



POST 216 HERALD MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2008 Membership – 417

Ray Chaplin, Editor



FROM THE COMMANDER,
John R. Nelson

Greetings to you all.

What a year! And I'm not talking about the election, or the economy, or any of that national news.

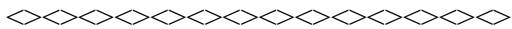
It has been quite a year for **Post 216** here in Milford, and it's all good news.

- Post membership is at an all-time high. We ended the year (May 31) with 417 members. That continues a string of years of growth that began early in this decade. We have you all to thank for that.
- The Post Home has been improved, both in the club level with a major renovation, as well as a new roof and improved landscaping. Thank you all for your patience and contributions to making that possible.
- Post 216 Website was selected as the best of all American Legion posts in Michigan. Thank you John Moore. Be sure to check our website every few weeks; John keeps it fresh and updated.
- The spirit of patriotism and community continues to grow with the Memorial Day Parade – which was the best one I've been part of in my years with Post 216. Thank you Parade Committee, Auxiliary, Riders, and Squadron for making that a success.

- Post 216 was the first stop on a very successful Department Commander's Tour of District 18. Again, all parts of the Legion family made that a success.
- The Post 216 Honors Team received more recognition and training, making it one of the best such veteran honors teams in Michigan. Most of the team members are now trained and certified by active duty Army honors team members. Capping off a successful year was the Honors Team participation in the Veterans Day Ceremonies at Great Lakes National Cemetery, with TV news coverage by Channel 7. If you missed the broadcast, contact John Moore to arrange a showing.

Now that 2008 is over, our focus turns fully to the challenges and opportunities of 2009. For the coming year, there are no major projects planned or anticipated. We will continue the activities that support our income and operations (bingo, Club activities, hall rental) and look for additional ways to resource our veteran support programs. The focus for the Post 216 legionnaires in 2009 is "Support to Veterans; Support to the Community." Much as we have for many years, we will help people who contact us with a specific need. And we now have a larger challenge. The recession in Michigan, that is now national, and the contraction

of automobile production in 2009 will have a ‘tidal wave’ affect through our community. More people are looking for help from any organization that will help. We have a part in helping our neighbors and friends weather this slump in the economy. Your Executive Committee will be deliberating what Post 216 will specifically do, and I will report to you with more detail when that is known. In the meantime, look out for your neighbor, whether a veteran or not. That is one of the pillars of the American Legion, one of the reasons we exist.



In the next few months there are several special events coming to Post 216:

- January 31 - Post 216 will host the American Legion Department of Michigan 3rd Zone Oratorical Contest. This is a scholarship competition for high school students. If you would like to come hear some of the most talented young future leaders speak about their understanding of

our government, our freedoms, our Constitution, then join us at 1:00 pm in the upper hall.

- February 14 - The Sons of the American Legion Valentine’s Day Dance. This will be a great event for you and your special someone.
- February 20 - The American Legion National Commander, American Legion Auxiliary National President, and Sons of the American Legion National Commander will be guests of the Department of Michigan at a dinner in their honor. For details, see your Michigan Legionnaire newsletter.
- March 7 – Legion Riders will have their annual Beach Party. Get those shorts, Tee shirts and swimsuits ready.





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. The 18th District President
will make her annual visit at the April 7th
meeting. We would love to have a large
turn out of members at the meeting.**

Membership News

Don't let your Auxiliary membership lapse! If you haven't already done so please return your renewal as soon as you can. 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 too our Unit and its programs.

Children and Youth

Children and Youth Chairwomen Pam LaClair would like to thank all of the volunteers that have helped with the children's Halloween and Christmas parties. She couldn't put on the parties without lots of volunteers. A special thank you to our "secret" Santa and to Craig Stevens for his help in cleaning and setup of the hall for the parties.

Children's Party schedule for 2009:

Easter Party – April 5th, 11:00 to 1:00

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 Christmas gift shop at the Ann Arbor Hospital was greatly appreciated by all the veteran's. A thank you goes out to members who were able to volunteer time in the gift shop. We would love to hear any personal antidotes from your experience. Drop a note to teri.chaplin@comcast.net and we'll get them in upcoming newsletters.

Community Involvement

Several of the ALA committee's encourage involvement in the local communities. This involvement doesn't always have to be limited to veterans and their families. With the hoard economy, especially here in Michigan, ALA Unit 216 has under taken several initiatives to help families in the area.

We have established a **Community Help Board** located in the clubroom. The purpose of the board is to post information on where you can get help locally if you need and to post job openings in the area. Please check the board often since information on job openings may change rapidly.

If you have any suggestions on how to improve the board or have a **job opportunity to post** please contact Sheila Maxwell (Sheila on 248-

255-2344 or she2403@aol.com.) or Brenda Dees (248-887-1723 Rdees29@comcast.net).

