THE AMERICAN LEGION

Campbell-Richmond Post #63 - Clarkston, Michigan

Proudly Serving America

February / March 2018

Newsletter: Dean Lambouris *post63newsletter@comcast.net*

Post Officers

Legion

Commander: Kim Lambouris
1st Vice: T. J. Phipps
Adjutant: Dale Elkins
Finance Officer: Don Davis
Sgt. At Arms: Don Carter
Service Ofcr: Jerry Grzywinski
Trustee: Wayne Fisher
Trustee: Barney Schoenfeld

Auxiliary

President: Amy Laboissonniere
1st Vice: Sue James
2nd Vice: Cher Jones
Secretary: Sandy Hoose
Treasurer: Sue Battishill
Sgt At Arms: Deanna Perysian
Chaplain: Paula Collier
Membership: Judy McCutcheon

SAL

Commander: Brian York
1st Vice: John Ousnamer
2nd Vice: Jim Battishill
Adjutant: Charlie Zimmer
Finance Officer: Frank Sanders
Sgt At Arms: George Vihonsky
Historian: Charlie Zimmer
Chaplain: Don Lewis

IVMHA

President: Don Carter

Clubroom Chair - Wayne Fisher
Hall Rental Chair - Paula Collier

Campbell-Richmond
American Legion Post 63
8047 Ortonville Road,
Clarkston MI 48348
248 625-9912
www.legion63mi.org

Younger veterans bypass VFW, American Legion for other service, fitness groups

Those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan gravitate toward modern organizations

By Jacqueline Klimas - *The Washington Times - Sunday, October 19, 2014*

Kate Hoit served eight years in the Army Reserves, including a tour in Iraq, but when she tried to join her local Veterans of Foreign Wars chapter, someone asked whether she needed an application for military spouses instead.

Now, Ms. Hoit said, she will never join the VFW or the American Legion. She said the organizations are unwelcoming and out of touch with the needs of post-Sept. 11 veterans who served in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"I'm not going to go the VFW or the Legion and drink and smoke cigarettes," she said. "I want to be out in my community."

Her complaint is echoed by other veterans of the war on terrorism, who see the venerable veterans groups as fraternities of older men from previous wars. The new generation of veterans instead is gravitating toward groups organized around activities such as running or volunteering, and groups that allow nonmilitary members to take part as well.

Younger veterans say the traditional organizations differ in many ways from groups that appeal to them, including the types of advocacy they do and their ways of communication — "snail mail" versus email.

Officials from the American Legion and VFW say they are trying to maintain the valuable clout they have built on Capitol Hill and need support to help veterans navigate the bureaucracy of the Department of Veterans Affairs — benefits that the more modern groups don't provide.

It's a challenge for the traditional veterans organizations, who agree they need to change to stay relevant.

Unwelcoming

Post-9/11 veterans say a typical experience at a local post involves walking into a dimly lit bar only to find unwelcoming veterans 30 years older who are having drinks at 10 a.m.

"It's just the most depressing place," said Sgt. Matt Pelak, an Army veteran who spent three years in Iraq and still serves in the National Guard. "I can't imagine a place that is further removed from my generation of veterans."

Veterans also said such groups deepen the divide between civilian and military worlds because only veterans are allowed to join.

Continued on page 4

Commanders' Corner

Commander Kim Lambouris:

Happy 2018 Everyone! It is a new year with lots of new things to do. The Wild Game Dinner is coming up fast. It's February 24, 2018 from 6 to 9. There will be raffles, a 50/50, and some Great food! The tickets are $20 per ticket and we only have 180 tickets. Let's get every ticket sold! Tickets are available for purchase in the Clubroom or contact Wayne Fisher at 248-625-9912. We now have Coney/Hot Dogs on select days or at the discretion of the bartender for the LOW PRICE of only $1.00 in the clubroom. We will also be having a Comedy Night Dinner on March 31, 2018. More information about ticket sales will be forth coming. As always, I am open to suggestions and ideas. Call/text me or at 248-910-6769. You can also email me at klambo2@comcast.net. I look forward to seeing you!

- Kim Lambouris, Commander
  kmlambou@oaklandcc.edu

1st Vice Commander T J Phipps:

We are at 70% membership, please send in your dues ASAP, if you receive a renewal notice from national, please check your card and make sure it is for 2018, and through out the notice. National sends out dues notices, the post does not.

