

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



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

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Where do we want to be one year from now? As we ask ourselves that question, we should be focusing on the goals that we set for ourselves. Goals that we, as an organization, can achieve. All Commanders need to have a plan for their year in office. If you do not have a plan, you will go nowhere. Our organization needs to grow. We need to promote all of our programs. We need more campers at Camp Trotter, more students in the VOD and Patriot's Pen contest, more students in the Freedom Academy; the list goes on and on. As officers at the Post, District and Department level we need to plan and implement those plans that will better serve our organization for the future. We cannot keep going down the same paths, year after year, and expect good things to come from them. Now is the time to act. Now is the time to move forward.

How many of you have never been to a Department function or meeting? The Department tries to hold meetings in dif-

**Kirk
Kennedy**
Senior
Vice Commander



ferent areas of the state, so that everyone can attend at least one function in a year's time. When we come to a location that is near where you live, please consider joining us for a day or just a few hours. The information that we provide can be beneficial to you and your families, the benefits that you are entitled to receive or how to go about applying for your benefits. All of our directors are in attendance at these meetings. We are there to serve our veterans.

Let us all do a good job this year for our organization and for our Commander Jack Pray. The programs will not work themselves, so dig in and involve yourselves. Begin today and by the end of your year, you will find success. VETERANS SERVING VETERANS.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

A new year is beginning for our great organization; the officers that you have elected at the Post, District and Department level have been sworn in and started on the work that you have elected them to do. Please help them to reach their goals. Only as a team working together can we keep this organization on track. Take the time to pass on to the new members in your Post and District what you have learned from those that preceded you, and continue to pass on your love for this great organization.

To the award winners at the Department Convention, you should be proud of what you have done within your Post and District. To the ALL-STATE Commanders and the ALL-AMERICAN winners – job well done!!!!

Membership, comrades. Where do we start? Last year we started with 58,887 members from the year before. That was your goal for 100% last year. We ended the year at 56,108 members, which is down 2,779 members. In the last four years we have dropped more than 11,000 members off of our roster. We're out recruiting new members, but are still having a problem keeping the members we already have. The VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, as a whole, is down to 1,445,550 members. It's time to

**Ron
Devereaux**
Junior
Vice Commander



step up to the plate, comrades, before it's too late.

Remember that the Ladies and Men's Auxiliaries are a part of our organization and here to help us. Over the last year in my travels around the Department, I noticed Posts were fighting with their Auxiliaries. Remember all the great work they have done for our organization and will continue to do.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the comrades who supported me for this office. I will work hard to serve you and listen to what you have to say, for the strength of this organization starts with each member, through you to your Post, and on up to National.

Comrades, someone once said that we start life as many people, but end it as only one. May that person you are looking at in the end bring you peace and joy; WITH THE HOPE THAT YOU BROUGHT PEACE AND JOY TO MANY MORE ALONG THE WAY.

Reach out and help all Veterans and their families.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

After the last *MOV* was published, a change took place concerning the Ladies Auxiliary and their reporting of Community Service work. I received a communication from Steve Van Buskirk, which indicated that the Ladies Auxiliary will continue to report their activities as they have been doing. The Departments will consolidate the reports twice per year and report to our National Headquarters.

The Department of Michigan 2011-2012 Roster has been mailed to the Post Commanders. Each Post will receive three rosters; one for the Commander, one for the Adjutant and one for the Quartermaster. The dedication this year acknowledges the 10th anniversary of the attacks on the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and the crash of Flight 93 in Pennsylvania. We must not forget what these extremists did to us.

The new Podium Edition of the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual will be out in November. There are new changes to the Bylaws that you will need for reference. Order the 2012 now, and National will mail the book as soon as they are printed. Refer-

**Rob
Weiss**
State Adjutant/
Quartermaster



ence your Emblems and Supply Catalog for cost or go online. Make sure you order the 2012 edition.

As you all are aware, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is struggling financially. Remember all of the net proceeds for the membership mailings come back to the Department of Michigan for use with our programs. You may wish to donate only one time per year and receive labels, calendars and other fundraising items from National's mailings. You may do so by contacting the Development Department in Kansas City. You may direct your correspondence to Kelly Jones by mail at VFW National Headquarters, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111 or by e-mail to KellyJones@vfw.org. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

You can reach me by e-mail at vfwmi@vfwmi.org

JUDGE ADVOCATE

First and foremost, I would like to say "Thank You!" to everyone that supported me for the office of Judge Advocate. As I said in Troy, I will work with Commander Pray and the rest of the staff with the utmost dedication and to the best of my ability, helping keep the Department of Michigan functioning as smoothly as possible.

We have all heard, "no job's finished till the paperwork is done." While that may have some funny connotations, it also has serious overtones. It's not only important to make sure our records and papers are kept safe, but also accessible. If you haven't already done so, a copy of your DD-214 should be submitted and recorded by your County Clerk. Then it would be wise to choose a special person whom is trusted to know where they are kept, and also be up to speed on a "what

**Andy
Conklin**
Judge Advocate



if" scenario. How many times have we witnessed family members frantically trying to find DD-214s, marriage certificates and insurance papers after there's an incident? This causes even more unnecessary stress and grief to all.

As veterans, we are all entitled to special benefits. There are many good pamphlets outlining them and also providing specific instructions on what to do, "just in case." Take the time to put something together. You will feel good about it and help avoid somebody having a very stressful situation to deal with down the road!!!



CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

It was a blessing to speak with so many of you at the past Department Convention. We come from varied backgrounds and perspectives – different faith groups, political beliefs and ideologies. Still, as members of the VFW and/or its Auxiliaries, we are united by a great and worthy cause – care and concern for veterans, current service-members and their families.

Earlier this year, when attending a local veteran's group social, a comrade asked me, "I see your pin; do you belong to the VFW?" I responded that I did and mentioned my Post. He replied that he thought about joining, but did not want to...saying, "Why? They just sit around and drink all day." I explained that some Posts serve alcohol and some do not. Also, some people drink and some do not and that is okay. Every Post and every person is different and while people may or may not drink, there is much more to the VFW. What brings us together is the commitment to fellow veterans, those now serving, and their families. We do so at all levels of the organization, as do our dedicated Auxiliaries. Whether hosting a job fair, advocating for veterans with the VA or at the legislature, sending care packages overseas, donating funds to youth programs, helping Camp Trotter, serving a meal or lending an ear...it goes on and on. The conversation ended with me inviting him to join and he giving the matter further thought.

Jennifer Smith
State Chaplain



That comrade's question might be one you are also asking yourself. Why do we belong to the VFW? What does the VFW stand for? Are we giving back (as we are able)? These are personal questions for each of us to consider. With my response to that veteran, I reminded myself of the true importance of providing care to others within the veteran community and was/am pleased to be a member of an organization that prizes the same.

As 1 Peter 4:10 states, we each have something that we can contribute, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." The Bible's Old and New Testaments and the Hebrew Tanakh include many other verses that show the significance of service unto others. If from another faith group/belief system, the value of giving is equally clear. Therefore, I contend that this VFW family of service, as different and unique we are individually and as Posts, are indeed representative of the highest American ideals. With that in mind, please continue to give as you can and you will make a positive difference in the lives of others.

May God bless you.

Department Service Officer SUCCESS STORY

From time to time we hold seminars pertaining to veteran's benefits, and in June of 2003 we met a former sailor who presented a unique problem.

The veteran indicated that he had previously been granted service connection for a debilitating right arm condition at a 50% evaluation from 1998. As a result, he was put on a Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL).

In conversing with the veteran who was wheelchair bound, we found out that he had suffered a stroke while (TDRL). He filed a claim for the residuals of AVM, but was denied in 1983 or '84 – he couldn't remember. It appears that the reason for the decision was that this condition was a congenital defect and that it had pre-existed active service.

Our staff member advised the veteran that we would like to take a look at his case. We told him that the VFW would represent him and that we would review his VA Claims folder.

After a review of the file, we submitted a claim for direct service-connection, only to have it denied once again in

September of 2005. We appealed that decision and requested a personal hearing, which was conducted in June of 2008. During the testimony, it was found that the veteran suffered a left eye injury on active duty and was subsequently treated for it.

The Board of Veterans Appeals' offered its finding on January 9, 2009, stating that an arteriovenous malformation (AVM) or related disorder was not recorded in the veteran's February 1980 service entrance examination report. Therefore, the veteran was presumed to have been in sound condition with respect to this disability at service entrance.

The BVA nevertheless found that the evidence of record clearly and unmistakably demonstrates the veteran's AVM is a congenital defect and as such, by its nature, pre-existed active service. In this regard, at the request of the BVA, the veteran's claims file was reviewed by an independent medical expert (IME) specializing in neurology. In a detailed and extensive report received by the BVA in September 2008, the IME opined, "(a)

SUCCESS, continued on page 3

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

In April of 2010 the way we do business changed dramatically when a Coalition of five Veterans Service Organization aligned to petition the State of Michigan for grants that helped found our delivery of service. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The American Legion, Disabled America Veterans, Marine Corps League and Military Order of The Purple Heart, entered into an agreement that we would provide the best service possible with the resources allocated by the issuance of three grants.

The VFW took the Coalition lead after the grants were issued, and it has been a very interesting time for all of us. In taking the lead, we have cooperated with all parties to better equip our staff and assist our returning veteran population. We have come a long way from where we were to where we are today. Rome was not built in a day, and this network that we are trying to create will not be either.

As a Coalition, we have had attending training classes together, have shared information together, and worked together in order to make sure that we are good stewards of the appropriations that have been awarded through the grant process.

At this very moment we are in the process of petitioning the State of Michigan for new grants that will begin on October 1, 2011. It appears that there will be four grants, and once again, the Coalition will apply for the four available grants. It is the Coalition's firm belief that the Coalition can adequately provide

Dan Crocker

State Service Officer



a higher level of expertise and professionalism than anyone in our line of advocacy.

We continue to face the backlog of claims; the timeliness of decisions rendered by the VA and, of course, the long appellate process. In 2006, the backlog in the appeals section was 1,272 cases. Today, it is rapidly approaching 6,000! In an effort to try and reduce that number, the Coalition is trying to avoid the appellate process by addressing the actual issue of why a claim may have been denied.

For instance, it could have been denied because some evidence or a report may not be part of the record, or maybe the veteran failed to report for an evaluation, or perhaps a medical opinion would help. So, instead of submitting a Notice of Disagreement, if we secured the evidence, or find that the veteran was willing to report for an evaluation, we would be ahead of the game. So we are aggressively looking for the obvious, that a simple fix may get the issue resolved. We want to do this within six months of the decision or earlier, so that we do not miss the appeal period of one year from the notice of denial.

Don't get me wrong – there are times that an appeal is necessary and we will do it when it is, in fact, necessary.

New Assistant State Field Service Officer

Isaac J. Callahan was hired as an Assistant State Service Officer on August 1, 2011, and will be stationed at the VA Regional Office in Detroit, with frequent trips in the field. Mr. Callahan served in the United States Army with a tour in Kosovo in 2002 and in Iraq 2003. Among his many awards, he received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War On Terrorism Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge to name a few. He is a member of VFW Post 1669.

Prior to his hiring, Isaac attended Oakland Community College where he

received an Associates of Arts in Social Work in 2009 and a Bachelor of Arts from Oakland University in 2011 with a major in Psychology. While at school, he was a member of the Student Veterans of America.

Daniel J. Crocker, Director of Veterans Service, indicated that the education that Isaac has received would be a welcome addition to the expertise of our staff.

Isaac resides in the Oakland County area.



New Assistant State Field Service Officer

Christopher A. Macinkowicz was hired as an Assistant State Service Officer on July 25, 2011 and will be stationed at the VA Regional Office in Detroit, with frequent trips in the field. Mr. Macinkowicz served in the United States Army with two tours of duty in Iraq. Among his awards he received the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Global War On Terrorism Service medal, Iraq Campaign Medal and Combat Action Badge, to name a few. At the current time, Chris is a Member-at-Large with the VFW.

Prior to his hiring, Chris attended

Western Michigan University majoring in Political Science and The Art Institute of Michigan. He plans to further his education in the very near future.

Daniel J. Crocker, Director of Veterans Service stated that this young veteran's ability to grasp the concepts of the VA entitlement programs will enable him to advance quickly through the learning curve as he navigates the complexities of VA law.

Chris resides in the Macomb area.



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SUCCESS, continued from page 2

cerebral AVM should be regarded as a congenital defect of the intracranial vasculature and is not an acquired disorder. The cerebral AVM is considered to develop in the human brain during fetal or early post-natal life...it can and should be assumed that the AVM in the veteran's brain pre-existed military service." Furthermore, in a December 2008 statement, a VA neurologist, indicated to be the Chief of Neurology Section at a VA Medical Center, concurred in the IME's opinion. For these reasons, the BVA found that the veteran's AVM clearly and unmistakably pre-existed his active service.

As to the question of aggravation, the BVA noted that the September 2008 IME opinion includes a finding that there exists clear and unmistakable evidence that the veteran's AVM was not aggravated beyond its normal progression during active military service. However, the BVA observes the IME uncharacteristically did not provide a rationale or basis for this aspect of his opinion, but rather provided only a one-word answer to the question posed. By contrast, the VA neurologist noted that, while he knows of no evidence supporting either conclusion, "it is certainly conceivable that the AVM could have been influenced by the blow to the left eye (in a July 1980 injury)." In weighing these differing opinions, the BVA noted that both physicians were highly qualified and highly credentialed in their fields, but that only the VA neurologist provided an underlying rationale for his opinion on this critical point. As such, the BVA found that there is not clear and unmistakable evidence to establish that the veteran's AVM was not aggravated beyond its normal progression during active service. Therefore, the presumption of sound condition upon entry into service is not rebutted, and the veteran is presumed to have been in sound condition upon entering service.

If the government fails to rebut the presumption of soundness under 38 USCA §1111, the veteran's claim is one for service connection. This means that no deduction for the degree of disability existing at the time of entrance will be made if a rating is awarded.

Service medical records indicate the veteran sought treatment approximately seven months after entrance into active service for headaches, tenderness to the temple and chronic reflex sympathetic dystrophy of the right upper extremity. In this regard, an October 1980 service treatment record indicates the veteran complained of headaches from a left eye injury in approximately June 1980, with no visible trauma. Furthermore, a January 1981 neurological examination showed evidence of extreme weakness and mild atrophy of all right hand muscles,

including thenar and hypothenar eminence. At a February 1981 neurological examination, the veteran was diagnosed as having reflex sympathetic dystrophy.

The IME opined that there is a greater than 50% probability that all in-service symptomatology reported by the veteran was causally related to his cerebral AVM. Again, the VA neurologist concurred in his December 2008 opinion. Yet, upon clinical evaluation at entrance into service, no disability or symptomatology now known to have been attributable to his AVM was noted. The competent medical evidence demonstrates that the veteran was essentially in good health upon entry into service, and underwent a dramatic increase in symptomatology and superimposed AVM-related disease processes several months after entrance into active service. As such, the BVA found, consistent with the December 2008 VA neurologist's opinion, while the veteran's cerebral AVM is a congenital defect, it cannot be ruled out that the AVM underwent an increase in severity due to superimposed disease and/or injury during service, resulting in chronic disability, to include a post-service stroke and craniotomy.

The record clearly indicates that the veteran's AVM clearly and unmistakably preexisted service, but does not clearly and unmistakably indicate the veteran's condition was not aggravated beyond its normal progression during active service, so the presumption of soundness applies. The medical experts who have addressed this matter have found that the veteran did experience worsening manifestations of his AVM during service, and that the veteran's in-service chronic reflex sympathetic dystrophy of the right upper extremity, and stroke and resulting hemiplegia shortly after service, were manifestations of his AVM and related disease processes. In light of the December 2008 opinion of the Chief of Neurology at a VA Medical Center, the government did not meet its evidentiary burden of showing that the AVM clearly and unmistakably did not worsen beyond natural progress during active service, and it is clear that a dramatic worsening of symptoms did take place several months into active service. The BVA concluded that all benefit of the doubt be ruled in favor of the veteran, and the BVA found that service connection for residuals of a stroke, status post craniotomy with removal of left cerebral AVM, was granted.

What started out as a seminar in 2003, finished six years later in 2009 with a retroactive award of \$109,000 to the veteran! The overall success of this story is that the Advocate listened to what the veteran had to say, and then got it on record with a personal hearing.

New Assistant State Field Service Officer

Shawn M. Wilson was hired as an Assistant State Service Officer on July 11, 2011 and will be stationed at the VA Regional office in Detroit, with frequent trips to the field. Mr. Wilson served in the United States Army with a tour in Iraq. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal and Iraq Campaign Medal. He is currently a Member-at-Large with the VFW. He graduated from Southern Connecticut University in 2002 with a B.S. in

Communication Management.

"Prior to his hiring with the VFW, Shawn worked in a supervisory capacity for 10 years and brings a number of leadership skills that will be a valuable asset for many years to come", stated Daniel J. Crocker, Director of Veterans Service.

