

MI LEGIONNAIRE

Vol. XCI No. 9

michiganlegion.org

September 2023

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 AMERICAN
LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

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Greetings Fellow Legionnaires!



Brian Mohlman
Department Commander

What a wonderful Summer it's been! Thanks to the generosity of several dedicated Legionnaires, I've had the opportunity to participate in several local events across the state. Ann Arbor Post 46 and Howell Post 141 hosted Vet Fests in their community, bringing in over 4,000 local Veterans to learn about essential support services available to them. Many Veterans had the opportunity to hook up with their local American Legion Post in the process! I'm really looking forward to joining your Post's next event as we continue to reach out to our Communities and our Veteran population.

My special project for this year is the new Detroit Fisher House. As you may know, A Fisher House is a "home away from home" where military and Veterans' families can stay at no cost while a loved one receives treatment at a nearby VA Treatment Facility.

To support this project, your simple donation of \$20 will go a long way to make this new Fisher House a reality. As a thank you for your kindness, we will send you one of my [2023-2024 Department Commander Challenge Coins](#). The easiest way to donate is to go to www.michiganlegion.org and click the Challenge Coin link towards the bottom of the page. Let's do all we can to ensure the Detroit Fisher House becomes a reality as soon as possible!

Let's not forget our all important Buddy Check Calls. Reaching out to our members is the best way to ensure we are serving them in the best way possible. This is, by far, some of the most effective use of our time and reinforces our commitment to Veterans and their families across the state!

RUNYAN'S RAMBLINGS: New Leadership, New Year, New Beginnings



Ron Runyan
Department Adjutant

Congratulations to all the new leadership that has been elected and taking office. As Commander Mohlman starts his year, there are some changes in the future for Michigan Legionnaires. These changes are to better our community engagement, to improve on our youth programs and to better educate our own Legion family.

One of the points to take away from this article is that we all can use more education in our own organization. Maybe you are a seasoned officer and have been doing your responsibilities for a long time. There will be information for you. Maybe you are newer to the leadership positions. There will be a lot of information for you!

The Department has seen a lot of turnover in the last few years, and the information does not seem to be passed down from the previous officers, or there is not mentorship happening within Posts. With these things being said, we have planned a many very informative training sessions at Fall Conference in Muskegon in September. Review the upcoming schedule of events in a future edition of the paper.

Lastly, there are many other scheduled activities around the state. If you have Facebook, make sure that you are a member of the Departments Facebook group where we post many daily updates and share information that Posts communicate with us. We look forward to seeing you around the state and at future meetings. As always, the HQ staff and Veteran Service Officers are here for you and to assist veterans with benefits and needs.

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Publisher: Ronald Runyan

Editor: Jim Showers

The American Legion Dept. of Michigan
212 N. Verlinden, Lansing, MI 48915
(517) 371-4720 Fax: (517) 689-6100
michiganlegion.org
media@michiganlegion.org

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

517-220-2747

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 Solei
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

Membership-Our Lifeblood



Dan Cooper
1st Vice Commander

I am excited about the journey we are taking together. We all know that Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. The Department is already at 42% of our goal of 52119. We can

get the job done if we all take the responsibility to make it happen!

I believe everyone wants to be a part of a winning team, and when we meet our 110% goal, the American Legion will be stronger, more veterans can be helped, and children and youth will be better served and educated.

We will continue to do regular post-revitalizations but introduce new methods and tools to the District Commanders at the Fall Conference. This is new and may be challenging, but it will be effective.

We will work with all districts to develop the best strategy for them to grow Membership.

The Members of the Department Membership Team are:

- Dan Cooper - Membership Director
- Scott Nichols - Assistant Director
- Jan Lepinski - U.P. Director
- Adam Lyons - DMS Coordinator
- Robert Kamin - 1st Zone Commander
- Duane Miller - 2nd Zone Commander
- Jerry Kunzelman - 3rd Zone Commander
- Randy Gilbert - 4th Zone Commander
- Ray Carson - 5th Zone Commander

The Membership Task Force

Leo Cowdry, Mylegion and Membership Growth, Bobby Brite, Post Activities and Post Membership Growth, Dave Yahr, 225 Transfers and Post Membership Growth, Tammy Dewitt, Post Membership Growth, Jeff Robertson, Post Membership Growth, We all stand ready to make great things happen. Please contact any membership team member for assistance in helping your Post Membership grow.

Remember, Membership is not a spectator sport; you must be involved to make it grow, and in the great words of John F. Kennedy, "If not you, who? And if not now, when?"

Can an S.A.L. member sign up a new Legion member and vice versa?

Yes! The same applies to Auxiliary membership. As long as the necessary membership application is filled out and the prospective member provides a copy of his/her DD-214 discharge papers (this applies to Legion membership, pro-

spective S.A.L., and Auxiliary members need to supply a copy of discharge papers for the relative through whom their eligibility is established) and they pay the appropriate amount for dues, simply submit these materials to the Legion or S.A.L. Adjutant. In fact, many members of the Sons like to carry around blank copies of membership applications for each of the Legion Family organizations, just in case.

Keep Americanism Alive



Wayne Blank
2nd Vice Commander

The purpose of the Americanism and Community Service Committee is to develop and coordinate Department activity, promoting understanding and appreciation of American Government and activity in the American way of life through youth activities, community service, instruction of prospective citizens and immigrants, education and education facilities and to combat subversive activities.

Hopefully, you're having a great summer, Michigan Legionnaires, but We are coming up on another Legion year of success. I want to share our Americanism programs for students at your Public parochial and home schools. These are programs for Scholarships Brewer and Wilson, Oratorical programs, Student Trooper program, Junior shooting program, Boys State, Girls State, Eagle Scout of the Year and the Square Knot award. Also, under Americanism falls awards for The Law Officer and Fire Fighter of the Year.

As Michigan Department's 2nd Vice Commander, I challenge you as Legionnaires to sponsor one program or more within your community. We should support this Pillar of Our Legion. This is our future; today's youth are our future members and leaders, strengthening them and strengthening the Legion and our nation. We must work together and keep our organization strong. All of these programs can be viewed on the Department of Michigan American Legion website. Click here to go directly to [Programs](#).

NEC Report



Larry Money
National Executive Committee

I want to reach out to the members of The Dept. Of Michigan, thank you for allowing me to represent you on the National level as your newly elected NEC. I truly appreciate that privilege.

I had the opportunity to attend the 30-day meeting at the end of July and meet with the new DEC. What a great group of enthusiastic Legionnaires. I also participated in the Membership Workshop in Indianapolis and listened to our National Leadership direct us into the coming Membership year.

Looking forward to working with all of you. I hope to see everyone in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the National Convention. That's where I will be officially appointed as your new National Executive Committeeman.

I want to also thank outgoing NEC, Jerry Lynch, for his mentorship over the last few years. Hopefully, I can navigate the job as well as you have.

Once again, thank you for this opportunity.



"The transition from military to civilian life was a complete change. My time at CSU has largely given me the tools I have needed to succeed professionally."

— Joshua McGinnis, Master of Public Administration

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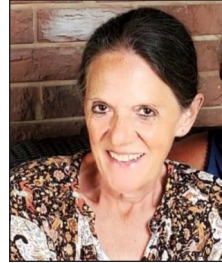


AUXILIAIRE



From the Desk of the President

September 2023



Kim Champion
*Department President
2023-2024*

The Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary is well underway. The Membership Packets have been assembled and mailed out. A big thank you goes to Candie Chase, Darlene Jones, Marcy Jorae, Sharon Schulte, Deb Weatherbee, and Deborah Williamson for their assistance in helping with the assembly of the membership packets.

