

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •



March/April/May 2017

Volume 84 Number 3

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

By the time you read this, nominations for the 2017-2018 year will be done and it will almost be election time. Congratulations to the soon to be officers elect. After the meeting, please fill out your election report and submit it to Dept. and National. Last year it was Sept before all the election reports were turned in. Let's not repeat this.

There are still 4 months left in the membership year. If you are trying to make All State, if you have attained 125 points but have not made 100% in membership, you have until June 30 to reach 100% and still make All State. You will receive your All State award at either your next district meeting or at the Fall Conference. So don't give up. So keep recruiting and reinstating.

Speaking of reinstating, as of this writing the Dept of Michigan has only reinstated 134 prior members. There are thousands of members out there that have let their dues expire. Go visit these comrades and bring them back to our ranks. Weren't we always

Matt David
Senior Vice Commander



taught to never leave a comrade behind? Some of these comrades may be on hard times and can't afford the dues. If that is the case then it is our duty as comrades to help them until they can get back on their feet. Most people are too proud to ask for help but they will remember when help was offered.

When your post receives requests from various charities, please consider donating to the Dept of Michigan's programs first. Donations to our programs have been way down for many years. Just remember, when you donate to a VFW program 100% of what you donate goes to that program. Nothing is taken off the top to cover expenses. You won't find a better bang for your buck.

STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER

Congratulations to all the District Officers that brought students to Mid-Winter. What an amazing job each and every one of you did to get them to that point. It amazes me to watch them from strangers on Friday to the best of friends on Saturday night. Hopefully they will be lifelong friends. Congrats to all the students for dedicating yourselves to writing an essay and really thinking about veterans.

State Convention is creeping up fast and we have a lot to do before we get there. Elections will be coming up soon and All-State will be ending. Incoming commanders need to start thinking about their committees and appointments.

As soon as elections are over please forward your election reports to Department. If your Quartermaster has a username and password for the National website (www.vfw.org) they are able to enter your election report right on line and it will automatically be sent to Dept. and National. Please think about getting the QM and Commander signed up and registered for this tool. It is so helpful to have this to renew, decrease a member and check on your

Lynn Patterson
Department ADJ/Quartermaster



membership. There is so much you are able to do with this website.

Delegate forms will be sent out the 1st week of April. Please look for this and have your post vote on delegates and payment of your Dept. dues. Fill out this form completely and get it back to Dept. by May 16, 2017. This is very important when time comes to vote at State Convention. This is different from National dues. National dues can only be paid for on the National Website.

The National Council of Administration passed a resolution at the August 28, 2016 Council meeting that makes it mandatory for all Posts to sign up for Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments from the National Headquarters by December 31, 2016. As of today, there is a list of the Posts in our

ADJ/QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 2

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

By the time the MOV hits the streets; our year will be basically over. So, I would like to start this article by congratulating our State Commander Jerry Gorski and State President Gloria Dobbie on the job that they have done this year, your hard work and efforts has definitely been seen and appreciated. I would also like to thank Commander Gorski and Sr. Vice Commander David for being there for me this year, giving me the guidance and advice when I had questions. I could not have asked for two better Comrades to follow through the chairs.

Our Mid-Winter Conference was a great success. A huge Thank you goes out to our awesome convention directors Pat and Patricia Patterson, thank you for ALL that you do we could not do this without the two of you. Thank you to everyone who was able come to the VOD/PP banquet we had a great turnout and as always, the kids did a wonderful job.

Please remember to do your monthly reporting, I know everyone does the work

Phil Patterson
Junior Vice Commander



so report it, if you have a question on any of your reporting or your donations you will be able to find your answers on our website under Resources & Forms then Reports and Forms. District Commanders you should be monitoring your Posts.

To achieve success for the upcoming year, we need to use all the resources that are available to us. Use all the Department Chairmen. Use all the resources that are on our Web site. Use your District officers and chairmen and then use the Department officers. Comrades, so many of your questions can be answered by using our website www.vfwmi.org or the National website www.vfw.org Please remember, when you need answers to your questions please use your chain of command before

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Yet another productive Mid-Winter Conference and it will be spring before we know it. Where does the time go? In just a short bit, we will have the Joint Department Testimonial. It just seems like time is flying by.

So, as we move ahead in 2017, please note the many events taking place within all levels of our Michigan VFW and that applies to it Auxiliary. In addition to meetings, please do not forget the importance of recruitment, and certainly care for veterans and their families. Both are vital to our organization and the time to act is now.

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



Accordingly, what positive thing is your Post and/or District known for or something that you like? Posts and Districts generally have rich histories with foundations based upon years, and often several generations, of giving members. From hosting amazing events such as memorials, youth programs, etc., to being impressive cause fundraisers,

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued on page 2

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

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Congrats to the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners. Each year I have a renewed faith in our youth and education system. I would also like to extend my congratulations to all of the sponsoring posts, judges, parents, and participating schools. Let's continue this terrific program by encouraging more schools to participate.

We have been dealt a few interesting challenges this year that I would like to clear up. The first issue arose during inspections. A question was brought up by a few posts whether or not it was optional for a post to maintain a dues reserve fund. Per the National By-Laws Sec. 717, a dues reserve fund **shall be** established and maintained by Posts and Departments. The Manual of Procedure further states, this fund shall also not be disbursed until after July 1 where it shall be transferred into the general fund. Another issue that seems to creep up once in a while is that of keeping order during meetings. Article 10 Sec. 1001 subsection 6, No Member shall in debate impeach the motives of a fellow member or treat them with disrespect. It is the commander's responsibility to reprimand the offending member immediately. The offending member



may be asked to leave the room. It later states, when this member is called to order they shall immediately stop and apologize for their behavior. If the offending member refuses, disciplinary action can be initiated. Commanders need to maintain good order and utilize their gavel.

Again, please have your By-Laws updated and voted on at your posts. There are standard post By-Law templates available if needed and are simple to use. After your By-Laws are updated and voted on please send them to Department Headquarters for review, per Sec 202. They will then be forwarded to National for review where they will be signed by the National Commander or sent back for corrections. Until you receive the signed copy the By-Laws will not be in effect.

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

Thank you for your service.

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued from page 1

and/or effective community/veteran service and project workers, what do you prize about your Post/District?

Likely, for many Comrades, Aux. Sisters, and Brothers the answer will arrive quickly... I like that best or I think this is the best thing we do. If you cannot think of anything or are unsure of how you can help it could be an ideal opportunity to re-evaluate and find your calling among the many programs and opportunities to give within the VFW. For service, it just takes the will to act; Per Proverbs 16:9: "The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps."

Please consider the dedication of our older and now deceased members are a precious part of our organizational heritage. Their hard work has allowed us to enjoy an organization that assists many. Let us endeavor not to forsake that legacy with apathy or inaction. We should start, restart, and continue to give our time, efforts, skills,

and/or resources as we can to serve and possibly recruit others to sustain our best traditions. As Philippians 2:1-4 states in a call to selfless action, "If therefore there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

Moreover, and this is important, there is joy in giving! We have many devoted Post and Auxiliary members that know this to be true, but could always use extra help today.

May God bless you.

ADJ./QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

Department that have not signed up. Until an authorization form is received, they no longer will be receiving any payments from the National Headquarters. Please get that form sent in. If you are not sure if you post has done this yet or not, contact me and I will let you know if your post is on the list.

We have been out doing training all year and will be planning on getting out again next year to train. Please encourage all members to come to a VTS if it is close

to you. Trustee's I would love to see more of you at the trainings. You have a huge responsibility to your membership. As soon as we get the schedule for next year together we will get it out to everyone.

Check the Dept. website (www.vfwmi.org) regularly we are trying to keep it updated with the most current information and forms for you.

Thank you for all you do for the VFW and for Veterans.

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

you call Department.

I have enjoyed traveling the state visiting Districts and Posts, as well as meeting all the members. The hospitality that you all have given to me has been wonderful and very much appreciated and I look forward to meeting many more of you while visiting

your Posts and Districts.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Flint at our State Convention in June. Come on down, or over, or up to the Convention and see what it's all about.

Until next time, continue to work as a team and continue to Communicate.

National Council of Administration



Harry "Les" Croyle

The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen competitions are over for this year. The banquet went well and the students seemed happy with everything. To all the members that funded the scholarships, the posts and Districts thank you so much for making our program one of the very best in the nation. Your hard work and the funds that make it all possible are greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to this year's winners Meg Harmon "Patriots Pen" District 14 from Post 4573 and "Voice of Democracy" Emma Freshcorn District 6 from Post 1584.

A big VFW thank you to last year's Voice of Democracy Elisabeth Barnett. She couldn't be with us but sent a nice letter outlining all she did and how much she enjoyed representing the State of Michigan at the National Level of the Competition.

The Traveling Trophies went to posts 1584 and 4573. They will display them at their post home and return them to the Department of Michigan Headquarters before or no later than Thursday, December 7, 2017.

Get your Teacher of the Year entries to the District chairmen. Next year all the programs Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year will be back together as far as due dates are concerned. I realize that this requires a little more work on everyone's part but it's really the only way to go. These teachers deserve to be with us at the Banquet and properly recognized.

A National Certificate was presented to Kenneth Shelby by the National Commander in Chief Brian Duffy and State Commander Jerry Gorski. This comrade has funded the programs for approximately ten years as a member at large for a post that is now out of business.

I'd also like to thank Mr. David London of Parliament Studios for videoing the program for us. Mr. London did this at no cost to the State VFW. Hopefully we will be able to get copies to all the districts soon. I'm thinking editing is the real hard part.

As your National Council of Administration Member Michigan there is basically nothing new from my last report given at the conference and published in the MOV. Our next C of A will be in Washington, DC at the Legislative Conference the end of February.



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God Bless Our Troops



State Inspector



Robert Williams

Let me start by saying even though I am the State Inspector it takes a team to complete a mission. I am writing this to thank each and every District Inspector and his Assistant Inspectors for a job well done. Let us not forget the cooperation by each and every Post to complete our mission. There were a few discrepancies which I hope were passed on to the Post by the District Commander. It is now the responsibility of the Post Commander to ensure that these discrepancies are taken care of.

State Commander Jerry Gorski does not want to pass on any discrepancies to the next State Commander. Next year's inspection will be coming up before you know it, so what I am asking you to do is to hold on to your copy of this year's Inspection sheet. It will give you

an idea of the items you will need for next year. One of the State Inspector's jobs along with the State Quartermaster is to go over all the quarterly financial reports. I would like to remind the Post Commander and the Trustees of the Post that once you sign the quarterly audits you are sharing the responsibility of the Quartermaster and Adjutant quarterly audit and the responsibility now lies with you also. You are confirming that these reports are made out correctly and that all figures match. Please go over these audits very carefully before affixing your signature to the bottom of the audit, and ensure that the reconciliation portion is filled out. Please remember that there are certain items in our National by-laws that must be adhered to on your quarterly audits. I have asked the State Judge Advocate to mention these in his newsletter.

**State inspector 2015- 2017
Robert Williams**

Homeless Veterans



Barb Locke

Comrades, With our ever changing Michigan weather we have to keep our eyes open for any Homeless Veterans. We are interested in any stories of aid that you have given a Homeless Veteran. My e-mail is in the Commander Guide. Winter is not over. I will be distributing a file on the location of our known Homeless Veterans shelters in Michigan. If you are aware of any that are not on the list, please contact me immediately. Our networking may save a life. The information may give you the opportunity to help homeless Veterans. If you have hosted a Quilt, Coat n Mittens' drive, this does count toward your all state points. It also helps you to have that warm, fuzzy feeling for helping someone out. If you need ideas on events that can be put together to help, let me know. I am available to attend and/or help you plan.

The Department will help you with a Veterans Job Fair. If you have held or participated in a job fair please contact me to get credit and share Information like how

many Veterans showed up and how many Veterans obtained employment. I would like an invitation to your job fairs and will participate in your efforts. Please contact me if there is any event that I might assist. There is an Employment incentive program available if you want more. Contact us.

We had an apartment building burn down in the city of Hart. One of our Veterans lost everything in the fire. This made him homeless and desolate. Our community and our Post 1329 rallied around him and the other displaced home owners and held a community drive to secure clothing, dishes, furniture and toiletries. Simple things like paper products were needed. We had a meal and a day of shopping with the Veterans and others. Once they went thru we opened up to the community with a \$5.00 shopping bag. All the proceeds go to the Veterans and others. Just before Christmas we were able to work with the organizations in our community to find homes, replace medicines, glasses and clothing.

In this effort we honored our Vietnam veterans and helped the community. What have you done for a Vet this year?

I'm hoping that your holidays went well. Happy New Year Veterans.

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Jim Fernandez, POW/MIA Director

Greetings Comrades

First off, I would like to thank all for the well wishes for my wife, she is doing well and the ticker blockage was opened up~ Ya can't keep a good girl down!

At the Mid Winter I was unable to make it there so I asked Don Calaway to make a report for me and ask for help locating any family members of Harold L Greene, from Lake George Mi. Harold was shot down over North Korea and remains MIA. Records indicate that the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command Has no family DNA samples from family members. DNA is the main source used for identifying remains. Through your efforts and help, I received a call from the Commander of the Colman VFW post who was able to connect me with a nephew of Harold L Greene, in fact his name sake. We connected and arrangements are being made for DNA samples to be sent in for comparison purposes. The chain effect

went into effect and I have a comrade from the Caro Post who also knows of a family member of a Korean War MIA needing to supply a sample also. We will make connections soon and get that done also.

I received a POW/MIA report today that stated that a young man had asked him what powmia (one word) meant. He explained to him that it was POW/MIA and what it meant. I have also been confronted with the same question in the past several times. Education is the key to understanding, that's why it is so important to be a visual and vocal advocate and even arrange for some Veteran in the class room in your local schools. No one is dead unless they are forgotten! We will never let that happen!

Keep those reports coming in, and if you don't report start making them, it only takes a minute to do. District Commanders, please stress to your posts to start reporting. Winter is on its way out, have a great spring and I will see you at Convention!!

Advocating For Others



Paul Pirlet

Advocating for Others Whenever I want to spark a conversation during my service officer briefing at our post meetings I brief on death and burial benefits. I'm not sure why talking about death seems to bring these otherwise sedate and mild-mannered comrades to life. A common question is, "How do I go about reserving space at a national cemetery?"

The short answer is "You can't." A national veterans' cemetery is unlike other cemeteries where you can select a location, pay the plot fees, and wait for your anticipated expiration date. The National Cemetery Administration does not take reservations, but a recent VA announcement details how a veteran may be allowed to receive pre-approval for internment in a national cemetery.

