



MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XC No. 1

michiganlegion.org

September 2021

THE MICHIGAN AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ELECTS NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2021-2022

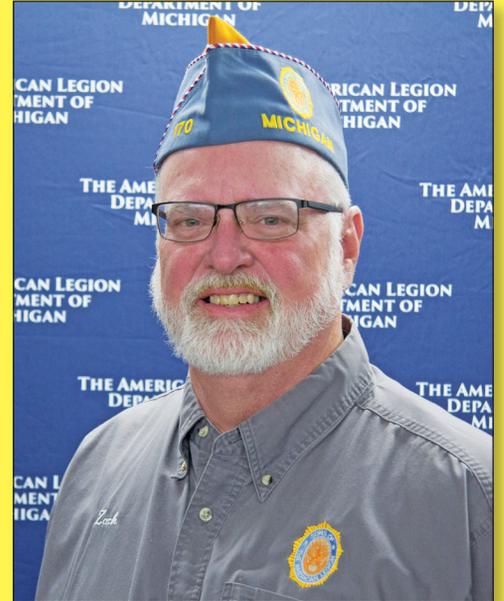
A NEW YEAR BEGINS



**Commander
RICHARD DUBAY**



**Auxiliary President
MARY DUBAY**



**SAL Commander
ZACH PENDELL**

SAULT STE MARIE 2021 – The new 2021-2022 officers for the American Legion and Auxiliary were elected at the state convention. It was good to see all members that could attend the convention this year. The attendance was above normal and everyone was safe. Thank you for everyone who could attend.

2021 MICHIGAN LEGACY RUN RAISES OVER \$15,000 ON THE RIDE

They ride for the children of the fallen and disabled. The event was held over several days and went from the east side of Michigan over to the west coast.



Fall Conference Official Call, Registration, and Hotel Info pg. 13

September 2021

Official Publication of The American Legion Department of Michigan

Michigan sees increase in veteran population, VA benefits

The number of military veterans in Michigan grew for the first time in over a decade last year, while the amount of federal disability benefits paid to the state's veterans also increased significantly, according to an annual report from VA.

Michigan's veteran population increased by 15,507 – to 567,919 in fiscal year 2020 (FY20), up from 552,412 the previous fiscal year. That 2.8% increase topped the national increase of 1.8% and reverses the state's yearly skid of declining veteran population that dates back to at least 2010, when Michigan had more than 703,000 veterans.

The data comes from the VA's Geographic Distribution of Expenditures, or GDX report, which also tracks how much money VA spends in each state. Michigan saw an increase in overall VA expenditures of nearly \$335 million, as well as an increase in disability compensation and pension, which are tax-free benefits for disabled veterans.

"We are proud to see more veterans and their families choose to make Michigan home," said Gov. Gretchen Whitmer. "We remain committed to supporting the brave men and women who selflessly served our country in uniform and making sure they can thrive right here in Michigan."

Zaneta Adams, Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA), said the latest report suggests Michigan is improving in its efforts to reach veterans in their communities and to get them connected to the benefits and resources they earned for their service. As the state's coordinating agency for veterans and their families, the MVAA is available 24/7 through its 1-800-MICH-VET hotline and at michiganveterans.com.

"This latest GDX report is promising on several fronts," Adams said. "Michigan continues to see an increase in overall federal expenditures to our veterans and their families. We also experienced a significant rise in compensation and pension benefits to our veterans, as well as the first increase in our veteran population in years. That points to the fact that our messaging is being received and veterans in Michigan, who weren't previously connected with VA, are making that connection and starting to receive the benefits they've earned."

One key to getting more Michigan veterans connected to benefits is to first get them to identify as veterans. Adams said the MVAA has made significant

strides in reaching former service members who may not identify as veterans, including women veterans through its "She is A Veteran" campaign, as well as tribal veterans and peacetime veterans. Overall, Michigan has the 11th largest veteran population in the nation.

According to the latest GDX report:

Overall, the VA spent \$4.88 billion in Michigan in FY20, up nearly \$335 million from the \$4.53 billion it spent in Michigan the previous fiscal year. That equated to \$8,592 per veteran, on average – the eighth straight year that figure has increased in Michigan.

Michigan received \$4,406 per veteran, on average, for compensation and pension benefits in FY20, a 3.2% increase from the previous year. Michigan's ranking in this key category improved to 36th, up two spots from 38th in FY19.

VA tracks the funding it sends to states for construction and infrastructure projects such as improvements to state-run veteran homes and cemeteries. Michigan received \$46 per veteran, on average, for construction expenditures. This is a drop from \$55 per veteran in FY19, but still higher than any other fiscal year in the past 10 years. Michigan ranked 23rd among the 53 states and territories in FY20.

"We still have much work to do in getting more Michigan veterans connected to the benefits they earned for their service, and in securing more federal support toward that goal," Adams said. "We saw the amount of money the VA spends in Michigan on infrastructure dip last year, although we still rank in the top half of all states in that category. We will continue engaging the VA to find out what they can do to boost infrastructure and staffing in our state to serve our large veteran population."

Ultimately, Michigan's goal within the next five years is to rank in the top third of the 53 states and territories in terms of federal expenditures to veterans.

"That's an aggressive goal, particularly given the fact that Michigan does not have a large military installation that naturally attracts transitioning service members to remain in the state," Adams said. "But Michigan boasts a vast array of veteran-specific employment, education, health care and quality-of-life opportunities – along with low cost of living and a statewide veteran-support network – that make it a great place for transitioning service members to live, work, play and retire."

MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

(USPS 010637) is published monthly except February, May, August, and December by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297. Periodical postage paid at Lansing, MI, and additional mailing offices. Subscription \$10 non-members, members receive the publication as part of their dues. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Michigan Legionnaire, Department of Michigan, 212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915-1297.

DEADLINE DATES

for October issue is September 17, 2021

Circulation: 96,687

Printed: 9-??-2021 · Mailed: 9-??-2021

HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

Publisher: Ronald Runyan
Editor:

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915
(517) 371-4720
michiganlegion.org
info@michiganlegion.org

	<i>Extension</i>
LEGION AND SAL MEMBERSHIP	124
deanna@michiganlegion.org	
LEGION FINANCE	117
finance@michiganlegion.org	
PROGRAMS, BOYS STATE, JUNIOR SHOOTING SCHOLARSHIPS, BASEBALL	123
legion@michiganlegion.org	
VETERANS SERVICE	112
Wednesday only	
MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS, WEBSITE, NEWSPAPER, HISTORY	116
info@michiganlegion.org	
ADMINISTRATION	113
kim@michiganlegion.org	

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

info@michiganlegion.org
517-220-2747

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Department Commander... ..Richard Dubay	Finance Officer.Marilyn Britten	Alt. National Executive Committeeman
Department Adjutant..... Ron Runyan	HistorianBob Higley Larry Money
1st Zone.Mike Globke	Chaplain..... Eddie Brown	Immediate Past Commander
2nd Zone.Dan Cooper	Sergeant-at-ArmsLarry Chase Barry Wood
3rd ZoneArt Diffin	Judge Advocate.Brett Holt	Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Director
4th ZoneBria.n Morrison	National Executive Committeeman Gary Easterling
5th Zone.Wendy Retzloff Jerry Lynch	Membership Director Brian Mohlman
		Communications Director

HEADQUARTERS

REACH OUT TO YOUR FELLOW VETERANS

**RICHARD DUBAY**, Department Commander

It is truly an honor and a privilege to have been chosen to be the American Legion Department of Michigan Commander for 2021-2022. I want to thank you for allowing me to represent every one of my fellow Legionnaires.

