



M I LEGIONNAIRE



Michigan Premier Program

HELP WANTED FOR BOYS STATE!!



Legionnaires and Sons of the American Legion the Boy's State committee need your help. The 2015 Boys State program will be the last Boys State event for several of our educators who work hard and have done so for over 20 years and more to make Michigan Boys State the Premier Program that it is today. They have indicated that this will be their last as they retire. The American Legion Department of Michigan has been blessed with such a hard working staff and the program they have put on over the years.

Are you an educator, city, coun-

ty, or state representative or committee person? Do you have experience on how government functions? Are you an attorney or judge? Participate in Law Enforcement? Or do you have skill sets that the Boys State program could benefit from?

The Boys State program is about teaching High School Juniors how government works, from the local school boards, to cities, to counties, to the state, and all of the pieces in between.

Will You Help Us?

Your help would be greatly appreciated, for more information about helping in the Boys State program please contact Jerry Kelley, Boys State Chairman at 734-434-8272 jkelley2136@sbcglobal.net.



MVAA Thanks Patrick Lafferty for His Years of Service to State Veterans

Retiring after more than three decades helping veterans



LANSING, Mich. – Retiring Michigan American Legion State Adjutant Patrick W. Lafferty was honored on February 4th, 2015 with the Michigan Distinguished Service Medal for his years of dedicated service on behalf of state veterans.

Lafferty, a Vietnam War Era veter-

an and member of the American Legion for 32 years, is retiring after nearly 17 years as the organization's state adjutant. Known for his innovation and resourcefulness when forging partnerships to benefit Michigan veterans, Lafferty also served as a veteran service officer for 15 years before becoming assistant director for the American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division.

"Pat has spent more than three decades helping Michigan veterans, and we cannot thank him enough for his service," said Jeff Barnes, director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). "Connecting veterans to their benefits can be a complex and challenging process at times, but Michigan veterans always had an ally in Pat Lafferty. His work ethic and knowledge will be missed, but we wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement."

Lafferty played a pivotal role in the formation of the Michigan Veterans Coalition, which coordinates veteran service assistance around the state. It is comprised of veterans service organizations including the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Michigan Marine Corps League, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Military Order of the Purple Heart and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Lafferty also served as a member of MVAA's strategic planning workgroup, helping MVAA to identify ways to improve service delivery to Michigan veterans.

"Helping veterans get the benefits they have earned has been a lifelong passion of mine, and I have been very fortunate to work with some great people to accomplish that goal," Lafferty said. "It is a great honor to receive this award, but it has been an even greater honor to work on behalf of Michigan's veterans for all these years. The American Legion has been my home since 1983, and I can't describe the appreciation I feel for the opportunities it has given me."

The Michigan Distinguished Service Medal is the highest honor a civilian can be presented. It is awarded to personnel who have distinguished themselves through exceptionally meritorious achievement or service, benefiting the state military establishment.

Adjutant Lafferty is Awarded the Michigan Distinguished Service Medal



From left, MVAA Director Jeff Barnes, Patrick W. Lafferty and Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais, adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard. Lafferty was presented with the Michigan Distinguished Service Medal today, commemorating his 17 years of service as the American Legion's state adjutant. The medal is awarded to personnel who have distinguished themselves through exceptionally meritorious achievement or service, benefiting the state military establishment.

No Return Postage Requested

MARCH 2015

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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Do you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use? E-mail it to us at 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



One of my favorite sermon illustrations is the story of “The Mad Russian Czar Nicholas II” during the beginning of WW I as he rode his horse inspecting his troops after a victorious battle in the Russian territory. He was very proud until he noticed one soldier had one button missing on his jacket. This turned this Czar to anger and he ordered his troops to an ‘about face’ as they faced northward. He gave the order “Forward March!” and they marched through the town and out through the woods and valleys, continuously. They kept marching until they reached the northern parts of Siberia, and they marched to their frozen deaths. Why? Because their mad czar never gave the word “Halt!”

I will never forget that day,

May 3, 1970, at my home church in Grand Rapids, at a special service, the pastor gave a charge to me known as my marching orders for the ministry. It consisted on 3 words ... GO! TELL! TEACH! I was ordained into the ministry, and 45 years later, today, the marching orders has never changed and no one has ever said to me “HALT!” I am still true to those words.

For our beloved American Legion, we have “marching orders” too! On March 15, 1919 in Paris the American Legion became a congressionally chartered corporation by veterans of the American Expeditionary Forces with the main mission to sponsor programs that improve veterans communities, by providing scholarships, youth programs, and homelessness and jobs after they return home. They would also promote patriotism,

Lawrence Vollink, State Chaplain

MARCH IN WITH MARCHING ORDERS!

national security and devotion to veterans coming home. A Preamble was given to the organization that all members would become their “MARCHING ORDERS” for the organization. It has never changed since 1919, and no one has said “HALT!” For years, it has done amazing things to bring the veteran to the forefront of our nation, too numerous to mention. As our National Leaders and State Leaders meet in Conventions and Conferences, Resolutions are made that continue to be the marching orders for all Legionnaires and are followed through our local Posts. It’s important for us to keep informed so we can be strong, in our community, state, and nation.

March 2015... lets be strong with our marching orders to our devotion to all veterans! No one has said HALT!!!

General Motors and The American Legion Celebrating Family

On January 21, 2015 in Grand Blanc, Michigan in a small but respectable ceremony General Motors employees of the Customer Care & Aftersales (CCA) world headquarters were presented Blue Star Banners in honor of their sacrifices they are making due to their loved ones serving in the US Armed Forces.

Presenting the banners were Auxiliary member Jacquelynn Boughner, her husband SAL member Mike Boughner, Legionnaire Brett Holt and GM CCA Veterans Affinity Group (VAG) President Donald Gore (BMCS retired)

It was a great day to “Celebrate Family” says Jacquelynn, a GM employee and member of the GM CCA VAG. I enjoy working with both my American Legion Family and my General Motors Family helping active military, veterans, and their families.

GM has supported the U.S. military for more than a century and they have many programs available for veterans, like Hiring our Hero’s, Military vehicle discounts and the Shifting Gears Automotive Technician Training to name a few.

After all of the individual banners were presented, the group presented a Corporate Blue Star Banner to GM CCA as a symbol of appreciation.



ALA Member Jacquelynn Boughner, GM CCA VAG President Donald Gore, Legionnaire Bret Holt

STATE OFFICERS

State Commander Jim Wallace, Pinckney	Finance Officer .. George Dolan, Grand Blanc	Alt. National Executive Committeeman Roger Webster, Croton
State Adjutant ... Patrick W. Lafferty, Farwell	Historian Mitch Louth, St. Johns	Immediate Past Commander Ray Moore, Lake
1st Zone. Joe Callahan	Chaplain Larry Volink, Ypsilanti	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director Gary Easterling,
2nd Zone Jim Carlin	Sergeant-at-Arms Frank Flores, Madison Heights	Membership Dir. Steve Striggow,
3rd Zone Marilyn Britten	Judge Advocate. Elmer White, Ann Arbor	Public Relations Director Mark Sutton, Eaton Rapids
4th Zone Joe Renis	National Executive Committeeman	
5th Zone..... Jim Dougovito John Skinner, Schoolcraft	

Headquarters

Jim Wallace, State Commander



SPRING TO THE FINISH LINE



Jim Wallace
State Commander

With the Michigan Legislative Breakfast, 16th District Americanism Banquet, 81st Annual National American Legion Pilgrimage to the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Ill., Winter Meeting in Flint, Washington D.C. Legislative Meeting and other meetings behind us February was a very busy month. It's time to spring into action with Membership goals and programs. With each of you helping we can obtain our Departments 100% target – sooner than later. You know how to accomplish this task and what is needed. Thank you for your due dil-

igence.

Another item of great importance is the fact that there are approximately 70 new legislators in the Michigan House of Representatives and Senate that need to be contacted along with the ones that have returned. Due to term limits many of them have never been in a congressional seat prior to this year. (It seems that just as we get them to understand what the American Legion is about and how we help veterans and the communities they are gone). In talking with several newly elected lawmakers they have no idea who the American Legion is or what we stand for. Many are surprised that we are the largest war time veteran organization and base our ideals on the fact that we are “veterans helping veterans”. It is up to you, their

constituents, to educate them on the Legion programs, goals, benefits for veterans and the work we do on a daily basis to promote education, jobs, training, and a better life style for the veteran and his/her family. We also have five (5) new U.S. Representatives and one (1) U.S. Senator in Washington, D.C. that need to be aware of your American Legion. We still need to contact all other lawmakers to restate the need for them to help us help our active-duty service personnel and our veterans. It is time to be active and get to know all the House Representatives and Senators in your area.

