

**History 2015 – 2016** 

**History of Unit 119 Linden** 

# **American Legion Auxiliary**

**Historian Pat Lozano** 

2015 - 2016

# Dedicated to our Post members, who encouraged the formation of this auxiliary.

We are here to honor you.



# Officers for the 2015/2016 Year

President – Pat Lozano

First Vice President – Sharon Paulin

Second Vice President – Jennifer Fisher

Treasurer – Shawn

Secretary – Sherry Maxwell

Chaplin – Sharron Rundell (2015) Jennifer Fisher (2016)

Historian – Pat Lozano

Sergeant-at-Arms – Betty Smith



#### Chairmen for the 2015/2016 Year

Community Service ... Americanism - Shawn Lopez

Membership ... Public Relations ... History – Pat Lozano

Poppy ... Junior Activities – Sharron Rundell

AEF – Jennifer Fisher

Music - Barb Reynolds

National Security - Denise Warden

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – Betty Smith

Past President's Parley ... Leadership ... Legislative – Sharon Pauline

Girls State... Juniors ... Education ... Child and Youth – Sherry Maxwell

# **Special Committee Members**

Constitution/By Laws/ Standing Rules – All officers

Finance – All officers

Fundraising – All officers

# The Year's History of American Legion Auxiliary 119 Linden Department of Michigan

#### March

Girls State Chair, Sherry Maxwell, and Co-chair, Pat Lozano met with one Girls State candidate and her mother, and met with a second candidate's mother. We provided information on how to register and asked that they keep us informed and provide a feedback.



# We approved

For this coming year we will continue to send meeting reminder postcards. We will also send newsletters up to 6 per year according to events scheduled

#### **District 6 Assist**

One of our members, Pat Lozano, offered District 6 President, Sue Hilgris, assistance in consolidating information and filling out reporting paperwork for the District



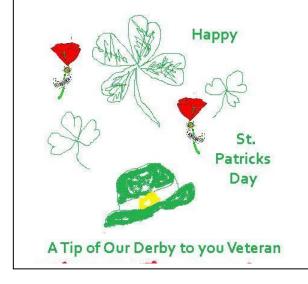
#### March

President Pat Lozano and Commander Jesus Lozano visited the Tybee Island Post in Georgia

While there Pat won a basket of cheer raffle. She is using some of the items to create new fundraiser baskets for our auxiliary.









#### In March

We made a donation to our local VFW.

They raised funds to replace their kitchen equipment. This enabled them to continue to put on funeral dinners and catering fundraisers.



# **April**

Auxiliary member Pat Lozano was unable to transport a WWII veteran to eye surgery at the Ann Arbor UofM Medical Center. Another Post member was assigned but fell through. Pat has suggested that we build a list of people within and outside our unit who can be called upon in the future.



At later dates Pat was able to transport this veteran on two occasions. She also provided health services to two other veterans.

April 5, 2015



We attended services for a member's grandson who passed.

# On April 18, 2015

Our Unit President, Pat Lozano, and her husband, Post Commander Jesus Lozano, attended the Legion Family Testimonial held by the Department. The dinner was held at Swartz Creek Post 294.

She reported they thoroughly enjoyed the evening of camaraderie.



# On April 29, 2015

Our Unit President, Pat Lozano, and her husband, Post Commander Jesus Lozano, attended the District 6 Past Presidents and Past Commander Dinner.

They were pleased to honor the attendees.

President, Pat Lozano, assisted the 6th District Post by creating and delivering invitations. She also worked with 6th District Auxiliary by decorating the tables for the event.



# April 28, 2015

Shawn Lopez was chosen our "Outstanding Member" for the work she has done throughout this past year. Shawn worked hard at last summer's Linden Mill Days managing the Children's Coloring Contest.

She also has been handling the ongoing effort to rectify the non-profit status co-ordination between the ALA Department, ALA National, the IRS and our unit. This has been more than challenging as conflicting guidelines, rules and laws seem to be at play.



# April 28, 2015

We elected Junior Member, Alida Rose Smith, to serve as our Miss Poppy for the coming year. Alida is the granddaughter of member Betty Smith.



# May

# May 3, 2015

We took our Poppy display and centerpieces to the 6th District Meeting for judging.

We took 1st place in Poppy Display



# **Poppy Display Entry**

Display included Flanders Field Poem, Linden POW's record, and wreath. This display is used each year during our POW/MIA observance at grave of POW.

# This May 3rd

Our Auxiliary made a donation to the VFW National Home for children

The funds were raised through a kitty collected at each meeting.

This project was our State Youth and Child Chair's special project.







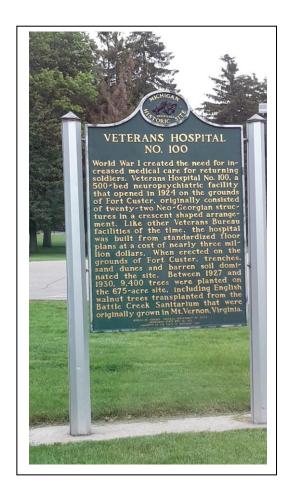


# May 27, 2015

Our Auxiliary joined the Clio Auxiliary for a day of service at the Battle Creek VA Medical Center.

