

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• *Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community* •

October/November/December

Volume 83 Number 2



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

As I am writing you my article, I am looking out my backyard window and I see leaves falling off the trees. You know what that means, WINTER is coming. Will you be ready for Winter?

I just returned from our 2015 Big Ten Conference in Bettendorf, Iowa. Bettendorf is part of the "Quad" Cities (Bettendorf, Iowa, Davenport, Iowa, Moline, Illinois, & Rock Island, Illinois), which all are located on the Mississippi River. Moline, Illinois is the Home of the "John Deere" World Headquarters, which is 177 years old. They are famous for making "tractors."

The Big Ten "Morning" Training Session was put on by the "Flying Squadron", which included our National Commander-in-Chief John A. Biedrzycki Jr. from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The other speakers were from our VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO. They were Quartermaster General Larry Maher, Assistant Quartermaster General Debra L. Anderson, Assistant Adjutant General, Administration & Programs Kevin C. Jones, Director, Administrative Operations David E. Prohaska, Director,



**Jerry
Gorski**

**Senior
Vice Commander**

Membership Robert A. Crider and our New Director, VFW Programs Lynn Rolf III. From our Washington Office was Director, National Legislative Service Raymond C. Kelley. Everyone did a great job given us valuable training. Thank You "Flying Squadron" for coming & training us and Thank You "Department of Iowa" for hosting the 2015 Big Ten Conference!

Next year, the 2016 Big Ten Conference will be in "Michigan". It will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan on October 21-23, 2016. The "Flying Squadron" will also be coming to Michigan. This will be a great time for "Michigan" to receive valuable training from our National Officers, National Headquarters Staff and our Washington Headquarters Staff. It has been 10 years since Michigan last hosted the Big Ten Conference. Information regarding registration, housing and

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 3

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

I wanted to take some time and talk about the Veterans Training Seminars I have been able to participate in so far this year. It has been a great experience for me to be able to get out and visit with everyone that attends. I have learned a lot from all of you and I thank you!

One thing that I have seen a lot of is the Post dues reserve fund. Every Post is required to maintain a Post dues reserve fund. This line item is a little savings account you could say. The purpose of this line item is to make sure the incoming commander has some funds to



**Lynn
Patterson**

**Department
Quartermaster**

run the programs that he would like to run during his year as commander. This fund cannot be touched throughout the year. The money that is put in there is the money that you receive from National for your membership dues.

Example- If your Post dues are \$35.00 National receives \$21.50; Dept. receives \$9.50; Posts receive \$4.00. The Post then has to put at least half of the \$4.00 into the dues reserve fund.

Please refer back to your Post By-Laws as there may have been something put in there stating what the Post should be doing

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

My, my...how the time flies. The year is already half over and the snow will be flying by the time you are reading this. I hope that the plans your post laid in the spring are in full swing and are proving successful.

As of the end of Oct., the Dept. of Michigan is at 85% in membership. We are over 6,000 members down from last year. We have managed to sign up 353 new members and re-instate 116, but we need to do more.

The post quartermaster can download the unpaid members reports from the national website. Get this list, put a team together, and go knock on doors. Surveys have shown that the number one reason comrades leave the VFW is because they sign up and they never hear from anyone again, or they attend a meeting and no one even greets them. Let's get out there and let these comrades know that we haven't forgotten about them and we want them back. If you see someone new at a meeting, go shake their hand, introduce yourself, and welcome them to the post. However, don't forget about the members that pay their dues every year. We need to reach out to them, too. A phone call, card, or personal visit reminding them of the



**Matt
David**

**Junior
Vice Commander**

monthly meeting and saying we missed you will go a long way.

On 09/12/15, I attended the Macomb/Oakland County Council's Youth Campout at the Multi-Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce Twp. Scouting troops from around the area attended and it was a day of learning and fun for the kids. Each group competed in a number of events that included land nav., obstacle course, and marksmanship to name a few. The event is open to anyone so if your post sponsors a boy or girl scout troop, encourage them to check it out. The more participation the more fun.

Even though the year is coming to an end, we still have a lot of work to do, so don't stop now. There is still a lot of work to be done. Thank you for what you do and what you continue to do. God bless you, Happy Thanksgiving, and Merry Christmas.

with that money. There are some posts that put all of that money in the dues reserve fund which is something that you are able to do. On July 1 this line item should be transferred to the General Fund and used as directed by the Post membership. If you would like to find it in the National By-Laws it is in the Manual of Procedure Section 717 Dues Reserve page 97.

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

minutes and done prior to the post turning everything over to Department. I will let you know that Dept. doesn't want the Post funds or building. With assuming the Post funds we also assume the post debit.

Buddy Poppies... Please do not wait until the last minute to order your buddy poppies. As soon as you know that your Post is going to need more poppies get your order in. The deadline is December 31, 2015.

If I can be of any assistance to you and your post please feel free to contact me. I will help you in any way that I am able to. I can't wait to see everyone at Mid-Winter to celebrate all those wonderful VOD/Patriots Pen winners.

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

God Bless Our Troops

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

The chill of winter will shortly be upon us. However, hoping that instead of dreading the season, we embrace it. There is something uplifting in appreciating the positives in life rather than lingering upon its obstacles. This is true in Post, Auxiliary, and District matters as well as our personal concerns. Accordingly, this submission will briefly address the coolness that is sometimes indoors.

Specifically, what happens when we become disheartened? We tend to disengage, experience less joy, and/or see only the negative. This occurs often at Posts when the same few members undertake all the work, when the ideas of others are not carefully considered, or when negative motivations lead to internal struggles. Each scenario can be toxic if not positively addressed, tempting us away from the better path. Psalm 119:133 *ESV*, "Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me."

The major questions are: 1.) How do we remedy our disagreements; 2.) How do we stay motivated; and 3.) How do we encourage others? Beloved, only you can resolve these questions, as each situation is different. However, we do know... Why each of us joined the VFW and/or Auxiliaries; The worthy missions of both organizations; The tremendous need in our communities and state; The amazing power of touching lives in patriotic fellowship; and Those Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers now passed that served with selfless dedication and strongly

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



believed in our objectives.

What does this mean for you? When looking out the window, do you see only dreaded snow and dwindling daylight or joyful children's play, natural beauty, and the Lord's promise of an eventual springtime? When you view your Post, Auxiliary, or District do you see only 'the same old thing' or do you observe the opportunity for teamwork, fellowship, legacy, and the possibility of proactively affecting others?

Indeed, the answers for increasing sustainability, relevance, and morale dwell within you. If you are apathetic you will get more of the same. If that happens, you cannot blame those that do things the same way as 'it has always been done,' when membership continues to lag, when the ego-driven take control, or when other issues occur. Instead, please let this winter be a time of doing, hoping, planning, and empowering; Not allowing the cool exterior reflect only a chilled interior relating to new ideas, volunteering, and pushing forward. "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28, *ESV*).

May God richly bless you.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT

Comrades,

Well, winter is upon us and that means another round of District Meetings. So at this time, I would like to say please stay safe and enjoy your travels.

All Posts should be working on the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen program to make this a great Mid-Winter conference in January.

I would like to say to you all Happy Veterans Day and thank you all for your service. To the posts, make sure your Audits are into Department on time. Also look at your By-Laws to see if they need to be updated with the National Headquarters. I would like to thank Dave Miller and Roger Mays along with Lynn Patterson for all that

Brian Coats
Department Adjutant



you have been doing this year with the VTS training all over the state. Been getting great feedback on all the training covered! Computers and the website and the Quartermaster job. District Commanders, keep looking at your emails, there is always something being sent out to share with your post.

Yours in Comradeship,
Brian Coats



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



STATE SURGEON GENERAL

Dear Comrades;

My how time flies, here we are in the late fall and it's time for MOV input.

You know that I don't believe in long messages so I will try to keep this short and to the point.

I have received many phone calls and believe me I try to call everyone back. My house is coming along, but it will be awhile until I am settled back in. Thank you all for understanding that I have many things going on in my life right now, but the outlook is golden.

I will try to answer all of your calls, but if I am in the car I don't talk and drive, just can't do it, please leave me a message. I pull them up when I get back

Jerry Smith
Surgeon General



to the apartment.

It was great to see so many Comrades at Pow Wow. I am looking forward to seeing you all again at Mid-winter.

May you all have a wonderful time until we meet again, looking forward to our next convention

Jerry Lee Smith Jr.
Cell: 616 293 7544

Email: jerrylsmith@chartermi.net

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Comrades,

Please review the attached proposed By/Law changes the committee is working on for presentation at the Department Convention in June. When the MOV went from monthly to quarterly it made our efforts to get this out to you in timely manner more difficult. It is the responsibility of the Post Commanders to review the current By/Laws and the various notices, like the General Orders and correspondence from National and Department. It would serve you well to do so. This goes for all officers, read your job description in the current National By/Laws and MOP. Commander Paul has tried to reach out to you by having VTS classes in various areas in the State. Attend them, ask questions and get the handouts - it will make you more comfortable with your position. Elections are upon us again. I can't help but wonder why a Post with 200 plus members has the same officers each year. There is definitely something wrong with that scenario - either nobody gives a hoot or we have a click. Either way, it does no good for the growth of the organization. I personally have seen it turn many members away, especially the younger Vets. I think it's time for more awareness in this regard, and maybe time to get the National organization involved in clearing this matter up.

Andy Conklin
State Judge Advocate

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing. (Edmund Burke)

Andy Conklin
State Judge Advocate



Proposed Changes for Department By/Laws 2015-2016

Article VII Department: Delete Section 7 in its entirety, already covered under Art X Section 6

Article VIII Service Committee Delete Section 3 and Section 7, replace with;

Section 3; The Service Committee shall conduct its work chiefly through the Service Director. In each of the odd numbered years or when a vacancy occurs, the Service Committee shall select a Director of Veterans Service, through a recommendation made by the Department Commander, the Director may also be removed at any time for cause by the Service Committee. In each odd numbered year the Service Committee shall report its selection to the outgoing Council of Administration at the Department Convention. The Director of Veterans Service appointment will be confirmed upon installation of the Department Commander. The term of the office for the Director of Veterans Service shall be July 1 to June 30. In the event a vacancy occurs not noted above, the same process for selection will occur, and notification to the Council of Administration will be made by mail or email.

Section 7; The Service Committee shall meet prior to the Department Convention, Fall and Mid-Winter Conferences at a time and place called by the Committee

JUDGE ADVOCATE, continued on page 5

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER, continued from 1

ads will be available to you. We will also be needing help from "everyone" throughout the State to make this a huge "success" for Michigan.

Our 2015 Fall Conference (POW/WOW) was at the Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs, Michigan. What a beautiful place to have a Fall Conference. The Fall Conference was a HUGE SUCCESS! Great Job State Commander Paul McIvor and Everyone who helped! Our VFW National Representative was Past National Commander-in-Chief John Gwizdak from Georgia. What a Great Motivational Speaker! He gave (3) motivating speeches, while he was at our conference. If you did not attend the Fall Conference and If you did not hear ALL (3) speeches, then you missed a lot. Thank you Past Commander-in-Chief John Gwizdak!

