



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI

January/February 2020 Issue



Vol. X Issue 3 ☆ Carol Hopson, Editor ☆ Proud Member of M.A.L.P.A.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Meeting Nights

1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm: SAL
1st Thur. of each month at 7:30pm: Legion & Auxiliary
3rd Thur. of each month at 7pm: Home Board
4th Thur. of each month at 7pm: Exec. Committee

Clubroom Hours

Monday - Friday: 2pm - 9pm Saturday: 12noon - 6pm
Open some Sundays for viewing of sporting events

Contact Info

248 - 478 - 9174
GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com
www.AmericanLegionPost346.org
LIKE us on Facebook!

Upcoming 18th District Legion & Auxiliary meetings:

Feb 9, 1:00pm @ Rochester 172

Upcoming 18th District SAL meetings:

Feb 6, 7:30pm @ Chief Pontiac 377



Come in where it's warm and relax in the Clubroom! Now, in addition to the dart board, we have a foosball table for your entertainment. PLUS the Post's new Michigan Lottery Pull Tab dispenser.

Try your luck at winning up to \$500!
License and house rules posted in clubroom.

NEW! Michigan Wild Second Chance Drawing!

You can cash in your winning \$5 Michigan Wild tickets **OR** enter them into the Second Chance Drawing. One winner will receive the total amount of all winning tickets entered, drawing will be at the Post during the St. Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner. **GOOD LUCK!**

Another way to help the post is to donate your points from GFS (Gordon Food Service) to American Legion Post 346. These points are primarily used to support Coney night supplies.



Please remember:

There will be **NO** Legion, Auxiliary or SAL meetings for the month of January.



Volunteer opportunities coming up!

Feb. 02: Superbowl Sunday, contact Eric to help.
Each month: Food donations for monthly meetings. Contact Marya, Carol or Eric to help.

Keep an eye on your email for volunteer requests from the Legion, Auxiliary and SAL. Thank you!

2020 Membership Renewal

If you have already paid your dues, Thank You! **Please ignore duplicate renewal notices that may be mailed to you, DO NOT send duplicate payments.** These notices are automatically generated by Department HQ and may not reflect recent payments. If you have received your new membership card, you're all set! If you have paid but have not yet received your new card, you can send an inquiry to your membership chairman:

Legion \$50 - Dave Harmon - email: dharmon007@hotmail.com or call: 313-378-9197

Auxiliary \$30, Jr. \$10 - Carol Hopson - email: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com or call: 248-910-2586

SAL \$25, Jr. \$11 - Eric Welter - email: salsquadron346@gmail.com or call: 248-895-6674

Remember, your current membership expired on December 31, 2019! Please renew ASAP or you may lose any continuous years of membership that you have accumulated. Your Post 346 leaders value and appreciate the membership of each and every one of you. Thank you, Marya, Carol and Eric

January is National Blood Donor Month

Legion members everywhere are encouraged to give blood as part of the American Legion Blood Donor Program - a program that has existed since 1946 to help a life-saving cause that becomes even more important during the harsh winter months. If you decide to donate blood anywhere during the year, please inform our Commander or Adjutant so that your donation can be included in our Consolidated Post Report and we can receive credit for our Post and Department.



Happy New Year 2020!

Jan/Feb 2020 vol. X issue 3. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership for the year 2018-19: LGN 193, AUX 123, SAL 88 = 404. Proud member of M.A.L.P.A. The Michigan American Legion Press Association.

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

Groves-Walker Bulletin Editor - Carol Hopson
Groves-Walker American Legion Post 346
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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, I may not have room to print all articles and I may need to edit for length.* Articles can be submitted at any time, **please don't wait for the deadline of Saturday Feb. 15th for the March/April 2020 issue of the Bulletin.**

Chaplain's Corner Andy Machcinski

My Fellow Legionnaires,
Now that Christmas has passed "you all" have 360 something days, or so, to shop for next year, the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony is done and the Winter Solstice has once again started adding seconds, minutes and hours to our day, I want to say to one and all... HAPPY HEALTHY NEW YEAR!!!



