

AMERICAN LEGION

CAPTAIN STEPHEN W. FRANK POST 269

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HASLETT, MICHIGAN 48840

<http://www.haslettpost269.org>



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Chaplain	George Swanson	655-5682
Service Officer	Ed Luther	333-1766
Historian	Darryl Smith	242-1246
Auxiliary President	Kathy Sedell	281-2115
SAL Commander	Bill Gohier	719-2287

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

POST SPONSORED COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Again this year, Post 269 will be receiving and processing applications for **Wilson** and **Brewer Scholarships** for high school age sons or daughters of military veterans. The scholarships are \$500 each, and applications have been sent to each high school in the service area. Applicants must have a minimum high school grade point average of B- as shown by a grade transcript and provide proof a parent was honorably discharged from military service. Wilson scholarships are awarded to students planning to attend a Michigan College or University. Brewer Scholarships are awarded to students planning on attending a college or university anywhere.

Each year, high school junior year boys are sponsored by Post 269 to attend the

American Legion Boys' State. The purpose of this 7 day intensive course in government is to educate young men about the internal workings of government at the local, county, and state levels using a hands on approach. The 72nd Annual Boys' State will be held at Northwoods University, June 15-21, 2009. Each high school in the Okemos, Haslett, Williamston and East Lansing areas will be sent letters with a video tape asking that recommended applicants' forms be sent to the Post.

The Michigan American Legion Department will organize and conduct an annual Oratorical Contest for high school youth for the Zone winners on February 28th. The State contest will be followed with the National contest in Indianapolis on 19-21 April, 2009. The awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers at the National level are \$18,000, \$16,000, and \$14,000, respectively.

HEROES AT HOME - Since 1916, Sears has been committed to members of America's military, employing many of them while they are stationed at home and holding their jobs while they are deployed overseas. In 2007, Sears launched Heroes at Home to help military personnel renovate and rebuild their homes. Since then, Sears has raised more than \$5 million through Heroes at Home for Rebuilding Together and rebuilt more than 200 homes for U.S. veterans and their families.

Sears supports U.S. service members and their families with programs such as Operation Purple, a \$2.5 million grant to the National Military Family Association that funds a series of

camps for children of deployed military personnel from all branches. In 2002, they became a founding member of the Army Spouse Employment Partnership, a program that offers military spouses another resource for finding employment. Sears also extended its Military Pay Differential and Benefits Continuation to fill the gap between military pay and employer pay and benefits continuation to 60 months for eligible employees in the Reserves or National Guard.

Sears Holdings has received the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award and the Military Officers Association Distinguished Service Award for their exceptional support to employees serving the nation in the National Guard and Reserves. Sears was also one of the first American Legion Blue Star Banner Award winners for support of Guard and Reserve Sears associates.

During the holiday season, Sears invited American Legion Posts into Sears stores to help with Heroes at Home fundraising and to sign up new Legion members.

Lets all support those outstanding employers that support our service members!

BAR RULES - According to Bar Rule # 12, There shall be no less than six actively drinking patrons, with at least one of those patrons being a member of Post 269, or the bar is to be closed at 10:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday.

GUARD AND RESERVE HANDBOOK - On December 10th, Military Handbooks announced release of the 2008 Guard and Reserve Handbook. The handbook, written specifically for members of the Reserve Component, includes a variety of information about military pay, benefits, and education. To receive a copy of this handbook, simply go to their web site at www.militaryhandbooks.com and submit your request, or download your own free copy. Don't forget to tell all of your military colleagues about this free handbook!

POST ACTIVITIES:

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE - 40 plus Legion members and others attended the Post's annual Veterans Day Service at the Post Hall at 11:00 a.m. on November 11th.

The program included remarks and prayers by Larry Lose, Post 269 Commander; Kathy Sedell, Auxiliary President; Major James B. Flowers, Michigan National Guard; George Swanson, Post Chaplain; and Kay Fellows, Auxiliary member. Refreshments were served after the ceremony.

The Post also provided an abbreviated version of the Post's Veterans Day Service at the East Lansing Health Care Center.

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE - The Post's Christmas tree fundraiser was a huge success again this year. The trees were sold in a little over two weeks!

Our thanks to Vision Collision for allowing us to use their parking lot and to Darryl Smith (Chairman) and all the volunteers that assisted in picking up, unloading and selling the trees. Those that volunteered had fun in the process. Thanks also to those that brought food and refreshments for the volunteers.



Rusty Dunn and Dave Pohoda

TOYS FOR TOTS - The Post's Second year serving as one of the US Marine Corps Reserve toy drop off sites for their annual Toys for Tots drive was another overwhelming

success. The Post collected well over 300 toys for the drive. Our thanks to Terry Eman for heading up the effort and to the other volunteers that assisted in what has become an annual community activity for the Post.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY - A New Year's Party was held at the Post with a prime rib dinner available for \$10, or attendees could participate in a potluck dinner by bringing a dish to pass. Events included Karaoke and dancing to music provided by a deejay. Hope you all took that opportunity for a good time!

SHUFFLEBOARD SUBSTITUTES - The Post's shuffleboard league continues its weekly competition at 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays. The league needs substitutes for players that go south for the winter. If you are interested in playing every week, or playing occasionally as a substitute, please sign up at the Post, or contact Darryl Smith at 242-1246. It's a great activity to get through the winter months.