Shawn resides in the downriver area.



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Phil Merrow
District 4 Commander



Comrades, Sisters and Brothers of District 4,

I would like to start out this article by thanking the 4th District for your support and confidence in electing me as your District Commander for the 2011-2012 year. I look forward to working with all of the Post Commanders in the District. Remember that your District officers are always available if you have questions or concerns. We have had a small issue with the District Web site and hopefully, by the time this article comes out, we will have it back up and running.

Congratulations to Sharon Lewinski for being elected as District 4 Ladies Auxiliary President. Even though we didn't know each other when we were elected as the District 4 Jr. Vices, I now think of us as family and we work very well together. Our first big project, the Vietnam Moving Wall in Westland, was a huge success. I look forward to a fulfilled productive year with you and your officers. The 4th District Ladies Auxiliary made \$330.00 working the popcorn/ice cream concession at the National Home for Children. I am so proud of your achievement.

During the Department Convention in Troy, Post Commanders from 1136, 1888 and 2233 received All-State Commander awards. Congratulations and great job! I know that you worked hard with your Posts to achieve this award. Past District Commander Ron Allen and James Europe Post 2233 Commander Isaac Blair received 1st Place for the District and Post that had the most new and reinstated members.

District 4 has adopted a two-mile stretch

of I-75 between Vreeland and West roads. We had our first cleanup on 9 and 10 July 2011. There was a good showing from the District, and I hope when we do it again on 24 and 25 September, we have an even better turnout. We learned a lot during this first cleanup effort. Everyone who participated did an outstanding job, even though the temperature was in the low 90s both days. You can see photos of the event on our Facebook page (VFW DISTRICT 4). While we were cleaning the northbound side of I-75, one of the teams found a wallet belonging to a young lady from Flat Rock. The wallet was turned over to the Flat Rock Police Department and they returned it to her.

On 23 July 2011 we had our annual joint District 4 and 5 VFW Training Seminar. Thank you to the Hubert-Fortiers-O'Grady Post 345 for allowing us to hold the seminar there. We also had our District picnic on 20 August 2011; thank you to Mayflower-Lt. Gamble VFW Post 6695 for being the host Post.

District Meeting dates are as follows:

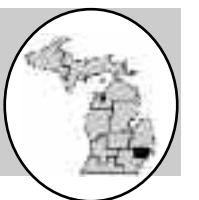
- 11 Sept 2011 Post 78 Dearborn Heights, 12 Noon
- 13 Nov 2011 Post 2233 Detroit, 12 Noon
- 12 Feb 2012 Post 7575 Garden City, 12 Noon
- 5 May 2012 Post 1136 Wyandotte, 12 Noon

Before ending my article, my wife, Sandi, and I would like to personally thank Past District 4 Commander Ron Allen and his First Lady, Debbie. Your friendship and guidance over the past three years has meant so much to us. Thank you.



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

John Bond
District 5 Commander



Comrades of the 5th District,

Welcome to a New VFW Year. I would like to congratulate all newly-elected and appointed officers of the 5th District. I am looking forward to working with each and everyone during the 2011-2012 year. I would like to thank Past District Commander James Galen for all his assistance in preparing me for my upcoming year as Commander of the 5th District.

MEMBERSHIP IS OUR NUMBER

ONE GOAL.

We must continue our monthly reporting and donations to all VFW Programs. Remember reporting is very important to continue our nonprofit status.

District meeting dates are as follows:

- August 25, 2011: New Baltimore Post 7573
 - November 6, 2011: Wixom Post 2269
 - February 12, 2012: Bruce Post 1146
 - April 29, 2012: Southfield Post 2645
- See you at the meeting.

**SUPPORT
OUR
TROOPS**



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Richard Schroeder
District 6 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

Please let me extend my heartfelt thanks for expressing your confidence in me, as evidenced by your electing me as your Commander for 2011-12. We are already off to a good start. Our Planning Meeting was held on June 26, 2011 at Ann Arbor's Graf O'Hara Post 423. The agenda included developing the Post visitation schedule; deputy inspector assignments for Post inspections; Charitable Gaming assignments; and also the distribution of All State, VOD, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year packets.

We are also beginning to plan out a Web site for District 6. If you have any ideas or suggestions as to what you would like to see on your Web site, please contact Richard Rountree, Commander of the Milan VFW Post 5977 at rick@dundee.net or 734-223-6327.

District 6 and Ladies Auxiliary Meetings will be held at the following locations on these dates:

- | | | |
|---------|--------|--|
| 12/3/11 | 10 - 2 | Fowlerville Post 6464
Pearl Harbor Ceremony |
| 2/4/12 | 10 - 2 | Brighton Post 4357
VOD, Patriot's Pen,
Teacher of the
Year Awards |
| 5/5/12 | 10 - 2 | Lansing Post 701
Memorial Day
Ceremony |

Meeting times may be subject to change. You will be notified if this occurs. You may also check the Web site at www.vfwmi.org under "Veteran News and Events" for announcements of District 6 meetings.

Post Deputy Inspectors are reminded to complete their inspections as soon as possible and submit them to Marshall Westover, District Deputy Inspector. If

you have not had your inspection completed by your August meeting date, it is up to the Commanders to contact Marshall Westover, 1292 Strasberg Road, Monroe, MI 48161 or e-mail him at westoverb@sbcglobal.net or phone him at 734-242-3213.

Roy Hamilton, our District Membership Chairman, has been actively recruiting in Monroe County and utilizing the VFW Display Tent. He is prepared and willing to continue these activities in all six counties of the District. Please contact him at either 734-850-3112 or 734-717-4551 to set up a recruitment time.

Posts, such as Ann Arbor VFW 423, are working with other veterans' organizations to show their communities what the VFW provides for them. Actions speak louder than words and result in veterans joining to help in this cause. I encourage all Posts to remain committed to recruiting new members.

I should have visited all of the Posts in the District by October 6, 2011. My Post visitations have enabled me to see your Post operations up close, develop friendships with Post officers, understand your concerns and problems, and thus be better able to channel the District assets to best meet your needs.

We want to actively recruit and assist our Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. According to the VA, suicides among these young veterans are at epidemic proportions. Please reach out to them.

I am proud of all of you and encourage you to contact me regarding any questions or concerns that you might have at the Post level.

Best wishes to all of you in the upcoming year. Continue to March and I'll see you on the Objective!



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Kevin Conklin
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

Congratulations to all of the outgoing Commanders for a great year. To all incoming Commanders, we have a lot of work ahead of us. There are still many Posts out there that are struggling financially, and others for various reasons, are not submitting required reports. We need to work together to assist these struggling Posts with fresh and new ideas. I have heard that some of the older comrades may feel threatened by the younger guys coming in and taking things over. In my opinion, each comrade, no matter what branch of service or where he or she served, has something to offer. Be open to those ideas and be willing to try something new. If we keep status quo, we will not have a VFW in the future. Look outside the VFW to see what others are doing to raise money and get new members. In case you have not noticed, there are many other veteran organizations popping up around the country. What is wrong with joining the VFW? I have a few ideas and one I already mentioned above. If a day goes by and you are not thinking of ways to improve this organization, then it will no longer be as good as it is right now.

As far as recruiting younger members, think about getting a Web site and a Facebook account. This is the age of technology and potential members are on the Web. Once you have these tools, keep them up-to-date. Nothing is more frustrating than to go to a Web site and the meeting dates are from the previous year. Make it easy for them to join our great organization. There are a few Posts/Districts that are already on board with this.

One other suggestion is to start cleaning house and be your own person. We, as a veteran's organization, need to start treating each other like comrades. There are members, who will at any price, cause trouble for comrades that don't agree with them. It seems these same members are the ones that have no interest in the VFW as a whole. They are only concerned for themselves or their canteen. Others will sit back and say nothing when they see wrong. They are just as guilty for the maltreatment. They don't want to rock the boat. I say, rock the boat, and do what is right for the VFW.

I would like to formally thank everyone in the 7th District for having the confidence in me to be your District Commander. I know we will have a great year.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Jerry Lee Smith, Jr.
District 8 Commander



Comrades, we are looking at an exciting upcoming year and I am looking forward to working with all of our District Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents.

We have many things we need to accomplish. We need, as always, to work on membership, both with our continuous members and also recruiting new members. Remember that membership is what makes us strong and gives us our voice in congress, so that we may continue to help our veterans.

I am looking forward to working with Holly and all of the ladies in our District. Holly has already had her planning meeting and has many new ideas to help our District excel. I am a firm believer in the TEAM EFFORT concept and we, the VFW, are a team with our Auxiliaries and those within our community who help us accomplish those programs that assist our veterans. I look forward to a busy year working with all of our team players.

To all of my Post Commanders: I want to remind you that you or a representative of your Post must attend the District meetings. I know that some schedules may not let you attend, but I find it hard to believe that not one member can make the meetings. As I said, I am a big believer in the team concept - and how can we be a team if you are not represented at our District meetings to get the information that needs to be passed on to our members? It does not look good on

us as a District, when our state representatives come to our meetings to pass on to us information and guidance from our State Commander, and they look out at empty chairs.

I am going to strive to make our District number one in the state, but I can't do it without the help of my Commanders and all of our members. I am not asking you to do anything I would not, or could not, do. I know it is an awesome task, but I am sure we as a team can accomplish any goals that we choose to set.

I am and will be available to all of our members. My e-mail is jerryismith@chartermi.net and my cell is 616-293-7544. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and any plans that you think may help our District. Remember I am here to help you and our District and no one person can do it all; once again, I refer to the team concept.

I look forward to serving you in the upcoming year and I know we can excel.

Don't forget our District Meetings: November 5th at 7581, February 4th at 3023 and elections May 5th at 6252. Looking forward to seeing you there.

There will be a joint Chaplains meeting at 10:00 at the November meeting. Please try to get your Chaplains to attend. Don't forget the Fall Conference at Shanty Creek and National Convention in San Antonio.

Thanks for letting me serve you.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Phil Patterson
District 9 Commander



Greetings my fellow Comrades,

I would first like to thank each and every one of you for placing your trust and confidence in me. I am both proud and honored to represent you as your District Commander for the coming year. Congratulations to all elected and appointed officers. I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you. I would also like to congratulate Past District Commander Ron Devereaux on becoming our Department Jr. Vice Commander.

A little about me: I joined the Army in 1987 served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom III. I retired as a Master Sergeant from the Michigan Army National Guard in May of 2010. I am married and have three daughters.

Comrades, my goal is to work and support you as a team player. If you will be a part of this team we will meet our responsibilities successfully in supporting our State Commander Jack Pray and our goal of Veterans Serving Veterans. I would like to ask your assistance in getting your Hospital and Activities reports done and turned into the proper Chairman by the 10th of each month. This can be done by paper or electronically. Either way, I strongly urge you to keep a copy for yourself.

Membership is a must for this great organization. Last year we fell a little short of our goal, but let's all work

together this year to reach that 100% goal.

Comrades, each of us have joined the VFW and have accepted the positions that we hold today. I, as your District Commander, nor your Department, should have to beg you for your audits, inspections reports, district dues, election reports, or to make sure you are properly bonded. When these items are due, please get them to their proper destination. It is my duty to ensure that each Post in the 9th District is in compliance. I believe that every Post in our District, along with every Commander, is willing and able to do this. If you are unsure of to whom or where reports go, ask a Past District Commander or myself. Like I said earlier, I am here for you.

I would like to thank all of our female veterans from every branch of the service; past, present and future. I personally salute you for your service, sacrifice and your courage. I do not think that our female veterans are getting the recognition that they so deserve. So far, we have had 240 female U.S. soldiers injured and 33 killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I would like to congratulate all of the Commanders who reached the status of being an All-State Commander.

The following dates are the 2011-2012 year District Meetings:

August 6, 2011

Corunna Post 4005

School of instruction (Protocol)

DISTRICT 9, continued from page 4

November 12, 2011
Owosso Post 9455
School of Instruction (Reporting)
February 11, 2012
St. Louis Post 3055
School of Instruction
(Election eligibility/requirements)
May 12, 2012
Belding Post 4406
School of Instruction
(Membership Recruiting/Retention)
All meetings are at 1:00 p.m. School

of Instruction is subject to change without notice.
I hope to see all the Commanders or their representatives at all these meetings. The Department Commander has told all Commanders that there will be no excuses. Someone is there, or the Post Commander will be relieved.
I may be contacted at 616-755-3176 or by e-mail at philvfw12082@rocketmail.com
Thank you, Comrades. Work hard and have fun. Remember: Army Strong.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Stu Billey
District 10 Commander



Comrades and Sisters of District 10,
Let me start by thanking everyone in District 10 for allowing me to hold this office and to congratulate all newly-elected Post commanders.

By the time this is published, most of the summer will have passed. I would like to remind all Post Commanders that it is required for you, or a representative from your Post, to attend all District meetings. I would like to see new members attend District meetings to help generate interest in becoming future District Officers. The meetings are as follows:

- November 13, 2011 Flint Post 3087
School of Instruction: Quartermaster and Trustees at 10 a.m.
- February 11, 2012 Davison Post 4087
School of Instruction: TBD
- May 13, 2012 Algonac Post 3901
School of Instruction: Service Officer at 10 a.m.

All meetings start at 1 p.m.

Soon it will be time for the Fall Conference to arrive. I would like to see as many members from the 10th as possible at this conference. The connections and friendships that are made at these events are

irreplaceable.

One aspect that I would like to see out of the 10th is for every Post to have their reports completed every month. It is sad to see Posts report two or three times, or even worse, submit no reports the whole year. Every Post should report once a month. This is what shows that we are keeping up our nonprofit status.

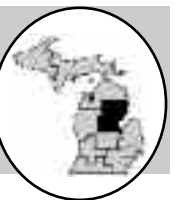
The other area we must work on is the same one that is focused on every year: membership. We must go out into our communities, find the younger veterans, and talk to them. We cannot maintain our Posts without bringing in new members. The ultimate goal is for each Post to reach over 100% every year. We need to start recruiting now during the warmer months, because it's hard to get out when there is three feet of snow all around us. Please do not hesitate to contact the District to help support your Post in recruitment efforts.

I will close by saying that I am looking forward to working with all of you this incoming year and to attend your Post meetings. Let's show the Department of Michigan that the 10th District will lead the way this year.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Ralph Dady
District 11 Commander



Well Comrades, this is the start of a new year. We are just getting ready for our first District meeting. I hope this goes well.

I was just looking at our statistics in membership and donations. They are not very good so far.

New Commanders: let's get busy and get our Posts into the swing of things. All officer and chairman jobs are done by volunteers who want to work for something that is very important for their com-

munity, their Post and themselves.

We are here to serve others, not ourselves. We are not talking a full-time job, but a chance to take a few hours a week and turn them into pleasure and self-respect.

I would like to see a little more work done, but have fun doing it. Bring back the pride, honor and respect to our organization that at one time we all loved, or we would not have joined.

With all my loyalty and respect.



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Virginia McGowan
District 12 Commander



Greetings,

I would like to thank Past Commander Stanley Preidis for doing such a great job representing the mighty 12th District and his continuous help to me this year. The 12th has been lucky in having such dedicated comrades and sisters to fill the shoes of officers. I'm looking forward to serving this year alongside these Past Commanders/sisters and President Beth Plont.

I have been out visiting the Posts of the 12th District, and so many are very active within their communities. I hope you remember to send in your reports on time to Department. By the time you receive this, we should be ready for our first District meeting at Pentwater Post 6017, on September 11th. We will be having our POW/MIA ceremony at 11 a.m. Meetings

for the rest of the year will be November 13, 2011 at Baldwin Post 5315; March 11, 2012 at Montague Post 3256; and May 6, 2012 at Muskegon Post 446. All this information, along with addresses, will be given to the Post Commanders at the planning meeting or first District meeting.

My apologies to Arthur Dahlstedt from Post 446 for your name appearing in *TAPS*; we hope and pray you are still doing well.

Membership is very important for our great organization, as is the member. I hope each Commander will encourage their membership to recruit new members and strive for 100%.

Finally, I want to thank everyone for their support.



DISTRICT 13 REPORT

Donald Owens
District 13 Commander



Comrades,

First, let me say a hearty hello to all the Posts in District 13. A District Commander can only be effective and successful if he has the support and cooperation of ALL the Posts under his command.

A very big and sincere thank you to all who have accepted the responsibility of officers. You have answered the call to serve...some of you many times! A new year brings even more opportunities to serve our active service men and women, and of course, those who have already served their country honorably. We owe it to these brave men and women, young and old alike! We can be their support and sounding board for help and understanding that only those who have truly experienced military life can provide. We

can help in a crisis, giving hope and a lifeline. We must reach out to our homeless comrades! As fellow comrades, we can do no less! It will be my honor to work with all of you toward our common goal.

