



## ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2008

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2008 Membership – 417

Ray Chaplin, Editor



### FROM THE COMMANDER, *John R. Nelson*

Greetings to you all.

I trust that your summer was as filled with fun and family as you had hoped.

It is again my pleasure to tell you about the good things that are happening in POST 216 and in the American Legion in Michigan. I'll begin close to home.

- Milford's annual American Legion Memorial Day Parade was a huge success. I truly hope that each of you have been part of this event. For me it has been a defining event in my reawakening to the need to serve military veterans in our community. At no other time in my life, only during this parade in Milford, have I experience the outpouring of gratitude from the whole community for what I did while wearing the uniform of the U.S. Army. Sure, many individuals have said "Thank You," but only here have I truly felt the thanks of my neighbors and friends. Our guest of honor this year was the Michigan National Guard Deputy Commander for Veterans Affairs, Brigadier General Carol Ann Fausone. The response from BG Fausone was a mixture of amazement, awe, and gratitude. Her comment to me was that this parade in Milford is the best one she has ever been part of anywhere in Michigan. My hat is off in salute to everyone who made the parade such a success, and in particular, my thanks to Joe Salvia, Tony Puente, Joan Kowal and the Auxiliary, and Mike McDonnell and Butch Maxwell and all of the SAL. This parade is THE signature event for Post 216. It has

succeeded because so many post family members are involved. And, this parade will continue to get better as more veterans, more Auxiliary members, and more Sons decide to lend a hand.

- At the end of May each year, your Legion officers compile the Consolidated Post Report to the Department of Michigan. In that report we are able to share, in short-hand fashion, what we accomplished during the prior year. I am pleased to report that on many of the important measures of a healthy and active post, we of Post 216 scored very well. Membership is growing (more on that later), we provide honors and service to veterans in and around our community, we are active in programs the help influence children and youth toward a future as good citizens, and Post 216 is an important part of our community.
- The middle of June each year brings the Department of Michigan Convention, held in Grand Rapids.
  - This year was special for Post 216, as the work of John Moore, past commander Joe Salvia, and many others of you was recognized: I was privileged to accept for Post 216 the Department of Michigan "Website of the Year Award". Visit our website ([www.milfordlegion216.org](http://www.milfordlegion216.org)) regularly to keep up with what is happening in Post 216. John Moore truly deserves our thanks and congratulations.

- Other business that happens at Department Convention are meetings of the standing committees, election of Department officers, and education sessions on important topics for posts and districts. One of the highlights of this year's convention was a long visit to the Michigan Home for Veterans in Grand Rapids. What a wonderful place. I encourage each of you to stop there and visit when you are in Grand Rapids in the near future.
- For District 18 this convention was also special. We are part of District 18 and helped make it possible for our district to be

awarded all three of the membership awards given out at Convention. That is a tribute to the work of your post and district leadership.

- Speaking of membership, I am proud to report that Post 216 ended the 2007-2008 membership year with the largest membership in the Post's history – 417 members. Thank all of you who have brought us to this point. There are still many dozens of Legionnaires in our community who are not part of a post. Let's invite them to be part of Post 216.



### **The American Legion Officers 2008-2009**

Commander	John R. Nelson	(248) 684-9287
Sr. Vice Command	Anthony Puente	(248) 685-3767
Jr. Vice Commander	Todd Herron	(248) 363-4333
Adjutant	Chuck Hoobler	(248) 889-2301
Finance Officer	Ron Nevorski	(248) 684-8950
Chaplain	Bob Janoska	(248) 887-2645
Historian	Robert Maxwell	(248) 683-2688
Sgt-at-Arms	Skip Davison	(248) 676-2954
Executive Board	Dennis Finkbeiner	(248) 937-1673
Executive Board	Jim Hunter	(248) 685-0232
Executive Board	Jack Winder	(248) 887-4222
Executive Board SAL	Mike McDonnell	(248) 685-1330
Executive Board Aux	Linda Maxwell	(248) 684-1867

