

Whistle Stop

April 2020

A publication of the Grande du Michigan Forty and Eight



From the Grand Chef de Gare

Greetings Voyageurs,

To start, I would like to thank Voiture 946 for hosting Spring Cheminot and the wonderful lunch. I had the honor to hand out 100% Membership Pins to two of three Voitures. Locale We took care of business, enjoyed our fellowship and I believe everyone had a good time.

Thanks also go to Bob and Kathy Kaseman for donating their half of the upstairs 50/50 back to support are 40/8 programs. Kathy also won the downstairs 50/50 and donated all the winnings back to the Grande Cabane.

I went to Fort Wayne for the Big Chef's Homecoming and a good time was had by all. There was a good turnout and the Grande du Michigan was represented well. I enjoyed visiting with my 40/8 family from across the country.

Unfortunately, I had to cancel my Homecoming April 11 because the COVID-19 virus has shut things down. Once things settle and we have a better idea how our lives will be impacted, I will set another date.

The way things are going not sure how much we will be meeting so it's an opportunity to look at special



From the Grande La Presidente

Dear Dames,

It is times like these that I am reminded how fortunate I am to have such a wonderful extended family as you!

While we all worry about our loved ones and do our best to stay safe and keep our families as safe as we can, know that I do think about you and pray you are all safe and doing well.



Spring Cheminot was good, a little shy of people I however completely understand. I am grateful for those who could make it, thank you for taking the time to attend.

Please do everything necessary to keep yourselves happy and HEALTHY!!! If there is anything I can do to help please let me know.

Please feel free to call me at 1-517-204-2077 or email me at loribolley@sbcglobal.net.

**Yours in service,
Grande La Presidente
Lori A. Bolley-Majeske**

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From the Grand Chef de Gare

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awards: Hero of the Year, Law Officer of the Year and Voyageur of the Year. We know there are candidates out there, we just need to take the time in find them. So, with all this time on our hands, everybody worried about the coronavirus shutting things down, it's also another opportunity to start putting together your reports.

Well that's it for now, you 'all be safe out there.

**Yours in service,
Grand Chef de Gare Lonnie Haynes**

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Submissions accepted

We encourage any Voyageur or Voiture Locale to submit articles and photos to be used in the Whistle Stop. Email submissions to richadams946@gmail.com or via mail to 15855 Turnberry St., Lansing MI 48906.

From the Grand Avocat

Greetings Voyageurs!

I hope this note finds everyone healthy and happy. I'm told by one of our Voitures that I may have crossed the line on the last Whistle Stop. If somebody was offended, I apologize. The gist of the whole thing was trying to get current officer lists from each Voiture. This would allow us to communicate with the proper people when necessary.



Once you have your list, it needs to go to the Grand Correspondant. It's cool to send it to Nationale, but they don't share with Grand. We did get a few lists based on the last mailing. That puts us near 50% for Grand. We depend on information from Locales so we can prepare our Grand reports in a timely manner. With current lists we can also prepare a Grand roster, so everybody knows everybody. Thanks for your efforts on membership—keep it going!

The Grand Correspondant is including proposed reorganizations of our districts. Please share them with your members, talk it over, and be prepared for a vote at Grand Promenade. We (you) need to figure out how you will go about electing/choosing a Cheminot to represent your district. All other Locale Chefs in the district will serve as alternate Cheminots. With all that is going on in the world, we must stay safe and take care of each other. Check on your friends and neighbors.

**Yours in service,
James Coe II
Grand Avocat
Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer Passe**

From the Grand Chef de Train

March 18, 2020

Michigan Voyageurs,

Spring Cheminot was held here again at V946, on 14 March 2020. Was great to see more than 5 other Voitures represented.

2020 Membership

Voiture	YTD 2019	YTD 2020	2019 Year End Total	% of Quota	Short/Over
102	56	54	56	96.43	-2
120	53	49	56	87.5	-7
161	5	5	5	100	0
181	32	19	32	59.38	-13
396	23	20	23	86.96	-3
545	24	19	27	44.44	-8
553	12	13	12	108.33	+1
599	1	29	30	96.67	-1
600	23	23	23	100	0
659	8	7	10	70	-3
669	35	40	37	108.11	+3
721	11	10	14	71.43	-4
746	36	36	36	100	0
756	17	12	18	66.67	-6
767	38	35	39	89.74	-4
868	3	3	3	100	0
946	100	96	121	79.34	-25
957	63	43	63	68.25	-20
997	95	97	101	96.04	-4
1002	19	24	20	120.00	+4
1061	32	36	36	100.00	0
1116	4	4	4	100	0
1153	18	23	36	63.89	-13
1223	2	5	5	100	0
1288	14	4	20	20.00	-16
1363	7	9	7	128.57	+2
1420	25	25	25	100.00	0
1425	25	24	25	96.00	-1
1536	32	36	34	105.88	+2
State	813	800	918	87.15	-118



