



NEWS FROM THE **RIVERBANK**

DECEMBER, 2010
Vol. 5, No. 4

Member of MALPA
1704 Members

FRIDAYS

Friday, the end of another work week. Oh, the thought of once again working at a regular occupation makes me uncomfortable. But hold on, there is a glimmer of hope. In the last couple of years there have been many discussions concerning Friday evenings at our club. Should we schedule activities, hire entertainment or simply encourage American Legion members and their guests to come in and enjoy our club. The general consensus seems to be, lets enjoy our club. Providing activities or promoting entertainment entails preparation and labor from our staff and faithful volunteers . . . with one very noticeable exception – Mr. Pete Kehoe.

Several members of our SAL Squadron have known Pete since college and the Squadron has hired Pete to entertain, primarily on Friday evenings. Pete last performed at our club on October 22 and did a wonderful job. I want to personally thank our SAL and Pete for providing our club with such first class entertainment.

The mid-term elections provided us with an opportunity to show off our latest handy work in the Bavarian Room. The polling station workers had not seen the Bavarian Room since April and I asked them what they thought of the rebuild. They all agreed that the room is lighter and has a more open feel provided by the new windows. Speaking of the new windows, I am pleased to announce that the cost of materials has now been covered by donation's and we want to THANK EVERYONE, for their generosity. Several people have commented, that the room is beautiful and they can't believe the total change, including the overall atmosphere. Our building insurer thinks we have done a great job as well. They say we have substantially "added value" to our Memorial Home.

SEE FRIDAYS ON PAGE 2

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

It's been a great summer of fun at the Boat & Canoe Club. I met several new members and a lot of members who have "rediscovered" their Club. Many have renewed friendships from years gone by. Our in-house greeter, "Joe Rogers," makes everyone feel at home. He greets everyone with a smile, hug or handshake. You can't miss him because he won't miss you coming in!!

The Bavarian Room is now completed. Thanks to all that have contributed to the replacement of the windows and window treatments. Everyone pulled together to make this happen with their donations. Thank you very much. Now come in and enjoy it!

On a serious note, I wish to extend my condolences, and those of the members of the Boat & Canoe Club, to all who have lost a loved one this year. Most recently Bernie Smith's son passed away unexpectedly. Just this past week James "Jim" Fillmore, a Past Commander of Post #258 and a member of the Home Board, passed away. God bless all of you from Kim and me. May your grief and pain be replaced by wonderful memories.

I want to remind everyone the "52" Week Club starts again in January and your \$1.00 a week contribution is greatly appreciated and put to good use.

The holidays are just around the corner so come in for some holiday cheer. Read your newsletter carefully; there are several events coming up for all the Posts and you don't want to miss them.

For all you snowbirds, have a safe and relaxing winter. We will see you in the spring!

Merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Rich Balder, President
ALMHA Board



CARL A. JOHNSON POST & UNIT #2



Post Memorial Home, 401 North Park St. N.E., Grand Rapids

Commander: William Palczewski (616) 364-7191

President: Rachel Granstra (616) 452-5440

Adjutant: Dale Gould (616) 364-6149

Secretary: Pamela McVeigh (616) 452-6311

Visit the Post web site for additional information: www.alpost2.org

The Annual Adult Christmas Party will be held on Friday, December 17, at the Club. Social time 6:00 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. This will be a catered dinner and all Post/Unit #2 members and a guest are invited. **Reservations are required** and must be made with Bill Brinkman at 866-0093 no later than December 13. A \$5.00 reservation fee per person is required in advance and will be returned when you attend the dinner. There will be no general membership meetings in December, so join us at the party for a good time.

Remember to get your dues paid by the end of the year so you don't become delinquent. The Auxiliary has 79 paid members against a goal of 101 or 78.22%. Last year was the first time in many years that we made goal. Let's work hard to do the same this year.

Post 2011 membership dues are due. As of November 14, we have 16 PUFL (paid up for life) and 100 renewals, one new member (I think Dale has two more that have not made it to Lansing yet) this year for a total of 117 paid members. Our goal for 2011 is 148 members. We need 30 more renewals and new members. We really need about 15 new members to make our goal due to members moving and also passing on. Help YOUR Post grow and sign up a new member and pay your dues today. We are at 79.05% of our 100% goal.

We are doing a Texas Hold'em on December 7-10. Workers are needed. Contact Bill Brinkman if you can help.

Save the Date: January 15, 2011, for the Past Commanders/Past Presidents Dinner.

