



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI

July/August 2015 Edition



Vol. V Issue 9 ☆ Carol Hopson, Editor ☆ Member of M.A.L.P.A.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Chartered 1922 - For God and Country ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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



Legionnaires, SAL & Auxiliary,
First and foremost, thank you Legion members for my re-election as Commander for 2015-16. I will do my best to keep the Post going in the right direction. Poppy sales went very well, thank you to Skip for taking this over, and to the members who were out there offering poppies.

Happy 4th of July to all! Have a safe and enjoyable time with friends and family. We will once again be having a Coney dog booth at the Farmington Farmer's Market on the 4th of July, with our honor guard representing the Post. If you're in town, stop by for a hot dog and some conversation.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN JULY OR AUGUST. Our Installation of new officers and dinner will be on Sunday August 23rd. Cocktails starting at 1:00pm, installation at 2:00pm and dinner to follow at approx. 4:00pm. Hope to see many Legion, SAL and Auxiliary members in attendance. Again, thank you for re-electing me your Commander. God bless America and our troops abroad.

Jim Weston, Commander

**There will be NO regular membership meetings in July and August.
Have a peaceful, fun and safe summer!**

**Don't forget about our Installation of new officers for 2015-16 coming up on Sunday August 23rd
Cocktails 1:00pm, Installation 2:00pm
Buffet dinner to follow (approx. 4:00pm)**

**Next meeting will be Thursday
September 10th, 7:30pm**

Learn from the mistakes of others.
You won't live long enough
to make them all yourself.



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



Well, it is hard to believe that the month of June is here. However, I'll take the hot weather as opposed to the bitter cold weather.

Well, Poppy Days and the Memorial Day Parade are behind us. Thank you to the ladies who returned their envelopes with poppy donations. But, I must say how disappointing it was not receiving more help from ladies for this 3 day event. I'm very grateful to Myrtle Granger, who is 86 years old, for her help. She believes in the old tradition that we should honor veterans with the poppy sale. After all, it is one of the oldest fundraisers for the Auxiliary. Thank you to Carol Hopson for helping out at the Farmer's Market booth and collecting poppy donations there. Thank you also to the ladies who showed up to march at the parade. The member turnout was very low. Thank you also to Miss Farmington and her court who walked along the sidewalks with poppies and collected donations during the Memorial Day Parade. The total of poppy donations collected will be announced at the September meeting.

My wish for all of you is to have a safe and fun time this summer. We will see you for our September meeting on Thursday the 10th (NOT the 3rd, because of Labor Day weekend).

Tammy Festian, President



Auxiliary President Tammy Festian and dedicated Auxiliary member Myrtle Granger hitting the streets offering poppies to the public during Poppy Days.

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Carol Hopson

A Very Very Happy Belated Birthday to Jim O'Keefe!
I hope everyone is enjoying the new bimonthly Bulletin, comments are always welcome, email to: info@americanlegionpost346.org or leave a note at the Post addressed to me.

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 the room to print all articles (or some articles in their entirety).* **The submission deadline for the Sept/Oct 2015 edition of the Bulletin is August 18th.**

Thank you, Carol Hopson

SAL Commander

Rob Smart

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. If it would just not rain for a few days! I hope you will all keep an eye on the Bulletin for upcoming events. We will be having our Detroit Lion Football Sunday Parties again this year when the season starts. This has turned into a Sunday MUST, stop on down and see what a good time is going on. We will also be starting the SAL Steak Frys in September. Enjoy your summer and please do not forget our soldiers all over the world, and keep them in your prayers.

Rob Smart
SAL Commander

**Keep your eyes peeled
for the announcement of
an SAL Pig Roast coming up
in September!**

FYI: VA has a comprehensive national VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) to give enrolled Veterans and CHAMPVA beneficiaries the opportunity to purchase dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. Purchasing a dental plan does not affect Veterans' eligibility for VA dental services and treatment. Covered services include diagnostic, preventative, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Each participant pays the fixed monthly premiums for coverage and any copayments required, depending on the type of plan selected. For more information go to: <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip>

Post Adjutant

Dale Baxter

Hello Comrades,

This coming month marks for me the eve upon which I will start my second term as you post Adjutant and I look forward to working with our post officers and members to move this post forward and make it a shining example of what the American Legion is and stands for.

