THE AMERICAN LEGION

Campbell-Richmond Post 63—Clarkston, MI

Proudly Serving America

February/March 2017 **Volume 17 / Issue 1**

Newsletter: Editor Keith Marbutt

Post Officers

Legion

Commander: Keith Marbutt
1st Vice: T J Phipps
2nd Vice:
Adjutant: Bob Cicinelli
Finance Officer: Jerry Grzywinski
Sgt At Arms: Don Carter
Chaplain: Nick Dureiko
Service Officer:

Auxiliary

Unit President: Uni Marbutt
1st Vice: Amy Laboissonniere
2nd Vice: Sue Battishill
Secretary: Annie Germic
Treasurer: Amy Laboissonniere
Sgt At Arms: Deanna Perysian
Chaplain: Paula Collier
Historian: Debbie Cicinelli

SAL

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: Art Wargo

IVMHA

President: Don Carter

Clubroom Chair - Wayne Fisher
Rental Chair - Keith Marbutt

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

www.legion63mi.com

Our post is seeking candidates for the

2017 Boys State and Girls State

held in June. If you know of any student in their *JUNIOR YEAR* of High School only (11th Grade), that would like to participate, please contact us for details. We would like to support as many candidates as possible!

MICHIGAN BOY STATE

www.michiganlegion.org/boys-state

June 18-24, 2017

Grand Valley State University

Boys State Chair
Jerry Grzywinski
Cell 248-494-2821
jerryg48348@yahoo.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY GIRLS STATE

www.michalaux.org/girls-state/

June 18-24, 2017

Michigan State University

Girls State Chair
Amy Laboissonniere
Cell 248-892-1203
adtdsb@gmail.com

Girls State Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, March 14th at 6pm.

Commanders' Corner

Commander Keith Marbutt: The beginning of this New Year seems like a good time to congratulate all of our members who volunteer their time and work tirelessly, to keep our Post going. I won't try to mention names, because we all know who those people are. Whether you are one of our Officers that have daily or weekly responsibilities, or one of the many members that come out and help with or just support our activities, I know that we are all grateful to have such a dependable group. My heartfelt thanks go to each of you. I especially want to commend and thank our Auxiliary and S. A. L. members for all of their contributions; we could not make it without your help. We also have several Associate members that continually make monetary contributions, as well as giving their time to help out with our projects. I want each of you to know how much we appreciate you.

Recently I was asked by one of our insurance carriers to provide them with a copy of the Post income tax form 990, for the past two years. While looking through the past tax filings, I found an interesting trend. In 2013, our total net assets increased 4% over 2012. In 2014, our total net assets increased 16.4% over 2013. In 2015, our total net assets increased 19.7% over 2014. We won't get the numbers for 2016 until around May; however I fully expect this trend to continue. You may ask, what does the total net asset number really show? In my opinion, it basically shows the overall health and growth of our Post is good. What it doesn't show is that we occasionally approve or spend more than we have in the checking account to cover. There are many things we can do to resolve these short term issues, including: better planning, budgeting, spending less, or raising more. I have every confidence that our combined leaders will continue working together to resolve any short term financial issue that may arise. One of the things that I have done is put together a list of the Post 63 events and projects that we do each year. Many of the events are managed by the same people each year, but some will need to have new people take them over if we plan to continue them. The list also gives us a chance to identify dependent tasks that need to be completed prior to the event such as applications or licenses. Every event will need many volunteers. So, please take a look at the list and let me know of things that we can add to it, then come to the meetings, and get involved with the things that you are interested in seeing us continue.

We are still looking for someone to take over as the Hall Rental Chairperson. This position should be filled by someone that is dedicated to the success of our post. The hall rental chair is responsible for maintaining the overall Post 63 calendar, and is the only person that can commit to the availability of the hall and authorize rentals. (Membership authorizes all other use of the Post 63 hall.) By default then; they are also responsible to make sure the hall is maintained and clean. That is not saying that they always have to do the work themselves, but to see that it gets done. The job entails answering inquiry calls about possible rentals, showing the hall, writing rental contracts, collecting rental and security monies and turning them over to the post finance officer, and requesting and sending out security deposit refund checks. For these duties the rental chair person receives 10 % of all rental fees. Certain rentals also include monitor and or cleaning fees that the chair person can earn or assign. The rental chair should have good transportation, a cell phone they are willing to post the number for, letter writing, file organization and good communication skills.