The programs at the Fall Conference were great. Past State Commanders Dave Miller and Roger Mays put on a Great VTS (Veterans Training) Program, which included training by our State Quartermaster Lynn Patterson and State Adjutant Brian Coats. I met with many of our District Senior Vice Commanders in my separate training session. State Junior Vice Commander Matt David also met with many District Junior Vice Commanders in his separate training session.

Our Fall Conference Hospitality Room was put on by Past State President Annabelle Ferguson and Beth Plont and it was great! They put on great lunches on Friday & Saturday for a donation, which saved the members money. There were a lot of people that came to these lunches. The food was also great during the evening. Great Job Annabelle, Beth and ALL the volunteers who helped. Thank you Larry and John Coleman for providing the entertainment for both evenings. I believe everyone, who stopped by the Department Hospitality Room had a great time.

Now, I would like to get more serious. You know what I am going to talk about next, it is MEMBERSHIP. Yes, the Life Blood of our great organization. Every day more and more of our members are passing. We are not replacing them fast enough. That means WE are "not" growing but WE are "declining" in membership. I ran the membership figures for October 20, 2015 on our VFW National Website and Michigan is at 84.64%. WE are #14 in the Nation. I don't know if we were ever #14 in the nation, so it is great to start the year off at #14. WE need 7,148 to reach 100% or 46,564 Members, which is this year's Goal. WE CAN DO IT! WE CAN REACH 100%! Congratulations to District 7 for being the 1st Place District at 85.73%. District 9 is in 2nd Place at 85.57%. District 8 is in 3rd Place at 85.42%. Who will be the #1 District this year?

Please ask a Veteran, if you see one on the street, in a grocery store or at community function. You know, who they are. They will be wearing some type of Veteran Hat, a Veteran License Plate on their vehicle or flying a U.S. Flag at their home. Don't be afraid to ask the Veteran if he/she would like to become a Member of the Greatest Combat Veteran Organization in the World, the "Veterans of Foreign Wars". Tell them about the VFW Benefits. Tell them about the Best Service Officers in the Nation, who will help them apply for VA Benefits.

By the time you read my article, our Posts will have already judged their Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Entries and turned them in to their Districts for judging, our Districts will have already judged those Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Posts' Submissions and forwarded their Winners to Department for Judging and we will be preparing for our Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing for the Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet on Saturday, January 23, 2016. Good Luck to ALL our Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Winners!

I want to thank each and every Post Member, every Post, every Council and every District for your Hard Work & Efforts in ALL you do for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. No matter what it is! YOU make it happen! Thank You Again!

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

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

Jerry Gorski
State Senior Vice Commander

God Bless Our Troops

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2015-2016 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

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

Please Remember!

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

National Council of Administration



Harry "Les" Croyle

To all the new officers across the State "congratulations" and much success to all of you and your Districts, Councils and Posts. Thank you also for allowing me to represent the State as your National Council of Administration Member Michigan.

Last year I was given the honor to participate in the "Tight Lines for Troops" fishing event in Manistee Michigan. It was made possible for me by Stanley Preidis, Past 12th District Commander. If you ever get a chance to do this event it is a fantastic experience. The Charter Boat Captains donate their boats, their fuel, their time and talent to showing all the Veterans a good time. It was a wonderful day of camaraderie and great fishing on Lake Michigan. The Tight Lines takes place in May about the second week. My Captain's name was Robert Guenthardt, a US Army Veteran and the Past Ogema of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Here's a big thank you on behalf of all the vets assigned to your boat. It was a great day sir.

State Commander Paul McIvor has appointed me to the Great Lakes National Cemetery Advisory Council for the 2015-2016 year and the following is my first report:

Great Lakes National Cemetery Director Roy Luera reported that there were 373 burials in September 3,923 thus far this fiscal year and a total of 26,947 since opening the cemetery. The annual golf outing is over and was a huge success with 148 golfers. An after expenses net of around \$12,742.94 was realized. A great job by Jim French and his very capable committee members. A big thank you to all the volunteers, sponsors and all golfers that participated.

The head stone cleaning at the cemetery held on 26 September 2015 all volunteers met at 0900 hours, registration at 0930 hours and cleaning commences 1000 hours. As always many hands make light work we had over 400 volunteers help in this endeavor. Now stay tuned we will do it all over again in April date to be announced. All the VSO Honor Guard Units were invited to an event on 17 October 2015 at 1100 hours the units received a certificate of recognition for their service on behalf of the souls departed. It is you and your teams that make the loss of a loved one, just a little more bearable for the families of our Nations Heroes. The Great Lakes National Advisory Council have elected new officers on 2 September 2015 for the ensuing year. This concludes my report.

As your newly elected National Council Member Michigan my report follows:

The National C of A had its first meeting right after the National

Installation of Officers. The council has approved the following appointments to the Commander in Chief's team. National Adjutant General John E. Hamilton. The National Awards and Citations Committee Chairman is Past Commander in Chief Gary Kurpius, a new member on the committee is Marlene Roll, Post 7967 New York. Communications and Marketing, Jerry L. Newberry; Assistant Adjutant General Administration and Programs, Kevin Jones. The National Adjutant General John E. Hamilton moved the following Appointments be made - Director, VFW Programs, Debra Anderson; Director, Membership, Robert Crider; Director, Administrative Operations, David Prohaska; Director, Publications and Editor, VFW Magazine, Richard K. Kolb; Director, National Veterans Service, William L. Bradshaw; Director, Communications and Public Affairs - Washington Office, Joe Davis; Director of Administration and Operation - Washington Office, Bob Jackson; Director, National Legislative Service, Ray Kelley.

Quartermaster General Maher moved for the confirmation of the following appointments; Director, Operations, Patrick Botbyl; Director, VFW Properties, Billy R. Weissend. Additional staffing needs are being researched at this time.

Comrades, due to the passing of my Father-in-Law, Drexel Lee Joiner, I was unable to attend the second meeting of the National C of A. I have received all the information from that meeting except the minutes. I will report out on those when I receive them. Thank you again for the privilege of serving the Department of Michigan.

Authorization was given to the Quartermaster General to negotiate the sale or option to purchase property owned by VFW across the street from headquarters.

The VFW Aeronautic and Aerospace Award has been reinstated by this year's National Council of Administration.

The 2015-2016 budget was approved for the ensuing year. Ms. Debra Anderson was appointed as Assistant Quartermaster General it was moved by National Quartermaster General Maher. She received her obligation from Commander-in-Chief John Biedrzycki.

The VFW National Organization will contribute to the Desert Storm - Desert Shield Memorial.

Adjutant John Hamilton reported on reports from the VFW Auxiliary and the MOC. There was no new business Closing statements were made and the meeting was concluded.

Yours in comradeship,

Harry "Les" Croyle
National Council Member Michigan
2015-2019





DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Ramiro Lopez
District 4 Commander



Greetings Comrades of District 4,
We are now around the halfway point of the year and our plans of reaching our goals should be well on their way.
Recruiting, retaining, and reinstating **member's** needs to be one of our top priorities.
We must all continue sending our monthly service reports to Department by the 10th of each month, and have our Quarterly Audits sent to Department on time.
Buddy Poppys should be ordered by December 31st.
Our continued support of our VFW Programs is needed throughout the year.
For the Comrades who will be attending

Mid-Winter Conference from January 22-24 in Lansing, I look forward to seeing you!
I would like to wish all a Safe and Blessed Holiday Season.
Upcoming District Events:
• **District Voice of Democracy Banquet**
Saturday, January 9th, 2016.
5:00pm at Post 345
• **District Meeting**
Sunday January 31, 2016.
12:00pm at Post 1136 Wyandotte
Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.
Thank You for Serving!



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Scott Gloger
District 5 Commander



Well, the year is half over already.
We all need to keep on reporting and bringing in new members, to increase our membership.
I would like to thank all the Posts that sponsored Voice of Democracy and

Patriots Pen contestants. They are all winners no matter where they place in the contest.
I would like to wish everyone a good and safe holiday season.
See you in January.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Richard Ringersma
District 8 Commander



Comrades and Auxiliary,
It has been a very busy first half of year. We had our first district meeting on August 1, 2015.
We were honored to have State Commander Paul McIvor attend. He informed all posts that they must have at least one representative at all district meetings. Also, he stated that all three trustees must sign their audits. If a trustee cannot sign, a letter explaining why must be sent to department. It is the trustees' responsibility to check all receipts and expenditures.
Again, I cannot stress the importance of having someone from your post at the district meetings. The State Commander can remove the post commander from the position if this happens.
I enjoyed visiting some of the posts, worked at the Grand Rapids Home for

Veterans carnival, Sat with Post 702 at the booth at the 28th St. Metro Cruze, and did inspections.
On September 19th, we had VTS training at the Wayland Post. October 1-4 I attended the Pow-Wow in Boyne Highlands. The main issue I learned is that our officers of the post must fulfill their positions to which they were elected.
Our next district meeting will be November 7 at the Coopersville Post. Please have as many members as you can attend.
The Mid-Winter Conference will be January 20, 2016 till January 24, 2016.
Order your Buddy Poppies soon. In December there will be a Christmas party at the National Home in Eaton Rapids. It is a wonderful time with the children.
Again, Thank You for allowing me to serve as your district commander.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Mike Fineis
District 9 Commander



Comrades of the Mighty 9th, the holiday season is upon us. May everyone celibate and enjoy in their own manner, but please do it safely. The Buddy Poppy season is here also, please get you order in now. Help the Mighty 9th to be 100% in buddy poppy orders.
Strive for All-State. By doing so you will be forced to read and learn more about the Organization. You will see

that we are truly a service organization. Service to others!
Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year; your District Chairman is Barry Walter. Contact number is 517-488-2033. Welcome back to the 9th, Barry!
Membership is truly the life blood of the VFW. Get your "spark plug" from Dennis Craycraft for recruiting members.

DISTRICT 9, continued above

DISTRICT 9, continued

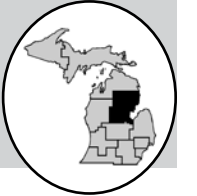
Those of you who are having difficulty recruiting, call Dennis Craycraft 616-550-6990 or me 989-287-3404 for help. We have many tools and ideas on Recruiting.
If you do the work, report it. Remember to protect your non-profit status.
Your District Officers will be traveling helping the post establish inspection folders/notebooks. Too many posts were

not prepared for this year's inspections. We have posts that are in danger of having their doors closed.
Sad news, two Past Department Presidents from our district have passed away. Faye Walter 1975-76 and Peggy Roth 1998-99. On a personal note, thank you to all who welcomed Cindy back. Your greetings lifted her spirits.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Dan Renberg
District 11 Commander



Greetings to all comrades in the great State of Michigan from your comrades in the 11th district.
This fall's conference at Boyne Highland was great. A lot of information was given out and a lot of work was completed, of course more work still needs to be done. The Mid-Winter Conference will be at Causeway Bay, Lansing on Weds., January 20, 2016 thru Sunday January 24, 2016. We hope to see you there.

We also had a VTS class at the Fall Conference it was well done, 60 or more comrades came to it. If you have not been to one you may want to go to one, they are a good learning class. Houghton Lake Post 4034 had a VTS class Oct. 24, 2015, about 25 people came to it. There were allot of questions, with allot of answers to those questions. Look forward to the next class.

