



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

SPECIAL EDITION

2016 College Scholarships & Student Programs

The American Legion supports the youth of Michigan

The American Legion Department of Michigan provides programs to high school students in a broad range of areas. Our American Legion Baseball league, Boys State, Eagle Scout of the Year, Michigan State Police Student Trooper, and Oratorical contest gives our students the opportunities to experience teamwork, government leadership, oral communication, and police career experience.

Get your Post involved

Sponsor a young man and young lady to Boys State and Girls State, as well as, sponsoring one to Student Trooper. These are great experiences for the young people. It helps them see a different world, learn by doing, and make new friends.

Do you know high school students, family, or friends who have students needing money for college?

Every year The American Legion Department of Michigan provides opportunities to Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, war-time Veterans, and their descendents to win scholarship money. We have several ranges of scholarships, from \$500 for our marksman award in the Michigan State Police Student Trooper program, to \$20,000 from the Samsung Scholarship award through the Boys/Girls Nation program. In today's economic climate, help with the rising cost of education is welcome.

Does your Post participate in any of the College Scholarship programs?

These programs offer a great opportunity to show the community that

we support them. As a Legionnaire do you know a high school student who would benefit from these programs? Take some brochures, applications, and information to your area schools. Even though every school in Michigan will receive a booklet with our program and scholarship information, personal contact is always superior.

Scholarships

- Boys/Girls State - participants who are descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$1000 and/or a \$20,000 scholarship
- Guy Wilson Scholarship – descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship - descendents of war-time veterans could win a \$500 scholarship
- Oratorical Contest – Students compete for \$800-\$1500 on the Department (State) level and up to \$18,000 if they proceed to the National competition.
- Michigan State Police Student Trooper – Students could win 1 - \$1000 or 1 of 3 \$500 awards
- Eagle Scout of the Year – An Eagle Scout associated with The American Legion could win a \$1,000 scholarship from the Dept. of Michigan and a \$10,000 National scholarship
- The American Legion Baseball Scholarship – Members of Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win one of several national awards.
- The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship - Members of Michigan Legion sponsored baseball teams have the opportunity to win a \$500 scholarship.

Learn more at www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships

War-Time Service Dates

US Army, Navy Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine Service from December 7, 1941 - August 15, 1945

Persian Gulf - August 2, 1990 - Cessation of hostilities, as determined by US Government

PanamaDecember 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990

Grenada/Lebanon .. August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984

Vietnam War February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975

Korean War June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955

World War II December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946

World War IApril 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918

No Return Postage Requested

OCTOBER 2015

**Everyone says “we need more young people to get involved”
The American Legion teaches them how.**

Boys State Program

Learning through doing.....

Helping to Build the Leaders of Tomorrow Every year The American Legion Boys State program and The American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program teach young men and young women in their junior year of high school the function of government, a glimpse of life in a college dorm setting, leadership, management and communication skills. In the course of 7 days they will also develop friendships that will last a lifetime.



“I am so grateful to you for this chance of a lifetime. I did have the

time of my life! Boys State is going to go down as the best activity I’ve done in high school. It really sparked my interest in how the government works – at all levels. I can’t wait to start participating in voting and politics.” –Alec F. class of 2010

**2016 Boys State is at Northwood University in Midland Michigan
June 19 - 25, 2016**

What is Boys State?

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by the American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. Our motto is “Learn by Doing”. The Boys State educational staff’s goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves, and to run their own state.

Boys State is...LEARNING.

Delegates have the opportunity to learn more about their city, county, and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting. Boys Staters meet with elected and appointed officials to learn more about the duties and responsibilities of a variety of positions in government from people on the “inside.” Additionally, in Boys State, each citizen has the opportunity to learn for himself that his government is just what he makes it.

Boys State is...POLITICS.

The first half of your Boys State experience will expose you to the world of politics. You will nominate candidates for partisan and non-partisan offices on the city, county, and state level. You will also, no doubt, be exposed to the “seamy” side of politics...the wheeling and dealing, the promises that cannot be kept, the vote trading, and the cajoling, to give a candidate or a party that “extra advantage.”

“This program changed my life. It has allowed me to establish lifelong friendships, learn from some of the best counselors, and allowed me to meet some very honorable American Legion members.” –Ian M. class of 2010

Boys State is...GOVERNMENT.

When the dust has settled from the conventions, campaigns, and elections, Boys State needs to be governed for four days by its elected and appointed officials. Boys Staters will find themselves performing exactly the same functions as real office holders in the everyday world. Education and University Boards must make policies for their areas of responsibility. City councils, county commissions, and the state legislature must make ordinances and laws for their constituencies. Executive departments and other administrators must see that laws and policies are properly interpreted.

Boys State is...INVOLVEMENT.

Come to Boys State determined to become as involved as possible in the many activities that are available to you in this mythical 51st state. The more active and involved you are, the more you will benefit from the program.

Boys State builds strong leaders of the future

- Rush Limbaugh Jr. (radio personality)
- Tom Brokaw (TV news anchor)
- Bill Clinton (Former U.S. President)
- Michael Jordan
- Dale Kildee (U.S. Rep, MI)
- Mark L. Wahlberg (Actor)

Boys State is...FRIENDSHIP.

You may arrive at Boys State knowing no one else. However, one of the fringe benefits of Boys State is how easy it is to get to know people, many of whom may remain your friend for the rest of your life.

Contact Jerry Kelley at (734) 434-8272 / jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net
or Headquarters at (517) 371-4720 ext.23 / programs@michiganlegion.org

Participants in Boys State, who are direct descendents of a wartime era veteran have the opportunity to win a \$1000 scholarship and up to a \$20,000 scholarship from Samsung

www.michiganboysstate.org

Frequently Asked Questions

What if someone cannot afford to send a young person to Boys/Girls State?

- Check with your Post, Posts provide sponsorship money for this program, but sometimes have a hard time finding an interested person. Kiwanis Club’s and Rotary Club’s have sponsored kids as well. Be sure to ask them. A local business is also an excellent source.

Our Post has set aside money, but we are having trouble finding a young person to attend Boys/Girls State, will department help us find one?

- Yes the teachers on our educational staff have a network of educators throughout the state and can assist in finding someone who is interested.

What is the requirement for the young man or young lady?

- They must be a Junior (11th Grade) in High School or the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited home-school program, must be 15+ years old by June 4th, 2016 and have an interest in government.

Application is due May 26, 2016





MILEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No.3

NATIONAL INCREASES PER CAPITA DUES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2016!



Brett Holt, Department Membership Director

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU & YOUR POST?

The last time that the National organization of The American Legion raised dues was seven years ago. During that

same period of time the membership in our organization has shrunk from 2.6 million members to 2.2 million members. The reduction in membership has created a loss of revenue for the organization. Factor in inflation and the reduction further increases. Meanwhile, the cost of staffing and programs is rising. All of this means that a dues increase was necessary in order to maintain our programs.

What is keeping a presence in Washington D.C. where Veterans benefits are threatened on a regular basis worth to you? Do we need to keep an eye on the Veterans Administration while cooperating with them to continue to improve the system and hold accountable those that are not doing their jobs properly? Should we keep up Children and Youth programs that expose our children to the Constitution through the Oratorical program

and teaching them how American government operates through Boys State? How about our Veterans Affairs Service Officer program which is vital in assisting veterans in filing claims with the V.A.? In Michigan our Reconnect program can assist a veteran in need with minimal paperwork as a quickly as any program in the state. What is all of that worth to you? Is it worth 42 cents a month? That is exactly what the National dues increase amounts too, 42 cents per month.

WHAT YOU AS A MEMBER NEED TO KNOW

Your post may need increase their dues probably effective January 1, 2016. I would highly recommend that that you pay your dues by December 31, 2015 in order to avoid a dues increase this year.

WHAT POST LEADERSHIP NEEDS TO KNOW

Post leaders will need to forward to Department \$34.50 starting January 14, 2016 per Resolution 11-F-15 which passed at the Department of Michigan Fall Conference, 2015. Posts need to look at their current dues and decide if a dues increase is needed. Don't forget to factor in you District dues in addition to the \$34.50 when making this decision. There is a strong probability that Department will request up to a \$5.00 dues increase

at the Department Convention, June 2016 where delegates will vote on this increase. If a dues increase is needed Post Leadership needs to look at the Post Bylaws to determine if your post dues amount is stated in the bylaws. If they are you will need to make a bylaw change in order to increase your dues. If it is not a motion to raise the dues at a meeting is all that is needed to raise dues. **Post Commanders and Adjutants watch for information being mailed to you from department concerning how to notify national and department of a dues increase using the Special Post Data Report that must be into department by December 4, 2015 in order to have national change the dues notification that go out as well as your online renewals starting in January.** Make sure your members are made aware of the increase and advise them that paying their dues by December 31, 2015 will allow them to pay at the current rate but waiting until January 1, 2016 will cause them to have to pay at the new higher rate.

Again, watch for information coming from department. Also watch the department website www.michiganlegion.org for information.

NOTE: You may receive the same information multiple times. You only need to submit the form once. Department is simply trying to make sure that all post receive this information as it is critical to your post and members well being.

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER

DALE BARNETT – FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF GEORGIA



“Duty, honor, country – these three words have great meaning to my life, and I hope this year will have great meaning to you,” Barnett told Legionnaires on Sept. 3 at the 97th National Convention in Baltimore. He then broke down what each word means to him.

Duty. “The first lesson of basic training was to

know your job and do your job to the best you could,” Barnett said. “Your life depended upon it, and the life of your buddies. In The American Legion, people depend on us each and every day to do the right thing.

To get them to appointments. To mentor the youth. To help families in need.”

Honor. “It was an honor to wear the military uniform, and I’m sure many of you still have your uniforms and you’re proud to share those stories,” he said. “But I’m also proud to wear the uniform of The American Legion. It’s an honor to be in this organization and to serve alongside you. I guarantee you your communities respect what you do, and they understand what you do each and every day. That makes their communities a better place.”

Country. “Our country needs us,” he said. “It’s the greatest country on earth. I’m so proud to be an American, but I’m so proud to be standing before you today to say I’m part of the greatest organization that, since 1919, has been fighting for the principles that have made this country great. We will continue to fight for those principles. Our country needs us, and we must step forward now.”

“So this year, when you see those words, I want to challenge you,” Barnett added. “When you see them with your eyes, I want you to live it in your heart, and I want you to execute it with your body and soul.”



**10th Annual
Detroit Veterans Day Parade
Saturday, November 7th**

www.detroitveteransdayparade.org

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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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! Wow, October is already upon us. I really like October. I and many of my Family and Friends have birthdays to celebrate. And of course, Halloween is always exciting and fun.

To me, October really seems to mark a new season. There is often a nip in the morning air but not yet the cold of winter. The colors of the Michigan trees at this time are beautiful reds, oranges and yellows. It's a great time for a country drive or a trip to the cider mill. While the First Day of Fall is actually September 23rd and the Harvest Moon on the 27th, many celebrate the gathering of the harvest in October when they can enjoy the fruits of their labors. A good example in Southeast Michigan is the New Boston Applefest on October 3rd and 4th. They have parades, contests, parties and yes, a lot of good food like apple pies.