VA&R Chair, Betty Smith made all the arraignments and purchased the snacks and prizes distributed during the morning ward visits and the evening Bingo.





# **Ward Visits**



# **Evening Bingo at Battle Creek VA Medical Center**



# **Poppy Days**

Auxiliary 119 moved their Poppy Days later in the month to be on Memorial Weekend. This may have caused the increased donations we saw this year. Six auxiliary members assisted with the distribution, Pat Lozano, Betty Smith, Shawn Lopez, Jennifer Fisher, and Sharon Paulinl. Members of the Post also assisted us.



Commander
Jesus Lozano
distributing
poppies at local
Ace Hardware



# The Auxiliary and Post handed out 125 flags to children during Poppy Days







Distributes poppies at Linden's

Alpine Marketplace



We raised over \$1500.00 .This was a successful Poppy Days

We had an interview spot on ABC TV 12's Newsmaker for our Poppy Days. It was a ten minute interview in which the story of the poppy and the causes it supports were discussed.

President Pat Lozano organized and wrote the interview agenda. She then sought additional persons so that the interview would cover not only our American Legion Poppy but also the VFW Buddy Poppy and the DAV Forgetme-nots.



And one of our members, Pat Lozano, painted her nails with poppies in honor of the day.



# **Installation of Officers**

Auxiliary 119 held an Officer Installation Dinner on May 19, 2015. Sue Hilgres, 6th District President was the Installing Officer. Auxiliary 119 provided a luncheon and invited the Post to have their installation at the same time.









Chaplain Sherry Maxwell presents the

Rundell

Missing Soldier Memorial, while members pav homage. All enjoy our Installation Luncheon

# **Memorial Day**

Auxiliary 119 marched with Post 119 in Linden's Parade. President Pat Lozano (on right) and Jr. President Jennifer Fisher (on left) were flag bearers.



After the Memorial Day Parade our post and auxiliary held a used flag retirement ceremony. And President Pat Lozano and Commander Jesus Lozano signed their names on a plywood banner that will be sent to troops serving in Afghanistan.



#### June

Auxiliary 119 supplied personal hygiene products to the Genesee County Stand Down on June 12, 2015. We worked together with Swartz Creek Auxiliary to put these products into ditty bags they made. We then made special female handout bags and put some of the ditty bags into them.



# Working with Swartz Creek Auxiliary to make ditty bags



# We then took the ditty bags to the stand down and handed them out









# June

We attended the funeral of Post member and husband of Auxiliary member and officer.





#### **State Convention**

# Was held on June 25 through 28

Our representative, Pat Lozano attended on all days. She honorably carried the District 6 flag and posted it at the start of the official general session. We learned that we took an amazing number of awards at the convention for the work we did in the 2014/2015 auxiliary year.

We took home 17 awards plus our membership ribbon. Out of over 300 auxiliaries and 100 "best of" awards we took more than any other auxiliary. The closest other took home 5 awards. The local newspaper reported on our great year.

#### These included:

- Shawn Lopez Chair
  - Eva Spaulding Citation Most Outstanding Americanism
     Program in the State
  - Mary Ripley Citation Greatest Percentage of Activity in Americanism
  - Earl L. Stewart Cup Most Outstanding Community Service Report (unit under 50 members)
  - Patricia Jewel Award –Most Outstanding Community Service Report (unit under 200 members)
- Sherry Maxwell Chair
  - Leona Pitman Citation Most Outstanding Chaplain Report
  - Certificate (Child and Youth) Most Outstanding Support of Military Children
- Sharon Paulin Chair
  - Leadership Best Unit Legislative Award
  - Romaine Roethel Citation Best Year-round Report
  - Trudy Anderson Memorial Citation Most Outstanding Past-Presidents Parley Report
- Pat Lozano Chair
  - Gladys Lee Citation Most Inches of Publicity in a Weekly Newspaper
  - Alma Viergever Citation Unit under 75 members with most inches of publicity in all papers
  - 1st Place State Ring Your Bell Compitition
  - o 100% Membership Renewal
- Betty Smith Chair
  - Jackie Skinner Citation Greatest Participation in Homeless
     Veterans Initiatives
  - Best Veteran Assistance and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Program
- Sharron Rundell Chair
  - 1st Place Chairman's Poppy Program Narrative

