

# The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, Michigan July/August 2023 - Vol. XIII Issue 6



Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country

#### **Meeting Nights**

1st Tue of the month 6:30pm: SAL 1st Thu of the month 6:30pm: Legion & Auxiliary 2nd Thu of the month 6:30pm: Legion Riders 3rd Thu of the month 6:30pm: Executive Committee And at 7:30pm: Home Board

## **Clubroom Hours**

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 9pm Sunday: 1pm - 4pm

## **Contact Info**

Clubroom: 248-478-9174 Information: 248-939-4910 GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com www.AmericanLegionPost346.org LIKE us on Facebook!

Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346 31775 Grand River Ave. Farmington, MI 48336-4238

## Upcoming 18th District meetings:

July 16, 2pm: Oldenburg Post 216 510 W Commerce Rd, Milford, MI 48381 (installation of new 2023-24 officers)

If you need financial assistance with HVAC or plumbing needs, Commander Marya has a special contact for veterans and their families. Please contact her directly.

#### Michigan's new Distracted Driving

(Hands-Free) law went into effect on June 30th. Drivers cannot text, make calls or do anything else that requires them to physically hold a phone while driving. This includes while being stopped at a red light or stop sign. There are very few exceptions (such as to call 911 in an emergency). Remember, simply DO NOT TOUCH your phone while behind the wheel!

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday To Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346!



## Queen of Hearts Round 3 Winner Raul Romero!



On Monday 06/26 Raul Romero, pictured here being congratulated by Commander Marya, won \$8,664.50 by choosing envelope #10 and finding the elusive Queen of Hearts!

Raul, a new SAL member, has been a wonderful volunteer around the Post since joining. He has helped to patch up our leaking downspouts (which has really helped in keeping the basement from flooding again) and recently making the floor in the bar and the basement vestibule far more presentable with a new coat of epoxy finish for our Memorial Day Open House. It seems as though good deeds ARE rewarded!

Tickets available NOW in the clubroom for Round 4 of the Queen of Hearts! \$1 each Need not be present to win. MI License #C30429 More info and E-tickets at: 346Queen@gmail.com Jackpot will start at (at least) - \$100 Round 4: 07/03/23 to 08/07/23

The easiest way to be where you want to be, is to want to be where you are. - Daniel Staudigel Jul/Aug 2023 vol. XIII issue 6. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership as of 07/01/23: Legion 153, Auxiliary 92, SAL 80, Total 325

The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and/or contributors and are not necessarily those of the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, or Sons of the American Legion. Publication of advertisements does not imply endorsement by the American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL or Post 346 of the products and/or services featured.

Groves-Walker Bulletin Editor - Carol Hopson

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Anyone can submit an article for the next Bulletin, including photos (articles may be edited for length and/or content). Articles can be submitted at any time, please don't wait for the deadline of Monday Aug 21st for the Sept/Oct 2023 issue of the Bulletin.

#### Vet Fair at the Costick Center

Close to 320 veterans and their family members (an alltime high for resource fairs in Oakland County!) took advantage of the services at the Veteran's Resource Fair at the Costick Center on May 22. We had 39 different vendors and everyone was pleased with the location, the mix of vendors and how well things went. Volunteers included: Marya Davis, Dave Harmon, Ed Hirsch, Dave Kelly, Denny & Diana Lis, Carol Hopson & Summer Ploski.



GTON MICHIGAN



#### **Fundraisers**

Do you have kids or grandkids that have fundraisers coming up through their schools, scout troops, sports teams, etc? Bring their sign up sheets to the clubroom, we love supporting our kids and our communities!

SAFE (Suicide Awareness for Everyone), Panel discussion & Military Culture Event at Farmington Hills City Hall from 06/07/23 YouTube video

The Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund has helped veterans, their spouses and dependents, of every wartime era overcome unexpected expenses ranging from utility bills to home repairs to mortgage assistance and get back on their feet financially.