“A New Season”

The Bible talks a lot about the harvest, its customs and commitments such as in Exodus Chapter 23. The first fruits and ingathering at the end of the season were two of three commanded festivals. The point is not only do you store up your harvest and prepare for the winter months, you should also contribute to the storehouse of God and to the needy. This is a time when you share your blessings, a new season of giving. This is important for us today as we look forward to the Holy Days and as we begin to make our plans. There are many good causes that could use a little support.

I like to look at the changing seasons as bringing new events and opportunities. There is a quote by Howard Graham Buffett that says, “Each of us has about 40 chances to accomplish our goals in life. I learned this first through agriculture, because all farmers can expect to have about 40 growing seasons, giving them just 40 chances to improve on every harvest.” Of course,

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

I like to like think we have more than that, but point I like is the opportunity to improve.

One day in a department meeting at work my Vice President was talking about improving performance. He stopped and called me out asking what I was thinking about or if I was just daydreaming. I replied that “what he was saying was interesting and made me think that we have a lot of good people that work hard and do a good job. But, every day there is always something that we could do a little better or a process that we could improve. And, it needs to start with me, and I need to encourage my staff to think the same way.” He smiled and said, let's move on to the next subject. The thing is this, let's look at ourselves and the opportunities that we have been given. To quote a famous song, “seasons change and so can I”. And, let's look around our Post's and think, we have another day, a new season, let's make things better.

God Bless You All.

2015 Boys State Report

Jerry Kelley, Boys State Chairman

Boys State 2015 was a very successful week for the young men that attended and for the Legionnaires and SAL members that were there. Northwood University was again an outstanding host and added to the experiences of the week.

The Boys State Band played for the opening ceremony at a Midland Berryhill Post American Legion Baseball game with all of the Boys State attendees in attendance. Elections for all officials from city government to state government were held. Following the election the Honorable Judge Sean Cox of the Third U.S. District Court presided over the inauguration ceremony of all officials. Then it was on to all governments functioning with each level of government trying to resolve issues that each level had, like lack of money for police or fire, roads needing repaired, social issues, building new jails, and issues identified by the citizens themselves.

By the end of the week most of the issues had been resolved or tabled and the young men were ready for the closing ceremony and awards on Saturday. Each of the young men left with pride in their accomplishments and the start of lifelong friendships.

ing ceremony and awards on Saturday. Each of the young men left with pride in their accomplishments and the start of lifelong friendships.

It was also a great week for the Legionnaires and SAL that were there, as they worked with each level of government and developed relationships and mentored the young men.

As the plans for the 2016 Boys State Program are firmed up, the Committee is asking that each American Legion Post and SAL Squadron assign a Boys State Chair who will help your Post/Squadron raise money to sponsor a young man. The Boys State Committee is ready, willing and able to help your Post/Squadron.

We are also asking the Legionnaires and SAL members who would like to come to Boys State June 18 to 25, and help with the program to email activity@michiganlegion.org . Questions, concerns and need more information contact either Jerry Kelley jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net or activity@michiganlegion.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.....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



AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2015 - 2016 Department President, Sue Verville

HAVE YOU SET YOUR GOALS FOR THIS YEAR?



The only way we will be successful this coming year is if we work hard together to accomplish the goals we have set by our Unit, our District and our Department. Remember not to set your goals so high that your Unit or District cannot reach them.

One of Departments goals this year was that everyone was able to learn something about our programs and ask questions at Fall Conference. We hope that we were successful at this and that those who attended Fall Conference took back a lot of useful information to their Units and Districts. We are also working on communications between officers, chairman and members this year. We believe that if we really want to grow and become stronger, we need to develop leaders from within our organization and improve our ways of communications with our Juniors, our Senior members and our future members. We need to see that they maintain interest in our programs. We need to mentor our members and help them to become our future leaders. We are not a one person organization. We need all our members to help with our programs, our Veterans, their families and our local communities. One person cannot do everything and should not be doing every-

thing. We need to help our members by showing them how we can and need to grow now, or we will not be strong enough to keep our organization growing.

The other goal was that everyone who went to National Convention had a good time and a better understanding of what we need to do to keep our organization "Branching out as the Legion Family." I know I had a great time at the Michigan Party and I hope those who attended did also.

Here are some ways that we can reach our goals. As the Legion Family we need to be friendly and respectful to our members. We all have opinions on certain ways of working our programs. So remember to be opened minded when someone has a new idea about a program. There is not always a right way or a wrong way of doing things. We are all equal and willing to help each other whenever we are needed. Our members are willing to ask for help even if that person is not well liked by others but will do the job very well. We need to be sincere and dependable when working our programs. Find a program that your member likes and enjoys doing. If they do not like a certain program do not have them work on it. Do not overwhelm them and have them doing too many projects or programs at one time. Our members are loyal to our Auxiliary, and we want to create a good name for our organization in our local communities. We are open to different ideas

and beliefs that will help make the programs better. Some members have a better way of explaining our programs so people can understand them better and they can accomplish more. As a chairman, do you explain why you are doing something and then let the committee members decide how to do it? Are you willing to laugh with your members, not at them? Try planning activities that you are having and have some fun doing them. So take the time to find the answers to these questions and help your Unit or District become successful and reach their goals this year.

Just like we are constantly hearing the phrase "Our Juniors are Our Future!" But are we really and truly hearing it? Without setting goals and having better communications we will not retain our junior members when they become senior members. If they do not understand our mission and how our programs fit into that mission, how can we be successful? We need to show all our members the bigger picture of how and where our future and programs fit into that picture. The only way we can be successful is if we as Auxiliary members are willing to work hard together to accomplish the goals we have set for our Units, our Districts and Department. So let's help reach our goals by staying focused on what we can do to help our Veterans, their families, our military, our children and our communities.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

What is #GivingTuesday?



The American Legion Auxiliary has been dedicated to the act of giving back to our veterans, whether through service, donations or awareness, since its founding nearly 100 years ago. This year, you have the opportunity to continue to make a significant impact by joining in on a philanthropic movement that has been spreading worldwide.

It's called #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back that occurs after the two biggest shopping days in the country.

What is #GivingTuesday?--#GivingTuesday celebrates the act of giving! On the Tuesday following Black Friday (the day after Thanksgiving, which ushers in the holiday shopping season), and Cyber Monday (the Monday after Thanksgiving when online holiday shopping spikes), Giving Tuesday focuses our attention on giving to charitable causes in addition to other people during the gift-giving season.

On December 1, 2015, the American Legion Auxiliary community will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give. It is the opportunity to join more than 10,000 partners around the world in encouraging giving on #GivingTuesday. Just as the retail world has benefitted from coordinating national shopping days across many brands and platforms, #GivingTuesday does the same for organizations dedicated to serving our communities through

philanthropy.

Why should I give on #GivingTuesday?

- Your donation celebrates and encourages support for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation.
- A dedicated day of giving has tremendous power to positively impact the lives of veterans and military families.
- You can be part of a national movement that not only raises funds but increases awareness about the impact giving can make.
- Giving to the ALAF online is an easy way to support what matters to you from the comfort of your own home.
- You can use the growing popularity of #GivingTuesday to remind family, friends and neighbors of the ALA mission and how generosity can change the lives of others.
- Grassroots support is the heart and soul of the American Legion Auxiliary.

What does my gift on #GivingTuesday do for veterans?

--Your #GivingTuesday gift directly impacts the lives of veterans and military families through two funds established by the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation -- the Veteran Projects Fund and the Mission Endowment Fund. The Veteran Projects Fund, which supports ALA projects that address the emergent needs of veterans, has been used to renovate a veterans homeless shelter, and to purchase computer stations and laptops for veterans facilities. The Mission Endowment Fund uses the interest on donations paid into the fund to support ALA programs, ensuring

that future generations may benefit from Auxiliary programs that support veterans and their families. Your donation today helps ensure we're here to help veterans tomorrow!

How can I get involved?--Peer-to-peer requests are extremely powerful. Here are some ways to get fellow members involved:

- Spread the word at your local unit or post during meetings, fundraisers and family events.
- Visit our #GivingTuesday page on the Foundation website and print and pass out #GivingTuesday cards to everyone you meet! www.alafoundation.org/givingtuesday



American Legion Auxiliary Michigan Delegation at the National Convention in Baltimore, Maryland.

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

COMPASSION



Compassion is the response to the suffering of others that motivates a desire to help. Compassion motivates people to go out of their way to help physical, spiritual, or emotional hurts or pains of another. Compassion is often, though not inevitably, the key component in what manifests our social context. Ranked a great virtue in numerous philosophies, compassion is considered in almost all the major religious traditions as among the greatest of virtues. Wikipedia

We believe that a compassionate world is a peaceful world. We believe that a compassionate world is possible when every man, woman and child treats others as they wish to be treated—with dignity, equity and respect. We believe that all human beings are born with the capacity

for compassion, and that it must be cultivated for human beings to survive and thrive.

I see compassion and God's work in everything we do in our great organization the American Legion Auxiliary. We are especially compassionate to our veterans. Look at what we do for them. We visit them, we have BINGO's for them, we provide a carnival for them, we do our Gift Shops for them and much, much more. At the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, there is a program "No Vet Dies Alone". There are many Auxiliary (and Post members) members who stay with these veterans so they do not die alone. How much more compassionate could anybody be?

For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, the afflicted also, and him who has no helper. He will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy he will save. (Psalms 72:12-13)

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

Barbara Parks, Representative Battle Creek VAMC

Thanks to our volunteer units in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Districts for stepping up to host monthly parties and bingos at the Battle Creek V.A., without you these parties would not be held and our veterans would not be remembered with a "special snack" and our monthly bingo parties. The schedule sent out to all of the units is almost filled so if your unit wishes to host one of these scheduled parties or bingos please contact Carol Parks 269-463-6832 so she can get you scheduled for the party or bingo your unit wishes to do. Volunteers are also needed at other times for the Battle Creek V.A. as well as the the new satellite office that just opened at the Wyoming VA Health Care Center. If you are interested in volunteering at one of these facilities you can contact me at 269-684-3411 and I will be glad to help you connect for the program you are interested in.

Fall is on its way at this writing and the Patient Carnival at Battle Creek will be held October 8th, it will be hosted by the Colon Unit who will be serving lunch to all the patients. Anyone who wants to visit and see how the carnival is such a success for all of the veterans are welcome, contact me for further information. X-Mas Gift Shop at Battle Creek is coming fast and will be held on December 2nd and 3rd at the Auditorium Building 6 on the campus of the

V.A. Information will be coming out from Department after Fall Conference. Many volunteers are needed for this great program so plan on attending and volunteering. Also, be sure to get your gifts delivered on time or your donations into Department so gifts can be purchased. When you send gifts to Battle Creek be sure to put on the box: ALA GIFT SHOP ATTN: BARB PARKS so your gifts get to the right place.