Keep in mind this is the time when the District inspectors will be making their visits to your Post. PLEASE have all necessary forms and information completed and ready for these inspectors. We must continue to keep up with all monthly and quarterly reporting, as well as donations to all VFW Programs. Our District meetings will be on the first Saturday in August (6th) at the Emmet County Post 2051, November 5th at the Rogers City Post 607, February 4th at the Emmet County Post 2051, and May 5th at the Ernest G. Shreeves Post 2496. All meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. sharp!



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Richard Rabitaille
District 14 Commander



Comrades,

The 14th District is doing well. Inspections of Posts are ongoing, thanks to Inspectors Rollin Johnson, Steve DeRousha, Sam White, Gerald Polasky and myself. Cooperation of the Posts is wonderful.

The meeting in Marquette was very informative. I have had a rough summer

medically, but hopefully will be able to attend the Fall Conference at Shanty Creek. Posts – make sure to send your MAP pin money to Department.

Congratulations to Jack Pray as our new State Commander, and all the other officers on his staff. Looking forward to a summer of good health to all.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Jack Lillar
District 15 Commander



By the time this issue comes out, we will have had our District Fall Conference and will be at the Department Fall Conference. Congratulations to all of the newly-elected officers and thank you for stepping up and taking a leadership role in your Post and in your District.

Learn all you can about the position to which were elected or appointed. This makes you a better ambassador for our organization. When talking to a prospec-

tive member, concentrate on them and their needs, what the VFW can do for them, and not about you and what you've done. Always be compassionate and understanding. I think that will go a long way in convincing them to join our organization.

Our goals for the year are 100% in membership and 100% in reporting. Remember, with teamwork anything is possible.

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS



September 2011

"Suicide Awareness Month"

The National Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars has declared September as "Suicide Awareness Month." We, as patriots, need to follow through with dedication to instill into the public that this is a very serious situation. Suicide, in any case, is serious and very hard on the family; but we need to educate everyone that active duty soldiers and veterans are committing suicide and the numbers are on the rise. The percentages are climbing, not just for the male soldier but also for the female soldier. The male soldier suicide rate has more than doubled since 2004 from 10 per 100,000 to 22 per 100,000. Last year, when National Guard and reservists' data were included, an average of 25 soldiers killed themselves each month.

Ladies, this is a travesty!

Teardrops is something that National is asking us to wear every day throughout September. The *Teardrops* can also be found on the National Web site at: www.ladiesauxvfw.org

This is a very simple gesture for us to do. Cut the Teardrops out, wear this symbol everyday and when asked what they stand for – have your information ready and talk about it!

Every Minute is Another Opportunity to Serve

PLEASE take the time to go on the following Web sites. All three have a lot of information and data:

www.usatoday.com
www.thetruthsource.org
www.taps.com

There is *hope* for our soldiers and veterans as the Veterans Administration has a 24-hour hot line set up with medically trained personnel. The hotline number is: 1-800-273-8255.

Online address is: <http://suicide>

preventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx. The VFW National Home for Children also has a Help Hotline at 1-800-313-4200.

Suicide Warning Signs

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill oneself.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.
- Talking about being a burden to others.

These signs may mean someone is at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased and if it seems related to a painful event, loss or change.

Suicide is preventable, with Help Comes Hope Call Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

We need to get this information out, not just to the communities, but also to all of the veterans within our Department, to the homeless facilities, and to family members of active duty military personnel.

As Americans, it is our patriotic duty to acknowledge this crisis and as loyal members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars it is our duty to react and...

Step Up – Leave No Veteran Behind

Military Order of the Cootie "Ideas into Reality" "Veteran's First"

By PGC Robert E. Wilson, VFW-Cootie Liaison

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters! Don Martindale (PT-56) and Shirley Feirer (PT-24) were elected as Grand Commander and Grand President in June 2011. Along with them were Harold Wittemore (PT-11), Grand Sr. Vice; Bill Bastian (PT-32), Grand Jr.; Ernest Paulin (PT-32), Grand Quartermaster; Robert E. Wilson (PT-32), Grand Adjutant; Bob Ruthier, Jr. (PT-32), Grand Judge Advocate; John Miller (PT-24), Grand Surgeon; Lowell "Sam" Elston (PT-32), Grand Chaplain; and William "Bill" Beacheau (PT-11), Grand Historian. The installing officer was Past 8th Supreme District Commander Mahlon Breese.

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

77th Tomb Trek 2010 Arlington National Cemetery

The 77th Trek to the Tomb of the Unknown will be held on 4, 5, 6 November 2011. Hotel information and cost of wreaths can be found in the Cootie Courier or on our Web site at LOTCS.org

Speaking of Web sites, you can now download information about the Grand

of Michigan from either the Departments' Web page at www.vfwmi.org or directly to it via mocmi.freehomepage.com. If you use the Department Web page, you will have to max to the bottom and you will see MI Cooties. Click it and it will take you to our Web site.

83rd Grand of Michigan, VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2011

The Cootie Christmas Party is scheduled for December 9 and 10, 2011. The Grand of Michigan could always use a little help with this project. We invite all members, both VFW and Cooties, to dig deep into your pockets and support this great program. Stop by the party and meet Santa and the kids. If you have ever gone to one of these parties, you know the kids have a great time.

Please, when sending your contribution, make your checks out to: Grand of Michigan MOC, and not the National Home or the Department of Michigan. Any donations sent to the Department of Michigan and the National Home will not be forwarded to us. Send donations to: Ernest A. Paulin, Grand Quartermaster, 710 Aldrich Street, Linden, MI 48451-9050 or call him at 810-735-7920. "Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

Harry "Les" Croyle Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Director

Well, comrades, the 2011-2012 year is well on its way. Congratulations to all the newly-elected District officers and appointees. By the time this edition of the *Michigan Overseas Veteran* comes out, you should have your programs up and running.

For those of you that may not know me, my name is Harry "Les" Croyle, and I have been appointed to serve as the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Director by our Department Commander Jack Pray. Jim Galen was appointed as the Assistant Director and Gloria Dobbie is the Ladies Auxiliary Chairman.

By now, all the District Commanders have received two copies of the VOD, PP and TOY programs and they include all the information and forms you may need to pass on to the Post Chairmen to help them make their programs successful. The District Commanders should have presented a booklet to their appointed

chairman. Please make as many copies as you may need to distribute to the Posts in your District.

If your Post cannot afford to do these programs on its own, call a Post close to your location and offer to work together and share expenses. Many times you may even find prospective new Post members by working with these young people, as well as the teachers.

When doing your judging, pay very close attention to the length of all your entries and double check your winners. After Post judging, the timeline gets tighter as we move to District and then on to Department level, with almost no time left to fix errors.

If you have questions about any of the programs, do not hesitate to call your District Chairman and ask for guidance. Of course, Jim and I will be more than happy to assist you if needed.

Thank you all for all you do for our great organization!

PSC Richard "Chic" LaFave and PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. Board of Managers

Here is the latest update at our Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (GRHV): the weather canopy to be built in front of the Home is in the final stages of engineering and the contractor bidding process is in motion. Hopefully, this will become a reality in the next few months and the Home residents will not have to endure inclement weather when they are embarking/disembarking the vehicles.

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette recently raised money in the Annual Golf Outing held at the Red Fox Run Golf Course (K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base). Friends and family of veterans gathered to make up 35 teams from all over the UP and lower Peninsula to tee off and support this worthwhile cause. Over \$120,000.00 has been raised over the past 16 years from this yearly event. The outing acts as a springboard for donations to the Member Assistance Fund throughout the year. During just the last fiscal year, \$26,700.00 was donated to the Member Assistance Fund, and 100% of these donations are used for the benefit of the veterans who live in the Home.

Do you know a veteran who needs nursing care? If you are a veteran, you might be eligible for free nursing home care in one of the two State Veteran's

Homes. Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, or require nursing care because of a service connected disability are eligible. For information about this program, call the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans at 1-906-226-3576, Ext. 350 or the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 1-606-364-5400 or 1-800-MICH VET (642-4838).

During the past several months, many of you have given much needed clothing to our veteran residents at the Homes. The Board of Managers would like to say thank you on behalf of the staff and residents and hope that you will continue to send much needed winter coats, gloves, mittens and stocking hats. The special people that do hundreds of hours of volunteer work at the homes – a huge THANK YOU!!! Without the volunteers, I know that the homes could not exist.

Thank you, Doctor Heron, for your years of dedicated service to our veterans at the D.J. Jacobetti Home in Marquette. Dr. Heron just retired in June of this past year. You will be missed but not forgotten.

In closing, "Chic" LaFave and Ernie Meyers would like to say thank you for all that you have done and will be doing for the veterans (residents) at the two homes.

MICHIGAN STATE VETERANS HOMES

Greetings to All,

I would like to thank Dept. Commander John "Jack" Prey for allowing me to be the National Home Committee Director. Thanks, Jack. I hope everyone that was able to attend Michigan Day at the National Home for

Children had a great time. I would like to

Lloyd D. Schuetz
Veterans Homes
Director



HOME, continued from page 6

thank Kathy Kirby for all her hard work in assisting me in getting the “behind the scenes” tasks done throughout the day. A special thanks to Patti Marriott for her exceptional assistance and advice, and to the great staff at the Home; you know who you are. To Gary “Goofy” Goff and his helpers for the great food and to all the District helpers we had helping during the day’s events. Thank you all. Thank you to all who had cash donations for the National Home again – you know who you are. There’s too many to mention and I wouldn’t want to forget anyone; I hope you all understand. I enjoyed the day and again I hope you all did, as well!!!

If you haven’t heard by now, I started a VFW National Home for Children Life Membership Awards Program this year with the Commander’s permission (please see information below). The membership award is for ANY member. The Post and District awards are for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. You will also get credit if you are using the Internet to send in membership straight to the National Home. There are two types of Life Memberships. The first is for VFW and members of any Auxiliary; and the second is for all others – it’s called an associate membership. Both count!!!

I look forward to helping any and all who ask!!!

VFW National Home 2011-2012 Life Membership Program

To Department Commander Jack Pray and District Commanders for 2011-12:

There will be (3) three awards given out this year for the most Life Memberships to the National Home from June 12, 2011 to the last week in January. All applications and checks must be sent to me at the address listed below, TO GET PROPER CREDIT. You must include your name as Recruiter, Post and District with submission. To be eligible, your applications must be turned in before the start of Mid-Winter’s C of A meeting.

The awards are as follows:

District Award – Valued at \$200.00

Post Award – Valued at \$300.00

Member Award – Valued at \$500.00

So as you can see if you put in the time to get Life Members for the National Home, you and your Post and District can offset the difference if you win in all three categories.

Please remember that Life Memberships can be any person (son, daughter, aunt, uncle or even a friend). They need not be eligible for the VFW or its Auxiliaries.

SO I PUT YOU TO THE TEST. LET’S GET OUT THERE AND SUPPORT THE NATIONAL HOME LIFE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM!!!!

If you have any questions, contact me at the address below and thank you for your support.

Lloyd D. Schuetz, Director
2227 E. Scottwood Avenue
Burton, MI 48529
810-210-1052
E-mail: dorwyn@sbcglobal.net

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2011-2012 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

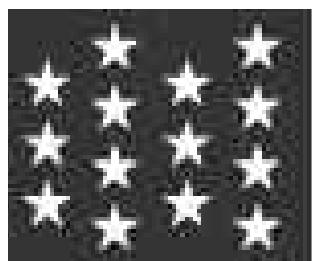
Please Remember!

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

1. Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
2. Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
3. 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.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
7. Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
8. DISTRICT COMMANDERS – Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
9. MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:

MOV Editor
Matt David, editormov@yahoo.com

Auxiliary Editor
Diane Ward, legalblaze@aol.com



STATE POOL LEAGUE

I cannot begin to tell you how great this year’s pool tournament went. Many, many thanks go out to the Lincoln Park VFW Post, workers and officers. A special thanks goes out to Jim Bowers for putting your team together, this being your first time hosting our State Pool Tournament. You ALL did an over the top job! Your hospitality, food and banquet entertainment were GREAT!

The second round of thanks goes out to all the staff members. You all were team members and you all did a great, great job. I’m proud of all of you!

We had a total of 27-1/2 hours of playing time, a total of 341 matches played, 665 games played, 4 forfeits, 9 stalemates, 23 table runs, and 6 break and runs.

I can’t wait to congratulate all the winners! There was a lot of outstanding pool playing this year. You all have to be very proud.

Denny Craycraft
State Pool Director



SINGLES

1st Place	DON SMITH	10th District
2nd Place	ANDY WALKER	17th District
3rd Place	PHIL LOOSE	4th District
4th Place	FRED KEMP	4th District

DOUBLES

1st Place	MANEY&EVERET	11th District
2nd Place	SMITH & STOUGH	10th District
3rd Place	COWDRICK & KEMP	4th District
4th Place	WALKER & ANDERSON	10th District

TEAMS

1st Place	FENTON	10th District
2nd Place	DONOVAN	4th District
3rd Place	ALPENA	13th District
4th Place	TRENTON	4th District

At our meeting Saturday morning, there were four Bylaw changes voted on and only one passed – the structure of entries in singles, doubles and teams.

Currently allowed entries are:

<u>1-10 Teams</u>	<u>11-20 Teams</u>	<u>21-40 Teams</u>
14 Singles	18 Singles	22 Singles
8 Doubles	9 Doubles	10 Doubles
6 Teams	7 Teams	8 Teams

The new entries structure is as follows:

<u>1-10 Teams</u>	<u>11-20 Teams</u>	<u>21-40 Teams</u>
18 Singles	22 Singles	26 Singles
10 Doubles	11 Doubles	12 Doubles
8 Teams	9 Teams	10 Teams

The entry fee did not change. It still stands at \$20.00 for singles, \$25.00 for doubles and \$35.00 for teams. We were down 14 singles from last year, 12 doubles and 6 teams. Hopefully this change will increase entry fees to help our State Pool League grow.

IMPORTANT!!!

Due to our national organization moving the dates of our National Convention and our State VFW changing the dates of our State Convention we, as the State Pool League, must move our dates for our State Pool Tournament. It must be moved forward one week. We will hold our tournament the next to last full weekend of April. Our 2012 Pool Tournament will be on April 19th, 20th, and 21st at the Alpena VFW Post. Our 2013 tournament will be held at the Westland VFW Post 3323 and our 2014 tournament will be held at the Manistee VFW Post 4499. We received a request from the Flint VFW Post for 2015. This request was put on hold until we receive more information from the Soo VFW Post.

We were honored this year to have Jim VanHauter, Past State Commander, as our State Rep. and Annabel Ferguson, State Aux. Jr. Vice President, as the State Ladies Aux. Rep., accompanied by her husband Gene. They did an excellent job passing out the trophies and drawing our prizes. Thank you very much!

A special big thank you goes out to Roger and Karen Fader, your tournament Pool Master. He won the \$500 cash drawing and donated it all to Camp Trotter – what a great heart!

A big thank you goes out to Barb Mead, Loretta Wishmire, Serena Lemoncelli, Gail Hubert and Tony Maniey. These ladies ran our 50/50 raffles for three days and raised just over \$1,600.00 for our State Pool League. Great job, ladies!!!

Last and far from least, thank you Val, for all your help and all that you did! You all did a wonderful job!



CAMP TROTTER RENOVATION



The newly built 32' x 14' deck in front of the Dining Hall is thanks to the Romulus VFW Post 9568 and in large part thanks to: Bob Williams, Bill Blackburn, Vern Blackburn, Ray Cianfaran, Dave Reeves (Camp Committee) and Ernie Meyers (Camp Committee).



Pictured is the family of PSC Ralph W. Trotter (1934), donor of the now VFW Camp Trotter for Children (formerly known as VFW Buddy Poppy Children's Camp) in 1949. Two of the grandchildren standing with their families is Daniel G. Nelson (of Westland) and Kathie D. Olds (of Toledo, Ohio). Their mother, Marie Trotter-Nelson, donated \$1,700.00 to the Children's Camp. This was the Trotter family's first visit to the VFW Camp Trotter for Children.



Newly renovated Nurses Cottage with "state of the art" life saving equipment, including updated water safety equipment. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary of the 11th District, District President Denise Moore and her Ladies. Ladies Auxiliary 3033 Mount Pleasant and Ladies Auxiliary 2406 also contributed to the renovation. VFW District 12 Commander Stan Preidis and his Posts contributed to the new AED Life Support with Richard Rought (Camp Committee) leading the charge on promoting this event).



The newly renovated Arts and Crafts Building was the challenge of VFW District 6 and its Ladies Auxiliaries. VFW District 6 Commander, George Wygant, led the charge and now our children can enjoy this new facility.



Captain Al Peterson and the Newaygo Sportsman VFW Post 4249 Honor Guard presenting the Colors at the Camp Trotter Days opening on Memorial weekend 2011. The Honor Guard has been doing this ceremony for several years. Thanks for the memories!

Donation to Camp Trotter

Commander-in-Chief Richard Eubank received a \$10,000.00 donation from Richard VanHouten and his wife, Michelle, Founders of the Veterans Support Organization. PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr., Camp Trotter Director, is all smiles

knowing that this donation will be doing a lot to help renovate our beautiful Camp. A plaque of the Camp Grounds and a Life Membership was presented to Richard and Michelle for their generous gift to our VFW Camp Trotter for Children.