Pat Lozano carrying District 6 flag







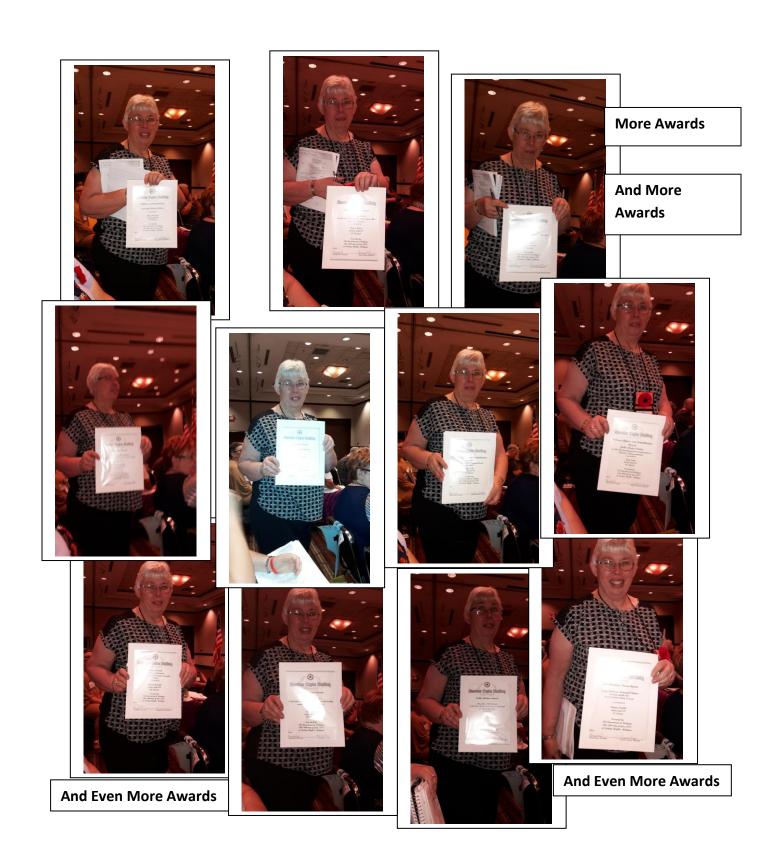




District 6 President begins long day of accepting awards.

17 for our auxiliary, and 5 for Pinckney and at least 3 for Clio





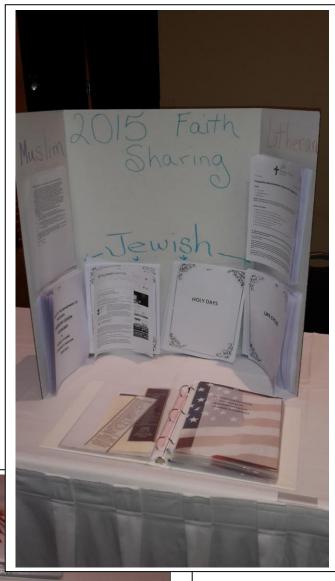
## Our competition in Poppy

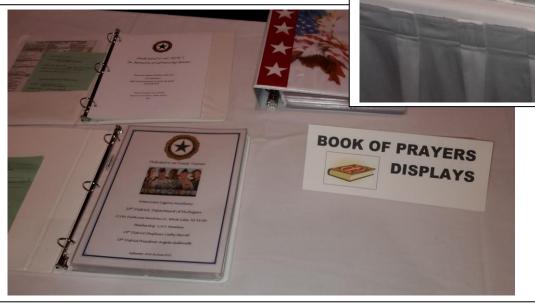


## **Our Competition in History**



## Our Competition in Chaplain





## Other Moments at Convention



## July

Some of our members and their family members attended a Rand Paul event









## July

Our auxiliary voted to order custom address labels from the DAV by making a donation to them.



We also ordered business cards

for our members to distribute

## July 16, 2015

We participated in the Detroit Female Homeless Veteran Stand Down.

We made ditty bags for female veterans. Department Service Officer Huntington, joined us in manning a booth where she gave information and we handed out the bags.







## Making the ditty bags.

Zonta of Fenton gave us \$100 for items to fill bags.

We then added another \$50



## July 14, 2015

Retirement / Replacement of flags at Loose Senior Center

Ву

**Rolling Thunder** 

Members Pat and Jesus Lozano attended the event and posted pictures and video to Facebook and Twitter





## Mid July

We made donations to Wilwin Lodge

Two donations totaling \$100











#### August

A member of the Linden Community gave us a number of Marie Callender USO "Comforts from Home" codes on packages. She did not have computer access so we entered codes each day until we reached 23 inputs.

Marie Callender's Comforts From Home Project brings the comforts of home to those who protect America's homes every day: the brave men and women of the U.S. Military. Every time you enter a code from a specially marked package of Marie Callender's meals or desserts, Marie Callender's will make a donation to USO2GO, a USO program that brings electronics, sports gear, books, games, and more to troops stationed in remote locations.

#### What is the USO2GO program?

A: Designed to send much needed electronic gaming, sports/musical equipment, and personal care items to troops in remote locations, USO2GO was launched in 2008 to ensure that troops in the field have some of the small comforts of home.

#### What is in a USO2GO kit?

A: USO2GO kits transform a remote base into a place where troops can feel connected to home. Each kit, weighing nearly 1,000 lbs., consists of seven packages — comforts of home, furnishings from home, edible enjoyment, leisure kit, electronics assortment, athletic kit and design in the desert - and includes items such as: hard to find hygiene supplies, beanbag chairs, comfort foods and beverages, board games, gaming consoles such as PlayStation and Xbox, Frisbees, footballs, and art supplies.



