of 100% plus membership. I further challenged the rest of the DEC and now challenge everyone, to surpass the 17th District. We will be in Indianapolis in a few days for the National Membership Workshop and be finding out this year's Membership Program. Together with the incentives we have planned at the State level, it should be a very good year for Membership in Michigan. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference to roll out our Membership Incentives for the coming Membership Year.

Legion Riders

Tom Howard
ALR Chairman / Detachment of Michigan

So we are mid riding season 2014 and I cannot stress safety enough. When is the last time you actually checked your tire pressure. I really hate doing Rider funerals that could have been prevented. I have received a lot of calls in the last few months on items and a few hit on the same topic of showing the public what we do as Michigan Legion Riders. Most of that actually falls on you. Submit articles to the local newspaper. I will be trying to get a section on the Michigan Riders web site for pictures. Working with WWII Vet's, handicapped kids, homeless Vet's projects, picnics at VA homes. Send me your pictures. Now the calendar on the web site is very under used. Please send in rides for this great feature Roxanne and headquarters have created for us. Have gotten calls on chapter cross support. As you know we are a Post level function. It's up to you to get with other chapters and try to support each others events. In many areas this starts in the winter planning the next years events. Get as many local chapter's together as you can and start planning early. Please also remember that Sunday events can work also. So many Sunday's are open while we choose from usually many events what one to go on Saturday. New member brochures are available as long as I can continue to get them. these are the tri fold brochures that you can put a local chapter contact on that explains what the Legion Riders are about. Lastly let us all remember and let people know that we are SAL, Legion, or Auxiliary that form the Riders. Many of our own Legion Family still talk about the Riders as if we are a different entity, but I guess that may be a good thing in a way as the Riders continue to be a strong and important part making the Legion Family. Questions, comments, pictures for the web site can be directed to me. Email speedbump48813@hotmail.com

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

1st District

Sept 8, 2014 @ Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit, MI
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

3rd District

Executive Committee @ 11:30 AM
Lunch @ 12:00 Noon
Meeting @ 1:00 PM
Sept 7th 2014 @ Post 36 - 1920 E. Kilgore Service Rd, Kalamazoo, MI
Nov 2nd 2014 @ Post 42 - 1000 W. Lawrence, Charlotte, MI
Jan 11th 2015 @ Post 298 - 228 N. 20th St, Battle Creek, MI
Mar 8th 2015 @ Post 53 - 1611 Steamburg Rd, Hillsdale, MI
May 3rd 2015 @ Post 55 - 1230 Edwards St, Albion, MI

4th District

September 14, 2014 @Sturgis Post 73
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
Sept 11, 2014 @ Post 6 - 10820 PawPaw Dr., Holland
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
Sept 14, 2014 @ Post 491 - 422 Woodworth St, Leslie, MI
Nov 2nd, 2014 @ Post 64 - 4314 W. Carpenter Rd, Flint, MI
Jan 11th, 2015 @ Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney, MI
March 8th, 2015 @ Post 269 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI
May 3rd, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison, MI

7th District

August 10th, 2014 @ Mt Clemens Post
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

Sept 7th, 2014 @ Elsie Post 502
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 yet to be determined
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

September 6, 2014 @Linwood Post 239.
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

16th District

Meetings begin at 7:30PM
* Service officer School at 6:30PM
Sept 9th, 2014 @ Allen Park Post 409 Dual meeting
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
Sept 17, 2014 @ Post 32, Livonia
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
July 13th, 2014 @ Post 172
Sept 14, 2014 @ Post 149
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

Fall meeting @ Post 122 Wolverine
Winter meeting @ Post 458 Gaylord at the Eagles building S Otsego Ave.
Service officer school both meetings at 11am, Lunch at 12, Meeting at 1PM



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox

A B C'S FOR BEING A GOOD MEMBER



- A. Attend your unit and district meetings regularly.
- B. Be a working member- a few minutes or hours monthly will qualify you!
- C. Check out the facts before repeating things told you.
- D. Do not walk between the flags and banner, or between chairman and speaker
- E. Express yourself freely and honestly at meetings – not after.
- F. Familiarize yourself with each pro-

- gram
- G. Give proper respect to all officers in their official capacity.
- H. Have an adequate knowledge of parliamentary procedure.
- I. It is your duty to vote on matters, but don't feel compelled to do so. By not voting, your silence indicates you favor the matter being voted upon.
- J. Join in discussions at meetings. Join the group activities. You will learn and have fun doing it.
- K. Kindle that spark of friendliness and enthusiasm within yourself.

- L. Listen to and respect the opinion of others
- M. Membership is everyone's responsibility.
- N. No speaking across to members- always through the chair.
- O. Obey the rules of the organization
- P. Pay your dues on time – the earlier the better.
- Q. Question reports and actions you don't fully understand.
- R. Refrain from taking while business is being transacted or while a speaker is giving a report.



Department Secretary, Bonnie Olsen

Fall Conference- September 26-28, 2014

Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor,
Muskegon, Michigan

Office Hours:

Friday—1:00-7:00 and Saturday—8:30-12:00 &
12:30 - 3:00

Thursday—September 25—Registration

Friday—September 26--Registration

Lunch Break—12:00-1:00

3:00—5:00 DEC Meeting

7:00—Opening Session

8:00—President's Workshop

8:10—Secretary's Workshop

Saturday—September 27--Registration

9:00 Continue Schools of Instruction

9:00-9:10 Americanism

9:10-9:20 Auxiliary Emergency Fund

9:20-9:30 Children & Youth

9:30-9:40 Community Service

9:40-9:50 Constitution & By-Laws

9:50-10:00 Education

10:00-10:10 Finance

10:10-10:30 Girls State

10:30-10:40 Junior Activities

10:40-10:50 Leadership

10:50-11:00 Legislative

11:00-11:10 Membership

11:10-11:20
11:20-11:30
11:30-11:40
11:40-11:50
11:50-12:00
12:00-1:00

ALAMIS
Music
National Security
Past President's Parley
Poppy
Lunch Break
(District Presidents/Officers Lunch)
Guest Speaker
Public Relations
Resolutions
Strategic Planning
VA&R
--Hospital Director
--Service to Veterans Director
--Homeless Veterans Director

Thank you for attending Fall Conference --
have a safe journey home



- S. Study Unit/District/Department and National Bylaws and Standing Rules.
- T. Take an active participation in meetings, but do not monopolize.
- U. Unite your talents and ideas with other members to insure successful ventures.
- V. Volunteer..... your time..... your energy..... and your best efforts.
- W. Wear your American Legion Auxiliary pin over your heart proudly!
- X.Marks the spot on the membership application forms where new members sign their name.
- Y. You ... the member... are the most valuable assets of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- Z. Zealous members make our organization prosper and grow.

I found this article and thought we could use these words to start a new year off to maybe a really good start. Some small changes are coming this year, so watch your unit mailings and the Auxiliaire. Hope to see many of you at Fall Conference.



Members of the Girls State Committee, Sharon Schulte, Finance Committee; Bonnie Olson, Secretary-Treasurer; Nancy Knox, Department president; Kim Champion, Membership Chairman.



Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain

Thankful for His Love and Grace

“Sing to the Lord, you who love him; thank him from the depths of your hearts. For though he may seem to be absent, in his presence is eternal life. Tears may linger when night falls, but joy arrives with the dawn.”

By the time you read this, National Convention will be over and we will be in full swing for the 2014-2015 year. What an incredible year it has been. Can we make this New Year a better one? Of course we can. We have so much heart and determination in this organization that we cannot help but make lives better everywhere we go.

We are thankful for all of the wonderful



Pictured is the 2013-2014 Sr. Miss Poppy, Taylor Houghton, President Nancy Knox, Poppy Chair, Margo Forrester and Jr. Miss Poppy, Leah Mae Daniels. The Junior members are both from the 18th District, AND Taylor Houghton is the 2013-2014 National Sr. Miss Poppy!

members we have that spend hundreds of hours assisting our Veterans and their families. These members also assist current servicemen and women and their families. Without these acts of kindness our Veterans, current servicemen and women, and their families would continue to struggle just to get through each day.

