



# The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI  
April 2015 Edition



Vol. V Issue 8 ☆ 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,

I was happy to attend the recent American Cancer Society Relay for Life Fundraiser and the St. Patrick's Day dinner. Both events were a tremendous success with a great turn-out. Thank you to the SAL, Ever 7 and a special thank you to Denise (Lis) Janssen for all she did to put together the fundraiser.

We're moving in the right direction at the Post. We had our first walk-thru with the people representing the Home Depot grant requests. We should be getting some results back from them in late spring as to what we will be able to have done at the Post. Carpet, flooring, the furnace on the roof, Clubroom and kitchen floors are just a few of the items that we need to repair or replace.

Please try to attend the April and May meetings. At those meetings we will have nominations and elections of new officers for 2015-2016. Hope to see a good turn-out! Let your voice be heard and your vote be counted in support of your Post. Think Spring! God bless America and our troops in foreign lands.

Jim Weston, Commander

## CHANGE FOR THE BULLETIN!

Coming NEXT MONTH the Bulletin will be published **bimonthly** instead of monthly. The upcoming May issue will be for May/June, then will come July/August, Sept/Oct, etc.

Comments on the new Bulletin format are welcome, email to: [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org)  
*Thank you, Carol Hopson, Editor*

*May you have a Happy and Blessed Easter!*  
*From all of us at Post 346*



Blue Eyes Blog...  
Unit 346 President  
Tamela Festian



February went by quickly and we are half way done with March. I had family gatherings causing me to miss our Post's events for the last month. The news I heard was that they had a wonderful turnout.

Our semi-annual bus trip to Firekeepers Casino is coming up in April. Please make sure to turn your money in early. This will guarantee you a seat on the bus. Also, coming up in the month of April, the election of new officers shall take place. Please try to attend this meeting.

Spring is just around the corner, with that comes warmer weather, I hope. I'm looking forward to putting my winter clothing away for a while. Till I see all of you again, have a blessed Easter, may the Lord be with you. Don't eat too much chocolate!

Tammy Festian, President

## 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: [AMNOV11@att.net](mailto:AMNOV11@att.net)

Thank you, Jim Weston, Commander

"We Remember"  
Poppy Days are coming up next month!  
May 14, 15 & 16



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**Bulletin Editor, Post Website Admin.**

Carol Hopson

**Change is coming to the Bulletin!** Beginning with the May issue I will now be publishing the Bulletin bimonthly instead of monthly. So the May issue will be the May/June issue, then will come July/Aug, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec, etc. I hope you like the change, this will help me to continue creating the Bulletin instead of giving it up as I had planned, let's see how it goes. Comments are always welcome, email to: [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org)

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 May/June 2015 edition of the Bulletin is April 17th.**

Thank you, Carol Hopson

**Post Service Officer, 1st Vice Commander**

Tony Mallia

**As of right now we are at 100% membership** with 279 members paid up. Thanks to all the members who got us up to 100% for 2 years in row. Great Job!

Tony Mallia, Service Officer, 1st Vice Commander

**Firekeepers Casino Bus Trip  
EVERYONE Welcome!**

**Thursday April 23  
\$45 per person  
\$20 back in free play  
Plus \$5 toward food  
Bus leaves the Post  
at 8am SHARP!  
Returns approx. 5pm**



Refreshments, games and fun on the bus! Please contact Tammy Festian at 248-476-4611 or Paula Cotroneio at 734-718-8673 **by April 10** to reserve your place on the bus. Sign-up sheet in the Clubroom also. You **MUST** bring photo ID with you. You will be asked for your name, address and date of birth OR you can show your Firekeepers Club card.

Labor disgraces no man; unfortunately, you occasionally find men who disgrace labor.

- Ulysses S. Grant



**TAPS**

The good Lord 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 month.

Don't forget, nominations for our 2015-16



Post and Auxiliary officers

will be held during the

April meeting. Elections

will be held during the

May meeting. Please don't

forget to attend these meetings,

make your voice heard and your vote count!



**SAL Commander**

Rob Smart

As the song goes "wasn't that a party." The SAL St. Pat's Dinner and Party was a huge success. Everyone enjoyed a great corned beef dinner, Irish music and of course plenty of drinks. It's too bad more of our Legion members were not there. I would like to thank all of our volunteers - Jan & Rob Smart, Leah Brancheau, Dave & Bret Hall, Diana & Denny Lis, Denise (Lis) Janssen, Rob Holton and Marya Davis. I hope I did not forget anyone, if I did I'm sorry. Our next get together will be on April 18th for one of our special Spring Steak Frys. There is a sign-up sheet in the Clubroom. Let's see another great turn out and start the summer off right. We are glad to announce that the Wixom American Legion Post 224 has opened the doors to their new Post. It is on Wixom Rd just South of Loon Lake Rd. Stop by and say Hi! And Welcome Back! It's nice to see a Post fight its way back. Please do not forget our soldiers all over the world, keep them in your prayers.

