

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

July/August/september 2016

Volume 84 Number 1



INSIDE

Officer Reports.....	1-3
National Service Officer Award	3
District Reports.....	4-5
Military Order of the Cooties.....	6
Camp Trotter Tales	6
Memership Report	7
National Home for Children.....	7
POW-MIA Report.....	8
Auxiliary News.....	10-12
Post Dinner Registration Forms	13-14
Taps	15
Auxiliary TAPS.....	16
Sea Cadets Honored	16
Conference Forms	18
From the Editor	18
Candidates for Office..	19
State Commander	20

Coming Events

BIG TEN CONFERENCE
October 20-23, 2016



STATE COMMANDER, continued fromback page

Past State Commander Harry “Les” Croyle, Scouting Director Stephen Grima, Youth Activities Director Larry Thayer, and Camp Trotter Director/Past State Commander Ernie Meyers. Please forgive me if I forgot to mention any Program Director. We had so many speakers at our 1st VTS Training Seminar. Please forgive me if I did forget to mention you. There will be MORE VTS Training Seminars throughout the State. We will keep you advised. I also made a trip to the Upper Peninsula and visited the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette. I wanted to see for myself that the Veterans Home was operating properly. When I arrived I was met by the local TV Station who interviewed me. I also had a “Meet & Greet the State Commander” at Post 3165 Negaunee and Post 4573 Ishpeming. At each VFW Post, again there was the local TV Station interviewing me. I want to thank the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans and Post 3165 Negaunee and Post 4573 Ishpeming for your hospitality during my visits. I look forward to visiting the Upper Peninsula again.

Now, I would like to talk about MEMBERSHIP. The Life Blood of our great organization. We have a NEW Department Membership Program under my New Director Scott Gloger and his Membership Team made up of Past District 6 Commander Horace Frazier Jr., Past District 8 Commander John Bestervelt and Past District 9 Commander Mike Feneis. Please read it under “Programs” in our Department Website (www.vfwmi.org). We also have a NEW VFW National Membership Program from Commander-in-Chief Brian J. Duffy. Please read this also on our Department of Michigan Website (www.vfwmi.org) under “Programs” or go to the VFW National Website (www.vfw.org) and search “VFW National Membership Program”. ONE of the very important decisions of the VFW

National Membership Program is the “LIFE MEMBERSHIP AMNESTY”. It states “All Life members who are reported deceased between July 1, 2016 and August 31, 2016, will be removed from the Post rolls and the Post’s prior year membership count will be adjust accordingly.” I sent emails to every District Commander instructing them to contact every Post in their Districts and tell them about this important decision by our Commander-in-Chief. Scott Gloger and I also told everyone attending our 1st VTS Training Session at Camp Trotter for Children about this important decision. I had it in General Order #2. I had it in “Talking Points”. So I hope every Post throughout the Department took advantage of this one time offer by our Commander-in-Chief Brian J. Duffy. Regarding the Membership Figures, as of today, July 31, 2016, National has “not” entered the Life Members. Our Total Membership Figure is 1.72%. Michigan is #30 in the Nation. We have a total of 58 New Members. Districts 5 & 12 are tied for 1st Place with 9 New Members. District 4 is in 2nd Place with 8 New Members. Districts 6 & 10 are tied for 3rd Place with 5 New Members. I know this year that “Michigan” can reach 100% in Membership. I know we can if WE work “together” as a TEAM.

Please read ALL our Programs in My Roster Book that your Post will be receiving. You can also read ALL Programs on our Department Website (www.vfwmi.org) under “Programs”.

I look forward to meeting you in my travels throughout Michigan this year. I also look forward to working with ALL of our Posts, Councils, Districts and Department Team Members for the success of the Department of Michigan. WE are a TEAM! WE are in this together!

God Bless You. Please say a prayer for our Armed Forces, who continue to guard the Gates of Freedom.

STATE COMMANDER

I would like to first begin by thanking each and every one of you who have helped me, supported me and mentored me over the years to become your State Commander for 2016-2017. There are so many of you out there, that whether you know it or not, you have helped me in some way. Whether you made a suggestion, you mentored me, everything you did and said to me has made a lasting impression, which I will never forget and could never thank you enough. So, I would say “Thank You for everything you have done for me”.

I just returned from our 117th National Convention held July 23-27, 2016 in Charlotte, North Carolina. We have a New Commander-in-Chief for 2016-2017. His name is Brian J. Duffy and he is from Kentucky, in the Southern Conference. He is our 1st Desert Storm Veteran to become our New Commander-in-Chief. Our New Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief is Keith Harmon from Ohio in the Big Ten Conference. Our New Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief is B.J. Lawrence from New Mexico in the Western Conference. Our New Quartermaster General is a female Desert Storm Veteran. Her name is Debra Anderson and she is from Missouri in the Big Ten Conference. We also have a New Adjutant General. His name is Bob Wallace from our Washington Office. He is a Vietnam Veteran and Past Commander-in-Chief from New Jersey in the Eastern Conference. Please go to our National Website (www.vfw.org) and read more about ALL of our New National Officers for 2016-2017.

Also at our VFW National Convention, your Department of Michigan introduced Proposed Amendment B-10 to the National By-Laws, which was to extend the Men’s Auxiliary existence until 2017. It “failed” to get passed by the National By-Laws Committee. Instead, the National By-Laws Committee Approved B-11 which states **“Notwithstanding the provisions above, no Post may form an association separately constituted as a subordinate unit, and effective December 31, 2016, all charters shall be cancelled and such subordinate**



units shall be disbanded in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.” I urge ALL Men’s Auxiliaries throughout the Department of Michigan to apply to the VFW Auxiliary NOW instead of waiting until December 31, 2016. We want to make our VFW Auxiliaries throughout Michigan even stronger by having the members from the Men’s Auxiliary join the VFW Auxiliary. Please join today. Don’t wait!

Since I became your State Commander on June 4, 2016 I have been traveling a lot. Here are just a few of the places that I attended. We had our 1st VTS (Veterans Training Seminar) at Camp Trotter for Children on Saturday, June 25, 2016. It was a huge success. We had a great turnout. Mike Martin, Assistant VTS Director coordinated the training session and did a great job. Our Guest Speakers were Past National Commander-in-Chief William “Bill” Thien from Indiana and National Membership Director Robert “Bob” Crider from our National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. Both gave great speeches. Bill Thien gave a Motivation Speech. Bob Crider talked in length on Membership. We had other speakers including our State Senior Vice Commander Matt David, State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson, State Quartermaster/Adjutant Lynn Patterson, State Inspector Bob Williams, All-State Director/Past State Commander Sherwood Pea Jr., Cancer Director Jim Proteau, Community Director Joe Tebor, Employment/Homeless Veterans Director Barbara Locke, Hospital Director/State Surgeon Jerry Smith, Membership Director/MOV Director Scott Gloger, Voice of Democracy/Patriot’s Pen/Teacher of the Year/

STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 20

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

As you likely have heard by now, the VFW passed a By-Laws change at the National Convention in Charlotte NC that cancels the charters of all Men's Auxiliary units effective Dec 31, 2016. I know that this is a bitter pill for some posts that have a thriving Men's Auxiliary. However this is not a bad thing.

Last year the Ladies Auxiliary changed its name to The Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars and now allows men to join. Now anyone that is a member of the Men's Auxiliary should be eligible to join the Auxiliary. It's time for the members of the Men's Auxiliary to put egos aside and join the Auxiliary and continue to support the VFW. How long now have members of the Men's Auxiliary been clamoring that they want to be recognized above the post level? Well, here is the chance for that recognition. So you know, there are already men going through the chairs at department level in some states. To the posts that have Men's Auxiliaries but not an Auxiliary, here is your chance to start a new Auxiliary. Simply contact the Dept HQ and they can get you started in creating a new auxiliary. Long overdue change has come to the VFW, embrace it.

Last year the Dept of Michigan was a little better than 98% in membership. Good job comrades. We were close but didn't get the cigar. Obviously we need to continue to recruit new members. There are still a lot of veterans out there that have never joined the VFW and we need to find them and bring them home. As important as new members are, there are a lot of former members that have let their dues laps. Reinstates are low hanging fruit comrades. You have their names, you can get their phone numbers and



Matt David

Senior Vice Commander

addresses, all you have to do is contact them. Don't just call. Most people have caller ID and if they don't recognize the phone number might not pick up. Letters might not even get a second glance. Get a crew together, go to their homes, and knock on their doors. It's amazing what a little face to face will get you. Did you know most former members left the VFW because after they signed up, they never heard from the post again. They joined before for a reason, let's go remind them why.

Finally comrades, at your post meeting when the adjutant is going through communications and reading all the solicitations for donations for various organizations, please do not forget our very own VFW programs. While many of the other charitable are truly worthy of consideration you will not find a better bang for your buck than the VFW programs. While other charities take a cut off the top to cover administrative costs, 100% of what you donate to the Dept of Michigan's programs goes to that program. Meaning, if you donate a dollar to the cancer program, a dollar goes to the cancer program. NOTHING is taken off the top. Again, you will find no better bang for your buck.

God bless you comrades and good luck in the coming year. I look forward to seeing many of you at the upcoming district meeting and at the Fall Conference.

**MOV MAILING CLARIFICATION:
A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV
IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS.**

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all comrades, sisters and brothers who supported me in my candidacy for this office, I could not have done it without all of you and your positive support. I will do my very best to serve you and this Department. As I said previously, only through teamwork can we achieve success.

So here we are, as of this writing the first two months have flew by and we are off to a great start. I would like to take this time to congratulate all newly elected and appointed officers, directors and chairmen throughout the VFW Posts, County Councils, Districts and the Department of Michigan. I wish all of you a successful and prosperous year. With saying that, I hope that you are in your position because you believe in what the VFW is all about, and you want the organization to grow and move forward. We take that first step when we are sworn in. All officers have agendas or goals that they want to reach by the year's end, and we begin that journey now. Together



Phil Patterson

Junior Vice Commander

as a team we will work towards the betterment of our Posts, County Councils, our Districts and our Department. District Jr. Vice Commanders, your task is great, and your District Commander is going to need your help so please offer up your assistance, in doing this you will take some of the burden off of them and you will learn. Remember, if you got questions you need to ask, working together we will accomplish our goals. Teamwork, Teamwork, Teamwork.

By now you all have probably heard that as of December 31, 2016 there will no longer be a Men's Auxiliary. I would like to thank all of the Men's Auxiliary's for everything that you did to support your Post. I hope that all of you will now join the Auxiliary and continue to give

JR. VIC COMMANDER, continued on page 2

Comrades,

I am honored to be writing this article to all of you as your State ADJ/Quartermaster. Thank you for all the support that you have showed me. It means so much to my family and I. It has been very busy here at Department since the beginning of June. There are a lot of changes going on and I am very excited to see where this year takes us. I am learning a lot and doing my best for you everyday.

We have sent out the bond applications to all Post Quartermasters and I hope you have all returned them or have sent a copy of the bond you have gotten through a different company to Department Headquarters. This is a very important document ALL Posts and Districts need to have them filed with the Department.

I hope that you are all enjoying your elected / appointed positions and I am



Lynn Patterson

Department ADJ/Quartermaster

thankful for you stepping up and taking on some responsibility. Always remember why you are in this organization and how much you mean to all the Veterans out there that aren't able to speak for themselves. Let us think of them instead of ourselves.

At the 117th VFW National Convention held in Charlotte, North Carolina the By-Law Change was approved by the National By-Law Committee and then the Majority of the Delegates present on the Convention Floor approved it. Therefore, the Men's Auxiliary will cease to exist on

ADJ./QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 2

God Bless Our Troops

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Hoping that this summer brought each of you joy and warmth of soul and body. Your State Chaplain had the time to recharge and renew and is embracing more opportunities to serve. This includes the upcoming Dept. Fall Conference, when all Chaplains are invited to attend a related breakout session. It is a fellowship and best practices meeting that could be helpful.

Since each new fiscal year often brings changes in leadership, with some new Commanders (and Aux. Presidents) taking the reins across our state, here is some gentle advice:

Please be inclusive, but definitive; considering well all applicable perspectives but seeking the proper organizational outcome notwithstanding personal desires. Please do not sacrifice sound long-term objectives for short-term wants. Your foundation is usually built upon the decades of selfless service and dedication of many before you so be certain to uphold the values and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Note well the pictures of those commemorated on your walls and undertake efforts to honor them and keep your Posts (Districts and/or County Councils) viable, strong, and relevant.

Moreover, collaborative leadership is usually far more productive and effective than authoritative rule. Therefore, please know that equity, innovation, wisdom, humility, and integrity will be of more valuable than gold. The arrogant will not take gentle correction or tolerate

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



suggestion, but the open-minded will consider carefully, ask for assistance when needed, and appreciate added knowledge. Proverbs 9:8-9 *ESV*, "Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning."

Hoping to see a number of you soon. Until then, may we please remain humble and understand that our respective blessings are many. Let our perspectives reflect the awareness that so many gifts abound – great and small – despite hardships and travails. We need look no further than the beauty of nature, the love and/or kindness of others, and/or amazing considerations too often taken for granted (the life in our bodies, the liberty to read the MOV, and etc.). May we be positively uplifted, strengthened, and inspired by His grace. Philippians 4:8 *ESV*, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

May God bless you.

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

the same support.

We must remember our membership, let's retain the comrades that we have and if some have slipped through the cracks we must go out and get them back. This may require going door to door, going door to door it more personable it is a good time to talk with that comrade let them know that they are valued as a person and not just a number. Maybe they stopped coming for some reason, this is your opportunity to bring them back into the post and listen to their concerns and or ideas. When we get our new members in remember to be patient with them they are there to learn do not force them into positions or appointments this may turn them off and drive them away.

To all Commanders, when you send in the dates and times of your District

Meetings, Post events or any other events that you may have and you would like a Department Representative to attend, will you need to send in your request for the Dept. Officer that you would like to be there. If possible, try to give three names.

At our Fall Conference (Pow-Wow) at Boyne Highlands Resort, I will be meeting with the District Junior Vice Commanders. A time, date and place will be determined and I will let all of you know ahead of time. Please bring your questions, ideas for recruiting, retention, programs, or anything else on your mind. I look forward to meeting each of you.

You are our future District Commanders. Please remember, I work for you!! If you have questions please ask me, I will get you an answer. (616) 755-3176 or ppatterson@vfwmi.org

DEPARTMENT ADJ/QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

December 31, 2016. Please contact your Men's Auxiliary Units in your Posts and make them aware of this. Now it is time for the VFW Posts that do have a Men's Auxiliary to join the VFW Auxiliary, so they can continue to support their VFW Posts by becoming members of the VFW Auxiliary.

Adjutants should be contacting the VFW store to order the 2017 By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. They will probably not be out until November but,

if you get them ordered now as soon as they are printed they will be sent to you.

Fall Conference is fast approaching September 28th – October 2nd 2016 at Boyne Highlands. We would like to have all Post Inspections completed by then. I hope to see you all there.

I hope you all enjoyed your summer and it didn't go as fast as mine did. As always any questions or concerns please contact me at Dept. and I will do my best to assist you.

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Congratulations to all of the comrades and auxiliary members for your willingness to take on leadership positions within our great organization. We will continue to move forward assisting each other fulfill our duties and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for electing me as your Judge Advocate 2016-2017. I intend on working closely with the commander, council of administration, and you to have a great year. We have much work ahead of us and everyone needs to do their part.

I just attended the 117th VFW National Convention in Charlotte, NC, which set record attendance. The Department of Michigan was well represented. I would highly encourage you to attend not only your post meetings but our Department of Michigan conventions and the National convention as well. You can make a difference in our organization

Kevin Conklin
State Judge Advocate



at every level if you get involved by attending these meetings.

At midnight of December 31, 2016 the Men's Auxiliary will no longer exist. It is time to work with the Men's Auxiliary and encourage them to join the Auxiliary. They will be able to continue the same work they had done before. We do need our Auxiliary and they need our support. If your post does not have an Auxiliary it may be time to consider starting one.

Thank you again comrades and let's work together to have a great year!

Kevin Conklin
State Judge Advocate

National Council of Administration



Harry "Les" Croyle

Comrades of the Great State of Michigan this is my report as your National Council of Administration Member for Michigan.

At our first C of A meeting we wrapped up National Commander John A. Biedrzycki's year. Our Commander thanked everyone for a job well done.

Two Comrades appealed the ruling of the Commander in Chief in their cases. In each of those the Commander's ruling was upheld and appeals were denied.

