



# Old Settlers Newsletter



Post 4659 - District 5

January - February 2025

Publisher & Editor: Lisa Love

Commander Art Huge - Sr. Vice Kevin DeBruyne - Jr Vice Allan Schafer  
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant Mick Kolinski



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you attended and enjoyed our New Years Eve Party at the Post. November was a Patriotic month for this country and our VFW post. National, State and Local government elections were held, and we are all moving forward in a positive direction. Our Veterans Day celebration was a great success, which brought out approximately 80-90 of our members, families and neighbors, including our guest speaker, Shelby Twp Supervisor, Rick Stathakis.

Our Honor Guard, under direction of Captain Brad Hoffman, was especially busy With honors and events, as was our Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year Chairman, Lisa Love. We will hear the results of all the scholarship winners at the January District 5 meeting & Department Mid-Winter Conference.

Our monthly dinners, karaoke, and football games held in the Canteen have continued to be well attended events They will continue in 2025. Go Lions!

We ask you to talk to your fellow veteran friends & neighbors to join us at our Post. We must replace our veterans who have passed away or moved away from our Post. We have many Veteran Assisted programs and Community activities planned for 2025 to keep everyone busy. Bring your ideas and project to me!

Congratulations to Mick Kolinski, our new Post Adjutant. Anyone interested in taking on a leadership role in our Post, please contact any of our Officers for more information.

When was the last time you visited our Clubroom? Stop by and see the changes and meet some of your fellow comrades. Enjoy a burger and refreshments. You can't beat our prices or hospitality. This is your Home - take advantage of it!

Spring is just around the corner. Help us plan our activities for the next few months. Your ideas are always welcome! What can we do for you and our community?

Bring your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to some of our family events in 2025. We've planned activities for them all. This is your VFW HOME! Welcome Home!

Art Huge, Post Commander



### Blessings to All

I hope everyone had a beautiful, safe, warm and lovely Christmas celebration and other seasonal events with friends and family.

Our Auxiliary members have been busy, read on:

Four have been out for the second Poppy drive the beginning of November and raised \$970 for the Post's relief fund.

Another member has a belly dancing troupe and performed in our hall in August for our fundraiser opportunity and that info and a picture had it into the VFW Auxiliary National magazine and they recently were part of the Lake Orion parade for a Veterans fundraiser.

We've supported the Gold Star Mother's at a banquet, and I had the honor to present to Carol Johnson, a Gold Star Mother, with a donation from us.

Donations have been made to Operation -Up, the Fisher House (2nd one in Detroit), USO (with our military assisting those needing help after Hurricane Helene and Milton). Samaritan House (Sharing Tree) and Stoney Church.

Not only do we have members who buy gifts for approx. 40 families every year for the Sharing Tree, two helped the Sharing Tree worker on bag and tag day.

Our members are always around assisting in the kitchen for the fish fries and such, but our every Tuesday and Thursday faithful Bingo workers.

Loyally,

Rosemary Diccico, Your Proud President

*Don't forget our Euchre Play every third Saturday  
and Show Me The Money every second and fourth Sunday.*

### Youth Activities and Scholarships

What another wonderful Kids Christmas Party event. The number of attendees were down a bit, but I know they had other obligations. OMG - the babies, 7 in total 2 and under. All the children were polite. I heard a lot of thank you and thank you very much to Santa. Santa heard the same responses. Santa enjoyed seeing and hearing them play with their gifts. Some even played with others that they didn't know who had received the same gift.

Thank you to all my elves: President Rosemary Diccico, Deb Hadley, Joan Carpenter, Darlene Kaiser, Jo Harder and Sylvia Pocock.

By time you hear this we will have attended the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Event. I do hope that our selection has become the District 5 winners and advancing forward for Department judging.

Loyally,

Denise Frey, Youth and Scholarship Chairman

### Membership

We've achieved our 100% and continue to grow. Both our President Rosemary Diccico and myself received our key pin award for that 100%. Potential new members are out there. Please secure new members and be nice to all.

Denise Frey, Membership



## Canteen - Clubroom Notes



Happy New Year Everyone!

We hope that all our members enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. We ended the year with a job well done for Samaritan House and their Sharing Tree program. So many great gifts were donated! Thank you to all that participated and a big thank you to Diane & Chris Smiles for chairing this project. It takes lots of work and organization. We're proud to be involved.

