

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •



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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

Here it is another year almost finished. By the time you read this, everyone should have had their elections and the results forwarded to National, Department and the District. We just received word that our budget is taking a \$56,000.00 cut due to the decrease in participation in the fundraising programs. We have been working on the budget and it is going to be very difficult to balance it; there will definitely be some cuts, so be prepared. One of the things we have counted on to help with the budget is the three digit lottery tickets that go out every month, but we have fallen down on the purchase of these tickets. As of right now, we are receiving only about half of the tickets back sold; that cuts into our profit for the budget greatly. We are asking anyone that can sell these tickets, or would just like to buy one or more, to please contact Department. If we do not find ways to raise funds, there will have to be more cuts. Remember the VFW motto: Honor the Dead by Helping the Living.

Congratulations to all the 100% Posts. We

Lloyd Putman II
Senior Vice Commander



have been working hard on membership, but we still have a ways to go. We need to get out there and knock on doors and bring the members back that we let slip away. We have a new recruiting tool (pamphlet) that every Post should have by now, so let's get to work. This pamphlet has a lot of good information in it, and a lot of the members I have shown it to say the same thing, "I didn't know we did that" and the non-members all say the same thing, "I didn't know the VFW did all these things" – so let's get out there and get busy. We still have a little more time to get that membership done.

I am looking forward to next year and I am going to need all the help I can get. I am counting on all the comrades, brothers and sisters to make the coming year a great one.

ADJUTANT/QUARTERMASTER

We are rapidly approaching the State Convention and there are some issues that need to be addressed. Last year a proposed Department Bylaw change was rejected by the delegates that would have allowed the Council of Administration to hold its first meeting on Sunday after the Convention had ended. One of the reasons that we have a Summer Conference in July is to pass the budget for the ensuing year. By holding the first Council meeting immediately after the Convention, we will reduce expenses by eliminating the Summer Conference while passing the new budget for the ensuing year. The Council of Administration receives the budget proposal at the planning meeting, which is usually held in May. They discuss the budget at the planning meeting and they make changes, if appropriate. The Council members are given a copy of the budget to take with them so that they are familiar with the budget when we vote on it.

In the year 2012 the National Convention moves to the third week in July. That means that our State Convention will move to the second or third week in June so that we will be able to submit National Bylaws changes to our National Organization for distribution in accordance with the provisions of the National Bylaws. This is another reason that we need to do

Robert D. Weiss
Adjutant/Quartermaster



away with our Summer Conference, as it could interfere with the National Convention date.

Therefore, I am submitting a Department of Michigan Bylaw Amendment to Article XIII for consideration again at the 2010 State Convention. The amendment is printed in this issue of the *Michigan Overseas Veteran*. Your support is needed to pass this amendment.

We are facing a \$56,000.00 cut from our National Headquarters guarantee program. Because of the decrease in donations from our membership to the National programs, we have no choice but to make cuts at Department. All expense items will be considered and concessions will be proposed. We need your support with donations. This is your organization and we need to make sure that it stays solvent.

There is absolutely no doubt that our World War II and Korean War members and their spouses have been the most

— WEISS, continued on page 3

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Comrades,

This VFW year is almost over and the State Convention is just around the corner. Congratulations to Commander Dave and President Jan on a job well done.

We recently found out that the National organizations fundraising efforts in Michigan fell well short of what had been expected. The result is a loss to our programs budget of \$56,000.00 for the 2010-2011 year. We had to make some unpopular cuts in our budget. Unlike the Federal Government, we can't operate in the red. We can only use what we have.

Many comrades don't understand how we get a large portion of the funding we use to run our many programs in the Department. I didn't know until I got into the chairs and became a part of the process. This is how it works in a nutshell. The VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri sends out mailing requests for donations to VFW members, veterans, and people interested in veterans' issues. These mailings include calendars, address labels, holiday cards and so on. When the donations are returned, they keep track of what state they came from and at the end of the year, the donations are returned to the state, minus the cost of the materials mailed out.

The Department of Michigan has done very well in past years, and we have received hundreds of thousands of

Jack Pray
Junior Vice Commander



dollars returned to our state.

For the last few years, the donations from Michigan have dropped off. One reason is our WWII comrades and Korean War Veterans are becoming fewer at an alarming rate. These comrades were very supportive of the various veteran's charities and now it is up to the Vietnam, and later, veterans to pick up the slack. Remember, these donations are tax-deductible and most of your donation comes back to work for veterans in our great State.

Congratulations to all the All-State and All-American Commanders. You worked hard to achieve this honor for yourself, your Post, County Council and District – so enjoy it.

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

Good luck to all of you and with whatever you do in life. God Bless our Armed Forces around the world and may God Bless America.

John F. Gwizdak Commander-in-Chief, 2000-2001 Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

John F. Gwizdak of Woodbury, Georgia, was elected VFW's Commander-in-Chief at the organization's 101st National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 25, 2000. Gwizdak is the second Georgian to hold this office.

Born in Revloc, Pennsylvania and raised in Carrolltown, Gwizdak enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958. In 1968, he attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He retired in 1978 in the rank of captain.

His service career included three tours in Germany, including a rotational tour in Berlin, and in Vietnam with Co. E, 4th Bn., 12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Starting out as a heavy mortar platoon leader, he eventually assumed command of Company E based at Long Binh. The unit operated out of Camp Frenzell-Jones. He held the distinction of having served in all leadership positions,

from squad leader to company commander of an infantry company. He also was inducted into the United States Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame.

His military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, four awards of the Bronze Star Medal (including one for valor), Purple Heart, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm device, Army Commendation Medal (3), Army of Occupation Medal (Berlin), Vietnam Campaign and Service Medals, Good Conduct Medal (3), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutist Badge and Drill Sergeants Badge.

— GWIZDAK, continued on page 5



STATE CHAPLAIN

In our monthly meeting closing prayer we ask, "grant that in life's battles we may be strong and brave." Frequently when Veterans meet, they share some experience from their service time. A Comrade feels that only a fellow Comrade can appreciate their journey. As a Chaplain, Veterans often want to share their military time and some special experience with me. I find their stories interesting and perhaps for many of us at this stage, it is better to look back than ahead. But it is remarkable to see how we deal with "life's battles."

The daily battle to find strength and hope in the midst of the limitations of aging and the loss of relatives and friends is not easy. To reach out and "seize the day," as Dave Miller encourages us; to confront our pain and loss, as well as our opportunities. Sometimes there is a line in a song or poem that can be a great inspiration in a special time of need. Watching the geese fly north with the feeling of spring which brings new life around us, I frequently think of the words of a song, "My heart goes where the wild goose goes," and again the question in the song, "A wandering fool or a heart at rest?"

I believe each person develops their own personal spirituality beyond a religion to interpret and deal with life's daily battles. Hopefully in life's battles, as in military campaigns, we learn from our experiences and develop inner strength to deal with new battles. I came across this poem some time ago that gave me insight to life and suffering and identifying with the message of the cross. I don't know the

Elmer R. Liimatta
State Chaplain



title but I think I would call it, "Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles." Or "on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap;" Or "at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse and soldiers gamble."

I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the market place as well as on the steeple of the Church,

I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles:

But on a cross between two thieves; on a town garbage heap; at a crossroad of politics so cosmopolitan that they had to write His title in Hebrew and in Latin, and in Greek...

And at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse and soldiers gamble.

Because that is where He died, and that is what He died about. And that is where Christ's men ought to be, and what Church people ought to be about.

—George Macleod

Department Service Officer SUCCESS STORY

This issue's success story centers on a veteran's fight to have his Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) recognized by the VA.

In 2003, the veteran filed a claim for service connection for anxiety. The VA first denied the claim in May 2003, stating the veteran had never been treated for a mental health condition while in the service.

The veteran then filed a claim for depression due to another service-connected condition and his claim was denied.

In September 2006, the veteran requested his claim be amended to include yet another condition – PTSD. The veteran outlined how he had been traumatized by a brutal attack while stationed in Germany. The veteran reported, at the time, he suffered a fractured nose and jaw.

In February 2008, the VA Regional Office finally denied the PTSD. The VA stated there were no military records showing treatment from a fractured nose or jaw. However, the VA conceded the veteran was treated and had "butterflies" (bandages) under both eyes from the

assault. Since there were no records of a fractured jaw or nose, the VA stated the veteran's stressors could not be verified.

In 2009, the veteran re-opened his claim for service connection for PTSD. The veteran provided a statement regarding the assault. The veteran provided crucial information regarding the specifics of the attack to include a name, a date, and the exact location where the incident happened. In addition, the veteran was able to provide a statement from a fellow soldier who had seen the veteran two days after the attack. The witness outlined that the veteran had two black eyes and his face was all black and blue.

The veteran requested a personal hearing at the Detroit VARO and the hearing was conducted in July 2009. Our staff member was present at the hearing with the veteran. The Advocate led the veteran through a series of probing questions to bring out the specific details surrounding the attack. It was important to bring all the facts to light due to the complexity of the case.

Over the course of time, the veteran had claimed service connection for three mental health conditions: anxiety, depression and PTSD. Though they are separate conditions, all mental health conditions are rated under the same criteria in the VA Rating Schedule.

There are times when a personal hearing is beneficial to the merits and validity of the case. In this case, our staff member was able to extract delicate and important aspects that previously were not considered by the VA. As a result, the Decision Review Officer granted service connection for PTSD back to June 2003. The importance of having a competent Advocate resulted in a retroactive payment of \$104,788 in February 2010.

STATE SERVICE OFFICER

Advocating for Others

In the last issue, we explained in depth the effects of SB 250 and the requirements to petition the State of Michigan for grants. We are pleased to report that our coalition was awarded the two large grants. At the time of the last article, we indicated that we would also be applying for the two small grants.

We felt as a coalition that our history of providing exemplary advocacy service to the veteran community in the State of Michigan was, and is now, second to none. We based this fact on our high level of training, credibility and our willingness to not compete with one another, but to complement one another as we embark on a new way of doing business. We also felt that the level of expertise and the combined resources the coalition offers will increase the overall rate of return and quality of life issues to those we serve here in the State of Michigan.

At the Advisory Board meeting On April 1, 2010, and after careful deliberation by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the coalition was awarded the small grant that primarily deals with the Michigan's Lower Peninsula 1-131 corridor from Emmet County to the Indiana-Michigan border. The AMVETS was awarded the small grant in an area bounded by Midland/Bay City/Saginaw on the North, US 127 on the West to the Ohio-Indiana border.

This will be a new way of doing business inasmuch as 60% of our operation will be in the field, with only 40% in the Detroit Regional Office. This requirement has been imposed by the State of Michigan to have more boots on the ground, especially to those underserved areas of Michigan. As one might imagine, this will result in doing more with less. There will be growing pains due to the anticipated increase in claims and overall work activity. However, as in the past, we will survive and the coalition will work together so that our veteran community here in Michigan will get the maximum benefit from the Department of Veterans Affairs that is provided within the perimeters of law.

The proposed regulations for the following conditions were posted in the Federal Register on March 25, 2010. Ischemic heart disease (including coronary artery disease), Parkinson's disease, and B cell leukemia's (such as hairy cell leukemia). Of course, the condition that will produce the most claims will be Ischemic heart disease (IHD).

