

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Michigan

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER, PHIL PATTERSON



Greeting Comrades and Auxiliary members,

It's hard to believe that the year is half way over and by the time you read this we will be in the home stretch. Just because the year is almost over that doesn't mean it's time to sit back and relax. There is still much to do so don't stop

working just yet.

I just returned from our 40th Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo, Michigan, where we had a great Conference and we were able to honor our District Voice of Democracy & District Patriot Pen Winners at our 40th Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan Voice of Democracy Banquet. I would like to thank all our students and teachers who participated, you are all winners. I would like to Congratulate **Rachel Dahl for winning first place in our Voice of Democracy contest**, Rachel was sponsored by Post 9455 and congratulations to **Jesse White for winning first place in our Patriots Pen contest**, Jesse was sponsored by Post 3306. Congratulations to the 9th District for making a clean sweep with your two first place winners.

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MAILING ADDRESS

It's the beginning of February and the Department is sitting at 95.53%, we have 81 Posts that have achieved the 100% or better mark with a lot more really close. District 9 is currently in first place, District 8 in second and District 11 in third. Who will be the first to reach 100%???? We are doing good, but we still have a long way to go so please continue the great work that all of you are doing, we will reach 100%. We need to go after the unpaid members, specifically the members that signed up last year and are still in good standing but are listed as unpaid. Give them a call and ask them to pay their dues early.

The All-State Program runs until June 30th of 2019. Entry forms for ... cont. on page 2

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2018-2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Voice of Democracy - Sarah Dahl
 Patriot's Pen - Jessie White



Congratulations to our 2018-2019 students and teachers that made it to the Department level! Almost all of the students were able to attend the event along with 2 of the 3 Teachers of the Year.

Voice of Democracy winner, Rachael Dahl (pictured) is from the 9th District, Post #9455 in Owosso. Rachel took home the \$6,000 Ralph J. Seabold Scholarship and plaque,

all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. and all expense paid trip to the Freedom Foundation in Valley Forge Pennsylvania awarded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan and presented by State Commander, Phil Patterson and State President, Sandy Medos. Also pictured above, Program Directors Sherwood Pea & Marian Belaire. The National winner of the

\$30,000 scholarship will be announced in Washington, D.C. on March 4th.

Patriot's Pen winner, Jessie White, also from the 9th District, Post #3306 Howard City, was unable to attend the event. Jessie was awarded the \$1,000 Wes Longenbach Memorial Award and plaque, awarded by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan and presented by Dept. Commander, Phil Patterson and Dept. President, Sandy Medos.

The three Teachers of the Year, High School Michelle Lince, Middle School Michelle Spisz and Elementary Sue Hietala each took home a jacket, 2 books and a crystal apple.

The students arrived on Friday afternoon and spent some time together bowling and playing laser tag. Saturday morning they visited the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

... more photos on page 10



L-R : Director Marian Belaire, Middle School Teacher of the Year Michelle Spisz, Program Assistant Sara Manke, Department President Sandy Medos, Director Sherwood Pea and Department Commander Phil Patterson

A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER CONTINUED ...

... Posts, County Councils & Districts are due no later than April 30th, 2019. No exceptions. If a Post attains 150 All-State Points by April 30th but has not yet reached 100% in membership, they have until June 30, 2019, to make 100% but they **MUST have submitted the All-State entry for by April 30, 2019.**

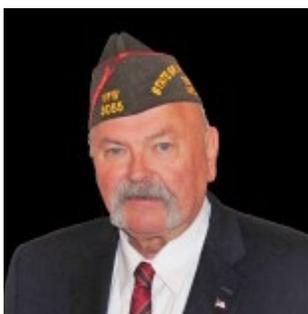
By the time you read my article, our Posts, County Councils and Districts will be having their Nominations, Elections and Installation of Officers for 2019-2020. **Congratulations to all the newly elected and appointed officers.** These New Officers will take over their new positions on June 8, 2019, when the New State Commander is installed. Our State Convention will be held June 6-8, 2019, at the Holiday Inn located at 5353

Gateway Center in Flint, Michigan 48507.

As many of you know, I will be running for National Council of Administration for the Department of Michigan 2019-2023 at the end of my term as your State Commander. Although I will not be out actively campaigning, I am asking for your support. My first and only responsibility is to take care of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and all its members, after all that is what you elected me to do. In closing, I would like to thank all veterans for their service to our great country, the United States of America.

TEAM-BUILDING, TEAMWORK & COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT SR. VICE COMMANDER, MIKE FINEIS



to breath. The fresher the air, the healthier we are. Just ask the people who worked around asbestos.

We as an organization need to remove the foul air in our Posts. We need to remove the negative elements that send members out the back door. They do not want to listen to the member at the end of the bar who has all the answers but does little to help. They do not want to be around a Commander and/or quartermaster who act like a dictator. Correct these issues in your Post and membership will grow. Members want to enjoy each other and have fun. Remember, please and thank you goes a long way to creating a positive atmosphere.

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers.

I ask that you take a professional approach and read what your duties and responsibilities are for the coming year. Order from national supply the "Podium Edition of the - Congressional Charter - By-Laws - Manual of Procedure - Ritual". The more knowledge you have, the better off your Post will be. Also, attend the Department and District schools

Comrades, over the years I've heard hundreds of times that "membership is the life blood of the VFW". This is true in part, for to maintain life we also need air

of instruction.

District Commanders your District receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your officers to fall conference, midwinter, state convention and VTS training. Purchase "2019 Podium Editions" for your Posts to ensure each Post is updated.... then ask them to read it!!!

For the outgoing officers, be there to guide and advise, not to lead. To many times Posts make the mistake of "we've always done it that way". This concept stifles eagerness and innovation. The Iraq and Afghanistan vets are "High Tech" and full of energy and ideas. Allow them to flourish and bring their knowledge into your Post. This is what we as an organization must do to grow and survive.

Congratulations to the newly elected District Sr. Vice Commanders. Please be aware by holding your office you are expected to attend Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and State Convention. You should also attend VTS schools of instruction. If you fail to attend these functions you will not have the knowledge to go through the chairs and be successful. At all state functions, there will be a meeting of all Sr. Vice Commanders.

We will come together and continue the process of building the team that will lead our Department in one year. We will share thoughts, ideas, & "what if we did it this way". All may attend. **Report, Report, Report.** Maintain your nonprofit status and keep the IRS at bay.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT & QUARTERMASTER, LYNN PATTERSON



Mid-Winter Conference is over, and the snow storm is here. I hope that you all were safe and warm during the storm. I believe we had a great confer-

ence and were able to get a lot of work done to benefit the Department of MI VFW. The VOD/PP/TOY banquet went off with out a hitch. I appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication. I appreciate you all very much.

State Convention is creeping up fast and we have a lot to do before we get there. Elections will be coming up soon and All-State will be ending. Please look over the program to make sure you have everything checked off the lists before the cut off - April 30, 2019. In-

coming Commanders need to start thinking about their committees and appointments.

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

Delegate forms will be sent out the 1st week of April. Please look for this and have your Post vote on delegates and payment of your Department dues. Fill out the form completely and get it back to Department by May

17, 2019. **This is very important when the time comes to vote at State Convention.** This is different from National dues which can only be paid on the National Website.

If you haven't done so already please look at purchasing the newest copy of the VFW National By-Laws. There are plenty of changes that need to be looked over. You can see all the changes to the By-Laws on the second page. Order these from the VFW Store. There is also a disc that you can purchase for \$4.00. The book itself is \$7.50.

Check the Department website regularly, as we are trying to keep it updated with the most current information and forms for you.

www.vfwmi.org

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR THE VFW AND FOR VETERANS



DEPARTMENT JR. VICE COMMANDER, SCOTT GLOGER

Hello Comrades, Brothers & Sisters,

I sure hope everyone is staying warm these days.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be the Master of Ceremonies at the Mid-Winter Conference banquet, for the VOD/PP/TOY. It was a great success. Seeing our future in all the contestants, the teachers who are teaching these young people with their families, we are in pretty good hands for the future.

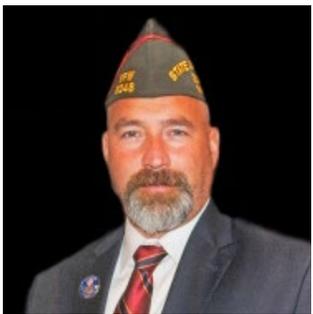
Another, highlight of the Mid-Winter con-

ference was the honor and privilege of handing out **75, 100% Post membership banners**. Personally, I would like to say thank you for all your hard work and dedication in achieving that goal. I know at this rate the Department of Michigan can reach 100%. Do not forget it takes all of us not just a handful to achieve that goal. Remember, if you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call 734-323-1188. We will do whatever we can to assist you.

Looking forward serving you anyway possible. Thank you again for this opportunity. See you at Convention in June or in my travels!

YOURS IN COMRADESHIP

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE, KEVIN CONKLIN



Congratulations to all the winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests and Teachers of the Year awards. Thank you to the directors and chairman for making this another successful year.

The banquet was a great success and seemed to be very well attended. Please start working early with the schools and show them the benefits of getting involved in this great program. Let's make sure not only the schools hear about these programs but the public at large. Send out press releases to the local news and include plenty of photos. Don't forget to invite them to your banquets or award ceremonies.

I hope by now that each of the Posts are finishing up with updating their bylaws. By-law templates are available for Posts to utilize on the website. Many Posts are utilizing out dated bylaws which may create more work for the Post if they do not get updated from time to time. Please keep the most current copy of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedures at your Post and available for all to read. These bylaws change every year so please don't reference outdated bylaws. You may also access the bylaws through Kindle. I have both the National Bylaws and Roberts Rules of Order on this app for my Ipad. It is simple and easy to access.

Just a few reminders, per Sec. 222-**Delegates and alternates SHALL be elected at a regular meeting in April.** Delegate strength is based off members in good standing as of March 31st. Secondly, please pay extra attention to include a current phone number for the Post on the election report. If you do not have a Post home, please have at least the Post Commander's phone listed. These contact numbers are crucial for Dept. & District directors and other comrades.

This will be my last year as your Department Judge Advocate I want to thank you all for trusting me and allowing me to serve you. I have enjoyed this position very much. It has enabled me to meet many comrades throughout the state. I will continue to assist you by serving in other capacities. Let's continue to have a great year and be 100% in membership!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

DO YOU HAVE THE VFW MOBILE APP?

The official app of the VFW puts the power of the nation's largest organization of combat veterans directly in users' hands. The latest version of the VFW app includes the following enhancements:

- Speed improvements
- Better Find-a-Post search
- Bug fixes for Login with ID.me
- Fixes thanks to your feedback!

The mobile app is available for Apple and Android users. It can be found by searching "VFW" in the Apple App Store or in the Google Play Store.



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT, SANDY MEDOS



Hello to all of our brothers & sisters.

I hope you are all snuggled in with a nice warm blanket with a warm drink.

If you attended Mid-Winter Conference, I thank each of you for getting out

in this weather. It seems we always have a snow storm that weekend.

Wasn't Mid-Winter Conference great! The students all looked so nice and I personally am very proud of each of them. I hope you liked the way we did the programs this year. Our Chairpersons did a wonderful job as did our Officers. **We are a team.** It takes a team to be successful.

Time is catching up with us. We need to work on getting our membership to 100 + 1 percent. If each Auxiliary could get 3 new or reinstated members, we would make it. Use your relief fund to help those that may be having a hard time. All Auxiliaries can afford to pay \$12.00 for at least one member in need. Please do not sit on dues. Auxiliary Presidents make sure your Treasurers are processing them right away. I have visited several of our Veterans hospitals and I volunteer at the Ann Arbor VA. You only need to go there once to see that our Veterans need our support. When you see a Veteran, please shake their hand and thank them for their service and your freedom. It brings a smile to their face and makes them feel proud.

Don't forget to report everything you do. Check your guide sheets to make sure you have done everything you needed to do in that chairmanship. The end of the year will be here before you know it. In closing I want to thank all of you for supporting our Veterans.

UNITED WE STAND

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN, JENNIFER SMITH



Comrades, Sisters and Brothers,

It was a blessing to see and speak with so many of you at the past Mid-Winter Conference.

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen portion was especially enjoyable and inspirational for many. Those able young people served as a welcome reminder that, as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and/or its Auxiliary, we stand united by a great and worthy cause that includes care and concern for veterans, current service-members, and their families.

A suitable question for this time of year is... **What's next?** Does your Post have special plans upcoming in the next few months? Are we giving back (as we are able)? Truly, the essay participants, their parents, and the Teachers of the Year help renew our focus. Their respect and joy regarding both our members and our great republic, hopefully reminds us of the true importance of providing care to others within the veteran community. May it be a pleasure to be a member of

an organization that prizes the same, along with empowering our nation's future leaders.