I attended the Wilwin Fundraiser, which was a huge success. It was attended by over 200 people from the Legion Family, which included but is not limited

to the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the SAL, and the Legion Riders. The food was great, the band terrific, and the auction included many items, which were bid on by the people in attendance.

The next meeting will be the National Convention, which this year will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. We will learn all about the programs that the Auxiliary supported during the 2022 to 2023 year. I look forward to seeing everyone in Charlotte.

The Fall Conference is quickly approaching and will be held from September 22, 2023, through September 24, 2023. The Conference will be held in Muskegon, Michigan, at the Delta Hotels Muskegon Michigan Convention Center.

The Auxiliary will have the opening of the Fall Conference on Friday night, September 22, 2023. Schools of instruction will be held on Saturday, September 24, 2023. Please plan on attending these very informative schools of instruction.

If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me by phone at 248-425-1320 or by email at ajchampion24@gmail.com. I am always willing to answer any questions you may have, no matter what is needed.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you. Let's continue to work towards supporting the programs of this great organization, the Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary.



Updates and New Staff

Shannon Werner
*Executive Director,
Secretary and Treasurer*

The road to and at the Convention was a little bumpy, as many predicted. There were so many routines, traditions, duties and lessons learned during such a short period of time. Now, it seems like a blur, but there is no time to reflect as National Convention is quickly approaching.

My work with our Accountant continues as we close out our business for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. I am still working on organizing our documents and getting our data clean. Due to the repeated changes in staffing over the last few years, many functions were inconsistent and/or incorrect. I continue to perform the changes on our accounts to reflect the proper individuals.

As you know, Carol Lonsway retired after many years of service, and we wish her farewell. After many months of searching for appropriate staffing, I am happy to say I have hired Sara Beckner as our Administrative Assistant. Sara is managing the mail, membership, ALA MIS, transmittals, deposits, office set-up, process and procedure establishment, etc. We both appreciate your understanding and grace during this transition period.

I also hired a co-op, Braydn Eirosius, who has been working a few hours a week leading up to the school year. Braydn will be a senior at Eastern High School in Lansing and will work mornings when school begins. He will be assisting with scanning, filing, heavy lifting, document destruction, organization, mailings and other items that may be needed.

Up next, Fall Conference in Muskegon! Safe travels, and take care of yourselves!

Americanism Report

Darlene Jones, Americanism Chairman

What is Americanism? According to the American Legion, a U.S. veterans' organization, Americanism is an ideology, or a belief in devotion, loyalty, or allegiance to the United States of America, or respect for its flag, its traditions, its customs, its culture, its symbols, its institutions, or its form of government. In the words of Theodore Roosevelt, "Americanism is a question of spirit, conviction, and purpose, not of creed or birthplace."

I am excited this year to have the honor of being the Department of Michigan American Legion Auxiliary Americanism Chairman. Our committee will be helping me all year, and I can't wait to start. The year is just beginning with so many events and programs promoting Americanism. Some Americanism programs you could promote are Student Trooper, Girls State, and Boys State. Why not recognize the First Responders, The Fire Department and the Local Police in your community for all they do. This year, as always, we will be promoting Flag Etiquette. Wouldn't seeing the American Flag Flown all over this great state be nice?

First at the Fall Conference, we will be racing For Patriotism. We will be handing out information on this great program, so please come and enjoy the meeting with us. We will also announce the Essay Contest. Please take these to your local schools and ask them to get their students involved. Don't forget the Junior Americanism Patch Program. This is open to S.A.L. and Junior under 18. We will have information at the Fall Conference.

19th District Report

Carol Renis, President

The summer of 2022 started slow for this Northern Michigan District. As the snowbirds returned, everyone was crossing their fingers that they were not bringing COVID back with them.

Memorial Day remembrances were held this year with a few changes to protect our older and more vulnerable members. By the 4th of July, things were returning to normal, and our Units started their summer projects. Many of our members returned to their favorite activities.

Our membership soared to 107.72%, and several members stepped up to volunteer for officer positions. The District meetings have turned into training sessions for the newer officers, with each unit helping each other solve problems and celebrate their successes.

The District Officers will remain the same for one more year as the current Unit Presidents choose to keep the momentum going forward. There is one change: We have a new Treasurer /Secretary, Emily Pentecost, who is our youngest member!

Our younger members have so much energy and great ideas that the feeling seems hopeful, and we are looking forward to the future of our organization. We have had a few Posts in our District contact me about restarting their Auxiliary Units. So, hopefully, in the near future, the Tip of the Mitt will become home to a District of more than eight Units.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Dawn Gramza

"The National Security program maintains and promotes a strong national defense by strengthening and supporting military service members and their families." (Diana Sirovina, 2022 National Chairman)

BLUE STAR SERVICE BANNER: The Blue Star banner was designed and patented in 1917 by a World War 1 Army Capt. Robert L. Queisser of the 5th Ohio Infantry. Queisser had 2 sons serving on the front line. The banner quickly became the unofficial symbol for the parents with a child in active military service.

Units from the American Legion Auxiliary can assist military families with support, caring hearts and helping hands whenever and wherever needed. The wear RED on Fridays is another way to support our deployed military: "Remember Everyone Deployed".

Junior Report

Abbie Jones, Honorary Junior President

Hello, I am so excited to serve as the Honorary Department of Michigan Junior President this year. My name is Abbie Jones. I am excited that my Junior Chairman is Dawn Burton. I believe she will help our junior program excel and succeed.

This year, the Junior's Special Project is Guardian Angel Dogs. These dogs help veterans with PTSD. They also help disabled veterans that need service dogs. All the money raised will help our Veterans here in Michigan.

I chose this project because my

uncle suffered from PTSD; in 2015, he ended his struggle. If I can help one veteran with this program, it will be worth it.

This program is an awesome program. I enjoy helping our veterans and working the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year, my goal is to raise money for Guardian Angel Dog and help with all the other fundraisers. I am hoping to encourage other juniors to join us. The Junior Program is very important.

The slogan this year from National is "Be The One," well, our juniors can be the one. If you only have one active junior, they count. It only takes one Junior to make a difference. Please encourage

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
212 North Verlinden Avenue, Ste. B
Lansing, Michigan 48915
Phone 517-267-8809 www.michalaux.org



TO: DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
DISTRICT PRESIDENTS
PAST DEPARTMENT PRESIDENTS
DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

FROM: Kimberly Champion, Department President

DATE: August 28, 2023

CALL FOR DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

In accordance with Article V, Section 3, Department Bylaws, the second meeting of the Executive Committee for the 2023-24 year is hereby called for one (1) day on Friday, September 22, 2023 starting at 1:00 p.m. at the Muskegon Convention Center, 939 Third Street, Muskegon, Michigan 49440.

ARTICLE V, SECTION 2, DEPARTMENT CONSTITUTION: "Each Past Department President shall be a member of the Executive Committee with vote, but without expenses as long as she remains a member in good standing of a duly chartered Auxiliary Unit in the Department of Michigan."