As I traveled the state before the Covid pandemic, you welcomed me into your Post and District homes; I spoke about membership, for without membership, we cannot promote our programs. Without membership, we cannot do our programs. I also spoke about the “Four Pillars” The Four Pillars are the backbone of the American Legion programs: Veterans, Americanism, National Security, and Children and Youth.

In the past few years, the American Legion in Michigan alone has lost over 7,000 members. We must stop the downward spiral of losing members; we must recruit new members, and we must work hard to retain current members. Programs such as the American Legion Riders and Student Veterans of America are two ways to recruit new members to join The American Legion. With the passage of the Legion Act, which expanded the eligibility dates for Veterans to join the American Legion, we have the opportunity to ask 175,000 more Veterans to join our organization in Michigan. The “Buddy Check”

system is there to help retain current members.

This year I am asking you to “Reach Out.” Reach Out to your fellow veterans. Reach Out to people in your community with our Americanism programs. Reach Out in the community and find a local project the Post can participate in that will help others; it may attract a new member. Explain who and what we are, what we stand for, and what our programs are. Reach Out to high schools about our scholarship opportunities, Constitutional Speech Contest, Student Trooper program, Boys State program, baseball, scouting, and junior shooting sports. If every Post sent only one boy to Boys State, we would have over 300 Boy Staters learning about government. If every Post sent a student to the District Constitutional Speech Contest, more than 300 students would be studying the U.S. Constitution. If every Post had a Scouting program, hundreds of young boys and girls would be learning about honesty, integrity, and leadership. If every Post were involved in American Legion Baseball, more young men would be physically ready for military service by spending more time being active than sitting in front of a video game. If every Post were teaching or sponsoring marksmanship and gun safety, the world could be a safer place. Wouldn't that be fantastic!

The time to start Reaching Out about our programs is NOW. Reach Out Now and develop a relationship with your local schools and parent groups to promote these opportunities.

The time has come when we can no longer be the old guy who sits on a barstool telling war stories. We need to invite the younger veteran into our Post homes and make it an atmosphere where they and their families are welcome and be involved in projects they want to participate in.

My special project this year is the “Homeless Veteran.” I believe that this is a worthwhile cause and that we need to help support our fellow veterans, whether male or female, who, through unforeseen circumstances, be it financial, invisible wounds or medical hardship, have found themselves jobless and without a home. You never know that someday, that homeless veteran could be you, or I, or someone we know. If you or your Legion Family would like to donate to my special project, donations may be written to The American Legion Department of Michigan; in the memo line, write “Commander Dubay's Special Project” and send to the department headquarters.

I look forward to working with each of you this coming year and the Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, the Legion Riders, and all the Department officers, Committee Chairmen, and District and Post Commanders. Are you ready for an exciting and challenging year? Remember to start working early, REACH OUT and keep the lines of communication open, for if we don't communicate with each other, nothing will be achieved.

New youth protection requirements apply to Post up through state level

**RON RUNYAN**, Department Adjutant

February 2018 Public Law 115-126 was signed which is “An act to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and amateur athletes by requiring the prompt reporting of sexual abuse to law enforcement authorities, and for

other purposes.”

The citizens of Michigan have heard in the news and media too often about sexual abuse and youth protection problems from colleges, high schools and other places within the state. It is unsettling that there are people out there who take advantage of young people when they are most vulnerable.

The good news is we are planning on holding all our youth programs currently for 2021 -2022.

With that, I wanted to provide you with some important information regarding your 2021-2022 youth programs. Our National organization has updated their requirements when it comes to programs and legion member background checks & abuse awareness training to comply with Public Law 115-126.

Boys State and Baseball have had to require background checks for all their Legion volunteers and coaching staff for the last several years. This will now be required for all our youth program Legion volunteers/staff for 2021. Along with background checks, each volunteer/staff member will also have to complete abuse awareness training through Protect Youth Sports, U.S. Center of SafeSport, or USA Baseball Pure Baseball. The abuse awareness training is free and takes about 30 minutes online, but the background checks cost \$12

Baseball:

-All coaching staff will be required to complete their background checks prior to the start of the season. Background check fees are increasing from \$8 per person to \$12. This increase is due to National's requirement that we, Michigan, use the “Plus” package option to ensure an adequate level of background screening. Previously we used the “Basic” package which no longer covers all the items that National requires.

-Per usual, Department will run the background checks through Protect Youth Sports AVerity website and pay the fees. Teams will still need to turn in their \$12 per person background check payment with their team information in June 2021. All teams will be updated on the new fee at the beginning of the 2021 season.

Continued on Page 15

District Meetings

2ND DISTRICT

10/10/2021	Ann Arbor PST 46 2PM
01/09/2022	IDA POST 514 2PM
03/13/2022	ONSTEAD POST 550 2PM
04/23/2022	BROOKLYN POST 315
	HOSTING MEMORIAL SEFVICE 4PM
05/15/2022	JACKSON POST 29 2PM

3RD DISTRICT

Officers Meeting at 11:30 am, Lunch at Noon, Meeting at 1 pm	
September 12, 2021	Post 196 Union City 104 Coldwater St
November 7, 2021	Post 53 Hillsdale 1611 Steamburg Rd
January 9, 2022	Post 79 Marshall 11401 17 Mile Rd
March 6, 2022	Post 257 Harper Creek 7475 B Dr. N. Battle Creek
May 1, 2022	Post 55 Albion 1230 Edwards St
June 23-26	Held at State Convention

4TH DISTRICT

September 12, 2021	Dorr Post 127
November 7, 2021	South Haven Post 49
January 9, 2022	Allegan Post 89
March 6, 2022	Sturgis Post 73
May 1, 2022	Hastings Post 45
	Meetings begin at 1:30 p.m.

