



# MI LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No.4

## The True Value of the Membership Card

**Mark Sutton**  
Department PR Director

Since word has spread that the National membership dues were increased by \$5 and that the Department might ask for an increase at the Summer Convention in June of 2016 I have heard many negative comments about what this will do to membership. This has me thinking about how members perceive their membership in The American Legion.

Some have concern that the membership will fall drastically because membership dues are too expensive, but then the conversation stops there as I wait to hear more reasons. When no other reasons come I am somewhat confused. The post I belong to has a dues rate currently of \$45 and to me that number is a bargain. A few weeks ago I sat down with a fellow Legionnaire and asked them, "Would you still pay your dues if they were \$50, \$75, or \$100 per year?" They answered, Yes.

**How much is your membership card worth to you?**

The Legionnaire said "think about it, think of the work our dues do for veterans in this state and in this country." So it got me to thinking of all the

things my \$45 membership does in the state and the country.

In the State of Michigan my dues help send 274 young men to Boys State, "a week that shapes a lifetime"; it helped support over 50 teenagers to spend a week at Student Trooper program at the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing. My dues help support scholarships from the Wilson Scholarship, the Brewer Scholarship, the Eagle Scout, and Oratorical winners. My dues recognize 5 teachers around the state for the work in classrooms, and to recognize a Law Enforcement officer and First Responder each year, that comes with an award and a check to cover expenses.

As one person I cannot do all of that on my own, so I belong to The American Legion. I have not even mentioned the work our Department Accredited Veteran Service Officers do to bring back over \$150,000,000 plus in compensation and pension awards to our veterans each year. Or the close to 20 members of the National Washington, D.C. staff who appeal on behalf of veterans to the Veterans Administration.

Where would many of us be without the legislative efforts of The American Legion? The G.I. Bill would not have happened without The American Legion. At the time, it was opposed by every other

veteran service organization, but the Legion pressed on and it passed by 1 vote. Since then, the Legion works tirelessly every day on legislative issues that affect our Military and our Veterans. On a state level it happens too because of the membership dues I pay.

All this is done because I pay my dues each year. All of these things happen because I renew my dues each year. Helping veterans is what I want to do and my membership dues help me leverage my time and energy to make it the most effective way possible.

### Auto-renewal

I do not wait to renew it is automatic, because The American Legion is the strongest and best organization that is out there supporting and fighting the benefits and rights of our veterans and military.

### Why wait?

The American Legion carries on its mission each day, but without the membership there is no American Legion.

### Will you support The American Legion?

Avoid the dues increase by renewing by December 31st, 2015, either at your post or online at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). Don't wait, as Nike says, Just Do It. Thank you for your service and membership.

## ATTENTION MEMBERS OF MI POST 225

The officers of Michigan Post 225 assembled at the 2016 Fall Conference in Lansing, MI and agreed to increase membership dues for the Post from the current \$35 to \$45 starting January 1st, 2016.

**Renew by December 31st, 2015**

Members of Post 225 can send their renewals to the Department Headquarters at 212 N. Verlinden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 Attn Membership. Please include your membership number on the check or envelope. Members may also renew at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)

**Avoid the Increase!!**

No Return Postage Requested

**VETERANS DAY**  
NOVEMBER 11, 2015

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED  
IN TIMES OF WAR - IN TIMES OF PEACE

www.va.gov

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

**MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE**

(USPS 010637) is published monthly except February, May, August, and December by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$10.00 non-members, members receive the publication as part of their dues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Legionnaire, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297.

**DEADLINE DATES**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015- October 1, 2015

Circulation: 97,687

Printed: 10-23-15 · Mailed: 10-30-15

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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 news@michiganlegion.org or mail it to department attn: Roxanne Osga.

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

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

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

**Chaplain**



Greetings Legion Family! This is an exciting time when so many of us celebrate various holidays. I like to call them Holy Days.

There are many things going on like the Veterans, Thanksgiving and Christmas parades. And of course, the time off work to celebrate with our friends and families. It is a time to reflect on the past and our great hopes for the future. During these events we need to remember the reasons for the seasons. We need to take time out of celebrations to honor God. Psalm 69:30 says "I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving."

I want to give you a brief report on the National Chaplain's Conference that was held in Indianapolis in September. We had some good meetings and interesting discussions, some of the same topics that we had discussed in previous years. It is obvious that we still need to have more education about what a Chaplain is the responsibilities of the office. I think we sometimes make things too hard and scare away some very good candidates. I

**"In God We Trust"**

hope to work on that this year and to perhaps have another Chaplain School of Instruction.

One of the things that we discussed at the conference is how certain groups are attacking our religious freedoms and the right for us to express our religion, especially Christians in the military. In my opinion, they are taking the ideology of "separation of church and state" (which is not actually verbiage in the Constitution) to the extreme. The Constitution does say that the government will not establish its own religion and that no religious test shall be required as a qualification of office. Therefore, we do not give preference to any particular religion. But, the Constitution does grant us the freedom of and expression of religion. I don't think anyone should be penalized for expressing their own personal religious beliefs, I think they should be applauded.

There is a resolution in the works out of the Department of Pennsylvania entitled Honoring the Anniversary of "In God We Trust." In America there is a long history of the use of this phrase and its printing on currency. The fourth

**Eddie Brown, State Chaplain**

stanza of "The Star Spangled Banner" written during the War of 1812 says, "And this be our motto, in God is our Trust." It actually became the motto of the United States of America on July 30, 1956. What is being proposed in the resolution is that "The American Legion support local, state and federal legislation to recognize and honor the anniversary of the motto." You can guess that the vote by the Chaplains at the conference was unanimous in support of this resolution. Whether or not the resolution is put forward, we should still take steps to remember and celebrate this date next year.

When we gather with our families and friends to celebrate the upcoming holidays, lets give thanks that we live in a country that has religious freedom. And, where belief in God is predominant. Lets give thanks for organizations like The American Legion which associates together "For God and Country." Let us never forget that our freedom was not free and remember those who sacrificed for us. May we never forget that "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord." - Psalms 33:12. God Bless You All.

**Don't forget to file your State Annual Report and IRS 990**



**Roger Avie**  
Finance Officer

It that time of year again to re-file your newly elected officers with the State of Michigan and to pay the respective \$20 fee. This is true at a Post level and the District level and it is a requirement of the State that your current officers be updated annually and the fee paid.

The good news is that this can all be done online thru LARA at the State of Michigan - Department of Commerce web site. To assist you I will be posting, with Roxanne Osgas assistance, on the Legion Web site www.

MichiganLegion.org, a detailed "job aid" on how this can be done.

Additionally you should be gathering your financial records in preparation of filing a IRS 990N or a 990EZ, if you have a club, lounge or hall with more income, you will probably have to file the long form 990T. If you have to file the 990T long form you should engage an Accountant for assistance as it is a long and sometimes hard to understand document and mistakes can be costly.

If you don't file one or both of these documents you run the risk of losing your IRS 501(c)19 status as a Veterans Organization or even your status as a

viable organization in Michigan.

In traveling around the State I have found a significant amount of Posts who have "misplaced" their Federal Electronic Identification Number (EIN). In some cases we have found them to not be a correct EIN and have had to apply for a new number so tax documents could be filed and bank accounts opened. A "job aid is being made to assist in applying Online with the IRS for an EIN number.

As your Finance Officer I stand ready to assist Posts and Districts in how to file these important documents. Thank you for your support these past four months.

**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.....Elmer White	..... 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

## Special Project - The Patriot Fund

I've just returned from the National Fall Conference held in Indianapolis. As this was my first trip to Headquarters as Department Commander, there were many meetings and a lot to learn. I had the privilege of attending the first day of the National Executive Committee before turning my attention to the classes specifically planned for the fifty-five Department Commanders in attendance. Can you guess what the main topic was? You are right - Membership and the challenge of achieving our Department membership goal.

Veteran's Day is only days away. Please show your support by attending one of the many of the celebrations around the state. If you are unable to



Michael Buda  
State Commander



Commander Mike Buda at the National Fall Meeting, Taking a moment to look at the museum at National Headquarters in Indianapolis

attend a planned event, please take a moment to think about the men and women who have served our great nation and their contributions to win and maintain our freedom.

I'd like to talk about my special project for the year, The Patriot Fund. It is one part of the Reconnect Program. It was created to provide emergency temporary financial assistance to veterans, active duty service members and their families in time of need. This fund is available to Michigan veterans of all eras, and is specifically intended to help veterans who do not qualify for other existing financial relief programs. This fund has proven to be vital in providing life impacting relief for Michigan veterans and their families! The Patriot fund is one of the few, if not the only fund available to non wartime veterans in our state. It receives many requests each week for grants averaging \$500 to qualified requests. 100% of donations go towards the needs of veterans. There are no administration or banking fees taken out. It's also tax-deductible.