I would like to thank the Upper Peninsula American Legion Family for a great U.P. Commander's Tour lead by 5th Zone Commander Jim Dougavito and his wife, Linda. The

First Lady and I wish to thank all Posts-Units-Squadrons-Chapters, Officers and members for the hospitality, friendship and great food during our tour and the visits to Jacobetti Veterans Home in Marquette and the VA Hospital in Iron Mountain.

We all have the means and opportunity to make the American Legion & Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, the best in the Nation. This can only be accomplished if we work together as members of the Legion Family. Contact each other to adopt a plan to help veterans. That is what the main objective is among each of our Family members. So let's SPRING TO THE FINISH LINE together, with confidence, because, it is for: each of our membership goals, programs and the veterans.

Ron Runyan, State Adjutant

Runyan's Rambling's



Ron Runyan
State Adjutant

As the new adjutant, I have had 5 full months of training and getting to know everything I never knew before. I have had a great teacher and mentor and we will all miss Patrick! I would like to give a special thanks to the Lafferty family. You have made a huge sacrifice in your lives for the last 32 years and The American Legion would like to give you a BIG Thank You!

Recently we had a great time in the Upper Peninsula meeting new members of the family and seeing some old friends. The weather was actually pretty nice and look forward to coming up again soon. I had a greater appreciation for our active members from the U.P. now that I have driven from one end to another. It takes a lot of dedication to attend several meetings a year down with the lower half. You, are what makes our organization great.

We also had a very successful winter meeting and wanted to thank everyone for coming out in the weather we had. It takes dedication from our state leaders and members to make our mission possible. Special thank you to our guest that made time within their day to day to be with us. I believe that the information and business that was performed will move our organization ahead and for the betterment of our members, and veterans in the state!

What is post 225?

I get asked this question often so thought I would address it in this month's issue. Post 225 is our state's "Holding" post or department post located in Lansing

at the state headquarters. The members of Post 225 have all the same rights and benefits as any other member of a local post.

How am I in post 225?

There are several ways a member can be a member of post 225. If the member joined our organization through a National membership incentive or recruiting method. Those members are deemed 225, since they joined thru National, we hold their memberships in this post. At any time a member of post 225 can transfer to a local post. Another way a member can be in post 225 is to not renew to their original post for a period of time. If they do not renew the National organization sends out expiration renewals asking them to rejoin, if this is taken, they are transferred out of the local post. The best way for this not to happen to anyone is to make sure to pay your dues before January each year. Lastly, a member if having issues within a local post can also be transferred by request into 225. Post 225 has no meetings, no bar and participates in all programs. If you are a member and have had thoughts of dropping out of our Great organization due to post problems, please don't. It would be better to transfer to another local post or as a last resort there is Post 225. Your membership helps fight for veteran benefits and provides us the strength to be seen by the public and by our government. Case in point, it was The American Legion who fought for the investigation of the VA medical centers and following up on claims.

The American Legion has annual dues from January to December, however the renewal process starts in July every year. It is our responsibility to try to try to get as many members renewed before January 1 each year.

The American Legion

Happy Birthday!!!



*Veterans Serving Veterans
Since March 15th, 1919*



Congratulations

41



Steve Strigrow, Membership Director

The numbers are in for the Early Bird Drawing. 41 Posts achieved 100% prior to December 31st. It will be my distinct pleasure to present these Commanders with a 100% Commander Jacket at Convention. Several of the Commanders that achieved the goal asked if I would change the blazer to a jacket, so it could be worn

more often. I have decided to do that. I had a sample of the jacket at the winter meeting. REMEMBER you must submit your size for the jacket.

National Commander Helm's calling program went well. However, the numbers that were reported were very disappointing. Unfortunately it was a small number of posts that reported their numbers on a weekly basis, the rest seemed to think it didn't apply to them and it was business as usual. Continue this program, it is what we should be doing every week until we all reach 100%.

The Goal is in sight and is very attainable. I look forward to seeing the report every week, to watch the progress toward 100%+. Challenge each other to see who can get the most increase each week. Keep up the great work. ALL working together we can reach our goal.

Supporting Family Membership The New Membership Kiosk



As part of National Commander Mike Helm's goal of 4x4 a new kiosk box has been developed to help promote the membership in the American Legion Family and the Legion Family charities. His goal is 4 million in Legion family membership and \$4 million in Legion Family charity donations. This kiosk can be displayed in your Post or on tables at events the Post displays at.

They are \$59.95 each and are available from Emblem sales. Visit Emblem Sales at emblem.legion.org or call them at (888)453-4466 ask for item 735.504, they are \$59.95 plus tax and shipping.

District Meetings 2014 - 2015

Updated 10/10/2014

1st District

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

2nd District

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

3rd District

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

4th District

March 1, 2015@Constantine
 May 3, 2015@ South Haven Post 49

5th District

Meetings @ 7PM
 March 12, 2014 @ Post 102 - 330 Rockford Park Dr., Rockford, MI
 July 9th, 2015 TBA

6th District

Lunch @ 12:00PM Meeting @ 1:00PM
 March 8th, 2015 @ Post 269 1485 Haslett Rd., Haslett,
 May 3rd, 2015 @ Post 267, 10309 Davison Rd., Davison,

7th District

March 8th, 2015 @ Caro Post
 May 17th, 2015 @Lapeer Post
 June 2015 - Department Convention

8th District

March 1st, 2015 @ Stanton Post 175
 May 3rd, 2015 @ Saranac Post 452

9th District

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

10th District

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

11th District

April 11th, 2015 @Menominee Post 146 10 AM CST

12th District- N/A

16th District

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

17th District

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

18th District

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

19th District

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



American Legion Post 150 in Frankenmuth honored 2 members who have 70 years of continuous membership in the American Legion. Post Commander Larry Henry (center) presented Ralph List (left) and Wallace E. Weiss (right). Both Legionnaires served in the US Army during World War II.



AUXILIARY

From the Desk of the President

2014 - 2015 Department President, Nancy Knox

Be Sure to File Your Reports



Well as I sit here writing we are getting our first taste of winter, yep it's snowing. So I guess it's that kind of day in which I will catch up on all the paper work that comes with this job, including writing this article.

I am proud to announce that I have visited 8 districts so far and very impressed with each and every one of you. It seems that each district is working on something different and doing it their way and getting the job well done.

Mid-winter conference has come and gone,

and I hope that everyone had a great time. The visit by our Central Division Vice President Laura Mosby was very impressive. A huge thank you to all that made it such a success. Our Juniors, Girls State committee, 2nd Vice Ellen and Jacquelynn - thanks for all of your hard work.

Membership is doing well. The second renewal notice has come out from National. I know that is always helpful with those unpaid members. Miranda is doing a great job processing all membership each and every day. A big job so let's keep her busy this year and work on getting our goal of 100% and becoming a million members by 2019. Remember you can always ask your post members about their family mem-

bers that are able to join. I would like to see the numbers of members from the American Legion and the numbers of members of the Auxiliary get a little closer. It would only make us stronger and we can get so much more done.

Reports are coming up, so if you have any questions please don't be afraid to call on the Department Chairman, the office staff or even myself. That is what we are here for. Please report on all that you have done throughout the year each and every moment should be counted for. Many do not report all that you do. So sing your own song and sing loudly. Let's make our "little change" this year and make Michigan shine.

Department Secretary/Treasurer, Bonnie Olson

Department Introduces New Unit/District Report at Winter Meeting

The officers of the department have been working hard over the last several weeks to put together a form that fulfills the needs of both national and department.

This 2-page form has compressed the previous 15 sheets of paper used to fill out the various committee reports into very specific committee questions in terms of dollars spent, hours served, and specific committee details.

In the areas that say "attach details", department has provided in the March Unit Mailing to all the units a form to fill out for awards and narratives to be submitted to your respective District Committee Chairman. It can also be found on the website.

The instructions for filling the UNIT portion of the report is on the lower left of the back of the sheet of paper. The instructions for the District Presidents to fill out their portion is on the lower right of the back of the sheet.

The form is designed for committees to be in groupings, or Pods. The green group is the Veteran/Military Support & Advocacy Pod—VA&R, Legislative, Poppy, and National Security. The yellow group is the Youth Development Pod—Children & Youth, Girls State, and Juniors. The salmon group is the Family Support Pod—Americanism, Chaplain, Community Service, Education, and Music. The lavender group is the Administrative Pod—Auxiliary Emergency Relief, Constitution & Bylaws, Historian, Leadership, Membership, Past Presidents Parley, and Public Relations. Fill out those areas that the unit provided money, hours, or a specific program during the 2014-15 year.

The officers are very proud of this report and feel that it will accomplish in an hour filling out what used to take hours of questions and frustration. Many thanks to Jacquelynn Boughner for providing the graphic and design assistance.

