



MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIII No. 4



VETERAN SERVICES SPECIAL EDITON

Have You Spoken with an Accredited Veteran Service Officer?

The American Legion fights everyday to help veterans receive the VA Benefits they have earned through their service to their country. There are many benefits for veterans offered by the Veterans Administration from healthcare, compensation for injuries, home loans, education benefits, dependant in care, and other benefits. The following pages are meant to give direction and information. If you are confused or think you qualify for benefits from the VA you should contact your local Accredited Veterans Service Representative or call The American Legion Department of Michigan Veteran Service Office at 313-964-6640.

General Eligibility for Veterans

Eligibility for most VA Benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other

than dishonorable conditions. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, or as a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Service Administration or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor, the Coast Geodetic Survey.

Dishonorable and bad conduct discharges issued by general court-martials may bar VA Benefits. Veterans in prison must contact the VA to determine eligibility. VA Benefits will not be provided to any Veteran or dependent wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.

Certain VA Benefits require War-time Service

- Aug. 2, 1990 to today (Gulf War / War On Terrorism)
- Dec. 20, 1989 to Jan. 31, 1990 (Panama)
- Aug. 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984 (Lebanon / Grenada)
- Feb. 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975 (Vietnam War)
- June 25, 1950 to Jan. 31, 1955 (Korean War)
- Dec. 7, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1946 (World War II)
- April 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 (World War I)

Are you a World War II Veteran?

- Do you suffer from hearing loss due to your service?
- Were you exposed to radiation? Exposures at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan and health problems from harmful radiation.
- Did you have exposure from working with chemicals, paints, and machinery during service?
- Do you have health problems that could be caused

by cold temperatures, such as during the Battle of the Bulge?

- Do you think you were exposed to odorless, poisonous gas used during combat in World War I and II?

Are you a Korean War Veteran?

- Did you participate in certain radiation-risk activities, such as nuclear weapons testing, during military service? These Veterans may be informally referred to as "Atomic Veterans". Health care services include an Ionizing Radiation Registry health exam and clinical treatment at VA's War Related Illness and Injury Study Centers. You may also be entitled to disability compensation benefits if you have certain cancers as a result of your participation in a radiation-risk activity during military service.
- Did you serve in or near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971? You may have been exposed to Agent Orange.

How Veterans may have had cold injuries

- Veterans may have been exposed to extreme cold without adequate protection during:
- World War II: The Battle of the Bulge, fought in December 1944 through January 1945 under conditions of extreme cold
- Korean War: The Chosin Reservoir Campaign, conducted from October 1950 through December 1950 in temperatures that dropped to 50 degrees F below zero, with a wind chill factor of

100 degrees F below zero.

- Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan
- Other campaigns or circumstances during military service, including training.

Health problems associated with cold injuries

- Cold injuries may result in long-term health problems, including the following signs and symptoms (at the site of exposure):
- Changes in muscle, skin, nails, ligaments, and bones
- Skin cancer in frostbite scars
- Neurologic injury with symptoms such as bouts of pain in the extremities, hot or cold tingling sensations, and numbness
- Vascular injury with Raynaud's Phenomenon with symptoms such as extremities becoming painful and white or discolored when cold

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE

Use an Accredited Veteran Service officer; watch this video to find out why you should use a VSO.



NOTE: If you are the spouse of a veteran who died from any of these possible reasons mentioned, you might qualify for "Dependent In Care (DIC)" or Survivors Pension. Contact an Accredited Veteran Service officer to learn more.

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Publisher: Ronald Runyan
Editor: Mark Sutton

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915
(517) 371-4720 Fax: (517) 371-2401
Web Site: www.michiganlegion.org
Email: info@michiganlegion.org

Legion and SAL Membership - 24 -
deanna@michiganlegion.org

Legion Finance - 17 -
finance@michiganlegion.org

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

Veterans Service -12- Wednesday only

Public Relations - 16 -
mark@michiganlegion.org

Administration -13 -
kim@michiganlegion.org

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

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

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

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

Are you a Vietnam Era Veteran?

Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

AL Amyloidosis -A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias -A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)-A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2-A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease -A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease-A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma-A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma-A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease-A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset-A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda-A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer-Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)-Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteo-

sarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)

Were YOU Exposed to Agent Orange?

Part of the United States' strategy in Vietnam was to conduct an herbicide program to remove foliage providing cover for the enemy. Agent Orange was the most widely used of the herbicide combinations sprayed.

Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam were tested or stored elsewhere, including some military bases in the United States.

Exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam

- Exposure on land in Vietnam or on a ship operating on the inland waterways of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Blue Water Veterans
- Possible exposure on open sea ships off the shore of Vietnam during the Vietnam War
- U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships in Vietnam
- List of ships and boats with operations in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975
- Korean Demilitarized Zone
- Exposure along the demilitarized zone in Korea between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971
- Thailand Military Bases
- Possible exposure on or near the perimeters of military bases between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975
- Herbicide Tests and Storage Outside Vietnam
- Possible exposure due to herbicide tests and storage at military bases in the United States and locations in other countries
- Agent Orange Residue on Airplanes Used in the Vietnam War
- Possible exposure of crew members to herbicide residue in C-123 planes flown after the Vietnam War

Did you serve in the Gulf War Area?

Exposures include:

- Vaccinations
- Oil well fires
- Chemical & Biological Weapons
- Pyridostigime Bromide (PB) – Round white tablets used as a pre-treatment drug to protect against nerve agent soman
- Pesticides
- Sand, Dust, and Particulates
- Depleted Uranium
- CARC Paint
- Occupational Hazards

- Toxic Embedded Fragments
- Infectious Diseases
- Heat Injuries

Gulf War Veterans' Medically Unexplained Illnesses

A prominent condition affecting Gulf War Veterans is a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems.

VA refers to these illnesses as "chronic multisymptom illness" and "undiagnosed illnesses." We prefer not to use the term "Gulf War Syndrome" when referring to medically unexplained symptoms reported by Gulf War Veterans. Why? Because symptoms vary widely.

Gulf War Veterans who meet the criteria below do not need to prove a connection between their military service and illnesses in order to receive VA disability compensation.

VA presumes certain chronic, unexplained symptoms existing for 6 months or more are related to Gulf War service without regard to cause. These "presumptive" illnesses must have appeared during active duty in the Southwest Asia theater of military operations or by December 31, 2016, and be at least 10 percent disabling. These illnesses include:

- **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.
- **Fibromyalgia**, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.
- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.
- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances.

STATE OFFICERS

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3rd Zone Marilyn Britten	Judge Advocate. Elmer White, Muskegon	Public Relations Director Mark Sutton, Eaton Rapids
4th Zone Joe Renis	National Executive Committeeman	
5th Zone. Jim Dougovito John Skinner, Schoolcraft	

Headquarters

Jim Wallace, State Commander



Jim Wallace
State Commander

The holidays are behind us. The Legion year is half over. Congratulations to all for working hard on your programs and membership. Let's look forward to a great new year to finish out our fiscal year.

I have had the opportunity to visit many Legion Family members so far and looking forward to seeing many more. I specifically want to mention the 45th Thanksgiving Dinner the First Lady and I was invited to at Taylor Post 200 for the veterans from the VA Dingell Hospital. What a great turnout of other veterans as well. The Post, Auxiliary and SAL of 200 put on a first class dinner and program

with a live band. The helpers who donated their time to assist include the American Legion Riders, Hog Chapters, bus drivers (7 bus load of veterans from the hospital), care givers and family members of the veterans, Junior ROTC (presenting the flag honors and serving food) and many Legion Family members in attendance. To Taylor Post 200 Commander John Martin, my congratulations to you and all involved for your dedication and unselfish giving to veterans.

Several Veteran Hospital Gift Shops were attended where we helped to prepare Christmas gifts with some being distributed to the veteran. What a feeling of joy to see the happy expressions on their faces and grateful responses they conveyed.

We will be attending the week long Winter Tour in the Upper Peninsula

January 11-17, 2015 and the 11th & 12th District meetings in Gladstone. We are expecting to visit with many members at the several stops along the way. To the posts hosting a visit please encourage your members to attend and say "HI".

The 2015 Winter Meeting in Flint, MI is scheduled for February 13-15, 2015. Our National Commander Mike Helm and our Central Region National Vice Commander Bill Bryant will be in attendance. Please plan on attending to visit with our National leaders and to obtain information on how to better our Post, District, Zone and State programs and activities. Many new learning opportunities will be available to every member. Also, there will be a special gathering to honor our retiring Adjutant, Pat Lafferty, on Saturday night. Please bring with you some stories and good will for him.

Remember to register ear-

ly. Registration forms are available on the Legion web site (michiganlegion.org).

Also, in February we will be attending the Washington D.C. Legislative Conference to promote the needs of veterans to our Legislators. This Conference presents a large impact to the United States Senators and Representatives, you have elected, to inform them of the multiple necessities of our active duty and veteran service members for their effortless return to civilian life and the medical responsibilities to ensure their well-being.

Thanks to you this has been a rewarding and enlightening first half year. I expect the same for the second half because of your profound well wishes and assistance. Many expectations are ahead of us to make this a great year. Let's all charge ahead to make this happen. See you at Winter Meeting, if not before.

Pat Lafferty, State Adjutant

"Thanks for the Privilege"



Pat Lafferty
State Adjutant

In 1983 I was looking for a home and The American Legion offered me one. I can't describe the appreciation I feel for the opportunities the American Legion has given me. I began my legion journey as a Department Service Officer assigned to the Saginaw VA Medical Center and traveled throughout eighteen (18) counties. In those days we didn't have lap top computers, cell phones or the internet. We had phone booths along the road to communicate with our Legion Detroit office and I spent many hours with my head outside my car window trying to check the status of individual veteran claims for their benefits. In 1992 I was offered the position of Assistant Director for the Legion VA&R program and I was transferred to our Lansing Headquarters. I didn't do as much claim work as Assistant Director but I began a new assignment being involved with the legislative process. I had the opportunity to work with some great chairmen and other volunteers who worked tirelessly to helping our veterans. I also got to meet hundreds of Michigan Legislators and participate in the legislative process in supporting Veterans issues and concerns.

In 1998 I was named Department Adju-

tant and that development still ranks as one of the great privileges of my life. It's been a great honor to represent the American Legion as your Chief Administrative Officer and to serve our State Commanders and Department Executive Committees. I served under thirty three (33) excellent State Commanders in my years as a Legion employee and I only wish the general public could see the dedication of these commanders during their 12 months in office and beyond.

I want to thank all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Son members and officers who I served with as you're some of the finest individuals in the world.

Thank you to the wonderful department employees who I have been associated with all these years- your dedication to our veterans and their families go beyond anything I could say! And finally, I feel confident as I depart that the office of Department Adjutant is in good hands with Ron Runyan. Ron is doing an outstanding job as your incoming Adjutant. He has the skills needed to guide the American Legion in the 21st Century. Again, thank you for the privileges of being an American Legion employee but most of all thank you for your friendship and support all these years- you're the best!

Pat



**The Michigan
Patriot Fund
Support the Commanders
Special Project**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Post: _____

Send check to:

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

Thank You

The Time has Arrived!



Steve Striggow, Department Membership Director

Since July we have been putting out an important message. That message is to be in the final push mode from the start, rather than waiting until it is too late.

