



# Sons of The American Legion

## Detachment of Michigan Newsletter

**DETACHMENT COMMANDER DAVE MENNEL** davidmennel@yahoo.com



Greetings Fellow Sons.

Wow, it is already the end of February! Time is just flying. How are you doing on participating in your squadron, or supporting your post or your district? What part of the body are YOU? Are you a WISHBONE, JAWBONE, OR BACKBONE? The wishbone, wishes things would get done, but doesn't manage to get out and help. The jawbone, talks about it, sometimes in a bad sense, but still, never gets out and helps. The backbone, gets out there, and puts his all into it, seeing that whatever "it" is gets done.

Which are you? Let's all strive to be the backbone! When we all work together, we can make things happen in a good

way. Get out there! Support our veterans! Don't lose sight of who we are, Proud Sons.

I'm sure there will be pictures out there from our visit to Cedar Springs, and the Red Flannel. That was a busy weekend, and I enjoyed having our PDC I running us around and visiting the local posts. The UP Tour and Conference was more of a whirlwind than a tour, but still most enjoyable. We visited a lot of posts, and I am proud to share that there are some very good cooks in our S.A.L.! The tour ended at the UP Winter Conference, with a very nice "sit-down" dinner involving the Jr. R.O.T.C., and again great S.A.L. cooks! There was a visit by many 'ladies', including Ms. Mennillie - again, I'm sure there will be pictures floating around. Thank you all for your hospitality.

I was honored to attend the 5th District Four Chaplains Service. If you don't know about this, look it up. And if

there isn't a service in your part of our state, you have lots of time to get one going. Again, PDCI Pustay was a very gracious host helping us visit more posts/squadrons. He's also a good cook! Thanks Pat & Anita.

Our February DEC, which is also during the Legion/Auxiliary Mid-Winter Meeting, went well. We will have some work to finish at our convention. Our National Commander, David L. Dew, was present. He was pleased to give us a 'pat on the back' and was "not here to beat us up". Thanks for all our teamwork. Again, it was wind and he recalled he was grateful to not spend hours out in the night weather without certain key necessities and not losing electricity. He enjoyed the gifts: a bag of "made in Michigan", and the coat especially handy for those trips outside.

I have and will be attending Americanism Dinners throughout our state. What

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## DETACHMENT COMMANDER - continued

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an honor to see the work being done in each community.

As this is written, your First Lady and I are preparing for the Washington D.C. legislative conference. We are also looking forward to the 6th District Tour.

I would be amiss if I didn't mention membership. Keep up the hard work, and for those who are lagging, GET OUT AND RETAIN as well as recruit. Don't forget to get those Consolidated Squadron Reports completed and sent in. Thank you to all the Zone Commanders for your hard work. Each one of you has unique issues and, you are doing a fantastic job.

We all have so much to be proud of! And I thank you all for your hard work in continuing to make the Sons of the American Legion, a group of loyal Sons!

I remain available to you for any need. For God and country, and a proud son of a veteran,

Dave Mennel  
810-343-9494

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## CHAPLAIN DANNY J. POOLE

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We thank Thee for each day.

Evermore in heart and mind we shall sing praises of joy and we shall show our love by our thoughts, words and deeds, our helpful service to others, and faithful performance of all our obligations .

We ask Thee to bless and preserve all whom we love, comfort and aid all in trouble and distress. We offer thanks for all graces and favors we have received.

Amen.

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## 1ST ZONE COMMANDER JEREMY BELL

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I know this is unheard of, but I would like to formally apologize to the members of the 1st Zone and the Detachment of MI. I don't feel I have been a good leader over the past year. I have had a lot of hurdles with work and personal issues that took

precedence. With that being said I'm asking all S.A.L. members to do me a favor: reach out to your squadron, legion, auxiliary and riders members as we are a family! If you see a member having a problem talk with them try to help as much as you can. Sometimes they just need a friend to talk to.

We are a wonderful organization for several reasons: yes, we support our veterans, yes, we donate money to many very worthy causes, yes, we support our children and youth, but in my eyes what makes this organization so wonderful is FAMILY! I know by going to different squadron, district and

detachment events the first thing we do is shake each other's hand, or give one another a hug and ask how they are doing, I hope we never lose focus of that because if we do I believe that will be the downfall of our organization.

I hope to see everyone at the 16th District meeting at Headman Post 217 on Friday March 4 at 7:30 p.m. and the Detachment Convention in Novi June 3,4 and 5.

Thank you to all my brothers!

**2ND ZONE COMMANDER RODNEY TOLBERT** [rodtgobblue@yahoo.com](mailto:rodtgobblue@yahoo.com)



Greetings SAL and Legion family, it was great to see everyone at the DEC meeting in Flint. National Commander David Dew from Texas was there, and he talked some about how good the SAL from Michigan is doing. The reason for that is all of you guys, and I thank you. I would like to thank the 5th District for being the first with no zero memberships in the 2nd Zone. Way to work hard for that goal. I know all the

districts are working hard at this so keep up the good work. We will present a patch to all the Squadron Commanders that have 100% membership by May 1.

The Four Chaplains Service in Grand Rapids was great again, and I would like to see more of you there next year. It is well worth the time and effort and the fellowship afterwards is always great. The Consolidated Squadron Report forms are coming out soon, if you need help with these please let me or your District Commander know. These forms are very important and need to be filled out even if you've only done one thing that's recordable. Everything counts. If you need help with anything, for fund raisers or any questions about your squadron officer duties are,

please get a hold of me as I would be glad to help. The Detachment is looking for all squadrons to send in their constitution and bylaws. Please send to Lou Scott at 6509 Hamburg Road, Brighton, MI 48116 or e-mail [louscett@yahoo.com](mailto:louscett@yahoo.com). Let's be the first zone to accomplish this. If you have any questions about this, contact me or Lou Scott.

Thanks for making me feel at home at your post and district meetings. Let's remember we are here for the veterans and for veterans programs so please help a veteran out today. For this reason, we can take pride in the SAL!

For God and Country.  
RODNEY TOLBERT GO BLUE

**3<sup>RD</sup> ZONE COMMANDER JOSEPH P. LAFNEAR, SR.** [misal3rdzone@comcast.net](mailto:misal3rdzone@comcast.net)



My, my, where has the year gone? Spring will be here by the time you get this newsletter and that brings a time to start planning outdoor actives not to mention the elections of squadron officers. All squadron elections should be done before the Detachment Convention being held June 3 to 5, 2011 in Novi and being hosted by the 18<sup>th</sup>

District Sons.

By now, your squadron should have received information about the convention and the registration forms. If you plan to attend or if your squadron plans to send delegates please make your reservations as soon as you can. It will make it easier on the hosting committee.

You can make it better for your next Zone Commander. When you are filling out your officers list to be submitted to the Department please, provide all requested information. Also, the information should be legible so anyone can read it. Please provide at least one email (post, squadron or member) address for information to be sent to. This will be a great help in corresponding with the squadrons and help to keep expenses down.

As your Zone Commander, I am available to each and every squadron, district and most importantly the members of thieZone. I am available to answer any questions, attend your functions, meetings or for general guidance. However, I can only do this if I am contacted, because I do not know your needs until you let me know. If I cannot help you or do not know the answer to your question, I will find the right person to direct your concern to and then provide you with a response.

