



POST 216 HERALD MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2009

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2008 Membership – 417

Ray Chaplin, Editor



FROM THE COMMANDER,
John R. Nelson

Greetings to you all.

The month of May for Post 216 is the most important time of our American Legion year. For us, it is a time of reflection, reconnection, and remembrance. We take the time to reflect on all that makes us Americans, including our freedoms and our values. We take the time to reconnect; no where is this more obvious than at our annual Memorial Day parade. That day for Post 216 is a homecoming, a day that sees more than 400 veterans from the Huron Valley area come together for one purpose – to pay honor and give respect to every person who has worn the uniform of the United States military.

May is also a time of remembrance. We remember the gift of freedom and the gift of security for our way of life. We remember that gift by remembering family and friends and colleagues who have died; they will not be forgotten. Their contribution to who we are will not be forgotten. We remember with ceremonies and a parade; we remember with flags at the graves of local veterans. We remember every time the Honor Guard goes to Great Lakes National Cemetery. We remember when we hear a scholarship essay about being an American. We remember as we share coffee with friends in the morning. We remember. We will always remember.

I am honored that the membership of Post 216 has again allowed me the privilege and responsibility to be Post Commander. In this coming year, our focus will continue to be on service to the military veterans in our community, care and service to families in need, teaching Americanism to our children and youth, and instilling in all residents of the Milford / Highland vicinity the duties of citizenship. And through all of these important programs, we will have fun, we will make friends and make current friendships stronger, and we will know that we have made a positive difference in the lives around us.

Post 216 90th Anniversary Celebration – later this summer. More details will be shared soon.

John R. Nelson
Commander

Post 216 Herald– May 2009

New Officers for Post 216 for the year 2009-2010 have been elected. Congratulations to all.

Commander	John Nelson
Sr. Vice Commander	Tony Puente
Jr. Vice Commander	Todd Herron
Finance Officer	Ron Nevorski
Chaplain	Bob Janoska
Sgt-at-Arms	Skip Davison
Historian	Robert Maxwell
Exec. Comm. at Large	Joe Salvia
Exec. Comm. at Large	Rich Chowaniec
Exec. Comm. at Large	Mike Allen
Adjutant (appointed)	Chuck Hoobler
Asst. Adjutant (appointed)	Ike Eickholdt



USS New York
(built from 911 scrap metal)



Unit Officers 2008-2009

President – Linda Maxwell 248-684-1867
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 – Lisa Keyes 248-684-6744
Sergeant – Merry Panavas 248-685-7950
-At-Arms
Executive – Diane Cort 248-685-3171
Board Joan Kowall 248-685-3863
Marie Jackson 248-529-3737

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

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

Membership News

Give yourselves a hand ladies. We have achieved our 2009 goal of 172 members! But let's not stop there. The work of the Auxiliary is very important to our veterans and more volunteers mean we can take on more projects.



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 Party schedule for the remainder of 2009:

Halloween Party – October 4th, 11:00 – 1:00

Christmas Party – December 6th, 11:00 – 1:00

Please be sure and mark your calendars since timing of newsletters may not coincide with the party schedule. Look for more information posted in the clubroom 2-4 weeks in advance of each party.

Veteran's Affairs

The most important Auxiliary fundraiser of the year is Poppy Days. It's important for several reasons. It is the single biggest ALA Unit 216's money raiser for the year. The money raised can only be used for the direct benefit of veterans and their families. Lastly, it a visible reminder to the community at large that we have many men and women who deserve their gratitude and should not be taken for granted. Please try and help distribute poppies anytime May 21st, 22nd and 23rd. Even one hour of your time can be very beneficial. You can pick-up poppies and canisters in the clubroom.



Community Involvement

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 216 has under taken several initiatives to help families in the area.

Sheila Maxwell (Junior activity chair and co-chair for Poppy fund) organized a food drive to collect non-perishable food and

personal care items for needy families in the area. Through her efforts and the generous donations from all members of the legion family we were able to help 5 needy families during Easter. The ALA will continue collecting food and personal care items through the summer. 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 that may need a little extra help also contact Sheila with the families contact information.