Pictured, L-R: C-in-C Richard Eubank, Michelle VanHouten, Richard VanHouten and PSC Ernie Meyers.

Flag Code

Comrades and Sisters,

I am writing to give some direction on proper care and display of our National symbol, the American Flag! The federal flag code (36 USC 171-178) public law 93-344 amends the law as it pertains to the proper display and respect for the flag. Here are a few rules:

- There is to be nothing displayed or placed upon the flag.
- The staff that the flag is attached to should be of the proper size and tight fitting to avoid the flag from coming

loose and/or touching the ground.

There are too many to list them all, but you may check them out online or by ordering the federal flag code. Please help in teaching our younger generation proper respect for our flag by leading a good example.

Respectfully yours,
William (Butch) Ogden
Department of Michigan
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Honor Guard Captain

"Heroes" Lottery Tickets

We started out last year with great sales for the "Heroes" scratch-off lottery tickets. The sales have fallen off tremendously and we need your help. I contacted the Lottery to ask what is going on and they indicated that the stores that sell the tickets are not reordering them. I have spoken to a number of members and they have indicated that they cannot

find the tickets.

What we need everyone to do is request that the stores order more tickets. There are still plenty of tickets left in the state's inventory. Please see what you can do to get the tickets out and available to the public.

Rob Weiss

Donation for Wall



Dr. Joe Mastromatteo (on left) accepting a check for \$8,500.00 from Joe Zikewich to help pay for the wall in back of the Pea Coat Memorial at the Orion Veterans Memorial Park. This money was collected by North Oakland VFW Post 334 specifically for this wall, which

was dedicated on Thursday, July 28.

The concept for the Pea Coat Memorial was Joe Zikewich's, to honor the memory of all military personnel buried at sea. Mastromatteo is Chairman of the Orion Veterans Memorial Committee and also a member of VFW Post 334.

Joe Zikewich served on the Aircraft Carrier *Lexington* in World War II, which was badly damaged by a kamikaze plane at the Battle of Okinawa. More than 40 of his shipmates were killed and their names are on bricks in front of the Pea Coat Memorial.

The Orion Veterans Memorial is on M-24 (Lapeer Road) at the corner of Odanah in Lake Orion, Michigan. For more information, contact Ernie Baker at 248-391-6933.

Agent Orange Presumptions in Jeopardy

VFW opposes amendment that would change how presumptive disabilities would be determined.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is adamantly opposed to an amendment proposed by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) to change the manner in which presumptive disabilities related to exposure to Agent Orange would be determined. The senator wants to require veterans to prove a positive connection between Agent Orange exposure and one or more of the 15 presumptive illnesses that the VA now recognizes. We cannot allow this amendment to pass.

Vietnam veterans have suffered long enough from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange. For decades we told the

government that being exposed to Agent Orange made veterans sick. Now that the VA Secretary has determined he had the scientific evidence required to recognize the disabilities, we cannot allow a change in presumptive rules just because the government can't balance its own budget.

The cost of caring for our nation's veterans continues long after the last shots are fired. America and the United States Congress must live up to that obligation. Call or e-mail both your U.S. Senators today and tell them that **"Coburn Amendment #564 to H.R. 2055 is a deal breaker with America's veterans!"**

Employee Recognition

Commander Putman:

Most days we just hear the bad stuff. Today, I would like to bring to your attention the service and help that I received from Geneva (sorry, do not know her last name). As you know, we have been having all kinds of problems getting reports and electronics systems to work for us at Bova 9885. I have spent hours on the phone with membership trying to sort this out.

In this effort, I ran across multiple people that were not only unhelpful, but also had an attitude of "who cares". Most of this was at the national level in membership.

Today, I spent most of my morning on the phone with Geneva who was very

cheerful, most helpful and showed me that she cares about me, my Post and the VFW. It was so refreshing for me to reach a person like Geneva. By working together we were able to find our lost quarterly reports, found the status of our Bylaws, and she was able to give me the information to sort out our membership log in problems (still working on that one, but much further along).

I just want to send my thanks to her and let you guys know what a valuable asset you have in Geneva.

Respectfully,
Steve Gifford
Commander Bova 9885

Veteran Volunteer at VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Honored with National Recognition



Twenty-year volunteer at the Ann Arbor VA, Past Commander Post 423 John Kinzinger was recognized as the 2011 VA National Male Volunteer of the Year. Post 423 supports many of the projects that Kinzinger leads, such as a special Christmas Program, clothing drive for the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center, an annual 'Car Show For Vets' which has donated about \$40,000 for special projects at the Ann Arbor VA, monthly VA Bingos, and other worthy special projects for hospitalized Veterans.

Ann Arbor, MI – John Kinzinger, an active volunteer at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (VAAHS) and in the Ann Arbor community, was recognized nationally as the 2010 VA Voluntary Service Male Volunteer of the Year.

Kinzinger has served as a dedicated volunteer at VAAHS for almost two decades, donating over one thousand hours to Veteran patients while organizing events, such as the annual Halloween and Christmas bedside visits, the annual "Car Show for Vets" which is combined with the Welcome Home Celebration for returning Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans, and serving as Ann Arbor's VAVS Representative for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

In addition to his service to the Veterans at VAAHS, Kinzinger leads a group who regularly send care packages to U.S. military service members serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Over the past six years, they have sent over 1,500 boxes. He also helped to fund and build Washtenaw County's Vietnam Veteran Memorial in Ypsilanti Township. Kinzinger and his wife, Jane, are editors of the award-winning newsletter for the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). He also serves in leadership roles for Operation Never Forgotten, Operation SAS (Sports, Afield and Stream), the VVA Chapter 310, the VFW Post 423, the Veterans Honor Guard of Washtenaw County, and as the leader of a group of Vietnam Veterans who do classroom talks on their experiences in Vietnam and after they came home.

Kinzinger received his award at the 65th Annual VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) National Advisory Committee meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio on April 27, 2011.

Deficit Talks and Veterans

A letter to VFW members, VFW Ladies Auxiliary and Supporters

July 26, 2011

Dear VFW, Ladies Auxiliary and Supporters:

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is attending a White House meeting this afternoon to hear an Administration update on debt negotiations as they relate to veterans and military families. This letter is to share with you what the VFW knows to date.

First and foremost, the VFW has not and will not acquiesce to any Administration or Congressional proposal to deny or limit healthcare programs or benefits to veterans, or to increase fees on any eligible veteran, service member, family member or survivor.

We know of active legislation to increase TRICARE fees for working age retirees, and there are discussions to change the annual cost of living adjustment calculations for military retirees and veterans receiving compensation for their disabilities. We know of recommendations to reduce annual military raises, as well as to totally change the current military retirement system to make it resemble civilian businesses. And we know of discussions to end category 7 and 8 enrollments at the Department of Veterans Affairs, or to charge them a \$250 annual enrollment fee with increased prescription costs.

With your assistance last week, we were able to defeat a proposal to eliminate presumptive service-connections for VA compensation. The VFW will continue to actively monitor and work to defeat the above proposals and any other recommendations. We will also engage VFW members and supporters to rally their members in Congress to defeat them, too.

The main problem with the ongoing budget negotiations is that the meetings have been held in such secrecy that many members of Congress and advocates like the VFW have not been allowed into the room to explain the impact of such toxic proposals on veterans, military personnel and their families.

The VFW recognizes the enormity of the task before the White House and Congress to cut federal spending and to reduce the national debt, but we also know that when the nation talks about sacrifice, we know who answers that call. Your VFW has been working hard for 112 years to ensure our nation fulfills a promise it made to care for veterans, our military, their families and survivors. We are not about to stop now.

Yours in Comradeship,
Robert E. Wallace
Executive Director
VFW Washington Office



Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Mariann Hamann

YOU make Michigan the greatest Department in the Ladies Auxiliary organization and I am very proud to serve as your President this year. I look forward to working with Department

Commander Jack Pray and his VFW Team.

Whenever you look at a clock, remember my theme: *"Every minute is another opportunity to serve."* Serving our veterans can be as simple as a smile, a hand shake, a "thank you for your service". Because of veterans, we live in freedom. Show your appreciation for their sacrifice.

At the Department Convention in June, Gloria Dobbie was elected Department Guard. She is from the 5th District, covering Oakland and Macomb counties.

Thanks to all those who attended the first Council of Administration meetings in Troy and the reception that followed. A special thanks goes to the Menge VFW

Post 6756 for donating their hall and to all those who helped make the reception a special memory.

Best wishes to all the newly-elected VFW and Ladies Auxiliary officers and appointed directors/chairmen on all levels. We need to "Step Up – Leave no Veteran Behind". Working together, the 2011-2012 Michigan Team will be successful.

Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children was a huge success. Thank you Kathy Kirby, Lloyd Schuetz, the National Home staff and all comrades and sisters who helped. A GREAT time was had by all those who attended.

Congratulations to Patricia Patterson and the entire 2010-2011 Michigan Department Team on a GREAT year and for all the awards received at the National Convention!

This year's cancer pin displays the face and crown of the Statue of Liberty in honor of her 175th birthday. The words inscribed are "Pray for Our Country". A donation of \$2.00 is requested with the proceeds going to cancer aid and research. I hope each Auxiliary sister will get a pin and join our battle against this terrible disease.

The National Ladies Auxiliary elimi-

nated the Community Service Chairmanship, streamlining what and how we report our activities:

- Projects are reported to each Department Program Chairman.
- Only those projects which support Americanism, Hospital, Legislative, Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen, Youth and the Cancer Aid and Research Program through National are reportable.
- All other projects you do for your community should be documented in your meeting minutes, but not reported on your quarterly reports.
- You don't have to stop the projects you have been doing, but please adopt this new way of reporting.

Retaining and recruiting new or reinstated members is key to our success. Veterans eligible for the VFW provide eligibility to an average of six women (wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, etc.). Just imagine how strong our organization would be if even half of the members recruit one new Ladies Auxiliary member. Won't you help us by asking your eligible family members to join our organization?

If you are a Ladies Auxiliary member who pays her dues annually, please send them to your Auxiliary Treasurer as soon as possible. National has again raised the bar. In order for the District Presidents and I to earn our "Night on the Town", we need to achieve 91% or higher in membership by December 31.

If you missed the Recruiting Workshop or School of Instruction at the National Home or your District Meeting, please consider attending the Fall Conference, September 29 through October 2, at the newly-renovated Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan. Your registration at these events may earn Achievement points for your Auxiliary.

Connie Heggstad will be our National Representative to the Fall Conference. Connie is our new National Council of Administration Member 23. She is also serving as this year's Department Secretary in South Dakota.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve as your Department President. While we need to get our work done, there is no reason we cannot have fun doing it.

God Bless You and God Bless America!

CANCER AID & RESEARCH



Carolyn Jenkins

Cancer – the word is ripe with meaning. What does it mean to you? Our first reaction is fear, but once past that, do you see hope? Do you see the progress we have made against this once poorly understood, and almost always, deadly disease? Do you see thousands upon thousands of survivors and how they are living rich and rewarding lives after cancer treatment? Approximately 4% of the U.S. population has survived cancer. We must focus on hope and survival. We can get there by being participants and being part of the solution. We can't all be cancer researchers or doctors, but we can help fund the lifesaving research that goes on each and every day across this country and around the world. Everyone's lives have been touched by knowing someone who has had cancer.

We need to insure that work continues to support research, which is relevant and necessary for the cancer community. We do not want to stop or slow the progress that has been done recently. Our donations help to make this research possible, to bring a future of hope where the word "cancer" no longer exists. This is why we are requesting every member to "step-up" the donations to be given this year. National's goal is \$3 million. A new program from National is the Step-Up Challenge Event. Be creative in asking our sisters, Posts, Jr. Girls, fellow workers, busi-

nesses, community, friends and family to step-up to a challenge of some kind for the purpose of raising funds for the Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Aid & Research program. Some ideas could include a chili cook-off, target shooting, golf event or a pie-baking contest.

Important Reminders: Only funds and/or donations raised for the Ladies Auxiliary VFW Cancer Aid & Research program will be credited toward goal amounts. You can give a Memorial to Cancer Aid & Research in lieu of flowers. Use the Cancer Fact Sheet to inform the public how we are stepping up the fight against cancer. This can be downloaded from the Web site at www.ladiesauxvfw.org

The cancer booth at Fall Conference will be "Harvest Delight". I'm asking for new or homemade items and baked goods. There will be a table for pink and pink/blue items in support of both female and male breast cancer. So bring your checkbook along with you when you visit the cancer booth. If you haven't seen the 2011-12 cancer pin, it is a round pewter pin, which displays the head of the Statue of Liberty. We are asking for a \$2.00 donation for each pin. You can get your pins from Department Cancer Pin Chairman, Lancea Daly, at 11608 Holt Highway, Dimondale, MI 48861 or call her at 517-281-1526.

With National's theme of "Step-Up – Leave No Veteran Behind" and Department's theme of "Every Minute Is Another Opportunity to Serve", we can continue to support cancer research with our fundraisers through the Ladies Auxiliary Cancer Aid & Research program.

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION CHAIRMAN



Sandi Onstwedder

Congratulations to Michigan Department VFW Commander Jack Pray and Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars President, Mariann Hamann! I know under your leadership, our Department will have a successful year for our veterans and their families.

The *MOV*, and the articles included herein, are wonderful tools to reach out to many more veterans than just those that are active within the Veterans of Foreign Wars. So that is my intent in writing this article.

We need membership to increase, both for the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary. We know that there are eligible VFW members reading this article right now. It is my goal to impress upon them our need to have their voice in this organization. First and foremost, politicians sometimes have trouble remembering the platforms they stood on to get elected. Before a candidate is elected, they promise to meet the needs of all veterans everywhere. Somewhere

between the election and taking the oath of office they have a tendency to forget their good intentions. One of the first things that is considered when making cuts involves taking from a veteran's entitlement. Washington, D.C. fully understands strong membership numbers in organizations. The stronger the membership, the better they listen. I have witnessed this first hand in Washington. There is a big difference in how they choose to listen to the different veteran's organizations, and it's based on membership. Each of us has been given the opportunity to come together through our membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars or in the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to speak up on behalf of active duty military men, women, their families, and all veterans nationwide.

You have already given up so much in the name of God and country with the time you served. My words of thanks seem inconsequential to that enormous gift, but please, take this to heart, and consider joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars and having your wife, mother, daughter, sister, grandmother and granddaughter join the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW. You will not regret your decision!

**God Bless
Our Troops**

VETS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN



Kathy Kirby

Hi, my name is Kathy Kirby. I am a member of Auxiliary Post 1452, Clio. I am a member on the eligibility of my father, Frank E. Ledrow. I also had two brothers that served in Vietnam. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that puts our veterans and their families first.

I would like to thank everyone who visited the VFW National Home for Children on Michigan Day. Thanks to you and the assistance of all the Districts, the day was a huge success.

According to the Bylaws, "the objects of this organization shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women; and to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies whomsoever." [emphasis added]

Ladies, it is time to start remembering why we are here. With 4,000 homeless female veterans in the United States and

our state in the shape it's in, we need to help these ladies to establish themselves. The National Organization has a Continuing Education Scholarship that is awarded each year. Applications are available online at www.ladiesauxvfw.org or in the Ladies Auxiliary Roster Book your President was given. Copy this and get them out there so these ladies that are members (or their family members) can apply. It will help them with their educational costs. They are also entitled to the GI Bill. As the Ladies Auxiliary, we should be helping them with food and shelter and help them to get established. Let's lead them in the right direction.

National Military Services is another way we can help, as well as with the Family Readiness Group (FRG) and the Army FRG. Go on the Internet, type in Family Readiness Groups, click on search, and it will bring up different Army readiness groups.

The Ladies Auxiliary now has our own "Thank You" commemorative coins. You purchase them through the VFW Store. The item number is 1920. The cost of the coins are: 24 or less, \$3 each; 25-49 are \$2.50 each; and 50 or more are \$2 each. Auxiliaries need to purchase at least five for their achievement point. They make a nice gift to give our veterans or active duty military when the troops come home or leave.

Thank you all for what you do for our veterans.

AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN



Nanette K. Spauling

of our Veterans.

July is the month to show our patriotism and our pride. Through the observance of the 4th of July – did you notice the people in the sidelines giving respect to our nation's flag? Were their hands over their hearts? Did the men take off their hats? Ladies, we need to go to our community council meetings, board meetings, and into the schoolrooms, to make a point of teaching the proper respect to our national flag and the proper way to say the Pledge of Allegiance. In the past, we paused when saying "one Nation (pause), under God" – however, we are now to say, "one Nation under God". Our knowing is the tool for teaching young minds; they, in turn, will continue on saying it the proper way.

