

# MI LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XClI No. 1

michiganlegion.org

January 2024

## YOUTH PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMMUNITY AWARDS

### ARE YOU HELPING GROW THEM?

The American Legion was founded on four pillars of service: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. All of our Legion programs fall under one of these pillars and typically cost nothing to run but time and effort. We are challenging posts to undertake one new project, program, or event this year. Do not rest on your laurels. Keep building on your Posts' successes and standing in the community by starting a new program this year.

#### The American Legion Boys State

program is a mock government exercise. Its purpose is to awaken within the youth of our nation a sincere conviction to be well-informed, intelligent, and involved in



order to protect and preserve our American traditions. The training is objective and modeled on the city, county, and state government structures.

Scholarships: Samsung Scholarship  
Up to \$10,000 scholarship awarded

The American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program is a gun safety education and marksmanship program that encompasses the basic elements of safety, education, enjoyment and competition. Shooters use the .177 caliber air rifle. Posts/Districts: If you would like more information on starting a Junior Shooting Sports Program in your community visit: [www.legion.org/shooting/resources](http://www.legion.org/shooting/resources)



#### Eagle Scout of the Year



The Legion's support for Boy Scouts of America began at the Legion's first national convention in 1919. The Eagle Scout of the Year will be honored at the department convention with a plaque and a \$1,000 scholarship, and a chance to be named National American Legion Eagle Scout of The Year.

#### American Legion Square Knot Award

The award is meant to recognize the dedication and work required by an American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of The American Legion member to assist in furthering the Scouting program in The American Legion.



The American Legion Oratorical contest is educational and could be financially rewarding as well. High School students can hone their speaking skills while learning about the U.S. Constitution. Students will prepare a speech on one of five topics regarding the Constitution and amendments and also present an additional speech on a randomly selected topic from the five.

#### Scholarships:

Zone Winner \$500, Runner up \$100

Department	1 <sup>st</sup> prize \$2,000	National	1 <sup>st</sup> prize \$25,000
	2 <sup>nd</sup> prize \$1,500		2 <sup>nd</sup> prize \$22,000
	3 <sup>rd</sup> prize \$1,000		3 <sup>rd</sup> prize \$20,000

#### Student Trooper Program

Every year, high school students, 10th grade and above, are selected for the Youth Law Cadet Law Enforcement Program. The program's purpose is to allow students to explore and experience the various aspects of law enforcement training. They receive training in firearms, self-defense, fingerprinting, K-9 handling, accident and criminal investigation, and state patrol car driving.



#### Scholarships:

- \$500 Academic Scholarship
- \$500 Marksmanship Scholarship
- \$500 Orator Scholarship
- \$1,000 Student Trooper of the Year Scholarship

January 2024

#### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The American Legion's dedication to recognizing the efforts of those in our community dedicated to serving others is evident in our Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, and Educator of the Year awards.

All Posts are encouraged to seek applications from Firefighters, EMTs, Paramedics, Law Enforcement Officers and K-12 teachers for the respective awards. Post should select a local candidate and send their application to Department headquarters to be considered.

Deadline for Law Enforcement Officer and Firefighter of the Year nominations is January 8<sup>th</sup>. Teacher of the Year submissions are due to Department on April 1<sup>st</sup>.



More Programs and a Complete List of Important Dates on Page 15!



DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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**ONE OF A KIND  
LEGION CUSTOM 1911 45 CAL.**

**Show & Shoot**

**AMERICAN LEGION**  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

**SMITH & WESSON  
M&P 9MM**  
OR EQUAL VALUE FROM RANGE 517

**Michigan's National Commander  
Candidate Raffle Fundraiser**

- 1st - Legion Custom 1911 and S&W M&P \$3700 Value
- 2nd Prize - \$500 Cash
- 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

Tickets \$100 Only 250 will be sold

Drawing Live on Facebook May 23, 2024 at 11 am

Make Checks Payable to American Legion Department of Michigan  
212 Verlinden Lansing MI 48915

Less than 75 sold Raffle reverts to a 50/50 Participants must be 21 years of age or older. Guns awarded as prizes will be distributed through licensed dealers and only in compliance with federal and state laws and applicable local ordinances. Prize will be forfeited and no substitution provided if a winner is ineligible. Need not be present to win. Raffle Lic. #R72287

**FOUR CHAPLAINS INTERFAITH MEMORIAL SERVICE**



PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN - AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

**JOIN US IN REMEMBERING THESE  
BRAVE HEROES AND KEEPING THEIR STORY ALIVE.  
"The cost of war does not end with victory"**

SUNDAY, February 3, 2024 @ 2:00 P.M.  
IN THE BALLROOM OF THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMORIAL  
BUILDING, 1701 W. GENESEE ST.  
LAPEER

THERE WILL BE A COFFEE/PUNCH/COOKIE RECEPTION FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, AND TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP WITH LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY. THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM!

810-664-9312

# 80th ANNIVERSARY of D-DAY

*15-day WWII tour departs June 1, 2024  
from Minneapolis or Chicago*

**THE NETHERLANDS:** WWI sites.

**FRANCE:** Paris tour, all sights on Normandy, festivities on June 6, SHAF headquarters in Reims.

**BELGIUM:** Battle of the Bulge sites.

**GERMANY:** Remagen Bridge, Rhine cruise, Nurnberg rally grounds & courtroom, Dachau and Hitler's Eagles Nest. Great hotels, many meals, professional guides, & Vi Ranney, escort

*Tour designed by WWII Capt. Brooks Ranney*

To sign up, call Vi Ranney: 605-665-3596

or email: [viranney@vyn.midco.net](mailto:viranney@vyn.midco.net)

**CALL TODAY!**

*Tours sponsored by GRHS. Everyone Welcome!!*

## Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

*Now We Can Help*

The LIT Plans can help with

- Hospital HELP Plan
- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service



ENDORSED BY YOUR  
AMERICAN LEGION  
DEPARTMENT



- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.\*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.\*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).\* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.\*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit  
[www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com)

For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

\*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit [www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com) to review plan details.

## Welcome to 2024!

### Brian Mohlman

Department Commander

I'm hoping all of you had a wonderful Holiday Season full of family, friends, and memories. I know many of us took advantage of the time off to recharge and rededicate ourselves for the upcoming events of the New Year.

Speaking of upcoming events, the Department Winter Meeting is quickly approaching and will be held February 9 - 11 in Flint, MI. Now is the time to ensure you have registered to attend so you can take advantage of some fantastic opportunities. Our National Commander, Daniel Seehafer, will join us, and you will have the opportunity to meet and talk with him throughout the weekend. We will host a banquet in his honor on Friday night from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Please be sure to register for the National Commander's Banquet at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org).

As we move forward into the new year, let's re-commit ourselves to reaching out to our members through Buddy Checks, which are the first step in the Be The One process. By reaching out and talking to our members, their concerns and needs are brought to light, hopefully in time to make a difference for them.

I look forward to working with all of you this year as we strive to make The American Legion in the Department of Michigan the leader in Veteran and Community Service, the Go-to organization recognized and welcomed by all!



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## Runyan's Ramblings DUES INCREASE STARTING JULY 2024

### Ron Runyan

Department Adjutant

At the National Convention in Charlotte, NC 2023, the organization voted and approved increasing the National dues per capita. Currently, a portion of each member's dues goes to the National and State for supporting their programs and costs. Right now, your per capita is \$39.50, of which \$18 goes to National, and \$21.50 goes to the state.

This dues increase was determined by National leadership and the finance commission. The main reasoning for the dues increase: 1) The last dues increase was in 2016 2) Costs and inflation have gone way up over seven years 3) Cost of youth programs continue to increase.

When the dues increase was passed, it meant the national per capita would go from \$18 to \$23 per member, which is

not debatable. However, the state leadership and finance committee did not want our Michigan members to bear the brunt of such a dues increase. Therefore, at last year's state convention, the state discontinued mailing every member a copy of the Legionnaire newspaper, saving nearly a quarter million dollars. With these savings, it was the intention that we could help members and post not have to pay the entire \$5 increase. There is a resolution that will be addressed at our state convention in July, stating that the state will reduce its per capita portion.