Department Standing Rules, Department Finances, "Expenses for attendance at the Second Executive Committee Meeting shall be transportation plus an offset for expenses of one (1) day for Department Officers, National Executive Committeewoman, Parliamentarian, and such other persons as the Department President deems necessary, with the exception of the Department President and Department Secretary/Treasurer who shall receive actual expenses."

Committee Chairpeople are not required to report at the Executive Board Meeting unless they receive an official letter from the Department President.

District Presidents unable to attend the Executive Board Meeting should contact their District Vice President so they can represent your District. Please notify the Department office if you are unable to attend.

Also, members called to the DEC meeting:

Deanna Cortright, Finance Chairman
Linda Maxwell, Personnel Chairman
Chris Moore, Homeless Veterans Service Coordinator
Krystall Hall, Ann Arbor VAMC Representative
Christine Reed, Battle Creek VAMC Representative
Karen McAdams, Detroit VAMC John Dingell Representative
Wanda Westman, D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans Representative
Judy Jones, Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Representative
Barb Larson, Oscar G. Johnson/Iron Mountain VAMC Representative
Bonnie Holt, Saginaw VAMC Representative
Shannon Wawruck, Chesterfield Home for Veterans Representative

Transmitted by: Shannon Werner, Executive Director

that junior by submitting her for the Department and National Awards. Bring your junior to the Junior Convention.



Junior Chairman Dawn Burton with Honorary Junior President Abbie Jones.



Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Michigan

*John Beeman
Detachment Commander
2023-2024*

It is a great privilege and honor to be elected as your Detachment Commander of Michigan for 2023 - 2024.

Since being elected, I have been traveling to different events around Michigan. Clive and I attended the UP-Summer Convention in Iron Mountain. I spoke to the Legion family. On the 4th of July, I participated in the Wyandotte parade, handing out flags. Later that same week, I attended the Department Convention in Sault St Marie. Your elected officers and I went in front of The American Legion for their approval.

As you can see, we were all approved. We were also introduced to The American Legion Auxiliary. We had our budget committee meeting and held our D.E.C. 2 meeting.

I attended the 18th District's summer picnic. I did not get to throw the first pitch in Blissfield due to the weather. I did make it to Gladstone the next day, where I had the honor to throw out the first pitch. From Gladstone, I traveled to Wilwin Lodge at Cygnet Cove for their annual fundraiser. The weather was great. The Scottville Clown Band was very entertaining. Our Brothers from Squadron 34 out of Tecumseh cooked for the picnic. Wilwin Lodge made some money from this event. It was an enjoyable day for everyone.

In closing, I am very proud of all my S.A.L. Brothers for volunteering and working hard to preserve the great principles for which The American Legion stands for. Remember, when we work together, we are stronger.

For God and Country

SAL DELIVERS!



S.A.L. Vice Commander Bill Degroot and Commander Carvin Chapman with filled backpacks

Bill Degroot Delivered them at the Auxiliary meeting. Not only did these guys help the schools the also packed 5 other backpacks for members children that were having a hard time. We at Chief Pontiac are so honored to have one of the biggest hearted group of SAL members in the State of Michigan.

When the S.A.L. of the American Legion Chief Pontiac #377 were asked for help collecting back packs for the give 10 education Program, The S.A.L. donated 96 back packs, filled 24 back packs with items and S.A.L. Commander Carvin Chapman and S.A.L. Vice Commander

NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN!



Madam President Kim Champion swearing in newly elected 16th District Legion Auxiliary President Pam Globke from Garden City 396



Zone 1 Commander Greg Price swearing in 16th District Sal Officers

Squadron 49 develops new Community Patriot Award



The South Haven American Legion has awarded its first 'Community Patriot Award' to Gull Lake Marine in South Haven. Pictured is Legion Dual member Josh Gunneson presenting the award to Matt VanDam and his crew for displaying the American flag over their business.

In his presentation, Mr. Gunneson read a portion of the citation. "In recognition and grateful appreciation for your patriotic service to the community, state, and nation through the display of the flag of the United States of America, which contributes to the advancement of programs and activities of the American Legion Family and dedication to God and country."

This is the first of (hopefully) many such awards the Legion family of Post 49 will award in our community.

This version of this American Legion program was authored by Detachment Americanism Chairman Steve Hamilton and was signed by Post 49 Commander John Barkley. A copy of this award and cover letter is available to any Legion family member upon request. Posts can alter it to suit their specific needs. To receive a copy, please send your request to then.again@yahoo.com

1ST ZONE REPORT

Greg Price, Commander

It seems like Various Posts, Auxiliary, Squadrons, and Districts are organizing events to install their newly elected officers. Ken Craft was recently elected the 16th District Sons of the American Legion Commander. I was looking forward to installing Ken and the other District SAL officers at the 16th District American Legion Installation Dinner Program that will be held on August 12th.

Sadly, I cannot do that because Ken passed away on August 6th from a Heart Attack. Ken was very active at the Wyandotte Edward C Headman Post #217 as its Squadron Commander. He enjoyed supporting many programs that benefited Veterans and those of his community. He was also involved in what was happening on the Detachment level.

Ken could be seen enjoying events with his dad, Bob Mayrand. His dad is a Past American Legion National Sergeant-at-Arms and an Honorary Department Commander. You knew how proud Ken was of his dad, and I believe he was like his dad with the way he helped so many others with his time and energy.

I will attend this year's American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, at the end of this month. I will be thinking about Ken when the new Sons of the American Legion National Commander is elected. I am sure he would have said to the incoming Commander, "I am available to help support any ideas and suggestions you may need help with." Rest in Peace, my friend.

As one of the founding American Legion Riders, I look forward to participating in the welcome committee when this year's National Legacy Run will stop by the Founding Chapter Home in Garden City, Michigan - on August 20th at the Otto Miller Post #396. We will all enjoy celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the American Legion Riders, which began in 1993 with 19 members. May their Legacy Ride be filled with Safety, Laughter, Good Weather, and Lots of Memories.

GLADSTONE SAL SQUAD

#71 HONORED FOR MEMBERSHIP



Left to right: Top-Dennis Cole, Don Couilliard, George Maciejewski, Guy Patterson, New Commander Randy Bruntjens, John Pickard, Bill Germain, Jeff Ware, Dave Bender. Front Row- Steve Viau, Robert Snowaert

The Gladstone August Mattson Sons of the American Legion Squad #71 was recently Honored with a certificate and Flag Ribbon commemorating the achievement of 100 percent in membership for 11 straight years and continued donation of one dollar per member to the Child Welfare club.

Every Squadron that achieves 100 percent by the Detachment convention in June will receive the award to display in their Post. There is also a certificate and flag banner that the Squadron can keep in its files for the history of the Squadron.

The Michigan Sons of the American Legion are making great strides in the American Legion programs, Helping the local posts and working with the community. The Sons of the American Legion was founded to preserve 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.

New Officers of the Gladstone Squadron have been nominated and elected for the upcoming year and continue to be active in the community. Officers and members are involved in a wide range of activities, from the annual Flag Retirement to honoring veterans on Memorial Day festivities by placing flags on graves at the Fernwood Cemetery and P.O.W./M.I.A. Day and Veterans Day in the fall. The annual Croatian Chicken Dinner proceeds go to the Gladstone Salvation Army Food Pantry every Christmas season.

4TH ZONE REPORT

John Brown, Commander

Hello to everyone in the 9th, 10th and 19th Districts. I hope all of you SAL members and your families are doing well.