I can't help but think back on my first installation ceremony and how proud I felt that I could make a difference in this post, and still do. As I enter my second term as your post Adjutant and fellow comrade, I ask that each and every member take a look at our Preamble. The same Preamble that we state at each and every monthly meeting. "For God and Country, we associate ourselves." I've looked at that opening statement over and over and nowhere in our Preamble does it mention the word "I" or reference individualism. When I was sworn in, I was asked "Are you now ready and willing to obligate yourself as expressed in the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion" to which I replied "I am."

In this coming year, I challenge each and every member to evaluate his or her participation in this post and think about the "We" versus the "I". Together, WE can make this a great post that people will want to join and come to. So in the coming year my fellow comrades, that is my challenge to you.

Dale Baxter
Post Adjutant



I just wanted to send a note to American Legion Post 346 to say thank you so much for hosting our 2nd Annual Cancer KnockOuts Paint & Pour Fundraiser. We had a total of 69 painters and our event was a HUGE success - raising over \$1,000 for the American Cancer Society. A special thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for absorbing the cost of the food and to all of the Legion women who participated in this event... YOU ARE AWESOME! Thanks again for supporting our team and the American Cancer Society. Check out Paint & Pour on FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/thepaintandpoumobile#!/thepaintandpoumobile>

Sincerely, Denise Lis-Janssen (in pink wig above!)
Team Cancer KnockOuts



The Officers of Post 346 for 2015-16

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.

Thank you





A Thank You...

American Legion Poppy Days, Armed Forces Day, and the Farmington Farmer's Market season opening, How Grand! Our American Legion members hit the streets to offer poppies May 14, 15 & 16. Thank you to the motorists in Farmington and Farmington Hills for your donations. I personally would like to thank John Busch, owner of Busch's Market on Drake Rd. (among many Farmington and Farmington Hills business owners), and his managers Doug and Suzy, for allowing us offer poppies to their patrons. Your customers were very gracious, some digging deep into their pockets. One I'd like to mention in particular, a school teacher who had no money in his pocket but bartered a poppy for a cold can of crafted refreshment! I am grateful for your generosity toward our veterans.

At the Farmington Farmer's Market, the day started with a light misty rain, but our Legion Honor guard of Jim Koponen, Mike Williams and Jim Forbes brightened the opening ceremonies carrying our flags to the beautiful singing voice of Danielle Morse singing the National Anthem. My thanks goes out to Walt Gajewski and Mary Burck for allowing our Post 346 to offer not only hot dogs and Coney dogs but Poppies and American Legion information to their shoppers. Zack Peterlin of Peterlin's Restaurant donated hot dogs and buns, Busch's Market donated pop and Suzette and Ron Wright (Wright by Design Card Co.) donated bottled water. Last but not least, my thanks to the Legion crew for manning our booth. Chef Andy Machcinski not only grilled but helped sales by "barking" out to the crowd about our "World's Greatest Hot Dogs!" Marya Davis and Carol Hopson took orders and donations, and Dale Baxter, Jim Forbes and myself offered Poppies and American Legion information to the crowd. Most of all, thanks to my wife Pam for helping me put this event together as well as helping at the booth. My sincere thanks to all the shoppers at the Farmer's Market for their generosity toward our veterans. God has blessed this community, Thank You Farmington!

Art Mikkola USNR
Chairman, Farmer's Market booth

HELP NEEDED for July 4th Coney dog booth!
Please contact Art Mikkola at 248-345-9141



Two of our adorable little satisfied customers at the Post 346 Farmington Farmers Market Coney Dog Booth.
Photo: Marya Davis

Luncheon for MVF Vets - April 15



Jim Forbes helps to serve the vets from the MVF.



Our ever-loyal Auxiliary volunteers in the kitchen - (L to R) Leah Brancheau, Paula Cotroneio, Sandy McArthur, Fran Seager, Jan Smart, and MVF coordinator Juanicha Jackson. Looks like the MVF vets will be taking home left-overs! Photos: Jim Koponen



⌘ TAPS ⌘

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## John Cobb Jr.

March 02, 1927 - May 02, 2015  
Age 88, of Farmington. Lovingly survived by his daughter, 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. 23 Year member of American Legion Posts 190 and 346. Services were held May 06, 2015 at Michigan Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, Flat Rock. Interment in Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock.



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Charles E. Conzelman Jr.

