



Frank Wendland Post 253  
The American Legion  
1505 N. Main Street  
Royal Oak, MI. 48067

NON PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ROYAL OAK MI  
Permit No 473



## **NOTES FROM YOUR COMMANDER**

As I write this we are coping with the first snowstorm of the season. Not bad considering this is almost the end of January. Spring will be here before we know it. In three weeks the Pitchers and Catchers go down South to begin spring training. Opening day is April 4<sup>th</sup> I believe.

Your Post just completed a very hectic but enjoyable series of events, including but not limited to “Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams” at Royal Oak Beaumont hospital. Approximately 1500 participants on what was referred to as Veterans Night. Then our Christmas party at the Post. Followed by New Year’s Eve party. Sons of the Legion hosted a Comedy Night with Jeff Ludeman and Steve Peters cooking ribs, then entertainment from the Comedy Castle. Great night! We have scheduled a Valentine’s dinner dance for Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, the annual Chili Cook-Off will also be in February. March brings our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage night on March 15<sup>th</sup>. April sees our yearly “Park Clean-up day at Wendland Park. The Riders have been sponsoring Euchre nights and Sunday Breakfasts. Both very well attended.

The yearly election of Post officers will take place in April. This is your chance to help run your Post. We are always looking for more members to get involved.

We are in the process of purchasing and installing a bronze plaque at the War Memorial Park by City Hall. It will recognize the ultimate sacrifices made by all Veterans from the city of Royal Oak, We hope to have this in place by Memorial Day.

Sadly we have had two World War Two Vets pass away recently. Bud Cornock and Bill Oxley went to report to the Commander of us all.

They will missed by all. Thanks for you service Bud and Bill.

In closing, again thanks to our bar staff and Steve Peters for tending the grill on Friday nights, we couldn’t do it without them.

Don Wert

**Post Commander**

## **Auxiliary News**

Hello Everyone,

Christmas has come and gone, and I’d like to say thank you to all who donated and volunteered the Holiday season. We met our goals!

Our sweatshirt sales went very well and the new Legion jacket sales are off to a great start. They are \$80.00 and the choices are:

Black / White Lettering

Black / Gold lettering

Blue / White lettering

Blue / Gold lettering



We will be meeting at the Post for the Vets. Returning Home Christmas on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Leaving at 5:00 pm. Dinner is being served at 6 pm. There will be no regular meeting that evening. Valentines prime rib dinner dance will be on February 15<sup>th</sup>. Dinner from 5 – 8 pm.

Barb Dempsey

**Auxiliary President**

## **Service Officer News**

Good Morning, America. How are you? Happy New Year to all. Now that the year 2018 is behind us we can look back briefly on the things we have accomplished last year and look forward briefly towards the New Year and what we WANT to accomplish this year.

We continue our bingo games at the Detroit VA Hospital on the third Wednesday of every month. Our start time is 7:00 PM and we leave the post at 6:30 PM. All are welcome. Sadly this past year, we have seen six of our regular bingo players pass to their final reward. They were at the end of their watch and will be sadly missed.

During the Christmas holidays with the support of the post and the Ladies Auxiliary we were able to adopt two veteran families from the VA Hospital who were down on their luck and would not have had any Christmas holiday without our help. We also hosted three Christmas parties for the disadvantaged veterans. Two were at the hospital, hospice wing and mental health wing, the last at the homeless shelter.

Thanks to all who participated in Wreaths Across America. We should not forget those veterans who are no longer with us.

In 2019 we will be taking on some new responsibilities. We will be doing local Honor Visits or Final Salutes for veterans in the local area who are at the end of their watch and are being relieved of their duties. To these veterans who are being called home, we will let the families know that their family member served their country well.

We have also signed up to provide coffee and donuts after church services on certain Sundays at the V.A. Hospital chapel. We strongly support the mission of our hospital chaplains and the work they do.

In the spring we will continue with our Royal Oak community service projects. We will participate in the Wendland Park clean-up and the cleaning of veterans headstones at Oakview cemetery in preparation for Memorial Day.

Thanks for all of your support during the past year. I am looking forward to getting the new year off to a great start.

On behalf of my family we wish to thank all of our veterans, and wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving holiday. This is the time we set aside to reflect on the many blessings that we have. Let's all keep up the great work, and stay focused as we move into the new year and prepare to face the many challenges ahead.

Frank Roche

## **Service Officer**

## **SAL News**

Happy New Year All! 2018 proved to be a fun filled year for all of us and as you know time fly's when you're having fun so here we are already a month into 2019.

Upcoming events include our annual Chili Cook Off which will be held on Saturday February 23d. 4 – 7 pm followed by the Queen of Hearts drawing & Billy Shultz for your evening entertainment.

Nominations for Officers are can be presented at our March & April meetings with elections taking place in May.

I huge shout out to all that participated and donated their time supporting our fundraising efforts not only for the SAL but all of our Legion Family events! We exceeded every goal we set for ourselves last year.