Auxiliary Fundraisers

Looking for ways to help the Auxiliary in their community and post activities? The Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion are trying a new fundraiser this year - working at a Texas HoldEM tournament at Adriano's in Novi. The dates we have selected are June 29th, June 30th, July 1st and July 2nd. We will be working in shifts between the hours of 4:30 pm and 2:00 am. If you can volunteer a couple of hours during one of or more of those nights please contact Sheila Maxwell about volunteering to help. Please let her know what shift you would like to work and if you are able to volunteer for more than one day. This could be a great money maker for both organizations.

Memorial Day

Of all the events and activities we undertake all year, two days hold special meaning for Legion, Auxiliary and Sons – Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. We take extra care and pride in honoring all veterans on both days but the largest celebration is Memorial Day. I am inviting each and every one of you to join us in marching in the Milford Memorial Day Parade. It is really special to line up at the post surrounded by the bravest and most caring group of people – our veteran's, both young and old. Let's show them how much we honor them by having a strong showing of auxiliary members marching in the parade!

Teri's Tidbits:



Medal of Honor recipients from the Iraqi/Afghanistan conflict (all awarded posthumously):

Army Sergeant First Class - Paul R. Smith

Marine Corporal - Jason Dunham

Private First Class - Ross A. McGinnis

Master at Arms Second Class - Michael A. Monsour

Lieutenant - Michael P. Murphy

Read more about these heroes at:
<http://www.cmohs.org/>

Are you a woman Veteran or know a woman veteran? Please pass along these helpful sites sponsored by Business and Professional Women's Foundation:
www.bpwusa.org
Connect-A-Vet,
www.womenjoiningforces.org

For God and Country,
Teri Chaplin
Auxiliary member and Past Unit President

Suggestions and comments for the newsletter send an email to: teri.chaplin@comcast.net

Post 216 Herald– May 2009
Honor Guard Events

Department of Veterans Affairs Awards Ceremony and Luncheon

Pictured below are members of Post 216's Honor Guard who attended the Department of Veterans Affairs Awards Ceremony and Luncheon in Allen Park on April 22nd. Sitting left to right are Chuck Bowman, Doyle (Skip) Davison, and Joe Bishop. Standing, are John Moore, Ray Clinard, and Rich Chowaniec. Receiving awards, but not pictured, were Lance Oberg, Ron Nevorski, and Don Stevenson.

These awards were made for participating in over 100 hours of volunteer service at the Great Lakes National Cemetery for the year 2008.



Military Honors

Since the last newsletter the Honor Guard has participated in 22 interment or memorial services for veterans and their families, both locally and at the Great Lakes National Cemetery. Eleven of the twenty two services were in conducted in the Milford area and included, Roy Fogle; Herb Zachow; Remo Caringi; Bob Schwartz; David Laidlaw, Bernard Robinson; Joel Adler; Bill Golden; Robert Taylor; Jerry Bollinger; and Ralph Pohl.

John Moore
Honor Guard Coordinator

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: _____



May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Memorial Day		 REMEMBRANCE		 REMEMBRANCE	1 Dist 18 Meeting BINGO	2
3	4	5 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	6	7 Hamburger Night	8 BINGO	9
10	11 Legion Riders Meeting	12	13	14 Hamburger Night	15 Poppy Days BINGO	16 Poppy Days
17	18	19 Executive Comm. Post 216 Meeting	20	21 Hamburger Night	22 BINGO	23 08:00 Flags - Vets Graves 10:00 Flag Retirement
24/31	25 7:30 Cemetery Ceremonies 11:00 Memorial Day Parade	26	27	28 Hamburger Night	29 BINGO	30