That time is almost upon us. All the easy renewals have been received and now the hard part really begins. As I write this, there are 20 posts at 100%. The incentives for 100% posts come to an end on December 31st. Please remember for the Commander to receive the blazer for 100 % membership, the Post Adjutant must submit verification to Department with the size required.

The Early Bird Drawing will take place at the Winter Meeting in Flint.

In the last Legionnaire, I asked how well you knew your membership. I hope this caused you to take a look and ask some questions. There really are no excuses for the posts lagging behind. With all the help available with a phone call or email, we can all succeed. There have been instances of posts holding membership for extended periods, even after being asked to send it in as soon as you receive it. If Department does not have it, it does not count.

The three Directors have been traveling around their areas of responsibility offering assistance and guidance. Only by everyone working together can we achieve our 100% membership goal. DMS Coordinator Holt has been sending out the DMS slips and Project Stay Active slips on a weekly basis. He has held several classes on MyLegion.org and quite frankly, the attendance at these training classes has been very disappointing. This program is being improved regularly and the Adjutants need to know about all the tools available to them. Director Money has covered a good many miles to make sure they are receiving all the help they need at the post and district level. The Zone Commanders have been doing an excellent job getting the word out. The remainder of the TEAM (all Legionnaires) has been doing a good job.

I encourage you to visit the national website (legion.org) to take advantage of the national incentives. Remember, the National Family Award is available to posts. All members of the Legion Family Working together can be a powerful tool. We can make our 100% goal.

I hope everyone had a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year.

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

Updated 10/10/2014

1st District

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

2nd District

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

3rd District

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

4th District

January 4, 2015@ Allegan Post 89
 March 1, 2015@Constantine
 May 3, 2015@ Bridgeman Post

5th District

Meetings @ 7PM
 Jan 9th, 2014 @ Post 154 - 2327 Byron Center Ave, SW, Wyoming, MI
 March 12, 2014 @ Post 102 - 330 Rockford Park Dr., Rockford, MI
 July 9th, 2015 TBA

6th District

Lunch @ 12:00PM
 Meeting @ 1:00PM
 Jan 11th, 2015 @ Post 419 - 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney, MI
 March 8th, 2015 @ Post 269 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI
 May 3rd, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison, MI

7th District

Jan 11th, 2015 @ Lapeer Post
 March 8th, 2015 @ Caro Post

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

8th District

Jan 4th, 2015 @ Hubbaidston Post 182
 March 1st, 2015 @ Stanton Post 175
 May 3rd, 2015 @ Saranac Post 452

9th District

March 14, 2015-Hesperia Post 411
 May 9, 2015-Traverse City Post 35
 The usual schedule: Exec Cmte at Noon; Lunch at 1:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

10th District

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

11th & 12th District

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

16th District

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

17th District

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

18th District

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

19th District

March 14, 2015 Post 121 Roger City at VFW Post 607
 1316 W. Third st. Roger City
 Social Hour at 11am, Lunch at Noon, Meeting at 1pm
 May 16th, 2015 @ Post 317, Onaway - Social Hour 11am
 Lunch at 12, Meeting at 1PM

**2015 Membership Needs to be Turned in ASAP!
 You Risk Not Recieving a Pre-printed 2016 Card if You Don't!!!**



AUXILIAIRE

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

Our Programs Are Working—Keep It Up



Well the holidays are over, and I can only hope that everyone enjoyed them as much as I did. It is always great to spend time with the family over the holidays, but this year I enjoyed it even more than usual.

I was lucky enough to visit 5 of our V A Hospitals during the busy season: Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids, Battle Creek, Saginaw and Detroit. The ladies that work this program are truly amazing women. Each hospital is run slightly different, but they all have the same results, many veterans and their family go away being very happy. When you get the chance to talk to the veterans and hear some of the stories of their lives, it does make a happier holiday season for me. I will probably never be able to say enough about the work that goes on behind the scenes. From the all the units that help with getting everything for the volunteers to set out, to the hospitals that give us the rooms to do our big project. I really think that no changes are needed for this program because it is run to perfection at all the hospitals. Thank you so

much everyone involved in this project, because it truly is working.

Now that the New Year is on its way, the cold weather will set in for a couple of months, please don't forget all the veterans out there. We have many on the streets needing our help. Many more families of Veterans that also need our help, so seek out someone and see what little you can do for them, for the cold months ahead. Remember it can be as simple as a telephone call or shoveling a snowy sidewalk.

Mid-Winter Conference is coming up. We have some different things in the works for this year. Hope to see many of you there because this is a fun one. Our Central Division Vice President Laura MosBy is coming for a visit, so stop by and see her during the meet and greet session and please say hi.

As President, I am seeing that our organization is truly amazing. Everything that we are doing is working. So PLEASE keep up the good work by doing the things that we do best. This is what is making the American Legion Auxiliary the world's largest patriotic organization and I am sure glad that I am a member. My New Year's wish is that each of you feel the same way.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

2015 WINTER CONFERENCE

Friday, February 13, 2015

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m. -- 4:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Store Open
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Executive Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Social Hour
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.	National Commander's Banquet



Saturday, February 14, 2015

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	NATIONAL SCHOOL – LEADERSHIP TRAINING (Legion Family Workshop)
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Store Open
10:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Self-Defense Class for all Ages—under National Security
11:30 a.m. – Noon	Poppies available to purchase
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon (Girls State Tea) –under Girls State
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Official Greetings from Nat. Cent. Div. Vice President Laura Mosby with Question and Answer Session
1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.	Workshop—Simplifying Roberts Rules of Order
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Juniors Program

Junior Auxiliary Kick-Off at Unit 108

On Sunday, November 9th, 2014 Bonnie Burdette-Wood, Pat Marvar, Pat Pitel & #108's Ladies' Auxiliary hosted the American Legion Junior Auxiliary Kick-Off at Walter Frazer Unit 108 in Oxford, MI with 12 Jr Auxiliary Members ranging in ages from 4 to 16 years old, sharing in fun, food, games, interesting facts, future plan making & a special visit from guest speaker Ellen Jackson, American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Michigan 2nd Vice President.

The Kick-Off was a resounding success & the #108's Jr Auxiliary would like to invite all Jr Auxiliary Members from other American Legion Units, as well as children of Active Service Members to join us for future fun & events.



Nyla Martin, Isabella Hubbard, Destiny Ellis, Bonnie Martin, Jaden Martin, Pat Marvar, Eriana Hubbard, Madison Muller, Marissa Baird, Katelyn Spearing, Laura Ellis, Shauntia Martin, Bonnie Burdette-Wood, Elena Hubbard (not in picture)



Opening Day at the Grand Rapids Gift Shop was a very festive occasion. Among the happy, hard-working group was Department President Nancy Knox; 5th District President Lorelee Nauta; Department Commander Jim Wallace; Department SAL Commander Butch Maxwell, and Department Representative for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Sarah Brooks.

Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain



BE THANKFUL FOR A NEW YEAR

"Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings!" Psalms 33:2

By the time you read this we will have begun 2015. It doesn't seem possible that another year has passed. I hope that you all had a wonderful and blessed holiday season. There are so many holidays that occur during the last part of the year, regardless of what religion you practice.

This time of year can also be a very stressful one. Many of our members have lost precious family that they mourn more during this time of the year than at any other. There are also financial stresses that cause great emotional stress. Regardless of what we might have had to go through, it is also a very blessed time of the year. There are many religious services that occur along with a large number of family get-togethers.

During this time, there are also many of our Veter-

ans that are homeless or have no family to share the holidays with. Many of our American Legion Posts put on dinners, etc. for them but it doesn't replace having a home to call their own or family to share with. There are also many active Servicemen and Women that have to spend holidays away from their families. My hope is that many of you found a way to make the season brighter for as many of them as possible.

Whatever you did during the holidays, I hope that God was with you and that he helped you get through them with a bright perspective.

We can now begin a new calendar year and finish the last half of the Auxiliary year with a flourish. We still have six months to be thankful for all that our Veterans have done for us and current Servicemen and Women will continue to do. Each day should bring us all something to be thankful to God for, whether it is our family, our health, or the time we had with those that have passed on.

I pray that you will all have a very thankful and productive 2015.

Susan Verville Endorsed as President

At a regularly scheduled meeting of Alfred Branchini Unit #17 held on September 9, 2014 and the Upper Peninsula Association of Auxiliaries District meeting held on October 11, 2014, Susan (Mrs. Dwaine) Verville was endorsed for the office of Department President for 2015-2016.

Susan (Sue) became eligible for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of her father George Rymkos, who served in the U.S. Navy in WWII. Sue has been an active member for 26 years.

On the Unit level, she has held the offices of Unit President (13 yrs.), Secretary (4 yrs.), and Historian (2 yrs.). She has been chairman of many committees for the Unit. Chairmanships as follows: Jr. Activities, Girls State, Constitution & Bylaws, Americanism, Legislative, National Security, Publications and Public Relations, V.A. & R., Leadership, Community Service, Education, Children & Youth and Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

On the District level, Sue has served as the Upper Peninsula Association of Auxiliaries District President (2 yrs.), 1st Vice (2 yrs.), 2nd Vice (2 yrs.),

Chaplain (1 yr.) and Historian (2 yrs.). She has been chairman for the following committees: Americanism, National Security, Legislative, Leadership, Constitution & Bylaws (6 yrs.), Girls State (10 yrs.), Girl's State Bus (12 yrs.), and Children & Youth (2 yrs.).

On the Department Level, Sue has served as Chairman for Citizens Flag Alliance (1 yr.), Upper Northern Area Membership Chairman (3 yrs.), Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman (1 yr.), Legislative Committee member (1 yr.), Children & Youth Chairman (3 yrs.), Department Historian (1 yr.), Department Chaplain (1 yr.), Department 2nd Vice President (1 yr.), and Department 1st Vice President (1 yr.).

We ask for your support of our candidate for Department President for the year 2015-2016.

Penny McPherson
Unit #17 President

Julie Kay Rumann
Unit #17 Secretary

Krystal Oberle
UPAA President

Diana Mella
UPAA 1st Vice President

Ellen Jackson Endorsed as 1st Vice President

At the department level, Ellen is presently serving as 2nd Vice President & National Security Chairmen and has previously served as Chaplain, Historian, and the Americanism Chairman also served on the Americanism committee and the Community Service Committee.

At the Unit level and District level she has dutifully held the offices of President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian, and Sgt-at-Arms. She brings her varied experience as chairman of VA&R, Americanism, Community Service, Membership, Past President's Parley, Girls State, Membership, and Education, and is currently the District Publication Relations Chairman.

Before Ellen came to Unit 108 she was a member of Chief Pontiac Unit 377 and served as President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian and

Sgt-at-Arm. She also served on many Chairmanships at Chief Pontiac.

She has served on the board for the Pontiac Veterans Memorial Wall. She was a Representative for the ALA for the scholarship for the families of Pontiac Veterans. Ellen is also a partner of Salon 224.

Ellen is a dedicated, active Auxiliary member who joined under her deceased father, a Korean War Veteran. She is committed to serving the Veteran and their family and has shown her loyalty over a 15 year of unselfish giving.

