

CARL A. JOHNSON POST #2

Post Office Box 151518 Grand Rapids, MI 49515
401 North Park St., Grand Rapids, MI. 49525

William Palczewski, Adjutant Donald Fletcher, Commander
Email: cajohnsonpost2@gmail.com



BITS AND PIECES

Our Veterans and Auxiliary
Serving Veterans
Since 1919
Riders Since 1993



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

27 Sept	1900 Post E Board Meeting Zoom and in person at the club.
28 Sept	United Veterans Council of Kent County meet 7 pm @ Post 154
30 Sept	Early Bird Membership drive 5 – 7 pm. @ the club, join or Renew your membership. Refreshment will be served. Three gift Baskets will be raffled. One free ticket will be given to each Early bird membership and ticket purchase for \$1.00 or 6 for \$5.00.



13 Oct	Post 0002 Meeting 7 pm. @ the club.
23 Oct	United Veterans Council of Kent County (UVCKC), Veteran of the Year Dinner @ 6 pm.
25 Oct	Post E Board Meeting Zoom and in person @ the club, time 7 pm.
27 Oct	ALBCCC (Bar Board) meeting @ 7 pm. at the Club.
30 Oct	Club Community Event, Trunk A Treat in the Club Parking Lot, 2 – 4 pm



Every Thursday 1800 hours **Chapter 2 RIDERS** meeting, at the club.



Tuesdays, our wonderful Auxiliary cooks up Tacos at the Club, noon-2 & 4-6 pm. \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. Treat the family or just stop in at noon for lunch.

The **3rd Thursday of each month**, a dinner will be served by the Auxiliary at 5 – 7 pm.



Special hi and wave to SARA Bartrum stationed in New Mexico. We wish you well and safe.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Our Riders are planning our **New Years Party**. It is going to rock. Information should be coming out soon so tickets can be available, and you can include the dance in your plans. They also have come up with the idea of creating an Honor Wall within the club. To start with, it would recognize all the Grand Rapids Units that have deployed overseas.

Bob Firlit and Mike Coron having too much fun.



During the **Post picnic**, we had fun cutting the Horseshoe Pit Ribbon. First the pits have yet to be dug, the frames and stakes are still loaded on a trailer. Second, the shears we borrowed to cut the ribbon was so bad, the guys would have been better off using their fingers. It was hilarious watching them do their thing. Our Riders Director, Scott Christie helped with the drawing of the \$50.00 raffle. Bet you can't identify who won the \$50.00! It was Scott. He did not draw the tickets; he held the jar that they were in though. Lucky Rider.

Our dinner in September was in honor of all those students that have attended Boy and Girl State in past years. We had several new members at the dinner, and everyone got introduced. I believe we had more new members than past members. There was no formal meeting, but many good ideas were noted. Thanks to all that made this dinner a success. Carol's Catering did a fine job.

We have three **major projects** working now; first is the Post annual calendar; second, assist the Chapter 2 Riders and the club with doing a Honor Wall display; and third, prep for the upcoming Halloween community event. Think about what the Post should do in the community this coming year and let the Commander or Adjutant know so

we can put it on the calendar. The Trunk A Treat is a treat for all. Our members and the Community enjoy watching and interacting with the young during the event. Plan on attending. If you need candy to distribute, let us know, we can help with that.

From the United Veteran's Council of Kent County, the **awards dinner date has been moved to March 26, 2022**. Awards given are Veteran of the Year, Council Associate Member of the year, and "Raising Up Veterans" of the year. Hope to see many of you join us for this special occasion. Tickets, location will follow later.

BOYS STATE

A RED Hot subject and Legion Program

This program is fun and educating. Even if those that attend do not run for any office in life, they will understand how the government is run and allow for educated decisions at the voting box. We need a better American tomorrow for all. This program is one easy step we all can take to insure we have a better tomorrow. Our point of contact remains Bob Toland 616-318-3894 Those students that are selected to attend, their program fee is paid for by our Post, Post 2. All the selected student need do is set aside a week to attend and maybe win a scholarship while having fun.

Your 2nd Vice has a word to say:

**THE STRONGEST
PEOPLE ARE NOT
THOSE WHO SHOW
STRENGTH IN
FRONT OF US, BUT
THOSE WHO WIN
BATTLES WE KNOW
NOTHING ABOUT.**
goodlifequote.com



Enjoy the fall colors coming. May

everyone take part in the Trunk A Treat

Lori Linville
2nd Vice



**American Legion Riders
CHAPTER 2**

Post 2 is standing-up (starting) Grand Rapids' newest Chapter of the Legion Riders and is adding members

Current Legionnaires, Active Duty, Veterans of all branches, Sons (descendants), and Auxiliary can join us!

REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a current member, in good standing, of the American Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary
- Own an insured motorcycle (250cc or greater) or be the spouse of someone who does
- Have a current license with motorcycle endorsement

Club and Meeting place is the Boat and Canoe Club

Contact Scott Christie
riders.post2.director@gmail.com
616.808.1911

From all the Post Members, **Congrats to the Riders** new Secretary, Michelle Decker. We also want to congratulate all those fine Riders that took part in supporting "Finish The Mission Freedom Cruise in Sparta on Sept 11.

At The Boat and Canoe

**The next Breakfast is on
OCT 9th.**

8:00 -- 11:00AM

Cost is \$8.00 Come hungry, leave stuffed.

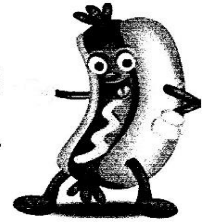
TACO Tuesdays are here again this month. Every Tuesday Noon – 2 pm. & 4 – 6 pm. Come and enjoy. Hefty, delicious TACOs.

Why did the scarecrow win an award?

Because he was outstanding in his field.

**WEENIE
WEDNESDAY!!!**

(Due to addition of Chili and increase in produce cost)
**DOG ON A STEAMED BUN,
CHILI OR PLAIN
CONDIMENTS
COLESLAW
BAG CHIPS**



\$ 4.00

TAKING ORDERS AT KITCHEN WINDOW



12 – 2pm

TWO FOR \$5.00

The 3rd Thursday of each month, a dinner will be served by Auxiliary. This month it will be 21 October 5 – 7 pm. Menu, Shepard s pie

Dinner roll and Dessert. Cost is \$7.00 **Everyone** is welcome.

The 3rd Sunday a Roast Beef dinner Time is noon until 2 pm. Awesome.

Sundays, Show Me The Money

Show me the money continues until Dec 19 from 2 – 4:30 pm. every Sunday. On Nov 14 and Dec 12 there will be MEGA nights with unlimited pots. Play a card style Bingo game for fun and the chance to win \$\$\$\$\$. Players do not have to be Legion members so bring your friends and family. The prize amount is limited by the license (except MEGA days) so the number of cards sets is limited to 90 per game at \$1.00 each.

West Michigan Veterans Ranch

Sorry about the confusion in September. The normal meeting was rescheduled for 22 September due to scheduling conflicts. We are now back on track with the next meeting being on 20 October, 2021.

Follow us on FB for events. Our Coffee & Donut gatherings are 3rd Wednesday of each month. 11-3pm. This is at Flow's Fired Pizzeria (616) 951-3344 | 4425 14 Mile Rd NE, Rockford. CEO, Dean Decanter.

Auxiliary News

BITS and PIECES – OCTOBER 2021

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Wednesday, October 13, at 7:00 p.m. at the Club. We hope to see many of you there.

The September meeting started out with a very delicious catered dinner for both the Auxiliary and Post members which was provided by Carol's Catering. Our thanks to the Post for providing this meal. Following dinner we had our business meeting in which we reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2021-2022. Some announcements included the Trunk-A-Treat on Saturday, October 30, with details to be provided by the Commander in this issue. This is a fun time to pass out candy to the local children and look at all their interesting costumes. We hope to have many members participate in this. Also, there will be a Membership Drive on Thursday, September 30, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Club. If you know of anyone who is interested in learning more about our organization and possibly joining, please have them visit our Unit 2 table.

Theresa Wheeler reported on the Department Convention which was held in July, and also presented the Certificate of Achievement and ribbon to put on our flag acknowledging that we reached 100% goal for 2020-2021. It was actually 102.94%. Dues notices should be coming out from National shortly. If I receive your dues before November 11 (Veterans Day), you will receive an Early Bird sticker on your card. We are hopeful that we can again reach goal for 2022. Dues are \$25.00 for Senior members and \$6.00 for Juniors. However, notices are not sent out for the Junior members. Let me know if you need the names of your Juniors that are currently members. So far we have 24 paid members that have been sent to Department for 2022.

I recently returned from Fall Conference which was held at Shanty Creek in Bellaire. This is the time when we learn about all our programs with presentations by each committee chairman. If you are interested in learning more about our programs, you can go to the Auxiliary web site which is www.michalaux.org

and look for Plans of Action (which are the guides). We were also honored to have the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary attend our conference. She chose Michigan as her first tour after her recent election to that office and spent three days here visiting various veteran related locations. October is Education Month. In the beginning of the Auxiliary's year, it is always good practice to start looking at the programs that are involved with this group. The Education program starts along with the opening of the schools. A few programs to look at and/or consider: Education Week (November 15-19, 2021) – Be a participant in the school activities by providing a small snack for the teachers and staff on one day of that week. Getting involved in their programs by checking with the principal on what is available. This could be reading with the students on a 1 on 1 basis. Check on the scholarships that we have available for students and offer them to staff at the earliest of times.