5TH DISTRICT

*District E-board meetings will be held at Post 154 7p	
Aug, October, Dec., Feb, Apr., Jun. (Dinner is available for purchase at the post from 5 pm until 6:30 pm. Menus will vary)	
JULY 15, 2021	Walker City Commission Chambers (Walker City Hall) 4243 Remembrance Rd NW, Walker, MI 49534 (Cake and Coffee to follow)
SEPTEMBER 9, 2021	Post 376 (Marne) Dinner at @ 6pm
NOVEMBER 4, 2021	Post 123 (Kent City) Tent Date.
JANUARY 13, 2022	Post 179 (Grandville)
MARCH 10, 2022	Post 208 (Kentwood) (Nomination of Officers)
MAY 12, 2022	Post 28 (Grand Haven) (Election of Officers)
JULY 14, 2022	LOCATION TBD by Next Commander
	All District Post Meetings and E Board Meetings are at 7 pm

6TH DISTRICT

September 12, 2021	Howell Post 141	11 - 2:30pm
	3265 W. Gr. River Rd., Howell, MI 48855	
November 7, 2021	Swartz Creek Post 294	11 - 2:30pm
	3440 Morrish Rd, Swartz Creek, MI 48473	
January 9, 2022	Leslie Post 491	11 - 2:30pm
	422 Woodworth St., Leslie, MI 49251	
March 12, 2022	Pinckney Post 419	11 - 2:30pm
	9807 Whitewood Rd, Pinckney, MI 48169	
May 1, 2022	Holt Post 238	11 - 2:30pm
	1785 Cedar St., Holt, MI 48842	

7TH DISTRICT

August 22, 2021	Mt. Clemens Post 4
October 17, 2021	Sebewaing
January 9, 2022	Lapeer
March 13, 2022	Caro
May 8, 2022	Mt. Clemens Post 4
June	Dept 1:00pm Eboard - 2:00pm District Meeting

8TH DISTRICT

12:00 to 1:00 pm	MyLegion training 1:00 pm Dinner,
	the meetings will begin after everyone has eaten and any joint business has concluded.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Growing Your Post

Bee Part of the Change

CONNIE KOVACS

Membership Chair

We have all had a difficult 2020, and the beginning of 2021 has been difficult as well. Even with these challenges, we stand strong and are proud of who we are as ALA members. We have all lived, loved, and lost in many ways over the past year and a half. I Believe we are anxious to get back to work again and forge new beginnings. With all we have learned through our own personal experiences and the overwhelming struggles our nation has endured, it is more important than ever that we come together and help each other through this “New Normal” we find ourselves living in. Believing in God and Country is one of our founding principles and is more important than ever and in these unprecedented times.

Growing up my parents always said, “God doesn’t give you more than you can handle.” I

still Believe that to be a true statement. As we begin this year remember to Believe in yourself! I Believe in each of you! You are all strong, talented, and beautiful in your own unique ways. I Believe that together we can accomplish great things this year by choosing to Believe in ourselves, our organization, and our country!

National Goal for Departments for 2021-2022 is for each unit to retain your current membership and add one new member. Our percentage goal for this year we need to reach are 75% by Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2022. Our second target percentage is 95% Poppy Day May 27, 2022. Michigan’s last goal is 100% 30 Days Prior to National Convention July 30, 2022.

Now, is the time for our worker bees to get Buzzing. Your department Mem-Bee-Ship team is here to help please do not hesitate to call on any of us.

September 12, 2021	St Johns Post 153
November 7, 2021	Hubbardston Post 182
January 9, 2022	Chesaning Post 212
March 6, 2022	Elsie Post 502
May 1, 2022	Owosso Post 57

9TH DISTRICT

September 11, 2021	Traverse City Post 35
	Exec Meeting 11 a.m. Lunch at Noon, General meeting at 1:00 p.m.

10TH DISTRICT

September 18th 2021	Convention in Shanty Creek time to be announced
November 6th 2021	Noon at Mikado Post 254 2205 Alger St, Mikado, MI 48745
January 8th 2022	Noon at Morley Post 554 2560 Northland Dr, Morley, MI 49336
March 5th 2022	Noon at Linwood Post 239 557 N Garfield Rd, Linwood, MI 48634
May 8th 2022	Noon At Bay City Post 18 700 Adams St, Bay City, MI 48708

11TH DISTRICT

OCT 2, 2021	FALL MEETING GLADSTONE POST 71 11TH & 12TH DISTRICT MEETINGS 10:30AM EASTERN TIME UPAALP MEETING AT 1PM
-------------	--

12TH DISTRICT

OCT 2, 2021	FALL MEETING GLADSTONE POST 71 11TH & 12TH DISTRICT MEETINGS 10:30AM EASTERN TIME UPAALP MEETING AT 1PM
-------------	--

16TH DISTRICT

Sept 14, 2021	Allen Park Post 409
Oct. 12, 2021	Riverview Post 389 PSO at 6:30 pm
Nov. 9, 2021	Flat Rock Post 337
Dec. 14, 2021	Southgate Post 478 PSO at 6:30 pm
Jan. 11, 2022	Stitt Post 232
Feb. 8, 2022	Fort Dearborn Post 364
March 8, 2022	Wyandotte Post 217
Apr. 12, 2022	Trenton Post 426 PSO at 6:30pm
May 10, 2022	Lincoln Park Post 67 ** Memorial & Elections
June 14, 2022	Garden City Post 396
	Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m., PSO school begins at 6:30 p.m. Memorial service 6:30 p.m.

18TH DISTRICT

August 22, 2021	Royal Oak Post 253 Phone# 248-546-0499
October 24, 2021	ZOOM
January 23, 2022	ZOOM
March 27, 2022	ZOOM
* May 22, 2022	Royal Oak Post 253 Phone# 248-546-0499 * Election of District Officers for 2022-23 Meeting for District Legion Only District Meetings Convene at 2:00 p.m. To join ZOOM meetings send an email to: 18thdistmi@gmail.com for link

19TH DISTRICT

	The 19th District meetings held at The Gaylord Bowling Center (VETS, Inc), 1200 Gornick Avenue, Gaylord. Service Officer/ General Topic Training at 10 AM, Social Greeting 11 AM, lunch served aNoon. Legion and Auxiliary District meetings at 1 PM. September 12, 2021 December 4, 2021
--	---

Submit District Meeting dates and information to
info@MichiganLegion.org

2022 Membership as of August 25, 2021 - 59,776



212 N. Verlinden Ave, Ste. B, Lansing, MI 48915 New Phone: (517) 267-8809

SECTION TWO

AUXILIAIRE

Page 5

September 2021

*From the Desk of the President**2021-2022 Department President, Mary Dubay*

2021 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Theme for the year is “Believe”**MARY DUBAY**
Auxiliary President

If someone would have told me many years ago, when I first joined the Auxiliary, that I would be standing before you today as the newly elected President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Michigan, I

would have laughed in their face and said no, not me. I am honored and privileged to join an elite group of members who have gone before me as Department President and I hope that I can live up to the expectations of all of you who elected me.

I have had many mentors over the years who encouraged me to take this path, and I wish to thank all of them for their support and advice over the years. Unfortunately, a couple of them are not here today, but I know that they are looking down

on us as we conclude our Department Convention.

My eligibility is through my husband, Richard Dubay, who is a Vietnam Veteran, and also through my father, Charles Desmet, who was a World War II veteran.

My theme this year is “Believe”. Each of you believe or you wouldn’t be here today carrying on the work of the American Legion Family. Theodore Roosevelt once said “It’s not what other people believe you can do, it’s what you believe you can do.” This past year you have shown how much you believe by all that you have done in an impossible situation. You have stepped up to the plate and have done so much for our veterans, military, and your communities. You have found new ways to embrace our beliefs of God and Country, citizenship, national security, and our children and youth.

My special project this year is “Heroes to Hives” which is a unique program through Michigan State Extension that seeks to address the fi-

nancial and personal wellness of veterans through professional training and community development centered around beekeeping. Almost 75 percent of their students have service-connected disabilities. The program is totally free to veterans, military, and their families and is supported solely by donations.