It is our honor and duty to ask for your support of our endorsement of Ellen Jackson for the Office of Department 1st Vice President for the year 2015-2016.

Angela Galbriath
President, 18th District

Janice L. Rollin
Secretary, 18th District

Deanna Cortright Endorsed as 2nd Vice President

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Coldwater American Legion Auxiliary Unit #52, held December 10, 2014, and the Third District Association meeting held January 4, 2015, Deanna (Mrs. Duane) Cortright was endorsed for the office of Second Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2015-2016.

Deanna is eligible for membership through the service of her father, Robert E. Lentz, a U S Navy Veteran. He served 33 years and served during both the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. Mr. Lentz is a member of the American Legion in Orange Park Florida.

Deanna has been a member for 33 years, and has been active at the Unit and District level for all of them. At the Unit level, Deanna has held all offices, including a total of 5 years as President, with part being while she was a member of Quincy Unit #157. She is currently Treasurer.

On the District level, Deanna has held all offices, including a total of 3 years as President and 2 as Parliamentarian. She has also held many of the District chairmanships.

On the Department level, Deanna has been on many committees, many as chairman. She has served as chairman of the Junior Activities and Children and Youth Chairman (twice), Education Chairman, Western Area Membership Chairman, VA & R Chairman (3 years), and Department Membership Chairman and Department Historian. Deanna is currently Chaplain for 2014-2015.

Deanna is a member of the 8 & 40 Salon 41 and the La Societe de Femme Cabane #946.

She retired from the State of Michigan after 30 years in December 2009 where she worked for the Department of Community Health for all but one year.

It is with great pleasure that we endorse Deanna for this position. We feel that she is well qualified to serve the Department of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary as an officer. We ask for your consideration and endorsement of Deanna for the nomination of Department Second Vice President for the year 2015-2016.

Nancy Ritchey
Third District President

Linda Bowers
Third District Secretary

Diana Doyle
Unit #52 President

Janet Hurst
Unit #52 Secretary



Department Commander Jim Wallace; 1st Lady Linda Wallace; PDC John Knox; President Nancy Knox; and SAL Commander Butch Maxwell, trying to stay warm and dry at the Detroit Veterans Day Parade.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER RONALD R. WYATT

Hello Gentleman,

I would like to wish everyone a most happy and holidays season. As well as Greetings from the National Commander Mike Moss.

Membership is going well in the Central Region. Michigan needs to step up the pace though. We are in last place in the Central; please get your membership in. New members are easy to get, but we have to remember retention and renewal are key. So let's build those bridges to the future, we have the foundation let us build it to the top.

Commander Moss has two special projects, National Emergency Fund and American Legion Endowment Fund. So let us step up to the plate and help him meet his goals.

Let us remember our men and woman serving this great country and keep them in our prayers, also our Veterans and our Children and Youth.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

For God and Country

SAL MEMBERSHIP

Mike Boughner, SAL Membership Chairman

Membership seems to be trickling in this year, the 35% target has come and gone and I am sorry to say we did not make it, as a matter of fact the November 18th report just came out and we are at a disappointing 32.62% Nationally. We are currently in 40th place out of the 55 Detachments. I know our Detachment membership says we are at 37.68%, but as I write this article, I am going with what National has us at. I don't know about you, but I'm not happy being in 40th place, and I know our Commander Butch Maxwell is not to happy either. So I am reaching out to you for help.

With the next deadline of 45% on December 10th approaching quickly I encourage all of the Squadrons to make a friendly call/text or email each unpaid member who may have forgotten to pay or misplaced the renewal post card sent out from National.

You can also remind your unpaid members that membership is

from January 1 to December 31, so they need to send in their dues ASAP to remain a member in good standing with the greatest organization in this country.

This year a new award is starting nationally, it is the 100% American Legion Family Ribbon. To receive this award, the Legion Family at Post level (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, or ALR Chapters) must all have 100% membership by June 30th, 2015. I think this is a great way for our Legion Family to work together and get that membership coming in.

As an individual The National Membership Committee offers a recruitment pin award for those members recruiting five (5) new members into the Sons of The American Legion within a membership year. This pin is suitable to wear upon your cover or lapel. Paperwork must be turned in by August 30, 2015.

Let's keep working on our membership, and make our Detachment the best in the Central Region.

FOR OUR VETERANS, FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



Harley "Butch" Maxwell, Detachment Commander

Hello from the detachment of Michigan. These

past few months have been busy and a learning experience. In October we went to the commander's conference in Indianapolis this was very educational experience. Then we had the 6th district tour these tours are always fun visiting many different post, and finishing the tour at Commander Wallace home post for a very nice dinner. A week after the tour we had a membership rally in Lapier it was a fun day. In November I must apologize for missing the 18th district tour, I had surgery on my neck I had a fusion of C5-6-7 vertebra surgery went well and I am recuperating very well, I would like to thank everyone for the well wishes. It was a honor to be invited to the Detroit veterans parade. I send my sympathy to past Detachment Commander Roger Rockhold for the loss of his wife Ladonna. I attended a very nice service in Harrison for Ladonna.

The first week in December was very busy attending gift shops at Grand Rapids V.A., Battle Creek V.A., and Saginaw V.A. And the following week to Detroit V. A.

I am looking forward to the red flannel dinner and the U.P. Tour in January a tour of the U.P. Should be fun I am sure we will see lots of snow.

Sometimes we may have some issues in our squadrons we need to take care of these things proper and follow the chain of command. First start at the squadron if we cant take care of things there. Take it to your post officers, remember as S.A.L we are a comity of the American Legion at your home post. If you can't

take care of things at that level take it to the district level first S.A.L then American Legion. After the district take it to your Zone Commanders, then to the Detachment/Department level if necessary. We are always willing to help in any way we can.

As most of you know my special project is PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress disorder) awareness and trying to help our returning soldiers get the help they need to recover from the traumatic events of war. One way to help is the Willwin lodge in Trout Lake a retreat for Veterans to go and relax and clear there head. So I am hosting a dinner dance for the Willwin lodge at my home post on March 7, 2015 all proceeds will go to the Willwin lodge. If you can't make it to the event on March 7, I will be accepting donations for the support of the Willwin lodge to make donations send them to, Squadron 216/Wilwin 510 W Commerce Milford MI 48381, any help to support this event would be very much appreciated I will have more info in the near future thank you for your support.

And of course something that we must always talk about is membership get that membership in as soon as possible don't hold it. If you have members that are not renewing call them it may just be a oversight, don't let them get away it seems we get many new members every year but our membership numbers do not go up because we are losing members. Keep it going membership is what keeps The American Legion strong. Remember our goal as Sons Of The American Legion is to support veterans any way we can, so please continue to support all of the American Legion programs as much as possible

THANK YOU VETRANS FOR
OUR FREEDOM

1ST ZONE REPORT

**Greg Price,
Detachment 1st Zone Commander**

What wonderful opportunities I have had to share with friends and family. One event that I enjoyed was the Thanksgiving Dinner that members of the Taylor American Legion Post 200, served to Veterans who had traveled from the John D. Dingell V.A. Medical Center to attend. Also attending were Veterans who have been experiencing hard times, and have become homeless.

I am not sure if those Veterans enjoyed the great meal, or the live band, more than they did Department Commander Jim Wallace, who personally thanked them all for their service. Seeing all the American Legion Family members who came out to help was truly amazing.

Another fun and embarrassing

evening came when Juanita and I were invited to the Lapeer American Legion Post 16, for an evening of comedy. My friends offered to have me become a volunteer, and yes, while I was making a spectacle of myself, I looked over at Juanita and my friends and they were laughing so hard, they had tears rolling down their faces. Great time!!!

I would also like to thank my American Legion family for asking me to be present at their Fund Raisers, Special Events, and their District Tours. I was able to come away with memories that many of their Post members shared about the amazing things they have been doing.

Please share your love, happiness, and enthusiasm, with those you meet during this Holiday Season, who may not be as blessed as you.

For God & Country

2ND ZONE REPORT

**Danny Gleason,
2nd Zone Commander**

To my SAL Brothers in the second zone:

Please send in your membership The 2nd Zone is at the bottom of the pickle barrel.

We have 15 Goose Eggs between the 4 districts. This being the largest

Zone in the state. This makes Michigan look bad Nationally. I have been very busy attending Squadron meetings, gift shops at the Veterans Home in Battle Creek and Grand Rapids. If you have any special events Please contact me at commanderdan@sbcglobal.net or by phone 574-340-3269.

For God and Country

NEF-EDITOR & PDC REPORT

Sandy Lipman, Editor & PDC

First of all my family and I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season and hope you can relax and enjoy! However some of our fellow Legion Family Members may not be able to do so with the thanks of Mother Nature. There have been flooding's, wind damage and snow storms which has caused National Emergency's throughout the Country. Some have been displaced from their homes and Post's and that is where the NEF comes into play. The donations help provide necessary grants to those recovering from these disasters. NEF provides immediate monetary assistance up to \$1,500 for Legion Families and up to \$5,000 for a Post. One hundred percent of the donations that are made to the NEF go towards this project and go towards the grants to those that are eligible to receive them. Your donations are not used to cover administration cost and promotional costs.

As your chairman I am asking you and your Squadrons to donate to this worthy cause. This also happens to be SAL National Commander

Mike Moss's Special Project. You can send your donations to me at 13633 Vernon, Oak Park, MI 48237 so I can keep track of the Squadrons that have donated to this fund. Then your check will be forwarded to National. Additional information is available on www.legion.org/NEF

In PDC Mike Boughners article he brings up membership. I want to quote from the Moose fraternity which I am a member of. "Many of our Lodges and Chapters only equate member retention with bringing back expired members. While that is important it is just as essential to promote and run programs and activities that encourage current members." How true this is within our own Legion Family. A mission member program is an idea that is to educate the old and new members to help them understand and support the goals of our organization, the Legion Family. This is a good working tool to not only promote new members but to also strengthen your Post, Squadron and Unit. Remember "Recruit, Retain and Reinstate."

Yours in God and Country

3RD ZONE REPORT

**Carvin Chapman,
3rd Zone Vice Commander**

I must say that it has been a busy year already. Since my last report I have participated in the Detroit Veterans Day Parade in November along with the Junior's from my Post. This parade honors all current and past Veterans. This is an annual Parade which takes place in Downtown Detroit every year around Veterans Day; this year they had a special ceremony to honor the Vietnam Veterans.

I have also attended three District Commander's Tours and plan on doing

more. This has been a good way to meet and talk with fellow members to find out what they are doing in their Squadron, Post and Units. I have called and talked to several commanders and officers of different Posts and have received knowledgeable feedback. I have and will continue to visit as many if not all Posts and Squadrons in my Zone.

In closing I would like to thank everyone for their love and support during my difficult time of losing my mother. My wife Kathy and I would like to wish everyone a very safe and Happy Holiday.

Yours in God and Country

NEVER ENOUGH...

**Jeff Meulendyk,
SAL 5th District Finance Officer**

Never enough money. Never enough volunteers. We have all seen it in our Posts.

My wife and I are good friends with Diane Dusendang who is also a member of the Grand Rapids Elk's Lodge 48 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. During a social gathering last summer we talked about the projects and goals of The American Legion and the Michigan Elk's Association. We were all surprised at how similar our community service projects were and how both organizations had the same problems in attaining goals. We decided to have an informal meeting between some of the members of the 5th District Sons of The American Legion and the Grand Rapids Elk's Lodge 48.