Through the Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility Program, individuals can learn if they are eligible for burial or memorialization in a VA national cemetery. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald said, "This new program reaffirms our commitment to providing a lifetime of benefits and services for veterans and their families." Now veterans and their families can plan for their burial needs which will alleviate some of the burden later.

Interested individuals may submit VA Form 40-10007, Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery, and supporting documentation, such as a DD Form 214, to the VA National Cemetery Scheduling Office by toll-free fax at 1-855-840-8299; email to Eligibility.PreNeed@va.gov ; or mail to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office, P.O. Box 510543, St. Louis, MO 63151.

So who may be buried in a national cemetery? Any veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning

after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist called to active duty for a limited duration). Undesirable, bad conduct and any other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for veteran's benefits, depending upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office. Additionally, spouses and although uncommon, some children of the veteran may also be interred at a national cemetery.

Of course, the DD 214 is extremely important to the process. What if the DD 214 cannot be located? Requests for this document can be made through the National Personnel Records Center, National Archives Administration, or the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.

For urgent DD-214 requests or to request an expedited DD-214 after hours or on holidays, visit the National Archives website or call 314-801-0800. Requests may be made using eVetRecs or by downloading the Standard Form 180 (SF-180) to Request Military Records.

A request form can also be downloaded and either faxed to 517-284-5297 or emailed to MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov. The request form can be found on the MVAA website.

If you need further assistance, you may also contact the VFW Service Office:

VFW Service Office
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226
Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Veterans and Family Support



Andy Conklin

Veterans and Military Support program, there is no more important program in our organization. All funds go 100 % to the assistance of Veterans and our current Military Hero's and their dependents, there is no middle man.

To date "WE" have provided support to over 3.8 military members and their families.

Map has funded over 2,800 morale boosting events with over 2 million service members and their families.

Operation Uplink has provided over 7.6 million free call days connections.

Unmet needs assisted over 4,000 families with over \$6.3 million in assistance.

Sport Clips has awarded over 715 scholar-

ships totaling over \$3 million since 2014.

When you put on that MAP pin it shows you are a supporter, but think about other ways to generate funds for this program. Revisit your Posts donations and make sure your support is going to the most beneficial area of our Organization, to the very reason we exist, "Veterans helping Veterans!" If you are a Post Service Officer or Map chairperson get familiar with what doors to knock on to do what it takes to reach out to give assistance to our Veterans and Military families. Nothing can benefit the strength of our Organization more and increase our membership, then supporting our Veterans and active duty people.

Thank You.

**Andy Conklin
Veterans and Military Support Chairman**

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



**Department Service Officers
SUCCESS STORY**

As so often happens when one of our clients receives a large award grant, there was a lot of “behind-the-scenes” effort accomplished to ensure the veteran or surviving family member received the benefit they were seeking. Sometimes the effort initiated is time consuming and labor intensive, but the end result can be life changing!

One such instance was that of a Vietnam veteran who was seeking an increase in the rating evaluation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and entitlement to Individual Unemployability (IU). Despite what we considered as overwhelming evidence to support the veteran’s request, the claim was denied. The standard appeal process, which in this case was very lengthy, was then followed: the Notice of Disagreement, Statement of the Case, an appellate brief from the service office, and finally, a scheduled hearing. Two service office staff members wrote appellate briefs supporting the veteran’s contention. Additional evidence strongly bolstered the veteran’s argument.

Unfortunately, just prior to the scheduled hearing the veteran was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer. Within three months he passed away. The widow filed as a substitute claimant and the appeal was reinstated. Meanwhile, the surviving spouse was granted Dependents Indemnification Compensation (DIC) as the lung cancer was associated with Agent Orange exposure. Finally, almost six years after the claim was initiated the widow was granted retroactive benefits totaling over \$97,000!

Another case involved a veteran who

was twice denied compensation benefits for ailments related to Agent Orange exposure. In 2008 he had filed a claim for diabetes and heart disease. These two conditions were denied by the VA. Why? For a reason very familiar to Navy veterans of that era - he could not prove “boots on the ground” in Vietnam, nor that his ship was anchored so close to shore as to be classified as “brown water.” A VA request to the federal agency responsible for verifying such service failed to confirm the veteran’s presence in the area. Not surprisingly, the veteran was denied service connection.

The veteran did not appeal the decision, but neither did he give up. He reopened his claim in 2013 and was once again denied service connection for the claimed disabilities. Up to this point the veteran had been doing everything on his own. Almost a year after the latest denial he decided it would probably be a good idea to seek the assistance of a VFW service officer.

The service officer conducted a thorough review of the case file to include personnel records, service treatment records, all the evidence the veteran submitted on his own. The service officer then reviewed the rating decisions to establish the reason why the VA had denied the claims. She then determined what evidence would be needed to convince the VA to reopen the claim and resolve the case in the veteran’s favor. Armed with the needed evidence she submitted the claim to the VA and the result was a \$206,000 award payment which was retroactive to the date filed in 2008! Yet another example of “VFW: No One Does More for Veterans”!



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Roger D. Fater
District 4 Commander



Hello once again. I hope everyone is doing well and in good spirits and health following the holidays.

Our year is half over now, but we still have a lot of work to do. There are quite a few post that are super close to being 100% in membership, and a lot of posts that only need 10-15 members to reach that goal. We are currently at 92.12%, so let’s all give our best effort, so we can complete a successful year for the 4th District. The posts also need to make sure that they get at least one report in for each program it is really not hard, you are doing the work PLEASE report it.

Thanks to all of the posts that had an entry in our District VOD/Patriots Pen program at Redford Post 345 in January. We had 1094 entries from 26 posts and 11 auxiliaries for Patriots Pen. Our district representative Katie Coffell from Holmes Middle School and sponsored by Post 1519 Grand River Police and Firefighters won an additional \$500.00 scholarship in the Department competition at Mid Winter Conference in Lansing. We had entries from 18 posts, and 14 auxiliaries for the VOD for a total of 800 students.

Our District VOD student Dakota Watterson who attends Allen Park High School, and sponsored by post 4422 Taylor

won an additional \$2500.00. Both of these young ladies represented the 4th District very proudly. A VERY SPECIAL THANKS to Stephanie Krueger and Phil Merrow for their superb job in chairing this year’s event, they truly did an OUTSTANDING job, THANK YOU!

Our annual post inspections went pretty well. Some posts had small gigs by the Department inspectors but nothing that can’t be fixed easily. Thanks to Mike Martin and his inspectors for getting them in before fall conference. Great job guys!

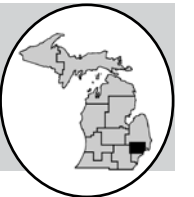
By the time you are reading this article it will be time for post election of officers. Please make sure after elections that you send in your election report ASAP. Commanders, copies of this report need to be sent to National, Department, and to the incoming district commander Gary Gamble, so that rosters can be compiled.

Congratulations to the District and Department Auxiliary for attaining 100% in Membership, just goes to show you with work this goal can be achieved. Keep working hard on our VFW programs and reporting all of the great things that you do in your posts and communities. Hope to see a great turnout for the district meeting and installation dinner on



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

David Tester
District 5 Commander



Greetings Comrades of the Fighting Fifth! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. My holiday was good because my great family and friends of the VFW surrounded me during these past few holidays.

Well, my fellow comrades another quarter has passed and quarterly audits were due on January 30. We had several posts that were slow turning them in to the department on time. Comrades, at any time you need help at your post or county councils please don’t hesitate to ask. The district has many resources to help your post move along. The paper work is a necessary part of what we have to do to make sure we can live up to our motto. One of the important jobs of the

district is making sure our posts are crossing the T’s and dotting the I’s.

I want to thank the Posts that supported the VOD and Patriots Pen program and banquet. We had a great turnout with the students that participated and those who came to support them at the banquet. We may need a bigger hall next year!

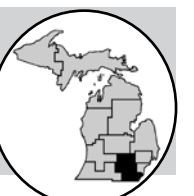
Please keep up the great work and all you all do for our Veterans, it makes my job easier as your district Commander. Please take care of our Veterans that served before you, with you, and those Warriors that stand watch today.

In Comradeship,
Dave Tester



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

John Griffith
District 6 Commander



We just returned from the Mid-Winter conference which was a huge success. It was a real pleasure to meet and talk with VFW National Commander Duffy who was our National Representative to the conference. However, the greatest pleasure was the 6th District having received the winning nomination for the Voice of Democracy Program. Congratulations to Post and Auxiliary 1584 for having the winning nomination. Now we need to keep our fingers crossed as the completion goes to the National level.

Congratulations are in order for Post 10912, 10194, 3727 and 6056 all of which have attained 100% membership. As of this writing the 6th District only needs 270 new

or reinstated members to attain 100%. Post 3925, 3727 and 1584 are all within striking distance of attaining 100%.

Just prior to going on vacation I sent out a flurry of emails to District Officers and Post Commanders on happenings within the 6th District so I will not repeat myself in this report for the MOV; however I would like to remind all Post Commanders to go over the check list within the Department website. We have some post that according to inspection reports have not up-dated their by-laws in over 25 years, some who have not submitted IRS Form 990’s and have not submitted incorporation paperwork. This is important items to get done.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Tim VanWormer
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

Mid Winter Conference is over. I had a great time and enjoyed the VOD/PP banquet. District 7 had 2 winners that went to Dept. level. The VOD winner was Percy Bean III, sponsored by Post 565 in Battle Creek. Percy placed 5th at the State level. The Patriots Pen winner was Abigail Vitale, sponsored by Post 9540 in New Buffalo. She placed 4th at the State level. Congratulations to all entrants that participated in the program.

Membership is getting closer to 100%. Let’s keep the drive going. We can do it together. District 7 is still in 1st place. Remember, you can use the relief fund to pay for the unpaid members dues in the event of a hardship, to help get the members

needed to obtain 100%.

Congratulations to Post 2532 in PawPaw for obtaining 100% membership.

Activity reports for Drug and safety, Buddy Poppy, Hospital, Community Service, etc., should be filled out and submitted monthly. Everybody should be able to do something in all the programs to get credit. Let’s try a little harder to make this happen. It will make your Post look better, and to show you’re an active Post.

The next District meeting will be May 7th, 2017. It will be held in Edwardsburg, Michigan at Post 2284. This will be nominations & elections, and installation.

Yours in Comradeship,
Tim VanWormer

May 6. Keep an eye out for fliers for this event. Also Department convention is June 1, 2, 3, in Flint. I would really like to see the 4th district have a representative from each post there on election day Saturday the 3rd to support and elect our 4th District candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander Phil Merrow.

Check the Department website for hotel listings.

Until the next article, God Bless our troops who now guard the gates of Freedom and God Bless America.

Yours in comradeship,
Roger D. Fater



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Steven Eernisse
District 8 Commander



Greetings from the Great 8 (District 8)

Hopefully all of our District comrades had a very enjoyable holiday season and are now getting back to serving our veterans throughout the winter. Remember comrades that many of our veterans struggle during the cold and often difficult winter period. Transportation can be hard for the elderly and infirm. If you are aware of veterans that may fall into that category, please give them a call or stop over for a visit or two to ensure they are doing OK. Maybe bake a cake or make some cookies to give them a boost or better yet pick them up and bring them over to a post dinner.

Membership as always is a priority, District 8 continues to struggle with this. If you know of a good membership tool or maybe would like some suggestions for a membership drive, feel free to contact our District's membership Director, John Bestervelt. I bet he could give you some help and would love to hear from you!

For those Posts who have not been visited by myself or my team, do know that I am

working hard to visit each and every Post during my year of serving you. If you would like for me to visit your Post soon, feel free to contact me and I will move you to the top of my list.

Honor Guards are dedicated members who spend more than their fair share of volunteer time providing honors for the fallen veterans and I have been notified that many Posts have been working overtime to honor deceased veterans. If your Post has been stepping back because of "burnout", I would ask you to reconsider doing so. We often hear from grieving families that what they remember most at a funeral ceremony is the VFW honor ceremony. If you are not active in a Post Honor Guard, but would like to explore this, feel free to contact your Post's Honor guard leadership. Your help will most certainly be appreciated and you most certainly will be making a difference.

Again, know that our District 8 Officers are here to help you work through problems, so contact us and we will do our best to help your local Post thrive.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Michael Lawson
District 10 Commander



Comrades, there is an old adage that states the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

As election time quickly approaches, it's time we stop thinking, if it ain't broke don't fix it, and take a hard look and determine if it's broken or a little marginal. Take this time and reflect the number of times you had an idea for a little change, and someone stood up and mentioned and it had been tried and it didn't work. Lloyd Jones once said, "Those who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed."

Our diversity of experiences is pillar of what makes our organization strong. I know that each of you has something to offer and now is your time to run for that seat, take that chairmanship or volunteer for that special project. We are here for the Veterans and we will not reach our full potential as an organization without your help.

Finally, Congratulations to the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners, and thank you to all the Posts and Auxiliaries that dedicated time fostering patriotism in the entrants and in their communities through the program.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Robert Benderman
District 12 Commander



Hello Comrades of the 12th District

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years. Time seems to be flying by. Mid winter is past and our VOD and Patriots Pen students were successful. Now we need to get to work and finish up before the end of the year.

Our 2016 winners of the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy are:

Patriots Pen

1st Place - Gabrielle Tennant from Oakridge Middle School sponsored by VFW Post 7729 Commander Billy Stancroff and Harriot Grantsyn

2nd Place - Jenna Stovall from Oakridge Middle School sponsored by VFW Post 7729 Commander Billy Stancroff and

Harriot Grantsyn.

3rd Place - Ethan Hill from Western Michigan Christian School sponsored by VFW Post 446 Commander Jeffery Schoonbeck.

Voice of Democracy

1st Place - Bethanie Sanberg from Oakridge High School sponsored by VFW Post 7729 Commander Billy Stancroff and Harriot Grantsyn

2nd Place - Brittney Ryan from Marion Public Schools sponsored by VFW Post 6015 Commander Larry Bell Scholarship Chairman and Althea Frayer.

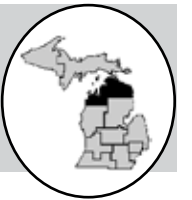
3rd Place - Cole Brower Home Schooled by Melissa Brower.

We had some problems on getting our
DISTRICT 12, continued on page 8



DISTRICT 13 REPORT

Gordon Russell
District 13 Commander



Hello VFW Comrades and Auxiliary,

A few days ago we completed the Mid Winter Conference at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing, Michigan. The whole two days were very busy. Friday morning the upcoming budget was presented and approved. Each of the various program directors went through their programs, explaining the programs and what each does for the benefit of those affected.