For purposes of the proposed regulation, the term "IHD" includes, but is not limited to, acute, sub acute, and old myocardial infarction; atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease including coronary artery disease (including coronary spasm) and coronary bypass surgery; and stable, unstable and Prinzmetal's angina. Since the term refers only to heart disease, it does not include

Dan Crocker
State Service Officer



hypertension or peripheral manifestations of arteriosclerosis such as peripheral vascular disease or stroke.

Nehmer v. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Civ. Action No. 86 6160 (N.D. Cal.) (TEH) (Nehmer) is a longstanding class action (originated in 1986) on behalf of all veterans and survivors of veterans eligible to claim VA disability compensation benefits based on exposure to herbicides in the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam era. In 1989, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California invalidated a 1985 VA regulation governing claims based on herbicide exposure. In 1991, the parties entered into a stipulation to provide for readjudication of class members' claims and payment of retroactive benefits, if warranted. Since that time, the district court has issued a series of orders interpreting the 1991 stipulation to impose ongoing duties on VA. Consistent with those orders, whenever VA identifies a new disease that is associated with herbicide exposure and adds a new disease to its regulatory list, it must identify and readjudicate any previously filed claims by the class members involving that disease and, if warranted under VA regulations governing Nehmer awards, must pay benefits retroactive to the date the prior claim was received by VA to the veteran or, if the veteran is deceased, to the veteran's surviving spouse, child or parents. In July 2007, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit rejected VA's position that its duties under the Nehmer stipulation have ended and held that VA's duties extend through at least 2015. Nehmer v. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 494 F.3d 846, 86263 (9th Cir. 2007). Accordingly, the requirements of the Nehmer court orders for review of previously denied claims and for retroactive payment will apply to the proposed new presumptions, to the extent consistent with the court orders and 38 CFR 3.816, the VA regulation implementing those orders.

In 2010, approximately, 86,069 Vietnam beneficiaries as of August 2009 will be eligible to receive retroactive payments for the new presumptive conditions under the provisions of 38 CFR 3.816 (Nehmer). Of this total, 69,957 are living Vietnam Veterans, of which 62,206 were denied for IHD, 5,441 were denied for hairy cell or B cell leukemia, and the remaining 2,310 for Parkinson's disease. Of those previously denied service connection for the three new presumptive conditions, 52,918, or nearly 76 percent, are currently on the rolls for other service-connected disabilities.

A Plea from A Concerned Veteran

I joined the army in 1966 and served one tour of duty in Vietnam and I want to let everyone know what's happened to me since I left the military in 1968. One Saturday night in 2004, I went to dinner with my wife. While we sat and ate our meal, I noticed that I was sweating so bad that a new suit that I was wearing, was all wet and turning white from the salt in my body. On the following Monday, I went to see my doctor. After leaving his office, I contacted our VFW Service Office in Detroit to let

them know what had happened.

I filed a claim for diabetes, and later reopened my case because I was prescribed medication and found that I also had peripheral neuropathy in both legs.

In 2006, I went to work and when I got there, I couldn't remember how I got there or who anyone was or even what trade I was involved in. I once again went to my doctor who sent me to two different specialists, and they both said I had several incidents of a

— PLEA, continued on page 3

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DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Joseph L. Tebor
District 4 Commander



Comrades and Sisters of the 4th District,

As of this writing, 12 of the 36 Posts in our District have attained 100% or higher membership status. Congratulations to Posts 78, 171, 552, 1519, 1869, 4012, 4230, 5572, 6695, 6896, 9363 and 9568 for reaching the most difficult goal toward the pursuit of All State status. There are 12 other Posts that need only eight or fewer members to reach 100%. These Posts are 134, 147, 2107, 4553, 4644, 5112, 6032, 6040, 7170, 7310, 9885 and 9973. You are so close. Just a little more effort is all that is needed. Don't forget that your Post Relief Funds can be used to pay membership dues of comrades that need assistance. Congratulations to the Commanders, Membership Chairmen, and Recruiters of the above 24 Posts for their efforts.

We completed our third successful District Meeting with 100% attendance by Post Commanders or their designated representatives. Department Jr. Vice Commander, Jack Pray, was the Department Rep. Our thanks to Plymouth Post 6695 Commander, Bob Bryan and his staff, for hosting the meeting. We missed having 100% attendance at all meetings last year by just one Post at the last meeting of the year. Two of my goals for this year have been to confine the meeting length to two hours or less and to have 100% attendance at all District Meetings. With just one meeting left, both goals are attainable.

Spring is finally here and it's a perfect time for accomplishing cleanup projects on the outside of your Post Home. It also means that my term as District Commander is nearly over. By the time you read this, our District Convention on 1 May 10 at Romulus Post 9568 and the election and installation of next year's officers will have taken place. Our thanks to Southgate Post 9283 Commander, Mike Lewinski, and his staff for donating their hall for the dinner dance to honor next year's District VFW and LAUX officers.

Hopefully, all Posts within the District took advantage of Buddy Poppy Days on 6-8 May to add to their Relief Fund through the distribution of Buddy Poppies. Of course, Buddy Poppies can be distributed throughout the year, however the three days prior to Mother's Day every year are devoted to distribute Buddy Poppies throughout our local communities at intersections and high pedestrian traffic areas, such as department store and supermarket entrances and exits.

I have some additional special kudos to give out. Thanks to Marv Hamann and his volunteer helpers for a successful Polish Dinner fundraiser and to Southgate Post 9283 for donation of their hall. Thanks to Charlie Abner and Rick Zellman for

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severe condition. During this time period, I had fallen and broken my arm and had some short-term memory loss.

My doctor insisted that I have a colonoscopy because of the problems I had been having. I did, and found that I had several polyps removed that were cancerous; I also found that I have an enlarged prostate and a tumor on my left lung.

In a nutshell, what I'm telling you is no matter when you served your country or which branch of service you were in, please take the time to have a yearly

organizing the Annual District Golf Outing at Dearborn Hills Golf Course on May 15th. A special thanks to Marv and Mariann Hamann and Les and Paulette Vanderwill for once again donating their hall.

I received several short notice requests for assistance during March and April and I need to recognize those who assisted me. The first request was through Department on March 1st from a Pastor honoring veterans that coming Sunday at Prayer Chapel in Detroit. Honor Guard Captain, Paul Kaucher, members Tom Rossi, Connor Coleman, Chuck Noel, Gerald Delcato and I attended and participated in the service. The entire congregation recited the Pledge of Allegiance with us, rendering the proper respect to our flag. They applauded as each member of the Honor Guard was introduced, three veterans talked about their experiences, and every member of the congregation waved a miniature U.S. flag. Following the service, nearly every member of the congregation individually thanked us for being there. Four members of James Europe Post 2233 also attended, wearing their Post Uniform.

On March 9th, I received a call from a funeral home director in Clinton Township stating that a WWII Army veteran, Peo Pantera, was being interred on March 11 at Parkview Memorial Cemetery in Livonia and his family requested a firing team and bugler be provided at the cemetery. I called Stan Bist at Romanowski Post 6896 to see if their Post Honor Guard was available. They provided a firing team and bugler and accompanied me at the cemetery. The veteran's family was so grateful they made a donation to Post 6896.

Next, I received a request to provide support to a National Guard unit that would be deploying to Afghanistan in August. They were having a three-day training period in April and asked that we provide food for 80 soldiers and their families on April 17th at the Nat'l Guard Armory in Detroit. The James Europe Post 2233 in Detroit provided the food requested. Commander Roscoe Burton along with Post members, William Brown, Isaac Blair, James Bowie, Samuel Billington and Curtis Clark and two members of their LAUX were on hand. Dept of MI Membership Director, Fred Chambers, and District 4 Membership Chairman, Matthew Dzikowicz, were also on hand to answer questions about VFW membership. Following dinner, I gave a presentation about the VFW, answered questions and passed out literature and applications.

I want thank all of the above individuals and Posts for their outstanding performance on such short notice. These are just a — *DISTRICT 4, continued on page 4*

physical. I was out of the military decades before anything really started happening to me.

Without the help of our VFW Department Service Office, I honestly don't know where I would be today or how I could have afforded the medicines or the medical care that I have received since Mother Nature has caught up with me.

I plead with you to get a yearly physical and that if you have any medical issues, please contact your Post Service Officer, County Veteran's Affairs Office or our Department Service Office for help in filing a claim.



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Walter L. Klingan
District 5 Commander



Comrades,

It seems like only yesterday that I assumed the duties of 5th District Commander. Now as I write this, my last news article, and look back on this year so far, it would be easy to simply say that it was a good year and leave it at that. While it would be the easy thing to do, it would not be the responsible thing to do. Comrades, the year is not over. I remain the 5th District Commander and just as importantly, all our Post Commanders remain Commanders of their Posts until the Department Convention. Many of our District goals have been met, but many have not. We must not let the tendency to quit early stand in the way of reaching these goals.

By now, April 30th has come and gone and with it, the end of our reporting year. Most of our Posts have done a wonderful job of reporting this year and several have not. Nothing you do now can change that. Now we must look to next year and begin again. I remind each Post Commander that you are still the Commander and will be until June 27th. Each Commander needs to continue their reporting until they leave office. By doing this, you help your incoming Commander and your Post get off to a good start in next year's reporting.

When a District Commander writes a news article, it is almost mandatory that the subject of membership be addressed. Mandatory or not, our District needs to address this subject in the final months of this fiscal year. As I write this article, we stand at 97.19%. We still need 236 members to reach our 100% goal. We have 10 Posts that have reached or surpassed their 100% goal. Eleven more are within four members of their goal. I realize that it is all too easy to say that the year is almost over and that you tried your best. Comrades we have not tried our best. There remains today 434 unpaid members on the rosters of the Posts of this District. Our Commanders and their Membership Chairmen need to contact these members. Each of them



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Ralph "Rusty" Benschoter
District 6 Commander



Comrades,

This year is coming to an end very soon and I would like to **thank all of the Officers and Committee Chairpersons.** You are the ones that made this a very good year. I knew we had some outstanding people in District 6, and I am very glad I was a part of this successful year. This past year I have been fortunate to meet with some very good people and it was an honor to have served you as your District Commander.

Everyone in the District has been doing a great job with the membership program; this is, after all, the lifeblood of

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generous donors over the years to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Because of losses we have suffered with "America's Greatest Generation," and with the economy not being the greatest right now, the donations have dropped off. We Vietnam Veterans have to pick up the slack, along with our

joined the VFW for a reason. You need to remind them of that reason and encourage them to bring their membership up to date. This District has declined in membership during the last several years. We need to, and must, reverse this trend.

Comrades, at this time of year several issues come up that must be addressed.

Each Post elects their officers for the upcoming year during the month of April. I remind you that the Commander-elect of each Post needs to send in their election report as soon as possible. You need to send a copy of the National Election report to National and to the Department. You must also send a copy of the roster of Post officers and chairmanships to Jim Galen, our incoming District Commander.

Each Post needs to insure that a list of their delegates to the Department Convention, along with their delegate fees, be sent in to Department. They must also insure that at least one delegate, along with the delegate fee, be sent in to National. Both of these are required by National Bylaws. Comrades, this is a requirement that has to be met.