The National dues increase will take place in July. It is HIGHLY encouraged that every post take a good look at their current dues structure and decide if they also need to raise their dues. Remember, if the resolution passes at our state convention to SAVE members money, per capita will be \$42.50, and if it were to fail, per capita will be \$44.50



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## STATE OFFICERS

State Commander . . . . . Brian Mohlman  
 State Adjutant . . . . . Ron Runyan  
 1st Vice Commander . . . . . Dan Cooper  
 2nd Vice Commander . . . . . Wayne Blank  
 1st Zone . . . . . Robert Kamin  
 2nd Zone . . . . . Duane Miller  
 3rd Zone . . . . . Jerry Kunzelman  
 4th Zone . . . . . Randy Gilbert  
 5th Zone . . . . . Ray Carlson  
 Chaplain . . . . . Norm Soli  
 Finance Officer . . . . . John Bradford  
 Historian . . . . . Robert Higley Jr.  
 N.E.C . . . . . Larry Money  
 Judge Advocate . . . . . Barry Wood  
 Sergeant-at-Arms . . . . . Bob Salamon  
 Immediate Past Commander . . . . . Marilyn Britten  
 Alt. N.E.C . . . . . Brett Holt  
 VA and R Director . . . . . Gary Easterling

## DEADLINE DATES

February 2024 is January 12th

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## HEADQUARTERS DIRECTORY

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If you have a photo you would like to submit for the Michigan Legionnaire and/or website use, E-mail it to us at [media@michiganlegion.org](mailto:media@michiganlegion.org) or mail it to Department, Attn: Jim Showers. 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 Jim Showers

[media@michiganlegion.org](mailto:media@michiganlegion.org)

517-220-2747

**WHY WAIT? 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
 NOW AVAILABLE! CLICK HERE TO SEE YOUR  
 MEMBERSHIP STATUS & RENEW TODAY!**

## MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE

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## The Membership Report



**Dan Cooper**  
1st Vice Commander

Congratulations to our District Commanders, Posts Commanders, and Membership Teams for helping the Department hit the first three target dates of this membership year of 55%, 65%, and now 75%... a week early.

The 75% target date has not been hit for many years; you have done a fabulous job - Thank You for all your hard work!

The National Department thanks you too. I received a call from our National Vice Commander Robert Shreve, congratulating our Department for a job well done.

Our next Target is 80% on January 18, 2024. With your help, we will make that target, too!

It has been a great four weeks since my last report. Today, 6 Districts have already passed the 75% mark, and most of the other Districts are quickly closing in on 75%.

Congratulations to the 12 Posts that have already achieved 100% or higher and to the many Posts that are over 80%. You are doing fantastic; keep the momentum going. We can make 110% this year.

Our members make The Department of Michigan the best Department in The American Legion. This is the year to show the Legion that Michigan sets the standard. We work as a TEAM in our membership goals and all the programs we offer to our Veterans, Youth, and Communities. Not only what we do in our posts, but what we do outside your posts makes us who we are.

As we focus on the 80% target, I encourage all Posts to work on their non-renewed member rosters and encourage those veterans to re-engage with your Post. Buddy Checks are a great tool to re-engage members and to find out why these members have chosen to no longer be a part of the American Legion.

The "why" could tell us how we must improve to make our Posts a place veterans want to belong.

We know that engaging members in our Posts gives them a sense of belonging and purpose to serve. They joined to help veterans and to serve their communities. Invite them back and give them purpose.

Be proud to show your card and promote our Programs, Posts, and The American Legion wherever you go. It is what you promote that will attract new members. I wish everyone a very Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year.

## The Americanism Report



**Wayne Blank**  
2nd Vice Commander

This is our New Year, and we should make it a Great Year by doing something new at your post by addressing a new program that you and your post can support and get involved with. There is still time to nominate a Law Officer and Firefighter of the Year, which closes on January 8. The deadline for the Brewer (\$500.00) and Wilson (\$1000.00) scholarships is January 22, 2024. Teacher of the Year submission deadline is April 1. Please try contacting a school to let them know of our available awards and scholarships to benefit their youth and staff.

District Oratorical competition needs to be done by January 21, 2024. Zone Oratorical contests need to be finalized by February 4. All dates and locations for District and Zone will be published shortly. Please give all dates and places to Ashley, the Coordinator of Programs at the Department. The National Oratorical contest will take place at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan. Contests quarterfinals and semi-finals will be held on Saturday, May 18, 2024, with the finals to be held on Sunday, May 19, 2024. You can volunteer for the National competition, which will be at Hillsdale College, Hillsdale, on May 17-19, 2024. They need volunteers to put on the contest, which will provide more than \$203,500 in college scholarships. Applications and additional info at [legion.org/oratorical](http://legion.org/oratorical).

Post 514 hosts a Charitable Gaming Seminar. It attracts members and potential members. Michigan Lottery's Charitable Gaming Division offers over \$57 million fundraising opportunities for non-profits. The seminars are held online and in person throughout the year to discuss various topics related to charitable gaming. The charitable gaming division gives you a way to raise funds in your own community. The funds raised may give you a way to support a young man or woman at our Student Trooper program or send a young man or woman to Boys State or Girls State. If your organization is interested in hosting or attending a seminar or has questions about licensed games, please reach out to Inspector Cole at 517-242-0538 or [coleh1@michigan.gov](mailto:coleh1@michigan.gov).

**INTERESTED IN A PUF?!**  
**Paid Up For Life**  
**800-433-3318**

## Revitalizations Work!

I want to thank Walker Post 1111 Commander Rich Jennings and Adjutant Jena Wilmers for hosting a successful post-revitalization on Saturday, November 4. They assembled three teams to canvas area zip codes, going to the 225 members' homes and knocking on their doors, inviting them to join Post 1111. Two weeks before they went knocking, letters were sent to the 225's informing them that VSO Patty Breas was available to process any VA issues they might have (thanks, Patty). The teams experienced veterans who were happy to see someone from the American Legion come to their doors and show an interest in the them, and most signed up to transfer into the Post.

Thank you Bill Parsons, Alan McCallum, John Landis (members of Post 1111), Post Development Committee member Carl Underhill and Walker Unit 1111 Auxiliary member Diane Hamilton for giving their time to promote the American Legion Family and Walker Post/Unit 1111 in the most positive way. It was a fun and rewarding experience for all.

**If any post that wants to host a revitalization, contact me, Leo Cowdry, Post Development Chair, [lcowdry54@gmail.com](mailto:lcowdry54@gmail.com) or call 517-881-3184**

**2024 Membership: December 20<sup>th</sup> Goal = 54,119**  
**Current Total: 43,939-81.19%**

## District Meetings

### First District

Meetings start at 1 pm.

**January 21, 2024**

Knights of Columbus Post 390  
19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI . 49152

**February 18, 2024**

American Legion Post 32  
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

**April 21, 2024**

American Legion Post 147  
100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

**May 19, 2024**

Knights of Columbus Post 390  
19801 Farmington Road, Livonia, MI 48152

**June 16, 2024**

American Legion Post 32  
9318 Newburgh Road, Livonia, MI 48150

**July 21, 2024**

American Legion Post 147  
100 W Dunlop Street, Northville, MI 48167

### Second District

Meetings start at 11 am with the SAL followed by the Riders at Noon with a Lunch VSO starts at 1 pm and Legion meetings are at 2 pm.

**January 14, 2024**

Post 514 Ida  
11601 Lewis Ave. Temperance, MI 48182  
734.854.5910

**March 10, 2024**

Post 550 Onstead  
333 Connor St, Onsted, MI 49265  
517.467.0191

**May 19, 2024**

Jackson- Rose City Post 324  
1190 Falahee Rd. Jackson, MI 49203  
517.662.3387

### Third District

Meetings Officers at 11:30 am, Lunch is at 12pm, and Business at 1:00 pm. Training will take place once the meeting is adjourned.

**January 7, 2024**

Charlotte Post 42  
1000 W. Lawrence Hwy. Charlotte, MI

**March 3, 2024**

Battle Creek Post 298  
228 N 20th St. Battle Creek, MI

**May 5, 2024 TBD**

### Fourth District

Service officers training at 11:00 am Dinner at 12:30 pm Meetings at 1:30 pm.