To apply for emergency funds from the MVTF, veterans should fill out and submit an Emergency Assistance form here:

https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/forms/emergencyassistance-form.

Call MVTF: 1-800-MICH-VET or click for more info: https://www.michigan.gov/mvaa/other-benefits-andresources/panel-state/panel-content

The MVTF can also help the many veterans who are struggling to manage their finances or overcome crippling debt. The goal is to help veterans gain financial stability. Veterans interested in the free financial counseling can call the Michigan Veterans Resource Service Center at 1-800-MICH-VET (642-4838).

We would like to sincerely thank the following for their help in making the Memorial Day Open House a success. Weingartz (Everything from lawn to snow) for their donation to purchase the hot dogs, John's sanitation, Kim Jaske for his donation and the Farmington Xemplar Club for being our partner in planning the parade.



## Commander's Corner... Post 346 Commander Marya Davis

The first thing everyone always wants to know is the status of the building and our new home. We are still on track to close in



September/early October, which means we will have money in the bank. The team has been actively searching for a new home. What we have come to realize is that it would be in our best interest to buy a building rather than the previous short-term goal of leasing. Basically, if we can get a new building within a certain time frame of selling this one, we can avoid a capital gains tax. That's a lot of money! But in order for us to buy a new building, we need more money. If you know any local philanthropists, businesses or other American Legion loving people who would be willing to offer us some private financing, please let me know. Timing is everything when it comes to purchasing a new building. Additionally, we have done market research on similar organizations that have downsized too far. It is going to be important to maintain one large banquet room not just for our meetings, but because we need income. We do need to get back into the rental business. On a smaller scale than previously, but income is mandatory for survival. Thank you for trusting your leadership to do the right thing for our Legion family. And thank you for everyone's very generous continued donations of paper products, bar supplies and everyday necessities.

And speaking of our Legion family, it is growing! The Auxiliary, the Sons of the Legion, and the veterans. I hope to organize a social in August. Inducting our new members, installing our 23-24 officers and having a chance to meet the new blood that will help us grow. We'll also be celebrating our Post's 100th Birthday! During the social we will be serving heavy hors d'oeuvres, so we can mingle and visit and get to know all our new members. So, get out your appetizer recipes and let's get ready to celebrate! Installation Social date to be determined. Watch your email for updates.

In Service, Marya Davis, Commander

#### **The Veterans Creed**

- 1) I am an American veteran.
- 2) I proudly served my country.
- 3) I live the values I learned in the military.
- 4) I continue to serve my community, my country and my fellow veterans.
- 5) I maintain my physical and mental discipline.
- 6) I continue to lead and improve.
- 7) I make a difference.
- 8) I honor and remember my fallen comrades.

Resolution 10 passed by the Legion's National Executive Committee in 2018, calls the Veterans Creed "a rallying point for our brothers and sisters in arms to understand that our mission is far from over."

## My 2 Cents... Unit 346 President Carol Hopson

Greetings AUX members,

We've had a very busy spring here at the Post! Poppy Days, Memorial Day, Flag Day,

Vet Resource Fairs, new officer elections, not to mention the Queen of Hearts drawings! As always I want to share a *Great Big Thank You* to everyone who helped with all these events to make them successful, and YES, they were all successful!

Our Auxiliary Unit gained seven new members for 2023. I like to think of welcoming these new members as a way to honor our last seven long-time members that we lost. Judy Mau (January 2023) Leah Brancheau (December 2022) Fran Goers (November 2022) Carolyn Mallia (March 2022) Kitty Podsiadly (November 2021) Ginny McBride (September 2021) And Lorrine Christensen (July 2021).

A special Welcome Aboard to our new AUX Chaplain Summer Ploski! No sooner had I given her a shiny new AUX membership pin, she volunteered to be our Chaplain, volunteered to help at no less than four events and even wrote an article for this Bulletin (see page 5). Talk about jumping in with both feet! Her husband signed up for the SAL and Riders, and her daughter also signed up for the Auxiliary just a few days ago. What a wonderful family and a great addition our Post!