Quarterly audits are an ongoing project required from each Post throughout the year but are especially important at this time of year. If your March quarterly audit is not in by Convention, your Post will be denied its voting rights on the Convention floor. Please insure that your audits are in as soon as possible, so that our Department auditor has a chance to review them, and any possible errors corrected, before Convention.

Comrades, it has been a pleasure to have served as your District Commander this year. I thank all my fellow officers for all their hard work and long hours during that time. What success we have had would have not been possible without them. Comrades, remember that the race is not over until you cross the finish line. I hope that all of you continue to strive after the goals that we have set this year. It's not over until it's over.

our organization, without members there would be no organization.

I want to thank all of the Post Commanders and Quartermasters for making sure all reports, audits and paperwork turned into the Department was complete. I know it is a lot of hard work and time-consuming, but with your dedication and work ethics, the job has been done and done very well.

Congratulations to the new District and Post officers that will be taking over this year. I wish you the very best. Keep this in mind — "Control your own destiny or someone else will."

younger members. National has several mailings that they conduct throughout the year to include calendar and label promotions. If you do not want to receive these items, you can make a monthly or annual contribution to National and they will not send you the promotional items. It is something to think about.

We will see you all at Convention.



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Jim Tanner
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Commander for the year 2009 and 2010. I thank you all for the support I have received.

As you know one of our main goals is bringing in new members. We need young men and women that can come in and work their way into leadership roles, so that we can continue our primary goal of supporting our veterans (men and women of all military services) and honoring our deceased comrades. Currently our membership is made up mostly of World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans. We need any veteran that qualifies, but it is the younger men and women veterans that we need to keep this as a great organization and continue our primary goal. We all should be very active in bringing new members into our organization.

As of 22 April 2010, our District stands at 93.75 percent in membership. We have five Posts at 100 percent or better. All except four of our Posts are above 90 percent. Our Department percentage is at 96.3 as of 22 April 2010.

I hope all our Post Service Officers took the opportunity to attend the Service Officers training session held in Lansing. Since our Department lost 30 percent of the funding provided by the State of Michigan, our Service Office had to make some major cutbacks regarding their staff. Therefore, it is very important that our Posts' Service Officers have all the knowledge they can acquire so they can assist our fellow veterans in getting the health care and educational benefits that they are entitled to. I will continue to be the District Service Officer and will be happy to assist our Post Service Officers at any time.

Also, in reference to veterans' health care

benefits, our Commander-in-Chief, Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., has requested that all veterans contact their representatives urging them to pass their House Bill H.R. 5014, which will protect VA health care for veterans. Commander-in-Chief Tradewell praised the U.S. Senate for their quick action in passing their bill. Commander-in-Chief Tradewell stated, "The mission to protect all Tricare and VA health care programs will not be complete until the House passes H.R. 5014 and the President signs both bills." Please ask your family and friends to also contact their U.S. Representatives urging them to pass H.R. 5014. Thank you.

Comrades, I have been asked by Department to see if our District would be willing to adopt one or more cottages at Camp Trotter to take care of the maintenance on the adopted cottage or cottages. These cottages and other buildings at the Camp have recently received much needed repairs and upgrades. The adoption program would enable the Camp to be more secure and safe, provide financial help for new equipment as needed and provide a great recreational outlet for our children in the years to come.

We also do not want to forget our National Home for Children. The Home is something we can all be very proud of. Support our National Home for Children. A life membership with the life membership pin is only \$40.00. Thank you.

In closing, I again thank all comrades in our District for supporting me this past year. I am proud to have had this opportunity to serve as your Commander. I thank all my District Staff. It has been great working with you this year and I thank all my comrades at Department for their guidance this year. It has been a learning and gratifying experience.



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Douglas Broek
District 8 Commander



Comrades,

This will be my last article, which means my term as District Commander is coming to an end. I would like to say "Thank You" for your support during this year. Keep up the good work, both in supporting the new commander and our veterans. Our veterans need all the help we, and the VFW, can provide – both in funding and activities that we do. Keep contacting your Senators and

representatives for funding. Also, keep working on membership, as it is the lifeblood of the VFW.

You all have done a great job, so keep it up for next year. Next year, support your new Commander, Don Johnson, like you have supported me.

AS WE ALL KNOW FREEDOM IS NOT FREE. KEEP ON SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS!!!

DISTRICT 4, continued from page 3 —

few examples of community service activities that our Posts do on a regular basis. Too often we fail to properly document or report what we do. We all need to do a better job in this area and I have stressed the importance of proper reporting at every Post meeting I have attended. If you don't report your community service and donations, etc., your Post runs the risk of losing its nonprofit status. When in doubt, report it. Better to be safe than sorry.

As I near the end of my year as District Commander, I just want say what an honor and privilege it has been to serve you, the members of the 4th District. I have so many people to thank for helping make my year successful. First of all to Dave Poling, my Adjutant – God Bless You. Past District Commanders Jim Warner, Jim VanHauter,

Marv Hamann, Charles Abner, Jim Niner, Lenny Milewski, Les Vanderwill and Larry Coleman, for your advice and mentorship. My District Honor Guard for being the best in the State and doing me and the District proud. My elected and appointed officers for doing your jobs well and keeping me out of trouble. My Post Commanders for your dedication and support; without it, nothing would get accomplished. The District LAUX (especially District President, Jan Luttrell), for their support and cooperation throughout the year. And last but certainly not least, my Sr. Vice Ron Allen and Jr. Vice Phil Mellow for your total dedication, loyalty, support and assistance, especially following my surgery. Words can never thank you enough. I leave knowing that District 4 will have good leadership for at least the next two years. As always, work hard to achieve your goals and try to have some fun along the way.



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Ron Devereaux
District 9 Commander



Comrades,

Let me start by saying that it was a pleasure to work with all of you this year and I will remember the time we have spent together. THANK YOU!

We are coming to the end of the year and before you have time to read this, the District meeting will be over, the State Commander and President's Joint Testimonial will have gone, and Department Convention in June will be upon us.

As of this writing there are 20 Posts in the 9th District over 100% in membership and the District is at 99.46% in membership. Remember you still have until the end of JUNE to work on your membership, so do not give up until the end. Also, membership is not something that we should only think about for the All-State program; membership is something that we have to keep in mind all the time.

Without it we will lose this great organization that we call the Veterans of Foreign Wars. We cannot keep standing by while we lose members out the back door.

We still have a little more to get done. Audits have to be finished and up to date before Department Convention. Post delegate fees for National and Department Convention must be paid per the National Bylaws, and election reports must be sent to National, Department and your new District Commander.

Comrades, 100% of the Posts in the 9th District have participated in: BUDDY POPPY, MAP, PAC and the CANCER programs this year. JOB WELL DONE! You have all worked hard this year and should be proud of what you have done.

Do not forget to be at Department Convention and Vote...and may the rest of your year go by in peace.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Rick Young
District 10 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

This will be my last letter as District Commander. Let me begin by saying we had a very rough start this year, and we have come a long way in hard times. Our organization is struggling to maintain its membership, some of its programs and paying the bills. Some of our Posts have no problems, while others have a daily

struggle just to get by. We need to work as a team by helping those that need it by following guidelines from higher headquarters, the Congressional Charter, Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Rituals.

I have had a great experience being District Commander of the Tenacious 10th District of the Great Department of Michigan. THUMBS UP!



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Chet Cousins
District 11 Commander



Dear Comrades,

Our year is just about over and soon our new officers will take their positions in June. I would like to thank all of my Committee Chairpersons for all their hard work this year. I will never forget their devotion and time in helping me. I would also like to send a personal thank you to my District President, Jane Dady, for her hard work and dedication to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

Please don't let up on getting those

memberships! We have less than 6% to go and I believe we can reach our 100% goal.

Our Department Convention is June 23-27, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn. Our new District officers should be installed by this time. I wish them the very best in their upcoming year.

Lastly, I would like to tell everyone I had a great time being your Commander and hope everyone has a great July 4!



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Richard Rought
District 12 Commander



Greetings Comrades,

This year has gone so fast that I do not know where it went. Ten months are behind us already. Everything is still running relatively smoothly; a couple of bumps in the road have come our way, but we just slowed down and kept moving.

As always, membership is a high priority. As of April 15th, 41% of our Posts have passed the 100% mark, and 78% have passed the 95% mark. Keep up the good work. 100% for all Posts is definitely within reach.

By the time you read this, Post elections will be behind us. Do not forget to

send your election reports to National, Department and District.

There are a number of events being held in June. June 5th is OTS at Camp Trotter near Newaygo. This is an excellent opportunity for all officers to receive training in their positions and have a good time doing it. June 24-27 is the date for the Department Convention in Dearborn. The more Posts that we can have represented, the more votes we will have to assist Billy Stancroft in his quest to be the next Department Jr. Vice Commander. Good luck, Billy.

I would like to congratulate the several — **DISTRICT 12, continued on page 5**



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Joseph Frappier
District 14 Commander



Comrades and Sisters,

Hello from the U P. This will probably be my last article for the *MOV*. I was going to say all the things about reports, but I am going to stress women in the military and women veterans of the United States of America. First, I want to thank all women vets from every branch of the service – past, present and future. We VFW members salute you. We thank you for your service, sacrifice and your courage.

Now some facts. During WWII, June 1945, Army nurses in Europe peaked at 17,345. Of the 215 Army nurses who died on foreign shores, 16 were killed as a result of direct enemy action. Of those, six were killed aboard the hospital ship *Comfort* when it was attacked by a Kamikaze off Leyte Island on April 28, 1945 during the battle of Okinawa. Another six died at Anzio, and four others were KIA as flight nurses. However, no WAC's lost their lives to enemy action. Total female deaths during WWII:

ANC 215, WAC 181, Waves 69, NNC 40, WASP 38, for a total of 543

During the Korean War, at the end of 1950, 250 Army nurses were in Korea. 10% of Army nurses worked in evac hospitals, 8% in field hospitals, 7% in installation hospitals, 5% aboard planes and ships. The vast majority, 70%, were attached to MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) units. MASH hospitals, set up to handle 60 or more patients just behind the front lines, had 17 nurses and 19 doctors. Surgery could be done quickly, thus saving

lives. Then patients were sent by ambulance or truck to evacuation hospitals. With 30 nurses and 30 doctors there, they could treat more than 200 patients.

During the Vietnam War, 6,250 nurses served in country. The war was a wrenching experience that persisted long beyond its aftermath. eight Army nurses have their names recorded on the Vietnam Wall: CPT Eleanor Grace Alexander, 2LT Pamela Dorothy Donovan, 2LT Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba, LTC Annie Ruth Graham, 2LT Elizabeth Ann Jones, CPT Mary Therese Klinker, 1LT Sharon Ann Lane and 1LT Hedwig Diane Orlowski. About 700 WAC's served in Vietnam between 1966 and 1972.

When the war erupted in the Persian Gulf in 1991, some 40,782 U.S. military women were deployed to the Middle East. At the time, this was the largest single deployment of women in U.S. history. Women continue to forge new roles in Iraq and Afghanistan. Today's wars see more and more women taking up arms against the enemy.

We have a job to do. The VFW must get out and bring some, or all of these female veterans into our midst. They are a part of our future. The statistics show more and more women are playing a bigger role in the military.

Now all that being said, I wish to thank all VFW members for all the support I received in the last two years as the Commander of the 14th District of Michigan. Thank you, comrades.

