



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326

20 N. FIRST STREET • GRAND HAVEN, MI 49417
Phone: 616.842.6210 • Website: www.vfwpost2326.org

October
November
December

2014

POST OFFICERS

Commander	Ted Raggl	616.846.4353
Sr. Vice	Jack Maxfield	616.842.9085
Jr. Vice	Al Schmidt	616.502.3747
Quartermaster	Mike Baauw	231.286.5182
Chaplain	Jerry Tripp	616.384.3186



Service Officer

Al Schmidt 616.502.3747

Honor Guard Commander

Al Schmidt 616.502.3747

Facility Rental Managers

Bill & Claudia Schippers 616.846.1102

LADIES AUXILIARY



Debra Hallada	616.846.6964
Sally Kemme	616.846.3949
Carol Verploegh	616.847.8929
Edna McCarthy	616.842.6586
Meg Young	616.846.2418
Anne Parchert	616.842.8034

OFFICE

← President →
← Sr. Vice →
← Jr. Vice →
← Secretary →
← Treasurer →
← Chaplain →

MEN'S AUXILIARY

Dan Raggl	616.846.3946
Bill Schippers	616.846.1102
Dale Henshaw	616.638.5382
Jim Koats	616.402.7766
Brian Schippers	616.846.6062
John Zlotnicki	616.638.0239



CLUB BOARD

Ted Raggl	Chairman
Mike Baauw	Treasurer
Terry Grotemat	Trustee
Jack Maxfield	Trustee
Debra Hallada	Ladies Aux. Pres.
Dan Raggl	Men's Aux. Pres.
John Siemion	Club Manager

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hi members, Well winter is fast approaching. Our Coast party did very well, thanks to all our helpers and members who attended. Sobie Meats owners, Tim and Theresa, donated 200 lbs. of Pork, and 160 lbs. of hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. What extremely nice people. They also helped us feed the Vets with Swiss steak and bananas. If you ever get in their store area stop in and visit. They really helped us a lot. Our club owes them a huge thank you.

We are putting a roof on our club. Our Rib Fest and Coast Guard money made it happen.

We also have a plaque in the front of our club for our Ottawa County Medal of Honor winners. Come and check it out.

We have Camel Racers coming in November. Food, spirits, and racing. It's going to be a lot of fun. If you would like to sponsor a camel, call Mike Baauw. And he can explain it more.

Hope your fall and winter season goes well. Don't forget to come down and enjoy your club.

Ted Raggl

HONOR GUARD
ACTIVITIES

The team did the Military Rites for 8 deceased veterans. What was unusual about this was that four of them required us to do the Rites at the cemetery.

We retired some old American Flags by burning. Anyone with old Flags can turn them in at the Post. We will destroy them properly.

If you are retired, male or female, we can use you on our team. It doesn't take up much time per month. The deceased families really appreciate us doing the Military Rites at their loved one funeral. Call me at anytime for more information.

On September 17, we had veterans from the Grand Rapids Veterans Home and the Robbinswood Living Center come to our Post for a home cooked meal, games, and entertainment. What a great time we all have.

Again, think about committing a few hours per month as a member of the Post's Honor Guard Team. The pay is terrible but the other rewards are great.

Al Schmidt

OPEN SUNDAYS

The club will reopen on Sundays, starting on Sunday October 5, 2014 serving our delicious Bloody Mary's and your other favorite drinks. We will be open from noon until 5 PM.

THANK YOU

A big Thank You to Dan & Dee Deal and John and Wendy Siemion for donating more pub tables to the Club. Dan & Dee donated two Navy tables in memory of their parents and John & Wendy donated a Army table in honor of their son.

**LADIES AUXILIARY
NEWS**

OCTOBER: The annual **V.F.W. Fall Conference** is scheduled to take place at **Boyne Highlands** from Wednesday, October 1st through Sunday, the 5th. This is where officers and chairpersons learn what their duties are.

On Tuesday, October 7, we will be traveling to the **Grand Rapids Home for Veterans** to play bingo with the Vets. Lots of cookies are needed. You may bring your donation to the Club on Monday, the day before, between 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. if not the week before. 2 cookies to a plastic baggy (prefer fold-over type) would be helpful.