- T J Phipps, 1st Vice Commander
  tjphipps@hotmail.com

Service Officer Gerald Grzywinski:

If you or anyone needs help or information regarding veterans help or benefits, please call me @ 248-494-2821. Boys State applications are now being accepted, requirements are that the person be a male in his junior year, or credited Home schooled, interested in Politics, how government works and civic leadership. Please call me @ 248-494-2821 if you know of anyone that is interested. Applicant is not required to be affiliated with any veterans or veterans group. You can also view website www.michiganboysstate.org for information on this great leadership program that may assist young students in their acceptance into college as well. Our legion posts will sponsor the application cost for this program up to our limit, applications are due May 25 2019

We also have programs for Girls State that is sponsored by our Ladies Auxiliary, you should contact Amy LaBoisinnierre at our legion post for more information.

- Jerry Grzywinski, Service Officer—VSO / Boys State Chairperson
  jerryg48348@yahoo.com

S.A.L. Commander Brian York:

Happy New Year! Hope your new year will be healthy and prosperous. We have about 1/3 of our membership that has not renewed. Get your $40 in to 1st Vice John Ousnamer so that your name won't make the list on the club room refrigerator! The wild game dinner is Saturday, Feb. 24 at 6PM and tickets are available in the club room for $20 per person. Chaplain Art Wargo is looking for donations for the raffle table. Contact him if you are interested in making a donation. He is pretty good at putting together packages and we always have a great turnout!

For God and Country

- Brian York, SAL Commander
  yorkboy50@yahoo.com

Greetings ladies!

As dreary, cold and sickly January draws to a close, we are heating up! We have so many things going on! First, please know, with your help, we have provided 7 different veterans with much needed help in the past month. ONE MONTH. SEVEN VETERANS. Rent, utilities, groceries, gas. One veteran received a new toilet. It's not our job to judge why the help is needed, it is our opportunity to serve. Thank you Service Officer Jerry Grzywinski for his unending support confirming the status of our Veterans and working with Kim and I to get help out to those who need it.

Special thanks and shout out to Deanna Perysian, who conducts our annual Pecan Sales. That's $300 for our general fund - thanks Deanna!

Our Troop Packing party has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 13th. Several drop off locations have been designated throughout the community and we welcome anyone to would like to help us pack. WE NEED SERVICE ADDRESSES! Please send any you know to adtdsb@gmail.com.

GIRLS STATE: This year our Girls State Open House will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 7pm! This evening will include information about the program for both parents and students. All ages are welcome to attend, Girls State is for girls in their Junior year of high school only! More information can be found online at https://www.alaforveterans.org/ALA-Girls-State/ or you may contact me for an application! Please join us, we need all our members for wonderful representation!

We're collecting items for our annual WIDOW'S BASKET for the Wild Game Dinner. Please bring any donations you have before the 2/13 meeting! Candles, bubbly, chocolate, a good read? How else would you pamper yourself? Bring it!

DESSERTS NEEDED - please consider bringing desserts for the Wild Game Dinner on 2/24!

We are accepting donations for the RUMMAGE SALE. Please keep things in all one place, to the left side of the back garage!

Peace,
Amy Laboissonniere
President Unit 63 Auxiliary
adtdsb@gmail.com

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

WHEN: Opens at 5pm Dinner is served 6PM–9PM
WHERE: American Legion Post #63 / 8047 Ortonville Rd., Clarkson MI 48348

DRAWINGS—BOOZE BASKET—MULTI ITEM RAFFLE
50/50—GUN RAFFLE

$20 per ticket available in the clubroom

Continued from page 1……

More Iraq and Afghanistan veterans say they are joining groups that allow them to stay active, continue to serve their country and interact with civilians to help reintegrate into society after serving overseas.

Team Rubicon lets veterans serve alongside civilian first responders and "get dirty" when a natural disaster strikes, enabling them to maintain skills they learned in the military, said Sgt. Pelak, director of strategic partnerships at the 4-year-old California-based organization.

Team Red, White and Blue, known by members as Team RWB, focuses on fitness and organizes group runs, bicycle rides, cross fit and yoga classes in regional chapters to help veterans deal in productive ways with stress from deployments or anxiety about the future, said Capt. Brennan Mullaney, the organization's mid-Atlantic regional director.