Friday afternoon was a Veterans Training Seminar; The Seminars always provide much useful information for the Post Commanders and Post Quartermasters. There were also brief sessions for District Commanders and Senior and Junior Commanders.

Friday evening was referred to as a Night on the Town. We transport red to Lansing Post 701, where we enjoyed a good meal and fellowship with other VFW members and families. For those who wished there was liquid refreshment available.

Saturday Morning the Command Staff and District Commanders enjoyed breakfast in

the Hotel. After breakfast there was a Council of Administration Meeting to discuss and vote on important matters that affect the Department of Michigan VFW. Most of the afternoon was free time to do as we needed.

Saturday Evening we gathered together for the awards banquet for Patriot Pin Winners, and the Voice of Democracy Winners. Each of the 12 districts had their winners for each category. Each winner received their reward and certificate. The patriot pin from District 13 was from Traverse City, and District 13, Voice of Democracy winner was from Harbor Springs. Altogether there were about 400 persons at the banquet.

The evening was completed by The VFW Department Auxiliary President sharing a few words, followed by the National VFW Commander, Brain Duffy. He was a Vietnam Veteran and a very interesting person to talk with.

District Commander 13,
respectfully submitted.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen R. Olsen
District 14 Commander



Yahooo! The first time the Patriotic Pen Traveling Trophy crosses the Bridge. Congratulations Ishpeming Post and Thank you Meg Harmon.

District 14 did you know that VFW sponsors BINGO at Jacobetti Home in Marquette every Wednesday at 1:30pm. Come volunteer. The Vets love the company and to visit with you. We serve snacks and always need home made cookies and bars. For more information call Renae Petrosic 906-475-4000.

The next UP Honor Flight is May 17th, 2017. Visit their Web site for applications, to volunteer, or to donate. Be sure to go welcome the Vets home when they return in Escanaba. It is a wonderful time. For more information call 906-280-2871.

Think about running for a committee or an officer this spring. Get INVOLVED!!! We welcome new blood, new ideas, and more support. Also, it is exciting times with the new changes in the Auxiliary and we need to work together, be united/not divided. At the

same time encourage Youth in your posts and include them in activities.

For those of you below the Bridge: With the coming of summer, remember the Upper Peninsula is gorgeous in the summer. If your planning a vacation up here be sure to stop in to the Posts and say hi! We would love to have you.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank Jerry Gorski. He has been very supportive to all of us in the UP. He has come way up here multiple times and even brought teams up here to meet and greet. I want him to know we appreciate that very much. He has also been a good communicator, very helpful, a good educator, and a great leader. Being my first year I feel very lucky to have such a great Commander.

Get out and distribute those Poppies! Many businesses welcome you to setup a display and collect donations. Thank you to all of them for their hospitality.

Hope you all have a great Spring and Summer. And...**"Make VFW Great Again"**

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2016-2017

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

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

Please Remember!

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

Camp Trotter Tales



Robert Benerman

Summer camp 2017 is just around the corner. We're scheduling the camp cleanup the 2nd weekend in May 13-14 2017 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** email Director Bob Benderman email: rsb002@comcast.net

989.621.0327 or Director Bob Benderman rsb002@comcast.net or call 231.773.2076 Training starts June 26- June 30th. Kids start in July – August 12th, 2017

Boy Scout troop 3283 will be using the camp May 19th – May 21st 2017 arriving around noon on the 19th, approx. 50 cub scouts and 10-15 boy scouts, scout leaders and parents. 90-100 total. Will be talking to scout leaders about their service project (spreading wood chips across the street on nature trail).

Comrades and Sisters, your VFW Camp Trotter for children would not exist if it was not for your continued financial support, but also getting the kids to camp. The camp can house 88 children per week so let's chip in and get your children, grandchildren, your neighbors children to camp. The VFW camp is open to all children ages 7-12 years of age. A lot of people do not know you do not need to be a veteran to send your kids to camp. The summer camping season has a Registered Nurse on duty 24/7 during the camping season along with Licensed Certified Staff employees.

Thank you for your continued support to Camp Trotter.

Your Camp Trotter Committee.

The third Tuesday 16 May 2017 is the target date for putting in the docks. Our weather controls this.

Bid request for the new drain field will be sent out by February 10th, 2017 and required to be returned back by March 25th, 2017 A Camp Trotter committee meeting is scheduled for April 6th, 2pm at Dept. to review bids and select a contractor. A completion date is set for by May 10, 2017.

We have employment opportunities for the summer session 2017, Please contact the camp director for more info. On the VFW and Auxiliary websites. Openings for Assistant cook, Kitchen helper, Janitors, counselors, Lifeguards, Maintenance/lawncare, Nurse (RN or LPN) please send a resume to Denise Arnold dmarnold65@gmail.com or call

Membership Program



help our organization to grow. It is to help

Congratulations to all the 100% Post in the Department.

Remember, we need to go out and find the Veterans; they will not come to you. It is your obligation to recruit new members to help your Post and to

the Veterans that is our purpose. We need to do our job.

Do not forget at our June convention all 100% Post will be put in a drawing. I sure would like to have all the Posts entered in the drawing. Let's get it done.

Also, the top District and the Top Recruiter will be awarded at the same time.

Thanks for all you do.

Scott Gloger
Membership Director

National Home Lifetime Membership and Donations



Our National Home still needs more life members and it is so simple to become one by filling out a small one page application, and paying the small fee of \$35.00 for a lifetime of supporting the national home. If you pay \$40.00 you will also receive a National Home Life Member Pin. Life memberships are not just for VFW and Auxiliary members, but anyone can purchase

a membership.

Also, please remember that if your post has not made a donation to the National Home, there is still time for your donation and please add a bonus donation to the Michigan House as Commanders Special Project for 2016-2017. Just the small amount of \$200.00 will give your post All State points in both categories, and more importantly will help Michigan's little asset, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Home for Children.

Larry Heuer
National Home Director, 2016-2017

VFW Camp Trotter for Children Eleventh Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Friday, June 23, 2017 Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Avenue • Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513
8:00 a.m. – Registration • 9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

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

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

18 Golf Entry Form

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 19, 2017

Captains name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Player #2 Name: _____

Player #3 Name: _____

Player #4 Name: _____

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

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Checks payable to: VFW Camp Trotter for Children

Mail to: Larry Thayer – Committee Member

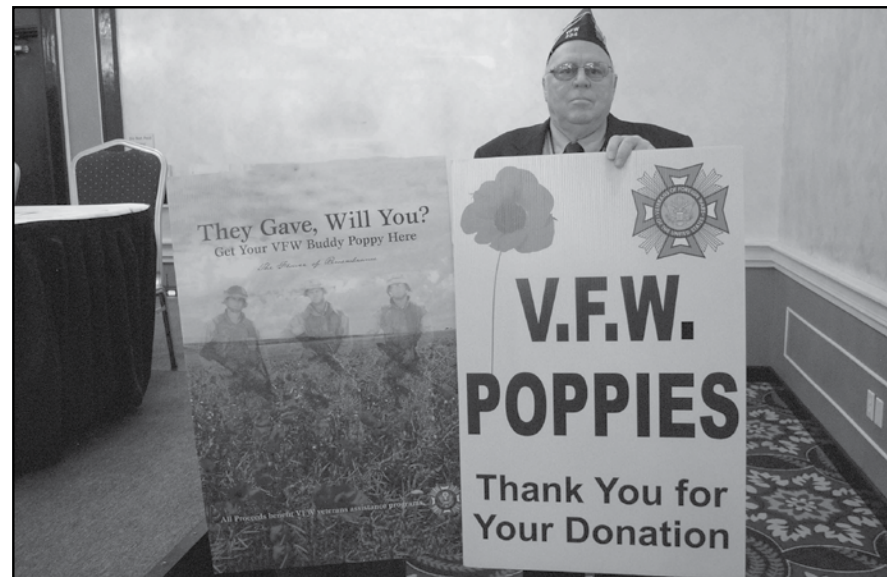
4858 Apache Path

Owosso, MI 48867

Questions? Call Larry Thayer – 989-413-1096 email: vfwlarry@aol.com

www.michigangolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc

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



It's almost poppy time, May 11th - 13th It's time to get everything in order for another successful year. I encourage all Posts to meet with every Business owner in your Community and get them involved by allowing your members to do poppies at their business.

Just a word of encouragement to every Post, work with your Auxiliaries and try to get every member involved. That puts more boots on the ground. Saturate your town with donation buckets, make sure you take pictures and keep account of what each person receives for donations. If I can be of any help please be sure to call me @ 248-693-6759 or 248-496-1213.

I have always enjoyed Poppy Days. We meet so many good people who will always extend funds and encouragement to our Veterans, plus it's a good time to recruit new members. When they see you out in your Community this allows you to let them know just what you do in the Community.

All Post Poppy Chairmen can go online and fill out a form of your first second and third place entries so they can receive their just rewards of recognition at June Convention.

Thank you.

James Hubbard
Department 2016-17 Poppy Chairman



Scouting Director



Greetings Comrades,

I wanted to thank the Posts who are currently sponsoring a scouting unit, without your help Scouting in your area wouldn't exist.

If your Post is considering Chartering a unit and you have questions feel free to call me.

Scout of the year deadline is approaching fast, but there's still time to get them to me by April 1st. They don't have to be from your unit, any eligible scout can be nominated. Not only Eagle Scouts can be nominated but also Venture Scouts having earned the Silver Award, Summit Award or Quartermaster Award and Girl Scouts that have earned the Gold Award. A Post can submit one Scout per category. All nominations use the same form from the national web site.

If you're have trouble finding Scouts let me know and I can direct you to the nearest Scouting office.

For those Posts or individuals who want to participate in the Scouting program but don't have any scouts, you can help monetarily. All donations that go through the Department office help fund the three scholarships for the scouts. For those who can contribute a large amount, we can even name the scholarship in your honor like the Moroz-Pietrowski Post 9973 Eagle Scout of the Year.

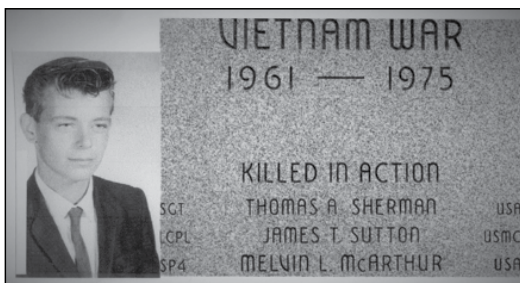
Earlier this year a comrade wrote me to ask how to earn the Scouters Achievement Award. All the requirements must be completed after joining the Scouting Team. Contact me on how to join. My contact information is listed under the Youth Activities page in the Department directory.

Yours in Scouting,

Larry Thayer
Department Scouting Director

POST 582 NEWS

Post 582 added the name of SP4 Melvin L. McArthur to the Vietnam War section of the Veteran's Monument Wall at the Ortonville Cemetery. Melvin was killed in action August 1968 and his name was missed when the wall was built.



SP4 Melvin L. McArthur



Post 582 Voice of Democracy winner Elisabeth D'Annunzio pictured with post members at the Awards party for the winners.



Every Hero Needs a Hero

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



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

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

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

Helping our Heroes



OPERATION INJURED SOLDIERS

Members of the Marlette VFW and Auxiliary, Bob Chappel and his wife Grace, are giving back to injured soldiers. Bob is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. Bob and Grace generously donate their time and property for use to injured soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines through Operation Injured Soldiers.

Operation Injured Soldiers provides veterans and their families opportunities to get back to nature and use those quiet times to bond with other veterans or simply enjoy the quiet of being on the water or in the woods. They offer hunting and fishing trips, sight-seeing trips, or other recreational activities free of charge to all generations of veterans. They are located in South Lyons, Michigan and are a 501(c)3 organization.

This year two veterans have returned to participate in the annual deer harvest. One, Lewis Beek, has been coming for three years and another, John Boismier, for nine years. One young Army veteran, Steve Lathrop, experienced his first hunt through OIS at Bob and Grace's place. These veterans range from Vietnam Era to Iraq. Four guides, Jim

Chappel, Randy Chappel, Ron Shoebridge and Tim Harrison were on hand to help out and pair up with the veterans. They are not veterans, but use the time they spend with the hunters to show their appreciation for what they have done to serve their country.

The appreciation goes both ways. Lewis Beek stated that programs like this help to refocus your thoughts and keep you from attempting suicide and away from drugs and alcohol. This is a positive thing that they have to look forward to all year and the friendships that they form last for more than just hunting season. John Boismier is a Christian minister and finds that this time spent hunting in the presence of other vets and guides with such positive support means more to him than words can express. The newcomer, Steve Lathrop, says that he is already looking forward to coming back and hanging out with his new friends for more years. The hunts aren't always about getting the biggest buck, but about recharging your batteries and letting nature heal parts of you modern medicine can't reach.

B-A • Wednesday, January 4, 2017 Sanilac County News www.mihomepaper.com

Injured veterans find healing in woods

BY CHRISTI COOK
Commander,
Marlette VFW Post

Members of the Marlette VFW and Auxiliary, Bob Chappel and his wife Grace, are giving back to injured soldiers.

Bob is a veteran of the U.S. Navy. The Marlette couple donates their time and property for use to injured soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines through Operation Injured Soldiers.

Operation Injured Soldiers provides veterans and their families opportunities to get back to nature and use those quiet times to bond with other veterans or simply enjoy the quiet of being on the water or in the woods. They offer hunting and fishing trips, sight-seeing trips, or other recreational activities free of charge to all generations of veterans.

The group is based in South Lyons, and is a 501(c)3 organization.

This year two veterans returned to the Chappels for the annual deer harvest. Lewis Beek, has been coming for three years while John Boismier for nine years. A young Army veteran, Steve Lathrop, experienced his first hunt through OIS. The veterans range from the Vietnam era to the conflict in Iraq. Four guides were on hand to help out and pair up with the veterans - Jim Chappel, Randy Chappel, Ron Shoebridge and Tim Harrison. The guides are not veterans, but use the time they spend with the hunters to show their appreciation for their service to the country.

Beek says programs like this help to refocus your thoughts and keep you from attempting suicide and away from drugs and alcohol. He says the trip is something to look forward to all year and the friendships that they form last for more than hunting season.

Boismier, a Christian minister, finds that the time spent hunting in the presence of other vets and guides with such positive support means more to him than words can express. While Lathrop said he is already looking forward to coming back and hanging out with his new friends.

The hunts aren't always about getting the biggest buck, but about recharging your batteries and letting nature heal parts of you modern medicine can't reach.

