

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •



October/November/December 2017

Volume 85 Number 2

## SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

My how fast the time is flying. I would first like to thank everyone that supported my fundraiser, thank you to everyone that help me sell my tickets it turned out to be a great success.

I hope that everyone enjoyed our Fall Conference, as always there was a lot of great information put out and I hope that you were able to take it back to your Districts and Posts and share everything that you learned with your members. Thank you to PSP Annabelle Furgason and District 12 President Beth Plont for the wonderful job that you both do in the hospitality room. Thank to the Coleman brothers for the awesome entertainment that you provide, I know I had a great time and I hope that everyone else did as well.

I recently attended the Big Ten Conference in Minneapolis, MN, I would like to give a big shout out and congratulations to our Past State Commander Jerry Gorski for being elected as the Vice Chairman for the Big Ten Conference, I know Jerry will represent us well. There was some great training provided as well and there have been some significant changes to our National By-Laws so please make sure you read your new By-Law book.

By the time you read this article, our Posts and Districts will have already judged



**Phil Patterson**  
Senior  
Vice Commander

their Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Entries and turned their Winners into Department for Judging. We will be preparing for our Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen Banquet and Teacher of the Year on Saturday, January 20, 2018. Good Luck to ALL our Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Winners!

Post and District Sr. Vice Commanders, you need to start getting you Directors and Chairman in place if you have not started already. When selecting these individuals please find those that are eager to work and want to do the job, sometimes your best friend is not always your best choice. I will be expecting a lot out of you this next year, I expect all Post Commanders to be at your District Meetings and District Commanders to be at your District meetings and all Department functions that are put on. This is how you learn and how you get the information first hand to take back and pass

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

## STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER

This year seems to be flying right by us I can't believe that we are so close to the Holiday season. I hope you all enjoyed your Halloween and my favorite holiday Thanksgiving. Give thanks for all your blessings you surely have a lot to be thankful for.

I hope everyone is getting use to the new website and all that it has to offer. We have tried to streamline things for you. If you are still having questions, please let us know so we can make the website the best it can be. We have had several VTS's this year so far. I hope you were able to get to one or a couple and get some information that is needed for your position within your post.

The General Orders come out once a month and talk about what is going on throughout the Department and if there have been any changes to the Dept. Roster. There are a lot of resources available to you but, if you don't use them they are no good to you.

If your Post is considering turning in the



**Lynn Patterson**  
Department  
ADJ/Quartermaster

Post charter please refer to Section 210-Surrender of Charter in the National By-Laws (page 67). This will help guide the post through everything that needs to be done. If you would like to have your funds disbursed in a special way, that needs to be voted on, recorded in the minutes and done prior to the post turning everything over to Department.

If I can be of any assistance to you and your post in anyway, please feel free to contact me. I can't wait to see everyone at Mid-Winter.

"There will be obstacles. There will be doubters. There will be mistakes. But with hard work, there are no limits." —Michael Phelps

## JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Beautiful weather was abundant at Boyne Highlands located in Harbor Springs, MI during the Fall Conference. Our national representative was National Jr. Vice Commander William J. "DOC" Schmitz. He served as a corpsman attached Marine Corps infantry and artillery in Viet Nam. DOC is a blue jean man and very approachable. Get to know him if you can.

Membership Tents/Canopies in storage do absolutely no good. Find out where they are in your district and get them up somewhere, be visible!! Contact membership director Scott Gloger 734-323-1188 so he can activate his team to help you.

As VFW's official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the bloodshed by American service members. It reiterates that VFW will not forget their sacrifices. The Poppy movement was inspired by Canadian Army Col. John McCrae's famous poem, "In Flanders Fields." Therefore, get your BUDDY POPPY orders in by December 31, 2017. Remember our fallen comrades.

Comrades, many of you have spoken to me about improved communications. Just send me your name, address, phone number, email address, post and district. We will develop



**Mike Fineis**  
Junior  
Vice Commander

a data base and send you information in a timely manner.

Send to: [mike.fineis@gmail.com](mailto:mike.fineis@gmail.com) and if you do not have a computer mail to **Mike Fineis, 4310 Church Rd., Six Lakes, MI. 48886.**

District Commanders, your district receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your officers to fall conference, midwinter, state convention and VTS training. District Jr. Vice Commanders please be aware by holding your office you are expected to attend Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and State Convention. You should also attend VTS schools of instruction. If you fail to attend these functions you will not have the knowledge to go thru the chairs and be successful.

At all state functions, there will be a meeting of all Jr. Vice Commanders. We will come

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

## STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

We are entering another holiday season in Michigan. Do you already have plans for gifts to buy, meals to make, and/or trips to take? There is certainly a great deal to do this time of year, but I ask that you once again please give as you can to our veterans and their families.

Many of you already provide extra help this time of year. Just a handful of these actions include sending packages overseas to our troops; supporting the USMCR's Toys for Tots program; volunteering at the VA hospitals and State Veterans Homes to bring veterans good cheer; laying wreaths in our State Veterans Cemeteries; and still others help homeless veterans. As mentioned, these



**Jennifer Smith**  
State Chaplain

are but a few of the many activities Veterans of Foreign Wars members and the Auxiliaries undertake during this time. We should be encouraged by the fact that these actions positively affect the lives of others. As Acts 20:35 aptly explains, "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued on page 2

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

# STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Greeting Comrades,

It has been a busy year for your department officers so far this year. There has been a lot of great work going on across the state and we are only half way through the year. We have had our share of issues at both the post level and department level. Please remember your officers at district and department level are here to assist you. If you succeed we all succeed. Let's be supportive and respectful of all our officers and chairman. We all really do need each other to keep this great organization functioning.

There are many changes to the Department and National By Laws every year so I would suggest reading up prior to reaching out for assistance. It is educational and it may save you some time making a phone call. Please



ensure your post maintains a current copy of the National By Laws per Sec. 218 (6). There are electronic copies available if you prefer. Just a couple changes to bring to your attention. Posts are no longer required to maintain a Dues Reserve Fund. Robert Rules of Order- Eleventh Edition is now the replacement for Demeters.

As always, please call me if you have questions or concerns as I am here to serve you.

## SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

on to your members. You are all leaders and your members will look to you for answers and information. Please bring your officers and Chairman with you as well, I know your Districts have money because Department gives it to you for these such purposes. This is the time that you need to have a plan for your year in office. If you do not have a plan, you will go nowhere. If you do not think that you

can fulfill the duties of Commander you may want to reconsider your position.

Our organization needs to grow. We need to promote all our programs. If you ever have any questions or concerns please contact me, as I have always said I work for you.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~  
COMMUNICATION

## JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

together and continue the process of building the team that will lead our Department in one and a half years. We will share thoughts, ideas, and "what if we did it this way." All may attend and give their thoughts and ideas.

Posts and Districts please plan your functions around Department and National events. *Example: A post fund raiser on the same day as a district meeting. A district*

*event on the same day as a state event. Please plan better.*

The Holidays are behind us now. I pray everyone worshiped in their own way. I ask that your love of God be carried over into your organization. That you create a more loving, kinder and caring Veterans of Foreign Wars. Once we do this...membership will cease going out the back door.

## CHAPLAIN, continued from page 1

words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

I do not need to tell you that these are tough times in our state. Still, as mentioned in the last MOV, we each have our special gifts bestowed by the Lord (1 Peter 4:10). That means that we need not be exceptionally skilled or wealthy to give. Instead, we need only be willing to extend our own talents, gifts, and resources as we can.

So, while we carefully navigate the leaf blown and later snowy roads, let us please remember our many blessings and endeavor to give back. While we stand in line to return that re-gifted appliance, let us remember those veterans that can no longer stand. As we wonder what else on earth can be made with the turkey left overs, please reflect upon those current servicemembers families and shut-in veterans perhaps without much food or company. Comrades, sisters, and brothers, even in the toughest of times we are so incredibly blessed to live in this great nation and to have the joy-building and faith-strengthening ability to comfort others in need.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah,  
May God bless you.



# God Bless Our Troops

# All-State Program

1. Reporting period started May 1,2017
2. 100% + 1 New Post Member
3. 125 All-State points from checklist (2017-2018)
4. Checklist and Commanders Entry form must be at Department Headquarters by April 30, 2018
5. 85% post member retention (not a requirement)
6. All-State judging will be May 1'2018
7. Post must be in good standing with all National and Department By-Laws in reference to Post Audits, Bond, election report and District meeting attendance.

Comrades, the 2017-2018 All-State program is in full gear. The first points (10) for 100% in post membership is by November 30, 2017. Mem stat will be used to verify membership date. Also by November 30, 2017 there are (54) All-State points attainable without spending any post funds.

Registering post colors and banner at Michigan Days at the VFW National Home. Working (one) 10-hour shift at Camp Trotter during camping season to include (opening and closing camp) Camp Trotter golf outing possibly still, no post funds spent. All-State points tied to all these activities (12) possible.

Good Luck to all the posts vying for All-State honors.

"SEMPER FI"

Sherwood H. Pea Jr.  
All-State Director

# Buddy Poppy Days

Now that we have returned from Fall Conference where the top three places were awarded, I hope everyone was appreciative of their recognition. Now is the time to start planning for the coming year, as to how your Post is going to promote Buddy Poppies. I was talking to one Post who spoke to a Large Business in town very close to the highway and were not a loud to be in the streets, and the Business owner allowed them to set up a special lane in the parking lot with signs where people could drive up and make their donations, goes to show you just have to ask your local Business and promote Buddy Poppies and how the donations are used. Where there is a will, there is a way.

I sincerely recommend that your Post Commander, Quartermaster, Buddy Poppy Chairman and Line Officers set down, have a brain-storming session discussing how you can invest your time, energy and members for a positive buddy poppy program, may it be more advertising, more signage, reach out to more business owners sharing what Buddy Poppy's are all about, and why it is so important to your Post and Community to support the Program.

If there is anything I can do to help your Post please be sure to contact me, I am here and ready to help.

Sincerely,

James Hubbard / 248-492-1213



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## Membership Program



**Scott Gloger**

Just to keep you up on things:

It is time to be getting all your member's dues paid.

Make sure all your officers dues are paid up to date and current. If not they will be removed.

Your quartermasters of all posts have a list of all members with 30, 60 and 90 days from expiration. There is no reason for this to happen.

You should have a membership committee in place. They could contact these members and find out why their dues have not been paid. If it's because of financial or health reasons, pay their dues, that is what the relief fund is there for. Their reason can be told to any officer or membership committee member without having to come to a meeting or telling the quartermaster in person.

*In your spare time* contact members you have not seen in a while. Make sure they are alright, ask if there's anything we can do for them and mainly find out if they have been mistreated so you can rectify the situation. Encourage them to return to the post.

Last year we had 107 posts with 100% in membership. I am looking forward to having a whole lot more this year.

Last but not least, we need to get new members so this organization can continue to help all Veterans past, present and future with their needs.

**Scott Gloger**  
State Membership Director

## State Inspector

Comrades,

The 2nd quarter of the year has passed already. Audits are due to Department by the end of the month following the end of the quarter. The audit is the Trustee's report. The Quartermaster will provide all necessary paperwork to complete the audit, which is to be signed by the Trustees and the Commander.

All bonds should be in place and be of an adequate amount to cover all liquid assets of the post. The 990's are due by November 15th if your post is on the fiscal year; May

15th if you're on the calendar year. If your post grosses less than \$50,000.00 a year you can file a 990n.

Trustees and Quartermasters: take your time in doing the Audit to avoid mistakes. I have seen a lot of simple mistakes on the audits. Make sure the audit is signed by the Trustees and the Commander, not typed in. And please print legibly.

