



MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 6



IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER



Boys State
Registration
Due May
15th, 2015

2015 CPR's Due June 22th, 2015

Annual Post Data Reports Due By
April 27th, 2015

Student Trooper Applications Due
May 29th, 2015

Happy Easter  April 5th, 2015



Legion
Baseball Team
Registration and
Baseball
Insurance due by
May 15th, 2015

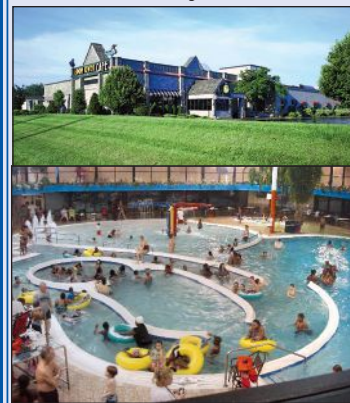
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A Day To Remember - May 25
Memorial Day 2015



Family Fun at Summer Convention!!!



The 2015 Annual Convention will be at the Best Western Sterling Inn in Sterling Heights, Michigan June 25-28, 2015. The hotel has an indoor water park (scan the QR Code to see a video on page 19), the hotel is located about 25-30 minutes from downtown Detroit. Detroit offers 3 casinos and the Detroit Tigers will be playing at home all 4 days against the Chicago White Socks, Thursday at 1:08PM, Friday at 7:08PM, Saturday at 4:08PM, and Sunday at 1:08PM. Bring the family and enjoy a great time at Summer Convention 2015.

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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DEADLINE DATES

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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.

Chaplain



Today, my friend told me about her driving down her street, and saw a young man on the corner holding a sign, "Please help this struggling soldier." She said, "He was there yesterday, too." She noticed no liquor bottles nearby. So she believed his cause was real, and out of compassion, gave him money both days. Homelessness among our veterans is definitely real. Nearly, 60,000 veterans are on the streets right now. The VA has a budget of over \$4 billion to combat homelessness through health care initiatives, but officials have said, "They still face serious, long-term problems, and will be among the hardest to reach and help."

Who are the Homeless? It is no longer the bowery bum laying in the poor city streets. Today, some are living on streets, or automobiles, boxes, under bridges, railroad cars, shelters, shacks, or could be a brief

stay with relatives or friends. They come from all socio-economic classes, races, and ethnic groups. Forty percent of homeless men are military veterans. Cities have shelters, but rural areas find the homeless in caves, or tents in the woods. Some are travelers going from job to job, town to town. Sometimes, it is due to bad choices, misfortune, illnesses, or inequalities. The longer the homelessness, the more likely health risks develop such as substance abuse, and mental, or physical disabilities. Being homeless can be lonely in a crowd, and is a downward spiral for them, unless some intervention occurs.

What can we do in our local Posts? As a chaplain, I see the need as a physical, social, and spiritual dimensions in meeting their needs. First, be informed of your local conditions where specific needs are being met, or not met. Support groups, VA Clinics, Churches, Shelters, Clothing and Food Closets, Addic-

tion Groups, etc. are resources for our local posts to use. Call them, invite them in. Second, listen to their needs and hurts firsthand as it shows you truly care. They might need laundry or shower facilities, or clothes, or shoes, or hygiene kits. Maybe a haircut, or a blanket, or a bag lunch. Vouchers are could be given from a grocery store or a doughnut shop. Health conditions can deteriorate and they will need first aid, eye and dental care, and medications to meet their need. Some churches have rotating fellowship dinners and temporary places to stay. Third, invite key people in the American Legion who are currently working with our veterans, such as PDC Richard Chatman and others, and then form a group of volunteers from the local posts to help meet the need of every homeless veteran.

Let's make this our challenge – no longer seeing that veteran holding the sign, "Please help this struggling soldier!"

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE HOMELESS

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

Leadership College Classes

The Leadership College is to provide you the Legionnaire how the Legion works as an organization. Classes include: Leadership, Duties of Office & Form Importance, Protocol & Parliamentary Procedures, Public Relations, Flow of Resolutions, and Post Development and Revitalization. We will also cover the programs with the Legion, the Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders.

There is NO COST to attend. Learn more about the Legion and more about how to help veterans

through the Legion programs. We are Veterans serving Veterans since 1919. Don't Miss Out!! To register visit www.michiganlegion.org/leadership-college.html

May 2, 2015 – American Legion South Haven Post

May 16, 2015 – American Legion Marquette Post (UP)

May 17, 2015 – American Legion Sault Ste Marie Post (UP)

June 26, 2015 – Summer Conven-

tion (Evening Class)

Leadership College classes will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Check in begins at 8:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Michigan Leadership College Chairman, Bud Hansbarger, at 616-262-6169 budhansbarger@yahoo.com



STATE OFFICERS

State Commander Jim Wallace, Pinckney
State Adjutant..... Ron Runyan, Wyandotte
1st Zone..... Joe Callahan
2nd Zone..... Jim Carlin
3rd Zone..... Marilyn Britten
4th Zone..... Joe Renis
5th Zone..... Jim Dougovito

Finance Officer .. George Dolan, Grand Blanc
Historian..... Mitch Louth, St. Johns
Chaplain..... Larry Volink, Ypsilanti
Sergeant-at-Arms
..... Frank Flores, Madison Heights
Judge Advocate.... Elmer White, Ann Arbor
National Executive Committeeman
..... John Skinner, Schoolcraft

Alt. National Executive Committeeman
..... Roger Webster, Croton
Immediate Past Commander
..... Ray Moore, Lake City
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director
..... Gary Easterling, Jonesville
Membership Dir..... Steve Striggow, Holly
Public Relations Director
..... Mark Sutton, Eaton Rapids

Headquarters

Jim Wallace, State Commander



Jim Wallace
State Commander

April is Children and Youth Month. What a great opportunity to use this theme to go into your local schools and get our youth involved in the many programs the Legion Family has to offer. Research all available information regarding these programs in order to be ready for the conversations needed with the Counselors, Teachers, Principals or Superintendents.

Contact them to get participants for our programs this year. Being that this is one of our four pillars, it should be paramount in striving to help our youth become better citizens and to understand how our United States of America works. Get your team ready now for this important task.

Membership, Membership, Membership

The month of May is the last chance for the Post, District, Zone and Department to achieve 100% before our State Convention. Every day of every month is important for membership; however, this is the last "hurrah" before the deadline.

GET INVOLVED

Continue working on the renewals and finding those veterans that have not become a member of the largest war-time veterans organization in the world. We need them as much as they need us. We can help them understand why we have been around for 96 years and plan on being around a long time. This can only be accomplished by you. When you acquire new members make sure you mentor them and their families and make them feel welcome to participate in the Legion Family meetings and organizational activities.

We Remember

One of the most important activities this month is the observance of Memorial Day. If we, the living, forget the ones who died for our freedom, then we do not deserve any freedom. I might have paraphrased someone of importance, but, however you say it, it's true to the words. We need to recognize and remember all service members who are resting in special places (all are special). Consider finding time to help wash the monuments at the National Cemeteries or local cemeteries, cleaning up (policing) around the grounds. Scheduling activities with Boy & Girl Scouts to put flag holders and flags near the

headstones. Many other ideas and programs are out there to remember our fallen brothers and sisters. Please, get involved and start annual traditions that will last within the Family, Post and Community.

Why I belong....

I started in the American Legion when a good friend asked me to join a new post being chartered. I became the charter finance officer. After a short time I got a new job that required me to work 7pm to 7am., 7 days a week. I had to drop my involvement for several years due to working and raising a family, but, I continued to pay my dues. I finally was able to rejoin the activities at the post level after many years. I found that I missed this involvement and got seriously interested in veterans helping veterans, their families and the community. Not having any idea where this was going I became Post Commander, District Commander, served on several Department Committees. I had no idea that I would have the chance to be elected the Department of Michigan Commander. All of this by being asked to join and getting involved - 43 years ago. This can happen to anybody.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Consolidated Post Reports Have Been Mailed



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

The annual Consolidated Post Reports have been mailed to the post. The deadline to submit your report is June 22, 2015 to Department or online at www.mylegion.org.

Why is the CPR Important?

1. The information is used in the National Annual report and by law presented to the US Congress to show them how we are maintaining and using our Congressional Charter.
2. The National Commander uses that information during their testimony to Congress each year.
3. It gives your Post a history of activities, if your Post asks a group or company for a donation or you apply for a grant the CPR provides historical data on the activities of the Post.

4. It gives recognition to the members working the programs and activities in your Post and your community.

5. It helps recruiting members by answering the question "What does your Post do?"

Our Goal is 100%

Our goal is to submit 100% of our Posts CPR's to National this year.

What if our post is small and does very little?

No matter the size of your post or the number of activities the post does ALL posts should fill out the top section of the CPR, sign it and return it. Even that information helps us towards 100%.

Take a few minutes and brag about your Post and your volunteers. Keep up the great work.

THANK YOU PAT!!!!



Have a great retirement
We will miss you!!!

Will We or Won't We



**Steve Striggow,
Membership Director**

As I write this, Michigan is at 90%, 2nd Place in the Central Region and 6th nationally. All the members of the Membership Team (the Legionnaires of Michigan) have done a great job this year. We have challenged each other to achieve and surpass goals. We have reached the time when, as the saying goes we either put up or shut up. We are still behind last year at this time by almost 1000 members. Let us redouble our efforts to renew our members and sign up new members. There is a large number of Post 225 members not renewed. Renew and transfer the 225 members to your post. Your Adjutant can find them on MyLegion.org. Just remember all the work you have done thus far will all be for naught if we don't follow through and get to 100% by May 11th. That is 6900 more members to renew and signup.

I have addressed the incentives in every article. I have received confirmation and sizes from only 13 of 41 Commanders eligible to receive the 100% Commander Jackets. I know the Zone and District Commanders have been getting the word out. Remember if your Post reached 100% before January 1, you **MUST** have the Adjutant send me an email, letter or give me a phone call. It must include your post number, Commanders name, size and if your post needs the 100% membership plaque or just the current year sticker. If your post reaches 100% prior to convention you will receive the membership plaque or current year sticker. I need to know of the post eligibility for incentives. It is up to the posts to contact me about the incentives and if they do not, they will not receive them. There are too many for me to contact them all.

100% is not just a goal it can be a reality. Keep up the good work.