**January 7, 2024**

Dorr  
269-281-2133

**March 3, 2024**

Bangor  
269-301-3549

**May 5, 2024**

Hastings  
269-331-0623

### Fifth District

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Dinner @ 5:30 pm and Meeting @ 7 pm.

**January 11, 2024**

American Legion Post 179

**March 14, 2024**

American Legion Post 208

**May 9, 2024**

Post 28

**July 11, 2024**

LOCATION TBD by Next Commander

### Sixth District

Service Officer School at 11:10 am (when scheduled), Lunch at Noon, Meetings at 1 pm

**January 14, 2024**

Devereaux Post 141  
3265 W Grand River Ave., Howell, MI 48855  
517-546-2534

**March 10, 2024**

Pinckney Memorial Post 419  
9807 Whitewood Road Pinckney, MI 48169

**May 19, 2024**

Buck-Reasoner Post 238  
1785 Cedar Street Holt, Michigan 48842

### Seventh District

Lunch at 12:30 with meetings at 2:00

**January 14, 2024**

Lapeer post #16

1701 W. Genesee

**March 10, 2024**

Vassar post #15

651 State rd; (M-15)

**May 19, 2024**

Lapeer post #16

1701 W. Genesee

### Eighth District

Trainings will start at Noon, Dinner at 1:00pm with Legion and Auxiliary meetings immediately following.

**January 21, 2024**

Owosso Post 57  
201 E. Mason St. 989-723-4046

**March 17, 2024**

Carson City Post 380  
121 N. Mercantile St. 989-584-2455

**May 19, 2024**

Greenville Post 101  
1320 W. Washington St. 616-754-5063

### Ninth District

Executive meetings are at 11:00am with Lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00pm.

**March 9, 2024** Post 76

Ludington, MI

**May 11, 2024** Post 69

Whitehall, MI

### Tenth District

All meetings will start with lunch at noon. Meetings at 1:00 pm.

**January 6, 2024**

Sandford, Post 443

**March 2, 2024**

Morely, Post 554

**May 4, 2024**

Luzerne, Post 162

### Eleventh District

All Meetings Start at 10 am, with Lunch to after.

Locations TBD

### Twelfth District

Starting at 10 am, with a lunch and additional hour after lunch if needed.

Future locations TBD

### Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm.

**January 9, 2024\*** Stitt Post 232

**February 13, 2024\*** Fort Dearborn 364

**March 12, 2024** Wyandotte 217

**April 9, 2024\*** Trenton Post 426

**May 14, 2024\*\*** Lincoln Park Post 67

313-388-2088

**June 11, 2024** Garden City Post 396

313-381-2245

\* **Service Officer School at 6:30 pm**

\*\***Memorial Service & Elections**

### Eighteenth District

All meetings Meeting for the District Legion and Auxiliary Convene at 2:00 p.m

TBA

### Nineteenth District

Meetings will be held at the Gaylord Bowling Center, 1200 Gornick Ave, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Meetings start with training at 10:00 am, Social Meet and Greet at 11:00 am, lunch served at noon. The both the Legion and Auxiliary will start at 1:00 pm.

## Blood, Eye and Vital Organ

### **Jerry Andrus, Chairman**

I am talking about life after death! Not through God (I will leave that to Norm) but through our bodies and what remains after death. As chairman of Blood, Eye and Vital Organs, donors decide if we die or live another day. We can't stop the dying, but we can live another day by donations of our bodies. You don't see or hear about the thousands of people waiting for liver, heart or other vital organs. The program may not be for you, but have you sat down and thought about it? Have you thought about saving someone's life because yours may end at any time?

At the Winter Conference, we will award a Legionnaire who donated 40 gallons of blood. This has been a lifetime commitment that he has made, as you don't reach that pinnacle in a few short years. Almost anyone can give blood as it replaces itself constantly. It takes about 30 minutes of your time. Does your post put on a blood drive? If not, why?? It doesn't cost anything, (AND YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE THAT 1 OF THEM MIGHT WANT TO JOIN THE LEGION) they do the work. Hope to see you in February.



# AUXILIAIRE

*From the Desk of the President*

*January 2024*



**Kim Champion**  
*Department President*  
2023-2024

I hope everyone had a very wonderful Christmas. I hope everyone enjoyed your day with your family and friends or any other event you had for the veterans and your community.

I have been honored to be invited to attend many events in several Districts and Units throughout the State. I also attended the Mission Training in Cincinnati, Ohio/Covington, Kentucky; the information presented was extremely helpful.

If you have an event and would like me to attend, please complete the Appearance Request for the State President Form and email it to [info@michalaux.org](mailto:info@michalaux.org). The form can be found on our website, [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org). If you don't have a computer, a letter can also be sent to the Department Auxiliary Headquarters to my attention.

The holidays are quickly approaching. I hope everyone has a Wonderful Holiday Season filled with joy and happiness. I also wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Winter Conference is in February. The agenda will include several schools of instruction and two joint sessions that include the American Legion Family. Please plan on attending this informational conference. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan, from February 9 to February 11.

I appreciate all you do for our Veterans, the Children and Youth, and your community. I also thank all of you for your support of our programs.

## Poppy Program

*Candie Chase, Chairperson*

We Remember! Let us never forget. Remembrance Day. Forever Lost; Forever Changed. Poppy slogans have various wordings, yet they are all the same. It's the same flower, grown and cared for in different soils, lands and hands. Yet, each is unique in its growth and ideals.

How is your Unit Poppy Program going? In no time at all, Units should be starting to compile all their combined efforts involving the ALA Poppy Program from April 1, 2023. Did you use poppies in May, and did your Unit do anything special for National Poppy Day? Did you host any fundraisers, and if so, how did you spend your Poppy Funds on veterans, active duty, and their families? Were poppies used as a part of Veterans Day?

Please review the Poppy Program Guide for contest rules, requirements, and deadline dates. The program guide can be found on the Department website: [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org).

A fun fact to share about the ALA Poppy: The Corn Poppy, Field Poppy, Flanders Poppy, Shirley Poppy, or Red Poppy is the wild poppy of agricultural cultivation whose bright, red petals are memorialized each year in the traditional red crepe paper poppy or other ALA poppies. Its Latin name is Papaver Rhoeas. The four petals are vivid red, most commonly with a black spot at their base. In the northern hemisphere, it generally flowers in late spring. These plants are true annuals. Since poppies are self-sowing, if you allow them to go to seed, you may need to plant them only once.

## American Legion Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

*Kathleen Copeland, Chairperson*

Mission: "To provide temporary financial assistance to eligible members during times of financial crisis or weather-related emergencies and natural disasters and to promote awareness and knowledge of the program."

The year is coming to a close. Thanksgiving is at our backs and this family has been Blessed with good health and living conditions. So, let us continue our AEF mission. I introduced a JAM JAR at the Fall Conference to collect money (and I have) to send to our National organization to help those caught in a JAM who need a little assistance. I emptied a JAM JAR, washed it out and carried it with me to collect any change. It is a great thing we can do to help our auxiliary members, who help so many others in so many ways. I carry my JAR, and when I purchase something and receive change, I put it in my JAR right then. Some people ask me what I am doing. When I tell them, they ask if they can add to the JAR. I will graciously accept all of their donations. I am sending my first personal check to National for One Hundred dollars, and I will work on filling a second JAR. There are so many events we have going on year-

round that the AEF Donation JAM JAR could be set out to collect money. The more money received, the more members we can help.

We have Christmas parties, raffles, bake sales, breakfasts and dinners that we share with our Posts. We can have JAM JARS available to help each other. As a marketing tool, I use the ability to apply for up to \$3,000.00 in grant money in an emergency as a point of reference for new members and those renewing their membership.

Let us hope that the year 2023 does not repeat in 2024. There are many tornadoes across this country, five in Southeastern Michigan at the same time, in Grayling, the UP, the snow storms, flooding and hurricanes on the East Coast and the loss of a town burnt down by fire in Hawaii, Lahaina. We can HOPE for a better year and fewer needs. Let us build up these funds for the JAMS we are involved in for the future.

You never know when you get in a JAM how a little money can help get you through. I am glad my donation is shared during a very needy time.