As we go about doing what we do best and help people, we must also be thankful to the Lord for giving us health and the ability to continue to do the many things we do on an everyday basis. Many of these things are done without any thought being put into them; it is just what we do.

Always be thankful for the freedom we have and how it came to be. With our Lord behind them, many brave men and women have put their lives on the line to ensure that we have the freedom to be who we are. As a resident of this wonderful country we are able to go where we want, eat what we want, and do anything that we want to do on a daily basis.

With all of the conflicts going on in our world right now, we can always be thankful that our military has managed to keep them off our shores. They valiantly, and with the Lord's guidance, go out there each day to protect us. To those that have lost loved ones in the line of duty, we will always be there for you and are so sorry that you suffered the ultimate loss. Please know that we all appreciate what they have done for us and will always be grateful to them.

God's will is often hard to understand but we must trust that he is always with us.

Let's Concentrate on Membership

Angela Galbraith, 18th District President

As the new year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have put your trust and faith in me for the second year as your 18th District Auxiliary President. I am truly humbled.

This year I would like all of our Units to concentrate on membership. Members are our most valuable asset. We need to recruit new members, renew past members, and get current members involved. If you have junior members that are inactive, start a juniors group. Find out what a particular members niche is and use it to your Units advantage. We need to ensure the future of this great organization. The National American Legion Auxiliary is hoping to be a million members strong for our centennial celebration in 2019-2020. Let's do our part in the 18th District to make President Nancy proud and make Michigan number one in the nation for membership. At the Department of Michigan Convention in June 2014 we learned that the gem associated with membership in the 18th District is the blue sapphire. So!!!! Let's GO BLUE!!!!

My special project will once again be the handicapped and disabled children's fund of the 18th District. If you know of any child or children within the district that could benefit from this fund, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I am looking forward to working with all of you and making it a very productive and fun year. Thanks for all you do ladies. You are invaluable. You are one in a million!!!

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag....

Robin Puckett, Americanism Chairman

Our family and friends are very patriotic, We fly our Flag, we say the Pledge of Allegiance, and sing the Star Spangled Banner. We need to be patriotic other than just the Holidays. Every day we need to let our pride in America shine bright. We need to practice good Flag Etiquette. And help those to understand may not have the knowledge. Ask our State and Federal Representative's to support our issues. Ask them to support the Flag Amendment. We also need to encourage Americans to get out and vote. Try starting a kid's Voting USA Campaign.

This year's Americanism theme is "What does freedom mean to my family?" I would love to see all our eligible juniors enter the essay this year. Keep track of everything so that you can fill out a proper annual report this year. If you don't let me know what you're doing, I cannot put it in my report. We need to let President Nancy know so that National will know how fantastic Michigan is.

And remember with a little change, we can make a big difference.

GIRLS STATE CELEBRATES 75 YEARS!

Beryl Robbins, Girls State Chairman

In June, 2015 Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Girls State will celebrate their 75th year! It all started back in 1941 when Past Department Presidents, Dorothy Pearl (1940-1941) and Edna Alber (1944-1945), joined together at the University of Michigan to hold our first Girls State session. Back then 200 girls participated, in later years our numbers grew to over 500, and in 2014 we had 285 paid reservations.

Our goal for 2015 is to boost those delegate numbers, and end the year with a balanced budget! Your Girls State Committee is already hard at work making plans for this very special "Diamond Anniversary", but we can't do it without your help and support. The August Unit mailing includes a flyer encouraging every Unit to hold a 50/50 raffle, and send those proceeds earmarked Girls State

Donation to ALA Department of Michigan.

There are 282 Units in Michigan, if every Unit just sent in \$10 that donation grows to \$2,820, so never under estimate the power of a small donation! Do you know anyone that has the ability and knowledge to write a Grant Proposal for Girls State? If so, please put them in touch with a Committee Member!

Each year we are contacted by young ladies around our State that read about our program and want to attend. We want to make sure we match them up with sponsors that can't find a girl. One commitment we've received this year is funding for 100 alternates, so if you are low on funds why not send two girls from your school for the price of one by signing up an alternate! Girls State is making some major changes this year to make our process more efficient with less costs.

Please help us make our 75th the best!

REPORTS

2nd Zone

Jim Carlin, Zone Commander

At the close of our Convention in June I was installed as 2nd Zone Commander for our Department. My objectives include education and membership along with reinvigorating a total team effort in each of the 132 Posts within the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Districts. The Post, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders, and Auxiliary must all work together, and we should strive to avoid the bickering and petty jealousy that can often occur within our groups. Thomas Merton stated; "No man is an island, and further wrote; You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope." As Legionnaires, we cannot brag about what we have done in the past, but we must focus on what we can all do to make our Posts even better in the future.

Another special priority for me will be working with the American Legion Riders in my zone and recognizing what they do for the American Legion in their efforts to support veterans and their families. We all are aware of the contributions of the Sons of the Legion, and it is pleasing to see that the Riders' are also making valuable contributions to their Posts and our American Legion.

In 2011 during my 2 year term as 3rd District Commander I implemented the first district web site; www.MichiganLegionDistrict3.org and I have just created a Face Book presence for activities and events within the 2nd Zone; www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion2ndZoneMichigan

We must utilize every available public media to tell a story about what we are doing to help veterans in our community, and I urge all the Posts within the 2nd Zone to advocate a positive attitude for public relations. Send photographs, stories, and news of what is going on in your Post to the media and you will be surprised about their response. Develop email and telephone contacts for the print and broadcast media and keep them advised on veteran issues in your community.

One of my duties as 2nd Zone Commander is to visit all of the 132 Posts in my 4 districts, and have already visited 16 Posts. I do not consider this an obligation of the position, but an honor to do so. I will do my best in fulfilling the trust you have placed in me. To all of our veterans and their families, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great Nation."

3rd Zone

Marilyn Britten, Zone Commander

Thank you for electing me your Zone Commander. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and attending many of your events. We are hoping to have a Membership Workshop in October with the Auxiliary and SAL taking part, more information coming soon. I can tell you that it will be instructional and FUN! We will have a busy year keeping our current members and reaching out to those vets that don't know

about us yet. Let's get ready to start the journey. See you all soon.

3rd District Report

Jim Saur, District Commander

As the newly elected 3rd District Commander, I attended my first 30 day meeting of your Department Executive Committee (DEC). I was impressed by the preparedness of our new Department Commander, the Lansing staff and the many attendees as we discussed the importance of membership, and being proactive in our local communities. We as members of the largest and best known veterans organization have not only the opportunity but the duty to be relevant in our local cities and counties. An important part of that is having the reputation and membership numbers it takes to be heard.

My goals as your 3rd District Commander this year are to improve the visibility of The American Legion throughout our district and increase our numbers through personal contact with members and former members of the active and reserve forces. This will take hard work and enthusiasm at every level. We have the best opportunity that we have enjoyed in years to recruit the quality veterans we must have to remain relevant in our communities, state and nation. The younger generation volunteered to serve. We must help them to understand how they can continue to serve America as members of our organization.

Each Post in 3rd District is unique in its character, facilities, size and history. This can present challenges as well as opportunities for growing your membership. I will not tell you that "one size fits all". Your uniqueness can also be a source of strength. You have all done this before. Use what worked and discard what didn't. Utilize your contacts outside the Legion to get our story out. If you haven't already done so, ask one of your younger members (Legion, Auxiliary, or Sons of AL) to get your organization on Facebook and keep the site active with stories and pictures of your activities. If you have an AL Riders group in your area, help them organize a ride that starts, ends, or visits your facility. And, of course, tag on to the district website to get word of your activities out to your members and veterans in the surrounding area.

I will report on our progress in future issues and keep you updated at our District Meetings and as I visit your Post this year.