ATTENTION POST MEMBERSHIP
CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERSHIP AWARD FORMS

Department will be sending each Post a packet of information that includes forms that must be completed and returned to Department by May 1st, 2015.

These include the membership recruiting pin and the Department Gold, Silver, and Bronze Brigade forms to recognize those members who have recruited 30, 20, or 10 new members this year.

Take time to recognize the efforts of your membership team.

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

1st District

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

2nd District

May 10th, 2015 @Hudson Post 180
SAL Meeting at 11AM - VSO School at 1PM - AL Meeting at 2PM

3rd District

Executive Committee @ 11:30 AM
Lunch @ 12:00 Noon Meeting @ 1:00 PM
Mar 8th 2015 @ Post 53 - 1611 Steamburg Rd, Hillsdale, MI
May 3rd 2015 @ Post 72 - 418 Dunham St, Albion, MI, 12PM Memorial, 2PM Regular Meeting

4th District

May 3, 2015@ South Haven Post 49

5th District

Meetings @ 7PM
July 9th, 2015 TBA

6th District

Lunch @ 12:00PM Meeting @ 1:00PM
May 3rd, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison

7th District

May 17th, 2015 @Lapeer Post
June 2015 - Department Convention

8th District

May 3rd, 2015 @ Saranac Post 175

9th District

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

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 District

April 11th, 2015 @Menominee Post 146 10 AM CST

12th District

16th District

Meetings begin at 7:30PM
* Service officer School at 6:30PM
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
May 20th, 2015 @ Post 32, Livonia*
*Memorial service prior to meeting at 6:30PM

18th District

Meetings start @ 2:00PM
April 12th, 2015 @Post 216 Memorial Service
May 17th, 2015 @ Post 346 - Elections
June 14th, 2015 @ Royal Oak Post #253

19th District

May 16th, 2015 @ Post 317, Onaway - Social Hour 11am
Lunch at 12, Meeting at 1PM

MI LEGIONNAIRE OPT OUT FORM

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

Name: _____

Member ID #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox

Little Changes Are Being Done



Well it is April and spring should be here, with all the new flowers coming up and some mowing the grass a change of the season begins. With our organization the change is what we have accomplished in the past year. Our reporting is being done. I hope that each unit and district is reporting what they are doing. My travels in the past year shows the many things that are being done. I know that the chairman's are waiting to hear everything. I

will await for all the answers at our department convention.

Membership is doing well. As I sit here today we are sitting 9th in the nation and 3rd in Central Division. But we can't stop here. We still have several members that have not paid their dues for this year. Please reach out to that person and see if there is anything that you can do help. Remember to join your juniors they count in our overall count. I would sure like to stay in the top 10 in National, but it will take everyone to get this job done. Remember the three R's Renew, Rejoin and Retain.

Poppies are coming up next month so make

sure that you placed an order from our department. Make sure that you involve the entire American Legion Family in getting these out in the general public. Our Veterans are waiting for our help in this program.

In March we celebrated a milestone, with the American Legion celebrating their 95th Birthday. I did attend a couple of birthday dinners this year. It was remarkable to see the celebrating of two legionnaires with 70 years of continuous membership. Without the American Legion we wouldn't be here today. So a huge **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICAN LEGION!**

2015 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CONVENTION CALL

The 95th Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan is hereby called to be held in Sterling Heights, Michigan June 25-June 28, 2015.

The Convention is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, considering amendments to the Constitution, By-Laws and Standing Rules, receiving reports of the National Executive Committeewoman, Department Officers and Chairmen, electing Delegates and Alternates to the 95th National Convention and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

REPRESENTATION

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2: The Annual Convention shall be composed of Delegates and Alternates qualified as follows:

- Delegates and Alternates shall have paid their National and Department dues for the current year to Department Headquarters not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convention.
- Delegates and Alternates must be over eighteen (18) years of age, except as provided in the Constitution, Article III, Section 2 (a).
- Delegates and Alternates must be elected at a Unit meeting duly called for that purpose: notice of said meeting having been given no later than two (2) weeks prior to election.
- Alternates shall have priority in order of their election.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3: Each Unit of ten (10) or more members shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) additional Delegate for every one hundred (100) members or major fraction thereof.

- Units may send Delegates or Alternates only if they have paid their Mandatory Funds for the current year to Department Headquarters not less than (30) days prior to Convention.
- Units will be permitted to vote from the floor only if they have complied with all mandates and are represented by at least one (1) Delegate or Alternate.
- Units organized during the year (after July 1) will be given the privileges of the Convention floor.

THE NUMBER OF DELEGATES ALLOWED WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE UNIT'S MEMBERSHIP INTO DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS ON MAY 25, 2015.

UNIT CREDENTIAL FEES

Standing Rules (Department of Administration) credential fee is \$10.00 for each delegate, \$1.00 fee will be charged for lost credentials for Department Convention, must be paid by the Unit for each Delegate to which it is entitled by virtue of its membership.

DELEGATE AT LARGE

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4: All elected and appointed Department Officers, all members of Department Standing Committees, the Hospital Representatives and their First Deputies of the VA Hospitals, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans and all non-VA Hospital Chairmen and their First Deputies shall be Delegates-at-Large to the annual Convention and entitled to vote.

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5: All Past Department Presidents, as long as they remain members in good standing in a Unit in this Department, shall be Delegates-at-Large to the annual Convention and entitled to vote.

STANDING RULES (DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATION)

A credential fee shall be paid for each Delegate-at-Large for the Department Convention. All credential fees collected for Department Convention shall be allocated to the printing account to help defray the cost of the Annual Report Book. Credential fee is \$10.00.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE

The fee of \$15.00 charged by The American Legion Convention Corporation must be paid by ALL DELEGATES, ALTERNATES, DELEGATES-AT-LARGE AND GUESTS. Convention program book, badge, etc. will be given only on presentation of the Corporation's receipt at the registration desk. The registration fee of \$15.00 must be paid even if housing is not required. The convention registration fee of \$15.00 is to be mailed to the American Legion 2015 Convention with a registration form.

Preliminary Schedule for the 2015 Department Convention

(Times and Places may be subject to change)

Thursday, June 25, 2015

8:30 a.m. Registration and Credentials
9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Headquarters Office open
9:00 a.m. Registration of Color/Displays
10:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee Meeting
12:00 noon Outgoing Chairman's Luncheon (Turn in your Procedure File)

1:00-2:00 p.m. Membership Workshop
2:00 p.m. Flag Rehearsal

3:00-4:00 p.m. Pre-Convention Meetings

- Administrative Information Pod I
AEF, Const/By-Laws, Finance, Historian
- Administrative Information Pod II
Leadership, Membership, PPP, Pub Rel, Rules
- Vet/Mil. Support & Advocacy
Legislative, Nat. Sec, Poppy, VA&R
- Family Support
Amer, Chap, Com Serv, Education, Music
- Youth Development
Child & Youth, Girls State, Juniors

4:00 p.m. Credentials

4:30 p.m. Resolutions

7:00 p.m. Official Opening of the 2015 Convention
Friday, June 26, 2015

8:00 a.m. Registration and Credentials
8:00 a.m. Auxiliary Headquarters Office open
8:30 a.m. 95th Annual Convention Reconvenes
11:30 a.m. Recess for lunch
11:30 a.m. VA&R Volunteer Luncheon
1:00 p.m. 95th Annual Convention Reconvenes
5:00 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Rehearsal
6:00 p.m. Closing of Credentials Desk

Saturday, June 26, 2015

8:00 a.m. Registration
8:00-8:30 a.m. Credentials desk closes at 8:30
9:00 a.m. 95th Annual Convention Reconvenes (All displays and flags are to be picked up at the end of the morning session.)
Church services available

Saturday, June 27, 2015

7:30 a.m. Line Up for Memorial Service
8:00 a.m. Joint Memorial Service
9:30 a.m. 95th Annual Convention Reconvenes
(Immediately following the adjournment of the convention session, delegates and alternates to the National Convention will meet at the front of the convention hall.)

Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain

Leave Behind a Legacy of Goodness

“Has this world been so kind to you that you should leave with regret? There are better things ahead than any we leave behind.” ~ C.S. Lewis



As I write this I am thankful for the many friends and family that I have. I am so thankful that I live in a country that allows me to be free and be the individual that I want to be. Without our Veterans and current active military, and their families, I would be unable

to say that I can do that.

We have so many people and things in our lives to be thankful for. We can go to the schools that we want, work in a field that we want to work in and that will make us happy, spend time with our families and friends whenever we choose. These freedoms are due to the sacrifices that our military and their families have made in the past and continue to make.

Our thankfulness is something we should never fail to express as often as possible.

When you are relaxing after a long day, think about all that you have and always remember why you are able to have it. There are so many

people in this world that are told how to live their lives, where to go to school, work, or even what to wear. How horrible that type of life must be.

Our lives are sometimes so full of the loss of life that it makes it hard to be thankful. However, we must be thankful for the time we had with the people we know and love. We are losing American Legion Family members on a regular basis and it is extremely depressing. Rather than being depressed we should be thankful that we have such a wonderful family and continue to look for ways to enlarge it and make it stronger. Be thankful for those that have come into our lives and become so special to us, as well as the Veterans and active military that make it possible.

Never regret what your life is but, live your life like you may not have the people that are special to you tomorrow, because we never know what God has in store for us or those around us. Leave behind a legacy of goodness and love for others that you have come in contact with.

National Security--It is Not Just About Weapons

Anita Mennel-National Security Committee Member

By supporting activities that address the practical and emotional well-being of military service members and their families, the Auxiliary's National Security program hopes to ease the worries of those deployed so that they can focus on the monumental task of protecting our country. That comes directly from our National Website. Sounds like a National Security Mission Statement to me. And what a great mission it is. In a nutshell, the Purpose Statement taken from the national website is: To support our military and their families. (Sounds easy right???? Well actually it is!)

Ever wonder what you can do about National Security???? If you were at Fall Conference, you should have learned that our National Security program is 'huge'. There are many, many aspects of National Security. As a unit, you can collaborate with other programs. You don't have to do this all on your own. Work with your Post or Squadron as well. Heroes to hometown, Operation Comfort Warriors, Operation Homefront-these are just a few of the organizations you could work with. Did you know that our Legion Department has a Reconnect program? If you happen to be near a base, or a National Guard Armory, that's a great place to start. Ask what you can do to assist our troops, and don't forget about their families that are left behind.