Yours in comradeship,

**William Butch Ogden**

## Camp Trotter

Fall conference is well behind us with mid-winter on the horizon. Congratulations to all the District VOD and Patriot Pen winners. Good luck at Kalamazoo.

Summer camp was a great success this year. Thanks to Camp Director Denise Arnold and her staff. We had a total of 403 campers. 70 of those campers attended on scholarships, thanks to you. If it wasn't for your generous donations, those kids would have missed out on a fantastic week of camping. I am sure this year will be no different, many campers will need your help.

I know it might sound crazy, but we are taking applications for staff for camp 2018 which begins on July 8th and ends August 15th. The following positions are available: (1) Camp Director; (1) Assistant Director; (1) Registered Nurse and/or Paramedic certified; (1) Lifeguard; (1) Maintenance person; (7) female counselors; (7) male counselors; (3) Staff cooks; (1) Janitor. All staff must be 18 years or older and pass MSP background check before being hired. Please send resumes to Larry Thayer, 4858 Apache Path, Owosso, Mi 48867 or vfwlarry@aol.com. The reviewing committee along with the summer Camp Director will review all applications that are submitted.

A big thank you goes out to all the golfers and supporters and helpers of the 11th Annual VFW Camp Trotter for Children golf outing. The 12th Annual Outing will be Friday, June 22nd, the day before the Veteran's Training Seminar (VTS). Come on down Thursday night, spend the night at camp, get up Friday, have fun golfing, enjoy a great steak dinner, spend Friday night with us at camp, and wake up and participate in the VTS.

As many of you already know, the VFW Camp Trotter for Children is officially designated by the IRS as VFW Camp Trotter foundation. Employer identification number is 46-1413579 which is 501(C)(3). This qualifies our camp to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers of gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the code. So if you know of anyone else that would like to donate, send them our way.

The 2018 Camp Trotter Summer Camp brochures should be available at Mid-Winter. If earlier we'll get them out. Thank you for your support to your camp.

Your Camp Trotter Committee,

**Larry Thayer**  
State Director

## VOD/PP Department Director



**Harry "Les" Croyle**

The Voice of Democracy 2017-18 theme is:

*American History:  
Our Hope for the Future*

The Patriots Pen 2017-18 theme is:  
*America's Gift to My Generation*

Thank you all for all your submissions for this year's contest. Without you and the young Americans that enter these contest this wonderful program would not be. To all of you that donate the scholarship funds thank you. On a personal note this will be my last year as Chairman of these fantastic programs. All of you have been wonderful to work with and I will surely miss this chairmanship. If you need any help on these programs just call me. This was truly an honor and privilege to serve you the membership, the State Commanders that appointed me and the State of Michigan VFW.

Yours in comradeship,  
**Harry "Les" Croyle**  
Voice of Democracy Director 2017-18

## POW/MIA Director

Greetings Comrades, Brothers and Sisters,

It's been a busy three month's with lots happening on the POW/MIA front. The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Command have been very busy returning WWII and Korean war MIA's at a tremendous rate. Bringing much longed for closure to many families of those who have been missing so long.

On Sept. 9th, I had the honor of attending the National League of POW/MIA Families meeting in Dearborn, Mi., along with the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting command. I was seated with the DOD Accounting Command and gained lots of insight into the whole process of identification, what a tremendous job they do, from field excavations to bringing our Brothers home to their families.

Seated with me was Lt Col Alexander

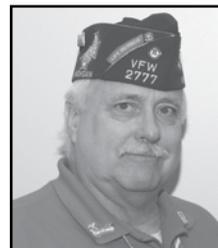
Jefferson, one of the Tuskegee Airmen. Alexander was shot down in WWII, wounded and captured by the Germans. He received the Purple Heart, Congressional Gold Medal among many other medals. His story is well worth looking up and it is mind boggling the extent of discrimination and segregation they were subject to even after returning home as Heroes and former POW's. History should never be allowed to repeat itself like this in any way, shape or form!

POW/MIA reports are due by the 10th of each month. Don't forget to include your Post number and District and any pictures you may have. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Mid Winter conferences, and by all means, keep up the good work!

**Jim Fernandez**  
VFW POW/MIA Director

## Military Order of the Cootie

*"Doing BIG Things for Veterans"*



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! – Michael Bayne and Ivy Schaffer were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President in May 2017. Also long with them were Grand Sr. Vice/Sr. Vice

President Bill Austin/Pat Thorsby; Grand Jr.Vice/Jr. Vice President Pat Henderson/JoAnn Beachnau; Grand Quartermaster/Treasurer: PGC Ernest Paulin/Sharon Paulin; Grand Adjutant/Secretary; PGC Robert E. Wilson/Kathy Kirby. The installing officer was Past Supreme Commander C. Maurice Theriac.

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.

**83rd Tomb Trek 2017**  
**Arlington National Cemetery**

The 83rd Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 01-02 November 2017. 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 moomi.freedompage.com.

**89th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2017**

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled

for Dec. 2, 2017. 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 2017-2018**

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





## DISTRICT 4 REPORT

**Gary Gamble**  
District 4 Commander



Greetings,

As we close out another productive year helping veterans and our communities, I would like to personally thank all the posts and Auxiliaries that helped make the life of a veteran a little brighter this past year. Your volunteer work of providing aid and comfort to our homeless veterans has made a big difference in the life of a veteran in need. To the posts that graciously opened your doors on Thanksgiving Day and or Christmas Day to provide a meal to those that would have spent the holiday alone is commendable beyond words. Further, all the hard work our membership has done collecting comfort items to send to our deployed troops and or share with veterans in need closer to home is

simply awesome. Many Posts and Auxiliaries are making a huge difference in the life of a veteran and their communities because no one else does more for veterans. As we all look forward to 2018, let's rededicate ourselves to supporting each other and our mission of helping veterans.

Next, I would like to wish a warm and Happy Birthday to the following Posts of District 4. Each and every one of these posts has a long and storied history of supporting veterans and their communities over the decades. That's over 850 years of supporting the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars right here! So, please join me in wishing them many more years of success doing the great work of the VFW.

VFW Post 78	Pvt. James D. Donovan (Aug. 8, 1914)	103 Years
VFW Post 552	Benjamin V. Goodell (July 30, 1931)	86 Years
VFW Post 2233	James Europe (Aug. 8, 1934)	83 Years
VFW Post 3323	Harris-Kehrer (Oct. 2, 1936)	81 Years
VFW Post 3941	City of Livonia (Oct. 8, 1944)	73 Years
VFW Post 4422	Conroy/Renye/McNeil (Sept. 15, 1945)	72 Years
VFW Post 4434	Huron River (Oct. 7, 1945)	72 Years
VFW Post 6695	Mayflower-Lt. Gamble (Dec. 2, 1945)	72 Years
VFW Post 7546	Pvt. John Lyskawa-Pvt. William P. Tutro (July 9, 1946)	71 Years
VFW Post 9568	Romulus (Oct. 4, 1947)	70 Years
VFW Post 9885	Cpl. Edward J. Bova/246 Engr. "C" Bn. (Oct 3, 1948)	69 Years

We have reached the half-way point of our Membership Year now that December 31 behind us. With that being said, **PLEASE STOP READING THIS ARTICLE and pull out your Annual Dues Membership card and CHECK THE DATE!** Does your membership card have an expiration date that falls before July 1, 2018? If so, it is NOW TIME to RENEW your annual membership or purchase a Life Membership in the VFW.

Keep in mind, there is NO PENALTY or disadvantage for early renewal and you know you are going to remain a member of the greatest combat veteran organization in the world! It's a simple and quick process renewing. All Annual Dues paying members can simply go to: <https://www.vfw.org/OMS/QuickRenew.aspx> and securely pay your dues online or call toll free 1-800-963-3180 and renew your Annual membership

*DISTRICT 4, continued on page 14*



## DISTRICT 5 REPORT

**Mike Olekslak**  
District 5 Commander



Greetings all Comrades of the 5th District,

Wow! How the time is flying by! It has been 5 months since my last article and from what I have been seeing, all Posts are doing well! The holidays are upon us. We must keep in mind to continue helping our vets, obtaining new members, and keeping our Posts united! I hope that everyone has a blessed Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Don't forget the following:

- Jan 7, 2018 - VOD and Patriots Pen at Post #7573 in New Baltimore
- Jan 17 - 21, 2018 - Mid Winter Conference in Kalamazoo
- Feb 18, 2018 - District Meeting at Post #1146 in St. Clair Shores
- March 10, 2018 - Past Commanders and Presidents dinner at Post # 6691 in Fraser

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Michael Oleksiak**  
5th District Commander



## DISTRICT 6 REPORT

**Dan Burchfield**  
District 6 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

I would like to congratulate all of the VOD, Patriot Pen and Teacher of the Year winners at the Post, District and State levels. It takes a lot of hard work on everyone's behalf to get these outstanding people to where they are. Again, a job well done.

We are now deep into the membership year but still need to keep up with new members

we have signed and not let them fall through the cracks. We must maintain our continuous members or get to convert to life membership.

I would like to apologize for the short article but due to some pending medical problems I just have not been with it.

In Comradeship,  
**Dan Burchfield**



## DISTRICT 7 REPORT

**Tim VanWormer**  
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

It's that time again for the VOD/PATRIOTS PEN program. Last year was a good year for student participation. A Special «Thank You» to all the Posts sponsoring again this year. A lot of hard work goes into the program to make it happen. Good luck to all students at all levels.

The Mid Winter Conference has moved location to Kalamazoo, Mi. @ The Radisson Plaza Hotel. Please make your reservations early if possible. The dates are January 18 through 21st. The Banquet will be Jan 20th, at 6pm. The cost will be \$40/person. The cost will go up after the deadline January 10th to \$50. I hope to see a lot of our District members there.

Veteran's Day is just around the corner.



## DISTRICT 8 REPORT

**Steve Jueemann**  
District 8 Commander



A hearty Hello to all my comrades in the Michigan VFW. I hope you're all enjoying the Fall weather, and sticking with us for the most character-building season of all in the Temperate Zone! We used to say, up in Minnesota where I came from, that the Winter season helps keep the riff-raff out. What do you say; does that still work? My own personal favorite saying is "If you are lucky, you'll learn something new every day." This has proven to be exceptionally helpful in all aspects of my life, especially since I became District Commander. At our most recent District meeting (Nov. 4), the issue of participation in the Honor Guards came up. I'm talking about the Honor Guards that give our final salute to our deceased comrades. Some may call them Color Guards, or maybe Rifle Squads. The problem was that one Post in a certain area was receiving a lot of requests for services, and, unfortunately, there was a perception that other Posts in the area could have been helping, and were not. It appeared to be a problem of lack of communication between the Posts and their local funeral homes. One of our comrades had a solution that addressed these problems; they created an informal union of the Honor Guards in their area, and

Be Proud to be a Veteran. If your Post has an activity in your community, remember to submit a report.

District 7 is looking good so far in reporting inspection 100% before Fall Conference. Thank you everyone for your cooperation with the inspectors.

I hope everyone has a good Thanksgiving, and Christmas holiday and a safe one if travelling someplace.

**Reminder:** Mid-Winter Conference is Jan. 18-21, 2018 in Kalamazoo

Next District meeting is February 3, 2018 @Edwardsburg, Mi Post 2284

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Tim VanWormer**  
District Commander

shared the responsibilities for the calls that came in. It gave a much larger pool of Guard members, with a much better showing for services, and a more reliable source of participants available for services. What about your Post? Do you have an Honor Guard? Are they keeping up with requests? Do all your funeral homes know of your existence? Could the team use some help? Please consider the idea of creating a team from several Posts, it will help everyone concerned.