During the Detachment Executive Committee meeting held at the Winter Conference I presented a 100% membership plaque to Squadron 267.

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## 3<sup>RD</sup> ZONE COMMANDER - continued

*(Continued from page 3)*

The remaining 100% squadrons in the Zone will get their plaques at the Convention. If your squadron makes 100% or better by the first report in May, your squadron will get a plaque. I am personally inviting each of the squadrons in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone to have a representative to attend the Detachment Convention. The members of the Zone will be electing the next Zone Commander for 2011/12 so having someone from your squadron present is important, your vote does count.

**ATTENTION ALL SQUADRON COMMANDERS OF THIS DETACHMENT.** I had committed to giving each of the squadron commanders in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone a 100% patch if their squadron reported 100% or better based on the first membership report in May. This was discussed between the Zone Commanders and brought up to the DEC in February. It was approved by vote of the DEC, that every Squadron Commander in the Detachment who gets 100% or better will receive the 100% patch. The first Department membership report in May 2011 will be used for issuing the 100% patch.

Please be sure your membership gets sent into Department as this report will also be the one used for Convention delegate votes. If your squadron gets 100% or better please have a representative attend the Convention to receive the Commanders patch.

I have posted my Winter Meeting report on

the Zone Commanders webpage at, <http://home.comcast.net/~misal3rdzone/site/?/home/>. Please take a look and all feedback is welcome.

I invite all zone members that would like to get the various information that is sent out, to provide their email to me at [misal3rdzone@comcast.net](mailto:misal3rdzone@comcast.net) and I'll add you to the list. I am sure, that at least one member having an email would be willing to be the squadron contact for emailed information; this does not need to be an officer.

In early February, I sent to each squadron in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone either by email or regular mail copies of a simple boiler plate Squadron Constitution and By-Laws as found in the squadron handbook, with a few minor changes. These should be completed and two signed copies should be sent to the Detachment Judge Advocate. After approval, one copy will be returned with his signature indicating they have been approved. Each of your squadron members should be provided with an approved copy for their use.

The above was done in response that there are only ten copies on file of either squadrons or districts. So, you can see that this issue needs a lot of improvement. If your squadron needs a copy, you may send me a request to the above email address. I would like to see the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone complete this task before the Convention, it can be done.

I am glad to be able to report that the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Districts are in the process of forming their Sons District Associations and I encourage each of the squadrons to support this action.

The Detachment goal is to have a Sons District Association for each of the districts to mirror our parent organization, The Department of Michigan and their District Associations. In the online handbook, the Districts are shown as part of the structure of the National Organization.

I am still working on a squadron all time high lists. If your squadron keeps the old membership rosters, this could be used to find your all-time high. For this project, I would like to have totals from at least 2005. If anyone has any old Detachment membership reports, I would like to get a copy, the older the better.

By the time you get this newsletter, you should have received the last updated information for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone Directory. The current section should be removed and the new one should be inserted in its place. Those without emails may be receiving theirs a little later but not later than the end of March.

If the members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone have any recommendations on how the Zone Commander can better serve its members please, let me know. I am looking for feedback that will help the Zone Commander to better serve. What do you expect from your Zone Commander? Let us know, so this information can be passed to the next commander.

Lastly, I want to thank the 3<sup>rd</sup> Zone members for their support and giving me the opportunity to serve as your Zone Commander and your work on membership. Without the local members and all their work, the Detachment and officers would be without meaning or purpose.

Join us at the Detachment Convention - June 3-5, 2011 in Novi

## 4th ZONE COMMANDER EARL LASH [earlbear@charter.net](mailto:earlbear@charter.net)

I have been to squadron meetings in Sanford and Cadillac, and I was also at the 19th District meeting in Gaylord. This past weekend I attended the Winter Meeting in Flint along with several other members.

For membership: 9th District is at 75.50%, 10th District is at 75.58%, 19th District is at 104.04%. WOW, great job to all! Overall, the Zone is in 2nd place. We are at 78.75% of our goal; we need 106 members to meet our goal.

I would like the 10th District Sons to be represented at the next Legion district meeting on May 7 at Midland Post 165. Please be there at 11:00 am as I would like to set up a 10th District Sons of The American Legion. I would appreciate your support in this matter.



## 5TH ZONE COMMANDER / UPPER PENINSULA MEMBERSHIP / UPPER PENINSULA CHAIRMAN DWAINE VERVILLE [dverville22@yahoo.com](mailto:dverville22@yahoo.com)



With it being now the month of March our membership should be closing in on 100%. I realize achieving this is a lofty goal but it is attainable. There are no "0" squadrons in the 5<sup>th</sup> Zone, and after contacting several low squadrons their membership has improved.

The Leadership College which was held at Post # 349, Little Lake, in December was very informative. Talking to Legion and Auxiliary members that attended, it was more informative than previous sessions. Thanks to the committee that took the time out of their schedules for this.

January always brings the U.P. Mid-Winter Tour and Conference. It began on Sunday Jan. 16 in Sault Ste Marie and concluded in Marquette the following Sunday. I know that the people from downstate get their share of snow and bad weather, but the drive from Wakefield to Houghton was as unnerving as it gets. I would like to thank Commander Dave and First Lady Anita, along with PR Chairman Andre and his wife Susan for the memorable time. I know it helped

the membership as the numbers show.

March brings the American Legion birthday. Please participate at your Post and remember that the American Legion was organized to assist veterans and veteran's families.

I am asking all squadrons to send in their memberships and to personally contact members, as retaining members is harder than signing new members. Give them a reason to belong.





# WELCOME HOME VIET NAM VETERANS

## ANNUAL 5K FUN RUN & 5K WALK

WHERE: Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan,  
Lot C West

WHEN: April 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

WHY: To observe "Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day"  
pursuant to House Resolution 234

HOW: By raising awareness of the sacrifice that Veterans of Viet  
Nam and all other eras have made in defense of our  
daily freedoms. These sacrifices have greatly impacted  
Veterans, their families and friends, and the community  
and nation that they have served.

COST: Personal care or non-perishable food items for West  
Michigan Veterans Assistance Program will be accepted in  
lieu of a race entry fee.

***Event happens rain or shine.***

**VIETNAM  
BIG MAP  
on display\***

\*Weather dependent



## LZ MICHIGAN: A JOURNEY HOME SCREENING

This documentary features the true stories of local war survivors. Each Veteran takes  
us back 35+ years to the battle fields and jungles of Southeast Asia. Here they  
provide a unique emotional perspective discussing the realities of life and death and  
what it feels like to return home from an "unpopular" war. Feelings that still linger to  
this day. Free and open to the public.

DATE: March 29, 2011

TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: WGVU Studios, Eberhard Center, DeVos Campus,  
Grand Rapids



**Please pre-register for race and documentary by visiting:  
[www.gvsu.edu/veterans](http://www.gvsu.edu/veterans)**

## BOYS STATE CHAIRMAN (LEGION)

## NELSON O'BRYAN

nlob@comcast.net

Hi, I am Nelson O'Bryan, newly appointed American Legion director of Michigan Boys State. I am very committed to making this program a success, but I cannot do it alone.