No bright lights or big signs, just a humble message. As 1 Peter 4:10 (ESV) states, we each have something that we can contribute,

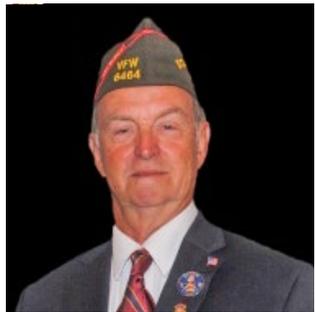
"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace[:]."

The Bible's Old and New Testaments, Hebrew Tanakh, and other faith groups include many other verses/precepts that show the significance of earnest service unto others including Proverbs 11:25 (ESV),

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

Therefore, please take heart that this VFW family of service, as different and unique we are individually and as Posts, Districts, and County Councils, are indeed representative of the highest American ideals. Although we grow weary at times, may perseverance and hope prevail.

With that in mind, please continue selflessly giving as you can and making positive differences in the lives of others and by so doing, yourselves. **MAY GOD BLESS YOU**

**DEPARTMENT INSPECTOR,
WILLIAM (BUTCH) OGDEN**


Comrades,

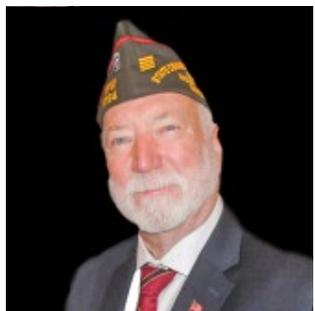
I would like to thank all those who responded to my letters concerning audit issues. Audits are due 30 days after the end of the quarter so plan your audits to be completed before

your trustee's vacations. The audit must be on a form prescribed by the Adjutant General. The audit must be signed by the 3 elected trustees and the Post Commander. Their signature's verify the accuracy of the audit.

Comrade Commanders, you CANNOT appoint a trustee. A reminder that elections are coming soon, elect trustees that will be available to complete the audits and they **CANNOT** hold any other elected positions or on a committee that is to be audited. All audits are to be submitted to Department Headquarters.

There is a VTS scheduled for Camp Trotter on June 21 & 22, please have your newly elected Trustees and Quartermasters attend the cost is \$30.00 which includes a steak dinner on Friday night. The golf outing is on Friday and training on Saturday.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE

**DEPARTMENT SURGEON,
DON MARTINDALE**
**HEPATITIS
IN VETERANS**


Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver. It can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis, or liver cancer. Hepatitis viruses are the most common causes in the world but other infections, toxic

substances such as alcohol or drugs and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis. There are 5 main hepatitis viruses types A, B, C, D and E. In particular types B and C lead to chronic diseases in hundreds of millions of people and, together, are the most common cause of liver cirrhosis and cancer. Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water, sometimes contracted at your local restaurant. Hepatitis B, C, and D usually occur as a result of contact with infected body fluids. What can we do as veterans to help ourselves against hepatitis? Get vaccinated. The Veterans Administration Hospital will give you the needed vaccines for Hepatitis A and B and you can inquire with Medicare to see if they will pay for the vaccine. Hepatitis is not something you want to get as a Christmas present, at a minimum you will get very, very sick, a worse case could end in death. The death sentence is not common here in the states but if you were ill to begin with, some of the side effects might push you over the edge. You might say that you never would put yourself in a position where you may be in contact with Hepatitis, you may be wrong there because any time you eat you could come in contact with the Hepatitis virus.

PLEASE CHECK INTO GETTING VACCINATED


BIG TEN CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN, JERRY GORSKI

I would like to first begin by thanking Every Member throughout the Department of Michigan for allowing me to continue serving YOU

and representing YOU as YOUR Big Ten Conference Chairman for 2018-2019. It is truly an honor to be from Michigan and be elected your Chairman by the Delegates of the Big Ten Conference Departments (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) with 296,339 Members as of today (1/28/19). It has been some time since a Past State Commander from Michigan has been -elected Chairman of the Big Ten Conference. Our last (2) Big Ten Conference Chairmen were Past State Commander Richard Lehner (1995-1996) and Past State Commander Ernie Meyers (1998-1999). Past State Commander Ernie Meyers was our previous Big Ten Conference Chairman 2014-2015. Thank you for supporting me and having faith in me over the years. I will do my very best for you!

I would like to now talk about **MEMBERSHIP**. "Our Life Blood of our Great Organization". At the Big Ten Conference on October 20, 2018 in St. Louis, Missouri, Commander-in-Chief Vincent "B.J." Lawrence talked a lot about Membership and he said, "It is time that the Veterans of Foreign Wars achieve 100% in membership this year". So, I will continue to write, talk, promote and keep you up to date on the membership Standings by National, Big Ten, Department and the top (3) Districts.

Now, here are the membership standings as of January 28, 2019: National is at 94.35%, Big Ten Conference is in 3rd place at 94.04%, Michigan is in 3rd place in the Big Ten Conference at 95.35%, Michigan is in 18th place in the nation at 95.35%, District 9 is in 1st place at 97.32%, District 8 is in 2nd place

at 97.08% and District 11 is in 3rd place at 96.80%. We are doing very good compared to the other Departments, Conferences and National standings at this time. We just need everyones help throughout Michigan to increase our membership. I know we can achieve 100% by June 30, 2019. **WE can do it! I know WE can!**

Please remember that membership for 2018-2019 started on July 1, 2018 and ends on June 30, 2019. Please continue to go after the new, reinstate and continuous members. Thank you for all your hard work on membership!

Lastly, I am a Candidate for National Council of Administration for 2019-2023. I hope many of you know me by now. I hope you know my experience, both past and present. My many elected & appointed positions that I have held with the Veterans of Foreign Wars over the years. My many management positions I have held with the Kmart Corporation for 32 years. My formal education I have (Master's, Bachelor's & Associate Degrees). If you have not, please read my brochure that will be passed out at our Upcoming State Convention.

I have always tried to do my very best in every position I've held. I have always tried to be friendly towards everyone I meet. No one is a stranger to me. I have always tried to put a smile on my face. I hope you will continue supporting me and you will vote for me at our State Convention in Flint, Michigan on Saturday, June 8, 2019. I promise to continue serving you, representing you, protecting you and carry out your wishes and the wishes of the Department of Michigan. I hope you will allow me to continue serving you and the Department of Michigan as your next National Council of Administration Member 2019-2023. I will not let you down!

Thank You!

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



**FIND US ONLINE AT VFW.ORG AND
FACEBOOK.COM/VFWMI**


DEPARTMENT SAFETY DIRECTOR, JESSICA WRIGHT

Greeting Comrades!

Last year I was appointed as your Department Safety Director. For those of you who have not had the opportunity to meet me, I am an

Iraq Veteran, serving in the Michigan Army National Guard from 2001-2009, with the 1073rd Maintenance Company in Greenville. I graduated from Ferris State University with a Bachelors in Criminal Justice and I am currently working full time for the Western District of Michigan Federal Court. I joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 2017, where I accepted the position of Post Adjutant at Hough-Pontius #3701 in Lakeview, Michigan. In 2018, I also became the Post Quartermaster. I truly enjoy every minute that I spend with the VFW & I look forward to the future of this organization.

January 1, 2019, marked the deadline for

submissions for the 2018 Public Servant Awards. I received 15 applications this year. A panel of 3 Judges (Kevin Conklin, Andy Conklin and Bill Thick Jr.) selected each of the winners for the three categories. The award presentation will be held at this years June State Convention in Flint. I look forward to seeing you there!

As a reminder to all Posts and Districts, the reporting period for drug and safety points is May 1 through April 30. There are still plenty of Posts out there who are not reporting any points in these categories. I encourage you to step up and start reporting. If you are unsure what qualifies you for points in this area check out the Safety page on the Department website. www.vfwmi.org

I have also created a list of activities that your Post can participate in. If you are still struggling to meet your goals, please reach out to me. I am here to help you succeed in any way that I can.

DS@VFWMI.ORG

SPORTS CLIPS DONATES \$1.35 MILLION

Following the Dec. 10, 2018, VFW Foundation Board meeting, VFW Foundation Board Member and Sport Clips Founder & CEO Gordon Logan presented a contribution to the Foundation in the amount of **\$1.35 million**

The generous gift will support active-duty U.S. service members' and veterans' scholarships through the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Mr. Logan is a U.S. Air Force veteran and Life member of the VFW. Sport Clips is the Official Haircutter of the VFW, and its Help A Hero campaign is just one of the many ways it supports active-duty military and veterans. We encourage VFW members to visit **SportClips.com** to find their closest store, stop in for a haircut, and say "Thanks!"



AUXILIARY CHIEF OF STAFF, GLORIA DOBBIE

Have you heard the news? The Department of Michigan Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars is increasing the number of New Auxiliaries in an impressive manner. First to be instituted in this Auxiliary year was;

**District 9, Post 3701, Lakeview
December 2, 2018**

Thank you to Nicole Koutz for organizing this Auxiliary.

**District 4, Post 4230, Rock of Gibraltar
January 13, 2019**

Thanks to Stephanie Krueger, our Organizer.

Now, we are looking forward to welcoming our third Auxiliary to Michigan on March 9, 2019 if National processing proceeds as planned. This Auxiliary is in District 11, Auxiliary to VFW Post 5678 in Tawas City. Thank you to Jane Dady for making this a reality. Jane has spent countless hours, as do all of our organizers, to ensure that our

new members are fully prepared to function as an Auxiliary. In the planning stages are District 8, Auxiliary to VFW 7911, Fenneville, Organizer, Nancy Vredeveld; and in District 6, Auxiliary to VFW 6132, Lansing, Organizer, Cindy Peto. We sincerely thank the Posts for expressing their support in including an Auxiliary to aid them in serving our Veterans and our Community.

I hope all that attended the Organizer Training at our Mid-Winter Conference left with a feeling of confidence in the process of organizing an auxiliary. Stephanie Krueger is our official trainer. Thank you to all who signed up to be part of the team. Our goal is to have members in each District who are fully knowledgeable of the steps that it takes to organize an Auxiliary. You will see additional training opportunities at Department Conferences going forward.

Since my article focused on New Auxiliaries, I would like to invite our Bachelor Posts to allow us to meet with you and share the value of having your own Auxiliary. You will not be disappointed! Please feel free to contact me at any time.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR
STANDING UP FOR VETERANS!**

**MILITARY ORDER
OF THE COOTIE**

**PGC
ROBERT E. WILSON**

Greetings, Comrades & Auxiliaries!

On Dec 1st the Grand of Michigan held their 90th Grand of Michigan VFW National Home Cootie Christmas Party. We had a good turnout with several Cooties from throughout the country. The Supreme Commander Emil A. Soltesz, our Department Representatives Scott Gloger Dept. Jr. Vice Commander, Dept. President Sandy Medos (got a haircut) all were present and having a great time.

The Grand of Michigan was able to provide gifts to 88 Children. The Santa and the Grand Commander, Supreme Commander, both Presidents from the MOCA and Dept. of Michigan President handed out those gifts. The Grand of Florida provided lunch to all. Overall the Children of the National Home enjoyed the day.

Grand Commander Pat Henderson, Grand Sr. Vice Commander Eddie Dandridge Cootie Christmas Chairman, and PGC Eric S. Bell (Fundraiser Chair) want to thank all who participated in support for this year's Cootie Christmas Program. Our next Project for the Children of the National Home is the trip to Ceder Point in June.

"Michigan Nitpickers" for 2018-20019

The Grand of Michigan fund raiser is moving along. Proceeds from this project will help support the Grand Programs. If you are interested in participating in this worthy program you can send your request to:

**PGC Bob Routhier Jr.
P.O. Box 117 - Clio, MI 48420**

In closing, remember membership. The life blood of both the VFW and Military Order of the Cootie is membership. Without it, there would be no VFW, Cooties Auxiliaries'. Sign a new member up today! Caraboa Pup Tent 32 has signed up 5 new Cooties since the last MOV Report. Great Job!

KEEP 'EM SMILING IN BEDS OF WHITE



MOC and MOCA Members enjoying the Cootie Christmas Party



COS Robert Routhier Jr. cutting PGC Eric S. Bell's hair



Grand of Michigan and Grand Aux at the VFW National Home for Children 90th Cootie



Grand Jr. Vice Russell Makowski, Grand Sr. Vice Commander Eddie Dandridge, & 8th Supreme District Representative enjoying the lunch



Micheline Wilson giving PGC Bob Wilson a hair cut



BUDDY POPPY, RICKY YOUNG

My last article was about the origin of the Buddy Poppy, this one will be on Sec. 711 of the BY-LAWS and MANUAL OF PROCEDURE. This is straight from the book.

· BY-LAWS ·

The manufacture and/or sale of the trademarked "Buddy Poppy" shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations as prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.