The improvements at Battle Creek on the Golf Course are underway and the Miniature Golf Course improvements are almost complete. These facilities are on the left as you enter the Battle Creek V.A. Medical Center grounds so, if you visit Battle Creek be sure to check out this unique part of the facility. This Golf Course is where the yearly Golf outing for semi pros is held and the catty's are the veterans from the Medical Center, lunch is furnished by the ALA Department of MI.

Don't forget the Father's Day Program, GENERAL Father's Day cards are distributed to all of the male veterans and Thinking of You cards for the lady veterans, each card comes with a \$5.00 canteen book. Donations for the Father's Day Program are always needed and all donations for any of the programs at the Battle Creek V.A. should be sent to Department so you get credit for the donation, don't forget monies for this program can come out of your Poppy Funds. Be sure to earmark where you want your donation to go.

Service to Veterans

Sharon Therrien, Service to Veterans Director

October is here. Summer hiatus ended abruptly, the schools are back in session, and we are pushed and dragged into the Holiday Season. Now is a perfect time to do a little strategic planning to avoid being overwhelmed, which usually results in not much getting done.

First, this is the halfway point for the 2015-2016 Reporting Season. It's a good time to review your calendars and make a list of all Veteran activities you participated in and the approximate monies spent doing so. I know. Do it in a group at the donut shop—its much less painful. These hours will have to be handed in (about the middle of March) to your Unit President before the annual paperwork can be done.

Second, again as a group, decide what you want to do over the winter and through the Holidays. Often

it's best to stick to a few well done activities rather than million attempted ideas.

Third and final. For most of us, sending packages overseas has become difficult because of the lack of obtainable addresses and the cost of the postage. Instead, you might want to concentrate on going over your list of Post Members and making Fan-out Sheets of your Shut-its and Mobility Challenged Veterans, Seniors, and sick. You can coordinate rides to Post functions, light groceries runs, home Holiday visits and light decorating, home safety (I call them my light bulb and fire alarm battery runs). Gift boxes to Veterans and Seniors in your community containing cookies, tea, transistor radios and flashlights and hard candy (for dry mouths) always gets a smile.

Remember to count all your preparation time as well as the time spent with the Veterans when recording your Service to Veterans Hours.

CAN WE HELP? YES, WE CAN!!

Linda Wallace, Auxiliary Emergency Fund Chairman

What is the "AEF" program about and how can all of us help?

This program provides temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crises, weather-related emergencies and natural disasters. The maximum grant amount is \$2,400 and is disbursed as the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund Grant Committee determines.

There are many ways that members can help to assist this program. For example: members are asked to support fundraisers held by their unit/department or make a personal donation to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. National Headquarters has a pin for any member who donates \$50 or more to this fund.

Units can promote this program by placing an "AEF" decorative donation canister at their local post, solicit local businesses for monetary donations, collect pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters at meetings etc. Have your unit schedule a "Members Helping Members" night by hosting a "Diva Night". In addition to being a fun night out for women, it increases donations for the Auxiliary Emergency Fund.

Be sure to share fundraising ideas through newsletters, bulletins, stories and then circulate those at every meeting. Have on hand applications and the "AEF" brochure readily available to any member who may be in need of assistance.

Consult the "AEF" Guide in order to determine eligibility and for application forms. This information can be found on the Department website: www.michaloux.org. Go to programs, click on "administrative information" and then on "Auxiliary Emergency Fund".

Keep in mind, we need to continue to fund this program for those seeking assistance in times of flooding, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes or a member in need of financial assistance. It could happen to you!!

Send checks to Department Headquarters earmarked "AEF" on the memo line and include your Unit #.

REMEMBER: "NO CONTRIBUTION IS TOO SMALL"

In keeping with our Department President Sue's theme "Branching Out as the Legion Family", we are asking everyone to make a donation to this very important program.

Special Project: Bike Rack

Bonnie Holt, Saginaw VAMC Representative

The Saginaw VAMC Hospital, branches out to all the Veteran services Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

Our annual Christmas Gift Shop will be held on Thursday the 3rd., 2015. All boxes can be shipped to be Saginaw VAMC Hospital, 1500 Weiss, Saginaw, MI. 48602, ATTN: VOLUNTEER OFFICE, %The American Legion Auxiliary.

My special project this year is a bike rack, so the Veterans can lock up their bike when coming to appointments, etc. The cost is around \$500.00 and any money collected over will be used for our comfort items or if enough is raised for two bike racks than we will get two.

Headquarters

Michael Buda, State Commander

Fall Greetings



Michael Buda
State Commander

Greetings! The first three months of the Legion year has zoomed by with many meetings and changes in the works. Many of you already know that the vote to raise the national dues passed at the 97th National Convention in Baltimore. The \$5 increase takes effect January 2016. I urge each post's Membership Chairman to be creative in motivating your members to renew by December 1st to bypass the 2016 membership increase. Remember it takes time for the chairman to process and submit the paperwork and payment to Department before its forwarded National.

At the Fall Conference, we enjoyed the company of Charles Schmidt, the leading candidate for National Commander 2016 - 2017, where he shared his goals and insight for his tenure as National Commander.

The reception in the Commanders suite was well attended with Legionnaires getting to meet Charles on a one to one basis. Through the generosity of the attendees, we were able to present him with a campaign contribution of \$3,100.

My travel schedule is beginning to take shape. Whenever possible I am going to two or more events per day depending on time and proximity to each other. I dislike having to turn down any invitation because they are occurring on the same day. Please keep sending the invites and I hope to attend your event soon. During my travels, I continue to stop by Posts because I enjoy the company of the Legionnaires I meet along the way and hearing their plans on building membership and concerns on current events.

Speaking of travel I was able to join John Bradford at the National Oratorical Conference in Indianapolis, IN this past week. It was an eye opener as I learned more about the rules and how the Oratorical Contest is administered at the different levels. While in Indianapolis, I met up with other Department of Michigan

Chairman attending workshops, including Boy's State Chairman Jerry Kelley, Americanism Chairman Beverly List, and State Chaplain Eddie Brown and his wife Carolyn. The weekend was both inspiring and rewarding with members of our Department.

Until next time remember, We Stand United!

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

National Dues Increasing, What ALL Members Should Do



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

Resolution #4 for a National dues increase of \$5 passed at convention. Now is the time all members need to get informed on what steps to take next. The membership director Brett Holt has an article in this

month's paper giving you examples of how to get through this. I would recommend for all post to review their dues structure and how they are going to cover the dues increase. Also, all post adjutants need to fill out the paperwork and send it in to National so the new dues amounts can be printed on remittances and collected. The new dues paperwork is on our website and can also be mailed or emailed you. It is the post responsibility to inform the National organization how much your post dues are. Any post can increase their dues as they see fit anytime, by a vote of their membership.

The best way for a member

to not have to pay the \$5 increase for 2016 is to get their dues paid and turned in before the end of the year.

Fall conference was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who took time from their lives to come out and gain some Legion knowledge and see and make new friends. Congratulations to all the raffle winners and a big Thank You to everyone who participated in this raffle. Raffle money that the Department gets helps defer the cost of our VA&R mission and youth programs. Without this extra income we could not perform these activities and make it year after year. We will be holding raffles again at Winter Meeting in February and then again at State Convention in June. Everyone over 18 years old can buy tickets and have a chance to win. I encourage all the Legion Family to help out if you can.

Congratulations to both of our department candidates: Sheila Saunders and Steve Striggow, for being selected to attend National American Legion College the end of this month.

House Bill 4347

Blue Star Mother's Day Deserves a Hearing and Vote

By Mark Sutton, PR Director

In the spring of this year State Senate Bill 222 and State House Bill 4347 were introduced to designate February 1st of each year "Blue Star Mother's Day". The Blue Star Mothers organization began in Flint, Michigan in 1942. The organization helps support veterans, military service members and gives moral support to mothers of our serving troops.

Personally, letters from home, especially coming from mom meant so much during my time in the Marine Corps. Whether it was a card, a letter, pictures, or a care package of cookies, mom kept moral high.

Before leaving for summer break, the Michigan Senate passed through committee and voted on the floor of the senate to pass 222. However, as of this writing, HB 4347 has not had a hearing in the Veterans and Military Affairs committee in the House, keeping it from going to the floor of the house to be voted on.

If you think Blue Star Mother's should have a day designated to recognize their contribution to our military and veterans, I urge you to contact your state representative and ask them to support HB 4347 to move it through the House. Sometimes even simple bills need a little push to get it done.



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National Security - Blood, Eye, & Organ Subcommittee

Lavern Spolarich, Chairman



As chairman of the sub-committee I would like to relay the following information on what blood types are to the percentage of the U.S. population.

- AB Negative – 1%
- B Negative – 2%
- AB Positive – 3%
- A Negative – 6%
- B Positive – 9%
- O Negative – 9%
- A Positive – 31%
- O Positive – 39%

If your blood type is in the area of 9% or less I encourage you to start donating if you are not exempted from donating for various reasons. Thank you for all that gives blood. The blood supply is vital to the National Security of the United States; the Michigan Blood Donor organization provides these needs for blood:

- More than 4.5 million patients need life-saving blood transfusions each year in the U.S. and Canada
- 43,000 pints of donated blood are used each day in the U.S. and Canada.
- Every two seconds, someone needs blood
- On average, one out of every 7 people entering the hospital will need blood.
- Blood banks often run short of type O and B blood.
- The average red-cell transfusion amounts to 2.7 pints.

To learn more visit www.miblood.org on the importance of giving blood.



Presenting two 55 years continuous membership awards to Legionnaire Robert Baldinelli (second from the right) and (not in picture) George Bertoldi. L-R Post Commander Samuel Parr, Carole Baldinelli, Robert Baldinelli, and Post Adjutant Robert Massicotte

Avoid the dues increase... Renew by December 31st, 2015

District Meetings 2015 - 2016

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
October 5, 2015
Feb 1, 2016
April 4, 2016
May 2, 2016
June 6, 2016

2nd District

Oct 11, 2015 in Dundee
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

N/A

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 Laingsburg Post 248
May 1, 2016 TBA
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

Fall meeting will be at Rapid River Post #301 on Saturday, October 10th. District meetings begin at 10:00 A.M. with the U.P. Association meeting at 1:00 P.M.

16th District

*Service Officer School **Memorial Service & Elections
Oct. 13, 2015* Riverview 389 734-284-7166
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* Trenton 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

Oct 3, 2015 - Boyne City, Post 228
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



The bartending staff at Post 459 in Grand Rapids have been holding "Tip Night" fundraisers over the past several months and at Fall Conference presented Gary Tanner with a check for the Michigan Returning and Wounded Warrior Fund.



Vicky Ellis received the 2015 Carlton L. Seaman Award for Best Post Service officer for the Department of Michigan from Asst. Veteran Service Director Tripp Cantwell and Department Cmdr Mike Buda.



L-R Post 217 Commander, Gary Tanner, Reconnect Chairman, and Department Commander Mike Buda present Post 217 with the James W. Schutze Award.



L-R Jerry Andrus, Lavern Spolarich Nat. Security Committee Chairman, and Department Commander Mike Buda, present plaque to Jackson American Legion Post 29 for most pints of blood donated.