Left to right - Steve Lathrop, Lewis Beek, Bob Chappel, Ron Shoebridge, Tim Harrison, Jim Chappel, John Boismier.



CONGRATULATIONS CHIPPEWA MIDDLE SCHOOL

Okemos, Michigan. Chippewa middle school principle Jody Noble and Donna Kregelka. 2015-2016 National winner of the Smart/Maher VFW national citizenship education teacher award grade (6th-8th), receives plaque and \$1,000.00 check that the school was awarded as part of Donna Kregelka being selected as the national winner. Presenting the plaque and check are past state commander Paul McIvor and past state commander Sherwood H. Pea JR. The presentation was made at the January Okemos public school board meeting. Donna was sponsored by Maple city VFW post 2406 Charlotte, MI. District 8



MAKING VETERANS HISTORY COME ALIVE! SANTA AND SHOP WITH A COP PROGRAM



For the past fifteen years members of Carleton VFW Post 4093, Carleton, MI, “invade” Wager Middle School, part of the Airport School System. Each year as Veterans Day approaches, through a cooperative effort of school administrators, social studies teachers and the local VFW members of the post spend an entire day at Wager Middle School talking with students about their military service and experiences while protecting the United States. From 6th to 8th Grade students are able to hear from former service members who have served from World War II to current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Throughout the day veterans from all of the services share their stories and answer student questions. The experience not only makes history come alive for the students, but reinforces subject matter the students are currently studying such as world geography or US history. For many of the students it is the first time they have ever heard about the selective service AKA: “The Draft”. Students learn that military service is not like their video games, in that not every member of the military is carrying a rifle or shooting the enemy. Students learn about “team work” and how there are many jobs and assignments within the different military services, that compliment the total integrated forces that protect our way of life. Student’s often times ask insightful questions and some of the answers can at times, cause deep reflection by the veterans before answering. A few years back, a WWII veteran was recounting the experience of liberating a concentration camp in NAZI Germany. The reflection of that event literally brought tears to the veterans eyes, and put lumps in the throats of the students, who realized they were hearing a lesson of history through the eyes of a man that had lived it. At other times veterans answer difficult

questions with humor. One year a 6th grade student asked the post Adjutant, “Have you every killed anyone?” The Korean War veteran quickly responded, “Oh, I am sure that I must have, because I was a cook”.

Each year is special for the students as they progress through the grades, they are exposed to different veterans who served in different conflicts and various services around the world. This brings an assorted perspective to the students. This year students of the sixth grade were exposed to Arnie Lewandowsky a Viet Nam War veteran, and new member of VFW Post 4093. Arnie is a collector of military artifacts and scholar of military history. While he could not fit his fully restored jeep and trailer into the classroom, Arnie did wear his Viet Nam jungle fatigues when making his presentation, and brought along his infantry equipment to make his presentation come alive. Depicted in the photograph Comrade Lewandowsky, slowly outfits 6th grader Seth Tackett with the equipment used by infantry soldiers serving in Viet Nam, while explaining to the students the purpose of each item minus an M16. Arnie’s presentation was a hard act to follow for other post members. As a side note, Comrade Lewandowsky has only been a member of VFW Post 4093 for less than two years. He is active locally in his church, and as a master cabinet maker has single handedly redecorated the Post Club Room from podium to shelving. With all of Comrade Lewandowsky’s service to the post and his community, it is not surprising that he was nominated to the 6th District by Post 4093 as “New Member Volunteer of the Year.”

John A. Griffith, CW5, USA (Retired)
Commander, 6th District
Department of MI, VFW
Home/Office: (734) 654-1883
Cell: (734) 735-2175

DISTRICT 12, continued from page 5

990’s in this year. Every Post, Council and District must submit a 990 form to the IRS each year. If you fail to File a 990 three years in a row, you will lose your non-profit status and be fined by the IRS.

Incorporation—every Post, Council and District must be incorporated. Incorporation papers must be filed every year. This is for your protection.

The Men’s Auxiliary has ceased to exist on December 31, 2016. If your post by-laws have the words Men’s Auxiliary or Ladies

Auxiliary you must update your post by-laws to read VFW Auxiliary and send them to Department for approval.

Last but not least—Make sure your post is represented at District Meetings. There is no excuse why 1-2 members of a post cannot be Present.

Thank You,

**District 12 Commander
Robert Benderman**



Jean R. Anderson Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7309 has helped the Ingham County *Shop with a Cop* program for several years with their fundraising efforts and allowing them the use of hall for events up to the big day. Our Auxiliary has been a huge part of this event too, but not many people knew of how one of its members was involved.

The Ingham County *Shop with a Cop* program started in 2005 with approximately 35 children with a budget of fifty dollars per child. It grew over the years with the 2016 year helping 100 children and a budget of \$100 per child. This is a great program in its self, especially with the trying times we face these days.

In 2007, there was a very special addition to the program with Santa and Mrs. Claus being added so the kids could have a picture of their Hero Officer, Santa, and themselves to remember the day. As the years continued the pictures added up as more and more kids were added to the program.

However, Santa and Mrs. Claus were not quite satisfied with the program and started their very own addition to the program with making little wooden toys and crochet dollies for each of the kids. They would start each year after Christmas and work through the year to have enough for the coming year.

Their East Lansing home became known as Santa’s Workshop, and both Santa and Mrs. Claus had fun thinking about what they were going to do in the coming year.

Sadly, Jean R. Anderson Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7309 gave the final honors to 81 years young Roger Fortin, with the help our it’s Auxiliary who prepared a huge meal of all of Roger’s dishes, Meatloaf, Mac and Cheese, and many desserts. But the highlight of the day was a white elephant game. You see Roger loved to play and moderate the game.

At his memorial, there were two – eight foot tables of wrapped white elephant gifts. Fifty people will partake in Roger’s final White Elephant Game. In the end, there were lots of fun and not so fun prizes to be had but everyone had a great time all the way to the last person. At the end I asked that everyone who did not want their prize from the game to please donate to the dollar table at the next convention for Camp Trotter. So, in Roger Fortin’s Memory, there will be several prizes to help Camp Trotter, and Roger will continue to give to the children, the future of our country.

**Larry Heuer,
Commander Jean R. Anderson Veterans
of Foreign Wars Post 7309**



Picture are: Millie Fortin Auxiliary of the VFW Post 7309 member and her husband, Roger Fortin, with one of the many children who participated in the Ingham County Shop with a Cop Program.



LAMBERTVILLE VFW POST 9656 HAS IT GOING ON

Talk about positive publicity and promotion of the Veterans of Foreign Wars - Lambertville VFW Post 9656 has it going on. The local area bus service has placed a VFW Sign on the back of their public buses depicting Comrades Daniel Sadoski & Roy Gephart saluting and holding the American Flag. This is the type of positive publicity needed in every community to bring attention to the VFW and hopefully boost recruiting efforts.



GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

Military Order of the Cootie

"Reaching Out" | "Making a Deference"



Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

Throughout our travels we are asked by our VFW Comrades and friends "What is a Cootie". The Military Order of the Cootie of

Service and Combat Veterans who are fully engaged in their communities, and their fellow comrades in arms and their families. Our distinctive red hat and unusual uniform sets us apart and draws attention to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. We sacrifice a little of ourselves to bring a smile or a laugh during what is normally a difficult time for our heroes.

We seek others like us to join and help us help them in their times of stress and anxiety. The Grand of Michigan is proud to announce PT-73 "National Home" from Jean R. Anderson VFW Post 7309 Mason, MI., as our new Pup Tent to the Grand of Michigan. At the Mid-Winter Conference this pass January several comrades have discuss on joining and starting a Pup Tent with the Grand Commander Bell. If you would like more information about the Cooties you can check us out at our national web page <http://lotcs.org> or you can also reach us at the Dept. of Michigan web page <http://vfwmi.org> go to the bottom of the page in the left corner and click MI Cooties.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2016-20017"

A few years back Cootie PGC Robert Routhier Jr; created the "Michigan Nitpickers" Program to provide additional funding for the Grand. This fund has helped the Grand in many ways. With our membership dropping and funds hard to come by, this program is very vital in supporting our programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request or donation to PGC Bob Routhier Jr., P.O. Box 117, Clio, MI. 48420.

In closing, Welcome aboard to PT-73 "National Home" and we look forward to hearing a lot of great works from you. Remember - **membership**. Without it there will be no VFW or Military Order of the Cootie. Have you brought in a new member to the organization today? If not, yet not. If so, great job! Sign a new member up today!

"Keep 'Em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
Grand Adj/VFW-Cootie Liaison

the United States is a non-profit Veterans Service Organization. We are known as "The Honor Degree of the VFW" and our members are comprised of the officers and leadership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Membership in the MOC is recognition of outstanding service to the VFW and its programs.

Founded in New York City on September 17, 1920, the MOC is based on the principals of good humor and fun. Over the past ninety years, the Cooties have provided social and entertainment programs to members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as an Ancillary unit within the organization. Since 1923, our first year as a part of the VFW, the Cooties have worked hard to further the aims of the VFW while adding to it the frivolity known as Military Humor to the serious work of our parent organization. What would ultimately become known as the VFW National Home for Children, a sprawling campus of homes located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, started out as the brainchild of the MOC. We firmly believe in caring for the widows and children of our Armed Forces. Literally millions of dollars have been raised and donated to help "our kids" over our history; starting with the library, the swimming pool, the Fire Department, and a host of other projects designed to make life fun and educational for the children during their stay at the National Home.

Our service program is described as a directive to "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White." Each year the Cooties volunteer thousands of hours of time worth over ten million dollars to DVA Hospitals and domiciliary throughout the United States. This work, in addition to the hours of service donated as active members of the VFW, set the members of the MOC apart as Foreign

Department of Michigan VFW and Auxiliaries

89TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

COMRADES & SISTERS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The deadline for all Ads is May 13, 2017

Rates:

Full Page.....	\$100.00
Half Page	\$70.00
Quarter Page	\$45.00
Patron (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only	\$4.00

Please Print. Do Not Write.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN V.F.W.
(NO CASH)

Mail to: Scott Gloger
6718 Academy #5
Brighton, MI 48116
Phone: 734-323-1188
Email: miroadrunner52@yahoo.com

The deadline for all Ads is May 13, 2017

Message:

PEARL HARBOR COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM - VFW SUPPORT

Dear Commander Gorski,

My name is Dave Ratajik, and I'm contacting you in the hope that the Michigan VFW can support a very special program honoring the Navy veterans of WWII, especially those serving in the Pacific theatre and at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

Our local school district, The Lakeshore Public Schools in Stevensville, Michigan, has for many years been involved in patriotic events both nationally and internationally. Three years ago, the band, under the excellent baton of director Lori Von Koenig, raised \$750,000 to perform at the 70th anniversary of D Day at Normandy France in June of 2014. It was an overwhelming success not only for the Lakeshore community and high school students but especially for the good people of Normandy and our beloved WWII veterans and their families. The result was volumes of pictures, letters and memorabilia which are historically invaluable for those involved. The Michigan VFW was most supportive and helpful in not only advertising the event in your publications but also in contacting veterans serving in Europe at that time.

The Lakeshore band will again be travelling in 2017..... this time to Pearl Harbor in December. The objective is to

honor the WWII Navy veterans and their families who served in the Pacific, including both living and deceased Navy veterans and their families.

Would the Michigan VFW be able to assist in identifying these special veterans? (County Veteran's Offices are reluctant to help due to privacy law.) Our specific focus is upon southwestern Michigan, however we welcome all veterans and their families from the state of Michigan.

The Lakeshore Band trip to Pearl Harbor is very much an educational opportunity for our student musicians and any funds involved in this program will be raised through volunteer community effort. It is an excellent "win - win" situation for both veterans and the school district.

Thank you for your consideration Jerry and we look forward to partnering with the VFW once again. Thank you for serving our great nation and for all you do each and every day.

With Respect,

COL. (ret) Dave Ratajik, USA
5002 Notre Dame Path
Stevensville, Michigan 49127
H: 269.429.8286
M: 269.921.0597

Chaplain Jennifer L. Smith

Proud member of District 6 and Post 701

Candidate for
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Michigan
Department Chaplain
June 2017-2018



*Selfless
Service
Through
Faith*



PATROT'S PEN ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



All Essay Contest Participants for the State of Michigan

To the left National Commander Brian Duffy and National Auxiliary Guard Jean Hamil
To the right Department of Michigan Commander Gerald Gorski
and Michigan Department Auxiliary President Gloria Dobbie



\$500.00 Post and Auxiliary 6802 Award and Plaque
Presented by
Commander Phil Cushard and
Past President Mary Rodman to Peter Storer



\$500.00 Past 9th District Commander and State Safety Director 2016-17 Michael Finis and Cindy Gilbertson Award and Plaque
Presented by
Michael Finis and Heather Shepherd
To Benjamin W. Sulecki



\$500.00 10th District Award and Plaque
Presented by
10th District Commander
Michael Lawson to Gabrielle L. Tennant



\$500.00 Julia Van Tien Shounts Memorial Award and Plaque
Presented by
James and Sandra Van Tien to Logan Koutz



\$500.00 7th District Award and Plaque
Presented by
7th District Commander Tim Van Wormer
and 7th District President Belinda Gravit to
Lindsay R. Walczak



\$500.00 Barry and Pam Walter Award and Plaque
Presented by
Barry Walter to Bly M. McIntire



\$500.00 9th District Award and Plaque
Presented by
9th District Commander Shane Houghton
and 9th District President Barbara Calkins
to Anand S. Seethman



\$500.00 15th District Award and Plaque
Presented by
15th District Commander John Ruditis
and 15th District President Della Petaja
to Katie Ann Coffell



\$750.00 9th James Pintar in memory of Jenness Pintar and Harry and Pam Croyle Award and Plaque
Presented by
Bud and Ruth Huuki to Casie E. Paul



\$750.00 Post and Auxiliary 334 Award and Plaque
Presented by
James and Kathy Hubbard
To Abigail F. Vitale



\$800.00 The Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of Michigan Award and Plaque
Presented by
Department President Gloria Dobbie
To Emma G. Russell



\$1000.00 The Wes Logenbach Memorial Award and Plaque
Presented by
Department Commander Gerald Gorski
to Meg T. Harmon

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS



All Essay Contest Winners



**14th District
Trophy Winner for
Patriot's Pen**



**6th District
Trophy Winner for
Voice of Democracy**



**\$500.00 John & Shirley Sweebe
Memorial Scholarship/\$400.00 Donald
Mrdjenovich/\$200.00 Paul & Pat McIvor
Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
Paul and Pat McIvor to Libby A. Kyro*