The district commanders are being told that about 36 Post Commanders are up for removal from their Post position. Post Commanders, if you cannot be at your district meetings, you must have a member from your Post at that district meeting. If no one from your Post attends that district meeting, the Post Commander must in writing explain to the District

Commander why he or another member from that post did not attend the meeting. You must attend all your district meetings.
With much sorrow Post 6466 Harrisville has closed its doors and I am being told that another Post is having financial problems and may have to do the same.

With decreasing membership and less new ones coming in we must try harder to get new members and younger ones to join and make them feel welcome and needed. Getting the old members to come back would also be help.

District 11 will have its Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen banquet January 16, 2016 at the Houghton Lake VFW Post 4034 at 12:30p.m. Hope to see you there.

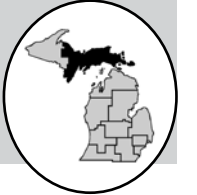
November 11th Veteran's Day is a day for all Veteran's as well as active military to stand up, put on your coats your Veteran of Foreign War Hats and step out into the public and let all know who you are and you are proud to be a veteran of Foreign War of the United States of America.

The next District 11 District meeting will be at Post 4159 Roscommon, February 7, 2016. Remember Commanders, you must attend the meetings or have someone from your Post represent your post.

no photo
on file

DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen R. Olsen
District 14 Commander



First, I am sorry to have to announce that our District Commander, Joe Frappier has retired from his position. He has been involved for many years and his participation in the VFW will be missed. As Senior Vice Commander, I am proud to say, I have assumed the vacancy and duty's of the Commander for District 14. We have a great district with many dedicated commanders. I am sure that we will do a fantastic job in the coming year. Being in the Commander position for 5 days, I had my first District Meeting! Matt David, State Jr. Vice Commander, came to my first meeting and I would like to thank him for his support and helpful words to get me through the first day.

I trult look forward to networking with my 12 Posts and I think the closer we can all work together as a team, the stronger we will be. Thank you to Dan Verville from the Ishpeming Post for taking over my position, Senior Vice Commander.

I need to tell you about our Ishpeming Post (4573) who were in a bad spot and about to close the doors for good. They "stepped

up" to save their post. Their leadership was admirable. They put in long hours and diligent work, solved their problems and are now on their way to a full recovery. Congratulations to you! District 14 is very proud of it's Ishpeming Comrades!

One of my goals would be to attract our "Younger Vets" (Persian Gulf War, Iraq and Afghanistan Vets) to our Posts in the UP. Many of them are still serving in our National Guards. I would like to see some help on this from our State and National levels on how we might accomplish this.

"Youth Programs," another interest I have, is also needed to attract the young vets. We need new programs for their children and families. We want our children to have a positive perception on the military and the veterans of America. The VFW won't survive if we don't get the next generations involved and get them to WANT to join our organization.

Lastly, I am going to encourage my Posts to communicate and work together with their Auxiliary's. The Auxiliaries are valubale to our posts. I will encourage joint

DISTRICT 14, continued above



DISTRICT 14, continued

meetings a couple times a year. Encourage them to discuss their problems and needs together, set some goals and work together to strengthen their post and meet the VFW requirements. Accomplishing these goals together can be very rewarding and uplifting. For example, I had a joint meeting in September at our Nagaunee Post (3165)

and Paul McIvor, State Commander, joined us via conference call over the phone. This worked out very well.

I realize I have a long road ahead and a lot to learn. I welcome your help and support. I promise to work hard, and I hope I can meet your expectations.

I wish you all a Very Happy Holidays!



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

James Pintar
District 14 Commander



Our year is approaching the half way mark and our District is way behind in membership. As I write this article, we have recruited only 5 new or reinstated members. We had 160 unpaid members last year. I passed the list out to all the posts and the list is available on the National website. This is an outstanding recruiting tool. Send them a letter, call them and welcome them back into the fold.

Our District mid-winter meeting will be held at the Crystal Falls Post on 14 February 2015 starting at 10:00 CST. You are invited to the post for the celebration of their 75 anniversary with a party on 13 February 2016. One order of business at the meeting will be the change of dates for our District Convention in South

Range. It is currently scheduled for 23 and 24 April 2016 and that conflicts with the Department Commanders testimonial. We recommend it be changed to 30 April and 1 May 2016 so the Department Commander can attend our meeting.

We have decided not to pursue with the mailing of a letter to all our district members. The response from our post was not very encouraging. Mailing labels for all posts will be available at the midwinter meeting should your post decide to do a mailing. I strongly recommend you consider a newsletter to keep in contact with the 95% of your post members that don't attend meetings.

Continue to march. Thank you for all you do.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I hope that everyone that was able to attend our Fall Conference had a great time. It nice to talk to each and every one of you and listen to your view on our current legislative issues at hand.

In my last article I expounded on House Bill 4642 as introduced and sponsored: Rep. Nancy Jenkins. This is a lengthy Bill I hope that you will take the time to look at the complete bill and the changes that have been recommended. The Michigan Department of Veterans of Foreign Wars is against this bill as written. Please call, email or send your mailing to: Rep Nancy Jenkins office at: N-991 House Office Building P.O. Box 30014 Lansing, MI 48909

Phone: (517) 373-1706

Toll Free: (855) 292-0002

Email: NancyJenkins@house.mi.gov

Senate bill 187 and House bill 4293 which is our gaming bill, has been currently set aside by the Senate as of this writing. Licenses are still being issued at this time.

We need your help in obtaining co-sponsorship by Senator Peters (D-MI) and Senator Stabenow (D-MI) for a bill introduced in the U.S. Senate in March 2015.

S. 885 (National POW/MIA

Phil Patterson
Legislative Director



Remembrance Act of 2015) is the companion bill to H.R. 1670. The language in the House and Senate bills is the same, directing the Architect of the Capitol to place in the United States Capitol a chair honoring American Prisoners of War/Missing in Action. (Note: The chair could be a piece of sculpture placed on the Capitol grounds.)

Please consider contacting Senator Peters and Senator Stabenow and asking them to sign on as co-sponsors of S. 885.

If you do not live in Michigan, please contact the U.S. Senators for your state and ask for their co-sponsorship of S. 885.

The Honorable Gary Peters, United States Senate 724 Hart Senate Office Building: Washington, D.C. 20510-2202

DC Phone: 202-224-6221 email: <https://www.peters.senate.gov/contact/email-gary>

WWW Homepage: <http://www.peters.senate.gov/> Twitter: @SenGaryPeters

Senator Debbie Stabenow 731 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: (202) 224-4822

Local Vets listen to Medal of Honor Recipient

Roger Donlon is a retired Army Colonel who was the first Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War as well as the first member of the U.S. Army Special Forces so honored. He received his Medal from President Johnson at the White House in 1964 at the rank of Captain.

Attending his assembly were members of local VFW Post 334, Jim Muys, Jim Munoz, Chuck Haskin, Colonel Donlon,

Les Waggett, Jim Hubbard and Dick Wood.

Captain Donlon received his Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while defending a military installation. He presently is one of only 78 living Medal of Honor recipients.

A very inspirational talk was given and it was an honor and privilege to have been in his presence and listen to what he said.

JUDGE ADVOCATE, continued from page 3

Chairman. In addition to these meetings, the Service Committee may meet from time to time to include the place of operation of the Department Service Office, when requested by the Department Commander, Committee Chairman or the Service Director.

Article XIII Council of Administration

Add Section 4; Between Department meetings the Department Commander may by mail or other electronic means, instruct the Adjutant to solicit and record a vote of the Council of Administration on urgent and time sensitive issues that need immediate attention. A full explanation and report will be made at the next stated Council of Administration meeting, ratified and entered into the minutes.

Article IX Camp Trotter; Insert the following sentence after "administration functions,

Such activities of the Board of Directors shall be subject to the approval of the Council of Administration at any stated or special meeting as long as they do not conflict with the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure of the VFW or any other section of these Department By-Laws.

Article XV Men's Auxiliary; Add a Section 5

Section 5. The State Commander with the concurrence of the District and Post Commander may cancel the charter of any Men's Auxiliary failing to abide by these guidelines or conducting activities deemed not in the best interest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Article XVIII Amendments; change the days required to submit proposed amendments to these By/Laws from ninety 90 days to forty-five 45 days.

Military Order of the Cootie

"You Are Not Forgotten"



87th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2015

you can. Please send all donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich ST. Linden, MI. 48451-9050.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2015-20016

VFW Comrades, and our Auxiliaries members and

fellow Cooties, Grand of Michigan and the members of the MOCA would like to thank all of you who participated and donated to the VFW National Home for Children Cootie Christmas Party.

The kids had a great time and had a very special quest. Santa Claus took time off from his busy schedule and paid them a visit. We all enjoyed the day visiting with the kids and Santa. We look forward to see you there.

As of this print the Cooties have already participated in the 81th Tomb Trek 2015

At Arlington National Cemetery. If you have never participated in this program, I promise you will never forget it.

In June we send the National Home Kids to Cedar Point Amusement Park for a day in the sun. We are always looking for donation for that trip. Please help if

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, you have heard it before, **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, why 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

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN

Jim Fernandez

Greetings Comrades and Sisters,

First off, I would like to thank our State Commander Paul McIvor for my appointment as your State POW/MIA Chairman. It is truly a honor to serve you and represent all those Comrades who remain missing in action and those being held against their will.

At the PowWow, I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to several Post Commanders and VFW members and discussing POW/MIA awareness in their communities. To them I passed out 100 POW/MIA certificates of Appreciation to sign and pass out to people in their communities for keeping the memory of all those still missing in action alive. These can be given to anyone in your community who fly's a POW/MIA flag, Has a POW/MIA shirt or bumper sticker, etc. When you pull into someones driveway who is flying the flag and hand them a certificate, a smile comes to their face, and a whole new attitude towards you for stopping by kick's in,

"and they do spread the word"! Include how many certificates you pass out in the community in your monthly POW/MIA report. If you would like one to make copies of, contact me and I will see that you get one.

Speaking of POW/MIA Reports, POW/MIA Reports are the single most unreported of all monthly reports in the VFW Department of Mi. Reports are due to me by the 10th of each month. Things to report are: Does your Post fly a POW/MIA flag 24/7? How many members of your Post fly POW/MIA flags at their homes? Does your post display a Missing Man Table? (The League of POW/MIA Family's has officially changed the ribbon on your vase to yellow, not red!). Report your POW/MIA ceremonies (add pictures for extra points) and any thing you do to keep the memory alive. You can email your reports to me at, fernjz@yahoo.com or mail them to me at, Jim Fernandez, VFW Post 3901, PO Box 294, Algonac Mi. 48001, it only takes

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Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Deb Hanes

We are well into the Auxiliary year. This year will be remembered as one of great change and growth for our Auxiliary. We spent 102 proud years as the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. With that legacy we move forward now as the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Since August 21 we have been fortunate to now include males as part of our membership. Just in this short time there are already over 2300 male members nationwide. On October 25 I was privileged to institute Northville Auxiliary 4012. Their new Auxiliary President is a male member, Jon Burchard. Jon is the son of Past Department President Linda Burton. I wish 4012 a very successful future as the go forward with their auxiliary. I have been travelling all around our great country representing the Department of Michigan. I attended National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA in July. In August I was in Minneapolis for the Celebrating America's Freedom Event at Historic Ft. Snelling. September found me in Anchorage, Alaska for National President

Francisca Guilford's Homecoming. What an amazing trip to a beautiful part of our country! In October I headed west to Iowa for Big 10 Conference. Also in October we were fortunate to host our National President Francisca for her official visit to Michigan. The trees did their best to show her what Fall in Michigan could be. The turnout was wonderful at every stop and watching the Aisle of Flags is always a special sight. Thank you to all of the members who came out to see Francisca and welcome her to our great state!

