



Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No. 1

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN FAMILY LEADERSHIP



SAL Commander Fred Ruttkofsky



Department Commander Michael Buda



Auxiliary President Sue Verville

During the 2015 Annual Summer Department Convention the delegates present elected and approved the new leadership for the 2015-2016 American Legion membership year. For The American Legion, Michael Buda from Post 364 was elected as your new State Commander, The American Legion Auxiliary elected Sue Verville (Iron River) as the State President, and the Sons of the American Legion elected Fred Ruttkofsky of Squadron 300, as the Detachment Commander for 2015-2016.

JULY/AUGUST 2015

No Return Postage Requested

LOVE TATTOO FOUNDATION proudly presents...
Richard Lynch
Come Home To The WilWin Lodge Benefit Concert Series
 Opening Act... Melanie Rose Roell July 25, 2015 -Doors Open 7pm
 Michigan American Legion Riders Event
 Concert Tickets:
 \$20.00 advance - \$25.00 at door
 Lodging Package...\$119.00
 The room package will include 2 full size beds, One concert ticket, A Gift Bag with: an autographed Love Tattoo CD, a sampler bottle of Mackinaw Trail Wine and a \$10 Gaming credit. NOTE: This package includes ONLY one show ticket....Please order additional tickets separately.
 Extra Night Stay Friday or Sunday....\$79.00 per night/per room
 For Reservations/Tickets or Info by Phone: 513-377-3203
 Or on the web @ www.richardlynchband.com
 Promotional Consideration By:

Wilwin Ride for Our Veterans Saturday July 25, 2015

The ride will be from Mt Pleasant to Sault Ste Marie.
 Open to all American Legion Riders from any state. Pre registration appreciated and we will try to ensure free ride patches for all that pre register. An information packet will be mailed to you. Ride will end at the Kewadin Casino where country music artist Richard Lynch will be hosting a benefit concert for Wilwin lodge Saturday evening. Visit www.michiganlegion.org click on the Wilwin Fundraiser for registration and information. For questions contact Tom Howard at 517-488-4730 or email at speedbump48813@hotmail.com
 Registration - Snacks - and registration assignment number, wristband or bike marker. C&S Motorsports - Mt Pleasant MI TIME - 7- 8.30
 Ride introduction 8:45 along with Group assignments (will assign to squads based on number of people).
 Ride prayer.
 Assemble motorcycles into squads.
 Ride Captain Introductions to squads, riders meet and greet and motorcycle safety inspection by RC's to be done by 9:30. Unsafe motorcycles or riders will be dismissed, period. Your safety is my responsibility.
 10:00 AM Depart C&S Motorsports for ride.
 11.30 Arrive at first stop in Gaylord. Fuel on your own. Assemble at Zips 45 parallel Harley {Leg 1 is 101 Miles 1 Hr 35 Min} Food to be supplied by Zips 45th Parallel Harley for lunch.
 2:00 PM Depart after safety talk on bridge crossing and logistics.
 Arrive at Sault Ste Marie casino destination at 4:15 PM
 {Leg 2 is 119 Miles Time 1 Hr 56 Min}
 ** Please note the following items. For riders registering at Gaylord. Please arrive early. Lead team timelines may vary. No alcohol period. Small flags permitted only.

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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Veterans Service -12- Wednesday only

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

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

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

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

**The Only Written Official Call
Annual Fall Conference
American Legion, Department of Michigan
September 18-20, 2015
Causeway Bay Hotel
Lansing, Michigan**

State Commander Michael Buda

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

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

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

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Friday, September 18th, 4:30 p.m.

Called Department Committee Meetings – Friday, September 18th- **meetings begin at 9 am** See schedule in the September Legionnaire or at www.michiganlegion.org (available soon)

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

Schools of Instruction: Saturday, September 19th

Department Executive Committee Meeting: Sunday, September 20th, 9:00 a.m.

The Role of an American Legion Chaplain

THE AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAIN

“I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth; that God governs in the affairs of men ... We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that ‘except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that built it.’ I firmly believe ... that without His concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the builders of Babel.” - Benjamin Franklin, Constitutional Convention of 1787

“Service to God and Country” – it’s an American Legion program, yes, but the saying describes just as well our members’ attitude and way of life. Nondenominational and nonsectarian, the Legion’s support for religion in the public square is basic Americanism. Rather than acting independently of religious groups, the Legion desires to cooperate with and join them in reminding the American people with one voice that God is the author and architect of our beloved “land of the free.” Without God, there is no Americanism.

As an American Legion chaplain – at the national, department, district, county or post level – you’re following in the footsteps of generations of military chaplains who went before you. Your mission is twofold: help Legionnaires and others grow in their relationships with God and one another, and minister to people wherever there is a need.

Because the Legion embraces all religions, faiths and denominations within its ranks, you as a chaplain are asked to care for everyone – those who have a spiritual affiliation and those who don’t. In some cases, you may be the only minister a veteran will ever know.

“To you is given the spiritual leadership of this post. You will, I know, lend dignity and respect to your office. You should be in close confidence with the commander and the other officers of this post, and should attend all meetings of the post. You should be ready upon occasion to take your part in the initiation of new members, the dedication of halls, monuments or colors, and the funeral services of a comrade. All such ceremonies are made more commemorative by the use of our ritual. Into your keeping, we place the spirit of comradeship of this post. May harmony and unity prevail.” - Charge from the installation ceremony

The American Legion’s founders believed that God and country cannot be treated as mutually exclusive if the United States is to survive and prosper. Thus, they created the office of post chaplain, charging it with keeping this association high in the minds of members.

As spiritual leader, the chaplain is an integral part of all American Legion ceremonies, especially the installation of officers; the initiation of new members; the dedication of halls, monuments or colors; and funeral services and other rituals that are standard throughout the organization. The chaplain’s participation adds to the spiritual growth of the post and its members.

Also, a chaplain’s presence is valuable when members face illness or are “shut in” by disabilities. Visitation that shows a concern for their welfare or tends to their needs will be welcomed and appreciated. Likewise, you can offer assistance and comfort to the family of a deceased comrade.

The post meeting is the backbone of the organization; this is where programs are authorized, developed and improved. The chaplain’s attendance goes beyond offering opening and closing prayers to reporting comrades in distress, directly communicating with the membership, and learning about every aspect of the post’s work. Here, you have the opportunity to promote and advance the “Service to God and Country” program.

As spiritual leaders, post chaplains see that the Legion’s “Service to God and Country” program is carried out at the post level. This includes encouraging regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children, all in an effort to bring Americans closer to the Creator. In addition, they promote.

Resources

There is a Chaplain’s Handbook manual available for free download at the Legion.org/publications website. There is also a Chaplain’s Prayer Book available for \$1.50 at Emblem sales. emblem.legion.org

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander.....Michael Buda	Finance Officer.....Roger Avie	Alt. National Executive Committeeman
State Adjutant..... Ron Runyan	Historian..... Ernest Berry Tom Brown
1st Zone..... David Babbage	Chaplain..... Eddie Brown	Immediate Past Commander.... Jim Wallace
2nd Zone..... Barry Wood	Sergeant-at-Arms.....Frank Flores	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director
3rd Zone..... Kevin Gilliam	Judge Advocate..... TBD Gary Easterling
4th Zone..... Richard Tracy	National Executive Committeeman	Membership Dir..... Brett Holt
5th Zone..... Stan Kennedy Roger Webster	Public Relations Director.....Mark Sutton

Headquarters

Michael Buda, State Commander

New Year, New Challenges, Same Mission



Michael Buda
State Commander

It is a great honor and privilege to have the 97th American Legion, Department of Michigan State Convention delegation elect me as your Department Commander for the year 2015-2016 in Sterling Heights, MI on June 28, 2015. During my campaign this past year, I was able to attend a meeting

at each District and I wish to thank all District Commanders for the opportunity to present my agenda and goals for the coming year.

I want to thank my wife, Natalie and family for their support during these previous years that brought about the trust and confidence you have conferred upon me for this next year.

I look forward to representing everyone in the strict spirit of the American Legion. That involves working diligently toward the betterment of

Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and the Riders to bring together and enhance the programs and activities of the Legion Family. We, as a Family, must work as a team to help grow membership and magnify our appearance and standing within the communities of the posts, units, squadrons and chapters.

I look forward to working with our new Department Adjutant Ron Runyan and the terrific staff at headquarters in helping to make improvements to the way we do business as a department.

It is a new year to make new goals and the time to start working on those goals is now.