**Our next Conference:**

Mid-Winter at Radisson Hotel  
(269) 343-3333 100 W. Michigan Ave.,  
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Jan. 17th to Jan 21st - reservations cutoff by Dec 28th, or the block of rooms is filled

**District Meetings:**

**Feb. 3rd**, at Wayland VFW 7581

753 S. Main St., Wayland, MI

**May 5th**, at Holland VFW

175 W. Eighth St., Holland, MI

Luncheon: 11 AM

Meeting: 12:30PM (New Time!)

Thanks again to all of our members that are helping so much to keep the VFW on the right track. None of us can ever do it alone. I wish all of you the very Merriest Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## DISTRICT 9 REPORT

**Terry Dowdell**  
District 9 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters,

We just got back from the Fall Conference at Boyne Highland and it was very informative. I would like to see more Posts there. We had VTS Training and I learn something new every time I go to it. One thing that I learn is that as of August 25, 2017 the District and the Posts does not have to have a Dues Reserve Fund anymore. You can put it in your General Fund now. You can keep your dues if your post wants to, but you don't have to.

We have to keep working on Membership. It is up online now, so please keep track of it to see how many more members you need for 100%. If you have an Officer Dues that are coming up, please make sure that they pay them as soon as possible or they will be

removed by National if they don't pay them in time.

I sent all the posts a poppies order form so please order your Buddy Poppy by Dec. 31, 2017 to you will get them in time for Buddy Poppy Days which is May 4, 5, & 6, 2018.

Our next District meeting will be February 3, 2018 at St. Louis Post 3055 at 10AM.

We will be having our District Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen and our Teacher of the Year banquet at St. Louis Post 3055 on Jan. 13, 2018.

Mid-Winter Conference is coming up Jan. 19-20, 2018. Hope to see lots of comrades and sisters there.

Yours in Comradeship,  
**Terry Dowdell, District Commander**



## DISTRICT 10 REPORT

**Don Callaway**  
District 10 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

Well so far this has been a very busy and educational year. Post 203 Berville, made the decision to close and turn in their charter, I was sorry to see that happen, we lost a lot of valuable comrades. The decision was made due to declining membership and the inability to fill the officer chairs. It is sad but true that we have a few other posts in our district that will be making a decision similar to this in the near future. If your post is one of these, please contact me and let's see if we can merge with

another post or at least keep our members in our district, we cannot afford to keep losing these people who have experience in post offices.

One thing is for sure, we really need to get busy in retaining of members, recruiting new members and educating our post officers by way of mentoring and the veteran training seminars available from department.

In closing, have a great holiday season and keep those less fortunate in your thoughts and prayers.



## DISTRICT 11 REPORT

**Bruce Bridson**  
District 11 Commander



Hello once again comrades, I hope everyone that was able, got a chance to come to our Department Fall Conference in Harbor Springs. I know I learned some very important lessons while there. Now we will be looking forward to the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. If you didn't make your room reservations you better get on the ball, time is running short. Speaking of running short on time, time is closing in for our Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year selections. By now all applications should be turned into the post. Please make your selections carefully. The final post winners should be in the hands of the leader of the District. District 11's winners will be announced at the District banquet on January 6th, at Houghton Lake VFW Post #4034. Do you know what your current membership is? Membership is key to VFW survival, let's get out there and knock on some doors, meet your veterans whom haven't paid their dues, find out what they might need, or if they are still even there. By now all posts have had time to do reporting, and many have yet to report on a single activity, if you are having difficulty reporting online, do so by mail. It is very important to do your reporting, so

please let's work at getting your reports in, I hope to have everyone in the district at 100%. There is no reason a post should not be at 100% in recording their activities. I am willing to meet with anyone that is willing to come to my post, St. Helen Post 5680, and assist you with reporting. It is mandated by our VFW by-laws that each post have representation at each District Meeting, so communicate with your post members, if the Commander cannot attend, he must find a delegate within the post to attend the District meeting. District 11's next meetings will be February 4th 1:00pm at VFW Post #5680 in St. Helen. & May 6th 1:00pm at Harrison VFW Post #1075. School of instruction will begin at 10:00am. The District is in need of people willing to be chairman and officers for the District. The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a great organization that does many things for our Veterans, we need people to carry on this legacy, and so please do what you can for our veterans, your posts, and the district. Comrades, Thank you for being a part of the VFW.

May God bless you, I hope each and every one of you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



## DISTRICT 14 REPORT

**Stephen R. Olsen**  
District 14 Commander



I realize you will be reading this around Christmas, but there have been some great programs in the past 2 months I want to tell you about. The first one was a Fishing Day for Veterans by South Shore Fishing Club. Many of our VFW members were there, including myself and it was great! We all took fish home and had a pig roast after a day on Lake Superior. About 60 boats took out hundreds of veterans including residence at Jacobetti. The weather turned out perfect.

I want to recognize our Marquette County Veteran of the Year. Congratulations to Charles Hawes. Charlie, Navy Vet and served in Vietnam, is District 14 Chaplin and Past Commander for Marquette VFW Post. We thank him for his humble and sincere dedication to area veterans and his dependable and devoted commitment to service. Rollin Johnson was also recognized at the ceremony on October 21st for his volunteer efforts. Sincere appreciation to Ruffy for his dedication to the VFW for 50 years and his over 43 years as a veteran service officer and advocate for

Michigan veterans.

In October, Negaunee Post donated \$2000 to Jacobetti Veteran Home for special equipment. Thank you to them for supporting our hospitals. The local schools had great programs for Veterans Day in November. We have been promoting them and they are starting to take off. Two years ago they did not have programs, so this is progress.

Republic Post held a dedication for their new Veterans Memorial in October. It was made of UP rock and stood tall over the Michigamme River. The site for this monument was gorgeous and it was surrounded by flags. It held the names of all the veterans, including those Veterans of the Republic area that are with us today, in all the wars from the Civil War to present. It was very impressive, honorable, and the VFW had a very nice program presenting the new memorial.

I wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. See you in January in Kalamazoo.



## DISTRICT 15 REPORT

**Carole Morris**  
District 15 Commander



Up in District 15 we are already using our snow gear.

We are planning fundraisers for the holidays with our mission always in our site on how we can make our communities stronger, safer, and a better place to live.

We have helped the shelters, food banks, schools, and any other area that needs us and with the cold weather upon we know we have a lot of work to do.

I have enjoyed getting out to my posts

seeing how they are so involved it really makes me proud to be in this organization.

In February we have the Day of Challenge which sometimes is hampered by the weather but not the spirit in the youth that take part in the event.

Happy Holidays,

Carole Morris  
District 15 Commander

## MOV Editor



Hello Comrades,

Here we are again, as you can see, we have very few articles in this issue again. Without articles we do not have much of a paper.

I know you are all doing functions at your posts and with your veterans and the communities in your area. Everyone would like to hear about what you are doing.

In the next issue I hope to have lots of articles about Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, December 7th, Christmas and New Years.

You should also have how you awarded your Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year winners.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours in comradeship,  
**Scott Gloger**  
MOV Editor



## Michigan Overseas Veteran 2017-2018

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

### Helpful Tips!

1. Do not type all in CAPITAL LETTERS. If you must, then do so sparingly. Use 12-point font type size.
2. PLEASE- **no handwritten submissions.**
3. Do not write on back of pictures as ink may smear onto other items. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. When taking a GROUP photo make sure the images are large enough to identify the people or places in them.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest and news/photos of events from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. **Articles and/or photos from other publications need Reprint permission.**
7. **DISTRICT COMMANDERS** – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
8. **MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:**

**MOV Editor**  
Scott Gloger, mov@vfwmi.org

**Auxiliary Editor**  
Cindy Peto, ccpeto@yahoo.com

## National Council of Administration



**Harry "Les" Croyle**

As your National Council of Administration Member Michigan I have nothing to report at this time. Our next meeting will be in Washington DC and I will report out after that meeting.

Thank you again for allowing me to represent you on the National Council of Administration. I'm now in the third year of my four year term and I'm still learning and totally enjoying the experience.

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

Happy Holidays

# Auxiliary News

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**Bonnie Prey**

Time seems to be going more quickly lately. Summer has come and gone, now winter is on the way. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Looking forward to the holidays.

The Big 10 Conference was held in Minnesota. I finally got to visit the Mall of America. I flew to Virginia to attend the National President's Café and a Freedom Celebration at Yorktown Battlefield. The program speakers were very informative. There is always something to learn about this country and our organization.

Now that there have been several changes in the Department, we, the officers, decided that training is needed to get us on track and to reach out to the members to learn more about our duties and what is expected of us. Our Chief of Staff, Marilyn Malick, took it upon herself to build a Power Point program. Marilyn began by gathering information from all the different sources that are available to us. We believe this is the best tool for us to reach out to the members and show them the way. This training is listed for Secretaries, Treasurers and Trustees. It is also helpful to all the members. Everyone should attend at least one training. The officers have been trained too, so we always have someone available to train. We have had several trainings at different Auxiliaries. I have received many compliments on the training. I know Marilyn enjoys it when she goes out to the Auxiliaries and the members get involved and ask questions. I am hoping to possibly have another training after the holidays.

I am happy to report that we have instituted two new Auxiliaries this year, District 5, Southfield Auxiliary #2645 and District 13, Rogers City Auxiliary #607. Congratulations to you all and may you all do well and remember, we are here for our Veterans, their families and the communities.

Currently I am doing my visits to the VA Hospitals and Homes for Veterans. Seeing the hospitals is very interesting and the information I have received is all great news. Some of the Hospitals have been remodeling and growing so they can give so much more care to the Veterans. This is so heartwarming.

The holidays are coming. I enjoy Christmas with the beautiful decorations and family and friend gettogethers. There is also some very interesting food. I am looking forward to attending the Cooties Christmas gathering at the National Home. I hear Santa will be there and there will be presents for all the children. Going to be fun.

Mid-Winter Conference will be January 18 thru 21. Please check on the Web Page for the tentative Agenda, Reservations by December 28, 2017, and Dress Code. All our Program Chairmen will be doing their presentations and updates. We need to work on meeting our deadlines. This is very important. Try hard to get your information into the Department Office earlier than the last day. It will help Your Presidents, District Presidents and our Department.

Let's do our best to support our Veterans, their families, and the communities. Pull together and we will be even stronger for our Veterans. I hope all of you have a safe and Merry Christmas.

Loyally submitted,  
**Bonnie Pray**  
Department President

## DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

**Debbie Scheetz**



I cannot believe that 6 months has already gone by since the auxiliary year started, and what fun it has been. All the auxiliaries have been working hard to support their veterans and their families in their communities. Many have been hosting luncheon or dinners, having patriotic events at their post for 4th of July, Welcome Home Vets Day and Veterans Day! Many have walked in parades in their communities, especially Downtown Detroit on Nov 5th for the Veterans Day Parade. I couldn't tell you how many have made meals for a Veteran or their families over the past 6 months because there have been so many! They drive vets to the VA or to other doctor appointments or even to the grocery store. The auxiliary members really do so much for our Veterans all through-out the year. And don't even get me started about the fundraisers all the auxiliaries are having. The Auxiliaries have these fundraisers so that we have enough to support our National Programs as well as the things in Michigan that we support, like Camp Trotter and National Home for Children! We raise money to help the veteran families in our community as well as our posts! So, these fundraisers are important, and I hope all of you are supporting them!

