



ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2007

Member of MALPA

2007 Membership – 389

Ray Chaplin, Editor

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- TO UPHOLD AND DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER
- TO FOSTER AND PERPETUATE A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AMERICANISM
- TO PRESERVE THE MEMORIES AND INCIDENTS OF OUR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE GREAT WARS
- TO INCULCATE A SENSE OF INDIVIDUAL OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATION
- TO COMBAT THE AUTOCRACY OF BOTH THE CLASSES AND THE MASSES
- TO MAKE RIGHT THE MASTER OF MIGHT
- TO PROMOTE PEACE AND GOODWILL ON EARTH
- TO SAFEGUARD AND TRANSMIT TO POSTERITY THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE, FREEDOM, AND DEMOCRACY
- **TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS**

FROM THE COMMANDER:

John R. Nelson

Greetings to all Legionnaires, Auxiliaries, Sons, and Friends.

Half a year has gone by since the installation of our new officers, and I am pleased to report that the American Legion Post 216 in Milford continues to lead the way in the Huron Valley area, in District 18, and in the State of Michigan.

Your Post leads our community in service and honor to our local veterans. We lead within our District in total new members, for the second year. And we lead in the Department of Michigan in membership growth for all posts of our similar size. We can all be proud of the good things that are happening within the Post 216 Legion Family. Each part of the family – Veterans, Auxiliary, and Sons – makes a special contribution to our Milford Post setting the standard for others to follow.

With this newsletter, I am starting a special section that will amplify a portion of the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. We have all heard or recited that preamble, and as we reflect on the words, there is much to learn about our purpose as an organization.

In addition to that new section in our Post Newsletter, I will be sharing more in-depth about our priorities and programs as they fit within the framework of the National Organization's "Four Pillar" program.

For my first installment on the American Legion Constitution Preamble, I've chosen to discuss what I think is the most important thing that we can do at our local post:

“TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS.

This is where the “rubber meets the road” for the members of our Legion Family. We are a community of friends and acquaintances who are all gathered around military veteran issues. But, what makes our gathering most special is that we are focused, as an organization, on helping each other. The American Legion is not a social organization. It is not a club. The American Legion is a service organization for military veterans. Mutual helpfulness is what we do, hundreds of times each month, in big ways that get lots of notice and in small ways that most of us take for granted. The American Legion is in the business of friends helping friends

So, I challenge myself and all of us as members of Post 216 to look for at least one way to be helpful, and make the special effort to do something good for veteran or Legion Family member.

The American Legion “Four Pillars”

If you have visited the website for the American Legion (www.legion.org) you will have seen a graphic that speaks of the “Four Pillars” of the American Legion. The way of focusing our attention as individuals and as an organization came during the time of the immediate past commander. The Four Pillars is an easy way of thinking about the American Legion, as large as it is, and not miss what is important.

Here are the “Four Pillars”:

- **A Strong National Security**
National organization lobbying
- **Taking Care of Veterans**
Service Officers (Post, Department)
Heroes to Hometowns Program
VAVS (Veteran Affairs Voluntary Services)
- **Mentoring Youth**
Family Support Network
Operation Military Kids
- **Promoting Patriotism**
American Legion Baseball
Scouting
Boys State
National Holiday observance (*i.e.*, Memorial Day, Veterans Day)

In coming months (and future newsletters) I will be sharing in greater detail how it is that Post 216 makes these Four Pillars come to life in our community.

