

NEWS LETTER HEART OF THE LAKES VFW POST 1008 1690 AIRPORT ROAD WATERFORD, MI 48327 Tel: 248-674-2826 fax: 248-674-2964 Web site: www.vfw1008.org E-mail: post1008vfw@gmail.com

Commander's Column George Navarrette

On April 13 I will be flying to San Juan to begin a vacation. I will not be at the general meeting for elections. After 5 years as Commander I am stepping down. I had planned on this move several years ago but was asked to postpone my decision and I have been mentoring Bill Storm for the past year.. New names will be presented at the General meeting, which is good for the post. Open and honest discussion of candidates, issues and policies is what democracy is all about. As a member this is your opportunity to choose your leadership. It happens once a year and your vote counts. At the March general meeting I was nominated for senior vice. There will be a letter with the adjutant with my decision to accept or decline the position.

Gene Quackenbush, currently a snowbird in Florida, has asked if he can vote absentee. This is not an option as our organization now stands. He has sent a letter in support of a candidate that he'd like to share with you. Check his letter to the editor further in this Newsletter.

A private fundraiser was held at the Post March 13 for the son of Ray and Pat Frase. More than 18K was raised to defray medical bills. Helping veterans and their families is one of the things that Heart of the Lakes does, and does well. We can be proud of how we can pull together for a common cause.

Grand Slam Raffle is approaching! Tickets can be purchased for \$50. They can be purchased at the Post, see Donna Kelley or Bob Rambo. Sales have reached the halfway point. You can sign out tickets to sell to friends. Groups can join together to purchase a ticket. On April 16th, drawing day, there will be appetizers and finger-food desserts in a party-like atmosphere leading up to the drawing at 7PM. Profits from the raffle are a major source of income for the Post. If you can't buy a ticket yourself sell a ticket to someone else.

Discussion over the last 2 months has convinced the board that income from Keno could be a source of funds for the Post. We will get 6% of ticket sales and 1% of ticket winnings. Other than application and installation costs there are no other operational fees. We can withdraw at any time without penalty. The application has been submitted, for a fee of \$150 to the State. Installation of required equipment is \$550. Hopefully all of this will be completed by June. Evaluation of Keno income will be ongoing.

We are submitting a grant to Home Depot for purchase of a storage shed. The application has been sent to the White Lake Home Depot. Boy Scout Troop 134 of Heart of the Lakes' current building is too low to hang drying tents in. Their current shed will become our storage area for donated medical equipment. The plastic structure (that we currently use) was damaged in a break-in last year. It will be demolished. The troop has earned a little over \$1300 towards this endeavor. Knights of Columbus councils (Fenton Assembly 2031& St. Perpetua) have donated \$1000 towards this cause. As Commander I have received a private donation from a friend that has directed me to use the money as I saw fit. I will subsidize the remaining cost of the shed if we don't get the grant.



Commander's Column George Navarrette Page 2

Karla La Forge has designed a challenge coin for the Post. The Board and general membership have been approved the coins. The 100 ordered coins should be available at the end of April. The first coin will be given to Karla. Cost of the other coins will be determined later.

House Bill 5169 which would reverse the property tax exemption for those 100% disabled veterans (and veteran's families) has been defeated. Jerry Gorski, State Senior Vice-Commander, was instrumental in defeating this bill. I would also like to thank Bill Coleman who brought this to our attention. Hearty thanks to all members who emailed their state representatives to support this defeat.

National Poppy Days are May 5-7, 2016. Butch Terry will have sign-up sheets available. Please participate in any way you can.

May 15th: 5th District meeting is being held at Bruce Post, St. Clair Shores. Post and Auxiliary officers should attend. Plan to meet at 1008 at 11AM to share a ride to the meeting.

May 18th is the installation of newly elected officers at 7PM. This is a joint meeting of Post and Auxiliary members.

Memorial Day Parade is May 30th. Volunteers are needed in the staging area. Help is needed at the Post to grill and wrap hotdogs. Wal-Mart has donated 1000 hot dogs and buns. Sam's Club is donating 1000 bags of chips and bottled water. Parade starts at 9AM. This is a fun but long day. It is the largest parade in Waterford. Hope you can participate.

State Convention is June 2-4, this when State and Post/Auxiliary officers take over their new commands. All newly elected officers should attend. It will be held in Flint. If you need reservation forms for the hotel contact the Commander.

If you look on the last page of the Newsletter you will see a list of 1008 accomplishments in serving veterans and the community in the last year. I would like to thank Tony Kidd for his work in compiling this information.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter there is an accounting of the income for the front and back bars and hall rental. The hall rentals are added income to help support the Post. With the introduction of Keno keeping the bar hours the same will most likely result in healthy Keno sales.

I would like to thank all members of 1008 for supporting me as Commander over the past five years. As a Post we have accomplished a lot and there are a number of members I would like to thank personally, which I will do at the May meeting.

George Navarrette Commander

From Gene Quackenbush

Since the by-laws will not let me vote, on the upcoming elections, I'm writing to express my opinion for what its worth. Several phone calls to have informed me as to who is seeking what office. At this time I am only interested in the commanders position. Therefore if Bill Storm will take my support, I will assist him anyway I can. I hope to be back in Michigan to agitate you guys, see ya!!!!!

PLEASE READ IMPORTANT POST NEWS

Need to send us an email? Contact us now with our new email address

(post1008vfw@gmail.com)

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WE ARE CLEANING UP OUR FILES AND WOULD LIKE EVERYONE WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS TO SEND THEIR EMAIL ADDRESS TO VFW587@GMAIL.COM. I WILL UPDATE OUR RECORDS AND MAKE SURE YOU RECEIVE A NEWSLETTER

POPPY DAYS ARE BACK

Tractor Supply

April 16, 2016 0800 to 1700

MAY 5-6-7, 2016 THESE DATES ARE IN THE ROAD

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP OUR POST BEGIN THIS GREAT FUNDRAISER.

IMPORTANT

MONDAY MAY 30TH

WATERFORD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE !!!

WE NEED PEOPLE TO WORK THE STAGING AREA, PEOPLE TO WORK THE POST FOR HOT DOGS, DRINKS AND WE NEED HELP AT THE CEMETERY .

Meet at McDonalds for breakfast at 0700

CONTACT DONNA FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO HELP.





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American Legion

Meetings on the Third Thursday at VFW Post1008 at 7PM

Membership into the American legion does not require service in a war zone. You will need a copy of your DD214, discharge papers. Anyone interested in help cleaning head stones at the "Great Lakes National Cemetery" on April 23rd at 9:45am contact Sherry Jones at 810-919-7653 or Bill Stewart at 248-802-7221 by April 1st to insure enough food and drinks.

New officers were elected for 2016-2017, if you need updates contact Bill Stewart at 248-802-7221.

Thanks



V.F.W. Post 1008 membership is 472 combat veterans. Auxiliary has 162 members.

Here are some of the many projects we support yearly.

Loaned out hospital equipment valued at more than \$40,000.

10000+ miles driven doing hospital work.

Hundreds of hours donated doing hospital work.

Numerous community based service projects.

Host multiple Drug & Safety prevention projects.

Support numerous veterans' causes in legislation. Both State and Federal.

Help Veterans with claim evaluations, and processing in conjunction with the VA.

Our food bank distributes over 5 tons of food yearly, to the needy in our community.

Host an annual youth campout at Multi-Lakes conservation club for 40-130 kids, at no cost to the participants.

Support Camp Trotter, a summer camp for kids 12 and under.

Sponsor Parks & Rec. projects and Waterford baseball teams.

Visit V.A. hospitals to support and financially help disabled vets.

An active Honor Guard providing more than 100 funeral and Flag services for veterans yearly. Conduct Flag Ceremonies' at senior citizen homes.

Post 1008 has sponsored the Waterford Memorial Day parade and open house since 1968.

Sponsor "Voice of Democracy" program for high school students; assisting to earn college scholarships.

Sponsor "Patriot Pen" program for middle school students.

Donate to the Michigan Cancer Fund.

Donate to the Baldwin Center, Grace Center of Hope, food, clothing and household items. Members deliver Meals on Wheels.

Give to the area high schools "All Night Senior Parties".

Support the National Home in Eaton Rapids, a facility for homeless children of Vets. The home also provides rehab and shelter to young widows and children of veterans.

Donate our hall and grounds to various groups including, North Oakland Marine Corps League, American Legion, Boy Scouts Troop #134, Oakland Co Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 238, Group 702, Cancer Groups, Drug & Alcohol meetings, as well as accommodate other active community groups.

We open our hall to many nonprofit organizations in need of place for Christmas parties or functions.

Sponsor annual community Easter Egg hunt for over 150 children with WFD providing fire safety program.

We are a platinum sponsor of the Waterford Veterans Memorial, having risen over \$5,000.

Luncheon for homeless veterans of southeast Michigan, 60-80 yearly.

Donate to the Waterford "Relay for Life" program.

Purchase and lay wreaths at Great Lakes National Cemetery during Christmas.

Place flags at Great Lakes National Cemetery for Memorial Day.

Donate to Waterford youth coalition for backpack filling program.

Donate to Waterford youth coalition for Christmas program.

Donate and collect clothing and personal items for the Cass corridor Social Services and Detroit homeless Vet programs.

The Auxiliary donates yearly to each of the 7 veterans medical facilities in Michigan.

5TH DISTRICT IS SPONSORING

LOYALTY DAY AT OUR POST 1008

MAY 1, 2016 FROM 1300-1500

WE WILL HAVE SPEAKERS AND IT'S A POTLUCK SO BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO PASS.

IT'S OFFICIAL

DD-214'S ARE NOW ON-LINE

MARCH 13, 2016 DD-214'S ARE NOW ONLINE. PLEASE PASS THIS ALONG TO ALL VETER-ANS THAT YOU KNOW. THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (NPRC) HAS PRO-VIDED THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE FOR VETERANS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THEIR DD-214'S.

)http://vetrecs.archives.gov/) or (http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)

VERY IMPORTANT

WE NOW HAVE THREE (3) SLEEP AND RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS ALSO CALLED C-PAP SYSTEMS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. THESE ARE BRAND NEW. CALL THE POST IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.



Service Officer Column

Camp Lejeune veterans may soon see expanded disability benefits

The VA plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune from 1953 to 1987.

Discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) were led by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Bob McDonald. These talks proposed presumptions of service-connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents. Water sources at Camp Lejeune were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions.

Based upon the VA's review of current medical science and findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of presumption of service-connection for kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia, multiple myeloma, scleroderma, Parkinson's disease and aplastic anemia/myelodysplastic syndromes.

The VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between Aug 1, 1953 and Dec 31, 1987, and who develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base are encouraged to file a disability compensation claim with the VA.

The VA is reimbursing certain veterans' family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions.

More information can be found at <u>www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov</u> Bill Coleman Service Officer Post 1008 248-666-4929



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APRIL 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Work Bee
					RENTAL	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		Cancer Relay			Tiger Opening Day	
	S			W		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			BOARD MTG	MCL		Grand Slam
	S					
RENTAL				W		
17	18	19	20 POST & AUX MTG Elections	21 A LEGION	22	23
	S	RENTAL				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
		Agent Orange			Hamburger Bar	
	S					RENTAL

MAY

2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1200-1500 LOYALTY DAY Ceremony 1008		Cancer Relay		Poppy Days	Poppy Days	Poppy Days
8 Post Closed	9	10	11 Board Mtg	12	13	14
	S			MCL / W		RENTAL
15 5th District	16	17	18 POST & AUX MEETINGS	19	20	21
		RENTAL	Installation Of Officers	MCL / W		
	S		Of Officers		RENTAL	
22 Last Sunday Until September	23	24 AGENT ORANGE	25	26	27	28 WORK BEE
	S			W		
29	30	31				
	1000 PARADE					
	S					



Meetings held

third Thursday

monthly @ 7:30 PM.



Meetings held fourth Tuesday monthly @ 7:30 PM.

Much discussion has been going on regarding whether the post is sustaining our hours. This chart shows how we have maintained for the past three years. With Keno coming soon, keeping the present hours will allow members to come in and play their favorite games, day or night. This is important to many of our older members.

Month	Front Bar			Back Bar			Rentals		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
January	7440.72	5839.30	7214.03	634.75	945.75	2198.00	1690.00	690.00	1490.00
February March	6107.75 8040.75	6103.50 6328.25	6911.75 8087.25	1273.00 534.50	1028.50 3634.00	722.50 2051.25	1565.00 1790.00	3490.00 820.00	1990.00 1765.00
April	7463.00	5258.50	6758.00	1760.75	439.25	739.50	1995.00	540.00	910.00
May	7140.42	5630.05	6320.25	749.71	1079.75	319.50	1400.00	2720.00	1490.00
June	5276.50	4354.00	4999.40	550.50	1942.50	1814.45	645.00	1640.00	2950.00
July	5571.75	4017.90	5222.75	1849.75	904.00	668.75	2400.00	2550.00	1330.00
August	5200.25	5031.25	4521.75	774.25	1014.00	1360.75	1300.00	2370.00	1505.00
September	6579.75	5303.00	5253.75	0.00	1533.50	1911.25	640.00	1190.00	970.00
October	4292.75	6173.50	6013.00	765.00	1311.50	2333.75	1190.00	2201.00	800.00
November	6449.50	5996.25	5373.47	388.00	978.50	0.00	1840.00	590.00	400.00
December	6111.77	6881.25	5691.00	0.00	216.50	495.00	750.00	1675.00	290.00
Totals	75674.91	66916.75	72366.40	9280.21	15027.75	14614.70	17205.00	20476.00	15890.00



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Post 1008 Auxiliary

None this month

The Marine Corps League

Meetings held second Thursday monthly @ 7:30 PM.

Detachment 570

North Oakland Marines

Happy to report our meetings have grown in size and all members are voicing more suggestions to add to our assistance list. Fund raising is important but takes second place to identifying those in need. We are mandated to aid and assist any Honorably Discharged U.S. Marine and/or his family member. Should you become aware of such a need, please let myself or any League member know about it. Our parameters are similar to the VFW's.

Just finished reading 'Devotion', by Adam Markos. It's the tale of two U.S. Navy F4U Corsair pilots flying in the Korean Conflict. One of whom was the first black American Navy pilot flying in combat. The other a Medal of Honor recipient. The ground troops also play a part. This is an "epic" story. The scope of characters includes a Hollywood actress and her effect on officer and enlisted personnel. Trust me, it's a good read. I have one copy available to loan out.

The League is open to Honorably Discharged Marines and Fleet Marine Force Corpsmen. No age restrictions at all.Questions, comments, and suggestions are welcome and can be discussed with the Commandant.

Sincerely, Don Roach-Commandant a/k/a VFW Service Officer

Contact:: droach0311@gmail.com













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