

## The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, Michigan November/December 2022 - Vol. XIII Issue 2



🛃 🚽 Chartered July 10, 1923 - For God and Country

#### **Meeting Nights**

1st Tue. of the month at 7:00pm: SAL 1st Thu. of the month at 7:30pm: Legion - Auxiliary 3rd Thu. of the month at 6:30pm: Home Board and at 7pm: Executive Committee

#### **Clubroom Hours**

Monday - Friday: 4pm - 9pm Watch your email for weekend event hours

#### **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

**Please remember** that all of the cooks & bartenders at our Post have been working on a volunteer basis since the beginning of COVID. Please tip them generously at the end of your stay.

The downstairs banquet room of the Post is still available to our members, family and friends. We ask only for a donation for it's use, on an as-is basis, and with the agreement that the users clean up after themselves. Please talk to Eric for more details.



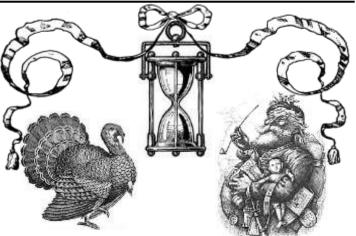
Post Honor Guard (L to R Dale Baxter, Rich Higginbottom and Ray Barry) at the Garmin Automotive Disabled Veterans Charity Golf Outing at the Links of Novi on August 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Queen of Hearts Round 3!

NEW cash consolation prizes! **\$50** if you find a **3**, **4** or **6** of any suit. Tickets available NOW in the clubroom! **\$1** each Need not be present to win. MI License #C30429 More info and E-tickets at: 346Queen@gmail.com **Jackpot will be at least - \$2500 on 11/07/22** 

#### Date - Envelope - Card 06/13 42 6 spades 06/20 24 8 hearts 06/2726 A diamonds 07/11 19 Q spades 07/18 9 clubs 21 07/25 46 9 hearts 08/01 05 3 spades 08/08 40 6 hearts 08/15 16 5 spades 08/22 6 clubs 08 08/29 28 J diamonds 09/12 50 4 diamonds 9 spades 09/19 09 Q clubs 09/26 45 10/03 17 6 diamonds 10/17 20 3 clubs 10/24 04 J clubs





Wishing all Post 346 members the very best of the Holiday Season! Nov/Dec 2022 vol. XIII issue 2. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 6 times per year. Post 346 membership as of 07/01/22: Legion 162, Auxiliary 106, SAL 81, Total 349

The opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and/or contributors 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, Auxiliary, SAL or Post 346 of the products and/or services featured.

Groves-Walker Bulletin Editor - Carol Hopson

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 Friday October 22nd for the Nov/Dec 2022 issue of the Bulletin.

#### Please remember...

When we talk about events (dinners, ceremonies, etc.) taking place at the Post, these events are not specifically "Legion events", "SAL events", or "Auxiliary events." Although the LGN, AUX or SAL may be the one taking the lead in organization, with very few exceptions, all functions at our Post are open to all members of our organization, our family, friends, guests and interested members of the community.

And when we ask for volunteers to help with various projects around the Post, help with our ceremonies, or with maintenance, this also means every one of our members are invited to participate.

Please think of yourself as a member of Post 346, not just an SAL, AUX, or Legion member. We need to pull together, help each other, take pride in our home (where ever our home may be), and make Post 346 the best we can make it.

We recommend to all members that, when you get your annual flu shot, you also include the latest **COVID booster** shot. The CDC says that the COVID virus is in a transitional phase in the US, becoming "endemic" instead of "pandemic". This means that the desease is still around but not at a level that is causing significant disruption in our daily lives. The seasonal flu is endemic. We will <u>not</u> be hosting a flu shot clinic this year at Post 346.

Some Call it multi-tasking, I Call it doing something else While I try to remember what I was doing in the first place. ~ I got myself a senior GPS. Not only does it tell me how to Get to my destination, it tells me why I wanted to go there.