During that meeting we discussed various ways in which we could help each other. Some of the ideas however were too complicated because of the unique structure of each organization. Still committed to working together towards a common goal, we decided to continue our discussions with the hope that there would be a future opportunity where we could join forces in support of our veterans and children in need.

During the September meeting of the 5th District SAL we found just such an opportunity. A vote was taken to make a donation of \$250.00 to the Michigan Elk's Association Major Project for children in need. On October 4, 2014 I attended a fund

raising dinner at the Grand Rapids Elk's Lodge 48. I presented the check to Brenda Cook, Executive Director for the Michigan Elks Major Project. The response from the members in the room was overwhelming to say the least.

Supporting our organization sometimes requires us to think outside of the box, or in this case outside the walls our Posts. If we combine resources and volunteers with other local, community organizations we can have a stronger impact on the lives of our veterans and kids. Perhaps the next time your Post faces the "never enough" dilemma you may want to consider a closer look at this option.



GREETINGS FROM THE 4TH ZONE!

Fred Ruttkofsky, 4th Zone Commander

I hope that everyone is enjoying a great Holiday Season, and we are all ready to start the New Year by helping as many veterans as possible. Also in this New Year my hope is for everyone of us to sign up at least one new member.

It is hard to believe the first six months of being 4th zone commander has already gone by. I have been working with Post 297 in Ravenna to get their membership cards and charter dues paid. While I am on the subject of membership, there are still a few squadrons in the 9th & 10th districts that are a zero. You know who you are, please turn in the officers lists and membership dues into Lansing so we can meet our target dates.

I have spent time this summer at Wil-

win Lodge, helping to make it a great place for our veterans and their families to reconnect. If you have the time, they can always use help to make it even better for veterans.

I had the great honor of working with my Post (300) to feed the veterans on Veterans Day. The day started with marching to our new Veterans Memorial Park. After the march, we went back to the Post to cook a wonderful dinner of Swiss steak with all the trimmings. I am so proud to announce we fed 197 people total that night, and any veteran in attendance ate for free.

I am looking forward to a great year in 2015, and am hoping to visit more squadrons and see more of you at the Winter Meeting in February. If any squadron is having issues, please contact me at the following email address: ruttkofsky@yahoo.com

2ND Zone Commander Report



Jim Carlin, 2nd Zone Commander

Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas events for veterans in their communities, and another tour of Silver Star Apartment Homes with Commander Wallace and other Legion officials. Commander Bob Snow of Jonesville Post 195 held a memorable dinner recognizing 11 members with between 51 & 72 years of continuous service to the Legion. It was also an honor to be present at Fort Custer National Cemetery for the burial of U.S.M.C. Pvt. Robert J. McConchie. Steve Kent and Post 298 ALR stood at attention for the flag line along with the Patriot Guard. Lest we forget, this warrior was returned to America after his remains were identified 69 years after he was listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. Rest in Peace, Marine!

Our 2nd Zone Face Book page

www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion2ndZoneMichigan contains my "On the Road Again" remarks with over 400 photographs of the Posts and events that I have attended. It has a great following, and is an excellent social Internet resource to keep members advised of what is going on within the 2nd Zone.

I continue to advocate strongly on behalf of our American Legion Riders, because they are a great asset to our Legion causes. We are striving to improve on our membership goals, especially with the objectives of National for our 100th anniversary in 2019. Great job, ladies and gentlemen, and lets even do better.

All of us in the American Legion express our best wishes to you for a healthy, prosperous, and Happy New Year. It is an honor serving you in my Department capacity, and I will continue doing my best in fulfilling the trust you have placed in me. To all of our veterans and their families, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great Nation."

11th District Highlights



Wayne Roy, District Commander and Stan Kennedy, District Adjutant

Awards were presented to Frank Rodman of Hermansville Post 340 for his outstanding Public Relations, to Escanaba Post 82 the Clark Wilbur Award for best Child Welfare program, to Menominee Post 146 Boy's State attendee Garrett Dietz a finalist Samsung Scholarship winner. Department of Michigan Outstanding Service Officer awards were presented, for District Service Officer went to Alfonse Vanhese of Stephenson Post 43, and the best Post Service Officer went to Jerry Rowe of Rapid River Post 301. Congratulations to you both, your achievements have brought Pride to the 11th District.

For those who took time out of their Summer schedules to work at our Legion Booth at the UP State Fair, "Thank you", with your help our booth was a success, new members were recruited, and several claims

were processed with the assistance of Service Officer Pat Kline. I need to thank past Department Commander Bill Hafeman for donating items to sell with proceeds going to fund the Upper Party at the Summer Convention, and flags to be raffled to the new members that were signed up at the Booth. Hopefully next year we can get the Posts Commanders from both the 11th and 12th Districts to take part in manning the Fair Booth, seems like a challenge commanders.

Membership is at 75.3 percent with some Post's at 60 percent and others in the low 70 percent bracket. I believe that with all of us working together as a TEAM we could put our 11th District in 1st place. Having said all that; I encourage getting all your renewals and recruiting a few new members to your Posts soon as possible.

Congratulations to Perkins Post 540 for getting 138 percent. From all the Officers of the 11th District we send our sincere wishes for all to have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

5th District Highlights



Catherine Buckley, 5th District Commander

The mighty 5th is on a roll for membership. Each Post is working hard on it.

Our District is working on improving the lives of our Homeless Veterans by working on apartments for them.

There is so much that has to be done for our Veterans. From the disabled to the Homeless. We as a District need to step up and take a hard look at our surrounding for there is much work to be done. Each and every veteran deserves to have quality of life for themselves and their families.

I have had the opportunity to be at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the New Veterans Clinic here in Grand Rapids along with our 2nd Zone Commander Jim Carlin and a group from the 5th District Chaplain Marsiglia, Adjutant Torres and

Second Vice Christianson. This is a milestone for veterans. The new clinic will have so much more to offer which will cut down on the long trips to Ann Arbor and Battle Creek.

We are visiting Post and I'm always amazed at what the Post are doing for our veterans at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The Lowell Post #152 bake over 6,000 cookies for Veterans Day and Holland Post #6 has a truck load of gifts for their Christmas, Kent City Post #123 is collecting new socks for them. Every one of the Post in the 5th District jumps on the wagon to help our veterans at the home.

The 5th District Riders are always giving a helping hand to our veterans. When a call comes in they are right there.

We had a group from the 5th at the Gerald R Ford airport welcoming home veterans for the holidays on Thanksgiving Eve.

To all I hope your Christmas was wonderful and your New Year brings peace and joy.

19th District Highlights



George Bolinger, 19th District Commander

Greetings from the 19th District, since May our membership for most posts has improved, I have visited a few posts, but need to visit more. I helped with revitalization at the Petosky Post in Sept. with Al Ford and his team and a follow up on Nov. 11th. They are working to get members to their post meetings, told them if they need more help, the district will do what we can.

We all have the same prob-

lems not getting the younger vets, if you have older members who haven't paid dues, try to pay them. I would like to Thank Ron Geiger for heading up The Children & Youth

Program, and for letting people know the Tabs for Tots Program is still active AT DISTRICT LEVEL. Also thanks to Brian Morrison for serving on Boy's State Program, remember if you can't sponsor someone - Contact Dept. there are post that can or will.

Thank your Auxiliary, Son's and Legion Riders we need the support of them all, they help us all exist, to move forward. As a Family, Volunteer at your post a few can't do it all.



Henry Joseph Sacha July 28, 1929 - November 10, 2014

SACHA, Henry Joseph Age 85, November 10, 2014. A dedicated and beloved husband of Stella for 60 years. Loving father of Kathryn (John) Hendra and Robert (Nathalie) Sacha. Proud grandfather of Carolyn Hendra & Gabrielle (Daniel Mellstrom), Christophe, Jean-Pierre & Nicolas Sacha. Dear brother of Harry (the late Eleanore) & Edward. Preceded in death by his brother Chester (the late Patricia). Retired after 30 years as Lieutenant from the Detroit Police Department. Strong supporter of community organizations with dedication to American Legion as State Commander in 1994-1995, member of American Legion 161, Voiture 40/8, Knights of Columbus, Lions Club, Trustee of the Detroit Police and Fire Fighters Association.

Veteran's Service

Meet Department Veteran Service Officer Phil McCaskey



- Marine Corps Veteran 1984-1988
- Married to Ronda for 26 years
- 2 Children: Daughter Chanler and Son Harley

In addition to my duties here at The American Legion, I currently serve on my local school board and I was recently elected to a second 6 year term by the voters in the community. I am also a member of the Morenci Athletic boosters and am currently serving as president. I enjoy donating my free time to serve others in and around my community; which kind of falls right into my daily job as a service officer.

I would like to start though by thanking everyone for their service to our country. It has been a pleasure to serve all of the veterans I come in contact with over the last 5 years. I was given the opportunity to work as a American Legion service officer by Jim Topps, although at the time I was not sure what the job actually was or what it entailed I said yes. I can honestly say it is the single most rewarding job I have ever had in my life. Not because of the pay, but

because I get to meet America's heroes everyday and have the honor to work with and assist them with their claims and requests from the Veterans Affairs Administration. For both service connected and non-service connected claims, health care application, surviving spouse claims, and at times just lending an ear to them and steering them in the right direction in this crazy system we call VA Benefits.

Not being able to join the Legion due to my service dates, except through the Sons, has not stopped me from signing veterans up as new members of this great organization of war time era veterans. Membership is the life line that allows us to provide all of the programs within the four pillars that we were founded under. In my opinion the only reason a war time veteran isn't a member of the Legion is because they were never ASKED TO JOIN! If they were asked by someone to Join and didn't, it is probably because the recruiter didn't understand what The American Legion is about as a nationally recognized veterans service organization.

Get to know the Legion and it's programs and ask your local veterans to join and watch us grow.

Blood, Eye, & Organ Subcommittee

Lavern Spolarich, Chairman

At the fall conference I placed copies of my criteria for awarding of the blood donation awards. One member notified me about his donations.

I learned some information about the history of blood typing.

Blood typing was discovered in 1901 by Dr. Karl Landsteiner, clarifying the need to match the donor with

the recipient. This milestone has been regarded at the first true human organ transplant.

The blood types A, B, O, and later AB refers to the antibodies within the whole blood. Diseases such as hemophilia can be treated with massive transfusions of platelets. The development of freeze drying in the 1940's became a lifesaver when it was applied to the storing of blood plasma.

Lynn C. Weeman Post 514, The American Legion

Roger Younglove, PR Committee member



The Auxiliary of the Lynn C. Weeman Post 514, The American Legion, supports the Harbor Light facility of the Salvation Army. Harbor Light is where homeless Veterans and/or those Veterans with substance abuse problems can reside for up to two years. This year Harbor Light approached the Auxiliary with a special request. They ask the Auxiliary to supply them with the United States Flag and the Flags of the respective Armed Services. Those Flags are displayed in the hall of the dormitory wing at Harbor Light. The American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, and the ALR) purchased the

US Flag, the Flags of the five services and the POW/MIA Flag.