Not too much coming up for the next two months, thank goodness! I think we could all use a bit of summer vacation in our lives right now. Time to just relax a bit. At least the weather is much better now than a month ago, and not too hot yet.

Even though we may not have many events on tap for the summer, **besides the Riders Beer & Brats on the 4th of July,** we always have our regular weekly get-togethers of dinner on Mondays with the Queen of Hearts drawing (ONLY 6 Envelopes left!!), "Pet therapy" Wednesdays with Annie M. and Ro-Ro, and of course, Joker Poker Fridays (we have way too much fun to just call it BINGO).

The Post's annual donation mailing this year will be put toward the Post and our moving fund instead of the Poppy program. The Poppy Fund is currently holding up very well, thank you. But we can definitely use more donations to put toward our future home. Look for your letter in the mail soon. Wishing you a safe, happy and relaxing summer.

That's my 2 cents worth, I'm always willing to hear yours, Carol Hopson, President



Attention: Miller LaMonica left his jacket at the Post!



## THE OFFICERS OF POST 346 FOR 2023 - 2024

PRIVACY POLICY

We respect the privacy of our member's personal information, therefore we discourage the sharing of that information here on the public internet. Those who wish contact information for Post 346 Officers may call: 248-478-9174 or email to: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com Thank you





God 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 2 months.

## Post 346 Legion Chaplain Andy Machcinski

My Fellow Legionnaires:

Summer is upon us again. Hot, steamy days are here and will be with us for a while. While we enjoy the weather, let us not forget our fallen veterans, Legionnaires and those veterans still in hospitals and under care

due to service given for our Nation. I do not want to put a damper on your enjoyment but, as we enjoy ourselves let us all think of others, say a prayer, think kind thoughts, and just stop for a few minutes and think of our brothers and sisters at arms. In my prayers I will remember all of us in the Legion, as we have served and, in a way, still serve our friends, family and community. With these thoughts I wish everyone a safe summer full of joy and happiness!

Here is a short prayer for all of us to say in thanks:

Dear God:

This world, your creation rolled into a sphere Packaged in sunshine, gift-wrapped in love! Given to us, we thank you! In your Holy Name Amen.

Regards, Your Chaplain, Andy

The Federal Trade Commission has a free brochure to share with people who may need to plan a funeral. The brochure, which is available both online and in print, gives advice about shopping for arrangements by phone or online. It also explains a person's right to get information, choose only what they wish, and pay for only what they select. To order print copies of the brochure and related publications, visit: www.ftc.gov/bulkorder.

All information from the FTC is free to copy and share. You'll find more info about funeral planning, choices, and pricing at: ftc.gov/funerals.

## Chatter with the Chaplain AUX Unit 346 Chaplain Summer Ploski



Thank you Auxiliary Unit 346 for rolling out the welcome mat and allowing me to not only become a member but also fill the position of AUX Chaplain! My employment and training include: years of hospitality, hospice, trauma, funeral home, grief groups and Celebrant service. Oak Pointe Church in Novi has been my home base since 2010.

Upon becoming a member of Post 346 this spring, I have participated in the following:

~ Veteran Resource Fair at The Costick Center assisting the 317 veterans in attendance with a warm smile, and much appreciated care packages.

~ Poppy Days for me meant opening doors and greeting customers with friendly small talk as they denerously donated to the Post 346 Poppy fund! Thank you Ram's Horn Restaurant for granting us permission to graciously represent our veterans and give away so many traditional hand-made paper poppies.

~ The Memorial Day Parade route was lined with all ages up and down Grand River, cheering while waving Old Glory! The enthusiastic crowd gathered in the beautiful weather, many of whom afterward stopped by the Post for some donated refreshments!

~ Flag Day was well attended at the Post and the weather was just beautiful.

~ Legion Riders rode together on June 17th in the warm, breezy weather with revved up engines & vests signifying who they were representing. My spouse, Cas, is both an SAL and Legion Rider which gualified me to hop on the back and cruise with the members. I must say I was a bit sore after riding hundreds of miles that day, which included (for us) a memorial service that morning & afternoon to Algonac and back. A very interesting Legion Rider trip which was well worth my time!

Looking forward to seeing what the rest of the summer holds as we share life together. Please call, txt or email me if needed.

Peaceful thoughts, Summer Ploski

Think you may have been a victim of a scam or fraud? Call the National Elder-Fraud Hotline at: 833-FRAUD-11 for help.



## Memorial Day Parade & Open House



Parade Special Honoree Denny Lis with Commander Marya Davis and Jim Koponen.



Special thanks to Oakland County Parks & Rec for the loan of their wagon for us to decorate for the parade and to Weingartz Lawn Equipment for towing it.



Legion, Auxiliary, & VFW members who couldn't walk the parade route had lots of fun riding in the Oakland County Parks & Rec wagon. Photos courtesy of Norman Pranger.



American Legion Americanism Essay award winners walk in the parade with contest coordinator (and SAL member) Steve Koponen.



Raffle Queens and volunteers extraordinaire Sue DuQuette and Gerry Galinet sold a record number of tickets for our Raffle baskets, 50/50 drawing, and Queen of Hearts raffle.



Our special guests from American House Senior Living Community enjoyed the parade and open house from the comfort of shady cabanas.

## Flag Day/Flag Retirement Ceremony



The 2023 Flag day ceremony was well attended by Post officers, members, Knights of Columbus, Dept. of MI officers, and our Chapter 346 Legion Riders.



Awe inspiring display on a beautiful spring day.



We were joined by our Chapter 346 Legion Riders at their first official Post ceremony. We're looking forward to many more. Photos courtesy of Jason Clemens.

#### A little history.

The American Legion Riders (ALR)

were established in 1993, practically in our backyard in Garden City. Chuck (Tramp) Dare and Bill (Polka) Kaledas, Commander of American Legion Post 396, shared an idea to start a motorcycle enthusiasts association within the Legion



organization. The two longtime riders wanted an environment where Legion family members could come together to share a common love for motorcycles.

Currently, over 110,000 American Legion Riders meet in over 2,000 chapters in every domestic department (state) and in at least three foreign countries. True to the Legion's grassroots tradition, each chapter manages its programs at the Post level, where the best ideas are born. The Riders are part of many projects and events, including:

~ Sponsoring or participating in motorcycle runs to benefit numerous charities.

~ The American Legion Legacy Run, an annual crosscountry fundraising ride from National Headquarters in Indianapolis to the national convention city.

~ Riding to honor fallen military men and women, and to protect the sanctity of their funerals from those who would dishonor their memory.

~ Escorting military units to departure airfields and airports for combat tours overseas, and welcoming them home upon their return.

So, a few years ago, Sunny Sahu (SAL) a Rider himself had an idea of starting a Riders chapter at the 346. He put fingers to keyboard in the back of the clubroom and drafted bylaws and, as easy as that, we had a Riders group, right? Wrong, we had a poor turnout, and not enough interest. It was a bit of a blow to the movement. Disappointed but not discouraged, the Riders Chapter was put on hold. Fast forward to 2023, a mix of new members plus existing ones, and we now have a Legion Riders chapter (Fifteen plus members strong so far). Eligibility: If you have a motorcycle, you MUST be up to date on your Legion, Auxiliary, or SAL dues. No worries if you don't have a motorcycle but would like to participate, we have a "Riders Support" group to help with the Riders activities. Please ask a Rider for more information.