Coupon Clipping is a great way to get your community involved. You don't have to be an auxiliary member to clip coupons, and what a great way to show your support for our troops and their families!

Host a Blue Star Mothers tea, include the wives of our active duty troops. A great way to share with them what's available, and that we support them as well as their loved one who serves. After all, this could be a great membership tool as well!

Staying prepared yourself and in your household. How so you ask? Do you have an evacuation plan for your family should there be an emergency, and does everybody know it? Have your children/grandchildren been fingerprinted? What would you do if they came up missing? Are YOU ready for that type of a disaster? Do you have a first aid/survival kit in your vehicle?

Work with your loved ones on internet and phone safety as well. Be prepared for scams. They are out there! Be CERT trained! Offer to host training with your post. Get your community involved in being on the ready!

Stay strong and active in honoring and recognizing our POW/MIA's. Conduct public ceremonies on or near National POW/MIA day. Help ensure that their service will not be forgotten, and that our government will give as full accounting as possible, dead or alive. Put yourself in their families' place. What would you like the rest of America to do?

Our national website has a wealth of information about National Security. Hopefully this has intrigued you enough to go look, see what your unit can do. How you can become active in supporting our troops and their family, and how you can keep your own family "on the ready".

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/Programs/National-Security>

Renew, Rejoin, Retain

Anne Michell, Membership, Upper Northern Area

Thank members when they renew their dues. Notify them of meeting dates, and times. Share with them any information of upcoming events. Every Unit seems to have the same members who come to the meetings.

Many times it consists of the officers, and a few more members, When a member who hasn't been to a meeting before comes into the meeting room, make them feel welcomed. Engage them in conversation. Every member has something to offer to the group. Ask them to be involved in Unit projects, or to be on a committee. Let them know that they mean more to the Unit than a way to make membership goal.

Contact former members. Make an effort to get them to rejoin the Unit. Maybe there is a hardship reason that the dues have not been paid. Though not all Units can afford to, some Units pay the dues of their members who reside in nursing homes.

Remember, that as important as getting new members is, it is just as important to keep the members that we current have. Our Juniors are an excellent example. There is no better way to continue our membership, than with the next generation who will be taking over the tasks that are so important to our organization. Ask your Juniors to help out at Unit functions. Keep them involved. Have a program or special recognition for girls that are going from a Junior to a Senior member. Make things fun!

Department Juniors Have Convention

Darlene Jones, Junior Activities Chairman

Congratulations to all the newly elected Junior Officers and congratulations to Ciara Brown for a wonderful Convention. The juniors tie-died T-shirts, had a snowball fight and even dressed President Nancy Knox and 1st Vice Sue Verville as Poppy Queens. Ciara is still raising money for Rainbow Connection until Department Convention.

New Officers are: Honorary President, Taylor Townes; 1st Vice, Sabrina Townes; 2nd Vice, Emma Damouth; Chaplain, Taylor Houghton; and Historian, Leah Daniel. Distinguished Guest Chairman, Ciara Brown; Music Chairman, Shamar Shqair; Color Bearers, Marissa Baird and Destiny Smigiel; Sgt-At-Arms, Aleigha Houghton complete the roster.

Taylor's special project is the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan to prevent bullying. There is a 5K walk Saturday May 16, 2015 from 8:30 am--walk starts at 9:30 am. You can register today online at The Mental Health Foundation Please register--hope to see a lot of your Juniors and members helping this wonderful cause.

Remember to Be Nice.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Butch Maxwell,
Detachment Commander



So much has happened since the last newsletter! After 27 years as a member of The Sons of The American Legion I am still experiencing new things and learning a lot.

In December I traveled to gift shops at VA hospitals in Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Saginaw and Detroit. All these gift shops are a little different in their own way but all have the same mission: to give gifts to veterans and family members that come to visit them during the Christmas season. The gift shops are an Auxiliary function and if you ever have an opportunity to help the auxiliary with these events it is very rewarding.

In January the Red Flannel Dinner was a fun event to start off the U.P. Tour - thank you for the hospitality, Cedar Springs! The greetings we got from the U.P. association and all the posts we stopped in at were awesome. Thank you to everyone in the U.P. for the hospitality; they have me almost convinced that the U.P. is Michigan's better half. When we were in the U. P. we visited the VA hospitals in Marquette and Iron Mountain. The American Legion Family in the U.P. is doing an awesome job supporting these facilities- thank you all for your service.

February took me to Washington D.C for the legislative conference. It is amazing what the American Legion does in DC. I had no idea what happens at this event and discovered that everyone that goes there visits their senators and representatives to explain to them how important the needs of veterans are and to let them know the key things that need attention. This was a very special learning experience.

The American Legion is a wonderful organization and I am proud to be a part of the family. As a family we must work together to support the organization as much as possible and to keep the mission going. That mission is to support veterans any way we can and help them with their needs. There are many ways we can do this:

- VA facilities are an area that the Legion fami-

ly supports in a big way and the countless volunteer hours put in by the Legion family is very beneficial to these centers. They need our support as much as possible so please keep up the good work.

- Another issue is the needs of homeless veterans. Sadly, we have veterans living on the streets so whatever we can do to help get these men and women off the streets and into veterans housing centers or help them get their own living space would be a tremendous help. Many of the reasons that these people are on the streets are a result of the side effects from when they were fighting for our freedom. PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) is a big problem. Most people suffering from PTSD don't even realize they have it; they think they are the same as they were before they went through the event (or events) that caused their problems. I was talking with a career veteran who said that when he came home after a tour his family noticed that he was different, but he did not think that he'd changed. Fortunately, his family convinced him to get help. He went to counseling and got help and realized his family was correct. So, if you notice a change in family members or friends that have been through traumatic experiences, please try to get them help. PTSD is not just a veteran problem - it can touch anyone who has had a traumatic experience in their life. Please help friends and family get the help they need.

Some members appear to belong to the American Legion family for their own self-interests but the American Legion is not about any one person or position. For myself, I would like to think that since I have become Commander I have not changed other than I truly believe I am a better person today due to what being a Commander has taught me about the great ways that the American Legion family supports our nation's veterans. As members of the American Legion family we all need to continue to work together for our main goal - supporting veterans. And I would like to believe that as we get deeper into our mission of support we will continue to grow stronger and closer as a family.

I would like to thank the American Legion for allowing The Sons of The American Legion to be part of their great organization and THANK ALL VETERANS FOR OUR FREEDOM.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT

IN RECOGNITION OF.....

Zack Pendell, Michigan Detachment Adjutant

All the work we accomplished this year needs to be reported. I cannot stress enough to all of the Squadrons how important it is that you complete the Consolidated Report forms sent to you.

The federal government has set the charter for The American Legion and The American Legion for the sons of The American Legion. We are a program of The American Legion and yet every year we fail to give an accurate report of what we do because only 50-68 percent of squadrons report what they do on the consolidated report forms.

Gentlemen pride aside and not feeling worthy is no excuse. Those of you who fail to complete the consolidated report are failing the Sons of the American Legion as well as The American Legion. The information gathered from these reports go to assist The American Legion in lobbying the government for veterans programs and assistance. The stronger we are, the more we can do for our veterans.

All your work and veterans programs through your squadrons need to be reported. Please fill out and send in a consolidated report this year and let's show The American Legion and the government how great this program, the Sons of The American Legion, really is. Do this because you are a son's, do it for our mutual devotion to helpfulness, do it for your pride and veterans assistance. Please just do it, it takes just a moment to make a greater impact on veteran programs than you may realize. I thank you for the work you do daily to help our veterans and thank you for helping me by sending me your consolidated reports.

For God and country and for the Sons of The American Legion.

JOIN US JUNE 5, 6, & 7

at the Riverfront Hotel Grand Rapids Michigan
for the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of Michigan
Annual Convention

PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

LET'S RIDER FOR THE LEGION



Tom Howard,
American
Legion Riders,
Detachment
of Michigan

Riders we are entering into a new riding season. Planning our events for the year should be in full swing. What the Riders should recognize is that we have a unique tool that no other entity has; we represent the American Legion with a lot of horsepower, so to speak. Our motorcycles are somewhat a show-piece in parades, funeral processions, and rides to Posts that generate Post money and fellowship.

We know we are a unique Legion Family. When a member joins the Riders they are joining the Legion, Auxiliary, or the SAL. I would encourage each Riders group to join in with the membership efforts of our Legion Family. When put in perspective the other entities should back the Riders 100%.

Another item is parades. If we can have even a few riders riding in holiday parades that is a big plus for our Legion. We all know, or so I preach, family first. Please pick an event or date and set one or two aside, picnic's or a trip to the family cabin are fun, but just one event on your calendar can help our Legion Family.

My next item is involvement in the Legion Family. First and foremost we are Legion members. My personal goal is to have every entity represented at each and every state conference. The vast knowledge and

help available is enormous. Between the SAL, Aux, and Legionnaire's we should be able to send a representative from each entity or at least one from each Post to a state conference.

Next, there is going to be a concert in Sault Ste Marie by Nashville country music singer Richard Lynch on July 25th. Between his family and promoters they are putting on a concert for our Wilwin Lodge for returning Veterans with a special focus on PTSD. All profits from the concert will go to Wilwin. His CD sales will also go to our cause for our Veteran's. There will be a motorcycle ride on the same date from Mt. Pleasant Michigan to Sault Ste Marie. Our information is on the state web site www.michiganlegion.org. We are looking for team members to get involved in the ride. Paramedics, chase vehicles with trailers, advance team for registration, experienced road captains, law enforcement contacts for escorts and anyone willing to help would be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, motorcycle safety. Please do not be embarrassed or feel it is below you to take a refresher course on motorcycle safety. The Governor's motorcycle safety council should be offering an awesome military spec vest for participants in the program, usually offered through community colleges.

Please ride safe. Any rides for the Legion web site can be directed to me at speedbump48813@hotmail.com.

God Bless you all..... Let's help our Legion Family and more importantly our young Veterans.

2015 Michigan SAL Convention Program Advertising Cost

FULL PAGE COLOR	\$ 150.00
Full PAGE BLACK & WHITE	\$ 100.00
1/2 PAGE	\$ 50.00
1/4 PAGE	\$ 25.00
BUSINESS CARD SIZE (3.5" X 2")	\$ 15.00
Memorial (IN MEMORY OF - 1 LINE)	\$ 5.00
Friends of SAL (YOUR NAME - 1 LINE)	\$ 5.00

Color ads can only be accepted for full page ads

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 SAL 2015 CONVENTION COMMITTEE

SEND TO:
 SAL 2015 CONVENTION COMMITTEE
 1601 Oswego NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

For large ads please contact Jeff Meulendyk via E-mail for needed picture format. jeff@cleangrandrapids.com

If you want your actual business card to be scanned and printed please include a card with your payment.

