

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN



• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •

July/August/September 2017

Volume 85 Number 1



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary members,

Thank you for the confidence you placed in me by electing me as your State Sr. Vice Commander for 2017-18.

I do not take my duties and responsibilities of this position lightly.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their summer if it was like mine it went by rather fast and busy. From our Department Convention to Camp Trotter golf outing and VTS, Jacobetti Home for Veterans golf outing and VTS, National Convention in New Orleans, Michigan Day at the National Home and the start of our District meetings.

Next year as I become your State Commander you will see some changes, I understand that not everyone likes to change but in today's day and age we need to use the technology that is provided to us. It is only going to get better.

So, one of the changes that you will see is the Department Roster becoming a living document on our website. There will be no more hard copies distributed to the Posts and

**Phil
Patterson**
Senior
Vice Commander



Districts. Our webmaster John Gubin and I are working together to make this a smooth and easy transition. You will be able to print off the whole roster yourself or just the sections that you need. When changes occur within the Post, County Council, District or Department, they need to be submitted to Department and the roster will be updated at that time to reflect the changes. This will always ensure that you have an updated roster. This is also serving as a cost saving measure to the Department. I know there are going to be a lot of questions and concerns so please present them to John or I when you see us out and about.

How many of you have never been to

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

STATE ADJ/QUARTERMASTER

Hello to all from Dept. Headquarters.

We are busy busy here at Dept. trying to accomplish everything we can to make your jobs easier at the Post and District level. We have sent out the bond applications to all Post Quartermasters and I hope that you have all returned them or sent a copy of the post bond into Dept. This is a very important document for your post. It will be needed at your post inspection. Post inspections should be completed before Fall Conference. When going thru the post inspection and it asks you the date of the last filing for the 990. Please show the inspector the paper of when the last time you filed was. Because of the dates that you file and the dates of the inspection it won't always be the one that is coming due. We just need to see that you are filing and you are current up to the last due date of the 990 filing.

We have held a couple VTS training sessions already this year and are planning to have a couple more. I hope that you attend them or send someone from your post to one that is close by to you. The next three that we have scheduled are: Post 701 26 August 2017; Fall Conference 23 September 2017

**Lynn
Patterson**
Department
ADJ/Quartermaster



and Post 4034 21 October 2017. We do these training events for you and to help you get the information you need to complete your job in whatever position you hold in the Post or District. If there is something specific that you would like to learn about please let us know so we can provide the training that you are looking for.

Please look at your post By-Laws and see when the last time they were reviewed. If it has been more than 10 years look into revising them. There is no longer a Men's Aux and the word Ladies has been taken out of the Auxiliaries name. There is a template that you are able to use on National's website under forms and Templates. Or you can contact me and I will be happy to email it to you. National website is www.vfw.org and the Dept. website is www.vfwmi.org. These

ADJ./QUARTERMASTER, continued on page 2

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

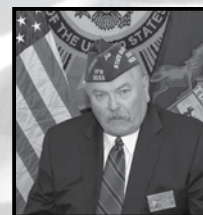
Comrades of the great state of Michigan, thank you for listening to the message. Thank you for believing in my heart. It is truly an honor to be elected by you to serve as your State Jr. Vice Commander for 2017-2018. By the time, you read this article I would have received many words of wisdom from our leaders. Thank you, Commander Matt for the knowledge and time you have given me. To our Sr. Vice Phil, your many hours of mentorship are most appreciated. To our ladies in headquarters, Lynn and Amanda thank you for fulfilling my requests.

I would be remiss if I did not mention my mentors over the years that took the time to teach me. They are, PDC's John Harrow, Wayne "BOOMER" Buck, Bud Huuki, Jim VanHauter, Ron Amend, Bill Dobbie, Dave Miller, Roger Mays, Sherwood Pea, Rick Redfern, Dave Hutson, Harry Croyle, Paul McIvor and Jerry Gorski. A special thank you to my main mentors PDC Don Nettler, 9th District Commanders Denny Craycraft and Dick Kummerow (you to Amy).

Thank you to the "Fred E. Richards" Post 3055 and the 9th District for your smiles, encouragement and support.

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued on page 2

**Mike
Fineis**
Junior
Vice Commander



This mission the past three years would not be possible without the support of my family. Our boys Tim and Nate who take care of the homestead while we are away. Our daughter and son in law, Katie and Steve who attend our state functions. Most importantly, the love of my life Cindy—MAMA!!

Congratulations to all newly elected and appointed officers. I ask that you take a professional approach and read what your duties and responsibilities are for the coming year. Order from national supply the "Podium Edition of the - Congressional Charter - By-Laws -Manual of Procedure - Ritual". The more knowledge you have, the better off your post will be. Also, attend the Department and District schools of instruction.

District Commanders, your district receives funds from Department twice a year. Use these funds to send your officers to

STATE CHAPLAIN

Comrades, Sisters, and Brothers,

Hoping that this summer brought each of you joy and welcomed warmth of soul and body. Your State Chaplain had a bit time to recharge, re-evaluate, renew, savor more opportunities to serve, and gladly anticipate future positive opportunities. Accordingly, please note the upcoming Dept. Fall Conference includes the annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Michigan Post and District Chaplains' breakout session. It is a fellowship and best practices meeting that could be helpful; Please pass this information on.

Once again, please consider Aug. 2016's gentle advice for new Post and District leadership throughout of state:

**Jennifer
Smith**
State Chaplain



"Please be inclusive, but definitive; considering well all applicable perspectives but seeking the proper organizational outcome notwithstanding personal desires. Please do not sacrifice sound long-term objectives for short-term wants. Your foundation is usually built upon the decades of selfless service and dedication of many before you so be certain

STATE CHAPLAIN, continued on page 2

**MOV MAILING CLARIFICATION:
A MAILED HARD COPY OF THE MOV
IS FREE TO VFW MEMBERS.**

STATE JUDGE ADVOCATE

Congratulations to all of our recent All-State Commanders and Auxiliary members for all of your hard work and dedication to this great organization. Good luck to all of the in-coming commanders and presidents for the 2017-2018 year. I am looking forward to your leadership and guidance. We will continue to move forward assisting each other to fulfill our duties and commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Thank you for electing me once again as your Judge Advocate 2017-2018. I will work hard for our Commander and the Council of Administration to ensure we have a great year.

The 118th VFW National Convention is upon us and I look forward to representing you there. I would again like to highly encourage you to attend not only your post, district and department meetings but National as well. You can make a difference in our organization at every level if you get involved by attending these meetings. I am routinely asked questions



about issues that are supposed to be reported at these meetings. Either members are not attending meetings or information is not being shared. We must all do our part by attending meetings and sharing information.

The recently updated By-Laws for the Department of Michigan and the one resolution were forwarded to National for review. Once they are reviewed they will be made available for you. Please work together not only in your posts but with the Auxiliary to keep the Veterans of Foreign Wars running strong.

Thank you again for electing me once again for your Department of Michigan Judge Advocate. Let's have a great 2017-2018 year!

SR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

a Department function or meeting? The Department tries to hold meetings in different areas of the state, so that everyone can attend at least one function in a year's time. When we come to a location that is near where you live, please consider joining us for a day or just a few hours. The information that we provide can be beneficial to you and your families, the benefits that you are entitled to receive or how to go about applying for your benefits. All our directors attend these meetings.

We still have multiple VTS sessions

coming up so please consider attending one in your area, the information that you receive will be very beneficial to your Post and all your members. Please remember take the information that you receive during the training and pass it on.

All Senior Vice Commanders, this is the time that you need to have a plan for your year in office. If you do not have a plan, you will go nowhere. Our organization needs to grow. We need to promote all our programs.

TEAMBUILDING~TEAMWORK~
COMMUNICATION

JR. VICE COMMANDER, continued from page 1

fall conference, midwinter, state convention and VTS training. Purchase "2018 Podium Editions" for your posts to ensure each post is updated.... then ask them to read it!!!

For the outgoing officers, be there to guide and advise, not to lead. To many times posts make the mistake of "we've always done it that way". This concept stifles eagerness and innovation. The Iraq and Afghanistan vets are High Tech and full of energy and ideas. Allow them to flourish and bring their knowledge into your post. This is what we as an organization must do to grow and survive.

Congratulations to the newly elected District Jr. Vice Commanders. Please be aware by holding your office you are expected to attend Fall Conference, Mid-Winter and State Convention. You should also attend VTS schools of instruction. If you fail to attend these functions you will not have the knowledge to go thru the chairs and be successful. At all state functions, there will be a meeting of all Jr. Vice Commanders.

We will come together and start the process of building the team that will lead our Department in two years. We will share thoughts, ideas, and "what if we did it this way". All may attend. **Report, Report,**

ADJ./QUARTERMASTER, continued from page 1

are both great tools to help you throughout your year.

We just returned from National Convention in New Orleans. I had a great time enjoying the city and exploring but, I also learned a great deal at the convention as well. National is really trying to give us the things that we are looking for at the conventions. They had a bunch of workshops and training seminars prepared for the membership to attend.

Can't wait to see you at Fall Conference (Boyne Highlands September 20- 24th 2017)!



Homeless Veterans



Barb Locke

Comrades:

We as a VFW group value the commitment of all community partners in the goal to end Veterans Homelessness in our adjoining communities. It is imperative that we be aware of our

surrounding areas to be able to identify and bring the awareness to our communities. Our Veterans are counting on you.

Jobs are plenty within communities. If you can take the time to do a little research for your job sites within your area, you may be helping a Veterans accomplish a goal in their lives. We take one step at a time to fulfill a families needs. Please contact me if there are any concerns and questions.

CHAPLAIN, continued from page 1

to uphold the values and mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Note well the pictures of those commemorated on your walls and undertake efforts to honor them and keep your Posts (Districts and/or County Councils) viable, strong, and relevant.

Moreover, collaborative leadership is usually far more productive and effective than authoritative rule. Therefore, please know that equity, innovation, wisdom, humility, and integrity will be of more valuable than gold. The arrogant will not take gentle correction or tolerate suggestion, but the open-minded will consider carefully, ask for assistance when needed, and appreciate added knowledge. Proverbs 9:8-9 ESV, 'Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.'

Last, very much hoping to see a number of you soon. Until then, may we please remain humble and understand that our respective blessings are numerous. We need look no further than the beauty of nature, the love/kindness of others, and the amazing considerations too often taken for granted (the life in our bodies, freedoms of America, and etc.). May we be positively uplifted, strengthened, and inspired by His grace and the sound wisdom granted. Numbers 6:24-26 ESV, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." Romans 12:12 ESV, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

May the Lord richly bless you.

Buddy Poppy Days

I would like to thank all the Post that participated with Buddy Poppy Days, those that went out into your communities and distributed poppies, job well done! Thank you.

Thank you to everyone that submitted your Post total income as well as your 3 highest members sales totals.

Our 1st Place Post member is Ron Graus from Post 7573 New Baltimore raising \$4,757.01 Our First Place Post #334 with highest donations raised \$49,434.62

Congratulations for a JOB WELL DONE. Thank you for your support, for your relief fund!

Remember it's never too late to order your poppies for the coming year, with Patriots Day September 11 approaching this is also a good time to offer poppies at your program. Remember you can distribute poppies all year long.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at POW WOW

Remember to start now with ordering Posters and Poppy's along with all other supplies needed to have 2018 Poppy Days be even a more successful program for your relief fund, So you're able to help Veteran's and their families in need.



**Loyally Submitted,
James Hubbard
VFW Department Poppy Chairman**



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Membership Program



Scott Gloger

Hello Comrades,
This is another year for membership. We need to begin the big push for new members starting early and continue on through the year. Do not wait for the last few months of the year to achieve 100%. I know we can

beat last years, if we all work at it.

Make sure all your officers that pay annually dues are paid on time. If not National will remove them from office. We do not want that to happen.

Good Luck, and if you are having a function and would like one of directors to be there, let me know and I will see what I can do. Any questions please call Me at 734-323-1188 or email me at miroadrunner52@yahoo.com.