A tax of three and one-half cents (3.5¢) shall be assessed against each and every VFW Buddy Poppy sold under the provisions of this section. Such tax shall be in addition to the cost of producing the poppies and shall be payable to the National Headquarters and be distributed as follows: One and one-half cent (1.5¢) to the Veterans Service Fund of the Department having jurisdiction; one cent (1¢) to the VFW National Home for Children; one cent (1¢) to the Veterans Service Fund of the National Headquarters, provided that the Council of Administration of each Department shall determine the price at which poppies are sold to the Posts of that Department. Such price shall be sufficient to adequately cover the tax and the cost of manufacture, distribution and promotion of the poppies.

· MANUAL OF PROCEDURE ·

The Buddy Poppy is owned and trademarked by the National Organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and exclusive right to manufacture said Buddy Poppy is reserved by the National Organization. No Department, District, County Council or Post is permitted to manufacture or have manufactured said Buddy Poppy except by a written permission of the Commander-in-Chief or National Council of Administration.

Distribution of the Buddy Poppy shall be made exclusively for units of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and of the Auxiliary. Other not for profit organizations, exempt from taxes under Section 501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code, may assist in such distribution provided there shall be no division of the proceeds. A donation to such not for profit organization for assistance may be paid from the General Fund of the Post.

No subordinate unit of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall be permitted to conduct or sponsor the distribution of any flower, artificial flower, emblem or tag as a substitute for or in competition with the distribution of VFW Buddy Poppies without having first made application in writing, through channels, to the Commander-in-Chief and having received approval in writing setting forth the conditions under which permission is granted.

STATE HONOR GUARD, CAPTAIN JERRY ASHER & LIEUTENANT GARY GAMBLE

Greetings Comrades, Sisters & Brothers,

I hope you are reading this edition of the MOV in good health and spirits. With winter behind us and summer just around the corner we welcome the warmer temperatures.

That also reminds us that Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children is not that far away. We are asking that every Post, Auxiliary & pup tent take a close look at your National Flag, Unit Banner and all related hardware and replace or repair as needed.

Your State Honor Guard handles flag/banners at Michigan Day and we know first-hand that many are in very bad shape. So, please make sure the cloth is clean and serviceable. If not, please get them cleaned or replaced. Second, make sure the staff matches the flag or banner and you have the second pole, if needed. What about the Finial? How does the ornament on top of the staff look? Is it missing? Do you have broken eagle wings? Please replace all missing or damaged equipment and remove all badly worn streamers. Remember, no streamers should be on the American Flag. Please take some time to make sure your flag and banner are in keeping with high standards of the greatest com-

bat veteran organization in the world.

We are really looking forward to a very large and proud display of our Flags and banners at Michigan Day on August 4 at the VFW National Home for Children! Remember, when a Post registers their Colors for display during Michigan Day they earn All-State Honor points. In addition, the VFW Auxiliary will receive Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home for Children Program credit when they register their colors for display at Michigan Day. So, please make sure your Post and Auxiliary register and proudly display your Colors at Michigan Day!

Next, we are looking for a couple very dedicated and committed VFW members (men or women) that are interested in joining our ranks. Having marching or close order drill skills is helpful but, we will train as required. If you are interested or have any questions about joining the VFW State Honor Guard, please contact us ASAP. We are looking to fill these open positions prior to State Convention.

Thank you for your continued help and support for the State Honor Guard and its mission.



AUXILIARY BUDDY POPPY CHAIR, KATHY HUBBARD

Are you Preparing for May Poppy Days? It's time to start. Do you carry poppies with you at all times? Buddy Poppies aren't just for the "official" once a year donation drive. You can use them to interact with your community in promoting Veterans. The poppies are put together by hospitalized Veterans who are compensated for the assembly to make a little extra cash. Completed poppies are then purchased by local VFW & Auxiliaries who hold a yearly drive, and other fund raisers or events throughout the year for the welfare of our Veterans. The initial purchase of poppies, also assists Veterans families residing at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI.

All monies collected from poppy drives is mandated to be held in your Relief Fund and can only be used to assist Veterans and their families. Some people who donate do not wish to take a poppy; be polite but tell

them that by wearing or displaying it they are showing their support for our Veterans & their sacrifices.

Be sure to order your poppies for the coming year. How do we order poppies? First ask your Post, and if they have placed their order already then call our Department office and Lynn can get them ordered for you.

I would like to ask everyone who owns a cell phone, please add the phone number to our VFW Helpline as a contact

1-800-313-4200

Keep in mind this is a Helpline not a hotline and is not open on weekends. Share this with any Veteran that may need help, your one act of kindness can change or save a person's life. **Remember, as members of this Great Organization it's our goal to help and assist our Veterans.**

AUXILIARY VETERAN & FAMILY SUPPORT, JANE DADY

Women have proudly served in every branch of the military. They have made great strides, given great contributions and have had the same sacrifices as men. They are entitled to the same benefits, disability, pension, education, health care and more.

When women join the military, some know they will be harassed by their male counterparts. What they received was a daily barrage of sexual comments, gestures and grabbing. In order to be promoted, they were expected to do special favors. Many have experienced sexual trauma. The stress of this, plus their duty, gives them panic attacks, depression and PTSD. Some have physical disabilities from the war. They cope by turning to drugs and alcohol. Many have multiple deployments, which result in their spouse leaving them. Some are pregnant and abused, trying to silently cope. Some end up homeless with children.

The military emphasizes strength, courage and bravery, which makes it difficult for them to feel comfortable asking for help. It is a challenge to get women veterans into the VA for help. A small percentage use the VA system.

The VA health system has improved services for female veterans. They have comprehensive, primary gender-specific care. They have mental health, emergency and women's health specialty care. In addition, they offer inpatient medical care, rehab, substance abuse, pharmacy, long term care and more.

The best way to ensure you get all the benefits you are entitled to, is to go to a Service Officer. The accredited Service Officer will help you apply for all benefits and provide as much information as you need.

These services are given, free of charge through the National Veterans Service (NVS). If you are in need of any service, male or female, go to vfw.org, click on VA Claims & Separation benefits. On the right, go to "Find a Service Officer". Pass the information to any service member or veteran who needs it.

If you are a struggling veteran or military family, contact the

VFW National Home's HELPLINE
800-313-4200
Mon-Fri 8-4:30 ET

All calls are answered and no one is turned away. If you are in crisis and need help, call

1-800-273-8255 and press 1

We are here to help and give you aid, **Please let us.**

AUXILIARY CAMP TROTTER CHAIR, DENISE ARNOLD

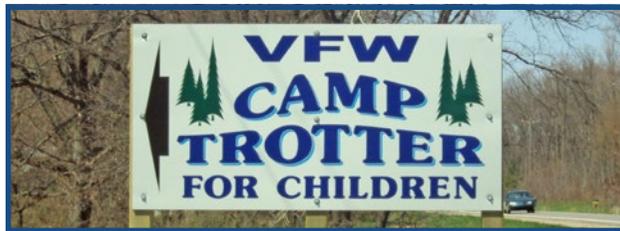
Camp Trotter located in Newaygo, MI on beautiful Bills Lake is owned and operated by the VFW in Michigan. We offer five weeks of week long summer camp to ages 7-12. The camp is fully operated by the generous donations from VFW members and their families. Each week we can house 88 campers and have a 1-10 staff to camper ratio.

If you know a child who would benefit from a week at a wonderful summer camp this is the place for them! The camp fee for a week is only \$250 which includes all meals, activities and lodging. Our camping weeks begin July 7, 2019 and run for the 5 consecutive weeks. Campers arrive on Sundays at 1pm and are to be picked up at 9am on Saturday of each week. We have a scholarship fund to help provide for children in need but our fund is also in need, please help us by making a donation to the Camp Trotter Scholarship fund. Other areas you can make donations to are the Camp Trotter General Fund, the Annual Camp Trotter Golf Outing in June and our Life Memberships.

Posts and Auxiliaries may use their relief fund to send children to camp.

Camp is hiring staff for this summer's camping season. Employees must be 18 and be able to pass a criminal background check.

Let's make the 2019 camping season the best yet! Your support and donations will make this happen.



ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, BOB LUTZ

Comrades,

Just a short note to let you know some of the mistakes that are being reported.

Number 1 - I keep getting hospital reports. In December alone I received over 100. Please, if it has ANYTHING to do with hospitals, nursing homes, visiting homebound Veterans, donating blood, cancer donations, Doctors appointment, hospital visits etc. Please send them to the Hospital Director Don Martindale. It's a very easy form to fill out and if you have any questions contact Don and he will help you out.

Number 2 - Another problem we keep having is people forgetting to put their Post and District number on the reports. While we are at it, you can not claim donations for the Auxiliary, Cooties or Post functions, you can claim Post functions if the money goes to the relief fund, a member in distress etc.

At the Mid-Winter conference, I passed out to the District Commanders all the activity reports and some of the Districts and Posts are looking sad. We have 3 Districts that are 100% in reporting, they are District #5, #11 and #12. Even though they are 100% they do have Posts that have reported the bare minimum. District Commanders make sure at your District meeting to have a report from every Post not reported handed to you by the end of the meeting. There is no excuse that we can't be 100% reported. District Chief of Staff's help your Commander out, that is your job! Hopefully my next article will say that the Dept, is 100%. Anything less is NOT acceptable. Just think, if everybody reports how much more work that I will have to do so that should make you happy!

To the Posts that have been reporting, keep up the good work.

VFW LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Check out the new Legacy Life Video by visiting WWW.VFW.ORG

This prestigious program is available to all Life members and is now available in memoriam for past Life Members.

Financial contributions to the Legacy Life member program are tax deductible to the maximum extent allowed by law. There are 3 levels of membership; each offer their own package of exclusive member benefits.

ENROLMENT COST / ANNUAL PAYOUT

LEVEL	POST	DEPT.	NAT.
Gold \$1,200	\$18	\$18	\$18
Silver \$800	\$12	\$12	\$12
Bronze \$400	\$6	\$6	\$6

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

AUXILIARY YOUTH CHAIR, HOLLY ALLYSON

THE YOUNG ARE OUR COUNTRY'S FUTURE RESOURCE.

Positively impacting youth is a goal of the National VFW Auxiliary and all our Auxiliaries in Michigan.

The VFW has made available Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen writing contests for high school and middle school students. The VFW Auxiliary has made available Patriotic Art for high schoolers and Auxiliaries all over Michigan have offered a contest of their own for K-5 grades.

Getting young people to consider patrio-

tism in both their writings and their art can only help them realize how precious our country is and who defended, and still defends it to this day.

The VFW Auxiliary Youth Program encourages Auxiliaries to award and recognize the participants in the contests as well as other activities associated with our Auxiliaries.

Our RAP cards and coins (Random Acts of Patriotism) catches the young doing something patriotic. Recognition encourages repeat action, it has a positive effect on all those who feel recognized.

Spending time and giving support to youth groups is also a goal of our Auxiliaries.

Our Auxiliaries have supported Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, School Bands, Choirs, sports teams, clubs associated with schools and classrooms by monetary donations, time, assistance with a patriotic event or the opportunity to assist the Auxiliaries in VA hospital visits and care packages sent overseas to our men and women serving in the military along with many other events.

It is a great honor to be a member of a VFW Auxiliary in Michigan.



District Commander REPORTS



DISTRICT 5 COMMANDER, NORMAN MAULDIN

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays.

What a busy quarter it has been. As the New Year began, we hit the ground running.

To the entire District, good job on making the 92% and 94% marks in Membership. Our next marks are 97% by March 31st, and 100% by Department Convention. **Congratulations to Posts 1008, 1407, 4037, 4156, 4162, 5587, 6250, and 9914 for achieving 100%.** As of this article, we had ten Posts that needed 10 or less members to achieve 100%. Keep going you're almost there!

If you need help at the Post level, let us know. We have a list of members at large in Oakland and Macomb Counties. This is a huge pool to pull from. If your Post has anyone with financial hardships or on active duty, you can use the relief fund to help them with membership fees

For those of you who have attained 100% or are close, review the requirements for the All-State Program - you still have time. Remember reports and checklists must be in by April 30th.

Post 9914, keep up the good work, you are currently in the lead in the District with 17 new members.

A huge **Thank You** to Gloria Dobbie and her counterpart, National C of A Member Mr. Harry "Les" Croyle for grabbing the bull by the horns and making our banquet a huge

success. We had an outstanding banquet for these great young people with 300 in attendance and everything went smooth. To my Senior Vice Commander George Navarrete, "Bravo Zulu" on this year's ad book/program.

Congratulations to our Voice of Democracy (VOD) Winners: 1st Place: Alexander D. Hughes - Sponsored by Post 4659; 2nd Place: Hunter W. Grimes - Sponsored by Post 4037; and 3rd Place: Paul Havern - Sponsored by Post 9021.