We are near the mid-point of our year. Mid-Winter conference will be in Lansing January 21-24 at the Causeway Bay. Please plan on attending as we honor our Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy winners. Every year these young people renew my faith in the future of our country.

Our Department has a new website address: www.vfwauxmi.org. When you go to our website you can find all the information you need to do the business of your auxiliary.

Of course last but certainly not least, with the addition of male members our numbers should grow by leaps and bounds this year. Membership could easily reach 100%+ this year!! No Excuse – Just Recruit!!

Remember we are in this for our Veterans – “They Are the Stars on Our Flag”.

AUX. DISTRICT 5, continued

a moment, turn around and show our own Post Veterans just how much we appreciate them. There is plenty of time to come up with an idea!

I am sure everyone knows how much I enjoy recruiting and how I get so excited for every new member...Have you ever thought about the POWER OF ONE? A lot of people don't realize how one person can make a difference. But if you take one, plus another one, plus one more they begin to add up. Members keep in mind what that power of just ONE new member could make to your auxiliary. If every

member took the our membership pledge to heart “there is no excuse just ask and recruit ONE” ... WHAT a difference in our Programs, your Projects and your fund-raisers...that's two more hands, new ideas, new energy, a new friend...just think about it. If every member signed up just one, we would be able to accomplish so much more and do even more for our Veterans, our youth and our community. I encourage every member of District 5 to recruit JUST ONE. I Look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter with our Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Heather Shepherd



Hopefully the winter weather has not gotten the best of you. The District Post and Auxiliary have a few of great events that are happening the next few months that are open to the public.

We invite you to attend and if you do we hope you enjoy them.

Auxiliary 1138 Monroe is having a bake sale February 12, 2016.

Post & Auxiliary 3925 Erie is having their famous Muskrat Dinner January 29, 2016 from 5-11 pm.

Auxiliary 4187 Tecumseh is having a bake sale in December.

Auxiliary 4357 Brighton has a Comedy Show in February.

Post & Auxiliary 6464 Fowlerville have

a breakfast the 3rd Sunday of every month and a dinner the 1st Wednesday of every month.

Post & Auxiliary 7309 Mason is helping with a Festival of Trees event December 5, 2015 at the Ingham County Fair Grounds, December 31st New Year's Eve Party and February 13, 2016 a spaghetti dinner.

Auxiliary 9656 Lambertville has a Prime Rib Dinner scheduled for Valentine's Day.

If you are interested in any of these events, please contact the respective post or auxiliary for further details. You may also check out the district's Facebook page at VFW & Auxiliaries District 6 or search to see if any of post and auxiliary have their own pages.

Please continue to report all the great things you and your auxiliaries do for our veterans and your community.

Have an enjoyable holiday season.

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Sandi Merrow



Sandi Merrow

Greeting from District 4.

I was very excited to attend the institution of a new auxiliary at the Northville VFW Post 4012. The institution took place on Sunday October

25, 2015 at the Post. History was made when they installed the first Male President Jon Burchard.

Our own Raffle Ruthie has schedule two Soup & Salad fundraisers with all proceeds to go the Camp Trotter Scholarship Fund. First Soup & Salad will be Friday November 13th at Wyandotte

VFW 1136 starting at 5:00 pm. Second Soup & Salad is February 20th at BOVA VFW 9885 starting at 4:00 pm.

District 4 VOD & PP banquet will be held on Saturday January 9, 2016 at Hubert-Fortiers-O'Grady VFW Post 345 in Redford, MI. Please remember that the Teacher of the Year awards will not be included in the banquet starting this year.

Our second District meeting will be on Sunday, February 7, 2016 at Pvt. Lyskawa-Tutro in Dearborn Heights. We will be welcoming Department President Debbie Hanes to District 4. I hope to see as many of my Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers at the District meeting.

I hope that you and your families have a great Holiday this season.

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Lou Ann Conklin



District 7 is on the move to make room for male members. Our auxiliaries have opened their minds and hearts to embrace the future of our organization serving our veterans.

The ladies have worked well with our male veterans for years, why not be able to work side by side with male auxiliary members. Together we can make a difference with a fresh new approach to fund raising, teaching patriotism to our youth, and keeping a home for all veterans and their families to let them know we are there for them and they will never be forgotten! Keep up the

good work!

District 7 held its first Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee Training with chairmanship training and recruitment. We set aside a special date for this event, opened it to the public and shared ideas.

We are sad that we have lost one of our auxiliaries and hope that those ladies will continue to serve in other capacities helping veterans. May we learn from our mistakes, open our eyes to the future, and remember what we are all about: one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all because our veterans served for us!

Lou Ann Conklin
District 7 President

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Kathy Hubbard



I want to thank each of the Auxiliary's for the many invites to attend their Veterans Day programs, I attended Madison Heights #1407 and Oxbow #334 and it was my pleasure to be in company of our Veterans.

The next two months will be busy for our Veterans and Families as well as our own families. Happy holidays to all. We had a wonderful opportunity to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for the Freedom Center at Detroit Metro Airport for our servicemen and women that are unable to be with their loved ones on Thanksgiving

Day, yet are able to have the traditional dinner. A big Thank You goes out to Oxbow #334 and the other Auxiliaries that assisted and helped.

Fraser #6691 is participating in the *Wreaths Across America* on December 12th by placing over 1000 wreaths at Resurrection Cemetery. On December 6, I will be delivering the Christmas gifts to Piquette Center with Fraser #6691, and then on December 17th delivering quilts and Christmas gifts to Saginaw VA Hospital with Romeo #2052 and Oxbow #334. Please be sure to remember our Veterans during the holidays.

Let's all try to do something special for our own Post on Valentine's Day. We are always busy doing for Veterans in the Hospital or in our community, but let's stop for

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Joan Broek



Greetings District 8, many of you know I'm a person of few words. I'll say this, I'm proud of all the work you do for our Veterans and their families. Do you know District 8 has a Facebook page? This is a nice place for you to promote activities of the Auxiliary and Post. Delton #422, you could let everyone know about the breakfast you have. Pullman #6134, how

about your Bingo on Wednesday. Holland #2144, Otsego #3030 and Wayland #7581 let everyone know about your dinners. Comstock #6252 and Augusta-Custer #7956, you have activities at Battle Creek VA, let people know they might come help you. December 4th is District 8 Christmas at the VFW National Home and we are meeting at the Fire Barn at 5:30pm. Come out for all the fun!

December 12th is Wreaths Across America at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and Fort Custer. The ceremony starts at 12 noon sharp. If you have never



AUX. DISTRICT 5, continued

been to one, please come see it. The ceremony is very moving.

January and February are cold and snowy; please remember to help our Veterans that don't get out in the bad weather. February 7th is our District meeting. The meeting is

in Otsego, 11am for lunch with the VOD and Patriot's Pen winners. The meeting will start at 1pm. Please keep working on membership.

Have a Merry Christmas and here's to a Great New Year!

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Josephine Miller



Schools are now in session so it is time for everyone to try to get into the schools to teach students what it meant by patriotism. This can be done in different ways example like coming

into the schools to teach these children the

proper way to do the pledge at a community event or on Veterans Day. REMEMBER THESE WORDS. It is important. Children are eager to learn and veterans are willing to teach. Use our youth when doing other events at your post. They are willing to help. Most children do not know or understand. Remember our Veterans every day. They took time out of their lives to serve our country.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Roxann Buchler



The Fall Conference at Boyne Highland was very enjoyable. I hope that those of you who attended were able to gain information about the programs to help promote them in

your Auxiliaries. I hope everyone had the opportunity to meet our National District Council Member # 23 Vicki Rosse – what a great Lady.

My inspections are done and I want to thank you all for the wonderful hospitality you showed me. It was great meeting

those of you I have not had the pleasure of meeting before. Remember to get your dues sent in, don't hold onto them. We want to be 100% by December. Now that the men are able to join, the doors are wide open to get those new members.

I hope you are reporting on your quarterly reports and submitting them to the Department Chairmen.

I hope you remembered Veterans Day, November 11, by honoring all of our Veterans. Leave no Veteran behind.

Every minute is another opportunity to serve. The holidays are approaching very fast and I want to wish everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT

Kathleen DeNise



Hello from District 14. I must first apologize for not having an article in the first MOV edition. One was written and sent but due to technical difficulties on my

part, it was not able to be printed.

This is my fourth time being district president and it saddens me just how much our district has shrunk. To clarify, it has definitely not gotten any smaller in area but we are now down to just 6 active auxiliaries. We just cannot continue to let this happen. With the recent changes allowing male members to join the VFW Auxiliary, we should

be doing everything we can do to recruit for our current auxiliaries and also see if we can get some new ones started. Any of the bachelor posts in District 14 that would be interested in having an auxiliary, please contact me and we will get the process started.

If you were not able to attend Department Fall Conference, you really missed out on a lot of valuable information, as well as, a lot of fun. The workshops were great and all the chairmen gave wonderful program presentations.

I want to wish all a safe and healthy winter. Have a great Christmas and very Happy New Year.

God bless you all for what you do for our veterans and may God continue to bless America.

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Carole Morris



Up in the snowbelt in District 15 we are getting ready for the Day of Challenge on the 27th of February. We are excited to hear that there will be more entries from down state so we have our fingers crossed for safe weather.

We have our students waiting to hear who placed in Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen; a lot of interest was shown again this year.

We are busy sending out troop packages and helping in our communities.

Food banks are in such a need this time of year with high cost of heating this time of year and people struggle to make ends meet so we are doing a lot of food drives.

Crystal Falls #2891 will be hosting our February District meeting and also will be their 75th anniversary. Congratulations!

I hope everyone has a great holiday season.

DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF STAFF



Stephanie Krueger

I am so pleased at the initial reaction to the change in auxiliary membership eligibility (to include male relatives of our VFW eligible veterans). The VFW membership provided us with the tools at the July

2015 convention and opportunity to get more members into the VFW Auxiliary.

Now we need the help of the posts and their members to get those potential members to us. We promise to sign them up, train them and encourage them in the great work this organization does.

Welcome to the Newest Michigan Auxiliary City of Northville #4012 in District 4. Many thanks to those post

members and their commander, Scott, for wanting an auxiliary and helping make it happen.

Other posts that have wanted an auxiliary but just could not get enough potential members in the past, can now contact all their male relatives, friends and neighbors and invite them to come into this organization now known as the VFW Auxiliary. We need them, you need them, and our entire organization needs them.