We need help from every Legion Family member. We need the Legion Zone Commanders to encourage the district commanders to ask the Legion posts for a commitment to send more boys to Boys

State. Anyone can sponsor a boy or girl. If you ask other private clubs in your area, a lot of them will sponsor a student.

The students are at least 15 years old and in between their junior and senior year in high school. Presently the cost is \$310.00 for a week that shapes a lifetime. Although it started in 1935, too many people do not know what Boys and Girls State really is. It's a week long, hands on study of Ameri-

can politics and government. They actually set up their own 51st. state and run it for one week.

You can get more info from The American Legion website. Boys State will start on Father's Day June 19, 2011 at Northwood University in Midland, and anyone is welcome to visit and see the program in action. It will be very interesting to you.

## A LITTLE MORE ABOUT BOYS STATE

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. The Boys State Program in Michigan will be held from June 19 to 25 at Northwood University at Midland, MI.

Their motto is "Learn by Doing". The Boys State educational staff's goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves and to run their own state.

## JOE HOLLOMON & BRENT GEERS

- It is **LEARNING** more about city, county and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting.
- It is **POLITICS** – an exposure to the world of politics with conventions, campaigns and elections.
- It is **GOVERNMENT** – doing exactly the same things and positions as in the real world.
- It is **INVOLVEMENT** – the more a boy is in-

volved, the more he will get out of Boys State.

- It is **FRIENDSHIP** – making life-long friends.

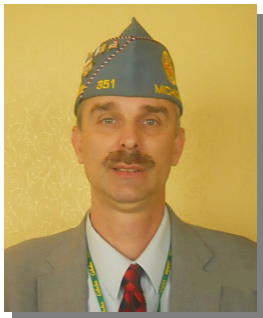
Applicants must be a junior (11<sup>th</sup> grade) in high school or in the equivalent of an 11<sup>th</sup> grade accredited home-schooled program, must be 15+ years old by May 30, 2011 and have an interest in government.

More information can be found at: [www.michiganlegion.org/pages/boysstate.html](http://www.michiganlegion.org/pages/boysstate.html).

## RAINBOW CONNECTION CHAIRMAN

## ANDRE SVACHA

asvacha@hotmail.com



I would like to recognize the Squadrons across the state that have sent donations

in this year, they include the following: #146 Menominee, #219 Fife Lake, #374 Berkley, #217 Wyandotte, #216 Milford, #28 Grand Haven, #102 Rockford, #459 Grand Rapids, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #351 Utica for their very large donation of \$500. These donations help grant very special wishes for Michigan Children. The wish for Alante had to be delayed due to his health so as we gather here today he is in Orlando, Florida. He is

with his family waiting on their wish as he was supposed to go in November.

I would like to say a big thank you for their continued support of the Rainbow Connection. So let's get out there and continue to raise some money as there are many kids that could use our help. Remember the money we raise will go for a Michigan kid and I hope you have a rainbow fun filled day.

### Upcoming 2nd District Meetings:

March 14 at 2pm

Post 550 Onsted

May 16 at 12:30pm

Post 514 Ida

### Upcoming 3rd District Meetings:

March 6 at 1:30pm

Post 42 Charlotte

May 1 at 1:30pm

Post 207 Portage

### Upcoming 4th District Meetings:

March 6 at 2pm

Post 51 Buchanan

May 1 at 2pm

Post 331 Bridgman



### Upcoming 5th District Meetings:

March 23 at 7pm	Post 287 Cedar Springs
May 5 at 7pm	Post 28 Grand Haven
May 7	5th District Tour

### Upcoming 18th District Meetings:

March 3, 2011	Post 377 Chief Pontiac
April 7, 2011	Post 216 Milford
May 6, 2011	Post 374 Berkley

### Other Important Dates to Remember:

Boys State applications due at Department Headquarters by May 30.  
Registration fee: \$310 per student

Student Trooper application deadline to Department Headquarters for:  
1st School: May 2  
2nd School: June 6  
Registration fee: \$300 per student

**ALL INFORMATION ON THIS PAGE MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CONFIRM DATES AND LOCATIONS PRIOR TO MAKING TRAVEL PLANS**

## DETACHMENT ADJUTANT'S THOUGHTS AND NEWS **SANDY LIPMAN** [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com)



The year is going by quite quickly, and we have achieved some of the goals Commander Dave has set for us. However, once again I must stress the fact that our membership is lagging. We are still seeing zero squadrons on our reports. There should never be any zero squadrons, as all officers need to be paid before they can be installed otherwise they cannot hold office. So please get your cards in today and submit them to Barb at headquarters. We also need to retain our

members. We normally lose 12 to 15% of our retainable members. Just think what the Detachment of Michigan's numbers would be if we could retain as well as we recruit!

On other subjects let's not forget The American Legion's other programs such as the Child Welfare Foundation, National Emergency Fund, Veterans homes and hospitals, our own Make A Wish and Rainbow Foundations, The Alpha Project and my personal one Legion Villa (as I sit on that Board). Please try to see if you can donate and support these great programs.

I will need your final reports as of May 3 so that I can publish them in book form as I do every year for our Annual Detachment Convention. This is being hosted by the Eighteenth District and held at the Crowne Plaza in Novi, Michigan. Also the

Consolidated Squadron Report forms will be mailed to you within a week. Please fill them out completely, as they are the life-blood of this organization, and mail them back to me, Sandy Lipman, at 13633 Vernon, Oak Park, Michigan 48237, or you can bring them to Detachment Convention and hand them to me. My e-mail Address is [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com).

In closing, at this time we have 1 announced candidate for Detachment Commander: Dwaine Verville from Iron River. 1 candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Zone Commander: Rodney Tolbert of South Haven, 2 candidates for Sgt.-At-Arms: Carvin Chapman of Chief Pontiac and James Cooley of Cedar Springs. If anyone else intends to run we will need endorsement letters you're your squadron or district. Thanks for all of your hard work and dedication.

Yours in God and Country.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN **BRAD KOCH** [bkoch1991@gmail.com](mailto:bkoch1991@gmail.com)



Hello to all, and I hope you all had an excellent Winter Meeting. If you were unable to attend, I hope to see you at Convention in June. In this report I'd like to introduce

you to the American Legion Family Support Network. At your leisure, please take a look at the website: <http://www.legion.org/familysupport>. These are the types of community service projects that can really make a difference for our returning veterans. If you personally know a veteran who needs help, please refer them to this program. If you and/or your squadron care to make a donation to help, please do so asap. I know my squadron donates \$200 a year to this cause. This, by itself, may not make a huge dent, but think about the impact if all of our

squadrons matched it! Another reminder, that if you or your squadron decide to take on one of these projects or any other for that matter, record your hours and donations for your end of year reports. Take pictures as well because, as I stated in the last two news letters, at next year's 2011 convention in Troy, I will be giving out a Community Service award for the best scrapbook. Have fun with it and be proud to report and show all the great things you do. Enjoy the rest of your winter and spring and continue to have a great Legion year for 2010-2011.

**LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN ROGER DEES** [rdees29@comcast.net](mailto:rdees29@comcast.net)



I attended the Mid-Winter D.E.C. meeting held in February in Flint, Michigan. Here are some issues that The American Legion would like you to contact your Representative about:

**Legion Opposes Proposal to Cut VA Spending**

Responding to a proposal by Rep. Michele Bachmann (R-Minn.) to freeze VA health-care spending and cut veterans disability payments to help reduce federal spending, American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster said his organization steadfastly opposes the initiative. "It is absurd to suggest such a thing when we are fighting two wars and creating more veterans every day who have served their country honorably and have already earned their benefits".

