



POST 216 HERALD MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2009

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2009 Membership – 428

Ray Chaplin, Editor



FROM THE COMMANDER

John R. Nelson

Well, summer is nearly over, we've had time to relax, recharge and have fun.

Now I ask that we all refocus on the work of helping one another. As a veteran service organization, the American Legion has the mission to help veterans in need, to promote patriotism and the American spirit in our community, and to work with children and youth, teaching them and mentoring them about what it means to be an American. I am encouraged each time I hear our scholarship winners share their essay "What it Means to Me to Be an American." Their understanding of our nation and our values encourages me about our future. I wish that you all could have heard these essays when they were shared at our monthly membership meeting.

With a new Legion year beginning in September, I want each of you, as members of Post 216 to do one thing that supports the programs of the American Legion. To some of you, I say "Thank You" for doing much more than just one thing. For others who are close to Milford, do something where you are, and stay in

touch with us – we do care how you are. And for the many members who are here in the Huron Valley area, that one thing that we all do is the difference between Post 216 being a great post and being the best post in Michigan.

In the weeks since the American Legion Department of Michigan annual convention, I have been asked by Department Commander Carnie Jackson to be the Boys State Director. I could not refuse such an important responsibility. I know that I will be very busy with Boys State in the coming months, and with the help of each district and post Boys State committee we will have a very successful year. With this appointment, Milford Post and Unit 216 are now the focal point of Boys State and Girls State in Michigan, with Brenda Dees as Girls State Director and John Nelson as Boys State Director. That is quite an honor for Milford.

Later this year Post 216 will celebrate 90 years since our founding. We are planning now a celebration appropriate for this significant milestone in our history. We will keep you posted on the plans.





Unit Officers 2009-2010

President – Sheila Maxwell 248-255-2344
she2403@comcast.net
1st Vice – Sally Morin 248-887-1602
President Muggsy55@comcast.net
2nd Vice – Pam LaClair 248-685-3101
President
Secretary – Brenda Dees 248-887-1723
Rdees29@comcast.net
Treasurer – Jan LaClair 248-685-2587
Chaplain – Sue Buell 248-685-3633
Historian – Linda Maxwell 248-684-6744
Executive – Diane Cort 248-685-3171
Board Joan Kowall 248-685-3863
Jodi Dowd

Unit Meetings are held at 7:00 PM 1st
Tuesday of the month.

Meeting location is the Bingo Hall. Please join
us as often as you can. This is a good way to
learn about the programs of the Auxiliary.

Membership News

We have achieved our 2009 membership goal of 172 members! But soon you will receive your renewal for 2010. Help us over the “TOP” again. Please return your membership renewal as soon as you can.

Children and Youth

Children and Youth Chairwomen Pam LaClair would like to thank all of the volunteers that helped with the Easter Children’s party. All help is greatly appreciated.

Children’s Halloween Party is scheduled for:

Halloween Party – Sunday October 4th, 2:00 – 4:00

Sign-up in the clubroom

Look for more information posted in the clubroom 2-4 weeks in advance of each party.

Veteran’s Affairs

Currently the ALA has no plans to send goodie boxes to deployed active duty soldiers this Christmas. If you think organizing this activity is your way of demonstrating your commitment to our veterans give Sheila a call. Better yet come to the September 8th meeting and present your ideas.

Community Involvement

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 continues to collect non-perishable food and personal care items for distributions to needy families in the area. Priority is given to veterans and their families.

Our goal is to be able to distribute boxes to 6 families on August 23rd, just before school starts. Drop off donations in the clubroom or contact Sheila on (248) 255-2344 or by e-mail she2403@aol.com to arrange pickup. If you know of families, especially senior veterans that may need a little extra help contact Sheila with the families’ contact information. We will continue to collect items year around -the need is not going away!

Auxiliary Fundraisers

Bring any ideas for fundraisers to the September meeting where plans for the year start to be defined.

Teri’s Tidbits:

Would we in Michigan have done the same?

Killed in action the week before, the body of Staff Sergeant First Class John C. Beale was returned to Falcon Field in Peachtree City, Georgia, just south of Atlanta on June 11, 2009. The Henry County Police Department escorted the procession to the funeral home in McDonough, Georgia. **A simple notice in local papers indicated the road route to be taken and the approximate time.** This was filmed during the procession by a State Trooper

<http://blip.tv/play/AYGJ5h6Ygme>

Click on the picture to start the video and grab your Kleenex!

For God and Country,
Teri Chaplin
Past Unit President



First of all I would like to thank everyone on the board from last year for the great job they have done. I would like to introduce to you the SAL board of 2009 and 2010.