#### Military retirees and disabled veterans will see their monthly checks increase by 8.7% for 2023, thanks to

an annual adjustment to the federal Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) due to inflation. This was announced recently by the Social Security Administration. The annual adjustment has averaged 1.9% for the last 10 years. Most government disability and retirement payments are required by law to increase annually by the same amount. For 2023, retired military members will see a \$87 increase for each \$1,000 of military retirement pension they receive each month.

Disabled veterans will also see their benefit payments increase in the upcoming year. The average VA disability check will go up about \$13.28 per month for those with a 10% rating, and \$289.89 for those rated at 100%. Military pay benefits are constantly changing, make sure you're up-to-date with everything you've earned. Read the full article here: <u>https://www.military.com/benefits/military-</u> pay/allowances/cola-for-retired-pay.html

#### In recent years, scammers

have typically tried to get their targets to send money in one of four ways - gift cards, wire transfers, cyber currency or cash, as each is all but untraceable once the payment leaves your hands. Now a 5th form of payment is quickly on

the rise; peer to peer (P2P) money transfers via popular apps like Zelle, Venmo or CashApp. These services let you send money from a smartphone using funds in a linked bank account or credit/debit card. These transfers are instant and, in most situations, can't be traced.

#### Five ways to stay safer using P2P apps

1) Never use P2P transfer apps when engaging with strangers or businesses. You'll have much more protection if you use a credit card.

2) If someone <u>insists</u> on being paid with Zelle, CashApp or Venmo, walk away. The odds are too high that it's a scam. *Unless you're paying for Queen of Hearts tickets with us!* 

3) Link the app you are using to a credit card rather than a bank account for more built-in protection.

4) Never click on links sent to you via text or email with a request to update your P2P account information. These are often sent by scammers.

5) If you think you've been cheated always go directly to the app's website to reach customer service. Do not do a generic web search for a company's customer service department, fake sites built by crooks will often show up among the results and you could get hit by another scam!

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



Armistice Day was first proclaimed on Nov. 11,1919 to honor the first anniversary of the end of WWI. Congress passed a resolution

for an annual observance in 1926 and it eventually became the national holiday Veterans Day. Here at our Post, we will host a combined event with the Elks to commemorate this important day and to honor our veterans. Our world is changing. This time of year, is filled with tradition. Some traditions will evolve and change over time and that is normal. Families blend together, people move and life situations change. Customs adapt to our lives as much as we adapt to the customs around us. Thanksgiving has been a time-honored tradition including family gatherings, reflection and gratitude. December is filled with many celebrations honoring one's culture, family or religion. And don't forget about our favorite annual football games. Check the coming events and don't miss out on time with our Legion family.

And now the news you have been waiting for - we are one step closer to our new Legion home. A new Letter of Intent is signed (called a soft signature). Either party can pull out until the purchase agreement is finalized. The buyer then has up to 4 months for their due diligence and then up to 6 months to complete all of their inspections and city approvals. I am pleased to say that this is with the condo guy. This is great news for the city and great news for us as he is experienced with the Farmington approval process. So now we can start window shopping and narrow down our list of potential new homes in the Farmington area. Actually, we have our eyes on the strip mall across from Zap Zone. Giant parking lot for outdoor events!!! When we finish closing on the post, we will then have the money to purchase or lease. The biggest bonus of all is that we stay here until the process is complete. And we have lots of upcoming events prior to moving.

Although we are no longer advertising the availability of our banquet halls to the public, if any Legion member is interested in "as-is" usage in exchange for a donation, or can vouch for a friend, who understands the state of the building, contact Eric. Once we find our new home, then we can make our final decisions on the items to be sold versus what we need to keep. And speaking of keeping some items, if anyone knows of free/inexpensive local storage space please let us know, that would be very much appreciated.

Happy Holidays to all! In service, Marya Davis, Commander

Smart is when you believe only half of what you hear. Brilliant is when  $\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}$  you know which half.

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



I'm stepping aside to allow a guest columnist to speak her mind. I wholeheartedly agree with the message of our Unit Treasurer.

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

Dear fellow American Legion Auxiliary members,

At the last monthly members meeting on Oct. 6th, we discussed the topic of membership and in particular, **<u>engaged</u>** membership, as the 4 of us – Carol H, Leah B, Myrtle G and myself – sat around a table.