Please feel free to contact me if I can assist you in making that long awaited auxiliary a reality for your post. Stephanie Krueger at 313-585-5066. I love getting calls from post commanders saying, "We want to form an auxiliary. How do we do that?" Nothing makes us happier than to help your post start an auxiliary.

Maybe the next article will list your post as having a new auxiliary started!

LEGISLATIVE CHAIRPERSON



Linda Woda

As we venture into the holiday season, keep in mind our freedom to celebrate as we wish is a right our Veterans have earned for us. The work we so diligently perform for all past,

present, and future military is our way of thanking them. Ensuring that the quality of life they deserve is preserved and enhanced.

Remember, we need direct communication with our legislators. They welcome your input as it helps lawmakers make decisions regarding Veterans issues and other policy related issues. Whether you're attending a local event or visiting our state capitol, ask questions. How does your senator or representative feel on issues pertaining to veteran legislation? For a list of VFW sponsored pending legislation please refer to October bulletin, find the ones that suit your auxiliary, and you'll be talking like a pro in no time. This is really an exciting chairmanship if you take a little time to study up on the issues.

Have you signed up for VFW Action Corps Weekly yet? Fall conference was a success as we had the computer up and running and many of you signed up. It only takes a minute and is so easy. Do have the recipe card that shows how to sign up? It's handy to give out to members or others that may be Veteran Advocates. They too can influence our legislators on the action alerts. Help them to sign up, you only need to log in once to sign up a group of people. If you have wi-fi, you're

good to go! If you need a copy of the recipe card and can't find it online, e-mail me (and copy it please) I will be more than happy to mail one to your auxiliary. My e-mail is lwoda9155@yahoo.com. We are expected to have 100% participation. It's so rewarding hearing from your legislators and often times you will hear back on what they are doing on important bills. It all starts when you sign up for Action Corps Weekly and click on Action Alerts. Report all those who have signed up members and advocates.

Having trouble finding your legislator? Here is a list of names and e-mails for your districts. Please use this and further it by looking up their address and sending a letter signed by auxiliary members. Did you know you can download a letter from Action Alerts and print it out? So easy and every correspondence counts in our quest to ensure our Veterans are cared for in the way they cared for us when they signed up to protect our country.

District 1, Dan Benishek, www.benishek.house.gov District 2, Bill Huizenga, www.huizenga.house.gov District 3, Justin Amash, www.amash.house.gov District 4, John Moolenaar, www.moolenaar.house.gov District 5, Daniel Kildee, www.dankildee.house.gov District 6, Fred Upton, www.upton.house.gov District 7, Tim Walberg, www.walberg.house.gov District 8, Mike Bishop, www.mikebishop.house.gov District 9, Sander Levin, www.levin.house.gov District 10, Candice Miller, www.candicemiller.house.gov District 11, Dave Trott, www.trott.house.gov District 12, Debbie Dingell, www.debbiedingell.house.gov District 13, John Conyers Jr., www.conyers.house.gov District 14, Brenda Lawrence, www.lawrence.house.gov

AMERICANISM CHAIRPERSON



Marlene Gaitan

Greetings Patriots!

Patriotism can be defined as the love and devotion that people feel for their country. And Americanism is the unfailing love of country; a loyalty to its foundations and principles, and an undivided allegiance to the flag. With that

being said, it is our duty and responsibility as Auxiliary members to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to educate our community by promoting awareness of Patriotism and Americanism.

Ways that we can accomplish this is by flag education to include flag etiquette and proper flag disposal, leading the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing of the National Anthem in public community events (sporting events, city council meetings), holding POW/MIA

undivided allegiance to the flag. With that

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Auxiliary News

Continued

AMERICANISM CHAIRPERSON, continued from 7

ceremonies and invite the community to attend, recognizing businesses in your community who continue to properly display our flag, and promoting the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Please note the date for submitting this award to the post level has changed to February 15, 2016.

Remembering to fly your flag always and especially on Patriotic Holidays is an easy way to show your Patriotism. There are 13 Patriotic Holidays and they are; Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day) 3rd Monday in February, Loyalty Day May 1st, V-E Day May 8, Armed Forces Day 3rd Saturday in May, Memorial Day last Monday in May, Flag Day June 14, Independence Day July 4, Patriot Day September 11, Constitution Day September 17, POW/MIA Recognition Day 3rd Friday in September, Gold Star Mother's/Family Day last Sunday in September, Veterans Day November 11, and Pearl Harbor Day December 7.

And with windy and snowy days upon us, keep an eye out for those worn and tattered flags. When you see a need for a new flag, present the business/homeowner with a new one and take the worn one for disposal. These are just a few of the countless ways to promote Patriotism and if you follow your program goals when reporting, you and your auxiliary will be successful!

Finally, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to President Deb Hanes for giving me this opportunity to teach you and your auxiliary about Patriotism. It has been a pleasure reading your reports and about the different activities you participate in. Remember I am only a phone call or email away so contact me should you ever have any questions about the Americanism Program. I hope everyone had a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year to all and look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing!

VETS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN



Debbie Sheetz

Fall has snuck up on us and the calendar year is winding down but our auxiliary year is in full swing. Many great things are being done by our auxiliaries in this GREAT state of Michigan. From hosting fundraisers for our programs to assisting our vets in their day to day activities/lives our auxiliaries are hard at work. But there is always things to do to improve our organization. We have added a few things to help get the word out about our programs and resources that we have for veterans. One thing is called a Resource Card. You can find it on our VFW Auxiliary website (<http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/> go to Programs, click Veterans & Family Support). It can be downloaded and then printed. It has important numbers and websites like our VFW and Auxiliary headquarters, Veterans Crisis Helpline number (800-273-8255), VFW National Home Military & Veteran Family Helpline (800-313-4200), etc. This is a great tool to have handy when you are at VFW functions, fundraisers, stand-downs, or even at the store or at a family gathering. If you meet someone that needs assistance you can

give them this Resource Card. (It could also be used at a membership drive to assist in signing up new members. People like to be a part of something that can be helpful to themselves or their families.) So pass them out to veterans and active military and their families.

Did you know that the VFW National Home Helpline can assist families that do not live at the National Home? The helpline can assist Veterans or Military and their families even if they are across the country. The helpline representatives are very knowledge and have the resources and information to help the veteran in their own area/city. Again they do not have to live at the National Home to get assistance. This is very important to let your fellow VFW and Auxiliary members know this.

Both the National VFW website (<http://www.vfw.org/>) and the National VFW Auxiliary website (<http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/>) as well as our department websites (<http://www.vfwmi.org/> <http://www.lavfwmi.org/>) have lots of great information. I encourage you to go online and look at all 4 sites. Believe me you will learn many new things that you can share with your fellow Brothers and Sisters in your own VFW.

**Happy Holidays,
Debbie Scheetz**



VFW



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



HOSPITAL CHAIRPERSON

Marian Hamann

To all hospital and nursing home volunteers, THANK YOU! You are very special people who make a huge difference in the lives of our Veterans.

Each VA and non-VA facility needs volunteers. Are you willing to donate a little of your time to those who have served our country? For volunteer information at Michigan's Veterans facilities, use the phone numbers provided below.

Along with numerous local hospitals and nursing facilities, Michigan is fortunate to have five hospitals governed by Veterans Affairs:

- Aleda E. Lutz VA – Saginaw, Vol Svc Office 989-497-2500 Ext. 13360
- Ann Arbor VA, Volunteer Service Office 734-845-3467
- Battle Creek VA, Volunteer Service Office at 269-223-5497
- John D. Dingell VA – Detroit, Voluntary Service Office 313-576-3332

- Iron Mountain VA, Voluntary Service Office 800-215-8262 ext. 32780

Michigan also has two state Veterans home (governed by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs):

- Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, Volunteer Office 616-364-5331
- Jacobetti Home for Veterans – Marquette, Activities Dir. 906-226-3576

According to the websites of our Veterans Homes, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States eligible for VA health care or financial assistance for long-term care may be admitted. The veteran must have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. NOTE: Subject to space and certain other requirements, a spouse, widow, or widower of an eligible Veteran may also be eligible for admission to the Home.

HE'S ON WATCH. SO ARE WE.



We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues alone cover only 15% of the cost of VFW programs. With two wars and an aging veterans' population, demand is unprecedented. Please donate to your Department mailings. They're counting on us.

Photo: DoD

God Bless Our Troops



Warrior Appreciation Rally Independence Village - Frankenmuth, Michigan Saturday, June 27, 2015

Even though it rained on and off at this event, which was held on June 27, 2015 at Independence Village of Frankenmuth, the event was a huge success. Around 2,000 people were in attendance. This event was a totally "free" event for any veteran and their families who is presently serving and who have served our great country. Food and drinks were served and grilled by the Frankenmuth Jaycees. Also, thanks goes to Julie Palm, Marie Althaus, Reagan Bickel for the use of their outdoor facility at Independence Village of Frankenmuth.

Warrior Appreciation Rally 2015 was the

second rally held at Independence Village of Frankenmuth. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (989) 652-6823 or email at socorro1015@msn.com.

We were also honored to have a special guest present, Matt David (Jr. Vice Department Commander). He, along with many other veterans were able to experience a special guided tour of "Michigan's Military and Space herpes Musuem provided by the director – John Ryder.

Plans are in the process of setting the date for the next event to be held in the summer of 2016. Event coordinators were Larry Schluckebier and Judy Adams.



Alberto Rodriguez of the "Wounded Warrior Project" is receiving his Michigan State Seal. Left of Alberto is Congressman Time Kelly and to the right is Senator Ken Horn of Frankenmuth.



Korean POW Dallas Mossman Sr – Receiving Michigan's State Seal. Thomas Auger on the left and Members of the Tittabawassee Drum & Fife Corps in the background. Dallas passed away several weeks later.



(Center) – Colonel Roger Donlon – First Medal of Honor Recipient from the Viet Nam War. (Right) – Larry Schluckebier (event coordinator) from the Frankenmuth VFW Post 272.



Warrior Appreciation Rally 2015. Event coordinator Larry Schluckebier from the Frankenmuth VFW Post 2725 hands "I Support the 1%" food pantry director Judy Adams a check for \$2,811.00. Left side is "Michigan's Military and Space Heroes Museum" director John Ryder. The pantry is located in Buena Vista at the Harry Browne Airport facility. If is for needy military veterans and their families.

POW/MIA CHAIRMAN, continued from page 6

a moment to report. I also encourage all District Commanders to appoint a Dist. POW/MIA chairman and always include them when committee reports are being presented at your meeting's.

One last thing in closing, if you have a former POW in your community, seek them out and pay them a visit, I have found that most former POW's I have met are not a member of the VFW. Your Post

can pay their membership and it is very comforting for them to know that they belong and that they are not forgotten! They love to share their stories, and deserve our utmost respect! Document their stories before they are lost forever. I am looking forward to hearing from you!!!!

Jim Fernandez

North Oakland VFW Post 334



Left to Right: Jim Muys, Jim Munoz, Chuch Haskin, Colonel Donlon, Less Waggert, Jim Hubbard and Dick Wood.