At this time, the fund has a low balance due to its' main partner no longer being able to continue its' support and the number of veteran families seeking assistance. Please consider donating to the Patriot Fund this holiday season as part of your philanthropic contributions. If each post were to donate \$50 each, the fund would receive about \$20,000 to start off the New Year. Send checks to Department Headquarters with Patriot Fund on the memo line.

I wish all Legion Family members a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

## November is Member Retention Month

Commander Buda and members of The American Legion, it has been very busy for me and the headquarters staff. After we came back from our fall conference we have been putting together programs and making our mission work. Since that time I have attended the National Adjutants and Commanders conference, and NEC meetings in Indianapolis for almost a week. I got to meet some of our newest commanders and adjutants from around the country.

We have been working diligently on Wilwin and the mission to help & support our Michigan veterans. As I work on this project, I think about the extraordinary donation made by Robert Considine to The American Legion in Michigan. Without his donation of the property

and assets to Wilwin we would not be able to discuss the potential we might have for our future. Thank you Bob for what you have given to The American Legion and the veterans we serve!

In the coming months we have some very important dates we all must not forget. On November 11th is Veterans Day and December 7th is Pearl Harbor Day. Please take the time with our younger generation to educate them and remind them why these days are important to our veterans and our country.

November is member retention month. All posts need to focus on remembering to make calls, knock on doors and get our members in post to get their dues renewed now. It is also important to remind them about the dues increase about to happen and how they can save some money by renewing before the New Year.

Holiday season is also upon us and I ask for any-

The Only Written  
Official Call  
Annual Winter Conference  
American Legion, Department of Michigan  
February 12-14, 2016  
Holiday Inn Gateway  
Flint, Michigan

**Purpose:** To implement plans for the upcoming 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 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 Winter 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:** Saturday, February 13th, 2016, 3:30 p.m.

**Called Department Committee Meetings** – Saturday February 13th, 2016 - See schedule at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) (subject to change)

- Baseball, Boys State, Education & Scholarships, 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

**Department Executive Committee Meeting:** Sunday, February 14th, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.

**\*\*\*NOTE: The National Commanders Banquet will be held Saturday night instead of Friday, due to the National Commanders schedule. Friday night will be replaced with training class tba.**



Ron Runyan  
State Adjutant

one who can to make a blood donation at your local Red Cross. This time of year seems to make the need for blood at donor centers in high demand. I want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season, Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a great New Year!

NOW AVAILABLE  
**RENEW ONLINE!**

Now you can renew your American Legion membership online! Simply visit the web address shown below and follow the easy instructions. You'll be able to renew your membership and even print out a temporary membership card.

[www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew)

RENEW BY DECEMBER 31 TO AVOID PAYING INCREASE!

# Membership

## Dues Adjustment



**Brett Holt**

Holiday Greetings from all of the members of the Membership Committee.

As of this writing on October 19th only a couple dozen post have sent in their Special Post Data sheets to notify National of an increase in dues, if needed, at your post after January 1, 2016. **This form is the only way to have your renewal notices and online renewals changed to reflect your new rate. The forms MUST BE INTO DEPARTMENT BY DECEMBER 4, 2015.**

If your post dues are currently \$35 you will only have .50 cents, minus whatever amount your District Association dues are, left for your post after January 14, 2016. If your post relies on dues income to operate or partially operate your post then you need to consider a dues increase. If your post dues are currently \$40 and a Department dues increase of \$5 passes at the Department Convention in June, 2016 then you will only have .50 cents, minus whatever amount your District Association dues are, left for your post.

Department is doing everything we can think of to see that you receive the necessary forms and the accompanying FAQ sheet that assist you in determining if you need a dues increase. You may see these forms multiple times as a result, you only need to send the form in once. Be sure to check your bylaws to see if a bylaw change is needed before passing a dues increase. If your bylaws specify an amount for your dues then you will need to change your bylaws first. If your bylaws do not specify an amount for your dues then you will not need a bylaw change.

Once again, **The forms MUST BE INTO DEPARTMENT BY DECEMBER 4, 2015.**

The Membership Team has been busy visiting Districts to train on the Membership Team Concept. E-mails and letters have been sent to all post prior to the visits but unfortunately not every post has taken advantage of the opportunity to learn some new ideas in ways to draw in new members and retain current members. To date we have visited the 2nd, 4th, 7th, 8th, 9th 10th, 11th, 12th and 19th. Training is already scheduled for the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 18th. By the time this article publishes training will have been scheduled for the 1st, 16th, and 17th.

**Legionnaires, please consider paying your dues by December 31, 2015 in order to avoid paying any additional amount from a dues increase that your post may have passed that go into effect in January.**

The Department of Michigan is currently in 21st place nationally for percentage of Membership Goal attained. We are at 62.174% as of October 14, 2015 which was the 55% target date. This is a drop from 12th place on the previous report. The Membership Team is aiming for 100% for the Department of Michigan by December 31, 2015. We need your help to get there.

On the same report Michigan shows the sixth highest amount of DMS New Starts or first year sign ups with 1,171. Some know this as the 225 list or Headquarters Holding Post. This means that 1,171 eligible veterans joined our organization through the mail because we did not go out and find them and invite them to join our organization ourselves. This proves veterans that are willing to join are out there and all we have to do is find them and ask them to join. The number one reason eligible veterans that join the organization when asked why they had not joined before responded with, nobody asked me! On that same subject the report shows that department wide we have only transferred 24 DMS members into our local post. Please contact these members and ask them to join your post.

Congratulations to the 10 post that have reached 100%

## District Meetings 2015 - 2016

### 1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM  
Feb 1, 2016  
April 4, 2016  
May 2, 2016  
June 6, 2016

### 2nd District

Jan 10, 2016 Saline  
Mar 13, 2016 in Tecumseh  
May 15th in Jackson Post 29  
Service officers school 1PM with meeting at 2PM

### 3rd District

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.

### 4th District

Nov. 1, 2015 - Hickory Corners Post 484 11 AM Special meeting, 12:30 Lunch, 2 PM Business Meeting

### 5th District

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: 2327 Wilson Ave. SW Grand Rapids, MI 49534  
Neal E. Fonger Post #179 616-453-9861  
August 13, 2015  
October, 8, 2015  
December 10, 2015  
District Executive Committee Meeting Dates:  
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  
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

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

November 1, 2015 Frankenmuth Post 150  
January 10, 2016 Elsie Post 502  
March 6, 2016 Saginaw Post 439  
May 1, 2016 Carson City Post 280  
Lunch is at 1:30 meeting to follow

### 9th District

December 12, 2015 at White Hall Post 69  
March 12, 2016 at Manistee Post 10  
May 14, 2016 at Traverse City Post 35  
Executive Board at Noon, Lunch at 1:00 p.m.,  
General Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m.  
We are also attempting to have a Training Session beginning at 10:30 a.m. for interested Legionnaires.

### 10th District

Nov. 7TH 2015 - MIKADO POST 254  
Jan. 9TH 2016 - BAY CITY POST 18  
March 5TH 2016 - OSCODA POST 274  
May 1ST 2016 - Memorial Service - SANFORD POST 443  
Lunch at noon meetings at 1pm all dates

### 11th District & 12th District Meeting

The U.P. Winter Conference will be on January 29 and 30, 2016 at Post #21 in Stambaugh

### 16th District

\*Service Officer School \*\*Memorial Service & Elections  
Nov. 10, 2015 Flat Rock Post 337 734-782-2717  
Dec. 8, 2015\* Southgate Post 478 734-946-5398  
Jan. 12, 2016 Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177  
Feb. 9, 2016\* Fort Dearborn Post 364 313-562-9090  
March 8, 2016 Wayndotte 217  
April 12, 2016\* Trentionn Post 426  
May 10, 2016\*\* Lincoln Park Post 67 313-388-2088  
June 14, 2016 Garden City Post 396 313-381-2245

### 17th District

Meeting start at 7:00 PM  
Nov 18, 2015 Post 391 K of C 150 Fair St, Plymouth, MI  
Jan 20, 2016 Northville Post 147, 100 Dunlap St., Northville, MI  
March 16, 2016 Post 391 K of C 150 Fair St, Plymouth, MI  
May 18, 2016 Livonia Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI

### 18th District

Meetings Convene at 2:00 PM  
November 1, 2015 - Post 143, Auburn Hills  
November 8, 2015 - Department Commanders Tour  
January 10, 2016 - Post 20, Pontiac, MI  
March 13, 2016 - Post 374, 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

Dec 13, 2015- Gaylord, Post 458  
Mar 13, 2016- Elk Rapids, Post 350  
May 16, 2016- Wolverine, Post 122  
All have an 11-12 meet & greet, noon lunch, 1:00 meeting

as of October 15, 2015. The post are: 36 Joseph B. Westnedge, Kalamazoo; 152 Clark-Ellis, Lowell; 173 Ford Motor Company, Dearborn; 257 F.T. Custer Battle Creek; 266 Forrest Lewis, Wayland; 484 Simmonds - Williams, Hickory Corners; 516 Sickles - Arnold, Deckerville; 528 Alto; 535 Nuwarine, Lansing; 566 Merrick Potter, Memphis. I'd also like to congratulate the 7th District and 1st Zone for being in first place at this time.