Unfortunately, my family is not able to be here today as we all gathered in June to celebrate our oldest granddaughter’s high school graduation and my husband’s and mine 50 plus 1 wedding anniversary. I want to thank them for all of their support over the years as I traveled on this journey. However, my Legion Family is here and I would like to recognize and thank Unit 4, Post 4, and the 7th District for all their support for so many years. Would you all please stand and be recognized.

Once again, I would like to thank you and I look forward to working with all of you this coming year.

Ann Arbor VA Healthcare System Report

By: Krystal Hall, ALA VAVS Representative

Due to the COVID19 situation(s), a ‘typical’ annual report, with detail figures, cannot be compiled. On-site Volunteer activities/involvements were discontinued beginning mid-March 2020. Although on-site Volunteer involvements have been halted, there is much to report from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare system.

As noted/reported by the Administration the “VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System has been in COVID-19 on-going practices. We continue to closely track the occurrence of COVID-19 and we are committed to keeping our communities, our Veterans, and our staff members safe, healthy, and informed.”

As I have previously report-

ed: 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. The Department of Veterans Affairs designated the Ann Arbor Medical Center as a 1A facility, meaning we are at the highest level of complexity of care. Neurosurgery, coronary artery bypass, and laparoscopic surgeries are examples of the sophisticated level of care provided at the VA Ann Arbor Medical Center. The facility includes state-of-the-art ambulatory care clinics, operating rooms, cardiac catheterization suite, intensive care units, laboratory, and diagnostic services.

The Ann Arbor System with

main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor and with clinics in Flint, Jackson, and Toledo (Ohio), serviced over 72,000 Veterans living in a 15-county area of Michigan and Northwest Ohio during the past fiscal year. The main hospital campus located in Ann Arbor serves as a referral center for specialty care and operates 102 acute care beds and 40 Community Living Center (extended care) beds. More than 909,000 outpatient (clinical/encounter) visits were made at our facilities; there were more than 5,700 inpatient episodes of care provided in the hospital and extended care center.

The American Legion Auxiliary is one of 39 service organizations that volunteer at, and support, the Veter-

an needs at the Ann Arbor System. It is considered our privilege to serve Veteran healthcare needs in any way we can. Due to COVID19, many of the Auxiliary Member involvement/activities have been greatly reduced. Although on-site visits were/are restricted, Michigan Auxiliary Units continue to provide monetary and in-kind donations.

VAAHS is active in several programs, some 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);

Continued on next page

COMMUNITY SERVICE

By: Kim Frazier, Department Chairman

What is community service?

Community service is helping veterans and active-duty service members, their families, and the communities they live in, to make their lives better. Whether you help by babysitting, driving them to their appointments, doing yardwork, cleaning their homes or just being there for them when they need you. Those are only a few of many of the things that fall under community service. Everyone does community service on a regular basis. Most just don't realize that they're doing it. It can be as simple as opening a door for someone or checking on your neighbor when you haven't seen them in a while.

The American Legion Auxiliary has set aside special days of service which are:

- 9-11 National Day of Service and Remembrance (observed annually on Sept. 11)
 - Make a Difference Day (observed on the fourth Saturday of Oct.)
 - Veterans Day (observed annually on Nov. 11)
 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (observed on the third Monday of Jan.)
 - National Volunteer Week (usually the third week in April)
- Guides for the 2021-2022 Year will be available at fall conference. I hope to see you there!

VA&R REPORT

By: Susan Svacha, Chairman

First, I would like to thank our Department President Mary for the honor of asking me to serve during her term of office.

We the great state of Michigan have a wonderful team of members to serve our veterans.

I understand that the last couple of years mostly due to COVID we have not handed our hour bars to our members who have given our veterans their help and time. I have found the missing bars, but I'm going to need a little help from all of you. If you know of a Unit or District that has a list of members who earned hour bars, please send those lists to me, either through email or snail mail. I am planning on handing out bars at Fall Conference this September but I can't do it without your help. I know that this will take time to fix, but with us working together as a team, we can accomplish anything.

My contact information: Email: smsvacha@hotmail.com

Mailing address: 7900 North Rd, Burtchville, MI 48059

Cell Phone: 810-956-2531

CALL TO ACTION

Submitted by: Sarah Eisenhardt,
Department Law and Order Chairperson

Posts across Michigan are invited to submit nominations for our annual Law Officer and Firefighter of the Year Awards. If your individual posts are hosting local recognition events please forward the names of your first responders to the department as well, using the forms found on michiganlegion.org under the programs/community tab. The American Legion has a strong history of supporting and honoring our local first responders through our strong Americanism pillar. Join us in recognizing those serving your community by nominating at least one in each category.

Deadline for nominations is January 10, 2022

Memory Garden

June 1, 2021 - Aug. 19, 2021

Unit 0008	Beulah Larson	Unit 0182	Barbara Billings
Unit 0008	Louise A. DuBuque	Unit 0208	Gwendolyn Gilman
Unit 0016	Alice M Hobbins	Unit 0215	Thelma Rossetter
Unit 0016	Beverly A Toole	Unit 0253	Marlene S Reiser
Unit 0016	Marjorie J Muir	Unit 0267	Pauline Minto
Unit 0028	Mary K Alguire	Unit 0269	Betty Storm
Unit 0028	Ruth A Kelly	Unit 0290	Tillie Smith
Unit 0111	Mary L Caruso	Unit 0298	Jacqueline A Lancaster
Unit 0122	Sarah L Wade	Unit 0340	Irene Framarin
Unit 0141	Bonnie Isenegger	Unit 0346	Lorraine Christensen
Unit 0153	Connie Welton	Unit 0370	Molly Herzberg
Unit 0155	Anna Vallie	Unit 0404	Dorothy Brown
Unit 0170	Vickie Austin	Unit 0411	Agnes Hornsby
Unit 0180	Sally Goodrich	Unit 0422	Teresa L. Duvernois

Healthcare System Report

Continued from previous page

SCAN-ECHO (Specialty Care Access Network Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes, VAAHS is 1 of 11 nationwide medical centers to implement); Healthy Teaching Kitchen Class; Veteran Transportation Service (one of only four national sites selected for a two-year pilot project); first VA in the US with a high-powered holmium laser ('Stone Dusting'-stone removal procedure); #BeThere (program to help prevent Veteran suicide; and, No Veteran Dies Alone (specially trained volunteers provide companionship and assistance as Veterans enter the final stages of life). This past December (2020), the Center hosted (drive-through) its eighth annual Baby Shower event.

Auxiliary members from the 2nd, 17th, and 18th Districts continue to be active/supportive of the Annual Gift Shop (Nov 2020 event, held off-site, had 20 volunteers giving 106 hours); overall, Auxiliary Units were generous with cash and in-kind (gift) donations totally \$9,9099; special need donations (flat screen TV, Microwaves (patient floors), iPads—for patient use to communicate with families/friends during the 'closure', comfort items, etc.), and finally, our annual Father's Day program was cancelled (for the second year).