Capt. Mullaney, who transitioned to the Army Reserve in 2010, said because it's important for younger veterans, who have been part of an all-volunteer force, to be able to continue to serve their community and country. He said traditional organizations now consist primarily of Vietnam-era veterans, many of whom were drafted and tend to have "a different view of your service and what your nation owes you."

Both the VFW and American Legion say Vietnam-era veterans make up the largest portion of their membership. Only about 15 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans who are eligible to join the VFW have done so.

Membership in the VFW, which marked the 100th anniversary of its founding last month, peaked at 2.1 million in the early 1990s. That is down to about 1.3 million today, and the average age of members is nearly 70. The American Legion claims 2.4 million members, down from 3.1 million two decades ago.

Lynn Rolf, a former Army captain who served in Iraq, couldn't wait to join the VFW, saying it was an honor to become a member of the same organization as his father and grandfather. Once at the post at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, however, he started to see some behavior he didn't like.

"They didn't like the young guys, they didn't think we knew what we were talking about. It wasn't very family-friendly," Mr. Rolf said. "But now it is."

Rather than drop out, Mr. Rolf recruited his friends to join, took on leadership roles and changed the organization into something that fits his needs. When he hears the common complaints from Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, the VFW Western Conference vice chairman tells them to do the same thing and "force change."

Explaining the benefits

Part of the problem in recruiting younger veterans may be the American Legion and VFW's difficulty in explaining what services it provides, including legislative advocacy on Capitol Hill or helping veterans submit disability benefits to get the money they are owed quickly, Mr. Rolf said.

He said most younger veterans think of the local VFW post as just a bar.

Randi Law, a spokeswoman for the VFW, acknowledged it's a common misperception that the organization is "working diligently to overcome."

Continued on next page….

She said many posts have closed their food service operations, become smoke-free and begun offering amenities such as exercise equipment and playgrounds. Posts that don't evolve, she said, face "an uncertain future."

The VFW's latest push to recruit younger members will send troops who enrolled in college after the military to Capitol Hill to lobby for veterans' needs with VFW staff.

The American Legion also is working with students to recruit younger veterans by opening several posts on college campuses over the past five years, said Matt Herndon, deputy director of membership. These groups allow students and faculty who served to support one another and provide help in searching for work.

Mr. Herndon said student veterans who get involved in the Legion during college may be more likely to continue their membership and bring new ideas to posts after graduation.

But the organizations also acknowledge that they need to do a better job of explaining what they offer, including assistance with benefits claims, scholarships, grants, free calls home for deployed service members and advocacy in Washington.

"People are usually surprised to learn how much of an impact the VFW has already had on their lives," Ms. Law said. "Without the VFW, there would be no VA. There would be no compensation, no benefits, no one to ensure our veterans and military families are cared for after serving our country."

VFW service officers, who are familiar with VA bureaucracy and paperwork, can submit forms on behalf of veterans, help file appeals if disability benefits are denied, or simply offer advice to those who want to file their own disability claims regardless of whether the veteran belongs to the VFW.

Over the past two years, more than 200,000 veterans have taken advantage of the help and collectively obtained almost $6 billion in benefits from the VA, Ms. Law said.

Sgt. Pelak said his generation is grateful for the organization's lobbying work on programs such as the G.I. Bill, but that's not enough to recruit younger veterans.

New organizations

Meanwhile, other organizations have stepped up to lobby for post-9/11 veterans.

Lt. Cmdr. Sean Foertsch, a Navy reservist who served in Afghanistan, said younger veterans typically don't need service organizations to fight for the benefits they were promised. He said military personnel have largely been spared from the budget cuts that have hurt other parts of the federal government because of overwhelming public support for troops.

Lt. Cmdr. Foertsch, who decided not to renew his American Legion membership this year, said older veterans groups are "more interested in being a political player than actually addressing the needs of vets." The groups that are popular with post-9/11 veterans, he said, are more focused on helping with reintegration into the community.

"That is where the models of Team RWB and Rubicon seem to gain more traction with younger vets — they are focused on the 'who' the veteran is as opposed to the 'what' they get from" veterans organizations, he said by email from Liberia, where he has just deployed to fight Ebola.

Continued on next page….

Bryan Allyn, a former Navy petty officer who served in Afghanistan, decided not to renew his Legion membership after two years. He said the VA has advocates to help him navigate the benefits process and he would rather cut out the middleman and do the work himself.