I am a big believer that the district level is the training/mentoring level. So, I have organized many training sessions in our district over the past months, which were well attended. I will continue to do the best job I can to support the auxiliaries and be there when they have a question or concern. If I do not know the answer, I have plenty of mentors that can assist me. I am always learning something new and try to pass that knowledge on down to the auxiliaries.

The holidays are upon us so please remember to help the unfortunate veterans and their families. Lend a helping hand during this time. I know some auxiliaries that give gifts and food to deserving, struggling families in their posts and communities. This should of course be done through-out the year, but the holiday season is the hardest on most so please think about helping those in need.

If you have an event you would like me to attend just reach out to me. If I can make it, I will! I know there are many events going on across the district so lets me know about them. We have a District 5 page on Facebook, that many of the posts and auxiliaries update it with their events. If you are on Facebook search for VFW Dept. of MI DISTRICT 5, then request to be in the group. It is a public page and many people post on this page with relevant information about their posts or auxiliaries. You can do the same!

A huge event that is coming up in December, on the 16th, is Wreaths Across America. Where we lay wreaths on vet's graves in different cemeteries over the whole United States. I know they do it at Great Lakes Cemetery, but we also do it at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Township. It is a huge event and it is in our district. If you would like more information, contact me. It's just another way we support our vets, even after they have left us.

Our next district meeting is Dec 3rd at the Eastpointe Post, please think about attending, promise you will not regret it. The February 18th meeting is in St Clair Shores, so mark your calendars!

Hope you and your families have a great holiday season and hope you help others have a Happy Holiday too!

Respectfully submitted,  
**Debbie Scheetz, District 5 President**  
586.945.1287

## DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

**Shirley Caldwell**



As my husband and I were traveling to the Fall Conference from Livonia to Boyne Highlands last fall, I couldn't help but notice the beautiful state of Michigan that we live in, with the fall colors and landscape.

We passed some military vehicles going the opposite way and I thought how fortunate we are to have our freedom with the great men and women who have and still are, protecting us. This is why we all belong to the VFW Auxiliary; to give back to those, who gave so much to us.

District 4 has always been busy and this year is no different. Posts have attended parades, held POW/MIA ceremonies, had garage sales and held several kinds of dinners. We held our annual Polish Dinner fundraiser again and a group of our members really worked hard. It takes a good couple of days to

prepare for it, but the outcome is wonderful!!! District 4 held a turkey dinner for the Homeless Veterans. Attendees also received donated items from our members to take back to the shelter with them. In December our members held Christmas parties for the children and grandchildren of our Veterans.

January 6, 2018 will be our annual District VFW and VFW Auxiliary Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Banquet. It is so refreshing to see and meet all these youth that have put their heart and soul in to entering these contests. The winners of the Districts of Michigan will go on to the State Dept. level at Mid-Winter conference in Kalamazoo in January 19-21, 2018.

As the New Year begins, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and blessed 2018. My one hope is for Americans to appreciate our flag and military people MORE by "standing for the pledge" and only "kneeling for the fallen"!

**Shirley Caldwell, District 4 President**

## DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

**Cheryl Moorhead**



Happy Holidays from District Six,

It's such a wonderful time of the year. With all the holidays coming up! I hope everyone is finding many ways to help our veterans during this wonderful time of year.

We have so much going on this time of year. Our next District meeting is on December 2, 2017 in Fowlerville, Michigan at VFW Post 6464. Please come and enjoy our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Program. We will be honoring the district winners at this time. The program will start at 11 a.m., with lunch to follow. Please come and support our young people, they are our future!

January brings us to Mid-Winter. Which will be January 17th to January 21, 2018.

Please come and support our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Penn students at the Department of Michigan level. They all work so hard and need our support. This is such a wonderful program. They are the future of America! We hope to see you all there.

On January 27th, District Six Auxiliary will be having a Horse Derby. Please come and have a wonderful time, and support our district and our veterans. This will be at Morley S. Oats Post 701. This will be fun for everyone!! More information to follow.

I would like to thank everyone for their continued support. We would not be such a great organization without all your help and support.

Happy Holidays to everyone, and I hope you all have a great New Year!

**Cheryl Moorhead, District Six President**

God Bless  
Our Troops



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF  
OUR VETERANS HERE AT HOME  
AND AROUND THE WORLD



**DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT**

Jean Bestervelt



Hi and Greetings from District 8,

We will be doing many important events during the upcoming months. Many different Post will be having Friday dinners and dances, wreaths across America and Christmas parties at the VA hospital in Battle Creek and Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

We will also have our annual District 8 Christmas event at National Home for

Children with fire trucks bring Santa and his elves to hand out gifts to all the very excited children. It is great to see all the excited, smiling children.

In January the Mid-Winter Conference will be in District 8 in Kalamazoo, hope to see lots of you there with all the youths with their great speeches.

Want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Years.

**Jean Bestervelt**  
District 8 President

**DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT**

Della Steege



Greetings & Happy Holidays Sisters of the 9th District,

Our year is well under way, but our work has just begun on membership, let's recruit, reinstate and retain our member and get your dues in to department as soon as possible. Inspections are going well and I expect to be finished early in December.

The last few months have a bit of a blur with inspections, district meetings and banquets, Fall Conference, National convention and Big 10. Soon it will be time for our February district meeting; I would love to see our entire district at these meetings. Congratulations to the local and District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay winners. Many thanks go out to all VOD and Patriot's Pen Chairmen of all levels for inspiring our youth, encouraging them, and giving them an excellent opportunity to express their patriotic views and ideas through the annual contests.

As I visit your auxiliaries and listen to your meetings I hear all the wonderful things you do for your communities and you're reporting does not reflect all that great work, please take credit for all you do and be proud to report it. Auxiliary Chairmen please do your reporting online or on the new reporting forms, I know we don't like change but we have an obligation to follow the bylaws set forth by National.

As the Holiday season approaches please remember our hospitalized veterans, those in nursing homes and shut-ins. Pay a visit to those veterans in your area, bring along a small gift or a special holiday card to give them, anything to lift their spirits and brighten their day and yours too.

Remember Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo in January and if I haven't done your inspection yet I will be there in the next few weeks. I am looking forward to meeting all of you.

Have a happy and safe holiday season!

**Della Steege**  
District 9 President

**DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT**

Beth Plont



Hello from the Mighty 12th District,

We hope this finds everyone well. The Mighty 12th has been busy and they stay busy with all the events that they are always having.

We know our VFW's and Auxiliaries have a lot of events going on with dinners, breakfast and burger nights. Please support them. If you would like to find out what events a VFW or Auxiliary is having, please contact that VFW. You sure do not want to miss out on all the fun.

We should be supporting our local VFW's, it keeps them alive. In Muskegon County alone we have 6 active VFW's that have weekly or by-weekly burger nights. They are always having fish fry's and steak fry's. They

also have indoor garage sales, baked good sales, just to name a few.

District 12 is also having a fundraiser for National Chaplain Sandy Onstwedder. We are turning all our pop and bottle return money and donating it for her dream as National President. We have extended this till our March 11th 2018 District meeting.

I am sure throughout the state there is a lot going on at the VFW's so let's check them out and help support them.

District 12 is well on their way on being a stronger District as we are working together as a team on training and learning all the new changes that have been happening.

Loyally,

**Beth Plont**  
District 12 President

**DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT**

Linda Olsen



Well, this fall has been interesting. The fall colors were gorgeous traveling the UP visiting all my Auxiliaries. It was fun to see all the things they do and how different they are. I would like to feature my newest Presidents in the District. Todd Insley in St Ignace, Scott Collins in Negaunee, and Gilbert Smith in Manistique. They are all brand new to the Auxiliary and were put in the position of President the same year they joined. Very difficult task and not recommended, but they are hanging in there and doing a good job. They have different ideas and are enthusiastic. New blood is always good and creates excitement in the post. Many of my UP Posts would not be open if it were not for their Auxiliaries, I

am sure of that. They are very hard at work raising money and paying the bills. They need more recognition and appreciation for that.

I have been encouraging and pushing members to attend the State Convention in January, explaining to them they will get an entirely different view after they go to a State Meeting. It seems to put everything into perspective. I do have a few takers that made their reservations. I hope to get a few more.

I saw this and thought it was cute:



*"I have a little poppy, as red as red can be, to show that I remember who fought to make me free"*

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Don't forget our troop's over-seas and pray for a safe trip home.

**DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT**

Jennifer Ricker



Well it's the start of my year and we are excited to see what we can do for our veterans in District 15. Summer convention was amazing watching what everyone accomplished and achieved over the year.

schools as they are due by Halloween. We are enjoying the sunny weather we have been blessed with and planning our programs to help support our veterans and volunteer with this great organization! Many blessings to all.

It's that time of year again when the leaves are beautiful and the drive to Fall Conference was spectacular. Halloween is here so beware of those ghouls and goblins coming to your door. I have been traveling the district doing inspection and have been so welcomed by the members so thank you very much. It's Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen time. Make sure they are to your auxiliary by Halloween and to district by November 15. Any question contact me as I am the chairman this year. The holidays are here so please remember those overseas and think about adopting a troop for the holidays this year by sending care packages.

Many congratulations to everyone. Iron Mountain VA had their carnival in July for our veterans and our VAVS rep Carole Morris was there with three members from her auxiliary Post 3900. For the 4th of July South Range Auxiliary Post 6165 participated in a parade and prizes as well as having a BBQ chicken meal fundraiser. We had a strawberry festival in Chassel where Post 6507 was an active participant as they are very good at participating in the community. Chassel also has bingos they do most Sunday's and other events they post on their Face book page monthly. We have Michigan days coming up at National Home on August 6th. Our first District meeting is September 10th with Bonnie Pray coming along with Nicole and Stephanie for some training for the new Malta system. September 16th our District is sponsoring a bingo at Jacobetti in Marquette @ 1. We have several auxiliaries gathering supplies to send out Christmas packages to our troops overseas. We are getting our Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen in the

State President Bonnie came to our District meeting in September along with raffle Ruthie, Nicole, Diana and Stephanie. We had our school of instructions and were well received by the information given. Our District held a family fun festival and although it was not as greatly received, we had a great time at the Calumet readiness center.

Many blessings,

**Jennifer Ricker**  
District 15 President

**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT**



**Diana Ward**

Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Can you believe the year is nearly halfway complete? It's going so fast. Reading your reports is truly a pleasure and it is amazing to see what wonderful work we are doing in Michigan for our veterans and their families. Through your

your patience as I get through all the reports. Michigan is 86.5% reported after the last quarter – awesome job!

How are your displays coming for the Buddy Poppy Contest at MidWinter? The contest will be for a centerpiece item. The theme is Bonnie's theme "Strength and Unity for our Veterans". You are to use the bugle and Rosey the Riveter in some aspect of the display. The centerpiece shall not be any taller than 16 inches, nor wider than 12 in x 12 in. There shall be 5 Buddy Poppies in their original format. I'm really looking forward to seeing what you bring. Last year's displays were amazing.