- Commander - Dan Scheideman
- Senior Vice - Andy Russell
- Junior Vice - Butch Maxwell
- Adjutant - Fred Morin
- Finance - Mike McDonnell
- Chaplain - Clayton Maxwell
- Historian - Rick Byrne
- Sgt. At Arms - Ray Clinard
- Exe Board - Matt Tibbs,
Andy (Stasch) Grohowski,
Frank Serridge

We will once again be looking forward to another great year.



Our last steak night will be September 17th.



We will then begin our hamburger nights starting October 1st. We can always use help in the kitchen, if you would like to help please sign up.

If you have any questions concerning the SAL please contact me by email dan@briensservices.com or by phone 248-830-7059.

Dan Scheideman
SAL Commander

August 22 Annual Golf Outing



The SAL is hosting a Golf Outing all proceeds are for the Child Welfare Fund. Cost is \$65.00 per person. Includes 18 Holes, Golf Cart, Beverages on course, Prizes and Steak Dinner (afterwards). The sign up sheet is in the Post Club Room.

Post 216 - Time Capsule

I have been given a challenge by our Commander. My challenge is to provide glimpses of the posts past events. We will publish interesting facts about the post in this and future articles of the Post 216 News Letter.

This effort has been a far greater challenge than I first anticipated. Post 216 has had a long and proud history in the communities we serve. So we need the help of all members of the Post, Unit and Squad to dig out those mementos, articles and pictures you may have from past events to help fill-in the gaps in our history.



Besides sharing the history with current members in the newsletters we will be preserving all the historical items we collect by recording them digitally. To date I have scanned in the pictures and articles the post has in its files. Please forward all material you can find to Robert Maxwell, Post 216, 510 W. Commerce, Milford, MI 48381 or eMail maxphy@yahoo.com

1st Installment of Post 216's history:

Our Post was chartered in 1919. There were 17 charter members. The first commander was Frank E. Vincent and Chester H. Hamilton the first Adjutant. Originally meetings were held in the Commerce building. The early years were primarily devoted to raising awareness and membership in the new organization with area

World War I Veterans and involving the post in events to benefit the veterans. In the post's second year they bought a hall from the Heber-La Favor Post 181 of the G.A.R. It was also the year that the post inaugurated its annual Thanksgiving Feather Party. This was the key social event of the year and the Post's primary fundraising event. From those early beginnings to present day funds raised by the American Legion are used for support of War Veterans, their widows, and orphans.

Post Pop Quiz

Question #1:

Who were the G.A.R. ?

Question # 2:

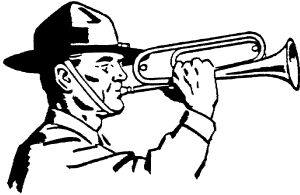
Where and when was "The American Legion", founded and its mission defined as "Devoted to God and Country"; and to getting justice for the disabled, widows and orphans of deceased comrades from WWI? Later that same year the American Legion held a caucus in St. Louis. They issued temporary charters to state organizations, founding the State Departments for the American Legion. Later caucus representatives made the Departments permanent.

Watch for the answer in future editions of the Post newsletter.

Thank you
Robert F, Maxwell
Post Historian

Ceremonial Report

Military Honors



Since the May newsletter the Post Honor Guard has participated in 35 interment or memorial services for veterans and their families, both locally and at the Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Six of the thirty five services were in conducted in the Milford area and included, Glenn Comstock, Phillip Tanner, James King, Marico Burnetti, James Jackson, and Craig Stevens. Glenn Comstock, Jim Jackson, and Craig Stevens were all Post 216 members.

During my absence I would like to thank Rich Chowanec for coordinating the Great Lakes National Cemetery Interments for July, and the local services for Post members, Jim Jackson and Craig Stevens. From all reports I received regarding the Jackson and Stevens ceremonies is that they were conducted with the honor and dignity which truly reflects on the professionalism of the Post 216 Honor Team. Thanks again Rich!

If I hadn't mentioned it before, I would like to welcome SAL member Dale Feigley as a member of our Honor and Color Guards. Dale has participated in several of our latest honor guard ceremonies. Welcome to the team, Dale! We also thank AMVETS members Larry Shaver and Jerry Mantela for their support as color bearers for our missions. They have participated in many of our ceremonies.

Color Guard

John Robinson has coordinated most of the color guard activities for the Post the last 6 months. These events included the coordination of the High School Graduations, Legion All Star Game, 4th of July Parade, Opening Ceremony for Youth Baseball, Opening Ceremony for Legion Baseball, and Highland Community Parade.