We're going to ease into 2025 by slowing things down for the first few days.

The Clubroom will be closed on January 1st.

There will not be a Fish Fry on Friday, January 3rd.

Then we'll get right back into the swing of things with Show me the Money on the 5th, starting at 2:00 p.m. As always, it'll be a potluck. You know you want to play!

On Friday, January 17th we'll have a Spaghetti Dinner, 4:00-6:30 p.m. And after dinner, KARAOKE is back! 7:30-10:30.

Brandon and Linda are taking a break for a while due to Brandons workload. They always did a great job and we'll miss them. But DJ Mary came to our rescue in November, it was a great time! She will be with us on the 3rd Friday of every month so please join us for some Karaoke fun.

January 19th we'll have our 2nd round of Show me the Money for the month. Sharon always starts at 2:00, and again, it's a potluck. If you haven't played yet, come on and give it a try. The more the merrier!

February Show me the Money will be on the 2nd and again on the 16th. Always at 2:00 p.m., always a potluck.

February 7th, our monthly Fish Fry returns. Serving 4:00 -7:00 p.m. or as long as supplies last. Have you tried the new mac & cheese? You don't know what you're missing, it's so good!

February 9th is Super Bowl Sunday. Please join us for food, fun, football and drink specials! Kickoff is at 6:30.

We'll be open 1:00 – 9:00 p.m. on Valentine's Day (the 14th), if you'd like to bring your Sweetheart somewhere special!

On Friday, February 21st we'll be hosting an Asian/Oriental dinner from 4:00 till 6:30. DJ Mary will get the Karaoke started at 7:30 p.m. Bring your voice and your fellow singers.

Have you seen the new tables in the Clubroom? We're very excited about them! New paint is coming soon, too.



I wanted to share a couple pictures I took of a couple of beautiful ladies. This is Aux President, Rosemary DiCicco and 40 year plus Member, Bernie Weingartz. Are they not beautiful?

Auxiliary Members, your meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Post meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. It's the best place to bring your ideas and opinions!



Hope to see you soon in the Clubroom.

Kathie & Canteen Crew



NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN COMRADES  
DONALD REISS TOM SIMMONS



### Volunteers Needed

Help is needed for charity poker! Shifts are 10:45am-2:30pm and 2:30pm-6:00pm on February 12-15, 2025 at G's Kitchen & Cocktails, 56129 Van Dyke in Shelby Township. Questions or to sign up, call Mike Salyers at 586-405-6801

### Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen

Our VOD winner this year might look familiar, since he was also last year's! Sanjith Sambath, a senior at the International Academy Central in Bloomfield Hills, again impressed all our judges with his speech with both content and presentation. I feel he is going to go far in life! Our PP winner is Charleigh Traub, a 7th grader from Anchor Bay Middle School North. We wish them both the best of luck at the district judging!  
~Lisa Love, Chair

### Membership Recruiting & Retention

There is great strength in numbers and each member of the VFW can help strengthen our great organization! Here at the VFW, you will find the help to succeed in your quest to help lead the VFW into the future. Post 4659 has over 97.16% membership. Annual costs are only \$40 for the year. We have 4 new members, plus some transfer members, and have reached out to reinstate some of our past members and brought them back to the post.

### VFW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

There are many benefits when you join the VFW. When the Veteran is a member of the VFW an accidental Life insurance policy of \$1000 is free for being a member. Our VFW Post Service Officer plays a vital part in helping veterans understand, navigate, and cut through the red tape bureaucracy of the VA claims process. Service Officers understand their role in the VA claims process and more effectively fulfill the objectives of their position. Our Service Officer is Laura Rios, MSgt USAF (ret.) and is Macomb County Chief Service Officer, any questions, please come to our post meetings and you will meet Vets that are willing to support your needs or how about seeing how our board manages our Post. The VFW offers a wide range of assistance programs aimed at helping service members and veterans of every generation. ~Mike Perusich

### Post 4659 80th Anniversary Planning

November 2025 will be Old Settlers Post's 80th anniversary! Initial planning is in the works for our celebration. I am looking for pictures, articles, personal stories or anything that you would like to share with the Post or even surrounding areas up until now. Please email them to me at [lisa.love.4659@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.love.4659@gmail.com) ~Lisa Love

### Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Join us to support the Post at our Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, January 17th between 4pm and 7pm in our Hall. Bring your family for the event! Great Price! Great Friends! Great Food! Get to know your fellow members. Public is invited. \$12 per person.