Questions like:

- How can we attract new members?
- How can we convince current members that are able, to show up for meetings (and dare I say, volunteer to help with events)?
- How can we continue our mission when no one steps up, or is able to step up?

Our membership is aging and those who are able and willing to volunteer are few and are getting tired. The uncertainty of the building is a concern, though I would dare say that we are more than just a building/bar. With all these uncertainties, how can we proceed? Why are we doing this? <u>Are we relevant?</u> The first answer is easy our mission is to advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

We need to **collectively** figure out what it means to be relevant in our community and therefore attract new generations to carry on the needed support and outreach. A big thank you to President Carol is in order. She has taken on most tasks for the organization for quite some time. Let's all give the help she, our few active volunteers and the organization deserves. **Please** come to the next meeting to discuss these points, bring your ideas and solutions. **Get involved!** 

Dorothea Baxter

#### Coming up before you know it!

- Nov 11: Post Veterans Day ceremony, w/SAL Burgers, 5:00 pm
- Nov 24: Friendsgiving at the Post, 12:00 noon Sign-up sheet in the clubroom
- Nov 26: U of M vs Ohio State game, clubroom opens at 11:30 am
- Dec 03: Wreath Laying Ceremony, downtown 11 am
- Dec 07: Pearl Harbor Day w/ The Elks, short program & meal, 6:30 pm
- Dec 10: Army/Navy game & Chili Cookoff & Bloody Mary bar. Clubroom opens at 11:00 am
- Dec 16: Post Potluck Holiday Party (Natl. Ugly Christmas sweater day!) Clubroom opens at 4:00pm More details on fliers available in the clubroom!

#### 2022 Patriot Day 9/11 Ceremony



Commander Marya presenting Officer of the Year awards to Farmington Hills Firefighter Battalion Chief Steven Hatch, Farmington Hills Police Officer Bradley Lavin, and Farmington Public Safety Sergeant James Wren.

Staying the course only makes sense if you're going in the right direction - Mike Rowe



The playing of taps (by Taliy Koponen) is always a solemn moment at the 9/11 ceremony. We thank our guest vets from the VFW on stage with our Post 346 veterans, Police, Fire, and Public Safety officers and honored speakers.



Proud honor guards from Farmington and Farmington Hills Police, Fire and Public Safety departments, with our own Post 346 Honor guard (Ray Barry, Rich Higginbottom and Phil Carlisle).





The Boy Scout Troup 45 honor guard. Our leaders of tomorrow.



#### Gerald P. Voss April 20, 1931 – Sept. 10, 2022

Age 91, of Farmington Hills. Jerry is survived by his wife, Elizabeth "Kip"; three children, David (Lisa) Daniel (Kim d.), and Anne (Ray); his sister, Virginia; three grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Jerry was born in Des Moines, Iowa the second son of Glen and Pauline Voss. He served with distinction in the U.S. Navy following high school, reaching the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Attended Iowa State College and was a devoted Cyclone (but was eventually persuaded to become a dedicated U of M fan also), and graduated with an Industrial Engineering degree. This degree took him to Dearborn, Michigan, and Ford's Rouge Steel Co. where he worked for nearly 30 years, retiring as a manager of Finishing Technology. He married the love of his life, Kip, in 1963. Jerry and Kip loved to travel, visiting numerous destinations around the world. Gerald has been a member of American Legion Post 346 since 2009.

Arrangements: Heeney - Sundquist Funeral Home. Internment: Great Lakes National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in Jerry's memory can be given to the Church of the Holy Cross in Novi, the Salvation Army, or Gleaners Community Food Bank of SE Michigan. https://www.heeney-sundquist.com/obituary/gerald-voss

#### Edward R. Waldecker Jan. 18, 1942 – Oct. 12, 2022

Age 80, of Farmington Hills. Surviving are his devoted sons, Edward and Russell (Shannon); six grandchildren, and his sister, Peggy Remillet-Sutton. Ed was born to the late Lawrence and



Alice Waldecker. He married Katherine "Kay" in 1967. Sadly, Kay preceded him in death in 2020.