Scott Gloger, Membership Director

All-State Program

Comrades the 2017-2018 reporting period started May 1, 2017 and ends April 30, 2018. There have been a few **Changes** to the program for this year. So **Please** read the program in the 2017-2018 commander's roster or department web-site under programs (All-State) in its entirety. So you understand what is required and **Who** and **Where** to send reports and **Deadline Dates**.

The 2017-2018 All-State checklist and Commander's entry form can be found on the department website. You can print copies from the site (All-State checklist). Also I have copies at every VTS training we hold. The All-State checklist is provided so the post can keep track of their points, it's your responsibility.

Some All-State Program Statistics:

There are 375 Points (not including points tied to membership) of that 127 points (are tied to donations) 248 points can be attained by not donating a penny. Only 125 points is needed with membership requirement with 100% + 1 new member to achieve All-State honors.

County Council and District All-State Commander requirements are different so please refer to 2017-2018 Department Commander's roster or the 2017-2018 All-State County Council or District Commander's Program on the department Web-site.

All-State Judging has been changed to May 2, 2018

In Closing (3) VERY Important requirement's to adhere to...

1. All-State Check List and Commander's entry form for all **Post**, **County Council** and **District Commanders** must be received at the Department Headquarters by **April 30, 2018** for All-State honors consideration (**No Exceptions**)
2. If 125 points has been achieved by the post by **April 30, 2018** and there All-State checklist and Commander's entry for is into Department Headquarter by that date, but the post, County Council or District is shy of the membership requirement of 100% +1 New member. Post will be allowed to continue recruiting until **June 30, 2018**
3. Not a requirement but **Highly Recommended**. Once **Again Only Use and Reference** the 2017-2018 All-State Program for Directions, Program requirements and Deadline Dates.

Good Luck to All.....

Sherwood H. Pea Jr
All-State Director 2017-2018

Camp Trotter Tales



Robert Benerman

Without the continued support of all our fine members and friends Camp Trotter would not be.

Again, Denise Arnold (scrubs) was at the top of her game and done just a remarkable job, with hundreds and hundreds of our children and grandchildren over the years. Reminds me of the energizer bunny that keeps going and going. I wish I had some of her energy. And also to all the counselors and kitchen staff, ground crews and a lot of people behind the scenes great job for the great success of the 2017 season and last but not least Chris Arnold who I see there about every weekend doing whatever and everything that needs to be done, for those of you that don't know, Chris has saved the camp thousands of dollars in repairs to the camp

I would like to start out by thanking all the great people, VFW posts and Auxiliary's For all their generous donations to Camp Trotter. The department auxiliary with a donation of over eleven thousand dollars. Fantastic job.

over the years. Thank you Chris.

We tried a new thing this year with 13-15-year-old children, a short week for a trial but it was a huge success. I think that Denise and the counselors had as much fun as the kids. One thing that stands out was a tubing trip down the river all I seen was smiles and happiness. We will hopefully be trying this for a full week in the 2018 season. Again, if this works out scholarships will not be available for this age group and limited to sixty children this week only. Please help in passing the word and give us your suggestions and ideas on things for the kids to do.

The golf outing was a success this year down a little on participation but everyone had a great time please help us pass the word the golf outing for 2018 will be held on June 22nd at Village Green Golf course again. Hole sponsors and prizes will be needed so please start helping us out, it's never too early to start. I would like to see 150-hole sponsors and 26 teams to participate. This is very doable with a little help.

I would like to take time to let you know and thank Ron Vanderpe and his crew that puts on a golf outing of about 40 people that I was invited to this year and all of the proceeds go to VFW Camp Trotter. When you see Ron

Advocating For Others



Paul Pirlot

form after form by hand and submit to the VA for processing.

At the regional office our service officers and claims consultants would receive the claims in bundles from the field or from the postal service. It was not uncommon to process dozens of claims and hundreds or perhaps thousands of forms and documents on a day-to-day basis. The sheer volume of claim work going to the VA daily would astound the average citizen. I'm fond of saying if our service officers did nothing more than process mail rather than answer phone calls, return emails, and conduct interviews, we would still have a full day.

Although much has changed over the past decade and a half, especially with technology, our service officers and claims consultants still have a full day's work and then some. We still receive paper claims from the field as we have those clients who steadfastly refuse to use a computer. That's okay. There are times I'm not fond of them myself.

Today our service office staff uses such programs as Direct Upload, Digit to Digit (D2D), and packaged claims to file claims electronically with the VA. Our field

Much has changed in the veterans' advocacy field since I became a service officer back in 2003. In the past a pen and paper forms were the main means of filing claims in the field during an interview. We would painstakingly complete

representatives often travel from assignment to assignment armed with a laptop computer, a scanner, and a signature pad. Sometimes they use a printer, while more often than not the printer is relegated to the same status as a rotary dial telephone. (What's that, you ask?). Quite often no paper forms are signed or submitted. Having a claim lost in cyberspace is less likely to occur than sending it through the mail, but it still happens on rare occasions.

We use VA programs such as VBMS (Veterans Benefits Management System) which allows us to see almost a complete digital history of the veteran's service from pre-enlistment forward. Obtaining a copy of a DD 214 often requires just a few strokes of the keyboard. Previously we had to order a paper claim folder from the VA which could be very time consuming as sometimes the folder could be at another regional office or in long term storage in St. Louis or Kansas City.

Another aspect of our job is appellate work. This can be a labor intensive and time consuming endeavor, but when we gain a victory for the veteran or surviving family member we consider our efforts to be well worth it! If a hearing has been requested, we and the veteran formulate a plan as to the content of the testimony we will present to the Decision Review Officer of Board of Veterans Appeals Veterans Law Judge. Rather than wait for a traveling team of judges from Washington, DC most hearings now take place via video teleconference. Although our job is still hectic, technology has changed the way we do our job for the better!

I have been working an issue with a local resident of Oakland County. She found nine unmarked graves for WW2 KIAs. We launched an effort with the VA Regional office in Detroit to order markers from the National Cemetery Administration. Seven of the applications have been approved and a ceremony honoring these veterans will be this Sunday, email with directions below

Service is held at 4 Freedom Memorial at White Chapel Cemetery. There will be a parade that will start at noon and goes to the 4 Freedom Memorial. Service will start as soon as the parade arrives, so it looks like about 12:10pm. Hope to see you there. I will have DAR ladies stationed at all the grave sites. I will be wearing my DAR Badge. My phone number is 248-693-7674, if you want to text me when you get there. We have family coming from Zoulek, I am working on getting a flag presented to the family.

Paul Perlot

Success Story

During the course of a service officer's career he or she may submit thousands of claims. While several may stand out for one reason or another, for the most part it is all in a day's work and part of the routine nature of our job. We interview, complete the necessary forms, submit the claim and wait for the outcome. We had one claim that disrupted that pattern completely.

We received a phone call from a family friend of a World War II veteran. Although all of our encounters with this exceptional group of veterans are special, this particular case would prove exceptional. Adolore Palmiter was a patient at the Ann Arbor VAMC. Mr. Palmiter was just one of 23 living survivors of the USS Indianapolis. As you may recall this ship was on a classified mission when it was hit by two torpedoes and sunk. Of 1,196 sailors on board only 317 survived. Many of the survivors suffered from exposure, salt poisoning, and shark bites. Mr. Palmiter was just 18 years and three months old when the ship departed San Francisco bound for Tinian Island. Two

weeks later he was fighting for his life in the shark-infested waters of the Pacific Ocean.

Mr. Palmiter had once before attempted to file a claim for benefits, but the process of remembering the tragic events had proved overwhelming at the time. Several years later he decided to try again. He was an inpatient at the Ann Arbor facility when the claim was filed. He was in poor health and very frail, but was bravely determined to complete the task this time. Unfortunately, Mr. Palmiter succumbed to the various illnesses that had plagued his body for years.

Not willing to allow the passing of this sailor to bring a halt to the claim and realizing there was a surviving widow our office pressed ahead. Several roadblocks had to be navigated. The process was not easy and required coordinating with VA offices in both Detroit and Washington, DC. At the Regional Office the Assistant Service Center Manager became involved and likewise a VA congressional liaison. They worked tirelessly and passionately to see to it the widow received the maximum benefits allowed



DISTRICT 4 REPORT

Gary Gamble
District 4 Commander



Greetings,

I would like to personally thank all the District 4 comrades for your support and confidence in me by electing me as your District 4 Commander and Department of Michigan Council of Administration Member for 2017-18. A position I do not take lightly and will always remain committed to do my very best carrying out the duties as your District 4 Commander. I give you my word as true-comrade that I am committed to help and support every post in District 4 to be better at doing the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

"Service with Purpose" is the District 4 motto for 2017-18. In doing so, I want to encourage everyone to maintain a clear direction and purpose when doing the work of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Simply make a plan, execute the plan, and always evaluate the results to make adjustments along the way to ensure what we are doing has purpose.

I am very proud and fortunate to have such a great District 4 team of elected and appointed officers working alongside me this year. This team has a primary mission. Its mission is to make each and every post more successful! With the help coming from very knowledgeable and committed comrades, our District 4 team is standing by to help and support every Post Commander and comrade of District 4 in order to complete the mission together. It certainly helps knowing that we have a great group of post commanders leading our District 4 posts for 2017-18. With that being said, I am encouraged and confident that VFW State Commander Matt David will be presenting many "All State Post Honors" and other Achievement Awards to a large number of District 4 posts this year.

As a reminder, for a post to achieve "All State Post Honors" the post must retain and recruit membership 24/7. It MUST be a FULL TIME EFFORT throughout the year.

DISTRICT 4, continued on page 12



DISTRICT 5 REPORT

Mike Oleksak
District 5 Commander



Greetings to all of the Comrades of the 5th District,

I am honored to be your Commander for the year that is upon us, 2017-2018. Congratulations to all of the incoming officers, hoping that all of you have a successful year working together to make your post run as smooth as possible.

If you have not heard, our District came in Third Place for membership, which is fantastic. Let's maintain that pace for this coming year, if not better.

Post inspections are in full gear. Please have all of your paperwork ready for the inspector, to make the process easier. Our first District Meeting has come and gone. It is time to turn our attention to VOD, Patriots Pen, and the fall conference in Boyne Mountain.

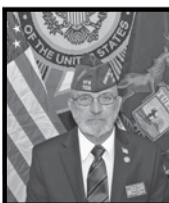
Thanks again for all that the Posts are doing to maintain their stature. There have been 15

jackets awarded at the District Meeting, for the Post that reached 100%. Congratulations to those Posts for all the hard work to achieve this. This is another year. Let's maintain the momentum! Remembering that membership is the key to our future.

If there are any questions, or help is needed, I am just a phone call away. The next District meetings will be:

- December 05, 2017 at Post 6782 in Eastpointe. The meeting is scheduled to start at 10 A.M. with a sponsor who will be giving us some valuable information.
- February 18, 2018 at Post 1146 in St. Clair Shores at 10 A.M.
- May 06, 2018 at Post 4156 in White Lake Township at 10 A.M.

Yours in Comradeship,
Mike Oleksiak,
District 5 Commander



DISTRICT 6 REPORT

Dan Burchfield
District 6 Commander



Comrades,

Congratulations to all the new Post Officers throughout our District. Thank you for taking on the responsibility to help your Post & District move forward. I'm looking forward to working with all of you in the ensuing year. I also want to congratulate Past District Commander John Griffith and Past Post Commander Larry Heuer for making All-American, and I also want to extend congratulations to all the Posts in our District that made All State last year.

One of our goals this year is to continue our great membership program in our District. I'm here to help you achieve this task, along with our District Membership Chairperson John Griffith and District Officers. Another goal this year is to have all Posts in our

District to have a student in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen program this year. You can join with another Post to help assist them with their program and get credit. You can contact David Miller, Chairperson for any assists also. Participation in all the VFW programs is encouraged.

I hope that everyone that was able to attend Michigan Day at the National Home had a great time. I know I did. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you that can make it to our District fundraiser October 21, 2017. Any questions or tickets contact David Miller. Please stay on top of reporting all activities concerning your Posts, along with participating in all VFW programs for the State and National. If you have any questions on reporting, please contact me. I'm looking

DISTRICT 6, continued on page 12



DISTRICT 7 REPORT

Tim VanWormer
District 7 Commander



Comrades,

Thank You for electing me for another year. District 7 came out in 2nd place. Congratulations to District 4 for finishing in 1st Place. This is a new year to get back on track. We can do it.