**\$500.00 Dick & Vi Thorpe Scholarship and
\$500.00 Post 4644 Scholarship and Plaque
Awarded by VFW Post & Auxiliary 4644 and
VFW Post 822**
*Presented by
Mariann Hammon in memory of Marvin
Hammon to Lena M. Carpenter*



**\$1000.00 Past Commanders Club
Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
Harry "Les" Croyle and Heather Shepherd
to Jill A. Gretzinger.*



**\$1000.00 Orvel and Faye Walter Memorial
Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
Barry Walter and Jan Lawrence Passmore
to Bethanie Sandberg*



**\$1000.00 Morley S. Oates Post 423 and
Auxiliary Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
Post Commander Donald Caswell and
Auxiliary President Cheryl Moorhead
to Amanda K. Campbell*



\$1000.00 Newberry Scholarship and Plaque
*Presented by
14th District Commander Stephen Olson
to Anastasia Kondrashin*



**\$1000.00 Graf O'Hara VFW Post 423
and Plaque**
*Presented by
Commander Christopher Dea and
Adj./Quartermaster Jose Cobos
to Jaylee R. Carpenter*



**\$1000.00 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship
and Plaque**
*Presented by
Jr. Vice Commander Phil Patterson and
Jr. Vice President Sandy Medos
to Percy C. Bean III*



**\$2000.00 James N. Goldsmith Memorial and
Paul W. Hornaday/Giles Everingham Post
1407 and \$500.00 Patti Borke Memorial
Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
Barbara Applebee, sister.
James N. Goldsmith
to Rowen Von Plagenhoef*



**\$2500.00 Scholarship award by Hazel Park
VFW and \$500.00 Patti Borke Memorial
Scholarship and Plaque**
*Presented by
5th District VFW Commander David Tester
to Dakota A. Watterson*



**\$4000.00 Scholarship and Plaque Awarded
by Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars**
*Presented by
Sr. Vice Commander Matt David and
Sr. Vice President Bonnie Pray to Elina Arbo*



**\$6000.00 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship
and Plaque and all expense paid trip to
Washington DC and Freedom Foundation
in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania awarded by
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Dept. of Michigan**
*Presented by
State Commander Gerald Gorski and
State Pres. Gloria Dobbie to Emma K. Freshcom*

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Gloria Dobbie

We are six months into our Auxiliary year and my first thought is WOW! We welcomed eleven new Auxiliaries spanning seven Districts, with an additional two more being organized. Thank you to Chief of

Staff Marilyn Malick, Secretary Cindy Peto, and Treasurer Nicole Koutz for your efforts in forming these auxiliaries. Thank you to the Organizers and Aides who have been chosen to train and guide our newest members in the By-Laws of our Organization. We appreciate your taking time from your personal schedule to ensure that these Auxiliaries succeed.

In addition to the remarkable performance instituting new Auxiliaries, as of February 1, 2017, we have also achieved 103.07% in membership! We achieved 100% plus in membership by December 30, 2016. I am personally not aware of reaching this number so early in our membership year. Thank you to Treasurer Nicole, Membership Chairman Stephanie Krueger, and the members who feverishly worked at the office to make sure our dues were entered before the end of the year. Thank you to our District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents, and their Membership Chairmen for encouraging your members to purchase life memberships or to pay their annual dues. I want to acknowledge our National Certified Recruiter Trainer, Marian Belair, for motivating our Auxiliaries to achieve this goal. Your suggestions make recruiting members fun!

As the Men's Auxiliaries officially closed on December 31, 2016, we welcomed many eligible male members to our Auxiliary. We questioned "Ask me how I honor my Veteran?" They answered by joining and increasing their numbers in our Organization. We are so proud that they are willing to work with us as members of our Auxiliary in serving our Veterans. Many have been elected to positions within their own Auxiliary as

well as their District. Jason Manke, Auxiliary 5319, District 7, is serving as Color Bearer Number 2 on the Department Floor. Jason is the first male member to serve at this level.

Our Voice of Democracy first place winning student, Emma K. Freshcorn, will be travelling to Washington DC to represent Michigan in the National competition. Emma was sponsored by Post 1584 in District 6. We send our best wishes to Emma as she meets students from across the county enjoying new adventures. Congratulations to our Patriots Pen First Place winning student, Meg T. Harmon for your contribution to our contest. Meg was sponsored by Post 4573, District 14.

As our Chairmen mentioned in their reports during our Mid-Winter Conference, now is the time to review your Guide Sheet. Check what you have done and note what still needs to be accomplished before the deadline. Make sure you are reporting your activities to the Department Chairmen. Many Auxiliaries work tirelessly within their communities and fail to inform us. We need to know what you are doing for our Veterans and our Community. If you need help reporting, please contact your individual Department Chairman, or the Department Office. Our goal is to be 100% reported in each program.

Did you know that each Department Chairmanship has a Facebook Page? In addition to accessing the Chairmen's bulletins, you have a new tool to use in promoting our programs. Be sure to visit each Facebook Page even if you are not the Chairman in your Auxiliary. Each page begins with VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan followed by the individual Chairmanship. For example, VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan Americanism, and so forth for the others. If you're not on Facebook, consider joining. There is a wealth of information available on social media.

My heartfelt thanks for all you have done to make our Department Auxiliary so successful this year!

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and our Communities.

Gloria Dobbie
Department President

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Dawn Shock



Where has the time gone? Mid-winter conference is behind us. VOD/PP essay writers amaze me. These students are so aware of the world around them and their essays show what patriotism entails. What a breath of fresh air after the chaos of the election and demonstrations that followed.

We still have the Teacher of the Year and the Patriotic Art contests to judge. Looking forward to them both.

District 6 quarterly reporting for the first and second quarter has been fantastic. I admit, I have bribed the auxiliaries to do their reports to enter into a drawing for a monetary gift. We've had a lot of fun with it.

At our first District meeting held August 13 a Bake Sale fund raiser to benefit Camp Trotter was held. Our December 3 District meeting, a White Elephant Sale was held to benefit Veterans and Family Support. For the month of February Auxiliaries will be having Bakeless Bake Sales to benefit Scholarships.

Inspections are complete. Visiting each auxiliary I realize there are many levels of participation by the membership. I have witnessed many initiations of men joining the auxiliary. What a plus. Also had the opportunity to attend a meeting who's president and senior vice were both new male

members. A very well run meeting.

At our last District meeting our chairmen reports were outstanding. Keep up the great work.

I had the opportunity to attend special occasions. Springport Post 6056 celebrated their 75th birthday. After a delicious dinner, members were awarded for their years of service. Also an Auxiliary member was presented with a picture and plaque honoring her father who is still a POW.

I attended the VOD banquet at the Adrian Post 1584. The first place winner from that post is our District 6 winner. She is a junior this year and I'm sure we haven't heard the last from Emma Freshcorn. Emma went on to take First Place at the Department level. District 6 couldn't be more proud and excited.

Upcoming events include the VOD/PP, Teacher of the Year and Patriotic Art Recognition Dinner to be held at Erie Post 3925 on March 25. Brighton Post 4357 will be serving at the new location for MVE, facility for homeless Michigan Veterans Foundation, on Feb. 11th. Also they are having a Male Review Show fund raiser on May 6th to benefit their post, the American Spirit Center.

Spring is not far away. The last of the winter months gives us a chance to re-energize for the busy months ahead. Thank you for all you do.

Dawn Shock
District 6 President

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Connie Kiggins



Hello everyone. Spring is just around the corner and winter is almost gone.

We have just completed the Mid-Winter Conference. The commander-in-chief of the VFW Brian Duffy and National VFW Auxiliary Guard, Jean Hamil was our honored guests.

The students that presented their Patriot Pen/Voice of Democracy essays did a fantastic presentation for the judges. We should be very proud of our youth.

I would like to acquaint you with a couple of activities in West Michigan. The Silversides Museum is in Muskegon, Michigan with an actual submarine, open 7 days a week from

10 am to 4 pm, starting in May. You can tour the submarine, look at videos, see pictures of the war ships, authentic uniforms and work a periscope. It is possible to stay overnight with groups on the submarine.

Tour the Landing Ship Tanks 393, built during World War II. It has a museum with artifacts and displays honoring those who served America. It will be reopening the first of May. There are several special events, job fairs for veterans, movies on deck and D Day with Rolling Thunder.

We have beautiful beaches, charter fishing for veterans, wonderful activities for veterans and their families to participate in all of the West Michigan area. Please come and visit us.

Connie Kiggins
District 12 President

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Della Petaja



Hello again from District 15. The beautiful colors are at the peak as of this writing and then our winter will commence. It has been a very busy time in the 15th. We all had a great time at Fall Convention at Boyne Highlands. It was a great weekend and the auction was awesome, first one I ever attended.

All my inspections are finished, and all our auxiliaries have been busy. Crystal Falls Auxiliary 2891 had a membership picnic on September 3, an Oktoberfest on October 15 and a Hunters Luncheon on November 2. They are now collecting treats for the Christmas packages for the troops.

Wakefield Auxiliary 9082 had an Oktoberfest on September 10 with a Polka Band and had a craft sale on November 12.

South Range Auxiliary 6165 are getting their baskets together for members who are

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Debbie Allen



The 4th District report this time is on the needs of the John Dingell VA Hospital in Detroit. Don't forget our veterans in need. Items can be dropped off to your Auxiliary or delivered personally. If you deliver the items personally, please be sure to report it to your auxiliary so you can get credit.

The Veterans are in need of Slipper socks, emery boards, white socks (no elastic), hair brushes, large combs, shaving cream and razors. NEW briefs/boxers size medium -3XL, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, playing cards, crossword puzzle books, word search books, finger and toe nail clippers,

back scratchers, stamps.

Items to drop off at the Nurses Station: mouthwash (non-alcoholic) after shave lotion, cologne, pens and pencils.

Recreation & Craft Department Needs: All table games, CD'S, model kits, paint by number, craft supplies, yarn, thread, art brushes, beads, etc.

Items the VA Cannot Use: bar soap, used playing cards, crutches, walkers, matches, cigars, cigarettes, home bakes goods, magazines over 3 months old and glass containers. These items if donated to the VA will be refused. Always remember, if you wouldn't use it personally, don't donate to someone else.

As always, thanks to everyone for supporting our Veteran's.

GOD BLESS THE USA



home bound.

Alston Auxiliary 7646 held a pasty sale on September 1 and sent money to four ill veterans, and had a potluck dinner on Veterans Day.

Chassell Auxiliary 6507 are involved with the Veterans program at the local school and had a dedication of the new WWII Memorial at their post on Veterans Day.

Covington Auxiliary 8945 served a luncheon at a fly-in at a local small airport, had a pasty sale recently and participated in the Bingo at Jacobetti Home for Veterans.

Mass Auxiliary 4167 served food at the Memorial Day Celebration, donated items

for Camp Trotter table at Fall Conference and deodorant for hospital.

Calumet Auxiliary 3900, just completed a fundraiser for Veterans and Family Support, a Tupperware Halloween fundraiser on October 30 and donated to Camp Trotter table and also deodorant for hospital.

This is just a little of each Auxiliary and what they have done and are doing. We are all here for our Veterans and will continue our work for our heroes.

Della Petaja
15th District President

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AMERICANISM



Jane Dady

The State of Michigan has a fascinating history and is full of state and world's firsts. Four Flags have flown over our state, The French, English, Spanish and United States. With all the glory, Michigan ranks 42nd on the list

of patriotic states. This is surprising since there are over 670,000 veterans living in the state, with MI the 11th highest population of veterans in the U.S. 8.5% of our population are veterans. Of that, around 37% of those are Vietnam veterans.

March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day to commemorate the sacrifices of Vietnam Veterans and their families. It is a national effort to recognize the men and women who were denied a proper welcome upon returning home and acknowledging their service more than 50 years ago.

Most states celebrate on March 29th or 30th, as there is a debate over the date. March 29th is viewed as most appropriate as on that date in 1973, the last combat troops were withdrawn from Vietnam and the last prisoners of war held in North Vietnam arrived on American soil. It is also the date President Nixon chose. 42 states and Puerto Rico have passed legislation and resolutions to designate the date.

The extraordinary sacrifice by these ordinary Americans deserve to be remembered. No one refers to them as the "Greatest Generation" a title given to those who served in WW 2, nor were they shown the humble respect given to veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. The warm greeting, welcome home school assemblies, the spontaneous acts of kindness and even preferred airline seating that we take for granted today were not at all what the Vietnam veterans received in the '60's and 70's.

I personally will never forget what the Vietnam Veteran did. They traveled half way around the world to fight a war against communism to preserve America's freedom. Most volunteered for the service and were sent there by the government. Over 58,000 thousand were killed in combat, others became POW's or MIA's as reflected on the Vietnam Wall. The Vietnam War was a monstrous evil in every respect. Serving in a misguided and mismanaged war was not their doing. They were called to serve, and they did so with dignity and HONOR. Whatever kindness is shown to them will never be enough. They deserve our appreciation and respect.

Auxiliaries: Simple acts of gratitude can make up for that lack of appreciation or recognition. Give veterans an opportunity to tell their stories. LISTEN to them, Respect their feelings. Thank them. Be sincere, caring and compassionate. Be supportive and non-judgmental. The effects of war, PTSD and chemicals like Agent Orange have done their damage, and you have the ability and tools to help them.

Dear Vietnam Veteran, I stood with tears as the planes took you out into harm's way. I wrote letters and sent packages and gave you my support. I searched newscasts in hopes of seeing your face. I watched in silence as they slowly brought soldiers back quietly in civilian clothes unnoticed. The airline tunnels in the middle of the night brought the wounded in on a stretchers or wheelchairs. I still wait for everyone to return home and to be accounted for. I was never able to tell all of you how proud I was of you and what your service meant to me. May I tell you now?

I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him. ~Abraham Lincoln

Jane Dady
Americanism Department Chairman

SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRMAN



Heather Shepherd

Wow, how quick the year has been going. I was thinking what I should write in my final article as the Auxiliary Scholarship Chairmen. First, I want to thank our troops that sacrifice daily to allow us as Americans to live freely while giving up so much of themselves. God

Bless you all. Secondly thank you to my VFW counterpart Harry "Les" Croyle, it has been wonderful working with you. Finally to Department President Gloria, thanking for seeing something in me and believing I could serve our veterans and members through this program.

Our biggest event of this program took place the end of January at Mid-Winter Conference held in Lansing. There were 120 Post and 87 Auxiliaries that participated in the Patriots Pen program with 5,682 student entries. These Post and Auxiliaries awarded out \$51,566. There were 134 Posts and 98 Auxiliaries that participated in the Voice of Democracy program, with 1,949 student entries. These Post and Auxiliaries awarded out \$58,338. WAY TO GO MICHIGAN! Thank you to all the Districts, Posts and Auxiliaries for giving us such amazing students.