Remember: Keep 'em rolling out to sea.



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Bob Whipple
District 15 Commander



Greetings Comrades and Sisters of the 15th District,

Time has flown and the year is almost complete. Spring came early to our area; the snow was gone by early April, and by mid-month we had temperatures approaching 70°F. At this time, it is 10 days until Spring Convention where we are expecting 100% Post participation. This is the most important meeting of the year since it is election time. If you or someone in your Post is interested in a District position, contact the incoming District Commander (assumed) Dan Caron at DBSanta@charter.net

When you read this, we will be working toward the 2010-2011 year. Membership this year was good, but not as great as hoped for. As of April 15, the District was at 94.7%, 127 members short of 100%. Four Posts were at 100% and five more were over 96%. If you are

interested in where your Post stands and have Internet service, go to <http://www.vfwkc.org/memstats>. This Web site will give you information on all of the Posts in the District.

The District did a great job on hospital and community service reports. Every Post in the District was reported. Keep up the good work and everyone report in May 2010, as this is the first reporting month for the new District and Post Commanders.

This is going to be short, but at this time there is nothing that can be said to alter the 2009-2010 year. In closing, let me thank all of the members and Posts that sent get well cards when I broke my hip. I am up and around and moving slowly. Each week shows some improvement, but I expect that it will be mid-summer before I'm moving well.

Thank you for your support this year and let's keep moving forward.

GWIZDAK, continued from page 1

Gwizdak joined the VFW in 1977. He established a distinguished record of service at the Post, District and Department levels. In 1988, he attained the status of All-American Department Commander, VFW Department of Georgia.

Recognized as a leader in veterans affairs, Gwizdak received numerous appointments to national VFW positions and was elected to the VFW National Council of Administration in 1990, representing the Departments of Georgia and

Alabama. In addition to other VFW positions, he served as the Adjutant/Quartermaster, VFW Department of Georgia from December 1992 to October 1998.

He is owner and president of John F. Gwizdak, Inc., specializing in residential and commercial construction and sales, and owner and broker of Builders Realty. He holds an associate of arts degree in human resources administration from the University of the State of New York. Gwizdak is listed in the 2000 Millennium edition of Who's Who in Executives and Businesses as a veterans advocate.

Military Order of the Cootie "I Care, You Care, We All Care"

Greetings, Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters!

The Grand Commander wanted to close the year by thanking all of you who participated in supporting the Grand this year. He also wanted to thank all of our fellow Cooties for their hard work and accomplishments throughout the year. Without you, the Grand of Michigan would disappear.

The VFW was very helpful in supporting the Grand of Michigan with its projects, but we can't stop now. We must continue supporting our programs. Our VFW National Home trip to Sandusky, Ohio will have taken place by the time this goes to press. Please continue to support our Grand by sending a donation to our Grand Quartermaster Ernie Pauline.

82nd Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party 2010

Before you know it, our next Cootie Christmas Party will be upon us. 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.

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 Phone: 810-735-7920.

As our Supreme Commander has stated, it takes all of us working together to get the programs completed and recruiting new members into our great organization. I know that it can be accomplished with everyone working together. **"I Care, You Care, We All Care."** Remember – **"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White."**

The word is **respect**. His Highness, the Great Blue Louse, has given us orders to respect all our comrades at the last Supreme Convention.

In closing, the Grand Commander would like to thank all of the Lousy Cooties out there who helped to make this a good year for the Grand. Thanks to the officers and chairmen for their commitments.

He also would like to thank the Grand President, Colette Cove, and all the Ladies of the MOCA for their help and support. Without it, I don't believe we would have done as well as we have.

"Keep 'em Smiling in Beds of White"

PGC Robert E. Wilson
VFW-Cootie Liaison

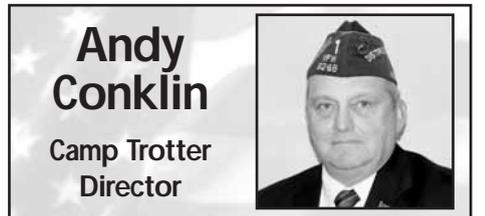
CAMP TROTTER

Everything seems to be falling in place for the camping season. We have hired a new Summer Camp Director, Ms. Rose Bonk of Grant, Michigan. Ms. Rose is very qualified as a schoolteacher with a coaching background and seems to have a lot of energy with great ideas for the Camp. Welcome aboard, Rose!!!

Our boat raffle is moving like a herd of turtles, but we're making progress, and with your help we can make things happen. I thank all of you that have generously helped in this endeavor to make things better at Camp Trotter. In May, when the new dock is installed on the lake, you will see the new pontoon boat that many will enjoy this summer. For those that could not donate, there are many other ways to support the Camp and you will still get a pontoon ride.

The new renovations are awesome. Even with the current economic woes, we have promises of other Auxiliaries and Districts wanting to help us continue with them. Please consider joining them!

Our Directors cabin needs a major shakeup. One suggestion we had was to tear it down and build a multi-unit building there for staff personnel. Anything's possible if we work together, but right now we may just need to fix it up. The month of May will be the target for cleanup and we have the dates of the



Andy
Conklin
Camp Trotter
Director

10th to 20th set for a work party. Please, any able body that can help, get your favorite cleaning bucket and come on up, rake leaves, pick up brush, clean, paint or help put our new dock together. We need all the help we can get to keep the Camp in pristine condition. Also, get your kids or grandkids to Summer Camp (ages 7-12). Camping season starts July 11th. We have checked around and surmised we are very low costwise for a week (\$185.00) at camp! Many Posts and Auxiliaries are looking for children to sponsor for the Youth Summer Camp at our beautiful Camp Trotter on Bills Lake. You can't even get day care for that!

Also our Camp Trotter Days (Memorial weekend) and Golf Outing (June 4th) are coming up. Anybody that can sponsor a team or help out with prizes, please contact Ernie Meyers at emeyers76@att.net. You don't have to be in the VFW or Auxiliary to play golf. It would be nice to get some Men's Auxiliary teams!

DISTRICT 12, continued from page 4

Posts in the 12th that have achieved the 75th Anniversary milestone this year. It is a great honor to serve our veterans for this many years.

Michigan Day at our National Home in Eaton Rapids will be held on August 1st this year. Plan to show your support for

these kids and have a good time, too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of District 12 for helping me to make this past year very successful and rewarding. I trust that each of you will also make the coming year a great success for Stan, our incoming District Commander. Keep up the good work. District 12 is one of the best!! **"Be All You Can Be"**

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Jan Meyers

As the Department Convention fast approaches, I would like to reflect back on this past year. I thank you all for the hospitality extended to me and my travel companions as we visited your Posts and participated in events. I have enjoyed the District meetings, parades, banquets and touring the Veterans Hospitals and Homes. The Ladies Auxiliaries of Michigan do so much in

partnering with the youth and in their communities.

If you were to think back to your elementary school days, I am sure that you'll remember playing a "game." Well, it wasn't officially a "game." It was, however, something that we as children practiced frequently while we were in school. It went something like this: our teacher, Mrs. Smith, didn't assign any homework, so I would lean over to Sally and whisper something like, "Hey, Mrs. Smith hasn't assigned any homework! Pass it on."

Well, I can't speak for everyone, but I know that my "Mrs. Smith" caught me more than once "passing it on" and forced me to tell the whole class. Sometimes it was embarrassing, and other times, she found out she didn't assign us any homework.

But, there were times when we'd see Mrs. Smith make a breakthrough with the one troubled kid in our class. Then, the tenor of the "game" changed. We'd say, "Look at that, Mrs. Smith got Tommy to smile! Pass it on." Mrs. Smith was capable of helping Tom change his life and, without knowing it, Mrs. Smith was able to "pass it on" by being a friend, a teacher and a mentor.

As I reflect back on my year as Department President and my six-year tenure climbing through the ranks to Department President, I think often of that game, "Pass it on," and I think of YOU, my Auxiliary Sisters who have worked so tirelessly in so many ways. Whether you believe me or not, you have "passed it on" to countless thousands of our honored Veterans, as well as to me. I hope that as you start each day, you start it by thinking of this story and what you can do today to "pass it on."

It has been a pleasure representing Michigan in my travels outside of the State. National Mid-Winter was held in Las Vegas, where the Department Presidents achieving 90% in membership by December 31st received their Medallions. I thank the membership of Michigan for working together to reach this goal. As of this writing, we are at 97.94% in membership. We continue to recruit, reinstate and retain members.

Thank you, Past Department Presidents, for your kind and caring mentoring. Thank you, Department Chairmen, for promoting all of the Department Programs and encouraging your Auxiliaries to participate in these programs. Thank you, District Presidents, through your leadership, we have accomplished our goals. Thank you, Auxiliary Presidents, for carrying out our goals to increase membership, participate in the programs and most of all, to support our Veterans.

To Department Sr. Vice President, Patricia, I wish you much success in this next year. I know your line officers will support you and you will continue to move our organization forward.

I thank the Michigan Department Ladies Auxiliary membership for your love and kindness. It has been a wonderful sojourn these past six years; the friendships and memories I have made will fill my heart forever.

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Linda Woda



Dear Sisters of the 6th District, I am writing my last letter as your District President. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all of you wonderful ladies of our District. When I was elected as your President, I had no idea what this year had in store for me. I was truly inspired by you ladies. Your ideas and influences

have, and continue to, shape our great District.

Please continue to work on membership. It is the backbone, and therefore the strength, of our organization. Please remember to make your new members feel welcome and give them a task, so they feel the camaraderie. Remember when you were new and how you felt.

Our community service reports are off the charts and that shows how much we care about our organization. Remember: we cannot rest on our laurels, our work is never done. The achievements we have accomplished this year have brought us closer to our goal. As it says in our ritual... "let all our actions be for the greater glory of our cause."

Summer is here at last and with it comes our State Convention, new officers and chairmen. Please give them the support they need to carry on our purpose, and we will prosper and continue to thrive.

I have been humbled by your kindness and graciousness. I have many fond memories to carry with me and I hope that you will look back and feel the same. My slogan this year has been "District 6 rocks" - and it really does. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Lancea Daly



Hello sisters of the 8th District, Spring is here and a lot of May activities are happening. District meetings, election of officers, testimonials...and let's all hope for some good weather!!!!

In regards to membership, all Auxiliaries have done a great job this year. We have many at or above 100% with the rest so close. Please keep on working towards 100% - there is still time.

Thank you again for all of your support and the opportunity to serve this past year. It was wonderful visiting each Auxiliary and meeting many of you for the first time.

Please keep in mind that the Department Convention is June 24th through June 27th at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan. There is so much going on and so much to learn. If you have never attended a Department Convention, you may be surprised. I hope to see you there.

I wish all of you a fun and safe summer. Please keep our troops, families and veterans in your thoughts and prayers.

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT

Carley Raleigh



Sisters of District 9, I wish to thank the Sheridan Post and Auxiliary for hosting my last meeting and installation for the 2010-2011 officers on May 2nd. The District has done well in membership. I am so proud of all of you as we moved from

last place to eighth. Everyone worked really hard on membership, and I want to personally thank all the Auxiliaries.

Great job to all the Auxiliaries that got their reports in on time. Remember to keep track of your activities for your community service hours, as we still have time to report them.