District 7 has a few Posts that have not turned in their Quarterly Audit for April, May, and June. I will be in touch with Post Commanders. Next Quarterly is DUE (OCTOBER 1ST).

NATIONAL has sent out elected officers of each Post that have annual paying dues members. Some of them are approaching their due date. Do Not let them expire, or they will be RE-MOVED from office, and the Posts will have to have another election to replace them. Post Commanders,

and Quartermasters should be checking the National Query in MemStat for the names of all their annual paying members.

The next District meeting is August 5th, in Homer. November 4th, in Marshall.

August 6th, is Michigan Days at the National Home. Hope to see a lot of you there. BRING YOUR COLORS!

The District inspectors have their paperwork to do Posts inspections. Please have all necessary info available to them.

REMINDER—All District meetings will be on SATURDAY'S now.

Scheduled events coming up:

Labor Day-Sept 4th

Fall Conf. (Boyne Highlands)-Sept 21-23

Big 10 Conference-Oct 20th



DISTRICT 8 REPORT

Steve Jueuemann
District 8 Commander



Greetings, and a big thank you to all my comrades who helped me become your 8th District Commander. With all your continued support and assistance, I'm sure we're off to a great year. All our Past District Commanders have offered to assist me as necessary, and it is deeply appreciated. We call that team-work, and it is what makes what we try to do possible.

As this is written, my wife and I have just returned from Michigan Day at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids. The purpose of the Home is to support the children of veterans who need our help, and the facility contains over 40 homes to house them. Each house is well built and extremely well-maintained, and the grounds are immaculate. It is almost a city unto itself, with most of the children attending school on the grounds. Each year we gather on Michigan Day to commemorate what the VFW of Michigan has accomplished here, with, of course, support from all the VFW posts in the country. A lot of thanks are given to all of us who help support the Home, especially to all the contributors who presented checks and school supplies today. Special mention was made by the State Commander Matt David for the total of all the donations we have made from our posts. Well done, comrades! Visitors are welcome year-round, so try to drop in sometime, you will be impressed.

To all the posts who just got brand-new Auxiliaries, congratulations! After all, we just got a brand-new Auxiliary program, and what better way to appreciate this than to start new Auxiliaries. The Auxiliaries are our partners, and deserve all the respect and cooperation we can give them. They can be the fresh inspiration we all need, and the backbone of our Posts. Treat them with all the respect you possibly can, and remember that they are a self-governing entity; we members of the VFW must not treat them with any less consideration than we give ourselves. Again, teamwork is the key!

The VFW Post should be, in my opinion, and in the opinion of all of you I hope, a family-friendly place. For those of you who have canteens in their Posts, this can be a touchy subject. But, if you follow all State laws and local ordinances and local VFW bylaws, there shouldn't be any difficulty.

My wife (over 35 years Auxiliary and Past District President) and I have enjoyed our son's company in our Post canteen since we had to carry him in. Now eighteen, he is a member of the Auxiliary, as well as one of our grandsons (also 18). I hope that if you have a canteen you can accommodate your new younger members in a reasonable way, and keep them and their families in our VFW family.

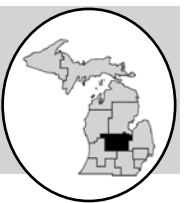
Membership. Probably the most dreaded,

DISTRICT 8, continued on page 12



DISTRICT 9 REPORT

Terry Dowdell
District 9 Commander



Greeting Comrades & Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone that has faith in me as your new District Commander. I will do the best I can to keep our District going strong and moving forward. I would like every post to keep working on membership and let's get our district 100% this year. This past year our district was only 167 members short from being 100%. Our Fall Conference is September 21-24 at Boyne Highland. **Our district meetings are:**

August 27, 2017 at Howard City Post 3306 at 10AM

November 4, 2017 at Saginaw Valley Post 9809 at 10AM

February 3, 2018 at St. Louis Post 3055 at 10AM

May 5, 2018 at Belding Post 4406 at 10AM

We will also have our District Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen and our Teacher of the year banquet at St. Louis Post 3055 on January 13, 2018.



DISTRICT 10 REPORT

Don Callaway
District 10 Commander



Thank you to all of you who have placed your trust in me to help our district throughout this next year. We can achieve a lot if we all work together and do the job we have sworn to do, if anyone needs help that is where prompt communications comes into play, do not wait until little problems become large ones, contact your district officers as soon as you need help.

There are a lot of helpful tools on the department web site and a lot of comrades in our district with years of experience at all levels of this organization who are willing to listen and help.

Our district meeting schedule is on the department web site in the officers section

for district 10, in addition a reminder letter will be sent out in advance of each meeting, with that being said, we should be able to achieve 100% attendance, just one comrade from each post is required and commanders should attend if at all possible, in addition I would like to see some comrades attend who have never been to a district meeting, especially first time officers. those who do attend district meetings, conventions and conferences should share the information they learn with the post when they return.

In closing, I am looking forward to spending time at each post and meeting comrades around the district, so lets have some fun, do our jobs, and most of all let us not forget our mission, helping fellow veterans.



DISTRICT 11 REPORT

Bruce Bridson
District 11 Commander



Hello Comrades,

Brothers, and Sisters. On behalf of District 11, I would like to say Congratulations to our new Department Officers; Commander Matt David, Sr. Vice Commander Phil Patterson, Jr. Vice Mike Fineis, Auxiliary President Bonnie Pray, Sr. Vice President Sandy Medos, Jr. Vice President Della Steege, And all the newly appointed officers at Department Convention. District 11 is also sending sincere wishes for a very successful and record breaking year.

Comrades of the 11 District, Thank you for the appointment as your District Commander. For those that don't know, I served our great country in the United States Air Force, as a Firefighter, from October 1987, to November 1991. During my 4 years of service, I was stationed at Andersen AFB, Guam, and Wurtsmith AFB,

Oscoda. I was deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1990 - 91, during the Persian Gulf / Desert Storm War, earning my eligibility in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. While in the Air Force, I earned the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Longevity Service Award, NCO Professional, the Air Force Training Ribbon, and Southwest Asia Service Medal, with 2 Bronze Stars. I am a Life Member of St. Helen VFW Post 5680, honorably serving as Post Quartermaster, I am also the Bingo chairman, responsible for Bingos on Friday nights and Sunday afternoons. I am happily married for 24 years now to Veronica Bridson, we have 1 daughter Allison (21), whom is getting married next August.

I would appreciate your participation

DISTRICT 11, continued on page 12



DISTRICT 12 REPORT

Stan Preidis
District 12 Commander



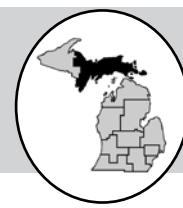
As Yogi Berra would say, "It's déjà vu all over again". I'm back as district commander for the third time; not because I'm having so much fun but, like many posts, no one wants to step up to be a district officer. Our junior vice this year, Rick Schafer, has been district commander before but is going through the chairs as his wife Judy (previous district president during my first year) is going thru the chairs for the auxiliary. Kudos to both. Our senior vice, Lynn Raymond, is also his post commander so he has his hands full learning the ins and outs of both post level and district. I want to thank Bob Benderman for his outstanding work as last year's district commander. He really came through with some really good ideas and a stellar performance that will be a tough act to follow. He is our district QM this year as well as director of Camp Trotter. So you see, VFW does stand for very few workers, as we go through the year please consider helping at district level. To all the new post officers, I welcome you and wish

you the best for the upcoming year. For the 'old timers', please help the new comrades meet the requirements of the VFW in all areas. The district continually has posts late on audits, election results, 990s, QM bonds, and fees to district, department and national. These requirements are not new and are supposed to be accomplished quarterly or annually, yet every time department sends a list out the same posts are on it. As I said the last two times, more and more information and forms are on line at the department web site and each post needs to be able to retrieve it. Many are interactive and easy to fill out, hit submit and you are done; easier than handwriting out and sending to department via fax or snail mail. If the commander, adjutant, or QM are not computer literate then you need to grab your grandson, daughter, or another VFW post member to help get this info to the post members. With that said, I look forward to helping you achieve your goals this year.



DISTRICT 14 REPORT

Stephen R. Olsen
District 14 Commander



Well, I am back for another year term as District 14 Commander. I have new officers elected to several of the district offices as well and I am looking forward to working with my new team. It is great to see new blood come into the posts and district, new leadership, new ideas, and a boost to the motivation. The summer brought a flurry of activities with parades, fund raisers, picnics, golf outings, and even a visit from our State Commander Matt David in July. I appreciate every ones efforts.

We had a great training session in July at Jacobetti for both UP Districts. We had about 30 in attendance and everyone seemed to be pleased with all the information. A special Thank You District 15 for making the trip. I realize it is a long drive for all of you. Matt brought up a team of 8 from down state to do the training. Thank you to all of them for coming up.

The UP Honor Flight, flying veterans to Washington DC every May and September, continues to be a great success. I want to remind the posts to continue to support this event. The whole UP and Northern Wisconsin benefit from this program. Which reminds me of the parades we had this summer and I took Korean War Veterans in the parade with a float. They received standing ovations as the float passed by the crowds of people. It

brought tears to the veterans eyes, they were so surprised and appreciative of the response and respect displayed.

The State VFW sent past VFW shirts, all brand new, up for the Jacobetti residence, they loved them and truly appreciate the donation. We see them wearing them to bingo on Wednesdays. Also of interest, a Marine Corps Veteran was named new administrator at Jacobetti Home. Ryan Engle is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and an officer in the Marine Corps. Been deployed to Afghanistan, he served as an infantry officer and received Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals. He will be an asset to the home and the community. The continuous improvements to the facility are impressive and their high grades for performance are commendable.

The district 14 remains a challenge due to the long travel between posts. Many being a 3 hour drive one way. The posts remain a challenge due to financial stress. Our Commanders have a difficult and significant role for 2018 to stay in business. If your a member and reading this, PLEASE get to your posts and support them. Go to the canteens, attend fund raisers, buy raffle tickets, what ever you can do to financially support them is greatly appreciated.

Making VFW Great Again!



DISTRICT 15 REPORT

Carole Morris
District 15 Commander



Hi from the U.P.,

We have had a good summer and just turned the fans on for the first time this week, which is good.

Finished our planning meeting in July and will be in Iron River in September for our first District meeting.

As we get ready for the fall colors to arrive and then the snow we are insuring the schools are alerted to the themese for the V.O.D. and Patriot's Pen.

Our district will be doing a district Bingo at Jacobetti in September which will be our second year at what we hope will be an annual event.

We are looking forward to the Day of Challenge in February and I am reminding posts it is not too early to start donating to this great event. It is so great to have this and not have to drive hundreds of miles to support it.

Well, I'll see you all at fall conference.

State Inspector

Congratulations to all the newly elected officers.

Comrades' inspections are underway. Have all the necessary paperwork ready for the inspector including the Adjutants records and the Quartermaster records, including bank statements.

Comrades, in checking Audits I ahve notices a lot of mistakes. Trustees make sure the addition is correct and that all balances match from ending of last audit to the beginning of the new audit.

Also Comrades, our bylaws state you must

have a dues reserve and a relief fund. By-Law section 219 is relief fund and section 717 is dues reserve.

Your Quartermaster bond should be of sufficient amount to relect all of your assets for the year. A lot of bonds are not sufficient to cover your assets.

Comrades, any questions fee free to contact me at 517-223-3454 or email me ogdenswan@aol.com

Butch Ogden
Department Inspector

Editor's Note



I want to start with an apology for this late edition. We have had a few Personal bumps in the road. We are working on being on time with the next 2 editions.

Please submit articles that your Post and Auxiliary are doing in your community. Just look at this way it is free advertising for the VFW and the Auxiliary on what we are doing to make our mission to help Veterans and their families in our areas.