One major highlight of this past year was the opening of the AA VA Fisher House; on June 1, 2020, The Fisher House welcomed its first guest. Since

that opening (through July 1, 2021), The Fisher House has hosted more than 1250 veteran families. The Fisher House is a 'beautiful home away from home' that provides high quality, temporary lodging to families and caregivers of Veterans and active duty Servicemembers who are undergoing care at the VA facilities.

As in past years, the goal will be to provide the best care and support for our country's veterans and to support the VAAHS programs. As I complete my eighth year as Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary appointed representative, one of my goals (our project) continues to be gather donations to obtain special needs (specially to support the building of the Fisher House in Ann Arbor) and to have a successful Gift Shop (Gift Shop for 2021 is tentatively planned for November 29 - 30th).

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; I suspect the volunteer involvement will indeed be a great challenge in the coming year.

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.

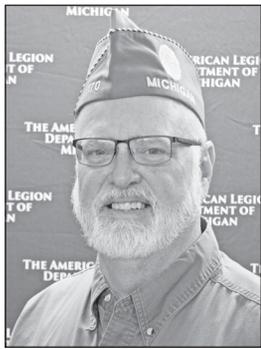


PROUD POSSESSORS OF A PRICELESS HERITAGE

Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER COMMENTS

Gentlemen and fellow Brothers of the Son's of The American Legion



ZACH PENDELL
SAL Commander

It has been my distinct honor to be elected your Detachment Commander for Michigan for 2021-2022.

As of being elected I have attended the UP summer convention in Iron Mountain, the 4th of July parade in Wyandotte (Post 217) and attended the Department

convention in Sault Ste. Marie. Your elected officers and I were presented to the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion. Our budget committee had their meeting and we held DEC 2 at the convention.

The attached photograph was taken at the AA State finals of the American Legion Baseball in Stevensville.

I had the honor of catching the opening pitch from Department Commander Richard Dubay. It was a father and son playing catch.

I want to close with how proud of all of you I am. Those who volunteer and do the work. The work that you do. As card carrying members you are eligible to attend any or all of our Detachment meetings. If you are called to the meetings you will be reimbursed for attending.

God bless you all and let us refocus and dedicate ourselves to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which the American Legion stands and to assist in carrying on for God and Country.



VAVR CHAIRMAN, DETACHMENT OF MICHIGAN

Hello fellow blue caps - Don't forget the Buddy System

FRED RUTTKOFSKY

VAVR Chairman

Hope all of you are staying safe and healthy during this pandemic. It has been a very difficult year for the VA hospitals and homes. Our representatives and assistant representatives have not been able to go into the hospitals as of yet, hopefully we can do that soon. That being said you can still help the veterans in your area with snow removal, Doctor visits, groceries, or any small task they may have.

Don't forget about the Buddy System call and

check in on the well being of a veteran who may be shut in or has been sick. I am sure any small jester will be appreciated. Veterans can still go to Wilwin at Cygnet Cove they just have to call and make a reservation.

As of this writing we are still not sure about our convention in June. Hopefully we will hear something soon.

DETACHMENTS

Don't forget about The Volunteer of the Year

Award. The application has to be filled out and returned to me by the first day of our convention. If you have a son you want to nominate let me know and I will send you the application. National also has the Charles B Rigsbey award. This application has to be returned to National 30 days before National convention. Both of these application can be found on SAL web site or you can call or email me and I will see that you get it.

August Mattson Squadron #71 Sons of the American Legion Retired 1000 Flags.

Many Americans fly the flag proudly in their front yards, perhaps on patriotic holidays such as Memorial Day or Independence Day, or even 365 days a year.

Like most things, however, individual flags do have a lifespan. And once it reaches the end of that span, many owners are unsure what to do with the flag.

Rather than simply throwing the flag away or putting it on a shelf, it should be retired via “dignified destruction,” which is exactly what the Gladstone Sons of the American Legion Squadron #71 Did on Monday June 14th,

“On Monday, June 14, at 7 pm., we had a dignified destruction of over 1000 used American flags that were not serviceable any longer,” said George Maciejewski, a Duel Son/Legion representing Squad #71. “We see too much of flags being set on poles way beyond their normal life. It looks bad, and it makes us veterans feel bad about that.

“People throw them in the garbage and flags should only be disposed of in one way, and that’s in an honorable destruction by fire. We do that once a year on June 14 in a ceremony held at our Veterans Memorial Park”.

Formally known as the “Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags,” it was outlined in Resolution No. 440 and passed by the 19th National Convention of The American Legion in New York in September 1937, according to The American Legion’s national website. The ceremony has become a Legion tradition ever since.

Hello to all SAL members and their families in the 4th Zone

I sincerely, hope all of you are doing well.

Well, here we are now enjoying in some freedoms that Covid 19 took from us in 2020 & 2021. These freedoms feel great, but please use due caution, and safety measures, for the bug is not gone yet.

Squadron elections are over, Detachment Convention and Legion Convention are also over. The SAL membership cards are in. Remember, to receive your squadron membership cards, your squadron must mail in your officers list and bond. You can find these forms on Michiganlegion.org. Go to SAL and follow the prompts or give me a call and I will assist you.

If your squadron has any thing going on, then please let me know, maybe I can attend your function or assist you with your function. The Detachment would like photos of your efforts or fund raiser. We can put these into the Legionnaire paper.

The members of your squadron or blue cappers, are the reason the SAL has been so successful in supporting our Legion programs and our communities. Any and all help that squadron members put back into your squadron, is what is needed most. Most squadrons have the members, what is needed is their active participation in supporting their squadrons. We all lead busy lives, but some of your time in supporting your squadron can help in many ways to support our Legion programs. This is the reason I became a “Son”, and I hope this is your reason also.

Please all of the 4th Zone, stay safe and please support your squadrons. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

John Brown, 4th Zone Commander

Cell 734 634 7733

e-mail: johnbrwn421@aol.com



Left to right, representing the Food Pantry Mary Knoch, Son’s Chaplain George Maciejewski and Handling the Check is Past Commander and 5th Zone Commander Bill Germain.

Sons of the American Legion Make Donation to Food Pantry

The Gladstone, Michigan August Mattson Squad #71 of the Sons of the American Legion has made a \$200.00 Donation to the Gladstone St. Vincent DE Paul Food Pantry. According to the Squad Commander Randy Bruntjens, “Our group was looking for a great way to give back to the community and thought this was a great way to help the Pantry with their needs of their hope to re-stock the shelves. This is the time of the year for Giving. The funds were generated through the Son’s Croatian Chicken Dinners.

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

Greetings fellow Michigan SAL

Wanted to share this short story with you all.

My name is Rich Laney and I am the current SAL Commander of Squadron 4 in Mt. Clemens, MI. We have recently found our original charter certificate dated 11 OCT 1935. It is not in the best condition but still a wonderful surprise to find this in the basement A.K.A. ‘the dungeon’ at Post 4 (Harry Ollrich). This was lost/misplaced long before I ever became involved in the Legion. Still not sure if we are going to send it out for document restoration or keep it as is, but either way, it will soon be proudly on display at Post 4.

