



ERNEST F. OLDENBURG POST 216 MILFORD, MICHIGAN

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

Member of MALPA

2005 Membership - 335

Ray Chaplin, Editor

From the Commander:

MISSION: POST PRIDE and HOSPITALITY

In Appreciation

Christmas Party

Many children and adults attended the “Breakfast with Santa Party”. A wonderful breakfast was prepared for all, followed by games and then gifts after a visit with Santa who is also known as Chuck Chidsey. On behalf of all in attendance, a grateful thank is extended to the Women’s Auxiliary and the SAL for their continuous support and contributions.

Bingo Team

Bruce Hayden - Chairmen, Bob-Godwin and Jim Hunter - Co-chairmen

Continued thanks to the dedication, loyalty and leadership of the Bingo Chairmen and all of the Bingo workers who give up their Friday nights to support our Bingo activity.

Special thanks and recognition to Bob Godwin for his many, many years of continuous service working Bingo, working the tear off tickets, setting up the Hall for Bingo and sharing as a co-chairman in a leadership role. You are a great example to all of us regarding the phrase “Our devotion to mutual helpfulness”

Welcome and thank you to the newest members joining the Bingo Team:

Chuck Chidsey, Dennis Finkbinder, John Nelson, Ron Nevorski and Albert Pierre.

Building Fundraiser 50/50 Raffle

Ron Nevorski – Chairman, Angelo Pelagatta – Co-chairman

The 50/50 raffle was a complete success raising over \$14,000.00 to use to pay down the bank credit line that was used for the completion of the exterior renovations and North entrance. Thanks to Ron and Angelo and members of the Legion, SAL, Women’s Auxiliary for their hard work in selling raffle tickets. Thanks to the many individuals who are non-members, non-veterans, and don’t even live in our community who stepped forward to answer the call and bought raffle tickets. They have displayed the pride and spirit of teamwork in bringing this all about. Already, many have expressed an interest in having another raffle this year. Details will be announced in the near future.

Building Renovations

As of March 10th much additional work has been accomplished in the foyer and hall in keeping with our mission of Post Pride.

Special thanks to the following individuals:
Pat Duby and his crew for installing new carpet in the foyer and coat closet.

Tim Downes for building a storage area in the closet, trimming out all the foyer, bathroom and hall doors, and other general areas in the hall.

Mark Simpson and Tom Crouch for painting the upstairs foyer, bathroom areas, coat closet and the entire hall, providing a new clean and co-ordinated look in harmony with the exterior renovation.

Building Renovations Cont'd

Paul Starr for putting a new rubber roof, new vinyl surface, and new light fixture on the front entrance porch canopy structure.

There remain a few small tasks, but everything looks great including the new white guard and stair rails on the front porch.

Recognition and Honors Dinner

A dinner that was originally scheduled for March 18th has been changed to April 8, 2006. Letters of invitation will be sent out with more specific details.

All those individuals and businesses that contributed time, talent, materials or any other sort of financial or professional support will be formally recognized for their assistance. Without this tremendous outpouring of energy the appearance of the Legion Home would not be as you see it today. There may be some who will not be able to attend because of being located out of state. In those instances special arrangements will be made recognize them remotely. A complete list of all award recipients will be published in the May Newsletter.

Post Hospitality

Burger Nights continue to have great attendance. Once again thanks to the SAL and other groups who volunteer their time in the kitchen to help make the event a success. Burger night is a fun night so please come and bring some folks with you to support the Clubroom. We have many new members this year. Remember, keeping new members requires continued hospitality and a welcoming attitude. **Hospitality starts and continues with each and every one of you,** especially those who attend the Clubroom more frequently. Please watch for any new faces, whether they are new members or just visitors. You may be the only one to make them feel at home at our Post and the only one that will cause them to want to come back.

