

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
FALL 20/21



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER

“When posed with great challenges, we create greater opportunities”. These were my words published in the last issue of the Michigan Overseas Veteran.

Today, I can proudly say the VFW Department of Michigan and Auxiliary have proven that statement true. In the middle of a pandemic that has shuttered much of this Nation, the VFW Department of Michigan hosted our annual Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands Resort. We did so safely and successfully, for what some

have said to have been the best Fall Conference our organization has hosted in many years.

We were joined by Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander in-Chief, Hal Roesch. Commander Roesch continued to share his message that we treat all of our Comrades with Dignity and Respect. For that we are grateful, and this Department is proud to continue turning his words into action.

Chuck Hagel, the Former Secretary of Defense, retired United States Senator and Life Member of the VFW, recorded a video that we played for attendees. In it, he applauded this Department for our efforts to continue serving veterans, their families and communities, and reminded us of our place as leaders in our communities. Specifically, he noted the important role we can and should play in being the unifying voices to bring our country together. Jared Lyon, the Chief Executive Officer of Student Veterans of America (SVA) also recorded a video for us. Jared, a Navy veteran, spoke of his pride in being a member of this great organization, and affirmed his commitment to ensure the partnership the VFW has nationally, is fully deployed at the Department, District and Post levels; connecting our proud VFW Posts, with the blood, energy and enthusiasm of student veterans; who some have started to call the “Next Greatest Generation”.

The VFW has had several major inflection points in our proud 120 year history. The first came with the creation of several smaller veterans organizations, which were formed by veterans returning from the Spanish-American War. The next came as these organizations merged in 1913, creating the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We grew again with the close of World War I. As World War II ended, the VFW experienced explosive growth, buttressed by Korean War Veterans in the decade to follow, thus laying the massive footprint that we know of the organization today. Sadly, we lost a generation, as we did not welcome our Comrades home from the Vietnam War, as we should have.

Today, our leadership encompasses those Vietnam veterans who ultimately did join the VFW, and we are now transitioning the helm to the Gulf War generation.

The inflection point we face today, is of our choosing. For the past two decades, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have returned from war and their time in uniform. In some cases we have welcomed them in with open arms, but in many more, we collected their membership dues, but didn’t pause to ask them what they needed. In most cases, they needed the same things we needed when we returned home: help in finding a job, starting a business, transitioning to college, or assistance with childcare.

The inflection point our organization has been facing in recent years, is not the explosive growth seen over 75 years ago, but is instead the result of not having a plan in place as our Comrades from previous generations moved on from this world. As they left, the blood that kept many of our posts thriving left with them. The pandemic is having a detrimental effect on our posts, but for many, this is seeming to be the tipping point of which they had been teetering on for a number of years.

Today, we have a choice. We can choose to continue doing things the way we have always done them. Alternatively, we can adopt this newest generation of warfighters into our organization by asking them what they need, helping them with their businesses and getting jobs and supporting their families; and as they join and pick up the mantle, they will bring with them the technological firepower and ... continued on next page

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**DEPARTMENT
AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT,
CARRIE TURNER**

WHO are VFW Auxiliary members? They are male and female family members of a

veteran who is eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. They are volunteers in your community - holding that local food drive, sponsoring youth groups, volunteering at the hospital or nursing home, donating to many projects in local, state and national programs.

WHAT programs? VFW Auxiliary members participate in the Veterans and Family Support, Americanism, Auxiliary Community Outreach, Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home, Chief of Staff/Extension, Historian/Media Relations, Hospital, Legislative, Membership, Mentoring, Scholarships, and Youth Activities/Camp Trotter programs. There are so many opportunities to participate, suited to your skills and interests, and to help make a difference in your community and beyond. Information on these programs can be found on our website - www.vfwauxmi.org - under the Programs tab - open the bulletins to read about each one and the special goals we can accomplish.

WHY join the VFW Auxiliary? Honor your Veteran and their service to America. Volunteering provides personal benefits - it connects you to others, it is good for your mind and body, it can advance your career and it brings fun and fulfillment to your life. Our communities are better when we form relationships and work together!

WHERE can you join? Michigan VFW Auxiliary has 160 auxiliaries in big cities and small towns. Contact our office at 517-487-3715 and we can help find one close to you.

WHEN should you join? NOW is a great time to join! New members help keep our auxiliaries healthy and able to do all the great things we do.

Recent events - thank you to everyone who attended and assisted with Camp Trotter Family Day, Family Freedom Festival, District meetings and the Fall Conference. These were great opportunities to share, learn and spend time together. Many auxiliaries are doing great projects during these challenging times and there are also many ways to serve while maintaining social distancing. As we come into the holiday season, we hope you will keep our veterans, military, and youth in your prayers and do what you can to make their season bright. Wishing you all a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas and thank you for all you do for the VFW Auxiliary!

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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VISIT THE
DEPARTMENT
WEBSITE AT
VFWMI.ORG

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CONTINUED ...

can become the force multipliers this organization needs to thrive in this new world we now are now fighting in.

In Comrade Lyon’s speech, he cited an old African proverb: “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” We are Veterans Moving Forward, and I believe at this latest inflection point, we will choose the latter and we will go forward with all generations of veterans, together.



DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, KEVIN CONKLIN

G r e e t i n g s Comrades. I am proud to report that we were able to work together and have a successful Fall Conference in Boyne Highlands! There were many people working behind the scenes to provide a safe and educational weekend, and I would like to thank everyone that had a hand in it. Commander Gloger has assembled a great team and I look forward to our Mid-Winter Conference in January. We are delaying the decision to post the information due to the Governor’s frequent Executive Order changes, and court decisions. In the end, we want to ensure that everyone feels safe to attend the banquet and meetings. Regardless of what decision is made, everyone needs to make their own decisions as it relates to their health. With that said, I ask that if you feel sick or have been exposed to someone that has tested positive for the Covid-19, the flu, or another communicable illness, please **DO NOT** unnecessarily expose other Comrades.

As I continue traveling across the great State of Michigan and meeting with post and district officers, I’ve found many are not utilizing the tools that are provided on the Department and National websites. Those who have been using these tools have shared with me how much easier it has made their roles, and to them I commend you for doing so! As we move into the 2021-2022 year, I will continue to emphasize this, as National is going paperless very soon, and do not want your posts to have to play catch up. To help you with some of this, Quartermaster Blumke has been putting plans in place to work with PSCs Amend and Miller, with the goal of rolling out regular online training sessions. In the interim, please locate a computer and find someone to show you how to use it. We have many people in the organization that can help you as well. If you can get on-line to shop, update your Facebook status, or play games, then you can report on-line as well. There are two websites that you need to familiarize yourself with;
www.vfw.org
and **www.vfwmi.org**.

The first is our National website that has many tools to assist you in keeping up to date with the VFW programs, how to run meetings, etc. The second website is ours! That means if you have constructive ideas on how to make it better please let us know by sending an email. We can do just about anything with it. This is another way you receive information about the VFW membership in Michigan and programs to share with other members of your posts. You get out of the website what you put into it. We will continue to do a better job keeping it up to date and information current. Like many of your posts, the Department of Michigan also runs out of hands. So, I will ask you, if you have expertise in computers, website design, social media, or you just want to help please give us a call. We are always looking for helpers to support a varying array of Department level needs.

I am building my team for 2021-2022 and am looking for people that have the desire to push the Department of Michigan forward. Educating the public on what we do and who we are will be a big part of this coming year. I am recruiting a new photographer/historian to document what we are about (Mouse is retiring from the position). This person will work closely with our MOV Editor and Media Relations Director to ensure a positive image of our Department is shared from each corner of the State. Past State Commander Dave Miller has joined me as the Chief of Staff for 2021-2022. Together we will work with the Auxiliary, the staff, and the membership to make great things happen for the Department of Michigan. I would like to have a Department raffle for 2021-2022. Our Department Raffles in the past were able to raise a lot of money to support the programs. With Covid-19 many of the fundraising opportunities were missed. I will be seeking out a motivated Director to head up the fundraising for Department. If you have any ideas or would just like to help out please let me know.

Thank you for all that you already do to serve our communities, and please join us to continue Moving the Department of Michigan Forward.



DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, RAY LOPEZ

Greetings comrades, sisters and brothers,

As we move forward during these unprecedented times, we need to work diligently as a team to continue our mission. If your post is having difficulty with attendance at your membership meetings, I would encourage a vide-oconference (zoom) simulcast option for your members. Sec. 203 of our National Bylaws references electronic meetings. I would encourage Posts that haven’t updated their bylaws to do so. The Department website has bylaws templates available to help and assist your post with any bylaws updates. Let us all come together like we have in the past to move our great organization forward serving veterans.

If I can be of any assistance, please don’t hesitate to reach out.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH

In the last issue of the MOV, this Chaplain's article focused upon sustainability and member involvement, particularly during a time of COVID. This article will touch upon viability factors within our organization and change from a spiritual and business perspective.

Regarding the need for organizations to have people, Schermerhorn, Hunt, and Osborn (2003) state "that even in the age of high technology, people are the indispensable human resources whose knowledge and performance advance the organization's purpose, mission, and strategies" (p. 8). This means that even a group (including Posts, misc.) with few workers must have dedicated and properly motivated stakeholders to reach desired objectives. In business, an excellent example is Amazon, which succeeds due to strong employee--leadership and followership--collaboration (Deutschman, 2004). Clearly, an organization cannot reach optimization in spite of its workforce. You are each needed, as you can give! As 2 Corinthians 9:7 (ESV) states, "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Moreover, people can be empowered by organizational interactions. For the Veterans of Foreign Wars, this construct includes volunteer efforts to achieve our worthy organizational goals, including support for veterans and troops and their families, and other patriotic outreach. In addition to society benefiting from the goods or services, the volunteers benefit from the socialization. Mook (1987) contends, in many instances,

organizations help fulfill certain levels of Maslow's hierarchy of needs by providing security, safety, socialization, and esteem (citing Maslow, 1943). Specifically, the VFW and/or Auxiliary offer positive outlets for selfless service unto others that touch the hearts of those that give and receive. "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you," Luke 6:38.