Commander in Chief Brian Duffy's appointments have been made and all were approved by the Council of Administration. I will serve on the Committee on Appeals for the ensuing year. This committee is the last appeal in the punitive process of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The new officers for the ensuing year

are as follows. Commander in Chief is Brian Duffy. Sr. Vice Commander in Chief is Keith Harman, Jr. Vice Commander in Chief is Vincent "B.J." Lawrence, Adjutant General is Robert E. Wallace, Quartermaster General is Debra L. Anderson, Judge Advocate General is G. Anthony "Tony" Wolusky, Surgeon General is James R. "Doc" Tuorila, National Chaplain is Rev. Peter R. Hook, National Chief of Staff is Carl J. Kaelin and the National Inspector General is Harold J. "Hal" Roesch II.

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 26-28 in Kansas City. At that time we will go over the budget for the ensuing year, receive some training, and in general get to know one another and who we'll be working with. If you have anything to be brought before the National C of A email it to me at hlcroyle@yahoo.com.

Yours in comradeship,
Harry "Les" Croyle
National Council of Administration
Member Michigan



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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God Bless Our Troops



Advocating For Others



Paul Pirlot

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), often called the signature wound of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, occurs when a sudden trauma or head injury disrupts the function of the brain. Common causes of TBI include damage caused by explosive devices, falls and vehicle or motorcycle accidents. Most reported TBI among Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom service members and veterans has been traced back to Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, used extensively against Coalition Forces.

TBI may happen from a blow or jolt to the head or an object penetrating the brain. When the brain is injured, the person can experience a change in consciousness that can range from becoming disoriented and confused to slipping into a coma. The person might also have a loss of memory for the time immediately before or after the event that caused the injury. Not all injuries to the head result in a TBI.

The VA has recently determined approximately 25,000 claims for TBI were improperly adjudicated due to issues with the compensation and pension examinations. These exams took place between 2007 and 2015. The exams were conducted with either a VA physician or a contracted provider. It has been alleged that many of these exams were conducted by doctors who weren't qualified to diagnose TBI's or who were not approved specialists.

The VA has acknowledged the problem and has been contacting affected veterans to offer new evaluations by properly qualified specialists. The Secretary of

the VA has provided guidelines for those affected by a possible improper diagnosis and implemented the following corrective actions:

- VA will order a new initial TBI exam with the proper specialist if requested by the veteran.
- Additional evidence will be admissible to support a prior claim for TBI.
- If the prior inadequate exam is in the veteran's folder it will be replaced with the new exam.
- The VA may award an earlier effective date if evidence exists showing symptoms were present at the time of the inadequate exam.

Important to note: Although the VA will notify or has already notified the affected veteran, **it will be up to each veteran to notify the VA if they want to be reexamined.** The veteran will have one year from the date of notification to request the exam.

The VFW has almost 3,000 veterans nationwide who could be affected. It is quite probable many of these reside in Michigan. Please get the word out and if you know of any veterans who may be affected by this please have them contact the VFW Service Office, where one of our service officers will be ready to assist you! They can be contact at:

VFW Service Office
McNamara Federal Building
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. 1215
Detroit MI 48226
Ph: 313/964-6510
FAX: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov
Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Department Service Officers

SUCCESS STORY

I'm not a real big fan of computers or social media. Both seem to have taken over our lives and I spend at least half my duty day reading and responding to emails. In the following case; however, social media played a major role in the successful resolution of a claim and gave a veteran and his family hope for a brighter future!

One of our service officers belongs to a social networking group for Coast Guard moms. One of the mothers asked her what she did for a living and our staff member replied she was a veterans service officer and assisted former service members with obtaining benefits from the VA. The mom became excited and asked our service officer if she would contact her son who was struggling with health issues and financial difficulties. Our service officer contacted the veteran who resided several states distant. She then arranged for a signed VA form that would allow her to review his records.

What she learned both shocked and frustrated her! The veteran had become seriously ill during basic training. The illness lasted several weeks. He was misdiagnosed and thus did not receive appropriate medical treatment. By the time he was properly diagnosed the damage was already done. He required major surgery that resulted in the use of a colostomy bag for the rest of his life.

Try processing and living with that as a 20 year old!

A brief lesson from Pathophysiology 101: A colostomy is a surgical procedure in which an opening (stoma) is formed by drawing the healthy end of the large intestine or colon through an incision in the abdominal wall and suturing it into place. This opening, in combination with the attached stoma appliance (colostomy bag), provides an alternative channel for feces to leave the body. It may be reversible or irreversible depending on the circumstances.

The misdiagnosis of the illness was only the beginning. The rating official granted a 10 percent disability evaluation when the Code of Federal Regulations called for a permanent and total rating of 100 percent! When our service officer discovered this she confirmed her findings and contacted the rating official who had issued the decision. Fortunately the rater owned up to the mistake and immediately set out to correct the error.

A decision was rendered properly compensating the veteran and all was sunshine and roses, right? Wrong! Due to an administrative oversight the exact dates of the veteran's service were called into question. Once this was settled the case sat untouched, ignored, and forgotten in the system. It was time to call in reinforcements so we contacted our National Veterans Service (NVS) in

Washington, D.C.

One phone call was all it took to entice the VA to spring into action. Within days of the intervention of the NVS director, the veteran received a retroactive check

of almost \$30,000. With twins on the way this will most certainly help! This is another example of the VFW making a difference in the lives of veterans and their families!

VFW NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER AWARD PRESENTED TO VFW DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER KAREN GREENE THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2016



On Thursday, July 7, 2016, State Commander Jerry Gorski presented to Karen Greene the Department of Michigan's Nominee for the VFW Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award. It reads, "In recognition of your exemplary service and untiring devotion to advance and support the ideals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its National Veterans Service programs as the VFW Department of Michigan nominee for 2015-2016 VFW Accredited Service Representative of the Year." This Prestigious Award was signed by Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki and Adjutant General John Hamilton. Karen works at the John Dingell VA Medical Center in Downtown Detroit and is a member of the VFW Detroit Regional Service Office. State Commander Gorski presented this award to Karen at a luncheon at the Hockey Town Café in Downtown Detroit in front of VFW Service Director Paul Pirlot and fellow Service Officers and Staff Members.



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DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Roger D. Fater
District 4 Commander



Hello District 4 Veterans of Foreign Wars. It is with great pride that I can represent our district as your commander. It has been a long time coming for me to attain this position, and I will assure you that I will do this job with the utmost integrity and passion. With all of the posts and members help WE will be SUCCESSFUL.

Congratulations to all of the newly elected post officers. It will be your task to make sure that your post runs and operates as smooth and efficient as possible. Make sure when your post does something than you REPORT what you have done to the respective chairman in the department.

I want to thank all of the comrades and sisters who have helped the district by volunteering and accepting their respective chairmanships.

The beginning of the school year is

right around the corner, and that means it's time to get your Voice of Democracy, and Patriots pen programs into full swing. This program is the gem of the VFW, and our district chairpersons will need all of the post chairman's full cooperation to make it a TOTAL SUCCESS, as in the past years.

Our first district meeting will be at the Gibraltar Post 4230 on September 18th at 12:00 mark it on your calendar.

If I or any other of the officers of the 4th district can be of any help to your post, PLEASE don't hesitate to contact us any time. We are here to help your posts succeed, and be viable.

Thanks again for your confidence in myself and the officers of the 4th district to help OUR district grow and prosper.

Yours in comradeship,
Roger D. Fater



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

John Griffith
District 6 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters of the 6th District,

The sixth district is off to a great start for the year. For the past two months I have traveled the District attending meetings of 10 of our 21 post. I am overwhelmed at the spirit of the members within those Posts I have visited thus far. The Post Commanders and members within the District are "Excited & Doing What Has To Be Done" to promote our programs and no doubt this is going to be a fantastic year for the Super Sixth District.

Our Inspectors have scheduled all the posts for inspections and many have already been completed, so we stand in good stead to complete all of the Post Inspections by the time Fall-Conference rolls around. The Post Commanders & Quartermasters are to be praised for the cooperation and their preparedness for the inspections, which makes this effort go so smoothly.

Congratulations are in order to Monroe Post 1138, which recently hosted a "Mortgage Burning Ceremony" for their facility. A lot of work and effort by the members of the post and especially Past Commanders Dan Birchfield and Dave Miller, were expended to pay that mortgage off early.

On August 1, 2016, Carleton Post 4093 will hold the second elections of officers for the year completing the requirements for their merger with Newport Post. While we never like to see one of our Post retire their colors, Carleton Post is making every effort to welcome the former members of the Newport Post and they will be strengthened by the merger.

Special thanks to our District Adjutant and Grass Lake Post 10194 Commander Dann Todd for his efforts in the Jackson, MI area. Recently Dann, the Department Commander and I visited with a number of Viet Nam Veterans in an effort to re-establish a VFW Post in Jackson, MI. Dann is spearheading that effort and is "Doing What Has To Be Done" to expand our VFW fraternity. Post 10194 is also to be commended upon their efforts to

get in the eye of the public by promoting the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs in area schools. They have even made arrangements for their honor guard to present the "colors" at home football games in the fall.

Hooray for Post 6462 in Dundee. They currently are coordinating with the Auxiliary at Department in making efforts to establish a new Auxiliary at their post. The Auxiliary is an integral part of the VFW and only serves to make any Post stronger in promoting our programs and efforts to support our veterans.

The efforts of Post 701 in Lansing to make new members feel a part of the post and VFW are noteworthy. Post Adjutant Allen Bachelder and Commander Don Caswell have developed a program wherein they have a special meeting for their new members giving them a briefing on the interworking of VFW, their Post and the VFW Programs. What a great example to set for other posts within the District. What better way to make a new member feel a part, and a needed member of our fraternity.

Gratification is the only word I can use to describe the number of Post within our District that have made the commitment to go for the "All-State" program this year. There is no doubt, having made such a commitment; they will succeed in accomplishing their goal. We are going to have a number of "Honor Post", hopefully you are doing your part in helping your post attain their goals.

Our District website, located at www.vfwmidist6.org, should be visited by all of our members. There you will find information concerning important dates. Also you might be interested to know that District 6th is the first District within the Department of Michigan to have a site sponsor. "Visiting Angels" stepped forward and paid for our annual site and we welcome them as our sponsor. Remember if you have an event scheduled it can be posted on the website by sending in the information and we can place it on the calendar.

As I close this first District Report prepared for the "Michigan Overseas Veterans", I want to leave our members with a reflective thought. The VFW is participating in the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration. Most who served in that war, whether drafted or volunteer were the sons and daughters of WWII veterans who were patriotic and instilled those values in their children. We, those children, left our homes and the shores of our country to serve with an abiding belief that we were fulfilling a duty and obligation to our country as taught to us by our parents. When we returned, while we didn't expect ticker tape parades and brass bands, we did expect our sacrifices and those of our comrades who didn't make it to at least be respected. It was not and the veterans of Viet Nam stepped forward and said "never again" to the way we were treated. That is why today's veterans of Bosnia, The Persian Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and the continuing war on terrorism are today treated as hero's as is appropriate. When we recognize a service member we greet them with an open hand and thank them for their service.

Currently in our nation there is another group of individuals who have a lot in common with the way our

Viet Nam veterans were treated. This group also deserves our respect, and our thanks for their service. I am speaking of our nations Law Enforcement Officers. Many of our VFW Comrades and Sisters in the Auxiliary have served and retired or are currently serving as law enforcement or correctional officers and know well the sacrifices that are made on a daily basis to keep our society safe. We, as veterans, need to lead the way in honoring these men and women and show them the respect they deserve. I urge all members of the VFW and especially members of the sixth district to extend a hand of friendship to our law enforcement officers. Solicit the local Chief of Police, Sheriff or State Police Post Commander for the names of officers that should be submitted for the "Officer of the Year" program. Extend a hand of friendship and thank them for their service as we do to service personnel when we see them in public, or perhaps your Post could host a Law Enforcement Day breakfast or other event for area officers and their families. You might just find a number of potential VFW members among their midst as many officers are veterans. Let us "Do What Has To Be Done" both inside and outside of the VFW. God Bless you all for what you do!

District Meeting Schedule for the 6th District:

DISTRICT 6 MEETING – August 13, 2016 Mason Post 7309

School of Instruction Starting at 10:30 (Activities & Hospital Reporting)

DISTRICT 6 MEETING – December 3, 2016 Graf O'Hara Post 423,

Ann Arbor, MI

DISTRICT 6 MEETING – April 29, 2017 Monroe Post 1138, Monroe, MI



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Allen Henson
District 7 Commander



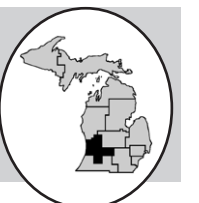
Hello Comrades, Fall is upon us. We have started our inspections and will be to your post soon if we haven't yet. I will be visiting your post soon. You are aware of our programs and should have a good start on them. Membership, as always, is very important not only to the National and Department, but it is the life blood of your Home Post, without it we cannot exist. We our fellow Veterans our best. You yourself benefit from our programs. I have learned many things already this year and I am looking forward to learning more. I learned more about the Veterans of Foreign Wars after I was encouraged to start attending meetings, working through the chairs at the Post level, and getting involved in other programs. There are many comrades in this organization that have the knowledge and abilities to pass on to younger veteran. I would like to challenge each of the "old

timers" to take a younger veteran and make them your protégé. Get that younger veteran involved in the chairs, programs at your Post, Honor Guard details, etc. we need these younger veterans or our Posts will die out. These veterans may need you to push them for a little while. The future of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is in the younger veterans. After these veterans are recruited, don't stop the process. We must continue the recruitment process by educating them. This is done by getting them involved at your programs at the Post. Once they are involved, be open minded to the new ideas they will have and support them. Remember you were young once and needed help. We are never too old to learn. And last, remember to attend District Meetings, State Conventions, and your post meetings, no telling what you might learn.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Steven Eernisse
District 8 Commander



Greetings from District 8 (The Great 8)

Our 2016-17 year begins and I must say that I am honored to have been elected as the New District 8 Commander. I hope to justify your confidence by doing as good a job as possible. I do appreciate all of you who stepped up to be officers in your Posts. I believe the strength of the VFW resides in the local Posts and so does a fair amount

of the work. If we are to have a successful year, most of the work will be done locally. I look forward to getting to getting to know each Post, helping where I can by working together this year.

Membership will again be in the front row of priorities this year. I would like to suggest each Post having a Vietnam Veteran Commemorative ceremony this year. If you

DISTRICT 8, continued on page 5



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Shane Houghton
District 9 Commander



Comrades,

Thanks for your vote of confidence in me by voting me in as your commander. I will do my best not to let you down. I ask all post to get their hospital and activity reports in by the 10th of each month. Take credit for what you do. We can be number one in reporting again this year. It's that time of year again for post inspections. If you have not been contacted yet you soon will be. I would ask that you perform a self-audit first so that you are better prepared for when the inspector arrives. Create a special file or tabbed binder with your evidence so that inspection can be completed in a timely manner. Quarterly audits are due by the end of the following month. Please let me know if there is an issue with this deadline. Maybe I can help. I would

strongly urge each post quartermaster be as transparent as possible by presenting your trustees with all the documents they need to do their job. Receipt book, Checkbook, bank statements, invoices, deposit slips, monthly reports, monthly ledgers. If you have a canteen and gamming they will need all of those documents also. Trustees, your job is one of the most important in the VFW. You may be the quartermaster best friend but during the audit you need to set that friendship aside (friendship is friendship and business is business do not mix the two) Treat the audit as if it was your own money. Insist on access to all the documents you need to do this very important job. If you have a question, ask!!! the quartermaster. Report your findings in the next post meeting.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Michael Lawson
District 10 Commander



Congratulations to all of the new Post Officers in the District, thank you for taking on the responsibility of making our District the best in the Department; I look forward to working with all of you in the ensuing year.

One of our District goals for this year is to have every Post have a Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entrant. This is a fantastic program that helps instill citizenship and patriotism in youngsters within our communities. When seeking

out participants, we should be thinking outside the box by looking beyond traditional avenues for entries; go out into the community and promote this program to Scouting Troops, Civil Air Patrol and the Sea Cadets. Posts that are inundated with scores of entries please reach out to other Posts within our District and give them a helping hand.

Finally, I would like to thank outgoing District Commander Striegel for his leadership and guidance last year.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Wm Paine
District 11 Commander



Hello VFW Comrades, as well as Brothers and Sisters of the Auxiliary. District 11 would like to extend a Hearty Congratulations to Commander Gorski, Sr. vice Commander Matt David, Jr. vice Commander Phil Patterson, Auxiliary President Gloria Dobbie, Sr. vice President Bonnie Pray, Jr. vice President Sandy Medos, And all the newly appointed officers at Department Convention. District 11 is also sending sincere wishes for a successful record breaking year ahead.

Please participate in District meetings. At the meetings we generally have some type of veteran training and many of the things discussed are of value to the VFW and our veteran organization, our

next District 11 Meeting is, August 14th at VFW Post #3033 in Mt. Pleasant. November 6th District Meeting is in Standish at Arenac VFW Post #3724.