The Christmas season is a time for reflection and family, like them or not, and that includes our American Legion family. With the New Year in full force and life returning to winter normal please do not forget our American Legion family and all the veterans and active duty personnel who did not have the chance this year to spend time with their loved ones. Some are deployed, others are in hospitals, and some are just lost souls. Please think a kind thought for them, say a prayer or just stop for a moment and wish them peace. Peace of mind, heart and soul.

As a parting thought I wish every member of our Post and every Post the Lords Blessing for health and serenity:

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*

Your Chaplain,
Regards, Andy



Legion 1st Vice Commander Mike LaFave

Hello Everyone, I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas break! There are a few big veteran benefits updates I want to share with you. The biggest news item is that the DoD has expanded Commissary, Exchange, and MWR access to:

- Veterans with a service-connected disability rating of 0% - 90%,
- Purple Heart recipients,
- Former POWs,
- and PCAFC caregivers.

This begins on January 1, 2020. Qualified veterans must have a VA-issued Veterans Health Identification Card (VHIC) in order to gain base access, and the VHIC must show the qualifying designation on the card. Eligible caregivers under the Program of Comprehensive Asst. for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) program must have a letter from the VA and a valid form of ID to gain base access and use these amenities. Under the current rules, veterans will only be allowed to access the base if they have the Veterans Healthcare Identification Card. Those who do not have a VHIC or are ineligible for a VHIC will not be able to access DoD and Coast Guard installations. However, they would still be eligible to use the online Exchanges, which opened up eligibility to all veterans in 2018.

What Access Does this Cover?

Those who are eligible for base access under these new rules will be eligible to access the following facilities starting Jan. 1, 2020 - Commissaries, Military Service Exchanges, Select MWR Retail Facilities. Some examples of the MWR Retail activities include entertainment, clubs, recreational lodging/resorts, special interest activities, bowling, golf, restaurants, marinas, equipment rental, movie theaters, vehicle storage, kennels, recreational lodging, RV campgrounds, AmericanForcesTravel.com and more. Use of MWR activities primarily funded by appropriations and child development programs are not authorized under this program. A note About Commissary Access: The DoD is required to charge a small fee to new users who are eligible solely under the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018, to cover any increase in costs to the U.S. Treasury for processing commercial credit and debit cards.

Congratulations to our 2019 Post Member of the Year

Alan Huet



And also to our 2019 Post Jr. Contributor of the Year Taliy Koponen

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



Entering a New Year is a time of reflection for many of us. Thankful for what we have, mindful of the challenging roads we have traveled, and with renewing thoughts and hopes, we look forward to the New Year with all of our plans and aspirations.

Our Home Board has made significant progress in 2019 with the replacement of the front steps and improvements to our banquet rooms. This is absolutely essential as the income from rentals is what keeps our Post open. Bravo to our dedicated volunteers for the big projects and the small ones throughout the building. I am thankful for these and the many spirited individuals who dedicate time for our traditional events as well as those that make our Post routinely filled with fun and camaraderie through Sunday football, Cornhole Tuesdays, SAL events and our Monday Coney dinners. They are the heart of our Legion family.

Many of us have had to endure family crisis and personal challenges this past year. In time, we may realize these challenges make us stronger. I've heard it said, 'It is not the situation that defines you, but rather how you react to that situation.' Many of us have lost loved ones. The sadness gives us pause. Yet we all can take strength in the friendships that are around us.

So, what will the new year bring for you? Renewed dedication? Purposeful gratitude?

When my dad died several years ago, I was so moved by the beautiful Veterans' ceremony at the funeral, that I rededicated my efforts to joining the Honor Guard. And Groves-Walker Post 346 was right here to welcome me. While my conscious thought was to pay it forward, I had no idea this family would welcome me with open arms and become such an integral positive force in my life.