Congratulations to our Patriots Pen (PP) Winners: 1st Place: Emily E. Minton - Sponsored by Post 334, who took Second Place at the Department level; 2nd Place: Megan Dobbie - Sponsored by Post 7573; and 3rd Place: Elena Nikolouski - Sponsored by Post 2052.

Congratulations to our Teachers of the Year (TOY) Winners: K-5 Shannon Hay - Sponsored by Post 334; 6-8 Rebecca Colbert - Sponsored by Post 582; and 9-12 Laura Murry - Sponsored by Post 334.

Additionally, I'd like to thank the Department VOD/PP/TOY Program Director Sherwood Pea for being in attendance.

To our Junior Vice Commander Eddie Dandridge and Junior Vice President Mary Ashbrook "Thank You" for the fantastic job on the Hospitality Room at Mid-Winter. A lot of people don't realize how much work it takes to ensure our members have a place to come and relax after a day of meetings. We appreciate all that you do.

Our County Council Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of the month for Macomb County, and the Second Tuesday of the Month

for Oakland County at 7:30 PM.

Also, there is some GREAT Service Officer Training conducted at Warren Post 9021 at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of the month (September-May). It is open to all veterans' organizations and anyone who would like to attend.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- Mar 25- Service Officers Association Meeting Post 9021 Warren
- Apr 06 - Past Commanders / Past Presidents Banquet, Waterford Post 1008 Doors open at 1 PM, Dinner at 2 PM
- Apr 13 - Department Commander/ President Joint Testimonial Banquet, Mt. Pleasant
- Apr 20 - Passover Begins
- Apr 21 - Easter Sunday
- Apr 22- Service Officers Association Meeting Post 9021 Warren
- Apr 28 - District 5 Meeting, Waterford Post 1008
- Apr 30 - Quarterly audits and All-State Commanders entries due
- May 01- LOYALTY DAY (New Commanders credit for events)

District MEETINGS

- Feb 17 - District and POW/MIA Memorial Service Eastpointe Post 6782, 10 AM Training/Stated Meeting at 1 PM
- Apr 28 - Waterford Post 1008, 10AM Awards/Stated Meeting at 1 PM **(date changed)**

Here's hoping everyone has an enjoyable Passover, and/or a Happy Easter.



DISTRICT 8 COMMANDER, LAVERNE BLAUWKAMP

Dear Comrades,

How blessed we are to be sitting in our warm homes during this 'Arctic Blast' we are having. Let us count our many blessings everyday.

What a great Mid-Winter Convention. Numerous times our Department Commander thanked us all for the great job we are ALL doing on membership. The National Commanders goal he set for us was to be 97% by March 31. We already made that one we

are at 97.17% as of January 29, 2019. **Congratulations to all the Posts that have made 100% already. #1573, 2144, 2406, 6252, 7911, 7912, and 8260.** Our Department Commander has challenged us all to be 100% by the June Convention, I am sure this is something we can make happen.

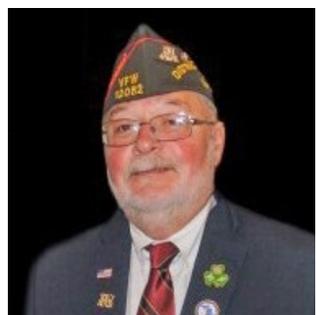
We received and big Thank You from the National Home for the Christmas Party on November 30. The 3 Santa's and their Helpers were fantastic! It was so wonderful to see the children's faces and reactions as well as the parent's reactions when the children received their gifts. What a fantastic event Gary Geoff

has been doing for years to represent the 8th District.

I know that most Posts are doing things in the Community. Let's report these activities. It is the reason we are a non-profit organization. Please get these reports in. If you are doing something for your Post let the Quartermaster and Commander know so they can report it. Visiting a sick or bedridden veteran, giving them a helping hand. Attending another Veterans Organizations meeting.

Once again thank you for all you are doing for the Veterans of Foreign Wars!

No One Does More For Veterans!



DISTRICT 9 COMMANDER, SHANE HOUGHTON

Comrades,

I just returned from our fall conference during which our District winners of the PP Jess White Post 3306 and VOD Rachael Dahl Post

9455 both took first place at Department. How great is that! I think we have a great chance to win at Nationals. Thank you, Larry and Nicole for the fantastic job you did this year. Thanks everyone who made this happen.

In other good news. **We are in 1st place in membership at 97.28% as of Jan. 29th.** We have a very good chance at being 100% this year. It's been years since we achieved

100% in membership. Please take a good look at your unpaid members, call, go house to house, do whatever you can to become 100%.

We still have a few Posts who have not reported. We ask that you do your part so the District can be 100% in reporting. Hospital and activity reports are due by the 10th of each month. Please do not hold the District back. Take credit for what you do. Quarterly audits are due by the end of the following month. Please let me know if there is an issue with this deadline. Maybe I can help. I would strongly urge each Post Quartermaster to be transparent by presenting your trustees with all the documents they need to do their job. Receipt book, Checkbook, bank statements, invoices, deposit slips, monthly reports, monthly ledgers.

If you have a canteen and gaming, they will need all of those documents also. Trustees, your job is one of the most important in the VFW. You may be the Quartermaster's best friend but during the audit you need to set that friendship aside (friendship is friendship and business is business, do not mix the two) Treat the audit as if it was your own money. Insist on access to all the documents you need to do this very important job. If you have a question, ask!!! The Quartermaster should report your findings at the next Post meeting.

I would also like to announce that I am a candidate for Department Judge Advocate for the upcoming year, 2019-2020. I hope that I can count on your support this June at State Convention.



DISTRICT 10 COMMANDER, DON CALLAWAY

Greetings Comrades;

This year is really going by fast, here it is time for nominations for next years officers.

Please follow the national bylaws closely and make sure all of your newly elected officers are installed prior to the Department convention in June. When you submit your election report, please verify current contact information for each officer even if they are serving consecutive years.

The Commanders roster book both hard copy and the one on the Department web are only as accurate as the information provided.

The District has a pretty good year going, our membership is at about 95% currently, that is outstanding considering the number of Posts that have turned in charters in the past year, **keep up the good work.** We also had one District meeting this past year with only one Post not represented, that is way above our average, remember if a Post misses two consecutive District meetings the Commander can be removed, and as we all know, it is increasingly difficult to fill these chairs. If you

have annual members who are officers, please pay close attention to the status of their dues, they must be in good standing for the duration of term in office.

In closing, it is the end of my second year as your Commander, it has been a pleasure to serve you and an education, I met a lot of interesting comrades and made many new friendships. Even though I will not be Commander next year you will still see me around in some capacity. Thank you to all who made these two years so meaningful. **Without the help of all of the District staff this would be an impossible position.**



DISTRICT 12 COMMANDER, BILLY STANCROFF

Comrades,

I have just returned from Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. Our 12th District Voice of Democracy District Winner placed second at the Department event. Congratulations. She was entered by Post 3195.

More Congratulations is do for the eight Posts in the District that have made 100% in membership. **They are Post 3734, 5315,**

6015, 6333, 6864, 6898, 7729 and 7806. Job well done. There are six Posts that needs 2 or less and 4 that need 6 or less for 100%. The District needs 96 more to be 100% and we have 212 unpaid on our list. So that means the District will be 100% and more soon!

The Department needs all Post to step up and get members paid. The last time Michigan was 100% was back in 2003.

Reporting in the District is really poor this year. All Posts have reported in Community Service and Americanism. Only 10 have reported in Youth, Drug, Safety and Legislative.

This will not do. Commander's fix this.

The next District Meeting will be April 14, at Post 7729 6285 E Apple Ave, Muskegon.

There will be a Memorial Service at 11AM with lunch at 11:30 and meeting at 12:30. Remember this is election for the District.

I need all Commanders and Quartermasters to have all Election reports and Audits in to Department by April 25. If you have any question call me at **231-740-3131**



DISTRICT 13 COMMANDER, RICHARD PLATER

Greetings Comrades, **Congratulations to Posts 1153, 2051, 3675, 7439 and 9489 for attaining 100% in membership for 2018-2019.** There are another five or

six Posts that only need a few more members, even as few as two (2). Outstanding job to the entire District on membership.

I would like to give a sincere thank you to Tom & Carol Belanger who were our District chairperson's for this year's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. Congratulations to the Voice of Democracy winner Laura Durocher from Post 2780 Traverse City and Patriot's Pen winner Rosemarie Cruz from Post 1518 Gaylord.

On another subject, **REPORTS**, the District is sorely lacking. I know every Post in the District is out there doing good things

so please go the extra step and submit your reports. Currently we have ten (10) Posts with NO reports at all this year and we're over half way. Post Commanders please get with your Post Adjutant's and ensure they are submitting reports.

If you need help in submitting reports call me **(989) 916-6868** and if I can't help you I know who to refer you too!

Also please ensure your audits are in on time. If you're unsure if your reports are in the system call me and I'll be happy to check the status. Currently we have two (2) Posts missing audits.

Please keep your snow birds up to date on Post happenings and events so in the spring when they return they'll be up to date and good to go.

At our last meeting I was given a lot of events and happenings around the District but unfortunately before I could put it together and submit I receive the email that said the

cut off had come and gone. I apologize for that, the cutoff date was the 1st of Nov and our meeting was on the 3rd.

SCHEDULED EVENTS

- May 4 - District Meeting, Post 2051 Harbor Springs
- May 27 - Memorial Day
- Jul 4 - Independence Day
- Jul 19-28 - Post 2496 Brown Trout Festival, Alpena
- Jul 30-Aug 4 - Post 607 Nautical Festival, Rogers City
- Aug 3 - District Meeting, Post 2051 Harbor Springs
- Aug 11-12 - Post 2356 VJ day, Hillman
- Sep 6-8 - Post 7804 Potato Festival, Posen
- Nov 2 - District Meeting, Post 2051 Harbor Springs

Please email or snail mail me your events with dates and I'll try to Post them on the Department calendar.

DISTRICT 14 COMMANDER, STEPHEN OLSEN

Greetings from District 14. Spring is upon us and elections will be coming up soon. Think about running for an Officer position and/or a Committee Chair this spring. **Get INVOLVED!** We welcome new blood, new ideas, and more involvement from our new &/or younger members. District 14 desperately needs some new Officers. If you are interested in an officer's position in the District, call or e-mail me for more information.

By the time you read this article it will be time for Posts election of Officers. Please be

sure that you send in your election reports ASAP (Due May 1). Do your reporting to get credit for all the great things you do in your Posts and communities. Get those quarterly audits in on time (Due April 30 for January, February, March). Get out and distribute those Poppies so you can replenish your relief funds and help veterans in need.

Remember, it is mandatory for all Posts to send a representative to District Meetings, be sure to comply and have a representative at our April 28 meeting. Read my E-Mails, if you

are not on my list call me, **906-475-9389**, or e-mail me at **bootsonthegr@gmail.com** Any info I get from the State I pass on to you, as well as District information and data that needs to be sent in.

Thank you for all the hard work you do in your Posts. I hope this finds you in good health. I also want to thank our active duty military and let them know they are not forgot and truly appreciated.

District 14, we are in the last quarter of the year, lets finish up strong!



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY, PATRIOT'S PEN & TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



MARIA VENA
VOD - DISTRICT 4



RACHEL DAHL
VOD WINNER - DISTRICT 9



MEG HARMON
VOD - DISTRICT 14



EMILY MINTON
PP - DISTRICT 5



CATHERINE NOGGLE
PP - DISTRICT 11



ALEXANDER HUGHES
VOD - DISTRICT 5



NATALIE BROWN
VOD - DISTRICT 10



LINDA TANG
VOD - DISTRICT 15



JOHN-MARC LAVANWAY
PP - DISTRICT 6



ANASTACIA TREVINO
PP - DISTRICT 12



DANTE COLLINS
VOD - DISTRICT 6



REBECCA DANIELS
VOD - DISTRICT 11



MICHELLE SPISZ
TOY 6-8TH - DISTRICT 6



MOLLY JO MCNITT
PP - DISTRICT 7



ROSEMARIE CRUZ
PP - DISTRICT 13



ANNA LEACH
VOD - DISTRICT 7



MADELYN GLEASON
VOD - DISTRICT 12



MICHELLE LINCE
TOY 9-12TH - DISTRICT 4



ISABELLE GOODRICH
PP - DISTRICT 8



MADISON MCKERCHIE
PP - DISTRICT 14



IVY STOLLER
VOD - DISTRICT 8



LAURA DUROCHER
VOD - DISTRICT 13



MICHAEL VENA
PP - DISTRICT 4



KENDALL ROSZCZEWSKI
PP - DISTRICT 10



HANNAH OOMMEN
PP - DISTRICT 15

AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR, MARIAN BELAIRE

Let's hope all are surviving this icy cold deep freeze, or called by that term I had never heard of until now and a few years ago, the "Polar Vortex", we've experienced this last several days? The TV commercials call our State "Pure Michigan", but, all I can say is that tag line needs to change to "Pure Brrrr" until Spring.

