



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

American Legion Post 346 Farmington, MI

January 2014 Edition



Editors: Ralph & Carol Philp ☆ Vol. IV Issue 5 ☆ Member of M.A.L.P.A.

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

Cliff Notes...

18th District Commander
Post 346 Commander
Cliff Lauzon



Hello fellow Legionnaires, SAL and Ladies Auxiliary, Well another year has come to an end. I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. Here's hoping Santa was good to each and every one of you! I hope our Post 346 keeps growing and participating in American Legion programs for our Veteran's and the public in this coming year. Last year we signed up 69 new members, let's keep bringing in new members thru 2014 and bring our Post 346 membership back and stronger than ever. I look forward to all Post 346 members and their families taking advantage of all the actives the Post, Auxiliary and SAL will be putting on in the coming year.

News on MI Property Taxes: On November 12, 2013 Governor Snyder signed into law Public Act 161 of 2013, which exempts Veterans that are 100% disabled & IU (individually unemployable) Veterans from their obligation to pay Property MI taxes. If you are eligible as a 100% disabled Veteran you should take your paper work to your city offices as soon possible. Any questions, please contact me for more info.

18th District Meeting: the next District meeting will be held at Cook Nelson Post 20, at 206 Auburn Ave. Pontiac, MI 48342, at 2:00pm Sunday January 12. I would like to see more of our Post 346 members attend this meeting, that way you can see how the 18th District is run and you also might have something to offer. If you would like to attend and need a ride please contact me. If there is anything I can do to help any member of the Post 346 family please contact me and I will do my best to be of help!

For the good of the Legion,
Cliff Lauzon, Commander 18th Dist. & Post 346

Yours in Service...

Auxiliary President
Leah Brancheau



Dear Members and Friends, Well, I guess I am finally back from all the hospital stays! Last couple of months have not been fun but Thank God I am feeling much better and hopefully able to continue to fulfill my duties as President. I need to thank Tammy Festian, Paula Cotroneio, and Cheryl Fierk for taking over for me while I was sick. Taking over the meetings, doing the food for meetings, basically EVERYTHING I should have been doing but couldn't.

At our Christmas meeting in December we were able to help out 2 needy families for the holidays with food and clothing. We also donated money to 8 of our Veterans' Hospitals in Michigan. We also had our annual Mitten Tree decorated with lots of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, all donated to the Farmington Goodfellow's to be distributed to families in need. Please look for up coming events in your bulletin. Thank you again ladies for all your help and support.

Yours in Service,
Leah Brancheau, President

ATTENTION!

Just in case you haven't heard this information elsewhere...

Anyone with a smartphone with a bar code scanning application (free) can scan any Department of Veterans Affairs identification card issued since 2004 and the cardholder's Social Security number (and other information) immediately pops up on the screen. The Department of Veterans Affairs published warnings about the veterans information cards on their website in 2011 and again in July 2013. The VA has begun to work on a new type of card, which will not contain a Social Security number. Meanwhile, veterans should treat their current ID cards just as carefully as they do their Social Security card (or their credit cards) to prevent identity theft.



Happy
New Year
2014!

January 2014 vol. IV issue 5. The Groves-Walker Bulletin is published 11 times per year. Post membership for the year 2012-13: Legion 269, Aux. 167, SAL 50. Please send any changes of address to the address, or email listed below. Proud member of M.A.L.P.A. (Michigan American Legion Press Association).

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A Letter From Your Editors Ralph & Carol Philp

Thoughts for the New Year: Eat a little healthier, get a little more rest, spend a little less, save a little more, tell your family you love them every day, be aware of scams to not fall for them, keep active, try to be safe, and try to be a little happier in 2014. Happy New Year!



Don't forget to send in articles for the next edition of the Bulletin, including photos if available. **Anyone** can submit an article for the Bulletin; *but please remember, we may not have the room to print all submissions (or some submissions in their entirety).* **The submission deadline for the February 2014 edition of the Bulletin is January 17th.**

Ralph & Carol Philp

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 anymore. If you are able to give someone a ride to future dinners, meetings, etc. please call Commander Cliff Lauzon at (248) 851-6518. He is now compiling a list of volunteer drivers.