I look forward to the new year with all of you.
In service,
Marya Davis, Commander



A great big thank you to all those who have helped to repair, rejuvenate and beautify our building, including Alan Huet, Taliy Koponen, Mike D'Arcangelo and Kevin Griswold.

The more we share,
the more we have.



My 2 Cents...
Unit 346 President
Carol Hopson



Greetings Auxiliary!

Just a quick article this time. Just want to give a big Thank You to everyone who helped make the holiday season at our Post a success. From Refugee Thanksgiving, to the Christmas party, Veteran's Day, Spaghetti Dinner and MVF lunch, the Wreath Laying Ceremony, Donations for our Christmas family, not to mention all the improvements happening around the building, I am so very proud of all our "Legion Family" members. **Thank You.**

I want to sincerely wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, Peaceful and Bountiful New Year. That's my 2 cents worth, I'm always eager to hear yours,
Carol Hopson, President

No, this is not a giant balloon for a big parade downtown. Yet many spirits will be uplifted as these Tabs for Tots, collected from our Post and many other local organizations, are for the Ronald McDonald House in Detroit which offers nearby lodging for families of Children



being cared for in a local hospital during stressful and uncertain times. Many thanks to Aux. member Katie O'Leary and her granddaughter Ava and friends for their dedicated efforts! You keep bringing those tabs in,

and these dedicated young citizens will collect and redeem them for this worthy purpose.

Volunteers Needed!

The Wixom Constitution Post 224 Memorial Rifle Squad provides Military Honors for our departed Veterans recognizing their service to our Country. Honors rendered in rain, shine, hot & cold. We do it for the love of our country and the honor in providing services for our veterans but most importantly, to remind all that FREEDOM IS NOT FREE.



The Wixom Rifle Squad serves every 3rd Thursday at **Great Lakes National Cemetery** from 9am to 2:30pm. Uniform and Transportation is provided by American Legion Post 224 in Wixom, Michigan. Please contact Bill Lapham at emp68@comcast.net



TAPS

John E. Grossman Jr.

John AKA "Mr. Apple", age 74, of Walled Lake, passed away November 28, 2019. He was born in Chicago, IL., in 1945.

John is preceded in death by his first wife Judith and his sister, Sophie Valnoha. He is the loving husband of Sharon, they have been married for four years; beloved father of John III, Thomas, Kricia Doescher (Jesse), Theresa Evans and Jennifer Evans; cherished grandfather of Natalie, Davin, Chad and Kaylee.



John was a proud American Veteran, serving our country in the Navy during the Vietnam War. He belonged to American Legion Posts #346 and #224. He served both of those posts in various positions including Commander at #346 and Finance Officer at both #346 and #224. John was also a member of the local VFW. For the past 5 years John was a member of one of the rifle squads that serves Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, MI. Funeral arrangements: Heeney-Sundquist funeral home. Internment: Great Lakes National Cemetery at a later date. Donations can be made to the American Legion in John's name.

This space RESERVED for You!

Are you a business owner? Have you ever considered advertising to your friends and neighbors in a local publication? The Bulletin is seen by hundreds of local Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members, their families and friends bimonthly. Advertising in the Groves-Walker Bulletin can be a very cost-effective local advertising choice. Interested? Contact Carol at: 248-910-2586 or email to: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

Contact Commander Marya for Volunteer projects:

- Enlisted military insignia needed for Clubroom display.
- Assistance to sell cemetery plots would bring thousands of dollars back to the Post.
- AV equipment expertise needed to fix an overhead projector.



Chaplain Andy visits nursing homes for Veterans Day ceremonies.