Any questions please call me 734-323-1188 or email mov@vfwmi.org
Scott Gloger, MOV Editor

National Council of Administration



Harry "Les" Croyle

The rap up of Commander in Chief Duffy's year 2016-17 found us to be in good shape with an expected budget surplus. This great financial news made possible by estate\ corporate donations, unfilled personnel positions thus saving salaries/benefits costs and good stewardship of funds by our Kansas City\Washington Office employees. The council voted to restore the disaster relief fund to its approved operating level of \$100,000 dollars. The council approved an employee lump sum retirement payout; sixty eight percent took advantage of this program. This action should reduce our retirement cost going forward.

Commander in Chief Harmon appointed Bryan J. Duffy Adjutant General. He then

went on to appoint Chief of Staff: Roger Frye. Inspector General: Bill Backes. National Sargent -at-Arms: Bryan O'Brien. Motions were made for permission to solicit the membership to fund our service programs. National Awards & Citation Committee Larry Rivers reappointed Gary Kurpius Chairman motion approved. Trust Fund Committee Jim Nier reelected to a three year term. Travel policy to provide equal stipends National Legislative Committee for the fall meeting as well as National Legislative Conference. Motion passed If you have any questions see me at Fall Conference.

Future National Conventions:
21-25 July 2018 Kansas City
20-24 Orlando
18-23 Reno 2020
31 July-4 August Baltimore
18-21 July 2022 Kansas City

Respectively submitted,
Harry "Les" Croyle



William J. "Doc" Schmitz Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

William "Doc" J. Schmitz, of Corning, N.Y., was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief July 26, 2017, at the 118th VFW National Convention in New Orleans, La.

Doc joined the United States Navy in 1966. He served in Vietnam as a corpsman attached to USMC infantry and artillery. In recognition of his service, he received the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He joined the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1971 at Post 524 in Corning, N.Y., where he maintains his Gold Legacy Life Membership. He has served as Department Commander, Post Commander, Southern Tier County Council Commander and District 5 Commander. He was also editor of the New York State Overseas Veteran publication for nine years. In 2007, he was elected Department Surgeon for the Department of New York where he served for five consecutive years and served as the national Surgeon General in 2010-2011 and as the national Inspector General in 2015-2016.

Doc worked for the Department of Corrections as a Registered Nurse and Acting Nurse Administrator for 30 years before retiring. He currently is employed as the Director of Veterans Issues for Congressman Tom Reed of the 23rd Congressional District in New York.

Doc and his wife, Deborah, reside in Corning, N.Y.



Voice of Democracy - Patriots Pen - Teacher of the Year



Harry "Les" Croyle

Deadlines: Deadline for Post sponsored program entries is October 31, 2017. Post judging may not be held before November 1, 2017 and must be completed in time to ensure that winning entries are delivered to the District Chairmen

by November 15, 2017.

District judging may not be held before November 16, 2017 and must be completed in time to ensure that the winning entry with all required materials are in the hands of the Department Chairman by December 7, 2017. District judging is the responsibility of the District Chairman to be conducted in accordance with the National Judging Criteria.

The Department deadline for District entries is December 7, 2017. This deadline is ABSOLUTE and it includes all paper work.

Department judging will be closed and will be the responsibility of the Department Committee. Be advised that the state judging will be attended only by the VFW Department Committee Members, VFW State Auxiliary Committee Members and the State Judges. The Committee has the sole authority to disqualify from the Department judging any entry which is in violation of the rules as stated in the Department Program and the National Program booklet.

VOD Subject:

"American History:

Our Hope for the Future"

Patriots Pen:

"America's Gift to My Generation"

Your District Commanders have all the forms necessary to assist the post and District Chairmen.

Respectively submitted,
Harry "Les" Croyle



Greetings Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

I want to give you "My" Final Report as your State Commander for 2016-2017 and to "Thank ALL of You" for the "Very Good" Year 2016-2017 that "WE" had in the Department of Michigan.

WE had (1) "ALL-AMERICAN" DISTRICT & (1) "ALL-AMERICAN" POST for 2016-2017. They were District 6 and Post 7309 Mason. John Griffith was the District 6 Commander and Larry Heuer was the Post 7309 Commander. Both attended the VFW National Convention in New Orleans this year and both received their "ALL-AMERICAN" Hats & Awards in front of the Entire Delegation. What a Great Honor representing MICHIGAN.

WE also ended 2016-2017 with (1) "ALL-STATE" DISTRICT and (27) "ALL-STATE" POSTS. District 6 is the "ALL-STATE" DISTRICT and John Griffith is the "ALL-STATE" DISTRICT 6 Commander. This year was the 1st Year that "both" the Post Commander and the Post Quartermaster were awarded "ALL-STATE" Caps. Congratulations to ALL of You for this High Honor!

WE also ended 2016-2017 with (107) Posts achieving 100% or Higher in Membership. This was an amazing number of Posts this year! Congratulations to those 100% Posts!

Our Department of Michigan ended 2016-2017 in 31st Place out of 54 Departments at 97.51%. WE needed 1,117 Members to achieve 100%. WE had 2,856 Unpaid Members which was more than enough to achieve 100%. WE were so close.

WE made some necessary improvements to our Department Headquarters in Lansing this year that were Long Overdue. WE put in New Windows & Doors to take care of all the air leaks. WE painted the inside of the building, which has not been painted since before Year 2000. WE put in New Carpet and Tile, which again has not been done since before Year 2000. WE put in some New LED lights to save on energy thanks to Former State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson, Ray Lopez, Dave Reeves and Butch Ogden. And WE put in New Water Saving Toilets. These improvements were LONG OVERDUE. Our Department Headquarters is now in very good shape for many years to come.

WE also did a lot of training across the State throughout 2016-2017 including having a Training Seminar at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in the Upper Peninsula. I want to thank VTS Director Ray Lopez, State Adjutant/Quartermaster

Lynn Patterson, Former State Senior Vice Commander Matt David, Former State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson, Webmaster John Gubin, All-State Director & Past State Commander Sherwood Pea, VOD, Patriot's Pen & Teacher of the Year Director & National Council of Administration/Past State Commander Harry "Les" Croyle, Activities Director Don Martindale, State Surgeon/Hospital Director Jerry Smith, Membership/MOV Director Scott Gloger, Community Service Director Joe Tebor and so many others for doing the training at various locations throughout the State.

I also want to thank Gloria Dobbie, our State Auxiliary President 2016-2017, her Auxiliary Officers, her Staff and "ALL" the Auxiliary Members throughout Michigan. Gloria & I worked "Great" together and we had a "lot" of fun together. I could write a book about My Great Experiences with National Auxiliary President Collette Bishop, Gloria, Gloria's Officers, Gloria's Staff and Auxiliary Members, who I spent time with while visiting Auxiliaries throughout Michigan in 2016-2017. I will cherish those memories I spent time with them.

WE, "VFW & Auxiliary", have accomplished a lot this year by working "together" as "One" Team. I could "not" have accomplished all of this without everyone's help. I want to thank ALL of those who were on My Team who made this possible, Former State Senior Vice Commander Matt David, Former State Junior Vice Commander Phil Patterson, State Adjutant/Quartermaster Lynn Patterson, Secretary Amanda Helms, My Chief of Staff Pamala Young, My State Honor Guard, My Program Directors, My Assistant Program Directors, My Council Members, My District Commanders, Past State Commanders, State Service Officers & Staff and the Many Post Members, who worked with me throughout 2016-2017 to make it a "Very Good Year" for our Department of Michigan.

I thoroughly enjoyed traveling throughout the Upper & Lower Peninsulas of Michigan visiting our Posts, Councils, Districts and their many events throughout 2016-2017. I will cherish those memories for many years to come.

I wish State Commander Matt David, State Senior Vice Commander Phil Patterson, State Junior Vice Commander Mike Fineis, State Adjutant/Quartermaster Lynn Patterson and State Commander Matt's Entire Team the Very Best for 2017-2018.

Thank You Again for allowing me to serve you as Your State Commander for 2016-2017.

**Jerry Gorski
Past State Commander 2016-2017**

Michigan Overseas Veteran 2016-2017 PLEASE ADHERE TO THESE DEADLINES

Please Remember!

1. Do not type all CAPITAL LETTERS. Use capitals sparingly. When in doubt, do not capitalize a word. Use 12-point font type size.
2. Please no handwritten submissions, as they will not be considered for publication.
3. Do not write on back of pictures. Use a separate sheet of paper. Identify all people in the photograph. Try to limit number of people in photo to five or six, at most.
4. Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to submit items of interest from their areas.
5. We reserve the right to edit all submissions due to space constraints.
6. Do not submit newspaper articles and pictures from newspapers UNLESS you provide written authorization from the publication involved.
7. Never submit article or photos clipped from newspapers or magazines.
8. DISTRICT COMMANDERS - Please submit your District Meetings schedule as soon as possible, so it can be published.
9. MAIL ALL ARTICLES TO MOV EDITOR:

MOV Editor

Scott Gloger, mov@vfwmi.org

Auxiliary Editor

Cindy Peto, ccpeto@yahoo.com



Past State Commander Sherwood H. Pea Jr. taking a knee after placing an American flag at the burial site of Veteran of Foreign Wars Past National Commander-in-Chief, Past State Commander (Michigan) James N. Goldsmith Sr. Great Lakes National Cemetery pre-Memorial Day flag placement held Friday, May 26, 2017

MARLETTE VFW

On March 22nd, the Marlette VFW donated \$600 to students at the Marlette High School. These students, along with eight adults, will be traveling to Haiti in June to provide water biofiltration systems to families in Haiti. Each filtration system is done with natural materials such as sands and rocks and cost \$100 each. It is being supported by Poured Out, Inc. of Port Huron. These students are led by Mr. Steve Shifflett, a science teacher at the Marlette High School.

On last year's trip the students were stunned to learn that many children do not even receive a name until after age three or four. This is because so many die due to water borne illnesses.

For those interested in donating, you may contact Mr. Shifflett at the Marlette High School 989-635-7425.



Photographed L-R are:

Kristen Behnke, Micah Hager, Doug Whiteside, Taylor Mitchell, Renee Miller, Rebecca Glass, Richard Wisznioiwicz, Nicholas Powers, Rosie Gratton, Bob Chappel, John Massoglia, Christi Cook, Emily Bell, Ron Colton, Steve Shifflett.

CAMP TROTTER, continued from page 3

tell him thanks just another behind the scenes person that's helping keep Camp Trotter Great.

I'm working on trying to get next year's pamphlets made out before the fall conference so we can distribute them then. Need some help in getting the word out that any child or grandchild may attend Camp Trotter, you do not have to be affiliated with a veteran or a veterans organization although this would be nice.

We held a Texas Holdum card tournament in in July which I thought was a great success we brought in approximately four thousand dollars for the camp. Thank you to the crews for all your help and support for making this a success. We do have 3 dates for 2018 season confirmed and looking at a fourth. Will be looking for workers for those events, they will be held at one eyed jacks. Further info in the next article. If your interested in volunteering please contact myself, Bob Benderman 231.773.2076.

I know I forgot something or someone I'm not long winded like my Navy friend Ernie Meyers SR. (go blue). So forgive me. If you have any suggestions or ideas contact me or would like to do something to help raise money for the camp please contact me and I'll take it before our committee.

Thank you,

**VFW Camp Trotter Director
Bob Benderman**

SUCCESS STORY, continued from page 3

by law. Additionally, the VFW's National Veterans Service in Washington, DC also became involved.

Since the veteran had not yet been examined for his claim we had to gather and develop the necessary evidence to support the contentions. Since he had not been in receipt of VA healthcare in the recent past we had to approach outside providers. They proved very willing to assist in any way possible. The next step required consolidating and organize the various forms and documents

and providing them to the VA for a medical opinion.

As a result of the efforts of the several offices and individuals involved the surviving spouse was awarded monthly Dependents Indemnification Compensation, accrued benefits, and service connected burial benefits. It was a total team effort that ensured this extraordinary veteran's legacy will be honored!

NORTH OAKLAND VFW POST 334

North Oakland VFW Post 334 unveiled the new War Dog Memorial on 8-12-2017 at their Veterans Memorial Park in Lake Orion, Mi. The sculpture was designed by sculptor Frank Varga. It is another memorial to its ongoing "living" memorial park. A War Dog salute was given by the K-9 salute team.

Please stop in and see this beautiful park located right on M-24 in Lake Orion.



We also had a flag retirement held the same day.