November 5th Operation Help at Arenac VFW Post #3724, in Standish. Please come and support Operation Help.

It's very important that you are reporting all activities to department by the 10th of the month. The best way to do this is online and any of you that have a computer, laptop, or tablet can do the reporting. If you are not computer savvy, or don't have one, ask one of your kids, or grandkids if they would help do it for you, it may require that you read your hand written notes for them, but at least it can get reported.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Robert Benderman
District 12 Commander



Congratulations to the newly elected officers and appointees. all your duties and responsibilities for the next year can be found in your podium manual. You should plan on attending all schools of instruction you will gain insight from these.

To all the outgoing commanders, directors and presidents I commend you on a great job. With the new year we all need to work on memberships and getting the younger veterans that are eager to join and participate in our great organization. These younger members need to feel needed and

respected. The saying (back in the day) needs to be abolished and let their new ideas come forth and given a chance. Make them and their families feel welcome.

Good luck this year and if you need any help feel free to call me. Also remember Camp Trotter and all the enjoyment and memories this camp will leave in the hearts of all the children.

Your Comrade,
Robert Benderman
District 12 Commander



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen R. Olsen
District 14 Commander



Recently in Marquette County, a new non-profit organization was formed called "Marquetter County Veterans Alliance." The purpose of this organization is to bring all the community veterans support groups (VFW, DAV, American Legion, AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans, Marine Corps League, etc.) together to support the county veterans. This past June, this group brought the Traveling Vietnam Wall to Marquette. This event was a huge success with over 10,000 people visiting the wall and the ceremonies were first class. A big thanks to the Negaunee Men's Auxiliary for assisting in setting up and taking down the wall.

This is a reminder that we need 100% at our District Meetings. Be sure to send someone to the meetings from your post. Mark your calendars for our next District 14 Meetings: November 6th, 1pm at Menominee Post, February 5, 2017, 1pm at Negaunee Post and May 6th (Banquet), May 7th (Meeting), 10

am at Ishpeming Post.

I encourage you to keep up to date on reporting of all your activities. I often hear of all your great programs so be sure to report them and get the credit you deserve. Membership, of course, is an ongoing challenge. Continue to get the word out and remember to set up our district VFW tent at your fall community events for membership drives. Call me to schedule the VFW tent, it is available for any of your activities.

The VFW Auxiliary is extremely important to our Posts. Please work closely with them, work as a team and encourage a "family friendly" environment. It only takes 15 members to form a new VFW Auxiliary, so if you don't have one, thing about getting one started. Our district has six Auxiliaries out of our 13 Posts so there are some opportunities out there.

I wish you all a great fall and football season!

DISTRICT 8, continued from page 4

spend some effort advertising to get the word out, I do believe you may bring a good amount of these veterans into your posts. If you can then reveal all the good work that we do, you may be able to sign up bunches of these veterans to shore up your Posts. Vietnam veterans have reached or will soon reach retirement age and may be looking for ways to give back to their communities.

If you are not already making plans for the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy programs for the coming year, you should consider doing so. Early planning will help

you get multiple submissions and better submissions for both of these programs. If you need help, please contact our District VOD Chairman Mike Gower.

For those of you interested attending the Fall Conference, you should be considering making reservations soon to assure getting a room.

Remember that the District officers are here to help you work through problems you may be having, so contact us and we will do what we can to help your Posts. Let's all work together this year and have a great year!

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
October/November/December	November 1	April/May/June	April 1
January/February/March	February 1	July/August/September	August 1

Please Remember!

- Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
- Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
- Do not write on back of pictures. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. Try to limit number of people in photo to five or six, at most.
- Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
- We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
- Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
- Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
- DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
- MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:
MOV Editor
Scott Gloger, mov@vfwmi.org
- Auxiliary Editor
Cindy Peto, ccpeto@yahoo.com

11th District VTS Training Seminar

October 15, 2016 at 9:30 AM

V.F.W. Post 1075 Harrison, MI 48625

All Post officers and any member in good standing are encouraged to attend.

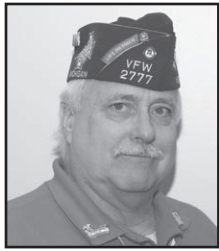
This event is open to all members throughout the state.

Coffee and donuts provided in the morning along with a light lunch.

Bring a laptop or tablet along if you have access to one. Please call VTS Chairman Ray Lopez if you or any Post members plan on attending or with any questions.

Military Order of the Cootie

"Reaching Out" | "Making a Deference"



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!
88th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2016

PGC Eric S. Bell and PGP Pat Thorsby were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President in

May 2016. Along with them were Michael Bayne Grand Sr. Vice; Bill Austin Grand Jr.; PGC Ernest Paulin Grand Quartermaster; PGC Robert E. Wilson Grand Adjutant; Don Allee Jr. Grand Judge Advocate; PGC Harold Whittemore Grand Surgeon; Lowell "Sam" Elston Grand Chaplain; PGC Bob Wilson Grand Historian and PGC Don Martindale as Grand Chief of Staff and Grand Hospital Chairman.

The MOC would like to congratulate the new State VFW Department Officers. We look forward to working with you on both your programs and ours.

As we kick off a new year 2016-2017, our Supreme Motto is "REACHING OUT" and our Grand Motto is "MAKING A DEFERENCE". As you go about your daily activities. Remember to reach out to your fellow veterans and help make a deference.

82th Tomb Trek 2013 Arlington National Cemetery

The 82th Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 28-30 October 2016. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our web site LOTCS.org.

Speaking of web sites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan from either the Departments web page vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocmi.freedompage.com.

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for Dec 2-3, 2016. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever attended one of these parties the kids have a great time.

Please when sending your contribution make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forward to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster 710 Aldrich St. Linden, MI 48451-9050 Phone: (810)-735-7920.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2016-20017

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420.

In closing, remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Ladies or Men's Aux. Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison

Camp Trotter Tales

There was excitement at "Summer Camp 2016" with the new climbing wall extended for the older children (yes, with all the safety equipment in place). Denise "SCRUBS" Arnold was up to her usual self - getting the Staff and children excited. "SCRUBS" has done a remarkable job over the past several years doing what she does best making the Summer Camp full of fun and adventure for the hundreds of children attending camp over the years. Thank you "SCRUBS" for a job well done - You and your Staff performed in a very professional manner and yes, your hubby Chris was again there behind the scenes making the Camp a perfect place for the children. The attendance was around 400 once again this year at Summer Camp 2016. We had nearly 90 children attend under the scholarship program. Through your generosity you made these children very happy and a life time full of memories they will never forget.

Through the many thousands of dollars that you donated coupled with the Annual Golf Outing w/the hole sponsor support, the Annual large raffle and the Texas Hold-em's that is performed during the year - your VFW Camp Trotter for Children is on solid financial ground. However, please help get the word out on the VFW Camp Trotter Foundation that is a 501(c)(3) and can be viewed on the website at: vfwcamptroutterfoundation.org Donations at any level can be made to the Foundation - any questions

please contact the VFW Department Quartermaster Lynn Patterson - she can help you utilize the various credit cards if desired.

FINALLY - The VFW Camp Trotter for Children has been officially designated by IRS as VFW Camp Trotter Foundation. The employer Identification Number is 46-1413579. Effective Date of Exemption is November 26, 2012. Yes, we are a 501 (c) (3) - This qualifies our new VFW Camp Trotter Foundation to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code. Please think about placing Camp Trotter on your Will and Estate planning - why not place the Veterans children high on your priority list. The New WEBSITE: VFWCampTrotterFoundation.org or go to the Department Website: vfwmi.org and click on the words "camp trotter".

The new VFW Camp Trotter for Children brochures will be forthcoming at the upcoming Fall Conference scheduled 29 September thru 1 October 2016 to be held at the beautiful Bony Highlands located at Harbor Springs, MI. There will be an election of three (3) Camp Trotter Committee Members at the Council of Administration at the Fall Conference.

Yes, the 11th Annual Golf Outing is on the books for 2017 to be held at the Village Green Golf Course in Newaygo - Outing date: Friday, 23 June 2017. Please consider your District

and/or your Post/Auxiliary to collect and donate any golfing paraphilia for give-a-ways at registration. Think about putting together a Golf Team and have a great time with your friends and at your Camp Trotter.

Summer Camp 2017 will start with the Staff Training on 26 June thru 30 June with the Camping Season to begin on Sunday, 9 July and ending on Saturday, 12 August. The Staff Training will be a week earlier to allow the Counselors and Staff to be with their families over the 4th of July. The lake water was warmer this past year for the swimmers. This proved positive for the Staff and the young Campers for Summer Camp 2016.

Many upgrades on the Camp facilities have been completed with many more in the future planning. Our Summer Camp Director always has many new surprises for the new Campers each year. In 2016 the "Arts & Crafts" decorative stones and the extension to the climbing wall to name a few - what will be the surprise for Summer Camp 2017- you must have a child attend to find out!

The waterfront has been widened with more sandy beaches for the younger children with canoeing, paddle boats, kayaking and fishing and of course always swimming with a swimming platform for the seasoned swimmers. The new pontoon boat lift was a pleasant addition which protects the longevity of the pontoon. Non-swimmers are taught how to swim by the private instructions by the Life Guards. Enjoy the summer camp fun with the evening bon fires and the hayride that will last a life time. Learning the sport of archery, the GA-GA Pit and the Nature Trail.

Comrades and Auxiliary Members - Your VFW Camp Trotter for Children would not exist if it was not for your continued support with not just financial but, getting the children to camp. The Camp can house 88 children per week so, let's chip in and get your children, grandchildren and your neighbors' children to camp. The VFW Camp Trotter for Children is open to all children ages 7 thru 12 and you do not have to be a veteran to send your child to camp. Now is the time to plan for Summer Camp 2017 and get those children interested to attend your beautiful VFW Camp Trotter.

If anyone would like to obtain the New Brochures please contact your District Commander and District President and they will make sure that you receive a new brochure. The new Summer Camp Dates will be:

9 - 15 July 2017
16 - 22 July 2017
23 July - 29 July 2017
30 July - 5 August 2017
6 - 12 August 2017

The Summer Camping Season has a Registered Nurse/Paramedic on duty 24/7 during camping season along with licensed certified Staff Employees. There is two (2) Life Guards on duty at all times when there are campers in the water.

Thank you for your support to your Camp Trotter - Become a VFW Camp Trotter Life Member (only \$35.00) in which forms will be available at the Camp Trotter display table at the Fall Conference and are on the website online.

Lastly, I am stepping down from the Camp Trotter Committee after ten (10) years as the VFW Camp Trotter for Children Director/Chairman. This was a

very hard decision but, it is time and I have been given an opportunity to assist in the training of two very qualified individuals one is Committee Member Larry Thayer who has given many hours of his time over this past Summer to learn about the administrative duties and responsibilities of the Camp. I would like to introduce District 12 Commander Bob Benderman who has given of himself and financial support to the Camp. He filled in for me to oversee the construction of the erosion (caused by the rain water run-off on the hill leading to the lake). Comrade Benderman has been willing to take on major project(s) and work with the contractor(s) and the young Staff of the Camp.

There are several people I would like to thank for their dedicated service over the past 10 years that I have been the VFW Camp Trotter Director. First, William "Butch" Ogden (nearly 25 years of service), Past State Cmdr. Dave Hutson, Dennis Battle, Richard "Dick" Rought (nearly 8 years of service and always there when called on - working tire-sly to making Camp Trotter something that is awesome), Dave Reeves (6 years of service) and Phil Patterson (State Jr. Vice) (when you look at all the decks in front of the cottages - rest assured they had a big hand in building them) Dave Tester (4 years of service) (always there in the mornings cooking breakfast and/or lunch for the work crew and Family Days - spare time Texas Hold-em's) and Ray Lopez (4 years of service) with his bride Natalie (catch them on the mowers and near the lake), Jack Pray and the Fenton Team (8 years of service (the Team that has put the docking system in and out - a true blessing in disguise for any Camp Director), John Gubin, Bob Lutz, George Wygant and Lon Senko (always there for Texas Hold-em's), Bob Benderman (a huge volunteer over this past year) along with the Newaygo VFW Post 4249 Honor Guard over the past years (always posting colors for the Camp and VTS (Veterans Training Seminar). Second, the Auxiliary - where can I begin - How about Ruth Barnhill "Raffle Ruthie" (always there when called upon - the go to girl for a money maker), Cheryl Moorhead (the rock of Gibraltar for this Director over these years - always willing to help out in any way - 50/50's, Texas Hold-em's, Large Raffle) i.e., Jenny Prohaska and Michelle Stafford (the ladies that were there every year making Camp Trotter beautiful with their skill in planting flowers), Karen Rasey, Nickie Koos and (daughter) Leslie (always there when called upon to work the many Texas Hold-em's. I know I must have missed some people that have helped out over these past years but, I will never forget those many Volunteers that have made your VFW Camp Trotter for what it is today.

To the Past Department Commanders that I have served under - I would like to say thank you for your support and in making Camp Trotter the "state of art" for the Veterans Children's Camp.

I wish you each "Fair Winds and Following Seas"

**Past State Commander/
VFW Camp Trotter Director
Ernie Meyers, Sr.**

Happy Trails.....

Membership Program



This is a new year and a new opportunity to recruit new member. If every member would recruit just one new member we could double our membership, for the great State of Michigan.

Here is the new membership program for 2016-2017, please check it out. It is very doable to achieve 100%.

Do not forget if you have any questions or concerns or need me at a recruiting function, just call at 734-323-1188 or email miroadrunner52@yahoo.com.

Scott Gloger
Membership Director

2016 – 2017 MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AMNESTY

All Life Members who are reported deceased between July 1, 2016 and August 31, 2016, will be removed from the Post rolls and the Post's Prior year membership count will be adjusted accordingly.

- Any Post that obtains 100% in membership will receive a banner.
- Any Post that obtains 100% by Fall Conference will be put in a drawing for \$200.00. Deadline is September 30, 2016.
- Any Post that obtains 100% by Mid-Winter Conference that was not 100% by Fall Conference will be put in a drawing for \$200.00. Deadline is December 31, 2016.
- Any District that obtains 50 new and reinstated members by State Convention and has reached at least 98% in membership will be put in a drawing for \$500.00. Deadline is April 30, 2017.
- The Top Recruiter will receive a \$200.00 Gift Card to spend how they would like. **Make sure you remember to put your name and membership number on the application.**
- The Post with the most new and reinstated members for the membership year 2016-2017

In the following divisions will receive \$250.00.

Division 1	Post with membership of 0-99
Division 2	Post with membership of 100-199
Division 3	Post with membership of 200-299
Division 4	Post with membership of 300-399
Division 5	Post with membership of 400-and up

- The District with the most new and reinstated members for the membership year 2016-2017

In the following divisions will receive \$500.00.

Division 1	District with membership of 0-2000
Division 2	District with membership of 2001-3000
Division 3	District with membership of 3001-and up

Scott Gloger Commander
Membership Dir. 734-323-1188 miroadrunner52@yahoo.com
Horace Frasier 734-218-5239 frazierwxyz@sbcglobal.net
John Besterveldt 269-381-9296 jbestervelt@att.net

With the heat, we should be aware of our homeless Veterans out on the streets. I would like each and everyone of you to check in with the local organizations on what is available in your area to help with homeless Veterans. There are many organizations that can put up a Veteran in a motel for a couple of nights. Consider working with your local organizations and create a safe warm place for a Veteran to have a home. Please contact me with any information. I will be sending out information for different locations and organizations that might be able to help.

God Bless Our Troops

National Home for Children



The National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids has been very busy in the first week of August as we held the Annual Michigan Day on the campus. It all started Friday with the second annual Ohio State/Michigan State golf outing. There were 10 teams with 39 people participating. The winners were the team of Ernie Meyers, second place the team of Sherwood Pea, and in third the team of Les Croyl. Skins were won by Jerry Gorski, Sherwood Pea,

and Modaleo. Dave Strange won the 50/50 and donated it back to the National Home. I thought my team was a winner for my first time playing golf with our score of 85, but I was sadly mistaken. Thanks to Lynn Patterson for all your hard work on the Golf Outing.

Saturday our Michigan team cooked for the Ohio day and prepared 450 hotdogs and 360 hamburgers. Thanks to my super cooking team of Commander Jerry Gorski, Senior Vice Matt David, Junior Vice Phil Patterson, Post 7309 Junior Vice Jack Berry, 7309 Auxiliary members Joe Little and Mike Keller. The two leaders of the team were our chefs from Southfield post 2645 Lonnie Bennett and Rudy Wade.

Sunday was our Michigan Day, our posts and Auxiliaries posted 114 sets of flags. It is always a beautiful and patriotic view with all of them blowing in the breeze. Ohio did a great job cooking for us and we filled the gym with our Michigan members.