Total 29: 13 at 100% or better, 4 at 90%, 3 at 80%, 3 at 70% and 6 at 60% or less.

Great Job to all 100 percenters

The rest of us have work to do, and it could be only 1 or 2 bodies to make the difference.

The Grand Chef has the right idea, everyone just get one (1). That's not hard.

Grand Promenade August 7-8. On the following page is the registration form. Please fill out early and mail in for planning purposes, (with Check) and help make it a success PLEASE.

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Grande du Michigan
Grand Promenade
Hosted by Voiture 946
August 7th & 8th, 2020



Please Mail this 1/2 of this letter with your Registration:

Name _____ Voiture/Cabane _____ Title _____
(Please Print)
Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone Number _____

Voyageur Registration \$10 per # _____ / La Femmes Registration \$15 per # _____

Booster Name \$2 per name (s) _____ , _____

Booster Ads \$50.00 Full Page / \$25.00 1/2 Page

Please E-mail Ads and or Pictures to: GySgtRet99@gmail.com (Use MSWord & Jpeg Format)

Banquet \$40.00 per person: How Many Attending Banquet _____.

Choice of Focaccia Parmesan Chicken, Twice Baked Potato **OR** Roasted New York Strip Loin, Parmesan Red Skin Potato
Both will Come with Green Beans and Tossed Salad.

Deadline: July 20th 2020

Causeway Bay Hotel & Convention Center
6820 S. Cedar St. Lansing MI 48911
517-694-8123

You must make your own reservations. Room rate is \$91.00 (Taxes not included).

Keep this 1/2 of this letter for your records:

Voyageurs send registration and Banquet money to:

Michael Brokenshire, Grand Chef de Train Michigan

2949 S. Waverly HWY

Lansing, MI 48911

Voyageurs Please make Checks Payable to: Voiture V946

La Femmes send **Registration Only** to:

Name Cheryl Jamnick, Cabane 957

Address 7835 Munger Road
Ypsilanti, MI. 48197

La Femmes Please make Checks Payable to: Cabane 957

Voyageurs Registration \$10 # _____, La Femmes Registration \$15 # _____

Banquet \$40.00 per person: How Many Attending Banquet _____.

Choice of Focaccia Parmesan Chicken, Twice Baked Potato **OR** Roasted New York Strip Loin, Parmesan Red Skin Potato
Both will Come with Green Beans and Tossed Salad.

Deadline: July 20th 2020 Total sent \$ _____

From the Grand Correspondant

Fellow Voyageurs,

First, I appreciate each and every Voiture Locale that sent me officer lists for the current year. The mailing I sent out did get some results. I also received a letter giving me grief for using the word “pitiful” in my letter to correspondants. Please re-read the letter as I was referring to the pitiful turnout for Fall Cheminot, not to any voyageur.

On that note, thanks go out to all who attended Spring Cheminot at Voiture 946. We had decent attendance (relatively speaking) and got quite a bit done, including plans for redistricting, which you will find in this edition of The Whistle Stop.

I have also posted both on the website www.40et8michigan.com, on our Facebook page and in this edition a few information sheets regarding COVID-19. There are links to any updates that have taken place since I downloaded the info sheets. One is from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, one from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and one from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Most

importantly — especially because most of us are getting along in years — keep a safe distance if you have to go out, and stay at your home as much as possible. This is a nasty virus, folks.

The current situation has moved a lot of dates around. Grand Chef’s Homecoming has been moved to a date to be determined. As of this writing, Great Lakes Promenade and Grande du Michigan Promenade are still on the calendar, but that is subject to any additional surprises COVID-19 may bring our way. Because most of our membership is in the high-risk age group, please do all you can to keep well. Be safe!

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns or contributions to The Whistle Stop. You can email me at richadams946@gmail.com, call or text to 517-388-4962 or just send snail mail to me at 15855 Turnberry St., Lansing MI 48906.