The plan, which proposes to cut a total of \$400 billion in federal spending, is derived from an Oct. 28 report from the Heritage Foundation that projects \$2.5 billion in

savings from a freeze on VA health-care spending increases, and \$1.9 billion in savings from scrapping disability payments for veterans already receiving Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). Peter Gaytan, executive director of The American Legion's office in Washington, said "Congress must find other ways to reduce federal spending that don't affect veterans' benefits and health care. "The need for high-quality veterans' health care certainly isn't decreasing, so the VA budget shouldn't, either. Congress needs to stay focused on providing an adequate budget to care for those who have made sacrifices in Iraq, Afghanistan or in previous wars."

Tim Tetz, legislative director of The American Legion, said the idea of taking SSDI away from veterans receiving disability payments "has been floated before and thankfully defeated every time. "Why would anyone want to take away disability benefits veterans have already paid for, simply because they have earned additional benefits through their honorable service in the military?" The American Legion has consistently opposed any attempts by Congress to reduce or eliminate veterans' benefits. It considers such benefits as earned and has urged the federal government to find other methods to reduce its expanding budget.

The Legion stands by the sentiments expressed long ago by George Washington:

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

National Commander Foster said "Of all the items in our federal budget that could be drastically cut, or dispensed with altogether, why would a member of Congress think it might be a good idea to take benefits away from those people who protect the very freedoms they operate under?" Commander Foster agreed that Congress needs to take decisive action in reducing the federal budget, "but we must be mindful of the sacrifices borne by the men and women who have served and sacrificed in America's armed forces."

Write or E-mail your representative. If you don't know the one in your District, simply Google for your House of Representatives list and enter your zip code with 4 digit extension. A link to your Representative's web site will pop up. Go on and send him a message to oppose Michele Bachmann's proposal

**Legislative Action Supported by Legion**

The American Legion has over 200 resolutions of legislative intent that guide our actions in Congress. Balancing those against the direction and actions of Congress continually changes. Yet we have

*(Continued on page 12)*

## Need Legion Family Supplies?

Go to National Emblem Sales online at: [www.emblem.legion.org](http://www.emblem.legion.org)

## LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN - continued

*(Continued from page 11)*

some goals we have pursued in the past likely to remain a centerpiece of our agenda. They include:

a) Funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Since our organization's founding, caring for the veterans of America's conflicts has been a paramount concern of The American Legion. With the new Congress zeroing in on making budget reductions across the federal government, we will be all the more vigilant to insure that VA does not sustain reductions that will cripple its many programs. We believe modest increases in budget amounts are necessary to keep pace with an increasing veteran population and enhanced services to America's veterans.

b) Disabled Veteran Tax (Concurrent Receipt): Service-connected disabled veterans should not have their retiree pay offset by their VA disability compensation.

The American Legion supports legislation that would completely repeal the Disabled Veteran Tax. Legislation to accomplish this objective has been re-introduced in the 112th Congress.

c) Veteran Joblessness: It is a national travesty that America's veterans have a higher joblessness rate than their non-veteran counterparts. The American Legion will address this inequity and seek solutions to reduce veteran joblessness.

d) Flag Amendment - With the changes in the makeup of the House of Representatives and the Senate, The American Legion will again diligently pursue consideration of this issue during the 112th Congress. In the House, Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO) has introduced House Joint Resolution 13, to protect the American flag from desecration. Introduction of a Senate version is imminent.

e) TRICARE - increases to TRICARE premi-

ums are looming on the horizon as the Congress struggles to control this aspect of spending. TAL will have to work diligently to protect this important benefit to service members and ensure that the level of benefits is balanced against the sacrifices made by our service members.

Other legislative objectives may be added as the First Session of the 112th Congress continues. In the meantime, the list above should provide sufficient fodder for members of The American Legion family when they hold meetings with their elected officials or their staff members.

Go to The American Legion Web Page at: <http://www.legion.org/legislative/updates> to find out what the latest issues The American Legion is supporting.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION



The 40th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 26-28, 2011. Preliminary planning for this National Convention is in process. Tentatively, the Sons National Convention will be held in Ballroom "A" of the Minneapolis Convention Center, downtown Minneapolis, MN. The great city of Minneapolis also offers many downtown amenities such as a shopping mall, many other stores, and local restaurants. More information will be forthcoming on this year's National Convention during the spring meetings.

## PICTURES FROM U.P. MID-WINTER TOUR AND CONFERENCE

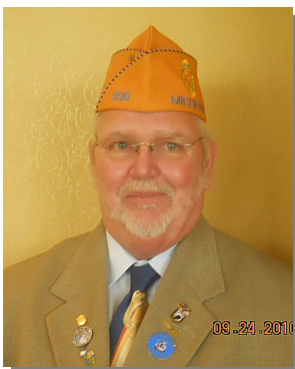


Left: Detachment Commander Dave Mennel accepts a gift from Rob Newman of Marquette Squadron 44

Right: Detachment Commander Dave Mennel, Andre Svacha and Dwaine Verville join others from the Legion family during the U.P. Mid-Winter Tour



## MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT GREG PRICE – PROJECT CHAIRMAN [grinnerman@msn.com](mailto:grinnerman@msn.com)



We Sons are continuing to support this great program. This program helps to identify those that were cremated and whose ashes remain unclaimed in funeral homes. It helps to distinguish which of these unclaimed ashes may be those of a

veteran.

While we were at the Winter Meeting in Flint, many of those who helped in getting unclaimed veteran's ashes interred last year were in attendance. Those present were Doug Williams, Department Legislative Chairman, Senator Jason Allen who helped in passing needed legislation, and Rick Anderson the Director of Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, who was instrumental in helping the interment for unclaimed veterans' cremains possible last Memorial Day.

One organization that worked extremely hard last year to make the Memorial Day

Interment a total success is the Dearborn Allied Veteran War Council. This awesome group is again working diligently to locate and identify cremains to make another interment possible this year. The ceremony will again take place on Memorial Day; however the actual interment will not take place that day. I am thankful that this organization will allow me to be a part of their committee again this year. Please continue to check with your local funeral homes to see if they have any cremains. If they do, ask your post officers to help see if they were ashes of a veteran.

For God & Country.





State Commander William Hafeman joins other Legion Family leaders during his recent tour of 18<sup>th</sup> District posts. Shown (l-r) Commander Hafeman, Clawson Post 167 Commander Bryan Souriliere, District Commander Ralph Philip, Sons of the American Legion (SAL) State Commander David Menel, and SAL State 3rd Zone Commander Joseph Lafnear.

## NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION MEMBER MICHAEL LAWLER

[mll@chorus.net](mailto:mll@chorus.net)

How many times have you seen “**Cat Rescued from Tree**” in the news? I see this on TV, in print and hear it on the radio numerous times per year and think is this really news? Why is this news, because it is a human-interest story, people want to see people helping people (and pets). How did the media hear about the cat? Someone called them. Your squadron event or activity is news worthy too. You need to “toot your own horn” and call the media to get in the headlines.