JUNE 2021 S.A.L. CONVENTION HELD IN SOUTHGATE, MI

It was indeed a pleasure for the 16th and 18th districts to host the SAL Convention in Southgate. The Convention was held the first week in June. We were honored to have SAL National Commander Clint Bolt from Virginia and National Chaplain Rodney Tolbert from South Haven MI.



Many awards were presented including a lifetime achievement award to Sue Verville for her husband Dwaine Verville.

We would like to thank all that attended and hope you had a great time.



Greetings from the 8th District



LEO COWDRY
8th District Commander

Let me introduce myself, my name is Leo Cowdry I have been a member of the Ray Barker Post 412 in Bath for 44 years the last 14 I have served as the Commander. We are a medium sized Post of approximate-

ly 330 members near Lansing. I encourage that members get involved at not only the Post level, but get involved at the District and Department levels also. Go to a District meeting or a Department conference, be involved or just observe.

What a past year, with all the turmoil our Country and State has been through I feel very fortunate. And I also feel fortunate to be a member of the greatest veterans organization, The American Legion. In the 8th District we ended the year with 94% of our membership goal which put us in 1st place in the Department, "Congratulations 8th District Posts", hopefully this Legion year we will be able to improve this by 6%. We have the capability to get 100% we just need our Post Sr. Vice Commanders and Adjutants to work together to achieve this. If you need any assistance with membership from the District contact Sr. Vice Gene Nethaway. We will be conducting MyLegion training at all District meetings this year at 12:00pm before dinner.

All of our Posts are up and running after the pandemic some are recovering faster than others, but we all survived, and continued to support the four pillars of the American Legion.

Goals for this year are as always, increase membership, the Department membership team will be offering incentives to do just that, please take advantage of them. I would like to see the District more accessible to the Posts and I plan on visiting each Post more than once during the year and I'm available on a special events and needs basis.

At all of our District meeting the Sr. Vice Commander will conduct MyLegion training and assist members with their MyLegion account. This is a great tool and all members we need to get familiar and comfortable using it.

In closing I hope to have a great year and plan on serving the 8th District to the best of my ability.

In Comradeship, Leo H. Cowdry

Notes from Zone 1 Commander

I would like to thank everyone who attended this year 2021 Sons of The American Legion State Convention that was held in Southgate. With everything going on with Covid-19 Virus the Convention could not be approached in a normal manner.

So, members from the 16th & 18th Legion Family who formed a Convention Committee, decided to think outside the box, and put together a weekend of Family Fun.

Among those who attended and seemed to be enjoying themselves were our Department Commander, Department Auxiliary President, Honorary Junior Auxiliary President, and our National Sons of The American Legion Commander.

Congratulations to Our New Detachment Commander

All Us Sons would like to congratulate Zack Pendell on becoming this year Michigan Sons of The American Legion Commander and are looking forward to working with him on His Special Project, along with many other ideas he has.



Remembering a Friend

Edward Gorecki: Past 16th District Legion Commander and Dual Member, Ed was always willing to help all Legion Family members with any project they were working on. We will all miss his approachable smile, and friendly demeanor, R.I.P. Our Friend.

Membership

I have noticed that the Squadrons that have not maintained current status on Their membership have been removed from the 1st Zone Rosters.

I have been in contact with a Squadron in both the 1st and 16th Districts that have hoped to resolve their past problems and can get their Charters back to a Good Status.

Post and Squadron Activities

Many Squadrons have continued to work with other Legion Family members to put on various types of Dinners and activities that help Veterans, their families, and the communities in which they live.

Attending Future Endeavors

I am looking forward to visiting different Posts and see what their Squadrons are doing to help support the programs of the American Legion.

District 19 News

District 19 is located in the Tip of the Mitt. It is a small district in membership but it covers a large area of the state.

We hold four District meetings each year, in September, December, March and May. We usually hold our District meetings at the Gaylord Bowling Center. It is run by a group of veterans and part of the building is the local VFW Post. It is centrally located to all our Posts.

Before the Pandemic it was exciting to visit the units and hear about all the different events they held at their Posts.

Charlevoix has an enthusiastic group and are very successful at raising money for veterans.

East Jordan is a fun group and they put on dinners and weekly bingo games to help the Legion maintain their post.

Harbor Springs gives a scholarship to a local high school student entering the trades.

Mackinaw City holds a raffle to raise money for veterans and first prize is a weekend stay on

Mackinac Island.

Lewiston lost some of their officers this past year but a few ladies stepped up and became officers. They started to attend the District meetings to learn how the other units operate.

Onaway throws a birthday bash for each branch of the military.

South Boardman puts door knocker brochures on each house in their town that has a flag flying.

Wolverine made patriotic door decorations for the veteran's homes at Patriot Place. Since the start of the pandemic we as everyone else have gone into quarantine mode. Most things were cancelled.

But this spring familiar faces started reappearing.

We had our first District meeting in over a year. The units are slowly starting to ramp up their activities and return to a normal lifestyle.

Veteran Services News

'Significant Increase' in Veteran Homelessness

As I write this article, the federal eviction moratorium is coming to an end. Veterans Affairs is warning of a 'significant increase' in veteran homelessness. Housing advocates foresee an 'avalanche' of evictions. Those of us working daily with homeless veterans, fear both of these warnings, and know a lack of affordable housing throughout our state and nation, contribute heavily to the problem and have a direct effect on housing stability for our nations heroes. Couple that with the disproportionate number of homeless veterans with diagnosed disabilities and it is easy to see the storm brewing.

To combat the anticipated rise in homelessness, the VA and HUD have increased services and housing supports. But in order to access these services, a veteran in crisis must know how to connect. In Michigan, homeless services vary greatly, from county to county. While some communities in our state have a centralized intake for homelessness, where anyone struggling with a housing crisis can call one number, complete an assessment and be connected to available resources, many others do not. Those regions may have several intake points and the services may be more disconnected. This can be a huge frustration for a veteran in crisis.

But we, as the American Legion family, can help ease the frustration and link our veterans to available services. If a veteran contacts you or your post/unit/squadron requesting assistance, please direct them to the following resources:

- **You can find your counties homeless intake contact information at:**
https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mshda/MSHDA_HARAs_Contact_List_678040_7.pdf
- **The National Call Center for Homeless Veterans** at (877) 4AID-VET (877-424-3838).
- **A third access point would be the local VA hospital or clinic:**
<https://www.va.gov/directory/guide/state.asp?STATE=MI&dnum=ALL>.

There are a multitude of other ways, we can help homeless veteran, including:

- **Educating our membership and communities** about VA and HUD supports available and how to connect to them.
- **Advocate for affordable housing options** in your community.
- **Increase benevolent funds** for move-in costs, household goods and essentials, home repairs, transportation and technology.
- **Share legal services information and encourage rehabilitation programs**, as well as, mental and physical health care.
- **Walk through the process** with the veteran.

Lastly, if you need additional resources or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

For God and Country,
Chris Moore
(616)916-6260

MI ALA Homeless Veterans Committee Chair

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. We can assist you and your dependents in getting the Benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.