July 4, 1920 - April 6, 2015
Age 94 of Northville. Beloved husband of the late Betty W., the devoted father of Jim (Pat) Conzelman, Paul Conzelman, Janice (Walter) Davison and Nancy (Steve O'Connor) Conzelman, and the adored grandfather of 7. Funeral held at the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, Northville. Although not a member, Post 346 has received many generous donations in this veteran's honor.



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 we need each member to provide a **redacted (sensitive information blacked out)** copy of your DD-214 as soon as possible. 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

Free yoga classes for Veterans and Families of Active Duty Military

The Detroit VA Hospital will be offering a weekly FREE Mindful Yoga Therapy class for Veterans at Karma Yoga West Bloomfield each Monday from 1-2:30. Karma Yoga is located at 6710 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield Township, 48322 in the West Bloomfield Plaza on Orchard Lake Road, south of Maple Road (248) 862-2015. Trauma-sensitive yoga class is designed for veterans and family members of our active military. Balance and calm the nervous system through mindfulness, breath work, yoga poses, meditation, awareness and acceptance. Class taught by Susann Spilkin, trained in "Mindful Yoga Therapy" (E-RYT 500).

A Thank You...

The Post received a thoughtful note from State Representative Christine Greig thanking us for allowing her to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. She says that it was an honor, and also sent a nice donation.

Post Poppy Chairman G. Skip Nafe

Hello All
It is time to close out the year, and start the 2016 Poppy Drive. 2015 was a good year for the Poppy fund. A total of nine members collected over \$4 thousand dollars in donations, and 122 members responded to the mail-in campaign sending in over \$2 thousand dollars. Minus expenses, we deposited over \$6 thousand dollars into the poppy fund. Members who solicited donations on the streets, in order of their contributions, are: Art Mikkola, Skip Nafe, Jim Koponen, Bill Croitori, Jim Forbes, Paul Dabbish, Jim Weston, Anthony Mallia, Marya Davis. Thank You ALL, for a job Well Done! We also gave out 2 appreciation plaques, to the Ram's Horn Restaurant in Farmington, and Leeza's Cafe in Farmington Hills. A Certificate of Appreciation went to Great Lakes ACE Hardware in Farmington Hills.

On a different note, we are working on 2 new projects:
1) The Ray Okonski Scholarship Program. Joel Storchan and I have been collaborating on this for a month now. The idea is to give 2 scholarships (1 boy & 1 girl) of \$5,000.00 each to go to a Jr. College or Trade school each year. More to follow on this!
2) Planning another Raffle like our very successful one done last fall. I'm hoping to kick it off in September.

That's all folks! Hope you're enjoying the summer!
G. Skip Nafe, Poppy Chairman

Firekeepers Casino Bus Trip - April 23



Auxiliary President/ Event coordinator Tammy Festian (center) poses with hopeful (of winning big!) bus riders on their way to Firekeepers Casino.
Photo: Jim Koponen



Farmington/Farmington Hills Memorial Day Parade



Our Legion members march proudly.



Tammy & Leah place wreaths at the Farmington War Memorial downtown for the Memorial Day Ceremony.



This year's student Americanism essay winners march with SAL member and contest coordinator Steve Koponen (with daughter Bella).
Photos: Dane Gussin, Carol Hopson and Sandra Koponen.



Flag Day - Flag Retirement Ceremony



Our traditional annual Flag Day Ceremony is, unfortunately, not very well attended, but holds much meaning for our members, and the K of C and scouts who assist in it. Thank you to the K of C for once again providing delicious refreshments after the ceremony.
Photos: Carol Hopson



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July Birthdays

- 8 Stacy Cromie
- 9 Catherine Arthur
- 10 Jen Chinn
- 11 Mike D'Arcangelo
- 16 Jim Hopson
- 17 Beth Gentile
- 18 Arlene Popp
- 20 Van Bytner
- 21 Stan Packard
- 23 Alfred Freude
- 25 Mitchell Swoboda
- 28 Jim Pearse
- 28 Doug Christensen
- 30 George Panaretos

July Anniversaries

- 10 Greg & Arlene Popp
- 16 Tim & Jan Yount
- 18 Rob & Pattie Holton
- 19 Steven & Sandra Koponen
- 22 Ed & Jean Purdy
- 25 Vasillie & Joanne Croitori
- 26 Norm & Myrtle Granger
- 31 George & Doreen Panaretos



**Monday
Dinner at the Post
6:00 - 8:00pm**

A different selection
each week
Mondays until Labor Day

**Great Prices
Great Food!**



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248-910-2586 or email to:
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Members enjoy free



In the Clubroom!