#### August

A member of our Auxiliary, Shawn Lopez, came out of her workplace in downtown Flint and started driving home.

When she passed the McFarland Veterans Park she noticed war protesters picketing. She parked her car and confronted them about desecrating the veterans by choosing this place to protest. One protester said he was a veteran and would not stop. She told him he should know better than to desecrate the site and they should move their protest to the front of one of the politician's offices in town. They would not leave. We posted immediately on Facebook and Twitter this disgrace.





## September

## **Trooper Wolfe Funeral**

Our post and auxiliary joined the Patriot Guards

We posted honors at the cemetery gates.

## Awaiting arrival



## **At Attention**



## **September 13, 2015**

## **District Meeting**

Several of our Auxiliary members attended

District President presented them with Department Awards



## September

The auxiliary made a donation to support one of our members, Barb Reynolds, who is walking (or rocking) in the Crop Walk food fundraiser



#### September

The auxiliary held the second annual memorial service on POW/MIA Day, September 18, 2015, at the grave of WWII POW Sheldon E. Eaton, US Army, in Fairview Cemetery, Linden. Ceremony was held by Vice President Sharon Pauline. One Post member Ernie Paulin, who is a relative of the POW, also participated.

## This is the record of Sheldon E. Eaton, WWII POW who is buried in Fairview Cemetery in Linden, Mi

Name Sheldon E <u>Eaton</u>

Ser. Number 36463188
Grade Private
Service Army
Arm Infantry
First Report 01/30/1944
Last Report 06/23/1945
Race White

Race White
Residence Michigan
Organization Ranger
Parent Unit 0003

Unit Type Battalion Training Battalion Combat Special Troops

Area North African Theatre Italy

Source Official Sources

Status Liberated Or Repatriated

**Detaining Power Germany** 

Camp Stalag 2b Hammerstein 99 Work Camps In V



## **Auxiliary and Post Honor Local POW**

September 18, 2015

Auxiliary and Post members hold POW/MIA Ceremony



Sheldon Eaton was a POW during WWII. Video of Ceremony

## Poppy Wreath at Sheldon E. Easton's Gravestone



## September

Two members, President Pat Lozano and National Security Chair Denise Warden attend ALA Fall Conference



## **September 29, 2015**

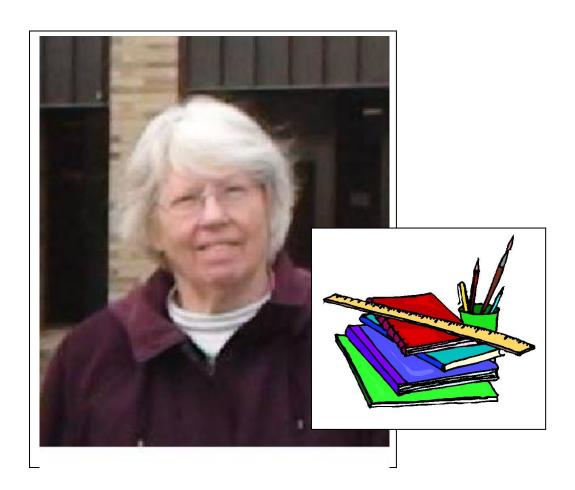
President Pat Lozano participated with the Fenton Zonta Club to post flags. Each flag represents one case of abuse in Genesee County during a 200 day period



## October

Our auxiliary made donations of teaching supplies for a local teacher.

Chair, Sherry Maxwell, will present them.



#### October

We made a donation to the Great Lake National Cemetery in the name of Pauline Bickersteth and the disbanded Fisher Body Auxiliary



This was in thanks for the donation of several supply items including Flags/Staffs, Bell, Color Guard Uniforms

#### October

Auxiliary President participated in out town's Zombie Walk. She took 1st prize for individual zombie.



#### November 8, 2015

We made a major gift to the Saginaw VA Medical Center. We spoke with Department Chair, Bonnie Holt and she said they needed a new portable PA system to use for bingos, carnivals, etc.

We contacted a specialist on sound equipment and he recommended Sweetwater retailer and a Europort PPA200 system with all the fancy do dads.

Our VA&R Chair, Betty Smith presented it to Bonnie at our District meeting.



#### November

The Auxiliary held a Veteran's Dinner in November. The entire four city community around us was invited for a no cost meal and entertainment. The Post provided funds for food and auxiliary member Sharron Rundell catered the event. The Auxiliary, served and cleaned up the affair. Auxiliary member Pat Lozano created a video program highlighting the Post and Auxiliary's projects and honoring all veterans. The Mayor of our town stopped by and offered to help on cleanup duty.

We served approximately 40 persons.













## **Veterans Day**

Commander Jesus Lozano and President Pat Lozano

Stood as honor guards at Genesee County McFarland Veterans Park







## **Thanksgiving**

We meet troops and veterans returning home for the holidays at our local airport.

Our Post and Auxiliary along with our Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs joined the Patriot Guards on this project.