THIS UNIT REPORT IS TO BE COMPLETED AND SENT TO YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT BY MARCH 31. EVERY unit has been sent their district

roster. If you need one, contact department. Veteran and community service is our mission. Be proud of what you have accomplished during the year and let national and department know about it.

One sheet of paper...we can ALL fill out one sheet of paper, so let's have 100% participation in this year's reporting.

2014-2015 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY REPORTING FORM			
Submitter Name	Level of Report	UNIT / DISTRICT	
Address	Unit Level Report Instructions	District Level Report Instructions	
City/State/Zip	Unit Number	District Number	
Phone Number	District Number	Total Number of Units in Your District	
email	Number of Sr Members	Total Number of Reports Received	
Title	Number of Jr Members	Program Name	
Veterans/Military Support & Advocacy	POPPY CONTINUED	TOTAL	GIRLS STATE CONTINUED
SERVICE FOR VETERANS (VA&R)	TOTAL		TOTAL
Provide what you have done to support this program:	Did you enter the Poppy Chairman Contest? Attach Details	Did you enter the Display/Artistic Creation Contest? Attach Details	Was your delegate(s) charged for the expenses of ALA Girls State? Attach Details
Hours volunteered:	Did you use or innovative approaches used to increase revenues? Attach Details	Did you use or innovative approaches used to increase revenues? Attach Details	State please provide a reason: Attach Details
Dollars spent: \$	Value of in-kind donations requested and received: \$	Value of in-kind donations requested and received: \$	Number of Juniors that participated in the Jr Leadership Council: Attach Details
Number of veterans assisted:	Number of new Service to Veterans volunteers you recruited:	Number of new Service to Veterans volunteers you recruited:	Number of Juniors that participated in the Jr Patch Program: Attach Details
SERVICE FOR ACTIVE/DUTY AND RESERVE MILITARY	TOTAL		NATIONAL SECURITY
Hours volunteered:	Hours volunteered for Blue/Gold Star Reports: \$	Hours volunteered for Blue/Gold Star Reports: \$	Did you honor POW/MIA at meetings & events? Attach Details
Dollars spent: \$	Did you honor POW/MIA at meetings & events? Attach Details	Did you honor POW/MIA at meetings & events? Attach Details	Explain what you did for Welcome Home Activities? Attach Details
Number of US service members served:	Number of members who participated in Blood Drives:	Number of members who participated in Blood Drives:	Explain what you did for the Proditor Military Display? Attach Details
SERVICE FOR MILITARY FAMILIES	TOTAL		Hours volunteered for Blood Drives: Attach Details
Hours volunteered:	Hours volunteered for Blood Drives: \$	Hours volunteered for Blood Drives: \$	Number of members who participated in Blood Drives: Attach Details
Dollars spent: \$	Dollars spent for Blood Drives: \$	Dollars spent for Blood Drives: \$	How many pounds of coupons did you send to companions in? Attach Details
Number of military families served:	Total \$ given to other org. or agencies (not including CDP): \$	Total \$ given to other org. or agencies (not including CDP): \$	What did you do to support Toasty Togs and/or Comfort Quilt? Attach Details
LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM	TOTAL		Youth Development
Provide what you have done to support this program:	Number of Legislative meetings held:	Number of Legislative meetings held:	CHILDREN & YOUTH
Number of Legislators who participated in your meetings:	Number of Legislators contacted:	Number of Legislators contacted:	Provide what you have done to support this program: Attach Details
Number of members who promoted the activities of the American Legion:	Number of members who communicated with their Legislators:	Number of members who communicated with their Legislators:	Explain what you did for the Proditor Military Kids: Attach Details
Number of members who subscribed to legislative Action Center:	Number of members who subscribed to legislative Action Center:	Number of members who subscribed to legislative Action Center:	Number of youth Hero Awards given: Attach Details
Number of members who subscribed to e-newsletters from officials:	Number of members who subscribed to e-newsletters from officials:	Number of members who subscribed to e-newsletters from officials:	Did you participate in the AL Halloween Safety Program? Attach Details
POPPY	TOTAL		Did you participate in the AL Health and Child Safety Program? Attach Details
Provide what you have done to support this program:	Number of members who sponsored Veterans-Military children: \$	Number of members who sponsored Veterans-Military children: \$	Did you contribute to any other children's charities: Attach Details
Number of poppies or poppy items distributed:	Number of poppies or poppy items distributed:	Number of poppies or poppy items distributed:	SPONSOR STATE
Dollars raised from the poppies or poppy items distributed: \$	Number of poppies ordered:	Number of poppies ordered:	Provide what you have done to support this program: Attach Details
Number of poppies ordered:	How did you utilize funds raised? Attach Details	How did you utilize funds raised? Attach Details	Number of in-kind donations for ALA Girls State in 2014: Attach Details
How did you promote the history of the poppy? Attach Details	Did you send poppies to elected officials or media? Attach Details	Did you send poppies to elected officials or media? Attach Details	Number of Girls you plan to sponsor for 2015: Attach Details
Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Did you hold a raffle with proceeds earmarked Girls State? Attach Details
Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Explain what you did for the Poppy Poster Contest: Attach Details	Number of members who received memorial donations: Attach Details
			Did you prepare a book of prayers? Attach Details



Shown are the ladies of the 5th District who worked on sorting and distributing hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for approximately 475 members at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans for the winter months. Left to right: Marie Byl, Dorothy McCarthy, Mary Anne Yuncker, Margo Forrester, Pamela McVeigh, and Hospital Representative Sarah Brooks.



Trenton American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 426 Juniors got together and made Valentine Cards for the Veterans at the Detroit VA Medical Center.

Deanna Cortright, Department Chaplain

We Should Not Judge On First Glances



"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Matthew 7:1-2

During this time of the year, it is easy to look at people and the situation you think they are in and make our own judgment on who they are. What we see is not always correct nor is it the same as others might see. For example, you see someone on the street that has ragged clothes and appears to be carrying everything they own. Most of the time our first thought is that they are homeless. Quite often that is true, but there are so many reasons that this is the case. They might choose to be homeless because it is less stressful than having a home, bills, etc. It is also possible that something bad has happened to them that is causing them to be in dire straits. In many cases, they just lost their job, which in turn has caused them to lose their house, car, etc.

What should be our response to the situation? We should not judge them without first offering our assistance. Many communities have places that will help them. If they are new to the area they may not know where to find help.

Way too many of the homeless individuals we see are Veterans. They didn't judge anyone when they put their lives on the line to keep us free. They didn't say, what could happen to me when I do this, or what is everyone going to think of me, or what will happen to me when this is over. They put their lives on the line, left families behind, a life that was probably by far more fun than fighting for our freedom, all because they felt it was their duty to help keep our country free.

Winter is a very difficult time for those that have no food or shelter. Please, when you see someone that might be struggling, whether homeless or just having trouble shoveling their sidewalk, Veteran or just a neighbor, take a moment, offer to help them. It will not only help them but make your heart whole and full.

Ellen Jackson Endorsed for 1st Vice President

(This is a corrected version of the endorsement put in the Jan/Feb newspaper.)

At regularly scheduled meetings of the American Legion Auxiliary, 18th District, we voted to endorse Ellen Jackson from Walter Fraser Unit # 108 for the Office of Department 1st Vice President for the year 2015-2016.

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

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

Before Ellen came to Unit 108 she was a member of Chief Pontiac Unit 377 and served as President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Chaplain, Historian and Sgt.-at-Arms. She also served on many Chairmanships at Chief Pontiac.

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

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

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

Angela Galbraith Darlene Jones
President, 18th District Secretary, 18th District

Deborah Williamson Endorsed as Department Chaplain

At a regularly scheduled meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary, Fifth District Association, held Tuesday, January 20, 2015, in Kent City, MI, Deborah R. Williamson was endorsed for the Office of Chaplain, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2015-2016.

Deborah is eligible through the service of her father, Harvey R. Volkner, who served in the United States Navy during World War II and was a Pearl Harbor survivor. She is also eligible through her brother who served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam Era.

Deborah has been an active American Legion Auxiliary member for 61 years. At the Unit level she is currently serving as Unit President, an office she has held for five years. She served in every office except Secretary and served as Treasurer for 24 years. She has held every Chairmanship at the Unit level with the exception of Americanism and VA & R.

At the District level, Deborah served as First and

Second Vice President and was President in 2006-2007. She served as Publication and Poppy Chairman for several years.

At the Department level, Deborah has been on the Girls State Committee for 13 years and served as Girls State Chairman. She is currently serving as Department Historian.

