Happy March everybody,

With any kind of luck spring has arrived. It is always difficult to tell now that we have to have our newsletter items in two weeks early. I guess that is part of the price of our advancements, so I know it is worth it.

Valentine’s dinner was great. Thanks to all involved. Tips for Troops are up again so keep an eye on the calendar to help your favorite bartender support one of our most worthy causes: our packages to the troops. We have done several thousand now over the years and they still need us.

March 5 is our fundraiser for ‘Dick Chatman for State Commander’, and I hope our Post is visited by many Legionnaires from around West Michigan.

I am still hoping to see a few referrals for Boys State and Student Trooper. If you have any relatives that are in high school please let me know.

Next up is St Patrick’s Day, and I hope our neighbors are green with envy at our success on that day, so look around and see where you can help out with that event. I know just how great this place is, and I know we will come through in great shape.

As always, See ya at the club.

---

Thank you so much for your time and coupon clippings. Coupons are greatly appreciated and shared with the Sigonella military community. We are truly grateful for all you do.

---

I received a box full of coupons. These coupons came at a good time with the holiday season over, tax season looming, and people being short of money and long on bills. When I dropped off the coupons at the commissary, the staff were very appreciative since they were running low on coupons. They immediately started stuffing envelopes to pass out to customers and placed the remaining coupons in near-empty bins.

I also appreciate the Post 459 newsletter. It is well written and informative. Post 459 certainly sounds like a fun and active organization. I hope I find a similar organization to join when I retire.
Thanks to everyone who attended February’s make-up meeting one week after the blizzard. It’s great to see we have a committed membership determined to adopt in letter and spirit all of the great principles for which The American Legion stands.

Many thanks to Mark and Chris Moore for an excellent Valentine’s dinner and dance. The club looked great and everyone enjoyed themselves as the night went on. Also a big thanks to Jen Slater for the southwestern style fajitas, it was a perfect match for the Wild West theme!

We’ll be doing it again next February, so if you’d like to get involved, come to the meetings to find out how. Our membership is continuing to grow on track for 100% of goal – but let’s see if we can get there early this year. If you or someone you know hasn’t yet renewed, please consider doing it today. You may drop your renewal application and dues in the squadron mailbox under the bulletin board at the club. Or you can mail it with check payable to “SAL 459” to Brad Koch, Finance Officer, 7055 Quintara, Comstock Park, MI 49321. Applications are available at the Club or online at www.north-eastern459.org under the “Sons of Legion” tab.

Nominations for 2011-12 squadron officers will be open at the March 2 meeting. Elections will be held at the April 6 meeting, and those elected will be installed at the May 4 meeting. Officers are required to participate in one of two parades on Memorial Day or Veterans Day. In addition, certain offices come with specific responsibilities. The Commander chairs the Pulaski Days events; Senior Vice chairs the Spring Kickoff BBQ; Junior Vice chairs the Valentine’s Event; Finance Officer chairs the Membership and Retention, and Dixie Vincent Scholarship committees; and the Chaplain chairs the Charity and Fundraising Steering committee.

Officers’ dues for the coming year must be paid by the installation date in May. Any Squadron member in good standing is encouraged to run for office if he is able to obligate himself to the foregoing requirements.

As always, be on the lookout for family, friends, neighbors and associates who may qualify for membership in any of our Post 459 Family units. Unity makes us stronger!

For God and Country.
HELPING HOMELESS VETERANS – PHASE 2

Joe Hollomon / sal459jb@yahoo.com & Brandt Smith / ksmat@hotmail.com

As many of you know, once again we worked closely with the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans office in Grand Rapids, and we donated an amazing amount of clothes, blankets and other items to help keep homeless veterans warm. Thank you to all for your generosity!

Currently, our friends at HCHV have an abundance of clothing and blankets, so we’re calling a halt to any more donations at this time. However, the folks at HCHV still have some very detailed needs. They need gently used men’s boots (sorry, not shoes). Kitchen items like pots, pans and other miscellaneous kitchen utensils are also urgently needed.

Please consider helping us in our new “Phase 2” of helping homeless veterans. Donation boxes will remain by the pool table at the Post. Please also note that Legionnaire Brandt Smith has volunteered to help us out on this new project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either of us at the email addresses listed above.

AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

Harriet Sturim / 534-7141

I spent a wonderful afternoon at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans; it was Ladies Bingo Day. I was inspired by seeing all those ladies come together for enjoyment. Each one is such an individual and has a wonderful story . . . if we only take the time to listen.

If their courage could be passed through the generations, we could accomplish anything. I felt so incredibly lucky for knowing those women and how they served our country. Today we see them as beautiful older women; but, my, the tales they can tell us. We must remember those ladies as individuals that made our country the land we live in today.

