



LEGIONNAIRE

Michigan Legionnaire & Wolverine Auxiliaire Vol. LXXXIV No. 2

PARTICIPANTS AND GUESTS WANTED

10TH ANNUAL DETROIT VETERANS DAY PARADE SATURDAY NOV 7TH, 2015



The 10th Annual Detroit Veterans Day Parade will be Saturday Nov 7th, 2015. Staging begins at 0800 (8 A.M) at Jefferson Ave and Chene St.(this is east of the Ren Cen). Due to construction we will not be marching down Woodward. The parade will go from Chene St. and end at Hart Plaza along Jefferson Ave.

To register visit www.detroitveteransdayparade.org. Floats,

honor guards, vehicles, motorcycles, and vintage and modern military vehicles welcome. See you in Detroit on November 7th, 2015.

ATTENTION VIETNAM VETERANS MICHIGAN SAYS THANKS



Thursday, **October 8th, 2015**
12:00 NOON

The Michigan State Capitol
at Lansing

Please RSVP online at MichiganSaysThanks.com

Website: www.MichiganSaysThanks.com



Sponsored by Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall
Contact: Lynn O'Brien, LOBrien@senate.michigan.gov or 517.373.0563

Michigan Senate Majority Floor Leader Mike Kowall would like to invite all Vietnam Veterans to the State Capitol Building in Lansing on October 8th, 2015 at 12 Noon to recognize and thank those who served during the war.

They are asking the Vietnam Veterans and their families who would like to attend to RSVP at www.michigansaysthanks.com or contact Lynn O'Bryan at (517) 373-0563, so they may be prepared with chairs and space.

Possible Dues Increase!
See page 3 for all the details.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



Fulfilling Our Nation's Promise

September 18, 2015

www.dpaa.mil

No Return Postage Requested

SEPTEMBER 2015

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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Veterans Service -12- Wednesday only

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

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

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

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

Chaplain



Greetings Legion Family! The first thing I'd like to do is thank Commander Buda for appointing me again as Chaplain. It is an honor to serve and I am looking forward to a great year. I just can't believe that summer is coming to an end, but it has been fantastic! Now, I am looking forward to Fall and all of the holidays and various Legion events that we have planned. After Labor Day, in September, we have the Fall Conference in Lansing and I hope that you all get an opportunity to attend. I always learn something new at these meetings and it is wonderful to see you, my friends and share ideas on how we can make our Legion even better.

I've been working with the Downriver Veterans Honor Guard and it is a great but sobering experience. Like the other honor guards across Michigan we have been so busy. I try to make as many services as I can but many of the Guard have performed about 200 funerals already this year. I admire and respect them for their time and service to our Veterans. Why do they do it, it's simple, it needs to be done. And, if we

"Simple Minded"

don't do it who will? We can't have a Veteran pass without the proper respect that he or she deserves. I want to encourage each of you to participate in these services and memorials. There are various things that most of us can do, even if it is simply presenting a poppy, firing a weapon or help picking up shells. And, all that is asked is that you attend when and do what you can. When you see the appreciation of the families you'll know in your heart that you did a good thing.

I try to keep things simple when I can but those of you who know me know that I have a tendency to over think things. I'm working on his though and like the Nike commercial I often tell myself "Just Do It." I was once surprised to hear that a man that I greatly respect described as being simple minded. He was a very active man who donated a lot of time to serving others. But, he was devout and unwavering in his beliefs. At the end of the day, he did what he thought was right and acted on his beliefs. And, you could count on him to get things done. Simple.

I recently saw a story on the internet about Forrest Gump going to heaven. When he got to the pearly gates St.

Eddie Brown, State Chaplain

Peter stopped him and said that heaven was getting a little crowded, so before Forrest could get in he would have to answer a few questions. Forrest replied that he wasn't too smart but he would try. So Peter asked first, how many days of the week begin with the letter T? Next, how many seconds are in a year? And third, what is the name of God? Forrest thought about it for a while and then responded that the answer to the first question is Today and Tomorrow. Peter was surprised and said that it wasn't what he was looking for but that it would do. As for the seconds in a year, Forrest said there are twelve, January 2nd, February 2nd, March. Peter stopped him and said well technically, you got me there as well but what about the third and most difficult question, the name of God? Forrest was so happy and said that one was the easiest of them all, it is Andy! Peter asked him what made him think that? Forrest replied, the song says "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me." Peter could only shake his head and smile and said yes Forrest, you can go on in now. Dear Lord, help me to be a little more simple minded. God Bless You All. - Chaplain Eddie.

Selective Service Openings

Counties with board vacancies: Manistee, Ottawa, Allegan, Hillsdale(2), St. Joe(2), Calhoun, Kalamazoo(2), Shiawassee, and Ingham(2). If interested in filling a board vacancy, please contact Daniel W. Allen, MAJ, LG, MIARNG, M1 Michigan Detachment Selective Service System 517-927-1537 Daniel.w.allen20.mil@mail.mil or Daniel.allen2020@gmail.com



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STATE OFFICERS

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

Headquarters

Michael Buda, State Commander



Michael Buda
State Commander

First and foremost I wish to thank all of you for electing me as State Commander and for all the support I received while campaigning. Monday, June 29th was my first official trip to Post 70 in Detroit for their open house meeting where I was greeted by Dan McCrary, the 1st District Commander, along with Dave Babbage, the State Vice Commander Zone 1, and Past Department Commanders Al Ford & Gary Sammons who have been assisting Post 70 as both mentors and guiding them towards a Post who participates in community events.

On an invitation by Don Howard, V A & R Chairman, State Adjutant Ron Runyan, Gary Easterling, the Director of Department Veteran Service Officers and I were in Baraga, Michigan with a meeting in L'Anse, Michigan and just two

The Goal is 70,364...

days prior to this event my Department portrait arrived at headquarters. So while on this meeting with nurse practitioners for the Five (5) Indian Nations and with the expert assistance from Gary Easterling, we believe a successful meeting was achieved. Also, the night before the meeting, we were able to visit Post 444 and I was able to hand deliver the department picture to the vice commander of the Post. It was then that I enjoyed meeting with the members at the Post lounge without a formal meeting. This allowed me to hear from the members as to how they feel, as well as, expressing different plans on how they are working on getting new members in the Legion.

Since that initial delivery of my portrait, I have found it a pleasure to visit, unannounced visits, with Post members as I drop off my department portrait. As I said earlier this allows me to meet the individual members, as well as, officers of these Posts and to listen to their concerns and ideas for expansion.

The trip to the National Membership Workshop was a success in many ways. State Adjutant Ron Runyan, Membership Director Brett Holt and I held a brainstorming session just prior to the membership meeting with the National Commander leading candidate Dale Barnett; we crunched numbers and reviewed the answers. Once inside the meeting room, Brett Holt did an awesome presentation in answering the eight (8) questions that were provided by Dale prior to the meeting and Michigan received the number we requested; our goal is 70,364 members for the 2015 – 2016 Legion fiscal year which, when compared to last year's goal is 674 less members to achieve 100%. This gives us a real advantage to reach that goal.

Currently visiting Posts and preparing for the trip to the National Convention in Baltimore, MD, looking forward to see everyone somewhere in Michigan. In closing, my project for this year will be the Patriot Fund, which is part of Reconnect. Thank you.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

National to increase dues \$5 by beginning of year?????



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

A national resolution will be voted on at the 97th National Convention on a \$5 dues increase. If this resolution passes, it will mean a \$5 increase would take effect by January

2016. This vote will be happening about the same time you are getting this paper. Since there is a lapse in the time in which you are reading this article and when the voting is taking place, we do not have the answer if it has past. You can stay up to date on the possible dues increase via our website www.michiganlegion.org and via our Facebook and Twitter feeds. An updated article will also be in our next issue.

SO, what can you as a member in good standing do? First and foremost, I would encourage all members to get their 2016 dues paid immediately, before January 2016, hence not having the possi-

ble burden of paying more for dues. If dues are paid before the January 2016 deadline the current dues rate for all members will still apply.

The Department will also be evaluating if a state dues increase could happen. All posts should be looking at their dues rates to ensure they can cover the cost IF a dues increase passes. This would also be a great opportunity for anyone thinking of a Paid Up for Life membership "PUFL" to do this now before the possible dues increase.

Future Events

The 97th National Convention will be from August 28th till September 3rd and is being held in Baltimore, MD.

The state Fall Conference will be held in Lansing at the Causeway Bay hotel from September

18-20. We have made many improvements to our training agenda this year, including classes which have been requested by many of our members. There will be several LEAD certified training classes in which you can earn your LEAD training pin. Also joining us this year will be the leading candidate Charles Schmidt from Oregon.

Charles will be running for National Commander for the 2016-2017 years. All Legion members are welcomed and encouraged to attend this weekend full of training. We look forward to seeing you all there and if you have concerns or questions please feel free to contact any of our great staff and we will make every effort to meet your needs.

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PHILIPS
Lifeline

Membership

2016 Membership Year



Brett Holt

Hello, I am Brett Holt and I am your Membership Director for Legion year 2015-16. I would like to introduce the rest of the team. Sheila Saunders is the Assistant Membership Director in the Lower Peninsula, Gary Lane is the U.P. Membership Director and Steve Striggow will be handling Direct Market Solicitations (DMS) this year. Of course all the Zone Commanders are also a part of the committee but each and every one of you is part of the membership team. In fact it is fair to say that YOU are the most integral part of the membership team. We can give you the tools to be successful in reaching your membership goals but only you through hard work and dedication can help your post reach those goals.

See Incentives Below

The Membership Committee held training in Lansing on August 5th prior to leaving for the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis August 6-8. The training in Lansing reintroduced the Membership Team Concept. This comes from a Membership Team Manual that was produced by National in 2009 but is still relevant today. Along with the team concept was a post audit form to assist posts in determining their strengths and weaknesses and where additional attention could help the post to prosper. Also phone scripts for various scenarios were handed out. The phone scripts are not to try to turn the post in telemarketers but rather to assist you in knowing what to say before making a call to a member or potential member and assisting the Membership Team in feeling more comfortable making those calls. District Commanders will be receiving a CD with all the forms needed on them. The Membership team will also be visiting each district and giving a 45 minute training session on the subject. Check with your District Commander to see if a class has been scheduled for your district.