POST 216 Priorities for 2007-2008

During the September 2007 Executive Committee meeting, I shared with the Committee my vision and priorities for our activity during this Legion year. Here is a brief highlight of those priorities:

- **Act like ONE American Legion – Veteran, Auxiliary, Squadron**
- **Attract Gulf War Era Veterans**
 - **IMPROVE Post Home**
 - **Club 216 Air Quality** *(MY HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR THE BUILDING)*
 - Club as an attractive gathering place
 - **WI-FI & High speed internet** *(This is completed.)*
 - **Activities relevant to veterans of that age, era**
- **Honor Veterans of Each Era**
 - **PRIDE AND HONOR FLIGHT** *(We will help WW2 vets visit Wash., DC)*
 - **Social Gatherings for WW2, Korea, VN, Post -VN** *(Stay Tuned for more detail)*
 - **Funeral Honors** *(Post 216 sets the standard !!)*
- **Service to Veterans in Need**
 - Involvement with VA hospital and clinics
 - **Poppy Fund – a priority fund-raiser event**
- **Patriotic Observance**
 - Memorial Day
 - Veterans Day
- **Children and Youth Programs**
- **Secure Financial Position for Post 216**
 - **Balanced Budget**
 - Increase income
- **HAVE FUN together**

Post 216 and the UAW-GM National Strike

Our Post was involved in a helping way during the recent UAW-GM labor strike.

What many of you, our membership, may not know is that one of our regular users of the hall is UAW Local 653, which represents the workers at the GM Milford Proving Ground. For some time they have used our hall as the site of their periodic Union meetings.

So, when the union membership needed a place to gather to organize their part in the national labor negotiations work stoppage, it made sense to assemble at Post 216. Some of you may have seen the large gathering on Monday September 24, and, even after the large gathering dispersed, Post 216 members who are also UAW-GM employees continued to support one another in Club 216.

Some of our membership may have heard that I, as Post Commander, expressed displeasure

that our Meeting Hall was being used on that Monday for a purpose I felt was not appropriate. Let me clear the air about that. My remarks were made without full knowledge of the relationship that Post 216 has with Local 653. Add in the fact that in my work life the past 27 years I have been part of General Motors management. So, in some ways my perspective and judgment were affected because I was looking at the situation with GM eyes, and not with eyes as the leader of a veteran service organization in our community.

Speaking on behalf of Post 216, we value all members of the Huron-Valley community, and we value our interactions and relationships with all the groups within that community. So long as we keep politics and business in their proper place, we welcome all or our fellow citizens, and especially any military veteran. Post 216 will continue to have cordial relations with Local 653, and I look forward to working together veterans issues.



MEMBERSHIP 2007 - 2008

My fellow Legionnaires, I have given a number of hours of thought to the subject of Membership. Finally I decided to present you with some trivia notes that I have obtained from reading the Department of Michigan Website and from our October 2007 Membership Meeting.

- For a Post that has 15 new members this year it will receive a \$75.00 and a Certificate as a part of the Bronze Brigade from Department. Post 216 has 22 new members as of October 17th.
- For a Post that has 25 new members this year it will receive \$125.00, and a Certificate as part of the Silver Brigade from Department. That is 3 more new members for Post 216.
- For a Post that has 50 new members this year it will receive \$250.00, and a Certificate as part of the Gold Brigade from Department. This is 28 more new members for Post 216.
- Post 216 has 318 total paid members and needs 71 more before December 31, 2007 to reach our goal of 100%. That if just over 1/3 of the total number needed to meet our goal are new members we will receive \$250.00 to apply against one of our worthy causes.
- Any Post that is 100% by December 31, 2007 will be invited to choose one Post Representative and guest to attend the National Commander's Dinner in Lansing as the Membership Director's guest in February 2008.
- Last year Post 216 tied for 3rd place for the most new members in the state of Michigan.



We all have a relative, neighbor, or friend from school who is a vet. Talk to them. Explain our programs and our Post to them. Invite them to join our ranks. Consider a gift membership. We want to be the #1 Post in Michigan this year. All we need is for 23% of our current members to bring in 1 new member each and we will have reached our goal of 100%. Just think if we make 150% of our goal. We have 2 1/2 months to git-er-done.

You can obtain, and turn in the Membership Application along with a copy of the applicants DD Form 214, or discharge documentation, and their \$40.00 check or money order (first year dues) at the Post, to Bruce Hayden, or at the Meeting in November.