4th District

Barry Wood Commander

Hello fellow Legionnaires of the 4th District and to all other Legionnaires throughout the Department. Things are starting to heat up in the 4th. The first Commander's newsletter for the 2014-2015 year has gone out to all the posts within the District. I just returned from Indianapolis where I attended the National Membership Workshop. Learned a number of things I am hoping to put into practice over the year. First-Vice Gary Wear attended with me. Having Gary on-board will certainly be an asset for the District. Gary will be a huge help for me within the District and his experience can also be put to use in the future. Additionally, he will be able to apply this training at the Post level in Hastings, where he is Post Commander. Expect to

have membership as a regular agenda item throughout the year. Gary and I will be working on setting goals for the year and will be presenting these at the initial District meeting in September.

Please, if you have not done so, furnish me with information on the Post and Post Officers. Mailing and location address for the Post. And, please provide the following information for the officers: name, title, email address, or snail-mail address if the person does not have email. Also, please help us complete the District Handbook by getting this same information to me or Carol Parks. Both of addresses and email were included in the District newsletter.

I am looking forward to a very productive year. Please start filling out your Consolidated Post Report (CPR) now and update it on a regular basis. Ask regularly at Post meetings and through your newsletter what has been accomplished and get the information recorded. Do not wait until next May and then realized you do not have the necessary information to complete your report. The CPR is extremely important.

I want to thank Legionnaires of the 4th District for intrusting me as the District Commander. I ask for your help and assistance throughout the year. Please on not hesitate to contact me when needed.

5th District

Catherine Buckley Commander

The 5th District is on a whirl wind ride along with the SAL and Auxiliary.

We are going after the brass ring with membership. Membership is always on the top of our list of things to do.

Projects for the year, we are continuing our fight for the Patriot Fund and also Homeless Veterans in the 5th District Area.

We have a Bench with the carved American Legion emblem that we will be raffling off for the Patriot Fund throughout the District and at Conference in Muskegon. So everyone will have a chance to win.

No Veteran should be out in the elements. Our goal is to find them a place to stay and make sure they are receiving what is due them. We will be working with local veteran assistance programs also. I believe the 5th District has the best Service Officer in the state who will be helping with the paper work with these veterans.

One of our goals is to get into every middle and high school in the district and spread the word with all the programs the American Legion has to offer.

The Officers of the 5th District are all very motivated and ready to put the 5th District on the map.

We will be working hard and long to ensure that The American Legion is on the lips of all veterans in the 5th District. We will be having a membership drive in the very near future.

Our goals are few but obtainable.

6th District

Rick Schultz, District Commander

I would like to thank the 6th District Association for electing me as your new Commander. I look forward to working together with you all, to strive to do our best to achieve the goals set for the District for the 2014-15 year.

The goal for this year is for one hun-

dred percent membership by May 13, 2015. I believe we can accomplish this by December 31st. I know that this is a large goal, but I believe that the 6th District is capable of achieving it. I look forward to working with the individual posts to accomplish this goal together.

Our second goal is to send more boys to Boys State. Working with the schools and the PTAs we will achieve this goal. There are boys who have not heard of this program and it is our responsibility to get the word out to them and to their parents and communities.

Through the year, I will be visiting all of the posts, along with my Alternate Commander. We will be looking forward to working with you, to achieve the goals set for us.

11th District

Wayne Roy Commander

Good news, membership incentives are back for 2015 memberships. For Posts who are at 100 percent by 12-31-14, the Post Commander will receive a blazer and the Post will receive a plaque, sorry no monetary incentives available. The District membership goals for 2015 are 3462 members, which includes a membership increase of 239 new members, having 22 Posts in the District our goal so be attainable with a little extra effort by all of us. There will be Leadership training available on October 11, 2014 starting at 9:00 am at Little Lake Post 349; this training is for all Post Commanders, Vice Commanders, and Adjutant. All Posts should make extra effort to have its officers present at this training. Your attendance will benefit both the officers and their Posts. The 11th and 12th District meetings will follow the training starting at 10:00 am Eastern time, look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you for your service.

12th District

Gary Lane, District Commander

I just returned from Indianapolis from our workshop. I have learned that we have a lot of work ahead of us. I will be contacting each post in the

12th district to go over goals that we need to achieve for the 2014-2015 year.

The goals we need to discuss are membership, meeting attendance, and any other Legion programs that have fallen short of our goals.

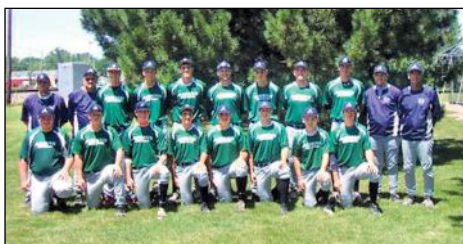
I am looking forward to meet with each of you and hear any suggestions you may have. If we work together I know we can reach this goal at each post.

16th District Commander

Archie Chappell

Just a few words of what our 16th District is planning. On Oct 04, 2014 we will have our District tour. We will visit 10 of our posts on that day. I have asked our Department Commander, Jim Wallace and his wife Linda to join us. Also there will be the Auxiliary Department President Nancy Knox and her Husband John, the Department SAL Commander and his Wife will be joining us. I could not get this organized if

CLASS AA STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



Adrian Post 275



**Midland Berryhill Post 165
Class AA State Champions**



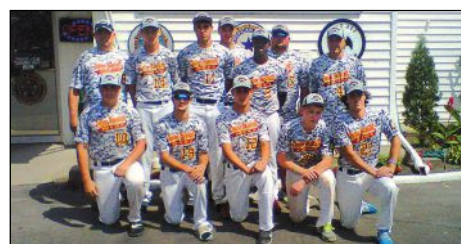
Adam Fitzgibbon of Midland Berryhill Post 165 was chosen as the 2014 Ki Ki Cuyler as "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



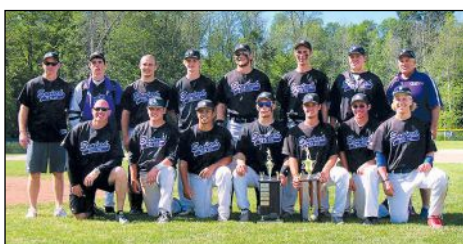
Clare Burt Post 248



Sault Ste. Marie Post 3



Wyandotte Post 217



Sanford Post 443



CLASS A STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



Samuel Pouliot of Gladstone Indians Post 71 team was chosen as the 2014 Hal Newhouser "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



**Gladstone Indians Post 71
Class A State Champions**

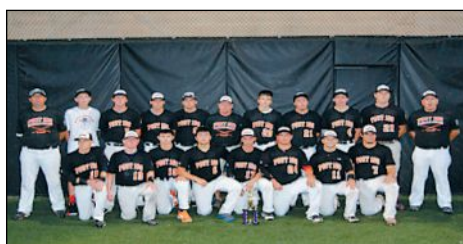


Escanaba Post 82



**2014
Michigan
Baseball
Scholarship
Winner**

Payton LeBombard from Marquette was chosen as the 2014 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner. Payton plans to attend Northern Michigan University.