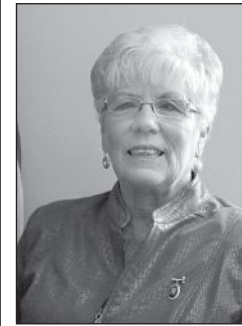
Deborah is an 11 year partner of Kent Salon 322 of the 8 & 40, currently serving her second year as Le Petit Chapeau.

Deborah has been employed as a bookkeeper by Michaels Stores, Inc. for 21 years. She is married and has four children and 16 grandchildren.

We ask your consideration and support of our candidate for the Office of Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, for the year 2015-2016.

Lora Lee Nauta Pamela McVeigh
Fifth District President Fifth District Secretary

Georgia Downs Endorsed as Department Historian



At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Thomas Richard Annis Unit 411 of the American Legion Auxiliary, 9th District Association, Department of Michigan, held on January 15, 2015, we endorsed Georgia Downs for the Office of Department Historian for the year 2015-2016.

Georgia became eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary through the service of her deceased father, Kenneth P. Carlson, who served in World War II. Mr. Carlson enlisted in the Army when he was 16 years old and was one of the few survivors of his platoon while battling in Germany. He was a recipient of several honor ribbons.

While being a member for 18 years, she has held the office of Unit President (3 years) and District President for two terms. She has had the opportunity to chair many committees at both the Unit and District levels: Poppies, Americanism, VA & R and Community Service. Currently Georgia is chairing the same committees along with the Family Support Group. She has been the chairman and co-chairman for ten years of the Veterans Dinners at Post 411. As District President her project was the Wilwin Lodge, a retreat for our returning Veterans; she raised thousands of dollars by hosting a dinner once a month with all proceeds going to her project.

Currently, she is Lower Northern Area Membership Chairman for Department and has been on the Department Americanism Committee. She has been a volunteer at Girls State for three years. She is a strong supporter of all our programs. She is a member of Salon 300.

She raised her family in Westerville, Ohio and moved back to Michigan in 1990. She has multiple designations and degrees in insurance and brings strong managerial skills in customer service/sales. She sat on the Boards of her local township for ten years, Secretary for the Zoning Board two years and Board of Review for eight years. Georgia retired from Greenridge Real Estate in 2012 and after 23 years in the industry. She has been a broker for 15 years and still maintains her own Real Estate brokerage.

We feel Georgia has the skills and our confidence to serve in this position. We ask for your support of our endorsement.

Mary Ann Reed Donna Bush
Unit 411 President Unit 411 Secretary

Helm: 'End game' Needed for Military Action Against ISIL

National commander: If military action is necessary course of action, key objectives and overall strategic goal must be stated clearly.



FLINT (Feb. 13, 2015) – At the National Commanders Banquet at the Department of Michigan's Annual Winter Meeting American Legion National Commander Michael D. Helm expressed support for President Obama's call to use military force against the Islamic State, known as ISIS or ISIL, which has been on a deadly rampage of organized terrorism for much of the last year. However, the leader of America's largest veterans service organization is also asking for some clarifications.

"There is no doubt that terrorist organizations like ISIL and al Qaeda pose serious threats to America's interests both here and abroad," Helm said. "ISIL's vio-

lent and ruthless actions against the United States and other nations have forced our nation's hand and led the president to this important decision.

"If military action is the course we must take, then key objectives and the overall strategic goal – the end game – must be stated clearly. We need to give our troops the support, equipment and weapons they need to succeed. At home, we must comfort their families and make sure we are well prepared for their safe return." But moreover, we must assure our troops that we are sending them in to win and won't quit halfway through the game."

As recently as its 2014 National Convention, The American Legion passed

resolutions focused on both the global war on terrorism and the need to identify national interests prior to committing military forces. The Legion urged that before deploying military assets into harm's way, specific goals need to be established, and necessary force levels determined and shared with Congress and the public.

"The American Legion urges President Obama and Congress to work together on a strategy that puts U.S. troops in the best possible position to put a decisive and swift end to ISIL," Helm said. "The best way to protect the welfare of our military men and women is to get this mission accomplished quickly and successfully."

2nd Zone Report

Jim Carlin, Zone Commander

It is hard to believe that in 7 months I have traveled 10,400 miles visiting 105 Posts in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Districts, and attended numerous Legion events, funerals, and activities within the 2nd Zone. The actual number of Post visits, more than once is 217. All of our team work is paying off and our membership numbers prove that it can be done as we strive to attain our 100% membership goal, especially with the objectives of National for our 100th anniversary in 2019. Great job, ladies and gentlemen, and lets continue to do even better.

Commander Wallace and other Legion officials completed another tour of the Silver Star Apartment Homes for veterans and it is expected that Mark Sutton will publish a feature on the visit in Michigan Legionnaire. A special thank you to Adjutant Ron Runyan, and 2nd District Commander Mike Kraus for joining me at Brooklyn Post 315 for a dinner honoring 50-year plus continuous members. The Post had been struggling with renewals, but after spending some time there the renewals were processed and delivered to the Department. I would expect Post 315 to now be at 100%. This just documents that if each of us put in a little extra effort we can improve our Post, District, & Zone statistics.

Our 2nd Zone Face Book page www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion2ndZone-Michigan contains my "On the Road Again" remarks with over 800 photographs of the Posts and events that I have attended. It has a great following, and is an excellent social Internet resource to keep members advised of what is going on within the 2nd Zone. I continue to advocate strongly on behalf of our American Legion Riders, because they are a great asset to our Legion causes. The Winter Conference in Flint is just around the corner so please attend as the meetings are informative and you can have fun and fellowship with other Legionnaires. It is an honor serving you in my Department capacity, and I will continue doing my best in fulfilling the trust you have placed in me. To all of our veterans and their families, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great Nation."

4th District Update

Barry Wood, District Commander

The Legion year is passing quickly. Good visits with a number of Posts. I have noticed there is a lack of Posts accessing myLegion.org. Adjutants please sign up for myLegion.org and see the benefits of using this application. It is a great way to see which members have yet to pay their 2015 membership dues, which allows you to make contact with these individuals with reminders. You can also list those members that have allowed their memberships to expire. This is a good source for getting veterans back into the Post with an opportunity for them to become active in your post.

To all posts, please know that you are required to send in triennial inventories for any equipment you have from the armory. This equipment is loaned to Posts and requires close tracking. Please contact 4th District 1st vice-commander Gary Wear if you have questions of what is expected to track your equipment loaned from the armory.

As a member of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund board I see the number of cases coming before the board continues to grow in number. The average number of cases has grown from the middle twenties to well over an average of forty cases each month. The board met in Detroit on December 2 taking advantage of an invitation to tour the Southwest Solutions Piquette Square for Veterans. The board met in the common area and took a guided tour of the facility after the meeting. Piquette Square for Veterans provides an opportunity for homeless veterans to have a place to call home. This is a 150-unit apartment project to house and care for homeless veterans.

On December 10 this District Commander had the privilege to tour the homeless veteran facility in Battle Creek. Silver Star Medallion is a newer facility and is looking to expand a second time. I saw a real pride of the veterans that have taken up residence in their apartments.

For eight years Hastings Post 45 has sponsored a free community Christmas dinner. A number of community businesses support the Post with food and supply donations. The previous seven years found the Post home as the site of the dinner. This past Christmas (2014) brought about a partner-

ship between Post 45 and the Hastings High School staff. The High School cafeteria staff opened the facility on Christmas Day and they also volunteered their time to help ensure this year's activity was as good as any. Americanism chairman Bill Roush is the key to making this event happen each year. Thank you Bill!

Thanks to all District Posts as we are at the top for Department membership. The Department has reached its 80% goal and the District is a large part of this success. Membership is important throughout the year. Please continue the emphasis and continue toward that 100% membership.

8th District Report

Lee M. Bolton, District Commander

The 8th district is doing well considering the difficulties of our times. Most of our members are older, and the younger Veterans are too busy to join us!

Is it they are too busy, or we just do not have the programs they are attracted to?

We are currently updating our 8th district charter, making corrections, and reviewing our procedures. We had had several changes that had not been made in the charter, now they are entered properly.

Being district commander is a very big and busy job! Most of us are really not prepared for the job when we accept it. Here is the 8th district I am very fortunate to have several of my officers who held the job previously, and they are a great help! Thanks to all of them!

Many Posts, such as my home Post, are located in rural areas where there are fewer Veterans available to join the American Legion. Yet is it said that there are more Veterans available now than at any time since WWII.

We now have many women Veterans which we should be developing programs that will appeal to them. We need them and their ideas and talents.

We need to develop programs that attract all Veterans and their families! I am sure that the answers to our problems are right here within our membership! We just haven't realized it yet!

I personally feel that we must develop programs that benefit veterans and their families. If we get the full family involved we will get the attention of the communi-

ty that we live in and we will once again be known as the Veterans group that helps Veterans Families and their communities!