Please remember our sick and shut-ins with love and respect. We always send you thoughts and prayers with love and hope to see you all soon.

For all that has been given to us we say Thank You and Amen.

KNOW A STUDENT INTERESTED IN BEING A TROOPER?

The 2011 Michigan State Police Student Trooper program consists of two camps, both held at the State Police Training Academy in Lansing.

This program awards up to $5,000 in scholarships to young men and women in the 10th - 12th grades, 16 – 18 years old, who are in good physical condition and show an interest in law enforcement as a career.

Legionnaires have a special duty to encourage Post sponsorship and student outreach as this is a Department of Michigan program. Sadly, like Boys State, participation in this program is declining. Students should be lining up for the chance to earn scholarship money and complete a program that will impress colleges and law enforcement agencies. Unfortunately, we have largely failed to get the word out to students, many of whom have no family connection to the American Legion.

If you know of a high school student, or have contacts with an area high school, please do your part to ensure that students know about this great opportunity. Our Post would love to sponsor a student to the program, particularly one from our own Legion Family.

More information about the program, to include the application, can be found at http://michiganlegion.org/pages/trooper.html.

Help let Post 459 lead the way on this state initiative!
The US Congress established the Library of Congress Veterans History Project in 2001 to collect memories, accounts, and documents of our war veterans from WWII to the present. Under the banner GVSU Veterans History Project, the History Department and the University Library proudly became established as a collecting and archive partner of the Library of Congress in this national project. Under the direction of Dr. James Smither, students and faculty—together with area schools, partner organizations, and volunteers from the community—are preserving and storing veterans’ stories and experiences.

ABOUT THE GVSU PROJECT

The GVSU Veterans History Project was established in 2006 in an effort to collect and preserve the stories of American veterans and other participants in, or witnesses to, the American experience in wartime. The scope of the project covers all conflicts from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, from the World Wars to Iraq and Afghanistan. It includes both combat veterans and those who served in times of war or peace who did not directly experience combat. It also includes civilian witnesses to different aspects of the wartime experience, including workers in war industries, aid workers, peace activists and civilian contractors. It includes both men and women, and people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, with the larger goal of creating and preserving as complete and diverse a collection of individual stories as possible.

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEWS

Project members conduct oral history interviews throughout West Michigan, and on occasion beyond. Interviews are recorded on video, since seeing the veteran tell his or her story adds an important dimension to the interview, and makes it more useful in classroom and public presentation settings than does audio alone. Some of interviews are done in studio settings and are of suitable quality to be used in documentary projects. Most are done with simpler equipment that costs less and is easier to use, yet still creates videos suitable for archiving. Interviewers include university professors and students, community volunteers, and high school and middle school students whom we train through our schools program. All interviews are conducted following procedures established by the Library of Congress, and are archived both in the Digital Collections of the Grand Valley State University Library and in the Library of Congress.

GVSU currently has over 1000 interviews in their collection, including many provided by area schools and partner organizations, and they are constantly adding more as the project continues to grow. GVSU has a website managed by the university archivist where they post summaries, detailed outlines and/or transcripts of each interview. Over 260 of these are currently posted, and they are adding more on a regular basis. They are now beginning to post the videos themselves directly on the library website, as well as to the GVSU collection on iTunes U. The videos are time-coded, and the transcripts and outlines reference those time codes, making it possible for the viewer to go directly to specific points in each interview that they wish to view.

DOCUMENTARIES

In addition to building their archive, one of our main goals is to create documentaries based on oral history interviews in order to tell stories of particular interest to both local and national audiences. GVSU completed their first documentary, Nightmare in New Guinea, in 2006, and have shown it to live audiences in Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, Lowell and Allendale, and it has aired on WGVU/WGVK television in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. The documentary tells the story of the men from West Michigan who served in the 126th Infantry Regiment, 32nd “Red Arrow” Division, during World War II, focusing on their experiences in the National Guard, their training experiences, and above all their service in the jungles of New Guinea in 1942, where they were the first Americans on the island and found themselves battling terrain, climate and disease in addition to the Japanese.
When the founders of The American Legion first came together, they had a mission: to create an organization that would improve not only the lives of World War I veterans coming home in 1919, but those of veterans in years to come. They made a commitment that went far beyond their own lifetimes.

Whether you know it or not, when you joined the Legion, you made a similar commitment. By paying your dues, you were making possible the continuation of the mission and the many programs of The American Legion. By renewing your membership, you extended that commitment for at least another year.

But our 200,000-plus Paid-Up-For-Life members have taken that commitment a step further. Many years further, in fact. By getting a PUFL membership, they’ve said, “I believe in what this organization is doing, and I’m all in.” Being a PUFL member carries with it a badge of honor, distinction and commitment. It’s recognized throughout the organization.