Posts and Districts can check their membership percentage turned in by going to [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) under the membership tab select legion and reports.

## WORLD WAR II TOURS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 2-14 • August 11-23, 2016

Paris • Normandy Landing Beaches • Reims • General Patton's Grave  
Battle of the Bulge • Remagen Bridge • Nuremberg • Dachau Memorial  
Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden • Munich

## VIETNAM TOUR

March 13-23, 2016

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) • My Tho • Cu Chi Tunnels  
Mekong Delta • Nha Trang • Cam Ranh AF Base • Hue  
Chu La • Hoi An • Da Nang • Quang Tri • A Shau Valley  
Halong Bay Cruise • Hanoi • DMZ • US Military Bases



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# AUXILIAIRE



*From the Desk of the President*

*2015 - 2016 Department President, Sue Verville*

## THE BUSY SEASON IS ALMOST HERE



I hope everyone that received a tree at Fall Conference has planted it and is waiting for it to start growing. What better way of **Branching Out as The Legion Family**, then to plant a tree and watch how it grows. Just like our organization, we need to take special care of it to make it grow. We

need to renew and retain our members, rejoin those members we lost and recruit new members. Our members need guidance, support and understanding, so that they can withstand what the future has in store from them just like the trees you planted.

Fall has arrived and soon the Holiday season will be here. That means many of our members will be very busy planning activities for our Veterans, their families and their local communities. In November, we have Veteran's Day, November 11. Let us take time out of our busy schedule and remember those Veterans who have given so much for all of us. Some Units will remember our Veterans with wreaths, some will have parades and some will have dinners. Let us remember those who are serving our country now, at home or abroad. Let us always remember those who are still missing, those Veterans who are in a VA hospital or a nursing home. Let us remember those Veterans who are gone but will not be forgotten.

Now is the time to start planning for your members to send out Thank You cards or Holiday care packages or making personal visits to our Veterans.

The month of November is also Education Week. Get permission to participate in Veterans in the classroom program or hand out educational books to your area children. Have some of your members help out in your local Library or donating school supplies to children in need. Help to tutor or mentor some children or adults or participate in various literacy programs.

November is also when we show how thankful we are for our family and friends with a Thanksgiving Dinner. Remember to take the time to bless our men and women who are serving at home or abroad, who are not with their family and friends during this time. Also remember those Veterans who are less fortunate than you are. Collect warm clothing to be given out at stand downs or homeless shelters.

The Christmas Gift Shops will soon be here. Many Units are selecting their volunteers for the gift shops and are doing their shopping. If you have never helped out at a gift shop you will be greatly surprised at how grateful the Veterans are for everything they receive. They cannot believe that they can select a gift for a loved one and not have to pay you for it. Our representatives are always looking for volunteers so contact one of them and let them know you are willing to help.

This is a busy time for many of our members,

but don't forget to pay your dues. Keep them coming into Department as you receive them. Please to do hold on to them until you have a lot of them. Send them in as often as you can. Perhaps you know of a member who is having a hard time and cannot pay their dues this year. Find out if they are having trouble or are ill or in a nursing home and help them by paying their dues this year. Send them a note along with their membership card letting them know that they are being thought of and hope that they will be well soon.

I have visited some Units and Districts since June and have enjoyed the hospitality that has been given to me and my husband. It is always nice to see old friends and better when we make new ones. It is always great to see everything that we do for our organization, our Veterans and our local communities. Remember that soon you will need to do Mid-Year Reports on certain programs. Hopefully you have been keeping track of all that your Unit has been doing.

In closing keep in mind my special project the Veterans Court any support for this project will be greatly appreciated. All donations will be divided up between the VA Facilities Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Saginaw, Detroit and Iron Mountain.

We wish to extend our personal greetings along with the office staff, for a blessed and healthy Holiday Season. From my family to your family and our Legion Family have a great Thanksgiving, a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson*

## MEMBERSHIP DUES CAN NOW BE PAID ON-LINE



### PAYMENT FOR THE MEMBER:

It's been a long time coming, but a member can now pay their auxiliary dues online. This is how it works, both for the member, and for the unit.

A member MUST SET UP AN ACCOUNT to access the member portal so that she can pay her dues online. Once you enter the member portal, you need to look under the big red banner that says "The Largest Women's Patriotic..." and to the right. You should see "Welcome (your name)". Under that you should see "My Profile", "Pay Dues", and "Log Out". Click on "Pay Dues" and fill in the boxes.

National knows the dues rate for every unit in Michigan, so you will be only paying the rate for your specific unit.

Once your dues are paid, you will receive via e-mail a receipt and a temporary card. You

can take this temporary card to your unit membership chairman and obtain a permanent card, or have it mailed.

### PAYMENT FOR THE UNIT:

In the usual method, a member makes her payment to the unit, the unit sends a transmittal with all the member payments to the department, and the department sends the national portion to national. I am calling this the "trickle up method". This is the way it works if the member pays online:

1. National keeps their portion of the payment--\$9.00/member.
2. National regularly puts an automatic bank deposit into the department bank account for the department portion and the unit portion of any online payments during that period.
3. Department keeps their portion--\$6.00/member.

4. Department writes a check to the unit for the unit portion, and it is sent to the unit. Along with the check is a list of WHO IS BEING PAID IN THAT CHECK, so the unit membership chairman can issue a permanent card to the member....it's done.

I am calling this the "trickle down method".

The "trickle up" method allows the unit to get their money right away, and the member obtains their permanent card faster. The "trickle down" methods allows the member to pay online, and many people in today's world pay ALL their bills online. However, the trickle-down method makes the unit wait longer for its portion, and is a great deal more work, and expense for department in terms of more checks, more envelopes, and the big one—more postage. This doesn't even take into account more time and bookkeeping for the staff.

Every member can determine which method they want to use to pay their dues.

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

## HOLIDAYS



The holidays are now upon us. First we have Thanksgiving, a time for family and lots of good food. December brings Christmas and Chanukah, and for most, holiday gifts and more family and friends time. We have much to be thankful for. I personally, have always loved the family time and I do love receiving gifts. But we as a Legion family have a duty to remember our veterans during this holiday season. Many are homeless and many may not have family to be

with. We must all take a few hours out of our busy schedules to make the time to visit the many veteran hospitals and veteran homes in our state. It brings so much joy to them. You could even bring some fresh fruit, a banana or an orange. In December organize a group to sing Christmas carols for them. What an opportunity for our juniors. They can sing as a group and could bring homemade cards to give to the veterans. Please, whatever you may have planned for the holidays remember our veterans in any way you can, even if it is just a prayer from your heart.

## Girls State

Rysta Brown, Co-chairman

We know that that a lot has changed in our program over the last year but that is what Girls State is all about. The girls that come each year are different and have different expectations of the program. It used to be that the student council was cool, now it is the honor society. We used to teach proper dining skills, now we teach proper communication skills. The ability to embrace change, to prosper outside comfort zones, to be confident no matter the situation is what we, the American Legion Auxiliary, are offering

to each girl that comes to Girls State.

We are scheduled for the same time as our Department Convention this year and we will need help. If you would like to help at our session this year, please contact Rysta Brown @ rystab@hotmail.com. Stay for a day or the week.

This year the Samsung Scholarship will be completed and submitted on line. We will have more information on that as soon as National makes it available.

Our new reservation forms are available at [www.michalux.org](http://www.michalux.org) along with our Girls State applications.

## Cole-Briggs American Legion Auxiliary hosted 75th Girls State Dinner

On October 3, 2015 the Grand Ledge Auxiliary hosts a dinner for the Girls that attend the 75th Girls State program. Unit President Kara Bond welcomed Special guests, American Legion Auxiliary Department of Michigan President Sue Verville,

3rd District President Nancy Ritchie, 3rd District 1st Vice Lisa Bartlett, Department of Michigan Membership chairman Pam Lajewski-Pearson and a member of the first Girls State Class of 1940 Lois Schultz.