This is one of the messages that I am bringing to all my Posts, as well as we must always wear the proper American legion cap to all official meetings!

10th District Update

Kenneth Burtch, Jr. District Commander

Hoorah!! As of February 12th, 2015 the 10th District stands at 93.05% and 1st position in membership for the Department. We have 4 posts at the 100% mark for the year. This is due to all the work you Posts are doing, keep plugging away, take every opportunity that comes your way to speak up for the Legion. You are all doing a great job, and I am very proud to be the Mighty 10th Commander.

Continue to be the "Walking Billboard" for the Legion by wearing your Legion Cap, your Legion jackets and other Legion clothing. Have you been a walking billboard and been approached because of it? I would like to hear from you about the experience.

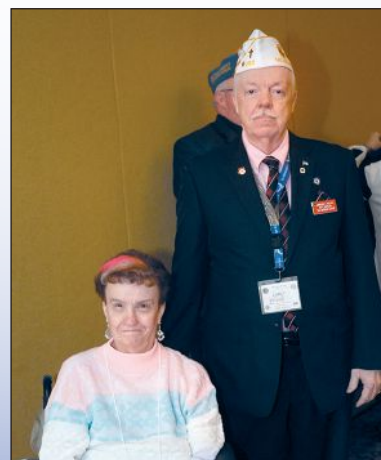
As of this date I have been able to visit several posts and I have continued to encourage them to remember why we are here, and those who worked so hard to bring us where we are at today. We are here for a reason, we are here to keep the work of our former members alive. They have been transferred to the "Everlasting Post" where God is now their commander. These former comrades built the buildings we meet in; they served the communities we live in; and they kept the American Flag flying high for all to see. They worked to make sure their elderly veterans, the widows of veterans, and the children of veterans were not forgotten. None of us want to see the work end. That is why I am so proud of the Mighty 10th District.

You are showing by your work that you want the influence of The American Legion to continue in this country and in your communities. Hoorah!! to each and every one of you. Comrades, the spirit of the past, the senior veterans who have served proudly, the widows, the orphans, the communities and the country still need you.

As your commander I believe we want our great work, the Four Pillars, to continue on. The Mighty 10th are the ones who can complete our mission.

Winter Meeting

February 13 - 15, 2015
Flint, MI



Lunch With Santa



For over 30 years the Lynn C. Weeman Post 514 has sponsored Lunch with Santa at the Christmas in Ida Festival. Each year the Legion and Auxiliary prepare a hot dog and potato chip lunch for children at St. Joe's Parish Hall. The group serves an average of 250 children each year in two settings. Santa stops by during the lunch and checks with each child to ask them what they want for Christmas.

Great Lakes National Cemetery



On Saturday, December 13, 2014, an estimated 2,500 participants placed 11,000 + wreaths on Veterans graves at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly. There were three (3) semis fully loaded with the wreaths.

Winter Raffle 2015 Winners

Lovejoy	Rex	Stanwood, MI	\$4,000
Ziehl	Charles	Tawas City, MI	\$1,500
Debruyne	Bernard	Otsego, MI	\$1,000
Hendren	Thomas	Brighton, MI	\$500
Scott	Robert	Walled Lake, MI	\$500
Bouwens	Lawrence	Comstock Park, MI	\$500
Kenney	Gerald	Chelsea, MI	\$250
Remender	Robert	East Tawas, MI	\$250
LaDouceur	Leo	Dearborn, MI	\$250
DeLisle	Edward	Sterling Heights, MI	\$250
Lightcap	Donald	Oscoda, MI	\$250
Sherman	Charles	Lake City, MI	\$250
Stone	Bernard	Chesterfield, MI	\$250
Redd	Donald	West Branch, MI	\$250
Franzen	Raymond	Golden, IL	\$100
Anglin	David	Livonia, MI	\$100
Skeltis	Michael	Hazel Park, MI	\$100
Ellsworth	Donald	Gladwin, MI	\$100
Mattox	John	Kimball, MI	\$100



Legionnaires of G. Chandler Bond Post 275 were pictured preparing to present the colors Oct.10 at Sand Creek High School football game. Pictured from left to right are Robert Hinsdale, Cmdr. Dorman Whipple, Raul Arriaga, Larry Jenkins, Rick Davis, Eugene Withrow, Roger Emmons, Laverne Ehiert, and Jim June.



American Legion Post 52 in Coldwater with members of the Marine Corps League of Branch County presented a 20 foot flag pole to WWII Veteran, Legion, and League member John J. Hayes. John is the oldest member of Post 52.



The graves of Civil War Veteran Hercules Stanard, and family member Caroline Stanard had to be relocated because of a risk of falling in to the Shiawassee River. The Chesaning American Legion Post #212 honored the veteran with an honor guard, burial ceremony, and TAPS during the interment process.

Veteran's Service

MVAA reaches 79 percent of veterans through Veterans Community Action Team expansion

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA) is committed to making Michigan the most veteran-friendly state in the nation, working with private, public and nonprofit groups to accomplish that goal.

Across the state, veterans service organizations like the American Legion, Red Cross and county veterans agencies are already helping Michigan veterans connect with health care services, education benefits and more. But imagine what could be done if an entire network of these resources came together to address the problems Michigan veterans face each day.

Now, more than 500,000 veterans are able to see what that system of organizations would look like, thanks to the expansion of MVAA's Veterans Community Action Team (VCAT) program. This year, the VCAT program will provide veterans in 24 counties in and around Lansing,

Flint, Saginaw and Ann Arbor with easier access to comprehensive health, employment, education and quality-of-life opportunities through the expansion.

The VCAT project was introduced in 2013 with pilots in Metro Detroit and West Michigan. VCATs in these regions focused on identifying solutions for gaps in veteran services, reducing duplication of efforts and simplifying connections with local resources.

The program was so successful in these areas that MVAA is expanding the VCAT program to four more areas of the state this year, bringing new resources and cooperation to veterans in the Capitol area, Mid-Michigan and Southeast Michigan as well as the Great Lakes Bay Region and the Thumb.

In total, the VCAT program now serves nearly 523,000 veterans in

Michigan – 79 percent of the state's veteran population.

"Each region's VCAT will operate differently, because each region's veterans have their own unique needs," Barnes said. "VCATs seek to answer the question, 'What more can we do to help veterans succeed?' This program is about finding those opportunities and discovering better solutions through collaboration."

VCATs also work in conjunction

with 800-MICH-VET (800-642-4838) – MVAA's 24/7 hotline that is integrated with Michigan 2-1-1 services – to connect veterans with services at the federal, state and local levels.

The VCAT program is designed to make it easier for veterans to find resources right where they live and work, so that no matter where a veteran starts looking for help, they are able to find the assistance they need and the respect they deserve.

2nd ANNUAL AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING

May 9th, 2015

At the Northville High School in Northville, Michigan from 9AM to 1PM.

Learn about the effects of Agent Orange and GMO (genetically modified organisms) on our children, grandchildren and future generations.

No cost and open to the public

Sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America in Plymouth/Canton, Michigan visit www.vva558.org for more information

THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VETERAN AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION OFFICE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

(313) 964 - 6640
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00AM TO 4:00PM



Don't Face the VA Alone!!

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.