Good Luck lets keep membership foremost in our minds.

Charles L. Hoobler
Adjutant



From the President: Linda Maxwell

For those who do not know me, I'm Linda Maxwell and I'm the current Auxiliary Unit President. I am looking forward to a productive year working with all the Legion family

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. Please come and join us and help us help our veterans. I look forward to working with you.

Special thank you for the wonderful work done on the landscaping around our building. The flower beds are the best looking in town. I may miss someone, and for that I apologize – thank you Diane and Ron Nevorski, Karen Dean, Dolores Salvia, John Nelson, Bonnie Welbaum, and Pack 52 Cub Scouts.

Active Duty Honor Tree

A special thank you to Roberta Lennie for making new Yellow Ribbons for our active duty tree.

The tree is located on the southwest corner of the property, along Commerce Road. If you have a family member or friend who is serving on active duty and you would like to have a ribbon placed on the tree in their honor, let one of the Auxiliary Unit officers know and a ribbon will be added.

Halloween Party

The children's Halloween Party was a huge success, thanks to the combined work of our entire Legion Family – Auxiliary, Legionnaires, SAL, and Legion Riders. The volunteers out-did themselves and it made for a great Halloween Party for the children.



Linda

Thanks for all the great donations of goodies, time, and money. Big Thanks: Craig Stevens. The Hall looked great. The kids went away very happy and so was I.

Sincerely
Pam LaClair
Auxiliary Unit 216 2nd Vice President

Children's Christmas Party



The party this year is planned for Sunday December 2, and will be held between Noon and 3pm. To have your child participate, sign-up in Club 216. We will be having fun, food, and Santa.

See you there.

For God and Country,
Linda Maxwell
President American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 216
Milford, Mi



The summer of 2007 will go down as one of the best Michigan summers for motorcycling. The weather was almost perfect. Our chapter is actually not as active as some of the others here in southeastern Michigan primarily because of our demographics. Most of the membership in our group is not yet retired. In short, the weekends are the only days to get other things done along with trying to get a ride in. We did however manage to get in some riding.

You may have heard something about the American Legion Riders riding from the Legion headquarters in Indianapolis to the National Convention in Reno, NV. This is the second year that the Riders have made a cross country ride. The Riders have adopted the American Legion Legacy Fund as our main focus. Last year the Riders raised over \$180,000.00 during this one event! This year the Riders were challenged by the National Commander, to set a goal of \$250,000.00. After the Reno convention, the Riders total amount raised was *over* \$450,000.00 for this *single event!!* Moneys raised by our group during various rides and parties are also donated to this cause.

The Legacy Scholarship Fund mission is to send every child of a soldier killed in the war against terror, since Sept. 11, 2001 to College. Obviously, this is a major commitment and we need all the support we can get from our local posts.

Our next scheduled event as of now is the Annual Beach Party, which is currently scheduled for January 26, 2008.

Have a Great Holiday Season,

Andy Russell,
Director
American Legion Riders, #216



Dear Veterans and American citizens,

Please accept this invitation to you and your family to participate in the 2007 Veterans Day Procession and Ceremonies that will take place on Sunday November 11, 2007. I would deeply appreciate your assistance in extending this to as many veterans you can find.

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

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

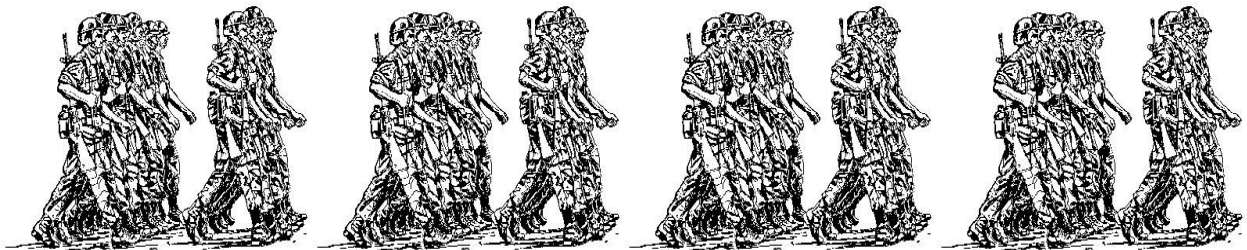
Author unknown

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

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

Please wear your uniform if you have one and can still get into it, or a piece of your old uniform, cap, jacket, etc. Wear any medals, ribbons, badges, etc that you may have on a jacket or on a collared shirt with dark trousers.