August is a great time to start planning your Memorial Service Program for the 10th Anniversary of 9-11. It is our duty to honor the heroes of that day and give them the respect that they deserve; and as Patriots, we the informed can do just that! It is also the time to gather the information needed for the National Cit-

izenship Education Teacher Award. The teachers can earn monetary awards for the schools and for themselves, as well. See the VFW Web site at www.vfw.org for more information.

Also at this time, start your plans to promote September as "Suicide Awareness Month." We, as Patriots, need to follow through with dedication to promote this very serious campaign. Last year, when the National Guard and reservists' data were included, an average of 25 soldiers killed themselves each month and the percentages are climbing monthly for both the male and female soldiers. The "Teardrop sticker" is a visual for others to see, ask what it stands for and a great way for us to explain.

September 16th falls on a Friday, a day to give honor and respect to the Prisoners of War and to the Missing In Action (POW/MIA). We will never forget their sacrifices, and by showing the public that, these heroes will never be forgotten. More importantly, we are letting their families know just how much we do care. As it is said, "Every Minute is Another Opportunity to Serve."

As Americans, it is our patriotic duty to acknowledge the men and women that gave so much, present memorials for the 9-11 victims, and to educate everyone on the crisis of military personnel suicides. As loyal members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, it is our duty to react and Step Up – Leave No Veteran Behind. Remember we are in this together, "One Nation Under God."

DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITIES/JUNIOR GIRLS CHAIRMAN



Bonnie Pray

Congratulations to all the new officers and chairmen. I wish you all a great and exciting year.

For the Junior Girls Chairmen, some of the program doesn't really have a lot of change. We want the girls to continue working with the Auxiliary programs. The Junior Girls awards at the end of the year are based on what they have done with the programs. Currently, quite a few of the older girls are joining the ladies Auxiliary, so we need new, younger girls to join to have the Units continue. We had a great time at the Junior Girls "Extravaganza". That is the new name for the Junior Girls weekend at the VFW. Camp Trotter. At the girl's meeting, they voted to change the name and "Extravaganza" was the big vote. We all worked together, played together and even cleaned together, including the Leaders that were there. I am already looking forward to next year's Junior Girls Extravaganza. On August 17, we will be instituting a new Junior Girls Unit 4012 in Northville, Michigan.

This is the time of the year to begin organizing the information for the Patriotic Art contest. You can copy the brochure from the National Ladies Web site and contact your local newspaper, your area schools and the art teachers,

and different groups of students in grades 9 through 12. There are Scouts, sports groups, church groups, home-schooled students, and so many more. The Auxiliary deadline is March 31, 2012, which gives them quite a bit of time to complete their art.

Youth groups and schools who are learning and practicing how to support our Military Troops by doing projects that are sent to the troops, need to be reported to me on the "Youth Supporting our Military Troops" application. I will then send them to National so the group can receive an award for their efforts.

Your Youth Activities need to be reported to me either on the Department Web site or by completing a hand-written report and mailing it to me at my address. It is very important to do your reporting.

Michigan Freedom Academy is another youth program that eligible students can apply for next summer, 2012. The student must be entering their Junior or Senior year of high school and have a 2.5 or better average to apply to the academy. I should have more information at our Fall Conference.

All these programs we have are very appreciated by the students who have attended and participated in prior years, so we need to get the information out there and try to include more students. Let's work together in a way that the students can appreciate us and all we do toward assisting our Veterans, their families and our communities.

DEPARTMENT HOSPITAL CHAIRMAN



Merridy Lewis

"Step up... Leave No Veteran Behind." What do those words mean to you? Everyone can have a different thought on this subject. As I volunteer at a veteran's medical facility, I've seen firsthand how many of our veterans are lonely, and so appreciative of kindness that volunteers give them.

With all the budget cuts, the nursing staff has also been affected and volunteers are in great demand. Are you aware volunteering can be used as a reference tool in applying for a job? How can that be you ask? An employer can check on your dependability, how well you interact with the staff and other volunteers. Those

are two things an employer would be looking for.

There are many areas that you may be interested in. If you like clerical work, help is needed stuffing envelopes, answering phones or perhaps being an ambassador to assist with wheelchair patients. If you like a one on one situation, you could adopt a patient to read to, write letters or just sit and visit with. Knowing someone cares about them gives the veterans such joy!

This could be done as a family project, too. It would give the younger members of your family a chance to learn the sacrifices our veterans made, so we can have the freedoms that we have today. Also, volunteering could be used as job experience.

Remember, "Every Minute is Another Opportunity to Serve!" and "Today and every day, thank a Veteran for our freedom."

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN



Gloria Dobbie

Even though we are still enjoying the summer months, it's not too early to begin your 2011/2012 VOD/Patriot's Pen Program. The theme for the Voice of Democracy Contest is "Is There Pride in Serving in Our Military?" and the theme for the Patriot's Pen Contest is "Are You Proud of Your Country?"

The deadline for Post entries is November 1, 2011. Posts must have their winning entries to their District

Chairman by November 14, 2011. District Chairmen should have their winning entries to VFW Director, Harry "Les" Croyle, by December 5, 2011 for the Department judging.

Please meet with your Post counterpart to plan your Program. Submit newspaper articles, Post flyers, update Web sites, and record cable television and local radio public service announcements. Visit our Michigan Ladies Auxiliary Web site for additional tips and necessary forms.

We are looking forward to working with VFW Director, Harry "Les" Croyle, and committee member, James Galen, to ensure another successful year offering opportunities to the students of Michigan.



DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Sharon A. Lewinski



Greetings Ladies of the 4th District,

It is with great appreciation that I serve as your District President for the year 2011-2012. I am looking forward to a great year under the leadership of the Department President, Mariann Hamann. Inspection dates have been given to all the Auxiliaries in the 4th District and I am anxious to visit each and every Auxiliary. District Meeting dates have been set:

Sunday, September 25, 2011

Registration starts at 12 Noon at Plymouth Post 6695 (*this is also a School of Instruction Meeting*)

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Registration starts at 12 Noon

at Taylor Post 4422

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Registration starts at 11:00 a.m. at James Europe Post 2233 (*this is our District Convention Meeting*)

This is a year of change. Many changes have, and will, take place within the Ladies Auxiliary. It is how we accept these changes that will make our Auxiliaries stronger or take us down.

It is our time to go forward and serve; take time to help all those that have sacrificed many years as they served in our military to protect us.

Remember our Department President's Theme: Every Minute Is Another Opportunity to Serve. If we follow our programs for the Ladies Auxiliary, we will be able to "Step Up – Leave No Veteran Behind," which is our National President's theme.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Linda Gloger



Hello Sisters,

I hope all have been enjoying our summer. I know it has been a hot one so far. I know you will all say I am nuts, but I love the heat.

By the time you read this, Michigan Day will be over. It was nice seeing you all there. This year, the 5th had the fishing contest. It sure was fun watching the children of all ages catch fish. We even had some turtles caught.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you. Inspection notices have been sent

out. We are going to be busy doing all the inspections in the next couple of months. Hope to have all inspections done before the snow decides to fall. All we can hope for is it falls late this year.

Ladies, remember we will be having our District meeting on August 21 at New Baltimore. We will be having School of Instruction in the morning before our meeting in the afternoon.

Don't forget Pow-Wow is at Shanty Creek September 29, 30 and October 1. Get your reservations in soon –love to see you all there.

Sisters keep up the good work you are doing. Every minute is another opportunity to serve.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Ivette David



Dear Ladies of the 6th District:

Let me start by thanking you for giving me the opportunity to be your President for the 2011-2012 year. I promise I will do my best and I will not let you down.

Our primary goal this year is to work on membership. New members are the key to keeping the District moving forward to a brighter future. However, let's not take for granted the current members and how important they are to our organization. Please know that every time a new member comes aboard, we need to make them feel welcomed and loved as a new sister. Please be patient, cordial and open-minded, as some of these new members may be still in the working force and may not be able to attend all functions. New members bring new ideas. Please consider them, because times are changing and we are struggling. Do not allow your local Auxiliary to retire with you. We owe this to our past, current and future veterans and their families.

Keep working on the rest of the programs, as they are also very important.

Keep providing the best support possible to our veterans and their families, as well as our local communities; especially now, during these unpredictable times. Remember that just because we are doing the programs, does not mean that we will get credit for them. Make sure that everything your Auxiliary does is recorded and reported accordingly. I know that this year just started, but we need to continue our work in order to survive.

The first District meeting will be held on September 24, 2011 at the Graf-O'Hara Post 423, 3230 S. Wagner Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. If you have never attended a District meeting before, please consider coming. The District meeting is open to every member of the Ladies Auxiliary, as are all Auxiliary meetings. Everyone is welcome. It is a great way to learn more about the Ladies Auxiliary and what it does.

Please keep in mind these upcoming events: Fall Conference at Shanty Creek Resort, September 29-October 2, 2011; Veterans Day, November 11, 2011; and Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2011.

Again, I do not have the words to describe my gratitude to all of the sisters of the 6th District for allowing me to be your President this year. Thank you so much.

DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT

Dee Manke



Greetings from District 7,

I would like to thank all the Auxiliaries that came to the August District meeting in Marcellus for the School of Instruction and District meeting. Department President Mariann Hamann made her official visit to our District – a great time was had by all.

Now, on to the big job ahead – membership is very important to our organization. I am asking all the members to bring in at least one new or reinstated member to

help your Auxiliary, your District and your Department be 100% this year. I know this can be difficult, but if we all work together, we can make it happen.

I would like to thank all the Auxiliaries that helped in the kitchen or came to the National Home for Michigan Day.

I would like to congratulate Past Department President Pat Patterson and her Chairmen on the awards they received at the National Convention.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference at Shanty Creek in September.

Our next District meeting will be November 6, 2011 in Homer.

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Holly Allison



Greetings Sisters,

Congratulations to all who have accepted a 2011-2012 office or chairmanship in this great organization. I am looking forward to meeting many of you this year and seeing,

firsthand, how all of you work together as an Auxiliary to accomplish the goals that the Department of Michigan and National have set before us.

The Fall Conference at Shanty Creek is an excellent way to learn ways to achieve these goals. If you have not been able to attend a School of Instruction, please consider

attending the Fall Conference. A few members of each Auxiliary should attend District and Department meetings or events to learn the programs because things are always changing – then take it back to all your members.

Membership is a big priority and every year we must again start working on the goal of 100%. Please push Life Memberships and consider going through the Member-at-Large List. We have many veterans returning from the Middle East. They have many family members that are eligible for membership – reach out to them.

Our next District Meeting is November 5th at the Wayland Post 7581. It would be wonderful to see you there.

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Della Steege



Hello Sisters of the 9th District,

Let me start by saying it is an honor to be your District 9 President. It's going to be a busy next few months while I'm doing your inspections.

I hope to meet many new sisters at your Auxiliary meetings. By the time you read this, the first District meeting will be over and the second meeting will be on November 12, 2011 at Post 9455-Owosso. I would like to see a President or representative from each of your Auxiliaries attend each District meeting.

I have a goal of being 100% membership in the Mighty 9th District for the first time in many years. This goal will take a lot of work, and I know this District can do it. I'm sure many of you already know that, at Convention in June, it was approved to increase the price of annual dues starting January 1, 2012. Use this to encourage continuous members to pay early or to become a Life Member, before the increase takes effect. With our membership getting older, we need to be recruiting and reinstating members continuously. Always have a membership application card with you, and don't be afraid to ask ladies as you go throughout your day, "Are you a

member of the Ladies Auxiliary?" Just imagine if each of us brought in one new member this year, how fast could we reach our goal of 100%?

I encourage everyone to attend Fall Conference (Pow-Wow). The Cancer theme is "Harvest Delight" and our Department Chairman would like pink items for ladies and blue and pink items for men. If you have something that you would like to donate, please make sure to get it to me before the end of September or bring it to the conference. As members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW, we are a team, bound together by the love for our veterans and for our country. As your District President, I represent all of you – not myself, and I am your direct connection to our Department President, Mariann. During this 2011-2012 year, I ask that you continue to strengthen the bond of love that unites us by supporting our programs, doing audits on time and reaching 100% membership by December 31, 2011.

We do so much for so many and we touch so many lives. We are a committed team of women. I know you are as proud as I am to be a member of our wonderful organization and District. Let's continue taking care of our veterans, military and their families for many years to come.

Remember, "Every Minute is another Opportunity to Serve."



DISTRICT 10 PRESIDENT

Norma VanEtten



Auxiliary Sisters, Post members and Men's Auxiliary,

Thank you for making me your Ladies Auxiliary President. I am looking forward to meeting

all my Auxiliary sisters at inspections. I have eight in August, ten in September, five in October and one in November. I am looking forward to my first Pow-Wow and Big Ten Conference in October.

I want to thank all of you who came to support the 10th District at Michigan Day at National Home.

I cannot express enough to report-report-report. Don't forget that dues are going up in January. So get your dues in ASAP to prevent having to pay more for this year.

Please support your Auxiliary and Posts by attending fish fries, Bingos, craft sales and all the fundraisers to help our veterans. After all, they are the reason we all belong to this great organization.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Vickie Bushong



Hello, Auxiliary Sisters of the 11th District.

Congratulations to our six Auxiliary Presidents who received the prestigious Auxiliary Achievement Award

at Department Convention. They are Cheryl Carothers (Aux. 1075 Harrison), Luella Demski (Aux. 3033 Mt. Pleasant), Marilyn Harvey (Aux. 3651 Midland), Joan Elenbaas (Aux. 6950 Linwood-Kawkawlin) and Jane Dady (Aux. 7435 Hale). Ladies, you have done a great job and we are proud of you. You have proven what hard work and dedication can accomplish. Wouldn't it be great to have 12 winners at Dept. Convention next June? Better yet, why not have all 22 Auxiliaries achieve this honor.

This year, we have a strong support team put in place to assist all our Auxiliaries. If, at any time, you have a question or concern, feel free to call me or any of

our District officers and chairmen. Our chairmen are ready to help you prepare your reports for all our programs.

As you already know, the portion of dues that we forward to Department has been raised by \$2.75 (for a total of \$10.00). This raise goes into effect on January 1, 2012. From all the dues you collect by December 31, 2011, you will be able to keep \$2.75 from each one. This will be for this year only. This could be a great savings for your Auxiliary. For example: If you have 100 members and they all pay by December 31, 2011, you will have saved the Auxiliary \$275.00. Remember our team is in place and ready to help you achieve this goal.

Reminder: September is Suicide Awareness Month. Pass out your Suicide Awareness Teardrop Stickers and wear them every day during September. These are available for download on our Web site. By doing this, we will educate the general public and show our support for our veterans.

I am looking forward to visiting everyone at our Auxiliary inspections.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Plont



Greetings Sisters of the Mighty 12th and the great state of Michigan,

I would first like to thank all of the ladies of the 12th District for allowing me the honor to represent

your District as President. This is truly an honor. I am looking forward to the upcoming year with excitement and anticipation of a great year. I look forward to working with all of you and visiting your Auxiliaries. Working together this year I know will bring great things for the 12th District. I would like to congratulate President Mariann and all those who took an office this year. You are all awesome.

I am excited to be working with President Mariann and how true her theme is this year, "Every minute is an opportunity to serve our Veterans." There isn't a minute that goes by that we could be doing something for our veterans, whether it is providing them a ride to a doctor's appointment, visiting them in the hospital or providing meals for their

families. There are so many things we can do, and that is what we are here for.

Membership is an important goal for us this year. Ask around, you would be surprised who may be eligible to become a member. Maybe they just want to be asked if they would like to become a member – you never know unless you try.

I am looking forward to inspections as this gives me the opportunity to visit all of you and get to know you better. I always enjoy visiting the other Auxiliaries.

In September, we had our first District Meeting at the Eldon L. Chadwick Post 6017 in Pentwater. We had a POW/MIA Memorial Service before dinner. This is always such a moving ceremony. We incorporated the School of Instruction with the meeting, which I hope you all felt was beneficial. Our second District meeting will be on November 13th at Peacock Post 5315 in Baldwin, Michigan. The Fall Conference, Pow-Wow, will be held September 29-October 2, 2011 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan.

We have a lot of work to do this year, but I know the Mighty 12th can do it.

DISTRICT 13 PRESIDENT

Arvella Peterson



Greetings Auxiliary Sisters of the 13th District,

This is the start of our new year together and we need to work together to get the job done the way we want to for

our District. Everyone should have their Guide Sheet and hopefully, everyone will look them over closely. As you all know, we have a 'quarterly' report to do now, which takes the place of the Community Service monthly report. Be sure you read over that Quarterly Report and if you have any questions, please give me a call.

As always, my priority this year is membership. Get your dues in as soon as possible and do not hang on to them. As you all remember, two years ago we came in second in the state. This year we want to be #1. Let's all put our heart and soul into membership. Along with this, we need to be sure our Auxiliaries get

their audits in on time. You cannot be eligible for awards if you do not have them in on time.

The next District meeting will be November 5, 2011 at the Roger City Post. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the meeting starts at 10 a.m. It is important that all Auxiliaries attend all District meetings, or at least have one representative from the Auxiliary. There is always something new to report at these meetings, and it is also the time that you can get your questions answered.