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	3	4	5 Dist 18 Meeting BINGO	6
7	8 Legion Riders Meeting	9	10	11	12 BINGO	13
14	15	16 Executive Comm. Post 216 Meeting	17	18 Department Convention (Lansing)	19 Department Convention (Lansing) BINGO	20 Department Convention (Lansing)
21	22	23	24	25	26 BINGO	27
28	29	30				

July 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 BINGO	4 Independence Day Parade
5	6	7 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	8	9	10 BINGO	11
12	13 Legion Riders Meeting	14	15	16	17 BINGO	18
19	20	21 Executive Comm. Post 216 Meeting	22	23	24 BINGO	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 BINGO	

August 2009

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



The Honor of Your Presence is Requested



To Fellow Veterans and All American Citizens,

I am writing to extend an invitation to you to formally participate in the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies that will take place each year on the last Monday of May at 11:00 AM.

Memorial Day is a sacred day in our Country. It is a time for us to remember and honor those who lost their lives in service to our Country. As veterans, we share a special closeness to those who have gone before us and we should make every effort to be visible at this special time.

American citizens who did not serve in the armed forces should be in attendance to show their gratitude to those that committed themselves to serve our Country. It was and continues to be the service and sacrifice of the few that allows all Americans to enjoy the freedom and security that is frequently taken for granted.

Our mission is a simple one. We, as living veterans along with the citizens of our community must gather together each year and never forget the sacrifices of our fellow veterans

Our goal is to gather 1,000+ veterans to emphasize the importance of this memorial event. In addition, it will give our community an opportunity to express thanks to all veterans for their time in service.

I would deeply appreciate your acceptance of this invitation and your assistance in helping me find as many veterans as possible to achieve our goal. What a great statement we would make in our small community! I would also ask that you spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. All are welcome to join in to observe the parade, give thanks to our veterans and participate in the closing ceremonies in Central Park. It is especially important that children and young adults attend and understand the purpose of this solemn event.

Memorial Day is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars. Veterans participating need to begin gathering at 9:30 am at the American Legion Post located on Commerce Road just west of downtown Milford. The Parade steps off at 11:00am sharp, moving south thru Milford to Central Park. A brief ceremony will take place immediately following the parade.

Please wear your uniform, if you have one and can still get into it, or a piece of your old uniform, cap, jacket, etc. Wear any medals, ribbons, badges, etc that you may have on a sport coat or on a white shirt with dark trousers. All veterans will ceremonially receive a special medal for attending our gathering.

I hope I can count on your attendance. Please fill out the backside of this letter and return to me as soon as possible, or call me at so I can get a head start on planning.

Thanks in advance for your participation. I look forward to seeing you at the Parade.

REMEMBER, RAIN OR SHINE WE MARCH!! THIS IS OUR DAY TO BE VISIBLE.

***Joseph M. Salvia, Parade Chairman
American Legion, Past Commander***

American Legion Post 216 ▪ 510 W. Commerce Rd ▪ Milford, Mi 48381 ▪ 248-684-9919

MEMORIAL DAY The Last Monday in May

Please fill out the sections below and return as soon as possible to:

MAIL TO: Joseph M. Salvia
American Legion Post 216
510 W. Commerce Road
Milford MI 48381

ATTENDANCE (check appropriate boxes)

Check one: Army Navy Marines Air Force Coast Guard

I am still in service (active duty or reserve status) or I have received an honorable discharge and will participate in the Memorial Day Parade

I will bring _____ other veterans with me. (Please attach list of names if possible)

I am not a veteran but will attend to give thanks to those who served our country.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION CLEARLY. THANK YOU

Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

DONATION TO ASSIST WITH PARADE EXPENSES

I will make a donation to help the American Legion with parade expenses.

() \$15.00 () \$20.00 () \$25.00 () Other amount \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: American Legion Post 216 - Memorial Day Fund

Thanks in advance for your donation...Joseph M. Salvia, Past Commander

PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS FORM AND HAND OUT TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung



My eager craft through footless halls of air.
Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

*Written by
Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee
No 412 squadron, RCAF
Killed 11 December 1941*



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

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Korean War Memorial