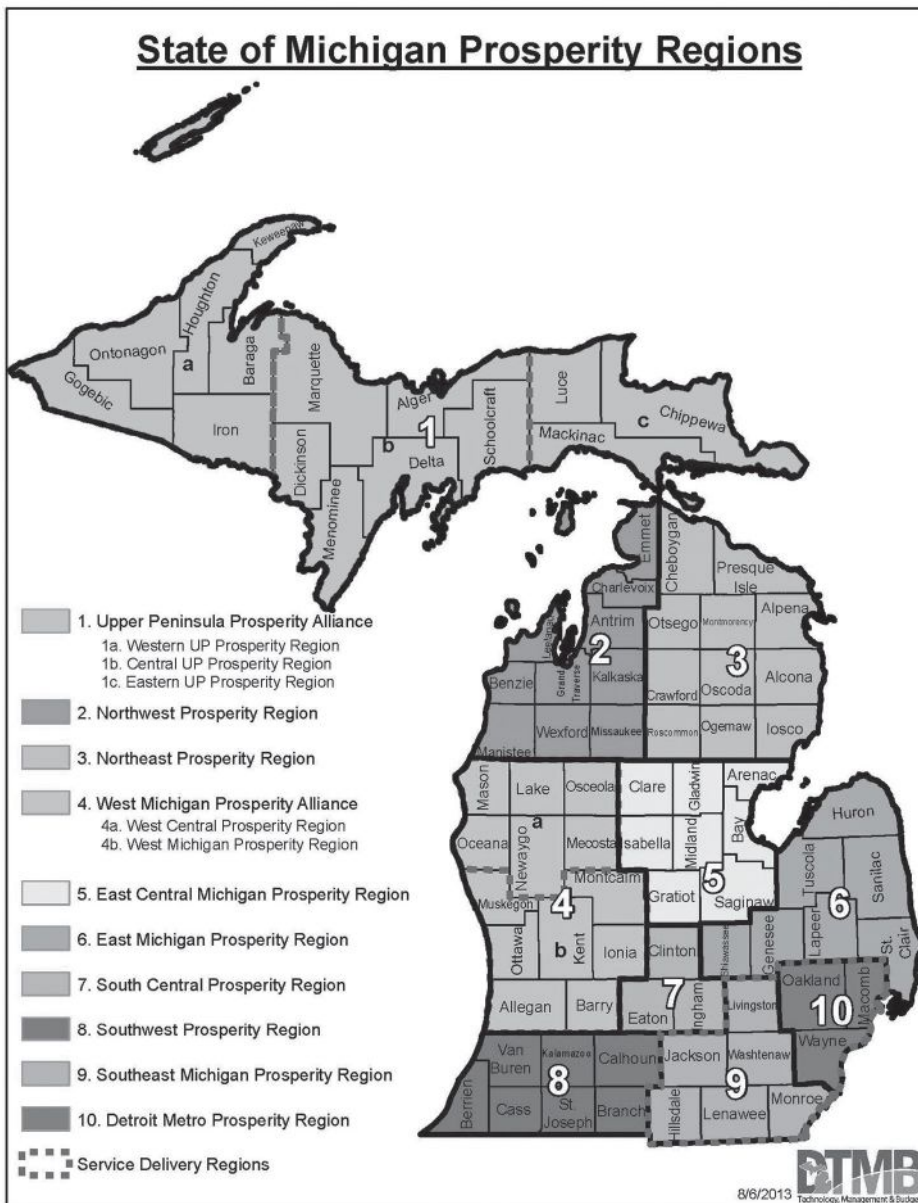


Gary Easterling
Director

American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation
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 Tripp Cantwell, Assistant 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



Our Past Successes and Future Accomplishments

Deborah Williamson, Historian

The history of the American Legion Auxiliary is more than an accumulation of our past deeds. It is a testimony of the dedication of our members and to the goals of this great organization. Our history shows us what has been done, such as events hosted and what can possibly be done better in the future.

The American Legion Auxiliary has a proud history of dedication to our veterans and our communities through our members. This should be remembered to teach future generations the need to help others and in doing so, giving them the self pride and satisfaction that is the backbone of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Unit/District Historians, please read your guide when writing your history or scrapbooks. Be proud of everything your Unit/District has done. Only you have the power to embrace the smallest accomplishment to your greatest accomplishment to make your history or scrapbook a legacy for your Unit/District. I have said it before, as well as many past historians, these history books will last a life time for your Unit/District. Decades from now, these books will be read by future members, hopefully with the same pride we all have.

I am looking forward to our state convention in June. I hope to see many history and scrapbooks in order to see the many wonderful things happening in this great state of Michigan.

Community Service is Always Needed

Harriet Sturim,
Community Service Chairman

Community Service is always needed no matter where you live. Community Service is what makes us the American Legion Auxiliary for we stand for God and Country. When we do Community Service we stand for our Country.

How do we do Community Service? Does your Unit work for Veterans through Stand Downs for both men and women because there needs are so different. Are reaching out and doing a Martin Luther King Day? Is your Unit helping families

where a parent is deployed? Will you be doing a Valentine Day party for children of deployed servicemen? Will you be collecting socks, underwear, coats, hats, for families that are in financial crisis? Do you have a pantry for Veterans that are in a financial crisis? This list could go for ever.

At the same time I need all Community Service Unit Chairman to e-mail me their accomplishments. Also all Community Service District Chairman to e-mail me about their district has done.

This is so needed please do your part for our Veterans.

Mighty 5th District Still Roaring!

LoraLee Nauta,
5th District President

It's been a busy year so far for the mighty 5. First may I say what an honor it is to serve as your district president. We have 18 Units and over 4400+ members and all are very active with our veterans.

My special project this year is 'HD' – Huntington's disease. In honor of my sister (an Auxiliary member) and her father (a Veteran). The more units I visit I find that HD has affected a lot more members than I knew and have been told that they are glad to see it being brought out into the open. It's always been the disease "We don't talk about it".

I have visited several units so far this year. #28-#305-#123-#258-#47 & #459. All have great ladies involved with Veterans or Community Service programs. I also attended the GRVH Women's Veteran Luncheon, I was fun talking with the ladies about their experiences.

Red Flannel Days in Cedar Springs were a riot. Key Stone cops, parade, food, bingo and much more to name. Honorary Dept. Junior President, Cira Brown & Honorary 5th District President, Sabrina Townes marched with us. We all had a lot of fun, singing junior songs and wearing the "Red".

Veterans Day Parade was cold, windy and rainy but it was a great turn-out. I was excited to ride in Rick & Harriet Sturim's Model A car. It was an experience I will never forget. Following the parade, all

went to Post #459 for hot soups and sandwiches. Great food.

Grand Haven #28 had a New Membership Ceremony. It is beautiful, makes you stop and truly remember how awesome it is to be part of this wonderful organization.

Membership is going "AWESOME". We are 3rd place in state and are meeting milestones at record levels. Keep up the good work ladies. I'm very proud of my membership team.

Glen Hill Post #287 hosted a Thanksgiving Dinner at no cost to anyone who attend. I did not get to attend this event, but was told the food was excellent.

The New Year brings more projects & advantages. **Can't Wait** Just a few events coming up that I wish to mention:

March 13th--Northeastern #459 Doing fundraiser for Huntington's-50/50-silent auction and Myself as Guest Bartender.

May 2nd --5th District Tour-Theme Kentucky Derby

By the time you read this, we would have had Mid-Winter Conference. It's always great to see old friends, and make new ones.

In closing I would like to remind everyone that we still have a lot of things to do for our veterans and all our great programs. Our work is far from done, so KEEP UP the good work and stay proud to be part of the greatest organization of women that do so much good work in so many different ways, but especially our veterans.

May all of you stay safe & healthy. Continue to serve our Veterans with pride & respect.

LOTS TO DO AT GRHV IN 2015

Sarah Brooks,
Hospital Representative

The calendar year of 2014 for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans has come to a close, but we still have much to do in 2015. We are grateful for the programs and events that we have had the past year. I personally want to thank all the Districts and Units in our area who helped in any way. This includes the 5th, 9th, 17th, and 19th Districts and the Units in those Districts. Also there have been many individuals, groups and organizations not affiliated with the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion who have do-

nated money, articles, and time to make a better life for our veterans at the Home.

We continue our special activities during the year which include the Cook-Out in June, the Annual Carnival in July, and the Mother's Day program in April. In November we have the annual recognition of the women veterans, widows and spouses with a catered lunch, speaker, gifts and certificates recognizing the service of the women veterans. We also do a blanket drive for the homeless veterans in local shelters and provide hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for the members at the Home during the cold winter months. A gift of mon-

ey is provided in November to those members who receive no income. In May we hold a Poppy Bonanza, with the veterans demonstrating how poppies are made and giving the opportunity to those attending to do some hands-on assembly. We continue throughout the year to distribute toiletries, lap robes, and many other donated items to local shelters.

Monthly activities continue throughout the year by holding a Thursday night bingo once a month, a special bingo for only the women members at the Home, and our service cart twice a month with personal care items.

The volunteers don't participate in these activities for praise but do it for our veterans to show them we appreciate what they did for us and know that they are not forgotten.

I would like to emphasize to the Districts and Units who support the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans to please read closely all material provided by Department and also pass it on to your members. This would greatly help to save a lot of confusion and many questions and phone calls about information that is already provided to you.

May God bless each and everyone for all you do for our veterans and their families.

Recruit–Renew--Retain: Attracting and Keeping Auxiliary Members

Lisa Bartlett, Western Area Membership Chairman

Recently I was visiting the largest American Legion Post in the United States in Lady Lake, Florida. This single location holds over 5,000 Legion members and over 1,100 Auxiliary members!

It got me thinking: How do they recruit, renew, and retain that membership? And with the Legion membership at 5000, why isn't the Auxiliary membership even higher than that? For every Legion member, there are at least four potential Auxiliary members--a mother, wife, daughter, and granddaughter (maybe even a great-granddaughter).

So how do we attract these new members and keep them engaged?

* **Recruit: Raising Awareness**

As I was sitting at the Post talking to Mr. Smith (10 year Legion member), his wife walked in and joined him at the bar. After talking for a few minutes, I asked Mrs. Smith if she was an Auxiliary member. She told me no – I asked why, and she said she was never invited to join.