2015 Fall Conference Lansing



Dept Commander Buda welcomes National Leading Candidate to Michigan at a reception at Fall Conference.



Boys State Director Jerry Kelley (c) presents plaque to Marc Yeck (l), Michigan's finalist for the Samsung Scholarship Award with Commander Mike Buda



Department Zone 1 Commander David Babbage is excited about the clearance sale on Department shirts offered at Fall conference.



Department Commander Buda, PDC Dick Chatman, and PDC Jim Wallace. PDC Chatman nominated PDC Wallace as Michigan's candidate for National Vice Chairman for the Central Division. The DEC approved the nomination.



Tom Sheppard received the 2015 Albert R. Theil Award for Best District Service Officer, from Asst. Veterans Service Director Tripp Cantwell and Dept. Cmdr Mike Buda



L-R Dept Cmdr Mike Buda, Our First Lady Natalie Buda, and National Leading Candidate Charles Schmidt



Department Commander Mike Buda and Department Auxiliary President Sue Verville.

Around the State...



Fort Dearborn 364 helps out SAL member Greg Rizzo. On August 29, 2015 Fort Dearborn combining all subordinate organizations to include others like the VVA 267, VFW 2107, DAV, Michigan Military Moms, assisted Greg Rizzo, a SAL and ALR member, due to a recent accident. A surprise spaghetti dinner fundraiser was held, netting over \$4,000.00. Thanks to the committee of Past Commanders Ted Gygacki and Frank Pelaccio, Building Manager Ray Wantuk and Commander Phil Smith this came about.



11th District Officer: L-R Jim Wash, Commander, Wendy Sexton Vice Commander, Gary Bergquist Adjutant, Marty Matchinsk Finance Officer, Lou Oberle Chaplain, Alfonse Vanhese Service Officer, and Frank Rodman Public Relations.



L-R Rich Meyer, Jim David, Past CDR Craig Deminck, Irene Lowing, CDR Keith Wakefield, Aux Pres. Sherie German On August 27, Roger B. Chaffee Post 154, was a key participant in Wyoming High School's First Military Night Football Game. All veterans were admitted free and all Armed Services were represented. Post 154 members manned an information booth at the game. The Post also donated over \$450 to the Wyoming football program. Many new friends were made and the American Legion flag flew proudly at the event.



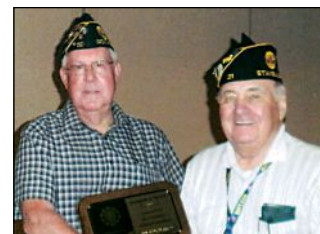
L-R Gary Dietrich, James Bartels, Pastor Mark Loest, Irving Reinbold, John Abraham. A Special Memorial Day "Dedication and Remembrance Service" was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, in Blumfield Township, Saginaw County. A plaque with the names of church members who served in the Armed Forces from the Civil War till now was dedicated. Additionally, a Remembrance plaque of the names of American Legion Blumfield Post 229/church members who served their country, but were not members of Immanuel at the time of their service was also dedicated.



Post 44 held a rack of rib cookout July 29. They sold 288 racks + 80 meals and made a profit of \$1200. Proceeds were used to build a metal roof and install metal fence at the Veterans Memorial park. With the Sons doing the install. Pictured is Mike LaBonte Post 44 Commander.



Irwin "Buck" Reed (front row seated) is a WWII veteran from Royal Oak Post 253. Members of his Post and his family celebrated his 94th Birthday and 50 years of continuous membership in the American Legion.



L-R Gerald Hicks of AL Post 50 received the U.P. Legionnaire of the Year award from Pat Smith at the U.P.'s Summer Convention in June. Congratulations Legionnaire Hicks.



State Commander and Post 364 Commander Phil Smith with winner of brand new Harley Davidson at Fort Dearborn Post 364 Annual Hog Heaven Event



Department Commander Buda with National Commander Dale Barnett at the Americanism Conference Reception.



The VA&R Staff prepare to teach the attendees at the 2015 Veteran Service Officers school in Higgins Lake, Michigan August 2015



American Legion Post 9 – PDC Gerritt Veldman celebrated a 96th American Legion birthday with community leaders, Legionnaires, and Legion family members early this year.

DEC 2015 Fall Conference REPORTS

2nd District

Michael Kraus, Commander

Hello fellow Legionnaires of the 2nd District and to all other Legionnaires throughout the department. I will be going on my 2nd year as your District Commander I am looking forward to working with the 32 posts in our district; I would like to welcome all the new post commanders and officers to the district. The officers of 2nd district are here to help you in any way, my phone is always open. The District is here to help the American Legion family.

Now let's get down to business this year will be very challenging to repeat the year we had like last year. So we all know what we need to do. We need to hammer membership, and have great communication is the key to our success. Let's keep leading the way in Boys state, Girls state, student troopers, scholarships, and support our Baseball Teams in the 2nd district.

We will be having a District wide Legion family membership drive at the Big Mitten event at MIS. I hope all goes well for the district. I will end by saying all I ask is to do your best, work hard and have fun while we achieve our goals for 2016.

3rd District

Robert Berger, Commander

Greetings fellow legionaries and thank you for the interest and support that has been provided to the 3rd District thus far in the 2015-16 Legion year. Congratulations also, to Post 257 in Augusta and 36 in Kalamazoo for achieving over 100% of their membership goal before Fall Convention. However, the year is just beginning and I have great expectations and am looking forward to working with all of you to achieve successes not only in reaching membership goals but in revitalizing several Posts in District. In addition, several of the Posts in the 3rd District have demonstrated success at conducting beneficial Legion and community programs that

need to be established within other Posts. I also, want to acknowledge the successes that our Legion Family, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the Legion have engaged upon to strengthen and bring prosperity to many of the Legion Posts. Lastly, I would be remised if I did not mention the support, enthusiasm and excitement that Legion Riders of Posts 42, 48, 157, 298 and 465 bring to our District.

5th District

Garrett Veihl, Commander

Hello Michigan American Legion Family. We here at the Fifth District have hit the ground running with Membership. A big BZ to Post 532 our Cutlerville Post, 105% already, good job Membership Team. We have been busy getting all our ducks in line to start a new Post in Allendale. By the time you read this our first recruiting drive will be complete. Our goal for Membership is 102%.

The Fifth District has a goal of 65 boys to Boys State, anyone out think they get out do us, I will make it a challenge, lets see if any District can. This past year we sent 57.

We are Family, a family made up of Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and the Sons Of The American Legion. And from this family we gave birth to the American Legion Riders (ALR), a rolling billboard for the Legion. For the Post without a ALR you might want to look into starting one. For all the ALR groups rolling down the highway, thank you for promoting the American Legion.

Just a reminder to all out there, hunting season is coming soon. Please be safe, and when your out hunting, and you see other hunters ask them if they are members of the Legion, and if not invite to be. Remember everyone in the Legion Family is a member of the Membership Team.

When visiting our Post here in the Fifth District the DEC is pushing Membership, Boys & Girls State, Student Trooper, and Oratorical Programs. For as we get the youth into these programs we are getting our name out there, and that brings in more membership.

One last thing I would like to thank the eight people

from the Fifth District that took the time to go to Higgins Lake for PSO training. And a big thank you to Gary Easterling and the VA&R staff for a job well done.

6th District

Rick Schultz, Commander

I would like to thank the 6th District Association for re-electing me as your Commander. We worked hard last year to achieve our goals but we need to work harder in some areas.

My goal again is 100 percent by April 30, 2016. Sixteen Posts made their goal last year but I know we all can do better. So many Posts were in the 90 percent with a little help you will be there.

My second goal are the programs the Legion has for the youth in our District, Boys State, Student Trooper, Boy Scouts and the list goes on. Get with your schools to get these programs started, in the schools, churches and communities. Include the parents in your efforts.

Through the year, I will be again visiting all of the Posts, along with my Alt. Commander Bob Higley. We will be looking forward to working with you, to achieve your goals that we have set for the District.

9th District

Gary Walter, Commander

Hello fellow Legionnaires. As we begin a new year, we must build on the last. Each post must work hard to increase membership. I recently returned from Legion headquarters in Indianapolis where we talked about using Brand Awareness as a tool to increase membership. This is an easy way to let the public know about what the Legion is and all the good things we do for the community. People will ask more questions and may lead to them joining us to do even more.

We will be holding training sessions at each District meeting. Commanders, if you can't make it to the meeting, make sure that your post is represented. We are going to make the training so that all posts will gain knowledge from it. The first training will be on commander and adjutants duties. As we know, each post is differ-

ent and what works best at one post is not the same thing that works at another. Mentoring is one of the best tools you can use to get people involved in the running of your post.

Your District officers will be working hard to assist you in all your activities this year. Please contact us if you have any needs. Through good communications, we can make this year a great one.

10th District

David McGillen, Commander

Hello Legionnaires, as your newly elected 10th District Commander, I look forward to working for and with you. The challenges of maintaining and increasing membership are here again. There are many veterans, young and old, among us who are waiting to be a part of this great family. All they need is to be asked! I challenge each member of all 28 posts in the Mighty Tenth to sign up at least 1 new member this year and we will surpass our goal. You can do it!

Communication! It is a MUST in our Legion family starting with each of you. Attending district meetings is very important so you can take the information back to your posts, and share your concerns. Remember we work for you and you owe it to your membership to keep them informed. We are a team! Working with the Auxiliary and SAL squadrons will also help make the post run smoothly for the betterment of our Legion.

Remember - Membership - Communication - Team Work

I hope you all enjoyed your summer, hope to see as many of you as possible throughout the year. My door is open; phone number is 989-798-8464 or email dmccgillen239@gmail.com

12th District

Carl Morrison, Commander

First of all, let me say thank you to the membership of District 12 for electing me to serve as your District Commander for the coming year. I look forward to serving you.

The year started out with me attending the Thirty Day meeting at Department Headquarters where a lot of information was presented. Two

weeks later it was off to Indianapolis to attend the National Membership Workshop. I had the opportunity to go to the Commanders talk with the leaders from several different Departments. So as you can see I have not been sitting back and looking at the scenery, it has been a busy, busy, busy summer for me.

Our number one goal for this year is membership. As you know membership is the backbone of the Legion. I would like to see our District reach 100% this year, but we need all of your help to make this possible. We all must strive to make our posts in the District all 100% Posts for the year. We need you, the Post Commanders, and the membership team in your Post to be active in promoting membership throughout the year. Get out in your communities and talk Legion whenever or wherever possible.

I have a steak dinner bet with 11th District Commander Jim Wash that our District will be ahead of the 11th at the end of the year. I need every Post to get out and sign members!!

Another goal is attendance at District Meetings; our next meeting will be held at the American Legion Post in Rapid River on October 10 2015. The day will start with a service Officer School and our two new Service Officers in attendance at 8:00 a.m. Gary Easterling will also be attending as well. Following at 9:00 a.m., Membership Chairman Bret Holt and U.P. Membership Chairman Gary Lane will be doing a Membership workshop; followed by our District Meeting at 10:00 a.m. There will be a break for lunch. Beginning at 1:30 p.m. will be the UPALA meeting conducted by fifth zone Commander Stan Kennedy.