Tuesday, July 4th from 1-3pm The Riders are hosting Beer, Brats (with peppers and onions), and coleslaw at the Post. Come meet the Riders, get info, bring your bike and join us for the 4th! A recent display in the clubroom for our vets from the kids at Branch Line school and their teacher Cheryl Blau. The kids copied the style of artist Yaacov Agam (where 2 different pictures can be viewed from different angels on the same surface) to create patriotic tributes.

TO OUR VETERANS For all you risked , For all you sacrificed . For all the challenges you foced balk during your service and cince, For all you mirred while away, For the bracking + courage you has . WE THANK YOU ALL We the The B" gross students of Erectin clast destate our artwork in all shine Serve, who have street a shope Arbie Barry at the se the Mariell Shakes of Recordering Piter 2023

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I've always been averse to the quote "act your age." The older 1 get, the more 1 try to embrace my inner Kid. - Sylvester Stallone



The Auxiliary assembled its yearly Poppy Days display in the window of the Korner Barber Shop downtown. The display informs the public about the Poppy story.



You might recognize the Poppy canister display made by Myrtle Granger from its time in the clubroom collecting our loose change for the poppy fund. This display won the yearly poppy contest for the 18<sup>th</sup> District and is on its way to the Department of MI Convention contest. Good Luck Myrtle!

The Post 346 Honor Guard (Dale Baxter, Roger Hane, and Ray Barry) was a part of the opening day ceremony at the Farmington Farmer's Market. Open Saturdays 9am - 2pm through November 4th





## Post 346 Membership Eligibility



Legion membership eligibility. Veterans or active duty military who have served at least one day of active duty in the US Armed Forces any time after Dec. 7, 1941 AND have been honorably discharged or are still serving. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) with membership application.

Auxiliary membership eligibility. 1) Relationship to veteran: Grandmother, mother, sister, daughter, granddaughter, male or female spouse, or self (for female veterans). Per IRS regulations, step-relatives are not eligible. The IRS only allows two degrees of a blood line, so great granddaughters and beyond are not eligible. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) of the related veteran with membership application.

2) a) Potential member must be related to a LIVING veteran by one of the relationships stated AND veteran is a current member of the American Legion.
b) OR, potential member is related to a DECEASED veteran who served at least one day of active service during eligible time periods (Apr. 6, 1917 to Nov. 11, 1918 and any time after Dec. 7, 1941) AND was honorably discharged. Deceased veteran does not have to have been a member of the American Legion.

#### Sons of the American Legion membership eligibility.

1) Relationship to veteran: All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons. Potential member must present a valid DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257) of the related veteran with membership application.

2) a) Potential member must be related to a LIVING veteran by one of the relationships stated AND veteran is a current member of the American Legion.
b) OR, potential member is related to a DECEASED veteran who served at least one day of active service during eligible time periods (Apr. 6, 1917 to Nov.11, 1918 and any time after Dec. 7, 1941) AND was honorably discharged. Deceased veteran does not have to have been a member of the American Legion.



## Post 346 merchandise makes great gifts! Show your support of our military & veterans

Bracelets are \$5 each, available in the clubroom. Stylish for men and women!



Official Post 346 Bottle Koozie \$5 each, asst. colors, zippered, available in the clubroom



Post 346 Ball caps \$25 each, one color, adjustable size, available in the clubroom

Blue Star & Gold Star Banners Show pride in your family members who are serving now or were KIA. \$5 each, in the clubroom. Banners are available with 1 to 5 Blue Stars (one per family member) or 1 Gold Star (for deceased). Banners measure 14" x 8". Also available from Carol Hopson.



Is it time to replace your old US flag? Don't forget about the Post's flag drop box located at the front of our parking lot. Ensure our US flags are properly disposed of with dignity, patriotism and honor when they reach the end of their serviceable career.



If you would like to obtain hard copy(s) of one (or more) of the Past Commander or Past President photos on display at the Post, they are available for \$10 per 8x10 glossy. Please ask in the clubroom or contact Carol Hopson.