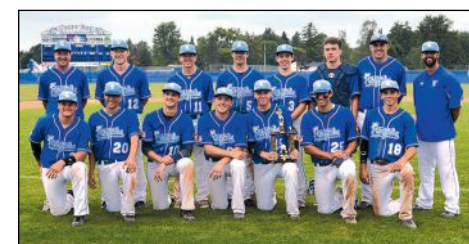
Hudson Post 180



Marquette Post 44



Gladwin Post 171



Petosky Post 194

STATE OFFICERS - 2014 - 2015

AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



Commander Jim Wallace



Adjutant Patrick Lafferty



N.E.C. John Skinner



Alt. N.E.C. Roger Webster



Finance Officer George Dolan



Sergant-at-Arms Frank Flores



Historian Mitch Louth



Chaplain Lawrence Vollink



Judge Advocate Elmer White



1st Zone Cmdr Joe Callahan



2nd Zone Cmdr Jim Carlin



3rd Zone Cmdr Marilyn Britten



4th Zone Cmdr Joe Renis



5th Zone Cmdr Jim Dougovito



1st Dist. Cmdr Dan McCrary



2nd Dist. Cmdr Mike Kraus



3rd Dist. Cmdr James Saur



4th Dist. Cmdr Barry Wood



5th Dist. Cmdr Catherine Buckley



6th Dist. Cmdr Richard Schultz



7th Dist. Cmdr Mike Parr



8th Dist. Cmdr Lee Bolton



9th Dist. Cmdr Neal Horning



10th Dist. Cmdr Kenneth Burtch Jr



11th Dist. Cmdr Wayne Roy



12th Dist. Cmdr Gary Lane



16th Dist. Cmdr Archie Chappell



17th Dist. Cmdr Kevin Gilliam



18th Dist. Cmdr Sheryl May



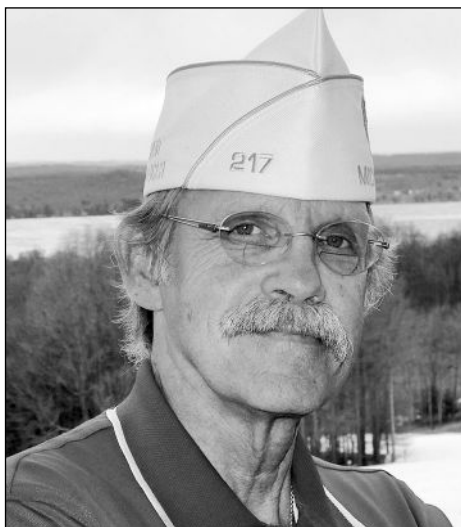
19th Dist. Cmdr George Bolinger

These officers comprise your Department Executive Committee. They represent your membership in each respective territory, with the Sate Commander having overall responsibility. With them and the assistance from our 443 posts and state level committees, Michigan will once again deliver a very successful and progressive Legion year for our veterans, their families, and their communities.

Veteran's Service

Meet Thomas, Lannie Ray

Department of Michigan Veteran Service Officer



At the tender age of 18 I decided to join the Armed Forces, because even though, I was working full time I really had no direction in my life. In March, 1968 I enlisted in the United States Army and expressed my desire to be an Army Medical Corpsman, something I thought would be a pretty safe occupation. After 8 weeks of basic training at Ft. Knox Kentucky I found myself in San Antonio, Texas for the next 10 weeks learning how to treat combat related injuries. In ten weeks, we learned what it takes medical students months to learn on their way to medical school. My next adventure was Baum holder, Germany in a training unit, playing war games and unknown to me at the time preparation for my ultimate destination, the Republic of Vietnam.

In 1969 I received my orders for Vietnam and my MOS was a medical Corpsman. I recall stepping on the ground for the first time and feeling the heat on the bottom of my boots. My first few days in country were spent traveling, always north. I finally stopped in an area just south of the DMZ. An isolated compound surrounded by cantana and barbed wire that would be my home for the next twelve months.

I had many responsibilities during that year, including riding on a 2 1/2 ton truck while a squad of Marines mine swept the road in front of us from our compound to the main highway every morning. I was along for the ride in case something happened. Never really gave that much thought. I also maintained the compound as to sanitation and care and treatment of my team. I also spent a fair amount of time at a building where I would serve some of

the local population for anything and everything; I delivered babies, pulled a few teeth and dispensed tons of APC's and mouthwash. In addition to all that I spent some time in the jungle while we were attached to an infantry company that came through our area. Again, never gave that much of a thought at the time.

Once I left Vietnam, the remainder of my time in the military was pretty uneventfully and I left the service in late 1972. Once back in civilian life I returned to school and went to work at one of the local Funeral Homes. It was at this point that I came in contact with the American Legion. It was my job to service all of the veteran families when the veteran passed away and I would use the American Legion to process burial and survivor benefit claims. I asked one day just what did the American Legion do for veterans. I asked how I could become a Service Officer. I was advised to send an application and resume' to Lansing.

In 1983, I was hired as a Department Service Officer at the Detroit Regional Office for the American Legion. From 1983 until 2001 I had worked very hard to become a good veteran advocate. I succeeded in becoming the Assistant Director for 4 or 5 years prior to my retirement. In 2001, I retired from The Department of Michigan and took a job with the Department of Wisconsin as the Director of VA&R. Due to some health related issues in Wisconsin; I left Wisconsin and moved to St. Petersburg Florida. While there, I took a job as a county service officer which really did not suite me after having worked for the Great State of Michigan. I was given a gift while in Florida, an opportunity to return to Michigan, to work once again as a veteran advocate for the Department of Michigan, something that I had missed terribly, now here I had the chance to come home. I did not hesitate, I jumped at the chance and I have never been as happy as I am today. For me, there is no greater job than what I do for a living. I work with some of the greatest people I have ever met and I get to work for the greatest people in the world, veterans and their families. I wish to express my sincere gratitude to The American Legion of Michigan and every veteran that I have had the pleasure of meeting or speaking with. You are the best and life is good.

Veteran Expo to Provide Information on Presumptive Diseases, Benefits and More

Chronic B-cell Leukemia. Hodgkin's disease. Ischemic heart disease. Prostate and respiratory cancers.

Although the Vietnam War ended more than 40 years ago, many veterans from that era still carry the war with them, in part due to health conditions related to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in support of military operations. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recognizes certain health problems as presumptive diseases associated with that exposure, and veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

"New research and medical advances have contributed to more than 50 changes to the benefits eligibility for Vietnam-era veterans in the last 15 years," said Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) Director Jeff Barnes. "Veterans who haven't looked back to the VA in a number of years could be missing out on valuable benefits."

Barnes added that anyone who has served in the U.S. military, anytime and anywhere, is eligible for some level of benefit for their service.

Veterans of all eras are encouraged

to attend one of the Michigan Veteran Expos to learn more about presumptive diseases and available state and federal benefits and resources. Upcoming Expos will be held in Grand Rapids Sept. 5-6 and Detroit Nov. 7-8. Hosted by MVAA, these free events will serve as one-stop shops where veterans and their families can learn about employment and education opportunities, take advantage of healthcare screenings, meet with accredited benefits counselors and learn about recreation programs and other available resources. In addition, Hiring Our Heroes will host a veteran employment fair on Saturday at each Expo.

Expo hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Online registration is available at events.mphi.org/vetexpo.

MVAA serves as the central coordinating point, connecting those who have served in the United States Armed Services and their families, to services and benefits throughout the state of Michigan. The agency values inclusion, integrity, transparency, innovation and respect and aspires to provide the customer service experience that veterans deserve.

"Service" to our Veterans

Gary Easterling, Department VSO Director

Note: The following is a letter received in July 2014 from the daughter of a WWII women veteran. Names have been removed.

Dear Mr. Toppe,

I am the daughter of a 91 y.o. mother who is a WWII veteran.

We worked first with Lannie Thomas (December 2010 through December 2012) on the "non-service connected" VA pension and was ultimately denied. That's when Lannie suggested that my mother apply for the "Aid & Attendance" pension. He then turned over my mother's case to Tripp Cantwell to assist in applying for that particular pension.

We have worked closely with Tripp Cantwell from December 2012 through present day on the "Aid & Attendance" pension and once again, despite the setbacks hurled at us by the VA's Tripp was courteous and knowledgeable about the process.

We just got news that my mother was approved for retroactive benefits from 2012 and therefore, my mission is complete!

In closing, we just wanted to let you know that you have outstanding employees in Lannie Thomas, Tripp Cantwell, AND Debby, the office assistant. It was a 4 year project, but these three people were terrific through it all!