I cannot think of an instance that where organizations do not need people or vice versa. Therefore, we often need to simply get out of own way; being open to positive change and, with discernment/as applicable, putting away toxic 'we've always done it that way' mindsets. What does the past behavior offer that we negate the present? Memories are gifts. They can teach and/or gladden. However, they can also encumber us -- as weights on a raft -- if we do not view them objectively. What does that mean? Our VFW organizational traditions are important; rather, this point relates to our informal behaviors (leadership/followership styles) that sometimes interfere with growth. Change is sometimes painful but, like a painted portrait, if you focus only on the emptiness of the background you cannot appreciate the full beauty.

May God bless you.

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Mook, D.G. (1987). Motivation: The organization of action. London: W.W. Norton & Company Ltd.

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DEPARTMENT QUARTERMASTER, DEREK BLUMKE



Commander Gloger, Sr. Vice Conklin and Jr. Vice Griffith have spent a great deal of time dedicated towards bringing new members and leaders

with diverse skill sets into the Department, and towards bringing our organization up to speed technologically. To that end, I'd like to share with you some of the things we'll be working on for the next few months.

First, we have the goal of making your jobs as leaders and volunteers easier and more efficient. We're seeking to identify processes that are inefficient, redundant in nature, or where our organization has not kept up with tools that could easily reduce the time our Department, District and Post officers spend on administrative functions.

Project Management: As an example, in the first few months of joining Department headquarters, I found the sheer volume and totality of the moving parts of the organization nearly overwhelming. With twelve districts, multiple programs, posts running into financial issues, along with keeping up to date on the Department's reporting and finances, the idea of trying to keep it all in our heads felt futile.

To combat this information/task overload, we integrated a project management tool to help Department leadership stay on top of things. We are now able to create and assign tasks, set deadlines, attach images and documents, track projects, and provide updates in real time, all of which can be done from our smartphones.

Online Payments & Registering for Events: One of the other issues several officers and members have raised is "I can buy my cat toys online, why can't I make transactions with the Department that way as well?". Well, you're going to be able to soon! We're also setting up online registrations for conferences and events, and we'll be testing that out in the coming months, as we launch a series of Zoom training modules to help you from everything from managing your post's social media, setting up your own project management tools for your post or district, to training on how to file your 990s.

Some members have shared that they aren't sure they'll be able to keep up with the computer stuff we're shifting towards. To them and to you, I say "**we will not leave anyone behind.**" As we choose different tools for the organization to use, we're only going to be using tools that are simple and safe to use. Anyone who is interested and is willing to learn will be supported.

Finally, we're looking for the problems that get in your way or slow you down in executing your mission of serving veterans, their families and your communities. We'd like to help find solutions for your challenges as well. Please email these challenges to us, and if you also have solutions, please share those as well: qm@vfwmi.org

Thank you for your service to our country, thank you for your service to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and thank you for allowing me to serve you.

VFWMI.ORG/CONTACT
VFWMI.ORG/VETHelp

VFWMI.ORG/JOIN
VFWMI.ORG/FORMS



2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR, VERN BLAUWKAMP

We have started this membership year very well. As of Oct 13, we were ranked 15th in National standings at 85.34%. We have been climbing slowly everyday which is great! We already have 159 new members this year, along with 29 reinstatements. Even in these tough times we have been able to attract new members and get some of our past members back.

Now the part that has been giving your Posts the hardest time. Retention! We need to stay in contact with all our members. A phone call, a text message, an email, a visit, anything to show them we appreciate their membership and remember them. We should keep them informed of what we are doing in the VFW. We have over 900 members that did not renew last year. Let's go out and get them back, we can be 100% this year!

We continue to work on TV ads around the entire State. TV 6 in Marquette and TV9/10 in Traverse City and Cadillac should both be airing in November. TV 8 ran ads for us in August. We still have southeast Michigan to go. We are also working on social media ads. These should start hopefully in January at the latest. We as a Department, are working for you to help in your efforts. We thank all the Districts that have pledged support to these ads, without your assistance it could not have happened this year.

Commander Gloger has announced his Commander challenge to all Posts. All Post that are 95% with at least one new member on December 31st will have their Post number put in a hat. We will pick one out at our Winter Convention, one way or another. The winning Post will receive \$100 from Department.



DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER, JOHN GRIFFITH

Fall Conference having just concluded, we have certainly demonstrated that the members of Dept. of Michigan are truly “Veterans Moving Forward”. With all of the hurdles put before us because of the restrictions brought on by the Covid-19 virus, through the tenacious efforts and “can do” attitude of PDC McIvor, PDP Pat Patterson, our Commander Scott Gloger was able to conduct a highly successful fall conference.

What an honor it was for our Department to host the currently serving National Commander –In-Chief Hal Roesch. Commander Roesch was very complimentary of members of the 2020-2021 leadership team and members of the Council of Administration, and believes the Department of Michigan is now on track to face the changing VFW and meet the challenges of the future.

In speaking of those challenges, as was addressed by Commander Roesch and again during our VTS, we must remember that during our military service we stood shoulder to shoulder with our brothers and sisters in arms from different ethnic and racial groups that made up a macrocosm of our society. The membership of our Post and Auxiliaries today should reflect that same mix of diversity. A veteran, no matter their ethnic, racial, gender or sexual preference, is still a veteran and

should be accorded the respect due a veteran. We must keep in mind that diversity is what has made America great, and as we move forward, that same diversity can aid in strengthening and making the VFW great. If we are truly interested in increasing the membership of the VFW and our Auxiliaries we must welcome all veterans and their families not just accept them. Please keep these principles in mind as you go forth with your recruiting efforts.

The Covid-19 virus has touched upon every aspect of American life during 2020 and certainly the VFW is no exception. However, veterans and their families are resilient and whenever given lemons have some fantastic ways of making lemonade. We can complain about how the virus has curtailed our efforts to meet our responsibilities toward our programs, such as Patriots Pen/Voice of Democracy, community service or our recruiting efforts. Or we can stop complaining and meet the challenge through innovation. Telephones and the internet still work! Schools can be contacted and the PP/VOD program marketed through telephone calls and emails. PDC Croyle offered up a great idea; if you meet resistance in selling the PP/VOD program to school administrators or teachers, contact the members of the Parent Teachers Association. When little Johnny or Mary goes to college Moms and Dads are going to foot the bill unless scholarship money is available. Our VOD/PP programs offer those scholarships. When

our members stop coming to meetings over their concern of “the virus”, start “zooming” your meetings so your members can tune in and participate. When recruiting and you get resistance with the “I don’t have time to attend meetings” excuse, emphasis that in order to protect their veterans rights and benefits we need their numbers, and they can tune-in to a zoom meeting as their time permits. In other words, as we did in the military-adapt and overcome.

One other area of concern I would like to address to our members is the use of social media. Remember what you put on Facebook or other social media platforms does not go away. If you make inappropriate remarks or offer up offensive posts or even “like” someone else’s post that is inappropriate or offensive, this can reflect adversely on the VFW. Even if you are using a group or platform not connected with the VFW. It doesn’t take much to check who your friends are and when your friends list contain a majority of members reflecting their affiliation with the VFW that can and will reflect badly on our organization.

It was a pleasure to see so many participants at the Fall Conference in person and I am looking forward to a Mid-Winter conference in whatever form it might take. Please continue to “Move Forward” and stay safe.

As your Junior Vice-Commander, I am available to be of any assistance I can. Please do not hesitate to call, write or email me as I am here to serve you in any way I can.

★

CAMPAIGNS

★

JERRY GORSKI

Candidate for National
Jr. Vice Commander-In-Chief
2023-2024



JENNIFER L. SMITH

Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2021-2022



BILL THICK JR

Candidate for Department
Judge Advocate
2021-2022



BRUCE BRIDSON

Candidate for Department
Judge Advocate
2021 - 2022



GARY BROWN

Candidate for Department
Sr. Vice Candidate
2021-2022



GARY GAMBLE

Candidate for Department
Jr. Vice Candidate
2021-2022



VERN BLAUWKAMP

Candidate for Department
Jr. Vice Candidate
2021-2022



RAY LOPEZ

Candidate for Department
Jr. Vice Candidate
2021-2022



AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE, TRACI LEMON

It was wonderful to see everyone at Fall Conference. Yes, it was not what everyone hoped for this year, but we persevered and made it a success under the circumstances. Thank you to everyone who joined us on Zoom! I am impressed with all the reports I have received. Under this year's trying circumstances everyone is has found ways to support our mission. There are a couple of points I would like to touch base on. First, if you are not aware, there is new Action Corps Weekly sign-up sheet. Please discard any Action Corps Weekly Sign-Up sheets you had prior to August. Remember, the Action Corps Weekly is not reserved for solely VFW and VFW Auxiliary members, anyone can sign up. Second, when you are reporting please refer to and follow the Guide Sheets. In order to get the most points possible for all the work you have done, your legislative efforts need relate to veterans, active duty, and their families, VFW Priority Goals, and Community Legislative Education and Engagement in some form. Also, please keep checking the VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Michigan Legislative Facebook page for easy-to-download files to for your use and updates from the National Ambassador.

MENTORING, DIANA HERRICK

The Mentoring Program is based on relationships, providing guidance, motivation, emotional support and being a role model. Mentoring provides an opportunity for an individual to share their experience gained as a member, Chairman or an Officer with a new member. It also assists in bonding with a tenured member who may have lost interest in the organization. Mentoring translates to leadership skills for both Mentor and Mentee!

Through the mentoring process extending the hand of friendship to a new member or even a tenured member, who has been inactive for awhile, can create a strong and vibrant organization. By providing a positive and organized meeting experience it will leave the members wanting to come back, especially with good communication and respect for each other is demonstrated.

CAMPAIGNS CONTINUED

DON MARTINDALE

Candidate for Department Surgeon
2021-2022



DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL DIRECTOR, DON MARTINDALE

Greetings.

