



AMERICAN LEGION POST 46
NEWSLETTER
July, August and September 2010

"In Memory of Those Who Served and to Honor Those Who Are Serving."

To All Fellow Legionnaires of American Legion Post 46

I hope you are all enjoying the hazy lazy days of summer.

Many apologies for the late preparation of this newsletter but I was away in South Africa for a large part of June enjoying World Cup. World Cup gives me the excuse every four years to travel to a foreign land and to paint my face red, white and blue and to wear the flag while cheering for the United States Soccer Team. In any event, in the excitement of the trip my secretary and I failed to prepare a quarterly newsletter and our Commander, Steve Duncan, was so busy travelling with the Post 46 baseball team during this time that he had no time to get out the newsletter on schedule. But, as the saying goes, better late than never.

As always, a schedule of events is posted in this newsletter and we invite all members to get involved and participate as much as they are able to do so. As veterans gather together we find that true friendships develop and the diversity of age, military rank, occupations, etc. adds to our knowledge and experiences of life.

We continue to enjoy the hospitality of Webers Inn for our monthly meetings. I understand that, while I was away, Post 46 hosted a dinner at Webers to introduce certain members to Post 46 activities. This event was suggested and promoted by Legionnaire Tom Scott and, from the feedback I have received, was enjoyed by all in attendance. I hope to include a full report of the occasion in our next newsletter and let you know if this will become a regularly scheduled activity.

This newsletter is, due to circumstances, more brief than usual but we will try to make it up in the fall as our list of activities expands. Post 46 wishes all of its members a very healthy and enjoyable summer.

Thanks for you all you do for Post 46 and our veterans. If you have any news you want included in our newsletter, please forward it to my attention and, if it passes the censor, it will receive our thoughtful consideration.

Michael P. Malley
Judge Advocate
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- July 5 No regular Post meeting.
- July 19 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans
Saline American Legion Post 322, 8:00 p.m.
- July 21 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- August 2 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- August 16 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
- August 18 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- August 20 Bingo, Veterans Hospital, Ann Arbor 7:00 P.M.
- September 13 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- September 20 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
- September 22 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.

LUNCHEON MEETINGS

As always, our luncheon meetings are held each month at the Classic Cup Café on Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. It is an opportunity for all members to get together, relax, enjoy a meal and get to know other members of Post 46 in an informal setting. We intend to invite guest speakers from time to time on various topical issues. Please suggest what type of speakers you would like - salesmen, investment advisors, athletic coaches, veterans, etc.

CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER VETERANS GROUPS

As a veteran organization, we continue our focus on working in cooperation with other veterans organizations. Most of you are aware that American Legion posts and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts are closing across the country as the number of members continues to decline. Further, there will obviously be no more Vietnam veterans to fill the ranks. The numbers of World War II veterans numbered in the millions. The numbers of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans number only in the thousands and these returning veterans have so many other interests and diversions that it is difficult to enlist them as members of the American Legion. If you know of any Iraq or Afghanistan veterans in our community, please contact us so that we can encourage them to join Post 46 as fellow veterans. Similarly, if you know of any such veterans who you believe are entitled to some form of benefits arising from their military

service, please let us know so that we can point these veterans in the right direction. We cannot and should not forget the “veteran connection” which links us all together.

BINGO NIGHT AT THE VA HOSPITAL

A Bingo night is scheduled at the VA Hospital on August 20, 2010. If you can join us and help hospitalized veterans with their bingo cards, please let us know. Steve Duncan will continue his regular role of calling out the numbers.

FINAL(?) CHAPTER OF THE SAGA OF THE NAVAL SEALS

Earlier newsletters outlined the story that, back in 2004, four Americans were captured in Fallujah, Iraq, and their bodies mutilated. After their corpses were dragged through the streets, two of them were left hanging from a bridge over the Euphrates River for all the world to see. One of those murdered was a former Navy SEAL.

