



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI
December 2014 Edition



Vol. V Issue 4 ☆ Carol Philp, Editor ☆ Member of M.A.L.P.A.

☆☆☆☆☆ Post 346 - Chartered 1922 - For God and Country ☆☆☆☆☆

From the Mind of Jim... Post 346 Commander James Weston



It's been quite a busy and eventful 2 weeks around the Post. First the Firekeepers Casino bus trip on Oct. 30th, Tammy did a super job organizing and I'm sure everybody had a good time, "a few big winners". Nov. 2nd the Commander's Tour stopped by and had lunch then left for another Post. Nov. 5th we had the homeless vets for an all-you-can-eat spaghetti luncheon. Thanks to all the ladies who helped with the serving and clean up. Nov. 11th we had our Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Post. A very light turn out for the program.

I want to touch on a subject that has bothered me. All the functions we have, and our Legion member turn out is far from acceptable. We have a membership of 340 plus members and for these events and functions we get only 1 to 5 percent show up. Not good gentlemen, let's work on changing that problem. Also, take 1 hour out of your busy schedules to attend a meeting the first Thursday of each month (January meeting will be on 1/8).

Again, thanks to the Auxiliary and all the ladies who helped in the preparation for these events, thank you SAL for supplying the champagne on Veteran's Day. God Bless America and all our troops in foreign lands, come home safely. To all of you, a Very Merry Christmas to you and your families, and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

Jim Weston, Commander

- PLEASE -

If you have email access, allow me to send your monthly Bulletin to you via email. Let's all help save the Post the costs of printing and postage for the Bulletin. Please email Carol at info@americanlegionpost346.org

- Thank You -

Annual Holiday Pot-Luck Party Friday 12/19 6:00pm

Come and join us in the Clubroom for our annual Holiday Pot-Luck Party. A delicious ham will be provided by us and a multitude of terrific side dishes and deserts will be provided by You!



*Happy Holidays
from all of us at post 346!*

Blue Eyes Blog... Unit 346 President Tamela Festian



Ho Ho Ho, said Jolly Old St. Nick!
I am checking out the ladies. Because Christmas is coming soon. For my three Elves, who worked together in the kitchen on Coney Dog night, a **GREAT JOB!** goes to Paula, Gerry, and Mark. Keep up the good work. A **WONDERFUL NIGHT!** for the men on their Steak dinner event. WOW, a complete sell out.

We had a small turn out for the Unit Member Workshop, by 18th District Leadership Chairman Jacquelynn Boughner and 18th Dist. Vice President Sandra Carter. Very interesting program and we learned some new things about the Auxiliary too. Next day was the 18th Dist. Commander's Tour. On the bus were mostly the 18th Dist. lady officers, President Nancy Knox was here too. I was pleasantly surprised to see all of them. They were pleased in all the work that was being done by us. President Nancy also said, don't forget that the Christmas shop was coming up. I told her that we were already done. She was very happy with us! Then, we had a Michigan Veterans Foundation luncheon. A small turnout but we still enjoyed the time together. Many homeless vets took left-overs back with them. Plus, extra dishes Jan Smart made for them. Appreciation for all the help goes to Leah Brancheau, Sandy McArthur, Mary Jenkins, Pat and Mike Benifiel, Tony, Chris and Carol Mallia, Jim Koponen, & Jim Weston.

On Veterans Day, we had a beautiful service, and Myrtle Granger, who has a beautiful voice, sang GOD BLESS AMERICA. Many many thanks to all that contributed their help this year. We also had a great time on the Halloween Firekeepers Bus Trip. Small group this time but that's alright. Thanks to my mad scientist Paula Cotroneio helping me out the night before making all the drinks. To Jim Koponen and Jim Weston, for loading the coolers (they were very heavy). Congratulations to costume contest winners, 1st Barbara Wilk, 2nd Ruth Vosko, and 3rd Paula Cotroneio. Thanks also to Connie Haverkate and Jeannie Kitchen. Everybody looked so great, plus a lot of winners this time. Looking forward for our next trip.