The DMS Coordinator has started sending out the request to transfer and project stay active cards to the districts. District Membership Chairmen please do not hold these requests. Send them out as soon as you receive them so that the member requesting the transfer does not have to wait two months when you hold your next district meeting to be contacted to be invited to transfer. Also note that if the request to transfer form is signed by the member you can contact the member via phone, text, e-mail or in person to verify the eligibility of the member and then simply fill out the transmittal form and attach the signed request form in lieu of having to get the members signature.

Continued on Page 17

District Meetings 2015 - 2016

1st District

All meetings at Post 375, 19486 Sherwood, Detroit at 7PM
Sept 14, 2015
October 5, 2015
Feb 1, 2016
April 4, 2016
May 2, 2016
June 2, 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

July 25, 2015- District Executive Board Meeting 5:00 PM,
Climax-Scotts Post 465, 6101 S. 44th Street
All Legion members may attend. Menu items available.
September 6, 2015- Climax-Scotts Post 465, RSVP- 269.746.0298
November 8, 2015- Cole-Briggs Post 48 731 N. Clinton Street,
Grand Ledge.
RSVP- 517.627.1232
January 10, 2016- George A. Custer Post 54, 1125 E. Columbia
Avenue, Battle Creek,
RSVP- 269.344.0658
March 6, 2016- Wolverine Post 360, 219 N. Main Street, Reading
RSVP- 517.283.2683
May 1, 2016- Sherman-Rice-Demorest Post 157, 104 E. Chicago
Street, Quincy RSVP- 517.639.3101
*Please remember, the regular schedule for 3rd District Meetings;
Executive Board Meeting- 11:30 AM, Dinner- Noon, and Regular
Meeting at 1:00 P.M. The dinner is \$7.00. Please always RSVP so
that staff will be aware of how many may be in attendance.*

4th District

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

5th District

Thursday, July 9th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Neal E. Fonger Post #179, 2327 Wilson Ave. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534
616-459-8374
Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Willard G. Leenhouts Post #6, 10820 PawPaw Dr.
Holland, MI 49423
616-392-2609
Thursday, November 12th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Daniel W. Cassard Post #208, 133 44th st SE
Kentwood, MI 49548
616-361-7685
Thursday, January 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Roger B. Chaffee Post #154, 2327 Byron Center Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
616-538-4443
Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Evan-Swanson Post #123, 14111 Ball Creek
Kent City, MI 49330
616-678-5160
Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.
Charles A. Conklin Post #28
616-842-5310
700 S. Harbor Drive
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Thursday, July 14th, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. - Location to be determined

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All Executive Committee Meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. with
First Vice Commander Howard Christensen presiding.
All District Executive Committee meetings will be conducted at:
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
September 13, 2015 – Post 235 – 10590 Grand River Rd, Brighton

November 8, 2015 – Post 294 3440 Morrish Rd, Swartz Creek
January 10, 2016 Post 269 – 1485 Haslett Rd. , Haslett
March 6, 2016 – Post 419 – 9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney
May 1, 2016 – Post 491 – 422 Woodworth St, Leslie

7th District

August 16, 2015 – Mt Clements Post 4
October 18, 2015 – Post 293, Sebewaing
January 10, 2016 – Post 16, Lapeer
March 20, 2016 – Post 197 – Harbor Beach
May 15, 2015 – Post 8, Port Huron
June 2016 – Department Convention

8th District

September 13, 2015 St. Johns	Post 153	
November 1, 2015	Frankenmuth	Post 150
January 10, 2016	Elsie	Post 502
March 6, 2016	Laingsburg	Post 248
May 1, 2016	Carson City	Post 380

Lunch is at 1:30 meeting to follow

9th District

September 26, 2015 at Lake City Post 300
December 12, 2015 at Cadillac Post 94
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

Sept 5TH 2015 - STANDISH POST 104
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, Oc-
tober 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*
Sept. 8, 2015 Lincoln Park 67 313-388-2088
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, 216 Stitt Post 232 313-274-9177
Feb. 9, 2016* Fort Dearborn Post 364 313-562-9090
March 8, 2016 Wayndotte 217
April 12, 2016* Trentionn Post 426
May 10, 2016** Lincoln Park Post 67 313-388-2088
June 14, 2016 Garden City Post 396 313-381-2245

17th District

Meeting start at 7:00 PM
Sept 16, 2015 Livonia Post 32, 9318 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, MI
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
July 19, 2015 – Post 172 , Rochester
(Installation of officers at 2:30 PM)
September 13, 2015 – Post 374, Berkley
November 1, 2015 – Post 143, Auburn Hills
November 8, 2015 – Department Commanders Tour
January 10, 2016 – Post 20, Pontiac, MI
March 13, 2016 – Post 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

AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

2015 - 2016 Department President, Sue Verville

HOW TO KEEP GROWING



How do we keep our organization growing? If we want this organization to continue to grow and branch out for years to come, we must challenge our current and future members to become leaders and to participate in our programs to help our veterans, their families, our military and our own communities.

We need to inspire our members and guide them in the right direction. We need to generate an emotional connection with them about our vision for our Auxiliary. We need to attract and motivate our members to participate in our programs. We need to create open communication between Units, Districts and Department. We need to work together not against each other. This is not a one person organization. It is all of us working to help each other, our Veterans, their families and our communities on all levels of the Legion Family.

This can be done by getting members involved, asking them for their advice on how they would like to help promote our programs. Provide leadership op-

portunities so they can learn how to lead. Build confidence and experience so they can grow with each new challenge. Allow individuals the freedom to try new ideas and different ways of doing things that will help get the job done. Tolerate and understand honest mistakes. We all make mistakes every now and then, but that is how we learn. Members, who leave a meeting unhappy, will likely not return. Make them feel welcome and encourage them to connect with other members. Reward members publicly for their successes.

Use small things to help motivate and build confidence in your members. This is also good for our Junior Auxiliary. DO NOT overwhelm them with a job that they are not able to do. Find qualified members for a certain position and help them. This can be done by mentoring them or offering to help them with our programs. When our members accept a leadership position they need to be able to make decisions that are sometimes very difficult and serious, but necessary for the good of our organization. Recognize that your Unit or District will reach a limited number of goals for the year. So select your goals carefully.

Use your guides to work our programs otherwise

the Unit and District will not get much done. Hold workshops or schools of instruction at your meetings to go over the guides. Your members will start to complain; there will be hostility and conflict among the members because they do not know what the programs are about or what they should or shouldn't be doing. Focus attention on important issues and let the members speak at meetings, not after the meeting is done and everyone has gone home. Help the members to understand why it is so important to work our programs and try for awards. Do not over do your supervision or your members will lose their enthusiasm. Persuade them to follow us with positive reinforcement and by providing a good example.

If we want to keep "Branching out as the Legion Family", we will need to rejuvenate, cultivate, inspire and encourage our members to carry on the ideals and principles of this organization. We need to continue our service to our veterans, our military, their families and our communities.

Hope to see many of you at the Fall Conference. This is where you have the opportunity to ask question and to learn about our programs from our chairman and committee members.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

Fall Conference - September 18 - 20, 2015

Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, Michigan



Office Hours:

Friday—9 am - 5 pm and Saturday --9 am -12 pm & 12:30-4 pm

Thursday—September 17—Registration

Friday—September 18 —Registration

1:00-3:00 DEC Meeting
3:00-3:15 BREAK
3:15-4:15 VA&R
4:15-4:30 BREAK
4:30-5:30 Membership
7:00-8:00 Opening Session
8:00-8:20 President's Workshop
8:20-8:40 Secretary's Workshop

Saturday—September 19--Registration

8:30 Continue Schools of Instruction
8:30-8:50 Americanism
8:50-9:05 Auxiliary Emergency Fund
9:05-9:20 Chaplain
9:20-9:40 Children & Youth
9:40-10:00 Community Service
10:00-10:15 Break

10:15-10:45

Guest Speaker—

Dave Jordon, Lansing

Topic: Veterans Court (Pres. Project)

10:45-11:00

Constitution & By-Laws

11:00-11:20

Education

11:20-11:40

Finance

11:40-12:00

Girls State

12:00-1:00

LUNCH

(District Pres/Officers w/Pres)

1:00-1:15

Historian

1:15-1:35

Junior Activities

1:35-2:00

Leadership

2:00-2:15

Legislative

2:15-2:45

Membership

(Recap)/ALAMIS

2:45-3:00

BREAK

3:00-3:15

Music

3:15-3:35

National Security

3:35-3:50

Past President's Parley

3:50-4:10

Poppy

4:10-4:25

Public Relations

4:25-4:35

Resolutions

4:35-5:00

Strategic Planning

5:00

Drawings/Raffles

Hope to see you at Fall Conference—Registration form is available on the website.

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Carnival



Unit 47 President, Renee Lance; and Unit 179 member Deb Wetherbee are all smiles at the carnival.



Fifth District President LoraLee Nauta; Dept. 1st Vice President Ellen Jackson; Honorary Junior President Taylor Townes; and VA&R Chairman Janette Brockway having a great time at the GR Carnival.

Deborah Williamson, Department Chaplain

KINDNESS



Why do people do good things? Is kindness hard wired into the brain, or does this tendency arise from experience? Is Kindness the innate power of human emotion to connect people with each other, or is goodness some combination of nature or nurture?

The dictionary defines kindness as “the quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.” And, to some degree, kindness, especially when it is simply human kindness, is just as the dictionary defines it. But when kindness flows from God, through us and into the world, it is so much

more, it can be life transforming.

Kindness is something anyone, bar none, can do. It can be random or planned, anticipated or spontaneous. When we are open to God, kindness becomes a natural response to the situations we experience, and the people we meet. We show this every day when we do something for our veterans, our children and our communities. Kindness matters because it can change people’s lives.

“Remember, there’s no such thing as a small act of kindness. Every act creates a ripple with no logical end.” - Scott Adams

Be kind everyone!

Wonderful 75th Session

Rysta Brown, Girls State Co-chairman

What a wonderful 75th session of the ALA, Department of Michigan Girls State. We had 305 paid reservations and welcomed 301 girls. We called in every available alternate, had only 1 “no show” and 298 Delegates voted on Wednesday.

We really focused on teaching them about the Auxiliary programs this year. Mary Anne Yuncker opened the session with a history of the Auxiliary and Girls State. She explained the structure of our Auxiliary and its role in their communities.

We started the week by introducing them to the meaning of each fold of the flag with the help of Past National Vice- Commander, John Mella, and honor guard members from Unit 12, Elaine Tish and Kathleen Cool. It was Flag Day, so we gave all the girls a flag pin. During the week at each flag ceremony an ALA member spoke about a different program. On Monday, A POW/MIA ceremony was held, and the table remained set in the dining room until the end of the session. The Delegates learned very quickly

that it was something to be respected, and guarded it closely! We covered the story of the 4 Chaplains, Leadership, Americanism, and Membership. We explained the meaning behind the Poppy and what we do to support our Veterans. Poppies were passed out so they connected the two.