### **Other Positions**

Service Officer	Bruce Hayden	(248) 684-6838
Honor Guard Coordinator	John Moore	(248) 770-4120
Web Site Administrator	John Moore	(248) 770-4120
Brick Paver Administrator	Skip Davison	(248) 676-2954
Chaplain Requests	Bob Janoska	(248) 887-2645



### Unit Officers 2008-2009

President – Linda Maxwell 248-684-1867  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice – Sally Morin 248-887-1602  
President [Muggsy55@comcast.net](mailto:Muggsy55@comcast.net)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice – Pam LaClair 248-685-3101  
President  
Secretary – Brenda Dees 248-887-1723

### [Rdees29@comcast.net](mailto: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

### Committee Chairs'

Children & Youth – Pam LeClair  
Constitution & – Brenda Dees  
By-Laws  
Field Service – Marie Jackson  
Junior Activities – Sheila Maxwell  
Legislative – Brenda Dees  
Membership – Sally Morin  
Past President's – Linda Maxwell  
Parley  
Poppy Co Chairs – Karen Dean,  
Sheila Maxwell  
Veteran's Affairs – Marie Jackson  
& Rehabilitation  
Delegates to – Linda Maxwell  
District Sally Morin  
Pam LaClair  
Alternates – Brenda Dees  
To District Marie Jackson  
Joan Kowall

### Unfilled Chairs'

Americanism  
Auxiliary Emergency Fund  
Community Service  
Education  
Leadership  
Music  
National Security  
Public Relations/ Publications

To find out more about the unfilled positions contact any member of the board. Each committee can do important work for the unit and we would love to have you as a chairperson!

### **Unit Meetings are held at 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> 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

Renewal time is here! Please return your renewal as soon as you can. We are running way behind last years pace. So far only 8.75% of members have renewed. If you are having difficulties affording your dues this year contact Sally Morin to see if something can be worked out. Each and every one of you is important to our being able to support our various programs.

### **Children and Youth**

The children's Halloween Party is set for Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the hall. Please sign-up on the sheets in the clubroom. All children and grandchildren are welcome. If you can help with the party call Pam LaClair. She appreciates all the help she can get!



### **Girl's State**

Our Girl's State delegates will be sharing their experiences from this year's Girls State at the next Unit meeting – October 7, 7:00. Please come and listen to their stories to learn more about this wonderful program

### **Veteran's Affairs**

Annually, Auxiliary Units around the state provide items for the Veteran's Christmas gift shops at veteran's hospitals around the state. All veteran's living at one of the Veteran's hospital can select a gift for the members of their immediate family free of charge. This year our Unit's gifts will go to the Ann Arbor hospital. Auxiliary members also staff the gift shop. They help each veteran select their gifts, wrap and mail them if the veteran will not be seeing their family during the holidays. Since our gift shop is so close this year please consider volunteering during gift shop days December 1-3. If you can volunteer some time for this **very rewarding service** please contact Brenda Dees.

### **Around the Post**

During every hamburger night, fish fry or any other time the ovens or stoves are used in the kitchen the exhaust fan runs non-stop. Well just like any other machine (and us) it can become "exhausted" and in need of repair or replacement. Our fan is beyond being repaired and is being replaced. The Auxiliary has joined forces with the Sons of the American Legion to share **equally** the \$2,000 cost for a replacement. Join us at hamburger nights and take the time to poke your nose in the kitchen and admire the new fan. This is one of the ways the Auxiliary works with the American Legion and Sons of the Legion for the good of the Post.

### **Auxiliary Fundraisers**

To obtain funds to support the Auxiliary programs such as the Veteran's Christmas Gift shop, delegates to Girls' State (1 girl from each high school) and being able to support improvement

efforts around the post the Auxiliary engages in several fund raisers during the year. The most important fund raiser is the distribution of Poppies during May. All donations for Poppies can only be used for the direct benefit of veteran's and their families. Two other fund raisers we have are, selling arm bands that display our support for our Country and Armed Services during the Memorial Day parade, and selling desserts at hamburger nights. Please support our fundraising efforts throughout the year by frequenting hamburger nights and of course buying lots of Desserts!