There will be no Post E-Board meeting in December. The next one will be Friday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. in Dale Gould's office.

Future Meetings:
 Legion – Next meeting is Wednesday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m. at the Club.
 No meeting in February.
 Auxiliary – Next meeting is Thursday, January 20, at 10:00 a.m. at Arnie's Restaurant, 54th and Clyde Park. No meeting in February.

Fifth District Meetings:
 Legion – Thursday, January 13 – 7:00 p.m. at Post #47 in Comstock Park
 Auxiliary – Tuesday, January 18 – 7:00 p.m. at Post #154 in Wyoming

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Friday, December 31 Boat & Canoe Club
 \$35.00 couple / \$17.50 single

*Alcoholic beverages must be purchased from the bar.
 (BYOB is not allowed.) Price includes pop and snacks.*

Doors open 7:00 p.m. Dancing from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

For tickets, contact: Boat and Canoe Club – 361-7685
 Bill Brinkman – 866-0093 or purchase at the door





VALLEY CITY POST #356

Commander: Andrew Galas (616) 785-2668
 Adjutant: Paul Klukowski (616) 363-6201
 Service Office: Chet Czlonka (616) 453-5579

Membership dues for 2011 are being processed. This will be the last notice for your dues for 2011.

The Post #356 Casino Trip was a success. Thanks to Chet Czlonka and John Rosloniec.

No Post meeting in December

The Post Christmas party is Dec. 19 at 1pm. Reservations are due by Dec. 15 and necessary for planning dinner and refreshments. Cocktail hour is 1pm and dinner at 2pm. Cost is \$10 per person.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Andy Galas, Commander

Dates to Remember

Dec. 19 Post & Aux. #356 Christmas Party



VALLEY CITY AUXILIARY UNIT #356

President: Irene Galas (616) 785-2668
 Secretary: Sue Kamp (616) 784-6291
 Treasurer: Sandy Misiewicz (616) 784-7547
 Membership Chr: Kathy Robrahn (616) 446-7199

Greetings! Membership continues to grow and everyone, please renew as soon as possible. Last year our Unit exceeded 100% of membership goal for which we received an award from the National office.

The Euchre tournament on Nov. 10 was fun and successful. Next game time is Dec. 8, 6:30pm. Everyone welcome. Food included in \$5 admission.

December activities include our bake sale and breakfast on Dec. 11, mtg. and party on Dec. 15 and Post/Aux. Christmas party on Dec. 19 (reservations needed). Need volunteers for making appetizers for Dec. 19 and for the bake sale. Please bring baked goods on Dec 10 PM or Dec. 11 A€. Our gifts to the Home will be delivered, too.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all.

Irene Galas, President

Dates to Remember

Nov. 11 Veterans Day!
 Nov. 13 Legion Breakfast
 Nov. 17 Auxiliary mtg. @ 7pm in Ballroom
 Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Day

KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL STILL AVAILABLE

As the new adjutant for Post 258. I was going through my training manual and found a dated article that the American Legion is still promoting.

In 1998 the wearing of the Korean War Service Medal was approved. If you served in the country of Korea, its territorial waters or air-space from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953 you could be eligible for this medal. If you think you might be eligible and want this medal you can me at 616-897-8537 and leave your name, phone number and address and I'll send you more info and the form you'll need.

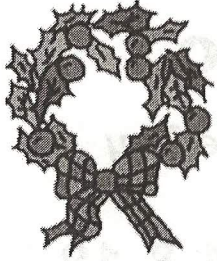
Eric Nelson, Adjutant
 Furniture City Post 258

Euchre Card Night

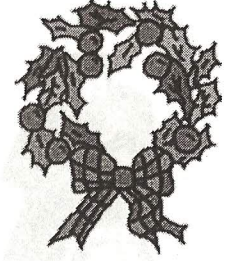
Wednesday, December 8 — 6:30pm
 American Legion Boat & Canoe Club
 \$5 donation per person to play
 Refreshments provided

*Don't know how to play Euchre? NO PROBLEM!
 Instructions will be provided 15 minutes before each game night starts.*

Help support this fundraiser by coming for a fun night of Euchre. Be sure to invite your family and friends to join us.