On November 1st the Auxiliary provided a program for the Harbor Light Veterans. State Representative Dale Zorn presented a US Flag that had flown over the State Capital to a representative veteran of Harbor Light. Commander Barbara Weimert then presented the Service Flags to representative veterans that had been in each of the branches of service. The POW/MIA flag was presented to a Vietnam Veteran; the Army flag; the Navy flag; the Marine Corp flag; the Air Force flag and the Coast-guard flag.

After the program the Veterans of Harbor Light were treated to a Steak Dinner at the Post Home. Case Managers Lesli McCormack and Noah Smitt accompanied the Veterans from Harbor Light.

When the Flags were properly displayed, the Site Administrator allowed Commander Weimert, her husband John and Roger Younglove, Sr. Vice Commander, to tour the facility and take pictures of the flags. The United States Flag has the Certification Letter hanging with it.

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Happy Valentine's Day



American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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Gary Easterling
Director

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

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

Greetings from the 18th District

Sheryl May
18th District Commander

As I write this article, I have just returned from celebrating Thanksgiving with some of my family in Charleston, SC. I hope that each of you enjoyed time with your family as well...we have so much to be thankful for as a nation and I am truly thankful for the men and women who served and are currently serving in the Armed Forces.

Attendance at the National Convention was quite an experience! The 18th District had four delegates present and we attempted to attend a variety of topics so that we could have the most to share with our membership. Courses we attended included 'Membership and Post Activities', 'Recruitment/Retention', 'District Revitalization', 'Public Relations', 'Centennial Celebration Workshop', the Patriot Memorial Service, the Convention Workshop and the Michigan Party. I had the chance to meet and network with a variety of individuals and I look forward to attending the 2015 National Convention.

The first 18th District meeting was September 21, 2014. The meeting was held in Holly and there were 32 members in attendance. Information from the National Convention delegates was shared with the membership which generated conversation. Steve Striggow, Department Membership Director, emphasized membership in the District and encouraged us to act as if we only had two months left to reach our membership goals. I have had the pleasure of attending the installation of officers for several Posts within the District. It was exciting to meet the new officers and speak to them about Legion membership and its importance. As of 30 Nov, the 18th District is in the 12th position and we have one Post at **101.64%...congratulations Christopher Columbus Post 354!**

The 18th District had several members attend a Membership Rally and Training on October 25th which was organized by 3rd Zone Commander Marilyn Britten. A lot of information was shared and a good time was had by all. The 18th District still has a lot of work to do to reach 100% membership. Please continue to work hard and knock on the doors of potential members! Thank you for what you have accomplished so far and thank you for what you will continue to do.

The 18th District Commander's Tour was Nov 2nd and I would like to thank Department Commander Jim Wallace and his wife Linda as well as Department President Nancy Knox and her husband John for sharing the day with the 18th District. Thank you also to 2nd Vice Commander Terry Montgomery and 2nd Vice President Sharon Therrien for organizing the tour and a heartfelt thank you to the Posts that opened their doors and showed us great hospitality. Thank you everyone! We had a fun day and met a lot of dedicated and energetic people. I can't wait for next year's tour!

The second 18th District meeting was held at Post 143 in Auburn Hills on Nov 9th and it was well attended. Brett Holt, DMS Coordinator, gave a presentation on mylegion.org at the end of the meeting. He did a nice job presenting the information and I learned several new ways to obtain information from the website. Thank you, Brett, for sharing your time and knowledge with the 18th District.

The Christmas season has begun and even though you will be reading this article in 2015, I want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Be safe and enjoy time with family and friends...I hope to see you at the next District Meeting which is January 11, 2015 at Post 20.

God bless you.

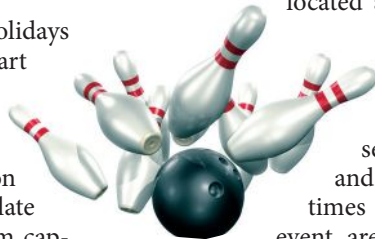
79th Annual Legion Bowling Tournament

Let's Get Ready to Bowl!!!

John Graham

With the holidays behind us it's time to start getting your bowling teams together for the 79th Legion Tournament. The information packets were sent out in late December to all the team captains of record for the 78th Tournament. Packets were not sent to the Legion Posts.

The tournament this year will be hosted by the Matt Urban Post #40 which shares the same building with the VFW Post 1138. The post is located at 400 Jones St. in Monroe. PH.# 734-242-0526. The Honorary President for the tournament is Jim Thornton (subject to change). The Monroe Sports Center is the bowling establishment,



located at 15425 S. Dixie Hwy. PH# 734-242-0404, Shane Held is the Proprietor.

The tournament will be held on the two consecutive weekends of April 11 and 18, 2015. Saturday Squad times for the doubles and singles event are 9:30AM and 1:30PM. The lanes shall not be re-oiled between squads, doubles are rolled first and then singles, we do not switch lanes. The team event will be held at Noon on Sunday.

Anyone wishing a information packet may contact us by phone at 734-422-8670 or by EMAIL at malbowl@sbcglobal.net. Information packets contain; an entry form, association rules, relaxed eligibility requirements and a cover sheet with entry information and guidelines.

Leadership College Committee

Bud Hansbarger Leadership College Committee Chairman

budhansbarger@yahoo.com
616-262-6169

I find myself using the materials leadership college committee has been sharing. Advice and guidance presented and discussed in our power point presentations. Basic Leadership skills play a role in our daily lives: Respect the work of others, Admit our own mistakes, seek and except mentoring (even from unlikely sources), Practicing the B's (Be Confident, consistent, an Attentive Listener, Enthusiastic, Yourself, etc.) Being involved and earning the respect of others around you. Strengthens organizations and your place within them.

Familiarity with and some understanding of Procedures, Protocols, Committee operations, Roberts Rules, and Resolutions coupled with knowing where and with whom questions can be answered. Easies complicated situations while lending credibility in our working environment, post, and community involvements.

Exposure to Mylegion.org has eased my transition into Post Adjutant. Sorting through the files, roosters, correspondence, do's and don'ts left to me from the predecessors had seemed daunting. Researching the position, seeking guidance and just plain trial and error proved to be educational! I believe myself and our post has weathered the storm, emerged no worse for

wear, even stronger with new lines of communications, and re-establishment of existing. overall a Win Win situation.

Without downplaying the importance of any post position, team approach is a must. Team (Post) victories, needed improvements, goals, and why we do what we do expressed to the whole team (post membership) allowing time for celebration as well as constructive criticisms. As a Commander, First or Second Vice, an Adjutant, Finance Officer, Service Officer, Sergeant at Arms, Judge Advocate, a Committee Chairperson we are representing our membership and our communities. Meeting their needs is our charge. As much and more can and should be said for our American Legion Auxiliary and Son's of The American Legion. Participating with The American Legion programs aids us in successful fulfillment of our community, school, veteran, membership, organizational and post needs. Reporting and recording our involvement outcomes for team improvements and to our originations is equally important (i.e. Consolidated Post Report (CPR)). Is how we stay relevant. An active post is a healthy post.

Continue to learn (something every day), participate in ongoing training, continue and seek involvement has surprised me with clearer focus, unknown interests and life fulfillment. I am a better veteran, a better member and a better man.

Develop Leadership Daily – it's not developed in a day.

Take the Boys State Quiz for your Post

Jerry Kelley, Boys State Director

Do you know the answers to the following questions?

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

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

1. A weeklong "National Civics Leadership Program".
2. Michigan Boys State is held on the campus in Northwood University, Midland, Michigan.
3. Any young man who has completed the 11th grade and is

interested in leadership and learning about how our government works.

4. Boys are assigned to cities, counties and political parties. They elect officials at city, county and state levels and function trying to solve challenges that are presented at each level – no money for roads, the sewer system needs an upgrade, or a current problem of today.
5. Anyone may sponsor a young man to attend – American Legion Post, Service Organization, Business, Parents, etc..
6. Is your Post able to answer "every member" to questions number 6 and "yes" to questions number 7. If not, please work on completing questions 6 and 7. When you have a Boys State Chairperson for your Post, please notify programs@michiganlegion.org with their name and email address.

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

Around the State...



Volunteers pause to commemorate Merritt Lamb Post's 60th mobile food pantry. Included in the picture are members of the Rockford Post and Auxiliary, the Rockford Masonic Lodge, Boy Scouts and other volunteers. Since November 2009, the Post has provided a total of more than 450,000 pounds of food to North Kent residents in need. With a retail value of approximately \$976,500.00, the impact upon those who have received the assistance is great.



Renovations are complete of the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. The home received upgrades to the front entrance, 2 other entrances, and various spaces inside the home and court yards.



Michigan Wounded Warrior and Returning Solider program got a boost from the Dearborn Police and Fire Departments with a softball game between veterans and the officers/firefighters. Even Department Commander Wallace played a couple of innings.



Gen. Vandnais, Commanding General of the Michigan National Guard present PDC Dick Chatman with a merit medal for his work with the Detroit Veterans Day parade and the Vietnam Commemoration ceremony held afterwards. Legion Riders rode out front of the parade as the parade proceeded down Woodward Ave on Nov 8th, 2014.



Mike Parr 7th district commander, Katherine Poynton from the Chamber of Commerce in D.C., Past third zone commander Richard Dubay at a Hiring Our Heroes Event in Macomb County



On Friday, 17 October 2014 at the Carson City - Crystal vs Vestaburg High School home football game a \$2000.00 donation was given to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans from the Walter T Roach American Legion Post 182 - presenting the check donation is: Dan Heckman - Post Adjutant



Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum holds the flag of the 127th Wing as he officially assumes command of the wing during a ceremony Sunday, Nov. 2, at Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Behind Slocum are Brig. Gen. Leonard W. Isabelle, Jr., commander of the Michigan Air National Guard; Col. Philip R. Sheridan, outgoing 127th Wing commander; and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dobson, command chief master sergeant of the 127th Wing. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Robert Hanet)



Ronn Foster (in the BSA uniform) and David Eckert, Commander Post 138 presenting The American Legion Square Knot Award.



HELPING OUT CHILDREN

By Dwaine Verville, PDC

Alfred Branchini Squadron #17 along with Alfred Branchini Unit #17 of Iron River passed out dictionaries to every 3rd grader in West Iron County and Forrest Park schools the first week of November. They worked with the Dictionary Project which is a national program The American Legion is associated with. To many of these children this is the first book they will own and can be used for many years.

It also gave a chance to let the children know what a veteran is and some insight into the programs of The American Legion and Auxiliary. The girls and boys were anxious to talk of their family members who were members of the military.

After seeing the enthusiasm of the students and teachers from each school, the Squadron and Unit plan on continuing this program.



West Iron County 3rd graders, SAL members- Dwaine Verville, Terry Verville, Auxiliary member- Wynetta Seymour, Teachers- Mrs. Grubbs , Mrs. Lavaque , Mr. Becker



Forest Park 3rd graders with SAL members - Dwaine Verville , Derek Perlongo, Auxiliary member - Wynetta Seymour, Teacher- Mrs. Santi

5TH ZONE COMMANDER REPORT

Jerry Lynch, SAL 5th Zone Commander

Greetings from the snow covered Upper Peninsula. I'm writing this report on a sunny but cold Thanksgiving day. I'm hoping everyone is fine and looking forward to the holiday season. We all have much to be thankful for and should always be proud to live in a country that is free from many of the problems that beset the rest of the world.