Michigan raised \$43,486.79 which was not enough to keep the coveted oak bucket Michigan has held for the past year. Ohio had raised \$44,758.50 the day before. Although we lost the bucket for the coming year, it was the kids who were the huge winners as well as the National home who received over \$88,000 from our friendly competition this year between our two great departments.

It has been a real honor to be the National Home Director since June. It has been a steep learning curve but we were able to have a successful Michigan Day. I could not have done this without the help of my auxiliary counterpart Veteran Family Support Chairman Diana Ward. She was invaluable in making sure each of the stations was up and running perfectly.

I will keep you posted on the upcoming events and news from the National Home.





Activities Reporting

Comrades as we start a new reporting year off I want to urge all of our posts to send in at least one activity report, there are a few ways to do this online through the Department website, snail mail, or email it directly to me at dmarti5500@hotmail.com. We managed to get reported 100% for 2015-2016 and it was a struggle, it is easier than you may think to report your Post activities look in the Commanders Roster under 2016-2017 Activity Evaluation Program, the program is laid out for you there. If you have any questions or need help please by all means call me I will be glad to help if I can. Now please DO NOT SEND ME ANY Hospital Reports, report your Hospital work to Jerry Smith, if it comes to me it may not get reported. You cannot report working around the post, fish fry's at the

post are not reportable, if you donated some dinners to someone you can claim that. Do not report attending your County Council or District meeting. Do report how many hours your project took, how much your hall rental is when you donate your Post, how many members participated and how many miles you traveled. Many of the reports are leaving valuable reportable data unreported. If you are reading this please take this to your post and inform your chairman, too much information is not getting to the right people. I look forward to working with you again and hope for another successful year.

Don Martindale
586-771-2881
28836 Armand Warren, MI 48088
dmarti5500@hotmail.com

STATE COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

First of all I want to thank Outgoing State Commander, Paul McIvor, for the opportunity to serve as State Community Services Director last year and secondly, I would also like to thank Our Incoming State Commander, Jerry Gorski, for allowing me to continue serving in this capacity. Actually, it was Jerry who first appointed me as his Community Services Director; then he called me back the next day and asked me if I would like to "practice under Paul for a year so I could get it right under him". Comrades, we had a fantastic year and I am happy to report that the Department of Michigan was 100% reported in Community Services for the reporting period 1 May 2015 – 30 April 2016. All 287 Posts throughout the state submitted at least one (1) Community Services Report and that is the first time in several years that this has been achieved. I extend my sincerest appreciation and congratulations to our 287 Post Commanders and 12 District Commanders for their dedication and hard work in getting this done.

At our State Convention in June, I had the pleasure of presenting a total of 29 awards. Each of our twelve (12) District Commanders received a Certificate of Achievement for attaining 100% reporting in Community Services within their District. Next 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place awards were presented in each of the four (4) Divisions. These awards are based solely on the number of reports submitted. In Division I (10-65 members), 1st Place went to Cadillac Post 6864 (District 12), Cdr. Don Grage with 790 reports; 2nd Place went to Captain Charles Osbourne Post 5189 (District 8), Cdr. Ed Wesoloski with 655 reports; and 3rd Place went to Iosco County Post 5678 (District 11), Cdr. Dennis Frank with 550 reports. In Division II (66-125 members), 1st Place went to Renner-Lobker Post 3306 (District 9), Cdr. Dennis Stuart with 1910 reports; 2nd Place went to Eldon L. Chadwick Post 6017 (District 12), Cdr. Jim Carlson with 1390 reports; and 3rd Place went to August-Custer Post 7956 (District 8), Cdr. George Walder with 1206 reports. In Division III (126-225 members), 1st Place went to Tuscola County Post 4164 (District 10), Cdr. Kerry Anderson with 1897 reports; 2nd Place went to Linwood-Kawkawlin Post 6950 (District 11), Cdr. David Dunn with 1558 reports;

and 3rd Place went to Jean R Anderson Post 7309 (District 6), Cdr. Lawrence Hauer with 1217 reports. In Division IV (226 & Over), 1st Place went to Otsego Post 3030 (District 8), Cdr. Steven Keene with 4108 reports; 2nd Place went to City of Monroe Post 1138 (District 6), Cdr. David Miller with 3073 reports; and 3rd Place went to Owosso Memorial Post 9455 (District 9), Cdr. John Gorte with 1529 reports. Congratulations to all of our Division winners for the outstanding manner in which they documented and reported what their Posts did throughout the reporting period.

Each year Department recognizes three (3) "Outstanding Community Service" Posts based on their overall participation in Community Service programs and interaction within their local communities. This year's recipients are Grand Ledge Post 3293 (District 8), Cdr. Stephen Klein; Mayflower/Lt Gamble Post 6695 (District 4), Cdr. Robert Caldwell; and North Oakland Post 334 (District 5), Cdr. James Hubbard. Congratulations, not only to these Post Commanders; but, to their general membership, as well, for their overwhelming support of the Community Services Programs.

Although no Special Projects Award nominations were received for National consideration, our Department Special Projects Award was presented to Oskar A. Andreas Post 1794 (District 5) for the construction of a Global War on Terror Monument in Mount Clemens, MI. This monument, which displays the names of all those servicemen and servicewomen from Macomb County who have lost their lives in combat in the War on Terrorism, sits on a site outside the Macomb County Building. The members of Post 1794 will maintain the monument and ensure that the names of all future Macomb County veterans, who die in combat, are added to it.

The New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Douglas L. Penfield, Grand Ledge Post 3293 (District 8). Immediately upon joining the VFW and Post 3293 on 17 December 2014, he organized a raffle ticket sale that raised \$3,900 for the Grand Ledge Korean War Memorial. He organized a "Winter Solstice Party" in February, 2015 that raised another \$2,800 for Grand Ledge Korean War Memorial. In May, 2015 he raised over \$950 for his Post's Relief fund in his first

ever Buddy Poppy Drive. Additionally, he organized the SPC Rappuhn Memorial Poker Run, a three (3) day fundraiser 31 July-2 August, 2015, which raised \$13,000. \$6,500 went to Volunteers of America for their veterans programs and \$6,500 went to the Grand Ledge Korean War Memorial. Douglas Penfield is a proven leader who works well with the other veteran's organizations such as the American Legion and its Auxiliaries. Young members like comrade Douglas Penfield are the future of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Two Posts from Department of Michigan, Otsego Post 3030 (District 8) and City of Monroe Post 1138 (District 6) were nominated for the National Outstanding Post Award. It was announced at Department Convention that both of our nominees were selected to receive this prestigious award. The respective Post Commanders, Stephen Keene and David Miller or their designated representative will receive the award at the VFW National Convention in July. The award includes a plaque inscribed with the name of the VFW Post and its Auxiliary (if Post to put up in their community. This brings the total number of Community Service Awards to 31. Congratulations to all of our award winners.

Those of you who attended VTS at Camp Trotter received handouts and new information concerning the New Member

Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award and the Special Projects Award, two areas the Department has been deficient in. I explained the requirements of both programs and among the handouts were the Special Project Entry Form, which I pulled off the vfw.org website, and the newly developed New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award Nomination Form, which will simplify the nomination process.

Jerry Smith, State Surgeon, and I will be instructors at 6th District's School of Instruction just before their District meeting on 13 August and the above mentioned award programs, both of which earn All State points, will be covered in detail. I must commend 6th District Commander, John Griffith, for being the first to have Jerry and I present our programs first hand.

As great as last year was, if the 1st two (2) months are any indication, YOU, COMRADES, are on track to break all previous reporting records. For the months of May and June, the Department of Michigan is already 59% reported in Community Services. That is a phenomenal start. As Walt Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it". Keep on dreaming, comrades and let's make this a year to remember.

Joe Tebor
Community Services Director

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Jim Fernandez

Greetings Comrades, Sisters and Brothers!

It has been a busy couple of months on the POW/MIA front, and time to start planning for September 16th, 2016 – National POW/MIA Recognition Day. If you are planning a observance for that day, take pictures and make sure I get copies for display at the Pow Wow. Sharing your ceremony and/or public displays is food for thought for the Post's in the Department to share. Ask a local restaurant if you can set up a missing man table for the third week in September in their establishment. Explain it's significance and how your post is raising awareness in in your community of the POW/MIA's. If you are aware of any MIA's from your area, list their names or even contact any surviving family members and let them know what you are doing, a little bit go's a long way.

I was honored to be a guest speaker, and perform the Missing Man March with the National POW/MIA Honor Guard at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, and asked by the family of George Paul Grifford, MIA in Korea for 65 years, to be with them for his burial in Arlington National Cemetery. I was honored to represent the Department of Mi. and escort his family to his internment back in his home country. I will be writing a article about it including pictures for the next MOV. "WELCOME HOME CPL Grifford, You Were Not Forgotten"!

Keep those reports coming and mail me pictures of your events to: Jim Fernandez, 5622 King Rd, China Mi. 48054. I'll be waiting to hear from you and looking forward to seeing everyone at the POW WOW.

Jim Fernandez
Dept. of Mi. VFW POW/MIA Director

NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

This is the first of a series of articles to inform and educate the membership about the various Community Services Awards Programs that are available. When I was appointed State Community Services Director last year by Past State Commander, Paul McIvor, my goal was to get the Department of Michigan VFW 100% reported in Community Services. To that end I put all of my time and energy into achieving that goal. With the cooperation and hard work of various State Directors, and all of our District Commanders and Post Commanders, the Department of Michigan was not only 100% reported in Community Services; we were number one in the Nation in Community Services reporting.

Unfortunately, as a result, some of our other awards programs were neglected and fell by the wayside. I accept full responsibility for that and I will do everything in my power to rectify this situation this year.

The New Member Community Services Volunteer of the Year Award was one of the programs neglected. There are 287 active Posts in our Department; but only one (1) nomination was submitted to Department for consideration. I just can't believe that we only had one (1) new member in the entire state that did any volunteer work last year. I also can't believe that our Post Commanders would not take the time or effort to recognize one of their members if they qualified for this award; therefore,

NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD, continued on page 9



NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICES VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD, continued from page 8

I must conclude that very few of you know that this award program even exists.

This award has been around for quite a while. It used to be a National Award; but, was discontinued a few years ago and now only exists at Department level. There were never any clear guidelines set for this award. There wasn't even a form available to submit the nomination on. For the purpose of this award, a new member is anyone who has been a member of the VFW for less than two (2) years; therefore, a person who has been a new member of your Post for less than two (2) years, but has been a member of the VFW for two (2) years or more, does not qualify for this award. I have designed a form which must be used to submit the award nomination on. Copies of this form were passed out to those who attended the VTS training at Camp Trotter in June. A full size copy of this form is located in this issue of MOV and copies will also be provided to all District Commanders at Fall Conference. All the Post Commander has to do is fill in the blanks with the required information, attach a narrative describing what the new member has done, sign the form and submit it to their District Commander.

There are no minimum numbers of volunteer hours worked or projects/events worked at to qualify for this award. Even if a new member only works one (1) hour at one Post event, they qualify to be nominated for this award. Every Post will receive five (5) All State points for the first nomination form submitted to their District Commander for this award. A copy of the nomination form should also be provided to me so I can ensure that your Post receives All State points. You can either email it to me at cs@vfwmi.org or mail it to me (my address is in the Commander's Roster Book located at your Post). Every Post will also receive one (1) All State point for each additional award nomination submitted, not to exceed four (4) additional points. That's a total of nine (9) All State points every Post can earn for nominating five new members for this award. Once all of the nomination forms and attached narratives have been submitted to District, one (1) entry will be selected as the District New Member Community Services Volunteer of the Year Award winner. The Post that submitted the winning entry for each District will receive an additional five (5) All State points. Each District Commander will establish the guidelines for selecting the winning entry from their District. For example, they may select the winner themselves; they may set up a committee to select the winner; or they may have the committee select the best four (4) or five (5) entries from which they could select the District winner.

Each of the twelve (12) District Commanders will sign and date the nomination form of the winning entry from their District and forward it to the State Community Services Director, Joseph L. Tebor, 9941 Garvett Street, Livonia, MI 48150-3297. One (1) entry from among the twelve (12) District winners will then be selected as the Department of Michigan New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year. Once again, the Post that submitted the winning entry at Department level will receive an additional five (5) All State points. The Department winner will be appropriately and publicly recognized at the State Convention in June.

The whole purpose of this program is to recognize the contributions our new members have made and publicly acknowledge them at every level we can. Everyone appreciates being recognized for what they do; it's human nature. I encourage and strongly recommend that every Post present each new member nominated for this award with a Certificate of Appreciation at the Post General Membership meeting or a Loyalty Day luncheon etc. The Post could reward their winner with a Camp Trotter Life Membership or a National Home for Children Life membership. These can be purchased for \$35.00 each, using the Post Relief Fund, and the purchase also counts as a donation on the monthly Activities Report and qualifies for All State points if the check is sent to Department earmarked for Camp Trotter or the National Home for Children. I also encourage District Commanders to likewise acknowledge their Post entries and District winner at a District meeting etc.

Comrades, only one (1) new member in the entire State was recognized for his contributions and nominated for this award last year; so, we obviously didn't do a good job in this area. A little recognition of a new member's contributions to your Post could make a difference in that member's attitude toward your Post and the VFW in general. It could mean the difference between a person being an active member vs being just a member in name only. We need active members to maintain our organization. Post Commanders, please nominate every member of your Post who qualifies as a new member with less than two (2) years in the VFW. If you will make a commitment to do this, together we can turn this program around and make it something to be proud of. Please direct all questions and comments to me at cs@vfwmi.org.

"Ethics is doing the right thing when no one watching" so let's all do the right thing.

Joseph L. Tebor
State Community Services Director

SCOUTING PROGRAM

Good Day everyone,

I am humbled the Commander Gorski asked me to take on the Scouting Program role. Scouting is the way in which we can help recruit new members. OEF/OIF/GWOT veterans are all having children that are in the scouting age range (6-18). BY becoming more involved in Scouting, your post is showing the scouts and their families that you care about their success.

There are several ways a post can help the scouts in your community:

Charter a new unit- Charter means to sponsor a unit. Often times when posts do this the newly formed unit will take on the post number as their own. Free advertising

for the post!

Financial support- the scouting community is always in need of financial support. Any support your post offers is appreciated. Financial support could be donations to a Friends of Scouting campaign (this support scout programs as a whole), buying equipment for a specific unit in your area (or your chartered unit)

Volunteer- this is the most important way to outreach to a scouting unit. When I say volunteer, I don't necessarily mean be a scout leader and plan activities. However, you do not have to work with the youth to support the youth. Volunteer as a district committee member or volunteer as a

commissioner; these roles are always in critical need for the scouts.

Volunteering also doesn't need to be an all year venture, either. Scouting programs operate in "seasons"; the fall is the membership season, recruiting new youth into the programs. Fall is also the Boy Scout Popcorn fundraiser season. Winter is the big push for money and fundraising. Units and the scouting organization as a whole are looking to raise money from corporations and business owners to support their programs. Spring is typically a big wrap up of both money and youth recruitment. Summer is the time for fun, going to camp and all the other outdoor activities.

If there is one time of the year or one particular function that you feel you could help with; doing finance presentations to a business owner, or working at a summer camp for a week, or helping a unit recruit some new scouts, the list is endless.

Facility use is another way of supporting the scouts. Let scout units into your halls for meetings or special events. Support them with folding tables and chairs when selling cookies or popcorn. Let the scouts use the kitchen. There are many ways that we can use our physical assets to support the local scouting community.

Activities- Invite scouts with you when you do parades or other special events, ask them to support the post when selling poppies. Scouts need service hours for

awards and rank advancement, if we push this aspect we are helping out two fold. The scouts get their hours and the post gets assistance with its activities and special projects.

Ideally a post would get as involved with a local scouting program as possible. A post that charters a unit could support it with a volunteer commissioner, occasional financial donations, and letting the unit use the building for their meetings.

I truly believe that scouting will help the VFW slow its membership crisis, just as the VFW can help the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts with their membership declines.

We have had some great successes in the Metro-Detroit area. Posts have been donated money, volunteering, chartering new units, and letting them hold special events. The VFW is the largest, non-religious supporter of scouting and with good reason. Future military members and government leaders come from the scouting ranks and those members become members of the VFW. So get out there and show your support for scouting! Feel free to contact me Stephen.grima@scouting.org if you need any assistance.

Yours in Scouting,
Stephen Grima
Unit Service Executive- Sunset District
Great Lakes Field Service Council
Michigan Crossroads Council
Boy Scouts of America

MOV STUDENT VETERANS

State Commander Gorski has sent up a team to visit the different Student Veterans of America throughout the state of Michigan. Currently there are 40 different SVA in the state of Michigan ranging from community colleges to university. It is the job of this team to explain how the VFW will help the students that are eligible to join this organization.