We also have need for a Service Officer and a Newsletter editor as Kim Lambouris resigned as Second Vice Commander and Service Officer and Dean Lambouris resigned as the Newsletter editor. Under the circumstances, I believe it is in the best interest of the Post for them to step down. If you think there is a better way to do things here at the post, come to the meetings and activities, and present or suggest positive alternatives. I will temporarily assume the duties of Newsletter editor, along with the temporary Rental Chair duties that I have assumed. I know that I have already indicated that I will not seek re-election this year, as Uni and I would like to pursue other interests which include travel plans. I plan to maintain my position on the Executive Board as trustee, but will give up the Charity Games, Rental and Newsletter Chairman positions. If we wish to continue these activities at Post 63, someone will have to take over the responsibilities.

If you have suggestions or ideas on how to improve our Post, or of event/fundraising ideas, please send them to me via email, to kmarbutt@comcast.net, or call me at 248 425-4410. I look forward to seeing you at the Legion, Post 63.
- Keith Marbutt, Commander - **kmarbutt@comcast.net**

Sr. Vice Commander T J Phipps: Membership is at 84% as of Jan 1st,there are still a lot of members who have not paid dues yet, please remember that the state has raised them to $45.00, please keep you're membership up to date.
T J Phipps, 1st Vice Commander, **tjphipps@hotmail.com**

SAL Commander Brian York: Brian York, Commander SAL Squadron #63 **yorkboy50@yahoo.com**

Happy New Year Gentlemen, looking forward to 2017 and the numerous events that we could volunteer our time to assist with. The 1st major event is the Wild Game Dinner on Saturday 2-18-17. We need assistance with every aspect, but especially donations for the silent raffle. You could contact me or Art Wargo if you have anything that you could donate. Our membership continues to grow, but we need all of you to renew for 2017. Our renewal is $40 for regular and $10 for junior (Under 18). Please get your renewals in so that we can be at 100%. As always, our membership meetings are the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM, except for the summer months. Please come out if you are able and make a difference.

For God and Country, Brian York, Commander SAL Squadron #63.

From The Auxiliary President

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Our Unit 63 Auxiliary has a lot planned for 2017! Once again we're creating a "Hunting Widow's Basket" for the Wild Game Dinner, Saturday, February 18. We need Items such as Gift Cards, Candles, DVDs, Books, Chocolate, Spa Items, Wine, Booze, Glasses, Snacks, etc for the basket. Items can be left in the Clubroom or just bring it to the next meeting, February 14th at 7:00 PM.

Auxiliary Member of the Year: If you know a fellow member who has assisted our Unit by participating in fundraisers, organized programs or has worked tirelessly "behind the scenes", please nominate them for this honor. Voting will take place at the March 14th meeting. The banquet will be on Friday, April 21.

Coins, Coins, Coins! Coin Show Saturday, April 29th. Doors open at 9 AM. At this show you can buy, sell, trade or get an appraisal on your monetary items. Lunch is available from our Ladies Auxiliary too!

Our Annual Rummage Sale is being planned as well. It is a joint venture with the Legionaries. The dates are as follows: Thursday, May 04, is set up in the hall. Friday & Saturday, May 05 & 06 are the sale dates and Sunday, May 07, is clean up. Our sale will be held in conjunction with the M-15 Recreational Heritage Route Garage Sales, "the longest garage sale in the world". Donated items will be set up in the hall. We will also offer outside spots for "Junk in the Trunk" sales at only $10 for the weekend, (non-refundable). Folks will be able to rent a spot and sell their stuff from their trunk, trailer or tables. As you begin your spring cleaning please set aside those unwanted items and donate them to our Legion.

Poppy Days! The dates set aside to collect donations are Thursday, May 18 through Saturday, May 20. Applications, forms and requests have all been submitted and are awaiting approval. This is the Auxiliary's largest fundraiser for our Veterans. 100% of all donations collected go to assist Veterans and Active Duty Service Members in need. There are 8,760 hours in a year…when we get the volunteer board up in the Club Room, please sign up for an hour or two to help our Veterans.

Girl's State is also in the works. This year our Auxiliary will be sending two girls to Girls State. If you know of a Girl who is a junior in High School and would like to attend, please encourage her to apply.

2017 Dues are DUE! If you have not paid, please do so. Adult: $25.00 / Junior: $10.00. Please make your check out to: American Legion Unit 63 Auxiliary.

Hope to see you at our next meeting!