As Department Commander, I look forward to seeing you throughout the year at many functions and gatherings. If I haven't met you yet, please come up and introduce yourself. If you would like me to attend a special function please write me a request by mail or email support@michiganlegion.org.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

New Year, New Leadership



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

The American Legion new membership year has begun as of July 1st, 2015. Congratulations to our new Department Commander Michael Buda from the Fort Dearborn Post and the 16th District. Congratulations to all of our new and returning District and Zone Commanders who were sworn in on Sunday immediately following convention. I hope everyone who attended convention had a good time and got some time to reconnect with others within our organization. Thank you to the convention corporation and to everyone who made this event successful. A well-deserved thank you goes out to our American Legion Riders who participated in the ride across the state to raise funds for the Legacy Ride!

If you are a new officer at any level, please remember the Department staff is always here to assist. As required by our bylaws, our 30 day meeting will be held Saturday July 18th, 2015, 9am at the Department Headquarters for the new DEC. Please wear a coat and tie for this event so your pictures can be taken. Bring a copy of your DD214 so it can be placed on file for all of our DEC officers.

July 18th is also the cutoff date for anyone who is interested in attending the National American Legion College. This one week experience in Indianapolis will prepare all members who are selected on being a great Legion Leader and trainer. The application is online or you can contact HQ for one to be emailed or sent to you. The date of the class is October 25 - 30, 2015.

On July 22nd the Detroit Tigers will be hosting a veteran's night at Comerica Park. Order forms can be printed from the website or if you contact one of our staff members they can provide one for you.

The Membership workshop for district commanders or their alternates will be on Thursday August 6, 2015 to head to Indianapolis. The bus will leave Lansing at 8am sharp, so please make arrangements to arrive early or plan on staying the night before. The National staff puts on a great program to kick off your membership year. We return Saturday late in the afternoon.

Lastly, I wanted to mention our 97th National Convention will be held in Baltimore August 29th to September 3, 2015. We have been assured by the convention commission as well as the City of Baltimore that it will be a safe and entertaining experience. The forms for attending are also on the website or contact Kim at the office and she will assist you. Nevertheless, our Fall Conference will be September 18-20, 2015 in Lansing. We are already preparing some great classes for everyone.

I look forward to another exciting year working with you and serving the Greatest Veterans Organization!

Your Newly Elected Commander and Officers of the Detachment of Michigan Sons of The American Legion



Fred Ruttkofsky
SAL Commander

It is with great pride that the membership of the Sons proudly presents Fred Ruttkofsky as its Commander for the year 2015-2016. Fred's eligibility is through his grandfather George Barber and step-father Bruce Harrell. Fred is an honorary life member of Squadron 300 Lake City Michigan; he has been commander for 11 years, also 1st vice, 2nd vice, finance officer, Sgt.-at-arms, house committee and bylaws throughout the years. On the Department level 4th Zone Commander 6 years, pin sales and public relations. He is married to Dianna for 37 years and has 5 children, all legion family members, and 11 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

He is joined by 5 Zone Commander Greg Price as 1st zone, John VanHavel, 2nd zone, Carvin Chapman, 3rd zone, Roger Rockhold 4th zone, and Bill Germain, 5th zone. Adjutant Zack Pendell, Finance officer Dwaine Verville, Historian Sandy Lipman, Chaplain Jack Helminski, Sgt.-At-Arms Dan Tyack, Judge advocate Skipper Towns and many chairmen. We are here to servethe veterans, just ask and we will be there!

Build Your Membership Team

Membership, membership, membership, it seems that most of the messages we hear these days is all about membership. For the leadership of a Post, District, and the Department membership is important, because without membership there would be no American Legion. Without membership the four pillars would be just sayings we hear and not missions we work towards.

Who is responsible for Membership? EVERYONE!!!!

That is actually the simple answer, everywhere we go we should all keep our eyes open for opportunities to evangelize about The American Legion and why we belong. However that only covers new members, what is your Posts plan to encourage current members to renew for the coming year? Do you have a plan in place? Do you have a team in place? Do you have a Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Resources, and Time table (SMART Goal) set?

Use resources available to you

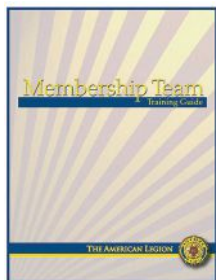
Don't reinvent the wheel when it comes to training a membership team in your post. The American Legion headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana have tools available, some are free and some are not, but those that have a price tag will not break the bank.

1. **Membership Team Training Guide** is available at www.legion.org/publications under Internal Affairs
2. **Legion Family Kiosk** Item Number: 735.504 – A display to promote The American Legion
3. **Membership/Post Operations DVD** Item Number: 755.407 – a video training to show your membership team.
4. **www.mylegion.org** - get with your Post Commander for the username and password to keep up on how your membership is doing from week to week.

Membership is the life blood of our organization and it is easier to maintain a member than it is to obtain new members. Remember to cover your basic on membership

1. Have a newsletter for communication – paper or electronic
2. Call members you have not seen to say hello and find out how they are doing
3. Hold productive and interesting meetings. Give them a reason to attend the meeting.

Using the tools national provides and putting a team together can help your post achieve 100% and more this year.



District Meetings 2015 - 2016

1st District N/A

2nd District N/A

3rd District

July 25, 2015- District Executive Board Meeting 5:00 PM, Climax-Scotts Post 465, 6101 S. 44th Street
All Legion members may attend. Menu items available.

September 6, 2015- Climax-Scotts Post 465, RSVP- 269.746.0298

November 8, 2015- Cole-Briggs Post 48
731 N. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge. RSVP- 517.627.1232

January 10, 2016- George A. Custer Post 54, 1125 E. Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek,. RSVP- 269.344.0658

March 6, 2016- Wolverine Post 360, 219 N. Main Street, Reading RSVP- 517.283.2683

May 1, 2016- Sherman-Rice-Demorest Post 157, 104 E. Chicago Street, Quincy RSVP- 517.639.3101

Please remember, the regular schedule for 3rd District Meetings; Executive Board Meeting- 11:30 AM, Dinner- Noon, and Regular Meeting at 1:00 P.M. The dinner is \$7.00. Please always RSVP so that staff will be aware of how many may be in attendance.

3rd District Commander Bob Berger, Cell- 269.832.0652 Email- cdrberger0257@gmail.com

4th District

August 16, 2015 – Hastings Post 45, 30 Day meeting
September 13, 2015 – Sturgis Post 73

5th District

Thursday, July 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Neal E. Fonger Post #179, 2327 Wilson Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
616-459-8374

Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Willard G. Leenhouts Post #6, 10820 PawPaw Dr.
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-2609

Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Daniel W. Cassard Post #208, 133 44th st SE, Kentwood, MI 49548 616-361-7685

Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Roger B. Chaffee Post #154, 2327 Byron Center Ave. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509 616-538-4443

Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Evan-Swanson Post #123, 14111 Ball Creek, Kent City, MI. 49330 616-678-5160

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Charles A. Conklin Post #28
616-842-5310

700 S. Harbor Drive, Grand Haven, MI 49417
Thursday, July 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. - Location to be determined

District Executive Committee Meetings
All Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with First Vice Commander Howard Christensen presiding. All District Executive Committee meetings will be conducted at: Neal E. Fonger Post #179, 2327 Wilson Ave. SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534 616-453-9861

August 13, 2015
October, 8, 2015

December 10, 2015

No February 2016 meeting due to Winter Conference

April 14, 2016

June 9, 2016

PAST COMMANDERS - FRIDAY THE 13TH CLUB
March 13, 2016

6th District

Service officer School @ 11:00 AM when scheduled
Lunch @ 12:00 PM Meeting @ 1:00 PM

September 13, 2015 – Post 235 – 10590 Grand River Rd, Brighton

November 8, 2015 – Post 294 3440 Morrish Rd, Swartz Creek

January 10, 2016 Post 269 – 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett

March 6, 2016 – Post 419 – 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney

May 1, 2016 – Post 491 – 422 Woodworth St, Leslie

7th District

August 16, 2015 – Mt Clements Post 4

October 18, 2015 – Post 293, Sebewaing

January 10, 2016 – Post 16, Lapeer

March 20, 2016 – Post 197 – Harbor Beach

May 15, 2015 – Post 8, Port Huron

June 2016 – Department Convention

8th District N/A

9th District N/A

10th District N/A

11th District N/A

12th District N/A

16th District N/A

17th District N/A

18th District

Meetings Convene at 2:00 PM

July 19, 2015 – Post 172, Rochester

(Installation of officers at 2:30 PM)

September 13, 2015 – Post 374, Berkley

November 1, 2015 – Post 143, Auburn Hills

November 8, 2015 – Department Commanders Tour

January 10, 2016 – Post 20, Pontiac, MI

March 13, 2016 – Post 13, Berkley

April 17, 2016 – Post 143, Auburn Hills

(District Memorial Service 2:00 PM)

May 15, 2016 – Post 172, Rochester

(District Election of Officers for 2016-2017)

June 12, 2016 – Post 253, Royal Oak

(Meeting for District Legion Only)

19th District N/A



AUXILIAIRE

From the Desk of the President

2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox

BRANCHING OUT AS THE LEGION FAMILY



I want to THANK everyone for electing me as your Department President for this year. I want to congratulate all the newly installed Department officers and District Presidents. My gratitude goes to Pat Laine for installing me and to my Unit, my District and mostly to my family. Without the support of our Legion Family I would not be where I am today.