In Pictures front row Dee Schaegle Girls State Chairman, Grace Johnson, Chelsea Skutt, Lois Schultz, Sue Verville, Alexis Farmer, Taylor Mc Phail. Back Row: , Pam Lajewski-Pearson, Stacia King, Veronica Miller & Sophia Ruark. Not Pictured: Chloe LePine, Madeline Orwat, Kalli Ramsey

At American Legion Auxiliary Girls State, high school female students who have completed their junior year are competitively selected to participate in a seven-day mock government program where they learn about civics and American government in a fast-

paced, interactive program of campaigning, debating, voting, and electing mock local and state leaders. This year ALA Girls State was held at MSU the middle of June. This year Grand Ledge Auxiliary had the honor to send 10 young Ladies to Girls State with the help our several sponsors.

Sponsors for 2015 were Rotary Club, Lions Club, Lioness Club, Astrea Credit Union and Robert Bartlett.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Christine Merlington,  
Community Service Committeemember

Community service goes hand in hand with everything we do as an organization. Churches, Senior Homes, libraries and Food Pantries. Going to events in your Home towns & cities when your city has something going on.

Join in and help encourage your Legion Family to do things.

Some Auxiliaries have helped out with Service in the park One Auxiliary has even handed out baked goods during parades. Giving marchers lemonade and more.

Some Units and Legions help out Service member families with babysitting, taking them out for a relaxing evening with company and just being there for them.

Cleanup days such as road Sections or even community areas such as parks helps the Auxiliary and Legion be known as not just that building around the corner with all the "elderly people" hanging out at.

Any and all things you can do in your neighborhood helps get us noticed as a positive contribution to the community as well as helping others.

Make sure when your town has a parade be in it. Wave the flags proudly.

Remember the holidays, community service includes helping with toys for Tots and things like that.

Auxiliary Unit #287 sponsors a Holiday Meal at Thanksgiving for over 100 people. It is for those who live alone and want company during this time, their families live far away or they just cannot afford to spend the money.

All these things and others help our Community.

## Greetings from the UPAA!

Krystal Oberle,  
Upper and Upper Northern Area Membership

We are expecting a Great Year in Membership as the UPAA endeavors to increase our members and maintain those we have. To insure our goals we need to become "Mentors" to new members, friends to those members we already have, and more dedicated than ever to be an example and leader in our community.

This process can become a reality by reaching out to just one new member! I challenge you to that goal this coming membership year!

This year as Veterans Day approaches...give special thought to our Veterans and their families. We can do better and we must do better. Our Veterans have given us freedom, security, and the greatest nation on earth!

We need to remember them and appreciate them.

God Bless our Veterans and God Bless America!



# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

## SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

### WORKING TOGETHER



Fred Ruttkofsky  
SAL Commander

WOW!!!! Where did the summer go? It's time to put away our summer toys and get the rakes out for those leaves we all love so much, tune up the winter toys, and get the house ready for that winter weather. But as the time gets ready to change please take a moment to find that veteran that may be in need of some help, and lend them a helping hand. Veterans Day is just around the corner

so lets not forget the ones that gave us the freedom that we have and what they gave up to give us that freedom. On November 7th the First Lady and myself will be going to the Detroit Veterans Day Parade if any of you are going take a veteran with you and make it a special day for both of you. On November 11th we will be at my home post (300) in Lake City to serve a free meal to veterans. Last year we served 200 veterans and their family's. Don't forget to give that vet a hug or shake their hand and thank them for their service and your freedom. Give them one of our Thank You For Your Service Cards and ask them if they are a member of The American Legion if not give them one of our family pack membership application envelopes. Just ask you may be surprised that a little bit of talking may get a new member. Thank you to all our service men and women past and present for all they have given us. Never forget Freedom is Not Free.

As you know my project this year is Wilwin. I would like all you blue caps thru your squadron to take some time and make a donation of your time or money's to the Wilwin project. There is always something that needs to be done up there. No matter where Wilwin is located the mission is still the same so our veterans can have a quiet place to reconnect with their family or just for themselves.

I just came back from Fall conference. I would like to encourage all you blue caps to go to these conference or school of instruction. there is so much that we can learn and take back to our post. Winter conference is coming up in February I hope to see as many of you as possible. Come see what we do and have a say in what happens remember this is your S.A.L. be proud of what we stand for and what we do.

I look forward to visiting as many post and districts as I can. In my travels I have heard good things already in the works. All the little things we do will make a difference in all our post. I look forward to working with the Legion Family on all their projects.

If any of you would like me to come to your post or a meeting please let me know, I will be more than happy to come if I can.

My family and I would like to wish all of you the Happiest of Holidays and be safe through out this busy season.

For God and Country  
*Commander Fred*

## AMERICAN LEGION CHARLES J FULTON POST #382

### Jon LaCroix

The first location of the St Clair American Legion Charles J Fulton Post #382, was on the second floor of a building located on Riverside Avenue. Application for the original charter was made on October 23, 1943, and the signed charter was received on July 19, 1944. Charter members included our grandparents and other family members and friends of our small community. In 1950, a new building was constructed at 1322 Clinton Avenue. It sported a bar, banquet room and small kitchen. The original members were proud of their new building. During the past 65 years, this American Legion post has been of service to many of our local veterans. It was the venue for some of my family's milestones like my brother Jerry's wedding reception and my sister Shirley Downey's retirement party and many other community events. This building was gathering a host of memories for our community. If this old building could talk, it would have many stories to tell.

Over the years not many updates were made to the building and it slowly began to show it's age. The banquet room and bar became a bit dingy and dark and the tables and chairs were getting old and needed replacing. The very small kitchen needed upgrading. Coolers required repairs, walls needed fixing and paint. The gathering place for our veterans and community began to slip away from it's for-

mer glory. The membership, too, was in decline with only about 50 registered members and eight or so active members, including board members! The board held their meetings in the bar lounge, pulling two tables together. Often they were lucky to fill these two tables on meeting night. Chet Rohn, was bar manager and Tom Oles was treasurer in 2009, and they talked about how they were going to make ends meet. The banquet room was not receiving rental requests due to it's poor condition. The post had only about \$2,000 in the bank and bills had not been paid. It was Chet or Tom that made the comment that the post was in need of some divine help.

Dwynn Delor, a good friend of Chet, had recently been to an auction at a local school where a bank of deep fryers were up for sale. Dwynn bid on them and won the bid with the thought of re-selling them in the future. As Chet tells the story, the solution for the post, walked in the door when Dwynn stopped by for a beer one day. Chet had know Dwynn for several years and had given him his first job at age 16. Chet had known Dwynn's grandfather, Sherwood Lee, one of the original post members. Dwynn's father, Bob Lee was also a veteran. Chet began telling Dwynn about the condition of the Legion build-

## S.A.L. SQUAD #71 GIVE TRIBUTE TO P.O.W./ M.I.A. DAY

Special Tribute was given to the Last Surviving P.O.W. From Delta County Michigan was given by August Mattson S.A. L. Squad #71 From Gladstone.

Veteran groups and community leaders gathered Friday afternoon September 18th for a POW/MIA Recognition Day program at the Delta County Veteran's Memorial in Ludington Park. It included a special recognition of the last surviving, POW. Tom Carmody of Escanaba. Carmody was a prisoner of war in World War II, Captured in Germany and held in a camp in Poland for six months until he was freed by the Russian Liberating army. He was sent to Czechoslovakia until he was found by the American's.

Tom Carmody spoke of his time as a POW during World War II. The 91-year-old Wells man says he credits his survival at a prison in Poland to living in the U.P. Of Michigan.

"I was lucky because I came from this part of the country," Carmody said. "It was about the same temperature and same weather."

Carmody was a prisoner of war for six months. "You had one loaf of bread a day for ten men and you had two bowls of soup," remembered Carmody. "No meat. Just vegetables in the soup. That's all. You couldn't live on something like that."

The Germans took their uniforms and boots and forced them to work on a railroad in wooden shoes. Only 16 men survived. Carmody remembers the day they were freed.

"They took what was left of us. They had a wagon. They tied ropes around those of us that could walk and the other ones they put inside the wagon and started walking us towards Czechoslovakia. That night we moved into this town in Czechoslovakia and they put us in this building to stay. The next morning we woke up and looked around. There were no guards," he said.

Carmody says he was unable to talk about his experiences for a long time and even now it still bothers him.

