



# The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI  
January 2015 Edition



Vol. V Issue 5 ☆ Carol Philp, Editor ☆ Member of M.A.L.P.A.

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

## The Wit & Wisdom of Jim... Post 346 Commander James Weston



Happy New Year Legionnaires, SAL & Auxiliary, A new year is upon us, hope we all had a joyous Xmas with friends & family, and Santa was good to all of you. I'd like to thank Jim K, Pat, Bob, George, Evo, Gary & Gene for helping put up the Post's Nativity scene.

Now is the time to look forward to 2015. We're doing a lot of work around the Post but there's still a lot to be done inside and outside of the building. Volunteers and donations are always appreciated.

I expect our Christmas Pot-luck Party had a good turnout on the 19th of December, good food, music, & karaoke. Late in January there will probably be another Steak Fry or Fish Fry. Check the sign-up board in the Clubroom or contact our 2nd Vice Commander for more information.

January Exec. Board meeting will be on 1/5 and the Legion & Auxiliary meetings on 1/8, hope to see all of you attend. We're looking for a member to take over the Poppy program, so keep that in mind also.

God bless America & our troops in foreign lands,

Jim Weston, Commander

## ALL YOU CAN EAT SPAGHETTI DINNER & LEGION RAFFLE DRAWING!

Everyone Welcome!  
Saturday **February 7th**  
5:00 to 7:00 pm

Adults \$8  
Children \$5 (under 13)  
Don't forget to bring  
your Raffle ticket stub  
and get 1/2 off the price  
of your dinner!



With Garlic Bread, Salad & Desert included

**Because of the volume of people we are expecting to attend this dinner and raffle drawing, it is VERY IMPORTANT to let us know you're coming by using the sign-up sheet in the clubroom, emailing to [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org) or by calling the Post at 248-478-9174.**



## Blue Eyes Blog... Unit 346 President Tamela Festian



The Holiday season was a merry one and the food was festive. It makes one wonder, why we only have all this good food at the holidays when it can be enjoyed thru-out the year as it was at our Post Christmas gathering. Many of us make New Year's resolutions. The Ladies Auxiliary's resolution is to become more active and to get more new members. When we all work together we become a stronger Unit.

Last month was a busy one for all of us. Our 18th District President Angela Galbraith, attended our December meeting. Angela, was very thankful for the invitation to join us. She was impressed with our mitten tree for the needy. She indicated that she was going to mention the idea to other Units.

Into the new year, our plans are to have the Raffle Drawing and Spaghetti Dinner on February 7th. So, please return all tickets stubs ASAP. A care package is going to be started for our troops, to be sent out for Valentine's Day. Donations are being accepted (see pg.4), more details will be announced later. In the spirit of holiday giving, we put together care packages for two needy families in the area, with gifts for the children and food for all. It was very rewarding. The Unit also made donations to all 8 VA Hospitals. Thank You, to all the ladies who helped our Unit in 2014. And to all, enjoy the New Year, and accept the cold air nipping at your nose with a smile.

Tammy Festian, Auxiliary President



18th District Auxiliary President Angela Galbraith made her annual visit for our December Unit meeting. Angela is shown, with President Tammy, opening her Christmas gift from our Unit.  
Photo: Carol Philp

January 2015 vol. V issue 5. 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.

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## A Letter From Your Editor Carol Philp

I hope everyone had a peaceful, joyful and memorable Christmas season and are looking forward to a Great New 2015!



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 February 2015 edition of the Bulletin is January 17th.**

Thank you, Carol Philp

## Raffle Chairman G. Skip Nafe

Dear Fellow Legionnaires, Sons and Ladies,  
Thank you for sending your responses to the Raffle so quickly. Please remember when purchasing your tickets to return the subs, not the tickets. Anyone wishing more tickets sell, please call me, I will see to it you get your request ASAP. To all my sellers out there, you're doing a great job, THANK YOU! Please leave your sold ticket stubs in a sealed envelope, with my name on it, at the Clubroom. The tickets must come to me first, so they can be recorded before money is turned over to the Finance Officer. Hoping everyone had a Wonderful Christmas Holiday and a Great and Safe New Years!

G. Skip Nafe  
248-419-0000



These letters are from Señorita Williams' 2nd - 4th grade and Ms. Leach's 1st grade students at Faxon Language Immersion Academy in Farmington. The children wrote thank you letters for Veterans Day and wanted to share them with our Vets. The letters and artwork were passed around, read and taken home by members at the Dec. meeting. They were a big hit!

## Post Sr. Vice Commander Post Service Officer Anthony Mallia



Membership Report: PUFL 28, Renewals 214, Current 242 Goal 279, 86.74%! Reminder for those who have not yet paid their 2015 dues – Please send in your payment as soon as you can to continue the benefits of a membership in the American Legion and Post 346.