#### **December**

During the Christmas season the Auxiliary purchased veteran Christmas Gifts for the Battle Creek Medical Center's Christmas Shoppe. A large

selection of items were







**Battle Creek VA Medical Center** 





# Welcome Honoring America's Veterans with quality health care services pa

Veterans with quality health care services, part of the largest integrated health care system in the

Learn more

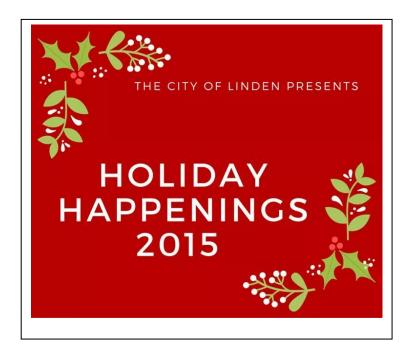




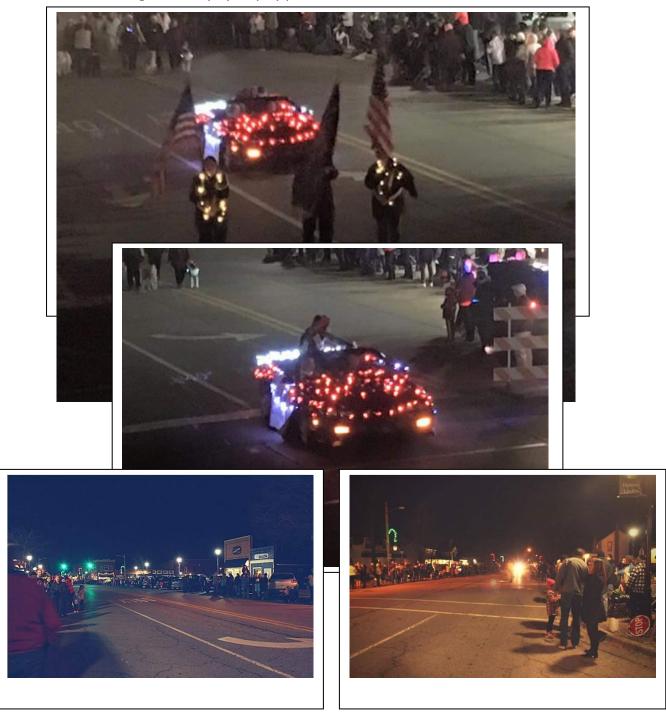
#### **December**

This year the city of Linden held its first night time Christmas Parade

Our auxiliary participated with a color guard, Betty Smith, Denise Warden and Post Commander Jesus Lozano.



Also, President, Pat Lozano, drove a Camaro Convertible decked out with white and red lights and paper poppies.



In the car rode our young junior member Zoey Canup and her mother. And junior member and our Miss Poppy, Alida Rose Smith

We also invited Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs (who are honor members of our Post and Auxiliary) with their handlers to join us.



#### **December Christmas Support**

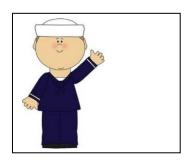
Our Auxiliary worked with the Linden Lions and also an individual donor to assist veterans in need in our community this season.

First our donor provided gifts which included a gas card, an I-pad Tablet, a gift card and a large selection of handmade gifts to a single mother veteran and her son.

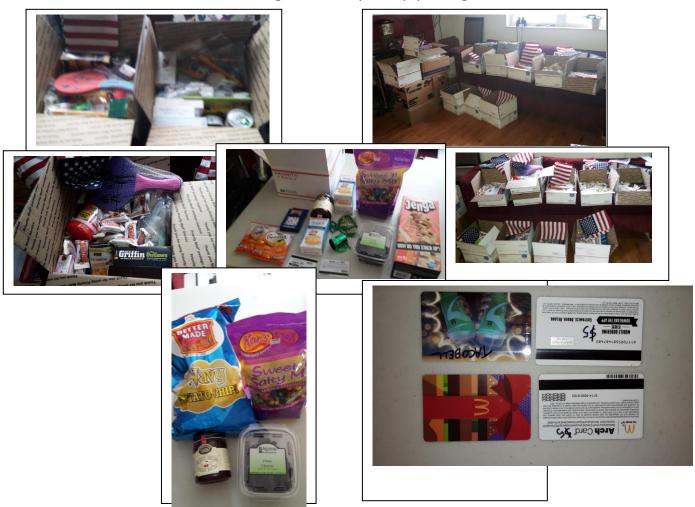


## Then our local Lions Club

Donated \$500 that we used to assist one veteran in need



and to cover the cost of mailing 15 holiday troop packages



### **Christmas**

We meet troops and veterans returning home for the holidays at our local airport.

Our Post and Auxiliary along with our Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs joined the Patriot Guards on this project.



When our local VFW Veterans Assistance Chair was admitted to the hospital, we took her packages to the post office for her.