Chaplain Andy (with President Carol) and Officer Andrew Morche of the Farmington Police are shown here visiting Medi-Lodge in Farmington. Photo: Carol Hopson



Join our list to receive a text alert when anything fun is happening in the clubroom! Send your name and phone number to: GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

Hopefully you joined the American Legion because the organization means something to you, because you care about helping our active duty service members, veterans and their families. **Because our Post means something to you,** a place to meet, share, donate, have fun with your comrades, somewhere to see the big game, relax with friends and family or enjoy delicious dinners.

Please show you care about our Post and the American Legion by coming to monthly meetings and contributing your voice to ours, your hands to ours, a bit of your time to ours.

Become an ACTIVE member of Post 346!



Looking for a more tangible way to honor our Veterans? Donate to your Post!

Mail this coupon along with your donation to Post 346. Please make checks payable to (your choice: American Legion Post 346, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 346, or American Legion SAL Squadron 346). I would like my donation put toward:

- Boys State
- Legion Poppy fund
- Building maintenance & upgrades
- Legion General fund
- SAL General fund
- Other: _____



- Girls State
- Auxiliary Poppy fund
- Aux. Christmas adopt-a-family
- Auxiliary General fund
- Kitchen pantry supplies (see our Amazon.com wishlist!)

The Officers of Post 346 for 2019 - 2020

PRIVACY POLICY

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



SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
February 2, 2020

Game starts at 6:30pm
Clubroom opens at 5:30pm
 Bring your tailgate favorites
 for the pot-luck buffet.



And don't forget about all the College Bowl Games and NFL Playoff action during January in the clubroom!



A BIG thank you to the SAL for another great comedy night show from Keven Downey Jr. and his comedian friends who shared the stage that night. And to the AUX for a delicious Spaghetti Dinner before the show.
 Photo: Carol Hopson

Come on down to the Post
 To play Corn-hole!
 Every Tuesday night from 6 - 9 pm



Never let the things you want
 make you forget the things you have.

Auxiliary MVF Luncheon



Our thanks to everyone who helped the Auxiliary at our luncheon for the homeless vets from the Michigan Veterans Foundation, including those pictured here - Judy Mau, Fran Skaisgir, Jim Forbes, Myrtle Granger, Jan Yount and Leah Brancheau. Photos: Carol Hopson

Tabs for Tots donations now go to Ronald McDonald House Charities. Keeping families with sick children together and near the care and resources they need. RMHC is helping millions of families with sick children find comfort and support when they need it most.



Don't let this issue of the Bulletin be your LAST issue! Make sure your 2020 dues are paid.



Talk About
 ☆☆☆ The ☆☆☆
American Legion

To Everyone!

January Birthdays

03 Dan Heffernan
 04 Gary Brewer
 08 Helen Currie
 09 Jarrett Lott
 09 Jim O'Keefe
 10 John Hoelscher
 11 Olivia Griswold
 13 Barbara Piotrowski
 13 Judy Sackett
 14 Julie Gogowski
 15 Ken Balcom
 16 Glenn Griffin
 17 Susan Duquette
 18 David Schwartz
 20 Brian Jankowski

21 Dan Festian
 22 Tina Gould
 24 Marty Chinn
 25 Laureen Gogowski
 29 Donald Sofferin
 29 Elizabeth Dopkowski

January Anniversaries

01 Mike & Toni Hughes



The American Legion believes membership applications are something that every Legionnaire should carry in his or her wallet at all times. You never know when you may run into someone who might like to join our post! Applications are ALWAYS available in the clubroom.

ADVERTISE IN THE BULLETIN!

For more info contact
 Carol Hopson at:
 GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

TABS FOR TOTS

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

Want to see your name above?
 Please contact Carol Hopson at:
 GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

January 2020

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD	30 NO Coney Night	31 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	1 NO SAL meeting  New Years Day	2 NO Legion & Auxiliary meetings 	3	4
5 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD	6 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm 	7 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	8	9	10	11
12 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD	13 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm	14 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	15	16 Home Board meeting 7:00pm 	17  Operation Desert Storm began 1991	18
19 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD	20 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	22	23 Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm 	24	25  Chinese New Year of the Rat
26 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD 	27 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm	28 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm Coast Guard B.day US - Vietnam Ceasefire 1973	29	30	31	1



February Birthdays

09 Ted Podsiady
 13 Tammy Festian
 14 Carol Thompson
 20 Dave Franzen
 23 Curtis Steelman
 24 Christina Gould
 25 Aiyana Allen
 29 Mike Williams
 HAPPY LEAP YEAR!