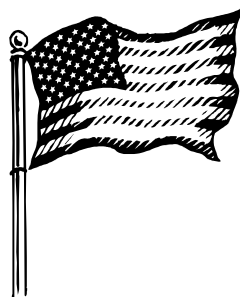
Honorwalk

Skip Davison, Chairman

The Honorwalk is on-going program. Brick paver forms are available in the Clubroom or you may leave a message at the Clubroom (248-684-9919) for Skip if you need additional information. This program is open to all veterans whether or not they are members of the Post. It is open to any veteran from anywhere who has received an honorable discharge or is still in service. They are an excellent way to memorialize a veteran loved one that may have been cremated and has no headstone or grave marker. Remember that the proceeds go to support the Building Fund. Since Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day are coming soon, getting a brick for a family member or a loved one is a very nice thing to do. Allow four to six weeks from order to installation so get your order in right away.

Flag Retirement

John Nelson, Senior Vice Commander



The Unserviceable Flag Drop Box continues to be a great service to our local citizens. Norm Tibbs has taken the responsibility of checking and emptying the box weekly, as it tends to fill rapidly. Many in the community have expressed their thanks for having such a convenient place to deposit unserviceable flags.

Senior Vice Commander John Nelson will be in charge of this mission for 2006 and, along with several Post officers and other members, and schedule at least one or more formal retirement ceremonies during the course of the year in order to dispose of the great quantity of flags that are accumulating. Further details will be announced in the Legion website and future newsletters.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, Monday May 29, 2006 is fast approaching. This is by far is the largest and most important gathering event of the year on the Post calendar. The parade is now the biggest parade of the year for Milford and the Huron Valley Community. I have included an insert with additional information. Please make every effort to be part of this important event and bring any veterans you know with you. My goal is to have 1,000 veterans at this event walking together down Main Street.



This can happen if everyone invites one or two veterans to join in. If you have been to one you already know the power of the experience. Tell someone about it and encourage him or her to come. More information will be coming in May and also on the website.

Remember, rain or shine we will stand tall and walk together. BE THERE!!!

Post Cleanup

There will be several cleanup times scheduled for both April and May. I need your assistance to police up the Post grounds and then to prepare the beds for plantings, etc. Everyone needs to be involved in this project as it directly relates to our Post Pride Mission. Please help out when asked for assistance.

Regards,
Joseph M. Salvia
Commander



From the Sr. Vice Commander

Membership

That is why we are part of the American Legion and part of EFO Post 216. The other members and

fellow veterans. At this time of year we are thinking of several member related topics that deserve our attention.

First, those of us who have been members of the Post and want to continue to be members have a responsibility to respond when contacted by Membership Chairman Bruce Hayden. If you have not yet responded to

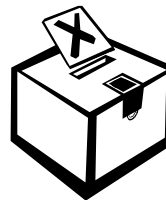


mailings or phone calls, have not yet sent in your membership renewal dues, please do that this week.

Secondly, there are many young veterans of recent military service who could join the American Legion (and our Post) but who may not know they can. They may not know they want to join our Post – because no one has invited them. So I am challenging myself to speak to young men and women that I meet, and I will be asking them if they served in our nation’s military. Then I’ll invite them to share a good time at burger night, and to march with us in our Memorial Day parade. From that introduction, we may gain a new member. And once we have a new, younger member to carry the torch from the WWII and Korean War veterans, we have more possibilities in the programs and activities of the Post. I challenge each of us to talk to the people you meet. Get to know them, and if they served in the military, invite them to the Post.

Election of Officers

It is that time of year again. We will be discussing this important topic at the next (March 2006) membership meeting. From a review of the Post bylaws we have learned that we must have elections before the May meeting. I urge you all to come and be part of our discussion and be part of the election process.



John Nelson
Sr. Vice Commander



From the Historian

Don't forget to check our Website!