If you would like to attend functions at the Post but need a ride, please call Commander Cliff at (248) 851-6518, he will put you in touch with one of our members who would be happy to help you!

Did you know...?

You could be seeing the Bulletin in
FULL COLOR

if you sign up to receive the email edition?
You'll also be helping to save the Post money
in printing and mailing costs! Contact us at
info@americanlegionpost346.org

Post Sr. Vice Commander
Post Service Officer
Tony Mallia



Membership report as of end of Dec 2013 is 228 with our Post at 83.89% of our goal. I want to thank the following people for the Farmington Holiday Wreath ceremony on Dec 7th. Ginny Morris, Grace Newlin, Miss Farmington 2013 Kristina Franchi, Chris Mallia, Carolyn Mallia, Opie Mallia, Miss Farmington 2013 1st Runner up Emma Feeheeley, Anthony Mallia.

Service Officer Report: Don't forget to get your Annual Renewal Benefit form 10-10ERZ in to keep your VA benefits.

The VA is implementing a comprehensive national VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) to give enrolled Veterans and CHAMPVA (VA's Civilian Health and Medical Program) beneficiaries the opportunity to purchase dental insurance through Delta Dental and MetLife at a reduced cost. **One of our members has already purchased this plan and reports that he now pays approx. 50% of what he used to pay for dental insurance!** Participation is voluntary. Purchasing a dental plan does not affect Veterans' eligibility for VA dental services and treatment. VADIP opened November 15 for the purchasing of plans, with coverage beginning January 1, 2014. Covered services include diagnostic, preventative, surgical, emergency and endodontic/restorative treatment. Delta Dental and MetLife are offering multiple plans. Each participant pays the fixed monthly premiums for coverage and any copayments required, depending on the type of plan selected.

Dependents of Veterans, except those eligible under CHAMPVA, are not authorized to participate in VADIP. Those individuals may be eligible for separate dental insurance coverage offered by these carriers. Are you eligible? Eligible VADIP beneficiaries include: Any Veteran enrolled in VA healthcare, and any individual enrolled in CHAMPVA. Dependents who do not qualify as a CHAMPVA beneficiary are not eligible.

For more information about VADIP see their website at - <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vadip>. To enroll in VA health care or for VADIP eligibility questions, visit the Veterans Affairs website at - <http://va.gov/healthbenefits> or call 877-222-VETS (8387). To enroll as a CHAMPVA beneficiary, visit the CHAMPVA website at - <http://www.va.gov/HAC/forbeneficiaries/champva/champva.asp> or call 800-733-8387.

Anthony Mallia, Sr. Vice Commander
Post Service officer

When in doubt, look intelligent.
- Garrison Keillor



TAPS

To those members who have
joined the Lords Army,
We on earth will
mourn their passing.



Ira Wing

Oct. 26, 1915 - Nov. 30, 2013

Age 98, of Farmington Hills. Ira was the loving husband of Gisele for 73 years; dear father of 5; devoted grandfather of 16, great grandfather of 2 and great-great grandfather of 2. Ira was a member of the Wixom VFW and a proud veteran of the United States Navy, having served in the African, Asiatic and European theaters during WWII. Ira was also a friend of Post 346, and for decades a reliable presence in the annual Farmington Memorial Day Parade. Ira's funeral service was Dec. 3, 2013 at the Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home Farmington. Memorial tributes are suggested to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.



Auxiliary 1st Vice President

Tammy Festian

Well, here we are in January of the new year 2014. First of all, I would like to welcome back our Madame President Leah. You were very much missed at our meetings. When I conducted the meetings during your absence, I knew I had big shoes to fill. During one of those times, our 18th district President Angela Galbraith attended. A wonderful compliment was extended by her, when she implied how pleased she was by our invitation to attend our Christmas meeting and how well it was done. The Christmas decorations were lovely. This holiday season we worked together to help 2 needy families. Those who helped to deliver gifts to the 2 families were Leah Brancheau, Paula Cotroneio, Cheryl Fierk and myself. Also a big thanks to Myrtle Granger who donated extra gifts for the families. It was a great joy to see the expressions of thankfulness from the families.