Anyway to assist ... we will be there



### January 10, 2016

### **District Meeting**

Two 119 members attended

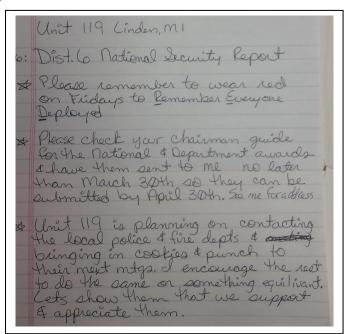




District National Security Chair (and 119 member)

Denise Warden

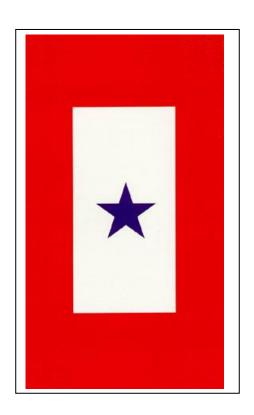
Gave her report



January 19, 2016

The auxiliary voted to work the Blue Star and Gold Star programs. We purchased banners and decals.





National Security Chair, Denise Warden, presented Blue Star Banner and decal to a family she knew.

# January

We made a donation to the

Veteran's Court

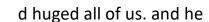
This is a project of our Department President



# January 21, 2016

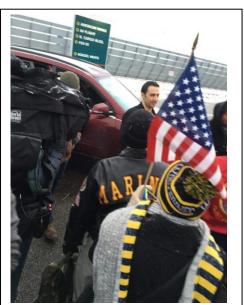
Our President, Pat Lozano, communicated with the family of Amir Hekmati, Iranian Hostage, Marine. At 4:00am they called her to tell her he was arriving home later that day and asked her to assemble a group of veterans to meet him at the airport.

She made several calls and reached a number of people. Amir had a welcoming party. They told us he could not stop, but he did. And in 20











We meet Amir at Bishop Airport, along with the Marine League and Mid-Michigan Therapy Dogs

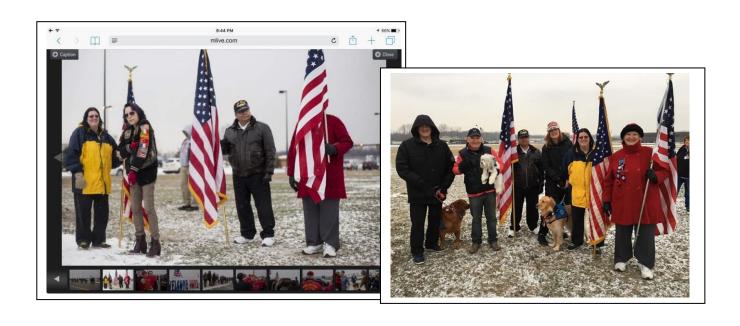








Several News Sources including ABC12 TV, WNEM 5 TV, WJRT Detroit TV and Radio, The Detroit Free Press newspaper, and the Flint Journal newspaper ran articles about our meeting Amir.



# **February**

### **Mid Year Conference**

The Auxiliary was represented at the Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion held in Flint, Michigan this year. The auxiliary also paid for an ad in the conference's agenda brochure.



Girls State Raffle

# Mid-Year Conference AEF Afghan Raffle

We have little funds but much talent. When asked by District and Department AEF Chair, Linda Wallace, for a donation we came up with a better option.

A beautiful patriotic afghan was made by member Pat Lozano's Niece, Marie Fejedelem, to honor her deceased mother; wife of Dale Warden retired Navy Veteran. Funds went to the Department AEF fund, our District Sr. Vice's project..



### March 5 and 6

### Fenton Expo 2016

In March we significantly increased our footprint at the huge business event know as the Fenton Expo. It is put on by the Chamber of Commerce (our Post is a member). And it is open to the public and draws approximately 4000 people this year.



This year we set up a computer and printer. Thus we were able to give immediate advice and take information to follow up on veteran's claims and questions. We also had a drawing on each day for a patriotic umbrella. Entrants provided information about who the veteran is in their family and we will follow up with a promotion to entice them into our organization.



### **Later in March**

We participated in a Chamber of Commerce "Networking at Noon" event. We supplied an Irish spa basket door prize in return for time to give a presentation on the American Legion and its Auxiliary.







# In Late March

While visiting the area

Post Commander Jesus Lozano and wife Auxiliary President Pat Lozano paid a visit to the

Erie Pennsylvania Legion Post



# **Ongoing**

In Addition to Supporting Battle Creek VA Medical Center --- We also Support Saginaw VA Medical Center

Because so many of our members are treated at the Saginaw VA Medical Center we feel obligated to support them. Our Auxiliary is obligated by allocation to support the Battle Creek VA Center and we will always provide that support as well.



# **Supporting the 6th District**

The Auxiliary attended five 6th District meetings this year.