So, I simply asked if she'd like to join, and she signed up that day. Don't forget to ask Legion members' wives if they would like to belong to the Auxiliary. Many of them have simply never been invited.

I was at my high school reunion and one of my classmates was sharing about her son in the military, and mentioned he was going overseas again. I asked her if she was an Auxiliary member and she said, "I didn't know I could join." I signed her up the next day. At our local post, I was talking to Mrs. Smith the other day. She showed me pictures of her new granddaughter. I asked, "Did you sign her up yet? Remember she can be one of our 'Tiny Tots.'" She said, "No. I didn't know she could join the Auxiliary that young." She happily signed her up on the spot.

* **Retain: Keeping Members Engaged**

Once you have signed up these new members, please don't forget about them! Give them a call and remind them there is a unit meeting. At the unit meeting, make sure you have an older member sit with them to answer any ques-

tions during or after the meeting. If they miss a meeting, let them know you missed seeing them. Also, give them a job to do. For example, don't hesitate to ask that new member to bring in a dish for one of the post events. We all like to know we are needed. And don't forget about those "Tiny Tots" either. Once they reach four or five years old, they like to help too. They are so cute at a birthday dinner handing out cake. And then, just look at Grandma's face when she sees her adorable granddaughter serving veterans – already learning "Service not Self." Those moments are priceless gifts – make sure somebody has a camera ready.

* **Renew:**

Maintaining Membership through Communication. This year's second renewal notice is already out. For those members who forgot, lost the first mailer, or decided not to renew, we need to again communicate and find out what the problem is. As we all know, as of January 31, 2015, any Auxiliary members who have not paid their dues will be delinquent. Those

members sometimes don't realize that, by not paying their dues, they could lose their continuous membership and benefits.

Dues are collected in advance and are payable annually for the succeeding calendar year. A member failing to pay annual dues by January 31st shall be classed as delinquent and suspended for all membership privileges. These include voting on Unit business, holding office, participation in Unit activities, receipt of member benefits, and all other privileges of membership.

How Will You Grow Your ALA Membership?

Potential new members are all around us! We just have to pay attention to the opportunities. This week, look for those who are missing out on the benefits of belonging in the ALA.

I hope we continue to recruit, renew, and retain members. Invite them, notice their needs, and show appreciation for their help. It doesn't take a complicated strategy to grow your membership. It's simple: Ask, invite, and most of all, include.

Success of our 75th Anniversary Year Depends on You!

Beryl Robbins, Girls State Chairman

Don't let a little change prevent you from coming out to find your delegate to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State. She could be as close as your own shadow! As winter is nearing the end, students are starting to think of warm weather and making their plans for summer, so it's the PERFECT time to contact your area schools! Does your Auxiliary Unit have junior members that are eligible to attend ALA Girls State? Do you have neighbors or relatives that might be interested in attending? Maybe you attend a church with a youth group. The possibilities are endless!

The success of our 75th anniversary year depends on you. Help us make this the best year ever by sponsoring a delegate to the 2015 ALA Girls State session. Your ALA Girls State Committee realizes there have been many changes this year, and we are available to help you! You can find all the in-

formation you need, including the reservation form, on-line at www.michalaux.org, just click on GIRLS STATE. That same information was included in a recent Unit mailing, and available by contacting your Unit President.

Can't find a girl? The ALA Girls State Committee can also help you with this process. We currently have outstanding applicants from Ann Arbor, Dearborn Heights, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Troy, and West Bloomfield that are seeking sponsors. There are also Units from the UP, the 4th District, and other areas in Michigan that have extra applicants. All of them sought us out, are extremely interested in attending, and their applications are very impressive! Help give them the chance of a lifetime!

Contact Beryl Robbins at 313.318.6845 or email her at berylrobbins@comcast.net if you are interested in sponsoring one of these great applicants, or need assistance finding a delegate from your area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank individuals, Units and Districts for all the cards, flowers, baskets, thoughts, concerns and prayers when I was in the hospital due to an auto accident. You have no idea how much it all means to me. I spent a month in the hospital and now, months of therapy. Thank you again for all your love and support.

*Deborah Williamson,
Department Historian*

Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Honored for Excellence in Hospice Care

Home recognized for its dedication to high-quality medical care

LANSING, Mich. – The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV) was recently recognized for its excellence in hospice and palliative care, receiving the 2014 Award for Excellence from Great Lakes Caring. GRHV was chosen from more than 1,200 private and public facilities, physicians and hospitals across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

The award recognizes the home's commitment to the quality care of its members and its "No Member Dies Alone" program – a one-of-a-kind program in which volunteers provide companionship and assistance to members who are entering the final stages of their lives.

"Our home is unique among long-term care facilities in that we are a male-dominated, public facility, where our members can come and go as they please," said Sara Dunne, GRHV administrator. "It's a different dynamic than at any other hospital or nursing home in the state, so to be honored in this way highlights the high level of medical care we provide to each veteran who lives here. From physicians to nurses, from social workers to recreational therapy aides, each member of our staff played a key role in receiving this award."

During the award presentation, Tom Outcalt, manager of business development for Great Lakes

Caring, touted the home's facilities and its dedicated team of nurses and care providers, citing their commitment to good communication, collaborative care and keeping the needs of veterans in mind.

"Our state is home to more than 600,000 veterans, and each of them will need some sort of health care during the course of his or her life," said Jim Dunn, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency deputy director. "Between the GRHV and the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, it's clear that Michigan is dedicated to meeting the needs of our state's veterans with compassionate, highly skilled health care providers."

State Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell) also attended the ceremony, and he presented GRHV with a state tribute to commemorate the achievement.

GRHV is a USDVA-certified skilled nursing program, offering compassionate and quality care in an environment that promotes meaningful quality of life for its residents. The home has the capacity for 430 nursing care beds and more than 100 domiciliary beds. The nursing care beds include 115 special needs beds, with two 35-bed nursing units for the care of Alzheimer's and dementia patients and one 45-bed nursing unit for

dual diagnoses patients.

It was originally constructed on 90 acres of land in 1885 and is one of 143 state veterans homes throughout the nation.



Sara Dunne, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans administrator, and Jim Dunn, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency deputy director, hold the 2014 Award for Excellence from Great Lakes Caring and the state tribute presented by state Sen. Dave Hildenbrand (R-Lowell). The home was chosen from more than 1,200 private and public facilities, physicians and hospitals across Michigan, Indiana and Ohio for its excellence in hospice and palliative care.

For Homeless Veterans it takes a "Hand Up, Not a Hand Out"

Silver Star Apartments - Battle Creek Michigan



On the east side of the Battle Creek VA Medical Center Campus sits a 175 unit apartment complex, constructed and operated for a special mission. To give our military veterans who have found themselves on hard times; hard times brought on from the economy, hard times brought on by medical

needs, hard times brought on by the memories that followed them home from their days in military service and a combination of life's troubles. Whatever the reason for the hard times, there is a place these veterans can call home instead of being on the street and homeless.

In December members of the Department Leadership, leadership from the 3rd District and the 5th District were invited by 2nd Zone Commander Jim Carlin to visit Silver Star Apartments. State Commander Wallace, State Adjutant Ron Runyan, and State VA&R Director Gary Easterling with several local Legionnaires listened to Michael Carter, the supportive housing specialist. Michael is a veteran and as he shows the amenities of the complex he speaks about his hard

times. He spoke about his hard times, his struggles, and his return home from military service and how this place has changed his life and gave him a place to call home.

Silver Star Apartments through partner ships with the VA, state agencies, and generous donors, provides fully furnished apartments to veterans. Veterans pay what they can, but they all pay something based on income. They can stay as long as they wish, rent is based on income, and this is an apartment complex, it becomes their home.

The complex includes laundry facilities, a small movie theater, a library, a computer lab, and gym for basketball or large events. There is a wood workshop, a food pantry, and areas to hold classes put on by volunteers to help residents to stay active or learn a new skill.

If you would like to learn more about Silver Star and your Post, Unit, or Squadron would like to donate food, funds, or have a volunteer visit please contact Jim Carlin, 2nd Zone Commander at justinianlaw@sbcglobal.net or (269) 274-6334





AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
 2015 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION REGISTRATION
 JUNE 25-28, 2015

DEADLINE DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS: May 25, 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 \$89.00 plus 14% tax. **No hotel room will be accepted for less than two nights.** Check-in time is 3PM and check-out time is 12 noon. Registration fee is \$15 per person. All Posts, Units and Squadrons should ascertain the number of delegates it expects to have and register them now in the name of the Post, Unit or Squadron, providing the name of the post adjutant or unit secretary.