Camp Trotter Tales



Ernie Myers

Fall Conference is behind us with a change to our Camp Trotter By-Laws! The Camp Trotter Committee recommended to change the structure of the Committee from six (6) elected Members to seven (7) elected Members. This will break any potential tie breaker votes from the entire Committee and would hopefully gain another able bodied worker to the Committee. With that in mind – the Department Council of Administration voted to support the Committee's recommended change. Concluding the Camp Trotter By-Law changes the election of the new Committee Members was completed and the following Comrades were elected to serve on the Camp Trotter Committee. Current Chairman/Director PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr., Committee Members Wm "Butch" Ogden, Ray Lopez and the newly elected Committee Member Ron Allen of Romulus. (two (2) year term).

Summer Camp 2016 is on the horizon with fundraisers in full swing to raise the necessary funds for the scholarships needed for those children that otherwise would not be able to attend Summer Camp. Last year there were 77 scholarship requests – YES "YOU" the Membership stepped up and became sponsors for those children. The benefits realized were shown on the Facebook nearly every day with the big smiles on those young Campers. If you have not already planned a fundraiser for the Children's "Scholarship" fund please consider having a most worthy event. If you have any questions what-so-ever please contact myself or any one of the Committee Members.

The following Staff positions for the Summer Camp 2016 beginning on 5 July and ending 13 August. Pay is commensurate with the experience. Staff training on the first week with (5) straight weeks of the Camping Season with the children. You must be 18 years of age and older for the Camp Counselor positions. Needed: (3) Staff Cooks – (1) Janitor – (1) Administrative Assistant – (1) Ass't. Summer Camp Director – (1) Registered Nurse and/or Paramedic Certified - (1) Maintenance Person - (2) Life Guards. (7) Female Counselor's and (7) Male Counselor's. **ALL STAFF FOR CAMP TROTTER MUST PASS MSP BACKGROUND CHECK BEFORE HIRING.** Please send your resume' to PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. emeyers76@att.net – The Reviewing Committee along with the Summer Camp Director will review all applications that are submitted.

Summer Camp will start with the Staff Training on 5 July with the Camping Season to begin on Sunday, 10 July and ending on Saturday, 13 August. The Camping Season started a week later this past 2015 camping season to allow the children to be with their families over the 4th of July – plus, the lake water was warmer for the swimmers. This proved positive for the Staff and the young Campers for Summer Camp 2015.

FINALLY – The VFW Camp Trotter for Children has been officially designated by IRS as VFW Camp Trotter Foundation. The employer Identification Number is 46-1413579. Effective Date of Exemption is November 26, 2012. Yes, we are a 501 (c) (3) – This qualifies our new VFW Camp Trotter Foundation qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Code.

CAMP TROTTER TALES, continued on page 10

CAMP TROTTER TALES, continued from 9

The New WEBSITE: VFW CampTrotterFoundation.org or go to the Department Website: vfwmi.org and click on the words "camp trotter". Comrade Phil Merrow has taken on the task of being the website(s) Administer for both sites. This is a big task to undertake. Thanks Phil. Contact myself at emeyers76@att.net and/or find the info needed to join the Team on our Website: vfwmi.org/ Camp Trotter. Orientation week starts 5 July thru 9 July 2015 for a full week of training for the Staff and then the children arrive on 10 July for the start of Summer Camp 2016.

Many upgrades on the Camp facilities have been completed to include the irrigation drainage lines leading away from cottage 5 & 6 and the drainage catch basin and drainage line leading down the steep hill to the lake front. Our Summer Camp Director always has many new surprises for the new Campers each year. This last year was the "Arts & Crafts" tool boxes and bookends – what will be the surprise for Summer Camp 2016 – you must have a child attend to find out!

The waterfront has been widened with more sandy beaches for the younger children with canoeing, paddle boats, kayaking and fishing and of course always swimming with a swimming platform for the seasoned swimmers. Non-swimmers are taught how to swim by the private instructions by the Life Guards. Enjoy the summer camp fun with the evening bond fires and the hayride that will last a life time. Learning the sport of archery,

the GA-GA Pit and the Nature Trail.

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

If anyone would like to obtain the New Brochures please contact me via email or by phone and Brochures will be mailed to you. The new Summer Camp Dates will be:

10 - 16 July 2016
17 - 23 July 2016
24 July – 30 July 2016
31 July – 6 August 2016
7 - 13 August 2016

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

Thank you for your support to your Camp Trotter – Become a VFW Camp Trotter Life Member in which forms are online.

Your, Camp Trotter Committee
 Happy Trails.....



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

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Saturday, June 25, 2016 Village Green Golf Course
 8:00 a.m. – Registration 8130 Bingham Avenue
 9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513

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

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

Golf Entry Form ✂

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 12, 2015

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: PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr.
 22460 Klines Resort Rd., Lot 192
 Three Rivers, MI 49093

Questions? Call Ernie Meyers, Sr. – 517-490-1221 email: emeyers76@att.net
 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

**DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
 V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES
 37TH ANNUAL MID-WINTER AD BOOK
 COMRADES & SISTERS WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS January 5, 2016

RATES:

FULL PAGE\$100.00

½ PAGE\$70.00

¼ 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: lingloscot@yahoo.com

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS January 5, 2016

MESSAGE:

**SAVE-THE-DATE
 CAMP TROTTER FAMILY DAY
 20 AUGUST 2016**





**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
37th Mid – Winter Conference
Wednesday, January 20, 2016 –
Sunday, January 24, 2016**

Causeway Bay Lansing

Please Do Not Wait Until the Last Minute To Make Your Sleeping Room
Reservation. The Rate Will Be Available Until 12/26/2015 Or
Until The Block Is Full, Whichever Occurs First.

Call your Reservation to:

*Causeway Bay Lansing
6820 South Cedar Street Lansing MI 48911
Phone: 517-694-8123*

Reservation Reminders:

- Room reservations received after 12/26/2015 or after the block is full will be subject to availability at a higher room rate.
- To reserve your room, please call 517-694-8123. Reservation must be guaranteed with a major credit card.
- To receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference participant when calling to make your reservation.
- A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.
- Check-in is at 3:00 pm Check-out is at 12 noon

Room rates: Standard Rooms: \$84.50 or \$95.49 with taxes
 Jr Suites: \$149.00 or \$168.37 with taxes
 (Based on availability)

Group: Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars
Mid -Winter Conference
Wednesday January 20, 2016 –Sunday, January 24, 2016

V.F.W. AND AUXILIARIES
37th MID – WINTER CONFERENCE
Causeway Bay Hotel Lansing, Michigan

BANQUET TICKETS
JANUARY 23, 2016

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

DEADLINE DATE FOR ORDERING TICKETS IS JANUARY 16, 2016
NO REFUNDS ON BANQUET TICKETS

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 \$ _____ NUMBER OF TICKETS _____

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

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

DOORS OPEN at 5:30 P.M.
BANQUET STARTS 6:00 P.M.

**Past Commander-in-Chief
George R. Cramer, 1993-94**



George Cramer

George R. Cramer was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief at the 94th VFW National Convention in Dallas, Texas in August 1993.

Prior to entering the military, Cramer earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Loyola University in Chicago, Ill.

Following graduation he entered the U.S. Army, serving in Vietnam from October 1967 through December 1968 as an artillery surveyor with the 6/14 Artillery, 1st Field Forces. During his tour he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the Air Medal and the Bronze Star for meritorious service.

Cramer joined the VFW in 1969 and is a Legacy Life Member of Post 3873 in Naperville, Ill. Cramer earned All-State Post Commander in 1972-74 and again in 1989-90, an All-American District Commander in 1976-77, a 100% Department Commander in 1983-83 and All-State Post Quartermaster 1976-1985; 2003-08. He is currently serving as the 19th District Quartermaster where he has earned All-American honors.

In addition, he has served as District and Department budget chairman and as National Chief of Staff in 1985-86, as

well as serving on the National Council of Administration in 1989-91. He was selected as the Combined Veterans' Association Person of the Year.

Cramer retired as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, serving as the Secretary's national veterans' service organization liaison. Prior to this appointment, he was the VSO liaison for the VA Chicago Health Care System and VISN 12 (Hines, Ill.), communications officer for the department's Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services program. Cramer previously served eight years as assistant director for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

During his year as national commander, the VFW partnered with the VA to co-sponsor the National Veterans Golden Age Games. He traveled extensively during his term of office, including Normandy for the 50th anniversary of D-Day, where he placed a wreath at Omaha Beach in honor of those who died there.

Cramer is active in many civic and fraternal organizations including the Selective Service Board, American Legion, AMVETS and the Disabled American Veterans. He also serves on the advisory board at the Abraham Lincoln National VA Cemetery.

He and his wife Linda, son Scott, and daughter Cheryl make their home in Naperville, Ill.

MAKE A LASTING GIFT



The VFW has been providing services to and for veterans for over 100 years. The original members who envisioned what this organization would be, and worked to build it, are long gone but their legacy remains.

You too have contributed to the legacy of the VFW during your lifetime. Consider continuing that legacy after you are gone. A simple way to do that is to include the VFW in your estate plans. For more information on how to make simple, smart gifts that benefit both the VFW and your family, contact our Planned Giving Office at 816-968-1119, by email at plannedgiving@vfw.org, or go to our website at www.vfw.org/plannedgiving.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

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Scott Gloger, Editor

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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.

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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