**NOVEMBER IS MILITARY FAMILY MONTH**

Hopefully you had something planned for every day or a special big project. We want to take this opportunity to show our appreciation for the veterans and active duty

stand downs, promotion of the programs, homecoming events for our returning active duty and the care packages sent overseas; you have definitely embraced the National President, Dee Guillory's theme of "Catch the Dream for our Veterans" and Department President, Bonnie's theme "Strength and Unity for our Veterans." The next reporting deadline is January 31, 2018 – thank you for



God Bless  
Our Troops  
Have a safe  
and joyous  
Holiday  
Season

**VFW Camp Trotter for Children  
Twelfth Annual Charity Golf Outing**

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign War

<b>Friday, June 22, 2018</b>	<b>Village Green Golf Course</b>
8:00 a.m. - Registration	8130 Bingham Avenue
9:00 a.m. - Shotgun Start	Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513

**Cost \$60.00 Per Person / \$240.00 Per Team Includes:**

- \*18 Holes with cart
- \*Lunch at the Turn
- \*Grilled Steak Dinner
- \*4 person scramble
- \*Team Placement Prizes
- \*Door Prizes

**Golf Entry Form**

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 18, 2018

Captains name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #2 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #3 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Player #4 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hole/Tee Sponsor (Minimum) \$55 \_\_\_\_\_ Cash Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am able to donate products or gift certificates, please contact me.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to: VFW Camp Trotter for Children  
Mail to: Larry Thayer – Committee Member  
4858 Apache Path  
Owosso, MI 48867

Questions? Call Larry Thayer – 989-413-1096 email: [vwflarry@aol.com](mailto:vwflarry@aol.com)  
[www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc](http://www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc)

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter Foundation are tax deductible under section 501c (3) of the IRS Code

**#4494 DONOR SPOTLIGHT**

I am attaching an article about Rob Weiss. Rob is an avid supporter of the VFW National Home for Children and was instrumental in directing the Blake family to the National Home after the death of their son. They are the ones who helped establish the Amy Ross Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund here at the National Home. I am also including a link to the Blake's story in case you would like to use anything from there. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Kgt04cyt7M>

**Rob Weiss**

A Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War and member of the VFW since 1989, Rob Weiss's commitment to the children and families of the National Home deserves a hearty salute and a very big "Thank you!" from all of us.

Rob has been a dedicated volunteer and donor for the National Home for decades. He has been a Sr. Vice Commander, Commander, Quartermaster, and he is currently Adjutant and Judge Advocate for VFW Post #2406 in Charlotte, Michigan. Rob is also a member of the Honor Guard.

In 1998 Rob ran for the position of Quartermaster for the Department of Michigan, Veterans of Foreign Wars and was appointed as the Department's Adjutant. He held those positions for fourteen years until his retirement in 2012.

Rob's many years of service have provided him with the rewarding experience of watching children and families come to live at the National Home and having their lives transformed as a result.

"These kids are too important to fall on the wrong side of the fence," says Rob. "I've seen children come from tough situations and with no future. Then they come to the National Home, get an education and go on to college and successful lives. I've even seen families saved from bankruptcy and financial ruin thanks to the National Home."

Rob was particularly moved during a homecoming event, when he had the opportunity to speak with an older veteran who was once a resident of the National Home.

"He talked about growing up at the National Home and how his life had been since. It really struck me how the National Home was there for him when he was a boy. The National Home was the reason that the man was able to stand there and talk to me about all the great things he'd accomplished in his life."

Rob is an ardent believer in the National Home's mission and he sees a greater need for its programs and services today than ever before.

"I believe that places like the National Home are needed! There is a need in our society to take care of veteran families. Organizations that have done similar things have fallen to the wayside over the years, so we cannot allow that to happen to the VFW National Home for Children."

Rob and his wife Marcia are the proud parents of a grown daughter, Heather, and two grandchildren. When he's not busy with his VFW duties, Rob enjoys working on his yard and in his garden at home.

**Thank you, Rob!**



**Jane Ziebarth**

*Chief of Staff/Extension Ambassador  
2017-2018*



Jane Ziebarth of Princeton, Minn., currently serves the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW) Auxiliary as the 2017-2018 National Chief of Staff/Extension Ambassador.

A Life Member of Princeton Auxiliary 806, she joined on the eligibility of her father, who served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. in 1945. She has served the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary, District and Department President.

On the national level, she served as Chief of Staff/Extension Director, Historian, Big Ten Conference Chairman for the Hospital Program, Director of the Voice of Democracy Program and National District Council Member.

In her spare time she enjoys watching football and auto racing, needlework, crocheting, quilting and traveling with her husband, Larry, especially to the Hawaiian Islands.



**John A. Biedrzycki**  
*Commander-in-Chief 2015-2016  
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States*

John A. Biedrzycki was elected Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on July 22, 2015, at the VFW's 116th National Convention, held in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mr. Biedrzycki served in the U. S. Army from 1967-1970. He served in Korea as a Pay Distribution Specialist with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. His decorations include the National Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Korean Defense Medal.

Mr. Biedrzycki joined the VFW in 1969 at Post 418 in McKees Rocks, Pa., where he is a Legacy Life Member. He has served in elected and appointed positions at the Post, County, District and Department (state) levels culminating with his election as Department Commander 2002-2003 in which he achieved All American status. On the national level, he has served on many committees, including Chairman of the National VFW Programs Committee, Chairman of the National Youth, Education and Community Service Committee and Vice Chairman of the National Legislative Committee.

He is a Life Member of the Military Order of the Cootie and a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children. Mr. Biedrzycki also serves as a member of the Board of Directors, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Museum in Pittsburgh, Pa. Mr. Biedrzycki is a retired educator. He received his B.A. and Master's in Education from the University of Pittsburgh.

He and his wife Bette Jean make their home in Robinson Township, Pa.





## NATIONAL PRESIDENT DEE GUILLOY VISITS MICHIGAN



V.F.W. Auxiliary National President Dee Guillory 2017-2018

National President Dee Guillory visited Michigan on her first official visit of States during her tenure as V.F.W. Auxiliary National President for 2017-2018.

Madam President arrived at Lansing Capitol City International on Friday, August 11, for a two day visit for receptions at three area V.F.W. Posts and their Auxiliaries.

She was greeted by Department President Bonnie Pray, Department Secretary Cindy Peto, National Recruiter and Aide to National President Marion Bellaire, and Department Historian Cheryle Nastos.

Madam President's first visit was V.F.W. Post #701 Lansing. Conductress Stephanie Krueger escorted National President Dee Guillory to Aisle of Flags, where she was greeted by several V.F.W. and Auxiliary members, as well as service canine, Nani Whaine. This was followed by dinner and reception. The Escort then drove Madam President to view the State Capitol and Veterans Memorial.

Saturday, August 12, Madam President Dee Guillory and Escort traveled to Mt. Pleasant Post #3033 for Luncheon and Reception. Madam President Dee Guillory was given a special honor while walking the Aisle of Flags with the sound of Sea Cadet Yeoman Blackwell's Boatswain Whistle and Junior Sea Cadets at Attention. Madam President Dee Guillory mentioned that it was the first time she was greeted with a Boatswain whistle in her honor and could not wait to tell Mr. Guillory.

A short stop was made at a local vendor selling wind socks and buying two for their lake home.

Madam President and escort traveled to Great Lakes National Cemetery to pay respect to former National V.F.W. Commander in Chief James Goldsmith.

Madam President Dee Guillory final visit was Plymouth Post #6695 for reception and dinner. Madam President was

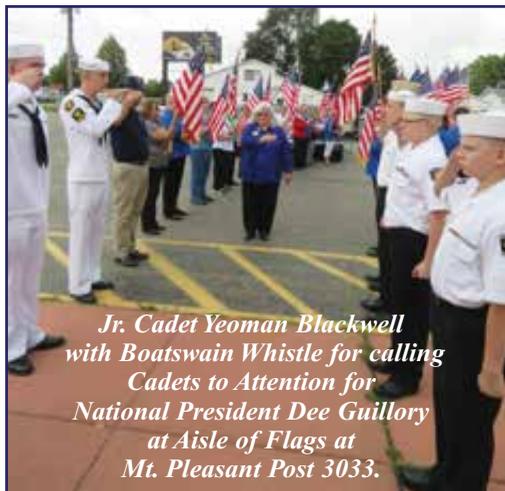
escorted by V.F.W. State Commander Matt David for Aisle of Flags.

Michigan is so honored to be the start of National President Dee Guillory tenure of States for 2017-2018.

We shall miss her laugh, smile and comradeship till we meet again.



Department President Bonnie Pray, National President Dee Guillory at State Capitol.



Jr. Cadet Yeoman Blackwell with Boatswain Whistle for calling Cadets to Attention for National President Dee Guillory at Aisle of Flags at Mt. Pleasant Post 3033.



(L-R): Jr. Sea Cadets Hug, Baker M, Baker N, Hopkins, Baker, V.F.W. State Commander Matt David, Mishler, National President Dee Guillory, Yeoman Blackwell, Lt. Commander Baker, Stack, Department President Bonnie Pray, Cook



Mt. Pleasant #3033 Auxiliary members L-R: Lu Demski, Laura Laney, Vickie Bushong, National President Dee Guillory, Ruth Ayris, Connie Latham.



National President Dee Guillory, Nani Wahine and owner Patrick Allen Rich.

## JAMES EUROPE VFW POST 2233 HOLDS P.O.W./M.I.A. CEREMONY



James Europe VFW Post 2233 held their community P.O.W./M.I.A. ceremony outdoors on our open lot on September 15, 2017. Commander Bobby Hamilton turned the reins over to appointed P.O.W./M.I.A. chairman, Robert Charley, to orchestrate the event.

The lot was set up like an auditorium with a diocese. The Master of Ceremonies (Robert Charley) conducted the program. The Osborn High School JROTC color guard posted and guarded the Colors during the ceremony. The

program opened with a prayer by Chaplain Marshal Hawkins.

Next, with the assistance of Post Surgeon Tommy Payne, comrade Charley did the Tribute of the Missing Man's table. I.A.W. (in accordance with) the VFW Ritual, page 115, Tribute to Comrades—P.O.W./M.I.A. The ceremony was performed by comrades Frank Maxwell, Antonio Lockett, Curtis Clark, Marshall Hawkins and Benjamin Light. All in attendance received a miniature P.O.W./M.I.A. flag. Commander Hamilton extended a thank you to our special guest, 4th District Senior Vice Commander Robert Caldwell and 4th District Auxiliary President Shirley Caldwell. Thank you also goes out to the Osborn High School JROTC color guard, the Marine Corps League representatives, the attendees from the community and the members of Post 2233 and its Auxiliary.

—POST 2233, continued on page 10



POW/MIA CHAIRMAN ROBERT CHASLEY WITH ROBERT CALDWELL AND BEVERLY BURTON



ATTENDEES



PARADE GROUND BEFORE CEREMONY

## ARMISTICE DAY 1918



This picture was taken on the first Armistice Day in 1918. It is composed of 30,000 men at Camp Custer (Battle Creek, MI) forming a human model of the United States to celebrate the end of WWI. It took several hours for the photographer, who was one of several engineered by a Chicago public relations firm, to get the proper symmetry and perspective. The war had ended and the men broke ranks again and again, the photograph was taken from atop a wooden tower on the parade ground, just off West Dickman Road.

The dark portions of the shield are formed by men in full uniform. The white portions are men in undershirts or bare-chested. Soldiers line up along pieces of white tape to form the shield. (From the book by Faye Clark "As You Were.") I believe that my Grandpa is in it, as he was stationed there, and I remember seeing this photo as child a couple times in a frame on the wall, when we were allowed to go to that room at their house. He was in the Mule Division. I believe in the cannon division.

—Submitted by Cheryle Nastos

\*Photo Copyright by Mole & Thomas, Chicago, IL 1918

## POST 582

Post 582 held their first annual Purple Heart Day on August 1, 2017 honoring three Purple Heart recipients from our post in the center.



WWII Dane Guisbert, right Donald Kengerski, Korean War and left Ron Allen, Vietnam.

*VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT, continued from page 7*

members along with their families for all of their dedication and sacrifices. Let's go a step more, let's continue to do something every month for our military families. When you think about it, that truly is what this program is about. Veterans & Family Support is the foundation of the organization – we are here to serve those that served and protected us. Maybe you can get a local dentist to do some free dental work for veterans in your area. Many of you are working on Stand Down programs to get items to veterans in need, baby showers for our female veterans, projects to support local homeless shelters and/or creating a program of your own. If you adopted a family during November, continue to do something for that family every month. Maybe a gas card, maybe a grocery coupon, stocking stuffers for their kids at Christmas – heck even the veteran would like a stocking stuffer. Bring in the new year in January with some new socks, a car wash coupon, shaving equipment for the men and some perfume for the ladies. There are so many things we can do for the veterans and their families. Send me a report on whatever you do.

Veterans' Day is November 11, 2017 – what have you planned for your veterans? Even though you might not have done something on the day, you can make every day be Veterans' Day so you can put together a project any time.

Keep up the good work on your fundraising for the VFW National Veterans Service and the VFW Veteran & Military Support programs. These are crucial programs to keep funded so that our veterans get the benefits

and help they need. Service officers are in short supply because funds are low. So many of our military families have unmet needs that we are not aware of. Remember your Auxiliary and/or Post can get funds to sponsor a large event for veterans such as homeless vets, dental work, housing costs, etc. Operation Uplink keeps our active duty in touch with their family at home.

Another way to support our families at the VFW National Home for Children is to send donations for Christmas. Make sure to send in your donations to National VFW Auxiliary for the Health and Happiness Fund which supports Christmas at National Home. The Military Order of the Cooties and its Auxiliary will be having a Christmas party at the National Home on the first weekend of December 2017. If you are interested, your Auxiliary can make donations toward presents for the kids. Let me know if you are interested and I'll get the information to you.

The Holidays are always a tough time for veterans. Remember to advertise the National Home Crisis Line. These are our silent sufferers. We need to make sure they are able to get the help and comfort that they need. Transition back to non-military life is hard on so many military families and the National Home is a beacon of protection and transition for them.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

**Diana Ward**  
Department of Michigan Veterans & Family Support Chairman

**AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN**



**Kathy Hubbard**

Good Afternoon Patriots,

I sincerely believe every American has a responsibility to show their patriotism, many auxiliaries have members who often say "I can't do that" or "I wouldn't know where to begin. But begin we must! It's everyone's responsibility to show

their patriotism. You may ask, How do I do that? It's easy. How about your auxiliary members fold flags to send over to our troops. If you are sending packages over to deployed troops these flags they can be ordered from Pocket Flag Project, PO Box 740847 Arvada, CO 80006, the cost to purchase the minimum order of 300 flags is \$75.00.

Also ask your members to be more involved by increasing awareness and participation with our youth promote proper respect for our flag, the 13 folds of the flag or the meaning behind the POW/MIA table.

No matter how big or small your Auxiliary is **YOU can promote Patriotism**. We have so many items in the VFW Store to purchase to help in promoting patriotism also there are many items on our web-site for you to print off and use. Be sure to follow our Guide

Sheet and pick one or two Achievement Goals a month to promote and before you know it you will have each one completed. But, REMEMBER we need to report what we are doing, we have several auxiliary's that have not reported anything accomplished for 2017—18 year so far, I know without a doubt you have done things that need to be reported please just call me and I would be happy to put-in your report as we speak. Reporting is also an act of patriotism, we must be proud of the many things we do in our communities. **Let's Be Proud to be American's, shout it from the mountain tops!**

Many of our programs can inter-act with each other work together with your youth chairman, membership chairman, scholarship chairman and think out of the box! Dream Big and then make it happen.

Please remember that every member counts, no matter how much or how little they are able to contribute to our many programs, there a vital member of your auxiliary and a member of this Wonderful organization, always remember to **ask** for their help, we all have different talents but we all are not able to speak up and offer, some members need to be asked, they are members of your auxiliary, use them.

Sincerely,  
**Kathy Hubbard**

**AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP**



**Jane Dady**

*"For He will give His angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up"*  
Psalms 91:11, 12 Soldiers Psalms

Thanksgiving and Christmas is a time to gather with family and friends. While this normally takes place at home, for many Veterans, Thanksgiving and

Christmas was celebrated in a foxhole, a submarine, flying combat patrols over enemy territory or wherever they hung their helmet at night.

Let us remember the service of our Soldiers and Veterans. Let us renew our promise to fulfill our obligation as members to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so we can live free.

While holidays are usually a joyous time, it

is not so much for the soldier who is deployed, veterans in a nursing home, veterans who live alone or are homeless.

Your membership matters, is priceless and provides services in a multitude of ways. In joining our hands together, we can see that no soldier, veteran or their families go without this holiday season. To have the best holiday season ever, start by remembering that Freedom is Not Free.

If you are a soldier or veteran in need, please call the National Home Helpline at 800-313-4200 or visit [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.org)

Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

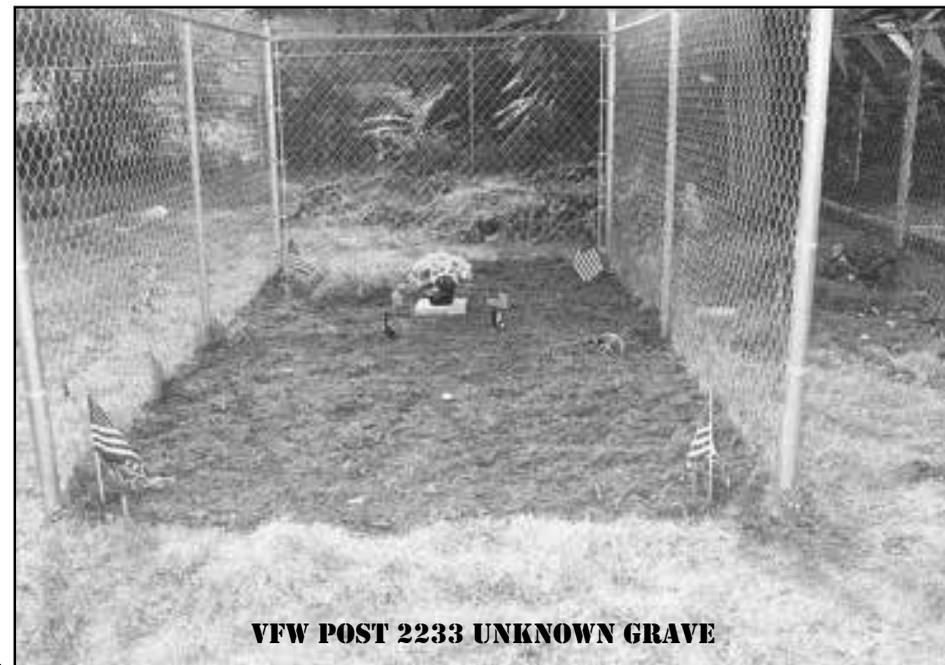
**Jane Dady**  
Department Membership Chairman

*POST 2233, continued from page 9*

**OSBORN HIGH SCHOOL JROTC COLOR GUARD**



**MISSING MAN TABLE**



**VFW POST 2233 UNKNOWN GRAVE**



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
RADISSON, KALAMAZOO  
JANUARY 17-21, 2018**



**AUXILIARY AGENDA  
(tentative as of 11/14/17)**

**Thursday, January 18**

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Department Officers Meeting	Suite 837
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	All Council Members Meeting including Budget and Audit	Suite 837

**Friday, January 19**

8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration	Kalamazoo Room
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Hospital Booth & Silver Dollar Table	Kalamazoo Room
	Buddy Poppy Contest	Kalamazoo Room
9:00 am – 11:30 am	Council of Administration Meeting and	Glens
11:30 am – 12:00 am	<b>2017-18</b> All Chairmen Meeting	TBA
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	District Sr. Vice President meeting with Dept. Sr. Vice President Sandy Medos	TBA
11:45 am – 12:45 pm	District Jr. Vice President meeting with Dept. Jr. Vice President Della Steege	TBA
1:00 pm – 4:15 pm	National Webinar Training and Mentoring and Membership Engagement	Glens
4:30 pm	District President's Reception	Suite 837
5:30 pm	District President's Night on the Town	

**Saturday, January 20**

8:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration	Kalamazoo Room
8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Hospital Booth & Silver Dollar Table	Kalamazoo Room
	Buddy Poppy will be judged at 9:30	
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Camp Trotter Meeting	Praire
9:00 am – 11:30 pm	Program Chairmen Presentations	Glens
	Buddy Poppy Awards and Membership	
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	<b>2018-19</b> All Chairmen Meeting	TBA
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Voting Workshop	Glens
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Auxiliary VOD/PP Reception	Glens
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	VOD/PP Students, District Commanders/Presidents & Head Table	Fields Room
5:30 pm	Escort of Head Table and VOD/PP Students	
5:30 pm	Banquet	Arcadia Ballroom

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 21**

Safe Travels

**TIMES MAY CHANGE - REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON DEPARTMENT WEBSITE @ [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)**

**SPECIAL NOTE: The Silver Dollar Table, until further notice, will be a fundraiser for National Officer, Sandi Onstwedder.**

**Department of Michigan  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
39th Mid-Winter Conference  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 -  
Sunday, January 21, 2018**

Make Your Reservation by December 28, 2017  
To Make Reservations Call:

**Phone: 269-343-3333**

Radisson Plaza Hotel  
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

- Cutoff date is December 28, 2017 or until block fills, whichever occurs first.
- Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.

To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333. Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

When calling to make your reservation to receive group rate, you must identify yourself as a **Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference participant.**

A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.

**Rates are subject to 6% State Tax and 5% Occupancy Tax**

**Room Rates: Standard Rooms: \$109  
Suites: \$149.00**

**GROUP: Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Mid-Winter Conference  
Wednesday, January 17, 2018 - Sunday, January 21, 2018**

**2017-2018  
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP AMNESTY**

ALL LIFE MEMBERS WHO ARE REPORTED DECEASED BETWEEN JULY 1, 2017 AND AUGUST 31, 2017, WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE POST ROLLS AND THE POST'S PRIOR YEAR MEMBERSHIP COUNT WILL BE ADJUSTED ACCORDINGLY.

1. Any Post that obtains 100% in membership will receive a banner.
2. Any Post that obtains 100% by Fall Conference will be put in a drawing for \$200.00 Deadline is September 30, 2017.
3. 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, 2017.
4. 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, 2018.
5. 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.**
6. The Post with the most new and reinstated members for the membership year 2017-2018 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

7. The District with the most new and reinstated members for the membership year 2017-2018 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 Membership Director  
6718 Academy Dr. #5  
Brighton, MI 48116  
734-323-1188  
[miroadrunner52@yahoo.com](mailto:miroadrunner52@yahoo.com)

Dennis Craycraft  
11962 Youngman Road  
Belding, MI 48809  
616-550-6990

**Scott Gloger**  
CANDIDATE FOR  
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN  
JR. VICE COMMANDER  
**2018-2019**



*Endorsed by*  
District 5  
Macomb County Council  
Oakland County Council  
Post 4156  
Wife and Family



**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars  
39th Annual Mid-Winter Conference  
January 19-20, 2018  
AGENDA**

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2018**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration	Kalamazoo
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Program Display tables	Kalamazoo
<b>BANQUET TICKETS</b>		
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Service Office Committee Budget Finance	Prairies
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Director's Reports	Prairies
9:30 a.m.	Karmanos Cancer Institute	Prairies
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	VTS Training	Stone Theatre
4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Senior/Junior Vice District Cmdrs.	TBA
5:30 p.m.	Night on the Town	TBA
6:00 p.m.	VOD Event for students	
7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.	Department Hospitality Room	813

**Dress Code:**

**Meetings-** Commander Gorski's, blue shirt and gray pants  
Night on the Town, Casual

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, 2018**

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Council of Administration Breakfast	Kalamazoo 2
8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Registration	Kalamazoo
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Program Display tables	Kalamazoo
<b>BANQUET TICKETS</b>		

**ALL BANQUET TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP BY 11:30 A.M.**

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Camp Trotter Meeting	Prairies
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Council of Administration	Prairies
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.		
2:00 - p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Auxiliary VOD/PP Reception	Glens
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	VOD/PP Students, District Cmdr./Pres.	Fields
	Head table meet for line up	
5:30 p.m.	Head table seated	
6:00 p.m.	VOD/PP Banquet	Arcadia Ballroom

**Dress Code:**

**Meetings-** Council of Administration (jacket and tie)  
Cmdr. David (grey shirt and tan pants for all others)

**Banquet-** Suit or sport coat and tie  
Head table: Black tux

We are honoring our VOD and PP students. Please DO NOT take alcoholic beverages in the Banquet Hall. Thank you.