I had an awesome weekend with our District Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners. We had fun bowling, playing laser tag, eating pizza, and touring the State Capitol while learning more about each other.

Congratulation to Meg T. Harmon, First Place Winner in the Patriots Pen program. Meg attends Aspen Ridge Middle School and is in 8th grade and was sponsored by Martin J. Lassila VFW Post 4573, Ishpeming in District 14. Meg received the \$1,000 Wes Longenbach Memorial Award & Plaque.

Congratulation to Emma K. Freshcorn, First Place Winner in the Voice Democracy Program. Emma attends Madison High School and is in 11th grade. Emma was sponsored by Annis-Fint Post 1584, Adrian in District 6. Emma received the \$6,000 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship and Plaque, an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and an all-expense paid trip to the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge Pennsylvania.

The themes for the 2017-2018 have been announced and are as follows: **Voice of Democracy** "American History: Our Hope for the Future", **Patriot's Pen** "America's Gift to my Generation". Looking forward to seeing and hearing the next generation of participants.

To finish the year off we have 3 more scholarship to still be awarded. Continuous Education Scholarship, which is awarded by National to one person within each of the 4 conferences. Young American Creative Patriotic Art Award, and the Michigan VFW Auxiliary Jankowski Scholarship. For more information on these Scholarships, please visit our website at vfwauxmi.org.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Chairmen for the 2016-2017 year.

Heather Shepherd

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT



Diana Ward

Greetings Sisters and Brothers of the Auxiliary,

I'd like to thank all the Auxiliaries that participated in the Buddy Poppy Contest at the Mid-Winter Conference. We had 48 displays and 2,423 Buddy Poppies were used. We also had

three Youth entries with at total of 138 Buddy Poppies. The entries were amazing and presented the judges with some challenging decisions. The creativity of the displays was incredible – thank you so much for the thought and work you put into each display. The winners were: 1st place – District 5, Auxiliary 1008, Chairman Judy Coe; 2nd place – District 5, Auxiliary 334, Chairman Kathy Hubbard; and 3rd place – District 4, Auxiliary 6695, Chairman Shirley Caldwell. Congratulations ladies! Our youth applicant winner was Brendan Turner sponsored by District 8, Auxiliary 2406, Chairman Gayle Smith. Congratulations Brendan! This was Brendan's second time winning this award – keep up the good work and thank you for your creative displays. Finally, thank you to my judges: Sandi Onstweddar, National Conductress; Meg Klaameyer, PDP for Department of Ohio; and Garry Goff, VFW Representative for the VFW National Home. I know it wasn't easy but you did a great job!

It's hard to believe that I'm saying this already, but it's time to work on wrapping up the program for this year. Goodness, it's been a whirl wind and gone by so fast! Please review the Guide Sheet for the program awards and goals. What do you have left to complete? What have you done and haven't reported? Have you made all your donations – make sure you report those as well. Remember that these programs are about getting the public educated on the needs and care of our veterans so even if you can't give to something, promotion of the program is just as important. Report how you are promoting the program and goals. Veterans & Family Support is a huge program – it is everything we are about; consequently, not everything can be put on a guide sheet so there are so many more things that can be considered in reference to Best Overall Program. Please report everything you do and you can submit to me closer to the end of April via email at legalblaze@aol.com a summary of your year and you can give me more detail than you can sometimes in the quarterly report. This may give me a bit more insight as to how your year went and the things you did. However, make sure that everything in this summary is reported through the quarterly report system. If you haven't reported it there, it won't count toward a year-end award. Please remember that the **website reporting will be turned off on April 20, 2017** so make sure that you get stuff in before then. Mailed reports will need to be in by that date as well.



Editor's Note



First of all I would like to give a special thank you to Department Historians Jim Muys and Cheryl Nastosis, for the wonderful pictures they have provided us with. GREAT JOB!

Well, Commanders and Auxiliaries here we are again with another issue. This issue was extended an extra 10 days because of Mid-Winter and we still have very few articles. Thank you to the Commanders, Presidents, Directors and Chairpersons who did submit an article.

I am sure that every subscriber out there would enjoy hearing from all of you. They would like to read what is going on in your Posts, Auxiliaries and Districts.

If you are having a problem trying to write your article, use one of the articles written for a guide.

You can always call me at 734-323-1188 or email at mov@vfwmi.org.

I know we can do a better job getting the news of what you are doing to help our Veterans and communities.

Respectfully yours,
Scott Gloger
MOV Editor

Auxiliary News continued

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT, continued from page 13

Donation deadlines that are coming up are as follows: **March 31, 2017** – Health & Happiness donation for the VFW National Home for Children. This is sent to the National VFW Auxiliary. **April 20, 2017** – National Veterans Service and Veterans & Military Support. These donations are to be sent to the National VFW Headquarters. The address for the National VFW and Auxiliary office is 406 W. 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. When reporting your donations for Health & Happiness, please indicate whether you paid the 10 or 25 cents per member.

What is Health & Happiness anyway? There are a lot of our members who are not familiar with this program. The Health & Happiness Fund is managed by our National organization. This fund also known as the Christmas Cheer Fund is used to ensure that all children at the VFW National Home for Children receive Christmas Presents. It also provides assistance to the children to get Christmas gifts for their family members. It is from the donations made by all the Auxiliaries throughout the nation that funding is maintained for the Health & Happiness Fund. Your Auxiliary can make donations for 10 cents/member or 25 cents/member as indicated on the Suggested Donations sheet that the Auxiliary receives at the beginning of the year. Of course, this does not mean that you cannot give more or less. You do what your Auxiliary can do. If you have a small treasury, perhaps you might ask your members to make contributions through the Auxiliary for support of the program. You might even approach local businesses – there are some that love supporting the veterans. Educate them on what the VFW National Home for Children is all about, and see what wonderful things happen.

The National Veterans & Military Support Program is the umbrella heading for several programs including UNMET Needs, Operation Uplink, and Adopt a Unit. If you ever wondered where the money goes or how it really benefits

or veterans, there is a great article in the recent E-newsletter from the National VFW Auxiliary regarding a veteran and his family and what getting an UNMET Needs Grant did for them. I would encourage all of you to read this article if you haven't already. It tells the story of Marine Corps veteran David Edger and how a grant from the UNMET Needs fund helped him and his family. Mr. Edger stated that donations to the UNMET Needs fund can "save a life in more ways than one." If you know of someone who needs some assistance, I have the information on our webpage under the Veterans & Family Support program along the right side of the page.

VFW National Home Awareness week is the last week in March. Why not do something special for the kids at the home? Maybe you have a lot of members who have never been to the National Home – call ahead and schedule a day to visit. You can get a tour of the facility and see some of the many things and resources that are available to the children. We are so lucky that we have this gem here in Michigan so that we can see it and experience it. Many of our members across the country also have never seen the home. Take advantage of the fact that we have it here in our state. See the amazing work that is being done there to care for the children of our veterans and our fallen heroes as well as current veterans who need a little extra help. The home was established on January 7, 1925 to aid the families of our veterans and give assistance to those that needed help. The tradition continues today not just as a place of residence, but through the Crisis Help Line. Publicize, promote and educate our members and the community on what the VFW National Home for Children is all about.

Thank you for all you do for our members and our veterans.

Diana Ward
Veterans & Family Support Chairman



Gorski - Dobbie
Wydhm Garden Hotel
Sterling Hts., Michigan

BANQUET TICKETS
April 22, 2017

Price \$35.00 per person
All seats are reserved
No tickets sold at the door

Deadline for ordering tickets is April 10, 2017.

Banquet ticket orders will be held accountable, including no shows unless authorized by State Commander for refund.

All tickets must be picked up by 12:00 noon Saturday, the day of the banquet. Banquet tickets will not be mailed.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____
Dist # _____ Post # _____
Amount Enclosed \$ _____
No. of Tickets _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW
(NO CASH)

MAIL TO: PATRICK PATTERSON
21672 ELMWAY
CLINTON TOWNSHIP, MI 48035

BANQUET STARTS 6:00 P.M.

Note: The VFW has backed this proposal since it was first proposed in 2014. A huge win for honorably discharged veterans and the MWR programs the exchange services support.

MILITARY EXCHANGES PLAN TO OFFER ONLINE ACCESS TO VETERANS BY NOV. 11

The military exchanges have the green light to open their online doors to veterans by Nov. 11, an idea initially proposed by a top exchange official nearly three years ago.

Defense Department officials notified the congressional oversight committees Jan. 11 of their intent to open up the military exchange online shopping benefit to all honorably discharged veterans. On Jan. 18, a memorandum went out with guidance for the military departments to implement the program by Nov. 11.

Congress had 30 days from the notification to lodge any protests, but "to date, the department has not received any concerns from the committees," said Army Lt. Col. Myles Caggins, a DoD spokesman, on Wednesday.

DoD will address any future congressional concerns, but "no further guidance to the military departments is necessary for them to begin preparation to implement this online exchange benefit," Caggins said.

The new shopping privileges will apply only to online shopping, not to brick-and-mortar stores. Newly eligible veterans – DoD estimates there are 15 million of them – wouldn't be able to buy uniforms, alcohol or tobacco products.

While plans call for a Veterans Day launch, officials can approve an earlier start date if they deem it appropriate, according to the Jan. 18 memo. Preparations include ordering and



Scott Gloger, Editor

Editorial Committee:

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

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

Materials for Publication

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 Jenny DeBack, President

TAPS

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

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

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

 (Last Name)

 (First Name)

 (Age)

 (Date of Death)

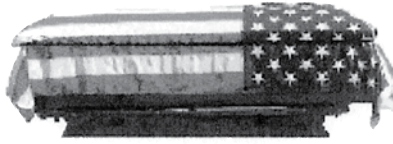
 (Post #)

 (City)

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

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

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



345 REDFORD

- CALZARETTA, FRANK J. JR. 89 NAVY/WWII
 DATILO, ANTHONY J. 90 ARMY/WWII
 DE MAGGIO, EUGENIO 84 ARMY/KOREA
 KALISZEWSKI, ELMER J. 92 ARMY/WWII
 TUROVAARA, WAINO H. 89 ARMY/WWII
552 LINCOLN PARK
 BEAUDOIN, WILLIAM 97 ARMY/WWII
 BENSON, WILLIAM 74 NAVY/KOREA/VIETNAM
 BONORA, VICTOR 90 MARINES/WWII
 CZARNECKI, JOSEPH 97 ARMY/WWII
 GROULX, GARY 66 MARINES/VIETNAM
 KOWALSKI, EDWARD 94 ARMY/WWII
 LA LONDE, RAYMOND 99 MARINES/WWII
 LASAZEN, NICHOLAS 94 NAVY/WWII
 MITCHELL, CARL 74 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
 NAGY, FRANK 94 NAVY/WWII
 PARSLEY, RANDALL 64 MARINES/VIETNAM
 SILCOTT, RUSS 73 MARINES/VIETNAM
 WHITMORE, HAROLD 66 NAVY/VIETNAM
 WIELKOPALAN, JOHN 91 ARMY/WWII
565 BATTLE CREEK
 PECKHAM, GORDON 91 NAVY/WWII
607 ROGERS CITY
 KREFT, EDGAR R. 91 ARMY/WWII
1519 NORTHVILLE
 KOLAR, ANDREW 92 NAVY
 LOGSDON, LEWIS 88 NAVY/KOREA
 LOPICCOLO, VITO 90 ARMY/WWII
1669 ROYAL OAK
 GLICK, DONALD 91 ARMY/WWII
 FIRMAN, ROBERT 94 ARMY/WWII
 KNOPPE, WILLIAM 72 ARMY/VIETNAM
 MERKEL, EDWIN 90 ARMY/WWII
 SEMMELROCH, CARL 85 ARMY/KOREA
 TRKULJA, GEORGE 90 ARMY/WWII
2053 WHITE CLOUD
 WARE, JAMES JR. 89 ARMY/WWII/KOREA/VIETNAM
2144 HOLLAND
 KLIES, RAYMOND 92 NAVY/WWII/KOREA
 KNIFE, HARRY 73 ARMY/VIETNAM
 WAKEMAN, LYMNA 69 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
 WINDISCH, CHARLES J. 92 NAVY/WWII
2284 EDWARDSBURG
 SMITH, ALLEN T.
2292 EDMORE
 ERSKIN, MELVIN 90 ARMY/WWII
2777 BURTON
 MCCURDY, R. CYPHER 89 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
2891 CRYSTAL FALLS
 ANDERSON, LEROY E. 89 AIR FORCE/KOREA/
 VIETNAM/PERSIAN GULF
 BICIGO, EMIL J. JR. 90 NAVY/WWII
 DAVIS, HARLEY W. 83 ARMY/KOREA
 SMOKEVITCH, JOSEPH 98 ARMY/WWII
2964 REED CITY
 ADAMS, CLARENCE 83 ARMY/KOREA
3314 ARCADIA
 ROBINSON, EDWARD L. 93 ARMY/WWII
 WARE, BURTON J. 84 ARMY/KOREA
3667 ALLEGAN
 BROWER, STANLEY 95 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
 ALLEGAN, PAHL JOHN C. 96
 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII/KOREA
3676 SAULT STE MARIE
 DYBECK, ROBERT J. II 67 ARMY/VIETNAM