ADAMS, RONALD A. 83 ARMY/KOREA
LUCCA, DOMINIC S. 82 NAVY/KOREA
O'NEILL, RAYMOND G. 93 MARINES/WWII
SMOLINSKI, ROBERT C., 82 ARMY
423 ANN ARBOR
ALBER, GROVER B. 87 ARMY/KOREA
796 PORT HURON
BELAIR, DAVID P. 66 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
CARTER, WAYNE T. 64 NAVY
DEAN, WILLIS J. 91 NAVY/WWII
DELL, DONALD 87 ARMY/WWII
SCHOENHERR, GERALD F. 85 ARMY/WWII
1138 MONROE
CLOUM, RICHARD 64 ARMY/VIETNAM
DUSSIA , ARTHUR JR. 86 ARMY AIR CORPS/KOREA
ERIKSON, DONALD 83 ARMY/KOREA
GILLESPIE, MELVIN 97 ARMY/WWII
JONES, BERNARD 85 ARMY/KOREA
MEYER, ROBERT 88 ARMY/WWII
WEEMAN, WILLIAM 89 ARMY/WWII
1146 ST. CLAIR SHORES
ANDERSON, HAROLD E. 87 ARMY/WWII
BATTY, BILLIE G. 85 AIR FORCE/KOREA
BILLIU, E. CARTER 72 VIETNAM
HANNON, THOMAS G. 80 ARMY/KOREA
HARTWAY, DONALD I. 89 NAVY/WWII
MCCLARY, THOMAS P. 83 ARMY/KOREA
MCHALE, MICHAEL S. 70 NAVY/VIETNAM
NELSON, WILBUR 88 NAVY/WWII
1519 NORTHVILLE
BLANCHARD, RUSSELL 86 NAVY/KOREA
BOLDEA, CHARLES 88 MARINES/WWII
BYKOWSKI, CLEMENS 91 ARMY/WWII
JACKSON, FREDERICK 94 AIR FORCE/WWII
KARPACH, JOHN 94 ARMY/WWII
TRUPIANO, ANTHONY 92 MARINES/WWII/KOREA
ZALEWSKI, RICHARD 89 ARMY/WWII
1566 SAGINAW
DENNISON, EMERSON 92 NAVY/WWII
MCMALL, FLOYD 89 NAVY/WWII
1669 ROYAL OAK
WAANANEN, WILLIAM L. 66 MARINES/VIETNAM
1888 TRENTON
WINGER, MARTIN 83 ARMY/KOREA
2144 HOLLAND
BORGMAN, ROBERT 90 ARMY/WWII
DYKSTRA, HARRY 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
FONGER, JOHN 91 NAVY/WWII
HOEK, GORDON 78 ARMY/KOREA
HOPKINS, WILLIAM 92 ARMY/WWII
IHLE, EVERET 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
MARCINKOS, LEONARD 88 COAST GUARD/WWII
SIERSMA, HENRY 83 ARMY/KOREA
VANDEVUSSE, STEVEN 66 ARMY/KOREA
ZOERHOFF, LAVERNE 85 ARMY/KOREA
2272 DURAND
MCALLISTER, STANLEY D. 77 NAVY/VIETNAM
WAGNER,ALLAN R. JR. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
2891 CRYSTAL FALLS
ORCHARD, DAVID G. 80 ARMY/KOREA
2943 BROWN CITY
PEPPER, WILLIAM 81 MARINES/KOREA
3019 THREE RIVERS
RILEY, TIMOTHY 67 ARMY/NAVY/VIETNAM/
PERSIAN GULF
3030 OTSEGO
HERBERT, GEORGE 90 ARMY/WWII
LINSLEY, HAROLD 87 KOREA
3293 GRAND LEDGE
GEHLHAAR, FRED H. 89 ARMY/WWII
REED, RONALD L. 71 ARMY/VIETNAM
3676 SAULT STE MARIE
ALFORD ,JAMES A. 94 COAST GUARD/WWII
CROSS, CLYDE W. 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
STREETER, WILLIAM R. 91 ARMY/WWII
TENNANT, GEORGE E. 74 ARMY/VIETNAM
3733 FOWLER
FOX, CARL 88 ARMY/WWII
PARKER, LEROY G. 92 MARINES/WWII
SIMECEK, HENRY 88 NAVY/WWII
3753 PINCONNING
COLLIER, LAWRENCE 94 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
3901 ALGONAC
ATKINSON, DON W. 73 COAST GUARD
DUPAGE, FRANK 89 MARINES/WWII
HUTCHESON, KEN 85 ARMY AIR CORPS
4054 MARCELLUS
ADAMS, GERALD JR. 62 ARMY/VIETNAM
PEJZA, DANIEL 90 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
RHODES, CHARLES 66 ARMY/VIETNAM
ZIEMIANSKI, ROBERT 85 ARMY/KOREA
4087 DAVISON
CADIEUX, HOWARD J. 98 ARMY/WWII
DONNELLY, VICTOR 88 NAVY/WWII/KOREA
HALLETT, NORMAN L. 94 AIR FORCE/WWII
KILBOURNE, LOYD E. SR. 95 WWII

WEST, KENNEY 73 ARMY/VIETNAM
4090 PORTLAND
HOPPES, ROBERT F. 90 ARMY/WWII
4115 SEBEWAING
FISCHER, LEO E. 74 ARMY/VIETNAM
4159 ROSCOMMON
BEEBE, ALLEN E. 85 ARMY/KOREA
JOINER, ROBERT 85 ARMY/KOREA
4162 HAMTRAMCK
MAJEWSKI, THEODORE 96 ARMY/WWII
PLOCHINSKI, EDWARD 87 ARMY/KOREA
4249 NEWAYGO
ENGLE CHARLES M. 92 ARMY/WWII
WRIGHT, VERNON 82 ARMY/KOREA
4499 MANISTEE
BUDNIK, EDWARD S. 92 ARMY/WWII
GRANGER, JOEL S. 92 MARINES/WWII
MARTIN, THOMAS C. 70 NAVY/VIETNAM
PINKERTON, DANIEL W. 64 ARMY/VIETNAM
SWIATLOWSKI, ROY J. 69 NAVY/VIETNAM
4659 SHELBY TOWNSHIP
GUSTAFSON, ENFRED 95 ARMY/WWII
JAYROE, EARL 88 NAVY/WWII
LYNCH, CLARENCE 98 ARMY/WWII
5065 SHERIDAN
JONES, DONALD L. 82 ARMY/KOREA
WILTERDINK, ROBERT A. 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
5319 ATHENS
BONER HEBER 86 NAVY/WWII
5600 ONTONAGON
BESSON GLEN 79 ARMY/KOREA
COGSWELL EUGENE 84 ARMY
5602 SIX LAKES
BARRIX, CHARLES 89 ARMY/WWII
5666 FLUSHING
CRARY, DOUGLAS 91 ARMY/WWII
FLANNERY, RICHARD 83 ARMY/KOREA
HOYLE, GERALD 89 NAVY/WWII
5670 GWINN
JURVELIN, CHARLES 66 VIETNAM
6165 SOUTH RANGE
BOLF, ANDREW ARMY/WWII
6248 DECATUR
STEPNITZ, STANLEY 93 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
6464 FOWLerville
JOHNSON, JOHN W. 85 ARMY/WWII
6579 NEW LOTHROP
ELLIOTT, ROBERT T. 78 ARMY AIR CORPS/KOREA
FULLER, DOLPH D. 90 NAVY/WWII
GENGLER, WILFRED W. 88 NAVY/WWII
LAWTON, ROBERT C. 90 ARMY/WWII
YOUNG, PETER J. 89 ARMY/WWII
6691 FRASER
MURPHY, JOHN P. 65 NAVY/VIETNAM
6695 PLYMOUTH
FLETCHER, WILLIAM 80 MARINES/KOREA
GLUVNA, WALTER 89 NAVY/WWII
THOMAS, ROGER 73 MARINES/VIETNAM
6754 SPRUCE
BILL, DALLAS C. 77 ARMY
SHEPARD, RICHARD 83 AIR FORCE/KOREA
6782 EASTPOINTE
BAKER, WILLIAM 94 ARMY/WWII
FRADL, DAVID A. 67 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
GUASTELLA, RALPH 97 ARMY/WWII
MCPHERSON, JOSEPH B. 94 NAVY/WWII
MISLEVY, HAROLD 93 ARMY/WWII
6864 CADILLAC
TICE, MELVIN 90 NAVY/WWII
7302 HEMLOCK
CARSTENEN, CALVIN 84 ARMY/VIETNAM
7542 BIRCH RUN
HUTCHINSON, RUSSELL 90 ARMY/WWII
QUACKENBUSH, GORDON 67 ARMY/VIETNAM
7806 MANTON
HOPPES, HERBERT 91 ARMY/WWII
ROBINSON, CARL 95 ARMY/WWII
7912 SAND LAKE
ROSS, WILLIAM 93 NAVY/WWII
SMITH, EDWARD 89 ARMY/WWII
8594 YALE
GINGILOSKI, GEORGE 85 ARMY/KOREA
8846 MUSKEGON
FITT, DONALD 84 ARMY/KOREA
LUICK, NORBERT 75 ARMY/VIETNAM
MYLENEK, JOHN 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
ZWART, HAROLD 92 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
8872 PORT SANILAC
O'MARA, JOSEPH 89 NAVY/WWII
9084 WAKEFIELD
NOVAK, JOHN C. 84 ARMY/KOREA
9377 PLAINWELL
SMITH, EDWIN 95 ARMY/WWII
9656 LAMBERTVILLE
TRAIN FRANK 94 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
WINSON, WILLIAM E. 91 ARMY/WWII

Auxiliary TAPS

1136-Wyandotte
Burbo, Shirley
Leighton-Donahue, Sandra
Stec, Frances
4422-Taylor
Corpe, Jean
Johnson,Sharon
9283-Southgate
Gielow, Renna
1146-St Clair Shores
Evacko, Olga
Forsyth, Ethel
Hernandez, Justine
Honn, Dorothy
Marciniak, Lillian
1370-Pontiac
Thompson, Mary
1407-Madison Heights
Cronin, Pauline
Serdoner, Lillian
6782-Eastpointe
Diebel, Marie
9914-Highland
Lange, Chiyo
3925-Erie
Belair, Rita
Denko, Jeanne
Roberts, Lorene
4093-Carleton
Mazur, Martha
4187-Tecumseh
Curtiss, Lenore
6056-Springport
Hobbins, Lois
Schmidt, Marcelle
6464-Fowlerville
Robinson, Gertrude
9656-Lambertville
Craig, Theresa
1355-Sturgis
Robinson, Sarah
2144-Holland
Bush, Myra
Mostrom, Patricia
2326-Grand Haven
Bochenek, Bonnie
Candler, Grace
Ralya, Sally
5855-Portage
Smith, Shirley
3030-Otsego
Dillon, Carrie
Klumpp, Frances
Winn, Sandra
Zwiers, Jean
5855-Portage
Smith, Shirley
6252-Comstock
Nance, Shirley
Roberts, Linda Sue
7581-Wayland
Boerner, Deborah
Gamble, Mary Ann
Jerkatis, Vicki
Longstreet, Marian
Norton, Margaret
7956-Augusta
Dorsey, Bertha
1454-Alma
Humphery, Joyce
Phillips, Jean
Terwilliger, Jan
671-Dewitt
Wynn, Marilyn
2272-Durand
Graham, Caroline
Middleton, Marjorie
3701-Lakeview
Thompson, Charlotte
4005-Corunna
Bissonnette, Gertrude
Kimmerer, Nancy
Saunders, Dorothy
Walter, Faye
4406-Belding
Jeppsen, Kay
4461-Lake Odessa
Bever, Helen
Brock, Pam
Jordan, Audra
Nash, Suzanne
Shoemaker, Doreen
Smith, Barbara

5065-Sheridan
Olson, Claribel
6579-New Lothrop
Crawford, Ruth
796-Port Huron
Tesluck, Connie
1452-Clio
Wright, Mary
3243-Fenton
Paulin, Rita
Spillane, Beulah
Utt, Mary
3720-Swartz Creek
Porter, Bernice
Reeder, Carol
4087-Davison
Hendrickson, Mona
Ragan, Jessica
4115-Sebewaing
Bielaczyc, Charlotte
4159-Roscommon
Steinberger, Delores
5585-Emmett
Sharpe, Geneva
5740-Ruth
Susalla, Betty
8236-Flint
Williams, Bernice
1071-Coleman
Mitchel, Ilah
3030-Otsego
Winn, Sandra
Zwiers, Jean
3033-Mt Pleasant
Farmer, Marjorie
3775-West Branch
Peters, beverly
4106-Weidman
Touchiniski,Janice
4139-Roscommon
Beebe, Marianne
5680-St Helen
Smith, Barbara
995-Bitely
Burress, Jean
2335-Mecosta
Cummings, Gloria
446-Muskegon
Semelbauer, Loretta
5315-Baldwin
Barham, Virginia
Good, Marianne
6333-Kaleva
Clements, Sarah
Myers, June
8846-North Muskegon
Smith, Lucille
2051-Harbor Springs
Adams, Helen
2780-Traverse City
Holczman, Margaret
Roche, Brenda
Widrig, Jean
Willacker, Clare
5857-Onaway
Crull, Rosslyn Mae
3165-Negaunee
Lafkas, Phyllis
3676-Sault Ste Marie
Reinhart, Mary
4420-Manistique
Kiszely, Marcella
Multhaupt, Eleanor
Patz, Mabel
5670-Gwinn
Hocking, Edna
9023-Brimley
Hewer, Cleo
Hill, Juanita
Jones, Vera
Malaski, Wilma
Mayer, Thelma
Wilson, Doris
3900-Calumet
Thomas, Mary
2891-Crystal Falls
Lampi, Ophelia
MacDonald, Patricia
6165-South Range
Masters, Adele
Daniel, Joyce
Lafayette, Eva
Williams, June



Northville New Auxiliary

A significant historical event happened in the Department of Michigan's 4th District on Sunday October 25, 2015. It was at VFW Post 4012 in Northville that, for the 1st time in the history of our State, a male member was installed as Auxiliary President. But, before that happened, the Auxiliary was instituted by Department of Michigan President, Deb Hanes.