**Something Happening at your Unit?  
Submit it to the Michigan Auxiliaire!**

**Send your articles and Pictures (with Outline) to : [info@michalaux.org](mailto:info@michalaux.org)**

## Giving, Sharing and Celebrating



**Shannon Werner**  
*Executive Director,  
Secretary and Treasurer*

What a great year of giving! I have never seen a group of people work so hard to support multiple programs that lead to our common goal. I have learned there is always more time and more resources

to give. It is literally endless in the Auxiliary. If one can't get it done, someone is waiting to assist and pick up any slack.

As Units, Districts, Departments and a National Organization, we share and provide as much as possible. We should look at knowledge and information in the same manner. If you know something that will help others, share your insight, ideas, etc., so we can all grow and learn. Sharing

builds trust and better relationships.

As you are reading this, the Winter Meeting is just a few weeks away. I look forward to celebrating my first "second" with the Auxiliary. The Winter Meeting will be packed with information and learning opportunities. It will be a time of celebration, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. See you there!

## Jacobetti Home for Veterans

*Wanda Westman, Hospital Representative*

We currently have 108 residents, 102 men and six women, which gives us 104 veterans and four spouses. We have been involved in bingo parties and the Veteran's Day Ceremony and provided needed items. Many thanks to Julie Becker, our department's Vice and VA&R Chairperson, for helping secure funding to purchase four much-needed specialty beds for the Jacobetti Home. Thanks so much to Marquette #44 Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion, who donated equipment.

As I am writing this, we have just had our first snowfall in mid-November. There have been many updates on constructing the new Veterans Home in Marquette. One of the main sites they are looking at is the old Cliff Dow site in Marquette. This site is controversial because they haven't proven all contamination has been cleaned up. I think our veterans deserve the very best for the sacrifices they made for us. I hope they continue to look at other sites so we don't put our veterans at risk.

Our Christmas gift shop will be one of the few events where more of our volunteers are allowed access to the home. We look forward to seeing our Munising Unit #131, which always comes on the first day of the gift shop. I wish to thank all the UPM Units assigned to Jacobetti for sending your donations, whether you have sent gifts, gift cards or money. I plan to shop on Black Friday and get some deals, so our money goes a little further.

Please continue to keep our residents in your hearts and prayers. Some of our residents don't receive many visitors during the winter months. Our Adopt a Vet program is going strong, with 14 residents receiving extra TLC. Are you interested in sponsoring a Veteran? I can send your unit or post some information for you to choose someone. Let me know by phone at (906) 250-5211 or email me at [wwestman318@gmail.com](mailto:wwestman318@gmail.com).

After the gift shop, we will have a few holiday parties throughout the building, and our service groups (VFCs) meet every quarter to plan events. Keeping our residents active and social helps to keep them healthy. Thank you for the opportunity to be your Hospital Representative, and many thanks to my deputy, Linda Kaare, from Marquette Unit #44. She is the perfect companion to help care for our veterans.



## Give 10 To Education

*Bonnie Schuitema, Education Committee*

School supplies are needed all year round. Supplies are needed at the beginning of the school year but must also be replenished throughout the school year. A school supply drive at any time of the year is a good idea.

Suggested supplies are listed in the 2023-2024 Education Program Guide. This is an easy, fairly inexpensive program for Units of any size. We expect to give out many Certificates of Participation in this program at the 2024 Department Convention. One could be yours! Get the word out about scholarships and their deadline dates!

We have lots of scholarships available to people of all ages, but unless we inform the guidance counselors, students, parents and members of the availability of these scholarships, very few will know to apply. REMEMBER—check the 2023-2024 Program Guide for due dates. Some are due March 1, and some are due March 15. There will be no exceptions for late entries.

Questions? Contact one of our Committee Members listed in the 2023-24 Education Guide on the Department website at [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org)

## Public Relations

*Debbie Weatherbee, Chairperson*

Social media continues to grow in our country. It is a great way to show who we are, what we do and why we matter. Social media is a way for units to create events, showcase their members and share it with the public. This information can help you be prepared to answer questions when someone new asks you about the American Legion Auxiliary.

When you post on social media or your website, always make sure the information shown relates to who you are as a Unit or District. Tell everyone what you do and why this organization matters. Treat every post as though you are reaching new members, not just current ones. And do not forget about your current members. Staying in touch with current members in between meetings is very important. An engaged member is a happy member, and a happy member shares their organization with others.

Promote the Auxiliary in everything you do. Use your everyday activities to promote the ALA! If you post something on social media, be sure to promote your Unit events and any other activities on your accounts. Do you follow the National accounts on social media (@ALAforVeterans)?

I hope this inspires you to create and share more information so we can reach new members. I look forward to seeing your social media soon!

## ALA Girls State Update

*Beryl Robbins, Girls State Chairperson*

Congratulations to Ella Koenigs knecht, the 2023 Samsung Scholarship State of Michigan Finalist. She was the recipient of a \$1,250 scholarship. Austin Hinkley, the 2023 Samsung Scholarship Central Region Runner-up, received a \$5,000 scholarship! Ella attended the 2023 ALA Girls State program, and Austin attended the 2023 TAL Boys State program. These Samsung Scholarships are only available to students who attend one of these programs and are a great reason to recruit and encourage students to attend!

The 2024 ALA Girls State online application is now available! We provided the link to all of the 2023 ALA Girls State delegates and asked them to provide it to juniors in their school who they would recommend for our program. We are happy to report that we have already received applications! Students seeking a sponsor can use this link to apply: <https://alamigs.wufoo.com/forms/wug6j4m1cpnfv8/>.

Once an application is completed, it will be forwarded to potential sponsors in the area. This link, as well as the Word version of the application, is available at [www.michalaux.org](http://www.michalaux.org). Click on ALA Girls State. Sponsors can also find the 2024 Reservation form on that website. The reservation fee is \$425 for the 2024 ALA Girls State session scheduled for June 23 to June 29, 2024, on the Michigan State University campus. Now is the time to contact your local high schools and let them know you are seeking students to sponsor. You can write "find us a delegate" on your registration form, and we will assign you to one of our online applicants.

Do you know an ALA Junior member who will be graduating in 2024? The ALA Girls State Committee has graduation cords below available for \$10 (including mailing cost). The cords reflect the colors of the ALA Emblem: blue, gold & white. They would make a great gift for your graduating juniors! If you are interested in ordering one or need contact information for any high school in Michigan, please email me at [beryl-robbins1980@gmail.com](mailto:beryl-robbins1980@gmail.com).



## 9<sup>th</sup> District Updates

*Dawn Gilbert, President*

We got back from the National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, which was quickly followed by a celebration of Labor Day. School started for our kiddos and 9/11 remembrances. Fife Lake Post 219 held a First Responders Ceremony 9/11 for our local Fire Rescue, EMS and Sheriff. The Fire Rescue walked in full gear from the township hall to the Post. The 4th Zone Commander, Randy Gilbert, and the 9th District 2nd Vice Commander, Cameron Wojie, were in military dress, escorted by the Sheriff and their battalion truck. It was quite moving and reminded us all to thank those who put their lives on the line every day without question.

More recently, we had the Department of Michigan's Fall Conference. Hopefully, all the units in your District had an opportunity to participate and learn about the different programs and goals for the coming year. Lots of fun was had with President Kim's theme, "Champion for our Veterans with PTSD," using hobby horses for the race to membership. The 9th District has been assigned a toy riding horse named War Emblem, so I now have a new traveling companion.

Cadillac Unit 94 held a kids' Halloween party at the Post for their community children, with approximately 40 in attendance. Fife Lake Unit 219 visited the local elementary school and shared the Have a Safe Halloween coloring book from Flag & Emblem. It prepared the kids for Halloween trick or treating and the "Trunk or Treat" at the Fife Lake Post. Children were served hot dogs, chips, and a drink with 20+ trunks, all decorated, and treats were handed out. There were 200 to 250 children.

Around the 9th District, many units hosted Veterans for lunch/dinner on Veteran's Day at Manistee Unit 10, Cadillac Unit 94, Fife Lake Unit 219, Holton Unit 397 and Hesperia Unit 411. November 18th, Traverse City Unit 35 held its annual cookie. What a way to get ready for the holidays and not have to do the baking yourself!