All ads and payments must be received by May 1, 2015

2015 SAL Convention
June 5, 6 & 7 2015

Riverview Hotel – Grand Rapids
 270 Ann Street NW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone: (855) 344-6835
 Phone: (616) 363-9001
 Fax: (616) 363-0670

Rates

Single Kings\$99.00 per night	1-room Suite\$135.00 per night
Single King w/ pullout sofa\$99.00 per night	2-room Suite\$145.00 per night
2 Double Beds\$99.00 per night	

All reservations must be made on or before May 26th 2015 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 one of the above numbers and reference The Sons of The American Legion Convention

- Hotel cannot guarantee that group rooms will be located near each other
- Check-in time is 4:00 PM; check-out time is 12:00 PM (DEC may request late checkout upon arrival)
- Convention Registration: Registration badges are required for attendance at all meetings.

SEND \$10 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON) MADE PAYABLE TO:

SAL 2015 CONVENTION COMMITTEE, 1601 Oswego NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

If you plan to attend the picnic on Saturday please indicate your preferences. Picnic can be paid at convention. (\$13.00)

Name	Legion	Auxiliary	SAL	Legion Rider	Picnic (check one)	
					Chicken	Beef
					Chicken	
					Beef	
					Chicken	
					Beef	
					Chicken	
					Beef	
					Chicken	
					Beef	

JOIN US AT THE SAL SUMMER CONVENTION SATURDAY JUNE 6TH

Time: Check the schedule

American Legion Leadership Chairman Bud Hansbarger will be presenting Leadership College lessons at the annual convention.

Understanding and education is important to the health of the organization, the classes will be an opportunity to learn and to ask questions. Bring a pen and notebook to be ready to learn.



The Only Written
Official Call to the 97th Annual State Convention
American Legion, Department of Michigan
June 26th – June 28th, 2015
Best Western
Sterling Heights, Michigan



Purpose: To receive Department Officers' annual reports, consider Department Constitution and By-Laws amendments, elect Department Officers and conduct any other business brought to the convention. Only the Committees and Chairpersons listed below are called to officially participate in the Convention.

Registration: Registration fee of \$15 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Department Exec. Cmte Meeting: Thursday June 25th, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Opening Session: Friday June 26th, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

Subsequent Convention Sessions: Saturday, June 27th, 2015, 9:00 a.m. & Sunday, June 28th, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings: Thursday, June 25th, 2015 (TBA – see schedule at www.michiganlegion.org)

- Finance/Personnel
- Children & Youth, Legislative, Membership, Permanent Time and Place
- Americanism, Economic, Public Relations, Reconnect, and VAVS/VHVS
- Internal Affairs, Post Development, and VA&R

Call Department Committee Chairmen: Representing Department Committees not called to convention: Baseball, Boys State, Education & Scholarship, Leadership College, and National Security & Foreign Relations

Convention Committee Meetings: Friday June 26th, 2015, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Convention Committees are comprised of one person per district. Each Delegation Chairman will name the members to serve on the Convention Committees and certify that list to the Department Adjutant ten (10) (*June 16th, 2015*) days prior to the Department Convention.

Americanism & Community Service (includes Education & Scholarship, Boys State, Law and Order, Scouting) – **Children & Youth, Constitution & Bylaws, Credentials, Economic, Finance, Legislative, Membership, National Security & Foreign Relations, Post Development, Public Relations, Reconnect, Rules, Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation and VAVS/VHVS**

District Caucuses: Friday, June 26th, 2015, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Zone Caucuses: Friday, June 26th, 2015, 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Joint Memorial Service: Sunday, June 28th, 2015 8 a.m.

Elections & Adjournment: Sunday June 28th, 2015, 10 a.m.

The 2015 Department Executive Committee and the 2015 National Convention Delegates and Alternates will meet upon convention adjournment.

POST VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Non-compliance with the 10-day delegate/alternate information requirement below will negate a post's vote at Department Convention

VOTING STRENGTH IS DETERMINED BY MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AS OF MAY 26th, 2014 (last year's membership number)

10 Day's Prior to the Opening of Department Convention

Each Post Adjutant must send the completed Post Delegate Form, which will be mail to each Post Adjutant's home address in May, into Department Headquarters by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday June 16,2015. Once department receives the signed post delegate form, department will mail the appropriate number of post delegate cards to each Post Adjutant's home address. The form must include each person's membership card number, full name, mailing address, and be signed by either the Post Commander or Adjutant. Forms can be mailed, faxed to 517-371-2401, attn: Lynne Fracker, or emailed to her attention only at this email address: finance@michiganlegion.org. A form will not be accepted at any other department email address nor accepted if it lacks the Post Commander or Adjutant Signature.

Representation – Article V, Section 1 (c). Delegates

Representation in the annual Convention shall be by Delegates and Alternates, duly elected by Posts of the Department and, in addition thereto, the Past Department Commanders and the members of the Department Executive Committee, with the exception of the Department Adjutant. Each of the above Delegates shall be entitled to one vote. Each Post having 15 or more paid up members at the Department Headquarters **30 days prior to the opening date of the PRECEDING year's Convention** shall have representation at the annual Convention on the basis of one Delegate for such Post, who shall be the newly elected Commander and one additional Delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. Each Post represented at the Department Convention is entitled to cast the voting strength of its Post, provided all annual dues and debts to the District of which it is a part and the Department are paid.

Delegates – Article IV, Section 4 (j) j. In addition to the newly elected Post

Commander, each Post shall select one Delegate for each 50 paid-up members, or major fraction thereof, to represent such Post at the annual Convention. Each Post shall select an alternate for each Delegate chosen. The Delegates and Alternates shall be chosen by each Post from among its own members in good standing. The names of all Delegates and Alternates shall be certified to the Department Adjutant at least 10 days before the opening date of the annual Convention.

Delegate Determination formula:

15-25 members	1 delegate
26-75 members	2 delegates
76-125 members	3 delegates
126-175 members...	4 delegates
176-225 members ..	5 delegates
226-275 members ..	6 delegates
276-325 members ..	7 delegates
326-375 members ..	8 delegates
376-425 members ..	9 delegates

Credentials – Delegates will receive an identification badge upon registering with the Convention Corporation on-site.

Election of Vice Commanders – Article VI, Section 3 (a) - Elective Department Officers shall be chosen annually at the Department Convention by a roll call vote of the Districts of the Department, with the exception of Five Vice-Commanders, who shall be chosen at the "Zone" Caucuses by the Districts making up the "Zone" which that individual Vice Commander is to represent. Each Vice Commander so chosen must be and shall remain a member of a Post within his respective Zone.

Election of District Commanders – Articles V. Section 3 (c) - Each District shall elect its District Commander by vote of the Delegates representing Posts in the said District in attendance at the Annual Department Convention and prior to the adjournment thereof or else at a regular District Meeting to be held not less than fifteen (15) days nor more than sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Department Convention. Alternates shall be chosen at the same time and place as the District Commanders.

Veteran's Service

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
Tripp Cantwell, Assitant Director
Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210
477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226
Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697
e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

Visit us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/MichiganVAR

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION OFFICE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

(313) 964 - 6640

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00AM TO 4:00PM



Don't Face the VA Alone!!

WILWIN LODGE OPENS MAY 1ST

The Michigan American Legion Wilwin Lodge will be reopening on May 1st. Again, we ask for not only your post, squadron, or unit donations, but your individual monetary support for the upcoming year.

Due to the generosity of our American Legion Veterans, Auxiliary, Sons, and other supporters, Wilwin became a self-sustaining entity two years ago and no longer depends upon the Department for support. For Wilwin to continue our mission of serving all our veterans in a special way, this can only remain possible through your generous support.

Last summer was the busiest ever at Wilwin. Wilwin served 42 PTSD veterans not in need of medical supervision; 16 families uniting after deployment; 30 PTSD & TBI veterans under the supervision of Dr. Kane, PhD.; 5 overnights; 45 boy scouts; 2 quilting groups totaling 29; National Commander Dan Dellinger, his wife, and entourage; and approximately 95 tours given by Earl, Lou, and Bill. We do not schedule anyone else when PTSD and TBI veterans are present. Advance reservations show

that this summer will be even busier.

Again, we need future funds to continue serving these veterans. The veterans you serve at Wilwin have many heartwarming stories—peace and the caring attitude given to these veterans have saved lives and when you read some of the great things written about Wilwin, it will bring tears to your eyes. You are the reason we can reach out so graciously to so many veterans that are hurting inside.

To cease rumors on the sale of Wilwin, the Department of Michigan, with the recent blessing of its D.E.C. will be negotiating with Graymont Mining Company on the future status of Wilwin. Graymont recently acquired the mineral rights to 1600 acres from the Michigan DNR directly to the East of Wilwin. They also own outright 40 acres right outside our gate. It is expected that Graymont will acquire from the DNR 160 acres that attach Wilwin to the South in the very near future. Future mining means heavy equipment, blasting and trucking of minerals very close to our mission site.

Due to the challenges of maintaining a

tranquil environment (often referred to as “eco-therapy” for our PTSD and TBI veterans), all options are being explored at this time. What we do know is that the Department is determined that we continue Wilwin’s mission regardless where we are located. We also expect to continue operating at Wilwin for the next two years, before any move is contemplated.

Thank you for your generosity in the past. Please earmark all contributions to Wilwin and mail directly to Department Headquarters, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing,

MI 48915; Attn: Ashley. We acknowledge all your contributions with a letter of appreciation.

We welcome you to visit our website at www.wilwin.org or log onto www.michiganlegion.org and click on Wilwin. This will take you directly to our website for the latest updates.

Yours in serving our veterans

Bill Hafeman

PDC, Wilwin Director, and Chairman of Finance and Fundraising



The Wilwin Ride for our Veteran's

Saturday July 25th 2015

The ride will be from Mt Pleasant to Sault Ste Marie. Open to all American Legion Riders from any state. Pre registration appreciated and we will try to ensure free ride patches for all that pre register. An information packet will be mailed to you. Ride will end at the Kewadin Casino where country music artist Richard Lynch will be hosting a benefit concert for Wilwin Lodge Saturday evening.