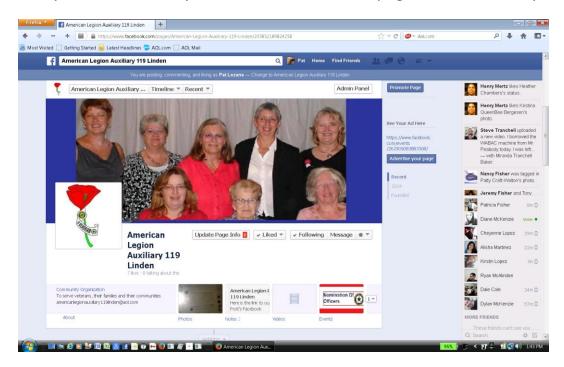
And two Auxiliary 119 members accepted a 6th District Office and Chairmanship. Pat Lozano became 6th District Jr. Vice President, Public Relations Chairman and member of the Finance Committee. And Denise Warden became 6th District National Security Chairman.



Pat Lozano, Betty Smith, and Denise Warden attended district meetings.

### **Communications throughout Year**

This year we were very active on our Facebook page for our Auxiliary.

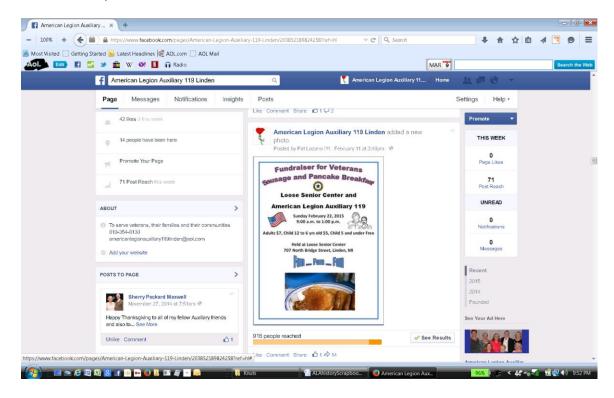


### And posted ...





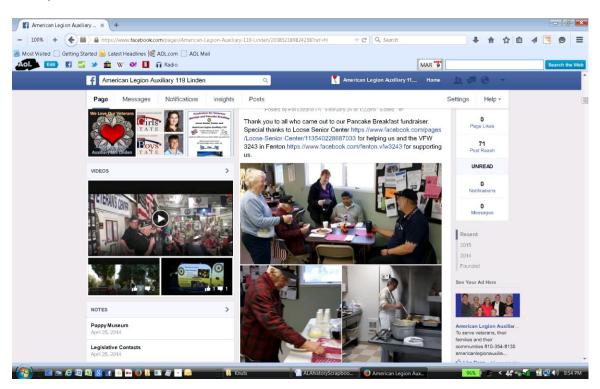
### And posted ....



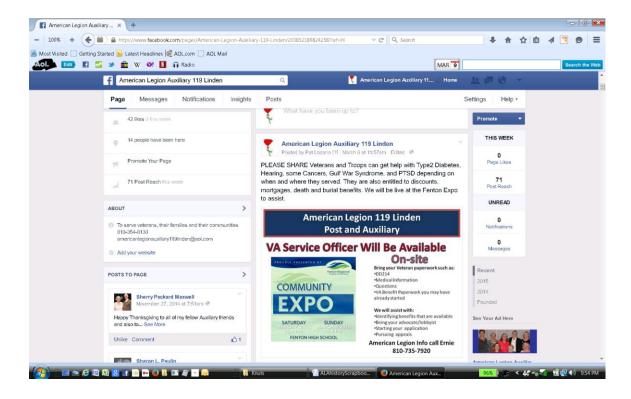
And posted ....



# And posted ...



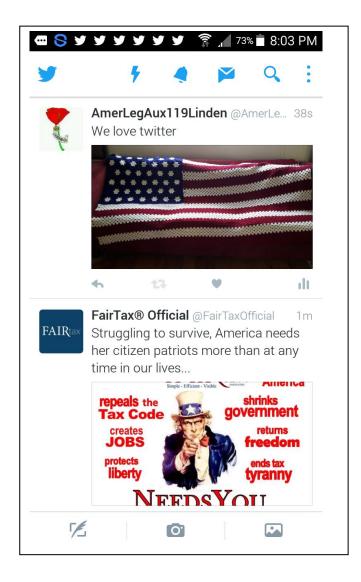
### And posted ...



We also publish these pages on multiple Linden, Michigan pages to promote our unit.

And we promote our local VFW in Fenton Michigan and the Linden Lions and the Fenton Zonta on our site and they promote us.

# We are now on Twitter and are starting YouTube, Vine and Instagram





Throughout the year our Auxiliary offered "I love a Vet" wristbands and patriotic pins for donation.