Manistee Unit 10 is also planning monthly visits throughout the year with veterans at three nursing homes in Manistee County. Cadillac Unit 94 will provide Christmas gifts to veterans in nursing homes in their area. They deliver them with cards the week before Christmas. Fife Lake Unit 219 will have an "Adopt A Family" and care for four to five families in need for Christmas. They will provide a gift for every family member, cold weather gear and ingredients for Christmas dinner. Cadillac Unit 94 and Fife Lake Unit 219 will host Children's Christmas parties for their communities at their units with gifts from Santa. Units with military personnel names sent packages to those serving overseas in early November.

## Essay Dates Update!

*Darlene Jones, Americanism*

**Entries are due on February 29, 2024.**

Unit judge entries for each class and send their 1st place entries to the district. Districts judge the Unit entries and forward their

**1<sup>st</sup> place from each class to Department by March 30, 2024.**

The winner from the Department will be sent to National.





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**American Legion Department of Michigan Members Spouses or Dependents Learning Partner Scholarship for 2024 is now available. The scholarship will cover up to \$32,700 in one on-line degree program. The scholarship will be directly applied to the recipient's tuition for up to 60 semester hours or 36 consecutive months in the selected online degree program, whichever comes first. Click on or Scan the Qrcode below!**



# BUY YOUR WINTER MEETING BOOKLET AD TODAY!



Announce your candidacy for office, invite the group to your posts event, or thank our organization without breaking the bank. The 2024 Winter Meeting is February 9th through 11th, and when you advertise in the Winter Meeting Booklet, you have access to your fellow Legionnaires at rates significantly lower than the Michigan Legionnaire. Click on or Scan the Qrcode for details now!



## Buffalo Wild Wings

**FULL PAGE \$100**

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**517-220-2747**



**Emmitt Brown**  
For  
**Department Science Officer**  
2018-2019

Welcome to Ypsilanti and the Department Winter Conference. Let this be a conference to remember. Enjoy yourselves and take the time to discover something new this weekend that will be useful at your home post. Take advantage of the many committee meetings to see what

**↑ \$30**

**QUARTER PAGE**



# Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

**JOHN BEEMAN**

*Detachment Commander 2023-2024*



Hello again, my brothers and The Legion Family. What an honor it was to be asked to attend Luna Pier's Veterans Day parade and ceremony on Veterans Day. It was a very nice ceremony with a luncheon afterward. On the way home, I stopped at Ida and Tecumseh Post. What a great day I had. The following Saturday, Big Earl and I went to Hale's wild game dinner, where we ran into the Department Commander, Auxiliary President and Honorary Jr. president. I believe that was the first time we were all together since we got elected. What a great time we had together. The meal was great, too!

I hope all of you had a great Holiday, and may the New Year be better than ever.

Since the Legionnaire has gone paperless, we need to get the word out that you can still get a paper by sending your name, ID number, address, and phone number and \$12 to the Department

of Michigan 212 N Verlinden Lansing, Mi 48915-1297. That's only \$1 an issue. So, if you know someone without internet or a computer, give them this information, or take time and print a copy to take to the post yourself.

One problem we are having is squadrons that have not sent in their squadron data report, which needs to be turned in every year so National knows how much the squadron dues are. So, when someone pays online, the squadron gets their share. If you do not do that when they send renewals out, the amount owed will be \$11, and your squadron will collect the difference. Keep working on membership and getting it in; do not sit on them.

Do not forget my slogan is "Standing Up For Veterans," so be the one to help make a veteran's life better by being there for them. It is the least we can do since they protected us. Until we meet again, keep up the good work.

For God and Country

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## **ZONE 1 REPORT**

**Greg Price, Commander**

As the end of 2023 approaches, many of us have memories that will bring a smile to our faces. Many Legion family members helped to share Holiday smiles with their support for Toys for Tots. Families also enjoyed participating in their Post's Christmas parties. I went to the 16th District Auxiliary Officers Christmas party, where Gary Fox surprised everyone by playing Santa. The children became excited when they saw Gary (Santa). He took the time to talk to all of them, and those were some of the biggest smiles I have seen in a long time.

I want to remind those who have not renewed their membership that your card expires on December 31. I will attend some District meetings in January to see how everyone in our Zone is doing and hear about upcoming events. The 16th District meeting is on January 5 at Trenton Post #426. The 2nd District will meet on January 14 at the Ida Post #514. The 1st District meeting is on January 21 at K of C Post 390 in Livonia. I am looking forward to large turnouts for these meetings.

Oratorical Contests will be taking place soon. Zone 1 will have 15 contestants competing. District 1- has 9 Contestants - District 2 - has 2 Contestants - and District 16 - has 4 Contestants. If possible, try to attend these contests and see how much knowledge those competing know about the Constitution. The State Contest will be held on March 2, 2024, at the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing.

May 2024 will be filled with hopes and dreams for all of us, and we will continue to support Veteran Programs and help those who live in our communities.

**2024 SAL Membership: December 13<sup>th</sup> Goal = 26,238  
Current Total: 15,787-60.17%**

# Veteran Service Office Locations

## Patrick V. McNamara Federal Building

477 Michigan Ave. Rm 1231  
Detroit, MI 48226

Hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5pm  
Phone: 833.648.3826 ext. 1

### AL Post #257

7475 B Drive North  
Battlecreek, MI 49014

Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

### AL Post 558

400 E. Ludington Dr.  
Farwell, MI 48622

Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

### AL Post 412

5480 Clark Rd  
Bath, MI 48808

Hours: 3rd Wed 8am-4pm

AL Post 301, 10584 N. Main St.  
Rapid River, MI 49878

Hours: Wednesday 8am-4pm

### AL Post #194

455 Bay St.  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

### AL Post 491

422 Woodworth St.  
Leslie, MI 49251

Hours: 2nd Tue 6pm-10pm

### AL Post 44, 700 W. Bluff St.

Marquette, MI 49855

Hours: M, Tu, F 8am-4pm

### Delta County Veterans Office

2840 College Ave, Ste 2,  
Escanaba, MI 49854

Hours: Wednesdays 8a-4pm

AL Post 76 318, N. James St.  
Ludington, MI 49431

Hours: 1st & 3rd Wed 8:30am-4:30pm

### AL Post #245

3564 S. Reserve Rd.  
Prudenville, MI 48651

Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm

### AL Post 248

1240 W. Grand River  
Laingsburg, MI 48848

Hours: 1st Wed 8am-4pm

### AL Post 28

700 S. Harbor Dr  
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Hours: Mon 9am-2pm

### AL Post 305

9548 Cherry Valley Ave SE,  
Caledonia, MI 49316

Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fri 8:30-4:30

### AL Post 443

2080 N. Meridian Rd  
Sanford, MI 48657

Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 8-4

### AL Post 396

6860 Middlebelt Rd,  
Garden City, MI 48135

Hours: Friday 8am-4pm

### AL Post 297

3590 Conklin St,  
Ravenna, MI 49451

Hours: Wednesday 9am-2pm

### Ann Arbor VAMC

2215 Fuller Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Hours: M-F 7am-3pm

### Charlevoix County OVA

301 State Street  
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed  
8:30am-4:30pm

### County Office, 400 River St.

Manistee, MI 49660

Hours: 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs 8:30-4:30

### Department Headquarters

212 N. Verlinden  
Lansing, MI 48915

Hours: Daily 8am-4:30pm

### Jackson County OVA

1715 Lansing Ave. Rm 252  
Jackson, MI 49202

Hours: T,2&4W,F 8am-4pm

### Kalkaska County OVA

890 Isl. Lake Rd. NW, Rm 8  
Kalkaska, MI 49646

Hours: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs 8:30-4:30

### Mackinac County OVA

100 S. Marley St.  
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Hours: Tue & Fri 8am-4pm

### Mecosta County Office

14330 Northland Dr.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Hours: Fri 8:30am-4:30pm

### Michigan Works Bldg

401 North Lake St., Suite  
700

Cadillac, MI 49601

Hours: Mon 8:30am-4:30pm

### Otsego County OVA

225 W. Main St, Room  
104

Gaylord, MI 49735

Hours: Wed, Thur 8am-4pm

### Presque Isle County Veterans

151 E. Huron, 3rd flr.  
Rogers City, MI 49779

Hours: M,W,Th 9am-4pm

### Saginaw VAMC, 1500 Weiss st

Saginaw, MI 48602

Hours: M,T, W- 8am-4pm

### Schoolcraft County OVA

300 Walnut St. #206B  
Manistique, MI 49854

Hours: Tue & Wed 8am-4pm

### Sault Ste. Marie CBOC

509 Osborn Blvd, Ste  
306

Sault Ste. Marie, MI  
49783

Hours: Monday 8am-4pm

### Wyoming CBOC

5838 Metro Way SW  
Wyoming, MI 49519

Hours: Tues 9-2, Th 8-4

### Downriver Community

Conference Building  
15100 Northline Road

Southgate, MI 48195  
Hours: T,W,Th 8am-4pm

### Grand Rapids Vet Center 2050

Breton Rd SE Grand Rapids,  
MI 49546

Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm  
Phone: 616.268.8073

## Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

### Gary Easterling Director



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. Let us assist you and your dependents in getting the benefits that you have earned by your service to your country.