These meetings are not just for Post Officers to attend, they are geared for every Legion member to attend. A lot of useful information and ideas can be gained by attending these meetings.

I will also be attending the Department Fall Conference which will be held at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing on September 18, 19, 20 2015. Hope to see you there.

2015 National Convention in Baltimore

Commander Mike Buda and PDC Jim Wallace are ready for the National Convention to begin



The Michigan delegation prepares for the National Parade in Baltimore, MD.



L-R Dave Buist, VS Director Gary Easterling, and Rodney Galbraith take time out before the parade begins to hear no evil, speak no evil, and see no evil.

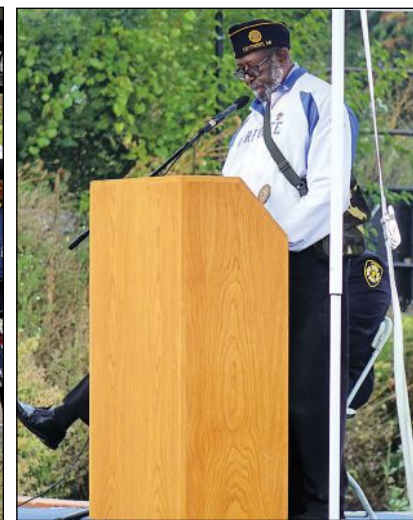


L-R PDC Jim Wallace, National Commander Mike Helm, PNC Tom Cadmus, and PNC Bob Spanogle group together after Michigan presented our donation to the National Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Piquette Square - Patriots Day Service



Department Commander Mike Buda presents a wreath from The American Legion of Michigan to the Piquette Square event.



PDC Dick Chatman speaks to the group gathered at the Piquette Square September 11th Patriots Day service.



Members of the Grand Haven American Legion Charles A. Conklin Post #28 during the Ferry school program for the 1st day of school. Students were asked which star on the flag is the Michigan star. Pictured is Sara Hayes from Mrs. Cooke's 2nd grade class, she got it correct. Michigan is the 26th star. Tribune photo/Krystle Wagner



WWII Marine and Legionnaire Al Balgoyen, served in the 6th Defense Battalion on Midway Island and was a member of Grand Ledge Post 48. Al passed away in October of 2012, but on July 4th, 2012 Al's wife Virginia captured this photo unknowing by Al as he put his U.S. flag up for the day. Virginia used this picture as the cover of his memorial card and his friends and family loved it. Al made 20 reunions of the battalion and they were married for 32 years. Thank you Virginia for sharing with us.



Lakeville High School in Otisville, Michigan recently dedicated an area around their flag poles to Lakeville High School Alumni who lost their lives serving our country. The area includes the plaque, and a ten feet diameter area of brick pavers that include insignias of the different branches of service.



CONTINUED

REPORTS

Remember we are Veterans serving Veterans, and every Veteran sign a Veteran!

18th District Sheryl May, Commander

Thank you to the 18th District members for allowing me to serve as the District Commander for a second year. I am truly honored and look forward to a great year. Along with 1st Vice Commander Stephen Stevens, 2nd Vice Commander Edward Merritt, Finance Officer Ray Flum, Sergeant-at-Arms Don Wert, Adjutant Joe McClellan, Chaplain Vern McBride, Historian Gerald Lynch, Service Officer Anthony Mallia, and Judge Advocate Carnie Jackson, our team will work hard to meet the needs of each Post within the 18th District and we will strive to continue the "mighty 18th" heritage.

The year began with both 1st Vice Commander Stevens and I attending the 30-day meeting at Department Headquarters where Commander Michael Buda outlined his goals for the year. The 18th District had an awesome 2014-2015 year...we worked hard to meet membership quotas but we need to work harder in the months to come. With a potential dues increase from National in January 2016, we need to encourage our members to pay their dues before January 20, 2016.

Additionally, I attended the National Membership Workshop in August...I thoroughly enjoyed meeting and socializing with the other District Commanders...what a great group of leaders! The rationale for a dues increase on the National level was explained to us at this time and I will further discuss this at our District meeting on September 13, 2015 at Berkley Post 374. The membership goal for Department was set at 70,364 and the goal for the 18th District is 3,700...as of August 28, 2015 we had reached 47.70% of our goal. So we are off to a good start but we have a long way to go in the next few months.

As I am writing this article, 1st Vice Commander Stevens is attending the National Con-

vention in Baltimore. Thank you, Steve, for taking the time to represent me at this important meeting! You're an awesome 1st Vice Commander and I appreciate your enthusiasm for helping Veterans.

I know that I did not visit all of the Posts last year but I do plan on visiting each of you this year. I need to hear your concerns, identify the needs of the Posts and most importantly, learn from those of you who have been the backbone of the American Legion. So many of you devout countless volunteer hours supporting the needs of our Veterans, maintaining your Posts and volunteering in community events and to that, I say thank you. There are so many veterans who need our help and it's a good feeling to know that you are out there to provide that care. God bless you.

19th District John VanMaele, Commander

First I would like to start out by saying that I'm really fired up about leading the Tip of the Mitt, 19th District. This can only be done with a great group of officers on the District and Post level. We will be following the leadership of George Bollinger who did a fantastic job for the past 2 years. Our membership must be Priority One.

Rebecca Mott of Alpena will be our Vice Commander this year and we will be looking to increase the membership throughout the District. Having the ability to interact with Al Ford and the Post Revitalization Committee, for help and suggestions, will only strengthen our resolve. We hope to visit as many Posts this year as possible. Any Commanders or Adjutants that would like for us to attend a Post meeting, or is having a dilemma they need assistance with, only need to ask. The best way to solve a problem is teamwork and the ability to get to the information we need.

The District will also have two trained Service Officers this year in John Nomesos and Eve Burcar. Both John and Eve are members of Onaway Post 317. It was our Post that paid for them to go to school at Higgins Lake. I encourage each Post in the District to send at least one member of their Post

to this vital endeavor. We need all the trained Service Officers we can get. The amount of veterans needing assistance with claims are dramatically increasing.

During the summer we lost a valuable long time member, our District Finance Officer Stan Perry, of Wolverine Post 122. His funeral was well attended by veterans and the family thanks you. Stan will need to be replaced by our first meeting meeting in Boyne City on October 3rd. Even though he's a hard person to replace, we need someone to step up to the plate.

So far this summer I've been to the Boyne City, Mackinaw City, Onaway, and Rogers City Posts. I hope to be at the Atlanta Post and Lewiston Post by the end of September.

I would like to thank Ron Geiger of Gaylord for heading up the Department Children and Youth Committee and Brian Morrison of Boyne City for working with the Boys State Committee. Congratulations to Joe Renis of Elk Rapids for the job he did last year as 4th Zone Commander. We look forward to working with new 4th Zone Commander, Richard Tracy of Mikato.

One goal that would please me immensely would be that every Post is represented at the 19th District meeting. Please help us achieve this!

For anyone needing to contact me, my number is (989)351-0473

God Bless our troops, our veterans and God Bless America!

Greetings Comrades:

All of our members in the American Legion in the state of Michigan should do Public Relations. There are many ways of doing PR and you can get as creative as you want but one thing is for sure, a picture is worth a thousand words so I encourage all our members to take pictures for this is a very important tool when you do Public Relations and now a days with the vast technologies that is available to us that you have these smart phones in the palm of your hands make good use of them for they come equipped with a camera so we really don't have an excuse for not taking pictures of the activities that your Legion Post does in your community. Use those pictures on your social media (facebook, twitter, etc.) and your websites. Don't forget to forward those photos and the who/what/when/where to our Department headquarters for possible publication; email them to news@michiganlegion.org.

If you haven't already, you should consider using Video as another useful tool in your arsenal of public relations options. Your National headquarters has many different videos available to you for free. Visit legion.org/legiontv to view most of the videos available you can request a DVD of the videos at pr@legion.org or call 317-630-1253.

*For God & Country
Wanda Torres
Dept. PR Committee Chair Lady*

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Veteran Service

MVAA Celebrates Veterans Day and the Role of Veterans Serving Veterans

American Legion benefits counselor Elizebeth Cuddington is always on the road, meeting with veterans and helping to connect them with the benefits they have earned while in uniform. She typically spends one day a week in Detroit, then hops in her car and travels to Saginaw, Alpena, Cheboygan and almost anywhere in between.

As she meets with American Legion members and other local veterans, Elizebeth encourages them to revisit their benefits and give the VA another try. Eligibility for many VA benefits has been expanded or revised, especially for Vietnam-era veterans – whose eligibility has changed more than 50 times in the past few years. What's more, wait times are down nationwide, meaning that many veterans receive a VA decision more quickly and can begin receiving compensation.

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency works closely with veterans service organizations like the American Legion, as well as county veterans service offices and accredited benefits counselors throughout the state to ensure veterans' services continue to improve.

Through 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) and MichiganVeterans.com, veterans and their families can connect

with the many services and VA benefits available in health care, education, employment, housing and more. MVAA also provides information about local, state and national programs and often helps connect veterans to VSO benefits counselors.

This Veterans Day, MVAA celebrates its partnership with the Michigan American Legion – and the veterans who make up its 395 posts. We say thank you, both for your service to this country and for your continued devotion to fellow service members and veterans.

Whether you have been a member for 20 years or two months, veterans should consider performing a benefits checkup through an accredited benefits counselor like Elizebeth. A full list of counselors can be found at MichiganVeterans.com, all of whom will work to determine eligibility and prepare the necessary paperwork to file a claim.

Veterans Day is a time to honor those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, but it's also a good time to take a second look at your VA benefits.

The American Legion serves its community, and MVAA is committed to serving the members of the American Legion.