VFW Post 334 North Oakland, Lake Orion Flag placing at Great Lakes National Cemetery



Chuck Haskin with Jim Trumble, and Brian Peacock all placed flags.



Scott Gloger
CANDIDATE FOR
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
JR. VICE COMMANDER
2018-2019



Endorsed By
District 5
Macomb County Council
Oakland County Council
Post 4156
Wife and Family

All State Commanders and Quartermasters



All State Commanders and Quartermasters



**Congratulations
2017-2018
State Commanders
&
Quartermasters**

Auxiliary News

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Bonnie Prey

We have just begun the 2017/2018 year and I am so very proud and excited to have been elected the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President. As a life member of VFW Auxiliary #3243 in Fenton, District 10,

I promise to do my very best to work with and for you to aide and assist our Veterans, their families and our communities. I am also looking forward to working with Commander Matt David and his team.

These last few years have been exciting as I learned something new every single day. It has also been a pleasure to meet so many members both Auxiliary and VFW and now I look forward to representing every one of you. I am very proud of our State and all we do. The Program Pin for this year is a bugle and the monies raised will be applied to our Hospital Program. My theme is "Strength and Unity for our Veterans."

Congratulations to Past Department President Gloria Dobbie. She did a great job and has been entered into the first group of the "Circle of Excellence". Also, congratulations to Jan (Lawrence) Passmore as she was elected as National Treasurer and we wish her the best. Past Department President Sandi Onstwedder was elected as National Chaplain and she is doing well as she is fulfilling her dreams and representing Michigan. Past Department President and Chief of Marilyn Malick is beginning her 2-year journey representing Michigan and South Dakota on the National Council of Administration. As you can see, Michigan is very well represented at the National level and we are very proud of their accomplishments and service.

One more congratulations to all the newly elected Officers and Chairmen at all the levels. Your service and dedication is very much appreciated.

In June, after the State Convention, we were planning a little bit of everything. We had the Camp Trotter Golf Outing and it

was a good turnout and fun. We had our first Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee Training at Newago. It's a good feeling that so many of the members are interested in learning how to perform the duties expected of them. July, we moved along with the first Officers meeting held at the Department office. It was very informative and looking forward to the next one. National Convention was in New Orleans, Louisiana. What a trip and the meetings were full of information. Very interesting food there.

As I write this article, we are entering August, already. Time seems to be starting to move pretty quickly. We have the first District Meeting at District 8, followed by Michigan Day at National Home. The new National President, Dee Guillory, will be arriving August 11, for her special visit. We will show her around and have luncheons and dinners so she can meet and greet our members. Wonder what she will think about a short visit to the Bronners Christmas Store in Frankenmuth?

The Camp Trotter Family Day is August 19. The 23rd we are having a Training at the office in Lansing from 10 – 4. Hope we have another large group with more questions for us.

September brings a UP tour for and that includes hospital visits and more training at District 14 and 15. I have been looking forward to that for a long time. The plans are made for the Fall Conference; that's when we get Chairmanship information and get busy checking deadline dates, and keeping track of all that we do along with a Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee workshop. This is what helps us to be able to get into the "Circle of Excellence". We can do this as long as we communicate and work together to get things done.

You can find all sorts of information and ideas you need to work our programs and forms. You just have to get on the webpage at vfwauxmi.org and start looking. You can also get on the [Auxiliary VFW – Michigan](https://www.facebook.com/AuxiliaryVFW-Michigan) Facebook page. You will be surprised at how much information is there for you.

Let's have a momentous year together and show what we can do for our Veterans and their families.

DISTRICT 5 PRESIDENT

Debbie Scheetz



First, I would like to introduce myself. I am the 5th District President, Debbie Scheetz, from the Fraser Post 6691, in Macomb County. I have been a member of the Auxiliary for 15 years and joined under my brother who was in the Gulf War. I have been President for the past 5 years at my own Auxiliary, I have climbed the chairs at the district level to make it to President, I have held many chairmanships and floor officer positions at each level, and was the Dept. Veterans and Family Support Chairman back in 2015-2016. I feel I am prepared for this new position and am very excited to get started. Not only am I so excited because District 5 is such a great district to be a part of, but because I get to help mentor, teach and be involved in the auxiliaries throughout the counties of Macomb and Oakland. Our District Meetings are August 13th at Waterford Post 1008, Dec 3rd at Eastpointe Post 6782, Feb. 18th at St Clair Shores Post 1146, and May 6th at Wixom Post 2269. We have some wonderful things planned for our 10 am sessions, then good lunches where we can sit and converse with each other than our meetings will start at 1pm sharp.

I do have a lot on my plate like most people, I just recently start my own company, for freelance marketing, so I am extremely busy but will always have time for my auxiliary,

district, department and my veterans. I take care of my mom, we live together, and she is also a member! My sister recently started to get more involved and even though my nieces are not eligible, they volunteer with us when I ask, so I have lots of support from my immediate family.

Out of all our chairmanships/programs I would say that Veterans and Family Support would be my favorite because it has to do with our vets and their families, the main reason we do what we do, to help our vets. I have participated in or organized so many events, fundraisers, and ceremonies for this chairmanship that I could not even listed them all here. I feel we should do the most we can for these programs because that is what this Auxiliary is all about. So, I am sure you will catch me at the next event, somewhere, either in my own district or at the state level!! So, make sure you say hi!

My goals for the year are simple. Teach and mentor others in my district because this is the teaching level of the organization. I want to participate in every event that I can, I will lead by example, and also support my post and all veterans that I can. I also want to grow our membership, this will only make our organization get stronger. So why not help me meet my goals! If I can do anything for anyone please do not hesitate to contact me! I am always willing to help where I can and if I cannot, I will find someone that can!

Debbie Scheetz 586.945.1287

DISTRICT 6 PRESIDENT

Cheryl Moorhead



Greetings from District 6. I am Cheryl Moorhead, Sixth District President. I would like to thank everyone for their encouragement and support. I am excited for this new adventure. I am a life member of Morley S. Oates Post 701 Auxiliary, sense 1994. I am eligible under my brother, John H. Anderson, a Navy Veteran. I also have another hero in my life, my husband, Thomas A. Moorhead, who served in the Army during Viet Nam.

I love serving for the veterans. I have held all offices at auxiliary level, being president 8 times. Also held all offices at District level, which has lead me to this great adventure in my life. I have held several chairmanships at auxiliary and district level. I have been Dept. Of Michigan Auxiliary Camp Trotter Chairman, four times. I also

work at our VFW, and love talking to all the veterans, daily.

I have 4 children, 2 step children, 4 son-in-laws and one daughter-in-law. I also have 8 grandkids and one great granddaughter. All with whom I love spending time with. I am trying to show my family just how important our veterans are, and that we would not have our freedom if it wasn't for them.

My goals for this year are to encourage and support our veterans and to help District six grow in membership and our love and support for our veterans and our country.

Our first District meeting is August 26th, in Lansing at my home post. My favorite program is Veterans and Family support. We need to be here to help our veterans and stand up for them, they have given their lives for our country and freedom. I would like to thank all our veterans for all they gave and all they did for our freedom.

DISTRICT 4 PRESIDENT

Shirley Caldwell



A "warm hello" to especially all of you VFW Auxiliary members, VFW members and anyone else who may be reading the MOV! I encourage anyone that is reading this newspaper who is not

a member of the VFW Auxiliary, to visit your local VFW Post and inquire about how to join. The reward of serving our Veterans is very fulfilling. It is the little we can do, for what the Veterans have done for us.

Our District encompasses 16 posts and takes in all of Wayne County from Redford Twp. To Flatrock and from Detroit to Northville. We hold 3 meetings a year and a planning meeting.

I am proud and humble to be the District 4 President and am happy to have been working

with the first male Jr. Officer last year, as well as this year being my Sr. President, Jonathan Burchard.

He has spent many years going places with the Auxiliary as he is the son of Linda Burton, Past Department President. My Junior Vice President Patricia Bielskis recruited me six years ago to join the VFW Auxiliary and I have belonged to the Mayflower/Lt. Gamble Post #6695 ever since.

My positions held were Treasurer for 1 ½ years, President for 3 years and chairman of Scholarships, Veterans and Family Support, Youth Activities and Trustee.

I joined the Auxiliary under my husband Robert, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam as a Crew Chief/Door Gunner. We have been married 45 years and have two married children and 3 grandsons, one of which just joined the U.S. Marines! I also have a dog named Abby Rose!

I was a co-op student in high school



DISTRICT 8 PRESIDENT

Jean Bestervelt



Hi everyone, my name is Jean Bestervelt the new District 8 President. I became a member of the Comstock 6252 Post in 1999 under the eligibility of my husband, John, an Air Force Veteran from 1966 thru 1970 and served in Vietnam.

Our district meetings will be August 5 at the Rockford Post 3946 at the Boat and Canoe club, November 4 at the Coopersville Post 5598, February 3 at the Wayland Post 7581 and May 5 at the Holland Post 2144,

luncheon will be served at 11 a.m. and the meetings will start at 12:30 p.m. The meeting is a time change from before.

My goal for this great district is to report in all chairmanships in every quarter and work our best to have all the Auxiliaries to be 100 plus %. I know we have a great group of auxiliaries and will all do a GREAT job. They automatically do a lot of work for our veterans and will continue to do so.

And we will have a lot of fun doing the things we love.

Jean Bestervelt
District 8 President

DISTRICT 11 PRESIDENT

Denise Arnold



Hello District 11!

Well, I am back for another year and very excited to be part of the VFW Auxiliary team. Our focus this year needs to be on recruiting and retention of members.

You would be amazed at the people who either do not know about our organization or how to become a member. All you have to do is ask and share our story.

My summer has been busy at Camp Trotter; lots of little ones having fun. Don't forget to

share and support our unique camp. Do you send cards to veterans or their families? Do you help with things that involve our veterans, then don't forget to report these important things. One thing I ask of our members of our district is to support and communicate with your VFW posts and members; remember what our focus is OUR VETERANS! I am looking forward to visiting all of my auxiliaries in the next few months.

Denise Arnold
District 11 Auxiliary President

DISTRICT 12 PRESIDENT

Beth Plont



Hello to all members of this great organization in the Department of Michigan:

District 12 consists of 12 counties and we have 16 auxiliaries. Those counties consist of: Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta and Muskegon.

The following is the list of District 12's meeting dates and locations:

September 10, 2017 – Eldon L. Chadwick Post 6017 - Pentwater

November 12, 2017 – Bear Creek Post 6333 – Kaleva

March 11, 2018 – Lt. Clement F Derezinski Post 7279 – Muskegon

May 6, 2018 – Walsh Post 4499 – Manistee

I am happy to have been elected District 12 President for the 2017-2018 year. What a great honor it is. I am a member of the Don Rea Post 8846 in North Muskegon and currently serve as the Senior Vice President and Legislative Chairperson. I have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary since November of 2006. Since that time I have served as Department Americanism/Patriotic Instructor 2012-2013 for PDP Annabelle Furgason, District 12 President 2011-2012, District Trustee, District Conductress, Auxiliary President of William J Beal Post 446 for 5 terms, Sr. Vice President 2 terms. I have held many of the chairmanships and currently I am

co-chairman of the State Hospitality Room with Chairman PDP Annabelle Furgason for Department Commander Matt David.

I come from a family of seven children, the first five where older so growing up it was mainly my sister, who was two years older than me and I. I retired for the second time June 30th of this year from Michigan Insurance Company in Grand Rapids. I loved the job and what I had learned the 5 ½ years I was there. Prior to that, I retired in August of 2009, after 36 years, at GTE/Verizon.

My favorite program is the Veterans Family and Support because that is the core of this organization that we are here to help serve. We can do so much for our veterans no matter how small that may be it does make a big difference to our veterans.

District 12's goal as a team is to provide information and teach our members on our policies and procedures and what this great organization is about and what we do. We would like to see a strong number of reporting, getting audits on time and of course to recruit new members. The members of this District and the other entire District's do such amazing jobs on serving and helping our veterans in so many different ways. One cannot help but be proud to belong to this organization.