As many of you know I am a deer hunter and although I have not yet bagged a buck I have been enjoying many days at my camp and as much time in the woods as possible. Mabe I will be lucky today but if not that still ok.

A few weeks back I had the honor of installing the newly elected officers of Squadron #290 Engadine.

They have had a little struggle getting started but are now off to doing what they want for the veterans of Engadine and the area. Most of these members are also Volunteer Firefighters and very involved in other community projects and events. This new Squad is now has a 280% membership and is expected to grow. Good luck on Texas Holdum and your other projects. I am especially proud because I had the honor of being involved when this Legion Post was formed.

As usual SAL membership in the U.P. is slow at this time of the year with the 5th Zone in 4th place. The 11 District is in 4th place and the 12th District is in 14th place. The 5th Zone still has 5 0% Squadrons. As I have said many times, "It's not where you start a race that's most important, it's where you finish, and I can assure you all that the

5th Zone will once again make 100% goal.

I have been told that one of our well established Legion Posts in the 11th District is working on starting a Squadron. I wish them well and as always, my help, if needed.

I will be representing the SAL, along with Detachment officers, on the Mid-Winter Tour of Legion Posts throughout the U.P. in January. I will again be asking all Legion Posts that do not have a SAL Squadron to please start one. I believe that if your Post does not have a SAL or American Legion Auxiliary you are missing part of the family. We are a family organization and work best that way

> In closing I would once again ask our membership to consider getting more involved by attending District meetings and Conventions. We need you to step up and accept leadership positions. The rewards of doing this for veterans and our youth will even make you more proud to be an American. Two Leadership School of Instructions will be offered in the U.P. the first weekend in February. They will be free and well worth attending. See web site for details.

All members of the SAL are now supposed to receive the Legionnaire and I would encourage all to send in articles and pictures. I know our Squadrons are doing great things, but we need to let everyone else know the impact of the SAL on our veterans and our communities.

Please encourage your Post to send young men to Boys' State and young Ladies to Girls' State.

Once again THANK YOU for what you do and God Bless.

"SNAPSHOTS OF SERVICE"

A PHOTO CONTEST

Sponsored by the SAL National Public Relations Commission

In order to bring an emphasis to the efforts that our membership does for our veterans and our communities the National Public Relations Commission is creating "Snapshots of Service", a photo contest. This contest is open to all Squadrons. This contest should also help spread ideas as to what will or could work in your region of the country. Another benefit of these photos will be to use them on our website and Facebook page to highlight our accomplishments. Submissions are due 30 days prior to the 2015 National Convention. Awards will be given presented at the 2015 National Convention. Below are the rules and criteria

- Photos must be based on the Four Pillars of the American Legion
 - o Americanism
 - o Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
 - o Children and Youth
 - o National Security
- Photos must be in a digital jpg or tiff format
- Photos to become the property of the Sons of The American Legion
- Photos must not have a right of restriction
- Photos must contain members of the Sons with their covers or identifiable clothing on during the activity or event and a brief history of the event
- Squadrons may submit a maximum of 3 photos per category
- Plaques will be awarded the three best entries in each category

- Submit your entries to National SAL web master at w16wills@prodigy.net
- Contest will run each year from the 1st of August to thirty days prior to national convention
 - o Photos need to be from this time period

Judging

- Quality of photo
- Best symbolizes the support for the Four Pillars by the Sons of The American Legion
- Have Sons of The American Legion member or members in it.
- Must be submitted from a Squadron

Questions can be sent to the National Public Relations Commission member
Sanford Lipman
248-542-3187
SandyLipman95@hotmail.com



Sons of The American Legion
"Snapshots of Service"
2014-2015 Submittal Form

This form should be sent with your entry

Squadron _____ Detachment _____
Are submitting _____ photos under the following category
Americanism _____
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation _____
Children and Youth _____
National Security _____

E-mail it along with any pictures to webmaster Wes Wills at w16wills@prodigy.net.

18TH DISTRICT, DETACHMENT OF MI FLAGS FOR CLASSROOMS PROGRAM

Dear Patriot,

The dedicated members of the 18th District Sons of The American Legion need your help. Several years ago, we set out upon a task to place an American Flag into every classroom in Oakland County.

This all started when a very patriotic daughter of one of our members came home from school and told her father that there was not an American Flag in her classroom to say the Pledge of Allegiance to. Her father, David Kays, immediately went to his daughter's teacher and asked if he could put one up. They then went to the principal and asked permission. After a very warm reception they realized that hers was not the only room where one was missing. That's when Dave came to the Sons of The American Legion, of which he was a valued member. We purchased all of the flag sets that they needed and at a Ferndale school board meeting, donated them to a grateful school board.

That was all that we needed to get this ball rolling. The District immediately started collecting funds to accomplish our newly set goal of placing an American Flag into every classroom in Oakland County.

So far we have donated to the school systems of Ferndale, Royal Oak, Lake Orion, Berkley, Southfield, the Huron Valley Schools and Farmington.

Here's where you come in, dear Patriot. The AMERICAN MADE flag, staff and bracket sets cost us a little less than eight dollars each. Any help that you could give would be greatly appreciated. I know that the teachers do welcome the opportunity to use this as a teaching aid. The flags spark a sense of Country Pride that is missing in the world today.

Donations can be made to the David Kays Memorial Flags for Classrooms Fund administered by The Sons of The American Legion 18th District Association. They can be mailed to one of the Co-Chairman at: Randy D. Jackson, 609 West 13 Mile Road, Royal Oak, Michigan, 48073-2408.

Also, if you have any contacts at any of the Oakland County Schools that we have not yet served, please contact Randy at (248) 890-6396.

Thank You.

Yours in Patriotism,
Randy D. Jackson

LEGION RIDERS

PAUSE, REFLECT, & PLAN

Tom Howard
Chairman American Legion Riders
Detachment of Michigan

Since the main part of riding season is behind us we can take the opportunity to plan winter events and next year's riding events. I would like to encourage Legion Riders to think about safety classes. I know that many Legion Riders have years of experience, but we can always get better and renew our skills. Through the Secretary of State's subsidies we can get classes at a great price usually through community colleges. There is another perk in the talks that after taking a MSF class you will get a safety vest very similar to the military. We talked about this at the Motorcycle Safety Action Team meetings, and there is funding available and a sample vest has been produced in high visibility yellow & black. Many times these classes book early so if you plan on taking a refresher course or one of the other MSF courses plan early spring.

There will be a State "Wilwin" Motorcycle Run coming in late July. Richard Lynch will be performing at the Sault Ste Marie casino. Profits from the concert and some from CD sales will go to the Wilwin Lodge. Initial casino package price for rooms look to be a real deal, the Wilwin motorcycle run as well as show pricing, run information, and casino rate information will follow as details develop.

Keep tuned in to themichiganlegion.org web site for details. If you are interested in helping on this run in any way whether it be road captain, chase or advance vehicles, EMT help, fliers, registration help or other help please contact me at speedbump48813@hotmail.com.

This winter as your chapters plan rides please let me know so we can publish them on the State website. From the State Legion website look for the Riders tab. For rides include price, date, time, charity, and contact information. Hope to see you in Flint at winter convention.

WITH PRIZES

POST 3 THROWS A HALLOWEEN PARTY



Rifle Winner, caption Left to right. Fin off. Al Lavictor. At art Derry. Dale Wilson. Com. Todd Willette

On Friday October 31st, 2014 Post 3 Sons of American Legion in Sault Sainte Marie held their 3rd Annual Halloween Party. Music was provided by "Highway 63", playing tunes from the 80's & 90's. There was a costume contest, pizza buffet and gun raffle. Best costume went to Dan Wilson "Beetlejuice", Carl & Ann Eagle "clowns". Gun raffle winner Dale Wilson was the proud owner of a custom built AR-15 from Drummund Island Gun Works. Special thanks to Marcy Mcpherson and Jodi Willette for help decorate and construct the pizzas. Thanks to all who attended, the funds raised are going to be used for the SAL Annual Christmas Party for the kids held December 27th.

This year party was organized by Commander Todd Willette and Adjutant Art Derry and Financial Officer Al Lavictor.

CHARLES EDWARDS POST 14

LEGION RIDERS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS



Randy Jackson ALR Director, Post 14

We have donated over \$10,000 to Marine Corps Toys for Tots, \$500 was donated in 2014 for American Legion Legacy Fund. We participate in a variety of Rides throughout Michigan visiting other American Legion Family members and their Posts. We continue to support Charles Edwards Post # 14 helping with items for the veterans, troops and community projects.



www.mysal.org

Squadron Commanders and Adjutants -

Manage your membership online

Register today

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

BRING ON 2015, WE ARE READY

**Kathleen Copeland,
7th District President**

The holiday season is over, I hope your events were merry, and that you were all very blessed with the love from your family and friends. I too hope we all had the opportunity to do something special for our Veterans and their families. While I was not able to attend the gift shop at our assigned VA Hospital, I am sure those who did worked hard and were richly rewarded with many warm fuzzies.

We have had 2 District meetings, Fall Conference and the Ladies of the 7th continue to work our programs. They were sincere in their efforts to get out the vote. I have visited with Port Huron, Marysville, Smiths Creek and St. Clair, all at the same time and at one location, in Port Huron. All who participated did a wonderful job decorating and providing refreshments. It was October 14th, and it was a spooktacular event. The thumb is a very large district and many meetings take 2 ½ to 3 hours for me to attend, but, I do it for our organization. Doubling up is a great way to spend time with more units at one time.

In November, I attended the National ALA Mission Training in Columbus,

Ohio. Michigan was well represented by me, Connie Kovacs, Sandra Snyder, Mary Dubay, Ellen Jackson, Suzanne Knapp, Jacquelynn Boughner, and Sheri German. It was to educate and inform members on our programs with a look to our future. Strategic planning and staying the course will be very important to reach our goals. We were given a lot of useful information. We have received our Girl State tickets and we are working on getting girls for Girls State and increasing our membership. Our next 7th District meeting is January 11, 2015 in Lapeer.

Bring on 2015. We are ready and we hope you are too!



District 8 Is Busy Honoring Our Veterans

**Robin Basarabska,
District 8 President**

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great things happening in District 8.

In St. John's, the ladies help with displaying over 580 flags at Mt. Rest Cemetery seven times yearly, presented a Blue Star Flag to the family of a deployed member and carry an "Honoring Their Service" banner in parades. Saginaw Unit 439 has a giving tree for residents of the Saginaw Veteran's Home, a Christmas party for member's children and is helping to pay for a homeless

man to stay in a hotel. Frankenmuth's Unit celebrated their 40th birthday with a party with nine charter members present. The Bath Unit is teaming with the Post to create an emergency team that will be ready to assist should the community have power outages. The ladies in Laingsburg are donating to their local food bank to see that needy families have Thanksgiving dinner. I am excited to visit the rest of the Units to learn how they are representing the American Legion Auxiliary!

While November will have come and gone while you are reading this, I am writing it right after Veteran's Day. We are all related to at least one veteran whom we are proud. I joined under my Grandpa, Bob Slater, who was an airplane mechanic in the Army. I'd like to congratulate my favorite veteran, my Dad, Tom Basarabski, on being chosen as the Veteran of the Year at Post 305 during their Veteran's Day service.