Sincerely and with much gratitude,

J.D.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Our staff is dedicated to providing the very best veterans' advocacy to Michigan Veterans and their families. They can assist with Claims Preparation, Presentation and appeal counsel in Veterans' benefits services. Assist you and your Dependents in getting the Benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.



Gary Easterling
Director

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

Erna LaBeau, Director's Secretary - ernawati.labeau@va.gov
Lannie Thomas, Department Service Officer - lannie.thomas@va.gov
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

Ann Arbor VAMC Report

**Krystal Hall,
Ann Arbor Representative**

Since 1953, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has provided state-of-the art healthcare services to the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. It is considered our privilege to serve their healthcare needs in any way we can. The main hospital campus, located in Ann Arbor, serviced over sixty-one thousand veterans and nearly 15,000 at the Toledo Clinic during 2013; also handled over a half million (550,948) clinical visits, performed almost five thousand surgeries. Further, more than fourteen hundred volunteers logged over ninety-two thousand volunteered hours. VAAHS was further honored with donations (hours, monetary, and in-kind) totaling over \$2.9 million which is used/was used to support our Veterans.

VAAHS is active in several programs, several are presented here: the campaign to end Veteran Homelessness; Veteran Justice Outreach; Telehealth Clinics; My HealthyVet web-access services and information for veteran; Click 2 Benefits (allows Veterans to speak directly with a VBA claims specialist); SCAN-ECHO (Specialty Care Access Network Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes); Veteran Transportation Service (one of only four national sites selected for a two-year pilot project); and, No Veteran Dies Alone (specially trained volunteers provide companionship and assistance as Veterans enter the final stages of life. This past December (2013) the

Center hosted its second (now annual) Baby Shower.

Auxiliary members from the 2nd, 17th, and 18th Districts continue to be active/supportive of the Annual Gift Shop (the Nov 2013 event had 32 volunteers (276 hours) with donations of \$12,688.30), monthly Bingo parties, special need donations (flat screen TV, VCR/CD player, comfort items, etc.), and a Father's Day program. Volunteers and Auxiliary members also helped with several other programs: POW/MIA, Veterans Day, National Salute to Veterans Week, Memorial Services, and the Clothing Store (in-house).

As in past years, the goal will be to provide the best care and support for our country's veterans and to support the VAAHS programs. As I complete my second year as Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary assigned representative, one of my goals (our project) continues to be gather donations to obtain special needs (see above for this past year's needs) and to have a successful Gift Shop. One of my 'new' goals for this year will be to increase the number of ALA volunteers (both in Ann Arbor and Toledo) and to include volunteer opportunities within the VA Hospital/Clinics.

In closing, I offer that I am honored—and humbled—to have the opportunities to work with such dedicated staff, volunteers, and other supporters (including 'my Deputy' Ethel Putala—thanks Ethel for you all you do) here at the Ann Arbor VA Health System as we service and support our Veterans.

Homeless Veterans

**Wendy Tolbert,
Homeless Veterans Service
Coordinator**

A little change can make a big difference. This is what our new Department President, Nancy Knox has for her theme and it is true. It really doesn't take much if each Legion family helps. We not only need clothes and personal items but monetary help as will.

I want to mention that Poppy money can be donated to help our Homeless.

Homeless among our veterans is a problem that is nationwide. We need to put an end to it. We will have

several Stand-downs through out Michigan this coming year. I hope that each of you will help in some way.

Be sure to look for the Homeless Veterans display at the Fall Conference. We will have a list of items that are needed and where the Stand-downs will be. Or you can visit the Legion web-site for locations www.michiganlegion.org

If you need any further information please contact me at 269-876-7479.

Remember Veterans and Homeless should never be used in the same sentence.

Thank You for your help.

The Year Ahead

Hello, my name is Ciara Brown; I am the Honorary Department of Michigan Junior President for the year 2014-2015. The Junior Officers for the year are...

1st vice- Taylor Townes
2nd vice- Sabrina Townes
Chaplin- Emma Damouth
Historian- Taylor Houghton
Secretary- Stephanie Ramos
Sergeant at arms- Leah Denials
Asst. Sergeant at arms- Shantia Martin
Americanism Chairman- Alyssa Kemp
Distinguished Guest Chairman- Alyssa Champion
Music Chairman- Mackenzie Townes
Color Bearers- Alegiah Houghton and Sarah Miller
Teller- Emily Terhune

This year my special project is Rainbow Connection. This is a non-profit organization that takes children under the age of 18 with life threatening or terminal illnesses and grants them a wish.

History of the Rainbow Connection: On May 9, 1980, Ron Dobson, his wife Janet, and their two children, Tim and Jennifer, were traveling on Ron's private airplane to a wedding in Canada when tragedy struck. Ron's oil pump froze up, and the plane crashed.

Tragically, Ron and the children were killed and Janet was critically

injured. In August of 1980 L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive, and other dear friends held a memorial Golf Outing to raise scholarship funds in the children's names, raising around \$2300 that first year.

From that humble beginning has evolved what is now today The Rainbow Connection, a Michigan based 501 © (3) charity dedicated to making dreams come true for Michigan children who are literally fighting for their lives. Janet Dobson, wife of Ron and mother of Tim and Jennifer sits on the community based Board of Directors.

Since 1985 thousands of Michigan children with life threatening illnesses have experienced their most special dream come true. Today the Rainbow Connection's annual budget is 1.8 million from something as simple as a computer, going to the Super Bowl, or a glorious trip to Disney World, they make dreams come true throughout the year.

Throughout this upcoming year I plan to have many fundraisers to raise money for the Rainbow Connection. One of my big goals this year is to be able to grant a child's wish and be able to present that child with his/her wish. Another one of my many goals for this year is to expand the junior program, to get eligible girls involved in their unit, district, and department levels.

Poppies 2 Go @ Fall Conference

Our Department President, Nancy Knox's 2014-2015 theme is "Little Change, Big Difference For our Veterans!" Here is a little change that can make a big difference! This year Units can order and receive their poppies right at Fall Conference, held at the Holiday Inn-Muskegon Harbor on Sept. 26 & 27.

The poppies have the new label that doesn't display the year! So leftovers can be saved or used in the Artistic Creation Contests (Centerpiece, Unique Display & Corsage).

The cost is \$130 for 1,000, \$67.50 for 500 and \$33.75 for 100. Coin containers and can labels will also be available. Checks are the preferred method of payment!

For Units, this will make ordering and receiving poppies much more convenient. No mailing in an order and waiting for the poppies to arrive in February, March or April.

For Department of Michigan, this will be a savings in time and money! No mailing expenses!

**Units, make a big difference with this little change!
Any questions call Margo Forrester 616 363-6688**

Legislative-- What Can We Do?

**Sue Verville,
Legislative Chairman**

We as members, can write letters, make phone calls, send faxes, send emails and make visits to our Legislators to keep the needs of our Veterans, our military and their families, front and center this year. Remember that when writing letters to your officials they can take up to 4-6 weeks for delivery, so keep this in mind for time sensitive issues. Some of the main issues are Health Care Issues, Issues for Women Veterans, Veterans Benefits and Patriotic Issues. When you contact your official by letters or emails, identify yourself, keep it short, be factual and to the point. Personalize your message and be cordial and specific. In closing thank your legislator and ask for a response to your letter or email. Send all copies of responses you receive to your District chairman.

By sending letters or emails to our elected officials we can become advocates and help keep our veteran's issues on the local, state and national levels on the agenda for those officials to pass. We can help support the American Legion legislation priorities. As Auxiliary members we do not have our

own legislative agenda, we support the American Legion issues and help make their voice heard. Everyone can help provide information on our programs to our members. Provide your members with specific reasons to contact their legislators and remind them to go and VOTE when elections are held. Provide them with the proper information about the issues and how important they are to our military, their families and all our Veterans. By joining together we can influence our elected officials to help make a difference and impact on the lives of our Veteran's, our military and their families.