Yours in sisterhood,

Beth Plont
District 12 President

DISTRICT 14 PRESIDENT

Linda Olsen



Thank you to all who voted for me. I am looking forward to serving as your new District 14 President in the VFW. I joined the Auxiliary in 2015 and became a life member fall of 2016. I joined under my husband, Stephen; he did 2 tours in Vietnam in the army.

I am following Kathy DeNise who was a district President five times and loved by all. Kathy did a wonderful job as District 14

President, so I have some big shoes to fill. This is my first position/office in the VFW and I am amazed how much information that must be learned. I have attended the Department Conventions over the past 1-1/2 years and thoroughly enjoy them.

I would like to welcome our new auxiliary – St. Ignace #5114, Todd Insley the new President, and thank Kathy DeNise for such a good job mentoring them. This fall, I will be on the road touring the UP and visiting all the Posts for inspections. The UP is gorgeous with lots of sites to see so this will be fun.

Have a happy Fall.

DISTRICT 15 PRESIDENT

Jennifer Ricker



Well, it's the start of my year and we are excited to see what we can do for our veterans in District 15.

Summer convention was amazing watching what everyone accomplished and achieved over the year.

Many congratulations to everyone. Iron mountain VA had their carnival in July for our veterans and our VAVS rep Carole Morris was there with three members from her auxiliary post 3900.

For the 4th of July South Range Auxiliary post 6165 participated in a parade and prizes as well as having a BBQ chicken meal fundraiser. We had a strawberry festival in Chassel were post 6507 was an active participant as they are very good at participating in the community. Chassel also has bingos they do most Sunday's and other events they post on

their Facebook page monthly.

We have Michigan days coming up at National Home on August 6th.

Our first District meeting is September 10th with Bonnie Pray coming along with Nicole and Stephanie for some training for the new Malta system.

September 16th our District is sponsoring a bingo at Jacobetti in Marquette @ 1.

We have several auxiliaries gathering supplies to send out Christmas packages to our troops over seas.

We are getting our Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen in the schools as they are due by Halloween.

We are enjoying the sunny weather we have been blessed with and planning our programs to help support our veterans and volunteer with this great organization! Many blessings to all.

Jennifer Ricker
District 15 President

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Donna Miszewski

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I am Donna Miszewski and have been honored with the appointment as your Veterans and Family Support Chairman by our President Bonnie Pray. I am in the 12th District and a member of Gold Bar Post Auxiliary #5096. I

was eligible to be a member through my father who was a WWII Veteran.

This year National Theme is Catch the Dream for our Veterans and the Department of Michigan theme is Strength and Unity for our Veterans. I will work to the best of my ability to make both of these themes a reality for our Veterans and their families, with the help of our Auxiliaries.

Wow, what a great place is the VFW National Home for Children, the campus is beautiful and what they do for Veterans and their families is a great service.

I had a great time being involved in Michigan Day, it was a great experience. I enjoyed helping at all the different activities.

I met many new friends and seeing old ones. The District Presidents did a great job in their assigned areas.

The new activity this year is the Nicole Koutz's 1st Annual .1K Run of which I was in and had a great time.

At Fall Conference will be a School of Instruction about the goals of the year:

1. National Veterans Service
2. VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs
3. Buddy Poppy
4. VFW National Home for Children

At the same time I will try to answer questions or concerns about reporting.

Remember to be thinking about what you going to what you going to do for the Buddy Poppy Contest at Mid-Winter. I will get the specs to you all when I get them.

Now is the time for us to all be working on fundraising activities for National Veterans Service and National Military Assistance Program.

I will be putting information on the Dept. of Michigan Veterans and Family Support Face Book page as I receive it.

In support of our Veterans,
Donna Miszewski
Veterans and Family Support Chairman



Department of Michigan
Auxiliary Americanism Chairperson
Jane Dady won 2nd Place at
National Convention 2016-2017

GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS
AND
BRING OUR TROOPS HOME SAFE



DISTRICT 4, continued from page 4

We cannot wait until the final weeks of the year to start working on membership. A post must be 100% in membership as soon as possible to be considered for All State Honors. In addition, the Post Trustees must to audit the books of the Quartermaster and submit all Quarterly Audit Reports on time. The post MUST report its community service and hospital activity regularly and on-time. The post will need to support Camp Trotter, our National Home for Children, and other programs listed on the "All State Checklist". So, I encourage every post commander to obtain a copy of the "All-State Checklist" and work hard all year long to complete the checklist and ensure you have a minimum of 125 points before April 1, 2018. I know firsthand that every District 4 Post Commander received a copy at the District 4 planning meeting and have been working very hard on their checklist since June.

Remember, you are not alone and our District 4 team is standing by to help and support your post. So, never hesitate to reach out and ask for help! To all post commanders and post officers, I want to personally thank you for raising your hand and stepping forward to lead your post. I wish your post all the best and much success.

Next, I would like to congratulate our District 4 Auxiliary President Shirley Caldwell and her entire team on their election and appointments for 2017-18. I know Shirley and her team are prepared to do many great things this year doing the work of the VFW Auxiliary and my team is standing by to support our VFW Auxiliary every way we can and know the Auxiliary is ready to support the VFW equally. With that being said, I want to ask every VFW Auxiliary member to go that extra mile and help the VFW and your sponsoring post with all of our VFW core programs. We need and certainly appreciate all the help our VFW Auxiliary can provide at the post. Also, I want to reach out to every VFW Auxiliary member for your help with VFW membership retention and recruiting while doing your own membership recruiting. We certainly appreciate your help and support by providing the VFW any leads to VFW eligible members as you're doing your own recruiting and ask every VFW member to do the same for our VFW Auxiliary.

We know that no one does more for our veterans than the VFW. Although, I know that no one does more for the VFW than its VFW Auxiliary! Thank you in advance for what you're doing for the VFW and our veterans. I wish our VFW Auxiliary and especially our District 4 VFW Auxiliary much success this year!

District 4 Email: District4@vfwmi.org | District 4 Website: www.vfwmidist4.org
District 4 Facebook Group, search for: **VFW 4 Michigan**

DISTRICT 4 EVENTS

Aug 27 - **District 4 Meeting** -
VFW Post 2233 - **Noon Start**
Sept 15 - **District 4 - POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony** -
VFW Post 9885 - **6pm**
Oct 29 - **District 4 Joint Memorial Service** - VFW Post 1136 - **2pm.**
Nov 12 - **District 4 Meeting** -
VFW Post 9283 - **Noon Start**
Jan 6 - **District 4 VOD, PP, and TOY Awards Banquet** - VFW Post 345 - **3:30pm**
Jan 28 - **District 4 Meeting** - VFW Post 4422 - **Noon Start**

DISTRICT 6, continued from page 4

forward to seeing all of you that can make it to the Fall Conference meeting.

Commanders – remember that you should participate in your District Meetings. If you are unable to attend, please have a representative from your Post attend.

Finally, I want to thank the outgoing District Commander Griffith for his leadership and guidance this past year. I also want to thank all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve this great District of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I will continue to do my best to keep our District strong and moving forward towards success. Remember, I cannot achieve this task without support and assists.

DISTRICT 8, continued from page 5

uncomfortable topic a Commander can bring up. But absolutely the most essential. I was told at a recent conference (which one, escapes me) that at about 10 years ago, there were 90,000 VFW members in the state. Now: 45,000. At this rate, we, the VFW, will be gone in a few decades. We will no longer have the representative legislative clout we now employ. We use the phrase "No one does more for Veterans" to recruit new members. What if that's not true anymore? Does your Post have a Membership committee? If not, please get one going. Use your Post relief fund to get the ball rolling; knock on doors of former members who have quit paying their annual dues. Help them out if they wish; do not coerce them. (These past suggestions have come from your current State Commander, Matt David). Please talk to your District Membership chairman or your Department Membership chairman for more ideas. One more thing: please do not allow desperation for new members make you allow unqualified people in. We are an elite organization. We went overseas. We fought or worked in combat zones. Many of us died

to honor our duties and obligations. Do not dishonor them.

Paperwork. Why is it so hard? Well, who likes it? Okay, maybe those IT guys and gals. Paperwork is what I call all those forms and reports we have to do to keep us legal in the eyes of the government and the VFW. 990's. Incorporation forms. The dreaded audits. (They must be dreaded, or they wouldn't seem to be so hard to get for some of us.) State Convention dues. National Convention dues. Please note that I said "us". We all have to do these forms and reports; please don't make us beg. Help your quartermaster; get them an assistant or two; don't overload your most valuable Post officer!

I will assemble a list of these forms and their requirements ASAP (long before the next MOV).

For all you new officers: Congratulations, and the best of luck in your new positions; we need all of you and will always appreciate the extra effort you bring to us while you sustain your everyday lives and support your families. Thank you all, and may God bless all of us and our USA.

V.A. ROMO VFW POST 3165

The V.A. Romo VFW Post 3165, in Negaunee, Michigan has every reason to be proud. The Upper Michigan Veteran of the Year Committee, consisting of members of several veterans organizations, have once again chosen a member of Post 3165 as their Upper Peninsula Veteran of the Year. Since its inception, four members from this Post have been selected for this prestigious award, and one other has received the honorary award. Waino Liuha, (deceased), Philip Taskila, Thomas Stanaway, and Larry Dillman have received this honor. Rollin Johnson has received the honorary award.



Pictured are Rollin Johnson, Governor Snyder, Larry Dillman, and Thomas Stanaway.

VFW POST 3165 ORTONVILLE

Post 582 Ortonville honored a Korean war veteran and post member George D. Morris by planting a tree and placing a plaque at the Ortonville Cemetery.



Post 582 Ortonville Honor Guard Rendering honors for a WWII Veteran.



DISTRICT 11, continued from page 5

at district meetings. All district meetings my term will have some type of training. Training will begin at 10:00am the day of our district meetings and will run for a minimum of 1 hour, but never more than 2 hours. This training will be very beneficial to our great organization. The things discussed at these meetings are of great value to our members, to your post, and to our VFW organization. District 11's district meetings, are as follows, August 13th 1:00pm at VFW Post #6950 Linwood/Kawkawlin. November 5th 1:00pm at Arenac VFW Post #3724. February 4th 1:00pm at VFW Post #5680 St. Helen, & May 6th 1:00pm at VFW Post #1075 Harrison.

I personally look forward to seeing all Comrades, and our Brothers, & Sisters at the Department Fall Conference in Boyne Highlands. District 11 is hosting a VTS training session on October 7th this year at the Houghton Lake VFW Post. (Date

subject to change)... A lot of very valuable information is shared and I strongly encourage everyone to attend. November 5th is Operation Help at Arenac VFW Post #3724, in Standish. Please come and support Operation Help, Operation Help is here to help all posts in our District. January 6th District 11 is holding a Voice of Democracy Patriots Pen Banquet at the Houghton Lake VFW Post, this is your chance to listen to some very talented students.

Please remember to do your Hospital and Activities reporting. It's very important that you are reporting all your post activities to department by the 10th of the following month. If you are having issues with reporting please contact me or one of the district officers, we are here to help.

Any Post Events that you would like listed on the department website please email me at our District email address. district11@vfwmi.org

We Support Our Troops



SANDUSKY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PAY TRIBUTE TO VIETNAM VETERANS

Fellow Comrades,

As I neared the end of my term as District 10 Jr. Vice Commander, it was my good fortune and privilege to work with and support the high school students of Sandusky Community Schools in their endeavor to bring the Vietnam moving wall to the Sandusky courthouse lawn over Memorial Day weekend this past May. Twenty years has passed since its first appearance in Sanilac County and now it was coming back!

Throughout the planning phases of making the moving wall project a reality, the students of Sandusky High did the fund raising, organizing and made the necessary contacts. They also managed to raise over \$26,000. As I attended several organizational meetings it was inspiring to see the enthusiasm these young adults had for wanting to pay tribute to Vietnam Vets.

The project was simple on intent and yet complex by design. An effort of this magnitude would take hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours donated to pull it off. As I watched and observed the final stages of this project coming together, I couldn't help but wonder what the driving force was behind the desire to honor these who served in Vietnam and why

should high school student 50 years removed from the war even care? They would have no recollection of events of what was going on in the 1960s first hand. I can't say for certain, but it is my belief their parents and educators had a great deal to do with the desire and motivation it took to bring the wall here. Each time I spoke to one of these young people I was greeted with respect and dignity.