The SAL and Legion have had our conventions, and you can find our officers at "sons.michiganlegion.org." Our joint fall conference will be held in Muskegon at the Delta Marriott on September 21-24, 2023.

I hope all the squadrons in the 4th Zone have received their membership cards. Remember, all squadrons must first send in their officers list & bond to receive their cards. If you have sent in your officers list and bond and still have not received your squadron's cards, please call me at 734-634-7733 or Deanna Clark at Department Headquarters at 517-371-4720 ext 124.

Remember, you now have the option to pay your dues online or at your squadron.

In the past, I have asked the squadrons to let me know what is going on in your squadron. The Legionnaire would love to post your events, fundraiser, and photos of what is going on in your squadron. In my squadron, #300 in Lake City, we have a couple of raffles going on.

1. A 6x6 deer blind mounted on a trailer, raffle going on until September 16, 2023

2. Post #300 has a 3-gun raffle going on until November 11, 2023. The winner takes all 3.

That is what is going on in my squadron. How about yours? Please send in your events, plus photos, to get them into the Legionnaire.

Please remember that we, Sons, are here to support our veterans' programs and your community. When you see veterans, thank them for their service and tell them who you are and what we do to help.

Son's, all our time is precious, but the time you donate to support your fundraisers and get involved in your squadron's events is also precious. Please don't just have a SAL card. Get involved. Your squadron needs your support. Our veterans need our support.

Chaplains Corner



Norman Soli
Department Chaplain

In 1972, I signed up for enlistment into the United States Navy by a recruiter in Marquette, Michigan. I was sworn in as a seaman recruit and finished boot camp at the Naval Training Center in Orlando, Florida. I trained in Interior Communications at Class A and Class C schools in San Diego and Great Lakes.

In September of 1973, I was helicoptered from a supply ship to the attack aircraft carrier USS Hancock CVA 19, which was already deployed and operating off the coast of Vietnam in an area known as Yankee Station. When our rotation was over and we were heading for Australia, the Hancock was diverted to the Indian Ocean in response to the Yom Kippur War. We secured free passage through the Red Sea, which the Soviet Navy was threatening. After 59 days at sea, we docked in the Philippine Islands. I transferred to the carrier USS Independence CV 62, and later, due to a non-combat, service-connected condition, I received an honorable discharge on April 18, 1975.

I've been active in three local churches since 1983 and attend Michigan Center Bible Church. I lead a Community Group in our church and, over the years, have performed funeral services, made hospital visits and performed other church-related activities as a layperson.

I joined the American Legion 16 years ago. In April of 2011, I accepted the position of Chaplain of the Rose City Post in Jackson. In 2016, I accepted the position of 2nd District Chaplain. I am interested in serving my fellow veterans in assisted living facilities or facing end-of-life.

One of my favorite Scripture passages is Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." I look forward to serving as your Department Chaplain this year.

2nd Zone Report



Duane Miller
Zone 2 Commander

Thanks for your support and confidence in electing me as your zone commander for the 2023/2024 year. I want to let you know I will always have an open door policy. You should go thru your chain of command for your questions or concerns, but if necessary, I will respond or take your call. My email is duane.miller54@yahoo.com, and my cell is 517.256.0298.

We are in the second month of membership, and it is going well. As of this report, the Third District is at 33 percent, the Fourth District 25 percent, and the Fifth District 28 percent. We are making progress in renewals, asking all posts not to hold on to them but to input them to mylegion or send them to department headquarters for processing quickly. The goal is, if possible, for all posts to utilize mylegion. Contact your district leadership or myself if you need assistance using or understanding the mylegion process. It is a time saver and easy to use once you get used to it. So, please consider using the tools National has put in place for us if you aren't already.

Once all districts complete the membership goals process, we will know our goal for the year. Please help your post thrive, and the membership committee meet these goals. A new and improved membership committee has been formed and will assist posts with the tools needed for growth. Thanks in advance for doing the work you do in your posts.

Lastly, we would like to see more posts attend the district meetings, state conventions, and other meetings. A representative attending and reporting back works as well. Believe it or not, there are always things to learn at these meetings and staying up to date on any upcoming changes. Posts with questions or ideas can make a big difference and need our attention. Please consider attending and being involved in the success of the Legion.

Again, thank you all for what you do.

8th District Report



Gene Nethaway
8th District Commander

I wish to welcome everyone to this new year that began in July and will run till next June. Before I became Comander I was the Senior Vice Commander for the 8th District for two years and the 8th District Service Officer for seven years. The Department of Michigan had its Convention in Sault Ste. Marie on July 6-9, 2023, and we were at the Kewadin Casino and our 8th District was well represented there. After Convention Myself, and Alicia Burton were sworn in as the new 8th District Commander and Senior Vice Commander. Alicia is also the 8th District Service Officer this year, so get ready for some good training when this starts on Sunday, September 17, 2023, in St. Johns.

Coming home from the Convention made it time to focus on the work to get this year off and running with the help from the Department when they had a DEC meeting on July 26, then on to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the National Workshop for three days, where we shared information with veterans from all over the globe about membership. After that, we are supposed to have our 30-Day Meeting, which means we should have our first meeting within 30 days after the Department Convention. At this meeting, we need to share information that will assist posts in becoming more effective at getting members to join your posts during the coming year and also what the District is focusing on during the upcoming year for the good of everyone.

On August 6, the 8th District hosted the 30-Day Meeting in my home Post in Elsie. 17 of 23 posts joined us for a meal. We shared informational packets to every Post that sent representatives. I want to thank everyone who came to make it special. Furthermore, thank you to everyone who complimented my wife and our help in the kitchen who said that it was a very good meal that they didn't have to pay for. Also, most of our 8th District Officers and past members came to this event, and it was great to see them again.

2024 Membership Goal 54,119 as of Sept 1st Total: 26,782-49.49%

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: Wedbesday 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: 2nd & 4th Fri 8:30-4:30

AL Post 443
2080 N. Meridian Rd
Sanford, MI 48657
Hours: 2nd & 4th 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: 2nd & 4th Wed
8:30am-4:30pm

County Office, 400 River St.
Manistee, MI 49660
Hours: 2nd 4th 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 Island Lake Rd. NW, Rm 8
Kalkaska, MI 49646
Hours: 1st & 3rd 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



Gary Easterling Director

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. 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
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
[like us on Facebook @MichiganVAR](#)

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 benifits at

www.mivabenifits.org

Downriver Community
Conference Building
15100 Northline Road
Southgate, MI 48195
Hours: T,W,Th 8am-4pm

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

Grand Rapids Vet Center
2050 Breton Rd SE Grand
Rapids, MI 49546
Hours: Tuesday 8am-4pm
Phone: 616.268.8073

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.