Too often when we say you need to “toot your own horn”, we hear, *“I do not need the acknowledgement, or the award, this is what the Sons do, we are here to serve.”* Well, you may not need the recognition but our organization does. If you are not promoting and publishing your Squadron activities you deny your members from the praise of other they have rightly earned and deserve, you deny our potential member the opportunity to see the

great work we do, and it maybe the event that convinces them to join.

I recall a member who worked hard on a project, and said he did not need any recognition for the job well done. We went ahead, ran an article in the local paper, and submitted it to the National Update. When these papers arrived on his doorstep, his family and friends called to congratulate and thank him. He later told us even though he did not want the accolades; it was great to be appreciated and to know what he did made a difference to so many. He continues to great things for the Sons, and the community.

Make sure to contact the local media (Newspaper, TV and Radio) to cover your event. Befriend the editor; explain how what your squadron does is important to community. Contact your radio personalities, work with them, they are eager to promote the

Sons, and may be able to help you put together a public service announcements.

Submit your Squadron activities to the National Update, using the National Update Submission Form, or email your information and photos to National Update Editor Mike Pipher. If you are not sure what to write in your article, look at the Fall issue of The National Update, or the archived Editions of The National Update

Join the National American Legion Press Association; NALPA has many useful tips on promoting your Squadron. Many Departments have an American Legion Press Association join them, their members are a great resource of knowledge.

**Get in the Headlines**, not just for today, but forever, when someone searches the news archives they will see what the Sons have done.



Sons of The American Legion:  
Preserving American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation’s children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.



Left: Dave Mennel, Andre Svacha, Sandy Lipman and Pat Pustay represent the Sons of The American Legion at the Red Flannel/ Early Bird Dinner hosted by Cedar Springs Post 287

## PICTURES FROM WASHINGTON D.C.



Left: Earl Ruttkofsky, Then National Commander Mark Arneson, Ron Wyatt, Pat Pustay at the Marine Corps War Memorial - Arlington, VA

Right: Pat and Anita Pustay on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial looking east across the Reflecting Pool toward the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol



Left: Pat Pustay and Ron Wyatt visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

**PUBLICATIONS CO-CHAIRS BRAD KOCH** [bkoch1991@gmail.com](mailto:bkoch1991@gmail.com)  
**AND JOE HOLLOMON** [sal459jh@yahoo.com](mailto:sal459jh@yahoo.com)

Greetings Michigan SAL members, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank our officers and chairmen for continuing to provide us with excellent information through this newsletter. Remember, if you have any further questions about what you read, contact the author. As officers and chairman, we are here to serve and to inform so don't be afraid to ask!

We'd like to once again point out a page in this newsletter called "Upcoming Events." Since the last newsletter, we have been keeping an updated version of this page on the [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) website

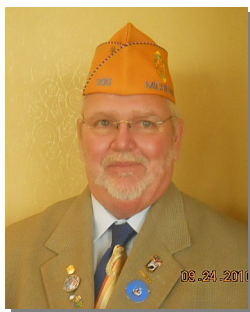
under Programs, then Sons of the American Legion. You'll find the link on the right hand side of the Sons page. It is updated weekly on Thursdays so check it out. We have also emailed the list to all addresses we have on file at the beginning of each month. If you are reading this and have not been receiving updates, please contact Joe or Brad and we can add you to the list. You may find an event on there that you just won't want to miss! Our vision for this page is for it to be a way to keep Legion family members informed on all the exciting events happening throughout the State. Please check it out and if

your Post has anything going on that you'd like to add, please email the information to us.

Overall, we hope you've had an excellent year so far and are going to continue to work hard to help provide the membership with useful information. We can all make a difference for veterans and community but together we can make a huge difference. Thanks in advance for your help and cooperation.

Any questions or concerns please email Brad at [bkoch1991@gmail.com](mailto:bkoch1991@gmail.com) or call 616-822-4567

**ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN / PDC 2 GREG PRICE** [grinnerman@msn.com](mailto:grinnerman@msn.com)



We just had our Winter Meeting in Flint, and we were honored to have our National Commander David Dew spend the weekend with us. Legion National Commander Jimmie Foster also came into town, and spoke about the amount of support that we Sons give to the Legion's veterans programs and how much they appreciate everything we do.

National Commander Dew also expressed how well Michigan was doing in represent-

ing our Detachment, and how proud he was of us. Even though I did not have the opportunity to spend much time with Commander Dew, I was able to share along with others that we Sons had supported many things, such as the Four Chaplains Ceremony that was put on in Grand Rapids. There were also Americanism Banquets, which many had spoken of teaching our children and our children's children to continue to believe in our country, and our God. There was also information given about those that volunteer at the veterans hospitals and the contributions made to child welfare programs.

Present at many of those events, were Detachment Commander Dave Mennel, Department Commander Bill Hafeman, Department President Jan Kintz, and Honorary Junior President Caitlin Keif. Their

support along with their encouragement, shows that we are truly apart of the American Legion Family. I know how good we feel when we thank our veterans, and our Auxiliary members for all they have done and continue to do, but I have to admit that it puts a smile on my face, and a warm glow in my heart when they thank us for the things we believe in and the things we do. Isn't it great to be a Son of The American Legion?

For God and Country.

## MAKE-A-WISH CHAIRMAN PETE MILLER

hopee30979@aol.com



Sons of The American Legion Squadron 298, Battle Creek, were able to present the Make-A-Wish foundation with a check in the amount of \$ 15,000.00 for the 2010 annual drive. We were only successful because of all the hard work and time of our great volunteers. Our revenue came mainly from the Annual Car, Truck and Bike show in August and we also serve dinners at least once a month along with donations from the membership.

We have raised over \$ 120,000 over the past 14 years to help sponsor children and their families and to grant their "Wish". I would also like to inform other squadrons that if you have sent checks to my attention, Pete Miller, 347

Newtown Avenue, Battle Creek, MI 49015 is the correct address. It was listed as NEWTON ROAD, there is not such an address in Battle Creek. If by chance your Post, Auxiliary or Squadron have sent checks that have been returned, please send them back to my attention. If anyone needs help with possible fund raisers in your organization, please feel free to contact me at the e-mail address listed above or phone 269-754-2054, cell or 269-962-7661 home.



Back row (L-R): John Montague, 298 Commander; Hillary Schultz, Make-A-Wish of Michigan intern; Scott Waterson, 298 volunteer; Louie Maddelena, Finance Squadron 298; David Mennell, SAL State Commander; Rodney Tolbert, SAL 2nd Zone Commander.

Front row (L-R): Ellie Andrus, Make-A-Wish of Michigan Director; Michael Throckmorton, 298 Make-A-Wish Chairman; Jonathon Barnes, 298 volunteer; Kathy Andersen, President 298 Ladies Auxiliary; Pete Miller, SAL Squadron Commander and Make-A-Wish State Representative.

## STUDENT TROOPER JOE HOLLOMON & BRENT GEERS

Do you know a student interested in being a Trooper?

The 2011 Michigan State Police Student Trooper program consists of two camps, both held at the State Police Training Academy in Lansing.

This program awards up to \$5,000 in scholarships to young men and women in the 10th - 12th grades, 16 - 18 years old, who are in good physical condition and show an interest in law enforcement as a c a r e e r .