From the opening ceremony Thursday night to the candle light vigil on Friday and the pinning ceremony on Saturday, "the wall" was well attended by hundreds of veterans and their families. Congratulations to all of you for making Memorial day 2017 a memorable reality. Because of your patriotism and love of freedom you have ensured or legacy will live on to future generations. AWESOME!!!! Well done!

**10th District SR. Vice Commander
Dennis Merchant
1st Cav. Vietnam 1970-1971**



Ford achieves silver certification as veteran-friendly employer

All three Michigan automakers contributing to state's goal



LANSING, Mich. - The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency recently recognized Ford Motor Company as a silver-level certified Veteran-Friendly Employer.

With the addition of Ford, the Detroit Three automakers, including General Motors and Fiat Chrysler of America, are now all certified program participants.

Under the Veteran-Friendly Employer Program, MVAA recognizes organizations for their dedication to recruiting, hiring, training and maintaining veteran talent. Participants have opportunities to network

with other companies to share best practices and take advantage of no-cost training to improve veteran outreach practices. The program also helps veterans to more easily identify employers committed to hiring and supporting former service members in their workforces.

Ford was certified at the silver-level for meeting or exceeding its veteran hiring goals and implementing internship and on-the-job training programs for veterans.

"Ford has a long history of supporting our military, and I am pleased and proud that this Michigan company is a certified member of MVAA's Veteran-Friendly Employer Program," said MVAA Director James Robert Redford. "As a silver-level employer, Ford has shown great commitment to hiring and training the veteran talent our state has to offer. Our veterans possess valuable skills and abilities that make them unique and excellent candidates for careers at Ford and at the more than 100 other companies participating in the program."

Veterans working at Ford are provided the

opportunity to bring their unique leadership and project management skills to such areas as manufacturing, information technology, product development, purchasing and in finance. Additionally, the company's Veterans Network Group helps veterans with the transition into corporate culture. The group sponsors activities throughout the year in support of the company's veterans, military personnel and their families.

"Ford Motor Company is dedicated to supporting our military personnel, veterans, and their families," said Bill Dirksen, vice president Labor Affairs, Ford Motor Company, and executive champion of the Veterans Network Group. "At Ford, we value the military experience of our nation's brave servicemen and women, the technical skills they gain while serving our great country, and leadership qualities which are well respected at Ford."

There are currently seven gold-level Veteran-Friendly Employers: Consumers Energy, DTE Energy, General Motors, Michigan Department of Transportation,

Quicken Loans, Roush Enterprises and Whirlpool Corporation.

To be recognized as gold, employers must retain at least 75 percent of veteran hires over the past 12 months, implement internal veteran support networks and create either a hiring rotation or leadership development program within their organization, in addition to meeting all other program requirements.

Twelve companies are recognized as silver-level employers for meeting or exceeding their veteran hiring goals and implementing internship and on-the-job training programs for veterans. They are: AlixPartners, LLP, Cooper Standard, Express Professionals of Grand Rapids, Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Ford Motor Company, GE, Kellogg's, Michigan State Police, Optech, Prestige Group, Uniform Color Company and Verizon.

A complete list of bronze-level Veteran-Friendly Employers, as well as information on how to become a Veteran-Friendly Employer, is available at MichiganVeterans.com.

God Bless America!

AUX. DISTRICT 4 PRES., continued from page 8

working for the old NBD bank in downtown Detroit and then worked for Wayne County in the Purchasing Dept. and Friend of the Court. After my children were grown, I became a Dental Assistant retiring in 1996 and have been a Domestic Engineer ever since.

I do not have a favorite program because if you look at all of them, they are for helping and supporting the Veterans in one way or

another. I am just adamant about showing respect to our flag and country. We all need to instill in our Youth the proper way to stand and how to recite the pledge as well.

America is the greatest country in the world and it is because of our Veterans that we have our freedom. We must continue to serve them!

AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN



Kathy Hubbard

Dear Patriots,
Americanism is the standard in which we live by! This is the time to promote and show respect in our daily lives by showing respect to the US Flag, pride in our country and the great appreciation for our freedoms we have because of our Veteran's. Let's create

"Strength and Unity for Our Veterans!"

July was the month to show patriotism and pride in being an American, in a Big way with Fourth of July Festivals. We, do march in parades while waving our flags, have family over or go to patriotic picnics or go to celebration the fireworks, but there was a time that Memorial Day was a time to reflect on the lives that gave their all! We need to keep that front and foremost in our daily lives, by never forgetting.

August is a great time to start planning your school programs. We need to Wake up our future generations on Knowing the proper way to say the "Pledge of Allegiance" reach out to our youth groups also encourage to attend and promote Flag Etiquette or share facts on the United States Flag Code or even the 13 Folds of the Flag to our future generations, be sure to provide information related to the different ages so they are able to learn, and then they will share it with their family members. Be proud to sound off at community gatherings — Step Up ask those in charge of community events if your Post or Auxiliary can lead the reciting of the Pledge. What about the National Anthem?

September is the month of Awareness and Remembrances! Patriots Day is September 11th, this is a day to perpetuate the memory of those who perished in the attack on America

that occurred 9/11/2001. September 15th is Prisoners of War National Observance Day. This is a special day to make sure that the POW/MIA Flag is flying. Check and see if anyone in your community needs a new one. If you know someone who was captured, send them a card and let them know that you have not forgotten their sacrifice. September 24th is Gold Star Family Day. As you are thinking of these brave families, please take the time to send a "Thinking of You" card or better yet if you know of a Gold Star Mother call her and be sure to let her know she is in your thoughts.

As Americans, it is our patriotic duty to acknowledge the men and women that gave so much; present memorials for the POW/MIAs and educate everyone on the awareness of military personal suicides, help a veteran in need by memorizing the National Home Helpline 1-800-313-4200 you may save a life!

The Family Freedom Festival, this is your chance to promote patriotism as well as all the programs we offer, you can reach out and involve your whole community make this a yearly tradition welcome your local police, firefighters, school board chairman, principals and teachers offer something for everyone. Nationals have a Festival Toolkit, available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Be sure to take the time to OPEN & READ your July 2017 VFW Aux. Magazine. Be sure to use your media resources this is a wonderful opportunity to Promote Patriotism and your Post and Auxiliary. Remember, if you can "DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT." If I can be of help please contact me.

Loyally submitted,
Kathy Hubbard
2017—2018 Americanism Chairman
248-830-6324 or 248-693-6759
specialk843@aol.com

LEGISLATION CHAIRPERSON



Della Petaja

Well summer has past us by and at a really fast pace. Here in the Upper Peninsular the leaves are already changing. Michigan Day at National Home has also come and gone. What a fantastic day.

It is now time to get down to business. I know lots of you have been busy, writing, calling amend e-mailing our Congressmen and Senators, making your preferences known to them. Now we all need to get on that band wagon. There are so many bills that will involve our Veterans being considered at this time. It all takes time, first through the house and on to

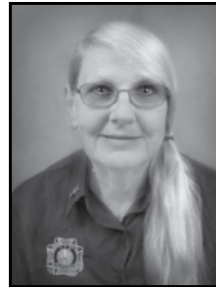
the Senator. Through all this please let them know what you want as a Veteran, Auxiliary member and a citizen, all together we can do great things for our Veterans.

The House has advanced several bills; the VA supports these bills as they will improve benefits and services. They are H.R. 2006 The VA procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act, H.R. 1690 The Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act, H. R. 282 The Military Residency Act, H.R. 2772 The VA Senior Executive Accountability Act, H.R. 3262 The Grow Your Own Directive Physician Assistant Employment and Education Act of 2017, H.R. 95 The Veterans Access to Child Care Act, H.R. 873 The Global War on Terrorism. Keep an eye on how these bills are progressing. Call, write and E-Mail.



Department President Gloria Dobbie Circle Of Excellence for Membership & Leadership... with Michigan being #1 with a total of 42 posts.

AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP



Jane Dady

Overheard a conversation that went something like this: "Membership, Membership! All they care about is us paying our dues-the quicker the better. I don't know what the BIG DEAL is. They don't care about us, all we are is a number and all they want is our money."

They continued their catty talk and moved on.

Here is a true story for you!

A young wife and mother of an Iraq veteran didn't know what to do. Her husband had returned from the war a changed man. He wouldn't talk about what happened "over there", said it was ugly and didn't want to talk about it. He was slowly getting worse. He couldn't sleep because of nightmares and the sweats. He lost his appetite, despite his favorite meals she made. Now he was drinking heavily and lost interest in her and the kids. He needed help and she did not know what to do.

She took the kids to the grocery store and looked at the bulletin board. She seen a flyer for the VA's crisis hotline. She went home and cried, then called the number for him.

Thankfully, this has a happy ending. He got the help he desperately needed.

What if the mother never found the number?

The flyer had been placed there by a caring VFW Auxiliary member, who, while shopping, took the time to hang it up, not knowing if anyone really read the flyers.

A life was saved because of one member. This shows how one member made a difference in a veteran's life. 22 Veterans commit suicide every day. They need our help.

If you are a veteran in crisis, or know one- please call the VA Hotline at: 1-800-273-8255 then press 1. You can text 838255 or visit www.veteranscrisisline.net.

The money from your dues funds every program that we have. Every program directly affects our veterans. The Auxiliary has many programs that have a multitude of ways that we help and aid our veterans. The most important program we have is membership. We need our members to continue the work that was started 104 years ago.

Our members have done an amazing job of providing thousands of hours of volunteer work and work selflessly for the same goal. This work cannot be done without each and every member and many, many more.

So, yes, It IS a BIG-DEAL-

We need you-Our veterans need you. One More member matters.....

Freedom Is Not Free

Jane Dady
Membership/Leadership Chairman

Department of Michigan
Auxiliary Chief of Staff
Won 1st place at National Convention
for 2016-2017



**GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AS THEY STAND WATCH
TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY SAFE**



Scott Gloger, Editor

Editorial Committee:

Paul McIvor, Commander
Jerry Gorski, Sr. Vice Commander
Matt David, Jr. Vice Commander
Scott Gloger, MOV Editor
Cindy Peto, Aux. Committee Member

EDITORIAL POLICY

The mission of this paper is to strengthen the efficiency of the Veterans of Foreign Wars by providing timely, pertinent and accurate information about the decisions and activities of the VFW at the Post, District and Department level; the relevant affairs of the State and Federal governments, and the decisions and activities of the national organization of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The paper is also the voice of the members. We welcome articles from members. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the VFW and its members. We will accept no attacks on any member or leader of the VFW. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues in the letter column and reserve the right to reply to those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the VFW and its policies.

We ask that you keep your articles brief. We reserve the right to edit all articles. We look forward to hearing from you.

The news and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Department of Michigan or the National Organization.

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TAPS

SEND TO:
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Lansing, MI 48906
(517) 485-9456

Comrades, please copy this form and use it for the Taps that you send in.