Uni Marbutt, Auxiliary President

SAL Sr. Vice Commander John C. Ousnamer

- Happy New Year's Brothers! Welcome to 2017 and a new President of the United States! 45th President Donald J. Trump! Despite all the crazy media perspectives he IS OUR President and we have to look positively to the future of our great country! GOD BLESS AMERICA! As we move into the New Year I would like to remind our SAL members that dues for adult Sons was raised in 2015 to $40 per year! Please remember this when you pay your 2017 dues! Also we are trying to save money with postage. We are sending out Newsletters and other correspondence by email if possible. If you are getting your Newsletters by first class mail and you have an email address please get that information to me at ShootrDude@gmail.com ! It would be great to see you at a meeting the second Monday of the month 7:00 PM! Respectfully, John C. Ousnamer, SAL Sr. Vice Commander 248-320-0733

Campbell-Richmond Post 63
Honor/Color Guard Calendar

DATE	Day	TIME	EVENT	TASK	PLACE
May 28, 2017	Sunday	9:00 AM	Post 63 & Lakeview Cemetery	Breakfast / Placement of Flags at Lakeview Cemetery	Post 63 & Lakeview Cemetery
May 29, 2017	Monday	7:00 AM	Memorial Service Set-up	Haul & placement chairs, flags, water	Post 63 & Lakeview Cemetery
May 29, 2017	Monday	9:30 AM	Memorial Day Parade - Service	March-Lead Parade, Service, Rifle Volley	Post 63, Depot Park & Lakeview Cemetery
June ??	Saturday	9:00 AM	Little League Team Opening Day - Post 63 Team	???	Clintonwood Park, 6000 Clarkston Road, Clarkston, MI
June ??	Saturday	9:00 AM	Ortonville Creekfest Parade, 10 AM	March with Ortonville V.F.W. / Rifle Volley	Meet at Post 63 - Parade in Ortonville
Jul 04, 2016	Tuesday	8:30 AM	4th of July Parade	March-Lead Parade Rifle Volley	Downtown Clarkston
Sep 04, 2017	Monday	8:30 AM	Labor Day Parade	March-Lead Parade, Rifle Volley	Downtown Clarkston
Sep 15, 2017	Friday	6 pm ??	National POW/MIA Recognition Day	Rifle Volley, Service	Post 63
Dec 07, 2017	Thursday	??	National Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance	Rifle Volley, Service	Post 63
Dec 09, 2017	Saturday	5:00 PM	Clarkston Holiday Light Parade	March-Lead Parade	Downtown Clarkston

In loving memory of Sergeant John K. Marbutt

It is a bitter sweet honor to once again fly the Gold Star Banner at our Post.

Officially authorized by Congressional Act 36 U.S.C. 179-182 (1967), the Service Banners are usually displayed in a window of a home where an immediate Family member of a service member resides. The service flag may be displayed by members of the immediate family, of a person serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, during any period of war or hostilities. The service flag may also be displayed by an organization to honor the members serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during any period of war or hostilities.

A Blue Star banner is displayed as a reference to having a family or organization member in active military service.

The Gold Star banner is displayed to refer to the loss of a family or organization member that passed away while serving their country.

A gold star on a purple background is used to recognize and remember a family or organization member that passed away while fighting for their country.

The mother of a person who died in service is referred to as a "Gold Star mother", and the Mother of an “active” service member is referred to as a "Blue Star Mother". The terms may also apply to immediate family members or organizations.

This article is on the internet and seems very fitting.

Gold Stars: A symbol of sacrifice and the Army's commitment to families of the fallen

By Ms Shayna E Brouker (IMCOM) May 26, 2011

Donna Engeman started wearing the Gold Star lapel pin after her husband, Chief Warrant Officer John Engeman, was killed southeast of Baghdad on May 14, 2006. She wanted to honor and remember the man she admired as "superman."
But she soon realized the significance of the star was lost on others.
Not long after his death, she tried to order a Gold Star license plate at the DMV. The clerk unknowingly asked if Engeman was the service member. When she replied no, she was not, the clerk told Engeman her husband needed to be with her. The clerk thought she wanted a disabled veteran license plate, and Engeman couldn't get her to understand the difference between a Gold Star and a Purple Heart - an awkward conversation, indeed. They were both relieved when she left.
Awkward too, when people say, "I love that pin, it goes so well with your outfit." Or when they ask, "Where do you get one?"
"It's funny and ironic" Engeman said. "You want people to know about their sacrifice, but you don't want to stand there and grab someone by the collar and yell, 'He's dead!' So you just walk away, shake your head and eat some chocolate. That's when I get mad at him all over again and say, 'You left me with this.'"
It's a feeling many Gold Star Survivors know, and unfortunately, her experience is not an isolated one. She's seen that, despite being at war for nearly a decade, even many military personnel still don't know what a Gold Star signifies. The lack of recognition, not just for Survivors, but for their loved ones, hurts deeply.
"It's disheartening to be so far into this war, yet when I drive around with a bumper sticker and pin and people just don't know," she said.