I do hope the past months have been kind to you, and you are doing well. This has been a trying fiscal year for us concerning the hospital reporting. I am positive that our Comrades have not stopped doing hospital work; you are doing it so get back to reporting it. Some things that you may not think are reportable are actually reportable. You may not be able to physically visit a sick comrade but if you give them a call or even email those Comrades to find out how they are, report it. Have you sent someone in the hospital, nursing home or home a nice bouquet of flowers, if so report it, let me know how much was spent for the flowers. Posts that have hospital supplies and equipment make sure that you are reporting those donations, remember only equipment that is loaned out can be reported, not the inventory in your post. Did your post donate some supplies to a Comrade, or to a hospital

or nursing home, let me know the value that you spent on the items, if you give out new items you can report the full value of the item. This year I will be giving out four awards, three to posts in various membership levels, and one award for the post that I and a committee I have chosen as the top post in hospital reporting. That award will require that post to first be reported 100% across the board in hospital, and have reported each month on time. I announced at POW WOW that the month for having to be reported each month will start October 2020 as that was when I first announced giving the award, so every Hospital Chairman is at the starting line for that. Good luck to all of the Hospital Chairman as these awards will go to the Hospital Chairman for their good work. District Commanders I need your help to try to attain 100% reported in hospital work, let those posts know that haven't reported yet at your next District meeting, we can do this, it isn't impossible, but I do need your help. If you ever need to talk to me call 586 7712881. Report Early and Often.

CAMP TROTTER DIRECTOR, BOB BENDERMAN

Your VFW Camp Trotter for Children is on the move. A lot of things were completed at the camp this summer despite COVID. We completed putting up new basketball backboards and rims thanks to Auxiliary Post 3195, Norton Shores.

We would also like to thank the Kent County Cub Scouts and parents for coming and doing a lot of painting on the gaga pit and parking lot poles.

Also, a great big thank you to Todd Gerlings and daughters for doing the exterior art work on the kids shower house. It sure makes the camp look great.

And a big thank you to everyone for their donations to reupholster the pontoon seats, they look great and I'm sure the kids are going to enjoy it this summer.

We also replaced the carpeting in the director's cabin kitchen, hallways and living room with vinyl planking. It sure looks great.

As some of you know, we have started staining the decks at camp, are about 70 percent done and will finish in the spring. Richard Rought, Ron Oakes and Barb Locke put in a lot of time. Great job.

The family outing was a great success. I believe there were approximately 120 participants that attended

2020 Camp Trotter Golf Outing was a huge success as well. We had 30 teams and about 65 hole sponsors. I was told this was the largest we had. It wouldn't be possible without all the great volunteers and the support of VFW Post and Auxiliaries.

-- PLEASE ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR --

May 8th : put docks in
- will need volunteers
- weather permitting

May 14th-16th : reserved for Cub Scouts

May 21st - 23rd : Camp cleanup
- need volunteers

June 18th : Camp Trotter Golf Outing
- Village Green Golf Course
- there will be TWO FORMS to send in
One for the golf outing with (1 check

for the \$240.00) team captain is responsible to get money from his team. SECOND FORM will be for hole sponsors only this will have a large place for your ad or business card. This will make it a lot easier on our Quartermaster and myself for tracking.

June 19th : VTS Training at Camp Trotter

July 11th : 1st day of camp

August 14th : last day of camp

August 21st : Family day at Camp Trotter

I would like to thank Butch Odgen, PSC Mike Feneis, Gary Brown, Vern & Lisa Blauwkamp, Ginni Benderman, Kathie Oakes, SR. Vice Kevin & Reni Conklin, Sonya VanValkenburg, Dave Zimmerman and President Carrie Turner For helping with all the meals. GREAT JOB

A big thank you to Lloyd Putman for all your help on the Camp Trotter Committee.

I would also like to welcome Ricky Young to the Camp Trotter Committee, he will be an asset to the team.

I know I have forgotten someone or something so I apologize in advance





**SCHOLARSHIPS
DIRECTOR,
GARY BROWN**

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our programs and the schools in which the students are participating. I have been asked if the department will be having the Mid-Winter Conference and at the time of this article... we are still awaiting news from the hotel. If any updates do come out we will get the word out immediately.

I would like to remind ALL – ADJUTANTS to go to the VFW.ORG website and go to where the MEMSTATS is located...look for the ALL-AMERICAN DASHBOARD and click the link. Once you are there you need to download the booklet called "All-American Eligible Dashboard Training Guide".

This guide will give you detailed guidelines on how to report your VOD/PP/TOY/Buddy Poppy and VSM donations. ONLY the Adjutant of the POST, DISTRICT AND DEPARTMENT...can do the input into this dashboard...so, please download this manual and fill out your portions as required.

There is a big change to this year's program on the Teacher of the Year. It is not a National Program and no credit for All-American is a requirement to make ALL-AMERICAN on the dashboard. The program will be handled just as the program states and winners will get the acknowledgment and awards...so, please submit your teachers as you would normally do.

I would also like to remind everyone doing the judging as to the time requirements, and all the do's and don'ts when listening to and reading the students entries. Please make sure that the students forms are legible and that the students have the parents Name, Address, Phone # and a good email address that is not from the student's schools so I can contact them after school hours if needed.

Post's must make sure that you submit all documentation required to include what the Post spends on the awards banquet when submitting their entries to district. This is also required from the Districts to have all documents filled out and submitted with the District Winner to Department.

I am looking forward to this year's winners and YES, this department can find another National Winner as we did last year.... it is ALL up to YOU to select them. If you need any assistance please call Assistant Director Brian Martin @ 734-558-3858 or Gary Brown @ 517-667-1189 because we are here to help you...or if you are in the Auxiliary, please contact Evenly Avery @ 269-423-8129. garybrownsr@outlook.com

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

KRIS GRIFFITH

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference. As you can imagine, it was a little different this year with social distancing, overflow rooms and the lovely masks donned by all. Our Department VFW and Auxiliary, as well as the Boyne Highlands staff, took great pains in planning a safe and successful Conference.

National Family Caregivers Month is observed each November and Month of the Military Caregiver is observed each May. Both recognize and honor more than 5 million veteran and military caregivers in the United States. The VA Caregiver Hotline
1-855-260-3274

This line is answered by licensed professionals who can connect you with VA Services, a Caregiver Support Coordinator or just listen. There is wealth of information available about the VA Caregiver Support Program online at

www.caregiver.va.gov

The Holidays are right around the corner and can be a difficult time for some veterans and their families. The Veterans Crisis

Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified and caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline

1-800-273- 8255 and press 1

**online chat at veteranscrisisline.net
or text a message to 838255**

Confidential support is available 24/7 every day of the year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

I've really enjoyed reading your reports and am amazed at all wonderful work we are doing in Michigan for our veterans and their families. Speaking of reports, most of you know by now that we have a new reporting system this year. It was designed to report one activity at a time and those are specifically your Program Achievements. There is a "V&FS – Other" to report items that do not fall within your goals. Due to the constraints of the reporting system, the drop-down menu is only a brief synopsis of the actual achievements, so you really need to refer to your Guide Sheet and the listed Achievements so you are reporting accurately.

DEPARTMENT LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

ANDY CONKLIN

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has a very strong and respectable voice in Washington, if you don't think so, just look at our track record in the Legislative Victories, recently they passed,

S.785 The Cmdr. John Hannon mental *Health Care Improvement Act*, this act will give the VA the authority and resources to expand suicide prevention efforts, and expand Telehealth capabilities to Veterans in rural areas. We hope and pray this will be a valuable tool for the VA to reduce suicides.

H.R. 3228, The *VA Mission Telehealth Clarification Act* would expand the VA MISSION Act of 2018's authority for health professions trainees to provide treatment via telemedicine.

H.R. 6092, *Veteran's Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act* would establish a national clinical pathway for prostate cancer within VA.

H.R. 5245, the *SHIELD for Veterans Act* would reform the VA's debt collection process.

H.R. 7105 would provide VA with flexibility while caring for homeless veterans during a covered public health emergency.

H.R. 8247, the *Veterans COMPACT Act* of 2020 would further improve support during the transition from service member to veteran, suicide prevention and mental well-being initiatives, and care and services for women veterans.

H.R. 3798, the *Equal Access to Contraception for Veterans Act* would ensure the same no-

cost contraceptive care for women veterans as required by non-veteran health insurance plans.

When I was in Washington this March, I met face to face with many of our Michigan Congressional Leaders as well as our State Senator Gary Peters and a Legislative Representative from Sen Stabenow's office. Many of them wanted to reassure me the media was not running the show in Washington and they all got along just fine regardless of party affiliation.

I cannot over emphasize the importance of keeping abreast of what our legislators are doing for US! Staying in touch with the people we have elected and sent to Washington to **represent us**, has never been more important. With all the internet and different sources of media available, we have the availability to view their actions or their lack of them daily. You can look at what bills are being presented and how they may affect us as Veterans or as just citizens.

If you haven't yet please sign up for the Action Corp Weekly, it's so simple. Log onto the VFW.org web site, click on Grassroots Advocacy then click join, a form will drop down, fill it out hit submit and now you will receive the VFW Action Core weekly a weekly updated report on VFW concerns. While your logged in navigate in the Advocacy site and see what we're doing, it may surprise you.

andyconklin@gmail.com / 270-906-3448

FIND US ON FACEBOOK @VFWAUXMI / @VFWMI

BUDDY POPPY DIRECTOR, TERRY DOWDELL



Hello comrades, sisters and brothers. I hope that everyone is staying well and healthy during this time of crisis.

It is that time of

year to order Buddy Poppy again. I know that Posts that ordered them this past year still have them because COVID-19 prevented them from going out. But please try to order at least 500 poppies as soon as possible.

National is experiencing delays in their production because of the virus and it has had

a severe impact on the assembly facilities. This has resulted in a low supply of fully assembled poppies. Please get your order in.

Everyone please stay safe and healthy and I hope that you had a good fall conference.

Happy Holidays.



COOTIE CORNER, ROBERT E. WILSON

Greetings, Comrades & Auxiliary! This year will be an interesting year due to the virus. Our Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party and

Tomb Trek 2020 Arlington National Cemetery have been cancel. We must not allow the virus to take away from our support for our Children at the National Home or Supporting our Veterans. We have one purpose and that is helping Veterans. By continually working for our Veterans of Foreign Wars and our Military Order, I know that we will help all Veterans the best ever. Let's always remember that a Cootie is nothing more than a VFW Worker with a Degree of Honor. Keep up the great work Comrades!