May your holidays  
be Merry and Bright  
&  
your New Year  
filled with Health,  
Wealth and  
Happiness.



A heartfelt thank you to all of our veterans for keeping our families safe this holiday season and throughout the year!

Letter to the Editor

Scott Gloger, MOV Editor and Membership Director

**SUBJECT: 100% MEMBERSHIP, WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?**

Much is written about membership in every issue of the MOV. The March/April/May 2017 issue was no exception. We are asked to “Recruit and Retain” because membership is the Lifeblood of our Organization. Our Post will receive an award and congratulations for attaining 100% membership this year - 232 members! But alas, that is 100 less members than we had in 2010 - declines perhaps similar to other Posts in the Department. In early April our National membership totaled 1,148,766 members. In the mid 1990s those numbers totaled 2.5 million, a decline of 54% over the last 20 plus years. The reasons for the decline are certainly well known.

Every year the Department strives to once again reach that magical 100% goal. But

what does it really mean? Fifteen years ago I recall the Department membership totaling 65-70,000. This year the 100% bogie was 44,902. Now would be a good time for the MOV to publish the historical statistics of our Department membership.

I’m asking that in the next issue of the MOV you publish a year history of the final Department membership count from years 2000 to 2017 and to list the Department Commander in office at that time. Show us the long term results of the yearly 100% membership goal drive. I’m hoping our readers and members will be enlightened and perhaps inspired to do better.

Jim Muzzin  
VFW Life Member  
Shelby Twp., MI

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

In response to the ‘Letter to the Editor and Membership Director’

**WHAT DOES 100% MEMBERSHIP MEAN?**

First off it means you have members who joined for their own reasons and you have an organization to help fellow Veterans in times of need. They honor what they fought for the rights of all people. You have comradeship with fellow Veterans. You can help each other with what you all went through.

If you have 150 members in your Post you need to make sure sll continuous members dues are paid on time no matter when they expire. You need to retain them and replace members who have passed away. Membership numbers are counted as of the last day of May.

The Post Quartermaster has access to all the members status. It is his job to inform the membership of who is not paid. Each Post has a Commander, Sr. Vice Commander, Jr. Vice Commander and should also have a membership committee. They can get the list and contact the non-paid members. Find out why their dues have not been paid it could be medical, financial or just not happy with the way they were treated when they were at the Post. You can offer to help with the dues with your relief fund.

You also, can help with how they we accepted and make it work for them. They earned the right to be part of the VFW. Let’s keep them with us.

Hopefully, your Post has taken off

the deceased members. Or are they still maintaining them on the roles. It is just plain wrong to do that. Remove them and get new members.

As far as a list of Past Department Commanders and Membership Directors go, it is irrelevant, because it is not their responsibility for 100%. It is up to each and every comrade to get up and get new members. Just because you belong doesn’t mean your job is done.

So, if we report all Deceased, Retain, and Replace the members we can attain 100%. NO PROBLEM.

The numbers from the Past 15-20 years have dwindled. YES. Any comrade can go on the National website—Log in and go to mem stats and get all the numbers and members you need.

If every member through the past and now present would recruit at least one member each year. We would not have to worry about membership. We would grow in strength not dwindle away.

Let’s just do the job and keep our Great Organization going for the benefit of all Past, Present, and future members.

Any questions call me at 734-323-1188.

Yours in comradeship,

Scott Gloger  
MOV Editor



# Every Hero Needs a Hero

The VFW knows that when many of our defenders return from battle they’ll still have to fight. Fight for quality medical care. Fight for fair and timely benefits. Fight to ensure their spouses and children will be cared for, always.



Thankfully, they’re never alone. They have VFW service officers on their side.

Please support the National Veterans Service. Your generosity helps so many veterans right here in our state.

You never know when you—or your closest comrades—might need a hero on your side.

**Helping our Heroes** 

Press Release  
October 30, 2017  
**For Immediate Release**  
Contact: Meghan Mitchell | 517-663-7012

**Annual Life Member Meeting Installs New Trustees and Bids Fond Farewell to Virginia Carman and Tom Tweet.**

Eaton Rapids, Mich. – On October 28th, 2017, the VFW National Home for Children hosted the Annual Meeting of Life Members. The Annual Meeting, open to all Life Members of the National Home, examined the past year as well as the future of the National Home.

Highlights of the meeting included the formal installation of new board officers and trustees. Newly elected trustees Steven Van Bergen, National Home District 9 and Renee Fulk, District 12, were sworn in, along with new Board President Dave Oullette, and new Board Vice President, Mike McGrath.

Outgoing District 9 Trustee, Thomas Tweet and District 12 Trustee, Virginia Carman, were honored during the meeting for their service to the National Home.

The two outgoing trustees thanked everyone in attendance for their support and expressed their love of the National Home before being presented with commemorative photo collages depicting their work for the National Home.

Executive Director, Patrice Green made an annual report to the membership and thanked them for all of their support, love, and contributions. The meeting concluded with a “Year In Review” video showing the educational, and enriching activities the children and residents were able to experience due to member support.

Since 1925 the VFW National Home for Children has been providing for the children and families of our nation’s veterans, while at the same time serving as a living memorial to our nation’s heroes. For more information on the National Home, please call (517) 663-1521, toll-free at (800) 424-8360 or visit: [www.vfwnationalhome.org](http://www.vfwnationalhome.org)



**Chaplain Jennifer L. Smith**  
Proud member of District 6 and Post 701

**Candidate for**  
Veterans of Foreign Wars  
Department of Michigan

**Department Chaplain**  
★ June 2018-2019

*Selfless Service Through Faith* ★  
**Endorsed by Post 701 and its Auxiliary,  
Dist. 6, Her Husband, Her Family,  
and Her Church**



*DISTRICT 4, continued from page 4*

or purchase a Life membership over the phone. Remember, it's not about the cost of membership it's the price you already paid to be eligible to be a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Currently the District 4 VFW Riders stand at 38 members and growing. Our monthly meetings are being held at Lincoln Park VFW Post 552 on the 1st Friday of every month at 7pm. All District 4 VFW and VFW Auxiliary members in good standing are eligible to join with some restrictions. Simply put, an open invitation exists to all members\ riders and passengers wishing to be a part of the District 4 VFW Riders. Use the email below to contact me for more information about the VFW Riders.

Post Commanders/Chairmen, please double check all your reporting totals and donations listed on the Department webpage ([www.vfwmi.org](http://www.vfwmi.org)). With the changeover of the new website we discovered some information did not get posted. Look under "RESOURCES" (drop down menu) to track where your post stands. If you find something missing, contact the related Department Director and work with them to get it corrected. If you notice any donations made but not listed on the "DONATIONS" page, please contact and work with the Department Quartermaster to get it corrected. Please make sure you continue reporting all the community service and hospital service your membership is doing. As always, it is never too late to catch up and report any missed activities your members are doing. Remember, that in order to receive on-time reporting credit, reports must be submitted by the 10th of the following month. A MESSAGE TO ALL OUR VFW MEMBERS, it is important that you communicate your volunteer work to the Post Commander or Post Chairman. That will ensure your post is receiving full credit for all the Activities and Hospital work being done

by your post membership.

Post Commanders and Quartermasters please review your All-State Checklist regularly and keep track of your post progress by updating the form as we go. Before you know it, it will April 30, 2018 and your completed All-State checklist will be in the mail.

The anticipation is beginning to run high surrounding the Mid-Winter Conference when we learn about the state winners in the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year contests that will move on and represent the Department of Michigan in Washington D.C. at next March. GOOD LUCK and wishing ALL the BEST to our winners representing District 4! Although, I think we can all agree that every participant in the program is already a BIG WINNER!

**District 4 - Web links**

District 4 Email: [District4@vfwmi.org](mailto:District4@vfwmi.org)  
 District 4 Website: [www.vfwmidist4.org](http://www.vfwmidist4.org)  
 District 4 Facebook Group, just search for: **VFW District 4 Michigan**

**District 4 - Events**

- Nov 12 - **District 4 - Membership Meeting** - VFW Post 9283 - Southgate - Noon
- Dec 9 - **District 4 - Joint Membership Rally** - VFW Post 3323 - Westland - 4pm - 8pm
- Jan 6 - **District 4 - VOD, PP, and TOY Awards Banquet** - VFW Post 345 - Redford - 3:30pm
- Jan 28 - **District 4 Membership Meeting** - VFW Post 4422 - Taylor - Noon
- Apr 26-28 - District 4 - Hosts the **State Pool Tournament** - VFW Post 552, Lincoln Park.
- April 22 - **District 4 - Joint Loyalty Day Program** - VFW Post 7546, Dearborn Hts. - 1:30pm
- 1st Friday - **District 4 - VFW Riders** - Meet at VFW Post 552 - Lincoln Park - 7pm every month.