Some of our Legion Family members are no longer here with us but they are not forgotten. With their encouragement, guidance, friendship and knowledge they helped to prepare me for this great honor. We have a great group of ladies as chairman and committee members this year. Please help support and work with them to promote our programs and our Legion Family this coming year.

Our theme this year is **Branching out as the Legion Family**. The symbol is a tree with the roots and the branches intertwined. They are working together to keep the tree growing and becoming stronger as time passes by. As the Legion Family we associate this with, The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, our Junior Auxiliary, the Son's of the American Legion and the Legion Riders. We are helping our

Veterans, their families, our communities, our children and youth, supporting our schools, homeless shelters and many other projects. As the Legion Family we strive to do all this and for the most part we get it right. Oddly enough there are times that we disagree on things, just like any other family, but we still respect each other and are willing to listen and resolve the matter. That is why we need to **branch out as the Legion Family** to keep this great organization going. With the help and support of everyone, we should be able to change the decline in our membership. Only by informing our members about **who** we are, **what** we do, **where** we would like to be in the future and **why** we matter.

This year our membership theme is **Branches of Service**. Each area is a branch of the service, Army-Navy-Air Force- Marines and Coast Guard. A strong Auxiliary is an Auxiliary that will grow. Just like the branches of a tree, if they are strong they will grow. If they are weak they will crack and possible break. So let's work on membership and make our branches and our roots stronger and our family tree secure enough to last for many years to come.

The National organization has presented us with a 5 year strategic plan to reach one million members by 2019. A committee has been formed to work on and implement this plan. More information will be pro-

vided as the year progresses.

This year my special project will be the Veterans Courts. They work with the VA and the court system to identify eligible Veterans that would benefit from treatment and other programs the VA can offer in place of incarceration. Many Veterans who have served or are now serving are facing many challenges. Many of the Veterans find that the readjustment to civilian life is not always easy. Those who participate in any treatment court have to commit to making changes in their life. The VA cannot provide legal services but the outreach specialists are responsible for direct outreach, assessment and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails. We have specialists in the following places: Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit, Iron Mountain and Saginaw.

I have already received several invitations and I thank you for them. Please put any invitations in writing or email them to me. Please add direction to the function, so I know where I should be going, along with what the function is about.

I am looking forward to an exciting and fun year as we join together by **Branching out as the Legion Family**. So let's work our Auxiliary programs, help our organization to grow with membership and we will continue to support our Veterans and keep our country strong. Let's work together and have a great year.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

Michigan's Year-End Impact Report—2014-15



Below is the information required by the National American Legion Auxiliary to report the hours and dollars which each department acquires during the respective year. The following report is what department turned in to National regarding Michigan. The women of our auxiliaries are working very hard for our veterans, their families, and

community.

THIS IS WAY WE SERVE, THIS IS WHY WE DONATE, THIS IS OUR MISSION.

Department—Michigan
Number Units in Department—274
Department President—Nancy Knox
Department Secretary—Bonnie Olson

Here is what our department did during the following reporting period this year:

- Our service for veterans:** (Examples include hours volunteering at the VA, helping Wounded warriors and elderly veterans at home, providing transportation, distributing poppies, recording veterans histories, raising money for the Veterans Creative Arts Festival, fundraising events at your unit or post, training, planning and assisting with veterans job fairs, et al.)
Hours volunteered—30,721.5
Dollars we spent--\$113,115.00

Value of in kind donations requested and received--\$26,051.00
Total amount of contributions made to other organizations or agencies--\$4,322.00
Number of veterans assisted—9,833
Number of Veterans in the Classroom presentations facilitated—0
Number of new Home Service Volunteers recruited—30
Number of poppies or poppy items distributed—393,400
Dollars raised from the poppies distributed--\$126,133.00
Number of veterans who made the poppies—15
Total amount paid to veterans who made poppies--\$25,500.00

- Our service for active duty and reserve military** (Examples include shopping for and preparing care packages, writing letters, contacting legislators, helping with US military or National Guard send-off and welcome home events, et al)

Hours volunteered—4,105
Dollars spent--\$18,216.00
Number of US service members served—2,959

- Our service for military families**—(Examples include organizing and delivering hero packs, helping with service projects, providing child care, tutoring at school, distributing Blue Star Banners, adopting a military family, providing military G.I. Josh dogs, et al.)
Hours volunteered—7,954

Dollars spent--\$12,684.00
Number of military families served—416

- Scholarships our Department presented**
Total number of scholarships presented--102
Total dollar amount of all Scholarships awarded--\$42,501.00
Total dollar amount donated to all scholarship funds from your Department--\$19,212.00

- Service to our children and youth**
Number of volunteer hours served for all children not just military families—4,545
Total dollars raised to benefit all children, not just military children--\$58,733.00
Total dollars given in direct aid to children—\$7,226.00
Total of all children served, not just military children—2,362

- ALA Girls State**
Total number of hours spent on and at ALA Girls State—17,750
Total number of volunteers—300
Total expenditures for ALA Girls State --\$150,000.00

- Service to Our Communities**
Total number of hours doing community service for any projects not included in questions 1 through 6—73,914
Total dollars spent doing community projects not included in questions 1 through 6--\$168,742.00

