



# POST 216 HERALD MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

Member of MALPA, NALPA

2010 Membership – 408

Ray Chaplin, Editor



## FROM THE COMMANDER

*John R. Nelson*

As another Legion year draws to a close, we are in the final preparation steps for the “Best Memorial Day Parade in Michigan” to quote the Assistant Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, Michigan National Guard. Any of us who have been anywhere else for Memorial Day knows this is true. Sure, there are bigger parades, but none that I have seen or heard of compares to Milford in expressing gratitude for military veterans who have defended the constitution and secured the blessings of liberty for us and our children.

Be sure that you have the Milford Memorial Day celebration events on your calendar this year. Wait for the family cookout until after you honor those who sacrificed so you can have a cookout. Don't go to the lake on Monday – go to Main Street Milford and say “Thank You”. May for the Post 216 of the Michigan American Legion is the best month of the year, and the busiest. Please do your part in getting the post ready for the grand reunion that is our Memorial Day celebration. If you have any question what needs to be done, contact Commander Nelson, Joe Salvia, Sheila Maxwell or Dan Scheideman. We, as leaders of the American Legion Family in Milford, and of the parade, will be glad to direct your volunteer efforts to something that will help make May in Milford even more special.

As you read this newsletter, Post 216 is transitioning through two major events: the after-

taste of “No Smoking”, as mandated by state law, and a change of leadership for American Legion BINGO.

Thank you all for helping us move to a no smoking building. I know this is difficult for some of our regular club patrons. The club managers are doing what we can to make it as pain-free as possible.

If you have stayed away from Club 216 because you didn't want to be around cigarette smoke, **now you have no excuse.** I look forward to seeing each of you at the club every month. Become an active member in the post. Tell me what you want to see Post 216 do; what will bring you back to become more active? What are you willing to do helping veterans and their families? How will you help the children and youth of our community become better citizens? Or are you one who will be an active member of the American Legion Post 216 Bingo Team? Work Bingo 15 weeks and the post will pay your dues.

Every member has something they can do for the post and for veterans. Do your part; volunteer. Need help knowing what you can do? Call Commander Nelson at (248) 804-3329.



Poppy Days are here. May 20-22 members of the Post 216 American Legion family will be collecting donations by our neighbors and friends that will help local veterans.

If you can help with the collection, come to the post any day May 19-22 to get your collection can.

The poppy flower is a reminder of the sacrifices made by fallen American service members. It reminds us of those who served but did not return. The disabled service men and women who are in the VA hospitals throughout Michigan are paid for each hand-made poppy they have assembled and now make available to us as a thank you for donations.



The 18<sup>th</sup> District of the American Legion Department of Michigan has voted to change the day and time of its meetings. The posts of the 18<sup>th</sup> District are all within

Oakland County, a small geographic area, compared to most of the districts in Michigan. And for years, the 18<sup>th</sup> District has held its meetings on the first Friday of the month, and had a meeting nearly every month of the year.

Responding to changing times, particularly the aging of the members who are most active in the district, and realizing that Friday evening is not the best time for a business meeting, a resolution to change the number of meetings and to change the day/time of the meetings was introduced by Post 216. That resolution was acted on favorably in April.

As a result, there will now be a minimum of six meetings per year, changed from a minimum of eleven.

And the meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 2:00 pm, in the months that we meet.

Further, for the 2010-2011 Legion year, the meetings will be in the months of September, November, January, March, May and June.

For many years Post 216 could not host a meeting, because Friday is Bingo night at Milford, but now we will be able to have 18<sup>th</sup> District Meetings at our post, and we have asked to host the meeting on March 13, 2011.



Two local fitness trainers have combined their passion for fitness with their passion for helping military veterans and created the “Get Fit Milford” Weight Loss Challenge. Eight local residents have been sweating and toning for 12 weeks and along the way

they have lost a significant part of themselves.

Now these challenge participants are organizing a party fund-raiser, and you are all invited. Come to Post 216 on Saturday evening May 22 @ 7:00 PM for dancing to a live band, light fare to eat, all for \$10. That donation plus the proceeds of the cash bar will all go to the American Legion Post 216 Poppy Fund.

The Poppy Fund has been helping local veterans for years when they may have a financial need that they can't handle on their own, and doing it confidentially. See you at the party. Say thanks to the Weight Loss Challenge participants, and help a veteran.



Every family needs to clean out its garage periodically. The American Legion 216 family is no exception. Saturday May 1 was the day we tackled that big project, about half filling a 30 cubic yard dumpster. Before we started we could hardly even walk past the doorway. Now we could park a truck inside. Thank you to the SAL and Auxiliary members who helped Commander Nelson make this happen.

