THE AMERICAN LEGION

Campbell-Richmond Post #63 - Clarkston, Michigan

Proudly Serving America

October / November 2017

Newsletter: Dean Lambouris — *post63newsletter@comcast.net*

Post Officers

Legion

Commander: Kim Lambouris
1st Vice: T. J. Phipps
2nd Vice: Dale Elkins
Finance Officer: Don Davis
Sgt. At Arms: Don Carter
Service Ofcr: Jerry Grzywinski
Trustee: Wayne Fisher
Trustee: Barney Schoenfeld

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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

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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

Meet The American Legion's First Female National Commander

By SARAH SICARD
on August 24, 2017

At 12:00 p.m. on Aug. 24, the American Legion, the nation's largest veteran service organization, elected its newest national commander — and for the first time in its 99-year history, elected a woman. Denise Rohan joined the Legion 33 years ago after serving in the Army's Quartermaster Corps at the tail end of the Vietnam War. Now, she will serve the organization's 2 million members nationwide.

"I don't think any national commander over the last 98 years would tell you it wasn't an incredible honor," she told Task & Purpose in an interview.

'I Am a Legionnaire Who Happens to be Female'

Rohan is not just veteran: She's also an Army wife, a member of both the Legion and its auxiliary, and a volunteer for the 115th Fighter Wing of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's Airman and Family Readiness Program. Since she joined the Legion, she has traveled to every state except Hawaii.

With Rohan's election, the American Legion became the second major veterans service organization this month to promote a woman to its highest post. Disabled American Veterans (DAV) selected Army veteranDelphine Metcalf-Foster to serve as national commander at its annual convention on Aug. 1.

"I'm hoping to bring some awareness to the fact that women have always been welcome in the American Legion," Rohan said. "I am a Legionnaire who happens to be a female. I've worked from the post level all the way up. [I hope] that brings a new perspective on our organization."

Continued on page 4…….

Commanders' Corner

Commander Kim Lambouris:

Fall is here and it is getting busy here at the Post. The Fall Raffle Tickets are here and for sale for $50. You can purchase them in the clubroom or contact any club officer. Remember, this raffle is one of the big fundraisers that gives us the money to help the many veterans and their families that come to us for help. Please, get out there and Sell Tickets! The "Yellow Ribbon Campaign" is taking place in the clubroom with Cher Jones being the Chair collecting the donations. This campaign goes until Veterans Day Saturday, November 11, 2017. Let's never forget the ones that have never made it home. Please donate so we can bring some more home. On Saturday, October 14th at 7 pm there will be Karaoke in the clubroom. Come on our and sing your favorite song and have a Great Time! Our Annual Halloween Party is October 28th at 7 pm. There will be food, fun, and prizes for best costumes! As always, if you have any questions or ideas do not hesitate to contact me in person, drop a note in my mailbox, email me @klambo2@comcast.net, or call/text me at 248-910-6769.

- Kim Lambouris, Commander
kmlambou@oaklandcc.edu

1st Vice Commander T J Phipps:

Post membership is at 50%, please send in your dues by nov. 11, and receive a early bird sticker. Remember, the American Legion is the largest veterans orginazation in the world, be proud that you are a member.

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

SAL Commander Brian York:

Welcome to Fall.

Our meeting in September was sparsely attended, so if you can make the October meeting, 10-9-17 at 7PM please come out. Jim Battishill will be conducting the meeting and we will be discussing upcoming events like the Army/Navy game on Dec. 9 where we host the legionnaires in the club room with food and prizes. Remember that Fall is membership renewal time, so remit your $40 to our membership chairman, John Ousnamer.

For God and Country,

- Brian York, SAL Commander
yorkboy50@yahoo.com

From The Auxiliary President

Greetings everyone, hope you've had a great month! We've had a lot going on and even more coming up, hope you are able to come out and join us! Please be sure to check the schedule of post events included with this newsletter! Thank you Commander Kim for leading a memorable POW/MIA Remembrance Day and don't forget to get your Yellow Ribbon in the clubroom and make a donation to help bring home our missing soldiers!