I hope to see you at Summer Convention at the Hyatt in Dearborn this June.

Leanne Lemley, West Point, Iowa National Chaplain Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.



Leanne Lemley of West Point, Iowa, was elected National Chaplain of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States at its 96th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, on August 20, 2009.

She is now in the third of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2012-2013.

A member of Hartman-Dawson Auxiliary 1805 in Fort Madison, she started her participation in the organization in 1964 on the eligibility of her father who served in the U.S. Navy Seabees during World War II. Her family has always been very involved in the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary with her brother a VFW Life Member with Vietnam eligibility, and a son and stepson are VFW members with Iraq eligibility, as well as two daughters-in-law and two granddaughters as Ladies Auxiliary members.

She has served as Auxiliary President, District President, 1993-94 State President, and as National Chairman for the Big Ten Conference on the VFW-PAC, Safety, Rehabilitation (currently known as Veterans & Family Support), Buddy Poppy, Junior Girls and Americanism programs. From 1997-99 she served on the National Council of Administration representing Iowa and Wisconsin.

She is a graduate of the Burlington Business College and has worked in accounting and office management for ADM Elevator, Sweetheart Bakery, Peter Pan Bakery and Aldi Incorporated. Leanne also served in the Boy Scouts of America organization in various leadership positions for 20 years.

She and her husband, Ivan, are both retired. Leanne enjoys gardening, reading, cooking, sewing, line dancing, working on the computer and volunteering for her local senior center, as well as for her VFW Post.

The Lemley family includes four sons and eight grandchildren.

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Jane Dady



Sisters,

It doesn't seem possible that the year is almost over. I have had the sincere pleasure of visiting and meeting the amazing women in our District. I would like to thank all of you for your kindness and incredible hard work that you do. I will have many memories to cherish as I cherish all of you.

At Jan's Testimonial dinner, I hope she was able to see how much we appreciate her and all the hard work that she put in to her fantastic year. Thank you, Jan, for everything! My Testimonial dinner was absolutely wonderful and I wish to thank everyone for a wonderful evening. Thank you to the Hale VFW Post 435 for hosting it and all the work that went into it.

June will bring the Convention in Dearborn, and I hope many of you will come to welcome in our new Department President Pat Patterson and District President Denise Moore. I wish them the very best for their year.

Thank you again to all my District officers, chairmen and all the Auxiliary sisters. Last but not least, I thank all the veterans, past and present. I am grateful for your service and sincerely appreciate all you have sacrificed.

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Yolanda Lyons



My year as District 12 President is rapidly drawing to a close. For that reason, I want to make sure you all know that I think the Auxiliaries in District 12 are unbelievably wonderful! What all of you have accomplished this year is nothing short of a miracle. Each and every one of you dug in and didn't let up until you had reached your goal. I can't tell you how impressed I am by your commitment, your dedication and your willingness to work above and beyond what your expectations were. Because of all of you, 12 Auxiliaries reached at least 100% in membership and then, because you continued to work, District 12 attained 100.12% membership in March of this year! Congratulations and thank you from our Membership Chairman Val Mikkelsen, and me, for "going for the gold" – you did it in a big way!

You have all made this year one that I will always remember. I am so grateful for your many kindnesses, your hospitality,

your words of encouragement and friendship and your support. Visiting each Auxiliary during inspection, and seeing so many of you at District meetings and functions, have taught me that each Auxiliary is part of the backbone of our organization. District, Department and National can make all the changes in rules and Bylaws that we want, but the changes mean nothing if our Auxiliaries aren't on-board and supporting the changes. You have done that this year, and I am so proud of District 12.

We will hold our District Convention at our May meeting and I look forward to seeing many of you in Kaleva on May 2nd. I also hope to see a lot of our members at Department Convention in June. If you have never been to a Department Convention, I strongly encourage you to go. I know that it is a long drive to Detroit, but sitting in on a Council of Administration meeting or attending an open meeting is very interesting and educational.

Thank you for the wonderful memories this past year; thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a warm and loving "family"; thank you for your suggestions, your advice and your friendship; and thank you for being what you are – my sisters.

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Deborah Paavola



Sisters of the 15th District,

By the time you are reading this, the year will be about over. I hope to return from Department Convention with my arms

loaded with awards for the 15th District! It would be an honor to accept the awards and it would be a reflection of all the hard work you have done this year.

Congratulations to all Auxiliary Achievement winners! It is your willingness to serve America's veterans, your loyalty to this organization and your ability to work together on our programs that makes each year more successful than the last.

Congratulations to the Auxiliaries that have worked to reach 100% membership

and beyond. It is membership that keeps our organization strong, and we must never stop collecting dues or signing up new and reinstated members.

I want to thank everyone for the kindness and patience given me this last year. Thank you to the officers and chairmen that took on their responsibilities and worked so hard for the 15th District.

Auxiliary inspections were one of my favorite parts. It was fun greeting so many of you and meeting new sisters. I have had a great year working with all of you and I hope I have encouraged you to get out there and make a difference. I look forward to next year as we continue under the guidance of our new President, Elaine, and her officers and chairmen.

Have a wonderful summer and I wish you the best both with the Auxiliary and in your personal lives. God Bless you and God Bless America.

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Barbara Milewski

Congratulations chairmen on the annual reports I received from your Auxiliaries. It is this dedication that makes our organization great. I am looking forward to the Department of Michigan Convention in June.

Remember to bring the small American flags that you use for your floor work for the Aisle of Flags. In my last mailing, I sent the lineup of Districts and Auxiliaries to follow that morning. Please bring a

copy with you to the Convention. The District Presidents will have the District number flag in the lineup, so you can find your place easily.

May 1st is Loyalty Day, a time to recognize the many volunteers that make our community a great place to live. Honor the citizens and businesses that fly the U.S. Flag and the POW-MIA flag every day. On Memorial Day, participate in a ceremony to remember and honor our deceased veterans. June 14th is Flag Day, your Post and Auxiliary can participate in a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

It has been a pleasure to chair this very important chairmanship and thank you for all that you do for our veterans.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOT'S PEN

Gloria Dobbie

I am proud to announce that our Department of Michigan VOD 1st Place winner Alyssa McAlvey, sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 5065, District 9, placed 12th in the National standings, and won a \$2,500.00 scholarship. Our Patriot's Pen 1st Place winner, Sydney M. Elmer, sponsored by Post and Auxiliary 4642, District 10, also placed 12th in the National standings and received a \$2,000.00 scholarship. These girls represented the Department of Michigan very well on the National level this year.

Thank you to the Posts and Auxiliaries

who reached out to the young people in their communities and offered them the opportunity to participate in our Program.

Now is the time to look forward to next year. Please meet with your VFW counterpart to plan your program. It is not too early to provide the information to your local schools and youth groups. Give the students the opportunity to have the summer to perfect their essays. The 2010/2011 theme for the VOD Contest is "Does My Generation Have a Role in America's Future?" and the Patriot's Pen theme is "Does Patriotism Still Matter?"

Thank you to VFW Director Patrick Patterson and committee member Harry "Les" Croyle for their outstanding leadership in making our program the success that it was this year. I am looking forward to working with Patrick again next year.

CANCER AID & RESEARCH

Deb Eernisse

As we wind up another VFW year, I cannot thank all of you enough for all your hard work!!

We have sold pins, bought tote bags, played pool, putted for a purpose, used coins

to "Save the Jugs," sold theme baskets, held auctions and teas and every other fundraiser possible. You have all worked so hard this year to help Michigan raise money for Cancer Aid & Research.

I want you to know that the money you raise does come back to help our Auxiliary Sisters here in Michigan. As of March 1, 2010 our sisters in Michigan have received 145 Cancer Grants for a total of \$63,000.

As we all head outside after a long winter – remember your sunscreen!! The sun's UV rays can damage your skin in as little as 15

minutes. Put on sunscreen before you go outside, even on slightly cloudy or cool days. Don't forget to put a thick layer on all parts of exposed skin. Get help for hard-to-reach places like your back.

CDC (Center for Disease Control) recommends easy options for sun protection:

- Use sunscreen with a sun protective factor (SPF) 15 or higher, and both UVA and UVB protection.
- Wear clothing to protect exposed skin.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade the face, head, ears and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block as close to 100% of both UVA and UVB rays as possible.
- Seek shade, especially during midday hours.

We will be having theme baskets again at Department Convention. Stop by the Cancer booth and see what there is for you to win!

I look forward to seeing you all at Department Convention June 24-27 in Dearborn.

Spring into a New Season!

This year's colorful Spring Notecards and Notepads include designs to send to friends and family to celebrate special occasions, or "just because." They are a great way to show you care about your fellow veterans...and support your Department programs!



Arriving Soon
in your mailbox!



VFW Urges Passage of Veterans Jobs Bill

Corporate America the key to stemming rampant unemployment rate

WASHINGTON, April 20, 2010 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is backing legislation introduced today by Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) to create a veterans jobs bill to help ease the rampant unemployment rate among Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

“The nation’s economy is showing signs of improvement, but the unemployment rate of current war veterans is accelerating in the wrong direction,” said VFW National Commander Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., of Sussex, Wis. “We believe Senator Murray’s bill will help address many of those concerns and impediments to employment.”

According to the Department of Labor, there are more than 1.1 million unemployed veterans, a quarter-million of whom are Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, with unemployment rates of 30.2 percent for age 24 and younger, and 17.9 percent for ages 25 to 34. The national unemployment average is just below 10 percent.

In testimony last week before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, the VFW said Washington cannot solve the veterans’ unemployment epidemic alone, but Washington can – and must – do a better job of selling veterans to corporate America.

“The federal government must become a veteran’s greatest cheerleader,” said Tradewell, who is very supportive of Murray’s bill to expand counseling, training and placement services, as well as entrepreneurial opportunities, because

“veterans hire veterans.”

The VFW also wants federal incentives increased to entice more businesses to hire more veterans.

One such incentive, for example, would be to double the \$2,400 and \$4,800 Work Opportunity Tax Credit for businesses who hire veterans and disabled veterans, respectively, as well as eliminate the program’s five-year window that currently excludes 765,000 unemployed veterans from being eligible.

In addition, the VFW national commander wants America’s veterans who are in the corporate world to use their veteran status as a bully pulpit to push “Veterans First” in boardrooms across the country.

“A young platoon sergeant or lieutenant is in a foreign country right now helping a small community get back on its feet – and they are doing it in a different language and armed primarily with the common sense in their head and the people skills they learned in the military. Just imagine what that can-do attitude could bring to America’s business community if just given a chance,” said Tradewell.

“Our greatest generation returned home from World War II to become the scientists, scholars and captains of industry who led our nation’s tremendous era of growth in the second half of the 20th century. That is exactly what America’s newest greatest generation is capable of, and it all begins with one job and one employer who believes that those we entrust to protect our nation can also be trusted to run their companies.”

Senate Passes TRICARE Protections

House action still needed to recognize VA healthcare

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2010 – With the Senate passage of HR 4887 last night, all military TRICARE programs will soon be recognized as meeting minimum essential coverage standards under the new national healthcare law, according to the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Though a great victory for more than 9 million military families and retirees, Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr. cautioned against celebrating until the House acts on S. 3162, which was introduced by Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-HI) to recognize and protect all VA healthcare programs, too.