The Post website is growing, with new information and links being added weekly. Your



input is welcome. Please email me with items or suggestions. We will be meeting with Paul Braun (our host) to see what

other features can be added. A couple of the next items that should be added are more detailed information on Bingo Night and Hall rental. We will add pictures to support this information. These moneymakers need to get out to the public.

I try and keep the information fresh when I am in town, and often update it with my laptop when we are on trips. I just added a link to MapQuest to show people how to get to the Post.

Please check in often at <http://www.milfordlegion216.org>

John Moore
Post Historian
Website Administrator



From the Service Officer

New Medicare Advantage Plan for Veterans which includes:

- Worldwide Coverage, Hospital, Medical, Dental,
- Vision Discount Program, Silver Sneakers Gym Membership

plus other added benefits, all for ZERO premium.

Must be on Medicare Part A or B and no endstage renal kidney disease to qualify. If living outside of Michigan, will refer a contact where you live.

MEMBERSHIP

There are still a large number 2006 memberships which have not been paid.

If there is some problem preventing you from paying your dues, please contact Bruce Hayden, 248-684-6838.





Veterans Affairs' & Rehabilitation Auxiliary Special Projects

The 18th District Auxiliary is trying to plan a different activity each month for the veterans at the Detroit Veterans Center. March 19th they will have sandwiches and goodies. April will be the annual pizza party. Our unit has contributed \$200 towards these activities. But as always they can use all the help they can get making homemade goodies and helping to setup, serve and cleanup at the center. If you can help out call Teri Chaplin at 248-887-8136. All help is welcomed.

Children & Youth

WE will be having the annul Easter egg hunt on Saturday April 15 at 11:00 A.M. at the post. Donations of candy and help with filling and hiding the eggs are appreciated. Contact Dolores Salvia on 248- 887-1421 if you can help out.



This year's children's Christmas party was a great success. A BIG thank you to the many volunteers and to the Legion and SAL for their support. Breakfast with Santa was a real hit. We received many positive comments about the new format. We plan to do breakfast again next year.

National Security

I have learned of a great program in our area. There is a group of dedicated individuals that will refurbish donated computer equipment and ship them to our troops in the Middle East. If you have a laptop (Pentium II or better) that you would like to donate call Teri Chaplin at 248-887-8136 to arrange for pickup. This is a great help and comfort to the soldiers who can e-mail their families at anytime and at no cost. So far the group has donated over 200 laptops to our troops. So ask family, friends and coworkers if they have a laptop they would like to donate. It would be great if we could round up 10 laptops to donate before Memorial Day.

We will be keeping our Forget Us Not Tree going as long as there are soldiers in harms way. Let your neighbors, friends and family know they can help the community honor their loved one serving overseas by coming to the post placing their name on a yellow ribbon and placing it on the tree.

Membership News

Our goal for 2006 stayed at 167 members. As of March 3, 2006 we are at 91% of goal WITH 153 MEMEBRS PAID! It's not too late to pay your dues for this year. If you lost your membership renewal form contact Sally Morin at 248-887-1602 for help renewing. Without each and every one of you we can't continue to do great things for our veterans.

Marie Jackson has been instrumental in the Auxiliary's many VA&R, Junior and children's activities, to name a just few, over the years. This winter she fell and broke her ankle if you would like to send a note to lift her spirits her address is: 4815 Strathcona, Highland, Mi 48357.

Auxiliary Fundraisers:

The Auxiliary had a successful fall fundraiser with our eBay Auctions. Now that it is time for spring cleaning - we plan on helping you out again! We will have another collection day April 22, 2006 1 - 4 P.M. We will be accepting donations of all sorts of articles:

- Car and motorcycle parts (especially vintage)
- Collectibles of all kinds (dolls, plates, precious moments etc.)
- Jewelry
- Sport equipment
- Electronic equipment
- DVD's or CD's
- Dishes and silverware (even odd pieces)
- Vintage clothing
- New or gently used women's and men's clothing. **Note:** Men's clothing will be donated to the veteran's center.