Passengers and riders \$25.00 each

The Wilwin Lodge is a special place for returning Veterans to decompress, with a special emphasis on PTSD Veteran's Rehabilitation services.

American Legion Riders
Please send payment to
Earl Ruttkofsky 9771 Wilson Rd
Lake City, MI 49651

Payments should be made out to Wilwin Lodge.
Ride packet will be sent to you.



proudly presents...

Richard Lynch

Come Home To The
WilWin Lodge
Benefit Concert Series

Opening Act... Melanie Rose Roell July 25, 2015 -Doors Open 7pm



Michigan American Legion Riders Event

Concert Tickets;

\$20.00 advance - \$25.00 at door

Lodging Package....\$119.00

The room package will include 2 full size beds, One concert ticket, A Gift Bag with: an autographed Love Tattoo CD, a sampler bottle of Mackinaw Trail Wine and a \$10 Gaming credit. NOTE: This package includes ONLY one show ticket....Please order additional tickets separately.

Extra Night Stay Friday or Sunday....\$79.00 per night/per room

For Reservations/Tickets or Info by Phone: 513-377-3203

Or on the web @ www.richardlynchband.com

Promotional Consideration By;



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE



In the late 1930s, more than 150,000 volunteers with a love for aviation argued for an organization to put their planes and flying skills to

use in defense of their country. As a result, the Civil Air Patrol was born one week prior to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Thousands of volunteer members answered America's call to national service and sacrifice by accepting and performing critical wartime missions. Assigned to the War Department under the jurisdiction of the Army Air Corps, the contributions of Civil Air Patrol, including logging more than 500,000 flying hours, sinking two enemy submarines, and saving hundreds of crash victims during World War II, are well documented.

After the war, a thankful nation understood that Civil Air Patrol could continue providing valuable services to both local and national agencies. On July 1, 1946, President Harry Truman signed Public Law 476 incorporating Civil Air Patrol as a benevolent, nonprofit organization. On May 26, 1948, Congress passed Public Law 557 permanently establishing Civil Air Patrol as the auxiliary of the new U.S. Air Force. Three primary mission areas were set forth at that time: aerospace educa-

tion, cadet programs, and emergency services.

Civil Air Patrol gives individuals a great opportunity to serve their community; state; and nation, which is a big draw for our members that are veterans. For military veterans, we have many opportunities for them to apply the job and leadership skills they learned.

Membership:

Adult Membership:

Anyone 21 and over can join as "Senior Members" and there is no age limit. We also offer a NCO program for former NCO's (E-5 and higher), that don't wish to become CAP officers.

Cadets that turn 18 and wish to jump to Senior Member status, have to go through our "Flight Officer" program until they reach 21.

Individuals looking to join as an adult must complete a CAP application and special CAP fingerprint card (both can be obtained at the local squadron).

Cadet Membership:

Individuals 12 to 18 are eligible to join as cadets.

Individuals looking to join as a cadet must complete a CAP application (which can be completed online).

To learn more visit their National website at www.gocivilairpatrol.com

Legislative Mission/Guiding Principles of The American Legion Department of Michigan

1. To maintain a strong and adequate funding for Veteran Services through the Veteran Service Organizations in the State of Michigan
2. To advocate for proper funding and maintenance to the 2 State owned Veteran Homes
3. To maintain working relationships with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and other agencies dealing with veterans
4. To recommend improvements and deliver concerns to such agencies as needed.
5. To support legislation in the State of Michigan and Nationally that is beneficial to our active military, veterans, and/or their families
6. To support and advocate for proper funding for military assets and units in the State of Michigan
7. To support and advocate for a strong and properly funded VA budget focused on Michigan VA Facilities.

The American Legion Department of Michigan is actively working several pieces of legislation with rep-

resentatives and senators to help our veterans. House Bill 4060 introduced by Rep. Holly Hughes will require community colleges to make veterans and military aware of the Joint Service Transcript program. The JST gives recommended college credit evaluations for military training. The community college will then evaluate the credits and apply them to the student veteran college transcript.

House Joint Resolution D seeks to place a constitutional change on the ballot to have community colleges charge only in-district tuition rates to veterans and military personnel.

On the Michigan Veteran Services grants we disagree with the proposed \$429,000 decrease by the governor's office and are working with committees to restore those proposed cuts. A \$429,000 reduction would mean a reduction of about 714 hours of service, 3100 less contacts with veterans, and millions of dollars in less recoveries going to our veterans.

These are just a few of the initiatives the Department is working on at this time. If you have any questions or want more information about legislative items please contact the State Adjutant Ron Runyan.

Sen. Jones, Rep. Barrett Introduce Bills to Protect Charitable Gaming

Posted on March 6, 2015

LANSING—Sen. Rick Jones and Rep. Tom Barrett on Thursday introduced legislation in the Senate and House that would allow charity poker rooms to continue to operate in Michigan.

"Charitable gaming in Michigan is not about making huge profits for casinos, it is about raising funds to support local charities and organizations such as Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs; schools; and police, firefighters and veterans groups," said Jones, R-Grand Ledge. "I am proud to be working with Representative Barrett to support Michigan charities. Our bills would simply put

into law the emergency rules signed by the governor – allowing our local organizations to continue to use charitable gaming to support their causes."

The measures are in response to rules proposed by the Michigan Gaming Control Board that charities say would drastically limit their fundraising ability.

"I appreciate Senator Jones' partnership with this issue affecting our community," said Barrett, R-Potterville. "Charities are important. As the emergency rules are set to expire in July of this year, I am excited to continue working together to help our charities and protect this fund-

raising mechanism."

Jones' measure, Senate Bill 187, has been referred to the Senate Regulatory Reform Committee, on which Jones serves as vice-chair. Barrett's bill is House Bill 4293 and has been referred to the House Regulatory Reform Committee for con-

sideration.

In 2014, the Senate approved a bill sponsored by Jones to protect and regulate charitable gaming. That measure was supported by numerous groups, including the Michigan Jaycees and the Michigan United Conservation Clubs.

CONTACT YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Charitable gaming is important to many American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, and SAL Squadrons to provide resources for their programs. The money raised goes to help veterans, their families, and the communities. Please contact your state representative and senator and ask them to support Senate Bill 187 and House Bill 4293.

ZONE 1 REPORT

Greg Price, Zone Commander

After a very cold winter, it is nice to see spring arrive. With the warmer weather approaching we will be able to start our outside activities. Sometimes our neighbors are unable to get out and do things, such as cutting their lawn, or raking their yard. They may be able to use our help in getting these things done.

It should not matter if they are a Veteran or not. It would be a wonderful opportunity to show those in our communities, that we being members of The American Legion are here to lend a helping hand.

Many Squadrons have joined with the members of their Posts to do different fund raisers that benefit Veterans, and Child Welfare programs. These programs can range from helping Homeless Veterans, to making a Child with Cancer (sometimes final) Wish come True.

Several Legion family members from the 16th District participated in their Districts annual Americanism Banquet, which was held in Dearborn Heights at the Carl E. Stitt Post 232. The Mayor of Dearborn Heights was there along with Department Commander Jim Wallace, Department President Nancy Knox,

and our Detachment Commander Harley (Butch) Maxwell. Colonel Rodney Faulk did a great job speaking about Patriotism, and Pride for our country. Thank you to the Legion Family Members from the 18th District for attending and continuing to share their help and support.

Another important meeting that will happen in the not too distant future, is our State Convention that will be held in Grand Rapids, at the Riverfront Hotel, on June 6,7,& 8th. If you have the opportunity to attend, you should. It will be an enjoyable weekend for you and your family.

One thing you can do previous to the convention is to fill out your Consolidated Report Form with the things your Squadron has been involved with. Helping a Veteran, or someone in your community with either a fund raiser, or stopping by a neighbor's house, is the basis on which we Sons were formed. What we Sons of the American Legion do is very important in showing our support for the American Legion Program. May you have continued success with the amazing things you do.

For God & Country.

ZONE 2 REPORT

Danny Gleason, Zone Commander

Greetings Legion family,

First let me start by giving a big thank you to the district commanders and squadron commanders for the great job they have done getting in membership. I attended a great mid-winter conference in

Flint. It's always a learning experience. Now that traveling is getting better I will be visiting you at your district meetings. If you have any questions or special events please contact me at commanderdan@sb-cglobal.net or cell # 574-340-3269

For god and country

ZONE 3 REPORT

Carvin Chapman, Zone Commander

I have been visiting as many squadrons within the 3rd zone before the Detachment convention and will continue to do so. Anyone that needs any guidance can contact me and I will respond. If you would like me to come to your meeting ask and I will be there. The 3rd zone is doing well in member-

ship; First place as of 02-25-2015 with 85.09% paid our next goal date is 05-11-2015 for 100%. Keep up the good work and please do not hold on to any membership cards send them in immediately.

I intend to run for a second year as your 3rd Zone Commander and hope that you will support me again. Thank you for all the work you do!

ZONE 4 REPORT

Fred Ruttkofsky, Zone Commander

The weather here in Michigan has been brutal so far this year. Hope all of you are enjoying the cold and snow. But it has also kept our membership slow in coming in. With Spring just around the corner lets try to get it to 100%. I attended Winter Conference in Flint where I had the honor of being asked to take Dwaine's place in Washington DC for Legislative meetings. There we meet with Debbie Stabenow, Gary Peters and aid Michael Bishop to inform them what is need through legislation for the

V.A., work opportunities for Veterans in the private sector, the value of the National Guard, the need for more V.A.M.C. in the UP. I found it most informative that from Roman times to present day our Veterans have been taken care of those who have served their country are looked upon with great honor. On my way home I stopped at Fort McHenry in Baltimore, MD the place where the Star Spangle Banner was written. If any of you get the chance stop and visit the fort it is very humbling. Hope to see all of you in Grand Rapids in June for convention. Have a great spring!

For God Country

BRING ON THE MEMBERSHIP

Mike Boughner, Membership Chairman

Membership is coming in at a good pace, as of Feb. 26th we have 17,332 paid members. Great job to all the Squadron and Zone Commanders, keep up your efforts.

Remember that membership is everyone's job. We all know a member or two who have not paid their dues yet so I am asking you to give them a call or mail out a friendly reminder to get their dues paid. Our next membership goal is 90% by April 8, 2015.