“There are a few more parts to this mission, which won’t be complete until the House passes S. 3162 and the president signs both bills,” he said.

The VFW has been aggressively working since mid-March to ensure the new national healthcare law recognizes and protects all the healthcare programs provided by the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs.

“National healthcare will help many veterans who are ineligible for DoD or VA care,” said Tradewell, a combat-wounded Vietnam veteran from Sussex, Wisconsin, “but missing from the original legislation was language that specifically recognized all military TRICARE and VA programs as meeting minimum essential coverage standards. That meant standalone legislation was required to protect all the healthcare programs provided by the nation’s two largest federal departments.”

House Armed Services Committee

Chairman Ike Skelton (D-MO) was the first to act with the introduction of H.R. 4887. His bill was necessary because the national healthcare legislation, as written, only recognized TRICARE for Life, and excluded a half dozen other TRICARE programs, as well as the health plan provided to DoD non-appropriated fund employees. H.R. 4887 passed unanimously 403-0. Senate Armed Service Personnel Subcommittee Chairman Jim Webb (D-VA) quickly introduced S. 3148 as a companion to Skelton’s H.R. 4887, which cleared the Senate last night.

Senate VA Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-HI) introduced S. 3162 to recognize and protect all VA programs. His bill remains necessary because the national healthcare legislation, as written, only recognizes veterans covered under chapter 17 of Title 38, and excludes other Title 38 recipients, to include widows and dependent children. S. 3162 passed the Senate March 26, but has yet to move to a vote in the House.

“Bill language is extremely important because it becomes the law of the land,” said Tradewell, who applauded the efforts of Skelton, Webb and Akaka, as well as Senate VA Committee ranking member Richard Burr (R-NC), House VA Committee ranking member Steve Buyer (R-IN), and House Armed Services Committee ranking member Buck McKeon (R-CA).

“The VFW salutes these true champions in Congress for ensuring all the hard earned DoD and VA healthcare programs for America’s veterans, service members and their families are protected in writing.”

Girl Scout Cookies for the Troops



Members of Girl Scout Troop 10036, with the support of the Cherryland VFW Post 2780 and Ladies Auxiliary, sent over 1,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to members of the 1434th Combat Engineers stationed in Iraq.

Burger King Campaign to Assist VFW Unmet Needs Program Nets \$500,000

Kansas City, MO, March 16, 2010 – For the third consecutive year, dedicated supporters have stepped forward to honor America’s men and women in uniform, raising almost \$500,000 for the VFW Unmet Needs program.

Launched by Burger King Franchisee Mike DeRosa in 2007, the “buy a burger; donate a buck” campaign netted a respectable \$110,000 in donations for the military and family grant support program. Since then, participating independent Burger King Franchisees have doubled contributions each year to the VFW Foundation. In 2008, the second year of the program, they raised \$250,000 during its “buy a burger; donate a buck” effort. When you add in the almost \$500,000 raised this year, the total for three years is over \$850,000!

“Their gifts to the Unmet Needs program, has assisted hundreds of military families who are confronted with emergent financial needs. Their continued generosity enables the VFW to continue to assist our nation’s military families

when they need it most. This is an incredible demonstration of love and support for members of our armed forces. We are so appreciative of everyone who helped in this great endeavor,” stated Thomas J. Tradewell, Sr., VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Participating states included: Alaska, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

The VFW Unmet Needs program provides emergency financial assistance to U.S. military service members experiencing financial hardships, often brought on by deployment. Funds from donations are available to the five branches of service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard), as well as members of the Reserves and National Guard. Funds awarded by the program are offered in the form of grants – not loans – so recipients don’t need to repay them.

Chelsea Post 4076 Honors Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Winners

On February 20th, VFW Post 4076 Chelsea hosted an awards pizza party for its VOD and Patriot's Pen winners, their families and friends. Trophies, plaques, certificates and other small prizes were awarded to all the winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen programs.

The Voice of Democracy winners were: 1st Place, Melanie Burchett, 12th Grade; 2nd Place, David Straub, 12th Grade; 3rd Place, Jennifer Craig, 10th grade. The Patriot's Pen winners were: 1st Place, Erinjen Lin, 8th grade; 2nd Place, Maya Pifer, 8th grade; 3rd Place, Katie Christie, 8th grade.



Pictured, L-R: Melanie Burchett, Maya Pifer, Katie Christie, David Straub, Commander Chuck Reed and Erinjen Lin.

VFW Post 702 Donates Flag to Cub Scout Pack

VFW Post 702 and its Auxiliary are always there to support youth programs and organizations in any way we can. On April 6, 2010, we were honored to present Sean MacKellar of the newly formed Cub Scout Pack 3389, a new American flag and stand. We wish them well.



Pictured, L-R: Ron Oakes, Commander; Sean MacKellar; Joan Broek; Sonya VanValkenburg; and Douglas Broek, member of 702 and District 8 Commander.

Men's Auxiliary

Greetings Comrades and fellow Men's Auxiliary members,

My name is Matthew Koutz. I am a member of the Fred E. Richards VFW Post 3055 Men's Auxiliary.

At the Mid-Winter Conference in January, the Men's Auxiliary Department Liaison, Jim Niner, asked for a volunteer to write an article to be included in the MOV each edition. I volunteered. I am currently the Secretary for our Auxiliary here in St. Louis, but have also served as Chaplain and President in past years.

I am hoping that this article will serve as a way that the Men's Auxiliaries from

throughout the state can communicate what is happening in their respective Posts and areas. If there is anything going on at your Posts or in your community that would be of significance to other Posts and Auxiliaries, please e-mail me. I don't want this article to just be an advertisement section, but it can be helpful to other Posts and Auxiliaries to know what types of events are happening in other areas.

Please don't hesitate to share your stories of success, and possibly, failures. We can all learn from mistakes. My e-mail address is mkoutz@hotmail.com. You can also send the information to Jim Niner at jimniner@sbcglobal.net

Michigan Veterans Foundation/ MVF Thrift Store

What: Come and join us as we celebrate the grand opening of our new THRIFT STORE. The store is dedicated to helping veterans and their families with food, housing, job placement assistance, clothing, etc. The day's event will include a presentation of the colors by MVF's own Color Guard. In addition, there will be lots of refreshments.

Who: The Michigan Veterans Foundation (MVF) is a nonprofit agency whose overall objective is to fill the gaps that currently exist in providing services to Michigan's veterans. MVF's main project is the Detroit Veterans Center – a well-planned and well-supported community effort. The Foundation has been asked to expand its services to several other cities in Michigan, and currently has plans to open other facilities strategically located throughout the State of Michigan.

The Michigan Veterans Foundation is

transforming homeless veterans into independent wage earners and taxpayers who will have a positive impact on their community, state and nation. These once homeless patriots are rejoining the community, which called upon them to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy.

The MVF operates a transitional housing facility and resource center. The facility provides the skills and confidence needed for homeless veterans to break the cycle of homelessness and return to independent living. This includes the specific goals of residential stability, increased skill level, increased income and greater self-determination to obtain and maintain self-sufficiency.

When: Saturday, May 1, 2010 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Where: MVF Thrift Store, located at 4780 Cornfield Drive, Cedar Springs, MI 49319

September Departure Added to WWII Tours

Due to the increased demands by WWII veterans, history buffs, teachers and others to return to the WWII European Theater areas, a September 8th departure has been added to the tours already being escorted by Dr. and Mrs. Brooks Ranney of Yankton, South Dakota.

The June tour is now sold out and there are a few seats remaining on the July 13th departure.

This is the seventh year that WWII Veteran Dr. Brooks Ranney and his wife, Vi,

have escorted these groups. They will visit Paris, all the Beaches of Normandy, Eisenhower's headquarters in Reims, Patton's Grave near Luxembourg City, the Battle of the Bulge area in Belgium, Germany with the Remagen Bridge, an afternoon Rhine River cruise, the Dachau Memorial Camp and Hitler's Eagles Nest. If you wish to travel with the Ranneys, please call their home 605-665-3596 today for a colorful brochure. WWII Veterans always receive a \$200 discount.

WORLD WAR II TOURS

Departures: June 13-24 & July 13-24 • SOLD OUT

Due to popular demand we added a fall departure:

September 9-19, 2010

France • Luxembourg • Belgium • Germany

Paris • Beaches of Normandy • Reims • Patton's Grave
Battle of the Bulge • Remagen Bridge • Rhine River Cruise
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Dr. Brooks Ranney in 1941

Michigan Overseas Veteran - 2010

PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Issue	Deadline	Issue	Deadline
July/August/September	August 1, 2010	January/February/March	February 1, 2011
October/November/December	November 1, 2010	April/May/June	April 15, 2011

Please Remember!

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

MOV Editor

Matt David, editormov@yahoo.com

Auxiliary Editor

Marion Belaire, melaire@yahoo.com

VFW 
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Proposed Amendment to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure Title Change

Amend the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US, Article V, first sentence of Section 516(b) by striking out the title "Service Officer" and inserting the title of "Certified Veterans Advocate".

Amend the Manual of Procedure to the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US, Article V, first sentence of Section 516 by striking out the title "Service Officer" and inserting the

title "Certified Veterans Advocate".

Amend the Manual of Procedure to the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the US, Article V, and Section 518(a) (11) by striking out title of "Service Officer" and inserting the title "Certified Veterans Advocate". First sentence strike out the title of "The Department Service Office" and inserting the title "The Department Certified Veterans Advocate."

Article VI – Districts

Section 1 after the first paragraph insert paragraph two as follows:

Districts shall hold at least two (2) regular meetings per year, one of which shall be for the purpose of promoting schools of instruction for Post officers. In addition, the Districts shall hold a District Convention not less than ten (10) days

nor more than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention for the purpose of electing officers and for the transaction of business.

The intent of this Bylaw change is to allow those Districts within heavy snow areas to avoid dangerous driving conditions during the winter months.

Maple City VFW Post 2406 Honored by 351st ASB

On Saturday, March 20, VFW Post 2406 was honored by the 351st ASB out of Grand Ledge at their Freedom Salute Ceremony. They nominated Mike Andi as their Outstanding Center of Influence for

their deployment. A mosaic picture of the flag was presented by Brig. General Burton Francisco. Each piece of the mosaic has something on it pertaining to the National Guard.



Brig. General Burton Francisco (R) presents Post Commander Mike Smith and Ladies Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Gayle Smith with the Outstanding Center of Influence award.

VFW Post 6756 Honors their Firefighter of the Year

On April 7, 2010, during the Post meeting, members of Post 6756 recognized and gave honor to their 2009-2010 Firefighter of the Year.



Post Commander Gerald Gorski presents Post Firefighter of the Year, Matthew Haskins, with his award.

Article XIII Council of Administration

Section 1. The Budget & Finance Committee shall submit the proposed budget for the ensuing year to the Council of Administration at least seven (7) days prior to its July meeting. The budget must be adopted or altered and adopted by the Council of Administration at its July meeting following the Department Convention and after such adoption, cannot be changed, except by three fourths (3/4) vote of the Council of administration at a regular meeting at which two thirds (2/3) of its entire membership is present. No transfer of funds from any portion of the budget can be made except by the same procedure. No proposition involving either expenditure or receipt of funds by the Department can be acted upon by the Council of Administration before approval of the Budget & Finance Committee, except by a three fourths (3/4) vote of the Council of Administration members present at a regular or special meeting and all bills shall be approved, disapproved or referred without recommendation by the Budget & Finance Committee before the Council of Administration shall act on them.

