



THE AMERICAN LEGION

1919 100 2019
Years

VETERANS STILL SERVING AMERICA

www.frankwendland253.com

NOTES FROM YOUR COMMANDER

A couple of days ago Steve Peters (Sons of the Legion Commander) and also Newsletter Editor asked me to submit my quarterly article before the end of the year so as I am waiting for my wife, Gloria, to get ready to go down to our Post for the New Year's celebration, I thought my deadline for the Newsletter article is very fast approaching. I had better get busy. 2019 is all but gone.

First, on December 14th we had what we call our annual Early Bird dinner. To qualify for this, all you have to do is pay your dues before November 15th, Veterans Day, and you are in. This year I think the dinner was very well received. With a lot of help from many people we served 115 dinners at three different seating's. The entrée was chicken cordon bleu, all seemed to enjoy it. This event is open to all members of the Post. Legion, Sons of the Legion and Ladies Auxiliary. To conclude, pay your dues by Veteran's Day, you are probably going to pay anyway, why not get a complimentary dinner?

Next, 2020 marks the 200th anniversary of Post 253. Steve Parrow and his crew have been working hard to put on a great celebration banquet at the American Polish Culture Club. The date is February 22nd, Cocktail hour is at 5:00 pm Dinner is served at 6:00, Music for listening and/or dancing to follow. See our Bar Staff for tickets. Hurry seating is limited to the first 140 people. \$50.00 per person.

Lastly, don't forget February and March nominations are taken to fill the Post offices for the following year. The elections will be for: Commander, First Vice Commander, Second Vice Commander, Finance Officer and Adjutant.

Once again thanks to everyone that helps to make this the best Post in South East Michigan.

Don Wert
Commander

Senior Vice Commander

Membership is the job of every member of the American Legion. That is what Al Ford told me long ago and there have been a few members who have brought Veterans into our fold. For that I thank you but we all need to do better. We are a very strong and active Post but we can always do better. Our membership sits at over 75% and why only 75% at this point in in the membership year? There are members who pay at the beginning of our year and there are members who renew after the first and second renewal notices arrive in their mailbox. Now that's all fine and well, but there are members that wait until the last minute of the year. Those are the members we need to talk to about the importance of their timely renewal payment. Our bylaws state that if you don't renew by the 1st. of January you are no longer a member in good standing are to not to be allowed into the club. Sounds harsh, yeah, so if you know a member like that then please ask them to pay their dues it's important so let's get on the ball and not have any more delinquent members. Remember the strength of our American Legion, Department, Zone, District and Post lies in our numbers. The more members we have the stronger we are.

Now as far as the upcoming Consolidated Post Reports that are due at the end of our membership year, they are the job of every member of all the branches of our American Legion Family. We all need to turn in their reports on everything we do like activities, man hours, the funds, and numbers of the members it took to accomplish said activities. We are at the midway point of our year and we need those numbers so we can start filling in the reports. The bigger the numbers the more dollars will be allocated by Congress to us The American Legion so that we can continue the mission of helping veterans and their families. We have been doing a great job and we have the Department Awards to back that statement up but again, we can always do better.

Yours in Service,

Ed Burkhardt
Sr. Vice Commander

Service Officer

I sincerely hope that you had a safe, healthy, enjoyable and blessed Christmas holiday.

Welcome to a new year! Ready or not, here comes 2020! The service we provide to our veterans and the friendship we provide each other is more important than ever.

Our post made great strides in 2019 thanks to a team effort. I am most grateful to all members and other helpers who contributed in their own way to the betterment of our post, and to improving the lives of fellow veterans in need. We are well positioned to make 2020 even better! Doing so will take a sustained team effort and a commitment to those veterans that we help in some meaningful way.

Our group at the Detroit VA Hospital exceeded expectations this past year. Heartfelt thanks to each of them for their effort, the professional respect they exhibited to one another, and above all, their commitment to our mission. Our team comes from different backgrounds. Each has strengths. Each has weaknesses. Each dedicates every work hour to helping those we serve and each other. Thank you for staying focused. Doing so allows each of us to work in conjunction with other service organizations and with many others to improve the lives of those veterans who need our help.

This year we hosted three Christmas parties for our veterans in need. The parties with the VA Mental Health Ward, (PTSD-Suicide Prevention), the permanent residents and the homeless veterans were all outstanding events. This year we were able to adopt more families of veterans who were down on their luck, than in any previous year. The gifts for the families that we adopted really brought the meaning of the season to the forefront. Everyone did a little to help make this Christmas a special memory for a veteran that we hardly knew. We visited veterans with needs and hopes for a better future. The one on one, the little

conversations that tied us all together, were memorable. Small things like sharing a meal with a homeless veteran, listening to a veteran talk about his pet dog, sharing the love of the season and wishing them well made it all worthwhile.

During 2019 we were able to become more heavily involved with the veterans suicide prevention team and our homeless veterans. With the help of Worry Free Landscaping we planted a tree on the front lawn of the Detroit VA Hospital, recognizing the suicide prevention initiative. We are working to transition to the new homeless shelter on Jefferson Ave, on the riverfront near downtown Detroit.