Attending the program were members of the American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, VFW, Amvets, Marine Corp League, Vietnam Veterans, D.A.V., Purple Heart, Patriot Guard, Elks #354 and Eagles 1088.



Left to Right: Past Commander S.A.L #71 John Pickard, P.O.W. Survivor Tom Carmody.

Continued on Page 8

## Post #382 Continued

ing and that things were not looking good for it's future. Dwynn suggested the Legion have a Friday night fish fry during Lent to raise some money. Chet had lots of questions and Dwynn answered them all. The fish fry idea was presented at the next board meeting and it was agreed to give it a try. Dwynn, along with board members, started working that January to get ready for the first fish fry. Helping to organizing the event was Dwynn's lovely wife, Lori. She liked the idea and had the perfect background as her family had been in the restaurant business and she had worked as a cook and waitress for them. She has been right at Dwynn's side from the start and has been both an inspiration and a sounding board for him.

When Dwynn delivered the bank of fryers he had purchased at the auction to the small 13 x14 foot kitchen, the stove needed to be removed to accommodate them. The workspace was extremely cramped with eight members doing food prep and Dwynn cooking. On March 27, 2009, the American Legion hosted it's first Friday fish fry. The kitchen crew had started a pool as to how many dinners would be sold. The estimates were between 80-90. They were pleasantly surprised when the final total turned out to be 139 dinners served! By the end of Lenten season that year, the total had increased to 200 dinners served weekly for a profit of \$5,000. Dwynn felt they had won the support of the community and suggested they do a Friday fish fry once a month and add a Sunday morning breakfast buffet the

same week-end, as other community organizations were doing. After discussion took place, it was decided to go with Dwynn's idea.

The one drawback to the Sunday buffet was having to move the fryers out and the stove back in to be able to cook the pancakes and sausages. Even though this wasn't ideal, it became the routine for the next six years. The monthly fish fry and breakfast buffet were a big success and the Legion began to add to it's treasury. This allowed the members to begin putting some of the profits, and some elbow grease, into cosmetic changes to the building with fresh paint and a new sign. With the increased activity, membership started to pick up as well. Local veterans started to see that there was a place for them to go to share stories and find out important information about benefits and how to obtain these resources.

By 2011, along with increased membership and volunteers, fish fry dinners had risen to 300 every time this event was offered. This number was greatly surpassed during the last Friday of the 2015 Lenten season when over 700 dinners were served that day! The board then turned it's attention to looking for ways to honor those from the community that had served our country so bravely. About this time, Dwynn proposed to the board that the post apply for a signed charter for the Sons of the American Legion. One of the members then offered to donate money to renovate the bar if the charter was obtained. Dwynn, along with

sixteen others, submitted signatures to apply for the charter. The charter was received on February 18, 2011, and the bar renovation was accomplished.

In 2012, the American Legion Auxiliary was formed. Also during that year the banquet hall was remodeled and the additional space has helped increase rentals to approximately six to eight per month.

2013 brought updated bathrooms and a large storage room to house refrigerators, freezers and cooking supplies.

In 2014, it was time to do something about the tiny kitchen. A 10x22 foot addition was completed in time for the 2015 Lenten fish fry season. The job of moving fryers and stove in and out was over. They now each had their own spots along with two convection ovens and sizable counter work space. Dwynn, wife Lori, Legion and Auxiliary members, and volunteers now enjoy a four star kitchen, beautiful banquet hall and bar, second to none. All of the remodeling, additions and updates were accomplished by members and volunteers with the only cost being the materials. If only the founding members could see what has become of the American Legion Charles J. Fulton Post #382. It is a building to be proud of.

Today's membership has quadrupled which includes the Legion members, Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary. The Legion is also giving back to the community. The Sons of the Legion sponsor quarterly bus trips to Detroit casinos which include a full dinner

served at the Legion upon return. This year it will award two college scholarships to seniors from St. Clair and Marine City High Schools. Next year there will be three scholarship awards. The Legion Auxiliary is using the money generated from poppy sales to assist veterans in need.

While it just started with a beer at the bar, a seed was planted that brought back to life a building that represents the bravery and sacrifice of every man and woman who served our country. Like the movie, "A Field of Dreams"...build it and they will come. Through the efforts of several determined folks, the "re-building" of American Legion Charles J. Fulton Post #382 has happened and the people have come.

## Honor Flight



Ray Provost of Squadron #21 Iron River had the honor of acting as guardian for his father, Joseph Provost- WWII Veteran, on the Honor Flight Sept. 29th. Squadron #21 raises funds for the Honor Flights from their monthly breakfasts.



Ray was also able to present a \$1,500.00 check to Jim Campbell and Mike Thompson who work on the Honor Flights which fly out of Wausau, Wisconsin. They are sponsoring 2 Korean War Veterans for the October flight.

## GIRLS STATE PARTICIPANTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE



The Ladies Auxiliary from Post 67 with Maddison and Eva.



Maddison Gwizdz, Joan Kahustian (HS Counselor at Southgate Anderson) and Eva Gonzalez. The girls go to Lincoln Park High School

## INTERNATIONAL SCOUT RALLY AT WILWIN LODGE





## MIAP OCTOBER UPDATE

Mary Compeau is a young lady that I have written about in the past, who was the State Coordinator for the Missing In America Project for Michigan. Yes, I used the word was. Mary has decided to step down as State Coordinator due to a conflict of ideas of how the Time Schedule should be handled for any Future Unclaimed Remains of Veterans that are moved from the Morgue to Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Mary thought that if she stepped down and let a Veteran become State Coordinator these differences of scheduling ideas may be handled easier.

Steve Fletcher has stepped forward to be our State MIAP Coordinator for Michigan. Steve is a member of American Legion Post #364, which is located in Dearborn. Steve is a MIAP Volunteer for Michigan and has participated in Memorial Services for Forgotten Veterans at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Steve is also on the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council Committee that helps to Locate and Identify the Unclaimed Remains of Veterans, and then Honors them in their Memorial Day Horse Drawn Ceremony, and later transports these Forgotten Warriors to Great Lakes National Cemetery to join their Military Family of brothers and sisters. Let us continue to lend

the same support to Steve Fletcher, as we have to Mary Compeau. Mary said she will still remain active in the Michigan MIAP Project.

Ron Wyatt who is our past National Central Zone Commander, called to inform me that they had located the Unclaimed Remains of a Veteran at a local funeral home. Ron was not sure if they were going to set up a Scheduling Date for this Veteran to be Interned in Fort Custer National Cemetery located in Battle Creek, or have this Veteran be a part of the DAWVC Memorial Day Ceremony in Dearborn that have Honored other Veterans that have been located in various parts of our state. As of this writing I am not sure what choice they have made. I thank each and every one of you who have helped to bring some closure to these Forgotten Veterans who have been sitting on shelves in funeral homes for many years waiting to hear the words, "We Have Not Forgotten You". I wish you continued success with Locating, Identifying, and the Internment of these Honorably Discharged Veterans with the Full Military Honors that they were promised while serving.

For God & Country,

*Greg Price*

## ZONE 1 NEWSLETTER

When you receive this newsletter you will probably be thinking about getting ready for the Holidays. Some Veterans from the V.A. Hospital along with some Veterans who are Homeless will be thinking about enjoying a terrific Thanksgiving Dinner. These Veterans are transported by volunteers to the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner that is hoisted by the American Legion Post #200 located in Taylor. The dinner takes place November 22nd. It is the Sunday before Thanksgiving at Noon (1200 hrs.). If you come down to enjoy the Live Band that will be entertaining, you may wind-up helping to serve dinner for these Hero's.

If you receive this newsletter early enough, you may have time to visit the 1st District and participate in the 2015 Detroit Veterans Day Parade that will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday November 7th. This 10th Annual Veterans Day Parade will travel down E. Jefferson from Chene to Hart Plaza (New Route This Year). You can get more information about the parade by going to [www.detroitveteransdayparade.org](http://www.detroitveteransdayparade.org) or join them for a festival at Hart Plaza from 10

a.m. to 3 p.m.!

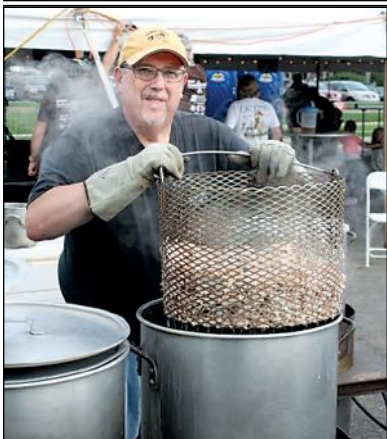
Maybe you will have the opportunity to travel through the 16th District with Department Commander Mike Buda, Department Madame President Sue Verville, and Detachment Commander Fred Ruttkofsky while they are on that Districts Tour. The tour will take place on Saturday November 14th. You will have an opportunity to visit some of the Posts located within the 16th District, and be a part of the camaraderie that the Legion Family Members will be sharing from their communities. The tour will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Edward C. Headman Post #217 (it is the Post located on the Water in Wyandotte).