Today's veterans can face any number of obstacles while furthering their education. Taking advantage of all the benefits they've earned and DESERVE shouldn't be one of them. That's why the VFW, in conjunction with the Student Veterans of America (SVA), developed the 1 Student Veteran program. 1 Student Veteran offers direct

assistance to student veterans who have questions or are experiencing problems accessing their VA benefits.

This program is well on its way for new members of the VFW. My first meeting with the SVA at Jackson Community College, I had some interest of the students joining the VFW. Out of the small group of members I meet, I had 5 who want to join. I am planning another meeting with the SVA in September so I can talk to a larger group of the member.

Jennifer Heraty
Jr. Vice Commander VFW 1136
District 4 Surgeon
SVA/VFW Lesion

NEW MEMBER COMMUNITY SERVICE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINATION FORM

(A new VFW member is anyone who has been a member of the VFW less than 2 years)

Each Post will submit at least one nomination for New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award. Each Post may nominate more than one new member for this award and you are encouraged to nominate every new member. Post Commanders will sign and date each Nomination Form and submit it to the District Commander. The Post should retain a copy for their files and forward a copy directly to the Department Community Services Director. A separate form must be used for each new member nominated. District Commanders will establish deadline dates for submission to them. Each District will select one (1) entry as the District New Member Community Service Volunteer of the Year and forward that winner's nomination form to the Department Community Services Director to arrive NLT 1 May 2017.

New Member's Name _____ VFW Member # _____
Post # _____ Date Joined VFW _____ Date Joined This Post _____
Inclusive Dates Covered by This Award Nomination: From _____ To _____
Total # of Volunteer Hours _____ Total # of Projects worked on _____
Total Dollar Amount Raised as a Result of This Member's Efforts \$ _____
Elected and Appointed Positions, if any, Held at The Post, County Council, or District Level and the Dates Each Position Was Held: _____

Briefly describe the contribution this new member has had on your Post and the community you serve _____

Attach a narrative describing in detail the accomplishments, functions, events, projects etc. this member was involved in.

Post Commander _____ Signature _____ Date: _____
District Commander _____ Signature _____ Date: _____
District Winner Yes _____ No _____ Date selected _____ Date sent to Department _____

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Gloria Dobbie

Thank you to the Michigan Department Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars for having the confidence to elect me as Department President for the 2016/2017 year. Even though I was hospitalized during our State Convention, I was honored to have been elected and installed via Skype. The technology allowed me to witness the election and installation of our officers even though I could not be there. I was informed by our National Organization that this was the first time a Department President was installed in this manner. We made history! Thank you to my Auxiliary 4659, in Shelby Township, and to District 5, for your continued support. I could not have accomplished this without you.

Congratulations to all newly elected officers on every level. With the change allowing men to join our Auxiliary, we have elected many male members to positions on District and local levels. We are looking forward to adding many more male members to our ranks this year. At our National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, The VFW voted to disband all Men's Auxiliaries as of December 31, 2016. Please extend an invitation to them to join our Auxiliary.

Welcome to our new Treasurer, Nicole Koutz, our new Guard, Stephanie Krueger, and welcome back to Department Secretary, Cindy Peto. Congratulations to Jan Passmore on her 18 years of serving the

Department of Michigan as our Treasurer. Our best wishes to Jan in all of her future endeavors.

In "going green" this year, I would encourage you to take advantage of all this has to offer. Please refer to our Michigan website often. You will be provided with all of the necessary tools to ensure the success of your Auxiliary. Please visit and "Like" our Facebook page. Visit the National Auxiliary website.

Congratulations to Past President Deb Hanes on being named Runner-up Department President at the National Convention. We are proud of you, Deb, and your team of Chairmen. Congratulations too, on having been appointed as National Americanism Ambassador and National Patriotic Instructor.

In addition to the honors Michigan received at the National Convention, our own Sandi Onstwedder, was elected as National Conductress. This the next step in her journey to become National President. Sandi, your Department is so proud of you!

This year our Program Pin is a blue teardrop with combat boots. The purpose of the pin is to bring to the forefront suicide awareness and its effect on our Military and Veterans. The proceeds will be donated to our Department Hospital Program.

We are looking forward to working with Commander Jerry Gorski and his team on every level. I appreciate the kindness the VFW has shown to me and my officers. I'm sure we will have a great year working together.

Our Theme this year says it all; "Veterans – Ordinary People – Extraordinary Courage". Please join me in working for the interests of our Veterans.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Karen Rasey



Greetings to the Fifth District,

I want to thank all of you for your support. A special thank you goes to my son Carl Rasey, the first male member of my Auxiliary, for nominating me. By now we have been to the National Home for Michigan Day, where we ran the fishing contest. It was a very fun event and I thank you all who helped.

We are now doing inspections. Debbie, Nancy, and I are enjoying our visits and

meeting our many new members and seeing ones who have become friends over the years. I want to welcome back Auxiliary 1224. To all of my Auxiliaries, I want you to know I'm here for all of you. Remember I'm only a phone call away if you have any questions.

Chairpersons, please go to your Schools of Instructions at our District meeting, Fall and Mid-Winter Conferences. Then be sure to report all that your Auxiliary has accomplished.

Remember District 5, our Department President is our own Gloria Dobbie. Let's make her proud of the "Mighty Fifth."

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Dawn Shock



Salute from District 6!

It's an exciting time of year. Summer will be winding down but the most colorful season will soon be upon us. Michigan is certainly the best place to be for the season change.

It's also exciting to be part of this wonderful organization. I have the honor of being eligible for membership under my father, who proudly served in World War II. I, like many members, serve as we do because of what our veterans have done. I've been a member for 15 years.

There is nothing that makes me

prouder when I seen a group of veterans being honored by students who take part in the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, and Patriotic Art contests. That makes me feel that we are doing our job, teaching students about veterans.

District 6 will hopefully be growing this year with a new auxiliary. Not to mention a growing of membership with addition of male members. So many of them I've seen are willing to step up and be a vital part in our organization. Please remember to give the new members the guidance they need to be a part of it.

Remember to report the great things you and your auxiliaries do for our veterans and communities. Hoping you all have a productive year.

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Marlene Gaitan



Hello – my name is Marlene Gaitan and I am District 8 President. I joined the Auxiliary in 2011 under the eligibility of my brother, a Viet Nam Veteran. I am a

member of Auxiliary 2144 in Holland but if you can't find me in Holland, I can probably be found at the Baldwin or Custer Posts near my cabin in Baldwin. I was born and raised in Holland, live in Holland, and currently work for the City of Holland in the Public Safety Department.

On the local level, I have held the positions of Jr. Vice President, Trustee, and going on my fourth year as Auxiliary President. On the District level, I have been Jr. Vice President, Sr. Vice President, and of course, currently District 8 President. Just this last year, I served as the Department Americanism Chairman and Patriotic Instructor. I have also held chairmanships on the local level for Americanism, Scholarships, and Hospital.

My favorite program is Americanism. I think it is very important we continue to teach the importance of Patriotism in our community and especially to our youth.

District 8 is on the southwest side of Michigan. As of right now, there are 13 Auxiliaries in my district which

covers the counties of Ottawa, Kent, Allegan, Kalamazoo, and Ionia. Just recently we welcomed and instituted our newest auxiliary in Coopersville! I am very excited to witness the growth and enthusiasm for a new Auxiliary that our District is currently experiencing.

Our District meetings are as follows; Saturday November 5 in Coopersville #5598, Saturday February 4 in Charlotte #2406, and the last one for the year Saturday May 6 in Portage #5855.

My goals for the year are to encourage attendance at meetings, trainings and conferences on all levels. I have noticed in the past few years, attendance is low and continues to get lower. I would like to see more members attend these functions because I truly believe there is no better way to learn about our programs and events. It is also a great way to meet new people and see how others are promoting our programs. There is such a wealth of knowledge at all meetings and it is sad to see such few members attending.

I would to end by saying that I am very excited to have been given another opportunity to learn, teach, advocate, and mentor in this great organization. I am especially looking forward to visiting the Auxiliaries within my District for inspections and meeting new people.

Hope to see you everyone at Fall Conference!

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Debbie Allen



My name is Debbie Allen and I am very proud to represent District 4 as your President. I joined the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars under the eligibility of my husband, Past District 4 Commander and State Honor Guard Sargent Ron Allen. Ron served in the United States Marine Corps in Viet Nam.

District 4 is located in Wayne County and is the only District in the Department of Michigan that covers only one county. Currently there are 16 Auxiliaries in our District with the institution of Romulus Auxiliary #9568 on July 17. The first meeting was held on September 11th (Patriot's Day) at the City of Trenton VFW Post 1888. National Recruiter Marian Belaire attended and provided us with membership training as well as school of instructions. Second meeting will be held on February 12th at City of Wyandotte VFW Post 1136 and the third and final meeting will be held on May 6th at Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW 6695.

I am a life member of the Auxiliary to the Romulus VFW Post 9568. I have served as a District Jr. & Sr.

Vice President, a trustee and also District trustee. I also held numerous chairmanships both in my own Auxiliary and with the District Auxiliary. I have been retired for one year and am enjoying every day because now I have more time to help our veterans.

My husband and I have been married for 43 years and we have a son Ryan and a beautiful future daughter-in-law Melissa. Wedding plans are being made for 2017.

My favorite program is Veterans & Family Support. Our veterans have been through so much that they need resources to get the help they need and deserve, especially those suffering from PTSD, and homeless vets. On October 11th at Romulus VFW Post 9568 is hosting a luncheon for homeless veterans.

One of my goals is to work closely with the Auxiliaries to help improve membership and submitting monthly reports to Department on time. I would like to see more Auxiliaries in our District receiving Auxiliary Achievements.

We need to continue to grow our membership, remember, males are now eligible to join the Auxiliary. One last thing to remember we are here for our VETERANS home and abroad. God Bless them and their families!!



**DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT**

Barb Calkins



Greetings from the mighty 9th!

My name is Barb Calkins. I'm your District President for 2016-2017. I'm a life member of the Renner/Lobker Post #3306 Auxiliary. I

became a member in 1991 under my son, Todd Whalen. I've held every office in the Auxiliary level, with 10 years as Treasurer. In addition, I've held every position at the District level with being District President for District 8 in 2003-2004.

After my husband away, I transferred Auxiliary #3306, and served as Auxiliary President. Our Auxiliary was award the

Auxiliary Achievement award that year.

I have 3 daughters and 1 son, my pride and joys are my 9 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. In 2014 I met and married my husband Leslie, who is also a member of the VFW.

My heartfelt VFW Auxiliary Program is Americanism. Our country is losing sight of this. My second program is Suicide Awareness. I have been an advocate and have spoken with several organizations on how to make the public more aware.

September 4th, I will kick off my auxiliary inspections and look forward to working with our Brothers and Sisters.

Let's get out there and make the 9th district, truly the Mighty 9th District.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Roxann Buchler



Hello my name is Roxann Buchler and I am excited to be serving a second term as the District 13 President. I joined Auxiliary #2496 in June, 2010 under the eligibility of my

father, Melvin Skinner, who served in the Army during the Viet Nam war.

I have held, at the local level, the positions of Conductress, Senior Vice, two years as President and now am currently serving as Chaplain.

District 13 consists of the following counties: Alpena, Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Emmet, Grand

Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Montmorency, Otsego, and Presque Isle.

District meetings are November 5 at Harbor Springs #2051 and May 6 at Alpena #2496, which is my home Post.

My favorite programs are Veterans and Family Support, the core of our reason for being an Auxiliary, and also Hospital.

My goals for this year are to be 100% plus one in membership and to recruit.

I am married with two adult married children and have been blessed with seven grandchildren.

I am proud to be a member of this organization and to be able assist our veterans. I do this in memory of my father.

*God Bless you and
God Bless Our Veterans*

DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Norma VanEtten



Ladies and Gentlemen of VFW Auxiliary, we are off to a great year. Looking forward to working with District 10 commander Mike Lawson to achieve great things.

A lot of Posts are starting their fish fries in August. Fenton #3243 has steak

bingo on the second Saturday of the month. If you have never participated, it is a lot of fun and, yes, you win steaks!

Post 822 has Karaoke on Friday evenings. Won't you come sing with us or just listen and enjoy a great time.

Looking forward to inspections starting soon and seeing all my Sisters and Brothers of this great organization.

God Bless you all have a good year!

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Della Petaja



Greetings to the great Auxiliary members of the 15th District. It is an honor to serve once again as the District President. For those who don't know me, I am Della

Petaja and I live in Calumet with my husband Vic. We have a daughter who resides in New Jersey with her husband and twin four-year-old children. We also have a son and daughter living in Calumet.

My passion is the VFW Auxiliary and serving our Veterans in any way I can. I believe the best thing that could

have happened was inviting males into our Auxiliary. There are those fathers, brothers and sons who have joined us and are working to help our Veterans.

Our 15th District planning meeting was held in Covington at Post 9084. We were treated to a great lunch by PDP Faith Stenson and the Auxiliary. All the chairmen reports were given and some new and imaginative ideas were shared, and reporting all activities was stressed. We are looking forward to a productive year.

I am looking forward to our District Meeting September 11 at Chassell #6507 and the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. Hope to see you all there.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Denise Arnold



Hi, my name is Denise Arnold and I am the District 11 Auxiliary President and Auxiliary President for the Borley Hanel Post 3033 in Mt. Pleasant, MI. I joined the VFW Auxiliary

under my father George Demski, a WWII veteran. I am married to Chris for 3 years and have 3 grown children and 4 fur-babies.

This is my second time as a District President, and my third year as Auxiliary President. I am looking forward to serving this organization and our veterans to the best of my ability.

My biggest goal for this year is to promote the organization and our programs along with encouraging membership of both men and women in the auxiliary.

My favorite program is Camp Trotter.

I have worked at Camp Trotter for the past 7 years and thoroughly enjoy being with the children and ensuring that their camping experience is the best and most enjoyable for them.

Of the National Programs, my next favorite is the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship Programs. Hearing what our youth feel and understand about things like patriotism and being good citizens is awesome. It makes you continue to have faith in our future leaders.

District 11 covers Bay, Midland, Isabella, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Iosco, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Crawford, Oscoda, and Alcona Counties. Our District meetings are held the first Sundays of August, November and May.

Remember to ask your friends, neighbors or those people on the street if they know about the VFW and if they are eligible to join!

EXTENSION/CHIEF OF STAFF

Marilyn Malick

I would like to begin by congratulating Commander Gorski and President Dobbie and their officers on their new positions and wish them a successful year.

As Extension Chairman it is my job to assist in maintaining the VFW Auxiliaries that we currently have and to help VFW Posts in our state establish new VFW Auxiliaries.

The first goal of maintaining current Auxiliaries is something that we all have to play a part in. Find ways to get involved and to get others involved. Get motivated and get others motivated as well! Utilize the Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit that can be found on the National website at www.vfwauxiliary.org and the Department website at www.vfwauxmi.org. Find out what is going on in the organization by reading the program blogs. And above

all else support all veterans! If you have and questions throughout the year do not hesitate to call or text me at 586-536-6004 or via email at MJMalick@wowway.com.

The second goal is to assist VFW Posts in our state establish new VFW Auxiliaries. **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BENEFITS TO HAVING A VFW AUXILIARY IN YOUR POST?**

It can open the doors to new membership in the post.

Help with family-oriented events and meal preparation.

Help spread the word on Scholarship programs and other VFW programs including Buddy Poppy Drives.

Boost the Post's visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.

Help to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.

Your VFW Post can have all of these benefits and more by starting a VFW Auxiliary in your Post! If you are interested, please contact me by phone or text at 586-536-6004 or by email at MJMalick@wowway.com.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Connie Kiggins



Hello everyone my name is Connie Kiggins, District 12 President. I have 9 counties and 16 auxiliaries that I represent.

We will have our District meetings in Manton on September 11 at the Eugene Kimbel Post 7806, Reed City on November 6 at the Reed City Post 2964, April 9 at Newaygo Sportsman Post 4249 and May 7 at the William J Beal Post 446 in Muskegon.

I originally joined the auxiliary at Post #1329 in Hart in the late 1980's under my husband who was an Atomic and Korean War veteran. Since our Auxiliary instituted, I have held the positions of Guard and Senior Vice President.

We have a family of 6 sons, 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. My husband was a licensed contractor

and I had a wholesale flower business and riding stable.

I have been an advocate for veterans and people with disabilities since 1989, a foster parent and guardian. I currently volunteer for veterans, Medical Reserve Corp, Citizens Emergency Response Team, West Golden Wesleyan Church food pantry, West Michigan Disability Network, weather watcher and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

I enjoy doing the Legislative program, staying involved on new legislation and input on what is needed. I recently testified, for the second time, at national about chemicals and agents used in Korea for veterans and about VA's laws for Atomic veterans that have been disregarded by the VA.

I want to keep our membership up and increase all of our Auxiliaries' memberships.

Wishing everyone a fantastic and healthy year.