December 2010



Dec.	1	7:00pm	American Legion Memorial Home Assn. meeting in Bavarian Room
	2	7-00pm	Sons of the American Legion #258 meeting
	3	7:30pm	Furniture City Post #258 meeting in Bavarian Room
	4	12:00noon	Furniture City Post #258 Children's Christmas Party
	4	7-11:00pm	Dancing to the Swingtones (\$4 cover)
	7	7:00pm	Grand Rapids Council meeting in Bavarian Room
	8	6:00pm	Euchre Fun Night (\$5 cover)
	9	6:30pm	Furniture City Auxiliary Unit #258 meeting & Christmas party
	11	8-11:00am	Legion Breakfast in the Ballroom
	11	8-11:00am	Bake Sale at Breakfast by Valley City Auxiliary Unit #356
	11	7-11:00pm	Dancing to the Swingtones (\$4 cover)
	15	7:00pm	Valley City Auxiliary Unit #356 meeting & party
	17	6:00pm	Carl A. Johnson Post & Auxiliary #2 Adult Christmas Party in Bavarian Room
	18	7-11:00pm	Dancing to the Swingtones (\$4 cover)
	21	7:00pm	Furniture City Post #258 Executive Board meeting in Bavarian Room
	25		<i>Merry Christmas</i>
	29	7:00pm	Boat & Canoe Club Council meeting in Bavarian Room
	31	8pm-1:00am	New Year's Eve Dance with the Silvertones (\$17.50 per person)

Coming in January

January Post & SAL Meetings

SAL #258—Thursday, January 6
 Furniture City Post #258—Friday, January 7
 Carl A. Johnson Post #2—Wednesday, January 12
 5th District Mtg. @ Post #47 —Thursday, January 13
 Valley City Post #356—Wednesday, January 19

January Auxiliary Meetings

Furniture City Unit #258—Thursday, January 13
 5th District Mtg. @ Post #154—Tuesday, January 18
 Valley City Unit #356—Wednesday, January 19
 Carl A. Johnson Unit #2—Thursday, January 20 @
 Arnie's Restaurant, 54th & Clyde Park

January Saturday Night Dances

The Swingtones

Saturdays, January 8, 15, 22 & 29 (\$4 cover)

December Music

for your dancing pleasure provided by

The Swingtones - Dec. 4, 11 & 18

(\$4 cover)



The band plays from 7pm 'til 11:00pm each night.

"All you can eat"

Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, December 11, 8-11am

\$6 ages 13 & up

\$4 ages 6-12

Under 6 - Free

MENU

Pancakes

Scrambled Eggs

Bacon - Sausage

Biscuits & Gravy

Juice - Milk - Coffee

*All breakfasts are
open to the public.
Bring your family and
friends.*



**Holiday Bake Sale
during breakfast**



Homemade goodies made by members of Valley City Unit #356



NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE

Friday, December 31

Boat & Canoe Club

\$35.00 per couple / \$17.50 single

Music by "The Silvertones"

Alcoholic beverages must be
purchased from the bar.
(BYOB is not allowed)

Price includes pop and snacks

Open seating

Doors open 7:00 p.m.

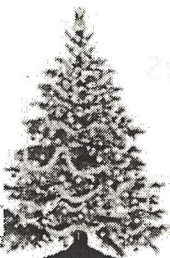
Dancing from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

For tickets, contact:

Boat and Canoe Club - 361-7685

Bill Brinkman - 866-0093

or purchase at the door



*The employees and staff of
the Boat & Canoe Club
wish each one of you a safe
and happy holiday season.*





FURNITURE CITY POST #258

Commander: Clifford Bartrum (616) 893-5446

cliffordbartrum@att.net

Adjutant: Eric Nelson (616) 826-0623

ericnelsonarc@gmail.com

The Veterans Day parade was GREAT. If you missed it, shame on you. The float was there for your riding pleasure so not being there was all on YOU. Now for those for good reason were unable to be there, my prayers are with you and your loved ones. You may have not been able to go, however you were in my thoughts. It's funny, while at the Post there were at least four folks that asked me "What was going on tonight with everybody being in their uniform?" Are you kidding me? What's going on?

On the lighter side, the float has found a home in a barn off Alpine Church Road. THANK-YOU, Bob, for finding this spot. Also, thanks to Eric Nelson for pulling the float again for us this year and taking it to its resting place. All of those who had a hand in helping out with the float's appearance, thank you very much.

I agree with P.C. Robinson about liking the quote that was said. "It's the veteran that served and fought that gave the rights to those that have freedom of speech." Now my thought is – it's now our right to make sure that the speech is being applied to those veterans in need of our government's service to help them.

Remember, as adults in this Post, Auxiliary and SAL #258, what we say may have a big impact on those around you. Good or bad, it all becomes our history.

