

CARL A. JOHNSON POST #2

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BITS AND PIECES

Our Veterans Serving Veterans Since 1919



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 12	Post & Auxiliary Meeting	7 pm - 8:30 pm
Feb 13 - 16	Fundraiser, Texas Hold-um	
Feb 14 - 16	Department Winter Conference	
Feb 25	Post E Board meeting	7 pm - 8:30 pm



Proud to Serve

The HUNT continues. The hunt to identify the want and need of our current Veterans and how can we meet them. Please read the following article Under the heading of "The Hunt".

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Upcoming Vote on the changes to Our Districts and Zones. This is something not to take lightly. If you can make it to our Feb Post meeting, I have responded to Catherine's kind offer to speak on the subject.

I'm Catherine Buckley and I was on the Department's Redistricting Committee. We worked very hard trying to make things easier for everyone. Like with any job you do the best you can even if you don't agree with the outcome.

I'm aware that you may have heard the rules with these maps. There is more to this than voting on one of these maps and the future of our District. I would be happy to come to a Post meeting and explain what will happen if one of these maps are voted in.

I will make myself available for your Post meeting. This is something that needs to be done before June's Convention.

Student Award-Americanism Essay Contest. Please read our Auxiliary article on page 3.

Saturday, February 29, SAL 258 "Leap Day Roll-off Silly Bowling Tournament", starts at noon at Wengers Lanes. \$25 per person, two-person teams, entry fee covers 3 games, shoe rental, pizza and prizes. Limited to first 24 teams. Contact the SAL and join the fun.



Veteran Project New Life

1919 - 2019

Carl A. Johnson Post 0002 of Michigan

The Hunt

The Veteran Project New Life first meeting has taken place and we have come up with more questions than answers. Go figure right? It is fairly easy to compare our life style change between 1919 and 2019 and the change in community and family support not only for the Veteran but for the other family and community members. It is the **daily support** of friends and family that **was** found in the home and community that is being looked at. Our fast paced life style today allows little time for others. One would believe that technology and all the other conveniences we are privileged to would create more free time for us but that is not true. So how do we put the brakes on this time hungry problem? If we do not live with the Veteran, if we are not a neighbor, how can we relate with them or they with us?

Presently, education might be a big part of the answer. I, a married man, my wife and family was not always with me when I served (22 years +). A few days back I asked my wife "what was the hardest thing she had to deal with while we served?" Her answer was, when you came back home, you would want to take over all family matters not knowing what had happened while gone. Things changed while I was gone and I did not consider that. It caused stress that I did not realize until I asked the question and we retired better than twenty years ago. This type of information is vital for all family members to know. What else is vital? Please, respond to this question "What is vital that family members must be aware that would help them reduce stress upon the return of their love one?" What about the single Veteran? We will continue to research and collect what is or may be vital and study what approach is best to communicate with Our New

Veterans what we find. I am looking for staff and help to assist in this Project. If interested please contact me at 616-802-0806. Thank You.

Business is Business

"Business is business." But men are men,
Loving and working, dreaming;
Toiling with pencil or spade or pen,
Roistering, planning, and scheming.

"Business is business," but he's a fool
Whose business has grown to smother
His faith in men and the Golden Rule,
His love for a friend and brother.

"Business is business," but life is life,
Through we're all in the game to win it,
Let's rest sometimes from the heat and the strife
And try to be friends a minute.

Let's seek to be comrades now and then
And slip from our golden tether;
"Business is business," but men are men,
And we're all good pals together.

February 2020

At The Boat and Canoe

February 2, Sat. - Annual Stupid Bowl Party!
Raffle drawing for a 50-inch Smart HDTV, \$250
meat bundle at Kens Market, and a brewery
basket. 50-50 drawings throughout the day -
the big game kicks off at 6:30 - please bring a
dish to pass.

08 Feb 7pm Gail's Ballroom Dancing \$5.00
08 Feb 8:am - 11:am - Pancake Breakfast and
356 Auxiliary Bake Sale

09 **Feb** 2 - 3:30 pm "Chilly" Chili Cook-Off at
the club.

15 Feb **Valentine** Dinner/Dance with
Sam's Swing Band. The Dinner and
dance \$15, dance only \$5.

22 Feb 7 pm Tandem Brew \$5.00 after 6:15

29 Feb 7 pm Just Fred.....Free Show

Did You Know? Did you know the [National Resource Directory](#) has more than 14,000 vetted resources available to you right now?

Grand Valley State University, They have a program, launched by the Seidman College of Business, coming up. It is the Michigan Veteran Entrepreneur Lab (Accelerated Entrepreneurship Training for Veterans and Military Connected Families) Cohort 4: Feb - Apr 2020. It will be at the downtown campus, free parking/No charge to attend the program for military connected and military spouses. For information go to www.gvsu.edu/mve or contact Julie, the program manager 269-214-1227 cowiej@gvsu.edu You can register on line: www.gvsu.edu/mve

**BOYS AND GIRLS STATE MICHIGAN
REPRINT, NO ONE HAS STEP
FORWARD YET.....WHAT'S UP?**

The two summertime educational programs are for high school Juniors/Seniors focusing on participation and personal experience in a model state, complete with governmental bodies and elected public officials.