Only by letting your elected officials know where you stand on important issues is how we can strengthen our mission in serving our Veterans and their families. Go to the American Legion Legislative Action Center to find an online database that will find the contact information for current elected officials and bills that are being tracked. Remember to fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form so the Legion can use this in planning their legislative strategy this year. Let us all do our part to make sure that our government continues to operate as a nation who will represent all the people not just a few.

Take Time to Volunteer

**Janette Brockway,
VA&R Chairman**

Well, we are off to a new year and to "CHANGE" for all. There will be a big change in the Home Service and Field Service as they will be joining and become "Service to Veterans". The committee will produce a newly designed pin to reflect this change and use the same hour bars. You will be able to wear the old pins and hour bars to show your hours of volunteerism. There will no longer be orientation given for this new program. The Unit VA&R chairman will have to keep track of the volunteers hours, same as before and make sure their hours are accounted for and sent to the Service to Veterans Chairman Sharon Therrien. We will have much more information at Fall Conference as we will be getting information at National Convention.

At Fall Conference all of the Hospital Representatives will have information and hand outs on what their hospitals are doing, what is planned for in the future, their needs, and about donations. Battle Creek VA Hos-

pital Representative is in need of volunteers, she is putting out a plea for volunteers that will do just one party a year. Please contact Barbara Parks Battle Creek Hospital Representative she will have the dates if you are able to volunteer.

One of the new programs that a lot of units are getting involved in is Quilts Of Valor, coordinate with local quilt shops to help your unit sponsor a quilting event in support of Quilts of Valor Foundation.

Christmas Gift Shop dates have been set for all facilities, information will be going out soon, remember you can use your Poppy donations for gifts. Each Hospital or Veterans Homes that have gifts left over from gift shop have decided that they can be used for bingo gifts, homeless, birthday or many other places where a veteran can be served or is in need.

Poppy donations can also be used for the Homeless program if you know of a stand down in your community and want to help out you may use these donations.

Obtain information and become familiar with VA sponsored awards for donations to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, through the ALA. Make sure you donate through department so your unit gets credit for funds that help local veterans attend state and national Wheel Chair Games, Veterans Creative Arts Festivals and ParaOlympics.

Remember it is all of our duties to help a veteran whether it be volunteering in a facility, taking them for appointments, serving them in needs or just taking time to be their friend, you will get as much joy out of it as they do.

Membership

**Kimberly Champion,
Membership Chairman**

The Department of Michigan is doing a fantastic job at hitting our first target which was August 20, 2014. We are currently in first place for membership in the Central Division and in eleventh place in National as of August 13, 2014. Remember to send your dues into Department when you get them and to not hold them back as we could miss one of our targets.

This year we need to increase our membership by approximately 3000

members. We can work at achieving this by renewing current members, re-joining members who have not paid their dues in the past two years and recruiting new members. You also can go back to members from more than two years past but they would sign up as new members.

Remember communication with members is a key in retaining them. Also to attract new members increase your communities' awareness of the American Legion Auxiliary and its programs. Visit other community based or-

ganizations, reach out to them and engage them with what we do and stand for. The next area to focus on is re-joining members that have fallen away. Reach out to them anyway you can and get them interested again in rejoining our great organization.

Always strive to Renew, Rejoin and Recruit. We can make a difference and I know with everyone's help we can begin to build The Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary.

"Little Change BIG Difference for our Veterans"

National Security Programs Help Our Veterans

**Ellen Jackson,
National Security Chairman**

Our National Security Program has so many ways to help our Veterans, their families, our community and our members. We need to excite our members about our programs and find out which part of our National Security projects best suits them. Use your local newspaper, radio, do posters, use Facebook, Twitter, make phone calls, use places of worship and community bulletin boards to help get the word out about whom we are and what our programs are about. Provide contact information with a name and phone number of who they can contact for more information. Use your computer to check out websites to find out more

information about our National Security and Auxiliary programs. Remember our Department Service Officers have information on the assistance available for veterans and their families.

Our goal is to improve the quality of Life for our Veterans, their families, our members and our community. There are many projects that we can do to identify and fill the needs of our current military, wounded warriors and their families. Operation Comfort Warriors, Operation Homefront, Welcome Home and Send off Events, Adopt a Military Family, Blue Star/ Gold Star Banners, Fisher House, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Projects, Toasty Toes, provide a foster home for pets, give a gift of groceries,

write letters of encouragement, send cards and supporting the American Legion are a few examples.

We help with Crime Prevention and Emergency Disaster Preparedness for our youth and elderly by working with the local fire department, police department and emergency shelters. We can show family support through recognizing programs like ROTC and JR/ROTC. Present awards to students and invite them to a Legion Family event. Hold a POW/MIA and Awareness Assemblies. Work with other organization like the Red Cross. Help sponsor blood drives and pass out information on family disaster supplies kits. Practice and maintain your disaster plans. Help

the USO with kits and packages. Help the United Way with the transportation program for our Veterans. Find out what the other organization have to offer our Veterans and their families, then pass it on. Always remember that our service men and women come first, it is not how many members we think we can have join the Legion Family. So do not plan events for recruitment purposes only. We are here to let them know how much we appreciate what they are doing for us, what they have already done for us and to say THANK YOU. Let them know that we will always be there when they need us. If you have any questions you can contact me Ellen Jackson or the committee members Shari German and Anita Mennel.

Reports Continued

it wasn't for my Chairman Ron Runyan and Darlene Walker, so I would like to thank Ron and Darlene for all of their help organizing this event.

I am planning on visiting every post in my District and I would like to go back to tradition when we use to vote and approve new members; that each post would hold a formal installation and so the new members will be introduced to all the post officers. With the help of our Legion, Auxiliary and the SAL we need to inform them of the importance of what we do for our veterans.

18th District

Sheryl May, District Commander

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as the 18th District Commander for 2014-2015. Along with 1st Vice Commander Stephen Stevens, 2nd Vice Commander Terry Montgomery, Finance Officer Ray Flum, Sergeant-at-Arms Don Wert, Adjutant Joe McClellan, Chaplain Edward Merritt, Historian Gerald Lynch, Service Officer Anthony Mallia and Judge Advocate Ralph Philp, our team will work hard to meet the needs of each post within the 18th District and we will strive to continue the "mighty 18th" heritage.

Both 1st Vice Commander Stevens and I attended the 30-day meeting at Department Headquarters where Commander Jim Wallace outlined his challenge to us to promote our programs and activities and to increase our membership within the Legion Family. The 18th District worked hard last year to meet membership quotas but we need to work harder in the months to come. This year we do have a definite advantage over the other districts...our very own Steve Striggow from Holly Post 149 is Department Membership Director! Steve is determined to increase membership within the Department and I know that under his direction we will be able to surpass the 100% quota and be #1 in Department! Please plan on attending the September 21, 2014 District Meeting at the Holly Post as Steve and members of his team will present a membership workshop.

In support of Commander Wallace's special project for 2014-2015, I have decided to name the Patriot Fund as the special project for the 18th District this year. According to Gary Tanner, Reconnect Chairman, the Patriot Fund is nearly depleted and in need of an infusion of donations. 100% of Patriot Fund donations support veterans... there are no administrative or banking fees and the donations are tax-deductible. I will be planning a fund raiser so that the 18th District can contribute to this worthy cause.

I plan on visiting each Post this year to listen to the concerns of members, to identify the needs of the Posts and most importantly, to learn from those of you who have been the backbone of the American Legion. So many of you devout countless volunteer hours supporting the needs of our veterans, maintaining your posts and volunteering in community events and to that, I say thank you. There are so many veterans who need our help and it's a good feeling to know that you are out there to provide that care. God bless you.

Jerry Kelley, Boys State Chairman

The mission of Boys State is to provide the highest-quality interactive educational experience possible and to help young men learn about our system of government. The lessons and memories from Boys State last a lifetime, and provide a solid foundation to further enhance leadership and teamwork. Boys State is a life-changing experience and our staff is committed to providing the best environment to encourage education and growth.