Merry Christmas and may all of you have a safe and healthy New Year,
Tammy Festian, Auxiliary President

Auxiliary FYI: Current membership 134, goal 160 ~ We will be joined by our District President Angela Galbraith at the December meeting ~ Please bring your donations of hats, scarves, gloves, etc. for our annual "Mitten Tree" (to be donated to our local Goodfellows) ~ And don't forget to bring a "dish to pass" for our December meeting potluck!



December 2014 vol. V issue 4. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 11 times per year. Post membership for the year 2013-14: Legion 329, Aux. 156, SAL 69. Proud member of MI American Legion Press Assoc.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor or contributor and are not necessarily those of the American Legion or Post 346. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the American Legion or Post 346 of the products or services advertised.

Bulletin Editor - Carol Philp
Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346
31775 Grand River Ave. Farmington, MI 48336-4238
INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org 248-478-9174

A Letter From Your Editor Carol Philp

I am now beginning my fifth year as editor of the Groves-Walker Bulletin. This has been a wonderful experience, a learning experience and always a labor of love. I now feel the need to concentrate on other areas of my life more fully and would like to pass along the editorship to the next volunteer. If needed I will teach you all about putting together the Bulletin and will provide all the materials needed. I would like to leave the Bulletin at the end of this Legion year (after the July-August Bulletin). **Anyone interested in taking over the Post newsletter, please call me at 248-910-2586 or email to info@americanlegionpost346.org**

Don't forget to send in articles for the next Bulletin, including photos if available. **Anyone** can submit an article for the Bulletin; *but remember, we may not have the room to print all articles (or some articles in their entirety).* **The submission deadline for the January 2015 edition of the Bulletin is December 16th.**

Thank you, Carol Philp

Raffle Chairman G. Skip Nafe

Dear Fellow Legionnaires, Sons and Ladies, The Post is putting on a Raffle. I will soon be mailing a letter to each member including 2 Raffle Tickets and a return envelope. We're offering great cash prizes! Tickets are only \$10.00 each. These tickets can be purchased for yourself or sold to anyone, anywhere in the US (make checks payable to American Legion Post 346. Please DO NOT send cash through the mail!). If you would like more tickets to sell, please let me know, and I will get them to you. The night of the prize drawing there will be a Spaghetti Dinner, show your ticket and receive ½ off your dinner. Details on the back of the ticket. If you decide that you wish NOT to be involved, PLEASE return both whole tickets in the envelope provided, so we can sell them to someone else. May you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season!

G. Skip Nafe
248-419-0000

Attn: Any female veterans who join as a new member for 2015, the national portion of dues (\$9) will be waived for the first year of membership!

Did you know...?

Now you can have www.ALAforVeterans.org on your smartphone. Not just an app, full American Legion Auxiliary website access on your smartphone!

Post Sr. Vice Commander Post Service Officer Anthony Mallia

Membership report: Goal: 279, PUFL: 27, Renewals: 191, Total: 218. That puts us at 78%. Please remember you have until Dec 31, 14 to pay your dues to keep your membership continuous and to continue enjoying the benefits of Legion membership.

Tony Mallia, Sr. Vice Commander



Sons of the American Legion Commander Robert Smart

The SAL would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and the Happiest New Year! Let's say a prayer for all our service people who make sure we are able to celebrate the holidays with our families.

Rob Smart, SAL Commander



THANK YOU LOC Federal Credit Union!

A couple of months ago we were contacted by our local LOC Federal Credit Union (22981 Farmington Rd.), with an offer of volunteers to help with whatever project we needed help with around the Post. LOC closes their doors for business on Veterans Day and their employees go into the community to help veterans in various ways on that day. We received enough in donations to be able to purchase paint and supplies to re-paint the upstairs hall and entry-way.

2nd Vice Terry Montgomery lead the project, and with the help of Jim Koponen, Gary Fierk, Jim Forbes and 12 dedicated volunteers from LOC, we are well on our way to a beautiful, bright, clean, and *very rentable* banquet room! Even more improvements are still coming, if you haven't seen the job yet, stop by and take a look. **Remember the Post for your next hall rental opportunity, spread the word!**



10 of the 12 wonderful volunteers from LOC Federal Credit Union. Photo: Jim Koponen

Thank You Very Much for everyone's past donations but, the Post no longer has storage space to accept donations of medical equipment.



So much has happened during the last month!



President Tammy moonlighting as a tour bus escort (floozie!) to Firekeepers Casino for Halloween Bus Trip.



Dept. Aux. President Nancy Knox with 18th Dist. President Angela Galbraith here for Commander's Tour.



Our special Auxiliary volunteers served Spaghetti and all the fix'ins to the homeless vets from the MI Veterans Foundation. Photo: Jim Koponen



2nd Vice Terry Montgomery welcomes Past State Commander Bill Miller and 2014-15 State Commander Jim Wallace (seated) to Post 346 during the Commander's Tour. Photos: Carol Philp



18th Dist. Auxiliary Leadership Chairman Jacquelynn Boughner (and husband Mike on the AV equipment) did a great job with her first Aux. membership workshop, fun and lots of great information, join us next year!



New Aux. member Denise Pistonetti is welcomed to her first meeting by President Tammy Festian.



Veteran's Day November 11, 2014



Instead of the usual politicians, the 4 special guest speakers for the Post Veterans Day program included member Jim Forbes who spoke of his experiences in WWII.



Member Vasilli (Bill) Croitori spoke to the attendees about his experiences in the Korean War.



Member Wayne Wiczorkowski gave us an idea of what it was like for him during the Vietnam War.

Thank you so much to our speakers for sharing their war time experiences and to all our veterans, on Veteran's Day and every day, for their service to our country.



Adjutant Dale Baxter spoke of his time in service during the Iraq/Afghanistan War.



After our champagne toast, Aux. member Myrtle Granger used her lovely singing voice to lead the group in a rendition of "God Bless America". Photos: Carol Philp

~ ~ ~ TAPS ~ ~ ~

The good Lord has seen fit to allow us all to remain together, within our American Legion family, to "Serve God and Country" a little longer. No deaths of Post members have been Reported to me during the past month.

Reminder - Your dues must be paid in full to receive the benefits of membership in the American Legion such as - Discounted hall rental rates, service of alcoholic beverages in the Clubroom, a vote on Post issues, or a copy of the monthly Bulletin mailed (or emailed) to your home. Don't let this be your LAST issue of the Bulletin, make sure your 2015 dues are paid.

Everyone starts off with a bag of luck and an empty bag of experience. The trick is to fill your experience bag before your luck runs out.

December Birthdays

1 Terry Roberts
 1 Jimmy Brancheau
 1 Marilyn Smart
 1 Donald Gates
 2 Diana Sweeten
 2 Neil Devine
 3 Dale Baxter
 3 Walter Dogonski
 3 Kim Wong
 6 Randall Wallace
 6 A. (Bill) Horton
 7 William Gates
 8 Roy Gregetsky
 12 Lynda Nichols
 14 Marian Spisak
 15 Kricia Grossman
 17 Mike Peters
 19 Vasillie (Bill) Croitori
 19 Connie Crissman
 19 Tracey Smart
 20 Kathy Bradley

21 Marvin Duckett
 22 Stephanie Gould
 23 Joanne Croitori
 23 Robert Chambers
 23 Mary Grace Liess
 24 Mike Hughes
 25 Phyllis Klein
 25 Carolyn Mirling
 26 Joel Storchan
 26 Raymond Rieger
 26 Ronald Boretti
 27 Doreen Panaretos
 28 Andy Lingner
 28 Howard Loos
 30 Angela Currie
 31 Fred Troke
 31 Kenneth Young
 31 Wendy Keene

**Don't see your name?
 Please contact Carol at**
 info@americanlegionpost346.org

December Anniversaries

1 Wally & Lorraine Christensen
 1 Terry & Ann Roberts
 9 Charles & Helen Scott
 23 John & Colleen Pirko
 26 Dave & Cathy Franzen

Coming up in January

1 New Year's Day
8 Legion & Aux. meetings
 19 Martin Luther King Day
 20 Inauguration Day
 28 Coast Guard Birthday



MONDAY CONEY NIGHTS!

Every Monday in the Clubroom 5 pm - 7:30 pm
GREAT PRICES!
 NO Reservations needed!

TABS FOR TOTS

Please save the aluminum (Non-Magnetic!) tabs from all your beverage and pull-tab containers. Drop off your tabs at the Post's rear door.

**Please support our advertisers
 They help support your Bulletin**

December 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30pm Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	2	3	4 Legion & Aux. meetings 7:30pm (Pot-Luck)	5	6 Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
7 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm Pearl Harbor Day	8 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	9	10 SAL meeting 7:30pm	11	12	13 Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
14 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm	15 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm Bill of Rights Day	16 Home Board <u>meeting 7:30pm</u> Submission deadline for Jan. Bulletin	17 Hanukkah begins	18	19 Holiday Pot-Luck Party 6:00pm	20 Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
21 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm Winter Solstice	22 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa begins	27
28 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm	29 Exec. Board Meeting will be <u>NEXT WEEK</u> Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 Legion & Aux. meetings will be <u>NEXT WEEK</u> JANUARY 2015	2	3 Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm



Please donate your old, well-loved blue jeans!

Operation: Quiet Comfort honors and comforts members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are injured while serving in harm's way. OQC provides small quilts to comfort our Wounded Warriors. These quilts contain messages of thanks, encouragement and appreciation from a grateful nation. Donations may be left in the Clubroom, Thank You



SAL Detroit Lions Sunday Game Party

- 12/7 vs Tampa Bay at 1:00pm
- 12/14 vs Minnesota at 1:00pm
- 12/21 vs Chicago at 1:00pm
- 12/28 vs Green Bay at 1:00pm



Come watch the Lions make their play-off run on our big screen TV! Come on down and support your Post. Food and drink specials during the game only, no tokens will be given. Volunteer to bring in a dish to pass or bar-tend, sign-up sheets are in the Clubroom. Have a great time cheering on the Lions with the SAL and your friends!

NEW Korean War Service Medal is available to members of any branch of service that served in Korea between 6/25/1950 and 7/27/1953. This new Service Medal is available in addition To the original Korean Service Medal That you already received. Documentation That proves your service in Korea is required, this is a one-time issuance. Request forms are available from **Tony Mallia** email: amnovi1@att.net or call 248-310-4190.



Please don't forget to bring your donations of new or gently used winter hats, gloves, scarves, mittens, boots or any other cold weather accessories to the December membership meeting for the Auxiliary's annual "Mitten Tree". These donations go to our local Goodfellows to be distributed to families and individuals in need this winter.



Don't forget that December is "Made in America" month. Please shop for American made products for everyone on your holiday gift list!



IMPORTANT: All Legion Members!

Post 346 is STILL requesting that each member provide a copy of their DD-214 to the Post.

In order for us to be in compliance with IRS regulations (should an audit of our records be conducted) we need each member to provide a **redacted** copy of your DD-214 as soon as possible. We realize that your DD-214 contains personal information, which is why we emphasize that you provide a **redacted copy (sensitive information blacked out)**. Copies provided **must** have your name, department, component and branch of service, and record of service dates, **all other personal information may be blacked out**. DD-214 copies can be mailed to the Post or given to Tony Mallia. If you cannot locate a copy of your DD-214, please contact Tony Mallia phone: 248-310-4190 or email to: AMNOVI1@att.net

Thank you, Jim Weston, Commander



GG's boutique

Ladies Apparel, Accessories, Handbags, Jewelry, & Gifts

248-919-9721

Open Mon.-Sat. 10-7 Sun. 11-4

23350 Farmington Rd. Downtown
Next door to Merle Norman Cosmetics
www.facebook/GGsBoutique

BATH FITTER One-Day Bath Remodeling

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

NEW TUBS available over the OLD ONE!