**GARY
EASTERLING**
Director

Mr. Gary Easterling, Director,
Gary's cell no. (313) 549-8557
Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director

**Patrick V. McNamara Federal
Building**
Room 1210
477 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI 48226

al.vbadet@va.gov

Call the Detroit office for Field
Service Officer Schedule
Visit us www.mivabenefits.org

The American Legion Family



Chaplain Training



At Fall Conference

Saturday September 18th @ 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Everyone Is Welcome To Attend

ALA Girls State Celebrates 80 Years Virtually!

By: Beryl Robbins, Chairman

After nearly fifteen months of navigating the shifting policies of Covid Protocols, the Department of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary



Delaney Jones and Georgiana Branch

Girls State, celebrated their 80th anniversary with a state-wide Zoom conference that brought together 75 of the state's brightest and most promising high school juniors.

ALA Girls State Chairmen Rysta Brown and Beryl Robbins, who had the opportunity to participate in the six-day virtual program were pleasantly surprised on how everything came together this year. We were determined not to postpone our 80th for another year, and grateful we were able to go forward. It was a huge success...beyond our expectations for sure. Our technical support staff, instructors, and counselors all came together to make it work...and it did. The feedback from parents and students was overwhelmingly positive.

In addition to reducing the number of cities to six and two counties, we had to make the decision not to hold the elections of Officers and Supreme Court Justices. We did, however, encourage attendees to apply for the Samsung Scholarship and congratulate our winner, Alexandria Rose Davis, citizen of Knox City from Lake Orion, who was sponsored by the 16th District ALA.

We also selected two delegates to attend ALA

Girls Nation as Michigan's Senators. Congratulations to Delaney Jones, citizen of Verville, from Jackson, who was sponsored by ALA Unit 315, and Georgiana Branch, citizen of Verville from Ann Arbor who was sponsored by ALA Unit 117.



Alexandria Rose Davis

We look forward to returning to an in-person session at Michigan State June 12 – June 18, 2022. The reservation cost has been raised to \$400 this year. Reservations will be accepted starting October 1, 2021, so start your search for students now before they make other plans!

Fall Conference 2021 Agenda

Thursday, September 16, 2021

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Legion Headquarters Office.....	Parlor G
3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Registration.....	Hotel Lobby
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.	Committee Chairman Training.....	Parlor B
Immediately following	Zone and District Commander Training.....	Parlor B

Friday, September 17, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.	Registration.....	Hotel Lobby
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Legion Headquarters Office.....	Parlor G
8:45 a.m.	Resolutions Assignment-meet in H/Q office.....	Parlor G
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Finance/Personnel.....	Parlor F
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Baseball.....	Parlor B
	Boys State.....	Parlor C
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Legislative.....	Parlor E
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.	Children & Youth.....	Parlor C
	Media & Communications.....	Parlor E
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Reconnect.....	Parlor B
	Americanism.....	Parlor E
	Internal Affairs.....	Parlor F
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Post Development.....	Parlor B
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Membership.....	Parlor B
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	VAVS/VHVS.....	Parlor C
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Veterans Employment & Education.....	Parlor C
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VA & R.....	Parlor C
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	Permanent Time & Place.....	Parlor F
	Education & Scholarship.....	Parlor E

Friday, September 17, 2021 cont.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	National Security.....	Parlor E
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	10th District Meeting.....	Parlor F
3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	3rd Zone Meeting.....	Parlor F
4:00 – 5:30 p.m.	D.E.C. Meeting.....	Parlor C

Saturday, September 18, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Post Officers Overview.....	Parlor C
	Commander & Finance	
	Judge Advocate – Bylaws, Standing Rules, Discipline	
	Committees – Post, District, State and National	
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Post Service Officer and Temporary Assistance.....	Parlor E & H
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch break	
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Chaplain's Workshop.....	Parlor E & H
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Post Adjutant Workshop & MyLegion with Q&A.....	Parlor C
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Wilwin Lodge Meeting.....	Parlor H
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Legion Riders Meeting.....	Parlor C
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Michigan American Legion Foundation.....	Parlor E & H
8:00 p.m.	Commander's Reception.....	Suite

Sunday, September 19, 2021

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Legion H/Q Office.....	Parlor G
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	D.E.C. Meeting.....	Parlor C

** GNUTS is canceled for this year **

* ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

The Only Written
OFFICIAL CALL
 American Legion, Department of Michigan
Annual Fall Conference
 September 17-19, 2021
 Shanty Creek Resort, Lakeview Hotel
 Bellaire, Michigan

Department Commander TBA

Purpose: To implement plans for the new American Legion program year and to conduct the business of the American Legion, Department of Michigan. Department committees (who are called, see below) will meet to plan and discuss programs for the new year. The Department Executive Committee will meet to receive reports from the committee chairmen. Awards will be presented, and schools of instruction will be conducted on a variety of subjects.

The Department Executive Committee, Department Committees, and Chairmen listed below are officially called to participate in the fall conference. See program book for all specific locations.

Registrations • Registration fee is \$15.00 for all members and guests.

Department Executive Committee meets
 Friday, September 17, at 4:00 p.m.

Department Committees meet
 Friday, September 17;
meetings begin at 9:00 a.m.

See schedule in the September Legionnaire or at www.michiganlegion.org (available soon)

Americanism (incl. subcommittees), Baseball, Boys State, Children & Youth, Education & Scholarship, Finance/Personnel, Internal Affairs, Legislative, Media & Communications, Membership (incl. Post Development), National Security & Foreign Relations, Permanent Time and Place, Reconnect (incl. Homeless Vets), Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation (incl. VAVS/VHVS), and Veterans Employment & Education.

Schools of instruction will be conducted on
 Saturday, September 18.

See the September MI Legionnaire and conference brochure for a list of classes.

Department Executive Committee will reconvene on
 Sunday, September 19, at 9:00 a.m.



THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
FALL CONFERENCE 2021
 September 17, 18, and 19, 2021
 HOSTED BY 20 NORTH CONVENTION CORPORATION

Fall Conference 2021 Registration Form

The Lakeview Hotel at Shanty Creek Resort is the Host Hotel. Room reservations at the Host Hotel are your responsibility and should be made directly with them:

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
CALL (866) 486-7790

Reference the *American Legion Fall Conference* when making your reservation. A block of rooms is available for us at the special room rate of *\$136 plus taxes and fees.*

This rate is valid up to August 16, 2021.

The full address is:
SHANTY CREEK RESORT, LAKEVIEW HOTEL
5780 SHANTY CREEK RD
BELLAIRE, MI 49615

A map showing the recommended access to the Host Hotel will be included with your emailed registration confirmation.

The American Legion requires each person attending register with the corporation and be issued proper credentials to attend any meeting, session, or event in connection with the Conference. Registration fee is \$15.00 per person.

FALL CONFERENCE 2021 AT SHANTY CREEK
REGISTRATION INFORMATION

(Please print legibly so we can correctly spell your name on your convention badge.)

Name (as you want it on the name tag): _____

Circle one*

TAL ALA SAL ALR

Address: _____

City, State, and Zip: _____

email address: _____ **phone:** _____

Additional registrants covered under same payment:

Name: _____ TAL ALA SAL ALR

Total number of registrations _____ times (x) \$15.00 per person = _____

Checks should be made payable to: **20 NORTH CONVENTION CORP**
 and mailed with this completed form to: **PO BOX 692, PETOSKEY, MI 49770**

Keep a copy of this form for your records.