The National "**Voice of Democracy**" (VOD) Scholarship Essay Contest, open to so students in grades 9-12, is due by November 1st. The theme is "Why Veterans Are Important to Our Nation's History and Future". The "**Patriots Pen**" Essay Contest is open to students in grades 6-8. The theme is "Why I Appreciate America's Veterans". Deadline is also November 1st. Brochures are available. Contacts are: John Kemme, 846-3949, and Edna McCarthy, 842-6586

Membership: All 2015 dues must be paid by December 31, 2014. Please send your \$20.00 dues to:

Meg Young, 1231 Marion Ave., Grand Haven, MI, 49417, or drop them off at the Club.

The Auxiliary is in need of a Hospital chairman. It involves sending out cards to hospitalized members and a once a year trip to the Grand Rapids Veterans facilities. To volunteer, call President Debra Hallada at 846-6984.

Auxiliary Meeting, Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER: Eighth District meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 1st at Charlotte, Post 2406. Dinner will be served at 11:00 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 1:00 p.m. Angel Christmas ornaments are being collected.

Also on November 1, the Post will be sponsoring a **Camel Race**. Our auxiliary will be serving food from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. for this important fund raiser.

Veterans Day will be observed at the Post on Tuesday November 11th. Local winners of the VOD and the Patriots Pen essay contest will be presented their awards.

Mittens, hats, scarves and socks are being collected for the mitten tree. These will be distributed to needy children in the area. Please have them here by December 1.

Auxiliary Meeting, Wednesday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

DECEMBER: We will be adopting a needy family through the Salvation Army. Monetary donations are appreciated to help buy clothes, toys and Christmas dinner.

Auxiliary Meeting, Wednesday, December 17, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

HAVE A HAPPY, BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

NEWS FROM
THE CHAPLAIN

When you next come to the VFW Post, please observe the new, brass plaque on the front of the building. It is dedicated to six heroes from Ottawa County.

On **December 9, 1861** Iowa Senator James W. Grimes introduced S. No. 82 in the United States Senate, a bill designed to "promote the efficiency of the Navy" by authorizing the production and distribution of "medals of honor". On December 21st the bill was passed, authorizing 200 such medals be produced "which shall be bestowed upon such petty officers, seamen, landsmen and marines as shall distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other seamanlike qualities during the present war (Civil War)." President Lincoln signed the bill and the (Navy) Medal of Honor was born.

Two months later on **February 17, 1862** Massachusetts Senator Henry Wilson introduced a similar bill, this one to authorize "the President to distribute medals to privates in the Army of the United States who shall distinguish themselves in battle." Over the following months wording changed slightly as the bill made its way through Congress. When **President Abraham Lincoln** signed S.J.R. No. 82 on **July 12, 1862**, the Army Medal of Honor was born. It read in part:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to cause two thousand "medals of honor" to be prepared with suitable emblematic devices, and to direct that the same be presented, in the name of the Congress, to such non-commissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action, and other soldier-like qualities, during the present insurrection (Civil War). With this simple and rather obscure act Congress created a unique award that would achieve prominence in American history like few others.

On 3 March, 1915 Congress authorized the President to present "a suitable Medal of Honor to be awarded to any officer of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard who shall have distinguished himself in battle or displayed extraordinary heroism in the line of his profession." Previously the award was reserved for enlisted personnel ONLY, but this act made it available to officers as well. (38 Stat. 928, 931).

To honor the first Ottawa County recipient (Sgt. Henry E. Plant), The non-motorized pathway along the new By-pass across the Grand River will be named after him. The new By-pass goes directly through the land that Mr. Plant farmed. To provide the signs identifying the pathway, the following organizations are raising funds: Veterans Of Foreign Wars- American Legion- Knights Of Columbus- Fraternal Order Of Eagles- Elks- and Sons Of Union Veterans Of The Civil War

Our Post is looking great thanks to our fine Commander Ted Raggl. Please thank him and all the members who contribute to making our organization one to be proud to belong to.

God bless and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Jerry Tripp