Our special Veterans project this year was to raise funds for the Patriot Fund. Our Girls State Governor, Katherine Yats, presented Commander Wallace a check for \$229 at our closing ceremony.

Our 75th year resulted in quite a few changes at Girls State. The Delegates registered on-line this year directly with MSU, saving us a ton of work! We retired the daily printed newspaper *Politically Speaking* and went digital under the leadership of the ALA Press Association Adviser, Amber La Croix.

There are no words that can fully express the awe we have for the girls of the 75th session of the Michigan ALA Girl State. We want all who worked on this session to know that their work will make our communities, state and even the world a better place.

Thanks for Your Tireless Contributions

Sandra Carter, 18th District President

I am so blessed and honored to have been elected as the 18th District Auxiliary President for the year 2015-16. I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved in works of the Legion. With your help and support, we have been able to improve the quality of life for our members and community. I look forward to working with President Sue and the Department Officers to further the scope of services provided to the membership and community. The 18th is very proud of our very own Ellen Jackson from Unit 108, newly elected Department 1st Vice.

My Special Project for the upcoming year is Domestic Violence-Haven. Haven is an Oakland County recognized nonprofit leader that provides programs to promote violence-free homes and communities and helps victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. By lending a helping hand to this worthy organization, we are building the foundation of a strong community for years to come and breaking the cycle of abuse. So keep your eyes peeled to the newsletter as throughout the year we will be sponsoring special activities to benefit the residents of Haven.

I am looking forward to Cook-Nelson’s Post 20 Breast Cancer Awareness Seminar, Post 377 Chief Pontiac’s War Bonnet, The Veteran’s Dinner at Post 143 Hill-Gazette and the upcoming Commanders Tour in November. I hope to meet new friends and, of course, see familiar faces that day as well as visiting the District Units.

I would love for all our Units to strive for their membership goals throughout the year—and remember!!! Send in your membership dues ASAP. It is important NOT to hold on to these!! Let’s help to make the Department of Michigan number one in membership participation this year for President Sue.

My theme for the upcoming year is “Whistle While You Work” for Veterans. For those of you who give tirelessly of yourself—THANK YOU!

The Meaning of Membership

Laura Chappell, Southern Area Membership

Greetings from Southern Area,

It’s the beginning of a new year, and membership is of high importance in making sure that we obtain our National goal of 1 million members. We can help to attain that goal by just asking those we meet if they are interested in becoming a member of our American legion family.

According to the most recent surveys, the highest non-renewal rate occurs when a member is between their second and third year of membership. Why? What would have changed that these members did not renew?

Were we friendly enough to make them feel welcome at our meetings? Did they feel nervous about making a motion because they were not sure about protocol? If they were making a suggestion to try a different idea for a fundraiser, were they interrupted with, “We tried that before and it did not work then, and we don’t need to try it again.”

We need to be careful with our words and actions. Each member’s attitude, friendliness, and manners may be the key component in retaining our members, and to help us with our 1 million membership goal.

Remembering the meaning of the word MEMBERSHIP, can help us standing members recruit new members.

- M-** making sure that we are treating others like the way you want to be treated
- E-** every member has something to offer big or small
- M-** mentor a member that needs help
- B-** be careful of words and actions
- E-** everyone can be a potential member if just asked
- R-** respect everyone
- S-** share your knowledge; it is a valuable quality
- H-** help and support new and old members
- I-** ideas- any idea can turn into a huge success when everyone works as a team
- P-** pride in what a great organization the American Legion Auxiliary is

Have a great and successful membership year and don’t forget our veterans.



Fifth District booth at the annual Carnival held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on July 25, 2015. Left to right: Judy Holzgen; Pam McVeigh, 1st Deputy; Sarah Brooks, Hospital Representative; Judy Jones, 2nd Deputy; Dorothy McCarthy, 3rd Deputy; Theresa Wheeler; Deborah Chambers; LoraLee Nauta, Fifth District President



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

Editors: Sandy Lipman

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

WORKING TOGETHER

Fred Ruttkofsky
SAL Commander

As we start this new year out I would first like to thank all you blue caps for electing me as your Detachment Commander for 2015-2016. I am looking forward to working with Legion Commander Mike Buda and Auxiliary President Sue Verville, together as a family my hope is to increase our membership and get more veterans and their families the help and support that they need and deserve. Because without them we would not be where we are today and have the freedom that we do. Always remember that Freedom is not free. My project for this year is Wilwin. I want to let as many

veterans know about this wonderful place where they can go and get reconnected with life as you and I now it. I would like to thank Tom Howard for the great ride he put together for Wilwin. If you miss this Michigan American Legion legacy ride and concert held on July 25 you miss a great time. Richard Lynch gave us an outstanding concert. All the proceeds from his Love Tattoo CD go's to help support Wilwin.

Next up is Membership. As you all know the National has given us a 5 year strategic plan to reach one million members by 2019. I know that sounds like a lot but if each one of us get at least one new member every year for the next 5 years we could just make it. Just remember what that veteran went through to get you where you are today a little time and effort on our part to show them we care is the small part we can do.

I am looking forward to visiting as many post as possible this year. If you have any event your post would like me to attend or if you would just like me to come visit your meeting just let me know.

Last but not least I would like to thank my wife Dianna and my family and my legion family for all their help and support in the past year that got me this far.

Always remember that Freedom Is Not Free.

For God and Country
Detachment Commander

Fred Ruttkofsky

EDUCATION AND
LEADERSHIP

As your newly appointed Chairman I would ask that each Squadron provide at least one member to be present at each District, Squadron and Detachment meeting to receive information which will be provided at these meetings and then take the responsibility to disseminate the information to your other members at the Squadron level.

I will also be working with the Department Committee to both receive information and give information to be used in their sessions. Having said that; I need to know what you need to know.

I have been around long enough to think I know everything there is to know, but am also aware that I really don't. I am always learning something or being educated to the fact that I really don't know what I thought I knew.

Please make me aware of any issues you may encounter, what works well for you and how we might apply it to the betterment of our organization.

If your Squadron Adjutant has not yet signed on to MY.LEGION for your Squadron, then let's get that done as a starting point. Many issues regarding membership can be resolved at this site and there are opportunities to get information to your membership on the site also.

Feel free to contact me about any issues you have and any suggestions for training you would like to see accomplished. We may not be able to cover everything but can work on the list as we go.

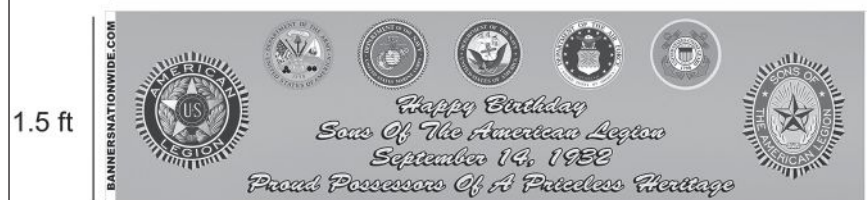
Ray Moore

moore@michiganlegion.org



Our Birthday Banner!

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Proceeds to benefit,
Child Welfare Foundation
Custom Banner Order Today!



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25% of all proceeds will be donated to the
CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

Fellow Son's, a new Legion Year has started. Our Michigan Objective is \$ 1.00 per member. This does not seem a lot, but in the last few years we have not reached that Goal. This in spite of Dexter Squadron and, Milford Squadron's Great Golf Outings. Every Squadron is challenged, to have One fund raiser for Child Welfare. Get the Child Welfare Ribbon for your Squadron Banner.

Procedure: Get the Money! Any way you can, of course legally.

Send the Check to:

Child Welfare Foundation

P O Box 1055, Indianapolis, In. 46206

Send me an email or, memo as to amount and date. Enjoy the feeling of untold gratitude from hundreds of children in the future.

John A. Kailunas

Child Welfare Chairman

WILWIN FUND RAISING RIDE

Tom Howard, SAL ALR Director

On Saturday morning the weather looked somewhat less than perfect. Riders started arriving, many of which spent some quality time the night before sharing stories. By 9:30 AM safety briefings were completed, traditional ride prayer was over and we were out the driveway from C&S Motorsports in Mt Pleasant. Law enforcement shut the area down and we entered the freeway. After entering the freeway and 110 miles later we exited in Gaylord where law enforcement had all roads closed for us, Zip's 45 parallel Harley served us lunch. At Gaylord we had a safety talk and I realized how much support we had. Not only the Team that did a great job ahead of us, our scout, road captains and emergency trail vehicle but more. Amongst our group we had National support, Tom Cadamas, Bob Spanogle, PDC Jim Wallace, SAL National past commander Earl, Past SAL Rodney, Present SAL Fred, Larry Money and

so many more. What an Honor. What I love is the support from my brothers and sisters from all across the state. This is a True Legion Family. Husband & wife or whatever. No caps or suits or ranks, just family. The bridge view was awesome for about 20 minutes. At the rest area St Ignace MSP agreed and shut down the entire area for us. Our last leg made this surreal. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 14 law enforcement vehicles for a 15 mile ride had every road shut down and a trooper in front at all times. One woman left her vehicle and with hand over her heart stood in the hot sun until the last motorcycle passed. This team did this out of respect for you our Legion Family. Head Captain Abel - Charlotte, Logistics Captain Theada (my wife) - Charlotte, Bev Registration, Wendy & Rodney Emergency vehicle, Fred & Earl Road Captains, & Scout Tim.

God Bless the Legion Family. We will continue to ride for our Veterans. Thanks Again.



Left - The Wilwin Ride Participants meet up at C&S Motorsports in Mt Pleasant to get ready for the ride.



Right - Bikes are lining up for the Wilwin Ride to Sault Ste. Marie.

DISTRICT 5 ALR GROUPS POST 28 RIDERS

Larry Lambert, MI District 5 ALR Liason & Post 28

Just got home from Wilwin Ride #1. Rode a total of 692 miles in 2.5 days. An approximate 48 bikes left Mt. Pleasant 7/25/15 traveling to the Kewadin Casino in Sault St. Marie. Post 28 was represented by 12 bikes and 1 cage. We were one quarter of starting group and rode together in group B, well done Post 28 riders! Special thanks to brother Tom from Post 74 in UP (a Post 28 rider) who rode down and started from Post 28. The ride was also attended by ALR's across Michigan and many noted persons such as past commander Jim Wallace, Larry Money, etc. (too many to mention). Tom Howard did an excellent job of planning and coordinating the ride and it went off without a hitch. The Robert Lynch concert was truly great (and I usually don't care for country music but it was good!). Post 28 Commander Bob and I rode home along Lake Michigan (US 31) to beat the heat which worked very well.