## Post 216 Herald – May 2010



Announcing an “All Veteran Caribbean Cruise” being organized by AMVETS 2006 and American Legion 216. You are all invited.

The Norwegian Cruise Line ship “Dawn” will sail on a 9-day trip through the southern Caribbean, leaving Miami on April 8, 2011 and returning

April 17.

Ports of call are: Samana, Dominican Republic; Tortola British Virgin Islands; St. John, Antigua; Bridgetown, Barbados; and Basseterre, St. Kitts.

Inside cabin is priced at \$764, outside cabin is \$899, and a cabin with balcony is \$1259. All prices are per person, double occupancy

If you are interested, contact Phil Weitlauf at email [pweitlauf@gmx.com](mailto:pweitlauf@gmx.com) or call 248-685-8307.



The installation of Post 216 Legion, Auxiliary and SAL officers for the 2010-2011 year will take place at Post 216 on August 7, 2010 @ 6:00 PM. The evening will begin with Social Hour followed by the installation and a dinner afterwards.



Traveling Vietnam Wall is coming to Michigan:

Hamburg, July 8-12

Harrison, August 3-7

If you have not seen this traveling wall or the full size memorial in Washington D.C., make plans to go.

Get more details at [www.themovingwall.org](http://www.themovingwall.org)



**Reminder:** Please send your email address to Commander Nelson so we can more effectively share with you needs, concerns, opportunities, and just news that happens in-between the times you get a newsletter. We are also looking to a future of sending the newsletter by email. Help us make the leap to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Commander Nelson’s email address is [JohnRNelson@hughes.net](mailto:JohnRNelson@hughes.net).

**John Nelson**  
**Commander**

## Post 216 Herald – May 2010

### Greetings to all the members in our post

Our economic future appears to be gaining strength and we are sure to need good signs of recovery. We have a challenging year ahead for our newly elected officers. It will be very important for all members to pull together as we have in the past to present a unified front to support them in the coming year.

Our Annual Memorial Day Parade has been a mainstay of our recognition in the community to our veterans and their families. I am looking forward this year to support and recognize our fellow brethren and sisters in this coming event.

This coming August will mark our 90<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for Ernst F. Oldenburg Post 216. In years past the celebrations were done as picnics, dances or dinners. I propose a challenge to all of our members and families as how we would like to celebrate this momentous event. Some have said a pot-luck picnic either at Camp Dearborn or Kensington Park or even at the Post. Can any of us remember back when our families got together on a warm summer day and brought all those wonderful home made dishes of salads, beans, jell-o, potatoes, hot dogs, and burgers? How about all those forbidden desserts of cakes, cookies and pies made of last years precious fruit preserves?

It is a task not only up to the small dedicated group of individuals who carry on the chores of the post every day. We need more member participation for our events this year. I put out the challenge for all members to bring forth their ideas and participation to make our 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorable for years to come.

In my last letter I had posed a couple of trivia questions to the members on past events of our post:

Q: Who were the G.A.R?

A: Grand Army of the Republic- Comprised of Michigan Civil War Veterans Heber La Favor Post 181. It was this year that the annual Thanksgiving Feather Party was promoted and became one of the Legion's social events as a means to raising funds for the support of aiding War Veterans, War Veteran widows, and orphans.

Q: Where, whom and on what date was our organization "The American Legion, devoted to God and Country, to getting justice for the disabled, the widows and orphans of our deceased comrades left as the result of the war" first organized?

A: The American Legion was actually formed in France by representatives of the 10<sup>th</sup> Infantry and other battle units on March 15, 1919 and was well known as the Paris Caucus devoted to helping get justice for wounded soldiers, surviving widows and orphans of deceased comrades left as the result of the great war. Later in that year, the American Caucus was held in St. Louis where temporary charters that had been granted to state organizations could be created permanent by representatives, at which time our Department of Michigan came into being.