2015-16 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

OFFICERS			Members	Missy Townes Kathy Hartman-Gleason	#287- 5th #51-4th
President	Susan Verville	#17-UPAA	Leadership		
1st Vice President	Ellen Jackson	#108-18th	Chairman	Marcy Jorae	#153-8th
2nd Vice President	Deanna Cortright	#52-3rd	Western	Peggy Nolf	#514-2nd
Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Olson	#225D	Southern	Frances Babbage	#409-16th
Chaplain	Deborah Williamson	#258-5th	Lower Northern	Linda Dick	#165-10th
Historian	Georgia Downs	#411-9th	Eastern	Angela Galbraith	#143-18th
Parliamentarian	Mary Anne Yuncker	#287-5th	Upper Northern	Cindy Hacker	#559-UPAA
NEC	Nancy Knox	#351-7th			
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS			Legislative		
1st District	Veronica Germany	#126	Chairman	Ellen Jackson	#108-18th
2nd District	Carol Burke	#557	Members	Deb Chambers	#258-5th
3rd District	Nancy Ritchey	#360		Binnie Price	#170-4th
4th District	Tangaline Hayes	#89	Membership		
5th District	Margo Forrester	#459	Chairman	Pam Lajewski-Pearson	#44-UPAA
6th District	Susan Hilgris	#158	Lower Northern	Marcia Moore	#300-9th
7th District	Kathleen Copeland	#4	Upper/Upper Northern	Krystal Oberle	#290-UPAA
8th District	Robin Basarabska	#57	Eastern	Jacquelynn Boughner	#233-18th
9th District	Ruth Gott	#300	Western	LoraLee Nauta	#287-5th
10th District	Carolelynn Sutherland	#239	Southern	Laura Chappell	#232-16th
UPAA District	Anne Michell	#234	Music		
16th District	Pamela Globke	#396	Chairman	Anita Mennel	#16-7th
17th District	Ann Fenner	#32		Alyssa Champion	#377-18th
18th District	Sandra Carter	#20		Shylynn Jones	#377-18th
19th District	Lisa VanMaele	#317			
DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENTS			National Cemetery		
1st District	Anna Flowers	#126	Fort Custer --D	Eleanor Shelley	#465-3rd
2nd District	Dawn Gramza	#514	--A	Katherine Anderson	#298-3rd
3rd District	Lisa Bartlett	#48	Great Lakes--D	Pauline Bickersteth	#342-6th
4th District	Kathy Hartman-Gleason	#51	--A		
5th District	Christine Merlington	#287	National Security		
6th District	Linda Wallace	#419	Chairman	Deanna Cortright	#52-3rd
7th District	Melanie Zick	#8	Members	Lynne Terhune	#459-5th
8th District	Laurie Sweet	#380		Bobby Jean Yates	#377-18th
9th District	Sharon Reynolds	#10	Past Presidents Parley		
10th District	Dora Freeborg	#416	Chairman	Carrie Bowerman	#42-3rd
UPAA	Barbara Larson	#50	Members	Sherry McKissen	#94-9th
16th District	Kim Dold	#396		June Holley	#141-6th
17th District	Linda Roman	#32	Personal Scrapbook		
18th District	Shylynn Jones	#377	Chairman	Beverly Ruttkofsky	#300-9th
19th District	Joyce Hempenstall	#122		Jessie Verville	#17-UPAA
DEPARTMENT COMMITTEES			Personnel		
Administrative Advisory Board			Chairman	Nedra Beal	#479-7th
Chairman	Patricia Laine	#44-UPAA	Members	Lisa Bartlett	#48-3rd
Members	Judy Gregory	#577-2nd		Linda Maxwell	#216-18th
	Priscilla Kelsey	#184-1st	Poppy		
	Nancy Knox	#351-7th	Chairman	Kim Champion	#377-18th
Americanism			Members	Shari German	#154-5th
Chairman	Harriet Sturim	#459-5th		Kathy Garret	#89-4th
Members	Brenda Spolarich	#12-8th	Public Relations		
	Krystal Hall	#557-2nd	Chairman	Janice Hafeman	#244-UPAA
Auxiliary Emergency Fund			Members	Olive Hartman	#449-7th
Chairman	Linda Wallace	#419-6th		Vivian Avery	#274-10th
Children and Youth			Resolutions		
Chairman	Susan Svacha	#8-7th	Chairman	Sheila Dittenber	#439-8th
Members	Mary Tyler	#287-5th	Members	Sandy Stehle	#6-5th
	Nancy Sagorski	#358-5th		Vivian Avery	#274-10th
Community Service			Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation		
Chairman	Mary Dubay	#4-7th	Chairman	Janette Brockway	#68-4th
Members	Sandra Snyder	#32-17th	Hospital Director	Bonnie Holt	#439-8th
	Christine Merlington	#287-5th	Service to Vets	Sharon Therrien	#108-18th
Constitution and By-Laws			Homeless	Wendy Tolbert	#362-4th
Chairman	Donna Fuelling	#409-16th	Ann Arbor VAMC		
Members	Betty Cline	#8-7th	Representative	Krystal Hall	#557-2nd
	Linda Roman	#32-17th	1st Deputy	Ethel Putala	#112-17th
Distinguished Guest Chairman			Battle Creek VAMC		
Chairman	Suzanne Knapp	#4-7th	Representative	Carol Parks	#362-4th
			1st Deputy	Christine Reed	#26-4th
Education			2nd Deputy		
Chairman	Robin Puckett	#377-18th	Detroit VAMC	Artensia Wynn	#126-1st
Members	Kay Bauer	#16-7th	Representative	Glendora Trotter	#389-16th
	Bonnie Schuitema	#33-5th	1st Deputy	Marie Miller	#232-16th
Finance			2nd Deputy		
Chairman	Sheila Maxwell	#216-18th	Grand Rapids Home for Veterans		
Members	Norma Wojack	#52-3rd	Representative	Sarah Brooks	#59-5th
	Kim Frazier	#232-16th	1st Deputy	Pamela McVeigh	#2-5th
	J. Barbara Hoaglund	#76-9th	2nd Deputy	Judy Jones	#459-5th
Girls State			3rd Deputy	Dorothy McCarthy	#258-5th
Chairman	Beryl Robbins	#426-16th	Hamilton Nursing Home		
Members	Rysta Brown	#274-10th	Representative	Veronica Germany	#126-1st
	Rosemary Maciejewski	#459-5th	Iron Mountain		
	Alexus Champion	#377-18th	Representative	Barbara Larson	#50-UPAA
	Veronica Finch	#419-6th	1st Deputy	Deb LaFolla	#50-UPAA
	Diana Mella	#50-UPAA			
Junior Activities			D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans		
Chairman	Darlene Jones	#377-18th	Representative	Wanda Westman	#114-UPAA
			1st Deputy	Diana Peterson	#44-UPAA
			2nd Deputy	Lois Juchemich	#114-UPAA
			Saginaw VAMC		
			Representative	Bonnie Holt	#314-8th
			1st Deputy		

Wilwin Lodge Retreat Receives Chris Kyle Grant



The American Legion Wilwin Lodge Veterans Retreat recently received a \$10,000 grant from the Chris Kyle Frog Foundation in remembrance of his birthday. Chris Kyle is better known as the “American Sniper.”

Taya Kyle, widow of Chris, states: “This year’s inaugural Birthday Grants are given to organizations we respect and trust. They have programming in alignment with our mission to serve those who serve us, with a strong focus on the family. These organizations share our core values and are led by people dedicated to Loyalty, Empowerment, Integrity, and Excellence. And because we stand by our core values and vow to be careful stewards of your support, we also examined their

financial records and annual reports to make sure that these grants are going to organizations that focus on programs.....Happy Birthday Chris.”

Taya goes on to say: “Chris loved the outdoors and believed in the restorative power of time spent in the calm and peace of our American wilderness. Our family benefitted greatly from times spent together in the middle of nowhere—and still does. I treasure those memories which is one of the reasons we selected Wilwin Lodge for a \$10,000 Birthday Grant. Wilwin’s mission is ‘to provide a premiere facility that can care for disabled and handicapped veterans in a relaxed atmosphere...and to use the property as a reconnect center for returning war veterans and their

families after long deployments.’ Wilwin Lodge is staffed primarily by volunteers who recognize the special healing power of retreating to the outdoors and the good that can come from enjoying a natural environment as a family. We’re grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this special place.”

Wilwin Lodge, located six miles west of Trout Lake in Mackinac County, is now operating in its 4th season providing a place for rest and recuperation for disabled combat veterans, particularly those suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). The facility also offers a retreat for reuniting families after long deployments

to war zones. It serves all veterans regardless of affiliation. Wilwin is also available to scouting and youth groups. There is no cost to these individuals.

Little known, but nationally recognized, Wilwin continues to work with Reconnect Committees and National Guard Units throughout Michigan. Currently the facility operates primarily on donations from veteran organizations, individuals and volunteer help.

Anyone wanting more information about Wilwin can visit www.wilwin.org or find us on face book. Anyone wishing to visit or stay at the facility can contact our volunteer caretakers, Bev and Earl Ruttkofsky at 231-229-5030 or 231-881-0844.

Bill Hafeman, Director
906-639-2254 or 906-280-2342



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: _____



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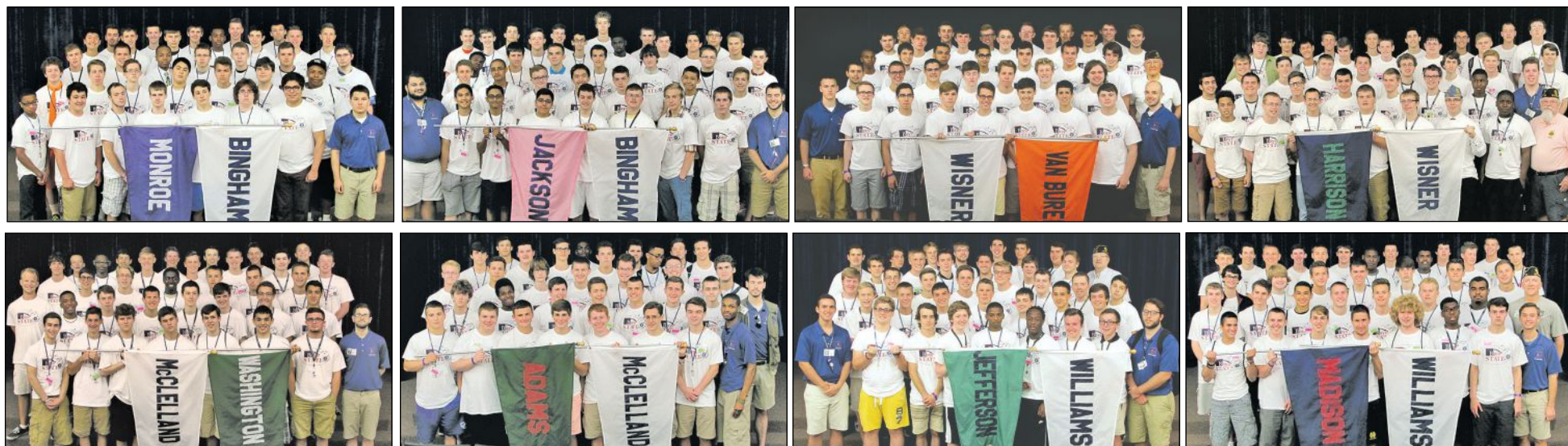
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2015 Convention Sterling Heights





2015 BOYS STATE

Michigan Boys Create 51st State of the Union in Midland

270 High School Junior young men gathered in Midland, Michigan on June 14th, 2015 for the start of the 77th Michigan Boys State program. Legionnaires and the educational staff checked them in and assigned them to one of two political parties and to a city.