As Grand Commander of the Grand of Michigan, I have request the following Cooties receive Supreme Appointments as follows:

Deputy Chief-of-Staff – PGC Eric S. Bell
Deputy Inspector – Horace Frazier Jr.
Recruiter – PGC Eddie Dandridge Sr.
Seam Worker – Barry Tegan
Cootie Supporter – Patrick Heraty
Aide-de-Camp – PGC Robert Routhier Jr.
Newshound – Jennifer Heraty
Comedian – Bernard Brennan
Cheerleader – Robert Cummings
Cootie Juicer – PGC Patrick Henderson

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

Speaking of websites, you can now download information about the Grand of Michigan at, vfwmi.org or mocgrandofmichigan.com

92nd Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2020

The Cootie Christmas Party was scheduled for Dec 4th-8th, 2020. As most events it was cancel due to the virus. But the Grand of Michigan can not let this go. We have work out a process with the National Home so the Kids will not be left out. They will still get their gifts but in a different way. So Comrades we still need your support with helping our kids have a great Christmas. We invite all members both VFW and Cooties to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program.

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.

Shane Houghton
 Grand of Michigan Quartermaster
 343 High Street
 Ionia, MI 48846

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2020-2021

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 Auxiliaries'. Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"



DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY DIRECTOR

BOB LUTZ

Greetings Comrades, I hope everybody is staying safe and healthy.

Another Fall conference is in the books and I would like to Congratulate district 5 and 15 for being 100% in reporting. Hats off to 5th District Commander Eddie Dandridge Sr., and 15th District Commander Jim Pintar.

Again, the 10th of the month is a hard deadline, if you run into some problems let me know and we can work things out.

Please use the online reporting system or the forms provided on the Department website. **All other forms should be discarded and NO "homemade" forms or changing the ones provided!** And PLEASE, if you must send in a handwritten report make sure it is legible! Right now it takes 80% of my time to do 20% of the reports being done on the old forms or even on the new forms that are handwritten. It is 2020 and like it or not the computers are here to stay. If you don't know how to use one, learn how. Most

senior centers have classes. Libraries have computers you can use. If you don't want to learn, have your kids or grandkids do it for you. I think that you will find out it's much easier than you think and you might find out that you enjoy learning something new!

All the information about reporting is provided in the program section of the Department webpage.

Lately I have noticed that some posts are not claiming the monetary value of their hall donations. For example, numerous posts will report that they donate their hall to the Scouts for their meetings and fail to report the monetary value of the hall. If you would charge a \$400.00 rental fee to the public then you can claim a \$400.00 value for your donation. The same goes for anytime that you donate your hall. Don't cheat yourself.

Another common mistake I see is on reporting funerals, if your post did 6 funerals with 4 comrades at each funeral the report

should be 24 members and if each funeral was 2 hours then you should report 48 hours and if the average miles driven were 10 to each funeral then you would claim 240 miles, again don't cheat yourself. Now on the other hand, I still have posts reporting going to district meetings, letting the auxiliary use their hall etc. these are NOT reportable. Post fundraisers are not reportable unless the profits are going to the relief fund or earmarked for a Veteran in need etc.

Again, I do not take hospital reports and again they will NOT be forwarded to the Hospital Director, Don Martindale.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me and if you leave a message please make sure that you mention the VFW (I've been getting tons of telemarketer messages) and I hope that everybody is in good health and staying safe.

(586)924-4591
activity@vfwmi.org

DEPARTMENT NATIONAL HOME DIRECTOR

JAMES HUBBARD

It was great to see so many at Fall Conference, Thank you to all that made donations to the National Home, The Post collected "\$610.00" for the general fund, due to Covid-19. We were challenged by the Department of Michigan Auxiliary, who can raise the most monies, they won this time again, The Auxiliary raised \$1,000. The true winner was Our National Home for a grand total of \$1,610.00. Thank You, Thank You no matter how large or small your gift was.

I hope each member has purchased a \$50 National Home Life Membership for either yourself or a family member Remember it's a

great gift also.

Other ways you can support the National Home with the Holidays FAST, if you shop on-line Please use **AmazonSmile**, last quarter the home received a check for over \$5,000. Also if you shop at Kroger's, Use the Community Rewards program. Go to

www.krogercommunityrewards.com

Group #79329 is the VFW National Home, this is no cost to you but the National Home benefits from your shopping.

The Cootie Christmas party at the National Home, we are hoping will take place, all events are one day at a time if it's a Go or No Go....

depending on Covid-19.

Look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference, which is still up in the air because of so many members and students in one room for Activities and the Banquet, I know for myself I enjoy spending time talking with the students and seeing the joy & fun they have over the week-end, making new friends that will last for a lifetime. This is where we meet the students of our future.

Thank you, for all you do for our veterans & their families at the National Home, Please Remember it's our responsibility to care for our families at the VFW National Home.



DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Recently I had the pleasure of awarding our Public Service Officer of the Year Awards. EMT/

Paramedic Barry Christensen was awarded at Fall Conference. Paramedic Christensen works for Montcalm County EMS and was nominated by Hough-Pontius Post 3701. Law Enforcement Officer Sergeant Scott Howden was presented with his award at the North Oakland Post 334's monthly meeting who

also nominated him for the award. Firefighter Chief Jefferey Locke was awarded at the Central Cass Fire Department. Chief Locke was nominated by William E. Lozier Post 10704.

Applications for Public Service Officer of the Year are due **January 1, 2021**.

The application is available on the Department website or if you email me I will be happy to send one to you. I encourage each and every Post to submit a nomination. This year especially has been tough for everyone working in Public Service. Let's recognize them for their hard work.

If you are looking for safety materials the Michigan State Police have **FREE** safety information available for you. The form to obtain the safety information can be found online at <http://bit.ly/31ZR9mC> or you can call **517-636-4256**.

If you are unable to access the online form please call or email me and I will be happy to send you a copy. I am here to help you achieve your goals and assist with getting you the drug and safety points you need!

As we near the end of the year I hope everyone stays safe and healthy as we continue to deal with COVID. ds@vfwmi.org

AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR

EVELYN AVERY

The winning entry of the 2019-20 VFW Auxiliary National Organization Young Creative Patriotic Art Contest was announced at the National Convention in Kansas on July 21, 2020 to be from the Department of Michigan! Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary 6248 in Decatur, Michigan - Congratulations to Allison Mroczek on winning the first-place \$15,000 scholarship!

Allison describes her artwork as a graphite and colored pencil drawing. The drawing captures a distraught woman veteran who cannot express her feelings, after serving in the US Marines. She suffers from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. She is kneeling down to see her reflection in a water puddle and horrific flashbacks from Iraq instantly hit her. While in the U.S. Marines she trained a military working dog that she became attached to. The reflection in the puddle conveys a difficult time when a bomb exploded in the distance. Fortunately, she made it out in time. However, her canine companion did not make it out alive. Her therapy dog, a golden retriever seated next to her is portrayed in a sad manner, because the dog senses the soldier's grief. The Soldier feels incapable of opening up to another animal, fearing it will leave her heart-broken once again. The woman grips a dog collar in her hand that once belonged to her K-9.

The soldier wears three faith-related

bracelets on her wrist. The bracelets represent promises from God that give her hope and remind her that no matter what she goes through, God will bring her through the difficult times. In Allison's portrait, she drew the top in pencil to convey how experiencing PTSD can make life seem colorless and dull. The battlefield remains in color to show how impactful, recent, and monumental that horrendous day appears in the soldier's eyes.

Allison stated she hopes this portrait of this American Hero will show that Freedom comes with a cost. Some veterans have physical injuries, while some have emotional scars that stay hidden inside and are hard to heal. Allison's future plans are to attend either Grace College or Bethel University where she will use her scholarship from the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. She is considering studying Communications and Art. Her hopes are to either be an Activities Director at an Assisted Living Facility, work with a Non-Profit Christian Art Organization, or work with Christian Art Ministries in other countries.

Allison said "Ever since I was able to hold a pencil I've loved to draw. I hope to encourage and enrich people's lives with the amazing love and hope God gives us and the wonderful art He helps us create!"

You can look at all the state winners on the web at: <https://bit.ly/37ehJha>



Chairman, be sure to get the word out NOW about how to enter the 2020-21 contest to young people in 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th grades! Before you know it, the deadline date to enter, March 31, 2021 will be here. You can find the contest rules, application and helpful information on the Michigan VFW Auxiliary website (www.vfwauxmi.org) and the National site (www.vfwauxiliary.org) and VFW Department of Michigan Auxiliary Facebook page.



Current & Past State Commanders at Camp Trotter VTS Training



First Place Team at Camp Trotter Annual Golf Outing



Brandon Day, Hole in One player with Camp Trotter Director Bob Benderman



POST REPORTS



POST 334 - LAKE ORION



2019-2020 Post 334 Awards



Jim Hubbard named Veteran of the Year by the Lake Orion Police Department



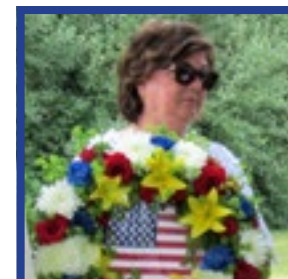
Gold Star Mothers Victory over Japan Day Service on 08/09/20 at Perry Mount Park Cemetery in Pontiac



3rd Annual Salute our Warriors event with helicopter delivery of honored guests

POST 582 - ORTONVILLE

On July 4th VFW Post members Dennis Hoffman, Carl Jeffrey, Ron Allen, Cliff Filhart, Ed Gromek, Steven Jurewich, Don Kengerski, and John Wudarcki honored Gold Star Mother Judy Miracle and presented her with a wreath. The Post also lead a dedication ceremony for the new Patriot Pavilion in Groveland Twp. to honor veterans and active duty service members.



POST 2233 - DETROIT



Post Honor Guard L - R : Curtis Clark, Tommie Payne, Antonio Lockette, and Keith Moore



District #4 Chaplain, Comrade Earnette Nolden



LTC Leonard Rusher with Detroit's finest

POST 3701 - LAKEVIEW



National Publication 1st Place Award



Post presented flag to local Veteran owned business on POW/MIA Day



1st Annual Gun Raffle/Art Contest Calendar

POST 9914 - HIGHLAND

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post # 9914, had a surprise visit from the local VFW Riders. They were led by our good friend and fellow veteran Gary Gamble and a contingent of all branches of the service and their spouses. We were more than happy and entertained by their visit.