Pow-Wow this year will be at Shanty Creek in Bellaire, September 29-October 2. We will have one more chance for a School of Instruction there. It is important that the Auxiliary President and members attend a School of Instruction – this is a point on the Guide Sheets.

Inspections will start early this year and I expect them to go well. Looking forward to meeting each of you again and, if anyone has any questions or needs help, do not hesitate to call.

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Carole Lillar



Sisters of the Mighty 15th,

Thank you all for your support and friendship as I begin this year as your District President. We had a wonderful planning meeting in July with many good ideas presented. A special thank you to the Covington Auxiliary for preparing the lunch and hosting the meeting.

Membership is, of course, a major concern again this year. Carry an application card with you at all times; you never know when the opportunity to sign up a new member will arise. Start planning your Veterans Day program now – one of

our Auxiliaries in the 15th has a Day of Remembrance in which deceased veterans are remembered with a donation of \$10. This raises much needed revenue for donations for our veterans' needs. Any Auxiliary wanting information on how to set up such a program can contact Judy Levra of Auxiliary 9084.

It is time to get the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year information to the schools. It is important to do this early as school calendars fill up quickly.

Please remember that I am only a phone call away (906-229-5263) should you need any Auxiliary information, and I can also be reached at 458 Londo Road, Wakefield, MI 49968.

VFW Joins in Houston National Cemetery Censorship Lawsuit*"This is a point in case of bureaucracy..."*

KANSAS CITY, MO, July 1, 2011 -- The national commander of America's largest and oldest major combat veterans' organization is appalled over allegations of religious censorship at one of the nation's national cemeteries, calling it a case of "bureaucracy running amok."

"This is a point in case of bureaucracy...or rather, a classic example of a bureaucrat running amok. In spite of VA policy, the cemetery director is making up her own rules and has imposed hurtful, unilateral restrictions of her own choosing," said Richard L. Eubank, the national commander of the 2.1 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries.

Texas-based Liberty Institute has filed suit on behalf of the VFW, American Legion, and The National Memorial Ladies over allegations of religious hostility and unlawful censorship by the VA and its director of the Houston National Cemetery. "They've told the VFW and the American Legion that

they cannot have prayer during the burial services of our veterans, unless the family requests it in writing and submits the prayer for pre-approval," said Liberty Institute general counsel Jeff Mateer.

The VA, meanwhile, insists its national cemeteries welcome appropriate religious recitations. The "VA values and respects every veteran and their family's right to a burial service that honors their faith tradition," said Keith Ethridge, director of VA's National Chaplain Center. The Houston cemetery superintendent has declined to speak to the media despite numerous requests.

"Generations of patriotic Americans have fought, bled and died to help defend the U.S. Constitution – that great document provides and guarantees fundamental rights of religious expression and freedom of speech. Those basic tenets are clearly being violated at the cemetery and that simply cannot be tolerated," concluded Eubank.





All-State Commanders and Auxiliary Achievement Awards

Each year at the Department Convention, the Department All-State Post Commanders and Auxiliary Achievement Presidents are honored. These ceremonies are a highlight each year as our Department's most outstanding Post Commanders and Auxiliary Presidents are recognized for their efforts.

This year the VFW awards were presented by State Commander Lloyd Putman II and

Past National Commander-in-Chief Thomas "Tommy" Tradewell. Ladies Auxiliary awards were presented by State President Patricia Patterson and National Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Gwen Rankin.

This year the honorees were:



Phil Patterson, Captain of the All-State Team, Post 12082 Commander, District 9



Lana Bourlier, 1st Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 4



Carrie Watkins, 2nd Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 8



Nancy Lavigne, 3rd Place District Achievement Winner, representing District 13



Ernest Baker, Post 334, District 5



Regina Liedel, Auxiliary 423, District 6



Lawrence Foster, Post 702, District 8



Teal Saylor, Post 1071, District 11



Lillian Dowd, Auxiliary 1071, District 11



Cheryl Carothers, Auxiliary 1075, District 11



Al Starzec, Post 1136, District 4



Ruth Barnhill, Auxiliary 1136, District 4



Danny Burchfield, Post 1138, District 6



Barbara Theriault, Auxiliary 1407, District 5



Kathryn Kirby, Auxiliary 1452, District 10



Michael Sherman, Post 1669, District 5



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS,
continued on page 15

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, continued from page 14



Rick Speck, Post 1794, District 5



Richard Williams, Post 1888, District 4



Isaac Blair, Post 2233, District 4



Beverly Burton, Auxiliary 2233, District 4



Michael Tkacz, Post 2272, District 9



Madelene Breese, Auxiliary 2358, District 5



Gayle Smith, Auxiliary 2406, District 8



Luella Demski, Auxiliary 3033, District 11



William Bastian, Post 3243, District 10



Dennis Stewart, Post 3306, District 9



Kristine Griffith, Auxiliary 4093, District 6



Jearl Hoisington, Post 4139, District 10



Linda Perreault, Auxiliary 4139, District 10



Scott Gloger, Post 4156, District 5



Sandy Medos, Auxiliary 4422, District 4



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS,
continued on page 16



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, continued from page 15



Jan Suchan, Auxiliary 4553, District 4



Dee Ann Miller, Auxiliary 4644, District 4



Phil Gannia, Post 4659, District 5



Gloria Kaake, Auxiliary 4837, District 10



Helen Greenhoe, Auxiliary 5065, District 9



Lou Ann Conklin, Auxiliary 6248, District 7



Ruth Huuki, Auxiliary 6507, District 15



Mary Brown, Auxiliary 6691, District 5



Joan Elenbaas, Auxiliary 6950, District 11



Rick O'Berry, Post 7309, District 6



Kitty Young, Auxiliary 7581, District 8



Billy Stancroff, Post 7729, District 12



Michelle Stafford, Auxiliary 9283, District 4



Daneil Manke, Auxiliary 9411, District 7



Richard Schroeder, Post 9656, District 6



Kay Lynch, Auxiliary 9656, District 6

Not pictured:

John Kinzinger, Post 423, District 6; Sharon Selki, Auxiliary 607, District 13; Lori Etue, Auxiliary 822, District 10; Leonard Borgman, Post 3030, District 8; Lillian Yoemans, Auxiliary 3243, District 10; Marilyn Harvey, Auxiliary 3651, District 11; Jane Dady, Auxiliary 7435, District 11; David Trevino, Post 9455, District 9

100% Membership Awards

In June at the State Convention in Troy, Michigan, the Posts that attained 100% in membership for the 2010-2011 year were honored and awarded their Honor Post banners. The banners were awarded by Past National Commander in Chief Thomas

"Tommy" Tradewell, State Commander Lloyd Putman II and Dept. Membership Director Gerald "Hawk" Hawkins. The banners were accepted by the Post Commanders (if present) or the District Commander.



4th District: 8 Posts attained 100%



5th District: 13 Posts attained 100%

MEMBERSHIP, continued on page 17

MEMBERSHIP, continued from page 16



6th District: 12 Posts attained 100%



7th District: 4 Posts attained 100%



8th District: 8 Posts attained 100%



9th District: 10 Posts attained 100%



10th District: 18 Posts attained 100%



11th District: 5 Posts attained 100%



12th District: 9 Posts attained 100%



13th District: 3 Posts attained 100%



14th District: 4 Posts attained 100%



15th District: 4 Posts attained 100%



Pictures from the Dept. Convention and Michigan Day at the National Home



The State Honor Guard Posts the Colors during the opening ceremony of the Dept. Convention in Troy, Michigan.



VFW State Commander and the National Rep. for the Convention, Past Commander-in-Chief Thomas "Tommy" Tradewell.



VFW Girl Scout of the Year, Jessica Fountain, is presented her award at the Dept. Convention by State Commander Lloyd Putman II and Dept. Scouting Director Larry Thayer.



VFW State Commander Lloyd Putman II and State Ladies Aux President Patricia Patterson offer floral tributes for fallen comrades during the Joint Memorial Service.



Past National Commander-in-Chief Thomas "Tommy" Tradewell administers the Oath of Office to the 2011-2012 Dept. Officers and Directors.



Newly-elected VFW State Commander Jack Pray and all the newly-elected Dept. officers take the Oath of Office.



After the Dept. Convention, a reception for new State Commander Jack Pray and Mariann Hamann was held at the Cpl. Richard W. Menge VFW Post 6756. Pictured here is State Commander Jack Pray and his 2011-2012 Honor Guard, sitting in the booth that was used in the filming of the Clint Eastwood movie "Gran Torino".



Kids having fun on the blow-up slide during Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children.



Kids enjoying the small petting zoo that was set up during Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children.



The VFW and Ladies Auxiliary line officers in front of the monument at the VFW National Home for Children. Pictured, L-R: VFW Dept. Jr. Vice Commander Ron Devereaux; Ladies Aux. Jr. Vice President Marilyn Malik; State Commander Jack Pray; State Ladies Aux. President Mariann Hamann; Dept. Ladies Aux. Sr. Vice President Annebelle Ferguson; and VFW Dept. Sr. Vice Commander Kirk Kennedy.



American Legion Riders 365 donated \$5,000.00 to the VFW National Home for Children. This \$5,000.00 donation was matched by a National Home Alumni that they met on their way to the National Home that day.

Father and Son Elected



Two Decatur Veterans, father and son, were elected to positions in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan. Andy Conklin (L) was elected as State Judge Advocate and his son, Kevin Conklin (R), was elected as 7th District Commander. Together they have honorably served the VFW for a combined total of 50 years in various offices and positions. Together they will continue to serve veterans of all wars, past and present.

Fruitport VFW Post 3734 Dedicates Medal of Honor Plaque

Submitted by Post 3734 Commander LTC (Ret.) Max Riekse

This past May 28th, 2011 the Fruitport Polar Bear VFW Post 3734, held a dedication of a plaque commemorating Muskegon County, Michigan's two Medal of Honor recipients in the Fruitport Veterans Park, located in the Village of Fruitport.

The bronze plaque at the base of the stone is 97% bronze and was made in the United States of America. The cost of the bronze plaque was \$1,000, with all the money being raised locally, including donations from VFW Post 3734.

The plaque reads:

"A U.S. Army Civil War Medal of Honor; and a Korean War U.S. Navy Medal of Honor; and "Muskegon County Medal of Honor Recipients."

Followed by:

"Sergeant Alexander U. McHale: United States Army, Company C, 26th Michigan Infantry. Civil War. Entered service at Muskegon, Michigan. MOH award for conspicuous gallantry on May 12th, 1864 at Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia. Captured a Confederate flag in a charge, threw the flag over in front of the works and continued in the charge on the enemy. Corporal Duane Edgar Dewey: United States Marine

FRUITPORT, continued from page 18

Corps Reserve, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Division (Reinforced). Korean War. Entered service at Muskegon, Michigan. MOH award for conspicuous gallantry above and beyond the call of duty near Panmunjon, Korea, April 16th, 1952. Corporal Dewey, while wounded, smothered an incoming Communist grenade with his body, personally absorbing the full force of the explosion, thus saving the lives of his fellow Marines."

The Fruitport Township, Michigan Veterans Park has plaques and monuments commemorating those who died in World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Iraq War.



Pictured, R-L: LVFW Post 3734 Commander LTC (Ret.) Max Riekse; Mr. Duane E. Dewey (MOH recipient, guest of honor and VFW Life Member); Richard Riekse, son of Max Riekse, in his Boy Scout uniform; Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp #3 Secretary & Treasurer Daniel Grable; and Camp #3 Commander Richard (Dick) Scott. Camp #3, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, was named after SGT Henry E. Plant who was awarded the Medal of Honor in the Civil War.

Welcome, Admiral Jolliffe



Pictured, L-R: Macomb County Council Cdr Gerald Gorski, Admiral John E. Jolliffe, VFW State Commander Jack Pray and Dept. Membership Committee Member Norman Mauldin.

On 21 July 2011 UAW Region 1 Honor Guard and the VFW Department of Michigan Commander Jack Pray worked together to welcome Admiral John E. Jolliffe to the Great State of Michigan.

United States Navy veterans VFW State Commander Jack Pray, VOD, PP and TOY Director Harry "Les" Croyle, Macomb County Council Cdr. Gerald Gorski, Dept. Membership Committee Member Norman Mauldin and Al Seely, GM Veterans Affinity Group, served on the Honor Line to welcome the Admiral aboard at the GM UAW Human Resource Center. Also serving were the VOD, PP and TOY Assistant Director James Galen (US. Army), Tom Tubbs (US Army), Al Opra (USMC) and Carlton Pace (USAF).

When the Admiral entered the building, the Honor Line came to attention, Norm rang the bell six times; we then rendered a hand salute and after the Admiral passed, the line order "Arms" was given and our job was done.

Rear Admiral John E. Jolliffe addressed the Honor Line members and said it was the best line he ever passed through. One of our members said it was more than likely the oldest line he ever passed through.



The Honor Line welcomes Admiral Jolliffe.

Breast Cancer Fundraiser

Price-Crane-Robinsons VFW Post 4642 in Linden, Michigan served as the third stop of the Full Circle Breast Cancer Motorcycle Ride on June 18, 2011. Over 500 riders participated in the progressive poker run which raised \$4,000 for cancer treatment centers in Genesee County.

The riders were welcomed to the Linden VFW with live music, a classic motorcycle display and bake sale. "It was our honor to welcome the riders to our Post," said Post Commander Pat Munch. "It was a beautiful day for riding and the members enjoyed it, as well."

More photos can be found on the VFW Post 4642 Web site at www.vfwpost4642.org or visit the VFW Post 4642 Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/VFW-Post-4642/218685291487968>



Pat Munch, Post Commander (4th from left) greets riders at the classic motorcycle display.



Riders supporting the Full Circle Breast Cancer Motorcycle Ride cruise through Linden, Michigan on their way to VFW Post 4642.

VFW Post 423 Sends Care Packages to the Troops



VFW Post 423 continues to Support Our Troops by sending care packages. Every other month before their regular membership meeting, Post and Auxiliary members pack 20-30 large care packages and mail them to troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. To date, VFW Post 423 has mailed almost 1,000 care packages.

This program has become somewhat of a local community effort, too. Members of the local Pittsfield Senior Center help by knitting hundreds of wool scarves each year, which are mailed to the troops in Afghanistan for their colder months. That personal touch is very

warming for the troops. Local church groups and individuals donate items and cash for postage.

Most importantly, Post 423 packs special 'women only' packages for female troopers. They may not be in front-line fighting units, but the number of women serving in the war zones is much greater than in earlier wars. The numbers of them who have made the supreme sacrifice (over 140 died in theater, so far) far outnumber that of prior wars. IEDs, mortar attacks and convoy ambushes seem to be responsible for these differences.

