



AMERICAN LEGION POST 46
NEWSLETTER

October, November, and December 2010

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

To All Fellow Legionnaires of American Legion Post 46

Another summer into the history books! I hope that all Legionnaires enjoyed the summer half as much as I did. Fall weather and cooling temperatures are already here and I for one would enjoy Michigan fall weather much more if I did not know what is soon to follow. Some of you enjoy the Michigan winters and winter sports and activities and I envy you but each winter seems to get longer each year I get older.

Post 46 invites all its members to join us in the many fall activities which we have planned. If you are not an active member in Post 46 activities, you are missing the opportunity to interact with other veterans, to contribute to your community, and to participate in various functions offered by the community especially for veterans. As an example, the athletic teams of the University of Michigan often invites Post 46 members to participate in various functions from time to time. Unfortunately, many of these invitations are not received until a week or so before the event. We can notify our members of these invitations who have internet access but have no way to give timely notice to other members by snail mail.

A month or so ago, Legionnaire Tom Scott sent a personal letter to many of our Post 46 Ann Arbor members inviting them to become involved in Post activities. As many of you are aware, Tom, a World War II veteran, is an active and generous member of Post 46 and serves on its Executive Committee. As a World War II veteran, he is understandably concerned that many of our younger veterans seem unable to find the time to support Post 46, our veterans and the local community. We are fortunate to have a reliable cadre of members who actively support Post 46 but that group cannot continue to bear the burden alone. I hope you will respond favorably to Tom's letter.

Our American Legion Post 46 baseball team enjoyed another successful season this summer. I hope that many members enjoyed attending the games and supporting the team. As many of you who attend regular Post 46 meetings know, the team was so successful that it participated in post-season play and exceeded its budget. We will try to avoid such a problem next year; however, if any members are avid baseball fans, the team and Commander Duncan would appreciate any additional donations you can afford so that we are better prepared next year.

Post 46 has regular monthly meetings at Webers. Do not be a stranger!! Please plan to become more actively involved in the activities of Post 46 in the months ahead so that we can better serve our community, our veterans and our active service personnel.

Michael P. Malley
Judge Advocate
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 4 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- October 18 Washtenaw County Council of Veterans, 8:00 p.m.
- October 20 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- November 8 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- November 11 Veterans day Celebration
Concordia College
- November 17 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- December 4 Post 46 Christmas Party
Weber's Inn, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- December 6 Regular Post Meeting
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- December 15 Luncheon Meeting
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- December 25 Merry Christmas
- December 29 Holiday Bingo
Ann Arbor Veterans Administration Hospital, 7:00 p.m.

LUNCHEON MEETINGS

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.

REGULAR POST MEETINGS

Our regular post meetings continue to be held each month at Weber's on Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. All members are invited to attend and become active in Post 46 activities. These meetings are also operated in an informal manner and members are urged to participate to express their views, voice their opinions, and vote on any business matters on the agenda.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party this year is scheduled for December 4th from 12:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. If any member of Post 46 is in Ann Arbor on the date of our party – be sure to attend with your spouse, significant other, close family friend or confidante (In other words, if you have any doubt about bringing a guest, contact Commander Duncan and I wager that he will give it his blessing in the true holiday spirit) . As our late Commander Van Gasse was fond of saying, the Christmas Party is an annual gift by Post 46 to its members for their contributions, membership and support. It is truly a great way to welcome the holiday season and to enjoy some good food and companionship with fellow veterans, ROTC cadets and midshipmen and active duty personnel. It is also a time to give thanks for the blessings and privileges which we all enjoy and often take too much for granted. Weber's Inn always serves a great meal with courteous service in a festive atmosphere. This year, our featured speaker will be Robert P. McDivitt, the director of the VA Ann Arbor Hospital. Prior to coming to Ann Arbor, McDivitt served as medical center director at the Fargo VA Medical Center in North Dakota. He also had prior service with the VA in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and in Waco, Texas. Please put this important event on your calendar NOW – Commander Duncan will be sending out invitations before you know it asking that you let him know how many of you expect to attend and your dining preferences. If you already know that you are planning to attend, please call Commander Duncan at 734-997-9485 and give him your reservation information.

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Post 46 members have again been invited to attend and participate in the Veteran's Day celebrations at Concordia College. The commemoration services begin at 11:00 A. M. at the Student Union, a Chapel Service and Flag Presentation at 11:00 A.M., a Flag Dedication Ceremony at 11:30 A.M. and a U.S. Military Flyby at 12:00 P.M. Concordia College again will give a \$5000 scholarship certificate to the first 200 servicemembers or veterans who register to attend the celebration by emailing Shannon MacLellan at macles@cuaa.edu and Concordia will again provide meals to registered guests.

The primary organizer of this memorable annual event, Jon Luker, has also promised many new events this year over and beyond those which were scheduled last year. These activities include sponsorship of blue stars for all are now or ever were in military service, a veterans job fair and veterans support fair from 0900 to 1630, two viewings of a National Geographic documentary "Restrepo" in the Black Box Theater (this documentary features actual footage of a year in the life of 2nd Platoon, 173rd Airborne Brigade as they established outpost Restrepo) and other demonstrations and displays.