**Don't see your name above?
Please contact Carol Hopson at**
info@americanlegionpost346.org
or 248-910-2586

July 2015

We will no longer be featuring
the birthdays of **non-members**
Thank you

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	30 Exec. Board Meeting 7:00pm	1	2 NO Legion OR Aux. meetings	3	4 Farmington Farmers Market 10am - 2pm Post 346 Coney Dog Booth <small>Independence Day</small>
5	6 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	7	8 SAL meeting 7:30pm	9	10 Post 346 Birthday	11
12	13 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	14	15	16 <small>Ramadan</small>	17	18
19	20 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	21 NO Home Board meeting	22	23	24	25
26 <small>Parents Day</small>	27 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	28	29	30	31	1 AUGUST



August Birthdays

- 2 Brett Hall
- 2 Richard Lukey Sr.
- 3 James Templin
- 6 Louie Kordus
- 8 Anita J. Martell
- 10 Peter Larion
- 11 Martin Kozicki
- 11 Joseph Seyuin
- 13 Joanne Dopkowski
- 13 Tom Grossman
- 14 Norma Goers
- 15 Wally Christensen
- 16 Joyce Strong
- 18 Ashley, Janice & Katherine Faucher

- 18 Ted Czerwinski
- 19 Gil Naylor
- 20 Virginia Martin
- 20 Jan Yount
- 22 Fran Goers
- 24 George Berling
- 27 Thomas James
- 27 Robbie Smart
- 28 Cindy Walton
- 29 Janice Heldenbrand
- 30 Tony Mallia

August Anniversaries

- 5 William & Theresa Warren
- 26 Norm & Fran Goers

Coming up in September

- 3 V-J Day
- 7 Labor Day
- 10 Legion & Aux meetings
- 11 Patriot Day
- 13 SAL Lions Football Party 4:00 vs Chargers
- 13 Grandparents Day
- 17 Citizenship Day
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- POW/MIA Recognition day
- 21 Intntl Day of Peace
- 22 Autumn begins
- 27 Gold Star Mother's Day
- TBA SAL Pig Roast

MONDAY CONEY NIGHTS!
 Every Monday in the Clubroom 5:00pm - 7:30pm
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.

Don't see your name above?
Please contact Carol Hopson at
 info@americanlegionpost346.org
 or 248-910-2586

August 2015

We will no longer be featuring the birthdays of **non-members**
 Thank you

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Parents Day	27 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	28	29	30	31	1
2 Friendship Day	3 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	4 Exec. Board Meeting 7:00pm Coast Guard Day	5	6 NO Legion OR Aux. meetings	7	8
9	10 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	11	12 NO SAL meeting	13	14	15
16	17 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm	18 Submission deadline for Sep/Oct Bulletin NO Home Board Meeting	19 Aviation Day	20	21	22
23 Post Installation of new Officers 1:00pm 30	24 Dinner at the Post 6:00 - 8:00pm 31	25	26 Women's Equality Day	27	28 A.L. National Convention 8/28 - 9/3 Baltimore MD	29



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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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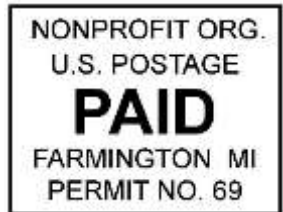
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Farmington Road,
Just N of Grand River
Downtown Farmington



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



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

July/August 2015 Edition



Rent at Groves-Walker Post 346!

Rent by the hour, or by the month, reasonable rates. We have two banquet rooms, kitchen space, tables, chairs and storage space for almost any need. Floor plans, photos and more information available on our website at: www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org.

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- Fitness Classes
- Dances / Parties
- Special Occasions
- Classes / Seminars
- Community Groups

Please contact Post 346 at: 248-478-9174
or email: INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org
for more information.



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 - Tues. before Legion & Aux.
meeting at 7:00pm

Clubroom Hours

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

For contact information for Post officers or
hall rental information, call **(248) 478-9174**
Visit our website at
www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org
Email the Post, Officers or Bulletin editor at
INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org

Please share your Bulletin, let others know about public functions at our Post!