Confirmation of registration being received will be emailed from 20northconventioncorp@gmail.com.

Contact 20northconventioncorp@gmail.com or call Joe Renis at 231-392-6833 with any questions.

*TAL=The American Legion ALA=American Legion Auxiliary SAL=Sons of the American Legion ALR=American Legion Riders



Welcome to the Old Wild West Camporee!



Brought to you by
The American Legion
Department of Michigan
&



the Michigan Crossroads Council

Oct. 15 - 17, 2021

PLANNED ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

INDIAN LORE SHARP SHOOTER TRAIL SIGN

LASSO THE STEER FLY FISHING

SWIFT ARROW JAMBOREE ON THE AIR INDIAN LORE

→ All Scout Troops Are Invited To Attend! ←

SCOUTING SKILL COMPETITION

VISIT WITH SCOUTS
FROM AROUND THE
WORLD WITH
JOTA!



Camporee Details

- ◆ Camporee Date: Oct. 15—17
- ◆ Cost: \$15.00 Per Person
- ◆ Online Registration Begins September 1st
- ◆ Rustic Campsites
- ◆ Troops Responsible for All Unit Meals
- ◆ A complete Camporee Guide will be forwarded upon registration

ONLINE REGISTRATION
This event is listed on the
MCC Events Calendar.
REGISTER EARLY!
Attendance is Limited

Camporee Location

Wilwin at Cygnet Cove
3383 East Hawley Rd.
Custer, MI 49405
www.wilwinlodge.com

*Approximately 15 miles
southeast of Ludington*

1184 Beautiful Acres

Contact info:
milegionscouting@usa.com



**American Legion
Stitt Post 232
doing a food drive in
conjunction with VA&R.**



New youth protection requirements apply to Post

Continued from Page 3

- All coaching staff & Legion volunteers will need to complete the "Abuse Awareness Training" through USA Baseball. Once they have completed the abuse awareness training, a copy of their certificate will need to be provided to department. This is the same as what was required for the 2020 season and teams will be informed of this procedure as well.

-All committee members will also need to complete the training and background checks since you will be around players at your Zone playoffs and State tournaments.

Boys State:

-All legion volunteers, education staff, counselors, and committee members (who intend on being at Boys State) need to complete a background check, same as in previous years. In addition, all will be required to complete the "Abuse Awareness Training" and forward a copy of their certificate to department.

- Cost per background check is \$12 and will have to be completed prior to the start of the program in June 2021.

Junior Shooting Sports:

-Considering that this program

is handled primarily by National, department has no involvement when it comes to background checks and abuse awareness training for JSSP teams. Background check and abuse awareness training will be initiated during the team registration process on national's website.

- Each person that is deemed a "designated individual" (coaches/volunteers that are 18yrs or older) will be required to complete a background screening and abuses awareness training at their own expense or teams' expense. Team coaches will be responsible for making sure any of their volunteers/other coaching staff complete background checks and abuse awareness training.

-There is a new risk management manual for JSSP which covers all this information in more detail.

Oratorical:

-All committee members, district commanders, and legion volunteers will be required to complete a background check and abuse awareness training prior to holding an oratorical contest. A copy of the abuse awareness training certificate will need to be forwarded to department.

-Again, the cost for the background check is \$12 and will have to be completed prior to any oratorical

contest being held.

-All committee members and district commanders will be provided information on how to complete the required training and background check.

Scouting:

-The only event that would require legion volunteers and committee members to complete the required training and background check is the Scouting Camporee at Wilwin.

-If you are a Legion member and involved with the Troop or Pack you can have your background check done with BSA

Student Trooper:

- This program is held at the Michigan State Police headquarters by MSP officers, there is no additional background check/training required at this time.

-MSP handles all aspect of this program and no legion volunteers are included at any time during the program.

Thank you to Ashley our Programs Coordinator that organizes and implements these programs on behalf of the state committees. If you have any questions or concerns on our youth programs please feel free to contact her at legion@michiganlegion.org or 517-371-4720 ext. 126.



More photos of the American Legion Stitt Post 232 doing a food drive with VA&R



MI Legionnaire Opt Out

YES! I would like to view the Legionnaire online at 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: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail Address: _____

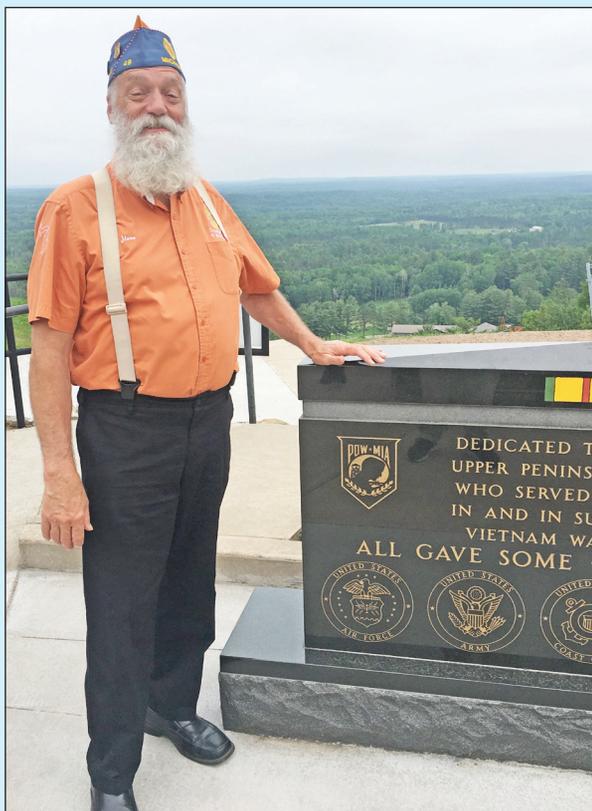
Signature: _____

Around the State...



Left to Right, Bill Germain, U.P. Representative. Dennis Larson, Past State President, John Pickard, 5th Zone Commander.

Upper Peninsula Veterans War Memorial Squadron Challenge



Son's State Adjutant Steve Hamilton overlooking the U.P. Veterans Memorial.

As 5th Zone Commander of the 11th and 12th Districts of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan Son's of the American Legion, I am Issuing a Challenge to all S.A.L. Squadrons in Michigan to make a Donation to this very Beautiful Memorial atop the Pine Mountain Ski Jump in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

Some Gave All and I am asking each and everyone of you to Give some! So far the Michigan Son's Detachment have donated \$1000.00. The Gladstone Squadron #71 has pledged \$500.00 and South Haven Squad #49 has pledged \$500.00. Thank you to them. Past State President Dennis Larson and his committee are caretakers of this fine Memorial. Lights are being added to the Columns of personalized Pavers that represent Veterans, past present and future. Each Paver is associated with the specific war or conflict. It is such a beautiful sight to behold.

Send Donations
C/O U.P. Veterans Memorial,
609 Kennedy Road
Iron Mountain, Michigan. 49801



U.P. Veterans War Memorial Columns.



Immediate Past Commander Wood at the State Baseball Tournament in July.



1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**