Auxiliary News continued

VETERANS' & FAMILY SUPPORT



Diana Ward

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

My name is Diana Ward and I have been given the honor of being your Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by our President Gloria Dobbie. I am a member of

Auxiliary #3243 in the 10th District. I earned my eligibility through my father, James Ward, a retired Navy veteran. I am also proud to say that my mother, Viola Ward is a Navy veteran. I grew up with a strong sense of patriotism and devotion to veterans. I truly believe in our National theme of "Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes" and our Department theme of "Veterans – Ordinary Americans – Extraordinary Courage." I am looking forward to sharing this journey with you this year. I would love to meet each and every one of you so please take a moment to introduce yourself to me when you see me at any Department or individual function.

It was great seeing all of you at the VFW National Home for Children for Michigan Day. It was another successful day thanks to all of you who were there. For those of you who this was your first visit, it's an amazing place don't you think? Thank you to all the District Presidents who assisted and the members of your Districts that helped to make the day a wonderful experience for all.

There will be a School of Instruction at the Fall Conference. I will be going over all the aspects of the program; however, if you have questions please feel free to bring them. I'm sure that there are a lot of other members who have the same questions. This is a time to get them answered. Reporting for the second quarter is quickly coming to an end. Make sure that you enter something. We would like to make our President Gloria 100% in each quarter. Your report can be as simple as telling me you read your Bulletin during the meeting. You bought a veteran a meal. You have Buddy Poppies displayed in your Post home or that you decorate with them for special events.

What is coming up? We have the Buddy Poppy Contest at Mid-Winter. Be sure to check out your bulletin for the specifications for your display. This is also a reportable project. You should be working on fundraising activities for both the National Military Assistance Program and the National Veterans Service. These programs are intended to help both our active duty military and or veterans. If you know of a veteran in need, direct them to a VFW Service Officer and also help them get a MAP Grant application. Information for both of these are on the Department of Michigan VFW website at vfwmi.org.

Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship is also one of our programs this year. This program is intended for our veterans to cut down on educational costs after separation from active duty. Following are the specifics on it:

Scholarship Details:

- Scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants
- Limited to one per family per semester
- Applications for the fall semester will be accepted January 1 through April 30
- Applications for the spring semester will be accepted August 1 through November 15
- Fall semester scholarships will be awarded in August, and spring semester scholarships will be awarded in January
- Scholarships must be used by the end of the school semester for which the veteran is applying or they will become null and void

Scholarships are restricted for tuition and fees only and will be paid directly to accredited schools

Eligible Applicants Must:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, Technical school, etc.)
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution
- If selected, authorize the VFW and Sport Clips, Inc. to announce and publish award of your scholarship. If awarded a scholarship, the recipient's name, city, state, photograph and essay may be used for promotional purposes by the VFW and Sport Clips, Inc. without further consent from the recipient

Finally, Buddy Poppy days was in May; however, remember we promote the Buddy Poppy all year. Remember to tell me in your reports what you used them for, how you promoted them and how many you used. Another thing aspect of the program is to report how many veterans are being added and served by the many projects we do. Toot your horns, let me know how many you are providing care and assistance for.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

Diana Ward
Department of Michigan Veterans
& Family Support Chairman

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AMERICANISM

July is a time to celebrate America. It is a time to display your patriotism. The Flag should be flown proudly at its peak. Lay down your electronic devices and pay attention! When the flag passes in a parade we should stand at attention and place our hands over our hearts, or render the proper salute. If the National Anthem is being played, stop what you are doing, face the music and place your hands over your heart or render the proper salute. You can instruct those around you who may be unaware. Don't disrespect our Flag. It is not to be used as clothing, decoration or a tablecloth. It is not to be cut up so the stars can be handed out. Appreciate the wonderful gift of freedom that we enjoy on a daily basis. Remember the suffering our forefathers endured to win us this precious freedom. Remember those who have fought or who continue to fight for our nation. Honor each and every one. If you are a veteran your service, dedication and devotion is greatly appreciated, Thank-you!!!

9-11 is a day to be remembered. Attend a ceremony as 15 years ago 4 passenger airplanes were used by terrorists to attack the United States. This was the most deadly attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor. The terrorist claimed they were going to change America. They did. The day after the attacks U.S. Flags were displayed from every home or building that could get their hands on one. Flag sales skyrocketed. Patriotic music was being played on every radio station. As the years march on, the flags are not so prominently being displayed. Fewer people attend the ceremonies. We need to continue to remember. We need to continue the flame of patriotism! We must never forget. This day must not be tucked away silently into the history books.

POW/MIA Day is the 3rd Friday in

September. This year it is September 16th. This day is one of six days the POW/MIA flag is officially flown. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. This flag serves as a symbol of our nation's commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of ALL Americans who are still a prisoner, missing or unaccounted for in all wars.

On March 21, 2016 The U.S. Senate passed HR 1670, the National POW/MIA Remembrance Act 2015, in which a commemorative chair will be placed on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. "Commemorative chairs, which carry the POW and MIA insignia, have been placed in cities and towns around the country, in spaces ranging from city halls to professional sports stadiums. These seats remain perpetually unoccupied as a solemn reminder of the over 83,000 brave service members still waiting to be brought home. The National POW/MIA Remembrance Act of 2015 direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a commemorative chair bearing the logo of the National League of POW/MIA Families in a prominent location in the U.S. Capitol."

Fly the POW/MIA Flag. Attend or conduct a ceremony. Explain the importance and the meaning of this flag. Explain the meaning of the Missing Man Table and every item on it. Let every POW or MIA know that they are *never* forgotten!

Gold Star Remembrance Sunday is September 25th. Americans are asked to express their sorrow and love to the Gold Star Mothers and their families who have lost a son or daughter in the line of duty in times of war or conflict. Display your U.S. Flag. Express what being an American Citizen is all about!

HOSPITAL CHAIRPERSON



Mariann Hammon

Veterans and their family members need your help. Thousands of Veterans and their family members are currently in hospitals, nursing homes, adult day care centers, clinics or rehabilitation centers all over Michigan. What can you do to help? Here are five ways: JOIN, CONTACT, CREATE, DONATE, or VOLUNTEER.

JOIN: As a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, part of our dues goes to support Hospital Programs. Membership helps strengthen our voice in Washington on Veterans health, compensation and benefit issues.

CONTACT: If you know a Veteran or their family member is hospitalized, you could send a greeting card, call them or even make a brief visit. If you are going to your own doctor appointment and see someone wearing a military cap, thank them for their service. Even give them a smile of appreciation. These inexpensive activities could really make their day.

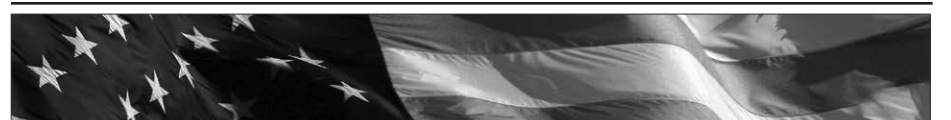
CREATE: If you sew, crochet or knit, you could create special, much needed gifts like lap robes, wheelchair bags,

walker bags, dignity bags, stump covers, etc. Suggest a project for your sewing club. If you are creative in other ways, you could make greeting cards, tray favors, or room decorations to brighten the day for patients or residents. If you have a transportation issue, your local Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary may be able to help deliver your creations.

DONATE: Recent magazines, books, new or gently used clothing may be needed but contact the facility to be sure. Rules vary greatly by facility. Monetary donations are always needed. Make your donation through your local Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Be sure to specify how you would like your donation to be used.

VOLUNTEER: You could accomplish much more by becoming a regularly scheduled volunteer. There are many volunteer opportunities at most facilities: monthly, weekly, occasionally. Most facilities try to maximize on your personal skills or interests to place you where you would make the biggest difference. You could be a greeter, a friendly visitor, help transport patients, help in the gift shop, or help with recreational activities like bingo parties.

If you have questions on how you can help or want to make suggestions, please feel free to contact me at (313) 378-8103 or via email at mhamann61547@hotmail.com.





AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP



Stephani Kruger

Much change is happening in the world of the VFW Auxiliary and we need to constantly be on board with those changes.

Do you know there was an Auxiliary resolution at the National Convention in July to dramatically increase the Life Member costs for auxiliary members? Here are the results and what they mean to you and your families:

Effective January 1, 2017, Life Membership fees will be increased by 15%. Everything costs more these days and this is no exception. So this is your chance to buy a relative a gift of a life membership,

before the end of the year. Contact your local Auxiliary for assistance on this.

Another resolution presented on the VFW side was to **end ALL Men's Auxiliaries by 12-31-16**. This means in order to continue be affiliated with our organization, those eligible members will need to apply for membership in the VFW Auxiliary.

This Resolution was adopted and all Men's Auxiliaries will be defunct by December 31, 2016.

While the VFW Auxiliary National Organization reached 100% last year, we missed it in Michigan by a few hundred members, so this year we are more determined than ever to be **100% plus 1**. All we need is you to get us the members and their proof of eligibility, and we will take care of the rest. Please consider being a part of the year Michigan is once again **100% plus 1**.

ORDER YOUR LUCKY 2017 MONEY RAFFLE CALENDAR NOW!

Drawings will be held at the Department office, 924 N. Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 at 10:00 am each Wednesday and for the 6 preceding days. You need not be present to win. After the 7 tickets have been drawn and winners are recorded, they will be returned to the drawing drum for subsequent drawings.

52 drawing dates, one each Wednesday for the period Thursday through Wednesday. Total prize distribution for this fundraiser will be \$10,075. The drawings are as follows:

- \$200 x 3 - Memorial Day, September 11, and Veterans Day
- \$100 x 5 - Army Day, Navy Day, Marine Day, Air Force Day, and Coast Guard Day
- \$50 x 3 - Bonus Days – Department Testimonial, Camp Trotter Day and National Café Event
- \$25 x 353 - All Other Days

We look forward to your participation with this fundraiser. These calendars make great gifts for birthdays, Christmas, and anniversaries. **If you are purchasing a calendar as a gift, please let us know if you would like them mailed to you or to the person who is receiving the gift. We must have the names and addresses for the calendars you are purchasing as gifts.**

Calendar orders received by 11/18/16, will be mailed by 12/2/16. All other calendars will be mailed upon receipt of the order form.

Thank you for your continued support in our fundraising endeavors. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 517-487-3715.

Loyally,
Gloria Dobbie
Department President

Calendars are \$25 – complete the order form below and return with your check payable to: Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY. For additional orders, please attach names and address.

Address: _____
City _____ State _____
Zip Code _____ # Ordered _____ Total Due: _____

Return order form and check to:
Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary
924 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906



Live Auction Friday Night 7pm -???

District Verses District

(The District that raises the most money will **WIN \$100.00**)

The total amount of money raised by the donated items from Auxiliaries within each district, will be added together to determine the District that wins. We request that your Auction item be of significant value to help add up your Districts total. Thank you for your support!

Please bring your item yourself or arrange for someone to bring it for you.

All Proceeds will go into the General Fund
(All items must be paid for that night)

AUXILIARY TO MORLEY S. OATES #701 CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A DINNER IN HONOR OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLETTE BISHOP

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 25
5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Morley S. Oates Post #701
123 N. Rosemary Street
Lansing, MI 48917
517-485-1656

COST: **\$10/per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 15, 2016

MENU:

2 meats	Rolls	Potatoes	Dessert
Vegetable	Coffee/Tea	Salad	

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave in Lansing, MI 48906 **Make checks payable to Colette Bishop.**

Name: _____

Number of reservations _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(If more than one reservation, please list all names)

Send reservations and payment to:
Taryn Earls
2300 Hampshire Road
Lansing, MI 48917

Checks payable to:
Morley S. Oates
Auxiliary #701

**God Bless
Our Troops**

**AUXILIARY TO MECWARF #5310
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A LUNCHEON IN HONOR
OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLETTE BISHOP**

DATE/TIME: Tuesday, October 25
11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:15 Reception
12:00 Luncheon
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Mecwarf Post #5319
120 Veterans Avenue, Athens, MI 49011
269-729-5865

COST: **\$7 per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 15, 2016

MENU:
Shepherd's Pie w/Biscuits and Cornbread
Cole Slaw Coffee/Tea Dessert

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. ***Make checks payable to Colette Bishop.***

Name: _____

Number of reservations _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(If more than one reservation, please list all names)

Send reservations and payment to: **Checks payable to:**
Teone Toman **Mecwarf Auxiliary #5319**
108 W. Territorial Road
Battle Creek, MI 49015

**AUXILIARY TO BORLEY-HANEL #3033
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A DINNER IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLETTE BISHOP**

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 24
5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Borley-Hanel Post #3033
4841 E. Pickard, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-773-3396

COST: **\$10/per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 14, 2016

MENU:
2 Meats Salad
Potatoes Coffee/Tea
Vegetables Dessert

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Colette Bishop.***

Name: _____

Number of reservations _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(If more than one reservation, please list all names)

Send reservations and payment to: **Checks payable to:**
Ruth Ayris **Borely-Hanel Auxiliary #3033**
PO Box 855
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**AUXILIARY TO LAWRENCE A. SIMS #2269
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A DINNER IN HONOR OF
NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLETTE BISHOP**

DATE/TIME: Sunday, October 23
5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
5:15 Reception
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Lawrence A. Sims Post #2269
2652 Loon Lake Road, Wixom, MI 48393
248-624-9742

COST: **\$17/per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 13, 2016

MENU:
Appetizers Green Bean Almondine
Coconut Chicken Salad
Herb-Crusted Pork Loin Assorted Rolls
Oven-Roasted Potatoes Desserts Coffee

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Colette Bishop.***

Name: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(One form per reservation, please)

Send reservations and payment to: **Checks payable to:**
Juanita Skonieczny **Lawrence A. Sims Auxiliary #2269**
1473 McCoy
Commerce Twp., MI 48390

**AUXILIARY TO CURTIS-WOLVERTON #3243
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A LUNCHEON IN HONOR
OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLETTE BISHOP**

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 24
11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:15 Reception
12:00 Luncheon
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Curtis-Wolverton Post #3243
1148 N. Leroy Street
Fenton, MI 48430
810-629-3700

COST: **per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 14, 2016

MENU:
Sub Sandwiches
Assorted Salads
Desserts
Coffee/Tea

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Colette Bishop.***

Name: _____

Amount enclosed: _____

(One form per reservation, please)

Send reservations and payment to: **Checks payable to:**
Sharon Paulin **Curtis-Wolverton #3243**
710 Aldrich Street
Linden, MI 48451



Scott Gloger, Editor

Editorial Committee:
Paul McIvor, Commander
Jerry Gorski, Sr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Jr. Vice Commander
Scott Gloger, MOV Editor
Cindy Peto, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

Materials for Publication

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Jenny DeBack, President

TAPS

SEND TO:
Department of MI VFW
924 North Washington
Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 485-9456

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for the Taps that you send in.

Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):
USA USAAC USN
USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):
WWI WWII Korea
Vietnam Gulf Other
Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY



345 REDFORD
BOYCE , JAMES H. 89 NAVY/WWII
McTIGUE, THOMAS L. 87 MARINES/WWII
MONTGOMERY, RUSSELL 95 ARMY/WWII
SIROLA, ROY W. 84 ARMY/KOREA
WALSH, RICHARD J. SR. 91 MARINES/WWII
607 ROGERS CITY
BALLER, MARK E. SR. 73 NAVY/VIETNAM
796 PORT HURON
HUFF, G. ROBERT 70 MARINES/VIETNAM
WEIR, JAMES M. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
WILSON, JOHN G. 92 AIR FORCE/WWII
822 FLINT
RULE, JAMES 90 ARMY/WWII
1075 HARRISON
CAPUCCI, ANTHONY L. 73 ARMY/VIETNAM
1136 WYANDOTTE
BIANCHI, FRANK A. 88 ARMY
COOK, JOHN E. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
SHELTON, BOBBY J. 68 ARMY
1138 MONROE
CRABTREE, HERMAN 76 VIETNAM
KEMMERLING, CHARLES 89 NAVY/WWII
MURRAY, BRIAN 47 AIR FORCE/IRAQ
SHEETS, HERB 93 ARMY/WWII
1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES
DI GIOVANNI, JOHN R. 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
GAGLIO, BENNY A. 69 MARINES/VIETNAM/DESERT STORM
GESINSKI, ARTHUR R. 84 ARMY/KOREA
GILLICK, FREDERICK F. 81 NAVY/KOREA
GILLULY, JOSEPH 83 KOREA
LOREN, DAVID K. 67 NAVY/VIETNAM
NELSON, MAX R. 91 NAVY/WWII
REILLY, ROBERT J. 90 ARMY/WWII
1519 NORTHVILLE
DUHONICH, MICHAEL 92 ARMY/WWII
1669 ROYAL OAK
EDWARDS, TERRY 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
2144 HOLLAND
CASSADY, HAROLD 91 NAVY/WWII
HALSTEAD, HOLLIS 92 ARMY/WWII
NASH, DAVID 72 ARMY/VIETNAM
PLANK, RALPH W. 83 ARMY/GERMANY
RESSEGUE, JUNIOR F. 90 MARINES/WWII
SCHUTTE, CALVIN 86 ARMY/KOREA
TUCKER, PAUL 91 ARMY/WWII
2292 EDMORE
HANSEN, LEO J. 92 ARMY/WWII
2409 OTTER LAKE
WENTA, EDWARD J. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
2777 BURTON
VALLET, MICHAEL A. 74 NAVY/VIETNAM
2891 CRYSTAL FALLS
AESCHLIMAN, DONALD 92 ARMY/WWII
FOUCAULT, DONALD A. 92 MARINES/WWII
McINERNEY, RUSSELL F. 82 NAVY/KOREA
VIROSTEK, DONALD S. 87 ARMY/KOREA
3023 GRAND RAPIDS
JORDAN, GORDON 92 WWII
O'NEIL, JAMES 75 VIETNAM
WISSMAN, MERRITT 89 WWII
ZANDSTRA, DEWEY 71 VIETNAM
3243 FENTON
BRODOWSKI, KENNETH 71 MARINES/VIETNAM
HOLLAND, ZEB 91 NAVY/WWII
JOHNSON, ROBERT M.
LEMKE, DERWOOD 91 WWII
PROULX, ROBERT F. 71 NAVY
SCHUPBACH, ELMER J. 89 ARMY/WWII
SCHUPBACH, MELVIN 89 WWII
WARWICK, DAVID B. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
WELBY, WILLIAM C. 83
3293 GRAND LEDGE
CHEMACKI, MICHAEL V. 68 AIR FORCE/ VIETNAM
3314 ARCADIA
STOOPS, RONALD 70 ARMY/VIETNAM
3676 SAULT STE MARIE
BOGER, WILLIAM J. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
DALIMONTE, EUGENE 92 WWII
PAQUIN, JAMES R. 91 NAVY/WWII
PAYMENT, WILLIAM G. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
STOLING, PAUL 100 ARMY/WWII
3901 ALGONAC

BARRICKMAN, LEROY C. 85 KOREA
USCHWALD, LEONARD M. 91 WWII
3925 ERIE
LYNCH, JAMES 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
MEYER, MICHAEL 71 MARINES/VIETNAM
4054 MARCELLUS
BRESEMAN, WILBER 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
TANNER, JIM 77 VIETNAM
4090 PORTLAND
BROWN, WALTER 97 ARMY/WWII
4115 SEBEWAING
WISSNER, GLEN O. 85 ARMY/KOREA
4249 NEWAYGO
BOUWKAMP, LAURENCE 85 ARMY/KOREA
BRANDER, WILLIAM 84 ARMY/KOREA
HORROCKS, RALPH 89 NAVY/WWII
LAISURE, ORA H. JR. 91 NAVY/WWII
NORKUS, BROWNIE 94 ARMY/WWII
4422 TAYLOR
CARTER, JOHN L.
GEHRKE, GAYLORD JR. 62
JONES, CHARLES
KING, S. L.
SAWYER, DONALD L.
SITZ, PAUL 88 ARMY/WWII
STROUTH, RALPH
TLUCZEK, LOUIS 85
4499 MANISTEE
ANDERSON, JOHN W. 88 ARMY AIR CORPS/NAVY/WWII/KOREA
POPA, JOHN R. 88 ARMY/WWII
WILLIAMS, EDWARD A. 85 AIR FORCE/KOREA
5666 FLUSHING
PRIEUR, JAMES 84 ARMY/KOREA
5670 GWINN
GOODMAN, CLIFFORD JR. 76 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
6013 ELKTON
MATTESON, JAMES 94 ARMY/WWII
6165 SOUTH RANGE
STEMBERGER, JOHN 78 MARINES/LEBANON
6464 FOWLerville
VOGT, WILLIAM L. 94 ARMY/WWII
6579 NEW LOTHROP
GROSS, ROBERT R. 82 KOREA
KRUPP, JAMES 89 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
KULANEK, HAROLD 83 ARMY/KOREA
6754 SPRUCE
McCORMICK, DOUGLAS J. 83 ARMY/KOREA
6756 CENTER LINE
CARIE, ROBERT 86 ARMY/WWII
6864 CADILLAC
BAUGHAN, GERALD 71 NAVY/VIETNAM
7542 BIRCH RUN
KALMBACH, MAURICE 91 NAVY/WWII
7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS
DOMPIER, MEL 69 VIETNAM
HAMMERSCHMIDT, JOHN 91 WWII
JEDYNAC, BENEDICT J. 94 WWII
7731 LAKE LEELANAU
DECHOW, FRED L. 99 AIR FORCE/WWII
FLOHE, JAMES P. 84 AIR FORCE/KOREA
7806 MANTON
FOX, OLIVER 93 NAVY/WWII
7979 EVART
KALLAS,JAMES 84 ARMY/KOREA
8260 NASHVILLE
RATHBURN, KAY F. 69 NAVY/VIETNAM
8372 ENGADINE
BIRK, BRIAN 69 MARINES/VIETNAM
8846 MUSKEGON
DONOHUE, PAUL 93 ARMY/WWII
OVERWEG, RANDALL 71 VIETNAM
PICKARD, ROBERT D. SR. 85 ARMY/KOREA
PORTH, THOMAS 68 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
SMITH, KERRY 66 ARMY/VIETNAM
TENBRINK, RODNEY 70 NAVY/VIETNAM
8964 OVID
ADAIR, DONALD 86 ARMY/MARINES/WWII
WARREN, WILBUR 94 ARMY/WWII
9411HOMER
HEATH, HAROLD 73 ARMY/VIETNAM
9489 ATLANTA
COREY, GEORGE 87 NAVY/WWII/KOREA
WEBB, JOHN 83 ARMY/KOREA



Auxiliary TAPS

78 DEARBORN HTS
WILLIAMS, KAREN
1136 WYANDOTTE
WRIGHT, EMMA
1519 NORTHVILLE
BALLARIN, HELEN
TENES, SHIRLEY
4422 TAYLOR
CIUPKA, RUTH
CORPE, JEAN
DENT-MARCELLUS, LINDA
EMERSON, JAN
HELVEY, ANN
JOHNSON, SHARON
MAINS, BEVERLY
MCDUGAL, BARBARA
MOWRER, DELORIS
PRZYGOCKI, ROBERTA
REETZ, DARLENE
RENAUD, PATSY
SANDERS, PAMELA
THEBO, BERNICE
THEBO, BERNICE
TLUCZEK, ANGELA
TLUCZEK, ANGELA
TLUCZEK, HEDWIG
TOLLIVER, CAROL
WHITFIELD, GERTRUDE
4553 DETROIT
LESNIAK, JEANNETTE
VAN HAUTER, KRISTEN
6695 PLYMOUTH
VALLEAU, DOREEN
7546 INDIAN RIVER
ORNALIK, STELLA
PAINE, VERNA
1407 MADISON
KROESING, AGNES
RODEBAUGH, CATHERINE(KAY)
2269 WIXOM
ALLEN, LYNN
ANDES, GERALDINE
ASH, PATRICIA
BURGESS, INEZ
COURTNEY, CATHERINE
GETSOIAN, JUNE
KLEIN, PHYLLIS
LABY, REGINA
MANNINEN, SHIRLEY
MCFARLANE, FERN
OBRIEN, MURIEL
PERCIVAL, CATHERINE
PERSHING, VALORA
POYTRKUS, ALFREDA
REETZ, GRACE
ULRYCH, EMILY
WERNER, MARTHA
WING, GISELE
YOUNG, MARY
4659 SHELBY
VONSEGGREN, MILDRED
WILLIAMS, VIRGINIA
6691 FRASER
LOTAN, ELAINE
6802 RICHMOND
HUNT, ERMA
423 ANN ARBOR
MCCOY, JANICE
1138 CITY OF MONROE
GAGNE, LINDA
MCLAIN, WANDA
1584 ADRIAN
BENNET, CONNIE
BOHLKE, SHIRLEY
JONES, IRENE
MARY, FORD
ROBINETTE, MARGARET
YIELDING, MARY
3925 ERIE
FREIMARK, EILEEN
MAIN, BLANCHE
MOLIK, ADELINE
4093 CARLETON
PITOCK, CHRISTINE
4187 TECUMSEH
SMITH, HARRY
4357 BRIGHTON
ALLEN, GEORGIANNA
6056 SPRINGPORT
LEY, MARY
LONSBERRY, PAULA
6464 FOWLERVILLE
BROWNLIE, GERALDING
667 SOUTH HAVEN
TOSH, DIANN
1855 DOWAGIAC
BOURNAY, YVONNE
FESTER, NANCY
4054 MARCELLUS
BIDELMAN, CAROL
5319 ATHENS
HOMAN, PATRICIA
PRINCE, JOYCE
6248 DECATUR
BRUCKS, NOVA
10704 CASSOPOLIS
SORSBY, COLYNE
STRIFLING, ELSIE MABLE
422 DELTON
FISHER, BRIDGET
FRANCISCO, JOAN
FRIESEMA, LUCILLE

GIESING, RITA
THRON, KATHLEEN
3023 GRAND RAPIDS
RUTKOWSKI, HELEN
3030 OTSEGO
GREEN, HARRIET
7581 WAYLAND
CLEVELAND, PENNY
JERKATIS, VICKI
LARR, LUCILLE
RYBISKI, DOROTHY
7956 AUGUSTA
FIELD, MELINDA
LOUNSBERRY, DOROTHY
WILSON, MARDITH
2272 DURAND
GRAHAM, CAROLINE
3733 FOWLER
COLE, AGNES
DURBIN, ETHEL
MILLER, JEANETTE
WEBER, HENRIETTA
4005 CORUNNA
ACKLEY, HELEN
BROOKS, VIVIAN
CAVERSON, MARIE
GARRETT, LUCILLE
GRAHAM, JEAN
HAZELTON, FRANCES
LEWIS, ALICE
SEELHOFF, CAROLYN
4461 LAKE ODESSA
ECKMAN, ADILENE
5065 SHERIDAN
GIRVIN, RUTH
LONG, ROSEMARY
MCCORMICK, WINIFRED
SHRUM, ELWANDA
STONEHAM, BEVERLEY
WHITE, BERNIECE
6579 NEW LOTHROP
HOARD, SARA
796 PORT HURON
DELL, DOROTHY
DOETSCH, GLENDORA
GROSSER, ANITA
LAPALM, YAX LILA
MOSURAK SANDRA
TOLES, GLADYS
WOLFE, PHYLLIS
822 FLINT
COLE, STELLA
CROSSNOE, BARBARA
FLUTY, LUCILLE
HUNT, PEGGY
INGRAM, TRULY
KOLLEN, KATHLEEN
LUTEN, TERI
1452 CLIO
CLAUD, HELEN
METERVIER, KAREN
2777 BURTON
BALDWIN, ALICE
BERNANDINE, ROAT
2945 SANDUSKY
FAGAN, ARLENE
JOHNSTON, PEGGY
3087 FLINT
BROCK, MADONNA
CAIN, RENA
CARWILE, DONNA
COSTELLO, OSMA
FRAY, CAROL
GERARD, PATRICIA
JONES, BEVERLY
JONES, EVELYN
NORTH, BETTY
REIDER, FRIEDA
TOWNLEY, EVA
WOODFIN, THUISIE
3243 FENTON
PAULIN, RITA
4087 DAVIDSON
BARR, CLEO
BLOOMFIELD, JANETT
BURCH, BETTY
CUMMINGS, LIGUORI
HEFFNER, MARY
HENDRICKSON, MONA
MOONEY, PEGGY
RAGAN, JESSICA
STEPHENSON, SYLVIA
TORREANO, PHYLLIS
BIELACZYK, CHARLOTTE
KLEINFELD, ALYCE
5585 EMMETT
FRANCEK, DONNA
KOPPINGER, ELLEN
3033 Mt. PLEASANT
GUARISCO, KATHY
HACKETT, IRENE
KANNE, LORRAINE
VANORDEN, EVELYN
3724 STANDISH
BAKER, PATRICIA
BUGLEIUE, LEOTTA
DAMRON, JAN
DUNEC, RUTH
FORD, LEONA
LAMMY, EMILY
METIVA, MARILYN
PENDRED, RUTH
PHILIPS, FLORENCE

REID, MARYLOU
4034 HOUGHTON LAKE
HGT
GAGE, DOROTHY
4106 WEIDMAN
JONES, ORA
RITTER, LOIS
4159 ROSCOMMON
BEEBE, MARIANNE
KOLLAR, DOROTHY
NOWLIN, SHIRLEY
SPENCER, TRESA
STEINBERGER, DOLORES
5680 St. HELEN
COMPTON, KAREN
7303 GLADWIN
BLAIR, BETTY
McDANIEL, HELEN
446 MUSKEGON
BODENBERG, GERALDINE
2335 MECOSTA
SLOCUM, MARGARET
SPINDLER, GRACE
3165 NEGAUNEE
COLLINS, DOROTHY
DEL ANGELO, MARY
HILL, BETTY
STANAWAY, LINDA
3256 WHITE LAKE
STAMPER, ROSE
4249 NEWAGO
BAKER, HELEN
BOWERMAN, JANET
BRETHAUER, ERMA
CADWELL, JEAN
CARPENTER, DUDIE
CLARK, MARGARET
GRAHAM, BESSIE
HUMPHREY, HAZEL
JORDAN, ELAINE
LATHER, MARY CAROLYN
LOOMIS, MARY CAROLYN
MAYVILLE, ANNE
PAGE, FAYE
SCRIBNER, IRIS
SHAFER, ARDITH
ZIMMER, LINDA
4499 MANISTEE
BLADZIK, MARIAN
JONES, PATRICIA
5315 BALDWIN
NIESEN, MARIE
8846 MUSKEGON
BROWN, SHIRLEY
MORRISON, HELEN
TOLLE, RICHARD
1518 GAYLORD
ROLSTON, THERESA
2051 EMMET COUNTY
ALLEN, VIRGINIA
WILTON, CHARLOTTE
2356 GRAND HAVEN
BATES, THELMA
DODD, HELEN
GUY, JUDY
ROSS-RITZ, ALMA
WICKS, MICHELLE
BRYAN, FERN
2780 TRAVERSE CITY
ALLEN, LINDA
ANDERSON, BETTY
CHUPP, FERN
FREEMAN, DORA
GLAZIER, KATHERINE
KING, WILMA
9023 BRIMLEY
SNIDER, MARION
6165 SOUTH RANGE
SHEEHAN, RUTH
VROMAN, DORIS
6507 CHASSELL
CAMP, JULIE
IMMONEN, JEAN
WALITALO, MYRA
8945 COVINGTON
BEAUPREY, LORRAINE
MORIN, DARLENE
9084 WAKEFIELD
ANDERSON, HAZEL
CORNISH, FAYE
KUMMER, GLADYS
15023 LANSING
BIELEWSKI, HELEN
BOS, DOROTHY
BRONIKOWSKI, MARTHA
BRUNNER, VIOLET
DRAKE, DONNA
FRAZIER, BETTY
HARP, BARBARA
HEDWIG, MICHALSKI
LACH, VIRGINIA
LAPALM, JEAN
MILLER, DEBORAH
MUCZYNSKI, DOROTHY
SAUERS, MILDRED
SCOFIELD, SHARON
WILSON, DARLENE
WINSKI, BERNADINE

Sea Cadets Honored

On a recent trip to honor Sea Cadets from the USNSCC – H.R. Doud Division of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Saginaw Valley Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9809 at 3265 Kochville Road presented 7 cadets with awards of appreciation for helping VFW Post 9809 with their annual Buddy Poppy drive. They also gave one cadet the VFW Naval Sea Cadet Citation.

VFW Post 9809 is the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, H.R. Doud Division sponsoring post. The cadets mission is “Through organization and cooperation with the Department of the Navy, to encourage and aid American youth to develop, train

families. In the past it has been used for such things as buying work shoes and coats for vets starting a new job, also for the child of a disabled vet to get some dental work done.

The Sea Cadets also carried the colors to lead the Saginaw Memorial Day parade. They will be working at the Bay City Tall Ship Celebration. Some of them will be going to Naval Station Great Lakes near Chicago for 9 days this summer. A small percent of the cadets go on to serve in the military, but many of them use their experience in whatever civilian occupation they choose.