In short any usable item around your house. Place your items on the tables at the back of the clubroom. Please mark your donation with an approximate amount you think the item is worth. If you have items to donate but can't get them to the post that week or have any questions call Brenda at 248-887-1723 or me at 248-887-8136.

We will also have another drop off day in July. So start cleaning out the basement, attic, shed and garage.

Junior's Corner

We have several new junior members this year and they are really excited about helping the veterans and being active in Auxiliary activities. Several of our junior's will be attending the Junior's state convention this month in Blissfield Michigan. They had a successful hamburger night fundraiser thanks to the SAL guaranteeing a minimum amount of profit. The girls also sold bake goods at Bingo. We would like to involve the juniors in a different activity each month. Some directly helping veteran's or around the post; other activities will be fun activities so that girls can get to know each other. If you have any ideas for activities or can help out contact Sheila Maxwell on 248-684-1867.

Poppy Days

The annual time for distributing poppies in memory of our war dead is coming up in May. Please help us distribute poppy's to remind the community of the sacrifices made for their freedom. We women will distribute in front of local businesses and leave the streets to the men. Look for more information in the next newsletter.

Teri's Tidbits:

Several times over the last few month's I have had opportunities for the Auxiliary to help with efforts benefiting our veterans and active military. Often these opportunities come up between meetings. We have missed these opportunities because I have not been able to reach the membership in time. I would like to put together a e-mail distribution list so I can periodically (very infrequently) send out notices for help or donations for different activities. If you have an e-mail address just send a note to teri_chaplin@direcway.com and I will add you to my list. If you don't have e-mail but would like to be contacted when we have different opportunities call Brenda Dees on 248-887-1723 or Teri Chaplin at 248-887-8136 and leave a phone number where you can be reached.

Tax information for active military personnel:
www.irs.gov/individuals/military/

Are you also an AARP member? You can get discounts from Home Depot (4%), Barnes and Noble (35% on selected titles), Reebok and Rockport Outlets (20%). Check out these and other discounts on the AARP web-site – www.aarp.org.

For God and Country,

Teri Chaplin
President American Legion Auxiliary
Unit 216
Milford, Mi

Calendar of Events:

March '06

- 03 – 18th District Meeting 8:00 PM – Farmington
- 07 – SAL Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- 13 – Legion Riders Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- 17 – St. Patricks Day (See below for further details)
- 21 – Legion Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM

April '06

- 04 – SAL Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- 07 – 18th District Meeting 8:00 PM – Auburn Hills
- 10 – Legion Riders Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
- 15 – Children Easer Egg Hunt (See Children & Youth in Auxiliary section for more details.)
- 18 – Legion Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM
Auxiliary Monthly Meeting 7:30 PM

May '06

- 29 – Memorial Day (See Invitation later in newsletter. More details in next newsletter)

June '06

- 15-18 – Department Convention (See March/April Michigan Legionnaire for more details)

Notable Events:

☞ **St. Patrick's Day Party** at the Post on March 17, 2006. Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner available.

☞ **Hamburger Night** – Begins September 15, then ever Thursday thereafter.
The Kitchen Commander is always looking for volunteers. Contact Jimmy Bingham for details
(248) 672-7393 or (248) 685-9919 (Post #).

☞ **Fish Fry** - Friday nights between 5:00pm and 8:00pm during Lent. Take-out orders are available. Come early to be sure to get your order in. Call Clubroom if you have any questions

☞ **Poppy Day** - Bob Janoska will be in charge of the Poppy Day activities, which are scheduled for May 18 thru 20, 2006. Everyone needs to help out. Please help out. Additional details in May.

☞ 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: _____



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 2006 Memorial Day Parade and Ceremonies that will take place on Monday May 29, 2006.

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 this year 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 **1-800-547-8111** 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

MEMORIAL DAY May 29, 2006

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*

NOTE: Donations in excess of the parade expenses will go towards the building fund.

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

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