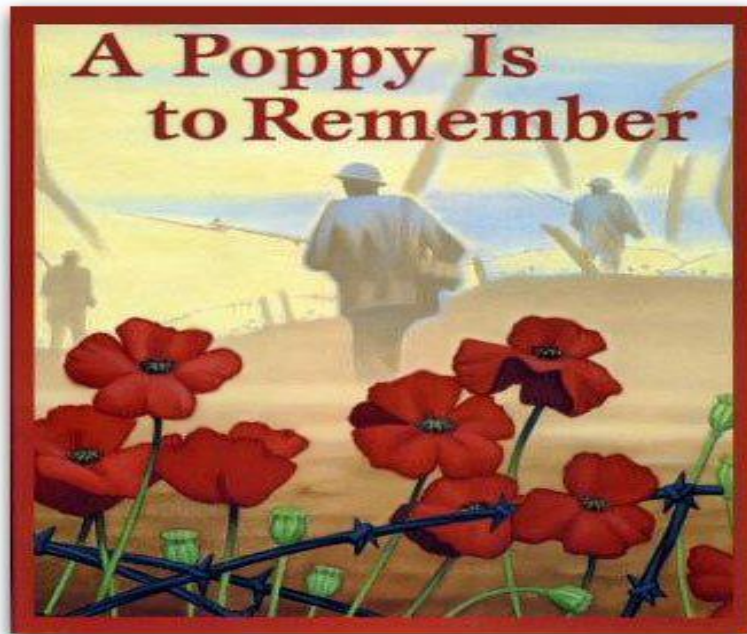




Frank Wendland Post 253
The American Legion
1505 N. Main Street
Royal Oak, MI. 48067

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NOTES FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Finally the weather we all have been waiting for all winter, except maybe for a few snowmobilers, has arrived. Spring has finally sprung!

Your Post has had its annual election of officers in April. I am happy to say all of the current Post officers have agreed to stay on for another year, except for Tom Stremпка who is stepping down as Post Adjutant. Tom has some issues with the nerves in his hand and finds it difficult to write. Thanks for all you do for the Post Tom, and I know you will still be participating with your guidance on the direction the Post will continue on.

April is the month the members of our Post do our annual spring cleanup at Wendland Park. We are going to do this on Saturday April 27th. If you can volunteer for this meet at Wendland Park at 9:00 am. Bring rakes and/or backpack leaf blowers. This usually takes about an hour and a half or so. The Post will provide coffee and doughnuts.

We will be marching in the Royal Oak Memorial Day Parade again this year. All are welcome. The date is Monday, May 27th. The time will be posted later as we get closer to the holiday. Let's get a real good turnout for this event. Keep in mind this is the day we honor all Veterans that gave their lives for us and our Country.

Still a long way off, but will be here before you know it, our annual Post Picnic is scheduled for Sunday September 8th at Scout Park, in Hazel Park. Usually starts around noon. Great food and beer. Lots of games for the kids.

We have been having some problems with one of our furnaces at the Post. (We have two). The

repairs are going to be costly. To help with this expense we are planning a Post fundraiser on Friday, May 10th, starting around 3:00 pm. Jeff Ludeman has volunteered to cook ribs and chicken outside at the Post. We are looking for items we can raffle off at this event. If you have anything that you would like to donate, please drop it off at the Post.

I am not sure if a lot of members are aware, but anyone who would like to, is invited every third Thursday of the month, at noon, to meet at the post for lunch and camaraderie. Just show up.

Enclosed with this newsletter, or under separate mailing, if you receive your newsletter via email, are some poppies. This is a once a year fundraiser that our Post does to raise money. The money raised goes in its entirety to assist Veterans that need a little assistance. Any money raised will not be used for any other purpose. Please send in what you can to help us in this area. Also we could use some help with the Poppy fundraiser, a signup sheet is available at the Post.

Once again, thank you Barb Dempsey for making the outside of our Post look outstanding. Great landscaping job.

Many members are currently receiving their newsletters via email. This helps immensely with mailing costs. Please consider putting your name on the email list. Contact John Williams at the Post.

Thanks to everyone for helping to make our Post the best Post in Southeast Michigan!