A Legion membership still offers exclusive discounts, such as 20 percent off prescription drugs and savings at hotels, but Mr. Allyn said other groups provide benefits that may be more appealing to younger veterans, such as VetTix.org, which gives free concert and sports tickets to veterans and their families.

"Basically, I was paying a fee but all I was getting was some address labels and discounts on rental cars and stuff," he said. "Other than that, there was really nothing that was of benefit."

Younger veterans say the problem extends even to how the groups communicate. The Legion's postal letters often end up in the trash, Mr. Allyn said. Instead, Team RWB and Team Rubicon use social media, which connects large numbers of veterans across the country.

Older veterans said the traditional organizations have a legitimacy that can't be conveyed by having 10,000 "likes" on Facebook, and they fear lawmakers on Capitol Hill won't take the new organizations' lobbying as seriously.

Mr. Herndon said the Legion is trying to use more social media such as Twitter and Facebook to communicate with members, though he acknowledged it could do better. He said the Legion has several "cyberposts" where veterans participate in meetings and talk with other members online through chat rooms or video conferences.

The VFW's Mr. Rolf said veterans should feel welcome to join the old and new organizations.

While at the Kansas VFW, Mr. Rolf worked with members of Team Rubicon on tornado relief and knew it was a service group he wanted to join. After spending a lot of time on the road and putting on some weight, Mr. Rolf joined the fitness-oriented Team RWB and has lost 75 pounds running and participating in cross fit with the group. He now holds leadership roles in both of these groups and said they need to work more with traditional veterans groups — and vice versa.

Valentine's Day in the Clubroom!

Wayne will have drink specials for all RED drinks.

Pot Luck with Mostaccoli and Ravioli

Every lady will be presented with a Valentine Rose!

The Auxiliary is now accepting donations for our annual garage sale which is taking place on May 4th, 5th and 6th.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Auxiliary President Amy Laboissonniere adtdsb@gmail.com or at (248) 982-1203.

Post #63 wants to give a special THANKS to Legionnaire Joe Cherri for his generous venison donations and the selfless help he provides every year prepping our dinners! **THANKS JOE!!!**

FEBRUARY EVENT CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 **1pm** Flaming Pistons **2pm** Club Hall Renta	29	30	31	Feb 1 **7pm** Shuffle Board	2	3
4	5	6	7 **7pm** Legion Member	8 **7pm** Shuffle Board	9	10
11	12 **7pm** SAL Meeting	13 **7pm** Aux. Meeting	14 **Valentine's Day!** **6pm—?** **Club Room Drink Specials** 	15 **7pm** Shuffle Board	16	17
18	19 FOP	20	21 **7pm** E-Board Meetin	22 **7pm** Shuffle Board	23	24 **6pm** Wild Game Dinr
25 **1pm** Flaming Pistons **2pm** Club Hall Renta	26	27	28	Mar 1 **7pm** Shuffle Board	2	3

MARCH EVENT CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	26	27	28	Mar 1 7pm Shuffle Board	2	3
4	5	6	7 7pm Legion Member	8 7pm Shuffle Board	9	10
11	12 7pm SAL Meeting	13 7pm Aux. Meeting	14	15 7pm Shuffle Board	16	17
18	19 FOP	20	21 7pm E-Board Meetin	22 7pm Shuffle Board	23	24
25 1pm Flaming Pistons 2pm Club Hall Renta	26	27	28	29 7pm Shuffle Board	30	31 Dinner/Comedy show

PREMIER LEVEL CONTENT:

News release/blog/website story:

Giving Back: American Legion Post 63 achieves Premier Blood Partner status for its work with the Red Cross

[Clarkston, January 29, 2018] – The American Legion Post 63 has been recognized by the American Red Cross as one of its Premier Blood Partners for 2018, a prestigious honor, for its support of the community and national blood supply.

Last year, **The American Legion Post 63** and Keller Williams helped the Red Cross collect **129 pints** blood donations, as part of its deep-rooted commitment to help save lives in the community, and wherever patient lives depend on generous donors to battle illness and injury.

"The American Legion Post 63 is proud to be a part of the Red Cross mission that helps ensure lifesaving blood is available for hospital patients in need,"**Kimberly Lambouris, Commander**. "Our organization shares that same humanitarian value to help our neighbor and we are grateful for the opportunity to host blood drives that will do just that here in our community."