2023-2024 Department Executive Committee



Brian Mohlman
Department Commander



Ron Runyan
Department Adjutant



Dan Cooper
1st Vice Commander



Wayne Blank
2nd Vice Commander



Robert Kamin
1st Zone Commander



Duane Miller
2nd Zone Commander



Jerry Kunzelman
3rd Zone Commander



Randy Gilbert
4th Zone Commander



Ray Carlson
5th Zone Commander



Larry Money
Nat. Executive Committeeman



Brett Holt
Alternate Nat. Committeeman



John Bradford
Finance Officer



Robert Higley Jr.
Historian



Bob Salamon
Sergeant-At-Arms



Marilyn Britten
Immediate Past Commander



Barry Wood
Judge Advocate



Norm Soli
Chaplain

2023-2024 District Commanders



Karl Burnett
1st District Commander



Michael Greene
2nd District Commander



Sonya Patrick
3rd District Commander



Earl Lash
4th District Commander



Pat Burns
5th District Commander



Roger Deaton
6th District Commander



Jimmy Barrett
7th District Commander



Gene Nethaway
8th District Commander



Ed Herter
9th District Commander



David Yahr
10th District Commander



Tom Chernetzki
11th District Commander



Tim Walters
12th District Commander



Jim Joslin
16th District Commander



Larry Chase
18th District Commander



Robert Wallin
19th District Commander

Official Call**American Legion, Department of Michigan****Annual Fall Conference September 22-24, 2023****Muskegon Delta Marriott, Muskegon, Michigan****From Department Commander Brian Mohlman**

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 and Department Committees and Subcommittees listed below are officially called to participate in the Fall Conference. See updated schedule or registration table for all specific locations.

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

Department Executive Committee meets Friday, September 22, at 7:00 p.m.

Department Committees meet Friday, September 22; meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. See schedule in the September Legionnaire or at www.michiganlegion.org

- **Americanism** (w/Shooting Sports, Law & Order, Scouting), **Baseball, Boys State, Children & Youth, Education & Scholarship, Finance & Personnel, Internal Affairs** (w/Leadership Development, ALR), **Legislative, Media & Communications, Membership & Post Activities** (w/Post Development), **National Security & Foreign Relations** (w/POW/MIA, Blood Eye and Vital Organ), **Permanent Time and Place, Reconnect** (w/Homeless Veterans Task Force), **Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation** (w/VAVS)
- Committee Chairmen will have a training session Thursday, September 21st, at 7:00 pm

Schools of instruction will be conducted on Saturday, September 23. See the website for an up-to-date conference schedule

Department Executive Committee will reconvene on Sunday, September 24, at 9:00 am

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN**FALL CONFERENCE 2023 MUSKEGON, MI****SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023****Schedule of Committee and Workshop Sessions****Thursday, September 21, 2023**

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office Duck Lake
 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration Hotel Lobby
 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Committee Chairman Session

Immediately following: Zone/District Commander Session
 Bear Lake
 Bear Lake

Friday, September 22, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. Registration Hotel Lobby
 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Legion Headquarters Office Duck Lake
 8:45 a.m. - Resolutions Assignment

meet in H/Q office Fox Lake
 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Boys State Muskegon Lake
 Children & Youth Wolf Lake
 Education & Scholarship Mona Lake
 National Security Fox Lake
 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Finance/Personnel Bear Lake

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Americanism (w/subcommittees) Wolf Lake

Baseball Muskegon Lake
 Legislative Fox Lake
 Media & Communications Mona Lake

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Perm Time & Place Muskegon Lake
 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Internal Affairs (w/subcommittees) Wolf Lake

Membership & Post Activities (w/subcommittees) Muskegon Lake

Reconnect (w/subcommittee) Fox Lake
 VA&R (w/subcommittees) Mona Lake

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. SAL BUDGET MEETING Bear Lake
 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. 10th District Meeting Wolf Lake

3:30 – 3:30 p.m. 3rd Zone Meeting Fox Lake
 7:00 p.m. D.E.C. Meeting Muskegon/Mona Lake

Saturday, September 23, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration Hotel Lobby

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **WORKSHOP SESSIONS**
(Breakdown on next page)

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Legion H/Q Office Duck Lake
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. SAL DEC Meeting Bear Lake

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. PDCs/First Ladies Lunch Fox Lake
 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Legion Riders Meeting Bear Lake
 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Wilwin Meeting Wolf Lake

Michigan American Legion Foundation Fox Lake
 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Membership Processing Bear Lake

My Legion Q & A

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. GNUTS
 A Legion Family Event TBD

8:00 p.m. Commander's Reception Suite 819/821
 Everyone is welcome to attend a reception to meet Leading National Commander Candidate Jim LaCoursiere (CT)

Sunday, September 24, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Legion H/Q Office Duck Lake

9:00 a.m. D.E.C. Meeting Muskegon Lake

* ALL INFORMATION SHOWN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

Schedule of Workshop Sessions

8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Muskegon/Mona Lake

**8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Veteran Informational Workshop
Muskegon/Mona Lake**

- What is a PSO vs. a VSO?
- How can we help veterans w/financial assistance?
- How does a veteran apply for benefits?
- We're hiring veterans! How to find where.
- What is this: Be the One?
- Emergency! What to do when you have to Be the One?

**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. How Wilwin and MALF
works with VSO's and Veterans in Michigan**

- What is MALF?
- Wilwin? Tell us more and who can attend?
- What is MVAA?
- What is MVTF?

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Financial Compliance
(We don't need no stinking compliance, right?!)**

- What is an EIN?
 - What to do about a revoked EIN
 - The 990: What, Who and Why?
 - What is LARA?
 - Banking laws for non-profits
 - The skinny on the SAL and ALR
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. What is the Great Oz
doing behind that curtain? Muskegon/Mona Lake**
- Convention Corporation: How and why?
 - Dummies Guide to Committees and Meetings
 - Post, District, State and National
 - Media, Facebook, Website: The how and why

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Charitable Gaming

Be Prepared for an Emergency ...

While Traveling.



From Your American Legion Department

**Learn How *Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+)*
Helps You Handle Travel Emergencies.**

Legionnaire EA+ steps in to help you with more than 20 emergency and medical services ... to help you focus on your recovery and NOT on the costs (or even details like lining up second opinions or flying loved ones home*). Plus, acting right away also helps lock in your Legionnaire members-only price.

EA+ rates are currently as low as they can go. So when you activate EA+ right away, you're guaranteed the same low price for a FULL year. I already have medical insurance. Why should I activate EA+, too? EA+ is NOT medical insurance. It's an important stop-gap between what your medical plan covers ... and emergency transportation expenses most health insurance plans NEVER pay.

For more information log on to www.TheLIT.com/Emergency-Assistance-Plus or call toll-free 1-888-310-1547 today to speak with a benefit representative.

*This is only an outline of the plans services. Please review your Member Benefit Guide carefully. EA+ is not insurance. ©2016 Worldwide Rescue & Security 40061

You can Renew!

Your renewal is just a click away. click on you organization to renew on the national website right now.

LEGION

AUXILIARY

**SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**



MUSKEGON CONVENTION CENTER
939 Third Street Muskegon, MI 49440

Department Fall Conference

Group rates will be valid: 3 days before and after of the convention dates of September 22nd, 23rd and 24th 2023

Rates: Single King Room (3 max per room): \$114.00 Double Queen Room (5 max per room): \$114.00

* Rates are subject to applicable sales and hotel taxes, currently 15%.

All reservations must be made on or before September 1st 2023 to receive group discount. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing hotel rate and availability.

Reservation Information

* Hotel cannot guarantee that group rooms will be located near each other

* Check in times is 3:00pm; Check out time is 12:00pm

* Reservations may be cancelled 24 hours in advance without penalty

*Cash payments are not accepted.

* For direct reservations please call our reservation line at 1-833-999-0181 and reference American Legion 2023 Conference (Code: ALC)

Meeting Registration: Registration badges are required for attendance at all meetings.