Happy Groundhog Day!

February Anniversaries

03 Marian Belaire
 20 Gil & Mary Naylor
 23 Jim & Debbie Brancheau

Coming up in March

04 SAL meeting
05 Legion & Auxiliary meetings
 05 Seabee's Birthday
 08 Daylight Savings Time begins - Spring ahead!
 13 MI K-9 Veteran's Day
 15 American Legion B.day
 17 Saint Patrick's Day
 19 Spring begins
 25 National Medal of Honor Day
 29 Vietnam Veterans Day

ONEY NIGHT FUNDRAISER!

Monday evenings
 in the Clubroom
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
**GOOD FOOD,
 GREAT PRICES!**

**Members and their
 guests always
 enjoy free WiFi
 in the clubroom**

Want to see your name above?
 Please contact Carol Hopson at:
 GrovesWalkerPost346@gmail.com

February 2019

Watch your email for details
 on upcoming events!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Football viewing in the clubroom time TBD	27 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm	28 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm <u>Coast Guard B.day</u> US - Vietnam Ceasefire 1973	29	30	31	1  Freedom Day
2 Superbowl Sunday Open at 5:30pm Groundhog Day	3 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm 	4 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	5 SAL meeting 6:30pm 	6 Legion & Auxiliary meetings 7:30pm 	7	8
9	10 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm	11 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13	14  Valentine's Day	15 Susan B. Anthony Day
16	17 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm Presidents Day	18 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	19	20 Home Board meeting 7:00pm 	21	22  Washington's Birthday
23  Flag raised on Iwo Jima 1945	24 Coney Night fundraiser 5 -7pm Operation Desert Storm begins 1991	25 Corn-hole open play 6 - 9pm	26	27 Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm 	28 Operation Desert Storm ceasefire 1991	29 Leap Day



Making Good in the Midwest

by Gerald R. Lynch

Available at B&N and Amazon \$14.99
Paperback, 150 pages, ISBN 978-1721604722

Post 346 member Jerry Lynch, who now lives in Bay City, published this collection of poems, stories and essays in 2018. Jerry addresses the unique character and outlook that make the Midwest and it's people so distinctive and offers a fascinating and varied take on the lives of people 'Making Good in the Midwest'.

Jerry's thoughtful lyric poetry addresses issues of life's meaning and the passage of time. His stories, essays, and narrative poems take you on a literary journey from growing up on a farm near Bay City, to a reflection on the changing seasons of Michigan and many other points of interest along the way.

MAKING GOOD
IN THE MIDWEST
poems, stories, and essays



GERALD R. LYNCH

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



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REALTOR®
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Website: Century21Hartford.com

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FAX: (248) 478-6007
Cell: (248) 521-1134



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
President

248-474-5200



Farmington Road,
Just N of Grand River
Downtown Farmington

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

The Groves-Walker Bulletin

January/February 2020 Issue



Rent at Groves-Walker Post 346!

Rent by the hour, or by the month, reasonable rates. We have two banquet rooms, kitchen space, tables and chairs for almost any need. Floor plans, photos and more information available on our website:
www.AmericanLegionPost346.org/hall-rental

Meetings
Businesses
Game Nights
Fund Raisers
Church Groups
Fitness Classes
Dances / Parties
Special Occasions
Classes / Seminars
Community Groups



LegionRental346@gmail.com for more info!

The American Legion
Groves-Walker Post 346
Veterans Helping Veterans,
Their Families
and the Community,
Since 1923

248 - 478 - 9174
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