You Could Be Eligible for **FREE Bathroom Remodeling**

Bath Fitter is proud to work with **VETERANS** to provide bathroom remodeling through the government-funded HISA Grant. Bath Fitter can create customized bathtubs and showers to fit the needs of service members.

BEFORE AFTER

VA Approved

248-987-4900
33523 8 Mile Rd. Livonia, MI 48152

Best Wishes from Ray Okonski

Member of Post 346 since 2001
I Co. 309th Bn. 78th Div.
3 Battle Stars



WWII Purple Heart
Last battle was at the
Ludendorff Bridge
Rhine River, Remagen Germany



HEENEY SUNDQUIST

FUNERAL HOME
established 1850



*Proudly supporting
the Veterans of
Groves-Walker Post #346*

In Honor of
American Legion Life Member
Walter Sundquist
1926 - 2013

Mark Ziegler

248-474-5200

Farmington Road,
Just N of Grand River
Downtown Farmington



Professional Gravesite
Tending by
Always Remember

We provide loving and personal care
for your loved one's gravesites.

- Garden, Lawn & Stone Care
- Grave Blankets & Wreaths
- Weekly, Monthly or One Time Clean-ups
- Ask about free clean-ups for Veteran sites

(248) 477-4974

www.alwaysremember.org
Diane Stanton, Owner

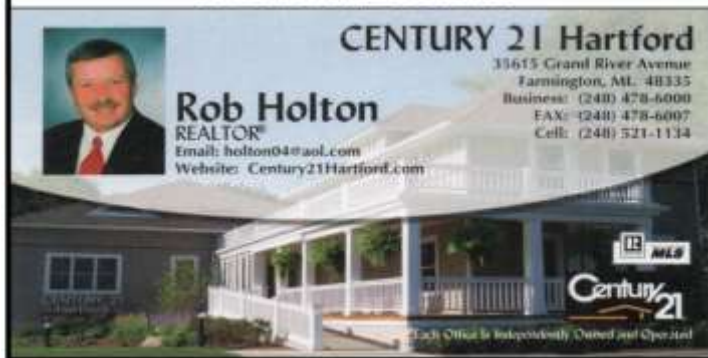
You've Got a Friend in the Real Estate Business!



Rob Holton
REALTOR®
Email: holton04@aol.com
Website: Century21Hartford.com

CENTURY 21 Hartford

33615 Grand River Avenue
Farmington, AL. 38335
Business: (248) 478-6000
FAX: (248) 478-6007
Cell: (248) 521-1134



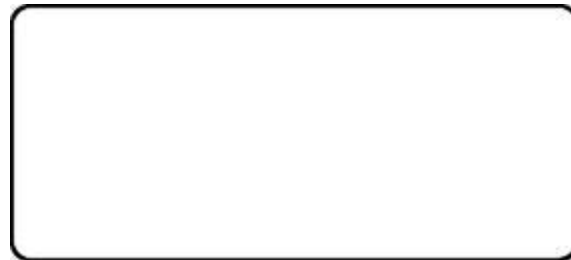
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

American Legion, Auxiliary & S.A.L.
Groves-Walker Post 346
31775 Grand River Ave.
Farmington, MI 48336-4238



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

November 2014 Edition



Meeting Nights

Legion & Auxiliary - 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
SAL - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Home Board - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Exec. Board - Monday before Legion & Aux. meetings at 7:30 pm

Clubroom Hours

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 2pm - 9pm Tuesday & Thursday: 4pm - 9pm
Saturday & Sunday: Closed (open for scheduled events only)

For contact information for your officers or hall rental information,
please call Post 346 at **(248) 478-9174**

Visit our website at **www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org**

Email the Post, Officers or Bulletin editor at **INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org**

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

- To uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America;
- To maintain law and order; To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;
- To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars;
- To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;
- To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;
- To make right the master of might; To promote peace and goodwill on earth;
- To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
- To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.



Please share your Bulletin, let others know what's going on at our Post!