The 2014 membership final

report totals are in, and what an AWESOME year the Detachment of Michigan had. We finished with an all-time high in membership, 21,439 members for a 102.687%. We also had a 91% in renewals for the year. Renewals are very important to help us grow, no matter how many new members we recruit if we don't get them to renew we don't flourish.

Terrific job everyone, let's keep up the good work and match or even improve on our membership and renewals for the 2015 year. With hard work we can reach 100% membership by May 31st.

"For God and Country"

2015 Convention

The Sons of The American Legion - Detachment of Michigan
Hosted by: Grand Rapids Northeastern Squadron 459



The Detachment of Michigan 2015
Convention will be held in Grand Rapids,
Michigan at the Riverfront Hotel.
June 5th, 6th & 7th 2015

Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly
Riverfront Hotel

24/7 Reservations - 1-866-257-5990
270 Ann Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49504
Hotel Rate: \$99.00

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

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

NEF CHAIRMAN AND EDITORS NOTES

Just a brief reminder that the per diem that is to be sent in with your membership remittance is now \$8 not \$7 please make sure that the correct amount goes in with your cards. Thank you and do not forget to mail those membership cards ASAP. I cannot stress enough the importance of the National Emergency Foundation to the Legion Family. It is there for all members and their families in cases of disasters etc. Yet I have only received 1 \$25 donation and that was from my ex neighbor who reads the last article and acted to help, I hope that you never have to use this fund but many have and many will. So Please look into your heart and your squadrons to donate and help your fel-

low legion family members. Checks can be sent to me at 13633 Vernon Oak Park Mi. 48237. Also the joint newsletter is working extremely well, but this is your paper not just the officers if you have anything you would like published a please send to me articles in word and pictures in j-peg format and I will get them in as well as to national for Snapshot of Service . If you are not receiving the letter let me know remember only one per household so if there are 3 members in your house you will only get one, Otherwise let me know with an address and membership number and it will be corrected. Sandy lipman95@hotmail.com. Yours always in God and Country. Sandy Lipman PDC

PUBLIC RELATIONS

S.A.L. State Commander Butch Maxwell has been very busy since he took office in June. Right after convention in South Haven it was up to the UP for their convention on the 13th. then down to Midland for Boys and Girls State. In August it was up to Wilwin to meet National Commander Mike Helm. Then on to St. Johns for the Mint Festival and Parade. End of September was Fall Conference. October 14th found Butch on 16th District Tour. Then on to Indianapolis on the 10th for National N.E.C.. The 18th was 6th District Tour and October end with a Membership Rally. November was the 18th District Tour in Auburn Hills . December was the start of visits to the VA Homes

and Hospitals in Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Saginaw, and ending with the VA Hospital in Detroit. January 10th was the Red Flannel and the start of the UP Winter Tour. On the 24th it was on to Grand Rapids for the 4 Chaplains Ceremony . February 7th found Butch at Americanism Banquet and on the 8th the Police and Fireman's Dinner. Then it was on to Washington DC for the Legislative meetings. Commander Maxwell has had a great time being with Legion Commander Jim Wallace and Madam President Nancy Knox. Thanks to all of you for making him feel at home in your Post.

For God And Country
Fred Ruttkofsky

MENOMINEE SQUADRON 146

ACTIVE IN THE COMMUNITY



The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 146 are active members in their community. They participate in a Legion Family Color Guard at the M7M Legion Baseball game, set wreaths on graves as part of the "Wreaths Across America" program, and help with Flag burning ceremonies at Red Arrow Park.

MIAP NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2014

The Missing in America Project is about us searching Funeral Homes looking for the Unclaimed Remains of Veterans, and help to provide the dignity of a military service to those Veterans that have been Forgotten.

Sgt. Russell A. Shumway, a North Dakota native, served with the Army's 14th Cavalry in World War I, from May 1917 to September 1919. Sgt. Shumway was 86 when he died March 31, 1980, in Grand Rapids, MI. Forgotten and alone, with no close family to claim his remains, his ashes were placed on a shelf in the Matthyse-Kuiper-DeGraaf Funeral Home in Wyoming, MI, where he sat for almost three and a half decades.

IN May, Sgt. Shumway's cremains, along with four other Michigan soldiers, were carried through downtown Dearborn, MI, in a horse-drawn carriage that was part of that city's Memorial Day Observance Ceremony. Voran Funeral Home in Dearborn, as well as members of the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council, helped to make sure that those Veterans were given the Full Dignity of a Military Burial in the Great Lakes Cemetery in Holly Mi.

In June, L J Griffin Funeral Homes had purchased another funeral home. They discovered the ashes for 9 unclaimed veterans that were being stored on a shelf in their new Funeral Home.

Members of American Legion Post 32 (Livonia) adopted those veterans, and helped to make the arrangements for their Full Military Interment. One of the Veterans fought in the Spanish - American War and had been on the shelf since 1955.

Legion Riders helped to escort the Cremains of those 9 Veterans from the Northrop Sassaman Funeral Home in Northville, to the Rural Hill Cemetery, which is also located in Northville Mi.

On September 11, Mary Compeau who is the State Director for the Missing In America Project in Michigan, along with many Veterans, and MIAP Volunteers, helped to lay to rest 13 Unclaimed

Veterans in the Great Lakes Cemetery in Holly, Mi.

Those Veterans were among the almost 200 Bodies that were being held Unclaimed at the Wayne County Morgue in Refrigeration Units. Many area Funeral Homes donated the use of their hearses. All the Remains were in caskets (purchased by a donation from the Jewish Foundation), requiring one hearse for each casket.

In November, Members of the Berkley American Legion Post 374 discovered the Cremains of 6 Veterans at the Sawyer Fuller Funeral Home. The Funeral Home is located next to their Legion Post in Berkley, Mi.

Mike Garnett, and other members of the Berkley Post worked with the Sawyer Fuller Funeral Home, to put on a Memorial Ceremony for those Forgotten Veterans at the funeral home. There were volunteers who played the Bagpipes, and the Berkley Public Safety Honor Guard took turns while they stood guard to Honor those Veterans. There were also members from the V.F.W, and the American Legion Family present. I was told that those who participated with the Honor Guard were also members of Berkley Post 374, Sons of the American Legion Squadron.

5 of the 6 Cremains were transported to the Greats Lakes Ceremony in Holly by the Sawyer Fuller Funeral Home, where they were interred with Full Military Honors. Family members of 1 of the Veterans came forward to claim his Ashes.

Let us continue to help Locate, and Identify the Forgotten Veterans, so that their Final Resting Place is not on a Shelf in a Funeral Home, or in a Refrigeration Unit. If you locate any Unclaimed Cremains, and would like them to be a part of the Dearborn Horse Drawn Memorial Day Ceremony, please give me a call at 313-550-0857.

For God & Country,
Greg Price, MIAP

CHILD WELFARE

John A. Kailunas

in a future news letter.

1. Raise Money
2. Send money to Child Welfare Foundation.
3. Send me a note or E Mail as to the amount.

Feel great about your contribution will do.

Dexter Squadron and Milford Squadrons, Please do not cut back your contributions to Just \$1.00 per member.

Your Golf outings have brought in some big money - Keep up the Great Work.

Our Objective is ONE Dollar from each member of the Sons. That means raise or contribute out of your pocket. I still participate in the CAT program (I will explain that at our convention if you don't know about it.)I believe the CWF Ribbon is still available for your Banner, if you meet the objective of One Buck a member.

CWF helps thousands of children every year.

I will post last years grant winners

Education: an Auxiliary Mission

**Jan Hafeman,
Education Chairman**

Our people have been active with education. Units that participate in National Education Week gave cards, thank-you notes, and treats such as cider and doughnuts. These were not just for the teachers, but also for the support staffs. One unit also educated the children on what National Education Week was all about, and had the students make thank-you notes. Even if you missed National Education Week, it's not too late to say thank you.

Some units participated in Veterans in the Classroom, and many units worked in conjunction with their Legion posts and S.A.L. squadrons on projects in the schools.

Many of our members have been volunteering in the classroom, either as foster grandparents or as just volunteers. They help teachers with students, help with paperwork, and some help with fundraisers or as sports boosters.

Some of the special projects in the schools have included education on the Poppy and setting up for the poppy poster contests, flag etiquette, flag education, teaching the pledge

to 1st graders, having students participate in the Americanism Essay Contest, handing out dictionaries, passing out constitutions and teaching how the constitution applies to them, teaching about the Civil War, discussing Girls State, teaching how to fill out scholarship applications, developing a scholarship fund for the school, participating in Math and Literacy night, and helping out with Special Olympics.

Many units set up local scholarships for graduating seniors. Don't forget about those who have already graduated from high school. And remember our women veterans when creating local scholarships. They often have difficulty finding work. Scholarships may be just the ticket to get their lives on track. Your Education Guide has a section on how to set up a scholarship that you may want to refer to.

Do we make a difference? When we see the delight on our children's faces, receive thanks from our school staff, administrators, and parents, or see our children succeeding in life, we know what we were there for. Our American Legion Auxiliary makes a difference in our communities in many ways!

My Year of Enlightenment

**Nancy Ritchey,
Third District President**

My year as Third District President has been a year of enlightenment. I attended Fall Conference not knowing what to expect since I had never attended a Conference before. I was pleasantly surprised at all the information and support that was available.

In September I also attended a Girl's State program at Unit 42 in Grand Ledge. I have attended several Unit meetings, and am looking forward to attending several more.

We are looking forward to President Nancy Knox attending our May District meeting in Albion. My special project this year has

been Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Membership has been a concern and the entire Third District is working towards improvement. We had to request that charters for two Units be pulled due to lack of membership. Auxiliary members District-wide are working on their poppy projects, Girls State, serving veterans, helping at Battle Creek VA, community service, and Junior Members.

Thank you to all Third District officers and Auxiliary members for their support, advice, and encouragement. You have made my year as Third District President a very pleasant experience. Please retain the July/August issue of the Auxiliaire as it will contain the new Department Committee Chairs and members.

American Legion Family Advocates for Veterans

**Sue Verville,
Legislative Chairman**

Our American Legion Family has once again come together to advocate for the needs of our Veterans, their families and our communities through our legislative activism. We have demonstrated our teamwork and our willingness to make a difference in the legislative process. Many members have gotten to know their legislators and have become aware of the issues that are facing our Veterans and their families. Remember that we follow the mandates of The American Legion in its legislative programs. By gaining knowledge and understanding of these issues is how we establish our credibility with our elected officials.