Ed graduated from Melvindale High School in 1960 and continued his education at Henry Ford Community College. He enjoyed a decades-long career as a revered laboratory supervisor for Nyer, Tisso and Hindo Engineering Consultants from which he retired in 2014. Ed joined the K of C in 1986 and served with tireless devotion in many leadership roles. He was the founder of the 4th Degree Assembly for St. Francis Council #4401. Ed was also a 28 year member of Groves-Walker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 346.

In his free time, Ed enjoyed classic cars, puzzles, spending valuable time with his family - including taking his grandchildren to the movies, bus trips, and his longtime membership to Meadow Brook Theatre. Cont. >>> Waldecker cont. Arrangements: Heeney-Sundquist funeral home, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church. Memorial contributions are suggested to Mother and Unborn Baby Care. <u>https://www.heeney-sundquist.com/obituary/edward-waldecker?fh\_id=15661</u>

#### Post 346 Chaplain Andy Machcinski

My Fellow Legionnaires: Once again fall has arrived to give us all the beautiful colors, cool days and football! All the things we enjoy, but most of all we must look forward to the one day of the year where we celebrate the birth of Christ! The amazing thing is that God does not want any presents or gifts, all he wants from us is ourselves, to lead a good life, obey His commandments and say our prayer.



None of these things cost anything, are not hard to do and do not take much time!

So let us all, as Legionnaires, stand up straight, celebrate first our Thanksgiving, hard to believe but, there is a lot to be thankful for, and then on bended knee, if possible, celebrate HIS birthday!

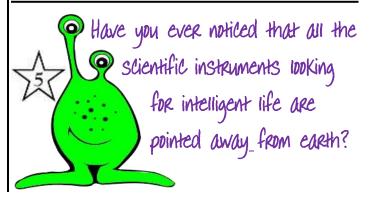
Below is a short prayer for us to say during this holiday season. Say it often to warm you up and prepare for Thanksgiving day, HIS Birthday celebration and the coming of spring:

God of creation, thank you for the beauty of winter - for snow, icy window panes, evergreen trees, warm coats, sledding, and hot cocoa. Let us enjoy Your creation in all its glory, this winter and as always, the day of Thanksgiving and Your birthday. In Your holy name Amen.

Your Chaplain, Andy

The U.S. Senate approved the Sunshine Protection Act in March 2022, with the goal of making daylight savings time permanent starting one year from now. As of November 2023 the U.S. will never again "spring forward" or "fall back."





**For Sale:** King sized bed including frame, mattress and "mission" style headboard. Please contact Alan Huet at: 248-763-0114.



### MERICAN LEGION GROVES WALKER POST 346 FARMINGTON MICHIGAN

New SAL member "Medicare" Mike Cummings and Commander Marya at the Total Health and Wellness Fair sponsored by Oakland County at the Costick Center on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>.



SAL Trunk or Treat Oct. 22



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU! To Legion member Mitch Swoboda for being our DJ during Trunk or Treat. FANTASTIC TUNES!! You can hire Mitch for your event (indoors or outdoors), call him at: 734-730-3537.



HUGE THANKS to The Johnny Weekend Company Vape Shop across the street (on Grand River) for lending us their outdoor Halloween decorations! The neighborhood kids loved them!

#### SAL Trunk or Treat Oct. 22

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SAL Trunk or Treat was a great success! Our Legion family had a fun time, Mitch S. played some great tunes, the candy was plentiful, we were visited by the Farmington Public Safety Dept (thanks Nash P!), and the Farmington Hills Fire Dept. And the over 100 neighborhood kids we served LOVED IT!! Thank you to everyone involved who made the day so much fun!!







































#### Membership Eligibility



<u>Legion membership eligibility</u>. Veterans or active duty military who have served at least one day of active duty in the US Armed Forces since December 7, 1941 and have been honorably discharged or are still serving. Must present a DD-214 (DD-217, DD-256, or DD-257).

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 also only allows two degrees of a blood line, so great granddaughters and beyond are not eligible. 2) 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. **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.

**SAL membership eligibility**. 1) All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons. 2) 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. **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.