Section 2. The Council of Administration shall hold not more than eight (8) nor less than four (4) regular meetings per year. The first to be called by the Department Commander immediately following the installation of Department Officers following the adjournment of the State Convention and the second to be called by the Department Commander prior to the last Sunday in July at such time and place as he may designate and the last meeting shall be held in the next convention city on the day prior to the official opening of that State Convention. All other meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the Department Commander. The Adjutant shall give, or cause to be given, all members of the Council of Administration written notice, at least ten (10) days prior to each meeting, as to time and place. Special meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. In all cases of special meetings, notice of the Council of Administration members shall be sent as outlined above and shall specify the purpose of such special meeting.

Section 3. Any contract entered into by the Council of Administration, extending beyond the next Convention, shall be subject to ratification, modification or cancellation as regards to all phases of such contracts which extend beyond the Convention.

Insert "*Quartermaster, with the assistance of the*" after the word *the* in the first line of Article XIII, Section 1 to comply with the National By-Laws Article V, Section 518 (a)(4)(k).

Delete "*its July meeting*" from the third line of Article XIII, Section 1 and replace it with "*the first scheduled Council of Administration meeting*".

Delete "*July*" from the seventh line of Article XIII, Section 1 and replace it with "*first scheduled meeting*".

Delete "*its entire membership*" after the word *of* in Article XIII, Section 1, line 11 and insert "*the Council*" in its place.

Delete "*The first to be called*" from the

third line of Article XIII, Section 2 and replace it with "*Effective June 27, 2010 and each year thereafter the first Council meeting will be called.*"

Insert a **period** (.) after the word **Convention** on the seventh line of Article XIII, Section 2 and delete "*and the second to be called by the Department Commander prior to the last Sunday in July at such time and place as he may designate and*" capitalize the word "*The*" to begin the next sentence.

Article XIII Council of Administration shall read as follows:

Section 1. The *Quartermaster with the assistance of the* Budget & Finance Committee shall submit the proposed budget for the ensuing year to the Council of Administration at least seven (7) days prior to *the first scheduled Council of Administration meeting*. The budget must be adopted or altered and adopted by the Council of Administration at its *first scheduled meeting* following the Department Convention and after such adoption, cannot be changed, except by three fourths (3/4) vote of the Council of Administration at a regular meeting at which two thirds (2/3) of *the Council* is present. No transfer of funds from any portion of the budget can be made except by the same procedure. No proposition involving either expenditure or receipt of funds by the Department can be acted upon by the Council of Administration before approval of the Budget & Finance Committee, except by a three fourths (3/4) vote of the Council of Administration members present at a regular or special meeting and all bills shall be approved, disapproved or referred without recommendation by the Budget & Finance Committee before the Council of Administration shall act on them.

Section 2. The Council of Administration shall hold not more than eight (8) nor less than four (4) regular meetings per year. *Effective June 27, 2010 and each year thereafter the first Council meeting will be called* by the Department Commander immediately following the installation of Department Officers following the adjournment of the State Convention. The last meeting shall be held in the next convention city on the day prior to the official opening of that State Convention. All other meetings shall be held at the time and place designated by the Department Commander. The Adjutant shall give, or cause to be given, all members of the Council of Administration written notice, at least ten (10) days prior to each meeting, as to time and place. Special meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions of the National By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. In all cases of special meetings, notice of the Council of Administration members shall be sent as outlined above and shall specify the purpose of such special meeting.

Section 3. Any contract entered into by the Council of Administration, extending beyond the next Convention, shall be subject to ratification, modification or cancellation as regards to all phases of such contracts which extend beyond the Convention.

DAY OF CHALLENGES

After switching from a fall schedule to a spring date, the Day of Challenges got underway again at the Michigan Tech Univ. Student Development Center in Houghton on March 20, 2010. Under the new leadership of Lt. Col. Jim Spence, MTU ARMY ROTC, and coordinated by Cadet Katy Hill, another flawless event was accomplished. Both are new to this project and they were quite impressed with the overall scope of the entire event and are to be commended for their efforts.

Once again, the Day of Challenges highlighted one of the VFW's primary goals of working with other groups and organizations to help further the development of our youth. For physical fitness, it tested students with push-ups, sit-ups and a 400-meter run. The skills event tested abilities in sports, teamwork and overall coordination and focus. Students ran a timed obstacle course and a leadership reaction course that tested the group's cohesiveness and mental agility. Each team was assigned a MTU ROTC cadet to encourage and guide the students through the events. The overall favorite of the students, by far, was in the diving pool, with the high board confidence jump being the most daring event. State Commander Dave Hutson declined the offer to take the 10 meter plunge, keeping intact the long standing tradition of the Dept. Reps. being outdone by a 5th grader.

The overall winner in the junior division was the girl's team from the Chassell

Robert Paavola
Day of Challenges
Director



Township school. In the senior division it was the L.L. Wright school of Ironwood. For overall individual achievement the Iron Man trophy was won by Dylan Prescott and the Iron Woman trophy went to Ashley Geesey. A total of 27 teams participated, representing about 170 students. The team that traveled the furthest was again from White Cloud, near Newaygo.

I thank MTU for allowing us to use their facility again, the Army and Air Force ROTC cadre for all their preparation and hard work, Michigan Dept. of VFW and Auxiliaries, and all the Posts and Auxiliary that support this program with their generous donations each year. I also thank the members of the 15th District who helped and attended, with special thanks to the South Range Post 6165 Auxiliary and Calumet Post 5600 Auxiliary for cooking and serving the meal at the awards ceremony.

I look forward to continued VFW support and participation for next year's event, which is tentatively scheduled for March 19, 2011.

Board of Managers and Veterans Homes

Comrades,

I would like to tell you about the Board of Managers and the two Veterans Homes in our great State of Michigan. First, the Board of Managers was created by Public Act 152 of 1895. The Board exercises certain regulatory and governance authority regarding admission and member affairs at Michigan's two State Veteran Homes. They also represent the interest of the veterans community in both advisory and advocacy roles. The Board Members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve six (6) year terms. Members of the Board of Managers consist of:

(2) Veterans of Foreign Wars – PSC Richard "Chic" LaFave from (Gwinn) and PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. from (Charlotte)

(2) The American Legion – PSC Bill Coffey from (Lanes) and PSC Gary Veldman from (Muskegon)

(1) Disabled American Veterans – PSC Gerald Cool from Adrian

AMVETS – PSC Mary Wilseck from Livonia

Independent – David E. Hall from Rock (Upper Peninsula)

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is home for just over 700 residents.

- Domiciliary (ambulatory) – 140 beds available, 64% filled at present.

- Nursing Care – 618 beds available, 94% filled at present.

- * Average assigned nursing beds 610*

The D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, located in Marquette, houses 240 residents.

- Domiciliary (ambulatory) – 58 beds available, 15.52% filled at present.

- Nursing Care – 182 beds available, 98.90% filled at present.

- **The entire Home should be completely renovated by fiscal year end 2010**

Special Note: The Board of Managers is being apprised of the need to increase the "Special Needs" area at both homes. The

nursing care is on the rise at both locations. The area around the courtyard at the Grand Rapids Home could be the site for a new wing to accommodate the "Special Needs." Comrades, you may be called on to help make this project a reality.

In Fiscal Year 2010, the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), was directed to cut \$1.1 million from the two homes. This directive came directly from our State Legislature and was approved by the Governor. Further, we have been directed to forecast a three (3) year budget through Fiscal Year 2012 with a 10% reduction. This comrades, cuts the two homes' budgets by 12% over the next four years. This is totally unacceptable. We need you to contact your State Senators and State Representatives to solidify the budgets of our State Veterans Homes so that we do not infringe on the health care needs of our Veterans. Thank you for your support over this past year and your continued support to assist the veterans at the Grand Rapids and the D.J. Jacobetti homes.

Finally, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary leads the charge in volunteer organizations when it comes to volunteer hours and donations. Thank you, from the two Home Administrators and the Board of Managers.

REMINDER: The Board of Managers meetings are open to the public. You are welcome to attend any meeting. Next meetings scheduled are being held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans on Wednesday, May 26th and Wednesday, July 21st, starting at 9:00 a.m. Always call in advance (Grand Rapids Home for Veterans: 1-616-364-5300) for any possible date/time changes.

**PSC Ernie Meyers, Sr. and
PSC Chic LaFave
Michigan State Veterans Homes
Board of Managers**

VFW Announces 2009-2010 National Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winners

Kansas City, MO, March 8, 2010 – The winners of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary sponsored "Voice of Democracy" (VOD) audio-essay competition and the "Patriot's Pen" essay competition were announced late yesterday afternoon during the VFW National Legislative/Voice of Democracy/Senior Vice Commander Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The VOD program celebrated its 63rd year with this year's theme, "Does America Still Have Heroes?" The 1st Place winner, Madison Mullen, sponsored by Post 3297 out of Delaware, Ohio, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she was presented with the T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship award in the amount of \$30,000. The 2nd Place winner, Anthony Zendejas IV, sponsored by Post 239 out of Bremerton, Washington, received the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship Award. The 3rd Place winner, Lena Savell, sponsored by Post 12057 out of San Juan, Puerto Rico, received the \$10,000 VFW Scholarship Award. All other state winners received at least a \$1,000 college scholarship. Just over 50,000 students participated in this year's competition.

The Patriot's Pen program is designed



to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to express their opinions on democracy based on an annual theme, this year's being, "When is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes?" The 1st place winner, Abigail Barnard, sponsored by Post 7385 out of Mesquite, Nevada, received an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., where she received a \$10,000 savings bond and trophy during a special luncheon. The 2nd Place winner, Nora Faris, sponsored by Post 5649 out of Concordia, Missouri, will receive an \$8,000 savings bond and glass plaque. The 3rd Place winner, Ariela Rivkin, sponsored by Post 1429 out of Teaneck, New Jersey, will receive a \$7,000 savings bond and glass plaque. Wood plaques will be sent to all of the sponsoring Posts' Department headquarters for presentation during their respective Department Convention or other appropriate ceremony. A total of 109,465 students participated in this year's competition.

Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Donates \$100,000 to VFW Foundation's Voice of Democracy Student Essay Contest

"To secure, manage and distribute resources to support veterans, active duty personnel, Guard and Reserve, their families and communities."

Kansas City, MO, March 4, 2010 – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Foundation announced today that it has received a \$100,000 gift from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation in support of its Voice of Democracy student essay contest.

Each year, more than 65,000 U.S. students (grades 9-12) from public, private, parochial and home schools, research, write and record an essay based on a patriotic theme.

Winners advance from their local geographic areas to state, then national levels, all the while earning money for educational scholarships. The national winner is awarded a \$30,000 prize.

Currently, 70,000 teachers/counselors receive informational materials relating to the Voice of Democracy program.

The donation from the Bradley Foundation will be used to increase distribution to approximately 350,000 teachers and school counselors across the United States, thereby dramatically expanding student participation in the scholarship contest.