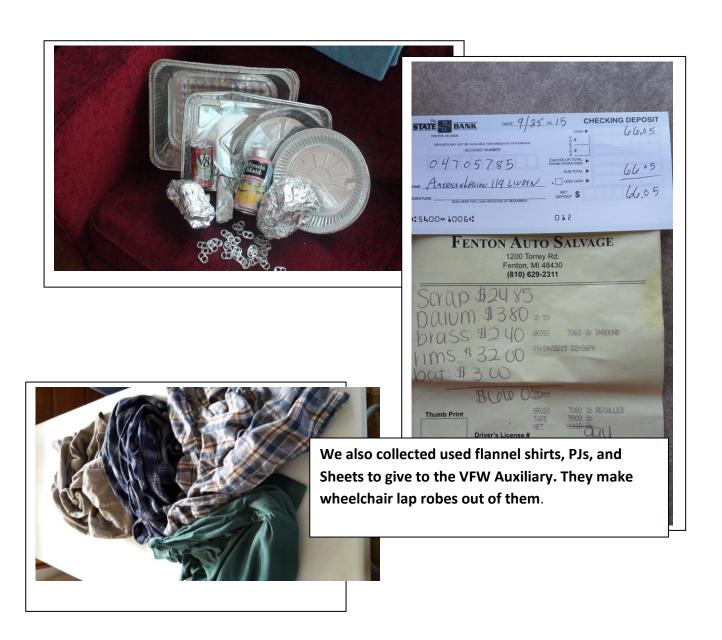
# Ongoing Fundraisers





Auxiliary member
Betty Smith
Made these beautiful
Patriotic pins as a
fundraiser

Betty Smith continued an aluminum collection. The proceeds go into the general fund. We did well this year as another member donated bent aluminum rims from an auto.

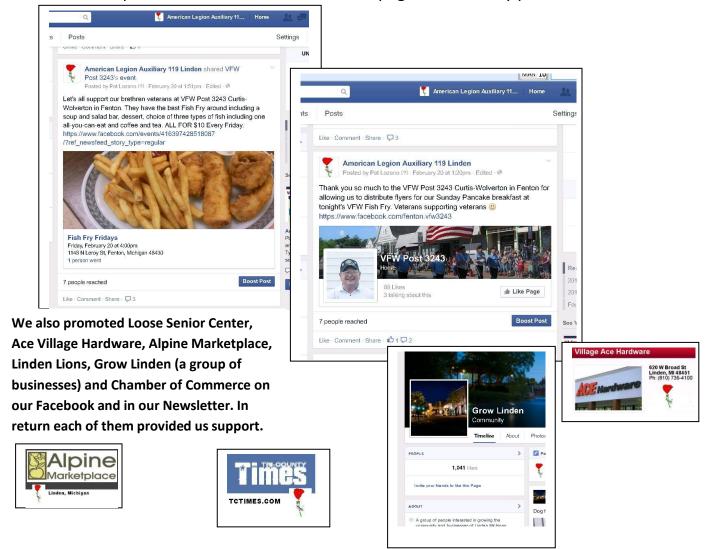


### **Ongoing Co-operation with Other Organizations**

We are committed to work as a team with other organizations that serve the greater Linden area and/or Veterans

At the November 12 meeting of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary 3243 Fenton, the past president Jan brought on the floor an official thank you to American Legion Auxiliary 119 Linden. Jan thanked ALA119 for giving recognition to the VFW in the Tri-County Times newspaper.

We also promoted them on our Facebook page. In turn they promoted us.

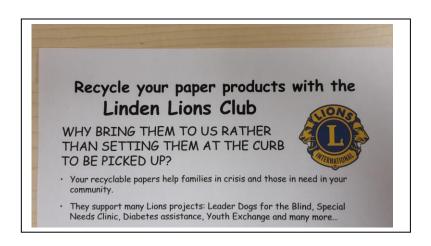


# **Working with our local Lions Club**

After they made supportive donations to our auxiliary, one of our members decided to join the Lions Club to return the favor with volunteer hours. She and her husband worked several Classic Car shows, and the Christmas Tree Fundraiser.



We also promoted their Paper Drives through our Facebook and Twitter and via our members



# **Ongoing Throughout Year**

Throughout the year, John Travitz, a veteran and his wife Samantha, a currently deployed soldier, were "adopted" by the Auxiliary. Also, each month the Auxiliary sponsored a "Coupon Clipping" event. Ladies clipped and sorted \$17,000.00 worth of coupons each month (\$170,000.00 in total) and sent them to the Commissary at Yongson, South Korea where John works now as a civilian contractor at the base and Samantha is deployed to Kuwait.

### Samanth and John Travitz



John is a veteran and Samantha is with the Army Military Police, Headquarters Detachment.

Nearly every month we were able to send boxes of coupons to the commissary in Yongsan Base, Seoul, South Korea. The Linden Lions organization gave us a \$100 grant to help pay the postage. We were able to send approximately \$240,000 worth of coupons.



Sometimes we included letters,

ı pictures colored by













Yongsan Commissary

Seoul

**South Korea** 

# **Ongoing projects:**

Several get well cards were sent to auxiliary members and post members who were hospitalized this year.



# **Leadership and Mentoring**

Auxiliary member Pat Lozano attended multiple learning sessions held by the Linden Fenton Area Chamber of Commerce. She brought back information on how to better use the internet and social media to promote our causes and events.



### Memorial

This year auxiliary members participated in honoring a member's young niece's death by attending her memorial service three members attended. We also honored a member's parent's death by making a donation in her name to an Auxiliary program.



Pad Loyano

Pat Lozano, Historian

Pat Lozano, President