Sheila Maxwell (Junior activity chair and co-chair for Poppy fund) organized a drive during the fall 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 9 needy families this Holiday season. Each family got boxes of food collected by the ALA; turkey's donated by the SAL and gift cards for their children donated by the Legion. Thank you to everyone that helped in anyway on this effort.

The need for help doesn't stop on December 26th, but often donations do. We at the ALA understand the need is year around. We are continuing our efforts to help needy families throughout the year. The next goal will be to distribute food baskets at Easter time. We are collecting items through April 1st. Especially needed are items (non perishable) for children's breakfast and lunches, boxed meals, canned meats, toiletries and paper products. Please see additional information posted in the clubroom for what items are most in need. All monetary donations can be sent to: ALA Unit 216, 510 W. Commerce, Milford, Mi. 48381, Attn: Sheila Maxwell. Or contact Sheila on 248-255-2344, by e-mail she2403@aol.com.

We also feel it is important for us to help instill in our children the sense of duty to help others. It is an important theme in the mission for all branches of the Legion family. So we are asking that children attending the Easter party please bring non-perishable items for our Easter baskets. Parent if possible try and find ways that the children "earn" the funds to buy their items. Extra chores around the house are a great way for them to earn the money and help you out as well. Also, include them in selecting which items to purchase and where to buy them. Show them how to scour the stores weekly sales circular's for the best deals and have them

accompany you on the shopping trip to purchase the items. They will have a much greater sense of accomplishment by being involved in the effort and it is a wonderful way to expose them to costs of living and the concept of budgeting, two skills certainly beneficial in this economy.

Auxiliary Fundraisers

Looking for ways to help the Auxiliary in their community and post activities? How about donating desserts for the Auxiliary to sell at hamburger nights. If you can help out with a dessert please contact Jan LaClair 248-685-2587. It is surprising just how quickly the money from the dessert sales can add up.

Teri's Tidbits:

Want to support our troops check out these sites For prayer ministry and to help supply bibles to the military <http://www.militaryministry.org/>

To find other opportunities to help: Operation Band Aid whose mission is to spread the word on how to help our troops overseas or to "visit" the wounded: <http://www.noanie.com/>

To help with yard work for the families left behind <http://www.projectevergreen.com/>

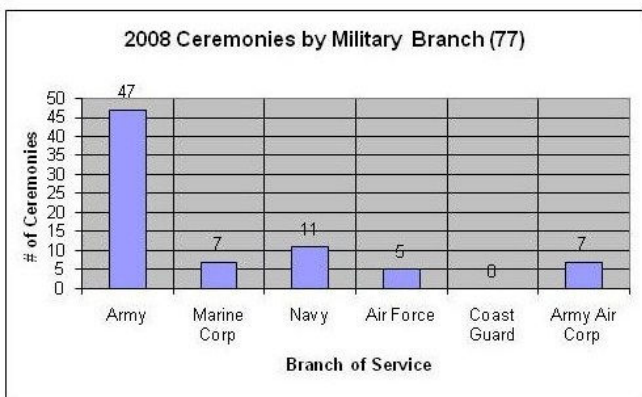
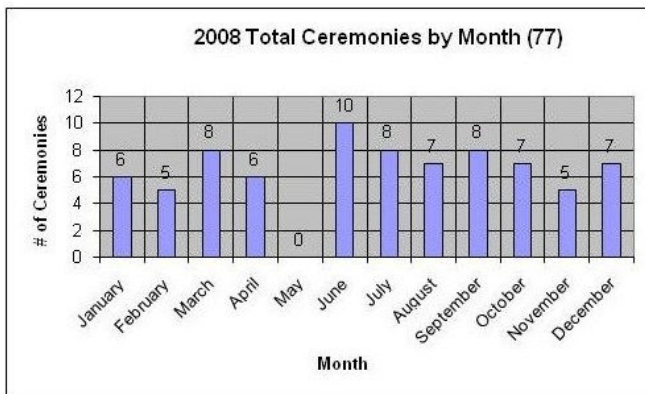
Do you know a low income veteran that is in need of home repairs? Rebuilding Together's Veterans Housing Initiative strives to provide safe and accessible housing for all low-income veterans. Contact Rebuilding Together Oakland County, P.O. Box 365, Highland, Michigan 48357 Phone: (248) 889-5450 E-mail: djh9566@ameritech.net to find out more information.

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 Color Guard / Honor Guard Summary for 2008

The Honor Guard provided military honors for seventy seven (77) veterans and their families during the past year. Sixty four (64) were held at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly where the team provides firing team support on the 4th Monday of each month. The other thirteen (13) ceremonies were held at various local cemeteries and/or funeral homes in the area.



We honored five of our local area veterans with full military honors. These veterans included Ralph Herron, Nelson Taber, Cloyd Feigley, Marvin Olds, and Tom Motley. We supported funeral honors for Ray Clinard Sr. and Robert Gossett in Novi and Livonia.

