



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

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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 2nd Thursday 7:00pm



Auxiliary Officers

President	Barb Dempsy
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 the 2nd Thursday 7:00pm



SAL Officers

Commander	Steve Peters
Adjutant	Dave Leasia
Senior Vice Commander	Ed Stoddill
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 2nd 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 3rd Thursday 7:00pm

Summer 2018

A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR COMMANDER

Here we are again in the midst of a spectacular summer in spectacular Michigan. If you seek a great peninsular look around, if you seek a great Post go to 1505 North Main Street, Royal Oak.

Your new Post officers were installed by the 18th District Ritual Team at our recent membership meeting. I believe you have a qualified and dedicated group of members who stepped up to help lead this great Post in the successful direction we have been going. Please stand behind them as they do their best to make you proud of them.

At our last membership meeting Chad Osborne was introduced, he is a candidate for Eagle Scout. One of his projects involves doing something for the community, he has elected to install a box outside our Post which will be for old and worn American flags. Which will then be properly disposed of. He is doing this project entirely on his own. Should be up sometime in August.

We had an outstanding turn out from our Post, members and Honor Guard, that participated in the Royal Oak Memorial day parade and the Clawson 4th of July parade. Thanks to all who marched or rode, you made us look great to the community.

Got a report from Ed Burkhardt from the State convention. We were again in the running for the State Americanism award. We were tied with one other Post. I don't know how they resolve ties, but I will keep you posted. This award is for community service. We won this last year as you may recall.

Our 2nd Vice commander, Jack Dawson, has done an outstanding job of providing entertainment every Friday night, with bands, music and karaoke. Also he has Karaoke in the afternoon on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. has done all of this without costing the Post a dime. He has raised the money necessary by doing 50/50 raffles etc. Come on down and see what's going on. You might even want to try a Friday Night Dinner. Don't wait until the last minute though, we almost always sell out.

Thanks to Ron Mexicott and what he has done with the Honor Guard you should all be proud of them. The Honor Guard averages one or two final honors for deceased Veterans every week. In the last year the Honor Guard has provided final honors to dozens of Veterans along with participating in parades and Memorial services.

Don't forget our annual Post picnic is September 8th at Scout Park. It starts around noon. Jack could use some volunteers with this. This is a family event with games and prizes for the kids. Also plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, corn on the cob and beer.

Enclosed you will find two books of raffle tickets for the picnic raffle. We ask that you support our Post picnic by purchasing these. There are many prizes. The first prize is \$200.00. Many smaller prizes also.

Like last Year we are planning on having a complimentary dinner for all Legion members who have paid their dues by Veteran's day. They are referred to as "early birds". Pay your dues now while you think of it and get a free dinner. This will also assure that our Post reaches 100% membership, like we did this past year.

If you get a chance, check out the grounds outside our building. Beautiful landscaping done by Barb Dempsey. Thanks Barb.

Jeff Ludeman has built and installed a beautiful set of cabinets in the Post. Hopefully we can get some of our pots and pans put away out of sight. Many thanks Jeff.

Sad to report we have had two fine ladies from our Post pass away recently. Rosalie Wendland and Josephine Dawson. The wife of John and Jack respectively. Both couples were married for almost sixty years. They will be missed by all.

In closing, stop on down and see what your Post has been doing. See you there.

Don Wert
Commander

Auxiliary News

Legion Riders News

Two of our Riders are getting ready to go on this year's National Legacy Run leaving Kansas City on the 19th. Of August. This year's Post donation is \$4,000.00. Donation total consists of \$500.00 from our SAL, \$500.00 from our Auxiliary, \$500.00 from our Post & \$2,500.00 from our Legion Riders. This is where most of the money raised from our Breakfast & Euchre Tournaments goes.

Speaking of Breakfast Fundraisers & Euchre Tournaments, they will be starting back up in September & October so keep an eye on our event calendar and watch for flyers at our Post in the next few weeks. We will be manning the beer trailer at this year's Legion Picnic on Sept. 9th. At Scout Park. Hope to see everyone there!

Kevin Cavanaugh
Legion Rider Director

SAL News

Greetings from SAL Squadron 253!

Squadron Elections were held in May, and we have new Officers:

Commander	Steve Peters
Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Ed Stogdill
Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Jeff Ludeman
Chaplain	Kevin Cavanaugh
Sgt. At Arms	Kevin McHugh
Adjutant	Dave Leasia
Finance Officer	George Elson

Our Historian position is currently open!

We have a busy season ahead for the Squadron. We just finished helping with a Fundraiser for Barb D's medical expenses, which exceeded the Post's goal! Awesome job to all who helped make it a success, especially Jr. Vice Jeff Ludeman's crew who did the cooking outside.

We normally do 4 Fundraisers a year- a Steak fry (July 27), our Annual Turkey Fry in November, the Annual Chili Cook-off in February, and the Annual Cinco de Mayo party in May. Won't you consider volunteering to helping on one of these events? **All money received is used for Veteran, Children and Community projects.**

Speaking of projects, Squadron 253 will once again be involved with the VA Hospital Fishing Outing Thursday, August 23rd at Edison Boat Club. Once you have been to one, you are eager to sign up for the next one. Each year, new people get involved, and insist on doing it again the following year. What a great feeling I get from helping our Veterans enjoy a day away from the Hospital!

The 2019 Membership Drive has begun! Our cards are in, and the dues haven't changed- still \$30 a year. See an SAL officer, or leave the money with our friendly bar staff, and we'll process it. Please state whether you want to pick-up your completed card at the bar, or have mailed to you. For the 2018 year, we attained 107% membership. That means for 2019, we have to work harder, since the Detachment of Michigan (State) will raise our goal yet again. If you renew (or join, or transfer) before November 11, 2018 (Veteran's Day), you will receive an **Early Bird** stamp on your new Membership card. This year, our Jr. Vice Commander is planning a free meal for Squadron 253 Early Birds. Date and menu TBA shortly. (Reminder- your 2018 card expires Dec. 31, 2018. Don't wait to the last minute. Renew now!)