Daniel M. Shea, the Executive Director of the VFW Foundation, stated: "We are extremely grateful for the Bradley Foundation's commitment to our nation's youth.

Their generosity will allow us to reach thousands of more American schoolchildren, thus providing them an opportunity to become involved in the VFW's Voice of Democracy program, and will

ultimately lead them to a better understanding of democracy and a lifetime of responsible citizenship."

"We are proud to be involved with such a worthwhile program. Our Foundation strongly supports activities to educate youth in such worthwhile principles," said Daniel P. Schmidt, the Bradley Foundation's Director of Program.

"Our involvement emphasizes that the Bradley Foundation is committed to education, especially civics and history curriculums," he added.

The VFW Foundation, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the official charity of its parent organization, the VFW (America's oldest major combat veterans group).

Its mission is to support non-political programs that secure, manage and distribute resources to improve the lives of veterans, military service personnel, their families and communities. Please visit <http://www.vfwfoundation.org> for more information.

The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation is a private, independent grant-making organization based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Its grants support research and educational projects, programs and other activities that effectively further the founding Bradley brothers' philanthropic intent and honor their legacy. More information can be found at <http://www.bradleyfdn.org/>



Matt David, Editor

Editorial Committee:

David Hutson, Commander
Lloyd Putman, Sr. Vice Commander
Jack Pray, Jr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Historian/MOV Editor
Marian Belaire, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

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

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

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(City)

Branch (Circle One):

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USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):

WWI WWII Korea
Vietnam Gulf Other

Occupation Forces

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



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- 134-DEARBORN**
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- 203-BERVILLE**
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- 345-REDFORD**
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- 2496-ALPENA**
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- 2532-PAW PAW**
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- 3030-OTSEGO**
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- 3735-OSCODA**
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- 4087-DAVISON**
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5740-RUTH
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Annis-Fint VFW Post 1584 Honor Guard Going Strong

Well into their 70's and 80's, World War II veterans of the Annis-Fint VFW Post 1584 Honor Guard continue to participate in paying final tribute to fallen comrades. Pictured, left to right: Allen Kern, Bob Bishop, Don Rutledge, Leo Wild, Russ Spalding and Don Leonard.





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Join us for a great day on the links!

18 Holes
1/2 Cart

Open Driving Range Ready at 8:00 a.m.
Rolls and Coffee Ready at 8:00 a.m.

All-you-can-eat outdoor BBQ

Includes: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers and Roasted Pork Loin

Also Includes: Fresh Whole Fruit, Chips, Baked Beans, Pasta Salad, Cookies and Condiments

*BBQ will begin 60 minutes after shotgun and conclude after last scorecard is posted.

\$50.00 per golfer

VFW State Honor Guard
Fundraiser Golf Outing
Thursday, July 29, 2010

10:00 a.m. Shotgun, Registration Starts at 8:00 a.m.

If you have questions or want to enter your foursome, call Lloyd Putman III at 989-472-1156
Forward this application to: Lloyd Putman III, 1304 Penbrooke Drive, #154, Owosso, MI 48867

Form with fields for Captain's Name, Phone, Player 2, Player 3, Player 4

VFW AND Auxiliaries
Summer Conference & OTS

Ramada Lansing Hotel & Conference Center
Thursday, July 29, 2010 - Sunday, August 1, 2010
Deadline for Reservation is July 1, 2010

Mail or Fax Reservations to:
RAMADA Lansing Hotel and Conference Center
7501 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI 48917
Phone No: 517-627-3211, FAX No: 517-627-5240

Accommodations are as Follows:

Table with columns: Single King (\$65.00), Double (\$65.00), Suites (Contact hotel for quote)

Please put your e-mail address or phone number to receive confirmation numbers from hotel

Please Print

E-mail: _____

Phone No: (_____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone No: (_____) _____

District #: _____ Post #: _____ Your office in VFW/Auxiliary: _____

Credit Card Type: _____ Card #: _____

Exp Date: _____ Date of Arrival: _____ Date of Departure: _____

If you have any special needs, please indicate them below.

Blank lines for special needs

Convention Schedule
June 23-27, 2010

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

Golf Outing

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

Friday, June 25, 2010

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

Saturday, June 26, 2010

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

You must have your Entertainment Tickets picked up by 12 Noon

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

All displays and other items must be removed from area before the 1:30 p.m. meetings

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

Sunday, June 27, 2010

REGISTRATION CLOSED

Table with columns: Time, Activity, Location

Installation of 2010-2011 Officers after Business Session
After Installation, 2010-2011 C of A Meeting

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!

Rev. Elmer R. Liimatta
Candidate for National Chaplain



Highly Qualified

Endorsed by:
State of Michigan VFW

Ronald L. Devereaux
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 9
Olson-Kiste VFW Post 4406
His Wife and family

MVF THRIFT STORE/DONATION CENTER

Dear Supporter!

**IT IS A NATIONAL DISGRACE THAT OVER
300,000 AMERICAN VETERANS ARE HOMELESS.**

Since 1992, thousands of homeless veterans have been helped by the Michigan Veterans Foundation's programs that provide the basic necessities – food, clothing, shelter and medical attention. While the foundation receives major governmental grants from HUD, USDOL and VA for operation of its programs and facilities, 25% of the funding comes from public donations, in order for the Foundation to be eligible to receive these grants. **Therefore, your support is needed and more appreciated – now more than ever.**

The Michigan Veterans Foundation is in need of your help to ensure its success with our latest project!

**“MVF THRIFT STORE/DONATION CENTER”
27329 W. Warren Street, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127**

The Grand Opening of the Michigan Veterans Foundation's Thrift Store is coming soon. We are in need of your gently used items – including household accessories, bedding, books, clothes, shoes, furniture, appliances, medical furnishings, televisions, VHS/DVDs/CDs and any other item that you may like to donate. Just give us a call and we will pick up your donated items at your convenience.

The Michigan Veterans Foundation's Projects are run by Veterans for Veterans. We give our veterans a “hand up,” not a “hand out.”

Your support goes directly to keep veterans – one at a time – from sleeping another night on the street!

The Michigan Veterans Foundation is determined not to leave America's Heroes out on the streets!

We simply will not leave our wounded behind!!

**The Michigan Veterans Foundation proudly presents:
www.mvfbooks.org**

Log on to mvfbooks.org and browse our inventory of gently used books, music, movies and more!

- Biography, Fiction and *many* more...
- Cookbooks
- Medical textbooks
- All your reading needs!



All proceeds directly benefit the homeless programs at the Michigan Veterans Foundation.

**Re-Elect
Leonard Milewski**
Department Surgeon 2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 4
VFW Post 1136
His family

Kirk Kennedy
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 6
Morley S. Oates VFW Post 701
His family

Billy G. Stancroff
Candidate for
Department of Michigan
Department Jr. Vice Commander
2010-2011



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

**Please
Support
the
Candidates**

Deb Eernisse
Candidate for Department Guard
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 8
Ladies Auxiliary 3030
Her family

Kathy Kirby
Candidate for Department Guard
2010-2011



Endorsed and supported by:
District 10
Ladies Auxiliary 1452
Her family



www.centennialacres.com

Sponsor a great day on the links!

\$100.00 for a hole
or

\$50.00 for a shared hole

VFW State Honor Guard
Fundraiser Golf Outing
Thursday, July 29, 2010

.....
If you have questions, call Lloyd Putman III at 989-472-1156.

Forward sponsorship application and donation to:
Lloyd Putman III, 1304 Penbrooke Drive, #154, Owosso, MI 48867

Sponsor Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Enclosed sponsorship for ___\$50.00 or ___\$100.00

Sponsorship wording: _____

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
April/May/June 2010



Volume 77 Number 4

**There will be no banquet
this year at the
State Convention.**

**Please come and join us Saturday
night and enjoy the sounds of:**



This talented, all-female vocal quintet features Thelma Stubbs-Mitchell, the sister of Levi Stubbs of the Four Tops, and four of his nieces: Pamela Fuller, Sheila Stubbs-Taylor, Ronda Pierce and Robin Pierce.

Sit back and enjoy the music and participate in a fun filled evening with live entertainment. Audience participation will be part of the program. They will take you back down memory lane!

Cost per person: \$12.50

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

Your Name: _____
Number of Tickets: _____

Pick tickets up at the Convention!



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Coming Events 2010

May 6-8
Buddy Poppy Days

May 7-8
Commander & President Joint
Testimonial
Lansing, MI

June 4-5
Golf Outing/Officer Training Seminar
Camp Trotter - Newaygo

June 24-27
Department Convention
Hyatt Regency, Dearborn



STATE COMMANDER

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

This is my last *MOV* article for my tenure as your Department Commander and I must say that it has been an interesting one. I've traveled from Michigan to Arizona, Wisconsin, Washington, D.C. and Nebraska. My travels here in Michigan have taken me throughout the Upper Peninsula, from the east side to the west. With that, came meetings with Post Commanders and comrades with their concerns as to how they will keep their Posts active with the lack of participation and lack of funds. We are currently merging two Posts and possibly two more in the future. So, what I am saying is, the problems exist all over and it will be necessary to merge some Posts in order for them to remain viable.

Membership is a must in order to maintain a viable organization and history has proven that we have to work harder finding new members and maintaining the members we already have. All I can hope for is that we start paying closer attention to the members we have and make them feel a part of our Post. Keep their present addresses and phone numbers and update once a year. Pay more attention to our elderly and ill members and upon their death, report it to Department and National as being deceased. We have fallen short of staying on top of this and Posts will not benefit by keeping them on their books. Prior to being your Commander, I stated at all District meetings to report all of the deceased and start the year out with a clean slate.

Reporting all that we do in and around our communities has to be done every month. At the present time, the Department of Michigan is 100% reported in Community Service and I want to thank all of the Posts for their participation. We, as an organization, do so many things within our communities that we feel it was nothing. But as far as the IRS is concerned, that project that you participated in, is what helps keep our nonprofit status. The only way you, as a Post would know, is to be told that your Post will be audited by the IRS within the next week, and then not having anything to show. So, make reports for all that we do and don't fall short.



Dave Hutson
State Commander

District Commanders, I want to thank you for your time and involvement in your Districts. Some did more than others as shown by your membership numbers. However, in most cases you prevailed in what was asked of you and for that, I thank you. I can only hope you pass your knowledge on to the next District Commander.

Madame President Jan Meyers and the Ladies Auxiliary, I want to commend you for all the work you ladies have put into the Veterans of Foreign Wars this year and for what you will continue to do for the future of our organization. I also want to congratulate you on your membership accomplishments for this year. I know that the incoming President will do as well if they follow your guidelines and continue to achieve the goals set by the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you for a rewarding year – you were a breath of fresh air to work with and I wish you well for the future. Go Blue!!!

Men's Auxiliary, I want to commend you all for being a part of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Your support of the Posts is well noted when I make my visits throughout the State of Michigan. I hear more good than bad, so I feel we have a viable group within the VFW. I hope to see more participation on your part as to going to the trainings we put out for the Men's Auxiliary. The VFW will have a backbone of the organization. I suggest that anytime the Department has a training session, try to attend and learn what we have to get out to your group.

Once again, I want to thank all of the members, the Department of Michigan and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for giving me this opportunity to lead the State of Michigan, and I wish the incoming Commander a prosperous and enjoyable year. Remember: "BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE"