

**Commander, Larry Moeggenberg**

**Post # 989-227-8072**

**American Legion  
Post 153 Newsletter  
St. Johns, Michigan**

**Adjutant, Richard L. Root**

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**Defense**

**Veterans**

**May 2013**

**Youth**

**Patriotism**

**Commander's Corner**

Spring's here even if the weather doesn't give any indication of warming. The Post has changed appearance over the winter; stop by and see the new paint as well as decorations around the Post. Thanks to all who participated in the efforts. The Post's by-laws have been amended and approved by the State and copies are available for your reading pleasure. Please remember that it takes a lot of cooperation from everyone to keep the Post in high gear, i.e., the community at large benefits from Operation CARE which is implemented on all summer holidays - be sure to volunteer for a shift on one of the holidays. The Tuesday Taco and Friday Hamburger nites are very successful but does require helping with the cooking and waitressing - please lend a hand, nearly every month has a Saturday Event with Karaoke etc. - fliers are at the Post, plan to attend these events and enjoy the great members of this organization. Stop by the American Legion booth at this year Mint Festival; we will be doing some PR work and could use your help promoting the Post and its American Legion's family of organizations. Keep the faith conrads and see you soon at the Post.

**Legion Upcoming Activities**

Election of and installation of Officers for 2013-2014 happening this May meeting.

Texas Hold-em, we have just two more time this year, August 25<sup>th</sup> thru the 28<sup>th</sup> at Northville, Novi and September 12<sup>th</sup> thru the 15<sup>th</sup> at Trippers, check the Lounge for a sign up sheet for dates and time.

Operation CARE, Memorial Day weekend, Independence Day weekend and Labor Day weekend, check the Lounge for sign up sheets for dates and times for which you can volunteer. We and the Michigan State Police are one of the few remaining Operation CARE operations still serving the community. This is a GREAT community PR event and an appreciated service.

Mt. Rest Veteran Flags, Memorial Day May 27<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>, Flag Day June 14<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day July 4<sup>th</sup>, Mint Festival August 10<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day September 11<sup>th</sup>, and Veterans Day November 11<sup>th</sup>. Flags up at 8 AM, flags down at 6 PM.

Mint Festival Membership Project, the Post Family of organizations will host a booth to promote patriotism and solicit membership. Please help at that event. Sign up sheets will be available at the Post.

Please don't forget to support the S.A.L. At our upcoming Steak Dinner on May 11<sup>th</sup>, contact the Lounge for more details.

Be sure to check our Post web site for the most current activities at [www.americanlegion153.com](http://www.americanlegion153.com) and you can email us at [americanlegion153@yahoo.com](mailto:americanlegion153@yahoo.com). Be sure to give the Post your email address.



**Auxiliary President Marcy Jorae**

On March 30th members of the Auxiliary hosted our First Annual "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans" gathering. It was attended by some of our own Post 153 Veterans, as well as Veterans from Maple Rapids, Fowler, Laingsburg, and East Lansing. The turnout was great despite the short notice. Watch for news of the 2nd Annual Welcome Home Event in March 2014. Thank you Lori Smalley for planning this event.

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## **Auxiliary news continue.**

As we work to Honor the Service of our Veterans, the Auxiliary purchased a new POW/MIA flag to replace the weather worn flag in the parking lot at the Post. The new flag was raised and dedicated to all POW/MIA's from all conflicts at the April Auxiliary meeting.

Once again Unit 153 is a sponsor for the Department of Michigan Girls State. At this time we have 1 delegate registered and are looking for another high school junior girl. This year Girls State will be held June 16th to 22nd at MSU. If you know of any junior girls who may be interested in this worthwhile learning program, please contact Unit 153 Girls State Chair Laura Schmidt at (517) 927-5195 or Marcy Jorae at (517) 230-1024.

The 2011 - 2012 "Honoring Their Service" program continues as we add more buttons to our banner. We plan to carry the banner in the Memorial Day, Mint Festival, and Veterans Day parades. Button order forms are available at the Lounge if you are interested in adding a button to the banner or you can call Marcy Jorae at (517) 230-1024.

Installation of Unit 153 officers will be held at the May meeting. There will also be a Memorial Service for those members who have passed on during the last year.

Remember that Department Convention is June 26th to 30th in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. The annual Wilwin Lodge Open House will be the afternoon of June 30th, so if you are going to the Convention, be sure to check out the lodge near Trout Lake on your way to the bridge.

As always, THANK YOU ladies of Unit 153 for all you do for our Veterans and the Auxiliary.

If you are interested in having a luminary at the Relay for Life on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, please call the Lounge and put in your request. You may have a luminary "in Honor of" or "in Memory of" a Legion Family member who has battled cancer.

Auxiliary meetings are held on the fourth Monday night of each month, at 7:10 PM, in the main meeting room at Post 153, St. Johns.



## **American Legion Riders Director Tom Helms**

The Riders are starting their second full season. Our first meeting was March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Chesaning Post. A new member was voted into the group. Our next meeting was in the St. Johns Post on April 18. Anyone wishing to join, or if you have any questions. Contact Tom Helms at (989) 217-0430. We are always looking for new riders. Several events are planned. Our first ride is set for May 5<sup>th</sup>, the Blessing of the Bikes, in Ovid, Michigan. Be sure to check the American Legion Riders page on the Post 153 web site for the listing of our events, pictures and other great information on our riders , [www.americanlegion153.com](http://www.americanlegion153.com) .



## **Sons of the American Legion Commander John Gillespie**

The Sons of the American Legion has been working on a grant to start a Veterans Serving Veterans program for Clinton County. SAL Commander John Gillespie has been working with Clinton Area Transit to get the program started. It will help to transport Veterans in Clinton County to and from jobs outside of Clinton County. Also creating some jobs for some local Veterans. Hence the project name -(Veterans Helping Veterans). We don't know how long it will take to get the program under way but, the SAL feels that it is a worthy cause. After this is underway we will be starting a Veterans Food Bank for Clinton County Veterans

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### S.A.L. news continue.

and their families that will be called (Veterans Feeding Veterans) will have more information at a later date when we find out more. The Saint Johns SAL is here to help our local Veterans right here in Clinton County. The grant that we have applied for has been approved and is being processed and as far we know it can take as long as 10 to 12 months to actually see any money. Commander John Gillespie started this project back in November 2012. It has been a long and time consuming project that we already have a lot of support with all over Clinton County. With many more parties ready to get on board when we get the program started.

Please don't forget to support the S.A.L. At our upcoming Steak Dinner on May 11<sup>th</sup>, contact the Lounge for more details.

**Lounge News**      Enjoy great food and company with Tacos and Chill Cheese Dogs on Tuesdays, Burgers and Grilled Cheese on Fridays. Enjoy the challenge and fun with Bunco on the first Thursday of each month and Euchre on the first Saturday of each month. Send the Post your birthday and/or anniversaries and then come celebrate with us on the third Saturday of each month as the Entertainment Committee hosts a party in your honor!

Here's a list of our yearly activities you may have missed: **January**, Super Bowl Party; **February**, SAL Spaghetti Dinner; **March**, March Madness Basketball, Lounge St. Patrick's Dinner, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans; **April**, Auxiliary Spring Fling; **May**, SAL Steak Dinner; **June, July and August**, new events being planned, so stay tuned; **September**, Lounge End of Summer Party; **October**, Lounge Halloween Costume Party; **November**, Veterans Day Lunch; **December**, Army/Navy Football party, Children's Santa Lunch, Auxiliary New years Eve Party.

Call the Lounge after 3:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday after 1 PM, for details on parties and other activities at 989-224-7282 or check the Lounge Page on the Post web site. Thanks for your support!.