Some posts reward active and longtime members and past post commanders with PUFL memberships. It’s a way of saying, “Thanks for what you’ve done for the Legion all these years. We’re going to make it easier for you to keep doing it.” Others encourage their members to become PUFLs. And at the end of the day, any Paid-Up-For-Life member is one less member a post needs to renew each year. Get 50 PUFL members in a post of 100, and you’re automatically at 50 percent at the beginning of the membership year, without making a single call or knocking on any doors.

Getting a PUFL membership is a financial commitment. I know that. And I know that in these unsteady financial times, that’s asking a lot. But look at it in terms larger than dollars and cents. You’re not just buying a lifetime membership. You’re making a lifetime commitment to the principles and programs upon which this organization was founded. You’re committing funds to programs that make a difference in communities across America, for veterans, service members, their families and the youth of our country.

The dues from your PUFL membership support the hundreds of thousands of young people who participate in American Legion Baseball, Oratoricals, Boys State and Boys Nation each year. They provide the means for Legion staff to go before Congress and lobby for your benefits, and the benefits of our men and women in uniform. They make it possible for Legion representatives to make site visits at VA medical facilities across the country, ensuring that our veterans are getting the best care possible.

A PUFL membership is an investment in The American Legion, but what the Legion does every day makes it an investment that pays priceless dividends. Those who have stood in harm’s way, from France to Fallujah - along with their families, children and communities everywhere - directly benefit from the strength of our membership. To become a PUFL member secures that strength for a lifetime.

---

2011 BOYS STATE PROGRAM

Boys State is an educational program sponsored by The American Legion Departments across the country to help young men learn about government and how it works. The Boys State Program in Michigan will be held from June 19 to 25 at Northwood University at Midland, MI. Their motto is “Learn by Doing”. The Boys State educational staff’s goal is to facilitate the learning process by giving the citizens of Boys State an opportunity to govern themselves and to run their own state.

- It is LEARNING more about city, county and state government in one week at Boys State than in an entire semester in a formal classroom setting.
- It is POLITICS – an exposure to the world of politics with conventions, campaigns and elections.
- It is GOVERNMENT – doing exactly the same things and positions as in the real world.
- It is INVOLVEMENT – the more a boy is involved, the more he will get out of Boys State.
- It is FRIENDSHIP – making life-long friends.

Applicants must be a junior (11th grade) in high school or in the equivalent of an 11th grade accredited home-schooled program, must be 15+ years old by May 30, 2011 and have an interest in government.

More information can be found at: www.michiganlegion.org/pages/boysstate.html.

---

TO POST 459 & FRIENDS

Thanks to your hard work, we sent 123 pounds of coupons to military communities since April 2010.

–Ladies Auxiliary
WELCOME HOME
VIET NAM VETERANS

ANNUAL 5K FUN RUN & 5K WALK

WHERE: Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan, Lot C West
WHEN: April 3, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.
WHY: To observe “Welcome Home Viet Nam Veterans Day” pursuant to House Resolution 234
HOW: By raising awareness of the sacrifice that Veterans of Viet Nam and all other eras have made in defense of our daily freedoms. These sacrifices have greatly impacted Veterans, their families and friends, and the community and nation that they have served.
COST: Personal care or non-perishable food items for West Michigan Veterans Assistance Program will be accepted in lieu of a race entry fee.

Event happens rain or shine.

LZ MICHIGAN: A JOURNEY HOME SCREENING

This documentary features the true stories of local war survivors. Each Veteran takes us back 35+ years to the battle fields and jungles of Southeast Asia. Here they provide a unique emotional perspective discussing the realities of life and death and what it feels like to return home from an “unpopular” war. Feelings that still linger to this day. Free and open to the public.

DATE: March 29, 2011
TIME: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
LOCATION: WGVU Studios, Eberhard Center, DeVos Campus, Grand Rapids

Please pre-register for race and documentary by visiting: www.gvsu.edu/veterans
This year is off to a great start here at Post 459. March and April are filling up quickly with activities at the clubroom. I hope you can all join us for the merriment.

We kick off March 5 with a fundraiser for Dick Chatman. He is running for State Commander and the money he raises will help with the various travel expenses he incurs. The fun begins at 2:00 pm, with burgers, brats, great food, the infamous pull-board and karaoke (at 7:00 pm). Keirston is graciously donating half (or more) of her tips that day for troop care packages.

March 8 is Fat Tuesday, so before you give it up for Lent, indulge in jambalaya, adult beverages, mask-making and karaoke. Speaking of a party, get your green on here at the Post on St. Patrick’s Day. Corned beef and cabbage will be ready at noon, karaoke will begin at 5:00 pm and “The Lefty Malone Band” will be rockin’ the house at 8:30 pm. We are open to the public and will feature $1 drafts. If you have a heart for service that day, the Ladies Auxiliary is hosting Bingo at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 6:00 pm.