Looking for ways to be involved with the Auxiliary programs? Can't volunteer your time during the day because of many commitments or can't attend evening function because you prefer not to drive at night – we have the opportunity for you. Consider donating desserts that can be sold at hamburger night. They can be baked at your convenience and dropped off anytime on Thursday's at the post. If you can help out in this way contact Jan LaClair.

### **Teri's Tidbits:**

I have volunteered to be the editor of the Auxiliary's newsletter. It is a way for me to be active in the Unit that fits my schedule. I am reactivating the Teri Tidbit's section of the newsletter. This section will highlight information I have run across to help out Veteran's or Active Duty Military, information on how to maintain your health and security and any other item I think I should share. We don't often associate personal health and security as part of National Security – but it is!

This month I want to share a warning. Several robberies of elderly individuals have occurred in the last two weeks. These robberies occurred as they left their cars in their own DRIVEWAY. One of the robberies was in Milford. Please watch who maybe following you as you drive. If you suspect you are being followed do NOT go home. Drive to the nearest well lite, populated area such as gas station or grocery store and call for help.

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



**The Sons of the American Legion Officers 2008-2009**

Commander	Daniel Scheideman	(248) 830-7059
Senior Vice	Andy Russell	(248) 684-0085
Junior Vice	Butch Maxwell	(248) 684-1867
SAL Chairman	Bob Janoska	(248) 887-2645
Adjutant	Fred Morin	(248) 887-1602
Finance	Mike McDonnell	(248) 685-1330
Historian	Clayton Maxwell	(248) 684-1867
Chaplain	Matt Tibbs	(734) 550-4015
Sgt. At Arms	Ray Clinard	(810) 750-3070
Executive Board	Rick Byrne	(248) 437-9415
Executive Board	Brian Hamilton	(248) 431-7448
Executive Board	Mike McNulty	(248) 935-4210



**The American Legion Riders Officers 2008-2009**

Director	Jack Olmstead	(248) 410-0994
Assistant Director	John Nelson	(248) 684-9287
Secretary	Ray Clinard	(248) 750-3070
Treasurer	Mike McDonnell	(248) 685-1330
Chaplain	Andy Russell	(248) 909-5819
Historian	Robert Maxwell	(248) 683-2688
Road Captain	Butch Maxwell	(248) 684-1867
Assistant Road Captain	John Kielian	
Assistant Road Captain	Dave Panavas	
Webmaster	Stu Rescoe	

## **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, 2007, 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 Live Membership (PUFL) – contact Membership Chairman for cost:

Bruce M. Hayden – 248-684-6838  
Service Officer

**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**

### **CEREMONIAL EVENTS**

Since the last newsletter our Color and Honor Guards have been very active in supporting community events and Veterans interment services both in the local area and at Great Lakes National Cemetery.

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

The Legion Color and Honor Guards participated in the early morning memorial services at the Post, our local cemeteries, and assisted living facilities. They were the lead unit for the annual Memorial Day Parade and at Milford's Central Park they provided the color guard, and two rifle teams for the ceremony.

### **COLOR GUARD EVENTS**

The Post Color Guard participated in the Milford and Lakeland graduation ceremonies, the Milford 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, several youth and Legion baseball opening ceremonies as well as community events such as Cancer Awareness, YMCA, and 911 Remembrances.

### **HONOR GUARD EVENTS**

So far this calendar year the Post Honor Guard has participated in 49 interment ceremonies both at the local level and at Great Lakes National Cemetery. Included among them were full military honors for two of the areas more prominent veterans.

### **HONOR GUARD TRAINING**

Rich Chowaniec coordinated the training of our honor guard with Jeffery Rector and his Army Reserve Training Team. They held two separate training classes in order accommodate all of our honor guard members. The training consisted of practicing correct procedures for flag folders, rifle teams, buglers and pall bearers. Upon completion of the class a Department of Defense certificate and pin was presented to each member.