Over the course of a week they learn about the two party systems and how to run for a political office, from State Governor down to a District Education Boards. They run for offices, learn to campaign, learn to build teams, collaborate, and convince others to vote for them. On Tuesday they vote and begin running the 51st State of the union. They are given real world problems to solve at their level of government and they hold committees, debate, and come up with legislation that will solve problems and impact the citizens of Boys State.

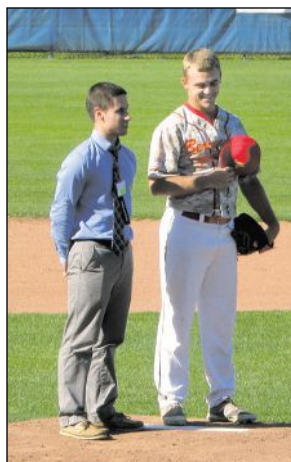
Boys State can have a lasting effect on young men as they move through life. Former President Clinton and current Governor of Wisconsin Scott Walker are two examples of the effect Boys State can have on people. Other famous Boys Staters include Tom Brokaw, Rush Limbaugh, and Michael Jordan.

Congratulations to Robert Arterburn from Grand Haven High School for his election as governor of Michigan Boys State for 2015.

Michigan Boys State is a program held every June; if you know of a High School Junior that would like to attend in 2016 please send an email to packet@michiganlegion.org.

Legionnaires, if you would like to help with teaching Boys State please contact Roxanne Osga, 517-371-4720 ext 23 or email at programs@michiganlegion.org for more information.

See you next year!!!





AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
 2015 DEPARTMENT FALL CONFERENCE
 SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2015

DEADLINE DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: August 28, 2015

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

All Housing requests will be handled through the hotel. All standard sleeping rooms are \$89.50 plus 13% tax. **No hotel room will be accepted for less than two nights.** Check-in time is 3PM and check-out time is 12 noon

All Hospitality Room/Suite requests will be made with two night minimum. Requests will be made through Marilyn Britten, 1874 Birchwood Drive, Okemos, MI 48864, 517-349-5304 or marilynbritten2801@comcast.net

Please type or print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____

(Verification of registration will be emailed.)

Causeway Bay Hotel
 6820 South Cedar Street
 Lansing, MI 48911

Mention: American Legion
 (517) 694-8123

(Reservations can be made by phone only)

Make checks payable to and send with registration form to:

The American Legion Lansing Convention Corporation
 2368 Lake Lansing Rd
 East Lansing, MI 48823

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

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

2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM
 August 22 – 29, 2014
 Hampton Inn Charlotte Uptown
 530 E Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28202

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

E-mail: _____ Cell # _____

Rooms (quantity): _____ king _____ double _____ handicapped

Arrival date: _____ Departure date: _____

Rooms are \$142.91 per night (tax included). First night's room deposit needs to be sent to Department. More than 2 people in a room is an additional \$10 per day. Rollaways are complimentary (limited) and parking is complimentary.

Roommate(s): _____ (LEG/AUX/SAL)

_____ (LEG/AUX/SAL)

_____ (LEG/AUX/SAL)

_____ (LEG/AUX/SAL)

Special Room Requests: _____

Registration Fee: \$25 each LEGION _____ AUX _____ SAL _____

(Note: If you are an Auxiliary or SAL delegate, do not include your registration fee)

Michigan Party: Tickets are \$25 each. This will be Adjutant Lafferty's last Michigan Party so let's make it special! Plan ahead and bring stories, photos, gag gifts, etc.! The Michigan Party will be Saturday evening.

National Commander's Banquet: Tickets are \$45 each. The banquet is Tuesday 8.26.14.

Enclose check or credit card information for:

First room night deposit \$142.91 X # of Rooms _____ \$ _____

of Registrations \$25 each X # of badges _____ \$ _____

of tickets for Michigan Party \$25 each X # of tickets _____ \$ _____

of tickets for Natl Comm Banquet \$45 each X # of tickets _____ \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Visa Mastercard CC# _____ exp. date ____/____/____

Signature: _____

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT BY JULY 18, 2014 – Attn: Kim
 No refunds after 7.21.14

C-123 Veterans Awarded Benefit Eligibility



After a tumultuous uphill battle, some Air Force Reserve veterans will finally be able to receive disability benefits to cover Agent Orange exposure while serving around Fairchild C-123 aircrafts. VA announced the decision during a closed-door meeting with The American Legion and a handful of other veterans service organizations, effective June 19. The decision is projected to result in the awarding of over \$47 million in disability benefits over the next 10 years; the decision may slightly add to VA's backlog of disability claims.

Affected individuals, not otherwise eligible for VA healthcare benefits, will also be afforded access to medical care and survivor benefits once supporting documentation is provided indicating herbicide exposure. Previously used to spray herbicides during the Vietnam War, reservists utilized the aircraft from 1969 to 1986 to transport cargo and medical supplies.

VA's denials of claims associated with C-123 aircraft were based upon the premise that reservists were not exposed to the toxic herbicide. Nearly one month ago, VA Secretary Robert McDonald agreed to recognize the findings of a January 2015 study by the Institute of Medicine revealing that reservists

were exposed to the contaminant at levels that would impact their health. After an initial indication that VA would grant the presumptive exposure, VA delayed its implementation of the policy. The failure to implement the policy garnered national attention after three senators placed a hold on the nomination of David Shulkin, M.D., for Under Secretary for Health until a formal announcement of the change in policy regarding C-123 aircraft.

"Our sense of relief is tempered by the grief felt for lost comrades," said retired Maj. Wesley Carter, president of the C-123 Veterans Association. "It is also tempered with memories of well-funded and adversarial actions employed against our claims by the VA. Every medical and scientific fact that convinced the Institute of Medicine of our Agent Orange exposures in 2014 had been presented to the VA years earlier, but was ignored."

Carter attributed the success of the campaign to The American Legion and other supporters who rallied behind the association. Though VA's announcement signifies a major victory, Carter added that VA leaders need to review their actions to ensure that veterans exposed to toxins no longer "face such an unhappy struggle."

More information can be found by visiting the VA's website.

Veterans are also encouraged to call (800) 749-8387 for more information, or email VSCC123.VAVBASPL@va.gov.

- See more at: <http://www.legion.org/veteransbenefits/228319/c-123-veterans-awarded-benefit-eligibility#st-hash.QGhPF53m.dpuf>



2015 Department of Michigan Oratorical Winner Gabriella Scipione Grosse Point Park, MI gave a speech called "The Dynamics of the American Constitution" Congratulations Gabriella on a job well done.