The SAL will be cooking corn again this year at the Post 253 Picnic at Scout Park on September 8. See you there!

For God and Country

Dave Leasia

Sq. 253 Adjutant

Service Officer

It is hard to believe that as of July 1, 2018 we have finished another fiscal year and are now embarking on a new year of service.

For many years, in addition to serving as your post Service Officer, I have also served as your Michigan State American Legion Volunteer Services Officer at the John Dingell, Detroit, V.A. Hospital. (V.A.V.S.). For several years I worked with two deputy assistants, and the workload was manageable. During this past year Ed Burkhardt and I have been working shorthanded due to the sudden death of one of my deputy assistants. This made me appreciate the help I received from Ed, the Ladies Auxiliary, and my team of volunteers a little more than usual. As of July 1, 2018 we have filled the vacant deputy assistant position at the Detroit V.A. Hospital. One of our new transfer members, Mike Sherman, has accepted the position. He has already started to make a difference. Mike's contributions have enabled us to take on additional duties and responsibilities at the Detroit VA Hospital.

These past six months have continued to be very busy ones at the Detroit VA Hospital. We continue to host our bingo games on a monthly basis. A few years back we decided to make this an all year round event and not take the summer hiatus. The patients on the fifth and sixth floors always appreciate our visits. There is a new policy of no treats for the patients at any time. This policy has to be strictly adhered to and includes candy as well as pop. The bingo games take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Many have come to help, and all help is welcome and appreciated.

American Legion Post #253 is now well represented on the Mental Health Veterans Consumer Advocacy Council. This is allowing us to work with and support those veteran patients who were traumatized. (PTSD), or are recovering from substance abuse. This is in addition to those patients who are in hospice or are considered permanent residents and who we work with presently. We are also well represented on the Executive Board of Motor City Veterans Village. This committee is tasked with overall planning for Fisher House, Detroit. Fisher House is a hotel for families who have someone receiving care at the Detroit VA Hospital. There is no charge for an overnight stay.

We continue our work in the local communities and have strengthened our relationships with several youth group leaders. The Cub Scouts have been a big part of this success story. We are now receiving youth support from Mrs. Carolyn Marsh at St. Mary's of Royal Oak, Mrs. Jennifer Tracy at Shrine Elementary School, Mr. James Mio, principal at Shrine HS and several local home school families. In September a local Girl Scout Troop will begin working with us.

In recent months we have completed a park clean up, cleaned military headstones and planted flags for Memorial Day at Oakview Cemetery, participated in the Royal Oak Memorial Day parade and the Clawson Fourth of July Parade, and helped out at the patient picnic at the Detroit V.A. Hospital. We have awarded two scholarships for college. We continue to participate and support the monthly Quilts of Valor program. In the near future we will co-sponsor a picnic at Milliken Park for a PTSD patient field trip with Military Order of Purple Heart. We have also invited the permanent residents and caretakers from John Dingell

Hospital to our annual picnic at Scout Park. We are participating in Mercy In Action or Make A Difference Day, at St. Mary's in Royal Oak.

During these past few months with the help of the post, the Ladies Auxiliary, our youth support groups and our own initiative, we have been able to donate clean underwear for the male and female patients of the Mental Health Ward, (B-2B), coat hangers for the closets, shelving for the storage areas, books for the library, snack food for the hospice families, playing cards for the traumatized patients, and a portable CD player for the chaplains. The Ladies Auxiliary is already helping with the baby shower for pregnant female soldiers in September. We have also supported the annual Golden Age Games.

I cannot end this article without a special salute to Kathy Berquist and her son Brian. In addition to being an occasional bingo helper, Brian has now taken on the responsibility for the chess club. Through his involvement many of our patients are learning to concentrate and they are making great strides towards recovery.

If you need help with your benefits, or have another situation that you need help with, please let Ed, Mike, or myself know. We work with many organizations, some military, some civilian, but all designed to lighten the burden and solve the problem.

We now have a great team of volunteers to help us out with our activities at the Detroit VA Hospital and in the local Royal Oak community. Your help and support during these past six months has not gone unnoticed and is greatly appreciated. We can accomplish great things when we work as a team. Let's continue to work together and "GET 'ER DONE."

Frank Roche- Service Officer

FRIDAY DINNER SCHEDULE **AUGUST - SEPTEMBER**

Aug. 8 Roast Pork
Aug. 10 Roast Beef
Aug. 17 BBQ Ribs
Aug. 24 Pot Roast
Aug. 31 Salisbury Steak

Sept. 7 Corned Beef
Sept. 14 Lasagna
Sept. 21 Fish
Sept. 28 Spaghetti

Please Visit our Events Calendar:
www.frankwendland253.com

Honor Guard

It has almost become a standing joke at the Post meetings when Honor Guard Coordinator, Ron Mexicott, stands up and asks for volunteers to join the Honor Guard team. However, it is far from a joke, and something that the entire membership should take seriously and be concerned about. The initial organization was started about two and a half years ago. The Honor Guard struggled for members and eventually absorbed the team

members of the Piquette Square Honor Guard from Detroit and membership has stayed steady. Of course, this move also added some logistical challenges. At one time we were up to 16 members. 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. Two of our members still work. Very shortly we will lose two more members due to medical reasons. And, of that number, how many do you think are NOT suffering with some health,

Taps

Legion:

Robert Belger
Arthur French
Richard Guccini
William McNair
Douglas Nagel

Auxiliary:

Rosalie Wendland
Josephine Dawson