These are just a few of the events that will go on in the 1st Zone during the start of the Holiday Season. We hope you can come out and enjoy yourself with us. If you cannot make it to these events, please share some of your Holiday Joy with those in your neighborhood who may be living alone and may feel isolated.

For God & Country,

*Greg Price*

Pictured is Past SAL Commander Tom Greenberg working this year's Salmon Boil. The Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #28 of Grand Haven, have worked their Visitors Bureau's "Fall Salmon Festival" for the last 11 years. They prepared and served over 900 dinners to locals and tourists within a 3 hour period. Music was provided by SAL member "Just Joe". This event is a family affair with volunteers from the Legion, SAL and Ladies Auxiliary. Proceeds help support two or more students to "Boys State", two girls to "Girls State" along with contributions to the Grand Rapids Veterans' Home. Profits also help provide canned goods to local food pantries during Thanksgiving and Christmas.



## MEMBERSHIP

### Andre Svacha Detachment Membership Chairman

Our membership in The Sons of The American Legion is an honor to our forefathers; let us not forget why we joined this wonderful organization. We are members of the Sons to help our veterans, support our Posts and communities.

As we begin a new year it is very important that every Squadron send in their \$10 bonding fee and the 2015-16 officers list, this way you will be able to receive your 2016 membership cards. Once you receive your new dues cards, make contact with your members and

get their dues. Do not hold your dues; they need to be sent into Department as soon as possible.

People feel good to belong to an organization that cares about their wellbeing, be compassionate. If your Squadron can afford it, pay their dues. We must try and retain our membership along with bringing in new members for the good of the whole family. Inform your entire membership, not only new members but the entire Squadron about our programs. Have Sons handbooks available along with other information about who we are and what we stand for. Keep up the good work.

## SAL SQUADRON 90 LAKE LINDEN RAISES OVER \$10,000 FOR UP HONOR FLIGHT

SAL Squadron 90 organized and held two benefits to raise funds for the UP Honor Flight. The first benefit raised over \$6000. The event ran all afternoon into the evening and included live music featuring several different bands. There was something for everyone who attended the event to enjoy. There was a continuous video presentation of past UP Honor Flights. A representative from the UP Honor Flight was on hand for questions and information along with brochures and Honor Flight applications. There was a silent auction along with other fund raising activities. Grilled roast pork loin and all the trimmings were just part of the menu which also included items for kids and those with a sweet tooth.

The second benefit, a spaghetti and chicken dinner raised over \$4000. There was a blind auction, live music

and other fund raising activities. UP Honor Flight representatives conducted a presentation.

The community really comes out for these events. It became very apparent that the Honor Flight is a program that really touches the heart of everyone young, old, Veteran and non Veteran. The money raised is enough money to fly twenty WW II and/or Korean War Veterans to Washington DC.

Raising over \$10,000 the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 90 Lake Linden continue to be the largest fund raising contributors to the UP Honor Flight.

The Sons, Post 90 Veterans and Auxiliary all helped make these events a great success. Squadron 90 encourages other SAL Squadrons, Legion Posts and Auxiliaries to consider holding fund raisers for their local Honor Flight programs to honor our Veterans.



Pictured left to right: Gary Kendzierski-Adjutant, James Moyle- Chaplain, Alan Codere-Finance Officer, Doug Kaufman- Sgt at Arms, Mark Englund- Commander, Paul Sutinen-First Vice



## 2015 S.A.L. ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

- 64 REGISTERED (VAVS) REPRESENTATIVES
- MEMBER OF NATIONAL VAVS BOARD
- 340,126 TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDED WITH 18,529 VISITS AND \$1,249,154 IN CASH AND GIFTS
- \$65,623 DONATED TO FISHER HOUSE WITH 5,815 HOURS
- 11,924 HOURS WITH \$62,056 TO THE FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

### Children & Youth

- SINGLE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO THE CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION: \$360,510 WITH 39,278 HOURS OF SERVICE
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS - \$203,997 DONATED WITH 20,728 HOURS OF SERVICE
- CHILDRENS MIRACLE NETWORK - \$70,115 IN DONATIONS WITH 8,475 SERVICE HOURS
- \$620,738 AND 122,398 HOURS IN SUPPORT OF OTHER CHILDREN & YOUTH PROGRAMS, BRINGING THE TOTAL YEARLY DONATIONS TO ALL C & Y PROGRAMS TO \$1,203,088 WITH 202,240 SERVICE HOURS

### 2015 MEMBERSHIP

358,280 MEMBERS IN 6,072 SQUADRONS  
IN 54 DETACHMENTS

### Americanism

- 2,373 BOYS STATE REPRESENTATIVES AT A COST OF \$190,491
- 9,007 COLOR GUARD APPEARANCES AT A COST OF \$70,930
- 140 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAMS SPONSORED AT A COST OF \$185,082
- OTHER TEAMS SPONSORED AT A COST OF \$126,492
- \$75,881 IN SUPPORT OF SCOUTING
- \$7,110 IN DONATIONS AND 2,269 SERVICE HOURS TO THE ORATORICAL PROGRAM INVOLVING 350 CONTESTANTS
- 7,075 HOURS AND \$19,485 TO JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS
- 86,992 FLAGS PRESENTED AT A COST OF \$81,449
- 1,131 FLAG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT A COST OF \$15,735 WITH 7,618 HOURS
- 10,958 FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONIES
- 402,774 FLAGS PLACED AT CEMETERIES & GIVEN AT PARADES AT A COST OF \$81,449
- \$349,646 IN SCHOLARSHIPS WITH 13,500 HOURS FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS
- 392 - 5 STAR / 10 IDEALS PROGRAMS AT A COST OF \$4,396
- VARIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS AT A COST OF \$859,514 AND 669,704 SERVICE HOURS
- \$29,435 IN DONATIONS TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND
- A TOTAL OF \$2,127,994 AND 734,592 HOURS OF SERVICE IN SUPPORT OF AMERICANISM PROGRAMS

Chief Pontiac Squadron 377  
Sons of The American Legion  
Proudly Presents  
**Carvin "Huey" Chapman**  
for the High Office of  
Detachment Commander of Michigan  
for the years 2016-2017

Joined under Grandfather - Ben Chapman  
Squadron Level in Post-Member 25 Years  
Currently Serving Commander for 15th Year  
Co-Bar Chairman for 10 Years  
Finance Officer for 2 Years

Wife Past-President 5 Years in Unit 377  
Secretary - 2 Years  
2nd Vice President - Years  
Chaplain - 1 Year  
Currently 1st Vice President

Both Active on Homeless Veterans

18th District Commander 2 Years  
Jr Vice Commander - 2 Years Detachment -  
Assistant Sergeant at Arms - 2 Years  
Sergeant at Arms - 2 Years  
3rd Zone Commander - Serving 2 Years  
VA & R Representative in Detroit - 2 Years



## 3RD ZONE

This summer was fun for me, as I joined our Detachment Commander Fred and his wife Diane at the Mint Festival parade in St. Johns. And then on to the American Legion Department Convention. I visited the 5th District Sons meeting in Marne and want to thank our fellow Sons for their hospitality. If you have not seen there Musuem you should it is quite a collection of family relics from the wars and all branches of the Service! I am stil making visits to Squadrons throughout the State. Please if you have not sent in your bond and officers list do it now at this point in time there should be no zero squadrons but you will not get your cards until these are sent in! Thank you and remember national commander Kevins theme " Remembering our commitment keeping it everday! or as he puts it R.O.C.K.E.D.

Yours in god and country,

*Carvin Chapman*  
3rd Zone Commander

Birmingham parade honoring our Viet Nam Veterans. Troy/Birmingham Post escorted the banner from Birmingham honoring the Birmingham residents Killed in Action in Vietnam



## NINTH DISTRICT—UP AND RUNNING

**Ruth Gott, District President**

Another year has begun and the Ninth District is up and running. We are working our programs and visitations by me have started as we just had our first District meeting in Lake City. The District project is the same this year as last year, "Freedom Center". It is located in Detroit metropolitan airport. The "Freedom Center", serves our veterans and our active duty service men and women as well as their families. This will be a Legion Family endeavor and we have a good start and hopefully will beat last year's totals. For anyone interested in finding out more about this project go on [www.mifreedomcenter.org](http://www.mifreedomcenter.org), it is operated mostly by volunteers.