Rob Smart

SAL Commander

**ATTN: SAL Members** - If you do not have a 2015 card, you are past due! Please send your dues to the Post or to Leah Brancheau. Remember: NO DUES, NO BOOZE!

**FOR SALE: 2008 Pro Form 410**

Trainer treadmill. Asking price is \$150.00. Please call Lorraine Christensen at 248-474-8554.



**HAPPY  
SPRING!**







**THANK YOU!** - On Feb. 28th a wonderful group of 42 adults and youths working in 2 shifts re-painted most of the lower level of the Post, including: the entry hallway, Auxiliary room, vestibule, ladies room, and the stairway leading upstairs.

The volunteers, organized and led by by Richard Lerner (a member of the Farmington Hills City Council, Xemplar Club, and Squadron 346 SAL) were: from the Farmington Hills Fire Dept: Chief Cory Bartsch, Larry Gauthier, Halley Neufeld, Don Schinske, and a special thank you to Derek Smith for the **pizza and pop donation!** From the City of Farmington Hills: William Miller, from the Farmington Ski Club: Ken Trent, and from the Greater Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce: Dan Irvin. From the Xemplar Club (**who donated the paint brushes, etc.**): Steve Brock, Lew Cantor, Ken Massey, and Maureen McCarthy. From the Glidden Paint Co. (**who donated all the paint**): Adam Belair and Robbie Schan. From Farmington High School: Alli Gambill, Dylan and Tyler Neufeld. From Harrison High School: Nick Luty and Alex Trent. From North Farmington High School: Caitlin Garmo, Lynn Lerner and Tammy Yan. From East Middle School: Doug and Jack Sweeting. From Warner Middle School: Emma Belanger and Ava Miller. From Scout Troop 110: Kieran and John Fitzsimons, Max Freed, Marcus Fried, Mitch Grafmiller, and Albert, Yohan and David Shim. From Scout Troop 179: Elena Barth, Kanin Brockert, Tommy Dye, Alex Millinoff, Rachel Stevens, Emma Turkmenistan and Kirsten Wauldron.

We must also thank the team who did all the prep work before the painting began - Jim Koponen, Gene Hatfield, Ivo Gasparotto, and Doug Anderson.

**Fantastic job! Thank You All Very Much!**

**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



From Art Mikkola, Chairman Farmington Winter Farmers Market Coney Dog Booth.

I would like to offer a sincere **Thank You** to everyone who has volunteered to work at the Coney Dog Booth at the Farmington Winter Farmers Market - Mark Moulds, Dale Baxter and his wife Dorothea, Jim Weston, Marya Davis, Mike Griswold, Carol Hopson, and my lovely wife Pam. We not only sell hot dogs, Coney dogs, fries and pop, we offer Legion membership information, Post rental information, and we let everyone know they can get the same great food here on Coney Mondays. The Winter Market Coney booth is open the third Saturday of each month from 10 am - 2 pm and we still have 3 more dates to sell Coney dogs until the opening of the summer Farmers Market downtown. **Anyone interested in volunteering, please contact Art Mikkola.**

Photo above: L to R Dale Baxter, Pam Mikkola, Mark Moulds, Carol Hopson and Art Mikkola.



Just a quick note to say THANK YOU to all of you who came out to support our American Cancer Society Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. The event was a HUGE SUCCESS - raising almost \$3,000 toward the fight against cancer. Thank you so much for your time, your support and your generosity! With your help - we are continuing the quest to "FINISH THE FIGHT."

Sincerest Regards, Denise Lis-Janssen  
Co-Captain Cancer KnockOuts

Old minds are like old horses,  
you must exercise them if you wish  
to keep them in working order.



- John Adams



**Grave marker manufacturer for over 40 years.  
Official manufacturer for the American Legion.**

Molded from tough & weatherable thermoplastic antiqued in bronze. Markers are regulation 6" diameter with standard support lugs for 3/8" aluminum rod or wood flag staff. Qty: 1-5 Price: \$10 each + UPS shipping (volume discounts available).

US Veteran marker (our most popular) is made from anodized zinc alloy to be classically attractive and very durable. Same size as plastic counterpart. Each unit weighs approx. 1/2 pound. Qty: 1-10 Price: \$15 each + UPS shipping (volume discounts available).