I'd also like thank Paula for the extra help with Coney dogs on Monday nights and her helpers filling in where needed. TEAMWORK! This month I was also invited by Marian Belaire to attend the MI Veterans Foundation Party at the MGM Grand Casino downtown, December 11th. The casino was decorated beautifully, all the attendees looked great, the food was fantastic, as well as a live band to dance to. Also attending were B.J. President of the Wixom VFW and Jan Smart. We all had a great evening. Of course there is the temptation of the slots so, we all obliged, and we all lost. Hope everyone enjoys a peaceful winter break.

Tammy Festian, 1st Vice President



Searching for the Names of Surviving Michigan WWII Veterans

June 6, 2014 marks the 70th anniversary of D-Day, when 73,000 American troops joined Allied forces in the largest amphibious invasion in world history, leading to a decisive Allied victory marking the beginning of the end of WWII in Europe. The Lakeshore Lancers Marching Band of Stevensville, MI has been invited to join as an official representative of Michigan in Normandy, France, in June of 2014. The kids will be a part of the commemoration activities including a performance at the American Cemetery of Omaha Beach. The band will be one of only 3 American Bands going to Normandy and the only one from Michigan. **During their performances the students want to wear a ribbon in honor of each of the last surviving WWII veterans of Michigan.** Upon their return to the US, these epaulets will be mailed back to the veterans as a mark of gratitude and appreciation. **We need your help in identifying these Michigan veterans of WWII.** If you would like to be included in this list, or know a WWII vet, please send your (or his/her) name, address and phone number to the address or email address listed below so that we may honor you. You need not have served in Europe to be included. More information is also available on their website - www.ddaymichigan.com

Mail to: Mrs. VonKoenig, Dir. of Bands
Lakeshore Public Schools
5771 Cleveland Ave.
Stevensville, MI 49127

Email to: Eric_F_Bauchet@whirlpool.com
or info@americanlegionpost346.org
Reprinted from MI Legionnaire & Auxiliaire 12/2013

Lions Football Sundays Presented by the S.A.L.

As of press time, we were unsure if the Lions had secured the Wildcard spot for the NFC North. Keep your eyes on the bulletin board in the Clubroom and your email for announcements!



And don't forget about **Superbowl Sunday**
at the Post coming up on 2/2.
Details to come.



Contra Dancing Continues at the Post!

The monthly charity Contra Dances, hosted by Elise Newcomer, Miss Farmington 2011, have been a huge success! Contra is a form of folk dancing, done to live music with a caller who leads the dance. It is multi-generational, and great fun! No partner is necessary, and anyone can participate! Dances typically include dancers from ages 13 to 90, and a beginner's session is held ½ hour before the start of each dance to get new folks familiar with the style.

Dancers should bring clean, smooth soled shoes for dancing - no outside street shoes please. The dances will be from 1 to 4 pm (12:30 for beginners) and the dates for future dances in 2014 will be:

Sunday – Jan 19,
Feb 16, Mar 9, Apr 6,
May 18, Jun 1.

Admission donation requested is:

\$10 per person,
\$5 per student,
all funds go to a
different local
charity each month.



Need a new insignia pin for your hat, an American flag for your car, belt buckles, ball caps, lapel pins, military patches? You can now purchase these and many, many more items from Tony Mallia, sales representative for Eagle Emblems Inc.

Here's how -

- 1) Go to their website www.eagleemblemsinc.com or ask Tony for a catalog.
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- 3) Click on the item you would like to order, enter a quantity, click buy.
- 4) When done shopping, click on "shopping cart", print this page (landscape please). You will not be allowed to purchase on the website, only through Tony, an authorized dealer.
- 5) Give or mail your order form or shopping cart page (along with your name and address) to Tony, call him at 248-310-4190, or email him at AMNOVI1@att.net with the information from your shopping cart page.
- 6) Tony will contact you with the total for your order (no tax, no S&H).

Delivery in approx. 2 weeks, returns accepted within 2 weeks of delivery for a full refund. **A percentage of all sales go to the Post!**



WANTED: Plain twin bed w/mattress.

