



POST 216 HERALD MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2009 Membership – 428

Ray Chaplin, Editor



**FROM THE
COMMANDER**
John R. Nelson

Happy New Year.

As we begin 2010 we can all take comfort that 2009 is over. What a year. For many of our members it is the most challenging, even the worst year in memory. But through it all, the Post 216 family was able to make a significant impact to our community. Thank you all for a successful year in serving the veterans of Milford and Highland. Thank you, Bingo team, for helping 2009 be the best revenue year ever. Thank you Auxiliary Unit 216 for all that you did with the children and with families who needed a helping hand. Thank you Squadron 216 for your unwavering support to the Post, and especially for the social events that you sponsor, particularly Hamburger Night and the New Years' Eve Party.

During 2009, even with all the financial challenges that our members faced, the overall membership of the post is stable. Thank you for renewing your membership dues. We also experienced the challenge of losing good friends, both from the natural course of living a long life and from tragedy. We will miss them.



Two of the trainers at the Powerhouse Gym of Highland are challenging local residents to a “Get Fit Milford/Highland Weight Loss Challenge”. The idea is to directly help the eight contestants get fit, to indirectly raise awareness of the need for better physical

fitness, and to raise money that will be used to directly benefit veterans in need in our community. Beverly Morton is the driving force behind this event, and when Post 216 was approached about the possibility of partnering with this Weight Loss Challenge to help veterans in Milford and Highland we said “Yes”. Your Commander and Service Officer have both been advising on how the money that is collected can be used to help veterans in the most significant ways.



Post 216 has reached a significant milestone – it is now 90 years old, and we are making plans for an appropriate celebration. Look for more details in the near future.



This year we will face a significant challenge with the new law banning smoking. I have personally reviewed the text of the law, and concur with the statement issued by the American Legion Department of Michigan that "...all Michigan posts ... are **not exempt** from the state's new no smoking law....Effective May 1, 2010, the Michigan Public Code is amended to prohibit smoking in public places, in places of employment, and in food service establishments." Post 216 is affected by this new law because we both employ at least 1 person and we serve food on the property. So, as I understand how this law will be applied, there is no smoking allowed inside the building at all times. This will definitely affect activity in the club level, it will affect rental of the Post 216 Hall, and it will affect bingo. What we do not know yet is just how much effect it will have on our daily operation. We are committed to complying with the law, and we will be okay, even though this change is unwelcomed by many.



Do you have any suggestion how we can share with deployed service personnel some letters that were written by 7th grade students at Highland Middle School?

One of the teachers there encouraged the students on Veterans Day to write a letter to a veteran, and I would like to share them with some of the men and women who are in Asia now. Please contact me if you have a connection that can help me.



Would you like to receive this newsletter, and other announcements of Post events, by email or phone? I am interested in using all the technology tools available to better communicate with you, our members, and to do it in a way that is easy and cheaper than mailing a paper newsletter, if you are agreeable. Please send to me your email address and phone number so we can share with you important news more quickly and simply. Write to me at: JohnRNelson@hughes.net.

In closing, I ask that each of you reflect on what you did with and for Post 216 that helped veterans and children in our community. I ask that each of us do at least one thing to support the programs and activities of the American Legion in Milford. I know that together, each of us doing just a little, we can accomplish great things. I look forward to working with you all in making 2010 our best year ever.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED !

Beginning May 1, 2010 the Post 216 American Legion Bingo will have a new Bingo Chairman. Current Chairman, Bruce Hayden, will retire after nearly 30 years working Bingo for Post 216. Through the dedicated efforts of Bruce and the entire Bingo Team, Post 216 had record revenue that enabled the Post to help more veterans and provide more support the community through our many programs.

Without a strong American Legion Bingo, Post 216 will need to make changes. We hope to avoid having to make the difficult choice of what to stop doing.

The Post Executive Committee needs your help in very direct ways:

- You can volunteer to work Bingo, as little as one Friday a month.
- You can suggest a person who would be a good Bingo Chairman
- You can volunteer to **be** the Bingo Chairman

Keep in mind that

Beginning on the first Bingo in May, on Friday May 7, 2010,

THERE WILL BE NO SMOKING at Post 216 AMERICAN LEGION BINGO.

This is mandated by Michigan State Law banning smoking in indoor public places.

So, as you volunteer for Bingo after May 1, you will be helping Post 216 in a smoke-free environment.

May I count on you to help?

Contact Post Commander John Nelson to help us keep the doors open at Post 216.

JohnRNelson@hughes.net (248) 684-9287
home phone



The Auxiliary currently has a program collecting store coupons to send to three bases over seas. The military personnel can use them at the commissary. The coupons can be up to three months expired. It's easy to participate. Just cutout the coupons then drop them off at the Post.

For God and Country,
Sheila Maxwell
Unit President

I would like to start off by saying Happy New Year to everyone, 2009 was a good year for us. So let's push for 2010 to even be a better one. Just a reminder that if your dues are not paid yet for 2010 please mail them in or bring them to the club room. Senior \$40.00 and Junior \$7.00. I would like to thank everyone who helped out with the New Years Party. All who attended said they had a great time.



Don't forget burgers nights Thursday from 5 to 8. We could also use help in the kitchen on Thursday nights. If you can help out, please get in touch with the kitchen commander Frank Serridge.

Please come join us for monthly meeting's the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the club room. If you have any questions or comments concerning the SAL please contact Dan Scheideman at 248-767-8210 or dan@briensservices.com

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

2009 Ceremonial Report

Post 216 Honor Guard



The Post Honor Guard provided a record number of military honors for the year 2009. They provided military honors for ninety four (94) veterans and their families during the past year. Seventy two (72) were held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly where our team provides firing and bugle support on the 4th Monday of each month. The other twenty two (22) ceremonies were held at various local cemeteries and/or funeral homes in the area, including two Post 216 memorial services honoring past Post members.

We honored three of our local area veterans with full military honors. These veterans included Floyd Perkins, James King, and Robert Ford.

The team supported MSG Rector’s Army Reserve Honors team at two SE Michigan cemetery sites.

It is with sadness I report that seven of our past Legion members were included in these ceremonies. They were Herb Zachow, Bill Golden, Jerry Bollinger, Glenn Comstock, Jim Jackson, Craig Stevens and Robert Ford.

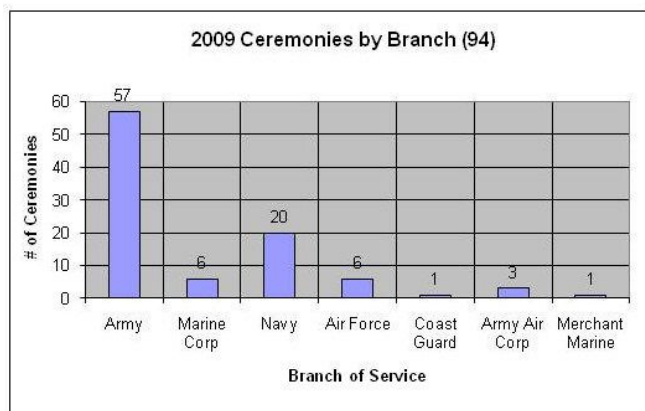
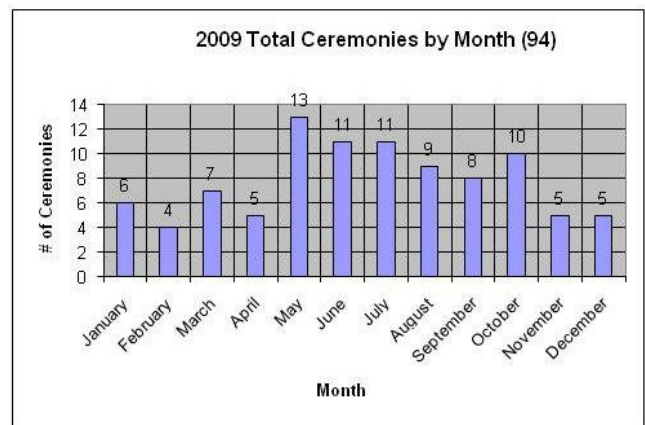
The following team members are responsible in making our Honor Guard one of the best, if not the best, in the American Legion:

Our Rifle Team Commanders who professionally conducted the rifle volleys along with the presentation of the ceremonial shells to the families. They included Rich Chowaniec, Lance Oberg, Chuck Bowman, and Skip Davison.

Our Bugler Don Stevenson, with backup from Dennis Finkbeiner and Dale Feigley.

Our Support team including Ron Nevorski for preparations prior to a ceremony. John Nelson, Rich Chowaniec, Bob Godwin, and Ron Nevorski, for weapons inventory, maintenance, and ammunition procurement.

Rich Chowaniec for being a backup when I am unable to coordinate events, and for coordinating with the National Guard and Reserve on compensation matters.



Post 216 Color Guard



John Robinson did a great job in coordinating the Color Guard activities for 2009.

The Post Color Guard was very busy this year leading the following parades: Memorial Day, 4th of July, Homecoming, Veterans Day, and Christmas parades in Milford. They also provide color guards for the High School Graduations, Relay for Life, Baseball Opening Ceremonies, and other community events.

Members of the Color Guard visited Milford High School, Lakeland High School, and Kurtz Elementary to honor their veterans. Visitations to area nursing homes and other schools and organizations were part of the Memorial and Veterans Day celebrations

Many individual members took part in Color Guard supporting the Paralyzed Veterans of America Salute to Veterans Gala in Livonia.

Thanks to each of our members for making these events so meaningful for veterans and their families, and to the communities and organizations we support.

Respectfully submitted,
John Moore

LEGIONNAIRE MEMBERSHIP

Your 2009 dues have now expired – if you have not yet paid your 2010 dues, you will still be receiving renewal notices for them until at least March.

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, 2009, may not receive a notice, but should send their dues for 2010 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 2010**






February 2010

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




March 2010

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

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Hamburger Night 	2 BINGO	3
4 Easter	5	6 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Mtg	7	8 Hamburger Night 	9 BINGO	10
11	12 Legion Riders Meeting	13	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 Cemetery	27	28	29 Hamburger Night 	30 BINGO	

May 2010

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

Post 216 Herald – August 2009

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: _____



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

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