SEND \$15 REGISTRATION (PER PERSON), MADE PAYABLE TO:
AMERICAN LEGION POST No. 9, INC., PO Box 4186, Muskegon, MI 49444

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Number of registrations _____ x \$15 = _____ Total Enclosed

Michigan American Legion Baseball 2023

The months of July and August are always a busy time for American Legion Baseball. It is the sport of the summer, after all. With 34 teams registered to play Legion Baseball in the state of Michigan, we had a lot of action in July, all culminating in two state tournaments. Highlights from those tournaments are on the next page.



Adrian Post 275 Baseball Team



Norway Sr. Vikings Baseball Team



Clinton Baseball Team



EUP Wood Ducks Baseball Team



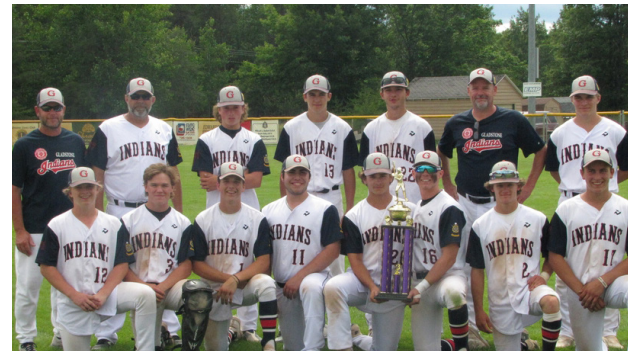
EUP Jr. Wood Ducks



Norway Jr. Vikings Baseball Team



Ishpeming Baseball Team



Gladstone Indians Baseball Team



Stevensville Sr. Baseball Team

The Teams shown here are the only ones that sent photos to the Department at legion.michiganlegion.org



KiKi Cuyler Award Winner and Class AA Tournament MVP Tanner Sonntag with Baseball Chairman Jeff McGinnis



Chase Carlson, the Michigan Class A American Legion State Championship Tournament Home Run Derby in Gladstone



The 2023 Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship of \$500.00 was awarded to Jack Wyatt Bakus of Midland, Michigan



Caden Oliver, Adrian Post 275, Diamond Scholarship recipient and Dept. Baseball Chairman Jeff McGinnis

Midland Post 165, Class AA State Champions



Highlights from American Legion Department Baseball Tournaments

By Ashley Zimmer, Program Coordinator

Six teams participated in the tournament, which was hosted by Gladstone Post 171. Teams were as follows: Escanaba Post 82, Gaylord Post 458, Gladstone Post 71, Clinton Twp. Post 176, Marquette Post 44 Blues, Trenton Post 426 Steel.

Trenton Post 426 came away with the ultimate title of Class A State Champions for the 2023 season, their second consecutive championship. The Hal Newhouser Award (MVP Award) went to Brock Beaudre of Trenton Post 426. Class AA State Tournament Highlights: 6 teams participated in the tournament, which Blissfield graciously hosted on short notice. Department is grateful to the Blissfield Post and everyone who assisted in hosting the tournament this past July. The teams included Adrian Post 275, Stevensville Post 568, Midland Post 165, Linwood Post 239, Blissfield Post 325, and Mt. Pleasant Post 110.

Midland Post 165 came away with the ultimate Class AA State Champions title, and American Legion Post 239 came in second place. With Midland hosting the Great Lakes Regional Tournament for a second year, American Legion Post 239

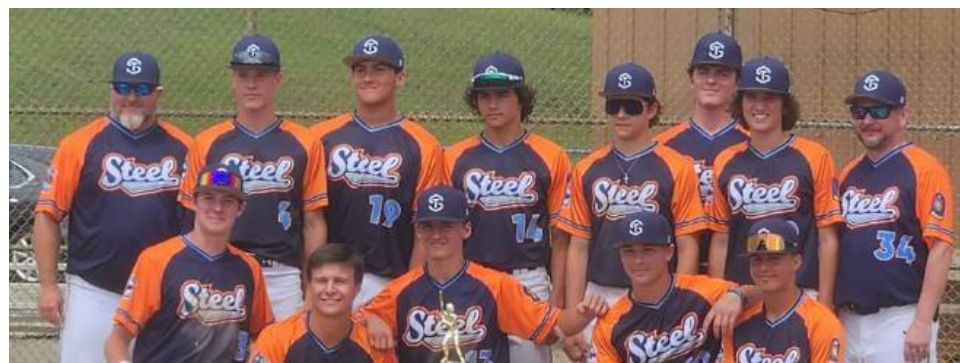
also represented Michigan in the Regional Tournament.

For the individual awards, the Kiki Cuyler Award (MVP Award) went to Tanner Sonntag of Midland Post 165. Jack Wyatt Bakus of Midland received The 2023 Robert Turner Baseball Scholarship of \$500.00. The 2023 Department American Legion Diamond Scholarship was awarded to Caden Oliver of Adrian Post 275. Caden was awarded \$500 from The Michigan Department and an additional \$2,500 scholarship National. He is also placed on the All-American Diamond Academic Scholarship Team.

On August 2nd, the American Legion Great Lakes Regional tournament kicked off at Northwood University's Gerace Field. Our host again this year was Midland Berryhill Post 165, which has hosted the Great Lakes Regional Tournament a total of six times. As the host team, Berryhill received an automatic bid into the regional tournament, and Linwood Post 239 also represented Michigan. The other six teams competing in the tournament were Illinois state champion Danville Post 210 and runner-up Barrington

Post 158, Indiana state champion Lafayette Post 11, Iowa state champion Swisher Post 671, Wisconsin state champion Eau Claire Post 53 and runner-up Janesville Post 205.

The chance to be one of the top 64 teams out of approximately 4,000 teams nationwide naturally brings in a large crowd. According to Nelson Cronkright, Midland Berryhill Post 165 Baseball Chairman, the host team's goal is to ensure everyone involved has a good time. It all came together for a great start to the Great Lakes Regional Tournament. Rain storms periodically came through, delaying games throughout the tournament, but Post 165 handled everything flawlessly. In the end, neither Michigan team could not make it to the World Series. Linwood Post 239 was eliminated from the regionals by Eau Claire, WI. Midland Post 165 held out almost to the end of the regionals. Still, it fell short by one game when they were defeated by Cedar Rapids, IA, who won the Great Lakes Regional Championship and moved on to the American Legion World Series.



Trenton Steel, Post 426, Class A State Champions



Stevensville Jr Team wins Tryo Ohio Tournament

CHESTERFIELD VETERAN'S HOME RIDE

On July 16, the American Legion Riders of Post 4 Mt. Clemens Mi hosted their 2nd Annual Meet and Greet Ride at the Michigan Veterans Home Chesterfield. The weather was perfect for the short ride along the shores of Lake St. Clair and the picnic that followed. Post 4 Rider Director Mark Kolatski put it best when he said, "This ride is one of the best things we Riders do all year. Seeing the Veterans outside, checking out the bikes, eating and drinking, mingling with us Riders, giving us a chance to Thank them for all they've done, seeing their smiles, it doesn't get much better than that!" Riders from as far away as Leslie Post 491 attended, along with Riders from Marysville Post 449, Livonia Post 32 and Southgate Post 478. Michigan ALR Director Jim "Big Daddy" Austin and ALR



Auxiliary Liaison Debbie Abraham got a tour of the facility and were very impressed by the facility and Staff. All in all, a great time was had by all. Plans are already underway for next year's Ride. Stay tuned.