Many members have developed a relationship with their elected officials by holding face to face meetings with them or their staff members. They have sent letters, emails and faxes and made phone calls urging their support

of The American Legion's position on our Veterans issues. Remember to complete the online "Congressional Contact Report Form" following your meetings. The form is easy to fill out and can be found at www.legion.org/legislative/aar.

After your visit, write a "Thank You" note to those whom you visited. Mention items that were discussed at your meeting and conclude with the issues facing our Veterans, hoping that they will remain a high priority for their action and consideration. Remember to stay connected and to keep records of what your members are doing to support this program for the whole year. Reports have been turned in, BUT that does not mean that we stop working on our programs.

Our mission is to serve our Veterans, their families and our communities, so become politically active and support the legislative issues endorsed by The American Legion. Our Veterans are counting on us.

Which Direction Are YOU Rowing In?



**Donna Ray, Central
Division Member-
ship Chairman**

While in Washington I heard this story and thought maybe in some ways this is true, but I believe this can be changed to the positive actions by just thinking of what is written.

Every member has a special part they play in the success of a Unit, Department and yes even in National. Focusing on what is best for the American Legion Auxiliary each of us will be able to accomplish the mission and feel we have played a part in the success of our organization. Let's think about when we say something negative and rethink and make it positive.

Let's keep everyone in the boat to reach success in Membership.

In order meet Goal 2 of the ALA Centennial Strategic plan which is "To Create an Internal Culture of Good Will" we need to make sure all of our members are in the same boat rowing in the same direction for success. Everyone knows that the shortest

distance to our mission is to work together for Veterans, Families and Communities.

But what can sometimes happen when we don't have an internal culture of good will is that some of our members in the boat may decide to stop rowing, and when that happens the boat will slow down. This happens when our members get burned out or keep doing the same office or program year after year.

Another problem we can have is when one or more of our members begin to row in the opposite direction, then the boat travels crooked or in circles, this happens when someone gets angry and spends their time criticizing others.

Finally the problem can be that members begin to focus their efforts on throwing other members out of the boat when this happens the boat tips over. This is often the case when members are jealous of others.

Take a good look at yourself, are you in the boat with the rest of your ALA team. Are YOU a member who has stopped rowing, rows in the opposite direction or throws others from the boat?

Poppy Days are Right Around the Corner!

**Margo Forrester,
Poppy Chairman**

“Traditional” Poppy Days are May 14, 15 & 16 (Bonus-May 16 is also Armed Forces Day!) This is a great opportunity to meet & greet the public and offer our Veteran-Made/Made in Michigan poppies! It is also a great time to share with the public, information about our Poppy Program and our awesome organization! Consider bringing membership applications and other info along.

“Non-Traditional” Poppy Fundraising can be done at any time and is encouraged by ALA National. Veterans need our help all year long! Patriotic Holidays make the most sense, but collecting for your Poppy Fund can be done with var-

ious fundraisers, donation cans at fish fries or even a 50/50's!

Did you know on the ALA National website, alaforveterans.org, you can get free printable Poppy Program and Flanders Field poem bookmarks? (The Poppy Program bookmark allows you to enter your Unit contact phone number before printing). There is even a printable donation can cover! (These can be found in the Members Only Section, where you'll need to sign in. In the Mission Outreach Committee column, click on Poppy. They are located inside the Poppy Kit). Also visit our Department website michalaux.org. There is tons of info inside the monthly Unit Mailings!

32,000 poppies were ordered and picked up at Winter Meeting! Thank you to all the Units and Posts that

make remembering our veterans a priority!

The annual Poppy Bonanza will be held at the GRHV on Saturday, May 9 @ 10 a.m.

We are looking forward to all of your annual reports and award en-

tries. Thank you for all you do, all year long! Poppy Committee: Kay Bauer of District 7-Unit 16, June Holley of District 6-Unit 141 & Margo Forrester of District 5-Unit 459 (616 363-6688 or msscottforrester@gmail.com)

ALA Poppy Fundraising Song!
(sung to the tune of Happy Days Are Here Again!)

Poppy days are here again! You know we're gonna care again!
Let us sing a song of cheer again, Poppy days are here again!

Poppy Days will help our vets, You know we're gonna not forget,
We'll raise awareness don't you fret, Poppy Days will help our vets!

We'll have fun while raising funds, You know we're gonna raise a ton,
We'll bring a can and make a plan, We'll have fun while raising funds!

Poppy days are here again! You know we're gonna care again!
Let us sing a song of cheer again, Poppy days are here again!



I am the Cub Master of Pack 3281 that is chartered by Neil Fonger American Legion Post 179 and I was looking for something our 7-11 year old Scouts can do to promote citizenship. So I pitched the idea of using them for a good cause while utilizing the foot traffic of the Fish Fries. My son is the one in the picture but he only raised \$281 of the \$484 dollars raised. He collected donations for the Auxiliary at the 1st and 3rd Fish Fry. Ben Gue is the scout that donated \$131 from winning the 50/50 during the 2nd Fish Fry, his mother (not a member of the post) bought 9 tickets and told her son that if one of the three middle tickets won he could do whatever he wanted with the money; he chose to donate to the reason he was there. My sons and I also passed out handmade Christmas cards at the Veterans home on Christmas Eve, but those cards were made by all the Scout in Pack 3281, not just Leland. Thank you Margo for recognizing Pack 3281 and all their efforts.

--Melissa Wright, Cub Scout Pack 3281, Cub Master



From left to right: Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain; Ellen Jackson, Department 2nd Vice President; Sue Verville, Department 1st Vice President; Bonnie Olson, Department Secretary-Treasurer; and Nancy Knox, Department President attending the Junior Convention at Unit 287 in Cedar Springs. Deb Williamson, Department Historian was unable to attend due to recovering from an accident.



From left to right: Ciara Brown, Department Honorary Junior President; Mitch Maxwell, Department SAL Detachment Commander; Nancy Knox, Department President; and Jim Wallace, Department Commander attending the Junior Convention in Cedar Springs.

If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on your

behalf by Your Department of The American Legion. As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect, and will continue through August 31, 2016. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____ DEPARTMENT _____

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Cut it out

Have you filled out *all* the above information?
Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**
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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy LIT102002 underwritten by Life Insurance Company of North America. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2015 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION
JUNE 25-28, 2015

DEADLINE DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: May 25, 2015

Meeting Registration: Registration badges are required for attendance at all meetings. The fee is \$15.00 per person.

All Housing requests will be handled through the hotel. All standard sleeping rooms are \$89.00 plus 14% tax. **No hotel room will be accepted for less than two nights.** Check-in time is 3PM and check-out time is 12 noon. Registration fee is \$15 per person. All Posts, Units and Squadrons should ascertain the number of delegates it expects to have and register them now in the name of the Post, Unit or Squadron, providing the name of the post adjutant or unit secretary.

All Hospitality Room requests must be in writing and requires a two night minimum. When requesting a hospitality room, type out your request and submit to **Gary W. Sammons, 31 Elton, Ecorse MI 48229.** All suite assignments will be made by Gary W. Sammons.

Please type or print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____
(Verification of registration will be emailed.)

Sterling Inn Banquet & Conference Center
34911 Van Dyke Avenue
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312
Mention: American Legion
(586) 979-1400

(Reservations can be made by phone only)

Make checks payable to and send with registration form to:

The American Legion 2015 Convention
22625 Arcadia
St Clair Shores MI 48082

Number of registrations _____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____ Staying At: _____

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LEG/AUX/SAL	POST/UNIT/SQU #	DISTRICT #

Agenda for the 2015 Convention can be found online at www.michiganlegion.org

Check Out
the Pool at
2015
Summer
Convention



Classifieds

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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

Wanted

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

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



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Roger Webster for NEC



The 9th District and 16th District Association proudly endorses Roger H. Webster for National Executive Committeeman 2015-

2017. We are asking for your support in the election for National Executive Committeeman for 2015-2016.

We believe that as veterans, are entitled to the most experience and knowledge on all issues.

Roger has had many years and opportunities to serve veterans in the Department of Michigan as well

as on the National level by actively serving on several committees. Programs, organizations, Department Commander 2006-2007, and as aide to the National Commander, Thomas P. Cadmus 2004-2005.

Please take the time to evaluate Roger's experience and cast your vote for NEC 2015-2017 Roger H. Webster.

In Roger's words, "It's been my honor to dedicate many years of service to The American Legion and my fellow legionnaires and veterans and I will continue in this effort as long as I am able.

Nomination republished due to errors in previous ad.

Blood, Eye & Vital Organ Chairman

GIVE BLOOD

Lavern Spolarich, Chairman

At the Winter meeting in Flint on February 13 - 15, 2015 I had the honor to again present an award for giving blood to Lawrence Burwell.

I would also like to point out that one of my awards is also for the Post in Department that have the most individual blood donors as

listed on the CPR's that were sent in this year.

I want all Post Commanders to find out how many of your members donated blood and get this member on the Post Consolidated Report and get it into Department.

Your Post just may be the one that is honored at the Department Convention in June.

Meet Elizebeth Cuddington, Department Veteran Service Officer



Marine Corps Veteran 05/27/1998 - 05/26/2006, married to Chuck for 7 years and we have two wonderful children son Charlie 10 and daughter Shelby 7. I would like to start off by thanking my family for all the support they give me through this jour-

ney. My favorite time in my life was being a Marine and I was lucky enough to land a job after getting out of doing the second best thing. That is helping veterans receive the benefits they have earned. I began as a county counselor for Roscommon County and then after a year took on Oscoda County. Having two counties was a handful, but the work was rewarding. I was helping not only the vets in the county but also helping my communities. I am also a member of the American Legion Post 245 Prudenville and have been the Post Adjutant going on 3 years. I started working as a Department Service Officer for The American Legion April 21, 2014 and love the job even more

Boys State

Jerry Kelly, Boys State Chairman

We are well on our way to having an exciting and outstanding Boys State 2015. The Boys State Staff needs your help to make sure that every young man that wants to attend Boys State can.

Each Post needs to reach out to their school(s) and community and get the word out about the number one leadership program in Michigan and the Nation. The Boys State Committee Members are ready, willing, and able to help your Post be successful in finding an eleventh grader to attend. If you have money to send a young man but no young man, please let me know and we will find one. If you have a young man and no money, please let me know and we will find the funding.