Mr. Clinard was the father of SAL member Ray Clinard Jr. Mr. Gossett was a Post 216 member, Mr. Herron was the Grandfather of Post 216 member Todd Herron, and Mr. Feigley was the father of SAL member Dale Feigley.

We were fortunate to have Ike Eickholdt join our team this year. Ike has participated in many of our interments, and taken time off from work when we needed him. Thanks Ike!

Special thanks to Ron Nevorski (Cpl. Ron) for always having the weapons loaded, the Post opened, and the coffee ready for the team for every mission we had in 2008.

Thanks also go out to Firing Team Commanders, Rich Chowanec, Lance Oberg, Skip Davison, and Chuck Bowman. They are the Leaders that help us present the professional image we strive for in providing services of our deceased veterans, and their families.

Through the leadership of Rich Chowanec all team members are now certified with the Department of Defense to provide Military Funeral Honors for our deceased veterans. Great job Rich!

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 ceremonial team visited Independence Village and Lakeland High School to honor their veterans. Visitations to area nursing homes and other schools and organizations were part of the Memorial and Veterans Day celebrations. The firing team provided the firing volleys at the local cemeteries and at the Veterans Day observances in Milford's Central Park.

Many individual members took part in Color Guards supporting the Paralyzed Veterans of America Salute to Veterans, and the Redford Theater Salute to Veterans.

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.

Also, we want to thank the Post and its leadership for the continued support and encouragement they provide to our ceremonial units.

Regards,

John Moore
Ceremonial Coordinator
E. F. Oldenburg Post 216




January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 NEW YEAR's DAY HOLIDAY	2 BINGO	3
4	5	6 SAL Meeting Auxiliary Meeting	7	8 Hamburger Night	9 Dist 18 Meeting BINGO	10
11	12 Legion Riders Meeting	13	14	15 Hamburger Night	16 BINGO	17
18	19	20 Executive Comm. Post 216 Meeting	21	22 Hamburger Night	23 BINGO	24
25	26	27	28	29 Hamburger Night	30 BINGO	31 Legion 3 rd Zone Oratorical Contest



February 2009

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

March 2009

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

April 2009

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

The American Legion ***“Four Pillars of Service”***(Part 4 of a series)

[You can learn more about this at the national website also (www.legion.org)]

- A Strong National Security
- Taking Care of Veterans
- **Mentoring Youth**
- Promoting Patriotism

• **Mentoring Youth**

Many years ago, President Lincoln exhorted the nation to “care for him who shall have borne the battle, for his widow and his orphan.” That sentiment is the essence of The American Legion’s work on behalf of America’s children. American Legion posts worldwide mentor young people; they counsel, guide, teach and assist with their daily lives. These same posts are also advocates for all of the children of America. The American Legion learned long ago that our commitment to veteran’s children might best be fulfilled by turning attention to all of America’s children. While it would be difficult to seek out and find the individual child of a veteran, as the American Legion focuses on the problems of all children, the needs of the veteran’s child will also be satisfied. That philosophy spawned many American Legion programs active today. These “American Legion Children & Youth Programs” include:

- [The Family Support Network of The American Legion](#). Families of deployed and activated military personnel face special hardships. Because of help available through American Legion Posts, these families do not have to shoulder the burden alone. When the National Headquarters of The American Legion learns of a family’s needs, a local Post will be contacted so they can step in, contact that family confidentially, and provide assistance that can range from minor household chores and repairs to assuring that the family keeps their home.
- [Temporary Financial Assistance](#) (TFA). This is a landmark program of The American Legion that dates to post-World War I. Established in 1925, TFA is a form of direct aid to children, and is a forerunner of what we know today as AFDC [Aid to Families with

Dependent Children]. A Post of The American Legion can call upon the National Organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans’ children when it is determined by investigation that no other sources exist, or those that may have helped are depleted. Veterans helped with this program do not have to be a member of The American Legion, but they must have honorable military service during those periods established for eligibility in The American Legion, and there must be children in the home under 18 years of age.

- [Operation Military Kids](#). This cooperative program between the American Legion and the Federal Department of Agriculture focuses on children of National Guard and Reserve parents who become mobilized. When mobilization occurs, the children suddenly have unique needs for special support and services. Operation: Military Kids exists to garner community resources that provide the needed support, and to highlight the challenges these children face.
- [Child Safety](#). It is everyone’s business, and The American Legion has made it a special focus. Prevention through education remains the best way to keep children safe. Promoting child safety, The American Legion publishes numerous brochures designed to educate children and parents in areas of drug abuse prevention, suicide prevention, Halloween safety, fireworks safety and the issue of missing children. These, and many other child safety issues, are dealt with in printed materials available from National Headquarters. The Post leadership will be putting focus in the coming year on a special child safety project.

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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