## Membership applications are available NOW in the clubroom!



Show your support of our military & our veterans Only \$5 each, available in the clubroom. Sturdy and stylish for men and women! Post 346 merchandise makes great gifts!



Official Post 346 Bottle Koozie Only \$5 each, asst. colors, 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.



Banners measure 14" x 8". Also available from Carol Hopson.

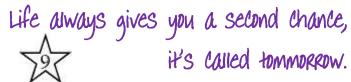
Is it time to replace your old US flag? Don't forget about the Post's flag drop box located at the front of our parking lot. Ensure our US flags are properly disposed of with dignity, patriotism and honor when they reach the end of their serviceable career.

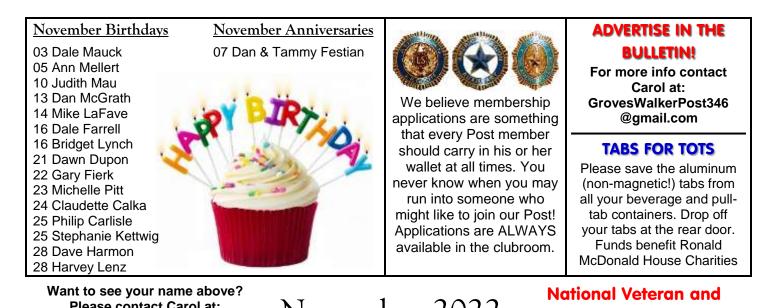


Please report your changes of name, address, phone or email; also member death notices to your LGN, AUX, or SAL membership chairperson. Thank you

#### Please remember...

The Bulletin is no longer being mailed to members via the US Postal Service. Copies are emailed to members who have an email address on file, are available for download from our website, plus a few hard copies are still available in the clubroom. If you have friends or relatives who are not tech-savvy, and they still wish to receive the Bulletin, please consider downloading and printing it for them. Thank you





Please co	potact Carol at: Post346@gmail.co	2022	Mational Veteran and Military Families Month			
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	<b>31</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	1 SAL meeting 7:00pm	2	3 Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:30pm	<b>4</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	5
6 Daylight savings time ends	<b>7</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	8 VOTE COUNTS Election Day	9	10 Marine Corp <u>Birthday</u> American Legion Auxiliary Birthday	11 Post Veterans Day Ceremony 5:00 pm Veterans Day	12
13	<b>14</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	15	16	<b>17</b> Home Board <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm	18 Joker Poker in the clubroom	19
20	<b>21</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	22	23	<b>24</b> Friendsgiving Potluck 12 noon Thanksgiving	25 Joker Poker in the clubroom Black Friday	26 U of M vs Ohio 11:30 am
27	28 Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	29	30	1 Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:30pm Occomber December	<b>2</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	3





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

December 2022

#### "Made in America" Month

	• •					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	<b>28</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	29	30	1 Legion & Auxiliary meeting 7:30pm	2 Joker Poker in the clubroom	<b>3</b> Wreath Laying Ceremony Downtown 11 am
4	<b>5</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	6 SAL meeting 7:00pm	7 Pearl Harbor Day Ceremony 6:30 pm Pearl Harbor Day	8	<b>9</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	<b>10</b> Army/Navy game, Chili Cookoff, Bloody Mary bar 11 am
11	<b>12</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	13 National Guard Birthday	14	<b>15</b> Bill of Rights Day	16 Post Holiday Potluck Party 4 pm National Ugly Xmas Sweater Day	17 Wight Brothers Day
<b>18</b> Hanukkah begins	<b>19</b> Dinner at the Post fundraiser 5:30 -7pm Queen Drawing 7:15	20	21 Submission Deadline for Jan/Feb Bulletin First day of Winter	22 Home Board <u>meeting 6:30pm</u> Exec. Committee meeting 7:00pm	23 Joker Poker in the clubroom	24
25	26	27	28	29	<b>30</b> Joker Poker in the clubroom	31 HAPPY C YEAR YEAR
Christmas Day	Kwanzaa begins					New Years Eve

#### 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 inthony.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

Special Thanks to LaGrasso Bro. Produce for always helping to make Post 346 Dinner Events a delicious success!



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> Mark Ziegler President

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