More marker designs available, see flier on bulletin board, or visit [www.nemfg.com](http://www.nemfg.com) Inquiries or orders call toll free: 800-430-0980 or email to: [jseym33273@aol.com](mailto:jseym33273@aol.com)

Many of our members do not come to meetings or dinners at the Post simply because they lack transportation or are unable to drive on their own. If you are able to give someone a ride to future dinners, meetings, etc. please call Commander Jim Weston at 248-469-7681.

If you would like to attend functions at the Post but need a ride, please call Commander Jim Weston, he will put you in touch with one of our members who would be happy to help you!



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



## SAL STEAK FRY

Everyone Welcome!

Saturday April 18th  
5:00 to 8:00 pm  
Adults \$12 per plate  
Children \$8 per plate  
(under 13)  
With Baked Potato,  
Roll & butter,  
Salad & Desert



Please 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.

**The Auxiliary will soon be hosting another luncheon for the homeless veterans from the Michigan Veterans**



**Foundation on Wednesday,**

**April 15th.** We ask volunteers to come at 12:00 for a starting time of 1:00pm. We will be needing help with greeting the vets, serving food, drinks and deserts; and with the clean up after. If you wish to volunteer please use the sign-up sheet in the Clubroom or email to [info@americanlegionpost346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpost346.org). If you've never volunteered your time to help the vets from the MVF you've missed a truly wonderful experience. It fills your heart to see how grateful the veterans are for their lunch, a kind word, or just a smile.

Unless both sides win,  
no agreement can be permanent.

- Jimmy carter

**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 [info@americanlegionpopst346.org](mailto:info@americanlegionpopst346.org)



## Things to remember when a veteran dies

We know how hard it is to remember everything you need to take care of when a loved one passes away, so here is a list that may be of great help to you and your family when the inevitable comes.

- 1) Contact the funeral director of your choice to arrange for interment. Interment at the National Cemetery is free to the veteran and spouse.
- 2) Contact the pastor of your choice to arrange for the services you desire.
- 3) Bring the funeral director a copy of the veteran's DD-214, Discharge Separation Notice, Veterans Administration claim number (if there is one), Social Security Number and life insurance policy.
- 4) The funeral director will apply for the amount allowable from the VA toward burial expenses and also the allowance from Social Security for burial. Some counties also provide a burial expense for veterans.
- 5) Funeral directors can also apply for a flag to drape the casket.
- 6) If the veteran is a member of a veteran's organization (like the American Legion), the commander should be contacted for a ritual service, honor guard, casket bearers, etc. if needed and/or desired.
- 7) If the veteran had G (Government) insurance, contact the County Veterans Service Officer (or veteran's organization Service Officer) for assistance in completing the forms. If it is commercial insurance, contact the agent of that company.
- 8) Spouse should contact the local Social Security Office to file for benefits that may be available for self and for any children of the veteran.
- 9) Obtain from the funeral director several extra copies of the veteran's death certificate for transfer of titles of ownership for autos, home, bank accounts, etc.
- 10) The County Veterans Service Officer (or veteran's organization Service Officer) will assist the spouse and children in obtaining any benefits to which they may be entitled such as, survivors death benefits from the VA and headstone if the burial is in a private cemetery. Bring to the Service Officer the following information when applying for benefits:

- a) Copy of the deceased veterans service record (DD-214).
- b) Copy of Honorable Discharge Certificate.
- c) Social Security numbers of the deceased veteran, spouse, and any dependent children.
- d) G.I. insurance policies, if any.
- e) Information as to marriage, birth certificates of children, and if any prior marriages existed, the information regarding when, where and how the marriage was dissolved (death or divorce).
- f) VA claim number, if there is one.
- g) Copy of death certificate of veteran.

Veterans - The smart thing to do is to compile as much of this information as possible in advance. Put two copies in safe places and advise your family as to their locations. If you keep one copy in a safe deposit box, keep the other at home (very few people pass away during banker's hours).

**Please keep a copy of this list for your records.**



Throughout the history of our great nation, Veterans have made the commitment to protect our country, serving and sacrificing for what matters most. Whether they just came home or completed their service many years ago, their experiences and sacrifices have an impact on their lives. **The Veterans Crisis Line** is a toll-free, confidential resource that connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) responders. The professionals at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans of all ages and circumstances.



Veterans Crisis Line responders provide support when issues such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and even homelessness - reach a crisis point. Many of the responders are Veterans themselves and understand what Veterans and their families and friends have been through.