Many of our Post 46 members attended these memorial celebrations last year and were favorably impressed by the hospitality of Concordia College and all of the festivities, demonstrations and ceremonies involved. For additional information, please visit www.vetsdaycelebration.com. If you wish to attend (and I sincerely urge all Post 46 members to do so) please either register directly or call Judge Advocate Malley for further information.

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

On Saturday, September 18th, the local VA Ann Arbor Hospital hosted a brunch to celebrate National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This annual event pays tribute to those who were or are missing in action or who were prisoners of war.

About 100 people attended including former POWs from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Among those attending was Ypsilanti native, Robert Fletcher, who was one of approximately 150 U.S. Army soldiers captured on November 27, 1950, when the North Koreans overran their position.

Before the brunch was served, the attendees enjoyed a musical performance by an 11 member Daughters of the American Revolution choir in the hospital's auditorium.

The Ann Arbor hospital's department of psychiatry is reported to be the home to the nation's largest POW therapy group. The group meets monthly and former POWs and their spouses and families participate. If any Post 46 members are interested in obtaining additional information regarding these activities or wishes to support them in any way, please contact Commander Duncan.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CONNECTION

Last year, this newsletter made the obvious observation that the University of Michigan has a very significant presence in the Ann Arbor community. Post 46 and its members live, work and serve in the same community and our inter-relationship with the University of Michigan occurs on many different levels. For its part, Post 46 annually awards scholarships to outstanding ROTC cadets and midshipmen and was a significant factor in the creation and development of Student Veterans of America, a student veterans organization which originated on the University of Michigan campus and which now has a presence on over 100 college campuses throughout the country. For its part, the University of Michigan last year invited Post 46 to participate in various events. Last fall, Post 46 veterans were invited to attend a University of Michigan Men's Soccer game and were honored with awards at half-time and to a meal after the game. Similarly, the University of Michigan Women's Basketball team invited Post 46 members to attend a practice session followed by a lunch. If any additional invitations are extended, Post 46 will promptly notify its members by email (notices will also be given by regular mail, if time permits). Although attendance at these events was disappointingly low, Post 46 and its officers will continue to develop these inter-relationships between Post 46 and its very large neighbor, the University of Michigan, because we think this inter relationship is good for all of us. If any members have any suggestions as to how Post 46 can further develop this relationship for the benefit of our veterans and our community, please call one of our officers.

YOUNG PERSON SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS

It is always a good feeling for veterans when we learn that a young American boy finds the time in his busy life to raise money for a nonprofit organization which supports our wounded warriors. Giuseppe Gottfried managed to raise \$1,300 in two years for a nonprofit organization, Operation Injured Soldiers (OIS) based in South Lyon. Young Giuseppe's hard work and generosity earned him recognition from a state official in Washington, D.C. Rep. Mark Schauer arranged for Giuseppe and his family to have a personal tour of the White House in November.

Giuseppe first began by asking for donations in lieu of birthday presents and also soliciting contributions donations in Saline and in churches. His parents do not know where he came up with the idea but said that he just wanted to take care of Army people. OIS helps physically and emotionally disabled veterans through recreational activities they enjoy. OIS purchases tickets to sporting events and provides transportation or lodging to the veteran. The full story describing Giuseppe's activities appeared on AnnArbor.com and was reported by Brian Vernellis. brianvernellis@annarbor.com.

As a side note to this heart warming story, there is one a short word of warning. There are apparently a number of organizations which improperly represent themselves to be veterans support nonprofit organizations. The Ann Arbor Observer recently reported one such scam which was operating in Ann Arbor this summer. In July, tables were set up on local sidewalks to sell \$31 coupon books offering discount deals at local restaurants, entertainment venues and golf courses. Prominently displayed were "Support Our Troops" stickers and the coupon books themselves named the non profit organization "U.S. Wounded Soldiers Foundation" as the beneficiary of the sales. One of the sellers of the books

claimed that 70% of the price went to veterans. In fact, the book was apparently produced for a for-profit company, Creative Marketing Solutions, and each seller on the street was paid a commission of \$10 for each book sold while the veterans were lucky to get a single dollar. When questioned about these facts, the seller merely remarked that he had been around for several weeks and he was quoted as saying: "There's a lot of people at the art fair and we'll sell a lot of books".

One of our members, Elmer White, recently was solicited by one of these salespeople (or one which was very similar to it) and confronted them regarding their ethics and representations. Legionnaire White recounted his experience at a recent Monday night meeting of Post 46. The salesman evidently escaped unharmed. This type of solicitation obviously disgusts all veterans and plays upon the sympathy of the general public for our military personnel. It is apparently becoming more and more prevalent so that we should be alert for any such similar scams and report them whenever possible.

BINGO NIGHTS AT THE VA HOSPITAL

On the evening of December 29th, Post 46 will entertain hospitalized veterans at the Veterans Hospital with bingo (and whatever refreshments the VA Hospital will then allow). . Commander Steve Duncan plans to call the numbers and asks that other Post 46 members assist the hospitalized veterans with their bingo cards and distribute prizes.. These are "feel good" evenings for all Post 46 volunteers and more members are encouraged to participate other than the "regular suspects" who volunteer so often.

It is a particularly difficult time of year for veterans to be hospitalized during the Christmas and New Year's holidays and we encourage all members to let us know if they can lend a helping hand by calling Steve Duncan at 734-997-9485. Please put the date on your calendar and make an early New Year's resolution to participate.

POST OFFICERS

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

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