All Hospitality Room requests must be in writing and requires a two night minimum. When requesting a hospitality room, type out your request and submit to **Gary W. Sammons, 31 Elton, Ecorse MI 48229.** All suite assignments will be made by Gary W. Sammons.

Please type or print clearly:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Email: _____
 (Verification of registration will be emailed.)

Sterling Inn Banquet & Conference Center
 34911 Van Dyke Avenue
 Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312

Mention: American Legion
 800.953.1400 or (586) 979-1420

(Reservations can be made by phone only)

Make checks payable to and send with registration form to:

The American Legion 2014 Convention
 22625 Arcadia
 St Clair Shores MI 48082

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

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

You are cordially invited to attend the:

2014-2015 Department of Michigan

"LEGION FAMILY TESTIMONIAL"



State Commander - James "Jim" Wallace
 State Auxiliary President - Nancy L. Knox
 State SAL Commander - Harley "Butch" Maxwell

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Bernard A. Bendle American Legion Post #294
 3440 N. Morrish Road
 Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Social Hour/Cash Bar
 6:00 p.m. Dinner
 Cost \$25.00/person

Lodging Available at:

Holiday Inn Gateway, 5353 Gateway Centre Dr., Flint - 810-232-5300 Mention code "ALM"
 Courtyard by Marriott, 5205 Gateway Centre Dr., Flint - 810-232-5300 Mention code "G3769"
Hotel accommodations must be made by March 28, 2015 for the special rate

2015 Legion Family Testimonial - Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Number of Tickets _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Make checks payable to: Linda Wallace
 (734-878-6633)

Mail this form to: Linda Wallace
 8597 Farley Road
 Pinckney, Michigan 48169

R.S.V.P. by April 3, 2015

Include e-mail address or home address for confirmation of reservations
(Tickets will be held at the door)

Email: _____ or Home Address _____

**MILEGIONNAIRE
 OPT OUT FORM**

YES! I would like to view the Legionnaire online at www.michiganlegion.org instead of receiving it through the mail. Please permanently remove me from the Legionnaire mailing list. This option will not effect any other Legion mailings.

Name: _____

Member ID #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Signature: _____

2015 Convention
The Sons of The American Legion
Detachment of Michigan
 Hosted by: Grand Rapids Northeastern Squadron 459



The Detachment of Michigan 2015
 Convention will be held in Grand Rapids,
 Michigan at the Riverfront Hotel.
 June 5th, 6th & 7th 2015

Room reservations may be made by calling the hotel directly
Riverfront Hotel

24/7 Reservations - 1-866-257-5990
 270 Ann Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI, US, 49504
 Hotel Rate: \$99.00

Refer to the Sons of The American Legion Convention when booking your room.
 Block Rate of \$99.00 per night expires May 6, 2015

**Please Support the Address
 Label Fund Raising Drive.
 Help Support the Programs of
 The Michigan American Legion**



Roger Webster for Alt. NEC



The Walter F. Howarth Post #381 and the 9th District Association proudly endorses Roger H. Webster for Alternate National Executive Committeeman 2013-2014. We are asking for your support in the election of Alternate National Executive Committeeman for 2013-2014.

We believe you, a veteran, are entitled to the most experience and knowledge on all issues.

Roger has had many years and

opportunities to serve veterans in the Department of Michigan as well as on the National level by actively serving on several committees, projects, organizations, Department Commander 2006-2007, and as aide to the National Commander, Thomas P. Cadmus 2004-2005.

Please take the time to evaluate Roger's experience (see brochure) and cast your vote for Alternate NEC 2013-2014 Roger H. Webster.

In Roger's words, "It's been my honor to dedicate many years of service to The American Legion and my fellow legionnaires and veterans and I will continue in this effort as long as I am able."

18th District Endorsement

Frank Flores for Department Sgt-At-Arms



Members of the 18th District at a regular meeting held November 9th, 2014 voted unanimously to endorse Frank Flores for a second term for the position of Department Sgt-At-Arms for the 2015-2016 year.

Frank Flores, a US Marine Vietnam Veteran is an active member of the 18th District.

Frank has served as Commander and Sgt-At-Arms at the Christopher Columbus Post 354. Frank is the past second vice commander and Sgt-At Arms for District 18.

District 18 is proud to unanimously endorse Frank Flores for a second term as the Department Sgt-At-Arms for 2015-2016.

Classifieds

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

Wanted

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

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

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Legion Member

WORLD WAR II BATTLEFIELDS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 1-13 & August 10 - 22, 2015

Paris • Normandy Beaches • Walk on Omaha & Utah Beaches • Pointe du Hoc
Battle of the Bulge • Ardennes Forest • Remagen Bridge • Nazi Rally Grounds
Reims' Map Room • Dragon's Teeth & Fox Holes • Pegasus Bridge
Mulberry Harbor • Tank Museum • Sainte-Mère-Église's Paratrooper Church
Patton's Grave • Dachau Memorial • Eagle's Nest • Hofbräuhaus in Munich

"We knew at the time we were fortunate to be on the tour together (my father, son and I) but in retrospect, it was the best thing we could have done and a wonderful experience filled with so many great memories. To be in Normandy on D-Day and witness, first hand, the gratitude of the French people was a blessing for my dad and the other vets, a priceless memory. I think the Normandy experience was truly a surprise for my father and added new meaning and depth to his memories of the war." ~ Bill T, California

VIETNAM... THEN AND NOW

March 24 - April 3, 2015

- Ho Chi Minh (Saigon)
- Ha Long Bay Cruise
- Former Military Bases
- Cu Chi Tunnels
- Former DMZ
- A Shau Valley
- Cam Ranh Bay
- Chu Lai
- Hoi An
- Mekong River Cruise
- Da Nang
- Hanoi
- Hue



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Around the State...



Upper Peninsula Association of American Legion Posts Adjutant Ray Carlson is present a check for \$1000 to be delivered to the Jacobetti Home for Veterans, by Don Olli (L) Commander of Post 349 in Little Lake Michigan.



The Gladstone August Mattson Squad #71 of the Sons of the American Legion has made a \$100.00 Donation to the Gladstone St. Vincent DE Paul Food Pantry. Left to right. Squad #71 Son's Commander William Germain, Gail St. Martin-Food Pantry Coordinator and S.A.L. Finance Officer Richard Reiffers



Fort Dearborn's Annual Christmas Party December 20th, 2014. Bring a gift for Toys for Tots, from left to right Jr. Vice Jim Walker, two Marines from 1st Battalion, 24th Marines and Phil Smith Commander Fort Dearborn



Don Meskill (L) 10th District Adjutant and Kenneth Burch (R) 10th District Commander present Post 554 Commander Ron Morse their 2013-2014 membership plaque. Post 554 achieve 108.11% in that membership year.



Alfonse VanHage (second from the right) is presented the 2014 Carlton L. Seaman Award for Best Post Service Officer at the Upper Peninsula Associations Fall Meeting. Presenting the award (L-R) DVSO Elizebeth Cuddington, DVSO Director Gary Easterling, Post Service Officer Jerry Rowe, Alfonse Vanhage, and 11th District Commander Wayne Roy



The Grand Ledge Post 48 Color Guard had the honor to post colors for the induction ceremony of Kim Dontje, the 24th Postmaster of Lansing on January 15, 2015.

Pictured are Kim Dontje (center), Herman Fulghum, Grand Ledge Postmaster (back row left), Post 48 Commander Dan Osborne (back row, second from right) and member of Post 48's Honor Guard.



On Thursday, January 8, 2015, Post Commander Don Wert of Frank Wendland American Legion Post # 253, Royal Oak presented Korean War Service Medals and Certificates of Appreciation from the government of South Korea to five (5) Veterans of the Post who had served in Korea during the Korean War, 1950-1953. 3 of the veterans were present for the award. Shown in the photo, thanks to John Wendland, Post Historian are (L-R), Tony Zomerfeld, Cliff Tatum, Jim Hendy, Post Adjutant Ron Gooch, and Post Commander Don Wert



State Cmdr Wallace and DMS Coordinator Brett Holt receive a \$1500 donation from members of the United Commercial Travelers Association for the Returning and Wounded Warrior Retreat Fund.



American Legion Post 32 in Livonia has begun 2015 by honoring a Veteran of the Month program, honoring a "Veteran of the Month" to a local veteran who does great works in the community. In January the Post selected Post member Dan Walsh and for February 2015 selected Post Richard Schmidt for their dedication and devotion to helping veterans in the Livonia area. Congratulations Legionnaires.



Department Commander Jim Wallace speaks to the audience during the 2nd Annual Salute to Veterans at Sanford American Post 443 on September 13, 2014. The post had 10 new members from this event.

Coming Soon!
 THE AMERICAN LEGION
 CONSOLIDATED POST REPORT
 will be mailed out soon.