Veterans and their loved ones can call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net), or send a text message to 838255 to receive free, confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, even if they are not enrolled in VA health care. There are many simple actions we can take to help Veterans access the care they deserve and have earned. Visit the Veterans Crisis Line online to learn how you can help. Spread the word about the Veterans Crisis Line. **It matters.**

Motivation is the art of getting people to do what *you* want them to do because *they* want to do it.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower



### Kathelene's Adult Day Health Services, Inc.

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(248) 313-2275

We care for clients with the following chronic conditions:

Parkinsons	COPD	Seizure Disorder
Dementia	Stroke	Developmental Disabilities
Traumatic Brain Injury	Diabetes	Congestive Heart Failure
Multiple Sclerosis	Autism	Neuromuscular Diseases
Catastrophic Injuries	Alzheimers	

We Provide:

Music Healing Therapy	Aerobics/ Yoga	Golf Lessons
Games & Field Trips	Pet Therapy	Arts/ Crafts
Physical/ Occupational/ Speech Therapy	Gardening	Fitness Programs
Transportation Available	Healthy Lunch/ Snacks Provided	Caregiver Support Group

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Email: [info@farmingtonhillsadulthoodcare.com](mailto:info@farmingtonhillsadulthoodcare.com)  
[www.farmingtonhillsadulthoodcare.com](http://www.farmingtonhillsadulthoodcare.com)

April Birthdays

- 1 Jan Freude
- 1 Norman Goers
- 1 Robert Holton
- 2 John Dull
- 3 Pam Mikkola
- 4 Raymond Barry
- 4 Harry Loewengruber
- 4 Alexander Stabrava
- 5 Bernice Bodell
- 5 Jerry Goetzke
- 6 Elizabeth Kosnich
- 7 Roger Goers
- 7 Walter Zelony
- 8 Jim Forbes
- 13 Amy Marie Engle
- 13 Ronald Ruedger
- 13 Judith Kronk
- 17 Adam Gentile
- 18 Harvey Ketchen
- 21 James Leflar
- 21 Elaine Dull

- 22 Edward Heidelberg
- 22 Thaddeus Mieczkowski
- 24 Dawn Grady
- 25 Samuel Klein
- 26 Billy Stimpson
- 27 Alex Gentile
- 29 Bette Burt
- 29 James Patterson
- 30 Mary Robinson
- 30 Christian Thompson

April Anniversaries

- 7 George & Elizabeth Kosnich
- 16 Gerald & Karen Lynch
- 17 Tony & Carolynn Mallia
- 28 Dave & June Schwartz

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

Coming up in May

- NEW Bulletin format
- 1 May Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 6 Nurses Day  
Teachers Day
- 7 Legion & Aux. meetings**  
**Yearly election of new officers for 2015-16**
- 8 V-E Day
- 10 Mothers Day
- 14, 15, 16 Poppy Days
- 19 Armed Forces Day
- 22 National Maritime Day
- 25 Memorial Day



**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



# April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Palm Sunday	30 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	31 Exec. Board Meeting 7:00pm	1 April Fools day	2 Legion & Aux. meetings 7:30pm	3 Good Friday	4 Farmington Farmers Market 10am-2pm
5 Easter	6 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	7	8 SAL meeting 7:30pm	9	10	11 Farmington Farmers Market 10am-2pm
12	13 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	14 Home Board meeting 7:30pm	15 Submission deadline for <u>May/June Bulletin</u> MVF Luncheon Tax Day!	16	17	18 SAL Steak Fry 5:00 - 8:00pm Farmers Market 10am-2pm w/ Post 346 Coney Dog Booth
19	20 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	21	22 Administrative Professionals Day Earth Day	23 Firekeepers Casino Bus Trip 8am - 5pm	24 Arbor Day	25 Farmington Farmers Market 10am-2pm
26	27 Coney Night 5:00-7:30pm	28	29	30	1 MAY	2 Farmington Farmers Market 10am-2pm



# GG's boutique♥



Ladies Apparel,  
Accessories,  
Handbags, Jewelry,  
& Gifts

248-919-9721

Open Mon.-Sat. 10-7 Sun. 11-4

23350 Farmington Rd. Downtown  
Next door to Merle Norman Cosmetics  
[www.facebook/GGsBoutique](http://www.facebook/GGsBoutique)

## 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



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



**Rob Holton**  
REALTOR®  
Email: [holton04@aol.com](mailto:holton04@aol.com)  
Website: [Century21Hartford.com](http://Century21Hartford.com)

**CENTURY 21 Hartford**

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Cell: (248) 521-1134



# HEENEY SUNDQUIST

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the Veterans of  
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In Honor of  
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Walter Sundquist  
1926 - 2013

Mark Ziegler

**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

## April 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](http://www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org).

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

Please contact Post 346 at: 248-478-9174  
or email to: [INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org](mailto: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](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 about functions at our Post!