POSTS RECEIVE DIAMOND JUBILEE AWARD FOR 75 YEARS OF SERVICE



Post 334 - North Oakland



Post 3946 - Rockford



Post 4012 - Northville



Post 4162 - Hamtramck



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEMBER, JERRY GORSKI

I just returned from our Fall Conference at the Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs, Michigan. Since our Golf Outing was cancelled, I decided to make a trip to St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula. I visited VFW Post 5114 St. Ignace. I always try to visit this Post when I am in the Upper Peninsula. It is a great and friendly Post. While I was there, guess who came in? It was Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch, State Commander Scott Gloger, State Senior Vice Kevin Conklin, State Junior Vice John Griffiths and Past State Commander Ron Amend. They had just returned from visiting Sault Ste. Marie. The Post 5114 Commander's Wife, who is an Auxiliary Member, took the Chief and Everyone on a Tour of their Post.

The Fall Conference was very productive even with the Covid-19 restrictions. Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch gave many inspirational speeches throughout our Fall Conference. He also made time to visit with many Veterans and Auxiliary Members. I want to Thank Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch for coming to our Michigan Fall Conference. It is not very often that we have a Commander-in-Chief visiting Michigan. Thank You Chief!

A Lot has changed since March 2020, when the COVID-19 hit us and the world. Our State Convention had to be cancelled. Our National Convention had to be cancelled. ZOOM Meetings became the norm for our Posts, Councils, Districts, Departments and National. I pray that one day soon, we will not have to wear masks and not have to be social distance. Our people will be back to work and every business will be re-opened.

I just want to share with you just some of the ZOOM Meetings that I attended. On April 25th, my very 1st ZOOM Meeting, with District 6 at Post 6056 in Springport, I installed the New District 6 Officers for 2020-2021. On April 27th, I had my 1st ZOOM National Council Meeting. On May 5th, I had my 2nd ZOOM National Council Meeting. On June 6 at 10 am, I installed the District 8 Officers via a Zoom Meeting. Then at 1 pm, I installed the District 10 Officers via a Zoom Meeting.

On July 13th, I was on one of the best webinar training sessions that I have ever attended. National Program Director Lynn Rolff and National Membership Director Rick Butler put on an "All-American Dashboard" Training Session. Every Post, District and Department Adjutant will have to learn and apply information going forward. I would encourage every Adjutant at All Levels to learn and become proficient at using the All-American Dashboard on our National Website. After you log on www.vfw.org, you go down to "My VFW". Scroll down to "Membership Quick Links". You will see "All-American Dashboard" under "Memstats".

On July 17th, I was on a Zoom Big Ten Conference meeting regarding the selection of our National Surgeon General for 2020-2021. On July 21st, I was on a "Happy Hour" Zoom Meeting with Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch. I want to THANK Commander-in-Chief Hal for doing this Zoom Meeting. The National Council Members got to talk about anything that we wanted to talk about. Chief Hal told the National Council Members that

he will continue to have these in the future.

On August 15th, I was honored to be invited to attend and have a part in the Renaming of VFW Post 5108 Marietta, Ohio to "Ronnie Davis Memorial VFW 5108". Ronnie Davis was the Ohio State Commander at the same time I was the Michigan State Commander. Ronnie was a very good friend. All the Department of Ohio line officers attended this dedication. On Sunday, the Ohio Motorcycle Riders, Wilda Horton and I visited Ronnie's Gravesite in West Virginia.

On August 20th, I attended the National Zoom Meeting on General Resolutions, which I am now a member of. On August 21, I attended a Zoom National Council Workshop Part I. On August 22nd, I attended a Zoom National Council Workshop Part II. It lasted 7 ½ hours.

On August 23rd, I attended the Zoom National Council Meeting. At the National Council Meeting, the Tabled Motion to Eliminate the Washington DC Trip for our Voice of Democracy Department Winners was not brought up from the table because our National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch stated, "I will leave the Washington DC Trip as is". I want to THANK YOU Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch for keeping the Washington DC Trip for our Voice of Democracy Department winners. This is our premier youth program for our youth and the Washington DC trip is the culmination of their hard work.

On August 26, I attended the Burial of the (3) Armstead Family Members at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. They were Civil War Veteran Peter Armstead, World War I Veteran Earl Armstead and World War II Veteran Robert Armstead Sr. Dr. Robert Armstead Jr., Son of World War II Robert Armstead Sr., raised the money since last year to bring and bury his Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather. The Speaker was a Two Star U.S. Army General. The Chaplain was a U.S. Army Lt. Colonel. The Bugler was a U.S. Army E-6. The Sons of the Civil War were the Pall Bearers. The Rifle Team was composed of VFW Members from Post 1008 Waterford and Post 5587 Holly and Members from the Holly American Legion. The Procession from the Temrowski Funeral in Warren, Michigan was led by (4) Michigan State Police Vehicles. There was a TV Station that was at the burial.



I want to stop for a moment and talk about an Issue that came up at our National Council workshops and where the National Council of Administration had to vote on the removal of high-ranking officer in a department. The issue is sexual harassment. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will not tolerate sexual harassment.

On October 15th, I will be leaving for the Big Ten Conference in Columbus, Ohio. At this Big Ten Conference, the Delegates of the Big Ten Departments will be electing a Big Ten Vice Chairman, Big Ten Secretary/Treasurer, and a Big Ten Chaplain. Richard Uzl, our Current Big Ten Secretary/Treasurer is Retiring after serving (7) years. Also, the Current Big Ten Vice Chairman Dan Kramer will be moving up to Big Ten Chairman for 2020-2021.

I now want to talk about MEMBERSHIP. On September 29th, 2020, I looked at Memstats on the VFW National Website. National was at 81.74%. National Membership Total was at 854,481 Members. Our Goal is to help Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch achieve his goal of 100% by June 30, 2021. That is 190,763 additional members. WE CAN DO IT! MICHIGAN CAN HELP COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HAL ROESCH ACHIEVE HIS GOAL OF 100%.

On September 29, 2020, Michigan was in 14th place out of 52 Departments at 84.35%. CONGRATULATIONS! KEEP IT UP. In the Big Ten, Michigan is in 3rd Place, Minnesota is in 1st place and Wisconsin is in 2nd place. MICHIGAN Needs 5,694 Members to ACHIEVE 100%.

This year's National Convention will be in Baltimore, Maryland. The dates are July 31st through August 5th, 2021. Information will be posted on the convention website at www.vfw.org/convention.

As of September 25th, 2020, there are currently 41 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. There was one new submission for a Post consolidation and one Post processed pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. There are 6,074 Active Chartered Posts.

Administrative operations is engaged in 15 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, seven Administrative Actions and five pending membership eligibility challenges.

This past week, National received 17 New Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. National also reviewed and approved 18 total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently National has 19 submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

I told you at our Fall Conference 2020, that I wanted to be transparent with all of you. I have been communicating with our Department Council of Administration on a weekly basis. Thank you again for electing me as your National Council of Administration Member representing YOU and the Department of Michigan for 2019 through 2023.

Thank you for supporting me and donating to my campaign for National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief 2023-2024. I appreciate every Post and Auxiliary that continue to have fundraisers for me or send donations to Su-jen Mauldin at 214 Endwell, Novi, MI 48377. Thank You All!

DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR

RANDY BALDWIN

Greetings Comrades.

I hope this issue of the MOV finds you all in good health. This has been a difficult year for all of us. I would like to thank all of you for the extra effort you have put in to accomplishing our mission as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

First, I would like to say an incredibly special and heartfelt “Thank You” to MS Patty Paterson for all the hard work she

put in to allow us to have our Fall Conference. Thanks to her efforts and those of Commander Gloger and Derek Blumke we were able to come back together again as a whole organization. It was a wonderful weekend.

We still have a lot of work to do, but as true Comrades working together, we can accomplish great things.

Hopefully, we can get together at the Mid-Winter Conference.



Post #3701 Sr. Vice Commander Sunni Haglund, District 9 Commander Kimberly Napoleon and Post #3701 Quartermaster Jessica Wright relax at Department of Michigan VFW 92nd Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. District 9 Commander Kimberly Napoleon stated, “There was a time when women didn’t have a place in the military ... but these barriers are being torn down.”

MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS DIRECTOR

ZANETA ADAMS

How the MVAA shows dedication to veterans every day

This month I’d like to focus on our recent interaction with Gulf War veteran Michael Kuta – an interaction that truly reflects what the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is all about.

Early this year, Kuta was working security at music festivals across the country and loving his job. Then, on March 10, the coronavirus pandemic shut down public gatherings and put the former active duty Marine out of the position he had held for three years.

The 51-year-old Southfield man, armed with a communications degree from the University of Michigan-Dearborn and years of experience in marketing and security, tried unsuccessfully for more than four months to find a good job with benefits in the pandemic-ravaged economy.

Feeling somewhat desperate, and with his unemployment benefits running out, Kuta called the MVAA’s 1-800-MICH-VET hotline on Monday, July 27. Two days later, on Wednesday, July 29, Kuta had a managerial job, with benefits, as a road supervisor for Detroit-based City Shield Security Services.

“My first shift was that Friday,” Kuta tells us. “It was a good week.”

Kuta’s “good week” highlights what the MVAA is all about. As the state-run coordinating agency for Michigan’s 550,000 veterans and their families, the MVAA often gets confused with the federal VA. But unlike the VA, the MVAA does not directly provide veteran benefits. Instead, the agency was set up by state leaders in 2013 as a one-stop resource center to help veterans navigate the labyrinth of veteran-centric organizations and ultimately get connected to benefits they

earned for their service.

In Kuta’s case, his call to 1-800-MICH-VET was answered by Rebecca Allen in our Veteran Resource Service Center. Allen, an Army veteran, contacted David Duncel, one of our analysts and a retired Command Sergeant Major, who promptly called his contacts at City Shield Security Services. City Shield is one of Michigan’s 400 Veteran-Friendly Employers, meaning it’s committed to recruiting, training and retaining veterans. Turns out, the company was looking for a road supervisor to run its after-hours operations, and Kuta fit the bill perfectly.