**Respectfully,
Rich Adams**

Grande Correspondant and l'Editeur

From the Grande Chef de Train

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The State Wreck will be held at V946’s Mothers Day Wreck, on May 9th 2020. All Voyageurs need to bring a Stunt, and PG’s need to be at V946 at 10am. Please let the V946 Chef de Gare know how many PG’s you will bring.

Again, if no one puts in for it Fall Cheminot will be held here in Lansing at V946.

Call me, text me or E-mail me, I WANT/CAN HELP!!!

**Respectfully Submitted;
Michael V. Brokenshire
Grande Chef de Train
(517)490-3512**

GySgtRet99@gmail.com

Michigan Grande 2019/2020 Current districts

District number	Voiture	County	Members 2019 end
1	102	Wayne	56
	1002	Sub. Wayne	20
2	746	Jackson	36
	957	Washenaw	63
	997	Lenawee	101
	1153	Monroe	36
3	161	Kalamazoo	5
	181	Calhoun	32
	396	Branch	23
	1223	Hillsdale	5
4	545	St. Joseph	27
	553	Kent	12
6	946	Ingham	121
	1116	Genesee	4
7	120	St. Clair	56
	1061	Macomb	36
	1536	Lapeer	34
8	600	Saginaw	23
	756	Shiawassee	18
	868	Clinton	3
	1420	Ionia	25
9	721	Newaygo	14
	1363	Manistee	7
10	767	Clare	39
	1425	Midland	25
11	1288	Menominee	20
12	599	Marquette	30
	659	Dickinson	10
14	669	Iosco	37

Michigan

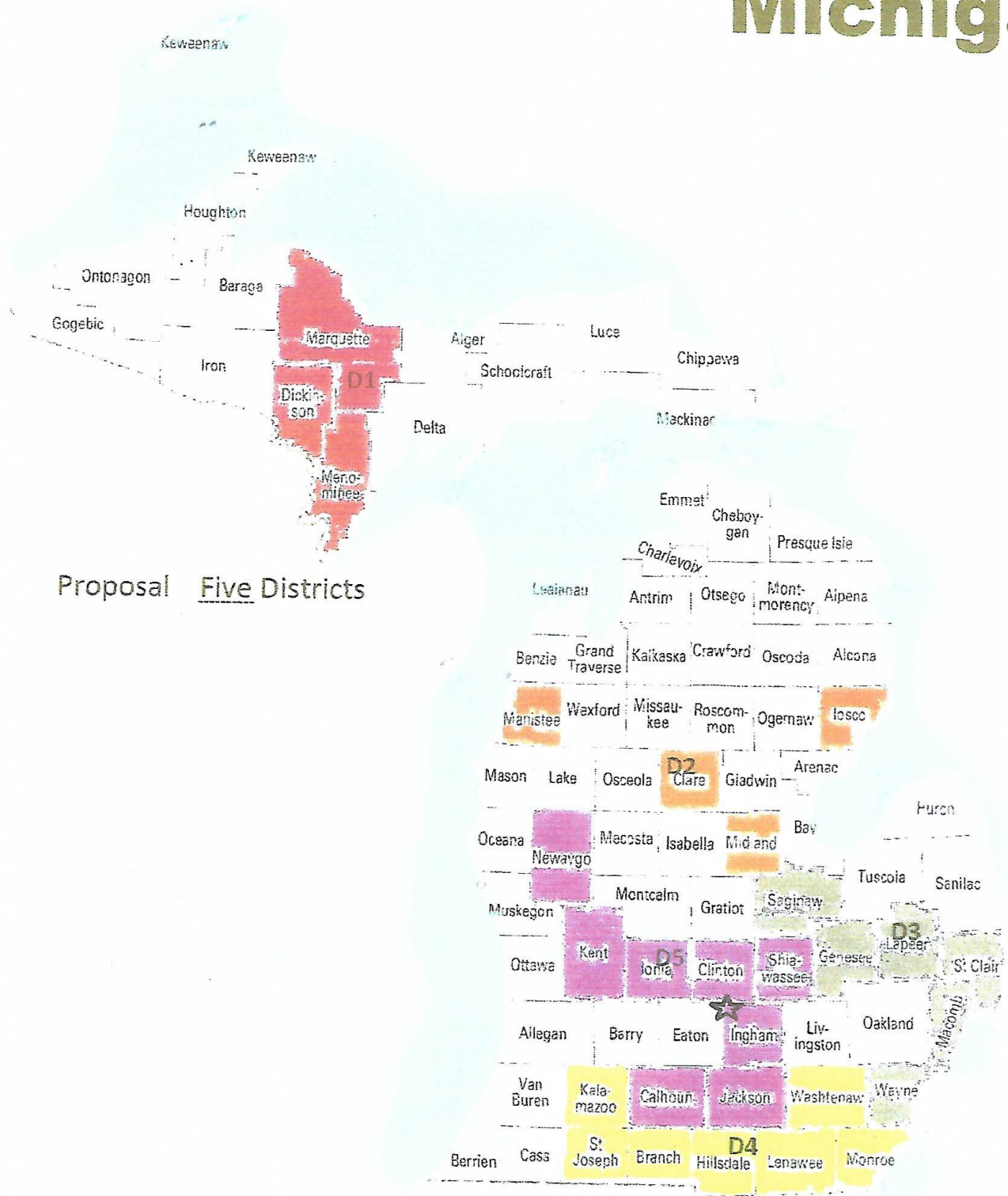


Grande du Michigan
2019 / 2020
Current districts

Proposed Michigan Grande with five (5) districts

New Cheminot districts	Voiture	County	Members 2019 end
1 U.P.	599	Marquette	30
	659	Dickinson	10
	1288	Menominee	20
total		3	60
2 Northern L.P.	669	Iosco	37
	767	Clare	39
	1363	Manistee	7
	1425	Midland	25
total		4	108
3 Eastern	102	Wayne	56
	120	St. Clair	56
	600	Saginaw	23
	1002	Sub. Wayne	20
	1061	Macomb	36
	1116	Genesee	4
	1536	Lapeer	34
total		7	229
4 Southern	161	Kalamazoo	5
	396	Branch	23
	545	St. Joseph	27
	957	Washenaw	63
	997	Lenawee	101
	1153	Monroe	36
	1223	Hillsdale	5
total		7	269
5 Central	181	Calhoun	32
	553	Kent	12
	721	Newaygo	14
	746	Jackson	36
	756	Shiawassee	18
	868	Clinton	3
	946	Ingham	121
	1420	Ionia	25
total		8	261

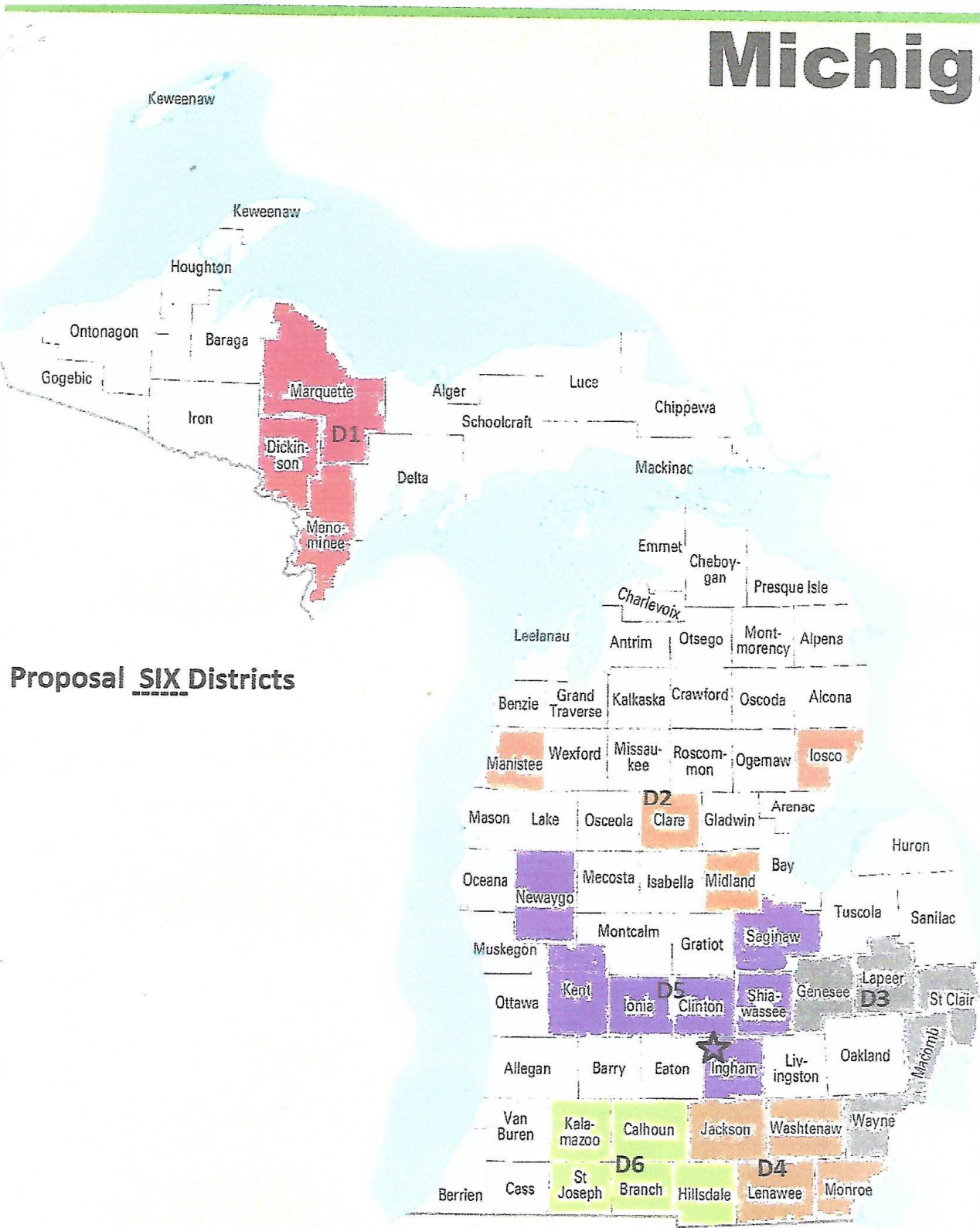
Michigan



Proposed Michigan Grande with six (6) districts

New Cheminot districts	Voiture	County	Members 2019 end
1 U.P.	599	Marquette	30
	659	Dickinson	10
	1288	Menominee	20
total		3	60
2 Northern L.P.	669	Iosco	37
	767	Clare	39
	1363	Manistee	7
	1425	Midland	25
total		4	108
3 Eastern	102	Wayne	56
	120	St. Clair	56
	1002	Sub. Wayne	20
	1061	Macomb	36
	1116	Genesee	4
	1536	Lapeer	34
total		6	206
4 South-eastern	746	Jackson	36
	957	Washenaw	63
	997	Lenawee	101
	1153	Monroe	36
total		4	236
5 Central	553	Kent	12
	600	Saginaw	23
	721	Newaygo	14
	756	Shiawassee	18
	868	Clinton	3
	946	Ingham	121
	1420	Ionia	25
total		7	216
6 South-central	161	Kalamazoo	5
	181	Calhoun	32
	396	Branch	23
	545	St. Joseph	27
	1223	Hillsdale	5
total		5	92

Michig



Proposal SIX Districts

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Information (from Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency)

Due to COVID-19 and our need to mitigate risks of infection, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency is unable to accept visitors to its downtown Lansing offices at this time. However, we remain committed to serving veterans 24/7 through our toll-free hotline, 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838).

If you are a veteran seeking help in filing claims or appeals, please contact your Veteran Service Officer (VSO). If you don't yet have a VSO, please call 1-800-MICH-VET and you will be directed to someone who can assist you.

Experts in our Veteran Resource Service Center stand ready to answer any veteran-centric questions about benefits and services for health care, education, employment and other quality-of-life issues. Just call 1-800-MICH-VET, email at MVAAResourceCenter@michigan.gov or go to michiganveterans.com for more information.

If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, please call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net, or text 838255 to receive free, confidential support.

From the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

Situation Update - VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System

03/26/2020 09:11 AM EDT

The VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System Community Based Outpatient Clinics will be shifting operations to preserve resources and personal protective equipment.

Effective Monday, March 23, 2020, our community clinics in Jackson and Flint, Toledo OH, and the Green Road and Packard Road clinics in Ann Arbor will be supplying triage and virtual care only. At these locations, routine appointments will be converted to virtual care, as appropriate.

For Veterans in these affected areas who have questions about routine medical care, please contact 734-845-5290 (press 2). For those needing pharmacy refills, please call 866-316-9350 Ext. 1. For those needing to speak to a medical provider, please call 734-769-7100.