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



Gary Easterling
Director

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

Veteran Service Officer Schedule

DVSO	Location	Address	City	Days
Babcock, Phillip	Lake County DHS Building	5653 S. M37	Baldwin	4th Wed
Babcock, Phillip	Big Rapids Michigan Works	14330 Northland Drive	Big Rapids	1-3 Mon
Babcock, Phillip	Michigan Works Bldg	401 North Lake St. Suite 700	Cadillac	Tuesdays
Babcock, Phillip	Charlevoix County OVA 2345477232	301 State St	Charlevoix	2nd Wed
Babcock, Phillip	Kalkaska County OVA	890 Island Lake Rd Room 8	Kalkaska	1-3 Thur
Babcock, Phillip	American Legion Post 76	318 N James Street	Ludington	1-3 Wed
Babcock, Phillip	Manistee County Office	415 Third Street	Manistee	2-4 Thur
Babcock, Phillip	American Legion Post 381	6812 Croton Hardy Drive	Newaygo	2-4 Mon
Babcock, Phillip	Vet Center	3766 N US 31 South	Traverse City	Fri
Brewster, Joshua	Escanaba Community Health Center	3355 N. 3 Mile Rd	Escanaba	2nd Thurs AM
Brewster, Joshua	Manistique Tribal Center	5698 W Hwy US 2	Manistique	1st Thurs AM
Brewster, Joshua	Munising Tribal Community Center	622 West Superior St	Munising	4th Thurs
Brewster, Joshua	Newberry Community Health Center	4935 Zee Ba Tik Lane	Newberry	3 Thurs
Brewster, Joshua	Sault Ste. Marie CBOC	509 Osborn Blvd, Ste 306	Sault Ste. Marie	1-3 Fridays
Brewster, Joshua	Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Center	2864 Ashmun	Sault Ste. Marie	2nd Friday
Brewster, Joshua	Lambert Health Clinic	225 Wa S e H Dr	St. Ignace	4th Friday
Brewster, Joshua	Escanaba Vet Center	3500 Ludington St	Escanaba	2 Th, PM
Brewster, Joshua	Schoolcraft County CBOC	813 East Lakeshore Dr	Manistique	1st Th, PM
Casteel, Theresa	Iron Mountain VAMC	325 E. H St	Iron Mountain	1st Tues
Casteel, Theresa	L'Anse AL Post	115 N. Front St	L'Anse	3rd Wed
Casteel, Theresa	Cheboygan CBOC	14540 Mackinaw Hwy	Mackinaw City	2nd Mon
Casteel, Theresa	Marquette AL Post 44	700 W. Bluff St	Marquette	2-4 Tues
Casteel, Theresa	Menominee OVA	839 10th Av e	Menominee	3rd Mon
Casteel, Theresa	Rapid River AL Post 301	10584 N. Main St	Rapid River	1st Wed
Casteel, Theresa	Sault Ste. Marie CBOC	509 Osborn Blvd, Ste 306	Sault Ste. Marie	1-3 Fridays
Casteel, Theresa	Sault Ste. Marie Tribal Center	2864 Ashmun	Sault Ste. Marie	2nd Friday
Casteel, Theresa	Lambert Health Center	1140 N. State St	St. Ignace	4th Fri
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Alpena County OVA	719 W. Chisholm St	Alpena	2 Mon AM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Montmorency County OVA	12265 M-32 PO Box 789	Atlanta	2 Mon PM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Bay County OVA	515 Center Ave Room 212	Bay City	1-3 Wed AM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Cheboygan County OVA	870 S Main St Room 122	Cheboygan	1st Mon
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Gaylord CBOC	806 S. Otsego	Gaylord	4 Wed
Cuddington, Elizebeth	AL Post 106	106 S. James St	Grayling	4 Mon
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Alcona County OVA	106 North 5th St PO Box 308	Harrisville	2,4 Tues AM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Cheboygan CBOC	14540 Macinaw Hwy	Mackinaw City	3 Mon
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Oscoda County Office	191 S. Mount Tom Rd	Mio	2 Wed PM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Oscoda CBOC	5671 Skeel Ave Suite 4	Oscoda	Tues
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Roscommon County OVA	500 Lake St	Roscommon	2 Wed AM
Cuddington, Elizebeth	Standish AL Post	3221 M-76	Standish	1-3 Wed PM
DiGiovanni, Joe	MI National Guard FAC	3423 N. MLK	Lansing	M,T,W
DiGiovanni, Joe	Clinton Co. Courthouse	100 E. State St	St. Johns	Wed
Easterling, Gary	Hillsdale OVA	61 McColum St	Hillsdale	2, 4 Mon
Lewis, Rebecca	Eaton County OVA	1045 Independence Blvd	Charlotte	1-3 Friday
Lewis, Rebecca	American Legion State Headquarters	212 N. Verlinden	Lansing	Wed-2,4 Fri
Lewis, Rebecca	Wyoming CBOC	5838 MetroWay SW	Wyoming	Tue-Thur
McCaskey, Phil	Ann Arbor VAMC	2215 Fuller Road	Ann Arbor	Mon-Thurs
McCaskey, Phil	Battle Creek VAMC	5500 Armstrong Rd	Battle Creek	Wed
McCaskey, Phil	Jackson County OVA	1715 Lansing Ave Room 252	Jackson	Tues
Simpkins, Tommy	AL Post 558	400 E. Ludington Dr	Clare	2nd Tues
Simpkins, Tommy	Genesee County OVA	1101 Beach St	Flint	Monday
Simpkins, Tommy	Saginaw VAMC	1500 Weiss Street	Saginaw	1,3,4 Tue, Wed
Thomas, Lannie	Downriver Community Conference	15100 Northline Rd	Southgate	Thurs

Detroit Regional Office Number (313) 964-6640, please use this number to contact any of the above Service Officers

Fall Department Raffle

And the winners are...

Robert Congdon, Brookfield \$4,000
 Ivan Tolley, Dollar Bay, \$1,500
 John Sayyae, Milford \$1,000
 Wesley Ballard, Harrison Twp \$500
 Kenneth Bryant, Germfask \$500
 Donald Schoenleber, Niles \$500
 Edison Ester, Detrit \$250
 Lyle Gearhart, Carney \$250
 Richard Baker, White Lake \$250

Elmer Richards, Howell \$250
 Gerald Elliot, Grandville \$250
 Howard Breen, Wyoming \$250
 Thomas Saul, Kingsley \$250
 Joseph Bybee Mayville, \$250
 Scott Kastning, Shepherd \$100
 Leland Hausler, Jackson \$100
 Dale Brown, Decatur \$100
 Dorothy Barden, Jackson \$100
 David Gratz, Cullman \$100

HOW TO REACH OUT TO MILITARY CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Susan Svacha, Children & Youth Chairman

Some ideas for reaching out to military children and youth:

1. Sponsor a "You're My Hero" event, similar to the Hero Award, but for military children.
 - Present them with certificates and medals.
 - Be creative. • Ask your Junior members to participate.
 - Use your public relations tools to inform the community. Refer to the Public Relations Toolkit at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
2. Host a movie and popcorn night for teens or a board game night.
3. Many military kids can't afford new prom dresses. Get the community involved in collecting and distributing gently used prom dresses.
 - Ask local radio stations and newspapers to donate time and space to help advertise your initiative.
 - Get local bridal shops involved.
 - Involve your high school counselors.
 - Your unit may also want to help with transporta-

tion expense, flowers, etc.

4. Contact your local homeless shelter. Ask if there are any veterans there with children.
 - Since one in five homeless are veterans, there is a good chance they will be living in local shelters. Find out what your unit can do to help the children.
 - VA hospitals have homeless coordinators and/or directors of voluntary services. Meet with them to establish a method in which the coordinator/director will coordinate with your unit whenever a homeless veteran with children is identified. Offer to provide school supplies for the child, through the homeless coordinator or director of voluntary services.
5. Maybe the best thing you can do is get your Legion Family together and brainstorm ideas that might work in your community. Sometimes, school-aged children might be your best link to finding military children in your community. Be creative. No matter what you decide to do, plan a public relations campaign around your event. Consider having Auxiliary membership applications available. Community events provide the best opportunity to sign up new members.

Have You Updated Your Standing Rules?

Donna Fuelling, Constitution & By-Laws Chairman

Have your Standing Rules been updated? They need to be updated every three years. A form has been included in your guide for those Units that do not have changes to their standing rules but it should be at least three years or more since they sent them in to the Department Chairman. Have you gone over your Standing Rules lately? When you increase your dues do you consider mandatory dues and district dues? Unless you have a fundraiser you might not have enough to cover your expenses. Read the guidelines for standing rules that was included with the guide and it should help you write your Standing Rules.

Each Unit in Michigan adopts the uniform Constitution and Bylaws as prescribed by the Department of Michigan. Going over the records, there are many units that need to update their rules and some we do not have their Standing Rules on file. Take time at

your meeting to go over your Standing Rules and see if you have any changes. It would be great if every Unit in Michigan would go over the Unit Constitution and Bylaws at a meeting. Each Unit should have at least one copy of the uniform Unit Constitution and Bylaws. Remember your Standing Rules must be approved by the Department Chairman before they become effective, even if it is just changing your dues.

Districts write their own Constitution and Bylaws as per the Department Standing Rules, District organization. They also must be approved by the Department Chairman and sent in every three years. There is no uniform Constitution and Bylaws for Districts. As of now every District should be chartered, is yours?

If you need any assistance please contact one of the committee members. They are Donna Fuelling, Chairman, 313-291-7574, bearpoo54@aol.com, 16th District, Linda Roman, Seventeenth District, 734-422-6027, linda.roman@att.net and Betty Cline, Seventh District, 810-367-6071.

Public Relations Make Awareness of the Auxiliary

Olive Hartman, Public Relations Committee Member

Public Relations is a way to make awareness about the Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary. We need to let people know what our organization is all about. Public Relations promotes who we are, what we do, and why we matter.

In order for our organization to grow we need to get out in our community and inform the public about the American Legion Auxiliary and our programs. I encourage each Unit to get out and let potential members know what we do. Inform them about our programs. Let them know what a great feeling it is to help a Veteran or military family while their Veteran is deployed. Let these ladies and your community know about our community services and our youth programs.

Ideas for getting word out to your community are to inquire at your local businesses, your library, your medical facilities and see if you can display posters or distribute brochures about the American Legion

Auxiliary. Become familiar with your local media and political figures. Visit your local schools and ask if you can attend an assembly and speak about our organization. Inform the students about our various programs and contests such as the Poppy program, Girls State, Boys State, Americanism, Children & Youth, and Scholarships. Visiting schools can also educate our teachers about our organization and programs.

The American Legion Auxiliary's goal is to be "One Million" strong by our Centennial year 2019. Promoting what we do will help achieve this goal.

For suggestions or ideas on promoting a good Public Relations program, check your guides or go to our National website at www.ALAforVeterans.org. Promote a positive image of the American Legion Auxiliary. A good Public Relations plan will help you be a success. A good Public Relations program informs potential members what we are all about, and our community more aware of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion Family.

Community Service-Involvement

Mary Dubay, Community Service Chairman

The Community Service Program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility through our involvement in community activities. When we work with, or ask other organizations to work on service projects with us, people will recognize our local efforts to support our veterans, service members, their families, as well as our communities.

Your service projects can be a small, medium, or large scaled event. If you make a difference in the life of just one veteran, service members, or a member of their family, your day of service was a success.

The suggested Auxiliary-recognized days of service for 2015-2016 are:

1. 9/11 National Day of Service & Remembrance/Patriot Day (September 11, 2015)
2. Make a Difference Day (October 24, 2015)
3. Veterans Day (November 11, 2015)
4. National Family volunteer Day (November 21, 2015)
5. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January 18, 2016)
6. National volunteer Week (April 10-16, 2016)
7. Any other day where you can gather a group of volunteers!

Remember to wear your Auxiliary apparel when working these projects as it lets people know who we are, what we do and why we matter. Please keep in mind that there are many activities and programs that qualify for community service. I urge all units to report their hours monthly as it will make reporting them at the end of the year much easier. I must submit a report to National in December and May and I hope you will keep me abreast of all your activities. Remember that if you count something for Community Service it can't be counted for National Security or VA & R.

More information and helpful ideas will be available in your Guide. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the committee.

Help Fill the Void--Volunteer

Bonnie Holt, Hospital Director

If many of us could spend a little time volunteering, what a great thing for the Veterans. Even volunteering once a month can fill a big void. The demands are few, but the rewards are many. Please help serve those who served you.