Robert F, Maxwell  
Post Historian

## Notable Events

- **Get Fit Milford Veteran Fund-Raiser Party** - Saturday May 22, 2010 @ 7:00PM
- **Decorating the Cemeteries in Milford Township** - Saturday May 29 @ 8:00 AM
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Monday May 31. (See Flyer in News Letter)
- **Steak Night** - begins May 27 then every third Thursday



**MEMBERSHIP**

The Milford American Legion Auxiliary is looking for New Members. Many of your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers are eligible for membership. The Auxiliary is a service based veteran’s organization which counts on its members to carry out many different functions. Who is eligible: A mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter or grandmother of a current member of The American Legion. A female veteran who served during any of the conflicts listed below. A member of The American Legion. (Yes, women veterans can join both!) The mother, wife, sister, daughter, granddaughter, great-granddaughter or grandmother of a deceased veteran who served during any of the conflicts listed below. (Eligibility also applies to step-relatives)

**Eligibility Dates**

<b>World War I:</b>	April 6, 1917 - November 11, 1918
<b>World War II:</b>	December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946
<b>Korean War:</b>	June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955
<b>Vietnam War:</b>	February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975
<b>Grenada/Lebanon:</b>	August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984
<b>Panama:</b>	December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990
<b>Persian Gulf War:</b>	August 2, 1990 to the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the Government of the United States.

**Meetings**

Unit #216 Auxiliary Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. There will not be a meeting in July and August. Please come join us and share your ideas. We are always looking for new fundraisers and activities.

**Coupons**

The Auxiliary is collecting manufacturer coupons to send to overseas military bases. They can use these manufacturer coupons on base, which will allow them to save money. There is a coupon

collection box in the clubroom downstairs at the Post. The coupon collection program is an ongoing project throughout the year.

For God and Country,  
Sheila Maxwell  
Unit President





Please join us for the SAL meetings which are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm.

Thank you to everyone who has helped out for burger nights. Help is always needed, please sign up in the kitchen. Our last hamburger night will be May 20th. We will then begin our monthly steak nights on May 27th. Steak nights will be held on the third Thursday of each month thru out the summer. Please sign up in the kitchen to help cook.



The Fred Kowal Memorial, American Legion Post 216 Golf Outing is on Saturday July 17, 2010 at Hartland Glen, shotgun start @ 8:00 am. Hotdog at the turn, drink tickets on the course, longest drive and closest to the pin prizes, steak dinner and prizes for everyone at the legion hall following golf. The entry fee is \$65.00 per person. The sign up sheet will be located in the clubroom. Hole sponsorship is \$100.00 per hole.

If you have any questions concerning the SAL, please contact me by e-mail [dan@briensservices](mailto:dan@briensservices) or by phone 248-767-8210.

Thank You,

Dan Scheideman  
SAL Commander



Post 216 Officers for 2010 – 2011



Commander  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Jr. Vice Commander  
Finance Officer  
Adjutant  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee

John Nelson  
Tony Puente  
TBD  
Ron Nevorski  
Ike Eickholdt  
Bob Janoska  
Robert Maxwell  
Skip Davison  
Nortie Caswell  
Rich Chowaniec  
Bob Godwin

President  
1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee

Sheila Maxwell  
Sally Morin  
Pam LaClair  
Jan LaClair  
Brenda Dees  
Sue Buell  
Linda Maxwell  
Merry Panavas  
Jody Dowd  
Diane Cort  
Marie Jackson



Commander  
Sr. Vice Commander  
Jr. Vice Commander  
Finance Officer Mike  
Adjutant  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Sergeant-at-Arms  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee  
Executive Committee

Dan Scheideman  
Andy Russell  
Butch Maxwell  
McDonnell  
Fred Morin  
Clayton Maxwell  
Todd Herron  
Ray Clinard  
Frank Serridge  
Rick Byrne  
Andy Grohowski

Director  
Assistant Director  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
Chaplain  
Historian  
Road Captain

Butch Maxwell  
Andy Russell  
Mike McDonnell  
Ray Clinard  
Robert Maxwell  
Jodie Flower  
Dave Panavas

# May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Memorial Day		 REMEMBRANCE		 REMEMBRANCE		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 Post 216 Meeting	19	20 Hamburger Night 	21 BINGO	22 Get Fit Fund Raiser for Poppy Fund
23/30	24/31 Honor Guard National Cemetery	25	26	27 Steak Night 	28 BINGO	29

# June 2010

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

## July 2010

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

## August 2010

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



## The Honor of Your Presence is Requested



### To Fellow Veterans and All American Citizens,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**MEMORIAL DAY The Last Monday in May**

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

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

**ATTENDANCE (check appropriate boxes)**

Check one:  Army  Navy  Marines  Air Force  Coast Guard

- I am still in service (active duty or reserve status) or I have received an honorable discharge and will participate in the Memorial Day Parade
- I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ other veterans with me. (Please attach list of names if possible)
- I am not a veteran but will attend to give thanks to those who served our country.

PLEASE PRINT INFORMATION CLEARLY. THANK YOU

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**DONATION TO ASSIST WITH PARADE EXPENSES**

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

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

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

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

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



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

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