Send completed form to: VFW of Michigan, 924 North Washington, Lansing, MI 48906

(Last Name)

(First Name)

(Age)

(Date of Death)

(Post #)

(City)

Branch (Circle One):
USA USAAC USN
USMC USAF USCG

Served In (Circle One):
WWI WWII Korea
Vietnam Gulf Other
Occupation Forces

OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
A VETERAN DIED TODAY



Listed in Order of Post | Location | Last Name | First Name | Age | Service/War

345 REDFORD

SUAREZ, RAYMOND R. 95 MARINES/WWII
ALFARO MITCHELL 85 NAVY/WWII
BARRETTA, LEONARDO 93 ARMY
BARTLE, HENRY J. JR. 85 NAVY
BONADEO, BALDO C. 100 ARMY/WWII
ESTES, GEORGE E. JR. 88 ARMY/GERMANY
HILL, DURAN C. 85 ARMY/KOREA
KALISH, ROBERT H. 91 ARMY/WWII
KISZLOWSKI, STANLEY J. 97 ARMY/WWII
KUHN, RICHARD F. JR. 64 ARMY/VIETNAM
LARAMIE, DONALD C. 85 ARMY/WWII
LINDSAY, RALPH 91 ARMY/WWII/
KOREA/VIETNAM
LITTLE , JOHN E 91 ARMY/WWII
MCKIDDY, ALLEN A. 83 NAVY/WWII
MORSE, JOHN J. 92 NAVY/WWII
MULLEN, ERNIE 86 ARMY/WWII
ORGOVAN, BERNARD P. 87 ARMY/KOREA
RAKOCY, WALTER A. 95 MARINES/WWII
SEILER, JAMES J. 84 ARMY/KOREA
SHAFFER, PAUL V. 90 WWII
SIEBENALLER, DONALD 86 NAVY
TOBIA, VINCENT F. 89 ARMY/WWII
VANCE, WALTER L. 92 ARMY/WWII
WARSON JOSEPH L. 93 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
WEST, ORVILLE K. 83 ARMY/KOREA
WIRICK, FRANCIS R. 94 WWII
565 BATTLE CREEK
ALBRECHT, JAMES H. 87 ARMY/KOREA
ASKEW, GAYLE C. 91 NAVY/WWII
CANFIELD, CALVIN R. 92 NAVY/WWII
REESE, WENDELL L. 93 AIR FORCE/WWII
607 ROGERS CITY
BREGE, MYRON A. 88 ARMY/KOREA
ENLOW, EDWARD S. 79 NAVY/VIETNAM
HOPP, CARROLL P. 93 ARMY/WWII
796 PORT HURON
MINOR, DONALD A. 86 ARMY/KOREA
SWICK, ORVILLE J. 93 NAVY/WWII
1137 BENTON HARBOR
RANTZ, EMERY 92 ARMY/WWII
1519 NORTHVILLE
ANSTISS, DARVIN 85 ARMY/KOREA
MURPHY, BERNARD 86 ARMY
NELSON, ALF 92 MARINES/WWII
OSTERMAN, MARK 81 AIR FORCE/KOREA
SHAW, JOSEPH 85 ARMY/KOREA
TROTT, EDWARD 95 ARMY/WWII
WILHELM, JOSEPH 89 ARMY/WWII
2144 HOLLAND
BELL, ROBERT 86 ARMY/KOREA
McFARLAND, HOMER 85 ARMY/KOREA
ZYCH, LEO 94 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII

2891 CRYSTAL FALLS

HAAPALA, WILLIAM A. 87 ARMY/KOREA
HEIKKINEN, JOHN N. 84 NAVY/KOREA
2964 REED CITY
DAHLQUIST, ROBERT 91 NAVY/WWII
GYDESEN, JOHN L. 83 ARMY/VIETNAM
3019 THREE RIVERS
YEARLING, JOHN 95 NAVY/WWII
3314 ARCADIA
LANGFORD, JEFFERY L. 73 VIETNAM
3667 ALLEGAN
CARNS, JAMES R. 93 ARMY/WWII
3672 ALBION
NOAKES, DeVERE J. 82
3676 SAULT STE MARIE
BABCOCK, WALTER D. 89 ARMY/KOREA
BERLINGER, DOMINIC 90 ARMY/WWII
CLARK, GARY E. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM
LEASK, DAVID P. 63 ARM/KOREA
4054 MARCELLUS
SUMME, FRANK 94 MARINES/WWII
4090 PORTLAND
CHARTRAND, JERRY 69 ARMY/VIETNAM
GRAFT, HOWARD 72 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
4113 ST. JOHNS
STUDER, WILLARD 86 NAVY
4159 ROSCOMMON
MILNES, ROY JR. 87 ARMY/KOREA
STEVENS JACK 91 ARMY/WWII
4162 HAMTRAMCK
SZEWCZYK, NORMAN L. 92 NAVY/WWII
ZYLINSKI, EUGENE 90 ARMY/WWII
4164 CARO
SCHANK, ROBERT E. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM
4422 TAYLOR
LINES, JOHN W. ARMY/WWII
WALKER, DAVID 98 AIR FORCE/WWII
4461 LAKE ODESSA
OFFLEY, WAYNE 88 ARMY/KOREA
YODER, WILLIAM 66 MARINES/VIETNAM
5317 KINGSTON
ZIEGENMEYER, EDWARD 57 ARMY/PESIAN GULF/
CUBA/IRAQ
5670 GWINN
CARTRIGHT, KENNETH 79 AIR FORCE/VIETNAM
LaFAVE, RICHARD 88 AIR FORCE
TERRES, PAUL 83 NAVY/KOREA/VIETNAM
TROTTIER, ROY 87 NAVY/KOREA
5678 TAWAS CITY
BELLINGER, EDWIN W. 66 MARINES/VIETNAM
5822 BYRON
THOMPSON, DONALD A. 88 ARMY/KOREA
6507 CHASELL
MENARA, LOUIS 31 ARMY/IRAQ

6579 NEW LOTHROP

KLINE, THOMAS 82 ARMY/KOREA
LORENCZ, GEORGE 85 ARMY/KOREA
SAULNIER, PETER 79NAVY/WWII
6754 SPRUCE
BROUSSEAU, DONALD H. 93 NAVY/WWII
KUBBE, ELMER A. 92 ARMY/WWII
O'NEIL, THOMAS L. 68 ARMY/VIETNAM
WAKEMAN, FOSTER 85 ARMY
6803 WATERVLIET
BURKALL, ALVIN E. 92 ARMY AIR CORPS/WWII
6864 CADILLAC
KROES, EDGBERT J. 70 ARMY/VIETNAM
6950 KAWKAWLIN
ANDERSON, JAMES D. 92 ARMY/WWII
7805 ITHACA
BARNES, BARTRIM J. MARINES/KOREA
BOVEE, JERALD 82 ARMY/KOREA
ZAMARRON, THOMAS 90 ARMY/KOREA
7806 MANTON
CONROY, JOHN 99 ARMY/WWII
8236 FLINT
BINDSCHATEL, KENDALL 81 NAVY/KOREA
CLEMONS, RAYMOND ARMY/VIETNAM
MOTLEY, CHARLIE H. 86 ARMY/KOREA
WELLS, LESTER 93 NAVY/WWII
8872 PORT SANILAC
BIELEC, MICHAEL F. 96 NAVY/WWII
REYNOLDS, ROBERT 86 MARINES/KOREA
9023 BRIMLEY
WESTON, WILLIS NAVY/VIETNAM
9084 WAKEFIELD
IKOLA, MICHAEL 78 NAVY/KOREA
MAKI, EUGENE 92 ARMY/WWII
URBANSKI, JOHN 97 ARMY/WWII
WANDEN, JOHN 89 NAVY/WWII
9411 HOMER
REYNOLDS, JERRY L. 73 ARMY
RICHARDSON, ROLIN 87 ARMY/KOREA
SCHANZ, LeROY M. 90 NAVY/WWII
9656 LAMBERTVILLE
CLINE, LEO 87 ARMY/KOREA
HETZEL, HARRY W. 84 ARMY/KOREA
WILHELM, DOUGLAS C. 53 NAVY/PERSIAN GULF
10884 MAYVILLE
GILMORE, R.J. 83 KOREA



Chaplain Jennifer L. Smith
Proud member of District 6 and Post 701

Candidate for
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Michigan
★ Department Chaplain ★
June 2018-2019

Selfless Service Through Faith
Endorsed by Post 701 and its Auxiliary,
Dist. 6, Her Husband, Her Family,
and Her Church

God
Bless
America

MICHIGAN OVERSEAS VETERAN

• Reporting your positive impact on the Michigan community •
July/August/September 2017
Volume 85 Number 1

STATE COMMANDER

I would like to thank everyone for electing me as the State Commander for the Dept of Michigan 2017-2018. This is truly the highest honor I have ever received. The support and encouragement I have received over the last two years as I moved through the chairs has been incredible. I have been fortunate to have had outstanding mentors that have guided and taught me.

The year has been very busy so far and I don't think it is going to slow down any time soon. The Department has held 3 training seminars so far, one at Camp Trotter on June 24th, one at the Harris-Kehrer Post 3323 in Westland for the 4th & 5th Districts, and one at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette for the 14th and 15th Districts. We have another planned for the Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands Sept 22 – 24 and at the Fred & Paul Kalis Post 4034 in Houghton Lake on Oct 20, 2017. There will also be one at Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo in January. Everyone is invited to attend any of these training sessions and we encourage it. You don't have to be an officer. All you need to be is willing to learn. There is a lot of information presented that is helpful in running a post so please take some time and attend one or all of them.

The VFW National Convention was held in New Orleans, LA from July 22 – 26, 2017. We had two honorees from the Department that were presented All American honors. 6th District Commander John Griffith and Jean R Anderson Post 7309 Commander Larry Heuer. Congratulation to these two comrades and the members of the 6th District and Post 7309. It takes a lot of work to make All American. There were a few changes to the By-Laws and Manual of Procedure. One of the changes is to form a new post you only need 10 new members, not 25. Also, Roberts Rules of Order is now the official guide to parliamentary rules of order during a meeting. There are other minor changes so be sure that your post purchases new copies of the National By-Laws and Manual of procedure. Don't rely on your copy from 1976. Things have changed over the years.



Matt David
State Commander

As everyone knows the Veterans of Foreign Wars is in serious trouble. Our membership continues to decline; we have now dropped below 1.2 million members nationally. We did better last year in the Dept of Michigan than we have done in 4 or 5 years but we still lost over 1,000 members. We cannot continue this decline in membership. As our strength declines so does our clout in congress. Without that clout you can bet that the benefits we have fought for over the last 100 plus years will be cut to pay for other pet projects our elected officials want and I'm sure those projects do not benefit veterans.

So what do we do? We must recruit, reinstate, and retain. How do we do it? We must let our members, potential members, and past members know what we do. We are not the smoky bar VFW we have a reputation of being. We are an organization of action. We need to let people know that the VFW has issued \$3,581,947.00 in grants to struggling families through the Unmet Needs program, 3.3 million in scholarships through the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen program, etc. All these facts can be found on the VFW Fact sheet on the national website at www.vfw.org. You should have this fact sheet with you when you are recruiting or calling prior members. Each post should organize a team to go after the members that have let their dues expire. The quartermaster can get this list from the national website. If you need help, please contact either Dept HQ or myself. We can send you this list. The team should try calling and if that fails, take a drive, knock on the door, and visit the members. Sometimes all it takes is a visit to get the comrades to renew their membership.

Last year and again this year, we have had post officers in the Department removed from office by National because they did not pay their dues. This really has to stop. It creates problems for everyone.

—STATE COMMANDER, continued on page 16

GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS

STATE COMMANDER, continued from back page

If you are a post officer and an annual for their support. We are only a few months member, you need to pay your dues now. into the year and there is still a lot of work You are not losing anything by paying to be done. To the post and district officers, early. If your dues are due on 12/31/2017, you cannot do the job alone. It takes a team. by paying early your dues will not be due If we work together we can accomplish anything. It is very cliché but it's true, there again until 12/31/2018. is no I in team.

VFW Camp Trotter for Children Eleventh Annual Charity Golf Outing

Sponsored by Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars

Friday, June 22, 2018 Village Green Golf Course
8130 Bingham Avenue • Newaygo, MI 49337 Ph: 231-652-6513
8:00 a.m. – Registration • 9:00 a.m. – Shotgun Start

Cost \$60.00 Per Person / \$240.00 Per Team Includes:

- *18 Holes with cart * Lunch at the Turn * Grilled Steak Dinner
- *4 person scramble * Team Placement Prizes *Door Prizes

18 Golf Entry Form

This entry form must be returned with registration fees by June 19, 2018

Captains name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Player #2 Name: _____

Player #3 Name: _____

Player #4 Name: _____

Hole/Tee Sponsor (Minimum) \$55 _____ Cash Donation \$ _____

I am able to donate products or gift certificates, please contact me.

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Checks payable to: VFW Camp Trotter for Children

Mail to: Larry Thayer – Committee Member

4858 Apache Path , Owosso, MI 48867

Questions? Call Larry Thayer – 989-413-1096 email: vfwlarry@aol.com
www.michiganagolf.com/courses/newaygo/village-green-gc

Donations to the VFW Camp Trotter Foundation are tax deductible under section 501c (3) of the IRS Code

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CAMP TROTTER

GOLF OUTING

June 22, 2018