2014 - 2015 Committee Awards

PROGRAM	WINNER NAME	UNIT NAME	UNIT #	District	CONTEST NAME
Americanism	Georgia Downs	Thomas Richard Annis	411	9th	Donna Baley Citation-District Chairman-Most outstanding Americanism program
Americanism	Shawn Lopez	Linden	119	6	Eva Spaulding Citation-Unit with the most outstanding program in Department
Americanism	Carla Pohl	Durkee-Seager	550	2	Eva Spaulding Citation-Unit with the most outstanding program in Department- Honorable Mention
Americanism	Shawn Lopez	Linden	119	6	Mary Ripley Citation-Unit having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism
Americanism	Sue Hilgris	Neeley- LaBar	158	6	Mary Ripley Citation-Unit having the greatest percentage of activity in Americanism- Honorable Mention
Americanism	Sierra Cechura	Thomas Richard Annis	411	9	National Americanism Essay Contest- Class 2 1st Place
Americanism	Cota Nelson	Menominee	146	UPAA	Class 2 1st place
Americanism	Nick Butler	Durkee-Seager	550	2	Class 2 Honorable Mention
Americanism	Sarah Zaula	Menominee	146	UPAA	Class 2 Honorable Mention
Americanism	Tanner Chevalier	Menominee	146	UPAA	Class3 1st Place
Americanism	Taylor Houghton	Chief Pontiac	377	18	Class 4 1st Place
Auxiliary Emergency Fund		Alvin F. Miller	400	7	Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes
Auxiliary Emergency Fund		Clough-Lambrix	389	16	Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes
Auxiliary Emergency Fund		Hill- Gazette	143	18	Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes
Auxiliary Emergency Fund		Captain Oscar Brady	298	3rd	Margaret Rohrer Citation for most Money Donation in 6 Membership Classes
Auxiliary Emergency Fund		Headman	217	16th	Margaret Rohrer Citation for Most money Donation in 6 Membership Classes
Chaplain	Jacqueline Boughner	Charlton-Polan	233	18	Participation in Faith Sharing Project
Chaplain	Mary Anne Yuncker	Glenn Hill	287	5	Participation in Faith Sharing Project
Chaplain	Harriet Sturim	Northeastern	459	5	Participation in Faith Sharing Project
Chaplain	Sherry Maxwell	Linden	119	6	Leona Pitman Citation for the Unit with the most outstanding report
Chaplain	Helen M. Pardo	Myron H. Beals	32	17	Service to God and Country Program for the Unit Chaplain for the best Service to God and Country program.
Children and Youth		Richard M. Jopling	44	UPAA	Unit with most Outstanding Promotion of Supporting Activities
Children & Youth	Sherry Maxwell	Linden	119	6	Supporting Military Children
Children & Youth		Ironwood	5	UPAA	Helen Hodges Citation-Largest contribution to the Children & Youth Department Special Project
Children & Youth	Allen Dahlka	Cook Nelson	20	18	Youth Hero Award
Community Service	Jean Beaudoin	Pinckney Memorial	419	6	Unit with the most Outstanding Promotion of Community Service
Community Service	Anne Fenner	Myron H. Beals	32	17	Narrative Award
Community Service	Shawn Lopez	Linden	119	6	Earl L. Stewart Cup to a Unit with less than 50 members for the most Outstanding Report
Community Service	Shawn Lopez	Linden	119	6	Patricia Jewel Award-For the most Outstanding Report for a Unit Under 200 Members
Community Service	Georgia Downs	Thomas Richard Annis	411	9	Wilbur M. Brucker Award-Unit with the best all around written report
Community Service	Kimberly Williams	Underwood-Orr	34	2	Wilbur M. Brucker Award-Unit with the best all around written report
Education	Debbie Stewart	Pinckney Memorial	419	6	National Outstanding Veterans In the Classroom Program
Education	Deb Chambers	Furniture City	258	5	National Most Outstanding American Education Week Program
Education		Louis Teistler	47	5	National Most Outstanding Literacy Program
Education	Roselyn Johnson	Reino	21	UPAA	Most Outstanding Scholarship Program
Education	Patty Stevens	Richard M. Jopling	44	UPAA	National Honoring the Service of our Military (Promotion of Education for Military Children)
Education		Edward C. Headman	217	16	Million Member Award- To the Unit with Increase in Membership through Education
Education	Roselyn Johnson	Reino	21	UPAA	Virginia VanCoverden Citation-Best all round report by a Unit
Education	Deborah Chambers	Furniture City	258	5	Virginia VanCoverden Citation-Best all round report by a Unit
Junior Activities	Taylor Houghton	Chief Pontiac	377	18	Tina Sutherland Award-Most outstanding work in Auxiliary Programs
Junior Activities	Aleigha Houghton	Hill Gazzett	143	18	Victoria Betz Award-Outstanding work as an officer
Junior Activities	Aleigha Houghton	Hill Gazzett	143	18	National Award for Junior Service not Self Award-Honorable Mention
Junior Activities	Michelle Cluckey	Lynn C. Weeman	514	2	Junior Program of the Year- Honorable Mention
Junior Activities	Leah Daniels	Chief Pontiac	377	18	Junior Member of the Year
Junior Activities	Josse Young	Manistee	10	9	Junior Member of the Year-Honorable Mention
Junior Activities	Kim Champion	Chief Pontiac	377	18	Junior Program of the Year
Leadership	Harriet Sturim	Northeastern	459	5	Leadership Mentoring Award for Special Recognition of someone who Mentored and Guided me
Leadership	Lynn Terhune	Northeastern	459	5th	Mentoring Award
Legislative	Sharon Paulin	Linden	119	6	Unit Legislative Award
Legislative	Sharon Paulin	Linden	119	6	Romaine Roethel Citation-Best year-round report submitted
Membership		Walter Fraser	108	18th	Orlene Penning Citation-Unit having the most new Juniors
Membership		Charles A Conklin	28	5th	Chloe O'Neal Citation-Unit having the greatest numerical increase
Membership	Margo Forrester			5th	Elizabeth Lyons Citation-District with highest percentage of increase
Membership	Vickie Medendorp			5th	Elizabeth Lyons Citation-District with highest percentage of increase
Membership		Birch Run	125	8th	Doyle Citation-Unit having the highest percentage of goal by April 1st
Membership		5th District		5th	Ethel Stitt Citation-District with greatest numerical increase
Membership		Birch Run	125	8th	Gladys Taylor Citation-Unit having the highest percentage
Membership		Birch Run	125	8th	Esther V. McCoy Citation-Unit with highest percentage of increase over last year
Membership		Charles A Conklin	28	5th	Patricia Donaldson Citation-Unit of 200+ members-greatest numerical increase
National Security	Pam Lewjewski-Pearson	Richard M. Jopling	44	UPAA	Agnes Dunn Citation to Unit with Best all-around report
National Security	Pat Bliss	Walter Fraser	108	18	Imogene Cowgill Citation to Unit with the Best Crime Prevention Program
National Security	Pat Bliss	Walter Fraser	108	18	Phyllis VanHill Citation to the Unit with the Best Fire Prevention Program
Past President's Parley	Sue Jankowski	Northeastern	459	5	Unit Member of the Year
Past President's Parley	Melissa Skrip	Greenwalt-Flaherty	42	3	Service Woman of the Year
Past President's Parley	Sharon Paulin	Linden	119	6	Trudy Anderson memorial Citation for the Most Outstanding Parley Report
Poppy	Leland Berman-Wright	Neal Fonger	179	5	Class I - 1st Place \$50.00
Poppy	Lanie Black	Robert Vroman	122	19	Class II- 1st Place \$50.00
Poppy	Sarah Chau	Glibert Karsten	33	5	Class II - 2nd Place \$25.00
Poppy	Taylor Visscher	Caledonia	305	5	Class III- 1st Place \$50.00
Poppy	Emily Rasmussen	Caledonia	305	5th	Class IV- 1st Place \$50.00
Poppy	Corrine Galloway	Caledonia	305	5th	Class V- 1st Place \$50.00
Poppy	Carry Faerrig	Geroux	11	UPAA	Class VI- 1st place \$50.00
Poppy	Laryssa Keely	Caledonia	305	5	Class VI- 2nd Place \$25.00
Poppy	Aleigha Houghton	Hill Gazzett	143	18	Junior Miss Poppy Ages 6-12
Poppy	Linda Walthorn	Louis Teistler	47	5	"Poppy Unit Display- Display about Poppy Program in a store, school or library
Poppy	Sharron Rundell	Linden	119	6	Chairman's Poppy Program Narrative- 1st Place
Poppy	Linda Roman	Myron H. Beals	32	17	Chairman's Poppy Program Narrative- 2nd Place
Poppy	Debra Williamson	Furniture City	258	5	Chairman's Poppy Program Narrative- 3rd Place
Public Relations	Pat Lozano	Linden	119	6	Gladys Lee Citation-Unit with the most inches of publicity in a weekly newspaper
Public Relations	Pat Lozano	Linden	119	6	Alma Viergever Citation- To Unit under 75 members with most inches of publicity in all papers
Public Relations	Rosemary Maciejewski	Northeastern	459	5	"Viola Starkey Citation- To the Unit with the best ""Unit of the Month"" article"
Public Relations	Pat Lozano	Linden	119	6	Ring Your Bell Contest
Public Relations	Deborah Williamson	Furniture City	258	5	"Best Unit ""Letter Style"" Newsletter"
Public Relations	Donna Fuelling			16	"Best District ""Letter Style"" Newsletter"
Public Relations	Becky Adams	Pinckney Memorial	419	6	Best Unit/Post Publication
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Georgia Downs	Thomas Richard Annis	411	9th	Nan Shepard Citation for most referrals to Legion;contibutions and most outstanding activities
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Pegge Fritzman	Charles Edward	14	18	Dorothy Pearl Citation for greatest participation in the Department Program
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Pam Lewjewski-Pearson	Richard M. Jopling	44	UPAA	Dorothy Pearl Citation for greatest participation in the Department Program
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Peggy Nollf	Ida	514	2	Jackie Skinner Citation for Unit reporting greatest participation in Homeless Veteran initiatives
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Betty Smith	Linden	119	6	Jackie Skinner Citation for Unit reporting greatest participation in Homeless Veteran initiatives
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Veronica Germany	Fred W. Beaudry	126	1	Nursing Home Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	LaRue Messenger		26	4	Unit Donation Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Richard M. Jopling		44	UPAA	Honorable Mention unit Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	William C. Stark		97	2	Unit Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Bernie Lamb	Myron H. Beals	32	17	Honorable Mention Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Linda Roman	Myron H. Beals	32	17	Veterans Military Support- Honorable Mention
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Barbara Parks	LaRue Messenger	26	4	Honorable Award Citation
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Carol Vernier	Adrain	97	2	Unit Most Outstanding Overall VA & R Program
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Betty Smith	Linden	119	6	VA & R Program Award
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation	Becky Adams	Pinckney Memorial	419	6	VA & R Program Award

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

The Power of Prayer



As most of you know, I was in a terrible automobile accident back in November. I would like to reflect back to the night of the accident. I said a prayer just before the impact. My prayer was very short "Oh Lord, please don't let me go into the river". As my injuries were quite extensive, and although I am still healing, it could have been considerably worse because I did not go into the river.