With about 75 people in attendance, Linda Burton, Past Department President, was afforded the opportunity to install her son, Jonathan Burchard, to the position of Auxiliary President. Mr. Burchard is one of the first men in the country to have been installed as Auxiliary President. He is eager to continue working with the Auxiliary as they work to help the VFW.



Serve your Community and the Nation

Become a Selective Service System Local Board Member

The Selective Service System wants to hear from men and women in the community who might be willing to serve as members of local draft boards.

A Prospective Board Member must be a citizen of the United States, at least 18 years old, registered with the Selective Service (if male), and not be an employee of any law enforcement occupation, not be an active or retired member of the Armed Forces, and not have been convicted for any criminal offense. Once identified as qualified the Director of Selective Service, who acts on behalf of the President in making the appointments. Each new member receives five hours of initial training after appointment, followed by two hours of annual training for as long as he or she remains in the position. They may serve in Board Member positions up to a total of 20 years, if desired.

Local Board Members are uncompensated volunteers who play an important community role closely connected with our Nation's defense. If a military draft becomes necessary, approximately 2,000 Local and Appeal Boards throughout America would decide which young men in each community receive deferments, postponements or exemptions from military service, based on federal guidelines.

Eight positions are currently open in the following counties: Barry(2); Kalamazoo(2); St. Joseph(2); Manistee and Hillside.

If you believe you meet the standards for Selective Service Board Membership, and wish to be considered for appointment, please contact MAJ Dan Allen at Daniel.allen2020@gmail.com or 517-927-1537.

WORLD WAR II TOURS

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

June 2-14 • August 11-23, 2016

**Paris • Normandy Landing Beaches • Reims • General Patton's Grave
Battle of the Bulge • Remagen Bridge • Nuremberg • Dachau Memorial
Eagle's Nest in Berchtesgaden • Munich**

VIETNAM TOUR

March 13-23, 2016

**Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) • My Tho • Cu Chi Tunnels
Mekong Delta • Nha Trang • Cam Ranh AF Base • Hue
Chu La • Hoi An • Da Nang • Quang Tri • A Shau Valley
Halong Bay Cruise • Hanoi • DMZ • US Military Bases**



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7TH ANNUAL TIGHT LINES FOR TROOPS

**Charity Fishing Tournament
for Michigan Veterans**

www.tightlinesfortroops.com

This event provides veterans with a day of fun and camaraderie,
and thanks them for their outstanding service to our country.

May 20 & 21, 2016

Lake Michigan, Manistee, Michigan


Friday, May 20	5:00 pm	Mandatory Registration/Dinner for captains and all Tight Lines participants of Boat and Pier/Shore Division. Each participant MUST register at this time to be assigned to a boat. Manistee City Marina River Street - Downtown, Manistee, Michigan 49660
Saturday, May 21		Tight Lines For Troops Tournament Begins Big Lake Division: 4 participants per team - weigh your biggest fish. Pier/Shore Division: Individual entry - weigh your biggest fish. (Participants in both divisions are eligible for all activities and prizes)
	6:30 am	Shotgun start at the Manistee Harbor Pier heads. Participants must be ready to board boats by 5:30 am at Manistee City Marina , River Street - Downtown, Manistee, MI. Pier/Shore fishermen in position at 6:30 am. Box lunch provided for each participant.
	12:30 pm	Boats gather outside the Pier Heads; Pier/Shore fishermen must pull lines. Proceed to Manistee City Marina Flag Welcome begins - Downtown Riverwalk
	1:00 pm	Weigh-In begins at Manistee City Marina , Manistee, Michigan Dinner and Awards immediately following
	5:00 pm	Raffle Prize Drawing at Little River Casino Resort

For sponsorship opportunities, donations or other information contact:

Bob Guenthardt at 231.723.3282 • renegade22@att.net • www.tightlinesfortroops.com

**Priority given to WWII and Korean War Veterans, POW's, Purple Heart Recipients, and Disabled Veterans.

**Veterans pay no charter fees, entry fees or banquet fees!

 **City of Manistee**

 **Little River**
CASINO RESORT

**Manistee Area
Fishing Boats**



**TIGHT
LINES
FOR TROOPS**

2016 APPLICATION FORM MAY 20 & 21, 2016

Use the form below to apply to be selected to participate in the 2016 "Tight Lines For Troops" Charity Fishing Tournament for Veterans. Please answer all questions as appropriate or mark N/A if not applicable. Gold Star Families, WWII and Korean War Veterans, Purple Heart Recipients, Disabled Veterans (indicate VA rating %), and POWs receive priority consideration.

Boat participants will be randomly assigned. Please do not request to be assigned to a specific boat; meeting new veterans and civilians is also part of our objective. In an effort to provide all our veterans an opportunity to fish with a boat team, all previous participants are asked to consider fishing in the Pier/Shore Division or to volunteer to help with the event if possible. Volunteers please contact Captain Bob Guenthardt at renegade22@att.net

Fishing Tournament Participants: ☐ Boat Fishing ☐ Pier/Shore Fishing

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Applicant Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Alt Phone: _____ Email: _____

How did you hear about Tight Lines?

☐ Web ☐ Facebook ☐ Poster ☐ PVA ☐ BIAMI ☐ Rolling Thunder ☐ Other

Veteran Information (Check all that apply)

☐ Army ☐ Navy ☐ Marines ☐ Air Force ☐ Coast Guard ☐ National Guard

☐ Purple Heart ☐ VA Disabled Veteran _____ % VA Rating Required ☐ POW ☐ Active Duty

Combat Service in _____

☐ Gold Star Family Member. Service Member's Name _____

T-Shirt Size: ☐ M ☐ L ☐ XL ☐ XXL ☐ XXXL

☐ I or my family member attending require handicap accessible parking and provisions. If you have special needs, please convey to tournament staff upon applying for tournament participation to ensure optimum level of support for your stay.

☐ I request consideration for financial assistance funding to help offset travel/lodging expenses.

Please indicate previous years you have participated in the **TIGHT LINES** Boat Division ☐ 2013 ☐ 2014 ☐ 2015

Mail to: Tight Lines Applications
P. O. Box 274
Manistee, MI 49660

Fax form to: (231) 398.4013
or Email to: renegade22@att.net
Questions: Bob Guenthardt at (231) 723.3282

Application needs to be received by March 1st, 2016

Team members will be selected and all applicants notified of their status no later than April 1st.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

October/November/December 2015

Volume 83 Number 2

From the Editor

We are still working out some bugs, but it is coming along.

District Commanders and District Presidents, please send in your articles. We need to know what is going on in your districts. Please have them in by the deadline of Feb., 1, 2016.

If you want a hard copy, send your address to Scott Gloger, 6718 Academy Brighton, MI 48116.

Or you can email your request to mov@vfwmi.org. Please use this email address- the one in the Department Roster Book is no longer a working email.

Have a good and safe Holiday Season.

Scott Gloger, MOV Editor



Judy Bolton

FOR THE
OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT
GUARD

June 2016



Mike Fineis

FOR THE
OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT
JR. VICE
COMMANDER

June 2016

Supported by Post & Auxiliary 701

Supported by Post & Auxiliary 3701

Phil Patterson

FOR THE
OFFICE OF
JR. VICE
COMMANDER

2016-2017



Phil Merrow

FOR THE
OFFICE OF
DEPARTMENT
JUDGE
ADVOCATE

2016-2017

*Supported and Endorsed by
District 4, Post 6695,
and his wife and family*

*Endorsed and supported by: District 4,
Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW, Post 6695*

STATE COMMANDER

Comrades and sisters. Time is going by too fast. I want to thank everyone for giving me the chance to lead such a great state. It has been a busy couple of months traveling the state; meeting a lot of great members. Recently my wife and I have been visiting the Upper Peninsula, getting to meet everyone, visiting your post, and just enjoying the beautiful scenery. We also headed out to Iowa to attend the Big Ten conference, the conference itself was very informative, the flying squadron was very good, and the national officer did a great job.

Michigan Day's was held at the National home and we had a good turnout. The crew from Ohio did the cooking, while everyone relaxed and enjoyed themselves. The State of Michigan was the winner over Ohio by donating the most money, and while at the Big Ten I challenged the other departments to see who could donate the most money to the national home. The winner would win a bucket of booze.

Now that the fall conference is behind us, I would like to thank everyone who attended and it is my hope that everyone enjoyed themselves. We have some business matters to go over...

I did not relieve any post commanders that missed their last district meeting, but this round if you or your representative fails to attend a district meeting; the post commander will be relieved of his duties.

It has come to my attention that the Commander's roster is not updated to date with the most current information. I am asking all Commanders to update their phone number and email addresses, it is imperative that your district commander, the state office, or I be able to get ahold of you. Also please be conscious of checking your emails.

Membership is a little behind, however I know that we can pick up the pace a little and get the department on top. The offer is still out there if your post



Paul McIvor
State Commander

is 100% your name will go in for drawing for an all expense trip with everything included; BUT the department has to be at 100%. So please try a little harder and keep pushing to reach the goal. Let's keep up with the reporting and make the great state of Michigan stand out.

Lastly one of the issues that currently is a hot button is a bill that is before the House of Representatives, bill number 4642. This bill will do a lot of damage to our trust fund if passed. I am asking for everyone to write their Representative and tell them not to vote for this bill.

Before you know it the Mid-Winter Conference will be here, and I am looking forward to seeing all of our students vie for a trip to Washington D.C., a national scholarship, and the chance to represent our department. We are very lucky and blessed to have so many great students' working hard on their essays. It will be good to see all of the families there supporting their children. Good luck to all posts.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for their hospitality shown to my wife and myself as we continue to travel all across this beautiful state of ours. I look forward to seeing all of the great comrades and sisters, may God bless each and every one. May God bless our troops serving and may God bless the United States of America.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much." Helen Keller

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MID-WINTER
CONFERENCE

January 20-24, 2016