Several of you had a difficult drive on your way to Kalamazoo for the Mid-Winter Conference. But, once we got to the Radisson and seeing the faces of those kids and getting to experience their excitement, it was worth it.

I was so fortunate to have been able to spend a fantastic weekend with these amazing students. After they checked-in with Sherwood Pea and myself, the students received an embroidered jacket, a back-pack and a book from the VFW.

From the VFW Auxiliary, each student received a patriotic canvas bag filled with snacks, candy, popcorn, something to drink, and some fun things to help pass the time.

The "fun" really began in earnest on Friday night when we went to the Air Way Fun Center. There the students got to bowl, play laser tag, be in a laser maze challenge, play video games and dine on pizza. We got to visit the Kalamazoo Air and Space Museum early Saturday morning, which included a planetarium exhibit where we all learned how to identify

constellations, which was so fascinating and interesting.

Then, the kids actively participated in a wonderful presentation, which was prepared by Sara Manke, the VFW Auxiliary Department of Michigan Americanism chairman. The topic of Sara's creative presentation was "History of the American Flag". It was well done and Sara deserves a hearty **CONGRATULATIONS** for the message she delivered in her presentation, along with her creativity.

Perhaps the most fun and exciting time was when we got all dressed up for the banquet. The excitement brewed as we waited to finally discover who won. The tension was palpable, believe me.

I want to congratulate all of the students as no one walked away empty handed! However, I want to send out my sincerest congratulations to the State's "Patriot's Pen Essay" winner, Jesse White. Jesse was submitted from District 9, Post #3306. Jesse earned \$1,000.00! We sincerely hope that Jesse submits additional entries throughout the upcoming years.

We also want to congratulate the winner of the State "Voice of Democracy" contest, Rachel Dahl. For her effort, Rachel won \$6,000.00! Rachel was submitted by District 9 (what do they put in the water over there to produce two talented writers?!), Post #9455.

I wanted to publicly thank both Sherwood

Pea and Stacey Roberts for all their hard work and for making this weekend so enjoyable for not only the students, but also for me!

Finally, there is still time for high school students to apply for even more scholarship money. The VFW Auxiliary annually sponsors the "Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest".

The "beauty" of this contest is that there are now expanded art forms and there are new award amounts as well! The grand prize is \$15,000.00! For additional information, you can contact me, or find more information on the VFW Auxiliary website at www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships. The deadline is fast approaching. Entries must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31st.

If you haven't made a donation as of yet to our National Headquarters for the "Patriotic Art Escrow Fund", please consider doing so. Any amount is helpful and your donation helps to grow the prizes for more participants. The address to send your donations is:

**VFW Auxiliary Headquarters
Attention: Patriotic Art Fund
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111**

Lastly, in closing, I am sure all of us are wishing our Department winners, Jesse and Rachel, **GOOD LUCK!**

VOD & PP STUDENTS AT MID WINTER



CHAMPIONING FOR ADVOCACY / VETERAN SERVICES DIRECTOR, JOSEPH GREENE

No voice should be unheard, especially when they speak on behalf of others. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has been speaking on behalf of all veterans and their dependents for 100 years and counting! Starting in 1919 at Providence, Rhode Island, the VFW started championing for WWI veterans to receive their war bonds. The great State of Michigan picked up this cause and began its own advocacy in 1920. I am truly humbled and honored to stand on the shoulders of giants that preceded me, and look forward to projecting the VFW voice into the next century of advocacy!

As the previous Director has resigned, it is only right to thank him for his years of dedicated service to all the veterans and their dependents he helped, aided, and advocated for throughout his tenure. We all wish Paul and his family nothing but the best in their future endeavors!

The Veteran Service Office is doing very well, and with new leadership installed, there were some changes across the board and morale has increased. Sidney Love Jr. is now the Assistant Director, overseeing the daily operations of the office along with outreach. He is doing outstanding work in his new position as we are transitioning to a paperless process to cut costs, save time and increase efficiency. Karen Greene is now the Supervisor of Field Operations. She maintains her office there at the Detroit VAMC, but travels to our various other offices throughout the state in order to raise the efficiency and enhance digital processing. We have hired three new VSO's, which she is currently training as well. We look forward to them being at their respective offices in the coming months, welcoming them to our team, and increasing our ability to advocate for more veterans and their dependents.

The new contract between the MVC and the MVAA has already been signed on the 1st of October, already putting us further ahead this year than last. The other Directors and myself continue to work closely together in efforts to capture every dollar the State offers to support our advocacy.

We have met with the new Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, and she is adamant that

veterans are at the forefront of her platform. Major General Vadnais has officially retired as Adjutant General, and we look forward to working with Major General Paul Rogers as he settles into that role. We are still awaiting the appointment of the new MVAA Director to express our vision and concerns to the newly elected. We have received positive feedback for our efforts, and will continue to closely monitor their activities.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) continues to evolve, and the appeals section has needed attention for a very long time. With years of backlogs and over 500,000 appeals waiting for their day in court nationwide, the VA is implementing their new Appeals Management Program in compliance of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act signed in 2017. This becomes law in February of 2019 and the VFW National Veterans Service has already incorporated it into our training. This is the VA's national priority and they will be utilizing the National Work Queue for appeals. Currently, the priority order for the VA is working Remands, Current NODs, and Legacy Form 9's. The Detroit VA Regional Office will only be involved with legacy appeals. There are 11 Regional Offices that will be responsible for processing Ramp requests. I am certain this could be confusing to some, but rest assured the VSO's are aggressively monitoring and preparing to work through this transition to obtain favorable decisions for everything our veterans and their dependents are entitled to. Should anyone receive an unfavorable decision, work with our office to appeal! We can be reached at:

VFW Service Office
477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226
Ph: 313/964-6510
Fax: 313/964-6545
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov

From the Veteran Service Office to all of you, we hope your holidays went very well, and look forward to celebrating 100 years of VFW advocacy with a fresh booming voice!

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VETERANS TRAINING SEMINAR 2019-2020

Pre-registration Form / \$30.00 after June 15th \$35.00

CAMP TROTTER / JUNE 22nd 2019

Name	Position	Post	District

Total Attending _____ (Bring your own bedding, and shower items)

Please provide the number of Comrades that are attending the Seminar, along with what positions they hold; Post, County Council, District, or State.

Please make check payable to: **VFW Department of Michigan**
 924 N. Washington Ave
 Lansing MI 48906-5136

VTS Director: **Ronald Amend** PSC ramend@vfwmi.org Cell 586-255-8643
 Department Quartermaster: **Lynn Patterson** vfwqm@vfwmi.org Office 517-485-9456

DISTRICT 15 COMMANDER, ROBERT PAAVOLA



As I'm writing this article it's the end of January, with a wind chill of -32 degrees so I hope you're all doing well. When this comes out we'll be reaching the end

of our year so I want everyone to do last call cleanup. First check your membership numbers. A lot of Posts only need a few to get to 100%. Next get your election reports in, up to date on audits and watch for delegate dues coming up as everyone must pay them

wether someone goes to the state convention or not. Go to resources drop-down bar to "checklist" and see where your Post stands.

Congratulations to the winners & sponsors of the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs:

- 1st Place VOD **Linda Tang - Post #6165**
- 2nd Place VOD **Tad Rowe - Post #3673**
- 3rd Place VOD **Patrick Meyers - Post #4624**
- 1st Place PP **Hannah Oommen - Post #6165**
- 2nd Place PP **Cheyenne Laplander - Post #6165**
- 3rd Place PP **Amya Niemi - Post #6507**

- K-5 TOY **Sue Hierala - Post #6507**
- 6-8th TOY **Sue Destrampe - Post #6165**
- 9-12th TOY **Richard Matrella - Post #3673**

I want to thank all Post chairmen for all the work they do making this program happen. I especially want to thank **Jack and Carol Lillar not only for chairing this at the District level, but also for the many things they have done for me all year long.**

The spring convention is April 28th 2019 in South Range - times will be mailed to Commanders.



AUXILIARY District President REPORTS



DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT, PATRICIA BIELSKIS

Mid-Winter Conference has come and gone. **Congratulations to all the wonderful students and teachers that won.** I believe each of those students did an awesome job and look forward to great things from them in the future!

I hope our members came away with more knowledge, the training we received was very helpful and the new "ask the Secretary, Historian, or Treasurer" was a great twist. Thank you, Sandy Medos, for that new idea. Our

Chief of Staff, Gloria Dobie had a new interesting twist on her presentation as well. I loved her idea of asking us to either say something about ourselves mentoring someone or someone mentoring us. We have one of our Presidents, Maria Lopez that has passed out more than 2,700 dictionaries to students in our area. She has also started a Library. This lady rocks!

One can only wonder what the next few months have in-store for us? For me it is

always fun and a surprise to see what comes along, I love trying new things & going new places.

I could write about our bus trips to the casinos, soup & salads, chili cook-offs, spaghetti dinners, meat raffles, and Texas hold-em games going on, but with all that happened at the conference I felt that was a much better subject to write about.

Keep warm and safe & see everyone in June!



Greetings from the Super Sixth!

As I write this, Mid-Winter Conference is in the rear-view mirror and we are in the middle of a deep freeze. The

high light of the Mid-Winter Conference is the opportunity to meet and interact with all of the District Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners, what an amazing group of students! Even though all the students are winners, Congratulations to the 9th District for having the 1st place Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winner and best of luck at

the National competition in Washington D.C.!

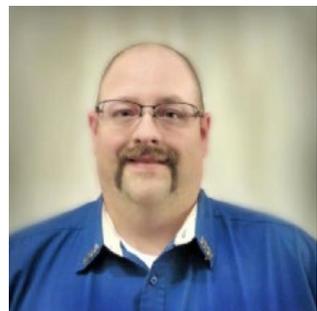
We are past the half way point of this Auxiliary year, I would like to acknowledge and thank the 6th District Auxiliaries for their hard work in meeting our Program goals!! There have been some great events within our District geared towards aiding and supporting our Veterans and their families. It would be great if to see our District 100% reported in all programs. You have done the work so let's make sure you get the credit for it... report, report, report! If you need any help with this please reach out to myself or any of our District officers.

As I write this, District 6 is currently in 5th place for membership with 98.04%, needing

only 36 more to be 100% + 1!! There is only a 1.39% difference between 2nd and 5th place, the race is on! We can do this Super 6th!!

Our District Convention is right around the corner on April 27, 2019, at Morley S. Oates VFW Post 701 in Lansing. I welcome all to attend, as this will be the time that we elect our incoming District Officers. I also encourage anyone that has thought about running for an office to do so. We have a great support system in our District that will help you if the need arises!

As always, many thanks for all that you do for our veterans! God Bless our Troops and God Bless America!



DISTRICT 7 PRESIDENT, JASON MANKE

Just to recap what's happened in the 7th District since the last MOV article.

At the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo, District 7 placed 3rd in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest on the state level. It was my great pleasure to have met both of our outstanding students.

Also, at the Mid-Winter Conference Sara Manke was elected as the new Department Guard for the VFW Auxiliary. I would ask that each VFW Post and Auxiliary in the 7th District would be willing to help Sara in anyway possible.

A huge thanks to Debbie Brand and Kevin Conklin for hosting and manning the Hospitality room at mid-winter. Just a reminder our District will be having a hospitality room at state convention, please contact Debbie Brand or Kevin Conklin if you are able to assist with any help in the room (etc. food, 50/50 raffle, bartending).

March 3rd will be the 7th District VOD and Patriot's Pen banquet which will be held at the Decatur VFW Post. **Don't forget to promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest which is due to the Post by March 31st.**



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT, LISA BLAUWKAMP

Well the New Year is here and going great. Hope everyone had a great Holiday season.

Little over half way through our year, the time is flying fast.

Hope everyone had a great time that attended the Mid-Winter Conference. **Our District is doing awesome.** Thank you everyone that is making it happen.

I'm still a work in progress. I have learned a lot through my term as President with the help from my friends, mentors, and family.

What a great time at the National Home Christmas Party. Thank to all that helped it be a huge success.

Membership is looking great as we are at 95.87% as of January 30th. Lets make it to the magical 100% membership by the State Convention in June.

I KNOW WE CAN DO IT!

Looking forward to starting up the Auxiliary at 7911 and maybe another one.

Hopefully spring will be here soon and we can get even more accomplished before the end of our year.