Visitor restrictions are in effect at ALL VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System facilities. Help us limit the spread of COVID-19, the flu, and other illnesses to our Veterans and your loved ones.

VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System operations are adapting due to the emergence of the COVID-19 virus in our community to maintain a healthy environment for our Veterans, family members, and staff.

The following visitation safeguards are currently in place:

- **Visitors/guests are not allowed in any site of care.**
- Outpatients should come to VA appointments alone.
- Only patients will be permitted inside our facility for any reason. The ONLY exception is for end-of-life visitation.
- **No one under the age of 18 is permitted.**
- We will use telecommunications and video conferencing to include family members in medical decision-making.
- Entrances to all VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System facilities will be limited; staff are screening people for symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath, and sore throat before entry.
- Any sick patients must put on a mask immediately upon entering any VAAHS facility (ask staff for assistance).

All are reminded to wash hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after appointments.

From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans have multiple resources for COVID-19 information

Veterans have multiple resources available for the latest COVID-19, or coronavirus, information.

Here are several resources.

Federal government response

The overall federal government response is at <https://www.coronavirus.gov/>. This page offers the most updated health-related guidance and information on coronavirus.

VA resources

For the latest VA updates on coronavirus and commonsense tips on preventing its spread, visit <https://www.va.gov/coronavirus>.

For the latest blogs about coronavirus, visit <https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/?s=covid-19>.

Rumor control

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA, is working with the Department of Health and Human Services for COVID-19 pandemic response. As of March 20, 2020, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, five territories and one tribe are working directly with FEMA under the Nationwide Emergency Declaration for COVID-19.

FEMA has a rumor control page at <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus-Rumor-Control>. The page addresses the latest myths, giving people the latest facts—versus myths—on the federal response.

The agency also has a page about donations and volunteering at <https://www.fema.gov/coronavirus/how-to-help>.

CDC information

The Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, offers information about protecting a person and what a person should do if sick. There are also resources for the community covering travel, schools, childcare, business, and community and faith-based organizations. The page also offers the latest information on the number of cases in the U.S.

For more information about coronavirus, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

Food and drugs

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration offers the latest information on their site at <https://www.fda.gov/coronavirus>. The administration is monitoring medical product and food supply chains for potential shortages and disruptions. This page has news about new policies regarding ventilators, testing kits, monitoring vital signs and more.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture also has information about food safety and pet safety at <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>.

Blood donations

The American Red Cross strongly urges healthy, eligible individuals who are feeling well to give blood or platelets. This helps maintain a sufficient blood supply and prevent shortages as coronavirus cases rise in the U.S.

People can make an appointment to donate blood now by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.redcrossblood.org) or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Type O and platelet donations are especially needed right now.

Financial issues

The Federal Trade Commission, or FTC, has a page helping people avoid coronavirus scams at <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing>.

Unfortunately, some people are taking advantage of fears surrounding coronavirus. The FTC page lists tips such as knowing who to buy from online, robocalls and online offers for vaccinations. There's also helpful information on responding to fake government officials. This ranges from responding to text and emails about checks from the government to experts saying they have information about coronavirus.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau also has information about protecting finances at <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/coronavirus>. The site educates people on consumer complaints, protecting credit, dealing with debt and more.

Small Business

The Small Business Administration (SBA) assists small businesses with accessing federal resources and navigating their preparedness plans as described by the [CDC's Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#).

Small business owners in all U.S. states and territories are currently eligible to apply for a low-interest loan due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). [Click here to apply](#). The SBA works with a number of local partners to counsel, mentor and train small businesses. Use the [SBA's Local Assistance Directory](#) to locate the office nearest you.

SBA provides a number of loan resources for small businesses to use when operating their business. For more information on loans or how to connect with a lender, visit: <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans>.

Housing information

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development offers information at <https://www.hud.gov/coronavirus>. This includes relief for homeowners and information for HUD assisted residents.

Social Security and Medicare information

Veterans receiving Social Security can stay up-to-date with the latest at <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>. The site has frequently asked questions about benefits.

Medicare offers their latest updates at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus>. The page covers information about lab tests, medical hospitalizations and a Medicare Advantage Plan.

State information

People can find out what's going on in their state at <https://www.usa.gov/state-health>.