Service Officer Report: Any Members that help transport a veteran to a VA Hospital, give blood, volunteer to help the homeless, etc. please send a report to me, the Post can get credit for your generosity.

Tony Mallia, Sr. Vice Commander

## Sons of the American Legion Commander Robert Smart



We hope everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas. The SAL is looking for a great 2015 for all our members. We will be having a Valentine's Day Steak fry on Sunday Feb 15th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. We are working on a great dinner and music for your dancing pleasure. All this for only \$12.00 per dinner! The sign-up sheet will be in the club room after New Year's Day, please let us know you're coming! We will have a limited amount of steaks and we want to make sure everyone gets a dinner. Keep an eye out for up and coming new events at the Post. We would like to wish all members, their families and all our soldiers, a safe and a great 2015.

Rob Smart, SAL Commander

## In Recognition of Our Volunteers

Many of us from Post 346 know little or nothing about all of the members who volunteer their time and efforts to promote the programs of the American Legion and Auxiliary at Post 346. These members do not give their time to these programs for kudos or recognition, they do it to further the purposes of the American Legion, strengthen our American values, and to promote the good in the world.



This month, I'd like to thank Judy Mau for her contributions to the Auxiliary over the years. Not only was Judy our Auxiliary President for the years of 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2009-10, but she has now been our Girls State chairman for 10 continuous years. She took over the position from Emily Sisson and has consistently sent 8-10 girls to Girls State each year, that would make a total of 800-1000 girls! Thank you Judy!

## Thank You...

A big THANK YOU to Joan Chapel (from Our Lady of Sorrows church in Farmington Hills) who donated 13 folding chairs and a card table (in excellent condition) to the Post! Her late husband was a veteran and she asked a member of the K of C from Sorrows if he could find a good home for them. Our thanks also goes to George Curran who delivered the table and chairs. We're so glad they chose us, thank you again!

Remember: You're braver than you believe,  
and stronger than you seem,  
and smarter than you think. - A.A. Milne



The Officers of Post 346 for 2014-15

GROVES-WALKER BULLETIN 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 concerning Post Officers may call Post 346 at 248-478-9174 or email to [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org)

Thank you



## ☞ TAPS ☜

Our condolences to the families and friends  
of the following members:

James J Belanger  
Richard R Cronkhite July 22, 2012  
Gloria Bytner September 2014  
Patricia Benefiel November 2014

### Auxiliary "Valentine Care Packages"

Donations are now being accepted for military "Care Packages" to be sent overseas in time for Valentine's Day. The Aux. would like to send: drink mixes (powder or liquid), tea bags, (Sriracha) hot sauce, hand sanitizer, candy, nuts, chips, jerky, personal hygiene products, wet wipes, etc. Please leave all donations, marked "CARE PACKAGES" at the Clubroom, THANK YOU!



**SCOUT Military Discounts** is the most comprehensive military discount app for your Smartphone. It puts information about over 125,000 military discounts, USO locations, nonprofits that benefit you, freebies and more at the fingertips of veterans, active military & their families. The SCOUT app is now available on iOS and Google Play. Download apps and get more information at <http://www.scoutmilitarydiscounts.com>

### Detroit Lions Game Parties Presented by the S.A.L.

Keep your eyes open for dates and times for the Lions in the Playoffs and come down to watch with us!



Come watch the Lions make their playoff run on our big screen TV! Come on down, support your Post and see who the guest bartender will be. Food and drink specials will be offered during the game only, no tokens will be given out. If you would like to volunteer to bring a dish to pass or bar-tend, sign up sheets are in the clubroom. Let's have a great time cheering on the Lions!

### Coming up in February: Valentine's Day Steak Fry



Sunday Feb. 15th 5:00 - 7:00pm  
\$12 per person

Includes: Baked potato, roll & butter, salad & desert  
And music for your dancing pleasure!

## - PLEASE -

If you have email access, allow me to send your monthly Bulletin to you via email. Please help save the Post the costs of printing and postage for the Bulletin. Email Carol at [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org)

Also, if you do not care to have the Bulletin mailed (or emailed) to you (perhaps you live out of state?) please contact me.

- Thank You -

## 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: [AMNOV1@att.net](mailto:AMNOV1@att.net)

Thank you, Jim Weston, Commander

### 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



**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: [amnov1@att.net](mailto:amnov1@att.net) or call 248-310-4190.





### A Week That Shapes a Lifetime

Now is the time to start thinking about the Boys State program. Boys State will be held at Northwood University in Midland in June 2015. The American Legion believes our American government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching our youth to understand and appreciate our democratic process, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations.

**Anyone can sponsor a young man to Boys State** by contacting Boys State Chairman Joel Storchan at 734-367-4630 or email to [jstorchan@yahoo.com](mailto:jstorchan@yahoo.com). We highly encourage individuals and civic-minded organizations alike to sponsor high school junior men to Boys State. The cost is \$325, but partial scholarships are accepted and encouraged. You can also contact us if you want to get involved with the program as a volunteer.