With every new year we are faced with new challenges. May the next year be just as rewarding as the past year. Thanks again, for all of the help and support.

FRANK ROCHE
Service Officer

Auxiliary News

Let me start with a shoutout & Thank You to all that helped support our Christmas fundraising activities along with preparing and delivering the Christmas baskets to families in need.

This year's cookie walk & 70's party were both a huge success. Saturday entertainment at Post 253 kicks off with AM Radio immediately following the SAL chili cookoff on January 25th. Keep an eye on the event calendar for future dates. Our meetings are on the 2nd. Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Tickets for the Post253 Comedy Night and our 100 Year Celebration Dinner are available in the lounge.

Barb Dempsey
Auxiliary President

Legion Rider News

Happy New Year to all from the Legion Riders,

The New Year always gives us hope, hope that the new year will be better than the last, hope that all our friends and family will prosper more than the last, and hope that we can remember how we fixed our back swing at the end of last.

We continue to hope that this year 22 will just be a number again. It's been a statistic too long. Please if you know someone who is alone, don't let them be lonely, be that friend you always thought you were and call, stop by, just say "HI", I am my brother's keeper.

Remember to support your Post, we all work hard to support all veterans, and families.

Garry Shelly

Legion Rider Director

SAL News

Time fly's when your having fun! I guess that explains why 2019 was a blur and we don't anticipate 2020 will move any slower with all the great things we have planned at our Post. Action Packed is the best way to describe it. We've already held multiple functions and next up is our annual Chili Cookoff which has been moved up due to our event calendar. This year the Cookoff will be held on January 25th. You will also notice that our monthly meeting night has moved to the third Tuesday of every month. Same start time. Membership is growing again this year, many new faces and with that comes more great ideas on fundraising and activities. Keep an eye on the event calendar we are adding activities regularly.

Steve Peters

SAL Commander

Legion Officers

Commander	Don Wert
Adjutant	John Williams
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Burkhardt
Junior Vice Commander	Jack Dawson
Finance Officer	Roger Churchill
Service Officer	Frank Roche
Judge Advocate	Bob Bigham
Chaplain	Tom Stremпка
Historian	John Wendland
Sergeant at Arms	Mike Larkins

Legion Meetings: 2nd Thursday 7:00pm

Auxiliary Officers

President	Barb Dempsey
1 st Vice	June Bentley
2 nd Vice	Patty Anderson
Treasurer	Molly Reiser
Sergeant at Arms	Barb Leasia
Secretary	Kathy Berquist
Chaplain	Claire McNair
Historian	Jenifer Kirkorian

Auxiliary Meetings: 2nd Wednesday 7:00pm

SAL Officers

Commander	Steve Peters
Adjutant	Dave Leasia
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Stogdill
Junior Vice Commander	Jeff Ludeman
Finance Officer	George Elson
Service Officer	Rick Paulson
Chaplain	Kevin Cavanaugh
Historian	Darrel Ruttan
Sergeant at Arms	Kevin McHugh

***SAL Meetings: 3d. Tuesday 7:30pm**

Legion Riders Officers

Chapter Director	Garry Shelly
Assistant Director	Mike Nunley
Treasurer	Steve Peters
Secretary	Ron Durbin
Chaplain	John Krieger
Sergeant at Arms	Terry Smith
Road Captain	Roger Churchill
Historian	Nancy Smith

***Riders Meetings: 3rd Thursday 7:00pm ***

Post 253 SAL



Saturday January 25th. 4 –7 PM

Come In Out of The Cold And Warm Up With Some of The Best Chili's Around!

As Many As 12 Amazing Recipe's To Try!!

Have A Great Recipe? Sign Up And Get Cookin!

Cash Prizes and Awards Presented to The Top 3 Recipe's.
Winners Will Be Decided By Ballot
\$5.00 Donation Per Vote

** This Event Is Growing Make Sure To Prepare Enough Chili To Feed The Masses**
Sign Up Sheet Located At The Bar



Stick Around And Cool Down With Some Great Music Brought To You By

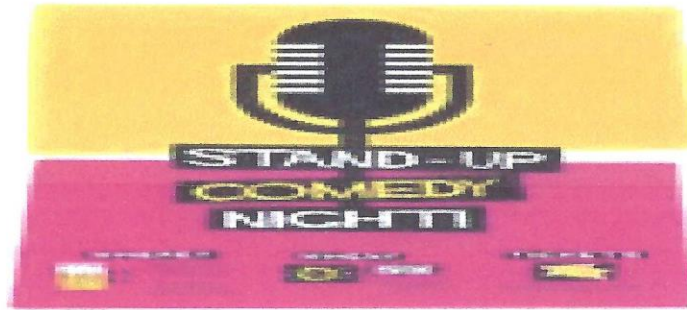
AM Radio

Entertainment Begins at 7:30.



Frank Wendland American Legion
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POST 253



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**COMEDY NIGHT
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16TH**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM
DINNER SERVED AT 7:00 PM**

FRESH SALAD

**CHICKEN CORDON BLEU
MASHED POTATOES / GRAVY**

GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

DESSERT

**\$20 PER PERSON
SEATING LIMITED TO 70 TICKETS
COMEDIAN BILLY RAY**