As the Hospital Director we branch out to all the Veteran services by doing our volunteer work and checking our hours. All hours are collected by the VAVS Hospital Rep., who turns them in to the Department VA&R Chairman. Then all the paper work goes to The American Legion Auxiliary National headquarters, where they give the paper work to Washington D. C.

Greetings from the 16th District

Pamela Globke, 16th District President

First I would like to thank the 16th District Auxiliary for electing me as their District President. I have wonderful District Auxiliary Officers and Mentors.

The 16th District has a lot of activities going on this year such as, the 16th District Tour, Membership Rally, Auxiliary Leadership class, Americanism Banquet, Thanksgiving Dinner for Veterans from the VA hospital at Post 200 and Elementary Schools to teach the children about Americanism, just to name a few.

It will be a fun and busy year visiting all the Units and their programs

in my District. I was invited by Unit 478 to their fund raiser for Josh and Team Phoenix. A veteran and his dog who needed help with the cost to train Phoenix to be his Service Dog for P.T.S.D. It was great to see this Unit going the distance to help a veteran.

The Auxiliary is my passion and I am looking forward to this year working with the District members to help veterans and their needs. Come to the District meetings, meet the new District Officers and see how you can help make this happen. We also need to work on our membership to help our organization grow.

Legislative 2015-2016

Binnie Price, Legislative Committee

We begin again with a new year to bring forth the needs and requirements for the Veterans and their families. These are the ongoing basic items that have to be addressed each and every year.

1. Maintain health facilities for the Service Personnel and their families.
2. Ensure proper housing for families while service members are serving their country.

The Units are all aware of these items but there are so many more and their voices should be heard. We are hoping to get support from the Michigan Legislators for each District this year as we were able to

achieve for District 4 last year.

We hope you distribute the Citizen's Guide to State Government among your Units. Guidelines for sending letters are included along with other helpful information about contacting the legislative body.

We would expect that you would also have available the local elected officials in your community. These are the "frontline" people who help make our lives safe.

The Auxiliary members have always been able to voice their opinions and will continue to do so. We hope that with this added material and support we will be a much stronger voice for the Veterans, Service personnel & families in our communities.

John D. Dingell VAMC

Artensia A. Wynn, Representative

Dingell serves Veterans from Macomb Oakland and Wayne counties located in the growing Detroit Medical Center

Dingell is also growing with the renovation for a new Emergency Department in its beginning stages. The Emergency Department will also be expanded. At the present time there are eight beds available in the ER. Once the project is complete the emergency department will be increased to an eighteen bed unit. A Veteran fitness center is to be constructed as well. One of the Special Projects for this year will be assisting in updating the Hospice Family Room. It is currently a very sad room.

The economy is getting better, yet, we still have a great many homeless veterans. The D.O.M., which is an off-site program that the hospital manages, is currently housing 48 men and women. There is also a Veterans Community Resource & Referral Center (VCRRC). This program operates seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. This center provides a number of services such as: case management, substance abuse treat-

ment, concrete services (on-site showers, laundry facilities, computer lab and clothing) along with other resources.

Many things have improved, such as the process for checking in for an appointment and the new mental health floor. There is also a renovated chemo lab. We provided microwaveable meals for the VCRRC along with other needs items. We try to work with other groups to provide better services to our veterans whenever possible. One of those teams is with the Annual Baby Shower in September. We all provide for the Annual Patient Carnival in June. We prepare special gifts to every female veteran during Hospitalized Veteran Week and for Mother's Day. We help everyone we can and if there's a need.

The National Veterans Golden Age Games are coming to Detroit and John D. Dingell will be the host. People are needed to work during the days of July 10th through July 14th of 2016. Funds are also needed to sponsor some of these events.

The Annual Gift Shop is December 7th, 8th, and 9th this year. Your support is needed to make this year a great year.

Reach Out to the Branches of Education

Robin Puckett, Education Chairman

It is time to reach out to the different branches of the Education Program. The time we start to plan for our year. By this time Fall Conference will be over, and everyone should have their guides. Look through them and start planning how you are going to get in touch with your local Educators. Get your Scholarship information out early, and into the right hands. Plan on how it is most effective to get our Awards and Scholarship's out to everyone.

There was a hand out passed out at Fall Conference with all the dates of importance this year. Follow this it will be easy to keep you on track. Start putting a committee together of all the Legion family who would like to participate in our Schools. Get together with the Legion Education Chairman, juniors and SAL. Make sure when you meet with the Educator's that you

have all the information. Ask if there is a time when they are having a meeting pertaining to Scholarship's. At this time you can also include the Girls and Boys State Chairman. Make sure to emphasize the importance of the deadlines and to follow the guides. It is very heart breaking to get this Scholarship's and Awards that they have worked so hard on and to have them disqualified.

Start to plan for Education Week, Veterans in the Classroom, Read across America and our Military Children. The sooner you start to plan the easier it will be to achieve. And keep good track of hours and any money you have spent on these events. When it comes time to do your reports and narratives you will have access to the documentation. Please do narratives as it helps me to give proper reporting. It let's National know that we are busy working the programs.

Remember you're never too old, too wacky or too wise to pick up a book and read...

Make History Come Alive!

Georgia Downs, Historian

As I read writings from our previous Historians, these headlines stand out: "Need to Remember It - Make a Note of It" and "With the sky the limit, let us soar to new heights and make history together!" Just in case you don't remember what was written, it's now my turn to remind you of the importance of keeping a history for your Unit or District. We must do our job as Historians or the Where, What, Who and When will soon be forgotten. Where would we be if we did not have a history of our past years? Who would we be? Why would we matter? What would we do? A History is a chronological written record of what your Unit or District has done during the current administrative year. Remember, if your Unit or District assisted our Legion family in an event, be sure to include your Unit or District's participation and how they participated in your history. It must be factual so future readers will have a true account of what was done during this particular year. History cannot be written until it happens. We are reaching out to our Legion Family and must write only the true facts. Your scrapbook is for keeping pic-

tures of events, news articles, letters, etc.

At National Convention held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 28 - September 4, 2015, Amendment 1 was passed - Amending the National Standing Rules to Rename National Cavalcade of Memories Committee to the National History Committee and add the National Historian as ex-officio member. One way of sharing our events over the years is with Cavalcade of Memories. Having a special place for our memorabilia, our scrapbooks, our written history, and our awards will help others to see what we are all about. Remember our juniors; help them with a place for their history memorabilia too. Our juniors can help promote the Veterans' History Project. Help them with interviewing a Veteran and place it in the Library of Congress. Additional information can be obtained by accessing www.loc.gov/vets/kits. Please read your **GUIDES** and meet your deadline dates.

A quote from National "History is more than a summary of events listed in a dusty book somewhere. As we look back on our achievements, let us make history come alive!"

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		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		102,517	109,528
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	102,517	109,528
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)		
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®		
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))		102,517	109,528
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541		
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)		
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)		
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), (3) and (4))			
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		102,517	109,528
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))			
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		102,517	109,528
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%

* If you are claiming electronic copies, go to line 16 on page 3. If you are not claiming electronic copies, skip to line 17 on page 3.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)

16. Electronic Copy Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	102,517	109,528
c. Total Paid Distribution (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	102,517	109,528
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c 100)		

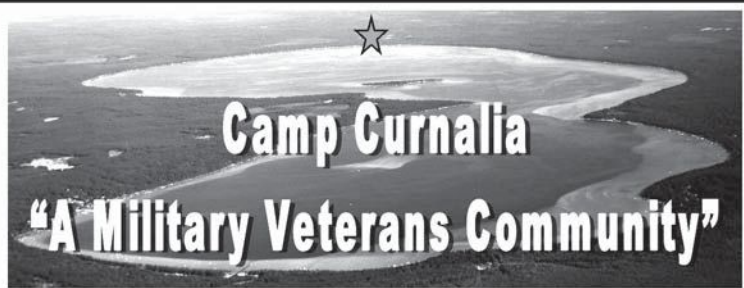
I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.

17. Publication of Statement of Ownership:
 If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the **OCT 2015** issue of this publication. Publication not required.

18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner
Mark Sutton - Public Relations Director/Editor
 Date: **9-30-2015**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!



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 or call (989) 390-4208 for available cottages and more information.

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: _____

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

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

Serve Your Community And the Nation

Become a Selective Service System Local Board Member

The Selective Service System wants to hear from men and women in the community who might be willing to serve as members of local draft boards.

A Prospective Board Member must be citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, registered with the Selective Service (if male), and not be an employee in any law enforcement occupation, not be an active or retired member of the Armed Forces, and not have been convicted for any criminal offense. Once identified as qualified candidates for appointment, they are recommended by the governor and appointed by the Director of Selective Service, who acts on behalf of the President in making the appointments. Each new member receives five hours of initial training after appointment, followed by two hours of annual training for as long as he or she remains in the

position. They may serve in Board Member positions up to a total of 20 years, if desired.

Local Board Members are uncompensated volunteers who play an important community role closely connected with our Nation's defense. If a military draft becomes necessary, approximately 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards throughout America would decide which young men in each community receive deferments, postponements or exemptions from military service, based on federal guidelines.

Sixteen positions are currently open in the following counties with board vacancies: Manistee, Ottawa, Allegan, Hillsdale(2), St. Joe(2), Calhoun, Kalamazoo(2), Ingham(2), Wayne(3), and Tuscola.

If you believe you meet the standards for Selective Service Board Membership, and wish to be considered for appointment, please contact: Major Dan Allen: daniel.allen2020@gmail.com or 517-927-1537

LegionCare program now improved!

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) is pleased to announce some important changes to the **LegionCare** program just revealed at the 97th Annual American Legion National Convention earlier this month.

The first of these exciting updates – starting for enrollments after 1/1/2015, anyone enrolled in LegionCare will be covered for as long as they remain a member of The Legion Family. No need to re-enroll every 5 years!

The second change, and what we think is the most important - All “Legion Family” members – Legion, senior ALA, and senior SAL – in good standing are now eligible for the coverage. The Legionnaire Insurance Trust has been working hard to provide valuable benefits to your entire family and we look forward to continuing to serve veterans' insurance needs.

Those “Legion Family” members stopping by our booth were able to enroll in the LIT's **LegionCare** program and have their coverage become effective immediately, but this opportunity is not restricted to just those who were at the National Convention. **Every** eligible “Legion Family” member may enroll, but the

member must sign-up to be covered. Please keep the momentum going after the convention and spread the word about these exciting changes to **LegionCare**.

Reminder about LegionCare:

What is LegionCare? LegionCare provides up to \$1,000 of 24 hours accidental death coverage to an enrolled member. And if an enrolled member suffers a covered loss while performing “official Legion Family business”, there is an additional \$4,000 benefit* --bringing the total to up to \$5,000.