We can’t always help get a veteran a job in two days, but we promise to do our best to help every veteran with their needs – whether that’s in employment, education, health care, disability benefits, emergency assistance or

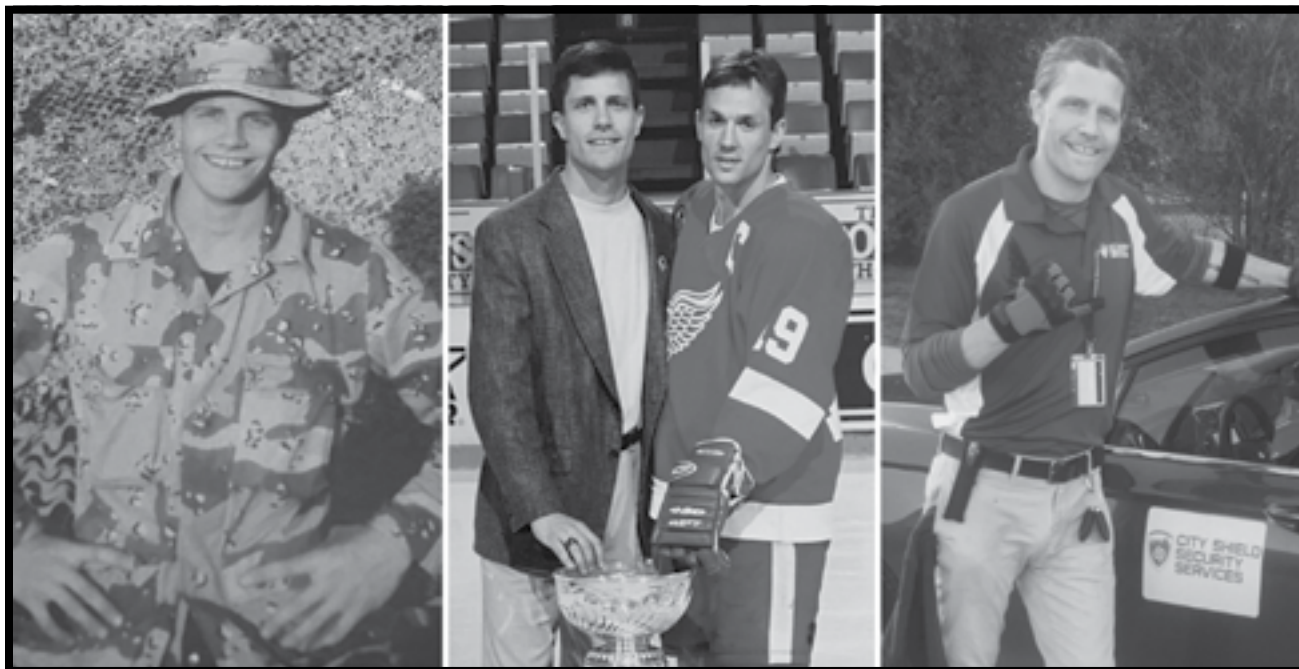
other qualify-of-life areas.

From the technicians who handle the calls to our hotline, to the analysts who work with employers, universities, health care providers and other organizations, to the accredited Veteran Service Officers who help veterans file for benefits, our entire team is committed to serving veterans and their families.

Perhaps Dave Duncel, the MVAA analyst who worked with Kuta and City Shield, puts it best:

“Saying you support veterans is one thing, but actually supporting veterans is something completely different. Our agency shows this dedication to veterans every day. The teamwork we have within the MVAA and the relationships we’ve built around the state is testament to this mission.”

It starts with a call to **1-800-MICH-VET**



FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, FIRST EVER ENLISTED SECDEF, FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR

CHUCK HAGEL

I want to congratulate all of you on your Michigan VFW Convention. I know this is a big and important time for all of you. I want to congratulate State Commander Gloger for his leadership and his team’s leadership and for all that you have done for this country in the past, and for your continued contributions.

I’m a long time life member of the VFW, as is my brother Tom who served with me in Vietnam in 1968. My dad, a World War II veteran, was a life-long, VFW member, a life member, as were my uncles and my father-in-law. All World War II veterans.

I don’t know of an organization that has been more important for our country; for

bringing our country together, for the wisdom that veterans who are members of the VFW provide for communities; all your leadership that you give to so many people in so many ways. So I want to thank you for that, and I want to congratulate you on another big year and another big year to come.

I don’t need to remind anyone that this is a very defining time in our country and our world, and this is a time for our veterans and veterans organizations to step forward and show leadership; show our communities that we can come together in unity. That we don’t have to be divided. That we don’t have to be polarized. We can find the common ground

that this country has always found to inspire our young people and to help lead this country and make this country better, a better place.

The world looks at us, always has looked at us that way, as an inspiration. As Ronald Reagan said, “A shining city on the hill”, and I do believe that. I’ve always believed that. I don’t think our best days are behind us, but we’re going to have figure some things out in this country, and we’re going to have to put ourselves back together. VFW members, veterans, can be a big part of that, as you’ve always been a big part of it.

I congratulate you all, I wish you all the best, and thank you for your service!



DISTRICT COMMANDER REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER - EDDIE DANDRIDGE



G r e e t i n g s Comrades, this has been a very difficult year for Post, County Council's, District, and Department. As you well know by now,

we had to cancel State Convention, National Convention, Gold Star Mothers, Michigan Day due to the Coronavirus to protect many in our organization. Our Department Commander Scott Gloger & his staff, 5th District Commander & his staff follows the National Commander Commander-In-Chief's directives. We in the 5th District want to thank our State Commander Scott Gloger & his staff, Boyne Highlands Resort staff for making it possible for a safe 2020 Fall Conference. It certainly was nice to see everyone since it had been a long time since we were together. Thank you to all our 5th District Inspectors, you drove many miles to inspect & help all our Post in the 5th District. Post Commanders, Quartermasters &

Trustees thank you for having everything in order for your Post Inspection, this made the Inspection process much smoother. Because of your coordinated efforts I am proud to say 5th District You're 100% Inspected as of Fall Conference, Congratulations All! The Department Of Michigan's special guest at Fall Conference was National Commander-In-Chief Hal J. Roesch III he shared his 2020 vision with the Membership in attendance & those attending via Zoom. Chief Roesch III & Past Department Commander Michael Fineis presented a number of awards during the conference, we all were very proud to see for the 2nd time in two years our District 5 Commander George Navarrette receiving his All-American cover for 2019-2020, Post 334 Commander James Hubbard & his Post received National Community Service Post Award Of The Year 2019-2020. Congratulations to all the others in District 5 who received awards, you continue to lead by example. On Monday 28 September 2020 I emailed all 5th Post Commanders, Adjutant's

& our 5th District Adjutant Robert Lutz information about the All-American Eligible Dashboard Training with contact information Lynn W. Rolf III Office # 816-968-1116, Cell # 913-290-1754, please call Program Director Lynn at National Headquarters he will get you access to the All-American Dashboard. Only Post, District & Department Adjutant's get Access to this website. I just want to remind some of Post Commanders & Quartermasters we should pay close attention to your Donation Detail List, & Checklist. These list are on the the Department website at www.vfwmi.org click on Resources & you're there. Every Post in our District should be donating to our Department Programs to make All-State. In closing, all of us here in The 5th District realize working together as a Team is for the greater Goals of this great organization & that's why we should not let petty jealousy get in the way of us trying to lead our Post, County Council's, District & Department to another good year. Stand Tall District 5!

DISTRICT 6 COMMANDER - REINOLD E. YAHNKA



Comrades of the "Super 6th District"

The Fall Conference has come and gone, and we were able to have a face to face

conference. Even with the mask and social distancing requirements we had a very productive and informative Fall Conference that was well represented in attendance from several Post in the District and by way of Zoom. Congratulations to all the Post that received awards and recognition at the Fall Conference. Two Post in the District were recognized for being All-American Post. Fowlerville Post 6464 under the Command of Butch Ogdon & Quartermaster George Wygant and Grass Lake Post 10194 under the Command of Rex Murdock and Quartermaster Brandon Richards. What an Honor it was having the National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch II attending and making himself available to all that wanted to talk to him with any concerns. Let us start working on

Membership now and get that 100 percent as soon as possible. Contact your annual members and talk to them about changing over to a Life membership or paying their dues early. Also contact LaVerne (Verne) Blauwkamp, Department Membership Director and give him a list of zip codes in your area and he will get you a listing of the members at large. Contact these members at large and get them back into a Post. Public Safety Award nominations are due by 1 January 2021. Submit your Firefighter, EMT and Law Enforcement nominations so that they can receive the recognition that they deserve. Get your Buddy Poppies on order if you have not already, they may be hard to get this year because of the COVID-19. Do not forget about Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo 29-30 January, register as soon as possible.

Stay on top of getting your monthly activities and hospital reporting in by the 10th of every month. Make sure that your trustee's perform quarterly audits and that all audits are completed and turned in on time.

The District Meeting schedule below will be posted on our "VFW & Auxiliary District 6" Facebook page. The April District meeting has been changed from the Carleton Post 4093 to the Monroe Post 1138. Communication is the Key to keeping everyone informed to keep Veterans Moving Forward. I believe in keeping you the Post Commander's, Quartermaster's and Adjutants informed, please make sure that your member's get the information as it is passed onto you.

Saturday, April 24, 2021 – Monroe VFW City of Monroe Post 1138, 400 Jones Avenue, Monroe, MI 48161

11:00 am – Memorial Service

12:00 pm – Lunch

1:00 pm - Meeting and Elections for 2021 – 2022, Installation of District Officers after meeting.

It is an Honor to be your District 6 Commander and I am here to serve you and help you in any way I can. So please feel free to contact me at any time so that we can keep the "Super 6th District" "Veterans Moving Forward". Thank You, for all that you do.

DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER - MIKE MARTIN



I just attended the Fall Conference representing the Great 8th District at Boyne Highlands. It was great to get together with

everyone again, even with the Covid-19 restrictions in place. That is what VFW Comrades do—we come together.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was created so Veterans could come together and support each other. It was created to be an organization where Veterans could talk to like-minded

people who understood them and who shared their concerns. We must never forget why the VFW exists.

Every Post has members who are 'ghosts', members that no one ever sees in the canteen or at a meeting. They are still Comrades. The members that are visible are supported by one another, but the ghosts are not. It is important that we reach out to them to let them know that they are thought of, that they are an integral part of your organization. Ask members to call those who are ghosts and turn them into visible members. Sometimes just a phone call is all it takes to change a

member from being a ghost to being an active member. It is especially important now during this pandemic to check on our Brothers and Sisters to make sure they are well. It is also a good time to find out if there is a financial or medical reason that the member cannot pay their annual dues. If there is, then you can pay their dues for them from your Relief Fund.