DONATION - The Post donated \$100 to Emileigh Stoll, an eighth grader at Haslett Middle School, to help cover the cost to attend the National Young Leaders State Conference. Emileigh was nominated to represent the school and community at the conference which was held at Ypsilanti, Michigan.

THANKS - Our thanks to Leslie Baehre for donating \$110 for the purchase of service branch flags to be displayed in the Post hall.

FOOD BANK DONATION - The Post Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion (SAL) donated \$300 to the local food bank.

SNOW SHOVELING - The Post needs help keeping the building entryways free of snow by shoveling or spreading salt. Help is especially needed when snow falls during operating hours.

Any assistance by members would be greatly appreciated.

BATH POST 412 GRAND OPENING - Approximately 40 Post members attended the Grand Opening for the American Legion Post 412 in Bath on Sunday, December 14th. Post 412's building was destroyed by fire a year ago. The \$4600 in proceeds from the Post 269 fundraiser held in June was donated to Post 412 to help replace their building. A van was available to at Post 269 to transport our attendees to and from the event in Bath.

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY - The Post celebrated the birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps on November 10th with free sandwiches, snacks and \$1 drinks from 4-7 p.m.

THANKS - Our thanks to Jerry and Kay Fellows for donating a digital picture frame to the Post. The new device is being used to display photos from Post events such as picnics, Children's Christmas and Legion Birthday parties, Memorial and Veterans Day programs, etc.

TAPS - We regret to inform you that **Charles D. Hefner** and **Guy Messacar** have passed away. They will be greatly missed by their families and friends, including those at the Post.

AUXILIARY

SOCIAL EVENTS - Our annual "Sweetheart Dance" will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14th, 2009. We will be casting secret ballots at our next meeting to select the "Sweetheart of the Year" to honor the woman in our unit who has contributed the most to the welfare of our unit and the Post in general. The unit will purchase a cake to celebrate the presentation with the dancing to follow.

Our ladies annual Christmas potluck/gift exchange brought a very large outpouring of

members, allowing many to visit with women they hardly get to see or talk to. A fun time was had by all and nobody went away hungry with the huge variety of foods to choose from.

The annual kids Christmas party was also a wonderful success with almost 50 kids in attendance. Special thanks to Dianna Sedell and Sue Meranda for assisting with the planning and a large thank you to Jill Clifford for purchasing and wrapping all the gifts and decorating the hall side of the club. Kudos to Clara Baker for leading everyone in Christmas carols until the arrival of Santa. And, of course, many, many thanks to our other unit members who so generously donated their time and effort to make this such a success.



Santa's helpers

Euchre tournaments will resume at the Post on Sunday, January 11th, at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person and \$.25 a set if you are euchred. Snacks are welcome.

Speaking of euchre, the Bath Post has euchre tournaments every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$5.00 to play and the \$.25 cent rule also applies. It would be a good idea to call ahead and get your name on the list for both places so they can plan accordingly. Both are an inexpensive way to have a lot of fun and socialize with friends.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS - Due to an abbreviated meeting prior to our holiday luncheon, normal auxiliary topics were tabled and will be resumed

at our first meeting of the New Year on January 4th, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. Reminder, any members who haven't paid their dues for the 2009 year, are now considered delinquent. Please remit your \$20 check to Kathy Ayers as soon as possible. Our unit appreciates your continued support. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Ayers at 999-3066.

UNIT NEWS

We are doing a can/box food drive for the food bank at the Haslett Community Church. Donations are gladly accepted at the Post. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please Kathy Sedell at 281-2115 for instructions on how to contribute financially.

Reminder, we are still collecting old cell phones to send to our troops and they can be left at the Post as well. Put your old phone(s) to good use.

POTPOURRI

For anyone who enjoys sewing, Kathy Sedell has instructions for making arm and leg protectors for nursing homes. Contact her at 281-2115 for more info.

Any auxiliary members doing volunteer work for friends, be sure to make a notation of your hours and any money spent, so it can be noted on our Home Service report.

Check out the website www.needalift.org for scholarship book info.

DEEPEST SYMPATHIES - Sue Robinson has notified us that her father, Guy Messacar, passed away on December 7th, 2008. He was a Passed away on December 7th. He was a member of the Legion. Her mother followed him in passing on December 24th, 2008. Our sympathies to her and her entire family for the loss of both of her parents.

COMING EVENTS:

SUPER BOWL PARTY - The Post will host a Super Bowl party at 6:00 p.m. on February

1, 2009. Bring a dish to pass and come out for a good time and to root for your favorite team.

SWEETHEART DANCE - The Auxiliary will sponsor the annual Sweetheart Dance at the Post on February 14, 2009.

LEGION BIRTHDAY DINNER - Mark your calendars now for the Post's annual Legion Birthday Dinner which will be held at the Post on March 14, 2009. Details will be provided in the next newsletter.

The wisdom of Larry the cable guy.....

1. A day without sunshine is like night.
2. On the other hand, you have different fingers.
3. 42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.
4. 99 percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.
5. Remember, half the people you know are below average.
6. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
7. Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm.
8. The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese in the trap.
9. Support bacteria. They're the only culture some people have.
10. A clear conscience is usually the sign of a bad memory.