The Boys State Committee has a problem. We have many high schools that are not being given the opportunity to send delegates to Boys State. With every District and every American Legion Post having a Boys State Chair, we can reach out to every school in Michigan. To help our District and Post Boy State Chairs understand, what Boys State is, how to recruit eleventh graders for Boys State and how to fund sponsorships, we will be holding a School of Instruction - Boys State at Fall Conference. With your help we can meet our goal of increas-

ing participation in Boys State.

To help everyone understand what happens at Boys State please visit <<http://www.michiganboysstate.org/>>. This site was active during Boys State 2014 and has lots of information about the experiences at Boys State. Again this year our daily newspaper, "The Whirligig", also included podcasts that shared information, which are on this website. Please check out Lucas Durling's podcast.

It is my belief that we need every District to have a Boys State Chair and every Post to have a Boys State Chair and they need to attend the School of Instruction - Boys State at Fall Conference and we will be successful in reaching out to more eleventh grade boys.

If you are the District Boys State Chair or the Post Boys State Chair, please mail your name, email address and if you are the District or Post Chair to: programs@michiganlegion.org.

For additional information please visit our website: <www.michiganlegion.org/boysstate>.

2014 Fall Conference Agenda

Thursday, September 25, 2014

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office
5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Registration
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Chairman Training

Friday, September 26, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Registration
8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office
8:45 a.m. Resolutions Assignment - meet in H/Q office
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Public Relations
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Finance/Personnel
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Children & Youth
Education & Scholarship
Reconnect
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Legislative
Michigan Leadership College
Membership
VAVS
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Baseball
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. VA & R
12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Lunch break
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Economic
Internal Affairs
Post Development
2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Americanism
National Security & Foreign Relations
Permanent Time & Place/Resolutions
Boys' State
3:00 - 5:00 p.m. SAL Budget Meeting
3:30 - 4:00 p.m. 3rd Zone Meeting
4:30 - 6:00 p.m. D.E.C. Meeting
8:00 p.m. Dale Barnett, Leading Natl Comm
Candidate Reception

Saturday, September 27, 2014

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. National LEAD Training - Finance (75)
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Legion H/Q Office
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. SAL DEC Meeting (75)
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. School of Instruction - Boys State (50)
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. National LEAD Training -
Developing an Effective Post Membership Team
11:30 - 12:30 p.m. Past Department Commanders/

11:45 - 1:30 p.m. First Ladies Luncheon
Lunch break
12:00 p.m. M.A.L.P.A.
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. School of Instruction-Membership
1:00 - 3:00 p.m. National LEAD Training - MyLegion.org
2:00 - 3:30 p.m. School of Instruction - Service Officer
School/VA & R
3:00 - 4:00 p.m. National LEAD Training-Legislative
4:00 - 5:30 p.m. G.N.U.T.S.
7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Wilwin Lodge Meeting
8:00 p.m. Social Event
Raffle drawing

Sunday, September 28, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. D.E.C. Meeting (100)
8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Legion H/Q Office

* ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS
SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

Former 9th District Commander 1960-1961 Harold Wester Passes Away

LAKE CITY — Harold Wester, of Lake City, passed away Wednesday, July 16, 2014, at his home. He was 95.

He was born on March 23, 1919, to John and Elizabeth Wester in McBain, Michigan. He was a private in the U.S. Army. He worked for the state of Michigan as an agricultural feed and fertilizer inspector for many years. He married Bonnie Louise Keelean on October 8, 1948.

Harold was a member of the American Legion Post No. 300 for 70 years.

PDC Thomas Brown for 2015-2016 Alternate National Executive Committeeman



The Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post 274, Oscoda and the 10th District Association proudly endorse Thomas G. Brown for the office of Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2015-2017

Tom earned his eligibility for The American Legion through his service in the United States Air Force from 1965 to 1985.

In 1984 he joined The American Legion at the Loud-Merkel-LaPlante Post.

He has served his post as Commander for 5 terms, 1st Vice Commander 5 terms, 2nd Vice Commander 2 terms, Executive Committee 12 terms and is currently serving his 4th term as Judge Advocate. In 2004 he was awarded an honorary life membership.

His service to the 10th District began in 1999 as the Historian, he continued on as Chaplain, Finance Officer, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice Commander, Commander and is currently serving as Judge Advocate. He has also served as chairman of several District committees.

On the Department level Tom served as Department Commander (2012-2013) Department Vice Commander, Department Historian (2 years), Department Education and Scholarship Committee (5

years) 4 as Chairman and Children and Youth Committee (1 year). He has attended 3 Michigan Leadership Colleges and 4 Department Service Officers Schools.

On the National level Tom is currently serving on the Americanism Counsel. He also served on the National Security Commission (4 years) National and Homeland Security Council (1 year). He has attended 10 National Membership Workshops, 8 National Conventions, 4 Washington D. C. Conferences and the National Oratorical Contest Workshop. He has been awarded 3 National certificates of merit for Education and Scholarship.

Tom is a 18 year member of 40 & 8 Voiture 669, a life member of the DAV, a member of the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 274 (currently serving as Adjutant), member of ANAVICUS and a member of the Knights of Columbus 5083.

After retiring from the U.S. Air Force, Tom worked for Lockheed Aerospace for 2 years. In 1987 he went to work as a rural carrier for the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 2010.

Tom and his wife, Rysta have been married for 33 years and have 3 sons, Abraham, Justin and Benjamin. Rysta is an honorary life member of Auxiliary Unit 274 and their sons are all members of S.A.L. Squadron 274. They attend church at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oscoda.

Mike Buda for 2015-2016 Department Commander



US Marine Corps

American Legion Post 364 and the 16th District endorse Michael Buda for the office of State Commander for 2015-2016. Mike earned his eligibility during his service in the US Marine Corps from 1973-1975.

He has served his Post in many officer positions including 5 years as Post Adjutant and as Post Commander. He is a proud American Legion Rider member, has served the 16th District in several positions, including District Commander. On the Department level he has served as the 1st Zone Vice Commander and Department Sgt-At-Arms.

He has been married 25 years to Natalie and has 2 children.

Ernest Berry for 2015-2016 Department Historian



service in the US

The 16th District endorses Ernest Berry for 2015-2016 Department Historian. Ernest earned his eligibility in The American Legion during his service in the US Army from 1953-

1955. He a 18 year PUFL member of American Legion Post 217 and has served as Post Commander. Mr. Berry served as a District Commander, 1st Zone Commander and as the Department Sgt-At-Arms, as well as, many other positions from the post level to National Committee appointments.

Ernest retired as deputy chief of police from the Woodhaven Police Department.



Holiday Inn Muskegon Harbor

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Fax: 231-722-5118

2014 FALL CONFERENCE
September 26, 27 & 28, 2014

Rates: Single King Room (3 max per room): \$89.99 Double Queen Room (5 max per room): \$89.99

* Rates are subject to applicable sales and hotel taxes, currently 11%.

All reservations must be made on or before August 25th, 2014 to receive group discount. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing hotel rate and availability.

Reservation Information

* For reservations please call the hotel at 231-722-0100 and reference American Legion Conference *

* Hotel cannot guarantee that group rooms will be located near each other

* Check in times is 4:00pm; Check out time is 11:00am

* Reservations may be cancelled 24 hours in advance without penalty

Meeting Registration: Registration badges are required for attendance at all meetings.

SEND \$15 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON), MADE PAYABLE TO:
AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 9, INC., PO Box 4186, Muskegon, MI 49444

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LEGION/AUXIL/SAL	POST/UNIT/SQUAD

Number of registrations _____

x \$15 = _____

Total Enclosed _____

Roger Avie for 2015-2016 Department Finance Officer



The 17th District is pleased to announce the endorsement of Roger Avie, Past District Commander, current Junior Vice-Com-

mander, Past Finance Officer, Past Post 390 Commander and current

Junior Vice Commander as a candidate for the office of Finance Officer, Department of Michigan, for the period of 2015 to 2016. Past Commander Avie has been part of the Leadership team of the District for the past five years and been in the Legion for over 23 years and has served in a number of capacities at Post, District, and Department levels with distinction. We are pleased to endorse one of our current officers for this high office.