Gary Easterling, Director  
[geasterling@michiganlegion.org](mailto:geasterling@michiganlegion.org)  
Cell (313) 549-8557

Tripp Cantwell, Assistant Director  
Office Phone (313) 964-6640  
Fax (313) 964-5697

Call for a Service officer in your area:

**833.648.3826 Option 1**

e-mail - [al.vbadet@va.gov](mailto:al.vbadet@va.gov)  
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### Service Officers

Shay Grady  
Daryl Kinder  
Elizebeth Cuddington  
Stephanie Fisher  
Thomas Kaiser  
Rebecca Lewis  
Rick Wiles  
Patty Breas  
Phillip Babcock  
Tommy Simpkins  
Stacy Thill  
Courtney Thurber  
Lisa Misenko

Check out all your benefits at  
[www.mivabenifits.org](http://www.mivabenifits.org)

VFW Post 5670, 54 N. Mitchell Rd, Gwinn, MI 49841  
Hours: Thursday 8am-4pm

Radcliff Center, 1751 Radcliff St, Garden City, MI 48135  
Hours: Monday 8am-4pm

## DON'T FACE THE VA ALONE!

Find an American Legion Veteran Service Officer near you. Use an Accredited Veteran Service Officer. Here are where American Legion Department Service Officers are. If one is not near you call 833.648.3826, Option 1, and they will guide you to an accredited veteran service officer who will help you.

# Answer From The Judge



**Barry Wood**  
Department Judge Advocate  
Department of Michigan

Post must be familiar with the constitutions that guide our actions within The American Legion. The National Department allows each Post to organize and exist. Post leaders, it is your responsibility to ensure the posts you lead understand and follow these guidelines. I ask myself when a post fails to follow these guidelines, is it really an American Legion post or just a loose group of veterans not following the will of our founders? I also wonder what type of organization there is within the Post. The following three paragraphs are taken straight from the Department Constitution, Article VII. I ask that you please read and follow the guidance.

Section 13: Any Post of the Department failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the National Constitution and By-Laws, or Department Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six (6) months as an American Legion Post, or neglecting to pay the per capita dues to the National, Department and District organizations, shall, upon the order of the Department Executive Committee, surrender its charter, together with all property of every description including, but not limited to, all assets, both real and financial, and official insignia and records belonging to the Department

Section 16: The Department Executive Committee, after notice and hearing, may suspend or recommend for revocation, the charter of a Post which violates the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, or the Department Constitution and Bylaws or which fails adequately to discipline any of its members for any such violation, and may provide for the government and administration of such Post or the membership thereof, during such suspension or upon such revocation.

Section 17: All Posts of the Department must conduct, open, and close their local meetings as per the National "Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" or its' succeeding publication. The Department Judge Advocate shall not approve any Constitution and Bylaws of a Post unless the same shall provide that said Post must conduct, open, and close its local meetings as per National "Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" or its succeeding publication. Any Post failing to meet the above provision shall be subject to the discipline provided for in Section 13 of this Article and any other authorized discipline.

# Chaplains Corner- "A Change of Habit" Norm Soli, Department Chaplain



As we begin a new year, I ask you to consider embracing a new habit. Hopefully, many of you have incorporated this habit into your weekly routine for some time now. Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another ..."

In the American Legion, we want to be known as an organization devoted to the "Service to God and Country." And as the former sentence puts God first, we also should put God first by attending our house of faith every week. As veterans, we should be an example in our communities, demonstrating our faithfulness to God and our fellow citizens.

If you're in the habit of not attending church, please consider reversing that habit to attending your house of worship regularly. Meeting with others of the same faith has its benefits. First, it puts you in obedience to God's mandate to assemble together, spoken of in Hebrews 10, noted above.

Sometimes, life can get us down with its trials and disappointments. Attending church puts you in contact with caring people and can lead to lasting friendships, resulting in mutual encouragement during trying times. You're also publicly stating that you're obeying God's command, thus setting an example for others.

Let's make 2024 a year of renewal and commitment to drawing closer to God. It's a habit worth starting or continuing. It will make us better people and better Legionnaires.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Report



**Duane Miller**  
Commander

Greetings, Zone 2 members. As this is the first Michigan Legionnaire of 2024, we wish you and your family a Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas and a precious time with family and friends. This also includes your Legion Family.

I have seen the hard work everyone has been doing to get American Legion membership renewals for each of your posts. Remember, when you receive a renewal, take the time to process it either on mylegion.org or submit it to Deanna. For members who have not renewed yet, you can renew your own membership online at legion.org/renew. Online renewal is an easy and fast way to update your membership. We are in the last month of the year, and all dues will expire on December 31st, 2023. Please try to take this action as soon as you are able.

The membership numbers are coming along as of December 6th: 3rd District is 73.06, 4th District is 70.36, and 5th District is 73.56. The December 13th membership goal was 75%. As of the 6th, we as a state had achieved that goal. The next goal is January 18th, 2024, at 80%. Please don't sit on renewals.

Remember to attend the Winter Meeting in Flint at the Gateway Hotel & Convention Center from 9 - 11 February 2024 in Flint. I would ask you to try to attend for at least one day. Again, Thank you all for what you do.

**YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE.**  
*Now let us honor you.*



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning seminar to learn about VA burial benefits available. For more information, contact Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com or 586-775-2424.

*We're proud to partner with the Department of Michigan American Legion.*

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MEMORIAL

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# AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
 The Only Written Official Call  
 Annual Winter Conference  
 American Legion, Department of Michigan  
 February 9 -11, 2024 Gateway Hotel, Flint, MI

**Purpose:** To implement plans for the upcoming year and otherwise conduct the business of The American Legion, Department of Michigan, through meetings of the Department Executive Committee, taking reports from called Department Committees and Chairmen, presenting public recognition awards, and conducting applicable Schools of Instruction.

**Aside from the Department Executive Committee, only the Department Committees and Chairmen listed below are called to officially participate in the Winter Conference. See Program Book for all specific locations.**

**Registrations:** Registration fee of \$15 will be charged to all delegates, alternates and guests.

Banquet open to all members of American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion on Friday, February 9, 2024. Pre-Reservation is required.

**Department Executive Committee Mtg:** Saturday, February 10, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

**Called Department Committee Meetings:** Saturday February 10, 2024

Schedule to be published at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org). The following committees are called:

Boys State, Education & Scholarship, Finance/Personnel, Internal Affairs, Legislative, National Security, Permanent Time and Place, Reconnect, Membership & Post Activities with Post Development S/C Media & Communications, VA & R including VAVS/VHVS, Children and Youth-Chairman only.

**Department Executive Committee Mtg:** Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Preregister at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) or return form found on the website or the online Michigan Legionnaire.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Zone Report

**Robert Kamin**  
 District Commander

I want to start by saying I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. I am looking forward to a great year.

The planning has begun for the 2024 Michigan Legacy Ride. We will be following in the footsteps of National. We will keep the name

Michigan State Legacy Ride. All funds raised will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation following the national standard. This year's ride will be June 14th & 15th. The starting point will be the Ida Post and run up the center of the state. We will stop on the 1st day at the Pickney post, a detail I had insisted on. This is to honor PDC Jim Wallace, who asked Jim "Big Daddy" Austin to start the Michigan Legacy Ride, and he did with a lot of help.