Our next newsletter will contain the date for our TROOP PACKING PARTY in January. Here's a sneak peak of some of the things we'll be collecting - start watching those sales and stock up!

- Baby wipes
- Cotton socks, black, green, or white
- Boot liners/insoles
- Odor eaters for boots Lotrimin AF or Tinactin for athletes foot (tubes of ointment or cream, or the bottle of drops; please do not send the aerosol spray type)
- Medicated Foot Powder, Medicated Foot Swabs Moleskin (for pads on sore feet, you'll find it with Dr. Scholls type things at - - WalMart or drug stores
- Baby wipes for personal hygiene (alcohol-free)
- Liquid body wash (no pump-style dispensers)
- Liquid hand sanitizers (no pump-style dispensers)
- Disposable hand sanitizing wipes
- Gum, Lifesavers, Mints (blister pack gum is best because of the intense heat)
- Fruit: individual serving size cans of fruit, dried fruit (Note: Plastic fruit cups with the plastic seal are not recommended as they can open in transit; individual-size cans are preferred.)
- Nuts, sunflower seeds, peanuts, trail mix
- Power bars, protein bars, nutritional bars
- Beef jerky, beef summer sausage (nonperishable; labeled USDA Beef)
- Single-serving bags of snacks, crackers, chips, snack mixes
- Pop Tarts, cereal bars, "milk & cereal" bars, granola bars
- Ramen Noodles, Cup-O-Noodles serving cups
- Ravioli and other canned ready-to-eat meals (canned or styrofoam single serving are best)
- Tuna lunch kits (includes foil pouch of tuna, crackers, and condiments in each single-serving kit)
- Canned sardines, smoked oysters
- Torengos® nacho-style chips and canned nacho cheese dip
- Jalepeno Velveeta® and crackers
- Taco Bell® Sauce Packets
- Seasoning salts, flavoring salt

On Saturday 11/4, we are hosting the concessions during the Coin Show! Please contact me if you can donate water, pop, chicken salad, bread, baked goods or chips at adtdsb@gmail.com or 248-892-1203. All profits benefit Girls State. We will also need workers from 8am-5pm!

WE NEED YOUR EMAILS! If you are receiving this by mail and would prefer to receive this via email - please send me your address!!! ALSO, notice of specific Auxiliary events and reminders in between the newsletter will go out via email!

Thank you and rock your fall, y'all!!

Amy Laboissonniere
President Unit 63 Auxiliary
adtdsb@gmail.com

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Political Clout and Friendship Across Eras

For decades, the Legion has been one of the largest and most formidable veterans' organizations, offering members fraternity and a national platform for the issues that concern them. It was a Legion national commander, Harry Colmery, who famously drafted language for the original G.I. Bill during World War II. And the organization was instrumental in getting Congress to pass the "Forever GI Bill" just a few weeks ago.

Rohan said she can hardly believe how much the national attitude toward veterans has changed since she first enlisted in the late Vietnam era — and how important the VSOs have become as movers of policy and culture.

"These veterans are able to come together in our safe American Legion environment, regardless of what their age is, regardless of what their war is, and realize that they have something in common," she said. "They can find strength in that."

Legion members from younger generations and wars are also learning how drastically different their home-front reception was than some of the older Legionnaires'.

"Those currently serving are giving those Vietnam veterans the welcome they deserved that they never got," she said. "It's really heartwarming."

Focus on Families

But the American Legion faces some tough challenges, too. One of Rohan's top priorities — literally, since it's emblazoned across the top of her campaign website — is putting "Family First,": broadening the organization's focus from just service members and vets to military families. It's a campaign that's born out of her own experiences, not just as a vet, but as a vet's spouse.

"We always talk about our military personnel and our veterans, but families of our heroes are also serving along with them," she said.

While living in Wisconsin and working with American Legion Squadron 333, she and her husband Mike (a career Army veteran and a fellow Legionnaire) made it their mission to focus on family welfare above all.

"To me, it's a national security issue," Rohan said. "If [troops] know their families are being taken care of at home, they can focus more on their mission. As my husband says: 'So they have one less worry on the battlefield.'"