### Cub Scout Flag Achievement Ceremony 12/9



Post 346 invited Cub Scout Wolf Pack 45 from Longacre elementary school to participate in a Flag Achievement ceremony at the Post. Attending were 23 Wolf Scouts, 16 adults and visitors. Three members of our Honor Guard directed the Scouts and helped with the ceremony.

The Scouts went outside to learn how to raise and lower the flag properly, once back inside everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance in unison. The Scouts then broke into small groups to learn how to fold and display the flag with respect. The program ended with our SAL furnishing pizza for everyone. These Cub Scouts now have an enhanced appreciation for our nation's flag thanks to the Legion. Photo: Jim Koponen

### Did you know about all the discounts you can receive as an American Legion member?

(The American Legion does not guarantee any discount, discounts may change) For example, show your membership card and receive discounts from:

**Hotels:** Wyndham  
Baymont  
Knights Inn  
Ramada  
Super 8  
Planet Hollywood  
Howard Johnson  
Days Inn  
Travelodge  
Motel 6

**Rental cars:** Alamo  
Avis  
Hertz  
Budget  
National

**Gifts:** 1-800-flowers.com  
1-800-baskets.com

**Medical:**  
LifeStation Medical Alert  
Life Line Screening  
CVS Caremark  
Hear PO  
EyeMed (Lenscrafters,  
Pearle Vision, Sears Optical,  
Target Optical, JCP Optical,  
many independent opticians)

**Other:**  
USAA  
United of Omaha  
Apple Computers  
Dell Computers  
Sears Commercial  
... and many, many more!



### A Great Big Thank You!

To everyone who donated to the Auxiliary's Annual Mitten Tree. There were so many hats, scarves, mittens, etc. covering the tree beneath! Donations go to our local Goodfellows to be distributed to the needy this cold winter season. Thank you all for your generosity!



January Birthdays

- 1 Margaret Buckner
- 1 Juanita Belanger
- 1 Mary Hill
- 1 Dorothy Purdy
- 4 Gary Brewer
- 8 Helen Currie
- 9 Jarrett Lott
- 12 Loraine Sheahan
- 13 Barbara Piotriwski
- 13 Judy Sackett
- 14 Julie Gogowski
- 15 Ken Balcom
- 16 Becky Parpart
- 16 Glenn Griffin
- 18 David Schwartz
- 21 Dan Festian
- 22 Tina Gould
- 23 Libby Christensen
- 23 Andrew Lysak
- 24 Ashley Popa
- 25 Lauren Gogowski

- 28 Lois Thill
- 28 Laura Mauck
- 29 Franklin Rashid
- 29 Donald Sofferin
- 29 Elizabeth Dopkowski
- 31 Thomas R. Mattison

January Anniversaries

- 1 Mike & Toni Hughes

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

Remember, the only way I can correctly list your birthdays and anniversaries is if you give them to me to publish in the Bulletin.

Coming up in February

- 1 Freedom Day
- Superbowl Sunday
- 2 Groundhog Day
- 5 Legion & Aux. meetings**
- 7 RAFFLE DRAWING!**
- 12 Abraham Lincoln's Bday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Steak Fry w/ Music!**
- 15 Susan B. Anthony Day
- 16 President's Day
- 17 Mardi Gras
- 18 Ash Wednesday
- 19 Chinese New Year - Year of the Sheep
- 22 George Washington's 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.

**HALL RENTAL**

Don't forget your Post when it comes to hall rentals for your next big occasion!  
 Call 248-478-9174



# January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm	29	30	31	1  New Year's Day	2	3  Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
4	5 Exec. Board Meeting 7:30pm  Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	6	7	8 Legion & Aux. meetings 7:30pm	9	10  Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
11	12  Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	13	14 SAL meeting 7:30pm	15	16 Submission deadline for Feb. Bulletin	17  Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
18	19 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Home Board meeting 7:30pm  Inauguration Day	21	22	23	24  Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm
25	26  Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	27	28  Coast Guard Birthday	29	30	31  Farmington Farmers Market 9am-2pm



# 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

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# The Groves-Walker Bulletin

## January 2015 Edition



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& Gifts

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[www.facebook/GGsBoutique](http://www.facebook/GGsBoutique)

**Meeting Nights**

Legion & Auxiliary - 1st Thur. of each month at 7:30pm  
SAL - 2nd Wed. of each month at 7:30pm  
Home Board - 3rd Tues. of each month at 7:30pm  
Exec. Board - Mon. before Legion & Aux.  
meeting at 7:30pm

**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, call **(248) 478-9174**  
Visit our website at  
**[www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org](http://www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org)**  
Email the Post, Officers or Bulletin editor at  
**[INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org](mailto:INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org)**

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