DISTRICT 9 PRESIDENT, KATHRYN DORAN

New Year's Greetings to all our Auxiliary Brothers & Sisters. I'm Kathryn Doran and I assumed the office and duties of the position in August 2018. As a US Navy Vietnam-era Veteran, sponsored by the eligibility of my husband, 26-year Air Force and Special Forces veteran, and daughter of a WWII Navy Veteran, my heart has always been for our military members and veterans. I am a life member of Hemlock-Merrill Post #7302 Auxiliary.

Our Auxiliaries have been holding a lot of wonderful events and support for our veterans, families & communities. There were many children and veteran Christmas parties, Thanksgiving dinners, Veterans' Day ceremonies and fundraisers. Be sure that your Auxiliary is **reporting, reporting, reporting.** It gets you credit for what you do.

A new Auxiliary at Lakeview Post #3701 was instituted on Sunday, December 2nd 2018. Welcome to our new Auxiliary and members.

Mid-Winter Conference was held in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on January 24-26, 2019. Both the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen (PP) first place winners were both from District 9. **Congratulations to Rachel Dahl (host Post #9455 Owosso) and Jesse White (Host Post #3306 Howard City).** Next step for these two young people will be the National Conference in July.

District 9 is doing well in membership. As of Mid-Winter Conf., we are in 2nd in the State with 99.43% If you haven't paid you dues, please pay them as soon as possible. **I hope to see you at the upcoming events. God Bless our troops and our veterans.**



DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT, VICKI BUSHONG

As we reach the end of my year, I would like to express my deepest thanks to all of the members of District 11. We have had an outstanding year. While we didn't get first in membership, we did really well retaining and recruiting members; let's keep up that great work for incoming President Jane Dady.

We would like to welcome Auxiliary 5678 Tawas City and its members to District 11 on March 9th, 2019. It is very exciting to see our District growing again. Anyone from that area who is eligible to join, please contact the Post/Auxiliary, they would love to have you.

Don't forget our May District meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5th, 2019 at the Clare VFW Post. Meeting begins at 10am with lunch at noon. We will have election of officers and would love for everyone there.

Special thanks to Commander Terry Inosencio for all the help you gave our District and it's members this year.

All of your knowledge and dedication does not go unnoticed.

Continue to participate in your chairmanships and report! Our veterans never stop needing our help. We are a great District and I have been proud to serve as your District President this year.



DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT, JUDY FELL

District 15 Upper Peninsula did a great job of being united in our efforts to work for veterans. First as a District we attend-

ed a funeral for the remains of a sailor from Pearl Harbor. Next our Auxiliaries worked together to host The Family Freedom Festival. It was held at Post #6507 (Donna Bykkonen President -was the chairman -she did a wonderful job). We used radio, television and newspaper to communicate to the public. We had over 300 people attend. On December 15, 2018, Wreaths Across America was done by all Auxiliaries in District 15.

United We Stand

My sincere apology for all missing articles from the last issue of the MOV. We had some staff communication problems that have since been rectified at this time. Some articles may be late but need to be printed so here they are. All we can do is move on from this. Sorry for any inconvenience & thanks for your patience. - Scott Gloger

AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIR, MARIAN BELAIRE (MISSED FROM LAST ISSUE)

Greetings to all VFW & Auxiliary members,

My name is Marian Belaire and I am the VFW Auxiliary Department of Michigan's Scholarship Chairman. And the good news is that Mr. Sherwood Pea is my VFW counterpart. I am so looking forward to working with Sherwood as we help guide students, not only in fostering patriotism, but also earning money for college. To me, the most exciting part of this chairmanship is working with the young people of today, knowing that they are our future!!

By now, you all probably have your plans set and are ready to hit the floor running as the students head back to school. Just in case you don't have all the information on the essays, I will go over them now in order of their deadline dates. Please keep in mind, that the students DO NOT have to be related to any VFW or Auxiliary member. These contests are open to all students who attend public or private schools as well as home schooled children.

The Voice of Democracy
Audio-Essay Contest
"Why My Vote Matters"

Open to all high school students, grades 9 - 12. Entries must be to Post by October 31, 2018. First place Grand Prize is \$30,000.00. Each of the 54 students who goes to Washington, DC will get a cash prize.

Patriot's Pen Essay Contest
"Why I Honor the American Flag"

Open to all grade school students, grade 6- 8. Entries must be to Post by October 31, 2018. First place Grand Prize is \$5,000.00. There are cash prizes awarded to all 54 stu-

dents who go to Washington, DC.

Continuing Education Scholarship. Open to any Auxiliary member, age 18 yrs or older (who has been a member for at least 1 year), their spouse or children who has financial need. The application must be submitted to National Headquarters by Feb. 15, 2019. Address: Administration of Programs, VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, Mo. 64111. Or email it to info@vfwauxiliary.org. One Grand Prize of \$1,000.00 to be given in each of the four conferences.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. The theme is Patriotic. Open to all students in high school grades 9-12. Artwork must be submitted to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2019. First place Grand Prize is \$15,000.00. This year for the first time, National is awarding cash prizes to the top eight places. While that is a wonderful start, National would like to increase the awards to encompass all participants each year. I hope you would consider making a donation....of any amount to help with this worthy goal.

You would send your donations to National for the Patriotic Art Escrow Fund. The address:

**VFW Auxiliary Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Fund
406 W 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, Mo. 64111.**

If you have any questions or need help with the scholarship applications, please feel free to contact me. Or you can also go online VFW Website, www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education. The VFW Auxiliary website - www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships.



SHOW YOUR VFW PRIDE!

One of the most effective and visible ways to show your pride in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary, and raise awareness of our programs in your community, is to wear branded merchandise.

When you purchase items through the VFW Store, you know that your money stays in the VFW and is used to assist veterans, military service members and their families.

Use #VFWPostPride when sharing your story, photo or video to social media.

DISTRICT 4 VFW RIDERS

GARY GAMBLE, GGAMBLE354@SBCGLOBAL.NET

A few years ago the District 4 membership approved the formation of a District 4 VFW Riders but little activity occurred to get the group off the ground. Then, in 2017 a few motorcycle riders from the District decided to gather around a single table at the Lincoln Park VFW Post 552 to discuss the requirements to officially get the Riders off the ground and rolling. That first meeting put into motion a series of meetings that would lead to a great group of comrades, sisters, and brothers. Unfortunately, the VFW Riders was not well established in the state and we had to reach out to our National office and out of state VFW Rider groups for advice. Then we learned that our National office was in the process of rolling out dramatically new recommendations for the VFW Riders. So, we went ahead and submitted application under the old procedures that required National and Department approval. We received official notice that we were approved on October 12, 2017 but we had to wait until December 20, 2017 to finally get a look at the newly approved National Policy for the VFW Riders. We felt it was important to create our District 4 VFW Rider rules based on the new policy and avoid having to make changes after the new policy was released. In the meantime, we met monthly to discuss our back patch design, internal rules, and bylaws. In the beginning we usually had 15-25 Riders at our monthly meetings. Now it is very rare to have less than 25 Riders in attendance at our meetings.

During our 2018 riding season we held several day rides throughout District 4, 5, and 6. We participated in a few parades, attended many Post/veteran fundraisers and several ceremonies. We are an all-volunteer riding group with many dedicated and hardworking members that work well toward our common goal or theme. Our common theme is that we all love spending time together supporting the VFW and veteran related activities while riding motorcycles. Although, our main objective is to spend time riding together on the open road with warm sunshine and wind in our faces. No rain!

Our VFW Riders membership is open to all VFW/VFW Auxiliary members of District 4. Membership is only open to our members in good standing that ride and own a licensed & insured motorcycle. Today our membership stands at 45 Riders. We have 33 VFW Riders



and 12 VFW Auxiliary Riders. It does not matter if the Rider is the driver or passenger. If they meet the eligibility requirements they are invited to join us. We do invite our non-member friends to ride with us but only VFW and VFW AUX members can join the District 4 VFW Riders and wear our group back patch. We encourage our Riders to report their mileage and community service activities to their individual Posts for reportable credit. We have attracted members that were inactive at the Post and since joining the VFW Riders, they have become more active at the Post and District. We are visible in public and have found that the VFW Riders is a great way to recruit

new and sometimes younger members to the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and VFW Riders.

Today, we have started making plans on what 2019 events we will attend and look forward to warmer weather when we can climb back on the bikes and ride in support of the VFW mission and veteran causes.

If your Post or District would like to learn more about how to form a VFW Riders group or have any questions about our District 4 VFW Riders, please feel free to contact me and or any District 4 Rider.

Take care and always look twice for motorcycles.

vfwmid4riders.org

POST #582 ORTONVILLE

POST COMMANDER, DENNIS HOFFMAN



Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teachers of the Year



Post Commander, Dennis Hoffman and Sr. Vice Carl Jeffrey laying wreaths at GLNC



Post members a held bell ringing and rifle salute to commemorate the end of WWI



POST #3701 LAKEVIEW

POST COMMANDER, STACEY ROBERTS

Congratulations to the Department, District and Post winners of Teacher of the Year, Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. What an amazing program! I was lucky enough to spend Mid-Winter Conference with the over 20 students that attended. Shout out to our Post Patriot's Pen Winners, 1st Place, Aidan Royston (also took 3rd at District), 2nd Place, Matison Newman and 3rd Place Kiana Yates. Fantastic work you guys!

Also, **BIG CONGRATULATIONS** to our newest Eagle Scout, Austin Perez! In case you didn't know, only 3% of Boy Scouts earn this coveted title. What an accomplishment! Last year, Austin made the Post a flag drop box which is used daily by many members of our community. It has been an honor to work with him over the years and be a guest speaker at his pinning ceremony.

Our Post recently printed and distributed our very first quarterly newsletter, free to Post & Auxiliary members. We don't have much of a savings, but we were able to fund this project easily with advertising from local businesses. It has already proven to be worth the cost as we have seen an increase of members at meetings and contact from inactive members via phone calls and e-mails. If you have the ability put one together, I strongly encourage you to give it a shot.

Jessica and I are asked frequently how we

get younger members to join our Post. If I had to choose two things that make a difference it would be #1 Social Media Outreach and #2 Change. By change I mostly mean changing the way we interact with our community. In the last 2 years we have tried Sunday breakfasts, Friday Dinners, live music in the park, Halloween parties, holiday themed meals, golf outings and by the time you read this we will have started our very first cornhole league. What we have found is consistent communication across multiple social media platforms and events centered around children gets us the most reach to Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Don't be afraid to try something new. If it doesn't work, move on to something else.

Lastly, have you heard!? **We have a new Auxiliary!** If you have attended the last two conferences and visited the District 9 Hospitality room then you may have met our new Auxiliary President, Amy Mahanic. Amy received eligibility through her WWII and Korean veteran Grandfather and is joined in the Auxiliary by her mother (Jr. Vice President Leisa Mahanic) and her sister (Guard Ashley Christensen). The Auxiliary already has a lot of energy and ideas to keep our Post moving forward. Thanks for joining our ranks! We look forward to partnering with you for many years to come.

Can't wait to see and meet more of you at State Convention in June.



Patriot's Pen 1st & 2nd Place Winners



Austin and his Community Flag Drop Box



New Auxiliary Members being sworn in

VETERAN OWNED SPOTLIGHT

DEMOGRAPHIC INSPIRATIONS



This non-profit is a Veteran owned organization that focuses on Neighborhood Revitalization projects in the Metro Detroit area. Currently their target area is within the zip code of 48238. They are planning a Blight Removal project for May 2019 to include other projects for residents. Some of the needs of the neighborhood are blight removal (complete remediation), reuse of vacant land (lot transformations) and rehab unoccupied structures for Veteran homeownership (creating homeownership density). They also utilize innovative sustainable ideas that include Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and off grid implementations of solar, wind and water projects.

They are seeking sponsorship, volunteers, donations, philanthropic investments and ideas from business leaders to support an under-served community to uplift to an aesthetic environment. If interested in learning more, contact Ronald Matten, CEO at:

586.260.7409 - rmatten1@aol.com

POST #4499 MANISTEE



Walsh Post #4499 in Manistee donated \$2,500 in food cards to members of the Coast Guard Station in Manistee.

The Auxiliary also donated \$1,500.

Pictured Left - Right: Chief Adam Fredrickson, Bruce Kohlk from Family Fare, Post Commander Don Vadeboncoeur, Past Post Commander Al Syverson.

POST #9084 WAKEFIELD

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, CAROLE LILLAR

Every year, Post #9084 Auxiliary, with assistance from the Post, holds a Day of Remembrance on the Saturday nearest to Veterans Day.

People donate \$10 for each time they want a veteran remembered. All money raised goes towards veteran needs.

The event includes the 'Star Spangled Banner' and 'Our Red, White and Blue' sung by Wakefield-Marenisco students, additional songs sung by Tammy & Peter Grewe, a flag retirement ceremony, roll call of remembered veterans and more. The event is followed with refreshments.