Auxiliary Liaison Debbie Abraham got a tour of the facility and were very impressed by the facility and Staff. All in all, a great time was had by all. Plans are already underway for next year's Ride. Stay tuned.

ESCORTING THE MICHIGAN TRAVELING MEMORIAL OF FALLEN MILITARY



Owosso Post 57 Riders, their family and friends met up with the HOG chapter of Vehicle City Harley Davidson to escort the Michigan's Traveling Memorial of Fallen Military. After taking a moment to pay respect to all of the fallen heroes, but one in particular close to us, Shane Cantu. (Son of a Post member) It was a beautiful morning for a ride.

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|---|--|--|
| MATTHEW S SGT USAF JAN 2012 RAVERSE CITY FGHANISTAN | SGT ARMY R MIA 23 OCT 2006 RTND 12 FEB 2012 ANN ARBOR IRAQ | JOSEPH M SGT ARMY 14 JUN 2012 FLINT AFGHANISTA |
| MARSEN AVID J | CANTU SHANE W PFC ARMY 28 AUG 2012 CORRUNA AFGHANISTAN | BILLINGS ROBERT J SGT ARMY 17-0 |
| AY ASON P PO NAVY 9 JUN 2015 HESTERFIELD SS FSSEFX | KUHSE GREGORY MSG USAF 11 OCT 2015 KAL AMAZOO AFGHANISTAN | |

Service Officer Training School

Not all retreats are created equally. Take, for example, the annual Higgins Lake Service Officers Training. While there were bond fires and comradery, what the attendees got most was training on how to help veterans. Where to send them to get the benefits they have earned and how to "Be The One"! It was a great time getting to know the Service Officers better and learning to serve our fellow veterans.



Fighting PTSD 1 Mile at a Time

Scott "Hawk" Igo, Sargent at arms and ALR Road Captain, Post #3 Sault Sainte Marie

Being a veteran diagnosed with chronic PTSD, I understand the struggle that others with PTSD deal with daily. What started as an idea of mine has already shown to be an event that has exceeded all my expectations. Right from the start, the support has been overwhelming. The route came together while thinking about living with PTSD, the Hell it can take you to, and only wanting to be in Paradise! Living in MI, we are fortunate enough to have a Hell, Michigan and a Paradise, Michigan, so what better towns to start and finish in than these two?

After thinking about it for quite a while, I spoke to Debbie Abraham, whom I knew from dealing with the paperwork for joining ALR. From there, I learned she was "Hugs," the Auxiliary Unit President Livonia Post 32, Assistant Director ALR Chapter 32, and First District of MI Auxiliary ALR Liaison. Without hesitation, she stepped right up to help with my dream.

We now needed to assemble a team. The first new member was Angela "Scrat" Snyder, the ALR Secretary, Auxiliary Vice President of District 3, ALR Liaison Leighr Wright Post #53 of Hillsdale, MI. The next was John "Longhair" Smith Post # 248. SAL Commander, ALR Road Captain. After that, we added Candy "Hawk's Cupcake" Willis, soon to be "Igo"!!! She and Jan Bailey will be working together on our sponsors. I can't wait to see what these two accomplish for our veterans together!

Now, on our way to making this a reality, Debbie, Angela, Jon, Candy and I are setting up, figuring things out, and adding people who can help in many different directions. What we hope will become an event to remember and continue for years till, hopefully, one day, all our Veterans with PTSD can quickly get the help needed to get their lives back to where they are not struggling with PTSD anymore.

After our team was fully formed, our first contact was with Ron Monroe of Mission 6 Service Dogs. After speaking with him about this and hearing what this organization does, I knew it was one I wanted to pick to help. The following organization I contacted was Zero Duck 30/Bikes and Battle Buddies. I spoke with Anthony Jurich (Tony) after a very informative conversation. His passion deeply moved me for those who have PTSD and his willingness to help. We knew we wanted this to be our second organization to support. After discussing with my committee, we agreed on these two, so the funds collected could help them.

We then decided to add one more, Willwin Lodge. We will collect non-perishable items that could be used for the Veterans staying at the lodge or keeping it clean and safe.

We soon created a Facebook page to help spread the word. Soon after it was up and running, it grew so fast. It caught the attention of Shell Maitland, a Biker advocate of MI with Christensen Law, who contacted me with the offer to be not only our legal "backbone" of the group but to help with any law situations as well as help from her entire team such as coming up with the flyer layout, setting up pre-registration and registration at the site. Shell has over 11 years of Advocating for the biker community in MI. We were so excited to add her and her team to ours!

With the full backing from James "Big Daddy" Austin, Chairman of the ALR committee, we were heading to putting our plans into action. I was contacted by Jan Bailey (the one work-



Save The Date

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

PARADISE

HELL TO PARADISE

PTSD AWARENESS RIDE

HELL

JULY 26-28, 2024

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME - \$35 PER RIDER, \$20 PER PASSENGER

THIS WILL BE A 2 DAY FUN RUN. COME JOIN US IN RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR TWO MICHIGAN BASED CHARITIES HELPING THOSE WITH PTSD.

SPONSORED BY:

MICHIGAN BIKER LAW
1-800-MI-BIKER

EMAIL: alrhell2paradise@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: ALR HELL TO PARADISE

FOLLOW US ALL SUMMER ON FACEBOOK

More info to Follow

ing with my Cupcake), who is not only an RN/EMT who offered her medical expertise during the whole ride but also will be driving a chase vehicle with the ability, if need be to haul anyone's bike if need be. Jan has helped the I-500 snowmobile race in Sault Sainte Marie turn into the amazing race everyone looks forward to each year.

So, as of now, this will be a two-day ride open to any riders, vehicle, chase drivers and anyone willing to help along the way to support this event. We can still use all the help we can get before, during, and after the ride. The cost is \$35.00 per rider and \$20.00 per passenger. We will be having fundraisers throughout to raise enough money to help Veterans with PTSD greatly, hopefully! Pre-registration will begin in August 2023, with registration through Thursday, July 25th, 2024 and onsite on the morning of the ride, the 26th. We really would appreciate as many that can do pre-registration as early as possible so we can set the right places and accommodations for stops places to spread our word and stay. If you are a camping person, there will be places set up in our beginning and final location.

We made this a two-day ride to make it as easy as possible for any stage riders and to raise awareness of PTSD and Veterans along the way. We'll have a photographer with us from before the ride till the end. Between the ALR Hell To Paradise PTSD Ride page and Live chat updates on Facebook, monthly updates will be here in The American Legion Department of Michigan Legionnaire. Questions can also be sent to ALRHELL2PARADISE@GMAIL.COM.

I seriously cannot begin to thank everyone enough for your support and interest! Yours in brotherhood.

District Meetings

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.

October 8th, 2023

Dexter Post 557
8225 Dexter-Chelsea Rd. Dexter, MI 48130 734.426.4511

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

September 10, 2023

Hillsdale Post 53
1611 Steamburg Rd. Hillsdale, MI

November 12, 2023

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

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 2:00 pm.