This was an exceptional ride particularly when you consider it is the first attempt.

I hope we can have representation from even more District 5 ALR groups next year. I will keep you informed on the details for 2016.

Again, many thanks to Tom Howard and his crew in making this ride a success. Hopefully, we made a significant amount to help support Wilwin Lodge.

Take care and ride safe!

MEMBERSHIP

**Andre Svacha
Membership Chairman**

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

As we begin a new year it is very important that every Squadron send in their \$10 bond fee and the 2015-16 officers list, this way you will be able to receive your 2016 membership cards. Once you receive your new dues cards, make contact with your members and get their dues. Do not hold your dues; they need to be sent into Department as soon as possible.

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

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Greg Price

We continue our search of Funeral Homes in the quest to locate any Unclaimed Veteran Cremains that may be sitting on a shelf in their backroom or basement.

This past Memorial Day the Dearborn Allied War Veterans Council honored the Cremains of 2 Veterans in a Memorial Day Service in Dearborn. After the Memorial Service their Ashes were taken to Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. where they were Interned with Full Military Honors.

Mary Compeau is the MIAP State Coordinator. She and Albert Samuels who is the Chief Investigator for the Wayne County Medical Examiner Office recently met once again to work on a continuing situation about unclaimed bodies at the Wayne County Morgue that have been identified as Veterans.

Last year there were 2 Refrigeration Units at the Wayne County Morgue that held almost 170 Unclaimed Bodies. The question was asked "How many of the Unclaimed Bodies were Veterans?"

On September 11, 2014 there was a procession of 13 hearses that carried 13 of those Unclaimed bodies that had been identified as Veterans. The procession traveled from those refrigeration units to Great Lakes National Cemetery located in Holly, and those

Veterans were Interned with Full Military Honors.

On July 17, 2015 a procession of 5 hearses left the Wayne County Morgue once again. This time they carried the bodies of 5 Veterans that no one had claimed. That procession also traveled to Great Lakes National Cemetery where those 5 Veterans were Interned with their Military Brothers & Sisters.

Many organizations and Individuals have come together to make these Internments possible, such as various Veteran Service Organizations, Funeral Homes, Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Riders, and different Police Agencies. These; any many more volunteers have supported those who have served in the Military, and have become the family to those that had been left Unclaimed, and remind us that These Veterans Have Not Been Forgotten.

Please continue to visit the Funeral Homes in your communities, and see if they have any Unclaimed Cremains. If you have the opportunity, stop by your County Morgue Office and see if they have any Unclaimed Bodies. If they do, see if you can get their Name, Date of Birth, and Social Security Number, and have your Post Service Officer check with St. Louis to see if that individual is a Veteran. Thank you again for your time and energy with helping the Missing in America Project.

POPPIES



(Note: The scout is a member and chaplain of a SAL Squadron in Grandville, MI)

Last March, I went to a fish fry at Neal Fonger Post 179. When I went up to buy tickets for dinner, I discovered the Cub Scout was sitting in an excellent location, right in front of where you buy tickets. He was offering (we don't say sell) poppies for a donation. As Department Poppy Chair 2013-2015, I was thrilled to see poppy fundraising in a non-traditional way. Who could resist passing this cub scout? And what a great fusion of cub scout volunteering & poppies & fish fry & PR! He and another scout raised over \$1,000 for the Auxiliary's Poppy Fund in 5 fish fries!

Hope this helps!

Margo Forrester, 5th District President



3rd Zone Report

Kevin Gilliam
3rd Zone Commander

Fellow Legionnaires, welcome to another membership year. First, I would like to thank the membership of the 3rd Zone for seeing fit to elect me as Commander for the coming year. There is much work to be done and we have many dedicated legionnaires that I know are up to the task. Working programs and recruiting membership are the foundation of our organization and will be a main focus this year.

As I already stated, membership is very important and I am very confident that we are up to the task as a zone. During my year as commander I am challenging each and every District in the 3rd Zone to either schedule a district wide revitalization project or a membership drive through

the course of the membership year. It will be key to continue to do our jobs by retaining, recruiting, and bringing back members that we have lost in the last few years. Pairing the two philosophies together will make for a successful year.

Working programs makes us visible and gives us plenty of free advertising. It lets people know who we are and what we do as an organization. As your commander, I am ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I am ready to pitch in and help on projects no matter what they might be. I am here to help and serve in any capacity.

Please let me know of any events. My goal is to visit every district at least once and make as many visits as possible this year. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and having a successful year. God Bless America!

16th District Hello

Jim Austin
16th District Commander

Hello comrades and welcome to the 2015/16 year. I am Jim Austin, your new District Commander. Our goal this year is going to be about getting back in touch with our lost members. New membership is very important, but I would like to get our past

members, the ones who used to be active and get them excited again. These are the people who made our posts great. Let's try not to forget them. Your district meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The scheduled is on the district website. Come on out and meet your new officers. We look forward to meeting all of you. Thank you.

2015 Public Relations Chairman's Greeting

Wanda Torres
Public Relations Chairwoman

I want to thank the Department of Michigan for bestowing this appointment on me, thus showing me that they have faith in me, so I will do all that is in my power to do a good job promoting our great organization this year. For I strive on excellence and one of my mottos is "Where there's a will, there is always a way".

I want this to be a great Year in promoting the many different aspects of what the American Legion does! Let us work together being positive and in harmony.

I am not going to do this

alone for I was given some Team Members which are Mr. Roger Younglove & Ms. Catherine Buckley. It will be a pleasure working with our Legion Members as a Team, so feel free to contact me at 616-558-6766, and let me know how your PR Committee can assist you.

I want to also invite our members to stop into the PR Committee Meeting at the Fall Conference and share with us some of your Public Relations stories for by doing so it will give others ideas of ways for them to continue in promoting the American Legion to their communities. Thank you in advance for your support. Thank you for your service!

79th Annual Bowling Tournament

The champions of the 79th Annual Bowling Tournament 2015 are:

Team Event; from Leslie Post 491, of Leslie; "Team #2"; Chad Risner (Capt.), Shane Burnside, Missy Smeiska, Kamie Burnside and Pat Burnside. Score 3250 (Hcp. 576) Doubles Event; Leslie Post 491, of Leslie; Chad Risner and Shane Burnside Score 1512 (Hcp.159) Singles Event; from Myron H Beals Post 32 of Livonia; Thomas Reynolds. Score 762 (Hcp. 00) Honorable mentions go out to Robert Stack Jr. of Oakley Traynor Post 64, with a 300 game. Ryan Reinke of Louis Teistler Post 47, shot 299 with a 755 series. Steve Lavalvo of Harold Ollrich Post 4, rolled 768 in the last team event of the Tournament.

The checks were sent out in late April, you will need to contact your team captain or post depending on

the address that was put on the entry form to see if you have a little something coming! Checks must be cashed within 90 days. Checks not cashed will be returned to the general fund and not re-issued.

The 80th Annual bowling tournament has not been decided as of this report. The possibility of not having future tournaments does exist.

The Association would like to thank Shane Held of the Monroe Sport Center for having a wonderful staff at the lanes and meeting the needs of all our participants. At-ta' Boys & Girls go out to Jim Thornton and his crew of finely tuned personnel. Well Done. We would like to acknowledge Bill Galan for his assistance with the doings at the VFW Post 1138.

In closing, everyone who has participated in the tournament over the years, has

notice the decline in participants. We have lost another 13 teams from 2014. This is important to all participants, you do not have to bowl in all three events, you may bowl in any combination of events, be it just one or all three. Furthermore, you may bowl in doubles and team event again, provided you have a different partner or team! Please remember the eligibility rules have been modified, therefore, we will not send info packets to all the posts in Michigan, however, all team Captains of record of this years tournament shall get one.(If it Continues!) You may contact us anytime for information about the Tournament. Phone @ 734-422-8670 Or Malbowl@sbcglobal.net. Please remember to leave a postal mailing address.

As always; Yours in comradeship. Scotty, Don, Ellen & Elsie

2015 1st Annual Michigan Legacy Run

Jim "Big Daddy" Austin
Legion Rider Co-Director

WOW! What an awesome year, the Legion Riders are flying. We're up to about 60 chapters in this cool state of Michigan, and a bunch of them showed up to support for our first Legacy scholarship ride. We started in Harbor Springs (Post 281), and ended up at the Dept convention in Sterling Heights. After 6 months of work and planning by the hardest working, coolest team (you know who you are) that anyone could hope to work with. We put on one of the best rides I have ever been on. Not only was the ride fun, but we raised about \$7300 on the ride itself. By the time we got into the convention we got another \$3000. The money keeps coming in, and at this writing, was over

\$15,000 for Michigan's first Legacy Ride. Great job by my team, and great job by all the post that helped with the ride. The posts included: Harbor Springs (281), Fife Lake (219), Manistee (10) and Grand rapids post 459, (super big thanks to Chris in GR) for the first day. On the 2nd day we left from Post 208 in Grand Rapids, headed to Stockbridge (510), and then onto the convention. AWESOME.

That is just one thing that happened this year. There was also a monster ride up to Wilwin Lodge (put together by tom Howard and his team) to support the lodge. Bottom line is, let's keep riding safe and keep support-

ing all our great causes. Keep supporting other chapters and keep doing the legion work. Thanks to all my new ALR pals I meet this year on the road, and I hope to meet a lot more in the upcoming year. See ya on the road and if you need any help, me or my co-liaison, Mike "Ponytail" Globke will be more than happy to assist you any way we can. P S. Next year's Legacy Ride will end in Sault Ste. Marie



THE AMERICAN LEGION
LEGACY RUN

CLASS AA STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



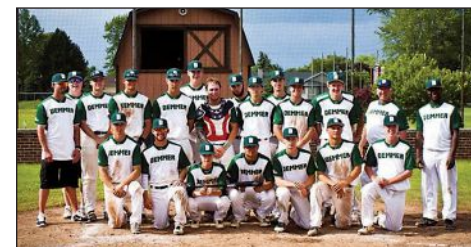
Bay City Post 18



Ida Post 514



**Midland Berryhill Post 165
Class AA State Champions**



Lansing Demmer Post 248



Sault Ste. Marie Post 3



The Turner family presents Grant Anschutz with a plaque for winning the Turner Baseball Scholarship. From l to r: Baseball Chairman Nels Cronkrighter, Past State Commander Jim Wallace, Brenda Turner, Dr. Tychele Turner, Bryce Turner, Grant Anschutz and his father Larry Anschutz.