PHIL PATTERSON

Candidate for Department National Council of Administration 2019-2023



Supported & Endorsed by Districts 4 & 6, Post #6695 and his wife & family

JERRY GORSKI

Candidate for Department National Council of Administration 2019-2023



Endorsed by Macomb County Council, Oakland County Council, Post #1146, Post #2645, District 5, family & friends.

KEVIN CONKLIN

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2019 - 2020



Respect | Integrity | Honor Endorsed by Districts 4, 5, 7, 10 and 12, along with Post #6248 and his family

JOHN GRIFFITH

Candidate for Department Jr. Vice Commander 2019 - 2020



Endorsed & Supported by District 6, VFW Post #4093 and his family

SUCCESS STORY

JOE GREENE, MICHIGAN VETERAN SERVICE DIRECTOR

As the Veterans of Foreign Wars enters its 100 years of advocacy, it is great to shout our accomplishments but there is still a great deal of work to do. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims a "staggering" 45 percent of the 1.6 million veterans from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are seeking compensation for illness and injuries sustained during their active duty which is more than double the estimate of 21 percent who filed such claims after the Gulf War in the early 1990's top government officials said.

Comrades, what I find staggering are the 55 percent and the 79 percent respectfully that are not seeking compensation they are entitled to by law! What's more, these newer veterans are claiming eight to nine ailments on average. By comparison, Vietnam veterans are currently receiving compensation for fewer than four on average, and those from World War II and Korea, just two. There is still much work to be done.

There certainly are many reasons eligible veterans and their dependents have not filed a claim, so I won't go into any of that. But I will state that myself and our entire staff take it very personally to reach out to as many as we can find, advocate to the best of our ability, and submit a claim. My challenge is for each of you to do the same. There's a veteran, member of AMVETS in his 50's which he's belonged to for over 20 years. He has served through all the chairs over the years, but had never submitted a claim. I've grown to know him over the past few years and finally con-

vinced him to allow us to review his records and submit a claim. To give a little back story, active duty U.S. Army for a couple of years right out of high school. He has constantly struggled since being honorably discharged and bounced from job to job, mostly handy work so nothing steady. Never been married, no children and lives with his mother. There in his records were hospital summary reports from when he had been violently assaulted while stationed in Germany, and a lot of his daily challenges are a direct result of that. No matter how hard he tries to forget it, the daily challenges are relentless. We submitted the claim, and within a couple of months he was granted PTSD at 70% and subsequently Individual Unemployability due to service-connected disabilities!

He in turn has recommended 5 other veterans he's known for years, and with his free time shuttles them back and forth to their VA compensation examinations! Perpetuation is critical for all us to ensure there aren't years or even decades from discharge to finally receiving the compensation they are entitled to by law. Reaching out to all veterans and their dependents would be the true measure of success!

Please feel free to contact the VFW Service Office for additional assistance at:

**477 Michigan Avenue, Ste. #1215
Detroit MI 48226
Ph: 313/964-6510
Email: vfwus.vbadet@va.gov**



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN

VFW National Home for Children, a national non-profit located in the Lansing, MI area is seeking an experienced Executive Director to oversee and direct its programs, business, finances and national outreach.

This position reports directly to the Board of Trustees of this human service agency serving veterans and their families in a residential, campus setting continuously since 1925.

Candidates should have proven management experience with excellent leadership and communication skills. Ability to work effectively with clients, staff, donors and supporters is highly important.

Preferred experience includes; human services, public relations, marketing and development, human resources, finance, facilities and general business management.

Successful leadership experience in a human service agency and non-profit is preferred. Bachelor's degree in a related field is required.

Please e-mail cover letter, resume and salary requirements to

jharris@vfnationalhome.org

or mail to:

**VFW National Home for Children,
Attention: Human Resources
3573 S. Waverly Rd.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827**

- An Equal Opportunity Employer -

JENNIFER L. SMITH

Candidate for
Department Chaplain
2019 - 2020



Selfless Service through Faith.
Endorsed by her Post #701,
Dist 6, her husband,
her family and her church

DON MARTINDALE

Candidate for
Department Surgeon
2019 - 2020



Endorsed by his Post #1794,
5th District,
Macomb and
Oakland County Councils

BONNIE J. PRAY

Candidate for National
Council Member Area B
2019 - 2020



Supported & Endorsed by
District 10 Auxiliary and
Curtis-Wolverton
Auxiliary #3243

**WAS YOUR POST NAMED
AFTER A WW1 VETERAN?**

The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission (WWICC) is seeking information about VFW Posts named in honor of a local or national World War I veteran, along with stories of his or her service, photographs, newspaper clippings and/or other historical information.

WWICC will endeavor to honor these Posts by showcasing this special information on its website and feature highlights in its electronic Dispatch newsletter.

Contact David W. Harmon,
VSO/Military Director for the
Commission to learn more.

david.hamon@worldwar1centennial.org
540.379.8584

VFW NATIONAL COMMANDER HEADING TO EASTERN EUROPE

WASHINGTON (February 1, 2019) — The national Commander of America's largest and oldest major combat veterans' organization heads overseas this weekend to embed with members of the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team from Fort Riley, Kan., who recently deployed to Eastern Europe as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve.

The visit by B.J. Lawrence, national Commander of the 1.6 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary, is the final chapter in a three-part story that began with a meeting with senior Army leadership in the Pentagon last fall. A discussion evolved around having the VFW national Commander observe a unit undergoing pre-deployment training at the Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., then marrying up with that unit overseas. Fort Riley's 1st ABCT, part

of the 1st Infantry Division, was selected, but since it had already completed NTC, Lawrence viewed similar training by armor and infantry units from Fort Carson, Colo. He then traveled to Fort Riley in December to meet with the brigade Commander and command sergeant major and others prior to their months long deployment.

The purpose of Atlantic Resolve is to build readiness, increase interoperability, and enhance the bond between ally and partner militaries through multinational training events in Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, and the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Some 3,500 1st ABCT and 1,900 1st Combat Aviation Brigade soldiers, also from Fort Riley, are participating.

"My top priorities are training, readiness and morale, so listening to the troops where they

train, and especially where they deploy, makes us better advocates for them and their families on Capitol Hill," said Lawrence. "Visits such as these are essential to maintaining the close relationship the VFW has nurtured with America's military for now 120 years, and we are grateful for this opportunity to learn even more."

Media Contact: Joe Davis
JDavis@vfw.org 202-608-8357

*'Listening
to the troops
where they train
and deploy
makes us better
advocates'*



9 RULES OF ENGAGEMENT

February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month and a fitting time to acknowledge the contributions of black Americans and women, those men and women who are serving and have served in the Armed Forces, our veterans, and those who support them. Read the story of Harris Faulkner. In her memoir, 9 Rules of Engagement, "her story," she shares what it was like growing up as a military brat (Born, Braised And Trained). Faulkner's father, a pilot and avionics Lieutenant Colonel in the USAF, served in Vietnam and the Pentagon. The lessons learned through their daughter-father bond in a military family helped her to become the self-assured individual with a belief that she had more potential than she would otherwise believe she had.

Faulkner is an anchor for "Outnumbered Overtime," a hard news format on the Fox Network. She is a wife and mother of two

daughters and a motivational speaker.

Her father would host her on the elevator, the flight control surface of the airplane, where she thought she could see the world as he saw it.

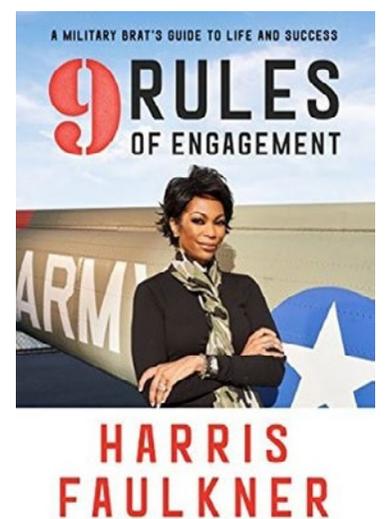
From the military values instilled in her by her father, Faulkner shares her appreciation for the change technology has bought us. She feels fortunate to have been born in a military family. Military values she learned from her father, she applied to her civilian life.

Faulkner absorbed the military mindset for success in the civilian world. Rules with their military underpinning have guided her. In this book, she uses her father's stories, his career, and their relationship to explore nine life lessons. Faulkner's stories of her father's courage and patriotism can be inspirational to everyone.

This instructional and motivational guide shows the transformative power the mili-

tary's ideals can have on one's life. Faulkner offers a fascinating exposition of how our military's ideas can help all Americans succeed.

The book is illustrated with sixteen pages of never-before-seen photos of her early life and career. Be your own motivator is the mantra of this instructive book. Part memoir, part motivational life guide, it reminds us all of the most important values of life and the keys to success.



BOOK REVIEW, NATE POWELL

100TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION - JUNE 5-9 / **AGENDA**

Holiday Inn Gateway Centre, Flint Michigan

Wednesday, June 5th

8:30 a.m. Golf Outing Registration
 9:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
 Fenton Farms - 12312 Torrey Rd., Fenton 48430
 TBD - 10 p.m. Hospitality Room Fillmore Room

Thursday, June 6th

8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Taft Taylor
 Directors Displays
 9 - 11:30 a.m. Service Office Committee Adams- Jefferson
 Budget & Finance Committee
 By-Laws & Resolutions
 11:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
 1 - 5 p.m. Registration Taft Taylor
 1 - 4 p.m. Director's report Adams- Jefferson
 4 - 4:30 p.m. Camp Trotter meeting Adams- Jefferson
 5 - 6 p.m. Directors/Officers meeting Fillmore
 6 - 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Fillmore

Friday, June 7th

8 - 9 a.m. C of A Breakfast J Porters Restaurant
 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Registration Taft Taylor
 Directors Displays
 Photo Room Camp David
 9:15 - 11:30 a.m. C of A meeting Adams Jefferson
 Presentations
 1:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
 1 - 5 p.m. Registration Taft Taylor
 1:30 - 4 p.m. Joint Memorial Service Adams Jefferson
 All State Achievement awards
 Fire Fighter/ EMT Awards
 4 - 5 p.m. SR/JR Meeting
 7 - 11 p.m. 100 Year Celebration Fillmore

Saturday, June 8th

8 - 11 a.m. Final Registration Taft Taylor
 Photo Room Camp David
 9 - 11:30 a.m. Opening of Convention Adams Jefferson
 Nominations
 Special Awards
 Honor Guard
 Buddy Poppy Child
 11:30 - 1 p.m. Lunch on your own
 TBD Past Commanders/President luncheon Fillmore
 1 - 4 p.m. Resume Convention Adams Jefferson
 Nominations
 Meet the Candidates
 Elections

Installation of 2019 - 2020 Officers

4:30 - 5:30 p.m. C of A 2019-2020 Adams Jefferson
 6 - 10 p.m. Celebration for incoming Hotel
 Commander/ President

Sunday, June 9th

9 - 12 p.m. Membership Training Seminar TBD

Dress Code

Thur - State Commander Phil Patterson's grey polo shirt & tan khakis
 Fri - State Commander Phil Patterson's grey polo shirt & grey pants
 Sat - Past State Commander Matt David's grey polo shirt & tan khakis
 Sun - Incoming State Commander Michael Fineis' polo shirt & slacks

* Council of Administration members will be in C of A for all C of A meetings (navy jacket and grey slacks)

MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND RECEIVES \$100K DONATION

LANSING, Mich. - A \$100,000 donation from Consumers Energy to the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) will help potentially hundreds of military veterans pay their heating bills in Michigan this winter.

The gift is the largest single donation in the 73-year history of the trust fund, which operates within the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency (MVAA). Last year the fund assisted nearly 1,350 veterans and their dependents who were struggling financially, many who needed help with utility payments during the winter months.

"Consumers Energy is committed to our Triple Bottom Line of people, planet and prosperity for everyone that we serve. We feel it's especially important to care for the men and women who donned the cloth of our nation and served in our armed forces," said Brian Rich, Consumers Energy's senior vice President of customer experience. "We are honored to make this donation as part of our mission to recruit, retain, support and care for our veteran community."

Since its inception in 1946, the MVTF has granted more than \$100 million to wartime-era veterans experiencing unforeseen financial hardship. Last fiscal year, the trust fund paid out nearly \$175,000 in emergency utility payments for Michigan veterans and another \$91,400 for energy-efficiency upgrades. The new funds will be available to eligible veterans who are Consumers Energy customers.

"Utilities assistance is one of our biggest needs, especially during the cold season, and this significant gift from Consumers Energy will benefit many of our veterans and their families during this critical period," said Lindell Holm, director of the MVTF. "It will also allow the trust fund to focus some of its efforts on other critical needs, such as emergency rent assistance and home payments."