Department President Sue Verville attended our District meeting on September 26, in Lake City and explained her project "the Veteran's Court". Many Units had not heard of it so this was most interesting and we learned something new. It is very true it does not matter how long you have been in the Auxiliary you are always learning new things. Having said that, I don't think

any member in any Unit or District should say, I don't need to go to the meeting everything is always the same and I know all about what they ever do. BITE YOUR TONGUE!!!

Many Units are getting ready to start doing fund raising so that they can donate to our programs and get the membership in. Membership is a big issue in our District, we only had one goal Unit last year, Fife Lake, Unit 219. At our District meeting higher expectations were set for the 2016 year. We hope for a goal District and all Units at 100% of goal.

Remember if anyone in our District needs help, please call me. That is my job as your District President to help the Units achieve their goals. All officers of the District are here for you, the members.

The Ninth District extends to all Districts, good luck and I hope you have a successful year and then if this happens we know that Madam President, Sue will be a very happy President. We also know that Michigan has the leadership to accomplish all of our goals by working together.

## NOTES FROM NATIONAL

**Kelly Harrier, Membership Manager,  
American Legion Auxiliary National HQ**

It has come to our attention that some departments are receiving questions from members as to why they have not received a renewal notice. As was discussed at the DLNC in May and at National Convention in August, members with a valid email address listed in ALAMIS received the first renewal notice via email if the national organization had not received their 2016 dues payment by August 7, 2015. Members without a valid email address in ALAMIS whose 2016 dues payment had not been received at National Headquarters by August 7, 2015 received a paper renewal notice via US mail. Out of the nearly 600,000 paper notices that were mailed, only 130 notices (less than 0.03%) were returned due to an insufficient address.

Please remind members that they do not need a renewal notice to pay their dues -- they can pay online or directly to their unit. Should a

member call about not receiving a renewal notice, the department can: 1) suggest she check her junk and/or spam folders for an emailed renewal notice, 2) ask her to "whitelist" (A whitelist is a list of e-mail addresses or domain names from which an e-mail blocking program will allow messages to be received) American Legion Auxiliary with her email provider to ensure delivery of emails from National Headquarters and 3) provide the member her unit dues amount and the "remit to" person in her unit collecting dues. Also, we ask that departments verify that we have the member's correct mailing and email addresses so that she may receive renewal notices in the future.

Please note that ALL members whose 2016 dues have not been processed in ALAMIS by mid-December 2015 (when the list is pulled for the second 2016 renewal notice mailed in January 2016) will receive a second "paper" notice in the mail.

Thank you.

## Access for the "Members Only" National Portal

How to set up a User Account for the "Members Only" portal.

1. In order to set up a user account, you will need your membership ID number which is located on your membership card.
2. On the national home page at [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org), chose the Sign Up tab.
3. You will be asked for your Member Number, first and last name, and what department you are in. Once information is entered into each field, the box around each field will turn green, and a checkmark will mark at the end of the first three fields. Once a department is selected, an X will show at the end of it. Press the Sign Up button after you entered this information. All fields are required.
4. NOTE: If after pressing the Sign Up screen just sits where it is, please double check your information. The information is not matching exactly what is in the database. If further assistance is needed, please contact the Helpdesk at [alamishelp@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:alamishelp@ALAforVeterans.org) or calling 317-569-4536.
5. Next, you will need to create a user Name and Password. To make sure you have entered the password in the way you would like it, you will be asked to type the password a second time. Passwords are case sensitive, so any capitalizations in the password will always have to be typed as such. An email address is also required. Once information is entered into each field, the box around each field will turn green, and a checkmark will mark at the end of each field. When all fields are completed, press the register button.
6. Note: If after pressing the Register button, the screen just sits where it is, there could be a couple of possibilities. There is a chance that the user name that you are trying to use might already be in use by another member. Another possibility is that the passwords do not match. If further assistance is needed please contact the Helpdesk at [alamis@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:alamis@ALAforVeterans.org) or calling 317-569-4536.



Photo on the Left:  
SAL Commander  
Fred Ruttkofsky, Department President  
Sue Virville, Ruth  
Gott PDP, and Gary  
Walter 9th Dist.  
Commander at the  
9th District meeting

Photo on the Right:  
9th District meeting  
in Lake City





## 2015 Fall Conference Lansing, Michigan



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**Girls STATE**

**VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP AND PREFERENCE FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Polo Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of check \_\_\_\_\_

I cannot attend the 2016 Girls State Session

I wish to volunteer for the 2016 Girls State Session.

**I am available for:**

Entire session - June 18 through June 25

**I am only available on the following days. Please check all that apply.**

June 18 - packets, inventory, set up etc.

June 19 - registration day

June 20- full day of meetings for the citizens, lots of copying for us!

June 21 - Convention day

June 22 - Past Department President's Day! City pictures, voting, and election results!

June 23- Capitol Day (we will not be walking this year)

June 24 - Talent Show

June 25 - Closing Awards Ceremony

**If possible, I would like to share my room with:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I plan on bringing an air conditioner, and agree to the \$75 installation fee:**  Yes  No

**I would be interested in working on: (Check all that apply.)**

Typing/Computer Will you be bringing your own computer?  Yes  No

Copy Room  Sales  Banking  Shopping

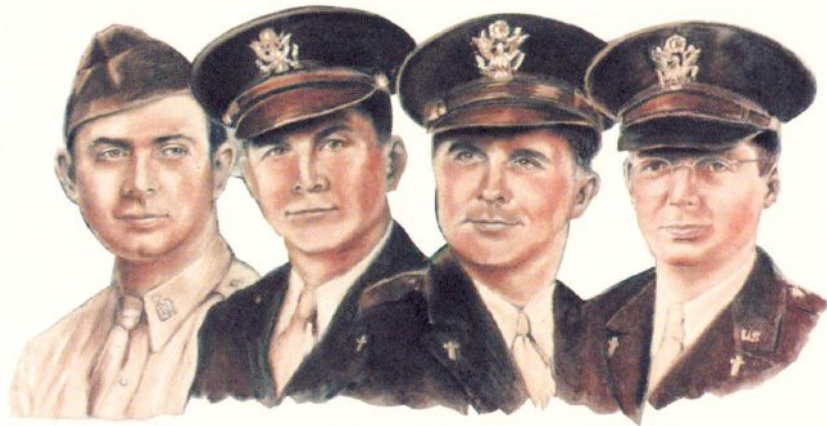
Nurse Relief  Office relief  Work with Counselors

Office Staff (relief)

Sgt. at Arms for daily flag Ceremonies

Sgt. at Arms and 2 Flag Bearers needed for opening ceremony (white dress required)

NOTE: Every attempt will be made to assign staff members to the duties they feel most comfortable with. MSU requires an accurate count of the staff members in advance. **It is very important that you return this form by May 15, 2016 to Rysta Brown, 3885 Forest Rd., Oscoda MI 48750.**



The Southeastern Michigan Four Chaplains Association invites all Legionnaires, Auxiliary Members, Sons of The American Legion, Legion Riders and their guest to join us in celebrating the memory of the heroic acts of the Four Chaplains that lost their lives while selflessly serving others when the USAT Dorchester was sank on February 3, 1943.

The event will take place on January 31, 2016 at Post 16 Lapeer, Michigan at 2:03 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be provided after the event and time for fellowship. Please join us.



## YOU ARE INVITED

# FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE

## 2016

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC & FREE OF CHARGE



**THIS YEAR'S THEME**  
"A Veteran's Voice"

### WHEN

**Saturday, January 30, 2016**  
**12 pm - 2 pm**

Refreshments served following end of service

### WHERE

**Loosemore Auditorium**  
**Richard M. DeVos Center**  
**401 Fulton Street West**  
**Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

### FOR MORE INFO

Contact Harriet Sturim at 616-540-7675

### HOSTED BY

**American Legion Post 459 and friends**

LOCATION



QR CODE



## Bowling

Greetings and Salutations Everyone:

Happy holidays to one and all! Christmas has come early as the 80th bowling tournament will take place! The post and bowling establishment for the 2016 bowling Tournament will be a return to Matt Urban post 40 in Monroe. (Commander is Jim Thornton) The bowling establishment shall be the Monroe Sports Center which is managed by Shane Held. Information packets for the 80th tournament will be mailed in late December to the team Captains of record from the 79th tournament. Packets shall not be sent out to the individual posts statewide as in the past. However, anyone wishing to obtain a packet may contact us by calling 734-422-8670 (please speak slowly) or by email [tomabowl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tomabowl@sbcglobal.net) and leave your mailing address. I am not able to send the packets over the Internet. Info packets contain a Entry form, rules, post and bowling establishment numbers and the relaxed el-

igibility requirements.