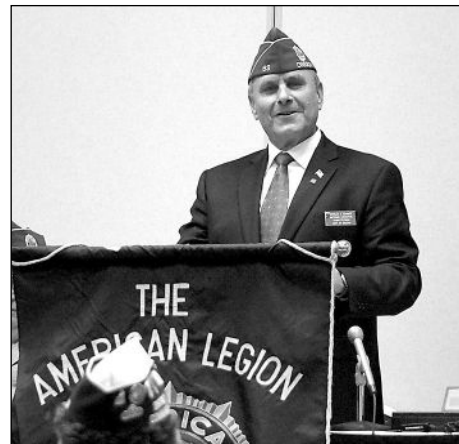
How do I enroll? Just go online to www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare and fill in the requested information. By enrolling on-line, your coverage will begin immediately and you will get an e-mail confirmation within minutes. Those without access to the internet may enroll by calling the LIT's toll-free number – (800) 235-6943 – and our customer service area will process your enrollment over the phone.

Don't delay – sign-up today!

*Additional \$4,000 benefit does not apply to residents of Minnesota and New Hampshire.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF OREGON

MICHIGAN HOSTED NATIONAL LEADING CANDIDATE CHARLES SCHIMDT



Charles Schimdt was born and raised in rural Northwest Missouri and comes from a family of seven siblings.

Charles earned his eligibility in The American Legion when he enlisted in the United States Air Force in August 1965. He spent time in the enlisted ranks and then become a distinguished graduate from the Air Force Officer Training School, earning a commission.

Charles retired at the rank of Major in 1993.

He first joined the Story-Hardin

Post 164 in Craig, Missouri, in 1984, but transferred to the Harney County Post 63 in Burns, Oregon when he retired. Where he helped to revitalize the post, but also help to revitalize the entire Tenth District in Oregon. Charles is a Paid Up for Life Legion member.

Upon his military retirement, Charles was employed at the Lowry Technical Training Center in Denver, Colorado. Following a move to Oregon, Charles accepted employment with Harney County Federal Credit Union. After a 15-year career he retired as Executive Vice President of Harney County's largest credit union...the only credit union in the county.

Charles has served on Oregon Governor's Advisory Committee to the Director of Oregon Department of Veterans affairs in 2004 and was reappointed to a second 4-year term in 2008.

Charles has been married to his wife Linda since 1967, they have 2 daughters who are married, and 6 grandchildren. The entire Schmidt family is truly an American Legion Family, everyone belongs to the Legion Family.

Michigan Christmas Tree Growers Donate 'Trees for Troops' Each Year

Each year, families throughout Michigan hunt for the perfect pine tree to celebrate Christmas and other winter holidays. As they traverse across Christmas tree farms looking for their tree, families are usually looking for the one that's just the right shape and size to fill their home or apartment with cheer. What they may not realize is some of those trees are bound for U.S. troops thanks to the generosity of Michigan's Christmas tree growers.

Since its creation in 2005, the Michigan Christmas Tree Association has helped support military members by participating in the nationwide Trees for Troops program. Through the Christmas Spirit Foundation, Christmas trees are delivered to military families across the nation and overseas during the holiday season.

To date, more than 150,000 trees have been delivered to service members on 40 bases, including 3,184 delivered to troops stationed overseas in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar, Spain and Guam. Christmas tree growers in 25 states

donate the trees, while FedEx provides the shipping for them. Individuals can also “sponsor” a tree to help increase the number of Christmas trees that will be provided to military families.

The donated trees help ease financial burdens during the holiday season and make the lives of military families brighter. They also allow soldiers stationed away from home feel closer to loved ones and keep family traditions alive.

In 2014, Michigan's Christmas tree growers donated 1,200 trees. The trees are shipped from two locations in the state – Manton in the Cadillac area and Gobles, near Kalamazoo. In Gobles, volunteers help load the donated trees into FedEx trucks to be shipped to military bases each year.

“Just seeing the whole community come together to the let (soldiers) and their families know we're thinking about them during Christmas,” Betsy Wahmhoff-Perales told MLive during last year's event in Gobles. “It's a cool thing.”

For more information, visit TreesForTroops.org.



STUDENT TROOPER

Michigan State Police Student Trooper Program

Do you know a high school student, 16 to 18 years of age?

Who is interested in learning about Law Enforcement?

They will spend 1 week at the Michigan State Police Academy in Lansing, Michigan being exposed to all the areas of law enforcement.

- They will: Learn the proper handling of firearms
- Experience the adrenaline of driving at a high rate speed..
- Learn self-defense techniques
- Learn water safety
- Classes on crime lab and forensic
- Along with intense physical training

Top Student Trooper of the week wins a \$1000 Scholarship
3 other categories win \$500 each

Class is being offered: July 10 - 15, 2016 (Application deadline May 27, 2016)

Cost to attend is \$390 per student. Ask your Post, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, civic organization, local business, or other organization to sponsor them.

Find more information at: www.michiganlegion.org/trooper or call Roxanne at (517) 371-4720 ext 23



William D. & Jewell Brewer Scholarship

Scholarship available to only Michigan residents who are attending high school or college – no bachelor's degree,

- Who are a son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to or are attending any nationally accredited college or university.

- Selection is based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grandparent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Submit the scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the deadline date of January 11, 2016 (not postmarked by).

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/brewer.html

The scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable.



ORATORICAL

Oratorical Contest Scholarship

The High School Oratorical Contest began in Kansas City, Missouri in 1934-1935. The primary purpose of the contest is to instill a better knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

A contestant must be sponsored by a American Legion Post to qualify for the contest.

Contestants have an opportunity to win \$800 to \$1,500 in scholarship money at the department level. Those moving on to the National Contest compete for up to \$18,000 in scholarship money.

2016 Program deadlines:

- Contestant must register with the Oratorical Zone Chairman by Monday, November 21, 2015.
- Zone contests must be completed by December 21, 2015
- Department contest will be on February 20, 2016

If you are interested visit your local American Legion Post and ask them if you can represent them at the contest.

www.michiganlegion.org/oratorical



Wilson Scholarship

Guy Wilson Scholarship

Scholarship available to only Michigan residents attending high school and

- A son, daughter, grandchild or great-grandchild of a war-time veteran planning to attend any Michigan accredited college or university.

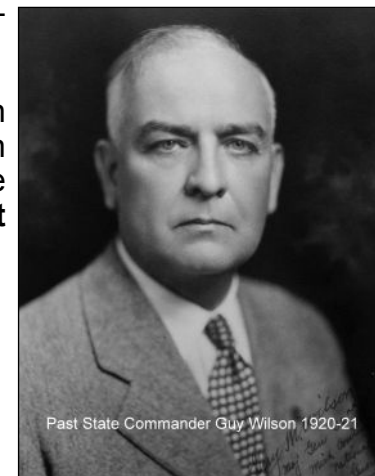
- Selection based on a student's G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher, financial need, parent's or grand-

parent's honorable active war-time military service, goals and intentions.

Send scholarship form along with requested information to the American Legion's District Commander by the **deadline date of January 11, 2016 (not postmarked by).**

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships/wilson.html

Scholarship award amount is \$500 and not renewable



Past State Commander Guy Wilson 1920-21



EAGLE SCOUT

Eagle Scout of the Year Award

Our Eagle Scout of the Year Award candidate for American Legion Michigan Department will receive a \$1,000.00 college scholarship.

By adding this \$1000.00 scholarship for our Eagle Scout of the Year this will help all of our American Legion Michigan Department scouting advocates to have something special to help promote and enlist more applicants for this award.

The Department would like to thank all those zone, district and post scouting chairman for all your efforts in promoting scouting in Michigan. American Legion Michigan Department charters approximately 70 scout units in Michigan and involves over 2000 scouts. The American Legion charters more than 2500 scout units nationwide. The Boy Scouts of America Organization involves more than 2.7 million youth and 1.2 million adult volunteers. The American Legion has had a close relationship with the Boy Scouts since 1919.

American Legion Posts are teaming up with local scout units in a number of activities. Maybe your post can get your local scouts involved in some of the below listed activities:

- March in parades
- Flag Day and Flag disposal ceremony
- Poppy Day sales
- Help serve at special dinners for veterans and families as 4th of July and Christmas.
- Putting Flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day
- Helping with projects at our Michigan Department Wilwin Lodge

Bob Mazzuca, chief executive for the Boy Scouts of America spoke at the Legion's 94th National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Mazzuca shared that many Boy Scouts get their start at American Legion Posts, and described how such a start ends up with impressive results. "And at the end of that boy's journey is embedded another chromosome called leadership. "Mazzuca said. Other values have been embedded ; service, duty to God and Country, leadership and respect for others. "I'd say that's a pretty good product." The Boy Scouts of America could not do that alone, Mazzuca said.

"But in partnership with this marvelous organization call The American Legion and dozens of others across the country, we change lives every day".

Thank you for supporting scouting in Michigan and if there are any questions please contact the office in Lansing or Scouting subcommittee chairman Carl Atkinson at (269) 945-3526

<http://michiganlegion.org/eagle-scout-of-the-year.html>

Department deadline: March 1, 2016

Don't Forget the Young Girls in Schools



When promoting Boys State, be sure to mention that the American Legion Auxiliary hosts a Girls State program similar to the Boys State. Theirs will be held at Michigan State University June 19 – June 25, 2016

Find information at the Michigan Auxiliary web site www.michalaux.org (select scholarships on the right)

2016 Memorial Scholarship \$500.00
 2016 Non-Traditional Student \$500.00
 2016 Medical Career Scholarship \$500.00
 \$20,000 Samsung Scholarship through the Girls State Program See their National site for 3 more scholarships www.alaforveterans.org (under "What we do")



BASEBALL

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Any Team Manager or Head Coach of an American Legion (Post – affiliated) team may nominate one player for consideration of this award.

The scholarship application is found online at: www.legion.org/baseball

Each Department (state) Baseball Committee will select a registered American Legion Player who best meets the qualifications as the 2016 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner. Each department winner will receive a scholarship from The American Legion of \$500 or more.

The American Legion Department of Michigan Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship

Robert (Bob) Turner was born in 1922 in Woodsfield, OH. As a child, his family moved to Crystal, MI in 1935. Bob served in the United States Army Air Corp. during World War II from October 1942 until his honorable discharge in March of 1946; reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was stationed on Seymour Island and received a Good Conduct Medal, Pacific Star, and Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal. In the middle 1970s, his oldest son Bryce played Michigan American Legion Baseball. Bob supported the team by attending many of the games and was a life-long fan of baseball. The initial "seeds" for the Robert Turner Scholarship were donated in honor of his life and memory. The vision and hope is that this academic scholarship fund will "grow" to support and invest in many more youth seeking to fulfill their dreams in the years ahead.



Scholarship is available only to Michigan residents who have graduated from high school, are on a 2015 American Legion Baseball Team roster filed with the National Headquarters, and who are planning to attend any nationally accredited college or university. Selection is based on the application information, the student's GPA of 2.5 or higher, and two letters of testimony (one from the American Legion coach or team manager, and the other from a community leader, school official or minister). The scholarship award amount is \$500. Deadline date is July 1, 2016 (not postmarked by).

The scholarship application is found online at: www.legion.org/baseball

For the most up to date information on American Legion Department of Michigan Scholarships please visit:

www.michiganlegion.org/scholarships

For applications, email: packet@michiganlegion.org