For God and Country,

Don Wert
Commander

Service Officer

Winter has come and gone. Spring has finally arrived, bringing warmer weather with it. During the upcoming months we will be preparing for the Memorial Day holiday. On this day we take time to honor those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have. On Saturday April 27, 2019 we will participate in a park clean up event. We are responsible for the city park named after the post. We clean up Wendland Park in the south end of Royal Oak every year. In the past Ed Burkhardt and his Cub Scouts have undertaken this event with help from Post Commander Don Wert. This year we will have additional students with their parents from Shrine Grade School. The event starts at 9:00 AM. Bring your rakes and garden tools, and give us a helping hand. Maps will be available. Many hands make for a light workload.

On the first three Saturdays in May, weather permitting, we will be cleaning the headstones of veterans at Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak. We will meet across the street at the main gate flagpole at 10:00 AM. This is a two hour event. We bring the yard tools and the cemetery will provide the lawn bags. Any and all help is appreciated. On the final Saturday before Memorial Day, May 25, 2019, we will place American flags on each veteran's grave in the cemetery. Again, we start at 10:00 AM. On the Tuesday after Memorial Day, May 28, 2019, we will need help retrieving those same flags and storing them for another year.

We continue with our support of the Detroit, John Dingell, V.A. Hospital. In recent months we have been visited by many of the people who we have helped in the past year. Recently we were visited by Dr. Ann Usitalo and her service

dog Emmy from the psychiatric ward, Pamela Mackey and Veronica Wiegand from Department of Social Workers, and Laurie O'Reilly, chief of Chaplain Services at the hospital. Emmy has recently passed on to doggie heaven. We salute her for her faithful service. In response to the work we have done, the post has received two different Certificates of Appreciation. Our first certificate was awarded for adopting two families at Christmas and helping them to enjoy the holiday that would not have happened for them. Our second certificate was awarded by the Mental Health Department. With all of the hours and work that we have put forth, we were recently able to graduate 14 patients and release them back to their families. These patients will once again, with some outpatient help, be able to lead a normal life. Many people have helped Ed, Mike and I with this endeavor and we truly appreciate your support. The help of the Ladies, the SAL, the Riders, Post members and some of my neighbors and friends is deeply appreciated.

We continue with our monthly Bingo games on the third Wednesday evening of every month. Start time at the hospital is 7:00 PM. We carpool from the post at 6:30 PM. Dates for upcoming Bingo games are April 17, 2019, May 15, 2019 and June 19, 2019.

The picnic for the inpatient veterans at the hospital is scheduled for Saturday June 1, 2019. It will take place on the hospital grounds.

There is a military veteran talent show at the hospital auditorium on Thursday May 16, 2019. Event runs from 5:00 PM-7:00 PM.

On May 16, 17, 18, 2019, we will be selling poppies in the local community. Please be generous with your donations. All money raised is used to support local veteran's causes.

As your service officer I am available to help you if you have any problems or need advice on your benefits or entitlements. If I don't know the answer, I sure know where to go to get that answer. Do not hesitate to ask.

Frank Roche- Service Officer

Auxiliary News

Thanks to our ladies for doing a great job hosting our soup cook-off & pajama party!!

No future fundraisers to speak of at this time.

Keep an eye on our event calendar on the website and in our lounge.

Spring is here, come out and see us here at the Legion, there is always something fun going on.

Thank you again,

Barb Dempsey

Auxiliary President

Legion Rider News

At this writing winter is losing its icy grip, our fundraising season is winding down, and the Riders are preparing our bikes for a warm spring and travel through our wonderful state. We visit many Posts in our state, participating in the Grab and Run Plaque exchange. It's a lot of fun and we get to meet many members from other Posts.

Our largest Charity is the Legacy Ride. It's in August every year and we usually travel from the National Commanders State to the National Convention with 300 to 400 other Legion Riders.

If you'd like to join us please talk to a Rider we will give you all the information you need and an application to join our ranks.

Thanks for joining us all winter at our Breakfast's and Euchre Tournaments.