The Second Annual Post 459 Prom is quickly approaching and will be held on April 16. Nominations for Prom King and Queen are needed into the post by March 14. You may nominate any member of the legion family you wish for this distinguished honor. I hope you’re already shopping for that perfect dress or tuxedo.

Troop care packages will be filled and sent out on April 30 at 9:00 am. Once again the fabulous staff at the clubroom is generously donating half or more of their tips from one shift during March and April. Tips for Troops raised over $1500.00 last fall, which was used for postage of the care packages. Please come in and support our bartenders for this great cause.

**TIPS FOR TROOPS**

March 5 (Noon - 6 pm) . . . . . Keirston
March 6 (Noon - 10 pm) . . . . . Theresa
March 15 (5 - 11 pm) . . . . . . . . Rachael
March 24 (6 - 11 pm) . . . . . . . . Karline
April 2 (7 pm - 2 am) . . . . . . . . Bridget
April 8 (8 pm - 2 am) . . . . . . . . Jessica
April 22 (8 pm - 2 am) . . . . . . . . Chris

Finally, if you have a party, event or fundraiser you would like to host at the Post, please contact me. See ya at the club!

**NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

This month marks the last month of our Newsletter Booster program. We thank all the below-listed people and other who have contributed through the years. Starting now, we invite all members who own or work for small businesses to become a sponsor. We will publish your business card in the newsletter and on our Post website, noting that you are a Post member. This is a great chance to showcase your business to over 700 people who would be happy to support a fellow Post member. If you would like to be featured in an upcoming newsletter, please submit your business card in the newsletter box at the Post or email sal459jh@yahoo.com.

Lynda Lou Bent  
Ken and Lois Blake  
Leo Boruta  
Janene M. Budnick  
Thomas J. Budnick  
William Douthett  
Bob Felghner  
Brent Geers  
James Cannon Grand Band  
Doc and Judy Jones  
Rasma Joustra  
Norma Kidder  
Fletcher Klap  
Mike Kloet  
Ron Krystiniaik  
Dyke and Vicki Krzeminski  
Joe Krzeminski  
Stan Milanowski  
Tess Milanowski  
Ardie Nagel  
Eric Ring  
Deb Sees  
Joe Stalee*  
Harriet & Rick Sturim  
Taylor  
Ted Terhune  
Barb Teunis*  
Bob Teunis  
Wanda Torres  
Robert and Phyllis VanHill  
Shelly Vondale  
*In Memory Of
**MARCH CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/1</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>SAL Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Legion Family monthly birthday party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Wii games night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/5</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/6</td>
<td>8:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Dick Chatman Benefit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/7</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/8</td>
<td>5:30-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Fat Tuesday Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/9</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/10</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 PM</td>
<td>PR Team Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Wii games night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/13</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>BOC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Newsletter Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/15</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/16</td>
<td>6:30-9:30 PM</td>
<td>Card Shark Euchre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/17</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>St. Patrick’s Day Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/18</td>
<td>8:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/19</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/20</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Bowling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/21</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/22</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/23</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Wii games night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/24</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/25</td>
<td>7:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke On Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/26</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>6:30-7:30 PM</td>
<td>E-Board Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/28</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Legionnaire Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/29</td>
<td>10:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Wii games night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>8:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**APRIL CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>8:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/2</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Tips for Troops - Bridget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Ladies Auxiliary Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>9:00 PM</td>
<td>Newsletter Articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>7:00-11:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>SAL Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/7</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Legion Family monthly birthday party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>7:00-10:00 PM</td>
<td>Wii games night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/9</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 PM</td>
<td>Karaoke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>8:00-11:30 PM</td>
<td>Tips for Troops - Jessica</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MARCH DRINK SPECIALS**

- **Mondays:** $1.00 Drafts
- **Tuesdays:** $3 Big Beers
- **Wednesdays:** $2.50 Mini Pitchers
- **Thursdays:** $2.50 Calls
- **Fridays:** $3/$1 Jell-O shots
- **Saturdays:** $10 Club Shotski
- **Sundays:** $5 Pitchers, $2 Wells

**AMERICAN LEGION NORTHEASTERN POST 459 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Free Pool Monday nights
"Except during meetings"

**KARAOKE**

Tues (7-11 p.m.), Fri (8-12) & Sat (7-11)

**MARCHE DRINK SPECIALS**

- **Mondays:** $1.00 Drafts
- **Tuesdays:** $3 Big Beers
- **Wednesdays:** $2.50 Mini Pitchers
- **Thursdays:** $2.50 Calls
- **Fridays:** $3/$1 Jell-O shots
- **Saturdays:** $10 Club Shotski
- **Sundays:** $5 Pitchers, $2 Wells

**American Legion • Post 459**

658 Michigan St. N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503