**V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES  
 39th MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
 RADISSON HOTEL, KALAMAZOO, MI**

**BANQUET TICKETS  
 JANUARY 20, 2018**

**Price \$40.00 per person. All seats are reserved.  
 No tickets sold at the door.**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR ORDERING TICKETS  
 IS JANUARY 10, 2018**

**All tickets ordered after Deadline of January 10, 2018  
 will be at the Rate of \$50.00**

**Banquet ticket orders will be held accountable, including No Shows,  
 unless authorized by State Commander for refund.**

**BANQUET TICKETS WILL NOT BE MAILED**

**Banquet starts at 6:00 PM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dist # \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets \_\_\_\_\_

Make all checks payable to the Department of Michigan VFW (NO CASH)  
 Mail to: Patrick Patterson  
 21672 Elmway  
 Clinton Township, MI 48035





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**

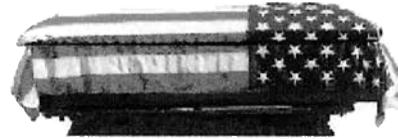
Send to: Scott Gloger  
 6718 Academy  
 Brighton, MI 48116  
 mov@vfwmi.org

**Graphic Design:**  
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 Jenny DeBack, President

**TAPS**

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

**OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,  
 A VETERAN DIED TODAY**



Listed in Order of Post | Location | Last Name | First Name | Age | Service/War

**345 REDFORD**

KEEVIS GORDON H. JR. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 LITTLE JACK A. 85 MARINES/KOREA

**552 LINCOLN PARK**

BALOGH CHARLES ARMY/WWII  
 BENSON WILLIAM 74 NAVY/KOREA/VIETNAM/  
 PERSIAN GULF

BONORA VICTOR 90 MARINES/WWII  
 CURCIO ANTHONY 70 ARMY/VIETNAM

FLORESCU STEFAN 83 WWII  
 LASAZEN NICHOLAS W. 94 NAVY/WWII

MAJORS DONALD 78 ARMY/KOREA  
 MANN JAMES 69 NAVY/VIETNAM

MITCHELL CARL A. 74 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM  
 THAMARUS DONALD SR. 92 ARMY/WWII

WHITMORE HAROLD B. NAVY/VIETNAM  
**1519 NORTHVILLE**

BROOKS ROBERT 87 ARMY  
 DEAN ROBERT J. 91 NAVY/WWII

MAC NICOL KENNETH 97 ARMY/WWII  
 MCSWINEY DANIEL D. 95 ARMY/WWII

**2144 HOLLAND**  
 DOORNEWERD DAVID W. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM

FREEMAN JOHN 72 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 KOEMAN NELSON A. 97 ARMY/WWII

OOMS WILLIAM 83 MARINES/KOREA  
 VERHEY KENNETH 86 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM

**3293 GRAND LEDGE**  
 ROSS JOHN D. 92 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

**3676 SAULT STE MARIE**  
 MACMASTER JOEL R. 78 NAVY/VIETNAM

**4005 CORUNNA**  
 BOURSMITH JACK 89 NAVY/WWII

CAMPBELL RICHARD E. 87 MARINES/KOREA/  
 VIETNAM

DEAN CHARLES 89 WWII

HAGAN CHARLES L. 66 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 JENKINS LYLE M. 97 ARMY/WWII

KROSKE WILLIAM L. 89 ARMY/KOREA  
 ROSE DUANE H. 80 AIR FORCE/KOREA

SEMKE GARY 65 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 SPRINGS CHARLES 83 MARINES/KOREA

THOMAS WELDRICK K. JR. 91 NAVY/WWII  
 TOTMAN RONALD L. 71 ARMY/VIETNAM

WILEY HUGH 65 NAVY/VIETNAM  
**4090 PORTLAND**

MCCRUMB GERALD 85 ARMY/WWII  
**4461 LAKE ODESSA**

HEPPELBOWER HOWARD L. 94 ARMY/WWII  
 JOHNSON BILLY 87 NAVY/KOREA

WISECUP PAUL 73 ARMY/VIETNAM  
**4499 MANISTEE**

JOHNSON LARRY W. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM  
 PETZAK GORDON E. 85 ARMY

STEGE WARREN T. 91 NAVY/WWII  
**5666 FLUSHING**

PEPIN JOSEPH 86 ARMY/KOREA  
 5670 GWINN

COPHER GEORGE 79 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM  
 ROBINSON WAYNE 86 MARINES/KOREA

**5740 RUTH**  
 CLOR FABIAN 90 ARMY/WWII

**6017 PENTWATER**  
 GARDY WILLIAM 88 NAVY/WWII

**6507 CHASSELL**  
 HYYPIO PAUL 85 ARMY/VIETNAM

**6507 NOYE**  
 JACK K. 87 ARMY/KOREA

**6579 NEW LOTHROP**  
 BIRCHMEIER RUPERT 89 ARMY/KOREA

**6695 PLYMOUTH**  
 REEVES DAVID L. 65 ARMY/VIETNAM

SCHLEE ROGER 69 NAVY/VIETNAM  
**6754 SPRUCE**

MORTON EARL F. 88 ARMY/KOREA  
 PRITTE CHARLES O. 94 ARMY/WWII

**7542 BIRCH RUN**  
 CURTIS CLAY 64 ARMY/VIETNAM

FRYE HOWARD 93 ARMY/WWII  
 KONOSKI DONALD 93 ARMY/WWII

**8872 PORT SANILAC**  
 GALLAGHER JOHN 88 ARMY/KOREA

POULOS THOMAS 95 ARMY/WWII  
 RUSSELL GARY 69 ARMY/VIETNAM

**8964 OVID**  
 BOVAN GILBERT 88 ARMY/WWII

DEPOND RICHARD 91 ARMY/WWII  
 MCCLELLAND RONALD L. 84 NAVY/KOREA

**9023 BRIMLEY**  
 LAMOREAUX WILLIAM 68 ARMY/VIETNAM

MAKI HOWARD T. 92 ARMY/WWII/KOREA  
**9656 LAMBERTVILLE**

EISENMANN RALPH 99 NAVY/WWII  
 McMULLEN WILLIAM 69 NAVY/VIETNAM

**10194 GRASS LAKE**  
 TAYLOR ERIC 44 MARINES/SOMALIA



**VFW**



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS**

*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

# MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

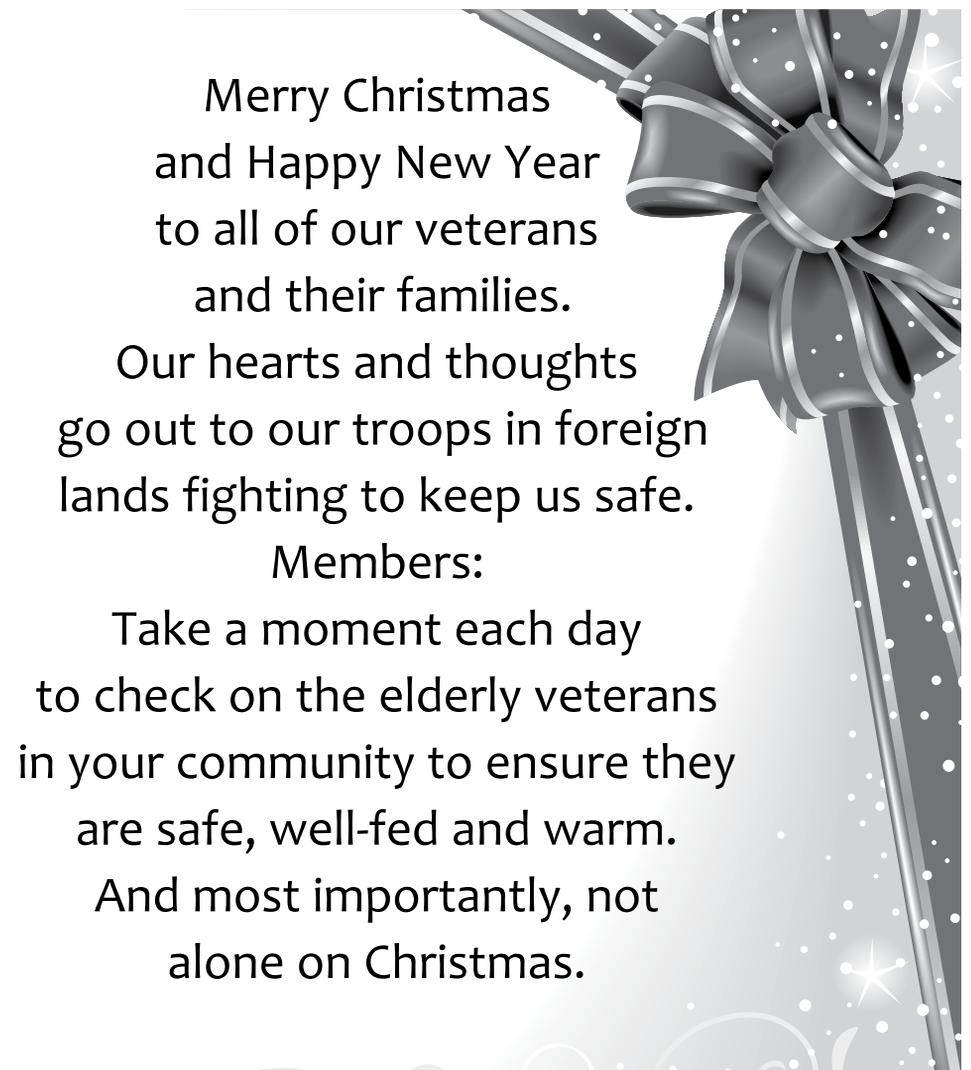
• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •  
 October/November/December 2017 Volume 85 Number 2

## GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

STATE COMMANDER, continued from back page

The Department of Michigan will be holding its annual Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo MI at the Radisson Hotel from Jananuary 18 – 21, 2017. The hotel reservation information is on the Dept. website. This is the conference that we honor the winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of

the Year. We will also be conducting our final VTS for the year on Sat., Jan 20. If you want to learn more about the VFW, I hope you come and attend. We put out a lot of good information but it doesn't do us any good if you don't come and get it. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.



Merry Christmas  
 and Happy New Year  
 to all of our veterans  
 and their families.

Our hearts and thoughts  
 go out to our troops in foreign  
 lands fighting to keep us safe.

Members:

Take a moment each day  
 to check on the elderly veterans  
 in your community to ensure they  
 are safe, well-fed and warm.

And most importantly, not  
 alone on Christmas.

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## STATE COMMANDER

It is amazing how quickly time goes by. We are already half way through the 2017-2018 year. It's been a busy 6 months but we still have a lot to do.

On Aug. 6th we had Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children. This event is held every year and is a great opportunity to come out and see the National Home and the good work they do there for veterans and their families in need. We started a challenge with Ohio two years ago to see which Department could raise the most money for the National Home. The winner gets a Bucket that is filled with cheer. Last year Ohio beat us by about \$1,200.00 so they got the Bucket. What Ohio doesn't understand is the Bucket belongs in Michigan. Thanks to your generous donations, we won the Bucket back. The Dept. of Michigan raised over \$56,000.00 for the National Home. Between Michigan and Ohio that weekend approx. \$95,000.00 was raised. Thank you to all the Posts in the Department that contributed to this fantastic cause.

Speaking of donations, when your post received solicitations for donations from various charities please consider donating to the VFW programs first. Keep in mind that the Dept. of Michigan takes nothing off the top of what you donate to cover expenses. If you donate \$1.00 to MAP, Cancer, or Scouting for example, \$1.00 goes to that program. You won't get a better bang for your buck anywhere else.

You've all heard about the devastation caused by the hurricanes in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, and Puerto Rico this past summer. A lot of comrades and their families lost their homes or had significant damage and needed help. The VFW was there for them. The National organization has an emergency relief fund set up for just this type of situation. Donation came in to National from all the Departments and I'm proud to say that the Department of Michigan was able to raise over \$15,000.00 to help our comrades in need. Thank you for your generous donations.

Currently the Dept. of Michigan is sitting at 85.55%. District 8 is in the lead with 87.54%, District 7 is in second with 86.99%, and District 4 is a close third with 86.98%. There are 3 Posts that have attained 100% or better, Post 5191 (106.89%), Post 1573 (100%), and Post 3946 (100%). Congratulations on hitting this difficult milestone.

As everyone knows, our membership continues to fall. If we don't turn this around the VFW as we know it won't be around much longer. Not only do we have to recruit new members we must go after the comrades that have let their membership expire. Post Commanders and Quartermasters are able to login to the National website, [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org), and can download the Post membership roster. This list will show all current and past members going back 3 years. You need to get this list and contact all current and former members that have not paid their dues. Call them or visit them if you can't get them on the phone. See how they're doing. Let them know we care about them and miss them. One of the biggest reasons members don't renew is because they never hear from anyone. That is our fault and we need to change that.

By now all entries for the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year should have been judged and submitted at both the Post and District level and send to Department for judging. You should consider submitting the names of your winners to your local newspaper. Let's spread the word about these wonderful programs. The Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy are great ways for young people to make money for their future education. The Teacher of the Year is a great way to thank and recognize the hard work our teachers do every day.



**Matt David**  
 State Commander

STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 16