Garry Shelly

Legion Rider Director

SAL News

Spring is always welcomed with the same enthusiasm as the New Year. All of us here at Post 253 are fired up about all of the events we have planned. Our Chili Cook-Off was a big hit with many new contestants participating. Your SAL exceeded its membership goals early this year and I must say that this is a direct result of our officers and membership working together to create an environment that everyone wants to be a part of. A couple of our upcoming events include our famous steak fry and Cinco De Mayo celebration. Keep an eye on the event calendar for these events and more.

Steve Peters

SAL Commander

Honor Guard

Well, I think winter has finally ended and spring has sprung. At least I hope so. It has been a cold winter for the honor guard. We have done graveside honors during some coldest days of the year. This is my first article since taking the helm as Event Coordinator for the honor guard. One of the first things on my agenda was to recruit new members, so I did presentations to the Legion Riders, SAL and the Auxiliary. I want to thank all of the members who have voiced interest in becoming active in the honor guard. I am planning a meeting for all members during the month of April. As soon as the weather gets a little warmer we will begin rifle practice at Oakview.

We haven't done too many funerals recently, but one funeral in January and two in February. We marched in the St. Patrick Day parade along with the Riders, SAL and Cub scouts on March 16 and had an honors on March 31. Providing Military Honors to deceased veterans is one of the most satisfying duties that we as active Veterans can do. Until you have participated in "honors", it is impossible to know the feelingunless you have had a military veteran loved one pass away. We have had so many family members express their gratitude and thankfulness for the service that we perform.

If any member is interested in becoming part of the honor guard, contact me at the post or leave your name and phone number at the bar. In closing, I would like to thank all present members of the honor guard for a job well done.

Steve Parrow
Event Coordinator

Bar manager Notes

I would like to thank all Members & Officers for your support in our Post and also let everybody know we are now open on Sunday's until 10 pm.

Have a great spring season!!

Debbi Shanku

Newsletter Notice

Starting with the July – September newsletter it will be sent by e-mail. This will save the Post thousands of dollars in printing and mailing costs.

If you'd like it sent by regular mail (snail mail) please contact John Williams ("Willy").

E-Mail: swsouthfield@aol.com

Phone: 248 569-0824

You can also speak with any Post Officer to have your contact and preference information updated.

Taps:



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 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 ***

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: 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm

MAY 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

03

04

Friday Dinner:
Lasagna
5pm
Karaoke
8pm

Flag Planting
Oakview
Cemetery
9:30am

05

06

07

08

09

10

11

Cinco De Mayo
Celebration
Begins @ 2pm.

E-Board
Meeting
6pm

Auxiliary
Meeting
7pm

General
Membership
Meeting
7pm

Post Fundraiser
BBQ Ribs
BBQ Chicken
5pm

Flag Planting
Oakview
Cemetery
9:30am

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

Happy
Mother's Day!!

Karaoke
1 – 4pm

SAL Meeting
7:30pm

Legion Riders
Meeting
7pm

Friday Dinner
Beef Brisket
5pm
Karaoke
8pm

Flag Planting
Oakview
Cemetery
9:30am

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

E-Board
Meeting
6pm

Flag Planting-
St. Mary's
Cemetery
4:30pm

Friday Dinner
Spaghetti &
Meatballs
5pm

Flag Planting
Oakview
Cemetery
10:00am

26

27

28

29

30

31

R.O.
Memorial Day
Parade 9am

Karaoke
1 – 4pm

Friday Dinner
Roast Beef
5pm

JUN 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

E-Board Meeting
6pm

03

04

05

06

Friday Dinner
Baked Chicken
5pm
Karaoke
8pm

07

08

09

10

Karaoke
1 – 4pm

SAL Meeting
7:30

11

Auxiliary Meeting
7pm

12

General Membership Meeting
7pm

13

Friday Dinner
Pot Roast
5pm

14

15

16

Happy Father's Day!!

E-Board Meeting
6pm

17

18

19

Legion Riders Meeting
7pm

20

Friday Dinner
Baked Ham
Karaoke
8pm

21

22

23

24

Karaoke
1 – 4pm

25

26

27

Friday Dinner
BBQ Ribs
5pm

28

29

30