If you would like to read the rest of the article, please go to

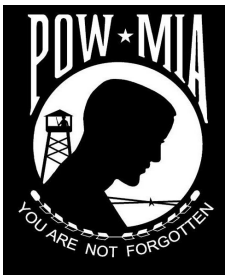
https://www.army.mil/article/58292/Gold_Stars__A_symbol_of_sacrifice_and_the_Army_s_commitment_to_families_of_the_fallen

February 2017 ►►► EVENT CALENDAR ◄◄◄ March 2017

- Thursday night Shuffleboard in the Clubroom.

- **Wed, Feb 1 - General Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Mon Feb 13 SAL Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Tue, Feb 14 - Aux Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Wed Feb 15 - Executive Board Meeting 7pm**
- **Sat Feb 18 - Wild Game Dinner 6 PM**
- **Wed, Mar 1 - General Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Mon mar 13 SAL Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Tue, Mar 14 - Aux Membership Meeting 7pm**
- **Wed, Mar 15 - Executive Board Meeting 7pm**

Access the Post calendar online anytime!!
http://www.legion63mi.com/Calendar.html



Yellow Ribbon Campaign

I'm so proud of the contributions from all of our members to this great cause!
Thanks to Ann Germic for spearheading this project and to all of the members that donated money for the ribbons. Special thanks go to the ladies Auxiliary Unit 63 and the SAL Squadron 63, that both matched the donations. For the second year in a row, we presented a check for $1000 dollars to the POW committee of Michigan to help the National League of Families with their recovery efforts. To date there are still 1618 Americans unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

Wild Game Dinner

Multi Item Raffle

50/50 Raffle

Saturday February 18, 2017
Open at 5 PM, Dinner at 6 – 9 PM
American Legion Post 63
8047 Ortonville Rd Clarkston MI 48348
Raffles, drawings, Booze Basket and Fun
$20.00 , Only 180 tickets will be sold

On a Personal Note

For the past 15 years it has been my pleasure and my honor to serve in various capacities at Post 63. I'm just finishing up my fourth term as commander, and have previously served as Finance Officer, Second Vice Commander, Trustee, Service Officer, Rental Hall Chairman and Charity Games Chairman along with serving as Chair or Co-Chair for many fundraisers and events here at the post. By working together with each of you, we have maintained one of the best Legion Posts anywhere. Our Post and the things that we do to help our fellow Veterans, our families and our community, are a testament to our success. We have not always agreed on how to do things, but we always figure out a way to pull together and make things happen. Recently a few of the members that come to our meetings, seem to find fault and negativity in everything that we do. Some believe that the way to effect change is to disrupt our meetings with argument and accusations and to use social media to gain support for their actions. I refuse to be pulled down to their level, by responding outside of our meetings. If you would like to bring formal charges against any of our leaders, there is a chain of command and procedures in place that allows both parties to present their side.

In about 3 months we will choose new leaders for our post. Let's all work together to make it a smooth transition. I will continue to encourage all members to bring positive ideas for improvement to our meetings and I am asking every member to join me in re-committing to the last clause of our Preamble and pledge "to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness." Keith Marbutt

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

To:

E-Mail is the preferred method of delivery.

Contact Keith at kmarbutt@comcast.net

Legion Family TAPS 2017

Memorial to recently lost post 63 family members.

Redwood Inc.

Adult Foster Care Homes

A Non-Profit Corporation

Brookhave, Columbiaville
Oakhill, Attica

Lighthouse, Imlay City
Redwood Manor, Burton

For Help With Veteran Aid and Attendance Call:
248 625-1280

Homes For The Aged And Veterans

Strawberry Fields Retirement Home

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

401k Rollover Advice and IRA Investment Management

Ted Lakkides, CFP®

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

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**

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(248)625-5231

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www.wintfuneralhome.com

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Timothy M. Currier · Robert K. Kerwin II