If another Post would like some care package advice, they can contact John Kinzinger, Post 423 Care Package Chairman by calling 734-994-0444 or through the Post Web site at www.vfw423.org

Billy G. Stancroff
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 12
Lt. Clement F. Derezinski
VFW Post 7729
His family

Bonnie Pray
Candidate for Department Guard
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 10
Ladies Auxiliary 3243
Her husband and family





Matt David, Editor

Editorial Committee:

Jack Pray, Commander
Kirk Kennedy, Sr. Vice Commander
Ron Devereaux, Jr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Historian/MOV Editor
Diane Ward, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

Materials for Publication

Send to: Matt David
10 Elder Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(734) 883-1506
editormov@yahoo.com

Graphic Design & Layout:

American Graphics & Design, Inc.
Jenny DeBack, President
Cindy Chic, Graphic Designer
Ellen Imp, Composition Specialist
www.agad.com

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

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(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



6-MARQUETTE

RABIDEAU, JAMES S., 70, USAF/VIETNAM

140-ST CLAIR SHORES

BOCCI, VICTOR C., USA/WWII

VAN HAMME, FRANK, WWII

147-LIVONIA

GOLESKI, CHESTER, 88, USN/WWII

345-REDFORD

ARNOLD, BRUCE E., 86, USN/WWII

CANNING, WILLIAM J., 86, USA/WWII

DUVALL, JOHN A., 88, USMC/WWII

JACOBUS, HOWARD W., 89, USA/WWII

LUCKY, ELMER W., 87, USA/WWII

PAPE, DONALD A., 89, USN/WWII

SHEPHEARD, WILLIAM, 84, USN/WWII

446-MUSKEGON

GEETING, ERNEST, 88, USA/WWII

HOWELL, JOHN J., USA/KOREA

JOURDEN, ARTHUR R., 64, USA/VIETNAM

LEMKE, ALAN, 75, USAF

MUNFORD, HERBERT E., 87, USA/WWII

NIELSEN, FREDERICK J., 86, USA/WWII

TYERS, VIRGIL, 90, USA/WWII

552-LINCOLN PARK

LISIECKI, EDWARD, 85, USN/WWII

701-LANSING

SIMS, ROY L., 88, USA/WWII

822-FLINT

TAKACS, JOHN G., 91, USA/WWII

1071-COLEMAN

GETGOOD, WILLIAM T., 80, USA/WWII

1136-WYANDOTTE

DOMINCZYK, THEODORE, 82, USA/WWII

KING, MARION P., 88, USA/WWII

NEROWSKI, CHARLES, 83, USA/WWII

PARKER, WILLIAM J., 80, USA/KOREA

1138-MONROE

FOSHAS, WILLIAM, 83, USA/WWII/KOREA

RAMMLER, HAROLD, 103, USN/WWII

WALTZ, RICHARD, 79, USMC/KOREA

1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES

ADAMKIEWICZ, RAYMOND, 85, USA/WWII

AUGUSTINE, GERALD E., 85, USMC/WWII

BAFILE, ERNEST, 77, USA/KOREA

BARNWELL, KENNETH W., 95, USAAF/WWII

BROWN, JOHN W., 89, USA/WWII

BUCEK, JOHN J., 90, USN/WWII

DESANDRE, JOSEPH JR., 81, USA/KOREA

HOARD, MELDREN J., 92, USN/WWII

MAISON, CLIFFORD J., 89, USA/WWII

MEDWITH, ROBERT J., USA

PIONTKOWSKI, JOHN L., 85, USA/WWII

SEASER, GERALD J., 82, USA/WWII

SERRUYS, ROBERT G., 81, KOREA

SEWICK, EDWARD, 92, USA/WWII

THOMPSON, GORDON,

TRACY, PHILIP E., 91, USA/WWII

VAN SLEMBROUCK, HUGH C., 80, USA/KOREA

1355-STURGIS

PLUCINSKI, BERNARD, 98, USA/WWII

SMOKER, HAROLD, 81, USA/KOREA

SPENCE, GERALD W., 75, USA/KOREA

TOZER, DONALD, 88, USAF/WWII

WALTERS, LAVERNE, 82, USA/KOREA

WOODS, GAIL, 77, USA/KOREA

1407-FERNDAL

PERAINO, MICHAEL, 90, USA/WWII

1452-CLIO

MORRIS, WALTER L., 92, USN/WWII

1454-ALMA

BRICE, DONALD, 92, USA/WWII

COFFIN, RONALD, 64, USN/VIETNAM

KNAPP, RONALD, 76, USA/KOREA

LOMBARD, ROGER, 62, USA/VIETNAM

1566-SAGINAW

BRANCH, ROBERT, 79, USA

CONLEY, JAMES J., 79, USAF/KOREA

ERDMAN, ISAAC, 87, USA/WWII

JANSON, JANIS, 68, USN

LOEFFLER, DONALD, 82, USA/WWII

MC CORMICK, THEODORE, 75, USA/KOREA

1573-SAUGATUCK

MARONE, JOHN, 63, USA/VIETNAM

1669-ROYAL OAK

BONINO, VAUN W., 77, USA/KOREA

DURING, THOMAS, USA/CUBA

MAZUR, RAYMOND, 86, USN/WWII

1855-DOWAGIAC

CLUPPER, BENJAMIN H., 88, USN/WWII

WELLER, JOHN, 64, USN/VIETNAM

1859-SAGINAW

BUDZINSKI, WALTER J., 92, USA/WWII

DE CAIRE, LEO F., 75, USA/WWII

LOCKWOOD, JAMES A., 65, USA/VIETNAM

SPEAKERMAN, ROY W., 78, USA/KOREA

1887-MENOMINEE

RICHMOND, JACKIE, 78, USAF/KOREA

2144-HOLLAND

GROTENHUIS, WALLACE, 87, USA/WWII

MOELLER, GILBERT, 90, USAAC/WWII

ROSIE, RONALD JR., 85, USN/WWII

STANFORD, ALLEN, 89, USA/WWII

2358-ROSEVILLE

NIEDOLIWKA, THOMAS R., 86, USMC/WWII

STEVENS, JACK C., 84, USN/WWII

2382-LEXINGTON

FARRELL, JOHN E.,

GOTTLER, STEPHEN M.,

WOLFE, JACK, 87, USAAF/WWII

2409-OTTER LAKE

RICHARDSON, ROBERT H., 79, USA/KOREA

2496-ALPENA

FANSLOW, LEON S., 93, USA/WWII

FRALICK, MAX, 62, VIETNAM

HUMISTON, RICHARD, 75, USN

JORE, DANNY D., USA/VIETNAM

KAUER, REX, 89, USMC/WWII

MINK, LAWRENCE, 68, USAF/VIETNAM

2891-CRYSTAL FALLS

CORBETT, EDWARD J., 86, USAF/WWII/KOREA

MARGONI, ANGELO J., 94, USA/WWII

ZELEZNIK, JOHN, 74, USA

2964-REED CITY

BRACKETT, DONALD L.,

LOFGREN, KENNETH, 90, USA/WWII

NICKLAS, PAUL,

2998-ESCANABA

EASTMAN, CARL JR., 86, USN/WWII

JANKOVIC, JOSEPH J., 86, USA/WWII

SLAGA, WILLIAM, 93, USA/WWII

SLAGA, WILLIAM, 93, USA/WWII

SMITH, OLEN L., 92, USA/WWII

3023-GRAND RAPIDS

TINDALL, ELWIN D., 91, USA/WWII

3030-OTSEGO

LARSON, ROBERT H., 91, USA/WWII

LAWRENCE, GLEN L., 93, USA/WWII

QUARRY, ROBERT, 82, USN/WWII

3033-MT. PLEASANT

BAUER, JAMES A., 69, USAF/VIETNAM

BELTINCK, JOHN A., USA/VIETNAM

3165-NEGAUNEE

DUNSTAN, CHARLES L., 87, USA/WWII

ELVETICI, RONALD C., 62, USMC/VIETNAM

GHIARDI, DOMINIC P., 93, USCG/WWII

KETO, EINO M., 84, USA/KOREA

O'NEILL, DONALD, 86, USA/WWII

RICHARDS, ROBERT E., 91, USAAF/WWII

SARKELA, WILJO, 88, USA/WWII

SMITH, REGINALD L., 86, USN/WWII

3195-MUSKEGON

AMAYA, JUAN G., 82, USA/WWII

BAILEY, GARY L., 66, USN/VIETNAM

DRABIK, EDWARD H., 88, USAF/WWII

3293-GRAND LEDGE

GEORGI, ROBERT L., 85, USA/WWII

3623-CHEBOYGAN

ECKHART, EDWARD C., 81, USA/KOREA

GOODENOW, GEORGE, 76, USA/KOREA

SHIELDS, JOHN E., 87, USA/WWII

3667-ALLEGAN

STAUSHOLM, JAMES L., 88, USA/WWII

3674-IRON MOUNTAIN

CERASOLI, ALPHONSE, 77, USN/KOREA

CHAMPION, WILLIAM, 86, USMC/WWII

HARSHMAN, ROY, 76,

HEIDENREICH, ALBERT, 80, USN/KOREA

WEBB, PAUL, 44, USN

3676-SAULT STE MARIE

ANDERSEN, PAUL E., 85, USAF/KOREA/VIETNAM

GREENLY, JAMES H. JR., 93, USAF/WWII

OLMSTEAD, ALFRED, 97, USN/WWII

OLSON, HERBERT G., 85, USA/WWII

3733-FOWLER

CHICK, LYLE, 80, USA/KOREA

HORMAN, CHARLES, 77, USA

PETIT, JOSEPH J., 86, USN/WWII

4054-MARCELLUS

KLETT, GARTH, 78, USA/KOREA

MC INTYRE, CHARLES, 80, USN/KOREA

MILLER, WAYNE, 92, USA/WWII

4073-MARSHALL

BUSKIRK, LESLIE, 90, USN/WWII

ORWIG, MELVIN C., 92, USAAF/WWII

4090-PORTLAND

GREEN, JACK V., 83, USA/WWII

4093-CARLETON

BERGMOOSER, DAVID, 65, USA/VIETNAM

BOHMER, MELVIN, 60, USA/VIETNAM

JACOBS, ROBERT, 81, USA/WWII

MCLAUGHLIN, OLIVER, 90, USA/WWII

SAYLES, CHARLES W., 86, USN/WWII

4113-ST. JOHNS

SALI, JAMES, 85, USA/WWII

4139-LAPEER

FOWLER, ROBERT M., 62, USMC/VIETNAM

4159-ROSCOMMON

BATES, TED, 82, USN/WWII

CARLSON, JOHN, 89, USAAF/WWII

DWYER, WILLIAM, 84, USN

HART, PATRICK, 71, USA

WEST, DONALD, 82, USA/WWII

4164-CARO

KELLEY, GRANT W., 90, USN/WWII

WATSON, BILL, 83, USA/WWII

4249-NEWAYGO

TIMMERMAN, ROBERT, 93, USA/WWII

YUNKER, WILLIAM, 86, USMC/WWII

4420-MANISTIQUE

OSTERHOUT, HARRY, 86, USA/WWII

4553-DETROIT

LEE, FRED, 77, KOREA

4624-HUBBELL

ALLWIN, EUGENE J., 79, USMC/KOREA

HAINAULT, PAUL E., 90, USA/WWII

MARTTI, ROGER W., 58, USN/VIETNAM

4644-DEARBORN HEIGHTS

LUPONE, GEORGE, 93, USA/WWII

4837-MARLETTE

WESTFALL, GEORGE C., 81, USA/KOREA

5065-SHERIDAN

BRIGGS, EUGENE O., 88, USA/WWII

CRIST, DAVID A., 75, US/WWII

GETTS, VERNON L., 85, USA/WWII

HASKIN, JOSEPH L., 86, USA/WWII

KENNEDY, JOHN A., 83, USA/WWII

TAOKARCHICK, MARTIN, 67, USA/VIETNAM

TOWERSEY, JAMES E., 83, USA/KOREA

ZUMSTEG, FREDERICK L., 78, USA

Auxiliary TAPS

203-BERVILLE MCCALLUMORE, ANNA SCHULTZ, ELEANOR 422-DELTON WARD, JOSPEHINE WARD, JUNE 423-ANN ARBOR POOL, KATHY REED, GLADYS 565-BATTLE CREEK BASS, HAZEL BABICK, BERNEDIA CHAMPLIN, BETTY DOWNER, MARY LIGHTBODY, MARY MCNEE, MARY NARCROSS, ONA SIDNAM, OLETA TORREY, MARY TRETHRIC, JESSTA TROSKEY, DOLORES WALL, PATSY 671-DEWITT HILDABRIDLE, LORINE KINGSBURY, KAREN WILCOX, TONI 796-PORT HURON BALES, SARAH JANE, 73 822-FLINT GOODLANDER, ROSEMARY RHODES, AUDLENE TINNIN, RUTH 1137-BENTON HARBOR LICHNEROWICZ, JOAN SCHINSKE, MARIETTA WYSZYNSKI, IRENE YESKE, HELEN 1138-MONROE BOUDRIE, MARRIAN 1146-ST. CLAIR SHORES ARBUCKLE, MARY BALCUNS, ALICE MANISCALCO, MARY 1452-CLIO COBB, KARON 1519-LIVONIA SELASKY, RITA 1566-SAGINAW BYRON, MARY 1887-MENOMINEE BALDWIN, DOLORES 2051-HARBOR SPRINGS LOPER, CLARABEL, 72 2052-ROMEO PERLISBY, GERALDINE 2144-HOLLAND HAMM, JACQLYN, 47 HAVEMAN, MELISSA, 38 HENAGIN, BETTY, 86 HOUTING, CATHERINE, 80 KLINGE, PHYLLIS, 83 MATTIAS, KATHRYN, 89	STILES, LETTY, 82 SYBESMA, SHIRLEY, 79 2233-DETROIT DAVIS, ROBENA 2269-WIXOM WILKINSON, BARBARA 2326-GRAND HAVEN JANES, VIOLET KELLEY, ETHEL 2335-MECOSTA ROEBUCK, LORRAINE, 85 2356-HILLMAN NORTHRUP, PHYLLIS WATSON, VIOLET 2358-ROSEVILLE IDOLSKI, JOSEPHINE 2406-CHARLOTTE BELL, MARJORIE, 85 MAHAN, AUDREY, 85 2496-ALPENA COUTURE, DOROTHY, 86 KOWALSKY, DOLORES, 80 PARKHAM, SHIRLEY, 85 2645-SOUTHFIELD SCHILER, ESTHER, 83 2780-TRAVERSE CITY ARTHUR, KAREN Kyselka, JEANNE MANVILLE, HELEN PANTAZOPOULOS, GEORGIANA ROKOS, GLORIA 2945-SANDUSKY PARTICKA, IRENE, 85 2964-REED CITY FREDELL, MARGARET, 85 GERRED, JACQUELINE, 85 3023-CRESTON MULLER, DEBRA RUBRINGER, NELLIE 3030-OTSEGO KRUITHOFF, RUTH 3033-MT. PLEASANT MYERS, ROSEMARY SMALL, LUELLA 3039-FARWELL BEAVERS, ROSALIE BREWER, SANDRA LEE LONG, WILMA SPRAGUE, BEULAH 3134-IRON RIVER HICKS, BETTY JEAN 3165-NEGAUNEE DUCOLI, NANCY, 74 KUIAWA, SOPHIE, 87 RUOHOMAKI, MARCY, 55 SUNDQUIST, THELMA, 85 TOY, EVELYN, 80 3243-FENTON JOHNSON, RUTH, 89 KERNEN, HELEN, 81 SMITH, CECILIA, 87 SUTTON, HOLLIS, 59	3256-MONTAGUE BLAIR, PHYLLIS 3306-HOWARD CITY ANDREWS, BESS CAIN, BLANCHE HIGGINS, DELORES 3623-CHEBOYGAN GODIN, PAULINE 3676-SAULT STE. MARIE SAWASKY, ALICE 3720-SWARTZ CREEK HALL, AUDREY KINDER, ROSELAND 3753-PINCONNING COYLE, MAE, 89 KRUGER, JOYCE, 81 3925-ERIE BROWN, LAVERNE 4005-CORUNNA BURMAN, GENEVA BELLE, 91 WATSON, SARAH “JOAN”, 94 4090-PORTLAND HANCOCK, ELIZABETH 4102-PARIS HARTLINE, PANSY 4139-LAPEER MORELL, AGNES 4159-ROSCOMMON ELLIXSON, EDWARDINE, 82 FISHER, MARTHA, 82 TYLER, JOANN 4164-CARO BLAKELY, CAROL COX, BEATRICE KUSEK, MARY LANGOS, MARY RANDALL, MARIA ZAMUDIO, NANCY 4187-TECUMSEH BUMPUS, GLADYS, 87 GERTEN, EVELYN, 86 LICKFELT, SHIRLEY, 78 WILLIAMS, PHOEBE, 81 4230-ROCKWOOD KULIKOWSKI, NORINE, 88 4249-NEWAYGO HARDY, MARIAM MATHEWS, HAZEL 4357-BRIGHTON PEARSON, BEVERLY 4422-TAYLOR REETZ, SHERRY 4461-LAKE ODESSA JAMES, JEAN MITCHELL, EDNA SCHEIDT, LORRAINE 4499-MANISTEE BAILEY, CECIL HAFER, JEAN SNAY, LUCILLE 4624-HUBBELL TRENAMAN (DAVY), RUTH ANN	4644-DEARBORN HEIGHTS DYTYNIAK, HELEN 4659-SHELBY TWP BELLAIRE, KATHLEEN 4837-MARLETTE WEAVER, VERNA 5065-SHERIDAN BUCKLEY, RETA, 91 CAMPBELL, VIRGINIA, 87 CHRISTENSEN, LELA, 89 EDWARDS, LORRIANE, 90 ELLIOTT, MAMIE, 79 FIKE, LORRAINE FLICK, MARY, 80 GLEASON, BETTY HARRINGTON, RUTH, 85 HEPPE, KATHLEEN, 84 HOLCOMB, SYLVIA, 88 LIPPERT, WANDA, 61 MASON, RUTH, 82 PARKER, JOY, 80 RICE, BARBARA, 83 ROSHER, VADA, 87 SPAULDING, ELEANOR, 87 SWAGLER, MARCELLA WARD, PHYLLIS, 71 5315-BALDWIN NEWBURN, BETTY POOLEY, CARMEN YOUNGS, MILDRED 5319-ATHENS MORROW, EMILY WILLIAMS, DOLLIE 5572-ALLEN PARK JONES, MARVEL 5600-ONTONAGON BENIK, ANITA, 86 GORDON, VIRGINIA, 81 GOULET, IRENE, 85 MOGAN, JEANNE, 80 RUOTUREN, WINIFRED, 85 SWANBERG, SYLVIA, 96 5670-GWINN MAINS, DARLENE, 78 5738-CLARE GODWIN, NANCY LONGNECKER, KAREN MONCIER, BRENDA 5822-BYRON JONES, EVELYN, 82 5855-PORTAGE HARRINGTON, HAZEL BREEDVELD, BONNIE SUTTER, VELMA 5857-ONAWAY NORTHCOTT, CLARA WOHLGEMUTH, ELIZABETH 6056-SPRINGPORT WOLF, MARILYN, 89 6248-DECATUR HOUSTON, LINDA	6464-FOWLERVILLE MIKS, CHRISTINE 6579-NEW LOTHROP FALL, ROSE ELLEN PIERCE, MARGARET TALLMAN, CARLEY 6695-PLYMOUTH BIDWELL, MARIE 6782-EASTPOINTE BEEKER, MARGARET BENNER, MARY 6950-KAWKAWLIN KLOPE, LILLIAN 7302-HEMLOCK MORNINGSTAR, BETTY WALTON, LAURA 7546-DEARBORN HEIGHTS CROWLEY, DOLORES, 90 7575-GARDEN CITY WACHT, LOUISE 7580-EAST JORDAN REBEC, MARIE SPIRES, VERNA 7581-WAYLAND HETH, JUANITA LITTELL, MARY PEASE, WILMA TROOST, GAIL MARIE 7646-PELKIE HEIKKINEN, SARAH 7804-POSEN TADAJEWSKI, ALICE 8275-AU GRES DITTENBER, ALICE, 89 8846-MUSKEGON LINDRUP, CATHERINE SEMEYN, MARIAN 9023-BRIMLEY KINSELLA, ARDITH NIEMI, GLADYS OSMAR, GERALDINE SOULLIERE, LOUISE 9363-FLAT ROCK JOHNSON, LINDA 9411-HOMER DOUGLAS, MARILYN, 80 PROTEAU, MARJORIE, 93 RUPERT, DAWN, 62 SCHEIDLER, MADGE VANDERLIP, ROSE YECK, FRANCES, 82 10704-CASSAPOLIS HILMINEN, MARY JANE MORGAN, ARLENE RILEY, DOROTHY 15023-AT LARGE FOREMAN, CLARA
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TAPS, continued from page 20