On behalf of all of the ladies in the 8th District, thank you to our amazing veterans for making this country what it is today. We will continue to work hard to serve you and our communities!

PDP Carrie Bowerman; National Creative Arts Festival winner Martin Kirk; PDP Mary Anne Yunker; National Creative Arts winner Ronald Scarborough. Featured at the far right of the picture is Ron's winning copper etching of a pair of boots. Ron graciously donated the etching to the Auxiliary Department office.

The Battle Cry: RETAIN, REJOIN AND RENEW

**Georgia Downs,
Lower Northern Area
Membership Chairman**

Membership, what can I say except here comes the Cavalry! We have been charged with obtaining our goal for the Department of Michigan monthly milestone of 2,570 members. As Lower Northern Area Membership Chairman, I will be challenging my Districts and Units membership chairmen to obtain our goals for increasing membership. We must RETAIN, REJOIN AND RENEW.

Ladies, look around at your community and see where your competition is for obtaining new members. Reach out with a plan to promote the Nation's Largest Patriotic Women's Organization. How many women do you know that you would like to be a part of this great service organization? We need new members if we are to survive the future for our Veterans. Make a list and research www.alaforveterans.org website to find a tool that will work best for you and develop a plan and use it. I found a survey and a telephone script, which would be great to use for rejoins and renews. Remember all of the benefits of being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary promote our programs and scholarships. Get involved with your community at various levels

and make an awareness of your Unit's community service programs; remember Service not Self is one of our focus points.

How many remember Tiny Tots? I didn't even know there was a program called Tiny Tots. I'm learning something new every day! Seniors, how many of you have signed up your granddaughters for the Juniors or Tiny Tots? Your Unit does not need to have an active Juniors program for your granddaughter to be eligible. Remember, we should be mentors. Each new member should be assigned a mentor to help them learn our programs. There is more to being a member than just attending a meeting. We must promote Service and not Self. Some members cannot attend meetings and are not required to, they can help in many other ways but we must reach out to them and encourage them. We sometimes forget to thank them for what they contribute because it may not be "Our Idea" but "their idea."

Included in your Unit membership packet was a New Membership Kit. Please make copies and send one to each new member. There is a quantity of information beneficial to new members as well as existing members.

"We are all part of Fort Knox and we can make a Difference"

"Little Change BIG Difference for our Veterans."

Get the Word Out

**Marcy Jorae,
Public Relations Chairman**

As you read this, we are now in the second half of our Auxiliary year. The goal of the Public Relations program this year has been to get the word out about **Who We Are, What We Do, Why We Matter**. Every time you use one of the many tools in your Public Relations toolkit, you are "Ringing Your Bell". Hopefully you have been keeping track of how many times you have rung your bell. Each "ring" of the bell will count as one point in the "Ring Your Bell" contest. Will your Unit have the most rings?

Why is it important that we "Ring Our Bells" you might ask? First of all - there is a contest - and who does not like to win contests? More importantly, **ringing your bell** gets the word out about the American Legion Auxiliary - **Who We Are, What We Do, Why We Matter**. Whether it is an article in the newspaper or a post on Facebook, or using any other form of media, you are reaching out to everyone who sees or hears your story. Some of your audience will already be Auxiliary members - such as when you send out a newsletter. That is an excellent way to keep your members informed of what you are do-

ing. If members know what you are doing, this might encourage less active members to become more involved. A newspaper article will reach not only your members, but also the non-members of your community. When a non-member reads about your activity, they may become interested in the American Legion Auxiliary. Perhaps they will want to participate or help sponsor your projects - or maybe even join your Unit, if eligible.

I encourage you to pull out your Public Relations toolkit. If you haven't used it in a while, dust off the cobwebs and get going. If your Unit does not have a Public Relations program in place, you can put together a PR toolkit by accessing the many resources available on the national website www.ALAforVeterans.org Look under Public Relations and you will find sample press releases, posters, and many more tools to use to get the word out about **Who We Are, What We Do, Why We Matter**.

I have heard the bells ringing in some of the Units. I would like to hear them ring in every Unit. Watch for the contest entry form in the February Unit Mailing. Remember, as President Nancy says - a Little Change can make a Big Difference for our Veterans.

GOT POPPIES?

**Margo Forrester,
Poppy Chairman**

THANK YOU to all the Units, Posts and Members that ordered and picked up more than **70,000** poppies at the past Fall Conference that was held in Muskegon. The "Poppies 2 Go" effort saved our Department the expenses of mailing them all over our state. Many members stated they liked the convenience of picking them up there and getting them months earlier than usual.

You can of course, continue to order poppies for future distribution! If you are going to Winter Meeting in Flint and would like to help our Department (SOS=Save On Shipping), order your poppies on the regular order form by Feb. 6th, enclose a check, and specify you will pick them up at February's Winter Meeting. We will have them ready & waiting for you!

The new poppies don't have a year printed on the label, so any leftovers can be used in the future. And as always, try and reserve some poppies so they can be used in the Poppy Artistic Creation Contests (Centerpieces, Unique Displays and Corsages).

If you haven't already, there is still time to enlist a teacher to hold a Poppy Poster Contest. In my experience, some teachers welcomed a new idea that brought art, history and patriotism into one assignment. If you can't get a teacher, you can hold a contest with other youth, such as your Juniors, a church or scout group. You just need to be present to make sure our rules are followed. Plus, judging the posters is a joy!

Consider entering the Poppy Display Contest where a display about the poppy is exhibited in a storefront or at a library or school, anywhere but in Post Home.

The winners of the Poppy Participation Contest that was advertised on our michalaux.org Unit Mail and on the Department Facebook page are: Vicki Samp (Unit 219), Carla Pohl (Unit 550), and Pat Lazono (Unit 119). Sadly, there were less than 10 entries?

I want to encourage you to enter any and all of our contests. We don't do it for the awards, we do it for the awareness!

"Watch the turtle. He only moves forward by sticking his neck out."

Lou Gerstner

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."

Arthur Ashe

"Even if you fall on your face, you're still moving forward."

Victor Kiam

On Facebook, please visit & "like" the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan and the American Legion Auxiliary North-

eastern Post-Unit 459 Poppy Museum. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me @ 616 363-6688 or @ msscottforrester@gmail.com. POPPY ON!

Pick up your Poppies @ Winter Meeting!

If you are planning on attending the Winter Meeting in Flint and would be ordering poppies between Jan. 1 and Feb. 6th, you can pick them up at Winter Meeting on Sat. Feb. 14. This will save our Department those mailing expenses. Simply mail Department your poppy order with payment and indicate ***pick up poppies @ Winter Meeting!*** We'll have your poppies ready 2 go!

IT'S ALWAYS BUSY AT THE JACOBETTI HOME

Wanda Westman, Representative

We have had a busy year at Jacobetti with all the activities we get involved in. We host weekly bingo parties every Monday afternoon from 1-3 pm, hosted by rotation of 4 Auxiliaries and other donations from various units. We are continuing our special project of activities and entertainment, which we always need donations for. Our volunteers have also been busy in the library, helping to keep magazine subscriptions current. Our residents also visit the Greenwood Post every other month for lunch and bingo. Our residents really look forward to these outings.

January & February are pretty quiet months as winter keep some family members from visiting. The Four Chaplain's Service and Post Everlasting is held in our chapel the first weekend in February. We try to keep our members active and social, as it helps to keep them healthy. In March, the Home and service groups host Vegas Days. Dealers come from the local casino to help our volunteers deal blackjack where our members win or lose Monopoly money. It's FUN for everyone. In April, the Home hosts the annual Volunteer Banquet, where they honor all volunteers who gave 25 hours of service during the past year. Our local & state politicians speak about what they are doing to help our veterans and to show their appreciation of the work of all the volunteers. An award ceremony takes place and

then we all enjoy a wonderful dinner.

In May, we hosted our third annual Creative Art Show. Members showcase their talent in painting, leatherworks, ceramics and taxidermy. We presented all participants with a Wal-Mart gift card. For Mother's Day, we gave our ladies pretty flower arrangements to have on their bulletin boards, pretty handkerchiefs in a card, and a really fun Mother's Day party hosted by Marquette Unit #44. By the end of May, we look forward to our American Legion Junior Auxiliary from Greenwood Unit #114 planting flowers around the perimeter of the Home for our members to enjoy all summer long. In June, we honor our "Dads" for Father's Day with a card and we put \$2.00 in each man's account. As the weather warms up, we take our members on many picnics around the local area parks. Also, many members work in the various gardens at the home [vegetable and flower both]. During the past year, many renovations took place at the Home.

On the ground floor, we have a new Family Room which overlooks a beautiful outdoor flower garden. The front entrance to the Home was also renovated along with many other improvements. July's activities include the annual golf outing, which is a major fundraiser for the member's assistance fund. We also have an old car show, which brings back many memories from the past for our members. A yearly event our

members really enjoy is the fish fry, hosted by the American Legion Post #131 of Munising and Vietnam Veterans. August activities bring the annual Carnival put on by the Home and all the service organizations. This year, we ran the Plinko game and helped with the bowling game. One of our Auxiliary members sang with the band to entertain our members. There are games for our members and children's games for the kids and grandchildren, so it's fun for all involved. September and October are busy times also, with prep work for the upcoming holidays.

In addition to the Christmas parties, our biggest event is our Christmas Gift Shop which we was held early in December. Our residents get to choose gifts for themselves and their family members, which are then wrapped by our many volunteers. This program is provided at no charge to our members because of donations from Auxiliaries in the U.P. & around the state. The Poppy funds we raise are earmarked to pay for veteran's programs. I sincerely appreciate all the hard work from the various units in shopping for their gifts and for the monetary donations. So many volunteers came to help for the two days we had our Gift Shop open that we were also able to finish early and put the remaining gifts away for next year. The wrapped gifts will be distributed shortly before Christmas to all the residents. Sincere thanks to

all the volunteers who spent many hours making Christmas special for our members.

To help us continue our work as Jacobetti, I really need support from all the units in Michigan. We have almost 200 members here that we serve. Send cards, money or if possible, come visit and see this wonderful Home. It is definitely a family-type setting for our veterans. Any unit who wishes to make a donation to our Auxiliary program has to send the money to DEPARTMENT, earmarked for the Jacobetti Home. Please do not send your donations directly to Jacobetti, because then the money goes into their budget, not ours. Again, I can't stress this enough—please send donations to Department, who will then put it in my Jacobetti account. If you wish to visit or volunteer at the Home, please contact me so I may coordinate dates & times with the Jacobetti Volunteer Coordinator to go through their orientation program.

To my deputies who help me coordinate all our Auxiliary programs, a BIG Hug and Thanks go out to you and to all the volunteers, my sincere thanks for your caring and compassion. To all the residents at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, we thank you for serving our country and for the freedoms we value today. May God bless and keep in His care and may the American Legion Auxiliary continue to serve America's Heroes.

Chaplain Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

“CHERISH IS THE WORD!”