For many years, the SEALS tracked the ringleader of these atrocities, Ahmed Abed. A few months ago, the SEALS finally captured Ahmed Abed and brought him back alive. Upon being interviewed, however, Ahmed Abed told investigators he had been punched by his captors and had a bloody lip to show for it. Three of the SEALS were then charged with assault. All three refused to submit to non-judicial punishment or “captains mast” which is generally viewed as admitting guilt and, therefore, were arraigned on criminal charges. A number of Post 46 members became very interested in this story even to the point of writing letters to those people who might have some influence in the outcome.

The good news is that all three SEALS have since been found “not guilty” of these charges. Huertas and Keefe were acquitted by trials in Baghdad and McCabe was recently found “not guilty” by a military jury. One physician testified that Abed has purposefully injured his own lip and then claimed abuse which is apparently in the Al Queda playbook. In any event, it has obviously become very difficult to draw the dividing line between deeds of outstanding valor and courage and those which invite criminal prosecution. Many veterans believe that these Navy SEALS should get the highest medal their country can bestow for their service in finally capturing this most-wanted criminal terrorist.

The bad news is that these three SEALS had to undergo a period of severe stress during these trials and will have a cloud of uncertainty hanging over their heads as they return to civilian life. Whatever your individual opinion about the circumstances, all veterans, particularly those who have experienced combat situations, are able to recognize the immediate decisions which must often be made under extreme pressure by our young service people. This is one fact of life all veterans can readily appreciate.

WIL-WIN LODGE, TROUT LAKE, MICHIGAN

In order to remind all Post 46 members to review their wills to see what gifts or bequests they might be able to make to Post 46 or to The American Legion, I hope that many of you will be able to make a trip and visit the newest American Legion property – Wil-Win Lodge, Trout Lake, Michigan. This 600 acre parcel of land and buildings some 20 minutes or so north of the Mackinac Bridge was recently gifted to the Michigan American Legion by Robert W. Considine and a committee has already been formed to determine what improvements need to be made to the property and how it can best be used to serve our veterans. Elmer White and Mike Malley recently met with the committee in Lansing, Michigan, at State headquarters to review the legal issue involved. Legionnaire White has already made a visit to the

property and described it as “drop dead” gorgeous. For those of you who would be interested in seeing pictures of the property and its buildings, you can visit the Michigan American Legion website or simply Google “Wil-Win Lodge, Trout Lake, Michigan” If you intend to plan a visit to the property, please contact Legionnaire Malley for further information.

BASEBALL WRAP UP AND REPORT

Commander Steve Duncan has been following the Post 46 Baseball team around the country. He reports that the team was very active in June with out-of-town tournaments every weekend. The second weekend he was with the team in Ottawa, Ohio, and completed two games before the rains came down. The third weekend the team was in Wheaton, Illinois, where it won three games but lost the final championship game. The fourth weekend, it was in Dandridge/Jefferson City, Tennessee, where it won the tournament with a record of five wins and no losses. It sounds like both our Post 46 baseball team and its Commander had a busy schedule in June.

Thanks to its successful record, the team is headed to St. Joseph, Michigan on July 23rd and 24th for the Zone Tournament. The team budget did not anticipate the additional expense for this post-season tournament and any contributions from members or other parties would be gratefully accepted. If you are able to make a donation to this worthy cause, please contact Steve immediately. We will have a full report of the finish of the Post 46 baseball season from Commander Duncan in our next newsletter.

POST OFFICERS

Steve Duncan, Commander & Finance Officer
Greta Krapohl, Sr. Vice Commander
Michael Malley, Jr. Vice Commander & Judge Advocate
John "Laurie" Howley, Sgt. at Arms
Robert Oxenger, Chaplain
Elmer White, Adjutant
Graydon Krapohl, Service Officer
Thomas Scott, Executive Committee
Douglas Woolley, Executive Committee
Dale Burgess, Executive Committee

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