Steve Peters

## **SAL Commander**

## **Legion Riders News**

Your Post 253 Riders are in high gear this fundraising season and are well on our way of reaching our goals for 2019. Here are a couple upcoming dates to remember:

ALR Breakfast:

- Sunday Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. 8am – Noon
- Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. 8am - Noon

ALR Euchre:

- Saturday Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>. 7pm.
- Saturday March 16<sup>th</sup>. 7pm
- Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. 7pm

\*\*Registration Begins at 6\*\*

Officer nominations will be held at our February & March meetings which are held the third Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Ride On!

Kevin Cavanaugh “Kave”

**Legion Rider Director**

## **Honor Guard**

The Post 253 Honor Guard was started about two and a half years ago. The Honor Guard struggled to get Post Members involved and eventually absorbed the team members of the Piquette Square Honor Guard from Detroit, with the added logistical challenges that accompanied that decision. Membership has stayed steady at 13 since then. A full complement to render Final Honors consist of a Captain, seven riflemen, a bugler and two (preferably three) flag folders. That calls for at least 11 personnel to perform final honors. Of the 13 members, most have some health, family or personal issues.

Recruiting efforts have not been successful. Post members are content to sit back and let the few continue to bear handle the duties. As it stands right now, we cannot commit to an event until we get confirmation from personnel that they will be there. Some of our members are still working. Unless they have ample notice,

they are unable to get time off for funerals. So, there are times when we cannot commit to a funeral service. In case no one has told you, veterans are getting older and the need to provide proper military honors to our fallen comrades is on the increase. The government is directed to provide two people to fold the flag, play TAPS and present the flag to the next of kin. Due to DOD scheduling, sometimes the military is unable to provide even two people. The solution then falls on Veteran’s Service Organizations (VSOs i.e. American Legion, VFW posts). This shifts the DOD duties to Honor Guards. Our Honor Guard has become proficient in handling flag folding, presentation, TAPS and of course, firing honors. We do this because we believe that every Veteran deserves and has earned the “Final salute” by his/her service to this great nation of ours. What our Post Honor Guard needs right now is support. Monetarily, we have become self-supporting. We are in dire need of more people stepping up to the plate. Post 253 Honor Guard has established itself as a go to team as evidenced by the number of requests received from families and funeral directors. Most of you reading this are veterans and it's a safe bet that, when your turn comes to depart our ranks, you'd like to have an honors team there to give you a dignified sendoff. Bottom line, it's time to get your head out of the sand and get into the game. Post 253 has always stepped up when needed, and the honors team needs your support NOW. Get off the sideline and help shoulder the challenges that lie ahead. Unless you've experienced the satisfaction that comes from taking care of our brother and sister veterans, you can't know how rewarding it is to be of service. This chapter didn't just “happen,” it was “made” by members like you making a difference. Interested Legionnaires, SAL, Ladies Auxiliary and Legion Rider members are welcome to join the Honor Guard. Contact Steve Parrow, Ron Mexicott, Ed Burkhardt or any Honor Guard Team member for further information. Now would be a good time to “PAY IT FORWARD”

**Queen of Hearts 50 / 50 Progressive Raffle**  
**Drawing Held Every Saturday @ 7 PM**

**\*\*Winner Get's Half The Pot\*\***  
Tickets \$5.00 each

**Jackpot Growing Daily**

**WILL YOU...**



**THIS WEEKLY EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

You Do Not Need to be Present to Win!

**Taps**

**Legion:**

**Robert W. White 8/30/2017**

**Clare C. Tincknell 7/4/2018 WW2**

**Harold Robinson 9/25/18 USAF**

**Jack Ryan 9/28/2018 USN WW2**

**Warren "Bud" Cornock 12/31/2018**

**William Oxley 1/19/2019 USN, WW2**



Please Visit our Events Calendar:  
[www.frankwendland253.com](http://www.frankwendland253.com)

## Legion Officers

Commander	Don Wert
Adjutant	Tom Stremпка
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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday 7:00pm\*

## Auxiliary Officers

President	Barb Dempsey
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice	June Bentley
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice	Patty Anderson
Treasurer	Molly Reiser
Sergeant at Arms	Marlene Chapman
Secretary	Kathy Berquist
Chaplain	Claire McNair
Historian	Jenifer Kirkorian

\*Auxiliary Meetings the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 7:30pm\*

## Legion Riders Officers

Chapter Director	Kevin Cavanaugh
Assistant Director	Mike Nunley
Treasurer	Steve Peters
Secretary	Ron Durbin
Chaplain	Garry Shelly
Sergeant at Arms	Terry Smith
Road Captain	Chris Lau

\*Riders Meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00pm \*

## FRIDAY DINNER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY - MARCH

February 1<sup>st</sup>. Pork Chops

February 8<sup>th</sup>. Roast Beef

February 15<sup>th</sup>. Prime Rib

February 22<sup>nd</sup>. BBQ Ribs

March 1<sup>st</sup>. Meat loaf

March 8<sup>th</sup>. Fish Dinner

March 15<sup>th</sup>. Corned Beef

March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Fish Dinner

March 29<sup>th</sup>. Fish Dinner



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Northern Michigan	989.348.4055
Oakland County	248.399.7331