According to the Bible, the **power of prayer** is, quite simply, the power of God, who hears and answers prayer.

The power of prayer does not flow from us; it is not special words we say or the special way we say them or even how often we say them. The power of prayer is not based on a certain direction we

face or a certain position of our bodies. The power of prayer does not come from the use of artifacts or icons or candles or beads. The power of prayer comes from the omnipotent One who hears our prayers and answers them. Prayer places us in contact with God, and we should expect almighty results, whether or not He chooses to grant our petitions or deny our requests. Whatever the answer to our prayers, the God to whom we pray is the source of the power of prayer, and He can and will answer us, according to His perfect will and timing.

Does God answer prayer today? Can God do anything? We believe He can and we believe in letting Him do it. Praying makes wonderful changes in lives.

Do I believe in the **power of prayer**? Absolutely! Do you?



I just posted this vintage pic on our Facebook page, from a Department Convention in 1955. Deborah Volkens Williamson's, mother attended this convention.

Don't you just love the hats?

Kinda fun!

Thanks,

Margo Forrester

The National Anthem and Pledge Are National Treasures

Our proudest moment should be when we sing the National Anthem-this is for our country-America. My proudest moment always is to say the Pledge of Allegiance. America is my country and our country. We all came here differently and I am first generation American out of the ashes of Nazi Germany. America gave my parents their lives for that I shall always be most grateful.

We should recognize and appreciate every word we say when saying the Pledge of Allegiance. What have we said we will do for our country, how committed are we.

The American Legion Auxiliary is 100% committed to America.

We lead the parade for Americanism by displaying our flags, by going into schools for information and donating of flags.

We teach our children to be proud of our flag and how to honor it correctly

Show your Americanism, display your flag proudly.

Please get involved with schools in your community, churches, synagogues, and teach them to proudly fly the flag of America.

May it always fly proudly.



Charles A. Hammond Unit #8 Port Huron Poppy Days top distributor is Junior member McKenna Quinn, who is 5 years old was presented with the Poppy plaque, McKenna donations totaled \$482.79. Shown in picture left to right, Poppy Chairman Luanne Dubuque, McKenna Quinn and Unit #8 President Melanie Zick.

Don't Face the VA Alone!



New Veteran Service Officers

Expanded Hours

Alcona	Alcona County 106 North 5th St - PO Box 308 Harrisville MI 48740 989-724-9510	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 8 am to 11:30 am 989-724-9510
Alger	Munising Health Clinic 622 W. Superior St. Munising MI 49862 906-387-4614 and 800-236-4705	AL Brewster, Joshua 4th Thursday 8 am to 4 pm 906-387-4614; 800-236-4705
Alpena	Alpena -Alcona County Office 719 W. Chisholm St Alpena MI 49707 989-354-9671	AL Cuddington, Elizabeth 2nd Monday 8 am to 11:30 am 989-846-4091
Arenac	<i>Standish American Legion Post</i>	Cuddington, Elizebeth 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 12:30 to 4:00 pm 989-846-4091
Bay	515 Center Ave., 2nd Fl, Rm 212, Bay City, 48708-5994 (989) 895-4190	Cuddington, Elizebeth 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 8 am to 11:30 am 989-895-4190
13 VAMC Calhoun	<i>Battle Creek VAMC 5500 Armstrong Rd Battle Creek MI 49037 269-966-5600</i>	AL Lewis, Rebecca M 9 am to 4 pm 269-966-5600 x 33889
Charlevoix	301 State Street, Charlevoix, 49720 hessi@charlevoixcounty.org (231) 547-7220	AL Babcock, Phillip 2nd Wednesday 9 am to 4 pm
Cheboygan	870 S. Main Street, Rm 122, Cheboygan, 49721 veterans@cheboygancounty.net (231) 627-8833	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 1st Monday 8 am to 4 pm 231-627-8833
Cheboygan	<i>Cheboygan County VA Outpatient Clinic 14540 Macinaw Highway Mackinaw City MI 49701 1-888-838-6446</i>	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 3rd Monday 9 am to 4 pm
Chippewa	<i>Sault Ste. Marie CBOC 509 Osborn Blvd, Ste 306 Sault Ste. Marie MI 49783 906-495-3030</i>	L Brewster, Joshua 1st, 2nd, 3rd Fridays; 8 am to 4 pm 906-495-3030
Clare	<i>American Legion Post 558 400 E. Ludington Dr. Clare MI 48617 6096</i>	AL Simpkins, Tommy 2nd Tuesday 9 am to 4 pm
Crawford	American Legion Post 106 106 S. James St. Grayling MI 49738	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 4th Monday 9 am to 4 pm
Delta	Escanaba Tribal Community Health Center Penstar Office Building, 1401 North 26th St, Suite 105 Escanaba MI 49829 906-786-2636	AL Brewster, Joshua 2nd Thursday 8 am to 4 pm 906-786-2636
Eaton	1045 Independence Blvd., Charlotte, 48813 channold@eatoncounty.org (517) 543-3689	AL Lewis, Rebecca 1st and 3rd F 8:30 am to 4 pm
Genesee	1101 Beach Street, Flint, 48502-1417 jthick@co.genesee.mi.us (810) 257-3068	AL Simpkins, Tommy Mondays 9 am to 5 pm
Grand Traverse	Traverse City Vet Center 3766 North US 31 South Traverse City MI 49684 231-935-	AL Babock, Phillip Fridays 9 am to 4 pm 231-590-6200
Hillsdale	61 McCollum, Rm. 200, Hillsdale, 49242 (517) 437-3630 k.benge@co.hillsdale.mi.us	AL Easterling, Gary 2nd and 4th Mondays 8 am to 4 pm
Ingham	St. Johns Clinton County Courthouse 100 E State Street St. Johns MI 48879 989-227-6450	AL DiGiovanni, Joe W 1 pm to 5 pm 989-224-5260
Ingham	American Legion State Headquarters 212 N. Verlinden Lansing MI 48815	AL Lewis, Rebecca W; 2nd and 4th F 8:30 am to 4 pm
Ingham	MI National Guard Family and Veteran Support Center 3423 N Martin Luther King Blvd Lansing MI 48906	AL DiGiovanni, Joe M and T 8:30 am to 4:30 pm 517-481-9858
Iosco	Oscoda VA Outpatient Clinic 5671 Skeel Ave Suite 4 Oscoda MI 48750 989-747-0026 1-800-649-4812	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 1st & 3rd Mondays 8 am to 4 pm 989-747-0026
Jackson	Jackson County OVA 1715 Lansing Ave Room 252 Jackson MI 49202 517-788-4425	AL McCaskey, Phillip T 9 am to 4 pm 734-845-5924
Kalkaska	890 Island Lake Road, Rm. 8, Kalkaska, 49646-8415 sshaner@kalkaskacounty.org (231) 258-3370	AL Babcock, Phillip 1st and 3rd Thursdays 9 am to 4 pm
Kent	Wyoming CBOC 5838 MetroWay SW Wyoming MI 49515 616-249-5300 new CBOC in Wyoming, MI	AL Lewis, Rebecca Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am to 3:00 pm x 30401
Lake	Lake County DHS Building 5653 S. M37 Baldwin MI 49304	AL Babcock, Phillip 4th Wednesdays 9 am to 4 pm 231-590-6200