We have a special duty to encourage

sponsorship and student outreach as this is a Department of Michigan program. Sadly, like Boys State, participation in this program is declining. Students should be lining up for the chance to earn scholarship money and complete a program that will impress colleges and law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, we have largely failed to get the word out to students, many of whom have no family connection to the American Legion.

If you know of a high school student, or have contacts with an area high school, please do your part to ensure that stu-

dents know about this great opportunity.

More information about the program, including the application, can be found at <http://michiganlegion.org/pages/trooper.html>.

1st program session: June 26-July 1, 2011  
2nd program session: July 24-29, 2011.





**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN PAT PUSTAY** [pustaypat@yahoo.com](mailto:pustaypat@yahoo.com)



We still have a lot of work ahead of us. Membership is down and we are at 78% which is 19th in Nation. Thanks much to 5th Zone as they are the first one in state with no goose eggs. I have been asked to contact all squadrons that are behind in membership, and I will be doing that by contacting The American Legion Commander at the Post level. They need to know that you are below average or that you have not turned any in at all. We think it's possible that they can help you. We will be in the 2nd District on March 12 and 13 for Ida's Legion Birthday, staying at the Holiday Inn in Dundee, and also visiting the 2nd District meeting on Sunday. Please bring membership to these meetings and I can save you the stamp. We will also visiting the 3rd District Meeting to see if there's anything we can do to help as we all should be at 85% or higher now. Thanks to all squadrons that are above 100%

## WE WANT YOUR SAL PHOTOS!

Do you have a photo you would like to submit for the SAL Detachment Newsletter? Email it to Brad Koch at [bkoch1991@gmail.com](mailto:bkoch1991@gmail.com) or Joe Hollomon at [sal459jh@yahoo.com](mailto:sal459jh@yahoo.com). We look for photos showing SAL caps in action whenever possible.



Top Photo: Past Department Commander Garnie Jackson and SAL Detachment Commander Dave Mennel attending the Four Chaplains Service in Grand Rapids.



Bottom Photo: Alternate NEC Greg Price and Detachment Adjutant Sandy Lipman gather after the Four Chaplains Service in Grand Rapids



## CHILD WELFARE FOUNDATION

## JOHN KAILUNAS

[jakcroton@riverview.net](mailto:jakcroton@riverview.net)



In 1952, Dr. Garland D. Murphy Jr. gave to The American Legion a large contribution that would benefit children. The Legion and Murphy entered into a trust agreement that established the Child Welfare Foundation, approved by the National Executive Committee on Oct. 15, 1953.

Though created by the Legion, the Child Welfare Foundation, Inc., is a separate 501(c)3 corporation.

CWF accepts funding proposals from nonprofit organizations for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day operating expenses or special operating expenses.

During CWF's annual board of directors meeting in Indianapolis on Oct. 10, The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation awarded \$666,670 to 21 nonprofit organizations. Because the Sons of The American Legion is an integral funding partner for the CWF, The SAL has an opportunity to help choose organizations that receive grants.

A couple of 2011 grant recipients are:

*American Academy of Pediatrics* of Elk Grove Village, Ill., was awarded \$14,725 for their project, "Pediatrics Journal-Military Supplement." This grant will produce a supplement to the AAP's Pediatrics journal to provide pediatricians with an overview of the role of the pediatrician in military medicine. The Role of the Pediatrician in Military Medicine will be published and distributed to 70,000 subscribers. The Sons of The American Legion sponsored this grant.

*American Legion Children's Home* of Ponca City, Okla., was awarded \$44,000 for their project, "American Legion Children's Home National Awareness Initiative Phase III." This grant will allow the Home to maintain its website, duplicate a six-minute documentary, print thousands of brochures and purchase new display materials. The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion sponsored this grant.

You can check out the rest of the other worthwhile projects on line at: <http://legion.org/childwelfare>

If you or your Squadron would like to make a donation to CWF, send a **check or money order to NOT me!** Send it to:

Child Welfare Foundation Inc.

P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206

Please advise me of the amount and date submitted

John Kailunas, 231-652-7001, [jakcroton@riverview.net](mailto:jakcroton@riverview.net)

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## PAST DETACHMENT COMMANDER #1

## PAT PUSTAY

[pustaypat@yahoo.com](mailto:pustaypat@yahoo.com)



I just wanted to say thanks to everyone that attended the 2010 SAL Convention in Dundee. It was a hair raising experience! We, as Sons of The American Legion, handled the tornado with respect and in a very calm way according to the Nation Commander Mark Arneson. Splash Park will reopen on March 3, 2011, nine months after our convention. Last weekend we were hit with another Storm on February 20, 2011 where the southern part of the state had snow and ice. Six days later, the electric was back on at Reading Post 360, but over 5,000 customers were still without it! Please join us at the 2011 Convention in Novi at the Crown Plaza as the weather will be better! I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again

VA & R

EARL RUTTKOFSKY

eruttkofsky9771@aol.com



VA & R - YOUNG & THE OLD

We have a wide range of ages with our veterans in this country. We see a lot of work going on with the younger veterans but we can't forget we have older veterans that do a lot also. Our membership has really come forward to help our veterans overseas and their families left back here. I want to commend all squadrons on the help they give the veterans

families while they are deployed. Let's not forget to help the older veterans as they have served and some have come home with disabilities and need our help to do things for them. That is the reason that we are here so, please remember all of our veterans, young and old.

We need to look at our VA homes and hospitals and see where we can give a helping hand. We can go talk to them, write letters for them or just be there for them, this is our mission. It will make a difference for them. We as a squadron could go to our legion and find out if there are any home bound veterans that need anything and go help them. Sometimes veterans don't want to ask but they need help. Do something for them without them asking, they will appreciate it. As your VA & R representa-

tive, I would like to make a challenge to all of our membership.

I would like you to take one day to work with or spend some time with one of our veterans. Go to the VA hospital or find a homebound veteran and spend the time. You will feel good and so will the veteran. I don't believe that is too much to ask, and it will make a difference.

I am looking forward to going to Washington DC next month to see where and how our government is working to better the lives of our veterans. In Washington DC, the American Legion family will be there in full strength to do what is best for our veterans. We have to let the government know that we are there and want our veterans thought of because they are the ones that helped us stay free.

**SAVE THE DATE - JOINT TESTIMONIAL**

**What** is a testimonial you may ask? According to the dictionary, it is: "A character reference, expression of esteem or appreciation". Or a time to show your person in command, your appreciation for their work and time involved to help lead our great family organization.

**Who** is invited? Any & all members of the American Legion Family.

**When:** As is tradition in the American Legion, the date of **April 16, 2011** has been chosen for the testimonial. This year it will be a joint dinner (and possibly a dance). Joint meaning all 3 of the Legion Family in Command; Legion Department Commander Bill Hafeman, Auxiliary Department President, Jan Kintz, and your S.A.L. Detachment Commander Dave Mennel.

**Where:** The place chosen this year is the Ballroom of The American Legion Post 16 in Lapeer, MI. Hotels, times, and ticket price will follow. We are working hard to make this affordable, and hope that by doing a joint dinner, it will help cut the cost.