Cliff Bartrum, Commander



FURNITURE CITY AUXILIARY UNIT #258

President: Deborah Williamson (616) 874-8053

Secretary & Membership Chairman: Phyllis Corner
(616) 481-3037

I hope everyone enjoyed Thanksgiving Day with good food and family time.

At our November meeting our 2010 Girls State delegate spoke to us on her week at Girls State. Post 258 Commander Cliff Bartrum was also there and had a few words for us. SAL Commander Bill Cantile came in from his meeting to say "Hello." It is so special to me to see our Legion "family" together.

On November 10 seven Auxiliary members and four Post members helped put together a whole bunch of pies (almost 2,000). Over 200 were donated to the GRHV.

On Veterans Day we had five members participate in the parade with the Post. There was a good crowd and we had great weather.

As you read this newsletter, the Gift Shop at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans is taking place. If you were unable to help this, consider it for next year. It is a very rewarding experience. We are also providing Christmas star gifts for some of the residents there

Our next meeting will be held on December 9th at 6:30. It will be short, so we may enjoy some festivities. This is always a very fun night. I hope many of you plan to attend. More information is in the box below.

I wish all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Deborah Williamson, President

Auxiliary Unit #258 CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 9 - 6:30pm

Fun, Food & Fellowship (and a very short meeting)

Please bring \$5 gift to exchange \$5 charge for luncheon

District President Nancy Sagorski will be our special guest

Please call Cherri Mieras at 364-0949 by December 4 to place your reservation





SAL SQUADRON #258

Commander: Bill Cantile (616) 889-0276
1st Vice Cdr: Dave Ringler (616) 893-1212

Adjutant: Steve Wodarek (616) 299-3096
Finance Officer: Scott Byrne: (616) 813-8869

Inside the SAL – December 2010

This is the time for our final push to 100% membership for the 9th straight year. As of this writing we are at 74% - good but not quite there. Please renew ASAP and encourage those you know to renew and/or join as well.

Our Veterans Day Service at Belmont was well attended and proved to be a fitting tribute to the servicemen and women among us, and to those who have gone before us. It was rewarding to see the overflowing Clubroom bustling with activity that evening, and a pleasure to share pizza and spirits with those from Posts 258, 2, 356 and the Auxiliary after they returned from the parade downtown.

Many thanks to Rob Byrne, Dave Ringler and Steve Wodarek, our flag bearers; Jeff O'Bryan, Bill Cantile, and Scott Byrne, our firing squad; Andy Albertson for calling the squadron orders; Troy Dean for handling the bugle; and Evan Byrne as junior flag bearer. Thanks also to 258 officers Cliff Bartrum and Don Zeigler for assisting us with assembling the weapons and ordnance. Oh, and lest this author get in REAL hot water, thanks to Jennifer Byrne for ordering and delivering the pizza!

Upcoming events include another long weekend of fundraising - volunteers are needed for our charity poker nights at Westgate Bowl on December 9, 10, 11, 12. And just around the corner is the annual Stupid Bowl party on Sunday, February 6, 2011 - raffle tickets for the two flat-panel HDTV's are on sale already for \$10 each.

Hope to see you all at the Club real soon.

P.C. Scott Byrne

S.A.L. 258 presents

Vet Savvy - December 2010

Monthly Informational Financial Series for Veterans & Families

Enjoy the Holidays and God Bless!

"It was the best of times; it was the worst of times..."

Charles Dicken, "A Tale of Two Cities" (1859)

FINANCIAL CRISIS FORCES ADAPTATION

"Dominoes"



Today, we live in a world tightly packed with dominoes and every time one is knocked over (accidentally or purposefully) it sets off repercussions that snake their way through our personal lives, our businesses, our economy, our country, even the world. The pain has cut deep and is obvious.

Economists and historians already debate whether the Financial Crisis began in July 2007 (when the US Federal Reserve, Bank of England and European Central Bank injected substantial capital into the financial markets) or September 2008 (when stock markets worldwide crashed, become highly volatile, with banks, mortgage companies and insurance companies failing). Either way, the economic devastation has been of historic proportion.

But in crisis always lies opportunity. And for many intelligent individuals and businesses, the opportunities have proven equally rewarding.

Regardless, today's realities are forcing changes in countless ways. Embracing such changes and making them your friend, rather than foe, is the ultimate success formula for the future. Anyone becoming the proverbial "optimist or pessimist" can be quite dangerous to themselves (and those dependent upon them)... It is the "realist," making adjustments accordingly, who will stake their claim in our newly forming future.

We may be able to help you find your way.