The Legion is also actively seeking younger leaders on every level. The group has seen a million-member decline in membership over the last 20 years, as younger veterans are opting for more service- or fitness-oriented organizations, like Team Red, White, and Blue or Team Rubicon. It's not a problem unique to the Legion; the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other more-established VSOs have been trying to stop membership losses by recruiting younger vets.

Groups like the Legion and VFW do have one ace card, though: their political clout and successful history of vets' advocacy on Capitol Hill.

"Our national staff has a fantastic staff in Washington, D.C. that does our lobbying for us," Rohan added.

20th Century Institution, 21st Century Challenges

Rohan also reaffirmed her dedication to the four pillars that the American Legion was founded on: Veterans affairs and rehabilitation, national security, Americanism, and children and youth.

"We're always wanting to make sure our veterans are taken care of," Rohan added.

"Americanism" hasn't always yielded favorable policy. In its early years, the Legion earned a reputation for being nativist — a charge that some critics leveled at the group as recently as 2008. On comment boards like Rally Point, some younger veterans have argued that the American Legion is narrowly conservative. And some of the Legion's legacy campaigns, like fighting for a constitutional amendment to ban U.S. flag-burning, seem like holdovers from an earlier era.

Founded in 1919, the American Legion allowed women to vote for national commander before they could even legally vote for president of the United States. Still, it took a century for the group to anoint a female leader.

But according to Rohan, the Legion isn't looking back. It's "a war-era veterans organization, and it has always been inclusive regardless of race, gender, religion, or anything," she said. "If you served in a wartime era, you're eligible."

When it comes to hot-button issues about the active-duty force, like integration of women in combat, the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and the inclusion of transgender troops, Rohan says the Legion has a role to play in counseling policymakers. But she said it was ultimately up to Defense Department officials to decide who is eligible to serve, based on the information they have about performance.

"They're the ones who have the knowledge," Rohan said. "We just want to make sure we have a strong national defense."

August 2017 ►►► EVENT CALENDAR ◄◄◄ September 2017

- Wednesday, Oct 4 - 7pm Membership Meeting
- Thursday, Oct 5 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Saturday, Oct 7 - 9am Headstone Cleaning Great Lakes Nat'l
- Monday, Oct 9 - 7pm SAL Meeting
- Tuesday, Oct 10 - 7pm Auxiliary Meeting
- Thursday, Oct 12 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Saturday, Oct 14 - 7pm "Clubroom Karaoke"
- Wednesday, Oct 18 - 7pm Executive Board Meeting
- Thursday, Oct 19 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Thursday, Oct 21 - 6pm Fall Raffle Dinner
- Thursday, Oct 26 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Thursday, Oct 28 - 7pm Halloween Party
- Wednesday, Nov 1 - 7pm Membership Meeting
- Thursday, Nov 2 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Thursday, Nov 9 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Saturday, Nov 11 - 6:30pm Veterans' Day Dinner
- Sunday, Nov 12 - 10am Commanders' Tour
- Monday, Nov 13 - 7pm SAL Meeting
- Tuesday, Nov 14 - 7pm Auxiliary Meeting
- Wednesday, Nov 15 - 7pm Executive Board Meeting
- Thursday, Nov 16 - 7pm Shuffleboard
- Thursday, Nov 23 - Thanksgiving / CLUB CLOSED

VETERANS...

Are you aware of the **FREE benefits** you are entitled to?

Attend a

FREE SEMINAR

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

American Legion Post #63

8047 Ortonville Rd. (M-15), Clarkston, Michigan 48348

6:00 p.m.

Featuring Speakers from

GREAT LAKES NATIONAL CEMETERY
CREMATION/BURIAL OPTIONS – CEMETERY OVERVIEW

OAKLAND COUNTY VETERANS
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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!!

Legion Family TAPS 2016
Memorial to a post #63 family member recently lost.

Jerry Waite
6/17/1944 – 9/8/2017

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or to Get a Second Opinion
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Penny Lewis
248 866-3984
strawberryfieldselderlycare.com

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