Derek Clyde of Midland Berryhill Post 165 was chosen as the 2015 Ki Ki Cuyler as "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



**2015
Turner
Baseball
Scholarship Winner**

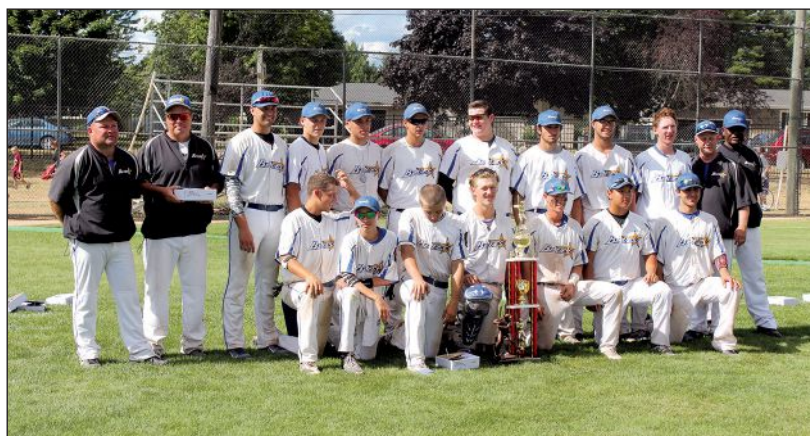
Grant Anschutz from Tecumseh was chosen as the 2015 Michigan American Legion Turner Baseball Scholarship winner. Anschutz plans to attend Butler University.



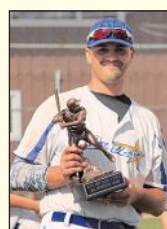
**2015
Michigan Legion
Baseball
Scholarship Winner**

Adam Dawdy from Dearborn was chosen as the 2015 American Legion Baseball Scholarship winner. Dawdy plans to attend Hope College.

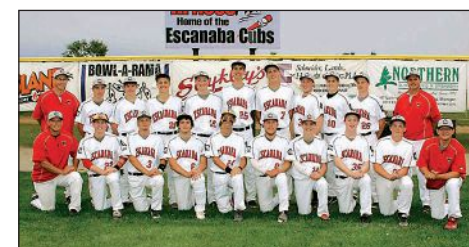
CLASS A STATE TOURNAMENT TEAMS



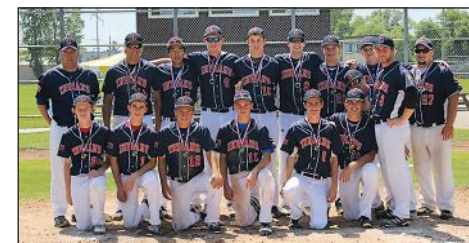
**Marquette Blues Post 44
Class A State Champions**



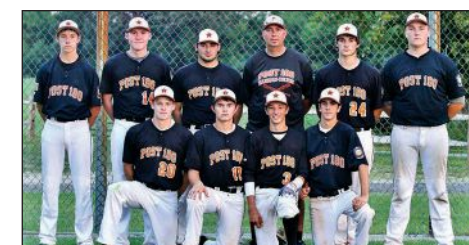
McKinley Larson of Marquette Blues Post 44 team was chosen as the 2015 Hal Newhouser "Most Valuable Player" following the Championship game.



Escanaba Post 82



Gladstone Indians Post 71



Hudson Post 180

STATE OFFICERS - 2015 - 2016

AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



Commander Michael Buda



Adjutant Ronald Runyan



N.E.C. Roger Webster



Alt. N.E.C. Thomas Brown



Finance Officer Roger Avie



Sergant-at-Arms Frank Flores



Historian Ernest Berry



Chaplain Eddie Brown



Judge Advocate Elmer White



1st Zone Cmdr David Babbage



2nd Zone Cmdr Barry Wood



3rd Zone Cmdr Kevin Gilliam



4th Zone Cmdr Richard Tracy



5th Zone Cmdr Stan Kennedy



1st Dist. Cmdr Dan McCrary



2nd Dist. Cmdr Mike Kraus



3rd Dist. Cmdr Robert Berger



4th Dist. Cmdr Gary Wear



5th Dist. Garrett Veihl



6th Dist. Cmdr Richard Schultz



7th Dist. Cmdr Mike Parr



8th Dist. Cmdr Mitch Louth



9th Dist. Cmdr Gary Walter



10th Dist. Cmdr David McGillen



11th Dist. Cmdr James Wash



12th Dist. Cmdr Carl Morrison



16th Dist. Cmdr Jim Austin



17th Dist. Cmdr Jim Pardo



18th Dist. Cmdr Sheryl May



19th Dist. Cmdr John Van Maele

These officers comprise your Department Executive Committee. They represent your membership in each respective territory, with the State Commander having overall responsibility. With them and the assistance from our 404 posts and state level committees, Michigan will once again deliver a very successful and progressive Legion year for our veterans, their families, and their communities.

Veteran Service

Did you serve at the camp between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987?

VA Expands Review of Chemical Exposure in Drinking Water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune as of August 3, 2015

The VA announced they will start the process of amending its regulations to establish presumptions of service connection for certain conditions resulting from exposure to contaminated drinking water at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

This process is in addition to the healthcare VA already provides for 15 conditions to eligible Veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 as a result of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. VA also provides reimbursement of healthcare expenses for those 15 conditions to eligible family members who resided at Camp Lejeune during that time period.

The diseases that are currently being reviewed for potential presumptive service connection include kidney cancer, angiosarcoma of the liver, and acute myelogenous leukemia, which are known to be related to long-term

exposure to the chemicals that were in the water at Lejeune from the 1950s through 1987.

VA will also work with ATSDR and potentially the National Academy of Sciences to evaluate the body of scientific knowledge and research related to exposure to these chemicals and the subsequent development of other diseases. VA will carefully consider all public comments received when determining the final scope of any presumptions.

Veterans with health problems they believe are related to exposure to the water at Camp Lejeune may file a claim for disability compensation. To file a claim contact the American Legion Detroit Veterans Service office to find an Accredited Veteran Service Officer near you.

The U.S. Marine Corps encourages all those who lived or worked at Camp Lejeune before 1987 to register for notifications regarding Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water at <https://clnr.hqi.usmc.mil/clwater>.

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

Services, Resources Come Together in One-Stop Veteran Expos

Throughout Michigan a variety of resources are available to veterans, but finding the right services spanning employment, education and health care can be difficult. At Michigan's Veteran Expos all these resources come together in one place, offering a convenient way to learn more about services, benefits and organizations at the federal, state and local levels.

Building on the success of last year's events, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is hosting another series of Veteran Expos in 2015 to help veterans and their families connect with resources and new opportunities across the state and within their local communities. Represented agencies will include service organizations, health care providers, recreation groups and more.

The first Veteran Expo will be held in the Lansing Center (333 E. Michigan Ave. in Lansing) on Friday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 12. A second event will be held at the Dort Federal Credit Union Event Center (3501 Lapeer Road in Flint) on Friday, Nov. 6 and Saturday, Nov. 7.

"Veteran Expos bring a wealth of opportunities directly to veterans," MVAA Director Jeff Barnes said. "This one-stop shop makes it easier for veterans to access the benefits they have earned."

A veteran from Morenci who attended one of the 2014 Veteran Expos found it useful to have many agencies providing different services in one place. Another attendee was excited there were "so many awesome re-

sources for veterans." Many used the Expos to sign up for VA health care benefits, interview for jobs, receive a veteran designation on their driver's license and easily find other resources – all in one place.



Veterans and family members looking to utilize education benefits can learn more about how to get the most out of their G.I. Bill benefits. Representatives from institutions of higher education will be on-site with information about specific programs. MVAA can also guide veterans looking to transfer their military experience into education credits and a meaningful civilian career.

Hiring Our Heroes will again team up with MVAA to host a hiring fair for service members, veterans and spouses. Free resources for job-seekers will include resume workshops, on-site interviews, tips for success and keynote speakers covering a range of topics.

The expos will also feature a special display to commemorate the Vietnam War. The display pays tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War and honors Vietnam-era veterans, including the more than 242,000 Michigan residents who served.

For more information about the 2015 Veteran Expos, call 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) or visit MichiganVeterans.com/Expo.



The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency will again offer two Veteran Expos in 2015, where veterans can more easily learn more about resources and services available to them throughout the state. The first Veteran Expo will take place in Lansing, Sept. 11 and 12.

ZONE 1 COMMANDER REPORT

It has been fun meeting with members from different Squadrons and listening to their stories about the things they have been involved with at their Posts, such as Bar-B-Q's, Ice Cream socials, Craft Shows, and upcoming Post picnics.

Some members are helping Veterans and those who are not Veterans in their communities that are having difficulty with cutting their lawns, trimming shrubs, or cutting up and removing tree branches that have fallen in their yards from spring and summer storms. These volunteers are vital in the relationship between the Post's and the neighboring communities that encompass them.

I enjoyed riding my motorcycle on the last leg of the Michigan Legacy Run (from Troy American Legion Post #14 to the Legion State Convention in Sterling Heights). The American Legion wants to ensure higher education for children whose parents have been killed while serving our country on or after September 11, 2001. The monies that were raised during our Legacy Run and the monies that will be collected during the upcoming Amer-

ican Legion National Legacy Run will help with making that happen.

I was not able to make the Wilwin Ride to the Upper Peninsula. Juanita and I were helping to host the graduation party for our granddaughter Chelsea at our house. The monies raised during the Wilwin Run will go to the Wilwin Lodge which is a place for Veterans to go for rest, relaxation, recuperation and recreation as part of their rehabilitation, and a center for serving America's youth by helping to give them a place to have enjoyable outdoor experiences. Juanita & I paid our rider and passenger fees for both runs to show are support for these important runs. I am glad that all who rode were safe.

I hope everyone continues to enjoy this nice weather while creating many Happy Memories. Thank you to all Legion Family Members that do so much to help others so they can also enjoy these lazy hazy days of summer.