Does any veteran or Unit member participate in any program at the schools? Please contact your Auxiliary and share at one of our meetings. Give us your ideas for the program "Give 10 to Education".

Let your Unit know any choices for the Girls State and Boys State Program for all 11th graders. They do not have to be from a military family or members of our Unit. This weeklong process starts in June of 2022.

Are you interested in the Dictionary Project for 3rd. graders?

These are just a few ideas for the Education Program.

We only have one October Birthday and that is



Vernell Bloom on the 21st.

Pamela McVeigh, Secretary/Treasurer
3029 Kay Dr. S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49508-1598
(616) 452-6311 (cell 616-540-6513)
email: p.mcveigh@comcast.net



Buddy Checks, call Don @ 616-802-0806 for assistance or if you want to take part in this rewarding and valuable program.

Adjutant's Corner



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Gerald Roys	10/06
2 David Zimmerman	10/11
3 Martin Penning	10/14
4 Richard Bunnell	10/18
5 Elliot Hagen	10/19
6 Elbert Smith	10/24
7 Paul Daigle	10/26
8 Nathaniel Waybrant	10/26
9 Robert Heine	10/29

Membership: **Renewal** notices have been mail and renewals for 2022 are coming in slowly. There are 3 ways to pay, cash or check in-person at a meeting, Check or money order by mail or Credit card online. Once payment is received your new 2022 membership card is processed and mailed to you. Watch for It, in the lower left-hand corner stamped in red is the following: **IMPORTANT LEGION MEMBERSHIP CARD ENCLOSED.** Our goal for 2022 is 137 members. We currently have 63 members renewed for 2022. Remember your 2021 membership expires Dec 31, 2021.

William Palczewski
Adjutant
Carl A. Johnson Post #2
American Legion

Remember the good old days where we would meet at the **NCO or Officer club**, have dinner, and socialize at the end of a long day. Well, we still have a NCO club, 3rd Michigan NCO Club open again after being closed for 18 months due to Covid. Hours 5-10 pm Tuesday and Thursday. It is located at 1200 44th Street SW, Wyoming MI 49509, backside of the Reserve Center. Walk in and join, membership is \$10 per year and Auxiliary is \$5. Per year. Bring with you your Mil ID, 214, some proof of Military service, may be your VA ID etc. Aux, you must be related to a member. You will need proof of your relationship with the member. Want a copy of the application or help with it, contact me at cajohnsonpost2@gmail.com or call 616-802-0806. Let us keep the club alive including the Boat and Canoe Club. Places to relax, mingle and do business.

September 15, 2021

Dear Veterans Service Organization Leaders, The **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** is providing a new training opportunity for our nation's Veterans: "Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans." We invite all Veterans to take this free, online training to help VA maintain a safe and welcoming environment for themselves, their fellow Veterans, their caregivers, and staff members.

This is what Veterans should know about the training:

"Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans" is a training opportunity for all Veterans.

http://www.sharedfedtraining.org/2021_VBT/index.html

The training covers information and practical techniques that Veterans can use if they observe harassment or sexual assault at a VA facility. It will enable Veterans to feel confident in their ability to recognize a situation where harassment or sexual assault is taking place, know how to get help, and what to do or say to help prevent it from getting worse.

It is free, online, and requires no registration. It takes about 30 minutes to complete and can be accessed from a computer, smartphone, or tablet.

The VA is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment in every VA facility. The VA is calling on all Veterans to help contribute to a healthy and safe environment by learning to recognize and respond to harassment and sexual assault. We all can play a role in ensuring VA facilities are free from harassment.

We ask that you promote this training to the Veterans in your organizations in the following ways by sharing the “Bystander Intervention Training for Veterans” link through:

- Online and hardcopy newsletters
- Email distribution and messaging
- Social media, including Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook
- Announcements at meetings and events

Link to training:

http://www.sharedfedtraining.org/2021_VBT/index.html

We thank all Veterans for their service to our nation and for their commitment to a safe and welcoming VA.

Sincerely,

Lelia Jackson, FAC/P-PM

Director, Assault and Harassment Prevention Office
Department of Veterans Affairs

No Veteran Left Behind



Our new elected National Commander, Paul E. Dillard calls Veteran suicide most important issue facing our organization.



**2021-2022 Department Commander
Richard T. Dubay**

<https://america250.org/engage/events/november-salute/>
Submissions for November Salute 2021 are being accepted from September 15 through October 20, 2021.

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/donate-blood/manage-my-donations/rapidpass.html>

Blood donations are in demand, if you can, please do.

UNTIL NEXT MONTH; BYE MY FRIENDS