Please report your changes of name, address, phone or email; also member deaths to your LGN, AUX, or SAL membership chairperson, Commander or President.

Request a copy of your DD-214 discharge paperwork here



July BirthdaysJuly Anniversaries02 Gail Williams10 Greg & Arlene Po06 Kevin & Mike Griswold18 Rob & Pattie Holt08 Dylon Williams10 Greg & Arlene Po09 Catherine Arthur10 Jen Chinn11 Mike D'Arcangelo13 Paul Fitzpatrick Jr.17 Beth Gentile18 Arlene Popp28 Jim Pearse28 Doug Christensen				applicat that ev should her a never k run ir might li Applica	elieve membership ions are somethin very Post member d carry with him o at all times. You now when you man to someone who ke to join our Post tions are ALWAY le in the clubroon	BUI For more Ca GrovesW @gn r r Please save (non-magn all your bev tab contai your tabs a n. Funds be McDonald H	<b>TABS FOR TOTS</b> Please save the aluminum (non-magnetic!) tabs from all your beverage and pull- tab containers. Drop off your tabs at the rear door. Funds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities	
Please co	your name above ontact Carol at: Post346@gmail.com	∍? m J	uly	Riders meetings are the 2nd7 2023Thurs of each month 6:30pm				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		esday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
2	<b>3</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	4 Legion Riders Beer & Brats 1-3pm	<b>5</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednese		6 Legion meeting 6:30pm, NO AUX	7 Joker Poker in the <u>clubroom</u> Dept. of MI Convention 7/6 - 7/9 Sault St Marie, MI	1 8	
9	<b>10</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 Post 346 Birthday 1923	11	<b>12</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednesday		13 Riders meeting 6:30pm	14 Joker Poker in the clubroom	15	
16	<b>17</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	18	<b>19</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednese	day	20 Exec. Committee <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Home Board meeting 7:30pm Man first sets foot on the moon 1969	21 Joker Poker in the clubroom	22	
23	<b>24</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	25	<b>26</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednese	day	27 Korean War Armistice 1953	28 Joker Poker in the clubroom	29	
30	<b>31</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	1 SAL meeting 6:30pm August	<b>2</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednese	day	3 Legion meeting 6:30pm, NO AUX	<b>4</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	5	





Remember, birthdays and anniversaries will only be listed here upon request.

August 2023

Watch your email for an August date for our Installation/Post Birthday

	pon request.		celebration!			
Sunday	Monday Tuesday Wedr		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	<b>31</b> Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	1 SAL meeting 6:30pm	<b>2</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednesday	3 Legion meeting 6:30pm, NO AUX	4 Joker Poker in the clubroom	5
6	7 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 Purple Heart Day	8	<b>9</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednesday	10 Riders meeting 6:30pm	<b>11</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	12
Unit 346 Birthday 1925	14 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 V-J Day 1945	15	<b>16</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednesday	<b>17</b> Exec. Committee <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Home Board meeting 7:30pm	18 Joker Poker in the clubroom	19
20	21 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15 Senior Citizens Day	22 Submission Deadline for Sep/Oct Bulletin	<b>23</b> "Ro-Ro" Wednesday	24	25 Joker Poker in the clubroom Women's Equality Day	<b>26</b> National Convention 8/25 - 8/31 Charlotte, NC
27	28 Dinner at the Post 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	29	30 "Ro-Ro" Wednesday	31	1 Joker Poker in the clubroom September	2

## YOU HONORED US WITH YOUR SERVICE. Now let us honor you.



Join us for a complimentary meal and pre-planning briefing to learn about VA burial benefits available. For more information, contact Anthony.Lauri@DignityMemorial.com or 248-804-8493.

We're proud to partner with the Department of Michigan American Legion



Our sincere thanks to the Xemplar Club for their generous donations to the American Legion Boys State & Girls State programs of Michigan!



www.xemplarclub.org

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