For God & Country,
Greg Price

5TH ZONE REPORT



Hello everyone! My name is Bill Germain, the new 5th Zone Commander from Post 71 in Gladstone. I have the honor and privilege of being a SAL member because of my father serving in WW11. I have

been a member of the SAL for 38 years. The past 5 years I have served our post as SAL Commander and UP Committee Chairman. I served last year as UP Membership Chairman. What I would like to see happen this year is everyone striving for 100% membership from each squadron. If we all work hard at this goal I know it can happen. Any questions you can contact me at 906-428-9536 or email me at bpgermain@sbcglobal.net. God Bless and good luck reaching our goals.



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MAKE DONATION TO U.P. RAPTOR REHAB CENTER

The Gladstone August Mattson Squad #71 of the Sons of the American Legion has made a \$500.00 Donation to the U.P. Raptor Rehabilitation center in Gladstone. According to the Squad Adjutant John Pickard, "Our group was looking

for a great way to give back to the community and thought this was a great way to help the Rehab Center with their needs to buy Food and medicine for their birds. But the rehab doesn't come cheap. Some of the treatments can cost \$134. And

it takes \$10,000-\$12,000 to operate the center for one year. The volunteer-run facility relies on grants and meat or money donations. They will accept any non-processed meat like steak or even chicken for their birds to eat.

Founded in 2006, it serves the entire Upper Peninsula. It helps to rehabilitate animals orphaned, poisoned, or with broken wings or legs. The end goal at the non-profit fa-

cility is to set the others back free. They're carefully nurtured with bandages and shots to rehydrate them.

The Sons of the American Legion was founded for preserving the American Legion Traditions and Programs while improving the Quality of life in the community and for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.



Squad #71 Son's Commander William Germain with U.P. Rehab Center owner Randy Bruntjens

Post 287 FAMILY



Post 287 family at this year's carnival at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. In the back row are squadron members Walt Joachim and Skipper Townes.

JULY 4TH HONOR GUARD



The 4th District Color guard consisting of Danny Gleason, Hunter Tripp, Skip Collis, Zack Pendell, Rodney Tolbert at the 4th of July weekend at the Redbull Motocross National in Buchanan, MI



3RD ZONE COMMANDER REPORT

Carvin Chapman 3rd Zone Cmdr.

Thank you all for allowing me to continue on as your 3rd zone Commander for a second term. Since leaving the convention I have been busy delivering posters, stickers and awards to the 100% membership squadrons throughout my zone. I will continue to do this until all are delivered. There are still some posts and squadrons I have not yet visited and I will continue to do that throughout the coming year.

I attended and worked the stand-down at the MVF in Detroit, I also had the honor of escorting our Commander and his wife in the Chesaning Parade along with other past commanders of the Detachment and will be attending the Veterans Carnival in Grand Rapids this weekend at the GRVH. Following this event we will be hosting a homeless veteran's picnic at my home post Chief Pontiac. I am getting ready for August, enjoy your Summer keep cool and Safe.

EDITOR, HISTORIAN, NEF REPORT

Sandy Lipman PDC

Let me say congratulations to the new leadership team of the American Legion Family of Michigan, I am sure they will do a fantastic job in promoting the needs of our Veterans and their families.

Now let's chat a little about the need for the NEF natural disasters have been happening more now than ever. More people are being displaced and more Post homes damaged. This fund will help the member family etc. live while their home is being taken care of; it helps the posts rebuild and more. My question is why have I only received 2 donations of \$200 each up to this point? Please help!

At convention we said that this is your newsletter yet I have received very little in articles or pictures from the Squadrons, Districts, members or Officers. Four times a year you get to inform and brag about all the good you do, so PLEASE send me info, photos etc., This also hold true for Snapshot of Service the National Public Relations project that I helped develop. (go to national website and click on photos to see.) In closing as you Historian I will try to attend as much as I can when notified otherwise please send info and photos to sandylipman95@hotmail.com, anytime you have them. Thanks again for all you do!

WILWIN FIELD TRIP TO MACKINAW ISLAND



Thanks to all that helped Wilwin take our veterans over to Mackinaw Island at no cost to us. Richard and Donna Lynch met us there. Our Veterans are from Indiana, Florida and Michigan. This is their second year here and has signed for next year. We are doing great things at Wilwin!

Ann Arbor VAMC Report

Krystal Hall, Ann Arbor Representative

Since 1953, the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has provided state-of-the art healthcare services to the men and women who have so proudly served our nation. During 2014, the Ann Arbor System was honored by being the first healthcare organization in the world to receive the prestigious Planetree Silver Recognition for Significant Advancement in Patient-Centered Care. Also the VAAA System was honored in that 120 physicians affiliated with the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System appeared on the Best Doctors in America® List for 2014 (only five percent of doctors in America earn this prestigious honor, decided by impartial peer review). The Ann Arbor System with main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor and clinics in Flint, Jackson, and Toledo (Ohio), serviced over sixty-five (65,241) thousand veterans during 2014; the Ann Arbor VA System also handled 809,444 clinical visits and performed over five thousand surgeries.

The American Legion Auxiliary is one of 27 service organizations that volunteer at, and support the Veteran needs at the Ann Arbor System. It is considered our privilege to serve Veteran healthcare needs in any way we can. This past year, 1,371 (including 360 junior) volunteers logged over ninety thousand volunteered hours (90,460 hours which is equivalent to 48 full-time staff). VAAHS was further honored with donations (hours, monetary, and in-kind) totaling over \$3.1 million which is used/was used to support our Veterans.

A couple of event highlights for this past year included: The Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) opened their new retail store on Friday, August 8, 2014, at the VA store—and provides more products for customers to choose from. VAAAHS hosted the annual VA2K Walk and Roll on May 21, 2014, to encourage healthy activity while supporting homeless Veterans by donating food and clothing items. VAAAHS won several awards for the 2014 VA2K. At the Toledo Clinic, one notable event was held on May 23, 2014, for the unveiling of the Congressional Medal of Honor received by Ohio Civil War Veteran Wilson Brown. Mr. Brown received the Medal from President Lincoln for participating in “Andrew’s Raid” during the Civil War. His family donated the Medal for display at the Clinic.

VAAAHS is active in several programs, several are presented here: the campaign to end Veteran Homelessness; Veteran Justice Outreach; Telehealth Clinics; My HealthyVet web-access services and information for veteran; Click 2 Benefits (allows Veterans to speak directly with a VBA claims specialist); SCAN-ECHO (Specialty Care Access Network Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes); Veteran Transportation Service (one of only four national sites selected for a two-year pilot project); and, No Veteran Dies Alone (specially trained volunteers provide companionship and assistance as Veterans enter the final stages of life). This past December (2014) the Center hosted its third (now annual) Baby Shower.

Auxiliary members from the 2nd, 17th, and 18th

Districts continue to be active/supportive of the Annual Gift Shop (the Nov 2014 event had 54 volunteers, including three Juniors (380 hours) with donations of \$15,834.90), monthly Bingo parties, special need donations (flat screen TV, microwave, comfort items, etc.), and a Father’s Day program. Volunteers and Auxiliary members also helped with several other programs: POW/MIA, Veterans Day, National Salute to Veterans Week, Memorial Services, Mother’s Day program, Town Hall Meetings, the 2014 VA Community Mental Health Summit, and the Clothing Store (in-house).

As in past years, the goal will be to provide the best care and support for our country’s veterans and to support the VAAAHS programs. As I complete my third year as Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary assigned representative, one of my goals (our project) continues to be gather donations to obtain special needs (see above for this past year’s needs) and to have a successful Gift Shop. One of my continuing goals for this year will be to increase the number of ALA volunteers (both in Ann Arbor and Toledo) and to increase volunteer opportunities within the VA Hospital/Clinics.

In closing, I offer that I am honored—and humbled—to have the opportunities to work with such dedicated staff, volunteers, and other supporters (including ‘my Deputy’ Ethel Putala—thanks Ethel for you all you do) here at the Ann Arbor VA Health System as we service and support our Veterans.

LET’S BRANCH OUT

Janette Brockway, VA&R Chairman

“Branching Out” is our Department President Susan Verville’s theme for this upcoming year, whatever branch of the service you support or if you support them all remember to volunteer for the veteran.

We all have our special branch of service we support, usually it is the one we served in or the one our husbands served in, whatever branch it is there are veterans who are in need of you volunteering for them.

The dedication our members show volunteering in the VA Hospitals, Nursing Homes or at the community level has grown over the last year, this does not mean that you stop volunteering, the veteran always looks forward to seeing a volunteer.

As the new National President starts her year her theme is “Keeping the Promise”, this is very important for the veteran, when you make a promise to stop in and see them, take them to Dr.’s appointments, or just help them in whatever their need is, this is a promise to them and should always be kept by you.

“Service to Veterans” our new program taking the place of Field Service and Home Service which no longer exist is a vital important program without our “Service to Veterans” they would not be able to do and have the things they are needed.

Our goal as a volunteer is to improve the lives of the veterans, their families, our communities they live in and if they live in the nursing homes

and VA Hospitals, reach out and get the information they need to improve their lives. There are many projects that we can do to identify and fill the needs of our current military, Wounded Warriors and their families, such as Fisher Houses where they might stay when at certain hospitals, Quilts of Valor, Welcome Home, and sending care packages to our current military that are deployed, remember we have some great programs out there lets get involved and volunteer and make them even greater.

Let the veteran know that the volunteer will always be there for them and there are great rewards for the volunteer, we have many awards, citations and plaques that are given out at convention for all of the outstanding work that is done and shared with everyone. They can even go on to National for more recognition, you have to start by volunteering, report, report, and report all that you do volunteer for. I know it is hard sometimes to keep track of the hours but that is why you have VA&R Chairman at your Unit level to help all of the volunteers and make sure their time is recorded and sent on to the right person for credit.

We have a Homeless Director that can help guide you to the nearest Stand Down that might be happening in your area, there is always a need for items for stand downs. There will be a list put out soon on the items that are needed and remember you can use your Poppy donations for these items.

Sometimes we find ourselves going faster than we realize and don’t have time for the veteran, just remember the veteran gave all for us, now it

is our turn to volunteer and give all to them.

There are representatives for all of the VA Hospital’s if you are interested in volunteering at one of them, it is easy to keep track of your time there because you punch in and put down how many hours you are going to be there and it is recorded automatically and at the end of the fiscal year the representative gets a report showing how many hours you donated. Our work to enhance the lives of veterans, military and their families provides our

members opportunities to serve in volunteer leadership roles within their local Veterans Affairs hospitals.