We are also looking for Legionnaires who would like to come to

Boys State and work with us as a liaison to our cities, counties and state governments and to help in some supervisory activities. Please let Roxanne at Department know that you would like to help during the week.

As an added note, Past National Commander and Boys Nation Activity Director, Robert Turner, will be our guest the first few days of Boys State. We are looking forward to having Mr. Turner at Boys State and learn from him.

Even though the deadline for application is listed as April 29, we will continue to take applications through June 10.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping and supporting Michigan Boys State this year. Now is the time to make sure your Post is sponsoring a young man to Boys State.

5th ZONE REPORT

James P. Dougovito, Commander

We had a very successful winter tour with the State Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda. We started at Post 290 in Engadine on the 11th of January and visited posts in Newberry (Post 74), Little Lake (Post 349), Marquette (Post 44), Hancock (Post 186), Lake Linden (Post 90), Wakefield (Post 11), Stambaugh (Post 21), Hermansville (Post 340), Stephenson (Post 43), Menominee (Post 146) and wrapped the tour on the 16th and 17th in Gladstone (Post 71). Others on the tour were Jerry Lynch (PSC) and his wife Judy (PAP), Nancy Knox (AP) and husband John (PSC), John Mella (PSC) and his wife Diana, Louie Oberle and his wife Krystal (PAP) and Harley "Butch" Maxwell (SALC). We were joined in Stambaugh by Pat Lafferty and Ron Runyan. Furthermore, I cannot forget myself and my wife Linda. In between the Post visits were updates at the Jacobetti Home and the Os-

car Johnson VA Hospital. Great receptions and great food was enjoyed at each post. Thank you Commander Wallace and everyone for taking the time to visit the U.P. Our Department's State Convention is going to be in June of this year in Sterling Heights and the Yooper Party will be on Saturday the 27th at the Victor L. Rieck American Legion Post 351 in Utica from 4-6:00 pm. Joining us will be Yooper Sue Verville for her meet and greet party as the new AP. Everyone is welcome! Had the opportunity to give a 65 year membership pin at L'Anse Post 144 - thank you and congratulations Ralph Van Wagner for your Military Service and sixty-five years of American Legion service. A closing thought - it would be great to have every Post in the 5th Zone sponsor a young man for Boys State or a young lady for Girls State. "Giter Done"! PSC - Past State Commander; PAP - Past Auxiliary President; AP - Auxiliary President; SALC - Sons of The American Legion Commander.

Proposed '15 Constitutional Amendments

These proposed Constitutional Amendments are published in accordance with Article XIII, Section 1 of the Constitution & By-Laws of the American Legion, Department of Michigan: "These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote at any Annual Department Convention, provided notice be published electronically on the Department website at least 60 days prior to said convention and be published in paper form in a spring edition of the Michigan Legionnaire. Said proposed amendment shall be referred to the Convention Constitution and By-Laws Committee, which shall submit the same to the Department Convention with its recommendations with regard thereto".

AMENDMENT C-15-1

Submitted by the 12th District

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article IV, Section 4, Subsection b, which now reads:**

"Formation. Any group of qualified Veterans desiring to form a Post shall apply for the proper application blanks to the District Commander of the District in which such proposed Post is to be located; and such Post shall be organized under the supervision of the said District Commander. It shall be the duty of said District Commander to examine personally the discharges of said applicants to investigate their Charter and qualifications to determine their eligibility for membership. He shall transmit to the Department Adjutant the completed applications, his certificate of eligibility, a written report of his investigation and his approval or disapproval of the application. The application, upon approval of the Department, shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters and, upon approval by National Headquarters, a temporary charter will be issued."

To be amended by:

Replace subsection b in its' entirety and change verbiage:

so that when amended, Article IV, Section 4, Subsection a, shall read:

"Formation. Any group of qualified Veterans desiring to form a Post shall apply for the proper application blanks to the District Commander of the District in which such proposed Post is to be located; said proposed Post shall then get the approval of said District at a regular meeting with the required quorum present. Upon District approval it shall then be the duty of the Department Post Development Committee to examine the discharges of said applicants and to investigate their charter and qualifications to determine their eligibility for membership. The Post Development Committee Chairman shall transmit to the Department Adjutant the completed application, certificate of eligibility, copy of the minutes of the District meeting giving its approval of said proposed Post, a written report of the Committee's investigations, and the Committee's approval or disapproval of the application. The application, upon approval by the Department Executive Committee, shall be forwarded to the National Headquarters. Upon approval by National Headquarters, a temporary charter will be issued."

AMENDMENT C-15-2

Submitted by the Department Judge Advocate

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article XII-A, Section 2, which now reads:**

"Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of members of The American Legion and to the mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters and great granddaughters of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 16, 1917 to November 11, 1918; December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; June 25, 1950 to January 3, 1955; December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975; all dates inclusive, or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the Governments associated with the United States during any of said periods; and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who, of their own right, are eligible for membership in The American Legion."

To be amended by:

Replacing the entire Section 2 language with the following statement: "Membership in the Auxiliary shall be as prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary."

so that when amended, Article XII-A, Section 2, shall read:

"Membership in the Auxiliary shall be prescribed by the National Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary."

AMENDMENT C-15-3

Submitted by the Department Judge Advocate

A proposed change to the State Constitution and By-Laws, **Article IV, Section 4, Paragraph (o) which now reads:**

"All Posts of the Department must conduct, open and close their local meetings as per the National "Manual of Ceremonies" and "Post Commander's Guide". The Department Judge Advocate shall not approve any Constitution and Bylaws of a Post unless the same shall provide that said Post must conduct, open and close its local meetings as per the "National Manual of Ceremonies" and "Post Commander's Guide". Any Post failing to meet the above provision shall be subject to the discipline provided for in Paragraph k of Article IV, Section 4, and any other authorized discipline."

To be amended by:

Removing the words "National Manual of Ceremonies" and "Post Commander's Guide" in the first sentence and "National Manual of Ceremonies" and "Post Commander's Guide" in the second sentence and replacing, in both instances, with the words National "Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" or its' succeeding publication."

so that when amended, Article XII-A, Section 2, shall read:

"All Posts of the Department must conduct, open and close their local meetings as per the National "Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" or its' succeeding publication. The Department Judge Advocate shall not approve any Constitution and Bylaws of a Post unless the same shall provide that said Post must conduct, open and close its local meetings as per the National "Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" or its' succeeding publication. Any Post failing to meet the above provision shall be subject to the discipline provided for in Paragraph k of Article IV, Section 4, and any other authorized discipline."

Around the State...



Recognizing 70 Years of membership in the American Legion, I-r State Commander Wallace, Legionnaire William Turin, Post 8 Cmdr Jim Lesile, and 7th District Cmdr Sarge Parr



American Legion Post 50 member Ferrand Ethington, VAVS representative for the Iron Mountain VAMC accepted checks from Post 323 Commander Stan Kennedy for \$200 (shown) and a check from St. Ignace Post 62 at a recent UPALP Association meeting.



Post 153 Commander Gary Gross presented 6 continuous membership certificates, Leon Brewbaker 65 years, Roger Brown 35 years, Bennie Heiden 40 years, William Lepeer 45 years (photo on right), Russ Pope 35 years, Ray Schomisch 45 years, Don Sudau 35 years (photo on left)



American Legion Post 8 held a "Law Enforcement Spaghetti Dinner" and invited local law enforcement members and their families to show their appreciation for the work they do. The Post presented a check for \$250 to the "Thin-Blue Line" foundation that helps families of fallen law enforcement officers. left to right, Post #8 Comdr. Jim Leslie, Chaplain and M.C., Ray Carrier, St. Clair Co. Sheriff Tim Donnellon and Finance Officer Chuck Teller. Chuck Teller and Ray Carrier are both Past Post#8 Commanders



Members of the American Legion Family participated in a Four Chaplains service in Lapeer, Michigan. Pictured here are Co-Chairs of the Southeast Michigan Four Chaplains Service, Anita Mennel and Brett Holt, Ciara Brown, Honorary Junior's President, Robin Basarabska, District 8 Auxiliary President, and Junior members Aleigha Houghton and Emma Damouth.

Members of the American Legion Family participated in a Four Chaplains service in Lapeer, Michigan. Pictured here are Co-Chairs of the Southeast Michigan Four Chaplains Service, Anita Mennel and Brett Holt, Ciara Brown, Honorary Junior's President, Robin Basarabska, District 8 Auxiliary President, and Junior members Aleigha Houghton and Emma Damouth.



Thanks to Ed Burkhardt and Don Wert American Legion Post 253 who showed the Post's colors, the Cub Scouts for carrying the banner, Jack Dawson as a marcher, in the Royal Oak St. Patty's Day Parade



Post 235 in Brighton presented an appreciation plaque to Kroger store #638 manager John Schroeder for their support during Poppy Days 2014. Presented by (L) Ronald Warmbier, (r) Dale Goodsmith



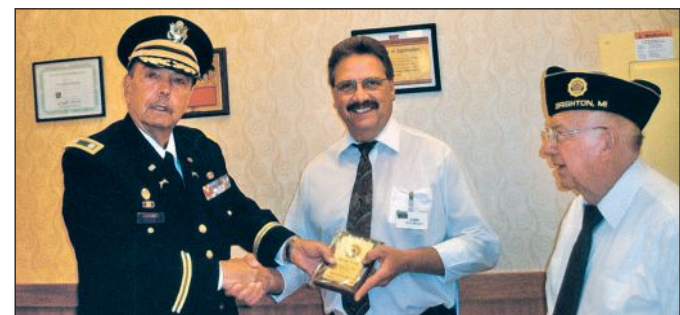
The 5th District presented a veteran of the year award for their district. Past Department Commander Gerry Dennis was selected. Presenting his award (L-R) Department Commander Jim Wallace, PDC Gerry Dennis, 5th District Commander Catherine Buckley.



George Maciejewski from Post 487 and a Michigan American Legion Press Association member presented Frank Rodman from Post 340 and 11th District 1st place "C" Pens & Ink and 1st Place for Public Relations.



Pickard Post #323 Commander Stan Kennedy presents a \$200 check to Post #44 Commander Carl Morrison to support recreation and welfare activities at the D.J. Jacobetti Veterans Home.



Post 235 in Brighton presented a appreciation plaque to VG's Store director Larry Allen (middle) for their support during Poppy Day's in May of 2014. Presented by (L) Ronald Warmbier, (r) Dale Goodsmith