Watch for updates in the paper and on the Department website [michiganlegion.org/riders](http://michiganlegion.org/riders). We will work with Jim Showers to get the information on the website, Facebook, and outside media. We will be reaching out to posts that we would like to make a stop. We will also contact local media outlets, television and newspapers to get the word out and hope for coverage.

When you send donations to the Department, please put "Michigan Legacy Ride" in the memo line. Once the schedule of stops is posted, you can meet the riders at any of the stops to make your donation. Please help in any way that you can. I encourage posts to do a fundraiser. Something as simple as a donation jar to as big as a raffle. Let the Department know so it can be posted and shared.

## Female Leadership Retreat at Wilwin Lodge: A Transformative Experience By Jena Wilmers

The Female Veteran Leadership Retreat held at the scenic Wilwin Lodge in mid October was a resounding success, leaving participants inspired, motivated, and ready to take on new challenges. The retreat was developed by National American Legion College Graduate Wendy Retzliff and brought together a diverse group of female veterans from across the state. The four-day journey into leadership excellence led participants through a wide range of activities, workshops, and discussions, all aimed at enhancing leadership skills and fostering growth.

Past Department Commander Wallace presented a workshop on Roberts Rules, Service Officer Alicia Burton presented a seminar about V.A. and the claims process, and a past National American Legion College graduate, Jena Wilmers conducted a leadership workshop. Beyond the enriching content,



PDC James Wallace teaches Roberts Rules of Order to a group of Female Veterans at the Leadership retreat

participants had ample opportunities to network and connect.

Attendees expressed their gratitude for the retreat's well-organized schedule, praising the variety of activities and the chance to step out of their comfort zones. They shared personal success stories of newfound confidence, leadership insight, and valuable takeaways that they are eager to apply in their professional lives. They also reported making meaningful connections that will lead to future collaborations.

Set against the picturesque backdrop of Wilwin Lodge in Custer, Michigan, participants were immersed in leadership discussions and enjoyed the region's natural beauty. The lodge's tranquil surroundings perfectly complemented the retreat's reflective and transformative atmosphere.

The Leadership Retreat at Wilwin Lodge proved a powerful catalyst for leadership growth. The female Veteran Retreat will return to Wilwin in October 2024. Stay tuned for more details to come.

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Special offer for Legionnaires. Save up to \$70 with free activation and free shipping. **1-855-495-4356** [www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services](http://www.thelit.com/lifeline-medical-alert-services)



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PHILIPS Lifeline

PRINT THIS PAGE TO FILL OUT AND RETURN FOR PRE-REGISTRAION FOR THE WINTER MEETING AND COMMANDERS BANQUET or CLICK ON A FORM TO FILL IT ONLINE!

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The American Legion Department of Michigan  
Annual Winter Meeting  
February 8 - 11, 2024  
**2024 WINTER MEETING  
REGISTRATION FORM**



Hotel reservations are your responsibility and may be made with our host hotel:

**BW Premier Collection  
Gateway Hotel & Convention Center  
5353 Gateway Centre Blvd  
Flint, MI 48507 - (810) 232-5300**

A block of rooms will be available at the Gateway Hotel and the Courtyard by Marriott until **January 11, 2024**. Mention reservation code **ALP294** to secure our special room rate of **\$118.00** + 11% hotel tax. Here is the booking link: [https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.23187.html?groupid=1L6WH6U4](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.23187.html?groupid=1L6WH6U4).  
Contact Tim Hill with any questions at 810-444-8644 or [timothy\\_w\\_hill@yahoo.com](mailto:timothy_w_hill@yahoo.com).

Registration fee is \$15.00 per person.

Make your check payable to:  
**Genesee County Convention Corp.**  
or simply to: **CCCC**

Mail to: **Tim Hernandez, 719 E Chelsea Cir.  
Davison MI 48423-1204**

The American Legion requires that each person attending must register with the corporation and be issued an official badge to be allowed to attend any meeting, session or event.

Hosted by the Genesee County Convention Corporation

**2024 Winter Meeting Registrant Information**

Please print legibly or fill out the form online and print it out.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ LEGION \_\_\_\_\_ AUX \_\_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_\_ ALR \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY/ST/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDITIONAL REGISTERING NAMES:  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_

\$15.00 X \_\_\_\_\_ (number of people registering) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please enclose)  
Are your hotel reservations confirmed with the Gateway Hotel (810-232-5300) ? Yes  No   
If not, then the Courtyard Marriott (810-232-3500) ? Yes  No   
Best Western Plus (810-233-9000) ? Yes  No  Hyatt Place (810-424-9000) ? Yes  No   
Other accommodations? \_\_\_\_\_ or I am commuting daily: Yes  No   
Please provide the following contact information for registration confirmation:  
Cell Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_



**2024 NATIONAL COMMANDER BANQUET  
RESERVATION FORM**  
Friday, February 9, 2024  
Gateway Hotel, 5353 Gateway Centre Boulevard, Flint, MI 48507

Social: 6:00 p.m. Dinner: 7:00 p.m.

NAME(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select type of dinner and quantity of each:**

BEEF	x # of dinners	_____	x \$40 =	\$ _____
CHICKEN	x # of dinners	_____	x \$40 =	\$ _____
FISH	x # of dinners	_____	x \$40 =	\$ _____
VEGGIE	x # of dinners	_____	x \$40 =	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ _____</b>

**Make checks payable and send to:** The American Legion, Department of Michigan  
212 N Verhulden Ave, Lansing, MI 48915 Attn: Kim

**Paypal link available at [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org)**

**Credit Card:** \_\_\_\_\_ Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Contact Kim at [kim@michiganlegion.org](mailto:kim@michiganlegion.org) or 517.220.2753

**Deadline for reservations 5 Monday, January 8, 2024. No refunds after this date**



The American Legion Baseball Program is the largest, oldest, and most respected youth baseball program in the United States. Emphasizing teamwork, loyalty, respect, personal growth, Americanism, and community strength.

**Scholarships for Baseball:**

- \$500 Turner Scholarship (Due July 1, 2024)
- Diamond Baseball \$2,500 Scholarship

Register Your Team via the National Registration System at [legion.org/baseball](http://legion.org/baseball)

**Scholarships:**

In addition to the Scholarships offered by the different programs the American Legion Department of Michigan offers twenty (22) scholarships to be awarded in the spring of 2024. Five (5) William D. and Jewell Brewer Scholarships in the amount of \$500 each and fifteen (15) Guy M. Wilson Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. And new this year Trade School Scholarships two(2) in the amount of \$1,000 each for 2 years.



**Where to get started?**

Of course, the first place to begin is on the Department website's "Programs Page, [michiganlegion.org/programs](http://michiganlegion.org/programs). There, you will discover the nuts and bolts of how to run any of the department programs. A great place to start is with your local high school for most Americanism Programs, Oratorical Contests and scholarships, Boys State and Boys Nation, Youth scholarships, and Junior Law Cadet Enforcement program (Student Trooper). Principals, Guidance Counselors, and Social Studies teachers can help you identify students interested in these programs. Contacting your school's district offices for information about School Board meetings is sometimes the best way to get excitement for the programs.

Starting a Legion Baseball team or collecting Educator of the Year candidates can also benefit from School Board, PTA, and Booster meetings. Remember, if you are trying to attract youths to a program, look for other organizations that help kids!

If your post sponsors a Scout troop, finding candidates for Eagle Scout of the Year and the Square Knot Award will be easy. If you do not currently host a Scout troop, the Michigan Crossroads Council of Scouting can help you. Boy Scouts are also a great resource for assembling an American Legion Shooting Sports Team.

Getting submissions for the other two programs, Law Officer and Firefighter of the Year, requires some leg work. Contact all departments in your area. For Law Enforcement, don't forget DNR.

**What's next?**

Go online to [michiganlegion.org/programs](http://michiganlegion.org/programs) or contact Ashley, our program director, at [legion@michiganlegion.org](mailto:legion@michiganlegion.org) or 517-220-2754.

You will want to have members willing to judge or evaluate candidates regardless of the program. You may decide to have your officers serve on your committee or allow all members to vote during a regular meeting. However, when you choose your finalist, make sure you forward all of their information to the department before the deadline so they can be considered for State and National recognition.