We were honored to have National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch as our National Representative at the Fall Conference. He spoke to us several times but one thing he talked about really stuck with

DISTRICT 8 CONTINUED

me. He spoke on “Campaign Bias”—the idea that one war was harder or more important than another. I had never heard it spoke of that way, but I have experienced it. As a Vietnam Veteran I remember being told that my war was not a real war. I know Korean Veterans have had the same experience. We are Veterans. Period. There is no ranking, no scale that shows what Veterans are more important than others. We should treat all Comrades equally as Veterans. Be good to each other. Respect each other. It is the only way the VFW will remain strong.



DISTRICT 11
COMMANDER
BRUCE BRIDSON

Hello once again Comrades, I hope everyone that was able to, had a chance to come to

the Department Fall Conference. It was great that the National Commander in Chief himself was there. It was a little bit different though with the camera crews in the background broadcasting everything via ZOOM. During the Department C of A meeting I announced my candidacy for the position of Judge Advocate for the 2021-2022 year, and I hope I have your support. I look forward to seeing everyone again at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo.

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, although 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%. 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. Communicate with your post members, if the Commander cannot attend, a delegate within the Post must attend the District meeting. District 11’s next meetings will be November 1st at Midland VFW Post 3651, February 7th at Coleman VFW Post 1071, and May 2nd 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 so please do what you can for our veterans, your post, and the district.

In closing, Thank you for being a part of the VFW. May God bless you, I hope each and every one of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas, and many blessings for a Happy New Year!



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER - KIMBERLY NAPOLEON

Greetings Comrades, I pray that all are doing well as we continue to navigate our lives, families and extra curricular activities during this unforeseen pandemic. Please remain steadfast and determined in fulfilling the Mission of this organization while “Moving Veterans Forward.”

Department has recently ended the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. That said, it sometimes amazes me how relevant our organization continues to be after so many years! Fall Conference was full of fresh information and ideas. For those of you who have not attended in recent years you are certainly missing out on opportunities to improve your company’s position in an increasingly difficult environment to conduct business.

The education has been focused on relevant current challenges with regards to topics like Membership, understanding our Organizational Purposes Mission and dealing with creative ways to recruit the next generation. We also focused on traditional areas such as protecting your Post legally, being compliant, how to think in different ways and a dose of technical education specifically concerning Adjutant’s role in uploading VOD required reporting.

All the topics have kept the education fresh, informative and eye opening. Congratulations to the Post Commanders

and Quartermasters who achieved All-State 2019-2020 White Caps. Job well done!!

Post inspections/Audits
Most Post Inspections are just about completed. There are still a few Posts to be contacted. It’s my hopes that by the time this goes to print, the District will be 100%. Please keep in mind the audit dates and adhere to deadlines in a timely manner.

- Reports -
Post Commanders, I am asking that you please encourage your Committee Chairs to get reports in on time. There are several Posts that have not returned and in one report. This is unacceptable, we can and must do better.

Remember Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, TOTY applications are due to Posts by November 1. Any questions please contact Comrade Larry Thayer.

Our next District 9 Meeting will be Saturday, November 7th at Saginaw Valley Post 9809 in Saginaw, MI. Covid-19 will dictate possible format changes. In the event of video conferencing, you will be contacted. In preparation for Veterans Day 2020, during lunch we will be honoring our World War II and Korean War Veterans. Post Commanders, Please forward the names of any WWII and or Korean War members to me via email; kimberlynapoleon@icloud.com or text 989-482-1533.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas in addition to Michigan Winter weather coming, let us remember to check on those who may be less fortunate and or alone.
Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!



PLEASE HELP SOLVE THIS MYSTERY / JUSTINA VICKERMAN

While working on a World War II project for my family, I found 2 pictures of my Great Uncle and some of his buddies. I am hoping someone can help me identify 2 of the men in picture. I managed to trace the family of 2 men (Dorman Crowe and Dillon Shearer) who identified their service members.

The pictures were taken in Hawaii in either August or September 1943. Verne had been wounded on Saipan, and was recovering at Pearl Harbor. Verne is wearing sandals issued to him by the hospital... and since he isn’t on

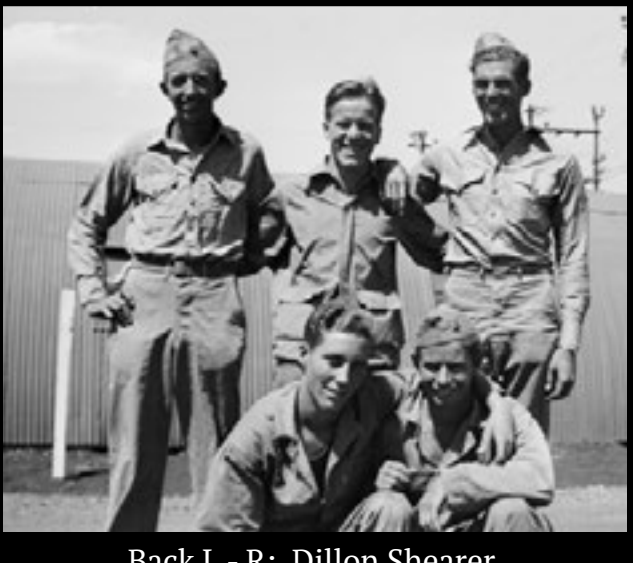
crutches is why I assuming it took place in August or September. All the men were in the 3rd BN Co. I 2nd Marines in Jul 1942.

I am hoping someone may recognize the other two men. Some names my Uncle mentioned in his letters were: Charles Lucas, Clifton Tabor, Lloyd K Saxton, Fred McCarrick, Al (possibly Alvin L Taylor), and Winger

My greatest wish is to be able to share these pictures with their families. Any help would be appreciated. My email is justinavic@gmail.com



L-R :Dorman Crowe, Verne Downard, unknown, Dillon Shearer, UNKNOWN



Back L - R: Dillon Shearer, Verne Downard, UNKNOWN.
Front L - R : UNKNOWN, Dorman Crowe

★ AUXILIARY DISTRICT REPORTS ★

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT - DENI HUNTER

A word to our Auxiliaries:

Parable of the wise and the foolish.

Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of mine, and does not do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand. The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.

Matthew 7:24 - I will speak what I know.

-Be sure to form, build upon, and strengthen your foundation--as an Auxiliary for a sturdy and lasting future

-Repair your roof before mending your walls and laying your floors—Define your priorities as an Auxiliary to remain effective

-Keep your plumbing and electrical updated and in good working order—Ensure that the inner workings of the Auxiliary are organized, prioritized, and functional

-Do not put off what needs to be fixed—Address and resolve Auxiliary issues as soon

they arise to the benefit of all involved

-Use quality parts, as an Auxiliary member, be the best example of good character, moral conduct, and humane compassion

-Make your house a home, and fill it with cherished memories—Be good to each other as Auxiliary members and enjoy the company of each other...help each other up and don't let each other down

-Secure your valuables and take care who you let in—Eliminate temptation, follow procedure, and protect the investments of the Auxiliary and of each other

-Nurture your time, and spend it well—Make everything you do as an Auxiliary member worth your while and worth the while of everyone else in the auxiliary

-Maintain your property and keep clear the path to your door—Be inviting, be welcoming, be supportive, and be encouraging as Auxiliary members...and, be happy, be content, and have peace

Hear these words & put them into practice. Be the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foundation of your Auxiliary will be successful, rewarding, and prosperous. Amen and God bless us one and all.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT - AILEEN ADRAGNA

By now your auxiliary should be working towards 100% in membership. Recruit and retain. Make sure newer members know that becoming the president is not necessarily the first action— not everyone feels comfortable being in the spotlight. Take time to explain all the chairmanships. Ask them to commit to helping cook food for Veterans' Day or a Voice of Democracy program, or whatever. Ask if they can go shopping for a veteran's family in need. Can they write a letter their congressperson? Give them a copy of the weekly Action Corp report. We do not need to do "it" all by ourselves – this should be teamwork.

With all this work going on by members individually and as a team – remember to report, report, report. Report in membership; report in legislative; report in veterans & family support; report in scholarships; report in youth activities.

Each chairperson should go to the

department website after each activity is completed or monthly and make a report. It is one less chore for the president or secretary to do. The added benefit is people will not have to rely on memory skills. For myself – I carry a small pad so I can make notes after each activity at my post and auxiliary.

Remember, if it is a joint activity both organization make a report, but only report the number of auxiliary members. You can make a comment in the details about involvement by VFW members and members of a partner organization such as the Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans, Am Vets, American Legion, etc. It is all about the details. Be specific – do not exaggerate – just the facts. Be like Sergeant Friday on "Dragnet" – just the facts.

So what are we working on?

Recruit! Recruit! Recruit!

Retain! Retain! Retain!

Report! Report! Report!

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT - DELLA PETAJA

Hi again from the 15th District. As I write this the colors in the Keweenaw are at their brilliant peak. I believe in the days to come the wind will take care to rip them from the trees.

With help from my senior vice Judy Fell, all the inspections are completed in the 15th. We like to get them finished early as we never know when our winter will begin, there has been snow before Halloween.

The fall conference at Boyne Mt. resort was wonderful. Thank you to our president Carrie, her staff and her chairman. It was a very informative conference and the prep work for it was top notch dealing with all that is going on.

The 15th district meeting was held on

Sept. 20th was held at our newest auxiliary at post 5600 in Ontonagon. We welcome this auxiliary and know they will do a great job for our veterans. We were also honored to have President Carrie attend our meeting and hope she and her family enjoyed their trip. Our 15th district because of covid could not hold our annual family freedom fest as we have in the past two years. So this year our auxiliaries each chose a chairmanship or two and made large displays to be put in a window in our communities for the public to see what we are about. This has worked out great and the displays are awesome.

I hope this in our state improve over the next months and we will all get to Mid Winter, Hope to see you there.