Contact Leah Brancheau 248-474-5054

Electric hospital bed (twin size) \$200 Includes mattress, adjustable full side rails & owner's manual. New in 2011, corded remote controller, elevates head and/or feet. Problems: headboard legs (to raise whole bed) do not work, footboard has cosmetic damage. Contact Carol Philp 248-910-2586

The Fine Print/Our Rules: The American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL, Post 346, and the Bulletin editors assume NO responsibility for the outcome of any transactions resulting from these ads. The seller takes full responsibility for the wording of his/her ad, the items he/she places up for sale and the way he/she conducts the transaction. Seller is responsible for understanding our rules, as well as any relevant laws and regulations of the State of Michigan pertaining to their advertised item(s) and their transaction. Buyers are fully responsible for inspecting any items offered for sale prior to purchase.

The editors reserve the right to refuse publication of ads that they determine are not in the best interests of the Bulletin, Post 346 or the American Legion. The fee for your ad is \$5 per Bulletin issue, payable at the time you place your ad. Once the Bulletin has been sent to the printer (see the deadline date included in each month's events calendar) your ad can not be retracted and fee is not refundable. We will be in contact with you before the next issue of the Bulletin goes to press to ask if you would like to purchase another month for your ad.

We Need Your Help!

Men and women wanted!

**Please volunteer to
work at Friday Night
BINGO. Contact Skip Nafe**

call the Post at (248) 478-9174



Volunteers (L to R) Jim Weston, Mike Williams, Jim Forbes, Jim Koponen and Ralph Philp (taking photo), braved the cold and assembled the Post's Christmas manger scene. Good Job Guys!





The Memorial Day parade won't be the same without you Ira, Rest In Peace. Obituary page 3.



On 12/9 S.A.L. Steven Koponen (above right) invited numerous Cub Scout packs to bring their wolves (2nd graders) to participate in a Flag Achievement ceremony at the Post. 5 Packs attended (45, 162, 226, 231 & 321) with approx. 30 scouts and 35 parents and visitors. Guiding the scouts were Steve, Color Guard Captain Ray Barry (above Left), Sgt-at-Arms Judith Kronk (above center),

Jim Koponen, Jim Forbes and Ralph Philp (who also took photos). The Wolves carried the colors in and posted them, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and sang America the Beautiful and the Star Spangled Banner before breaking into groups where our members taught them how to display and fold the flags. The kids not only earned achievement awards for their participation but also an enhanced appreciation for our American flag.



Aux. 1st Vice President Tammy Festian and Chaplain Paula Cotroneio count how many donations we received on the Auxiliary's annual Mitten Tree. Photo: Jim Koponen



Aux. 1st Vice President Tammy Festian (L) and President Leah Brancheau (R) welcome 18th Dist. President Angela Galbraith (C) to our December Aux. meeting.

Sons of the American Legion Commander Robert Smart

Hope everyone had a great Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here are a few things coming to our post in the next few months. We will have a fund raiser for the Relay for Life. Don't forget the St. Patty's corned beef & cabbage dinner and party in March, watch for dates and times for these events. Lets see a great show of post members for these events. Please pray for all our service members, past and present.

Rob Smart, SAL Commander

Most of the things people worry about never happen anyway. - anonymous



January is National Blood Donor Month

and Legionnaires everywhere are encouraged to give blood and host blood drives at Posts 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.



Posts and Departments that donate the most blood are honored at the National Convention in August each year. Departments are recognized in two areas: for Post participation and individual Legionnaire participation. The National Commander presents both awards at the National Convention. Winning Departments receive certificates signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant. **If you decide to donate blood at a blood drive or anywhere during this coming 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.**

Sgt-at-Arms Judith Kronk proudly displays a Certificate of Appreciation for her military service. Judy recently received the framed certificate from her employer Walmart as part of their "Saluting Heroes Together" efforts.



Talk About
☆☆☆ The ☆☆☆
American Legion

To family, friends, neighbors anyone who will listen to you! Ask if they belong to the Legion. Now more than ever, we need new members!



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 happens.