Thanks in advance for your participation. I look forward to seeing you and all the Veterans you can find on **Sunday November 11th**. Call 313-701-8000 if you have any questions.



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

Joseph M. Salvia American Legion Post 216

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

Officers for 2007 - 2008 Year



| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| COMMANDER | JOHN R. NELSON | (248) 684-9287 |
| SR. VICE COMMANDER | ANTHONY PUENTE | (248) 685-3767 |
| JR. VICE COMMANDER | TODD HERRON | (248) 363-4333 |
| ADJUTANT | CHUCK HOOBLER | (248) 889-2301 |
| FINANCE OFFICER | RON NEVORSKI | (248) 684-8950 |
| CHAPLAIN | BOB JANOSKA | (248) 887-2645 |
| HISTORIAN | MURRAY BURLEY | (248) 685-2864 |
| SGT-AT-ARMS | SKIP DAVISON | (248) 676-2954 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | BOB GODWIN | (248) 685-3255 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | JIM HUNTER | (248) 685-0232 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | JACK WINDER | (248) 887-4222 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD SAL | MIKE McDONNELL | (248) 685-1330 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD AUXILIARY | LINDA MAXWELL | (248) 684-1867 |



| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|
| PRESIDENT | LINDA MAXWELL | (248) 684-1867 |
| SR. VICE PRESIDENT | SALLY MORIN | (248) 887-1602 |
| JR. VICE PRESIDENT | PAM LACLAIR | |
| SECRETARY | | |
| TREASURER | JAN LACLAIR | |
| CHAPLAIN | SUE BELL | |
| HISTORIAN | | |
| SERGEANT-AT-ARMS | MERRY PANAVALS | |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | JOAN KOWAL | |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | DIANE CORT | (248) 685-3171 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | LYNN LOMBARDO | |

Officers for 2007 - 2008 Year



| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| COMMANDER | MIKE McDONNELL | (248) 685-1330 |
| SENIOR VICE | BUTCH MAXWELL | (248) 684-1867 |
| JUNIOR VICE | GARY GIBBONS | (248) 684-8565 |
| SAL CHAIRMAN | BOB JANOSKA | (248) 887-2645 |
| ADJUTANT | FRED MORIN | (248) 887-1602 |
| FINANCE | JOHN LOMBARDO | (248) 889-8298 |
| HISTORIAN | DANIEL SCHEIDEMAN | (248) 830-7059 |
| CHAPLAIN | RICK BYRNE | (248) 437-9415 |
| SGT. AT ARMS | RAY CLINARD | (810) 750-3070 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | JIM BINGHAM | (248) 672-7393 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | ANDY RUSSELL | (248) 684-0085 |
| EXECUTIVE BOARD | CLAYTON MAXWELL | (248) 684-1867 |



| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| DIRECTOR | ANDY RUSSELL |
| ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | JOHN NELSON |
| SECRETARY | RAY CLINARD |
| TREASURER | MIKE McDONNELL |
| CHAPLAIN | LINDA MAXWELL |
| HISTORIAN | TODD HERRON |
| ROAD CAPTAIN | BUTCH MAXWELL |
| ASSISTANT ROAD CAPTAIN | JOHN KIELIAN |
| ASSISTANT ROAD CAPTAIN | DAVE PANAVAS |

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 – November 2007
Ernest F. Oldenburg Post #216
The American Legion
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Milford, MI 48381

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