The assistance can be particularly helpful to those on a fixed income. More than 53 percent of Michigan's nearly 600,000 veterans are age 65 or older and about 18 percent receive disability compensation, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

The donation is also part of an ongoing collaboration between Consumers Energy and the MVAA. Consumers Energy is an active member of the MVAA's Michigan Veteran Employment Council, is a Gold-level Veteran-Friendly Employer and earlier this year won the MVAA's Rising Star Award for innovative efforts to recruit & retain veterans as employees.

Consumers Energy also has provided \$10 million this winter to help Michigan residents with energy bills, including the assistance for military veterans.

"The nexus of this unique collaboration is our partnership in the Veteran-Friendly Employers program," said David Dunckel, strategy specialist with the MVAA. "I don't think there are many examples of a private-sector entity and a public-sector entity working together so closely to support our veterans."

Veterans interested in finding out more about utility-bill assistance or other help through the MVTF's Emergency Grant Program can contact the Michigan Veteran Resource Center at **800-MICH-VET**.

2019-2020 VFW SHIRT ORDER FORM

Michael Fineis' Department polo shirt will be a red 100% polyester made in the USA with the VFW logo and it will say "VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS, Dept. OF Michigan". The shirt comes with or without a pocket. It is a Men's shirt. Please indicate the size(s) of the shirt(s) you wish to purchase.

SHIRTS ARE PRE-ORDER ONLY.

Men's with pocket S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___ 4X ___

no pocket S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ 2X ___ 3X ___

Shirts are \$35.00.

Make checks payable to:

Department of Michigan VFW
 924 N. Washington
 Lansing, MI 48906

Enclosed is a check/cash in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ shirt(s).

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Shirts will be available for pick up at Department Convention.



ROLL CALL OF OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



LISTED IN ORDER OF POST | LOCATION | LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | AGE | SERVICE/WAR

- 6 Marquette**
- Ferguson, Bernard D. 71 Army/Vietnam
- Meneguzzo, Mario J. 88 Army/Korea
- 116 Bad Axe**
- Goniwicha, Peter F. 72 Army/Vietnam
- Holdwick, Richard J. 82 Army
- 345 Redford**
- Dise, Ann E. 96 Army/WWII
- Funk, Eldon R. 94 Navy/WWII
- Lowry, Alan J. Jr. 93 Army/WWII
- Symons, John G. 103 Army Air Corps/WWII
- 423 Ann Arbor**
- Belaire, Peter 68 Marines/Vietnam
- Schnur, John 77 Marines/Vietnam
- 607 Rogers City**
- Kaszubowski, Anthony 84 Army/Korea
- Strzelecki, Neil 70 Army/Vietnam
- 667 South Haven**
- Daggett, John 92 Army/WWII
- Rusin, Richard 91 Army/WWII
- 702 Wyoming**
- Borst, Joseph L. 90 Army/WWII
- Donovan, David M. 73 Army/Vietnam
- Dove, Arlen E. 69 Army/Vietnam
- Dudas, William L. 93 Army/WWII
- Johnston, Samuel R. 87 Navy/WWII
- 822 Flint**
- Atchley, William A. 90 Army/WWII
- Henson, Olan 84 Army/Korea
- Kolb, Donald E. 75 Marines/Vietnam
- Kulik, Joseph S. 88 Army/WWII
- Landino, Robert B. 93 Air Force/WWII
- LePard, Robert F. 91 Army/WWII
- Matejcek, Jack D. 82 Marines/Korea
- 1137 Watervliet**
- Bergstrom, Kally 74 Army/Vietnam
- 1859 Saginaw**
- Harrison, Robert H. 91 Navy/WWII/Korea
- 1887 Menominee**
- Bourdais, Arthur L. 94 Army Air Corps/WWII
- 2144 Holland**
- Bloomquist, Jerry 78 Navy/Vietnam
- Hardy, Donald 90 Army/Korea
- Oudemolen, Elmer W. 91 Army/WWII
- Van Duren, Donald J. 96 Navy/WWII
- Zwiers, Robert 92 Army/WWII
- 2326 Grand Haven**
- Byl, Gary L. 88 Marines/Korea
- 2532 Paw Paw**
- Elliott, Tim 66 Marines/Vietnam
- Stokkerman, Joseph 73 Air Force/Vietnam
- Trent, Albert B. Navy/WWII
- 2780 Traverse City**
- Lundberg, Andrew 93 Navy/WWII
- 3023 Grand Rapids**
- Bigelow, Marlin 74 Army/Air Force/Vietnam
- Blanchard, Gerald J. 70 Navy/Vietnam
- Corl, Elmer C. 90 Army/WWII
- Haglund, Richard J. 92 Navy/WWII
- Jarosch, Daniel F. 94 Navy/WWII
- Knight, Robert J. 92 Navy/WWII
- Lisquez, Dmitri L. 77 Army
- McCready, Gordon L. 95 WWII
- Pasbach, Patricia 95 Army/WWII
- Raisanen, Robert E. 71 Navy/Vietnam
- Schwarz, William P. 68 Army/Vietnam
- Tarburnas, Vitalijs 87 Army/Korea
- Van Harn, Mary A. 88 Army/Korea/Vietnam
- 3039 Farwell**
- Long, Michael O. 91 Army Air Corps/WWII
- 3676 Sault Ste Marie**
- Nolan, Dennis A. 70 Army/Vietnam
- 3925 Erie**
- LaLonde, John 87 Navy
- 4005 Corunna**
- DeLong, Kenneth M. 94 Army/WWII
- Mooney, Mason R. 85 Army/Korea/Vietnam
- 4034 Houghton Lake**
- Nielsen, James A. 87 Army/Korea
- 4054 Marcellus**
- Abrams, Harry 96 Marines/WWII
- Corss, Gilbert 87 Army/Korea
- Guthery, Denzil 62 Air Force/Gulf
- 4090 Portland**
- Almy, Thomas W. 93 Army/WWII
- 4139 Lapeer**
- Hanna, Samuel A. Jr. 77 Army
- 4461 Lake Odessa**
- Coddaire, Robert 74 Navy/Vietnam
- Kimble, Richard 91 Army/WWII
- Shetterly, Philip 87 Marines/Korea
- Steele, Kendall 88 Marines/Korea
- 5189 Vicksburg**
- Poulsen, Raymond 96 Army/WWII
- 6013 Elkton**
- Bumhoffer, Edward 91 Army/WWII
- 6248 Decatur**
- Brigman, Margaret M. 99 Army/WWII
- Carrier, Wilbur R.
- Chappel, Kenneth C. 69 Army/Vietnam
- Cook, Junior D. 86 Army/Korea
- Ellerby, Harold P. 79
- Everett, Richard M.
- Krohn, John C. 90 Navy/WWII
- Pachay, Andrew S. 92 Marines/WWII
- Pervine, Lynn E. 80
- Powell, Daniel H.
- Seibel, Edward J.
- Selby, Holden
- Vrhel, Anthony 91 Army/WWII
- 6507 Chassell**
- Hayrynen, Carl 71 Army/Vietnam
- Heikkinen, Melvin 78 Army/Korea
- Kaiponen, Kenneth 86 Army/Korea
- Kukkonen, Carl 96 Navy/WWII
- 6695 Plymouth**
- Biggar, Thomas 91 Navy/WWII
- Gramer, Anthony 72 Army/Vietnam
- 6864 Cadillac**
- VanderJagt, Henry 91 Air Force/WWII
- 6965 Ubly**
- Peplinski, Arthur 99 Army Air Corps/WWII
- 7805 Ithaca**
- Harger, Edwin F. 93 Army/WWII
- 9023 Brimley**
- Kraft, Emerson 97 Army/WWII
- 9084 Wakefield**
- Ahola, Norman 85 Army/Korea
- Cirolini, John 89 Army/WWII
- Lane, Duane 87 Navy/Korea
- Paquette, Wesley 89 Army/Korea
- 10704 Cassopolis**
- Collins, David 70 Army/Vietnam

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from all members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies. We ask that you keep your articles brief. **We reserve the right to edit all articles.** We look forward to hearing from you. The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

Materials for Publication

should be sent to:
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TAPS FORM

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

Send completed form to:

VFW of Michigan
924 North Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post)

(City)

Branch of Service (Circle One):

ARMY AIR FORCE NAVY
MARINE CORP COAST GUARD

Served in (Circle one):

WWI WWII KOREA VIETNAM
GULF IRAQ/ AFGHANISTAN
OTHER OCCUPATION FORCES



The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

Veterans and their loved ones can call to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

120TH NATIONAL CONVENTION

Every year, thousands of VFW and Auxiliary delegates gather to represent the organization's total membership of more than 1.6 million at the weeklong convention. While there, our mission is to approve new national priorities to guide our organization as we lobby Congress on issues important to the nation's veterans, service members and their families, as well as elect new leadership.

The 120th National Convention takes us to Orlando, Florida! Orlando is the perfect destination thanks to incredible diversity that ensures an unforgettable vacation filled with unique experiences for every visitor. For instance, if thrill-seeking is your style, you won't be able to get enough of our theme parks, water parks and attractions, but there's a lot more for you to discover.

Convention housing officially opened Feb. 15, 2019. Housing reservation information will be located on the convention website where you will also find general convention information including the registration form and links to other convention related information, including a tentative agenda.

www.vfw.org/convention



CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Section 222 of the Manual of Procedure states each Post will pay, in advance, a national convention registration fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) which shall entitle the Post to a packet of convention information and materials and one identified registered delegate for the VFW National Convention. Each additional delegate attending the national convention will pay a ten dollar (\$10) delegate fee provided the Post has paid the mandated \$25 advance registration fee. All advance registrations should be mailed to:

VFW National Headquarters
ATTN:Convention Registration
406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

STATE CONVENTION NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL, KIM DESHANO

Kim DeShano was appointed Assistant Adjutant General in July 2018. He served in the United States Navy from



1983 to 2003. During that time he served in Desert Storm aboard the USS L. Y. Spear. In recognition of his service, he received the Southwest Asia Service Medal with bronze star

Kim joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1993 at Post 392 in Virginia Beach, Va., later transferring to Post 2216 where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life membership. He served as All-American Post Commander from 2000 to 2002, and served as Department Adjutant/Quartermaster from 2003 to 2018. On the national level, he has served on several committees, to include serving on the General Resolutions Committee, By-Laws Committee, as Special Aide-De-Camp and on the Council of Administration from 2014 to 2018.

He is a member of the American Legion and is a life member of the Military Order of the Cootie and AMVETS.

He and his wife, Linda, reside in Kansas City, Kansas.

**SOME SAY THEY'VE GOT YOUR BACK.
 WE PROVE IT.**

[FACEBOOK.COM/VFWMI](https://www.facebook.com/vfwmi)

WWII VETERAN, MILITARY COP AND MINISTER TO THOUSANDS TURNS 100

Drafted off an Iowa cornfield during World War II, Benjamin Ypma would go on to serve as a military policeman in the southwest Pacific, a violent job that involved keeping the peace in bars and houses of ill repute. On one occasion, Corporal Ypma and his fellow MPs warded off a group of Australians attacking a U.S. military store with hand-to-hand combat.

Ypma's attitude through it all? "The Lord is my shepherd, and he's a good shepherd, and I appreciate his rod and staff, which beat the crap out of some people when I needed it."

Ypma, a two-time widower who now lives in Grandville, turns 100 on Feb. 5, one of fewer than a half-million surviving U.S. veterans from WWII. And while the high school dropout considers his service in the southwest Pacific some of the best schooling he's ever had, it's the indelible mark he has left on the lives of others – both soldiers and civilians – that stands out the most to those around him.

A plaque honoring Ypma in the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans notes that following his service from 1941-1945, he graduated from seminary school and served as a minister, chaplain, pastoral counselor and missionary around the world. He's baptized a war correspondent in a crocodile-infested river, counseled Vietnam veterans nearly half his age and ministered to people from Africa to Cambodia to Taiwan.

"He's been an integral figure spiritually for hundreds, probably thousands of people," says Mary Koster of Rochester Hills, one of Ypma's two daughters. "He's a very passionate and spiritual man, but also very real, very transparent. He doesn't hesitate to give ad-

vice but at the same time he knows when to keep his mouth shut. He amazes me with the different ways he can reach people."

As for turning 100, it's simply a number to Ypma. He still drives himself around, takes but one pill a day (for high blood pressure) and just a few years ago agreed to teach an exercise class when the instructor had to step down.

And when he looks back on his eventful life, it's Ypma's proud service to his country that was perhaps his most influential period. For a man who once served as a bodyguard to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who went through New Guinea with both the King James Bible and Darwin's "Origin of Species" in his knapsack, Ypma says his "spiritual evolution" was cultivated in the Army.

"How can you separate in me the war from the development of my life?" Ypma says. "It is a great, providential gift that I was yanked out of the cornfields, pitching manure."