Every day, volunteer blood and platelet donors across the country are needed to help save lives. Blood and platelets are needed for accident and burn victims, heart surgery and organ transplant patients, and those receiving treatment for leukemia, cancer or sickle cell disease, according to the Red Cross.

Blood Drive Scheduled for May 10, 2018

Keller Williams Real Estate will host a Red Cross blood drive on **May 10, 2018** from **12:00 pm** to **8:00 pm** at **American Legion Post 63**. Community members are urged to come out and roll up a sleeve.

"We encourage the community to join us **Thursday, May 10, 2018** to give the gift of life. The donation process only takes about an hour and can make an enormous difference for a patient battling illness or injury."

To schedule an appointment to donate blood at the **American Legion Post 63,** visit **redcrossblood.org sponsor code: kwclarkston** or call **313-530-0375.**

Donors of all blood types are needed. Blood is a perishable product that can only come from volunteer blood donors.

About -*The* American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans. Hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time. The Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families, providing them with "comfort items" and the kind of support that makes a hospital feel a little bit more like home. The Legion also raises millions of dollars in donations at the local, state and national levels to help veterans and their families during times of need and to provide college scholarship opportunities.

The American Legion is a nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization with great political influence perpetuated by its grass-roots involvement in the legislation process from local districts to Capitol Hill. Legionnaires' sense of obligation to community, state and nation drives an honest advocacy for veterans in Washington. The Legion stands behind the issues most important to the nation's veterans community, backed by resolutions passed by volunteer leadership.

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives

Social Media:

Last year, we helped collect **129 units** blood donations and earned prestigious @RedCross Premier Blood Partner recognition. You can make a difference in the community too! **<redcrossblood.org or online scheduling link for specific blood drive>**

Facebook:

Do you have an hour to help save a life? As a proud Premier Blood Partner with the Red Cross, we know that just that short amount of time donating blood can mean a lifetime to a patient battling illness or injury. Roll up a sleeve and join us in giving back to the community. Visit **<redcrossblood.org or online scheduling link for specific blood drive>** today to schedule your appointment to give at an upcoming blood drive!

The American Legion
Campbell-Richmond Post #63
8047 Ortonville Road
Clarkston MI 48348

To:

E-Mail is the preferred method of delivery.

Contact Dean Lambouris at: post63newsletter@comcast.net

Thursday night Shuffleboard resumes at 7pm 9/22/17— Check-In at 6:30pm!!

Redwood Inc.
Adult Foster Care Homes
A Non-Profit Corporation
Brookhaven, Columbiaville — Lighthouse, Imlay City
Oakhill, Attica — Redwood Manor, Burton
For Help With Aid and Attendance Call:
248 625-1280
Homes For The Aged And Veterans

401k Rollover Advice and IRA Investment Management

To Schedule an Appointment at our Office
4139 W Walton Blvd, Suite D, Waterford
or to Get a Second Opinion
Call (248) 673-2900
or Send email to
Service@FinancialFreedomHouse.com
www.FinancialFreedomHouse.com
30 Years of Fiduciary Service—*Doing What Others Imply*
Cygnet Financial Freedom House is an independent Michigan Registered Investment Advisor (RIA)
Cygnet utilizes TD Ameritrade as an independent and unrelated custodian for client accounts.
Securities offered through Triad Advisors, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC

Strawberry Fields Retirement Home
1305 Ford Rd.
White Lake, MI 48383
Penny Lewis
248 866-3984
strawberryfieldselderlycare.com

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE®
Michigan's Insurance Company
* **Alan Leonard (Son of Legion Member-Ron Leonard)**
* **Homeowners & Auto Insurance**
* **Classic car coverage (Haggerty)**
* **Business/Commercial Insurance**
* **Life Insurance & Annuities**
* **New lower rates**
Phone: (248)-249-3495 Email: a.leonard@fbinsmi.com
7608 Dixie Hwy. Suite 200 | Clarkston, MI 48346

LEWIS E. Wint AND SON FUNERAL HOME
(248)625-5231
5929 S. Main · Clarkston · MI · 48346
www.wintfuneralhome.com
Funeral Directors:
William H. Wint · Jennifer M. Simsack
Timothy M. Currier · Robert K. Kerwin II