Do you remember the song by The Association, that was number one in 1966, “Cherish?” I remember it well as it was my first year in college and loved to sing about all the girls I would meet and sing it to. Then, over the years there have been other artists, such as, The Four Tops, The Lettermen, Petula Clark, and David Cassidy, etc. Over the years, the word, “Cherish” has given special meaning to the many weddings I have performed, as expressing the words, “To love, honor and cherish.” It has also given meaning to me in remembering the “cherished” moments in my life, such as the birth of my kids, and grandson. Birthday celebrations, the holiday, get-to-gathers, baptisms, and graduations, etc. and etc. They are huge cherished moments.

As we approach 2015, with all of our goals and resolutions to make us feel happy throughout the year, I would much rather look forward to those “Cherished Moments” that bring me greater happiness than resolutions. Someone said to me, “Spend your time and money on experiences rather than things.” This year, I look forward to more family

outings, going to conferences with the American Legion, parades in the community, attending Post meetings, and serving veterans by being with them on a daily basis. As I continue to look forward, I will cherish my moments of teaching my Civil Air Patrol Cadets and celebrating my 50th Year Class Reunion with my High School friends and classmates.

Cherishing life is a gift given each day to grow, and to share with others. We can use the year to move forward with a renewed spirit for living and loving more fully. Chris Dunmire gave us these powerful words that I cherish in living my life:

“Make this moment count and the next one, and the one after that. Spend your energy today thoughtfully on words and actions that serve you and others well. Be grateful for what you have, knowing that you have far more than you’ll ever need. Celebrate your gifts, your creativity, your VOICE in this grand chorus of life. You and I are both here to inspire one another, to help one another, to share with one another. Sing from your soul. Cherish your life and the lives of those around you. We are all in this together.” Amen!

MICHIGAN 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: _____



From Your
American Legion Department

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The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been Your Department’s sponsored member benefits program for over 45 years and continues to fulfill members’ needs while being the only such program to benefit Your Department.

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Come Join The American Legion Post
459 Family and Friends

Presents the Four Chaplain Story

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

At the Gerald R. Ford Museum
January 24th, 2015

303 Pearl St., Grand Rapids, MI

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

*Wishing You A Happy
New Year*



2015 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Friday, February 13, 2015

At The Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI
Cash Social Hour: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.
\$25.00 per person

Select # of Each: Beef _____ Chicken _____ Fish _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ for a total of _____ tickets at \$25 each

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

We accept all credit cards except American Express

NAME _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ POST/UNIT # _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (____) _____

Make checks payable and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Michigan,
Attn: Kim, 212 N. Verlinden, Ste A, Lansing, MI 48915

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

FEBRUARY 9, 2015

No Refunds after 2/9/2015



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

WINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 13-15 2015

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

PAYABLE TO: Genesee County Convention Corporation

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

CHECKS ONLY PLEASE

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

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

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

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

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

Number x \$15.00- _____

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

THE HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CENTRE

5353 GATEWAY CENTRE

FLINT, MI 48507

PHONE: 1-810-232-5300

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

CODE: AML

DEADLINE: January 14, 2015

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

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

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

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

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

Bernie Langlois (Leg.) 810-653-6517

Venus Langlois (Aux.) 810-653-6517

Dolores Smith (Aux.) 810-694-6018

Classifieds

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

Wanted

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

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

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

Bob Higley

During the last week of October I had the privilege and honor to represent Michigan at the National American Legion College at our national headquarters in Indianapolis. I want to personally thank Past Department Commander Moore and all of Michigan Legionnaires that had a hand in selecting me to attend. The week long program started on Sunday afternoon and concluded with our graduation the following Friday morning. Myself and 56 other Legionnaires representing 31 departments received instruction on writing resolutions on any topic of The American Legion, becoming an effective leader and mentor in the Legion, development of a department-level Legion College, running a district meeting, creating brand awareness, promoting Americanism programs at the local level and using myLegion.org effectively.

Every day we received instruction on the value of mentorship in the Legion. We watched videos on mentorship, received handouts and listened to presenters talk about mentors in their lives. Mentoring increases volunteerism and retention in our posts. By welcoming new members into our Posts and then gradually giving them an assignment it makes them feel part of our great organization. Every single member has something they can offer or do

Michigan's New Leadership College Grad

for the Legion. The smallest assignment can mean the world to someone. Everyone wants to feel like they are wanted and appreciated. By allowing a member to contribute it gives them a sense of belonging.

We also received instruction on how to effectively train other Legionnaires in using myLegion.org and how to get Americanism and Children & Youth programs active in our communities. Training on how to present The American Legion Extension Institute was also given to us. The most important point all of us learned is how to share with and teach Legionnaires and future Legionnaires about our great organization at the post, district and department levels. I hope to see many of you at our future district meetings, department conferences and meetings and Michigan Legion College classes.



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VA Medical Centers in Michigan

VA Medical Centers in Michigan

Saginaw VA Medical Center
1500 Weiss Street
Saginaw, MI 48602
989-497-2500

Battle Creek VA Medical Center
5500 Armstrong Road
Battle Creek, MI 49037
269-966-5600 | 888-214-1247

John D. Dingell VA Medical Center
4646 John R Street
Detroit, MI 48201
313-576-1000

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System
2215 Fuller Rd
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
800-361-8387 | 734-769-7100

Oscar G. Johnson VA
Medical Center
325 East H Street
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
906-774-3300

Community Outreach Clinics - CBOC

787 Market Street

Hancock, MI 49930-1495
Phone: 906-482-7762
Fax: 906-482-7893

629 W. Cloverland Dr. Suite 1
Ironwood, MI 49938
Phone: 906-932-0032
Fax: 906-932-0479

1414 W. Fair Ave Suite 285
Marquette, MI 49855
Phone: 906-226-4618
Fax: 906-226-5317

1110 10th Avenue, Suite 101
Menominee, MI 49858
Phone: 906-863-1286
Fax: 906-863-2853

509 Osborn Blvd. Suite 306
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783
Phone: 906-253-9383
Fax: 906-253-9418

1142 S. Van Dyke RD, Suite 100
Bad Axe, MI 48413
Phone: 989-269-7445
Or 989-269-7445
Fax: 989-269-7490

115 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: 269-934-9123
Fax: 269-934-9347

1909 North Mitchell St
Cadillac, MI 49601
Phone: 231-775-4401 Or
231-775-4401
Fax: 231-775-4546

14540 Mackinaw Hwy
Mackinaw City, MI 49701
Phone: 231-436-5176 Or
231-436-5176
Fax: 231-436-5364

11775 N Isabella Rd
Clare, MI 48617
Phone: 989-386-8113
Fax: 989-386-8139

180 North State Avenue
Alpena, MI 49707
Phone: 989-356-8720
Fax: 989-356-8707

2360 South Linden Road
Flint, MI 48532
Phone: 810-720-2913
Fax: 810-720-3296

806 South Otsego
Gaylord, MI 49732
Phone: 989-732-7525
Fax: 989-732-6577

5838 Metro Way Street
Wyoming, Michigan
Phone: 616-365-9575
Fax: 616-365-7509

1680 Hartwick Pines Road
Grayling, MI 49738
Phone: 989-344-2002 Or
989-344-2002
Fax: 989-344-2005
4328 Page Avenue
Michigan Center, MI 49254
Phone: 517-764-3609
Fax: 517-764-3659

2025 South Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: 517-267-3925
Fax: 517-267-3593

3271 RACQUET CLUB DRIVE
Traverse City, MI 49684
Phone: 231-932-9720
Fax: 231-995-9302

VA Health Care

Veterans Eligibility

For the purposes of VA health benefits and services, a person who served in the active military service and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable is a Veteran.

Basic Eligibility

If you served in the active military service and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable, you may qualify for VA health care benefits. Current and former members of the Reserves or National Guard who were called to active duty by a federal order and completed the full period for which they were called or ordered to active duty may be eligible for VA health benefits as well.

Minimum Duty Requirements

Most Veterans who enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which they were called to active duty in order to be eligible. This minimum duty requirement may not apply to Veterans who were discharged for a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, for a hardship or "early out," or those who served prior to September 7, 1980. Since there are a

number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements, VA encourages all Veterans to apply so that we may determine their enrollment eligibility.

Enhanced Eligibility

Certain Veterans may be afforded enhanced eligibility status when applying and enrolling in the VA health care system. Veterans who:

- Are a Former Prisoner of War (POW)
- In receipt of the Purple Heart Medal.
- In receipt of the Medal of Honor.
- Have a compensable VA awarded service-connected disability of 10% or more.
- In receipt of a VA Pension.
- Were discharged from the military because of a disability (not preexisting), early out, or hardship.
- Served in a Theater of Operations for 5 years post discharge.
- Served in the Republic of Vietnam from January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975.
- Served in the Persian Gulf from August 2, 1990 to November 11, 1998.
- Were stationed or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between January 1, 1957

and December 31, 1987.

- Are found by VA to be Catastrophically Disabled.
- Previous years' household income is below VA's National Income or Geographical-Adjusted Thresholds.

Apply for VA Healthcare

The very first step in obtaining access to your VA Health Benefits is to apply. If you meet the basic eligibility requirements outlined above, VA encourages you to apply today by completing VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits online. Veterans already enrolled in VA health care can update their information by completing VA Form 10-10EZ, Renewal Application for Health Benefits

Enrollment

VA operates an annual enrollment system that helps to manage the provision of health care. VA applies a variety of factors during the application verification process when determining a Veterans' eligibility for enrollment, but once a Veteran is enrolled, that Veteran remains enrolled in the VA health care system and maintains access to certain VA health benefits.

Once your application is successfully processed, you will be assigned an

enrollment Priority Group. Certain Veterans may be eligible for more than one Enrollment Priority Group. In that case, VA will always place you in the highest Priority Group that you are eligible. Under the VA Health Benefits Package, the same services are generally available to all enrolled Veterans. Once enrolled, you will receive a personalized Veterans Handbook, which will detail your VA health benefits and provide important information concerning your access to VA health care.

DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE

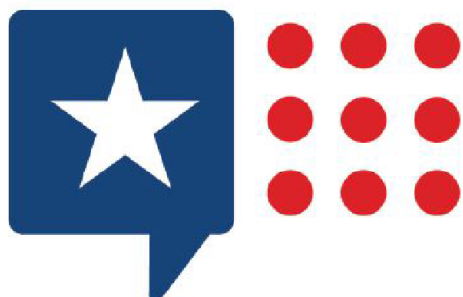
Use an Accredited Veteran Service officer watch this video to find out why you should use a VSO.



NOTE: If you are the spouse of a veteran who died from any of these possible reasons mentioned, you might qualify for "Dependent In Care (DIC)" or Survivors Pension. Contact an Accredited Veteran Service officer to learn more.

Resources..

Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

Jobs..



1-800-285-WORKS (9675)

www.mitalent.org/veteran



★ The Women Veterans Call Center is your guide to VA.

Hours of Operation
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Saturday: 8:00 am – 6:30 pm ET
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Phoenix Bldg., 5th Floor
222 N. Washington Square
P.O. Box 30104
Lansing, MI 48909

www.michiganveterans.com

800-MICH-VET



(L to R) Charles and Cathy Sharp drove from Olivet, MI to the Legion Detroit VSO office to deliver flowers and a huge THANK YOU to our Department VSO Elizebeth Cuddington for her help in getting Charles his VA claim through and approved.



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