John Moore  
Ceremonial Coordinator



## ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 WEBSITE

The Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216 Website was honored at the American Legion State Convention as the State of Michigan's 2008 Website of the Year. The award is based on the following criteria:



1. Design and layout (does it flow, will I go inside?)
2. Originality (creativity)
3. Functionality (easy and clean navigation)
4. Appropriate use of JavaScript, applets, graphics, Flash, audio, video, etc.
5. Does site present a positive image and communication?
6. Good content (is it engaging, do I want to come back?)
7. Good links (no or limited broken links, missing pictures or graphics)
8. Contact information (post officers, project chairs, webmaster, post or state)
9. Fast loading pages - bandwidth usage
10. Overall look and feel of site

John Moore  
Web Master

## **ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 NEWSLETTER**

The Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216 Newsletter was entered into competition in the Michigan American Legion Press Association (MALPA) and National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) newsletter competition. The Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216 newsletter won Second Place in the Class A Division and will be honored at the MALPA meeting at the Fall 2008 Department Convention. With that in mind it is perhaps time to give our newsletter a different name. If you have any suggestions forward them to Ray Chaplin by Email [ray.chaplin@comcast.net](mailto:ray.chaplin@comcast.net) or phone 248 887 8136 .



### **NOTABLE EVENTS**

- Thursday Night Hamburgers -5 pm - 8 pm.  
Kitchen help always needed. Sign up your name on the calendar in the kitchen if you would like to help.
- Kids Halloween Party  
Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup> of October from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M
- There were job fairs scheduled during the week of 9/22/08 thru 9/26/08 at various locations. Due to the newsletter publication being delayed the dates were not included here. However, for more information about future job fairs visit the Department of Labor and Economic Growth web site at [www.michigan.gov/veteranjobfairs](http://www.michigan.gov/veteranjobfairs). You may e-mail [marind@michigan.gov](mailto:marind@michigan.gov) for information.

## Veteran Links

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

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_



Dear Veterans and American citizens,

Please accept this invitation to you and your family to participate in the 2008 Veterans Day Procession and Ceremonies that will take place on Sunday November 9, 2008. I would deeply appreciate your assistance in extending this to as many veterans you can find.

"A veteran - whether active duty, retired, national guard or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America ", for an amount of "up to and including my life."

That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

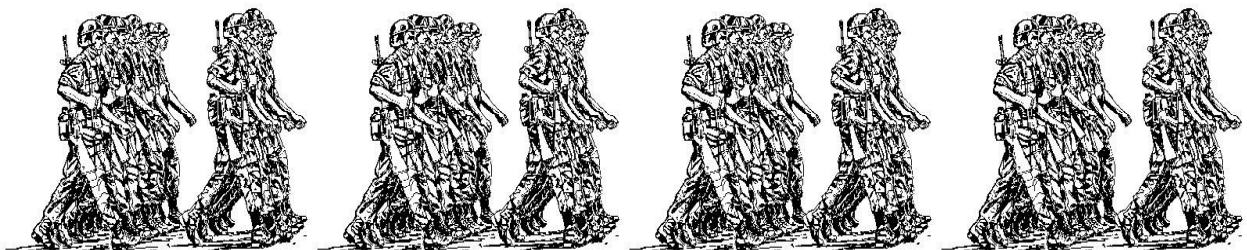
Author unknown

Veterans Day should be an important day in our Country. It is a time to remember and honor those who have served and are serving our Country. Veterans share a special closeness with one another and should make every effort to gather on this day. In addition, it will give our community an opportunity to express thanks to all veterans for their time in service. It is especially important that children and young adults attend and understand the purpose of this day. So, spread the word to family, friends, neighbors and co-workers as they can join in the procession or meet us in Central Park at the Memorial Pavilion.

Veterans Day gathering is fast approaching. Please mark your calendars. Those attending need to begin gathering at 1:30 PM at the American Legion Post located on Commerce Road west of downtown Milford. The Procession steps off at 2:00 PM sharp, moving thru Milford to Central Park. A brief ceremony will take place in the park immediately following the procession. All are welcome to return to the Post Clubroom for fellowship and refreshments.

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 jacket or on a collared shirt with dark trousers.

Thanks in advance for your participation. I look forward to seeing you and all the Veterans you can find on **Sunday November 9th.**



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

**John R. Nelson, *Commander American Legion Post 216***

**PLEASE MAKE COPIES OF THIS AND DISTRIBUTE TO AS MANY AS POSSIBLE**



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

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