If you have questions on your financial situation, need assistance, or would like a copy of our free "Taxpayer Awareness Guide," please contact **Scott Byrne** at **(616) 813-8869** or **smobyrne@gmail.com**

Securities offered through GLP Investment Services LLC, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Member FINRA/SIPC

*Booster Club Members*Paid thru December, 2010

Rich Balder Kim Balder

Paid thru January, 2011

Dale Herweyer Annie Oakley

Paid thru February, 2011

Robert Loftis

Bill & Sue Kamp

Jerry Kochanski

Waid

Teater

Michael Webb

Scott, Jenn & Evan Byrne

Paid thru March, 2011

Nancy Ringelberg

Paid thru April, 2011

Cuzzin' Chip & Terri Rogers

Gary & Linda Wiersum

Dale Gould

Deborah & Alan Williamson

Paid thru May, 2011

Bobby Anderson

Paid thru September, 2011

Richard Anderson

Paid thru October, 2011

Cuzzin' Donny

Elaine Jingles

Paid thru November, 2011

Don & Carol Leys

BOOSTER CLUB...For a donation of \$12 we will publish your name in the Riverbank as a "Booster Club Member" for 12 consecutive months. Anyone can join. Send a check for \$12 made payable to the "Boat & Canoe Club Booster Club" and send it to Boat & Canoe Club Booster Club, 401 N. Park St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. Donations can also be left in the Club office with Beth. Funds derived from the Booster Club will help defray the cost of the Riverbank. **BE SURE TO CHECK AND SEE WHEN YOUR BOOSTER AD EXPIRES! THEN RENEW!**

*The final "Taps" have been sounded for...***Frederick R. Kozminski**

Furniture City Post #356

October 25, 2010

U.S. Navy

Viet Nam

Ralph M. Sheneman

Valley City Post #356

September 23, 2010

U.S. Army

World War II

Gene D. Thurber

Furniture City Post #356

November 15, 2010

U.S. Navy

World War II

Clarence William Smith

Valley City Post #356

October 15, 2010

U.S. Army

Korean War

P. C. James F. Fillmore

Furniture City Post #356

November 16, 2010

U.S. Coast Guard

World War II

Daniel J. Smith

SAL Squadron #356

October 24, 2010

Marcia McGinn

Valley City Aux. Unit #356

October 7, 2010

Thank You . . .

A very warm and heartfelt thanks to the Boat & Canoe Club Council for donating use of the building Sunday, November 7 for a "Spaghetti Dinner" fundraiser for Megan Hanges, granddaughter and niece. We would also like to thank the many fellow Legionnaires from Posts #2, #258 & #356 who joined us at the dinner. It's most comforting to know so many cared enough to show their concerns. The Council's generosity not only helped to reach the fundraising goal, it pushed the proceeds to nearly double our expectations.

This occasion was a wonderful example of what can happen when people work together for a common goal.

On the benefactors side: Megan is progressing well. Recuperation of brain and spine injuries are slower than other body parts. So, it's a longer row to hoe. But God, in His infinite love and mercy is making it so.

Thanks to all! Again!

Tom, Dorothy and John McCarthy

AMERICAN LEGION
BOAT & CANOE CLUB COUNCIL
401 N PARK ST NE
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49525-2583

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Grand Rapids MI
Permit No. 760

Here's your December, 2010
Riverbank

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

49505#5840 C067



HELP US GET THE RIVERBANK TO YOU!

(This is not just for Snowbirds. Everyone can take advantage of this!)

It's that time of year again when some of our members become "Snowbirds." We want to get the news to all of you when you're away from your permanent/summer residence.

In addition, in order to save money and time, we are giving everyone on our mailing list the option of having their Riverbank sent via e-mail. It will be sent in a PDF format. E-mails will start with the November issue.

Please complete the form below and return it to the Boat & Canoe Club (address is shown below). This will not be used other than for the Riverbank mailings each month.

- PLEASE MAIL MY RIVERBANK TO A DIFFERENT ADDRESS FOR THE MONTHS SHOWN.
- PLEASE E-MAIL MY RIVERBANK TO THE FOLLOWING E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE MONTHS SHOWN.
- PLEASE DISCONTINUE MAILING MY RIVERBANK AND E-MAIL IT TO ME EACH MONTH (this saves \$\$\$ & time).

Name(s) _____ POST/AUX/SAL # _____

Current Address _____

Winter Address _____

First month at winter address _____ First month back at current address _____

E-mail address _____

Please clip and return to: Riverbank Editor, Boat & Canoe Club, 401 N. Park St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525-2583