VFW Post 9809 Commander Jerry Sonnenberg presented Petty Officer 3rd Class Duncan Moore with the highest honors from the VFW, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Navel Sea Cadet Citation. Post Jr. Vice. Commander Steve Ramer presented him with his Medal and uniform ribbon. This medal and citation is only presented to cadets who show outstanding leadership abilities, along with

high moral character. Petty Officer Moore has been active with the Sea Cadets for 5 years. He earned the award of Honor Cadet at two different trainings. He sailed from Bay City to Chicago on the Appledore, participated in firefighter training and Seabee Combat and Construction Training. Petty Officer Moore graduated this year from Caro High school, and will spend his summer working with his dad in the family business, before attending college in the fall.

The Cadets hold their drills at the Naval Operations Support Center 3500 Douglas St. Saginaw, MI 48601. If you would like to know more about the Sea Cadets you can visit their website hrdouddivision.com. To learn about the works or membership of VFW Post 9809 you can call 989-792-0060 or email vfwpost9809@yahoo.com.



them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues” This mission fits in so well with the VFW whose purpose is Patriotic, Historical, Charitable and Educational.

Seaman Recruit Matthew Garcia, Seaman Apprentice Jacob Larsen, Petty Officer 3rd Class Milan Manwaring, Seaman Recruit Austin Morford, Petty Officer 3rd Class Joseph Pelts, Seaman Shelby Sykes, Petty Officer 3rd Class Thomas Sykes, Seaman Recruit Andrew Wojcik, and Seaman Apprentice Damion Young spent a Saturday with VFW Post 9809 distributing Buddy Poppys and taking donations, to help veterans who fall on hard times. They collected over \$2000.00 to put into the post Relief Fund. This fund can only be used for patriotic purposes and to help veterans and their



Post 9809 Jr. Vice Commander Steve Ramer and Petty Officer 3rd Class Duncan Moore

Ceremonial Rifle and Static Displays

There seems to be some confusion surrounding the US Army Ceremonial Rifle and Static Display program. Hopefully this article will help to clear up the confusion. First, let’s talk about the Static Displays. Static Displays can be anything from a M60 tank to a helicopter. Due to the high dollar amount of the display items (a condition of the conditional deed of gift that your post signed), an annual certification of Army material status form must be filed every year (no later t han the agreement date on the conditional deed of gift) which certifies that 1) the static display is still needed, maintained in a safe and clean condition so that its appearance reflects favorably on the US military 2) is in porr condition (when the restoration will take place and when it will be done) 3) is no longer needed and request disposition instructions. This certification form must be notarized prior to submission. If the display is no longer needed, the US Army will arrange to have it removed from the property. It may take up to 6 months before this happens. If your post does not comply with the conditions set forth in the conditional deed of gift, the display may be removed

———— CEREMONIAL RIFLE AND STATIC DISPLAYS, continued on page 17



Mortgage Burning VFW 1138

*Matt David and Bonnie Pray
presenting National Award.*



*Commander Bill Lietaert receiving
a urn for the ashes.*



*Concerning the mortgage Betty Westover, Dick
Sieb, Dan Burchfield, Bill Gallan and Al Yentsz.*

Buddy Poppy Campaign

NEGAUNEE, Mich. (WLUC) Veterans of Foreign Wars posts across the Upper Peninsula began their campaign to collect money through their Buddy Poppy campaign.

It was started in the early 1920s to symbolize the blood shed for our behalf. Local VFWs are scattered at businesses across town all week collecting donations and handing out the little red flowers in support of all veterans.

In Negaunee they were set up at TH Tractor Supply where people were generously donating to the veterans relief fund in exchange for the poppy.

"The Buddy poppy reflects on their sacrifice that they did and so it's our job as fortunately living veterans to remember that sacrifice," said Stephen Olsen, District 14 VFW Commander.

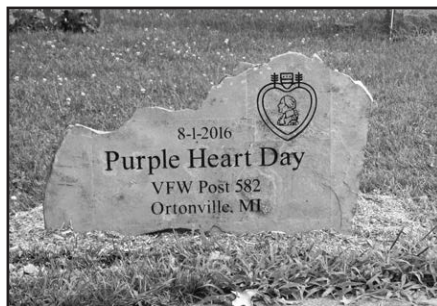
The money collected this week will be used to help veterans who need assistance whether medical or personal from the VFW.



Post 582 Dedication



Aug. 6th, post 582 pre-formed a dedication on becoming a Purple Heart community and honored veterans who are purple heart recipients pictured is post member Ron Allen next to plaque with names of community purple heart veterans. Also pictures of two monument rocks placed at the cemetery and park in Ortonville.



14th Annual Vander Clute Ride at the 2016 VFW National Convention, Charlotte, NC

Three members from post 7309, (Harold "Jack" Berry, Robert Jones JR, and me) as well as our Department Junior vice Commander rode to Charlotte, NC for the VFW National Convention and the 14th Annual Vander Clute Memorial Ride. This ride honors Past Commander In Chief Vander Clute and his favorite program Military Support.

This year's ride was represented by 30 states, 95 riders, with an addition 24 passengers and raised \$47,125 for the VFW Military Support program. The check was presented to Commander In Chief Big John A. Biedrzycki JR in front of the convention center with all the riders and bikes present. He stated that "the Vander Clute Memorial Ride is one of the most visible parts of the convention and that the riders are very active in the community. And that each year it raises more and more money."

The following morning, at the membership meeting he further stated that "the motorcycles and the VFW riders are one of our best recruiting tools in the VFW." I can attest to this, the group at our post is comprised of Vietnam, Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, and Iraqi Freedom



Vets. We are a very close group that works and plays together. For us the riding is a huge relief with our PTSD and other disabilities.

To help us raise more money in the state of Michigan I am asking posts that have motorcycles in your post, or if you have already started a VFW riders to please let me know. I plan to bring a proposal to the fall Convention to

start or enhance this excellent fundraising and membership tool statewide. Let's face it every post could use more money in their relief fund, or if you have a lot there would like it to go to a program where we are helping are veterans directly.

If you are competitive like myself, look at it this way, two other states raised just over 10k for this cause, I would like us to beat both Virginia and Iowa.

If you have, or want to start a VFW Riders group in your post or district please let me know at heuerlm@aol.com or 517-449-3156, or 2022 Curtis Rd, Dansville, MI 48819

**Respectfully Submitted,
Larry Heuer
Commander VFW post 7309**



CEREMONIAL RIFLE AND STATIC DISPLAYS, continued from page 16

from the property and the costs associated with the removal may be charged to the post.

Ceremonial rifles used to require an annual certification but the Department of the Army and the General Services Administration (GSA) have decided that due to the low dollar amount of each rifle, they only need to be certified every 3 years (triennially). This certification form is a little different than the one for the static display. On this certification, your post does not need all or part of the weapons or needs replacement weapon, put an asterisk (*) next to the listed rifle and you will be contacted with disposition instructions. If weapons need to be returned, the post will be issued a prepaid shipping label. The post will have to pay for the container to ship them in (cardboard, wooden crate, etc.)

Both the static displays and weapons are the property of the US Army and have been loaned to the posts. Under the conditional deed of gift that was signed by the post, the display pieces and weapons CAN NOT, I repeat CAN NOT be given, loaned, rented, leased (or whatever you want to call it) to any individual, organization (VFW, American Legion, etc.) or municipality. Your post is responsible for these items.

If your post was issued weapons and they are missing, it is their responsibility of the post to contact the local police department, file a report and submit that report to the US Army TACOM. I am asking that you send me all the certification forms, police reports or contact me with questions. Once I receive the information, I will be in contact with the display coordinators (who works that position part time) and make sure everything is documented correctly. My contact information is:

Phil Merrow
36772 Angeline Cir., Livonia, MI 48150
phillip.s.merrow.civ@mail.mil
(734) 855-4126 Home

The required certification forms and ceremonial rifle and static display questionnaire have been placed on the Department of Michigan website (www.vfwmi.org). Once on the website, click on the resources tab (fourth tab under banner), then towards the bottom of the page, click on the reports and forms link.

**Yours in Comradeship,
Phil Merrow**



Walsh Post 4499

Walsh Post 4499, Manistee hosted the third annual Duane Dewey golf outing. In past years money has gone toward the Manistee County Veterans Endowment fund (a fund for vets that don't qualify for the MVTF or the SRC). This year's money will go towards a plaque honoring Medal of Honor recipient Duane Dewey that will be placed at Veteran's Park. **Pictured left to right are: Ted Arens, Keith Graham, Duane Dewey, Stan Preidis, and George Wagoner.**



BIG TEN CONFERENCE PROGRAM October 20 – 23, 2016

Hosted by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

Location: Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007



Joseph Stachon, Chairman, Big Ten Conference
Sandra Haney, Auxiliary President, Big Ten Conference
State Commanders, Big Ten Member Departments
State Auxiliary Presidents, Big Ten Member Departments

Dear Comrades and Sisters:

The Department of Michigan VFW and its Auxiliary are pleased and honored to be hosts to the 2016 Big Ten Conference. We look forward to your having a successful conference in Kalamazoo. We have had great cooperation from the Kalamazoo Convention Bureau which is excited to have the Departments of the Big Ten Conference as visitors.

Attached are the Conference Registration Form, Program Ad Form, and Housing Information Form. Each of these forms are important and we request that when possible they be distributed together.

We encourage an ad in the program book from each Department as a demonstration of support to your Conference. We encourage you to invite program book ads from Posts, Auxiliaries, Districts, members and businesses within your Department.

We will correspond with individual Conference officers as required for program and agenda information. If you have any questions that are not answered by the attached forms, please contact me as soon as possible.

We will publish a tentative agenda as soon as possible for reference by your members. Kalamazoo is an interesting city with several attractions (such as the Kalamazoo Air Zoo) that we want your members to take advantage of. Within short driving distance from Kalamazoo is Firekeepers Casino just east of Battle Creek, MI for your entertainment.

All forms and payments should be directed to: Department of Michigan, VFW
Attn: Big Ten Conference
924 N Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

See you soon in Kalamazoo!

Yours in Comradeship,

BFW

Barry Walter, Host VFW Chairman
barryfw516@hotmail.com

PP

Patricia Patterson, Host Auxiliary Chairman
pattersond5@aol.com



Editor's Note

Well, this is a new year. We need articles from every Post Commanders and VFW Auxiliary Presidents. We are allowed 24 pages we are using about 16. Needless to say we need to get the most for our money. So with that being said

please get us your articles. I know you all are out there doing functions and we would like to let others know what you are doing to support our Veterans.

**Yours in Comradeship,
Scott Gloger**



BIG TEN CONFERENCE HOUSING

October 20 – 23, 2016

Hosted by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

Location: Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007



The below VFW Group Rates will be available until September 29, 2016 or until the room block fills, whichever occurs first.

TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION PLEASE CALL: 269-343-3333

RESERVATIONS

- Room reservations received after 9/29/16 will be subject to availability and higher room rate.
- To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333 or 800-333-3333.
- Reservations must be guaranteed with deposit or major credit card.
- For suite availability, prices and reservations call direct to 269-343-3333.
- To receive the VFW group rate you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Big Ten Conference attendee when calling to make your reservation.
- Quoted VFW group rates are subject to state and local taxes of 11%.

VFW Group Room Rates

Single	Double	Triple	Quad	Manhattan Suites
\$109.00	\$109.00	\$109.00	\$109.00	\$159.00

Parking fee is not included in the VFW group room rate. Parking is available in the parking ramp across the street connected to the hotel by overhead walking bridge. Self parking for hotel guests is \$5 per night, for non hotel guest attendees \$10 per day. Hotel valet is \$15 per day.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From Interstate 94 from the west: Take exit 76B, Westnedge Ave North. As you go north it will change to Park St. Continue north on Park St until you reach Michigan Ave. Turn right onto Michigan Ave and get into the left lane. The Radisson Plaza Hotel is located on your left.

From Interstate 94 from the east: Take the I-94 business loop into Kalamazoo. Turn left onto Rose St. Turn left onto Michigan Ave. The Radisson Plaza Hotel is located on your left.

From US 131 north or south: Take exit 38A (M-43 / West Main) heading east. West Main becomes West Michigan Ave. Continue east on West Michigan Ave to the Radisson Plaza Hotel on your left.



BOYNE HIGHLANDS

600 Highlands Drive Harbor Springs, MI 49740

VFW - Department of Michigan
September 28 – Oct 2, 2016
Reservations: 1.800.462.6963

Online: www.boyne.com Group Code: 10B8JK or VFW

Main Lodge Standard - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
Choice of King, Two doubles, Two Queens

Main Lodge Family Room - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
King and two bunks, King and two doubles or two doubles and two bunks

Main Lodge European Suite - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
King bed and sofa sleeper, table and chairs and mini-fridge.

True Suite King - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
One bedroom suite with 1 king bed in a separate bedroom, living room with double sleeper sofa, table and chairs, electric fireplace and mini-fridge.

True Suite Queen - \$99.00 per night (\$117.24 including all taxes)
One bedroom suite with 2 queen beds in a separate bedroom, living room with double sleeper sofa, table and chairs, electric fireplace and mini-fridge.

Bartley House Standard - \$85.00 per night (\$100.66 including all taxes)
Choice of one or two queens. **NOTE:** Bartley House does not have elevators and flights of stairs could be required.

Inverness Standard - \$105.00 per night (\$124.34 including all taxes)
Two queen beds located in the Heather Highlands building, wet bar with mini-fridge, microwave.

Inverness Loft - \$142.00 per night (\$168.16 including all taxes)
Studio condo with one queen Murphy bed and sleeper sofa in living area, gas fireplace, one king bed in the loft, kitchenette and two bathrooms.

Pleasantview Suite - \$142.00 per night (\$168.16 including all taxes)
One bedroom condo with one queen in bedroom, one queen murphy bed and sleeper sofa in living area, gas fireplace.

Boyne Highlands observes a 5:00pm check-in and a 1:00pm check-out.

Rates and a 7% Resort Services Fee are subject to a 6% Michigan State Sales and Use Tax. Rates are also subject to a 5% Local Lodging Assessment

Reservations must be booked prior to September 1, 2016 for group rates to be honored.



BIG TEN CONFERENCE PROGRAM AD BOOK October 20 – 23, 2016

Hosted by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

Location: Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007



BIG TEN CONFERENCE PROGRAM AD BOOK FORM

DEADLINE FOR AD PLACEMENT IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Welcome to Michigan and to the 2016 Big Ten Conference Meeting. As your host we are responsible for preparing the 2016 Big Ten Conference Program Book. We are inviting Ads from your Department, Districts, Posts, Auxiliaries, companies with whom you do business, and individuals who may be interested in being featured in the Program Book.

AD BOOK RATES

Full Page ... \$150.00 Half Page ... \$75.00 Quarter Page ... \$50.00 Single Line Patron Ad ... \$5.00

NO CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

Attach your ad text to this form. One ad per form please. If you want a photo included in your ad, you may attach a good quality copy to this form or email it to us. All ads and photos will be printed in black and white. All emailed photos or logos must be jpeg format. Camera ready art is acceptable.

Make check payable to: Department of Michigan, VFW

Mail completed Ad Form and payment to:

Department of Michigan, VFW
Attn: Big Ten Conference
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Email: barryfw516@hotmail.com

DEADLINE FOR AD PLACEMENT IS SEPTEMBER 20, 2016

Date: _____ Size AD requested: Full _____ Half _____ Quarter _____ Patron _____

Amount of payment enclosed _____

Signed _____

ONE AD PER FORM

We cannot be responsible for the correct spelling of names and / or messages contained in your ad if they are not printed clearly or typed. Ads will be printed in black and white.



BIG TEN CONFERENCE REGISTRATION October 20-23, 2016

Hosted by the Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary

Location: Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007



Advanced Registration Fee: \$100 per person Late Registration Fee: \$110 per person

Advanced Registration Deadline: September 30, 2016

Limited On-Site Registration Available

Registration Fee includes:

- Two (2) drink tickets for Welcome Party – Friday evening
- One Luncheon ticket – Saturday
- One Banquet ticket – Saturday evening

Make check payable to: Department of Michigan, VFW

Mail completed Registration Form and payment to:

Department of Michigan, VFW
Attn: Big Ten Conference
924 N. Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

No Credit Card Payments Accepted

Registration Information - Please Print

Name (s) : _____

Address: _____

Phone # () _____ Email address: _____

Department: _____ Post / Aux (circle one) _____ Title: _____

Total of Registrants: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

Transportation Information

Arrival By Bus _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Depart By Bus _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Arrival By Train _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Depart By Train _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Arrival by Air _____ Airline / Flight # _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Depart by Air _____ Airline / Flight # _____ On date: _____ Time: _____

Mike Fineis

FOR THE OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER
June 2016



*Supported by District 9 & VFW
Post 3701*

Phil Merrow

CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
2017-2018



*Endorsed and Supported by: District 4
Grand River Police and Firefighters
Post 1519
His wife and family*

Larry Heuer

CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
2017-2018



*Supported and Endorsed and
Supported by: District 6, Post 7309,
It's Auxiliary and his beautiful wife
Laura and his family*