Luce	Newberry Tribal Center Zee-ba-Tik Lane RR1, PO Box 1195 Newberry MI 49868 906-293-8181	AL Brewster, Joshua 3rd Thursday 8 am to 4 pm 906-239-8181
Mackinac	Lambert Health Center 225 Waseh St. Ignace MI 49781 906-643-8689 and 877-256-0135	AL Brewster, Joshua 4th Friday 8 am to 4 pm 906-643-8689; 877-256-0135
Manistee	Manistee County Office 415 Third Street Manistee MI 49660 231-398-3587	AL Babcock, Phillip 2nd & 4th Thursdays 9 am to 4 pm
Mason	American Legion Post 76 318 N James Street Ludington MI 49431 231-845-794	AL Babcock, Phillip 1st and 3rd Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm
Mecosta	14485 Northland Dr., Big Rapids, 49307_veterans@co.mecosta.mi.us_(231) 592-0124	AL Babcock, Phillip 1st and 3rd Monday 9 am to 3 pm (*closed from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm)
Montmorency	12265 M-32 - PO Box 789 Atlanta MI 49709 989-785-8043	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 2nd Monday 12:30 to 4:00 pm 989-785-8043
Newaygo	American Legion Post 381 6812 Croton Hardy Drive Newaygo MI 49337 231-652-	AL Babcock, Phillip 2nd and 4th Mondays 10 am to 2 pm
Oscoda	Oscoda County Office/DNR Mio Field Office Bldg 191 S. Mount Tom Rd Mio MI 48647 989-826-1647	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 2nd Mondays 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Otsego	Gaylord VA Outpatient Clinic 806 South Otsego Gaylord MI 49735 989-497-2500 X 15201	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 4th Wednesday 9 am to 4 pm
Roscommon	Roscommon County OVA 500 Lake Street Roscommon MI 48653 989-275-6047	AL Cuddington, Elizebeth 2nd Monday 8 am to 11:30 am
Saginaw	Saginaw VAMC 1500 Weiss Street Saginaw MI 48602 989-895-4190	AL Simpkins, Tommy 1st, 3rd, 4th T; every W 8:30 am to 4 pm
Schoolcraft	Manistique Health Clinic 5698 W. US Highway 2 Manistique MI 49854	AL Brewster, Joshua 1st Thursday 8 am to 4 pm 906-341-8469; 866-401-0043
Washtenaw	Ann Arbor VAMC 2215 Fuller Road Ann Arbor MI 48105 734-769-7100	AL McCaskey, Phillip M, Th, F 8:30 am to 4 pm 734-845-5924
Wayne	Downriver Community Conference Building 15100 Northline Road Southgate MI 48195	AL Thomas, Lannie Th 9 am to 4 pm 269-312-2239
Wayne	American Legion 477 Michigan Ave Room 1210 Detroit MI 48226 313-964-6640	AL Easterling, Gary DIRECTOR,
Wexford	Michigan Works Bldg 401 North Lake St., Suite 700 Cadillac MI 49601 231-775-3408	AL Babcock, Phillip Tuesdays 9 am to 4 pm 231-884-1116

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

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

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director

Tripp Cantwell, Assitant Director

Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building Room 1210

477 Michigan Avenue Detroit, MI 48226

Office Phone (313) 964-6640 Fax (313) 964-5697

e-mail - al.vbadet@va.gov

Monday thru Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Call the Detroit office for Field Service Officer Schedule

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

APPLICATION 2015 VETERANS ADVOCACY TRAINING HIGGINS LAKE DNR RALPH A. MACMULLAN CENTER AUGUST 21 - 23, 2015

PLEASE PICK FROM THE FOLLOWING

Package "A" - 2 Nights Lodging & 6 Meals - () \$195.00

Package "B" - No Lodging 6 Meals - () \$120.00

Handicap Room () 1st Time Student () District Service Officer ()

Quiet Room () County Counselor () Post Service Officer ()

Friday Night Dinner Option: () Steak or () Fish

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Post # _____ District # _____

e-mail address _____ Rommate Request: _____

Check the package of your choice, send in corresponding payment by check made payable to:

The American Legion Department of Michigan - Higgins Lake

Send to: American Legion VA&R Division

477 Michigan Ave Room 1210 ATTN: Debbie D., Detroit, MI 48226

same 'nuts, new shell

Experience the NEW Cooley Law School Stadium



- NEW 360° Concourse!
- NEW Theater-Style Seats Replacing Bleachers
- NEW Scoreboards!
- NEW Burger Bistro!
- NEW Group Venues!
- NEW Suites!
- Renovated Restrooms!
- Renovated Concession Stands!
- NEW Playground!
- NEW Playing Surface!

For stadium renovation information, visit lansinglugnuts.com/newshell



2015 FALL RAFFLE

Coming to a mailbox near you!!!

Support our mission of Veterans serving Veterans!
Watch your mailbox for your opportunity to win \$4,000!!!


19 money prizes in all will be drawn on September 19, 2015 at the Causeway Bay Hotel - Fall Conference 2015.

Extra Tickets are available from the Legion Office.
Raffle is open to anyone wishing to help!

american legion night!

Lugnuts vs. South Bend Cubs— Friday, July 17th @ 7:05pm



- Flat Screen Friday presented by Auto-Owners Insurance
- Group Announcement!
- Postgame LAFcu Fireworks
- Delta Dental's Smile Shot Group Photo
- Group Raffle Winner!



Ticket Ordering Information **Order Deadline: Wednesday, July 15th**

1. To order your tickets online
-Go to https://www.what-if.com/SECURE/LLB/grouporder/LL_15_AMERICAN_LEGION.html

Just follow the instructions to make your ticket ordering simple and fast. Tickets are just \$10 each!
For more information or to order over the phone please call Justin Burkett @ (517) 485-4500 x 246!

Camp Curnalia

"A Military Veterans Community"

Cottages Available at Higgins Lake, Michigan

Camp Curnalia is a community of 405 cottages located on the north shore of Higgins Lake with easy access from I-75 and US 127. The community abuts the North Higgins Lake State Park. All cottage owners are guaranteed lake access, dock access, and boat slippage on Higgins Lake.


All 405 cottages are connected to the Higgins Lake Utility Authority sewer system.

Only Honorably Discharged veterans with a DD214 are eligible to purchase available cottages.

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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 Dear 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 Owasso, MI 48867, **989-725-9728** Legion Member

Around the State...



L-R Anthony Albarello, Dennis Broyak, Post Finance Officer, and Don Diller Post 87 Commander, presented Anthony 50 year membership recognition award.



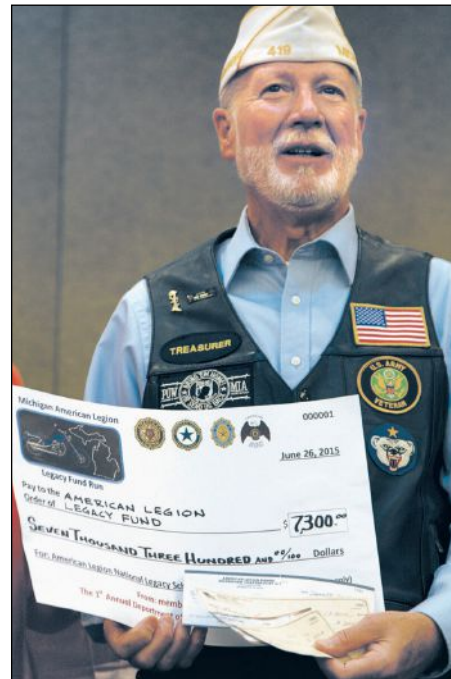
Michigan American Legion Commander James Wallace, State Representative Nancy Jenkins, and State Senator David Zorn at the Veterans Memorial Park in Clinton, MI.



Joseph B. Westnedge Post 36, Kalamazoo held a Membership Recognition Ceremony and Picnic. Members who had reached continuous membership milestones of 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 years were recognized. A Special Recognition Award was also presented. Left to right- Post Commander Jim Saur (10 years), Joseph Hirschfield (25 years), Jake Rickli (Special Recognition for Outstanding Service), and Leo Thielman (25 years).



The Alderman-Luce Memorial Home Association, American Legion Post 259, Board of Directors presented a \$1,000.00 Scholarship to Karah Rissman, a Bronson High School 2015 graduate. Two of Karah's Grandfathers, and two Great Grandfathers are US Military Veterans. Proudly presenting the Scholarship is one of her Grandfathers, Leonard Kolcz, Commander of Bronson American Legion Post 259.



The 1st Legacy Run in Michigan arrived at Summer Convention on Friday and the Commander received over \$8000 in donations to present to the Legacy Scholarship Fund at National Convention in Baltimore.



Centennial Committee Co-Chairman Larry Chase offered Pictures with a Polar Bear Solider at Summer Convention. PNC Tom Cadmus and Honorary PNC Bob Spanogle, Post 42 Commander Melissa Skrip, PDC Jim Wallace, PDC Chatman, and Reconnect Chairman Gary Tanner, to show a few.