GREGORY, NAPOLEON O., WWII GUNTZVILLER, DALE G., WWII HEJKA, THADDEUS A., WWII HENEHAN, CHARLES L., WWII KEMPISTY, EDWARD A., WWII LUKAS, JOHN, WWII MIGIEL, STANLEY, WWII MUSIAL, JOSEPH L., WWII OBUDZINSKI, EDWARD J., WWII ROBAK, JOHN, WWII SEASER, ERVIN J., WWII SYWAK, EDWARD, WWII WILLIAMS, BILLY A., WWII ZALESKI, MITCHELL L., WWII ZANCANARO, LOUIS, WWII	7731-LAKE LEELANAU MERVAU, WAYNE H., 87, USA/WWII 7804-POSEN WEKWERT, LEONARD, 79, USA/KOREA, 7979-EVART REICHOW, GLEN V., 89, USAAF/WWII 8135-BARTON CITY ANKNER, JOSEPH F., 85, USA/WWII 8372-ENGADINE VALLIER, LAWRENCE, 86, USA/WWII 8594-YALE CHANDLER, MAX, 94, USA/WWII 8684-KALKASKA SHAW, WILLIAM, USA/KOREA 8846-MUSKEGON CALIFF, ERNEST L., 89, USA/WWII	MC DONALD, FAY M., 92, USA/WWII PODROCZY, WESLEY, 77, USAF/KOREA RICH, VERNON, 87, USA/WWII 9021-WARREN BUGAJSKI, WILLIAM J., 91, USA/WWII ROMANKO, WILLIAM J., 87, USA/WWII 9293-EASTPOINTE PARADOWSKI, HENRY, 91, USN/WWII 9344-HARBOR BEACH VALLIER, HERBERT, USA/WWII 9345-BRUCE CROSSING BONETTI, VALENTINE, 86, USCG/WWII 9455-OWOSSO DICKINSON, ROBERT A., USA/KOREA 9489-ATLANTA MC DONNELL, LYLE, 83, USA/WWII	PECK, JOE, 88, USA/WWII 9568-ROMULUS PELLECCHIA, PASQUALE, 81, USA/WWII 9656-LAMBERTVILLE DILTZ, CHARLES H., 85, USA/WWII TRABBIC, JAMES, USA/WWII 9973-DEARBORN HEIGHTS GRIBENAS, CONRAD, 81, USA/KOREA 10770-LEROY YORCH, HARRY, 78, USA/KOREA 10884-MAYVILLE SENEY, LOUIS, 86, USA 10912-BLISSFIELD HAMILTON, ROBERT, 89, USA/WWII
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10 FOR 10: VFW Won’t Stand for Broken Promises

Update: VFW mobilizes to protect military benefits as Congress looks to slash spending

August 09, 2011 – Recently, when Congress voted to raise the nation’s debt ceiling, they specifically targeted national security spending to absorb many of the cuts, indicating that Department of Defense personnel programs and VA benefits would not be spared.

Leaders in Congress have already discussed cutting or eliminating 10 benefits affecting military members, veterans and their families in recent months, and the VFW believes that these toxic proposals will once again gain momentum as Con-

gress looks for ways to tighten its belt. An in-depth explanation of each proposed cut is included below.

America’s all-volunteer military has shouldered a multi-theater war all by themselves for almost 10 years. They did so without question, and often with tremendous sacrifice to themselves and their families.

Americans understand the scope of the national debt crisis; a crisis that could have serious repercussions on a military at war and a veterans’ population that has

already sacrificed much for the nation. However, instead of debating and enacting meaningful fiscal reforms, some in Congress have proposed plans that would leave America’s military and her veterans to shoulder more of the national debt.

This “10 for 10” plan – to cut 10 specific benefits to pay for 10 years of war – is a breach of faith with America’s military and veteran families, and the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries is calling upon his 2 million mem-

bers to fight it. “Our military and veterans have earned each of the 10 benefits Congress is proposing to cut,” said VFW National Commander Richard L. Eubank, a retired Marine and Vietnam combat veteran from Eugene, Oregon.

“Our nation broke a similar promise to her World War I veterans,” he said. “It took the VFW to lead thousands of them in a march on Washington until Congress

— 10 FOR 10, continued on page 22



Lynn Patterson
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Quartermaster
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 9
David A. Huhn VFW Post 12082
Her husband and family

Sandy Medos
Candidate for Department Guard
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 4
Ladies Auxiliary 4422
Her husband and family

Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary 2012 Calendar

Orders are now being accepted for the 2012 calendar!

Drawings will be held at the Department office, 924 N. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906 at 10:00 a.m. each Friday and for the six preceding days. You need not be present to win. After the seven tickets have been drawn and winners are recorded, they will be returned to the drawing drum for the next week's drawing. There will be 52 drawings with a total of 366 prizes awarded.

2012 Calendar Raffle Rules

Prize Distribution of \$13,575.00

\$500 x 6, Honoring: New Years Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, 911, Veterans Day

\$250 x 7, Honoring: Ladies Auxiliary Birthday, Statue of Liberty Birthday, Army Day, Navy Day, Marine Day, Air Force Day, Coast Guard Day

\$25 x 353: All other days

52 drawing dates: 1 each Friday for the period Saturday through Friday

Calendars are \$25.00 – complete the order form and return with your check.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

No. ordered: _____ Total due: \$ _____

Send orders with check to:
Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary
924 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

517-487-3715

Orders due by October 17; all orders mailed by November 30th

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

Official Publication of the Department of Michigan • Veterans of Foreign Wars
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10 FOR 10, continued from page 21

made the responsible choice to support them. The VFW wouldn't stand for broken promises then and we won't stand for it now."

The 10 ways Congress is targeting military and veterans' benefits during today's difficult fiscal times are to:

- Increase healthcare premiums for military retirees on TRICARE
- Increase pharmaceutical fees for troops, families and retirees
- Eliminate presumptive service-connected conditions for disabled and ill veterans
- Lock out or increase fees for Department of Veterans Affairs Priority Groups 7 and 8 veterans
- Reduce cost-of-living allowances
- Freeze military pay
- End government subsidies to military commissaries
- Eliminate Department of Defense elementary schools stateside
- Eliminate the 20-year military retirement plan
- Eliminate DoD tuition reimbursement programs for service members

While Congress publicly debated raising the nation's debt ceiling, the VFW was concerned that many of the proposed cuts were being discussed behind closed doors. The VFW has the same concerns over the new bipartisan "Gang of 12" Super Congress tasked to develop the nation's debt reduction plan. Eubank said the VFW recognizes that the nation must make difficult fiscal decisions, but the programs and benefits pro-

vided to veterans and military families were prepaid in full through their honorable service and sacrifice.

"Unlike other government-funded entitlement programs, veterans earned their benefits by making a national commitment that 99 percent of other Americans are simply unwilling to make," said Eubank. "To ask these same men and women to sacrifice more is simply unconscionable."

The VFW also believes that cutting the 10 benefits could have tremendous impact on military recruiting and readiness, and threaten the future viability of the all-volunteer force. Healthcare, education, a retirement system and family programs are critical factors in retaining talented personnel in a low-paying and extremely dangerous profession.

Eubank said as the debate over fiscal responsibility continues to unfold in Washington, the VFW will work to ensure that military and veterans' benefits remain intact.

In the coming weeks, the VFW will continue to put pressure on Congress to ensure proposed fiscal reforms do not negatively affect troops, veterans or their families.

Join the effort and make your voice heard by calling, writing, or e-mailing your members of Congress. To learn how, visit VFW's Capwiz page at <http://capwiz.com/vfw/dbq/officials/>, and to follow the story as it develops, visit the VFW's new Capitol Hill blog at www.vfwonthehill.org

VFW Testifies to Improve Veterans' Access to Care

Testimony before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health on seven pending bills

WASHINGTON, July 26, 2011 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. testified yesterday before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health on seven pending bills that address issues such as removing hurdles to care for veterans, improving services for those suffering from the invisible wounds of war, and ensuring that VA land is used to serve the mission of VA.

VFW Senior Legislative Associate Shane Barker presented the organization's views on access to health care facilities for veterans with service dogs, broadening the scope of rehabilitative models for veterans suffering from traumatic brain injuries, strengthening zero-tolerance policies for sexual assault inside VA medical facilities, and ensuring that VA's enhanced use-lease agreements conform to VA's mission of providing services to veterans.

The VFW supports many of the ideas proposed by the subcommittee, such as improving Spina Bifida care for children of veterans exposed to Agent Orange and streamlining VA reimbursements to state

veterans' homes. The VFW, however, did oppose a bill to create a VA therapy dog training program for troops suffering from post-traumatic stress, calling instead for VA to partner with private organizations already experienced in training therapy dogs.

"We support the idea behind this legislation, but believe it would be better achieved through established private sector organizations with sufficient oversight by VA," said Barker. "Such changes would achieve greater results with no further cost to VA."

For more hearing information or to read Barker's submitted remarks, click here to access the House VA Subcommittee on Health Web site.

The VFW will continue to advocate for reforms to better serve the health care needs of American veterans, and to ensure that the VA upholds its promise to care for our nation's war fighters. Keep track of VFW's work on Capitol Hill by subscribing to the Washington Weekly e-newsletter, available through the "VFW in D.C." page on the VFW national Web site.

God Bless Our Troops

Veterans of Foreign Wars 83rd Annual Fall Conference (Pow-Wow) Shanty Creek Resorts September 29-October 2, 2011

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2011

12 Noon GOLF OUTING (All golfers sign up for golf) TBA

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Registration	Grand Ballroom B
8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Directors Displays	Grand Ballroom B
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Service Office Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
9:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m.	Budget & Finance Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Membership Meeting for All	Grand Ballroom C
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Council of Administration Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
	DINNER ON YOUR OWN	

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011

8:00 a.m.-12 Noon	Registration	Grand Ballroom B
8:00 a.m.-12 Noon	Directors Displays	Grand Ballroom B
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Visit Directors Displays/Q & A	Grand Ballroom B
	Activities	
	All-State	
	Americanism	
	Buddy Poppy	
	Community Services	
	Day of Challenges	
	Hospital	
	Legislative	
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Pool League Meeting	Grand Ballroom D
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Bowling Committee Meeting	Grand Ballroom G
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Chaplains Meeting	Grand Ballroom E
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Adj/QM/Trustees/Auditing (Open to all)	Grand Ballroom G
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.	Joint Service Office Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	VFW Training	Grand Ballroom C
8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	Service Office Training	Fireside Parlor
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	

JOINT MEETINGS FOR VFW, LADIES AUXILIARY AND MEN'S AUXILIARY

1:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	Joint National Home Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Joint Camp Trotter Meeting	Grand Ballroom C
2:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Joint Legislative	Grand Ballroom C
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Patriot's Pen	Grand Ballroom C
	Voice of Democracy	
	Teacher of the Year	
	Freedom Academy	
	Scouting	
	Youth Programs	
8:00 p.m.	Karaoke/Hospitality	TBA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2011 HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

☆☆☆☆☆ DRESS CODE FOR FALL CONFERENCE ☆☆☆☆☆

Thursday, September 29, 2011: Wear the white golf shirt and something warm.

Friday, September 30, 2011: Wear Lloyd's green shirt with blue trousers for the morning session and the C of A jacket and tie for the afternoon Council of Administration meeting.

Saturday, October 1, 2011: Wear Jack's blue shirt with tan trousers or casual clothing all day.

Larry Coleman
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Surgeon
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 4
City of Trenton VFW Post 1888
His wife and family

Leonard "Lenny" Milewski
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 4
City of Wyandotte VFW Post 1136
His wife and family

Harry "Les" Croyle
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2012-2013



Endorsed and supported by:
District 5
Cpl Richard W. Menge
VFW Post 6756
His wife and family

SMART, continued from page 24

Retired Firefighters Association and the Association of the U.S. Army. He has served as chairman of the Board of Managers of the New Hampshire Veterans Home since 1987, and has served as a State Representative from Congressional District 28, Nashua, New Hampshire. Smart is currently employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He and his wife, Mary, have two children: John, Jr. and Cheryl and four grandchildren. They make their home in Woodbridge, Virginia.

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
July/August/September 2011
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STATE COMMANDER

As I write this, we just returned from Michigan Day at the National Home for Children. This is the first year that we did not have a July Council of Administration with Officers Training School. It was hard to figure how many would attend the National Home. We were pleasantly surprised at the large turnout. Thank you to Director Lloyd Schuetz and Department Chairman Kathy Kirby for putting it all together. Everyone seemed to have a very nice time.

I would like to give my congratulations to all newly-elected and installed officers, directors and chairmen throughout the VFW and Auxiliaries, both Ladies and Men's. We have had two Veterans Training events and had a good attendance. Approximately 90% of the attendees to the training at Camp Trotter were first time visitors to the camp.

Now is the time to get out and find those new members and go after the ones that didn't pay their dues by January 1, 2011. These comrades are the easiest ones to get back and they were members that for whatever



Jack Pray
State Commander

reason, quit paying dues. If you could talk to them, you may find out they were on hard times and just need a little assistance. Isn't that what we are here for...to help veterans? That is one reason the Posts have a relief fund.

There are still a number of Posts around the state that have not paid their National Convention fees, and also do not have an election report turned in. These things need to be taken care of. National will suspend your Post Charter if you are behind and then you have to go through quite a bit to get back to being a functioning Post. It's not worth the \$25.00 fee as far as all the hassle goes.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fall Conference at Shanty Creek from September 29-October 2, 2011.

Until then, yours in Comradeship.

John W. Smart

VFW Commander-in-Chief 1999-2000 to be National Rep. for Fall Conference



John W. Smart of Nashua, New Hampshire, was elected VFW Commander-in-Chief at the organization's 100th National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri on August 20, 1999.

Smart served in the United States Army from October 1970 to April 1973. In Vietnam, he was assigned to the 176th Assault Helicopter Company (Aerial Division) at Chu Lai. His service in Vietnam was recognized with a Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, a Vietnam Service Medal with four stars and a Presidential Unit Citation. While serving in Vietnam, he joined VFW Post 2181 in Exeter, New Hampshire. Following his return from military service in 1973, he moved quickly through

the chairs and earned recognition as an All-American Department Commander during the 1981-82 year. In 1983, he served as chairman of the National Youth Activities Committee, and from 1991-1993, as chairman of the National Buddy Poppy Committee. In 1995, he was appointed National Chief of Staff.

Smart, a retired Nashua firefighter of 21 years' service, has served as Department Adjutant/Quartermaster since 1985. Presently, he is a Life Member of VFW Post 483 in Nashua, New Hampshire. In addition to his VFW membership, he belongs to the Military Order of the Cootie, The American Legion, Americal Association, Vietnam Veterans of America,

SMART, continued on page 23



INSIDE

Officer Reports	1-3
District Reports	3-5
State Pool League	7
Camp Trotter	8
National Recognition	9
Aux News	10-13
Achievement Awards	14-16
Membership Awards	16-17
Admiral Visits	19
Taps	20-21
Fall Conference Agenda	23
State Commander	24

Coming Events
2011
83rd Annual Fall Conference
September 29 - October 2, 2011

HE'S ON WATCH.
SO ARE WE.

We always watch out for our own. And right now, our fellow veterans need us. Membership dues a one 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: D&D