Lynch and Son Funeral Directors

Tom Lynch and his staff were recognized at our monthly Honor Guard meeting for their contributions and support of our Post Honor Guard. The goal of both organizations is to provide the families of deceased veterans with the most dignified and compassionate military honors during their time of grief. Many times over the past years we have worked with Lynch Funeral Directors to render these honors.

Tom Lynch has recognized our commitment with both verbal support and contributions to our Honor Guard. Our members wanted to express their thanks for his support in the form of a recognition plaque. Commander Nelson presented the plaque on behalf of all the Honor Guard members at a special meeting held on July 21.

John Moore
Ceremonial Coordinator

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Presentation to Lynch and Son Funeral Directors



Commander Nelson presenting the plaque to Tom Lynch





(left to right) Eric Marker, Commander Nelson, Tom Lynch and Ken Kutzi






August 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg US Coast Guard 1790	5	6	7 BINGO	8
9	10 Legion Riders Meeting	11	12	13	14 BINGO	15
16	17	18 Exec. Comm. Post 216 Mtg	19	20	21 BINGO	22 SAL Golf Fund Raiser
23/30	24/31 Honor Guard National Cemetery	25	26	27	28 BINGO	29





September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	2	3	4 BINGO	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 BINGO	12
13	14 Legion Riders Meeting	15 Exec. Comm. Post 216 Mtg	16	17 Steak Night 	18 BINGO	19
20	21	22	23	24 Hamburger Night 	25 BINGO	26
27 Gold Star Mother's Day	28 Honor Guard National Cemetery	29	30			

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hamburger Night 	2 18 Dist Meeting BINGO	3
4 Children's Halloween Party	5	6 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	7	8 Hamburger Night 	9 BINGO	10
11	12 Legion Riders Meeting	13 US Navy 1775	14	15 Hamburger Night 	16 BINGO	17
18	19	20 Exec. Comm. Post 216 Mtg	21	22 Hamburger Night 	23 BINGO	24
25	26 Honor Guard National Cemetary	27	28	29 Hamburger Night 	30 BINGO	31

November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	4	5 Hamburger Night 	6 18 Dist Meeting BINGO	7
8	9 Legion Riders Meeting	10 US Marine Corps 1775	11  Veterans Day	12 Hamburger Night 	13 BINGO	14
15	16	17 Exec. Comm. Post 216 Meeting	18	19 Hamburger Night 	20 BINGO	21
22	24 Honor Guard National Cemetary	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 BINGO	28
29	30					

LEGIONNAIRE MEMBERSHIP

It's that time again – American Legion Department of Michigan will start sending out renewal membership notices for the year 2009. Dues are as follows for the membership year 2009:

Legionnaire Membership.....\$40.00

65 years of age with at least 5 years in Post 216.....\$35.00

Honorary Life Membership is granted to Members who have completed 30 years in Post 216, and dues will then be paid by the post.

Active duty Military Personnel dues are paid by the post. Please send your renewal notice with current mailing address. If no longer on active duty, dues will be as stated above.

Members who transferred in during or after March 1, 2009, will receive notices from their previous post, however, dues should be paid directly to Post 216.

New members who joined after March 1, 2008, may not receive a notice, but should send their dues for 2009 to Post 216.

Paid Up For Life Membership (PUFL) – contact Membership Chairman for cost:

Bruce M. Hayden – 248-684-6838
Membership Chairman

ALL CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

American Legion Post 216

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE THAT
HAVE NOT PAID DUES FOR 2009**

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Veteran Links

The American Legion Post 216	www.milfordlegion216.org
The American Legion National Website	http://www.legion.org
The American Legion State of Michigan Website	http://www.michiganlegion.org/
The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Website	http://www.vfw.org
The AMVETS National Website	http://www.amvets.org
The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Website	http://www.michiganpva.org/
The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Website	http://www.dav.org/
The Viet Nam Veterans of America (VVA) Website	http://www.vva.org/
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)	http://www.va.gov/
The Great Lakes National Cemetery Website	http://www.cem.va.gov/CEM/cems/nchp/greatlakes.asp
The National Archives (Veterans Records)	http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html
American Battle Monuments Commission (Overseas cemeteries and monuments. Very interesting stuff)	http://www.abmc.gov/home.php
Department of Defense	www.defenselink.mil

Moving? Address Change?

Don't miss a single copy of your post newsletter. Fill out the form below and mail to:
Bruce Hayden, C/O American Legion Post 216, 510 W. Commerce, Milford, Mi 48381

Name: _____ Member of: ___ Legion ___ Auxiliary ___ SAL

Old Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

New Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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Ernest F. Oldenburg Post #216
The American Legion
510 West Commerce Rd.
Milford, MI 48381

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