- ERICKSON, CHARLES D. 90 NAVY/WWII
 FORD, DWAYNE R. 77
 MACKIE, FLOYD 84 NAVY/KOREA
3925 ERIE
 COUSINO, JOHN K. 86 NAVY/PANAMA
 KREMNETZ, DALE 71 NAVY/VIETNAM
4054 MARCELLUS
 HARWOOD, KENNETH 92 NAVY/WWII
 QUINN, TERRY 85 AIR FORCE/KOREA
4090 PORTLAND
 VISSER, JOHN W. 96 NAVY/WWII
4093 CARLETON
 ROBERTS, DON R. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
4113 ST. JOHNS
 BECK, PAUL R.
 CHAPMAN, DAVID F. 75 ARMY/KOREA/VIETNAM
 FELDPAUSCH, BERNARD 91 WWII
 FLINT, DARNELL K.
 FOX, BERNARD A. 85 ARMY/KOREA
 HAMBLETON, CARY 60
 HOUGHTEN, HERBERT
 KIRBY, ROBERT
 LENTZ, BLAINE C. 90 ARMY/WWII
 MASARIK, ALBERT F. 91 NAVY/WWII
 MAZUREK, JOSEPH
 MAZZOLINI, DONALD L. 88 ARMY/WWII
 SANCHEZ, ROBERT
 SLAMKA, TONY 85 ARMY/KOREA
 WHITFORD, MARVIN L. 83 MARINES/KOREA
 WOODBURY, GERALD C.
4115 SEBEWAING
 JAHR, THOMAS E. 69 NAVY/VIETNAM
 ROSS, RICHARD S. 84 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
4159 ROSCOMMON
 CARAMITARO, BASIL 96 ARMY/WWII
 JEAN, HAROLD V. 91 NAVY/WWII
 MOSELEY CHARLES 87 ARMY/WWII
4162 HAMTRAMCK
 NAWROCKI, DONALD 85 KOREA
4164 CARO
 BEYETTE, WALTER M. 71 ARMY/KOREA
 BIEBEL, REX E. 73 ARMY/KOREA
 STAPLETON, PATRICK J. 79 ARMY/WWII
 TERBUSH, WILLARD 83 ARMY/KOREA
 THORPE, LAVERNE 78 ARMY/KOREA
 WARK, DARREL A. 81 ARMY/WWII
4249 NEWAYGO
 CHURCH, JERRY 73 NAVY/VIETNAM
 HALLBERG, OWEN 95 ARMY/WWII
 SAUNDERS, LEONARD 95 ARMY/WWII
4461 LAKE ODESSA
 BOOHER, JOHN 95 NAVY/WWII
 GOSTNELL, ELMER 87 ARMY/KOREA
 HANKINS, DAN E. 79 MARINES
 SWILER, WAYNE 71 ARMY
 WILSON, WAYNE 93 ARMY/WWII
4499 MANISTEE
 HAYES, DONALD L. 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
 PETE, JOHN 89 NAVY/WWII
 WISNISKI, CHARLES J. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
4642 LINDEN
 CERESIA, JOSEPH G. 90 NAVY/WWII
4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP
 FRITCHIE, ROBERT 87 NAVY/KOREA
 GECZI, MICHAEL 75 AIR FORCE/KOREA
 LILLIBRIDGE, JAMES 74 ARMY/VIETNAM

- NOVAK, JEROME 76 MARINES/VIETNAM
 SARKISSIAN, GEORGE 94 ARMY/WWII
 WELKER, TIMOTHY 66 ARMY/VIETNAM
5319 ATHENS
 DIETZ, FREDERICK P. 65 NAVY/VIETNAM
 DENNISTON, JAMES 82 ARMY/KOREA
5602 SIX LAKES
 BROWN, EUGENE M. 90 ARMY/WWII
 MORAVIK, JULIUS 93 ARMY/WWII
5670 GWINN
 PETERS, ROGER 84 ARMY/VIETNAM
6056 SPRINGPORT
 RIGELMAN, ELSWORTH D. 89 NAVY/WWII
6464 FOWLERTVILLE
 BURRY, ROBERT 87 ARMY
6507 CHASSELL
 ARCHER, WLFRED E. 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/
 WWII/KOREA
 DAVIS, ALAN 69 NAVY/VIETNAM
 HRUSKA, PETER 76 ARMY/KOREA
 TERVO, KENNETH 92 ARMY/WWII
6509 PETERSBURG
 MCCARTY, MAX H. 86 ARMY/KOREA
6579 NEW LOTHROP
 COLLINS, LARRY 66 VIETNAM
 CORNELL, ROBERT 84 NAVY/KOREA
 NOWACZYK, GARY 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
6695 PLYMOUTH
 ALGER, WILLIAM 90 NAVY/WWII
 GOOD, EDWIN 89 NAVY/WWII
 MCCOURT, HAROLD 83 ARMY/KOREA
 TRAMEL, CHARLES 89 NAVY/WWII
6756 CENTER LINE
 MADAJ, CHESTER 84 ARMY/KOREA
6782 EASTPOINTE
 NUMMER, RICHARD 90 MARINES/WWII
6864 CADILLAC
 SAYER, ROLLAND 93 ARMY/WWII
7542 BIRCH RUN
 MCGILLEN, TIMOTHY 73 MARINES/VIETNAM
7546 DEARBORN HEIGHTS
 WURSTER, ELMER J. 87
7806 MANTON
 LOW, HARRY 72 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
 MCCANE, HAROLD 73 ARMY/VIETNAM
7912 SAND LAKE
 STINSON, JOEL 82 ARMY/KOREA
7979 EVART
 MAAS, KENNETH 67 MARINES/AIR FORCE/
 VIETNAM
8465 PORT HURON
 HITCHINGS, LLOYD E. 90 AIR FORCE/WWII
8872 PORT SANILAC
 VAN SICKLE, MERLE 98 ARMY/WWII
9023 BRIMLEY
 JONES, ROBERT 86 AIR FORCE/KOREA
9345 BRUCE CROSSING
 LINDBERG, ROBERT ARMY/WWII
 MOLL, CARL ARMY/WWII
9656 LAMBERTVILLE
 HOWARD, KENNETH 76 ARMY/VIETNAM
10884 MAYVILLE
 TEEPLE, JAMES 84 AIR FORCE/KOREA
15023 LANSING
 JOZWIAK, JOSEPH 84 ARMY/KOREA



Gorski-Dobbie Testimonial

**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Wyndham Garden Hotel
34911 Van Dyke
Sterling Heights, MI 48312**

April 21-22, 2017

Hotel rates are \$99.00 plus tax per night.
Please call (586) 979-1400 to make your room reservations.
Make sure you tell them you are with the
Veterans of Foreign Wars to get this rate.

There is also a water park inside the hotel. The water park
tickets are available at a discounted rate of \$10.00 per day
Friday, Saturday and Sunday if you are staying at the hotel.

Please make your reservations by **April 5, 2017**
to receive the special group rate of **\$99.00**

Any questions please contact:
Pat Patterson (586) 292-5100 or pattersonD5@aol.com

VFW SALUTES SHULKIN CONFIRMATION

WASHINGTON (February 13, 2017) — The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is saluting the Senate for confirming Dr. David Shulkin as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

“Veterans are very fortunate to have Dr. Shulkin voluntarily stay in what has evolved into the most scrutinized and criticized position in the country,” said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy, “and it should be,” he added.

“What he brings to the job is a love for veterans, for doing what’s right, and for knowing what needs to be done to fix what’s broken, to hold employees accountable, and to restore the faith of veterans in their VA. The VFW looks forward to working with him and his staff.”

-vfw-

ABOUT THE VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation’s largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899 and chartered by Congress in 1936, the VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With nearly 1.7 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in more than 6,500 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim *“NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS”* than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans’ service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at www.vfw.org.

Contact: Joe Davis, JDavis@vfw.org

To my friends in the Upper Peninsula of District 14 and 15

I told you both I would be up to campaign for your February meeting and I apologize for not attending your meetings. Due to the death of my uncle on the District 14 weekend, and his funeral on the District 15 meeting I was unable to make the drive up there to visit your beautiful districts. I hope to make a spring meeting with both of you and again I am sorry for missing your meetings and the comradeship.

**Larry Heuer
Candidate for Junior Vice 2017-2018**

Auxiliary TAPS

334 Oxford McCartney, Jamie	3023 Grand Rapids Walker, Helen	4659 Shelby Twp Kogelman, Calvin
701 Lansing Lorencen, Alene	3033 Mt. Pleasant Adams, Janet	Waites, Susan
702 Wyoming Sperling, Jeannette	3087 Flint Fischer, Pauline	Williams, Elizabeth
1071 Coleman Barrett, Mary	3165 Negaunee O Dette, Helen	5065 Sheridan Downing, Lillian
1136 Wyandotte Badour, Sharon	3243 Fenton Novak, Joseph	Wise, Muriel
1138 Monroe Battrip, Elsie Marie	3256 Montague Cherrette, Jane	5319 Athens Berta, Mamie
1146 St. Clair Shores Brazon, Karen	3727 Holt Stanaway, Susan	Billington, Dolores
Eastes, Kerrie	3733 Fowler Callard, Lois	Birmele, Diann
Ely, Margaret	3737 Eerie Jones, Lois	Pease, Anna
Farmer, Millicent	3733 Westland Kaiser, Carolyn	5602 Six Lakes Large, Joan
Foster, Betty	3737 Holt McClelland, Sharon	5738 Clare Auyon, Luanne
O Dell, Ruth	3733 Fowler Noone, Margaret	Hanner, Arvella
Rennert, Barbara	3737 Eerie Wolfe, Mona	5857 Onaway Karaszewski, Patricia
Rieger, Mildred	3925 Erie Forbes, Mary Ann	6015 Marion Williams, Marjorie
Stahl, Norma	4034 Houghton Lake Heights Olson, Joan	6056 Springport Hobbins, Lois
Straub, Mary	4087 Davidson Oomen, Donna	Schmidt, Marcelle (Sally)
Swinley, Margaret	4115 Sebewaing Siakel, B Ann	6464 Fowlerville
1452 Clio Wesolowski, Stella	4159 Roscommon Towne, Mary	Yarnell, Helen
1669 Royal Oak Frazier, Lillian	4420 Manistique Rhode, Donna	6507 Chassell
Mader, Mary	4422 Taylor Rademacher, Marian	Kukkonen, Shirley
Martichuski, Imogene	4499 Manistee Barron, Geraldine	6691 Fraser Wagner, Angela
2052 Romeo Jones, Sue	4499 Manistee Morris, Eloise	6695 Plymouth Frank, Lana
2233 Detoit Staples, Ada H	4499 Manistee Morrin, Eloise	Turnblom, Barbara
2269 Wixom Solin, MaryAnn	4499 Manistee Hull, Norma	6782 Center Line Garofalo, Helen
2272 Durand Huey, Dean	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	6802 Richmond Brincefield, Shirley
Ross, Muriel	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7303 Mason Pratt, Daisy
2326 Grand Haven Duga, Colleen	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Thurston, Sharon
2406 Charlotte Tinkey, Jeanette	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7309 Mason Doyle, John
2492 Imlay City Ruby, Rose Mary	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Felton, Joyce
2780 Traverse City Broughton, Helen	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7435 Hale
Thomas, Larry	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Hodgins, Mary
2891 Crystal Falls Baker, Marilyn	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Kimball, Karen
Rojek, Lorriane	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Mackowiak, Marjorie
Snell, Anna	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7573 New Baltimore Kuzminski, Dolores
Wells, Lillian	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7581 Wayland Brand, Josephine
2945 Sandusky Vukovich, Carolyn	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Meconis, Betty
2964 Reed City Benkert, Diane	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Vanee, Mary
Thirey, Marjorie	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	7804 Posen Bruski, Renetta
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Orban, Sophie
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	9023 Brimley Bergman-Silver, Delores
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Pendell, Olive
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	10884 Mayville
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Mohr, Barbara
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	MI Department Ortez, Shirley
	4499 Manistee Pfeiffer, Betty	Wixson, Joyce

FISHER HOUSE MICHIGAN - FAQ

What is a Fisher House?

- A Fisher House is “a home away from home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers.
- There are 71 Fisher Houses located on 24 military installations and 29 VA medical centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available.
- Each Fisher House is designed, planned, and constructed by the Fisher House Foundation which provides matching funds equal up to half the cost to build each Fisher House.
- Lodging includes private bedrooms/baths with a common kitchen, laundry facilities and living room at no charge to the families being served.
- Once constructed, each Fisher House is owned and operated by the VA with local community oversight.
- A typical Fisher House currently has 16-24 family suites and costs \$7-\$8M to build.
- Fisher Houses have currently provided over 7 million free nights of lodging for military families.

Why does Michigan need a Fisher House?

- There are over 658,000 veterans in Michigan. Many more active military service personnel are now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- There is no Fisher House to serve veterans and their families in Michigan and areas in neighboring states.
- Fisher House Michigan will provide 5,840 nights of free lodging to family members annually.
- Savings to veterans and military families will exceed \$500K per year.
- 200-300 Michigan veterans and their families currently request housing every month at the VAAHS.

————— FISHER HOUSE, continued on page 18



**VFW AND AUXILIARY
Department of Michigan
State Convention**



Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint, MI
Wednesday, May 31, 2017—Sunday, June 4, 2017

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATION IS May 15, 2017

Mail or Call Reservations to:
Holiday Inn Gateway Centre
5353 Gateway Centre, Flint, MI 48507
(810) 232-5300

Make checks payable to:

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre - A Deposit of One Night
or a Major Credit Card is required! (NO CASH).

Reservations will not be guaranteed without a form of payment.

Please specify if a 'barrier free' room (handicapped) is required.
If you need a 'barrier free' room, check here.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Single \$90 + tax	Double \$90 + tax	Triple \$90 + tax	Quad \$90 + tax
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Please give e-mail address or phone number to receive confirmation numbers
from hotel. E-mail _____ Ph: _____

Please print

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____ Ph: _____
Dist # _____ Post # _____ Your office in VFW/Aux _____
Credit Card type _____ Card # _____ Exp Date _____
Date of Arrival _____ Date of Departure _____

**ATTN: DISTRICT HOSPITALITY CHAIRMAN - IF YOU WANT A HOSPITALITY ROOM
FOR THE CONVENTION, YOU MUST CONTACT THE CONVENTION DIRECTOR:**

Convention Director: Pat Patterson | (586) 202-7776 | pattersond5@aol.com
If you are a current member of the VFW/AUX Council of Administration, please check

JOINT TESTIMONIAL

honoring

Gerald Gorski
State Commander

Gloria Dobbie
State President

AD BOOK REQUEST

Full Page	\$100.00	Quarter Page	\$35.00
Half Page	50.00	Patron Ad	4.00

DEADLINE FOR ADS IS APRIL 8, 2017

Make checks payable to:
Department of Michigan VFW

Send Ad with check to:

Scott Gloger
6718 Academy
Brighton, MI 48116
email: miroadrunner52@yahoo.com

Amount Enclosed: _____ Check # _____
Size of Ad Requested: _____ Organization: _____
Contact Person: _____ Ph: _____

Please attach message, special artwork or list of Patrons on a separate
sheet of paper. Every attempt will be made to use special artwork if a
quality original is provided and in digital format.

**PATRIOTIC RALLY AND
DEPARTMENT FUNCTION
SHIRTS**



The shirt is gray in color with embroidery that
outlines the state of Michigan and says "VFW and
Auxiliary on line one, and Michigan on line two.

The men's size shirt will feature a pocket on the left with the outline of Michigan and lettering
above the pocket. The ladies shirt will have the outline of Michigan and lettering on the left
with no pocket. You have the option of two lines of embroidered lettering on the right breast.

SHIRTS ARE PRE-ORDER ONLY. Deadline for ordering to receive the shirt at
Department Convention is **04/15/2017**. Orders can be accepted after this, but will not be
available by convention.