**Program Dates and Deadlines for 2024**

**January 2024**

- January 1st- Baseball registration opens on [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org)
- January 8th- Law Officer of the Year submission deadline
- January 8th- Firefighter of the Year submission deadline
- January 21st- District Oratorical Contests deadline
- January 22nd- Brewer/Wilson Scholarship submission deadline.

**February 2024**

- February 4th- Zone Oratorical Contests deadline.

**March 2024**

- March 1st-Eagle Scout of the Year Award submission deadline
- March 2nd -Oratorical State Contest at location the Michigan Historical Center in Lansing.

**April 2024**

- April 1st- Teacher of the Year submission deadline

**May 2024**

- May 1st-Boys State Application submission deadline
- May 10th- Student Trooper Application submission deadline
- May 15th- Baseball insurance purchase deadline
- May 17th-19th- National Oratorical Contest at Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, MI

**June 2024**

- June 1st- Final day for Baseball teams to register
- June 23rd - 28th- Student Trooper Program
- June 23rd --29th -Boys State program at TBD

**July 2024**

- July 1st-Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship submission deadline
- July 15th- Diamond Baseball Scholarship deadline
- July TBD- JSSP American Legion National Championship (Individual Tournament)
- July TBD\*\*- Senior Baseball State Tournament
- July TBD\*\*- Junior Baseball State Tournament



# AMERICAN LEGION

## DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN 2024 WINTER CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Friday, February 9, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Atrium
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Training Workshop	Taylor/Taft
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Legion Headquarters Auxiliary	Fillmore
		Jefferson/Adams
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Veterans Administration S.A.V.E. Training	Taylor/Taft
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Social hour - ticket pick up	Atrium

**7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. National Commanders Banquet Ballroom**

### Saturday, February 10, 2024

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration	Atrium
8:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Legion Headquarters Auxiliary	Fillmore
		Jefferson/Adams
8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Resolutions Assignment	Fillmore
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	SAL DEC Meeting	Taylor
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Education & Scholarship	Camp David
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Finance/Personnel	Madison/McKinley
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Legislative	Taft
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Boys State	Washington
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Membership & Post Activities w/ Post Development	Lincoln
9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Media & Communications	Monroe
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	National Security	Taft
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Perm Time & Place	Madison/McKinley
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Reconnect	Monroe
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	3rd Zone Meeting	Madison/McKinley
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	PDC Meeting	J. Porters
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Internal Affairs w/Leadership	Madison/McKinley
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	VA & R w/ VAVS & VE&E	Monroe
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	TRAINING - Open to All	Washington
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Wilwin Meeting	Taylor
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Legion Riders Meeting	Taylor
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Foundation Meeting	Taft
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Legion DEC Meeting	Washington/Lincoln

### Sunday, February 11, 2024

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Headquarters	Fillmore
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Legion DEC Meeting	Washington/Lincoln

**\* SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE \***

Post 275 celebrates hosts American Legion All-American Academic Team member.

The American Legion announced the 2023 All-American Scholastic Team at the World Series in Shelby, N.C. The Great Lakes Reginal Winner was Caden Oliver. Caden is a 2023 Graduate of Jackson Parma West High School with a 3.9 G.P.A. Caden has played for Adrian Post 275 for the past two years with a .353 batting average. This award carries with it a \$2,500.00 scholarship. Caden attends Jackson College, seeking a degree in education.

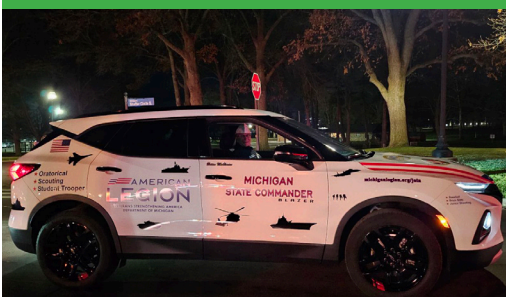


Caden with Post 275 Commander, Angie Verner and Don Cappelletty

### Holiday Parades!



Grand Haven "Jingle Bell Parade". Charles A. Conklin American Legion Post 28 Honor Guard and Color Guard led by Commander #105 Michael J Thurber



Commander Mohlman at the Battle Creek Christmas Light Parade



# MICHIGAN LEGIONNAIRE & AUXILIAIRE Around the State...

## MEDAL OF HONOR TRIBUTE

South Haven, Post 49 sponsored a memorial dedication for Medal of Honor recipient Jim "Doc" McCloughan on Veterans Day.



The newly constructed monument dedicated in the ceremony is pictured with Jim McCloughan, John Barkley, and the Master of Ceremonies Colonel Jason Turner pictured left to right

Post 426 Trenton Michigan at the *Celebration of Veterans* at American House, Riverview on Veterans Day.



L-R: Joe D'angelo, Terra Watterson, Sherri Gramlich, Jerry Church (2nd Vice), Robert Kamin Commander, Kat Walker, Mano Paravas

Downriver Veterans, Honor Guard, and post 337 Flat Rock Donate \$5000 to VA Hospitals



Downriver making their annual \$2500 donation to the Detroit Veterans Administration Hospital



Presenting a check for \$2500 to the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital

Members of Flat Rock, American Legion Post 337 present dictionaries to third graders at several local elementary schools.



Morley American Legion Post 554 held our 1st completely free to our community Thanksgiving dinner. Our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members prepared the meal and served 175 people. We had everything from appetizers to dessert. Nothing was missing. It was an incredible day for everyone involved.



American Legion Post 57 support Veterans in Michigan with a winter clothing drive



The post collected over 53 coats, 46 hats, 57 pairs of socks, 43 pairs of gloves, 7 pairs of boots and 9 scarfs for donation to the Saginaw VA hospital and the Shiawassee County Veterans Affairs office.

Holidays at Fisher House



Commander Mohlman Visits the Fisher House in Detroit. With Bill Bozo and Dan-Danniels

American Legion Post 149 Voted Best Banquet Hall

Amel Schwartz Holly American Legion Post 149 recently underwent renovations, including floors, paint and other things. They host Pancake Breakfasts, Open Mics, Comedy shows and more.



Wild Game Dinner



Commander Mohlman Presenting a \$500 check from the Post Recovery Relief Grant to Post 422 at their Wild Game Dinner



# THE MICHIGAN AMERICAN LEGION FOUNDATION BUY A BRICK PROGRAM

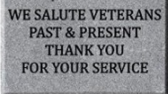
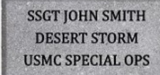
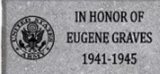
We are raising money to help support our veteran services and youth programs. The bricks will be placed at the front entrance of the Department HQ. Bricks can be either 4x8 for \$50 or 8x8 for \$100. Legion family and military emblems can be added for an additional \$25 with orders on the website.

The bricks will be engraved as printed below, double check spelling and layout.

All American Legion Family and veterans as well as family of veterans in remembrance are welcome to participate.

4 x 8 Grey Brick

8 x 8 Grey Brick



4 x 4 Black Grantie  
Replica Tile



12 x 12 Grey Brick



Color & Size	Price without Clipart	Price with Clipart
4 x 8 Grey Brick	\$50.00	\$75.00
8 x 8 Grey Brick	\$100.00	\$125.00
12 x 12 Grey Brick	\$200.00	\$225.00

### CLIP ART SELECTIONS

Below each clip art is a number that denotes which one selected



Limited time only – Bricks will be sold until space is filled

If you have any questions, please call 517-371-4720

YOU CAN ALSO ORDER ON OUR ON-LINE ORDERING WEBSITE:

<https://polarengraving.com/themichiganamericanlegionfoundation>

ANY SYMBOL IS CONSIDERED ONE SPACE (PERIOD, COMMA, DASH)  
ALL TEXT IS CENTERED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

- 4 x 8 Brick (\$50)
- 8 x 8 Brick (\$100)
- 12 x 12 Brick (\$200)
- With Clip Art Graphic (Add \$2)

### EXAMPLE

			R	I	C	H	A	R	D		D	U	B	A	Y				
							U	S											
			D	E	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T							
									2	0	2	1	-	2	0	2	2		

### YOUR INFORMATION ENTERED BELOW


PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

The Michigan American Legion Foundation  
212 N. Verlinden Suite A  
Lansing, MI 48915  
C/O Brick Project

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_