- 1) Contact the funeral director of your choice to arrange for internment. Internment 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) The funeral director can also apply for a flag to drape the casket.
- 6) If the veteran is a member of a veterans 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 the 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.

January Birthdays



1 Margaret Buckner
1 Marie Barber
1 Juanita Belanger
1 Mary Hill
1 Dorothy Purdy
4 Gary N. Brewer
8 Helen Currie
9 Jarrett Lott
12 Loraine Sheahen
13 Barbara Piotrowski

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 Christensen
24 Ashley Popa
25 Laureen 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

Coming up in February

1 Freedom Day
2 Super Bowl Sunday
2 Groundhog Day
6 Legion & Aux. meeting
12 Lincoln's Birthday
14 Valentine's Day
15 Susan B Anthony Day
17 Presidents Day
22 Washington's Birthday



January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 SAL Lions Game Party 1:00pm	30 Exec. Board meeting 7:30pm Coney Night 5:00 - 7:30pm	31	1 Clubroom OPEN New Years Day	2 Legion & Auxiliary meetings 7:30pm	3 BINGO 6:15pm	4
5	6 Coney Night 5:00 - 7:30pm	7	8 SAL meeting 7:30pm	9	10 BINGO 6:15pm	11
12	13 Coney Night 5:00 - 7:30pm	14	15	16	17 Submission deadline for February Bulletin BINGO 6:15pm	18
19 Contra Dance 1:00 - 4:00pm	20 Martin Luther King Day Coney Night 5:00 - 7:30pm	21 Home Board meeting 7:30pm	22	23	24 BINGO 6:15pm	25
26	27 Coney Night 5:00 - 7:30pm	28 Coast Guard Birthday	29	30	31 BINGO 6:15pm	1



BINGO!

Every Friday night
Doors open at 4:30 pm
Games start at 6:15 pm
2 Early Bird games
7 Regular games
3 Special games
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Please volunteer to help at BINGO, we need you!

TABS FOR TOTS

Please don't forget to save the
aluminum (NON-MAGNETIC!)
tabs from all of your beverage
and pull-tab containers to
donate to this worth while
program. Just drop off your
tabs at the rear clubroom door.



Thank You, Jim Koponen

USED CELL PHONE DRIVE

Upgrade your cell phone? Donate your
old phone and you will be helping the Post!
We have collection boxes both up &
downstairs. The money raised from
these phones is placed in our Children
and Youth Fund.



Thank you, Ralph Philp

MONDAY CONEY NIGHT!

**Every Monday in the clubroom
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

Hot Dog \$1.00
Coney Dog \$1.50
Your choice of Dearborn Sausage Co.
natural casing dog or all beef dog

Fries \$1.00
Chili Fries \$1.50



Drinks (w/ dog order)75¢
Includes: Draft beer, Coke, Diet Coke,
7up, ginger ale, orange juice, cranberry juice.

No reservations needed, COME ON DOWN!

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Member of Post 346 since 2001

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WWII Purple Heart

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Rhine River, Remagen Germany



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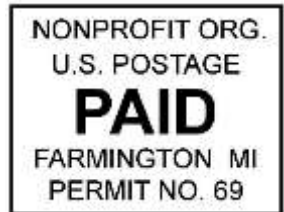
In Honor of
American Legion Life Member
Walter Sundquist
1926 - 2013

Mark Ziegler

248-474-5200

Farmington Road,
Just N of Grand River
Downtown Farmington

American Legion, Auxiliary & S.A.L.
Groves-Walker Post 346
31775 Grand River Ave.
Farmington, MI 48336-4238



The Groves-Walker Bulletin

January 2014 Edition



Meeting Nights

Legion & Auxiliary - 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm
SAL - 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Home Board - 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm
Exec. Board - Monday before Legion & Aux. meetings at 7:30 pm

Clubroom Hours

Mon. - Fri. 2pm - 9pm Sat. 4pm – close (varies) Sun. closed
For contact information for your officers or hall rental information,
please call Post **346** at **(248) 478-9174**

Visit our website at **www.AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org**

Email the Post, officers or Bulletin editors at **INFO@AMERICANLEGIONPOST346.org**

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of The United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