Any questions? – Contact your Detachment Commander and watch for information on the website

**THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION  
DETACHMENT OF MICHIGAN**

***Report Of***

**Constitution, Bylaws & Standing Rules Status of All Squadrons**

***By***

**Detachment Judge Advocate Louis D. Scott Jr. P.D.C. 71-72, 83-84  
February 19, 2011**

**1<sup>st</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**2<sup>nd</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**3<sup>rd</sup> District**

298 CAPTAIN OSCAR BRADY – Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules 2008

No other squadrons have records on file

**4<sup>th</sup> District**

26 LARUE MESSENGER – Constitution, Bylaws 2006

105 BENTON HARBOR – Constitution, Bylaws 2008

No other squadrons have records on file

**5<sup>th</sup> District**

5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ASSOCIATION – Constitution, Bylaws 2001

287 GLEN HILL – Constitution, Bylaws undated

No other squadrons have records on file

**6<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**7<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**8<sup>th</sup> District**

295 WOLVERTON-SAWVEL-FALOR – Squadron information

No other squadrons have records on file

**9<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**10<sup>th</sup> District**

404 HARRISON – Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules 2006

No other squadrons have records on file

**11<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**12<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**16<sup>th</sup> District**

16<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ASSOCIATION – Constitution, Bylaws 2009

No squadrons have records on file

**17<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**18<sup>th</sup> District**

18<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ASSOCIATION – Constitution and District Advisory Committee

143 HILL-GAZETTE – Constitution, By-laws 2001

216 ERNEST F. OLDENBURG – Bylaws 2003

No other squadrons have records on file

**19<sup>th</sup> District**

No squadrons have records on file

**If your squadron is not on this list, please send a copy of your Squadron Constitution and By-Laws to Lou Scott at [louscett@yahoo.com](mailto:louscett@yahoo.com) asap. We would like to have 100% of our Detachment Squadrons be on file with Department.**



# **The Crowne Plaza Hotel-Novi** ***WELCOMES*** ***SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION*** ***JUNE 3-5, 2011***

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  - Complimentary Wi-Fi throughout hotel
  - Complimentary Parking
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  - Whirlpool and Health Club Facilities
- “4-Star” No.VI Chop House Restaurant and Lounge
- Deli Unique Casual Restaurant serving Breakfast and Lunch

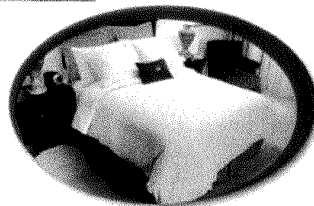
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## **18th S.A.L. Convention Association Ad Book Information**

By placing an Ad in the Ad Book you will not only promote your business but also help out in many charitable organizations that the S.A.L. donates to.

Full Page Ad - \$125.00

Half Page Ad - \$65.00

Quarter Page Ad - \$35.00

Business Card Ad - \$20.00

Booster Ad - \$3.00 per line

Inside/Outside Cover \$175.00

Please mail all Ad information indicating size and art work to:

Randy Jackson

609 W. 13 Mile Rd.

Royal Oak, MI 48073

All Ad's must be sent in by **April 15th.**

**Please make checks payable to the 18th District  
Convention Committee**

**Thank you for your support!**



**S.A.L. REGISTRATION FORM**  
**JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>TH</sup> & 5<sup>TH</sup> 2001**  
**NOVI, MI**

Please list the names of the people attending, and check the appropriate spot if they are S.A.L., Legion, Auxiliary or a guest. The registration fee is \$10.00 **per person**. The cost of the picnic is \$7.00 **per person**. Please make checks payable to the **18<sup>th</sup> District S.A.L. Association** and mail to **Sandy Lipman, 13633 Vernon, Oak Park, MI 48237**. One form per attendee and please PRINT CLEARLY!

S.A.L.\_\_\_\_ Legion\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary\_\_\_\_ Guest\_\_\_\_

District #\_\_\_\_ Squadron/Post/Unit#\_\_\_\_

Delegate\_\_\_\_ Alternate\_\_\_\_ Delegate at Large\_\_\_\_ Guest\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_

State\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_ Phone number\_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee \$10.00\_\_\_\_ Picnic \$7.00\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed\_\_\_\_\_

## Michigan Legion Family Upcoming Events

**3/4/11** – Post 154 Wyoming – Mardi Gras Party. Wear beads, dress up, enjoy the fun. For more information contact the newsletter editor at [neview154@att.net](mailto:neview154@att.net)

**3/5/11** – Post 459 Grand Rapids - Fundraiser for Dick Chatman, candidate for Department Commander. noon - 8pm. Pullboard – Burgers and Brats – Karaoke. For more information, contact Rex Lambert at [bdsinger2004@yahoo.com](mailto:bdsinger2004@yahoo.com)

**3/5/11** – Post 208 Grand Rapids –Steak Fry, 5-8pm. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net)

**3/5/11** – Post 412 Bath – Texas hold 'em tournament. \$40 tickets in advance. \$50 at the door. Held at the Dewitt VFW. For more information, contact Marvel DeCess at [fortymorewinks@frontier.com](mailto:fortymorewinks@frontier.com)

**3/5/11** – Post 298, Battle Creek - Euchre in lounge. Sign up at 1:00pm, play at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**3/7/11** – Post 287 Cedar Springs – 6pm – Baked Chicken Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**3/8/11** – Post 459 Grand Rapids – 6:00 pm – Fat Tuesday celebration – Mask Making, Jambalaya and Karaoke. For more information, contact Chris Moore at [cmoore1966@peoplepc.com](mailto:cmoore1966@peoplepc.com)

**3/8/11** – Post 305 Caledonia - KIELBASA WITH SAUERKRAUT, PIEROGI – POLISH CHEESE DUMPLINGS,GOLABKI – CABBAGE ROLLSSERVING NOON TIL????GONE (OR 7:00PM) \$8.00. For more information, contact Bill White at [wwhite46@charter.net](mailto:wwhite46@charter.net)

**3/12/11** – Post 208 Grand Rapids – Pasta Dinner, 6-8pm. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegion-Post208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegion-Post208@comcast.net)

**3/12/11** – Post 258 Grand Rapids – 5<sup>th</sup> District Legion Bake Sale, 8-11am. Proceeds go to "DOMESTIC ABUSE OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN"SAFE-HAVEN MINISTRIES. For more information, contact Harriet Sturim at [harrieststurim@aol.com](mailto:harrieststurim@aol.com)

**3/12/11** – Post 298 Battle Creek - St. Patty's music by "Homebrewed" 5 -8 pm, Corn Beef & Cabbage or Meatloaf dinner \$ 9.00 (or less). For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**3/13/11** – Post 143 Auburn Hills - hosting an awards dinner on March 13th honoring local police, firefighters and Oakland County Deputy. Cocktails at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm, program at 8:00pm, and music to follow by Matt Walls. Tickets \$13.00 for adults, under 10 years \$6.00. For more information, contact Betty Jean Arnold at [ocqb728bj@comcast.net](mailto:ocqb728bj@comcast.net)

**3/13/11** – Post 267 Davison - Country breakfast - all you can eat breakfast will be served from 8:00am until 11:30am and is \$7.00 for adults 12 years and up, \$3.00 for children 4 to 11, and under 3 are free. For further information, contact Gary Minto at [gminto@chartermi.net](mailto:gminto@chartermi.net) or call 810-653-2330