TBA

Fifth District

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month. Dinner @ 5:30 pm and Meeting @ 7 pm. For more information Email: districtadjutant5th@yahoo.com or call: 1-616-799-4459

TBA

Sixth District

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

September 10, 2023

Lyle Edwards Post 491
422 Woodworth St., Leslie, Michigan 48251 517-589-9122

November 12, 2023

Bernard A. Bendle Post 294
3440 Morrish Road Swartz Creek, Michigan 48473
810-635-7333

January 14, 2024

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

March 10, 2024

Pinckney Memorial Post 419
9807 Whitewood Road Pinckney, Michigan 48169

January 14, 2024

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

Seventh District

TBA

Eighth District

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

September 17, 2023

St Johns Post 153
110 E. Walker 989-224-7282

November 19, 2023

Saginaw Post 439
5190 Weiss St. 989-792-2000

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.

September 30, 2023 Post 219

Fife Lake, MI

December 2, 2023 Post 381

Croton, MI

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.

TBA

Eleventh District

All Meetings Start at 1pm. Dates and locations of future meetings are still being decided.

Sixteenth District

All meetings start at 7:30 pm.

September 12, 2023 Melvindale

17011 Rupp Rd

October 10, 2023* Riverview 389

734-767-3786

November 14, 2023 Flat Rock Post 337

December 12, 2023* School Southgate Post 478

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

* **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.

THE MICHIGAN WWII LEGACY Memorial

On August 10th, 2023, Phase 1 of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial was dedicated. Over 600 people gathered as WWII veterans, original Rosie the Riveters, elected officials, dignitaries and supporters celebrated the completion of this first segment of the Memorial.



Excited Crowd waits for the dedication of Phase One of the Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial



Pictured left Commander Mohlman with Royal Oak Post 253 Member

Below Our American Legion Department of Michigan's Brick at the Michigan Legacy WWII Memorial



Annual Fundraiser Scores Big for Wilwin



Arriving in Style at the Annual Wilwin Fundraiser

Wilwin just hosted the Annual Fundraiser and open house for 2023 on the 29th of July. Again, We had excellent attendance and participation this year, even with many of the DEC attending the membership workshop in Indianapolis. We want to give special thanks to SAL Squadron 34 for again taking care of the pulled chicken sandwiches and Scout Troop 1193 for the boiled vegetables and Polish sausage. We also served potato salad and mac and cheese. What a great meal that everyone enjoyed very much. The Auxiliary, SAL, Legion members and many veterans supported the event in mass numbers as well, thanks to everyone who attended this annual event. I also want to thank everyone who donated items, everyone that purchased tickets and those that



Scottville Clown Band Entertaining one lucky lady

bid on the raffle items we had on display for a chance to win. There were many really nice items available for a chance to win. The Fifth District Post 179 Auxiliary again donated many quilts to our cause. Thanks to the ladies there. We again had entertainment, the well-known Scottville Clown Band. Side note: The band was formed in 1903 as an all-male instrument band. They perform often to raise funds for musical scholarships. They provided very good interactive entertainment, enjoyed by all. They have an online schedule showing their engagements if you want to see them perform.

We here at Wilwin have had many Veterans visiting this year, many being new to this facility. The word is being shared around the state and surrounding areas more and more. We get many calls requesting information about this great retreat property we have here in Michigan. We thank everyone who shares information about what the Michigan Legion has to offer for our Veterans. Our list of supporters is very long, and I want to thank everyone who donates in any way, shape, or form that supports this facility—great job by all of you.



President Kim Champion Donating her 50/50 winnings to Wilwin Lodge Chairman Duane Miller

We have another annual Scouting event being held this fall, 13 - 15 October, called The Freedom Torch Fall Outing. The outing is a free event for all Scouts. Activities will be Flag Etiquette and Retirement, Honor Guard Training, Team Building Challenges, Obstacle Course, Games, and Stories with Veterans. We have camping sites and water available. Generators are okay, but PLEASE, no pets. To register: www.wilwinlodge.com/scouting. Registration ends on the 6th of October and is limited to 120 scouts. Anyone requesting information, please email Wilwinscoutmaster1193@gmail.com. Scouts can also contact Wilwin directly to schedule a time to come out as a troop at any time for scouting trips.

SAL Members from American Legion Reino Post 21 sponsored a soccer team



The Squadron and Unit recently hosted their soccer team for an end-of-season party on July 27th. Commander Danny Fitzpatrick and Sergeant of Arms Dan Pangrazzi and the soccer team and their coaches are Pictured in the first photo.

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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DignityMichigan.com

Around the State...

National Night Out in Bay City

The Sons of the American Legion Squadron 18 engaged Bay City residents about the benefits of membership in the American Legion Family.



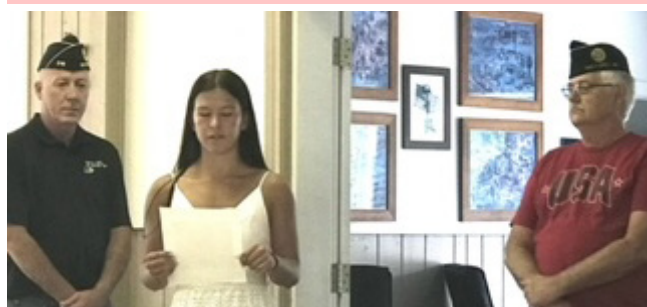
L to R: Post 18/Squadron 18 Adjutant Jason Sansburn, SAL Commander Rick Scheel, Auxiliary Unit 18 President Karen Jarmer, Unit 18 Vice President Lisa Leinberger, Post 18 Commander Mark Kaczmarek

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE & DEDICATION AWARD PRESENTED

Menominee Sons Commander Steve Van Eyck from Squad #146 presented the Sons of the American Legion Service and Dedication award to Past 5th Zone Commander John Pickard at the Upper Peninsula Summer Convention.



L-r Squad #146 Commander Steve Van Eyck, Past 5th Zone Commander John Pickard, Squad #149 Adjutant David Lang, and State Commander John Beeman



Casey Morgan from Milford High School Reads her winning scholarship essay and receives her \$1000 check.

Dept. Scouting Chairman Doug Carignan presents the Eagle Scout of the Year award to Troy Kornis.



POST 48'S NEW OFFICERS



L-R Ron Runyan, Darin Dayton Commander, Samantha Swenson, Marcy Jorae, and Julie Becker

New Department leaders travel to Indianapolis every summer for training on the latest efforts for New Member recruiting.



The 2023 Membership Training Class

Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall in Manistique was Victor Fisher's special project for the Sons of the American Legion Department of Michigan.



Post 46 Celebrates Vet Fest



Commander Mohlman helping with the raffle



Post 46 Cmdr Nichols Grilling Burgers and Dogs

Many veteran organizations, VSOs and plenty of food, drinks, and ice cream were present at the Washtenaw County Vet Fest. Post 46 recruited new members and helped other veterans find help with issues and

questions. A Chinook from Selfridge National Guard and several military vehicles were on hand. Face painting, a dunk tank, and a bouncy house entertain the kids. We were also honored with the presence of Department Commander Mohlman, who spent a lot of time visiting with participants in the event and helped with the raffle drawing.



One of the Suicide Prevention Organizations

Suits For Vets!

On August 15, American Legion Post 238 took over 150 suits, coats and pants to the VFW national home in Eaton Rapids. Jeri Martinez was present from the VFW home. Ms. Martinez was very grateful for the donation.



L-R J.R. McGraw, Jeri Martinez, and Michael Grant.