The dates and times are; the week-ends of April 16th and 23rd 2016. Saturday squad times for Doubles & Singles Event 9:AM and 1:PM. Doubles are rolled first followed by Singles. We do not switch lanes. Furthermore, the lanes are not reoiled between the two squads, due to time constraints. The Team event is bowled on Sunday at noon. Remember, you do not have to bowl in all three events, you may bowl in any Combination! You may also bowl in Doubles & Team event again as long as you have a different partner and Team. Posts having 3 or more team entries may make reservations, based on availability, however, reservation entry fees are do sooner. It has been a honor serving you for the past 20 years. Again we wish you the best of the Holiday Season. Looking forward to seeing you in April.

As Always Yours in Comradship;  
*Don, Ellen, Elsie and Scotty* (Director)

# HOCKEY NIGHT

**SAT NOV 21**

MICHIGAN WARRIORS VS. RED WINGS ALUMNI



**JOHN LINDELL**  
**ICE ARENA**

1403 LEXINGTON BLVD.  
ROYAL OAK, MI 48073

**DOORS OPEN 5:15PM**

TEAMS TAKE THE ICE AT 5:50PM

**50/50 RAFFLE**

**SILENT AUCTION**

ITEMS INCLUDING HOCKEY STICK, HOCKEY GLOVES,  
PUCKS AUTOGRAPHED BY THE RED WINGS

**WARRIORS MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE**

**TICKETS ON SALE AT**  
[WWW.MICHIGANWARRIORS.EVENTBRITE.COM](http://WWW.MICHIGANWARRIORS.EVENTBRITE.COM)

# Veteran Service

## Detroit to Host National Veterans Golden Age Games in 2016

(Detroit, Mich.) Detroit VA leadership, along with the Detroit Sports Commission announced today that the city will play host to what's known as the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States, the Department of Veterans Affairs National Veterans Golden Age Games.

On August 12th in Omaha, Nebraska, the Detroit VA team was 'handed the torch' from the Omaha VA team, a symbol of the awarding of the games to the city.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games is the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

The games, to be held July 10 - 14, 2016, are open to Veterans, 55 and older, who receive health care through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Events include such things as air rifle, bowling, cycling, swimming, golf, racquetball and much more.

"This is fantastic for both our city and our medical center," said Dr. Pamela Reeves, Director of the Detroit

VA. "We expect about 1,200 Vets to compete in various locations around the city. And, it gives all those in the area who have a deep appreciation and admiration for our Vets, a chance to volunteer for this incredible event."

For more information on sponsorships and volunteering, contact the NVGAG Local Coordinator, Bill Browning, 313-576-3332 or William.browning@va.gov. You can learn more about the games here: <http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/gag/>.

Since 1939, the Detroit VA Healthcare System has been improving the health of the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. In 1996, the medical center moved from Allen Park, Michigan to the current location on John R. in Detroit. One of the newer VA facilities in the country, we consider it our privilege to serve the health care needs of our Veterans. Services are available to more than 330,000 Veterans living in Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, and St. Clair counties. This population represents approximately forty-four percent of the Veteran population in the lower peninsula of Michigan. For more information, visit <http://www.detroit.va.gov>.

## The Michigan American Legion Foundation 501(c)3 APPROVED!!

For the past 2 years the Department of Michigan has been working on and applying to create a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation that helps to support the 4 Pillars of The American Legion, Department of Michigan. The time has come and we have received our letter from the IRS approving the status of the Michigan American Legion Foundation.

What does this do for The American Legion? The foundation now allows individuals and companies to donate money and receive a tax deduction. Although they can under the Departments 501(c)3 status many would not because of the added paperwork involved.

What will the foundation sup-

port? The foundation is designed to support all the programs of the department of Michigan. We are in the process of finalizing all of the details of line items and programs of the foundation. Any money donated to the foundation for a specific reason must be used for that specific reason.

Thank you for everyone's support and patience during the process. We also want to thank the staff at Senator Gary Peters' office for the assistance they provided in this matter.

If you have any questions about the foundation you can email Mark at [mark@michiganlegion.org](mailto:mark@michiganlegion.org) or call at 517-371-4720 ext 16.

## William W. Hilgris for Department Sgt -At-Arms



American Legion Post 158 and The 6th District Association proudly endorse William W. Hilgris for Department of Michigan Sgt-At-Arms for 2016-2017.

Bill earned his eligibility in The

American Legion through his service in the U.S. Army from 1965-1967. He has been a member of The American Legion Post 158 for 41 years; has served as Sgt-at-Arms at the Post, District and Zone levels. He has a member of other veteran organizations in his area and his county.

In 2008 Legionnaire Hilgris was named Legionnaire of the year for Post 158.

He has been married to his wife Sue for 43 years.

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganVAR)



Gary Easterling  
Director



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# 2016 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET RESERVATION FORM



Saturday, February 13, 2016

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 8, 2016**  
**No Refunds after 2/8/2016**



## 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.

Visit [www.ccoa.net](http://www.ccoa.net) or call (989) 390-4208 for available cottages and more information.



GENESEE COUNTY CONVENTION CORPORATION  
IS PROUD TO PRESENT  
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
WINTER MEETING FEBRUARY 12-14, 2016



- 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 of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ 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 21, 2016**

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

Note: The Code # AML will allow the hotel to access the room rate of \$90.00 + 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

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Save up to \$70 with free activation and free shipping

**1-855-495-4356**

[www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services](http://www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services)



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**PHILIPS**  
**Lifeline**

## 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."**

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

**Wanted**  
· Old Fishing Tackle  
· Small Outboard Motors (1-5 H.P.)  
· Successful Dear Hunter Licenses  
· Bag Tags  
· Hunting Badges  
Please Call Bill Wazelle at  
1-734-728-7313

## Around the State...



Tom and Theada Howard presented checks for the Wilwin Lodge and presented the Department with the Detachments plaque for their contribution to the National Legacy Run.



Harriet Sturim American Legion Post 459 Auxiliary Chaplain and Wanda Torres Department Public Relations Chairperson promoting The American Legion Programs to a Grand Rapids Kiwanis Club.



State Rep. Aric Nesbitt, R-Lawton (sixth from right) and Jason Allen, senior policy advisor for the MVA (fifth from right), are joined by officers and members of Paw Paw American Legion Post 68 during a recent veterans roundtable conducted at Post 68. More than 40 veterans attended the Oct. 12 event, during which they received an update on legislation and policy regarding veteran's affairs. They also were able to ask questions regarding veteran's benefits and resources.

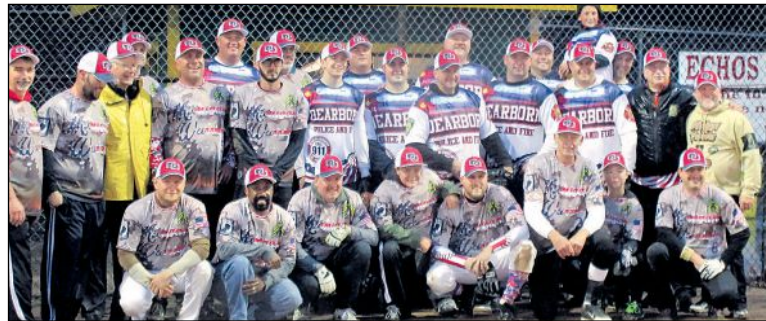


Gov Snyder signed HB 4060 into law requiring State Universities to assess Joint Military Transcripts for student veterans. Rep. Holly Hughes (Left of Gov Snyder) sponsored the bill.

Vietnam Veterans Thank You at Capital



Members of American Legion Post 364 (Left to Right) Walter Shinkonis, Frank Pelaccio, John Young, Pete Borella, Robert Dixon. They were representing the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council Ritual Team at King Boring Field.



The Reconnect Committee and other veterans participated in a softball game between the Dearborn area Police and Firefighters against Michigan Warriors (veterans) to raise money for the Michigan American Legion Returning and Wounded Warrior Fund. State Commander Mike Buda was in attendance. (2 pictures above)



On Friday, October 9th, the Chesaning Union High School, in conjunction with American Legion Post 212, held the 3rd Annual Chesaning Military Classic. This high school football game is held every year to raise funds for the Chesaning Area Veterans Relief Fund. Since this game first started in 2013, the event has raised over \$30,000 and has assisted area veterans and their families. The event has grown since 2013 and now includes many fundraisers, along with a variety of varsity athletic games that honor our veterans.