**3/17/11** – Post 459 Grand Rapids - **ALL DAY** – St. Patrick's Day Party – Open to the Public – Corned Beef, karaoke and "The Lefty Malone Band." For more information, contact Chris Moore at [cmoore1966@peoplepc.com](mailto:cmoore1966@peoplepc.com)

**3/17/11** – Post 208 Grand Rapids –St. Patrick's Day Dinner, 3pm-til gone. Corned Beef and Cabbage, \$6.50. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net)

**3/17/11** – Post 154 Wyoming - St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Carrots, and Rolls. \$5.50 for adults, \$2 for kids. . For more information contact the newsletter editor at [neview154@att.net](mailto:neview154@att.net)

## Michigan Legion Family Upcoming Events

**3/19/11** - Post 208 Grand Rapids - Mexican Dinner, 6-9pm. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net)

**3/19/11** - Post 14 Troy - Potluck dinner for new members, 3-7pm. For more information, contact Sandy Lipman at [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com)

**3/19/11** - Post 298, Battle Creek - Euchre in lounge. Sign up at 1:00pm, play at 1:30 pm. For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**3/20/11** - Post 298 Battle Creek - Breakfast 9 am - Noon, For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**3/21/11** - Post 287 Cedar Springs - 6pm - Pork Chop Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**3/26/11** - Post 14 Troy - Legion Riders 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Tattoo Party, 12pm. For more information, contact Sandy Lipman at [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com)

**3/26/11** - Post 298 Battle Creek - Broasted Pork Chop dinner \$ 8.50 per person, proceeds to 2011 Make-A-Wish Fund drive. 5-8 pm, music by Pete's R & R Express. For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**3/27-30/11** - Post 14 Troy - Auxiliary Unit Millionaire Party. For more information, contact Sandy Lipman at [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com)

**4/2/11** - Post 208 Grand Rapids -Steak Fry, 5-8pm. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net)

**4/2/11** - Post 258 Grand Rapids - Bowling Event @ Clique Lanes - 533 Stocking NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. \$20 per person includes 3 games bowling, shoes, pizza and silly bowling prizes. Open to the first 96 bowlers max! ~ Pabst and Schlitz available. For more information, contact Dave Rinlger [xman12@charter.net](mailto:xman12@charter.net).

**4/4/11** - Post 287 Cedar Springs - 6pm - Roast Beef Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**4/8/11** - Post 409 Allen Park - Jim Hoke, Hypnotist - DOORS OPEN: 5:30 PM, OPEN BAR: 6:00 PM, DINNER: 7:05 PM, ENTERTAINMENT: ABOUT 8:30 PM. TICKETS ARE \$15.00 PER PERSON

NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR. For more information, contact David Babbage at [davidbabbage@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbabbage@yahoo.com)

**4/9/11** - Post 208 Grand Rapids - Pasta Dinner, 6-8pm. For more information, contact Bill Hamelink at [AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net](mailto:AmericanLegionPost208@comcast.net)

**4/10/11** - Post 267 Davison - Country breakfast - all you can eat breakfast will be served from 8:00am until 11:30am and is \$7.00 for adults 12 years and up, \$3.00 for children 4 to 11, and under 3 are free. For further information, contact Gary Minto at [gminto@chartermi.net](mailto:gminto@chartermi.net) or call 810-653-2330

**4/16/11** - Post 16 Lapeer - Joint Testimonial Dinner and Celebration - All Legion Family members are invited to attend this annual event to honor our Department and Detachment Commanders and our Department President. Hors D' Oeuvres and drinks at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm. Cost for Hors D' Oeuvres, 2 drink tickets, and dinner is \$35 per person. For more information, contact Anita Mennel at [davidmen-nel@yahoo.com](mailto:davidmen-nel@yahoo.com)

**4/16/11** - Post 36 Clarkston - Building Raffle Party, complimentary Hors D'oeuvres Buffet. For more information, contact Frank Sanders at [fizzerira@aol.com](mailto:fizzerira@aol.com)

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## Michigan Legion Family Upcoming Events

**4/16/11** – Post 14 Troy – Auxiliary Spring Fling, 12pm. For more information, contact Sandy Lipman at [sandylipman95@hotmail.com](mailto:sandylipman95@hotmail.com)

**4/18/11** – Post 287 Cedar Springs – 6pm – Meatloaf Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**5/5/11** – Post 287 Cedar Springs – 6pm – Swiss Steak Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**5/7/11** – 5th District Tour. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**5/14/11** – 5th District Memorial Banquet. Happy hour 5p.m. and Dinner at 6p.m. at Post 28 Grand Haven. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**5/16/11** – Post 287 Cedar Springs – 6pm – Baked Chicken Dinner (mashed potatoes, stuffing, veggies, salad, roll, dessert, and drink). \$8 for adults, \$4 for children, take outs available. For more information contact Rick Knapp Jr. at [salra459@yahoo.com](mailto:salra459@yahoo.com)

**6/3-5/11** – Sons of the American Legion Detachment Convention – Crowne Plaza Hotel in Novi. Please plan to send at least one member to represent your squadron. For more information, contact Sandy Lipman at [sandylipman95@yahoo.com](mailto:sandylipman95@yahoo.com)

### Ongoing Events

**March Wednesdays** – Post 298 Battle Creek - 5 - 8 pm, Sloppy joes / Hot dogs, chips \$.50 each. For more information, contact Pete Miller at [hopee30979@aol.com](mailto:hopee30979@aol.com)

**Every Friday (Mar 4-Apr 22)** – Post 305 Caledonia – Fish Fry. For more information, contact Bill White at [wwhite46@charter.net](mailto:wwhite46@charter.net)

**Every Monday** - Post 326 Sterling Heights - Bingo is held every MONDAY MORNING starting at 10:30 A.M. with an early bird game at 10:15. It is a paper bingo only, thereby saving the players about \$20.00 as opposed to an electronic bingo session. Charity game tickets and a progressive pot are available. The bingo is held at the STERLING PLAZA CENTER on the N.W. corner of M-59/Schoennher Rd by the Pier One Imports store. For more information, contact Michael Welicki at [iggsterwl@yahoo.com](mailto:iggsterwl@yahoo.com)

**Every Second Saturday through April**– Post 258 Grand Rapids - Pancake breakfast - \$6 for all you can eat pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and sausage gravy, scrambled eggs, and beverage served 8 to 11 am. For more information, contact David Wheeler at [dwheeler@netpenny.net](mailto:dwheeler@netpenny.net)

**Every Tuesday, Friday, and Saturday** – Post 459 Grand Rapids - Karaoke every Tuesday (7-11), Friday (8-12) and Saturday (8-12). For more information, contact Chris Moore at [cmoore1966@peoplepc.com](mailto:cmoore1966@peoplepc.com)

The SAL will continue to maintain this upcoming events list. This can be for any Legion Family event so please feel free to add events from your Post by emailing the information to me at [bkoch1991@gmail.com](mailto:bkoch1991@gmail.com). This document is now on the [www.michiganlegion.org](http://www.michiganlegion.org) website under programs and then Sons of the American Legion. It's on the right hand column of that page, see the upcoming events link. It is also on <http://www.michalaux.org/>, left hand side. It will be updated on the website each Thursday.