STAMPED TO BE A LEADER BY NATE POWELL

District 9 Department of Michigan Commander Kimberly A. Napoleon was born to lead. The vote of confidence was exemplified in her election as District 9 Commander. The road to this leadership position was fraught with obstacles and challenges, but District 9 Commander Napoleon kept her eye on the goal. A graduate of Arthur Hill High School in Saginaw, Michigan, in 1986, she joined the United States Army in 1987 and served for nearly 10 years before being medically retired. She served in Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Shield in the Gulf War, and Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia and Iraq. She was awarded the Bronze Star Metal for Valor. Commander Napoleon is the widow of Terrill Napoleon, Sr., an army veteran, who served in Korea where he contracted a brain infection which took his life in 1995.

Commander Napoleon is the proud mother of her daughter, Ms. Ti'Kyra Napoleon of East Lansing, Michigan. Commander Napoleon is an accredited service officer with the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). As a member of VFW Post 9931, she served as Service Officer, Adjutant and Senior-Vice Commander. Commander Napoleon was the first black female to hold the position of Post Commander at the Wallace C. Schultz/Dwight A. McKinney, Jr. VFW Post 9931 and the first black female Post Commander in the State of Michigan.

Commander Napoleon said it was obvious to her that many veterans within the city [Saginaw] had a lot of problems. She had to be that advocate for them and help them, and she was invited to join VFW Post 9931. The Bridgeport, Michigan, Wallace C. Schultz/Dwight A. McKinney, Jr. VFW Post 9931 serving Bridgeport and Buena Vista, was not always a combination of two names. Commander Napoleon was instrumental in adding the name Dwight A. McKinney, Jr. He was from Saginaw, Michigan. She said McKinney was one of the youngest and among one of the first African American soldiers killed in Vietnam. Since joining the Post, Commander Napoleon has moved up the ranks. "There was a time when women didn't have a place in the military. There still are barriers, but these barriers are being torn down and it's an inspiration," stated Commander Napoleon.

She went on to say that the challenges we face as a nation related to racial inequality and injustice are significant. "These roots of inequality and injustice go as deep as our nation's founding, but they are not beyond the power and determination of committed people for positive change." Commander Napoleon asserts that she will do her best to support veterans by leading in "honoring our past, uniting our present, and mentoring our future with vision, integrity, structure, and accountability, VISA."

Horace Frazier, Jr., Past District 6 Commander and Past VFW Post 423 Commander (Ann Arbor) and a friend commented, "She is a wonderful person and is an exceptional commander and committed to the VFW organization."



VFW RIDERS, GARY GAMBLE

Are you a VFW or Auxiliary member that enjoys riding a motorcycle? Would you like to learn more about how to form a VFW Riders Group at your post or in your District?

I will gladly help answer your questions and help you get a group started. Now is a great time to start the discussion about forming a Post or District VFW Riders Group over the winter months. That way you can hit

the ground rolling in the spring with your newly formed VFW Riders Group. Having an active VFW Riders group is a great way to get your VFW and Auxiliary members together on a regular basis supporting VFW events while enjoying the ride. Please visit www.vfwmi.org and click "About", then "VFW Riders" to learn more.

Please look twice, Save a Life



PATRIOT DAY, JERRY GORSKI

On September 11, 2020, Patriot Day, VFW 2645 Post Members and Auxiliary Members honored their Southfield Police Officers and their Southfield Fire Fighters & Emergency Medical Technicians with a Luncheon that they will never forget.

VFW Post 2645 Commander Don Kuffner, Past Post 2645 Commander Al Stabrava, National Council Member & Post 2645 Trustee Jerry Gorski and Past District 5 Auxiliary President Donna Stabrava and Auxiliary Senior Vice Barbara Seldon set up the luncheon consisting of Spareribs, Strip Steak, Mostaccioli, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Shrimp, Antipasto Salad, Assorted Fruit and Water at the Southfield Fire Department.

VFW Post 2645 Quartermaster Jon Adams, Auxiliary President Rhunell Adams, Auxiliary Senior Vice Barbara Seldon and other Auxiliary Members set up the same luncheon at the Southfield Police Department Headquarters.

The Southfield Police Officers and Southfield Fire Fighters & EMTs ate in shifts, so there would be adequate coverage throughout the day.

The Southfield Police, Firefighters and Emergency Technicians thanked the VFW 2645 Members and Auxiliary Members for putting on this feast for them on Patriot Day.



On Patriot Day the District 4 VFW Riders rode our motorcycles and met with police officers from the Michigan State Police (Metro South Post) and the City of Taylor Police Department to make a donation of over 120 stuffed animals. The stuffed animals will be carried in police cars all over the metro Detroit area and will be ready to help comfort a child suffering from traumatic event that

these officers will encounter while serving to protect. Our Riders reached into their own pockets to purchase the stuffed animals and are some of the most charitable people I know. The District 4 VFW Riders support and thank all our first responders and hope this small donation will help comfort a child in distress and make that encounter a little easier for our officers.

GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT, DON CALLAWAY

A Gold Star Families Memorial Monument will be completed in the spring of 2021. This will be the second monument of this type in the state of Michigan, the first is located in Bay City.

Karen Straffon and her husband Nick, retired Army Colonel, are the head of the all volunteer team working on this project. We are getting close to our goal of \$75,000.00 + for the monument itself and additional funds for benches and such are needed.

The monument will be located at 40700 Romeo Plank Road, Clinton Twp., Michigan. Clinton Twp. donated a beautiful space for the monument with a lighted flag pole, and also has agreed to absorb legacy cost of maintenance. Thank you very much to Clinton Township.

The Gold Star Family Monument program was the vision of Hershel Woody Williams,



the last surviving Medal Of Honor recipient from Iwo Jima. All funds for the monument go through the Medal Of Honor Foundation.

A Post, District, Department, or individual can donate by cash donation, purchase of a paver brick and we do have hat pins in the shape of the monument for sale. By donating you are not only fulfilling your obligation as a member of The Veterans Of Foreign Wars to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans, you are doing the right thing.

All checks should be made out to - **HWWMOHF** - in the memo section it should say "Clinton Twp." Mail to :

Karen Straffon
5007 Pte. Tremble / Algonac, Mi 48001
For more information contact me,
Don Callaway at 810-990-8280,
or Karen at 810-794-0638





DESIGNER / EDITOR,
STACEY ROBERTS

Happy Holidays! I hope you all are surviving these crazy times and taking the precautions needed to keep you and your family safe. Please take a moment to reach out to your fellow members and check on them. They may be unable to get groceries or have trouble dealing with the isolation.

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan 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 all 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 and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. Articles more than 500 words may be rejected or returned for revision. **We reserve the right to edit all articles as we see fit.**

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

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**Articles for consideration
should be sent to:**
MOV@VFWMI.ORG
7901 Backus Road - Greenville, MI 48838

TAPS FORM

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for your TAPS report.

Send completed form to:
VFW of Michigan
924 N Washington - Lansing, MI 48906
or Amanda@vfwmi.org

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age) (Date of Death)

(Post)

Branch of Service :
ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in :
WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES

ROLL CALL OF OUR
DEPARTED COMRADES



LISTED BY POST NUMBER / LAST NAME / FIRST NAME / AGE / SERVICE / WAR

607 Rogers City
Durecki, Leo J. 83 Army/Vietnam
Mosher, Jack R. 93 Navy/WWII
1137 Watervliet
Keech, James 86 Air Force/Korea
Ravitch, Ronald 80 Army
Strine, Daniel 73 Army/Vietnam
1519 Northville
Allee, Albert D. 74 Air Force/Vietnam
2144 Holland
Douma, Byrne 88 Coast Guard/Korea
3055 St. Louis
Davidson, Guy Korea
3293 Grand Ledge
Mathews, David 73 Army/Vietnam
3314 Arcadia
Newberry, Robert L. 86 Army/Korea
3676 Sault Ste. Marie
Montgomery, William E. 88 Army/Korea
3701 Lakeview
Burmeister, Gail 74 Army
Cooper, James 89 Army
Lund, Charles 92 Air Force/WWII
Shaw, James 97 Navy/WWII
3925 Erie
Etue, Gerald 83 Army/Korea
Jones, Howard 75 Army/Vietnam
Lonsway, Odell 96 Navy/WWII
Swartz, Ronald 83 Army/Germany
3946 Grand Rapids
Allen, Douglas A. 72 Army/Vietnam
Haveman, Harvey F. 93 Korea
VanderMolen, Thomas 77 Marines/Vietnam
4090 Portland
Fenstermaker, Emery 93 Army/WWII
Rademacher, Robert 74 Marines/Vietnam
West, John 89 Army/Germany
4113 St. Johns
Ott, Donald V. 96 Army/WWII
4167 Mass City
Anttila, William 73 Army/Vietnam
Johnson, Herbert 79 Korea
Niemi, Wayne M. 83 Army/Germany

4461 Lake Odessa
Bursley, Charles 87 Army/Korea
Daniels, Virgil 93 Army/WWII
Durkee, Robert 73 Army/Vietnam
McCaul, Benjamin 88 Army/Korea
Speas, George 88 Navy/Korea
Sutherland, Leon 81 Army/Korea
4624 Hubbell
Chikez, Vernon G. 98 Army/WWII
5189 Vicksburg
Merrill, Robert 93 Navy/WWII
6333 Kaleva
Clements, Russell F. 95 Navy/WWII
6464 Fowlerville
DeCamp, William 73 Army/Vietnam
Vogt, William 69 Army/Vietnam
6782 Eastpointe
Rawski, John 72 Army/Vietnam
6965 Ubly
Beaver, Richard 73 Navy/Vietnam
8236 Flint
Burns, Henry Jr. 97 Army/WWII
Carr, Everett 86 Army
Cills, Luden W. 73 Army/Vietnam
Dicks, Richard 85 Air Force
Martin, Albert 86 Army/Korea
Moore, Noah 98 WWII
Robinson, Donald 74 Air Force
Scale, Sam 67 Marines
9021 Warren
Carlu, John L. 91 Army/Korea
Yute, George R. 94 Navy/WWII
9023 Brimley
Wiertalla, Crandel 94 Army/WWII
9363 Flat Rock
Nemeth, Lee J. 73 Army/Vietnam
Whalls, Michael K. 76 Navy/Vietnam
Wolfe, Robert E. 79 Marines/Korea
9388 Muskegon
Steele, Donald L. 72 Army/Vietnam
9714 Chatham
Bond, Keith E. 89 Air Force/Korea
Moore, Edward A. 72 Marines/Vietnam

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN NEWSLETTER

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