American Legion National Commander Visits Camp Wilwin in Trout Lake

By Stephen King,
for Sault Ste. Marie Evening News
Posted Aug. 7, 2014 @ 4:00 pm

Trout Lake - A special guest was at Camp Wilwin in Trout Lake Wednesday.

American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger paid a visit to the lodge. This was part of a brief tour of the Eastern U.P. that included a visit to Mackinac Island and Newberry.

The focus of this trip was a visit to the 100-year-old Wilwin Lodge, a retreat for soldiers coming back from places such as Afghanistan.

At Wilwin, returning soldiers can find peace and solitude and a chance to be alone with family and friends while recovering on the 600-acre lodge with more than 10 miles of trails.

The Commander told those at the lodge that he was returning to Washington to witness President Obama's signing of the \$16.3 billion plan to ease health care delays at Veteran Affairs facilities.

Dellinger has been involved with getting the legislation passed. After



seeing many cases of veterans literally dying from bureaucratic issues, Dellinger called for the resignation of Veteran's Affairs Secretary Eric Shineki, Under Secretary of Health Robert Pretzel, and Under Secretary of Benefits Allison Hickey, citing poor oversight and failed leadership.

He asked for a total investigation into the situation which resulted in a Congressional investigation which has now led to this \$16.3 billion spending appropriation.

"I think it is. There's been a lot of work done in the VA on this. And, if they use it correctly, this should work," Dellinger said about the money provided by bill. "But, there still needs to be oversight. Our vets need to be awarded the care that they have earned."

Also in attendance Wednesday was State American Legion Commander Jim Wallace, Chuck Green and Bud Grubba, both past

Commanders of the Newberry American Legion Post.

Dellinger hails from Vienna, Virginia, and is the current head of the American Legion, which has 2.4 million members, making it the largest veterans group in the U.S.

Wilwin Lodge Caretaker Cabin Almost Complete

Mark Sutton, PR Director

Wilwin Lodge was honored to have National Commander Dellinger visit Northern Michigan. The Commander was treated to several of the northern Michigan attractions, including a tour of Mackinac Island, by Post 299 Commander Paul Wandrie. Commander Wandrie included a stop by the Statue of Liberty replica his Post recently rededicated.

On Wednesday during the Commanders visit, media from around the state stopped in for a tour and to speak with the Commander. I had the opportunity to be there on Wednesday, while there I saw some of the new additions to Wilwin.

The caretaker cabin is almost complete; flooring was installed the previous week in the kitchen area and bedrooms. Next will be the installation of cabinets, plumbing fixtures and trim. "Big Earl" and Beverly, Wilwin caretakers, are hoping if the weather cooperates over the next couple of months everything will be finished before closing the Lodge area down for the winter.

On the lodge itself, the one hundred year old structure received a new steel roof system. The winter took its last breathe from the old roof and a new one was needed. That work has been completed. Use of the area by families and therapist is continuing to increase year over year.



SAL Det. Cmdr. Butch Maxwell, Natl. Cmdr. Dan Dellinger, Dept. Cmdr Jim Wallace before leaving Mackinac Island.



Paul Wandrie - Post 299 Commander in front of Lady Liberty.

Classifieds

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

Wanted

- Old Fishing Tackle
- Small Outboard Motors (1-5 H.P.)
- Successful Deer Hunter Licenses
- Bag Tags
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Buying Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, 40/8, VFW, DAV, Masonic, and FOE medals, badges, pins, caps, bars, membership cards, and Stamp Collections. Contact **Craig R. Wotring**, PO Box 1743 Owosso, MI 48867, **989-725-9728** Legion Member

Around the State...



Michigan veterans Foundation Homeless Vets Stand down 7-18& 7-19 2014. SAL members Sandy and Joe Lipman Squadron 14, Aaron Timothy and T.J. Houghton Squadron 377. Rodney Tolbert Homeless Veterans Chairman Detachment of Michigan, Stand down enables the community to express concern for

homeless Veterans in a tangible and positive way! The theme for this year's stand down was "Dust off 2014". Target population: Homeless Veterans and their families/significant others.



Legionnaires Come on out and have some fun. Zadie Jackson from Kazoo Valley and Frank Warren from Post 207 American Legion First on the seen with T.W. Lane director of Lest We Forget our Vets



Post 335 WWII members present Jeniffer Smith with her replacement medals. Lee Senko (US Army Air Corps/AF), Wanda Kearns (WAVES), and Islia Brandell (USMCWR) returned the National Defense Service, Southwest Asia Service, and Liberation of Kuwait medals. It was a great blessing and a show of patriotic continuity -- WWII to Persian Gulf War -- across the generations.

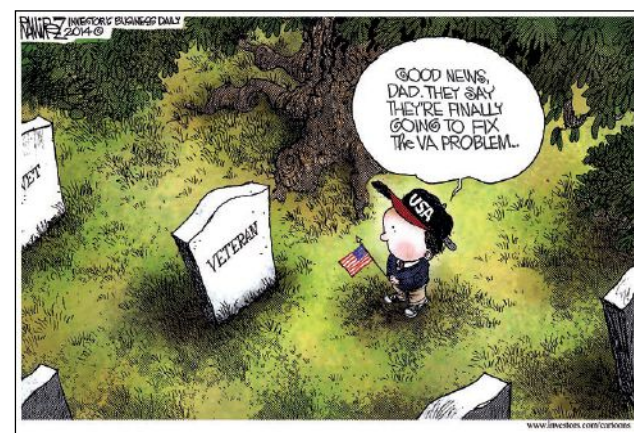


Boy Scout Troop 1, Sussex, VA overnighted at Michigan American Legion Lodge in Trout Lake, MI July 10. They were on their way to Boy Scout camps in Minnesota.

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



American Legion Post 36 and 465 support the efforts of the Scotts Community Center of Michigan. Three times a year for the past 6 years. They send 20 packages at a time and have sent 360 in total thus far. They plan to continue the program as long as possible.

WWW.USAA.COM

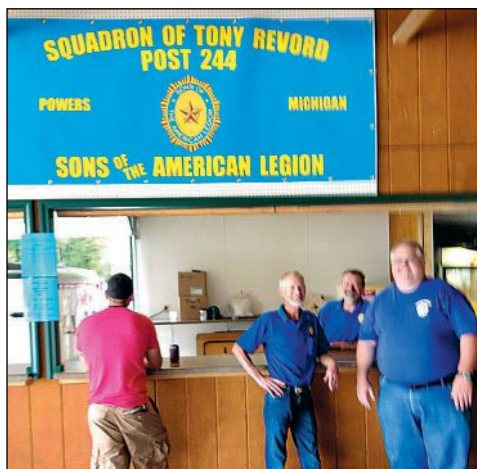
Carry the card that gives back to The American Legion.

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USAA CARD MEMBER



Members of Menominee Post 146, present 2014 finalist Samsung Scholarship winner Garrett Dietz, a plaque on July 23, 2014. Front row Wayne Roy, 11th District Commander, Garrett Dietz, Tom Chernetski, Post 146 Commander Back row: Don Hudon, Bill Smith, Jim Smith, Cliff Cosson, Mose Uecke and John Nutter.



SAL Squadron 244 participated in the Powers Michigan Summer Picnic with a beer booth and a food booth. The squadron raised over \$1500 during the event. Left Picture: L-R Mike labonte, Dan Hammerberg & Kevin Labonte. Rt. Picture: Mike Labonte & Dale Chartier



Chesaning Post 212 at the Chesaning Festival with friends of the community.



Karen Shipley, a Navy Veteran, is sworn in as the first female Commander of DW Cassard Post 208 in Kentwood by Past Commander John Rendak. Karen has served as 1st Vice President for several years and welcomes further challenges as Commander.