We have to remember there are some great plaques, citations and awards for volunteering in the VA Facilities which is different than Service to Veterans, they will be in your guides so make sure you read them and for sure **FILL THEM OUT RIGHT** so they are not disqualified, there are due dates on them that have to get to the right person to qualify for these awards, as they travel on to Department Chairman.

HOMELESS!!

Wendy Tolbert, Homeless Coordinator

Have you ever spent the night on the street? Gone hungry for more than a day because you didn’t have any food? Well, many of our veterans have. This problem is not only of our male veterans but for our female veteran as well. Some with families to take care of. Life is not fair. There are some who want the life they are living now but more often than not our homeless want a normal life with a job, home and family. YOU can help. Stand-downs are a good way to start. These give our veterans a few of the things they need. Whether it’s just some clean clothes, toiletry items or maybe a shower, haircut or medical help. It puts a smile on their faces.

Stand-downs are run through donations. SO give!!! Have you

heard the saying, “the shirt off your back”? Well, do it! If you can’t donate clothing, there are always lists of items that are needed or donate money. Many of the VA facilities have programs to help our homeless veterans to get back on their feet. Some have job training and or housing. All of these places can use your help either with volunteering or with money donations. Maybe you know of someplace big enough to hold a stand-down, so start one of your own. You can contact me for more information on how to get started. Local Legion Posts and other organizations would be more than willing to help. Or you could donate your time. Volunteers are always needed. Let’s put a stop to our veterans sleeping on streets or alleys in cardboard boxes.

NO VETERAN SHOULD BE HOMELESS.

NATIONAL SECURITY: Let's Keep Us Safe

Deanna Cortright, National Security Chairman

Did you know that there are things that we, as citizens of the United States, can do to assist our Servicemen and Women in keeping our country safe? No we cannot put on fatigues and drive military tanks. However, there are many things that we can do. One of the biggest is to always be vigilant. Our country is seeing more random shootings and other behavior that is aimed at keeping us all on edge and insecure. If you are out and about and see something that just doesn't seem right report it. Sometimes we see things including behavior patterns that just make us uncomfortable and make us ask ourselves if something is going on. Reporting it to the appropriate authorities is the best thing to do. It might prove to be nothing but you might also be helping someone that is going through something bad. Always, always, always be aware of your surroundings. You can help keep yourself safe if you know what is going on around you.

There are also things that we can do to help keep our active servicemen and women more at ease. We can support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning military personnel and their families. If you know a family of an active service member, go to them and offer your assistance. See if they need anything, even if it is just a few groceries. It is possible that they are struggling keeping food on the table and pay the bills. Many of them, just like

many of us, won't ask for help. They continue to struggle just to get through the basic day to day activities. If they are struggling, you can imagine what the spouse that is deployed is going through. How can they be expected to do their jobs safely when they know that there are issues at home. If they are having financial issues that you or your unit cannot help with be sure to refer them to the American Red Cross Armed Forces Call Center or to your local VA Service Representative. If you are helping them please don't forget to follow up on a regular basis to ensure that things are getting better.

You might also be able to help the spouse of an active serviceman or woman by assisting them in obtaining employment. Often, when the serviceman or woman is deployed, the spouse doesn't stay on the base. They move back to where they are from so they are closer to friends and family. Your assistance in getting them employment, schools for the children, or just locations of services they might need will be greatly appreciated.

There are any number of things we can do to help our servicemen and women and, depending on the area you live in, the services you can supply vary from simple things like babysitting while the spouse goes shopping to helping them financially.

If you ever need assistance, your committee is here to help.

We are Proud Americans

Harriet Sturim, Americanism Chairman

We are all proud AMERICANS, but what does that mean to us as an individual, as group and as an organization. We proudly wear red, white, and blue for specific holidays and we shout it from the roof tops then but what do we do the rest of the year?

Do we live as proud Americans or do we forget that we are proud Americans?

We need to be shouting our Americanism everyday of our lives. Do we go into school, all houses of worship, libraries and community centers and show them and teach them about Americanism. If our children are not taught to be proud Americans, how can they be proud Americans? It is our responsibility, it is our right and our heritage to be teaching Americanism.

I have to ask a question if you saw someone abusing the American Flag would you step in and stop the abuse? Would stand up for our National Symbol? We have to make the decision to say YES.

The American Legion Auxiliary is a proud organization on making AMERICANISM even stronger. Stand proud and tall when you say the Pledge of Allegiance. Remember all that it stands for and all the men and women that paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Flag.



Attendees right of the podium



Michigan's own National Junior Miss Poppy Aleigha Houghton who stole the show; President Nancy Knox; and Poppy Chairman Margo Forrester



Attendees left of the podium

ALA Department Convention Sterling Heights, MI



2015-2016 President
Sue Verville



Distinguished Guest Chairman Mary Anne Yuncker, escorting Girls State Governor Katherine Yats.



President Sue Verville is presented with a "Be Nice" t-shirt by Honorary Junior President Taylor Townes.



Unit Member of the Year, Sue Jankowski; and Female Veteran of the Year Melissa Ann Skrip.



All the Legion Family Department heads at Chesaning Post 212.



SAL commander, Honorary Junior President, Dept. President, Dept. Commander, and the "First Dude" in the driver's seat.



2015 Girls State Staff

Join Us At Fall Conference September 18,19,& 20, 2015 in Lansing

Friday, September 18, 2015 will be committee meetings all day and the DEC at 4:30PM.

Saturday, September 19, 2015 there will be classes from morning until evening see the schedule below. Not all of the classes qualify for LEAD, but it is great training regardless.

8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Registration
8 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	National LEAD Training–Membership Team Building
10 a.m. – 12 noon	National LEAD Training – Americanism/Boys State
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	School of Instruction–Service Officer School/VA & R
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.	National LEAD Training – National Security
4 p.m. – 5 p.m.	School of Instruction – Historian Training
4 p.m.– 5 p.m.	School of Instruction – Judge Advocate
11 a.m. – 12 noon	American Legion Riders Meeting
12:00 p.m.	M.A.L.P.A. (check with registration for location)
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	G.N.U.T.S. - 40 et 8 #946
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Wilwin Lodge Meeting
8:00 p.m.	Social Event – DJ/Raffle drawing

Sunday, September 20, 2015 is the DEC meeting in Ballroom G - J

A full schedule is posted on line and in your conference packet.



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

DEADLINE DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: August 28, 2015

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

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

All Hospitality Room/Suite requests will be made with two night minimum. Requests will be made through Marilyn Britten, 1874 Birchwood Drive, Okemos, MI 48864, 517-349-5304 or manlynbritten2801@comcast.net

Please type or print clearly:
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____
Email: _____
(Verification of registration will be emailed.)

Causeway Bay Hotel
6820 South Cedar Street
Lansing, MI 48911

Mention: American Legion
(517) 694-8123
(Reservations can be made by phone only)

Make checks payable to and send with registration form to:
The American Legion Lansing Convention Corporation
2368 Lake Lansing Rd
East Lansing, MI 48823

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

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	LEGAU/SAL	POST/UNIT/SQU #	DISTRICT #

You can now register online! Visit
<http://michiganlegionfall.eventbrite.com>
and pay by credit card.

What is GNUTS?

GNUTS CLUB of The American Legion, Department of Michigan is an organization established to provide an opportunity for communication between those who are elected or appointed and dedicate selfless and often thankless hours by adjutants, secretaries or correspondents on a post, unit, county, district or department level. We welcome anyone to come join us at the fall conference who meets the above criteria, or just likes to have plain good fun. Heck...if you've written notes at some point in your life, we'll take ya! There is a \$5 membership fee to join, however; a card, pin



and drink tickets will be bestowed upon you to endure such enjoyment. Door prizes are also given out at the end of a small, yet invigorating, initiation for its new members. There will be no animals or people harmed before, during or after this adventure! After each year the GNUTS club makes donations to department children and youth programs when possible. The GNUTS club will meet at Fall Conference on Saturday, September 19th from 5:30 pm - 7 pm at the 40 et 8, 2949 S Waverly Road, in Lansing. A trolley will be available in the south canopy area at the Causeway Bay.

2016 Membership Year Cont.

Finally, I'd like to address the issue of receiving renewal notices after you have paid your dues. We are aware that this is annoying however; the national organization has a cutoff date for receiving paid dues before the next batch of renewal notices are printed and mailed. This is the date that national has to have received the dues and processed them into the system. It takes up to three days for national to process the dues. Department processes memberships received daily and sends the dues to national every Thursday therefore the cut off day each week is Wednesday. Your post has to process the dues in a timely manner to assist in preventing a delay and processing. As you can see, even if your post processes dues every week if they are received at department on Thursday it will be another week before department will send them out again. National will receive the dues on Friday but may not get them processed before the next Wednesday. This is a three week process. Now add the fact that the cutoff date from national is over one month prior to the printing date and you could have paid your dues seven weeks earlier and still get a renewal notice. The best way to avoid the problem is to pay your dues now. Of course if you paid your dues and receive another notice simply ignore it.

That is all for now. Membership teams go get those renewals and new members! Members make our jobs easy renew today!

Membership Incentives for 2016

Early Bird Drawing

There will be one name drawn from each District of those who have paid their dues by Veterans Day. The Legionnaire winner from each district will be reimbursed \$29.50 of their dues.

Individual Membership Awards*

The following constitutes the membership awards available to individuals.

Gold Brigade - 30 new members - Receive a Shirt, Plaque and a 30 Star Pin

Silver Brigade - 20 new members - Receive a Plaque and a 20 Star Pin

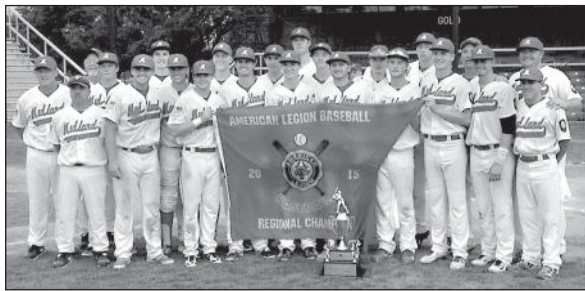
Bronze Brigade - 10 new members - Receive a framed Certificate & a 10 Star Pin

*All Post Adjutants are Required to Submit Records for Award

Post Awards

Posts that are 100% by April 30th will receive a 100% Ribbon from National.

Berryhill Captures Regional, Advances to Legion World Series for Fifth Time in Eight Years



By the Midland Daily News

ALTON, Ill. — Midland Berryhill Post 165 is making the American Legion Baseball World Series an almost yearly destination.