We will need the following information:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Line one right breast: _____
Line two right breast: _____
Number of Shirts _____ \$35.00 Per Shirt
Men: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____
3XL _____ 4XL _____
Ladies: Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XL _____ 2XL _____
3XL _____ 4XL _____

Make check payable to the Department of Michigan VFW
Mail to: Department of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars
924 North Washington
Lansing, Michigan 48906

Warrior Appreciation Rally

Free family-free day to honor our heroes

"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure."-Abraham Lincoln

Join us for a free family friendly, carnival style event offering a hot dog lunch for all
military (active, discharged or retired) and their families. Enjoy music, entertainment,
activities & games for all ages including military resource booths.

We would also like to extend an invitation to all active or retired police force, our
heroes within our borders.

Want to support the event? Bring a non-perishable item for the 'I Support the
1%' Food Pantry serving military personnel and their families. T-shirts will also be
available for sale. All proceeds will directly benefit the event or the food pantry.

Come rain or shine! Sunday, July 23, 2017 from 12:00-4:00 PM

**INDEPENDENCE VILLAGE
OF FRANKENMUTH**
255 Mayer Road
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
(Free parking with shuttle service)

Contact Larry of the Frankenmuth VFW
or Julie of Independence Village
(989) 652-6823 / (989) 652-4100
frankenmuth.vfw2725@gmail.com
jpalm@independencevillages.com

MILITARY EXCHANGES, continued from page 14

stocking the increased inventory, and other operational requirements.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, or **AAFES**, and Navy Exchange Service Command, or **NEXCOM**, have online shopping websites, but authorized shoppers can buy from either site, regardless of branch of service.

The Army's top enlisted soldier already has offered his support for the program.

"It's an outstanding ability to provide services to those who have served," Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey told Military Times. "It's in line with our Soldier for Life program. We believe that once you've served, you're always a member of the Army team. We should recognize and value that service for your entire life.

"So we've benefited our veterans for serving, giving them an online shopping benefit where they can buy products and goods from all over the United States, and simultaneously support the military directly," he added. "It helps with the morale, welfare and recreation programs, and we don't have to spend tax dollars to do that."

HOW IT WILL WORK

As they do with other authorized customers, the exchanges will use data provided by the Defense Manpower Data Center to verify veteran eligibility for online shopping privileges. Veterans whose records are incomplete or don't appear in the Veterans Affairs Department database will need to register through VA, according to a letter to congressional committees with oversight over DoD and VA issues by Peter Levine, former acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

The exchange services will provide registration information on their online sites, and the AAFES call center will help veterans navigate the process.

Veterans with honorable discharges will be authorized to shop online at any of the military exchange sites regardless of service branch, but they won't be able to receive a DoD identification card through the program, or gain access to DoD installations and other DoD property where exchanges are located.

There are no plans to extend the benefit to these veterans' dependents because "it would be cost prohibitive to collect and track these individuals in the database used for verification of eligibility," Levine wrote in the letter.

AAFES will invest about \$1.8 million a year to cover costs associated with the expansion of their online platform, according to Levine's letter. If 0.3 percent of the newly eligible veteran group – or about 45,000 veterans – shop online, that cost is expected to be recouped.

AAFES CEO Tom Shull formally proposed the idea of expanding the benefit to honorably discharged veterans to DoD on May 14, 2014, noting that it would provide a modest benefit to those who had served but left the military short of retirement. Defense officials determined that it could be accomplished administratively, without a change in law.

http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/its-official-military-exchanges-plan-to-offer-online-access-to-veterans-by-nov-11?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EBB%202.17.17&utm_term=Editorial%20-%20Military%20-%20Early%20Bird%20Brief

FISHER HOUSE, continued from page 16

Why a Fisher House in Ann Arbor, Michigan?

- The VA facility in Ann Arbor provides critical medical treatment procedures not available in other nearby VA facilities regionally - including trans-aortic valve replacement, deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's Disease and a Traumatic Brain Injury Center at The University of Michigan Hospital.
- VAAHS (VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System) shares physicians, staff and facilities with the University of Michigan Hospital System.
- The VAAHS is rated the second best VA Medical Center in the United States.


Other Important Facts:

- Fisher House Michigan (FHM) was formed in May 2016 and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.
- FHM will raise \$5Million in its capital campaign. The Fisher House Foundation will match funds raised by FHM for construction dollar for dollar.
- The Fisher House Foundation has had a 4 star Charity Navigator rating for thirteen consecutive years.
- In November 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Fisher House Foundation approved building a Fisher House on the VA campus in Ann Arbor.

3250 Plymouth Rd., Suite 103, Ann Arbor, MI 48130 | www.fisherhousemichigan.org



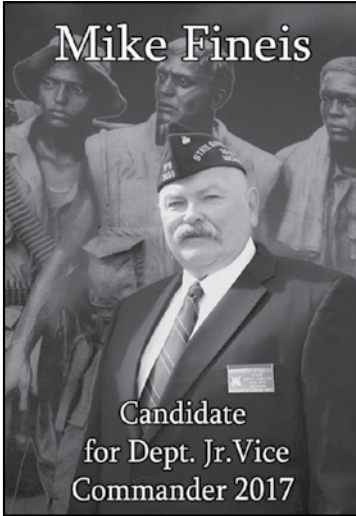
Larry Heuer
CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
2017-2018



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




Mike Fineis
FOR THE OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER
2017-2018




Supported by District 9 & VFW Post 3055 And Family





Phil Merrow
CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
2017-2018



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



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.





The Michigan VFW Then and Now Member Publication Project is about to begin!

Michigan VFW has contracted with Publishing Concepts (PCI), a trusted partner, to create this special member publication.

The publication will include a full-color glossy front section with the history of the Michigan VFW. PCI will contact you via mail, phone and email to collect your unique story and give you the ability to submit photos so that your VFW history can be preserved for generations to come.

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be included!



www.publishingconcepts.com

Frequently Asked Questions By Members

1. I received an email/postcard/phone call from a company asking for my personal information. They said they were working on a directory for Michigan VFW. Is this a legitimate project, or is it a scam?

We have partnered with PCI (also known as Publishing Concepts) to produce our new members directory. PCI is a company located in Dallas, TX that publishes directories for educational institutions, fraternities, sororities and military organizations across the nation. This project allows Michigan VFW to receive important updates to our database so we know more about our members and how we can better serve you and future members.

1. How do I know my information will only be used for directory purposes?

Michigan VFW has a contractual agreement with PCI that states:

- The names, addresses and information provided to PCI by Michigan VFW for the publication of the Directory will be held confidential by PCI, except to the extent that they are utilized in, or in the preparation of, the Directory and except as required by court order or law.
- The Directory will be made available only to members of Michigan VFW. Upon completion of the project, PCI will return to Michigan VFW any and all electronic files that have been supplied by Michigan VFW or produced by PCI in connection with the production of the Directory.

2. I would like to verify and update my information. How may I do this?

If you have received a postcard or an email with a telephone number, you may call the number to speak with a dedicated representative for the Michigan VFW project. The representative will verify all the information we have on file for you and make any updates where needed.

If you have received an email with an embedded link, you may go to the online site to review your information. If you have questions, you may call PCI's customer service desk at 1.800.982.1590.

3. Can anyone purchase a directory?

The Michigan VFW members Directory is available for sale only to Michigan VFW members.

4. When will I receive my directory?

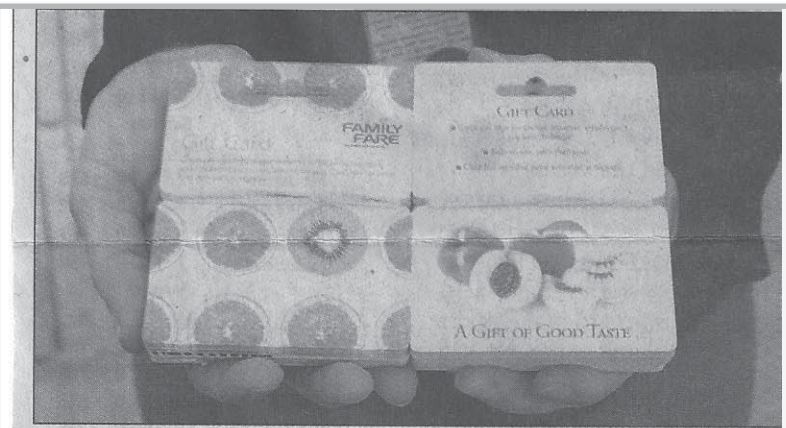
The total duration of the directory project is about 12 months. Since we began the project in March 2017, the directories will be distributed in March of 2018.

6. Can I choose some or all of my information not to be printed in the directory?

When you call to update your information, you can tell the representative what information you would prefer to have excluded. You may also communicate this information to the PCI customer service desk (1.800.982.1590) or to the Department.

7. I ordered a directory/package over the phone and would like to cancel my order. How do I do this?

Call the PCI customer service help desk at 1.800.982.1590, and they will take care of this for you.



Michelle Graves/News Advocate

Through its annual poppy sales, the Arcadia VFW Post No. 3314 donated gift cards for Family Fare and Shop-N-Save to veterans and their families in Benzie and Manistee counties through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Arcadia VFW post donation to benefit local families

FROM STAFF REPORTS

MANISTEE — For the 15th year in a row the Arcadia Area VFW Post No. 3314 presented the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services with grocery store gift cards, with a total value this year of \$1,530.

The gift cards will be distributed by Manistee County Mich-

igan Department of Health and Human Services to veterans and their families in Benzie and Manistee counties. Gifts cards for Family Fare and Shop-N-Save will be given out to about 25 families.

Funds for these donations are raised by the members of the Arcadia Area VFW Post No. 3314 through the annual poppy sale.



MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
March/April/May 2017 **Volume 84 Number 3**

STATE COMMANDER, continued from back page

I want to thank my VTS Director Ray Lopez, Assistant VTS Director Mike Martin, Department Quartermaster/Adjutant Lynn Patterson, Activities Director Don Martindale, All-State Director PSC Sherwood Pea Jr., Community Service Director Joe Tebor, Inspector Bob Williams, Hospital Director Jerry Smith, Membership Director Scott Gloger, Drug & Safety & Assistant Membership Director Mike Fineis, VOD & Patriot's Pen Director Harry "Les" Croyle, Webmaster John Gubin, State Senior Vice Commander Matt David and State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson for training our Members at our (7) VTS Training Seminars across the State of Michigan. If you did not attend any of the VTS Training Seminars, you missed a lot of great training.

I would like to talk about MEMBERSHIP. The Life Blood of OUR Great Organization. I ran the membership figures for Tuesday, January 31, 2017 on our VFW National Website (Memstats) and Michigan is at 91.49%. WE are 15th in the Nation. It is great to be in 15th Place in the Nation. Thank You! WE need 3,818 New, Reinstated and Continuous Members to reach 100%. WE CAN DO IT! WE CAN REACH 100%! Congratulations to District 7 for being the 1st Place District at 93.36%. District 10 is in 2nd Place at 92.43%. District 5 is in 3rd Place at 92.36%. Which District will be in 1st Place at Department Convention this year? Will it be your District? We have (20) Posts that have achieved 100% in Membership. Thank You! Will your Post achieve 100% by the Department Convention? The Post with the "Highest" Number of New Members is Post 6691 Fraser in District 5 with (9) New Members. Great Recruiting! If you need help, please contact our Department Membership Director Scott Gloger at miroadrunner52@yahoo.com or Assistant Directors Horace Frazier at frasierwxyz@sbcglobal.net, John

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Coming Events

GORSKI-DOBBIE TESTIMONIAL
April 21-22, 2017
 89TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION
May 31-June 4, 2017

STATE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members, I just returned from our "Great" Mid-Winter Conference at the Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing, Michigan. It was held Friday & Saturday, January 27 & 28, 2017 along with our Department Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Banquet held on Saturday Evening. This year we were so fortunate to have our Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy as our National Representative. What an Honor to have our Commander-in-Chief come to our Mid-Winter Conference and our Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet. Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy gave a lot of great speeches. He gave out a lot of awards. He mingled with everyone. He took a lot of pictures with everyone that wanted to. He was just great to be around the entire weekend. Thank You, Commander-in-Chief Brian Duffy, for coming to MICHIGAN and spending time with us! WE hope you will not forget us!



Jerry Gorski
State Commander

Our 1st Place Voice of Democracy Winner is Emma K. Freshcorn, 11th Grade Student from Madison High School sponsored by Post 1584 Adrian in District 6. Our 1st Place Patriot's Pen Winner is Meg T. Harmon, 8th Grade Student from Aspen Ridge Middle School sponsored by Post 4573 Ishpeming in District 14th. Congratulations Emma and Meg! Emma will be going to Washington D.C. to compete against 53 other Department Winners. State Auxiliary President Gloria Dobbie and I will be escorting Emma at the Big Event. Good Luck to Emma. Emma will be a Great Ambassador for Michigan.

Both Posts 1584 Adrian & 4573 Ishpeming also received the Traveling Trophies, which they will keep at their Posts for (1) year. Congratulations to Post 1584 Adrian & Post 4573 Ishpeming for sponsoring our 1st Place Winners.

I want to thank ALL the VFW & Auxiliary Members who had any part in our Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Programs. Without YOU we could not have a Successful Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Programs this year. Thank You!

A special Thanks to Harry "Les" Croyle and Heather Shephard for being our Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Program Directors. Also, Assistant Director Jim Galen and John Bond. Also, our Master of Ceremonies, State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson. All of You did a Great Job! Thank You! Lastly, to Patrick & Patricia Patterson, our Convention Directors & Assistant Convention Director Paul McIvor for the many hours and preparation that you spent all weekend at our Mid-Winter Conference. We had 435 people attend this year's banquet and you did a great job of coordinating everything. Thank You!

Our Next Event is the "Gorski-Dobbie" Testimonial. Yes, Gloria and I are getting close to the end of our term in office and WE want to invite YOU to come to OUR Testimonial on April 21-22, 2017 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 34911 Van Dyke in Sterling Heights, Michigan 48312. There will be a Golf Outing on Friday, April 21st. There is a "Water Park" at the hotel that will be available Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So, you can bring your Children & Grandchildren and your bathing suits. The Deadline to make your Hotel Reservations is April 5, 2017. The Deadline to order your Banquet Tickets is April 10, 2017. The Banquet Dress Code is "Dressy". Gloria and I would like to make OUR Testimonial Very Special. The District Commanders have the forms and the forms are also available on the Department Websites. Please come to Our Testimonial. I am sure you will have a great time, I know Gloria and I will.

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 20