Students who have **just completed their junior year of high school, and have at least one semester of high school left** to complete, are eligible to apply to The American Legion Boys/Girl State program.

Those that attend will expand their understanding of the value of teamwork, outstanding leadership, character, and community service. They will have the opportunity to make life time friendships and it is a week that shapes a lifetime.

The Question is, Michigan Legion Post 0002 and the Unit Auxiliary are ready to sponsor those selected to attend but before we can, we need to know who is interested? It could be your son or daughter, grand child, great grandchild. The cost will not be yours, the Post and Auxiliary will cover the cost. We will even help fill out the application, give a briefing on what to expect, what to pack, and even visit the selected while they are enjoying their experience. The next session is June 14 to June 20, 2020. Contact us, let us know that you have someone that will take advantage of these programs. For more information send your contact information to cajohnsonpost2@gmail.com or call 616-802-0806. There is much to be gained. See the Auxiliary article that follows for info on Girls State.

Auxiliary BITS & PIECES – February 2020

After surviving the holidays, we are ready to get back to work with our Wednesday, February 12, 2020, Auxiliary meeting which will be held at the Boat and Canoe Club at 7:00 p.m.

Our membership goal for 2020 is 68, but we still have a few members who have not paid. We are currently at 59. Remember that granddaughters are eligible to be Junior members. However, due to an IRS ruling, we can no longer sign up great-granddaughters.

The 2020 Winter Meeting will be held in Flint on February 14-18. If anyone is interested in attending, let me know and I will get you the information.

Before we know it, we will have to turn in our Annual Reports to Department, providing information on our activities throughout the year. If anyone has any volunteer hours during the period from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020, please let me know and I will include it in our figures. This information is needed no later than March 15.

We are still looking for delegates for the 2020 session of Girls State to be held at Michigan State University in June 2020. If you have a daughter, granddaughter, or someone you know who is currently in the 11th grade of high school, please contact Theresa Wheeler at (616) 531-3533. This is an exceptional week-long program to learn and participate in the governmental process. The girls who attend also make long lasting friendships with other delegates from around the state.

FEBRUARY IS AMERICANISM MONTH. The objectives include:

- Make members knowledgeable of our flag history, etiquette, including the proper salute whether veteran or civilian, and proper disposal of all Flags.
- Increase awareness and participation in youth activities that show proper loyalty to the US and the Flag for which it stands.

Included in this committee is the Student Award-Americanism Essay Contest. This year's essay title is: "How can we address the health and well-being of our Veterans, military and their families." If you know of a student(s) who would be interested in participating in this contest, let me know and I can provide the rules. There are several categories, going from the 3rd to the 12th grades, as well as students with special needs. There is a monetary prize for the winners in each category. There are also several other Department awards that members can try for.



History is made and is everywhere.

February Birthdays:

- 2 Catherine Granstra
- 11 Lois Rohloff
- 19 Jan Rosochacki
- 20 Ruth Bodemann



Pamela McVeigh, Secretary/Treasurer
(616) 452-6311
Email: p.mcveigh@comcast.net

Adjutants Corner

Having trouble getting membership renewed, give me a call or our Adjutant. Now is the time and thank you for all the support. Together we succeed. 616-802-0806

The latest Post information can be found online at:

Post Web page: www.alpost2.org

Facebook: American Legion Post 2 Grand Rapids Mi. And Mylegion.org

myLegion.org is a **FREE** website designed to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership,

POST February BIRTHDAYS

- 1. Dennis Morris 2/02
- 2. Dale Gould 2/06
- 3. Don McDonald 2/10
- 4. Donald Wohlgemuth 2/10
- 5. David Irwin 2/17
- 6. Patrick Perry 2/23
- 7. James Haggarty 2/24



William Palczewski
Carl A. Johnson Post 2
American Legion
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Toot Your Horn
No one is tooting!

**Past Post Cdr. Lee Lloyd 1957 - 58
Lee wrote in the November, 1957**

Commander's Corner of our Newsletter:
"The American Legion is a volunteer civilian organization made up of ex-service men and dedicated to high principles of unselfish service for the purpose of helping a disable veteran, a war widow, an orphan, a needy child, a growing youth, a friend, a neighbor, a stranger, a community, a state, and the nation. It is to our own interest therefore, not to hide our good works under the desk but let the whole world know what we have done and what we are continuing to do. Only in this way can we sell the idea to the public that **The American Legion is good for the community, state, and nation.**"



**Past Post Cdr. Curtis Koontz 1958 - 59
Curtis and Robert Granstra were editors of the Johnson Post News 1957.**



Please submit any announcements or items for the newsletter to Don Fletcher, Editor. Requests must be received by the 15th to be in the next newsletter.
(616)802-0806 cajohnsonpost2@gmail.com