Berryhill earned its fifth trip in the last eight years to the World Series on Sunday, beating host Alton (Ill.) 14-4 in eight innings in the championship game of the Great Lakes Region tournament.

"It's a really good feeling," said Berryhill first baseman Carson Eby, who was named MVP of the tournament. "All of us are excited. Everyone who was on last year's team said it was a lot of fun (playing in the World Series), so we're all looking forward to it."

"You talk about the World Series to the kids at the beginning of the season and what your goal is, and our goal isn't to win state, it's to get to the World Series," said Berryhill manager Steve Cronkright.

"That's pretty remarkable," he added of having advanced to the World Series five times in eight years. "Every time we go, it's more and more of a fun thing. We would like all the kids (who play in the program) to get a chance to get there."

On Sunday, Berryhill leadoff hitter

Derrek Clyde had four hits and scored three runs, Cole Brooks had three hits and five runs batted in, and Connor Smith, Eby and Z Westley each had two hits.

Those five hitters, making up the first five in the batting order, combined to go 13-of-21 with 10 runs scored and 10 RBIs.

"We hit the heck out of the ball," said Cronkright, whose team had come from behind to win each of its first three games in the regional and had nearly done so again in Saturday's 9-7 loss to Alton. "We've been starting slow and then catching up. Today we just kept hitting the ball. We didn't play around this time. We got after it."

"Today we told ourselves that we were going to take the same (aggressive) approach that we took in the late innings (of the earlier games), and that worked out for us," Eby said.

Berryhill, the home team, broke the game open with four runs in the third inning and four in the fourth to take a 9-2 lead. Six different players drove in runs for Berryhill over that span.

Brooks added a two-run single in the fifth and a two-run triple in the seventh to make it 13-4, and Clyde's double in the eighth scored Caleb Somerville to activate the 10-run mercy rule and end the game.

Meanwhile, Alex Sova gave up four runs on four hits in six innings to earn the win, while Alec Justin threw hitless shutout innings in relief for Berryhill.

"Sova did a great job on the mound. He threw strikes and kept the ball

down," Cronkright said. "The other team was a really nice team," he added of Alton, which defeated Wisconsin 3-2 earlier on Sunday to advance to the championship game.

Eby, who's in his first year with Berryhill, hit .500 (11-for-22) over five games in the tournament.

"I was just seeing the ball well and trying to hit the ball hard and I found some holes," Eby said.

"Not only is he a really good hitter, but he plays (several positions in the field)," Cronkright said of Eby. "He's very intelligent game-wise and he handles the glove really well."

Eby was one of many newcomers for Berryhill after it finished as World Series runner-up last year.

"We had a lot of new guys. We only had about seven guys back (from last year)," said Cronkright, noting that the players have developed a strong bond during the season. "The reason why we travel so much (to different tournaments) is to make sure we have good team chemistry and that these guys will fight for the next guy."

Cronkright added that his assistant coaches have been instrumental in the team's success.

"They're traveling down here on their own dime," he noted. "They throw batting practice all day long in 95-degree heat. They're a huge part of us winning, way more than people realize."

Berryhill will open the World Series in Shelby, N.C., on Thursday at 4 p.m. against the Northeast Region champion.

"I don't know how we'll fare (at the World Series), but at least we're going"

Cronkright said. "We get to fly, we get to go to some concerts, and all sorts of fun things."

World Series Update Berryhill falls 2-1 to New Orleans, is eliminated from World Series

New Orleans (La.) edged Berryhill 2-1 in the final game of pool play. Post 165 ended pool play at 1-2 and failed to advance to the semifinal round.

Sunday's game also marked the second straight contest in which Berryhill managed only one run after scoring 12 in a lopsided win over Connecticut in its ALBWS opener.

"We just came up a little bit short. We hit some balls hard, squared up some balls with runners on (base), but it didn't go our way," said Berryhill manager Steve Cronkright, adding with a tired chuckle, "Maybe we used up all of our runs in the first game."

"... (We had a) good run (and) a lot of fun," he added. "We went a lot farther than I would've thought earlier in the year. We just took two tough one-run losses."

Cronkright noted that, with a number of newcomers to this year's squad, he was pleasantly surprised by his team's postseason run.

"We ended up with only six returners, but they meshed really well (with the new players). And they're really nice young men. They'll go a long way (in life)," he said. "... We've been on the road a lot, and it says a lot for young people to handle themselves like they did and to represent the Midland, Bay City, and Saginaw area like they did."

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Honoring all Vietnam Veterans on October 15, 2015

Jackie Skinner, Chairman

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 154, will display the Michigan Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial Wall at the Battle Creek Veterans Administration Medical Center, 5500 Armstrong Road, Battle Creek MI, from 12:00 Noon to 7:00 PM in Building 6, on October 15, 2015.

The display is open to the public. Everyone is welcome.

The "Michigan Vietnam Veterans Traveling Memorial" is a Memorial to the Men and Women from Michigan who lost their lives in the

Vietnam War. It's a message saying "We Will Not Forget" those who did not come home from Southeast Asia and are listed as Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. It is a place for those who have served to come together in remembrance of their fellow Soldier. It is a place to honor the 2,654 Michigan soldiers killed in the Vietnam War, along with pictures and biographies of all the names on the memorial. It is a place of remembrance.

Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, proclaimed May 28, 2012, through November 11, 2015, as the Com-

memoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War. This is an opportunity to honor our Vietnam veterans, our fallen, our wounded, those unaccounted for, our former prisoners of war, their families, and all who served with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

This event is sponsored by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lucinda Hinsdale Stone Chapter, Kalamazoo, MI, in collaboration with BC-VAMC, and the American Legion Auxiliary, Wiley-Koon Unit 475.

Classifieds

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
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- Successful Deer Hunter Licenses
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 - Hunting Badges

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

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Larry Money for Department Commander 2016-2017



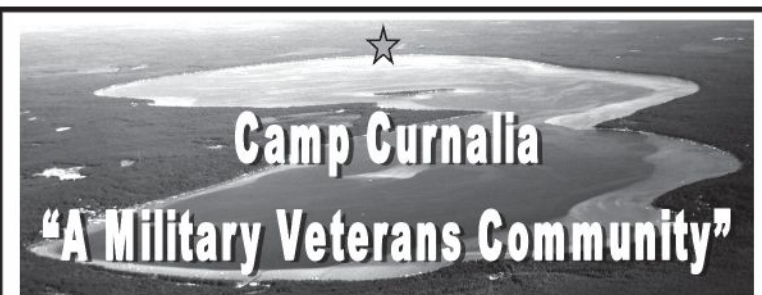
The American Legion Post 51 and the 4th District Association endorse Legionnaire Larry Money for the position of Department Commander for the 2016-2017 membership year. Larry is a 36 continuous year member of the Legion from Post 51 in Buchanan, Michigan. He has held leadership positions as Post Commander, Dis-

trict Commander, Department Vice Commander and has served as Chairman and committee person on various district and department committees. Some of the committees include Americanism, Boy Scouts, and Membership over his long Legion career.

American Legion Post 51 and the 4th District Association ask for your support in electing Larry Money as the Department's Commander at the 2016 Annual Convention.



**Grand Rapids Home
for Veterans
Carnival
July 25, 2015**



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

Around the State...



Commander Mike Buda with Lois McDermot and Past Commander of Wyandotte Post 217 Joe McDermot and Lady Natalie



Nashville Country Music Star Richard Lynch teamed up with Wilwin on a new release entitled "Love Tattoo." Lynch put on a concert July 25, 2015 the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie. As Richard travels around the country promoting "Love Tattoo," profits of the song will go to Wilwin, also. Past National Detachment Commander Earl Ruttkofsky, Past Department Commander Bill Hafeman, Richard Lynch, Lou Oberle, and promoter Joe Blanchard pose for a photo.



Ed Gorecki and Bob Mayrand are standing by the new flag memorial at the Michael Doyle Memorial Service at Oakwood Cemetery in Wyandotte, a 93 year memorial service.



Adrian Post 275 held its 12th annual Vets Night, July 1st at Nicolay Field on the campus of Adrian College. This year was highlighted by honoring World War II Veterans. Twenty-four (24) WW II vets were introduced individually (branch of service, rank and name) in front of a crowd of approx. 400 fans. A total of 104 veterans were recognized for their service to our country. Each vet was presented with an American flag, a flash light (engraved THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE) and a refrigerator calendar magnet also stating THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. Players and coaches from both Post 275 (Adrian) and Post 180 (Hudson) presented these items to each veteran thanking them for their service to our country. The entire ceremony was broadcast live over our local radio station WLEN 103.9 FM. Fun was had by all.



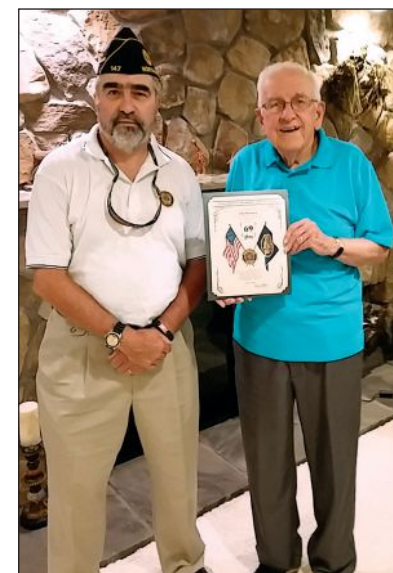
State Commander Mike Buda and Eddie Brown State Chaplain at Michael Doyle Memorial Service at Oakwood Cemetery in Wyandotte, a 93 year memorial service.



Ann Arbor Post #46 supports Wilwin Lodge with a \$1,000 donation. L-R Steve Duncan, Wilwin Chair Lou Oberle, Oleg Michajlenko and John Kinzinger.



54 high school students sponsored by the American Legion experienced what it takes to become Michigan State Police (MSP) troopers. The programs, which are patterned after an MSP trooper recruit school, promote an educational experience for building teamwork while learning about law enforcement fundamentals. Between physical training at 5 a.m. and lights-out at 10 p.m., the students learn about traffic and criminal law, defensive tactics, firearms and marksmanship fundamentals, first-aid, water safety, patrol tactics, crash investigations, law enforcement career opportunities, conservation law, narcotics and underwater recovery.



Gary DeMars the Commander of Northville Post 147 is presenting John Kennard his 2016 membership card and a certificate of American Legion Continuous Membership. John renewed his American Legion membership early this year and by doing that he is starting his 69th year of American Legion Membership. John is a WWII Navy man and very long term Legionnaire.