Hoover Financial Ad



## Wreaths Across America



Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom" That is and was the mission of Wreaths Across America and the Knights of Columbus 4th degree Assembly this Dec. 14th, 2024. From the Color Core, to our Cherished Veterans from Old Settlers Post 4659. Representing each of our armed forces: Brad Hoffman -Army, Robert Cheeseman-Marines, Phil Dillard-Navy, Mike Perusich- Air Force, Kevin Debruyne-Space Force, Carl Grewe-Coast Guard, Tom Smith- Merchant Marine and POWs/MIAs-Bill Barron. Their distinguished service is greatly



appreciated by all. We are thankful for Deacon Charlie's Blessings and for all those who attended. Thank you also to the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisy and American Heritage Girls and their respective Leaders. To see those sweet young faces take joy out of serving and their excitement placing wreaths, warmed our hearts; they are our Future. Both young and old were touched. Thanks also to Paul Bieber, Gary Bates, Jacob Shonka, Dave Caniff, Director-Cadillac Memorial and Gavin Bates who took photos again this year. After the ceremony, we walked to the graves of our fallen soldiers, saying their names, saying a prayer and laying a wreath, not to remember their deaths, but to remember their lives and to show that Freedom is never free, but comes with a price. Never Forget!



The Coast Guard Mirror from the Clubroom was donated to the USCoast Guard Air Station at Selfridge ANG Base. We hope they enjoy it!  
L to R, Captain Osborne, Comrade Mike Salyers, Captain Gibson



# Weingartz Ad

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## Post Member Bio - Lisa Love



When I was a senior in high school, all I knew was I wanted to get away from Clawson. I'd already been accepted at a college in Ohio where I planned to major in equestrian studies (to be a horse trainer) - until I saw a Navy recruiter at school. That totally changed my plans! In March 1992, I went to bootcamp in Orlando then to cryptologic school in Pensacola, FL. I ended up dropping out of school and went to my first ship in Kings Bay, GA. I was on the submarine tender USS Canopus AS34 from September 1992 until it was decommissioned in November 1994. I started out in the deck department, chipping & painting, then transferred into the post office. In December 1994, I was among the first group of females to be stationed on an aircraft carrier. I made E4 shortly after arriving onboard USS Abraham Lincoln CVN72. We went on WestPac in April 1995 and I got to visit Hong Kong, Singapore and Jebel Ali in the Persian Gulf. While we were in the Gulf, I was sent to Dubai for 6 weeks, then Diego Garcia to work in the airport, loading mail onto planes & helicopters to be sent out to the US battle group. We missed out on going to Australia & New Zealand - thanks to Saddam Hussein - we had to stay in the Gulf until the next carrier group arrived. After WestPac, the Lincoln moved from Alameda, CA to Bremerton, WA to go into yards for overhaul. I made E5 on my first attempt, earned my Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist pin and also re-enlisted between the rudders while she was in drydock. In February 1997, I was expecting my daughter, so they cut my sea-time short and I transferred to the mailroom at Naval Station Everett, WA. I stayed there until March 2000 and I moved back here to Michigan. I have worked at a trucking company since May 2000 and have volunteered for Lapeer County Search & Rescue since February 2018, which is also the same time I joined the VFW! I'm married, have one daughter, 2 grandkids & 3 cats.

## Post Christmas Party





**- Welcome New Members -**

Your participation at meetings, Clubroom activities, Youth and Community programs is encouraged for all.

You are a member of one of the Top Posts in the State.

Be Proud to Participate!  
Take advantage of our many programs.

Quartermaster Jay Benner



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**Life Membership Information**

VFW MEMBER SERVICES (CURRENT MEMBERS ONLY)

Monday - Friday 8:15 am until 5 pm.

Please call **1-833-VFW-VETS** or **1-833-839-8387**

to safely renew or convert to Life Membership over the phone with credit or debit card. Also, VFW members can update mailing address and or contact information.

**Life Membership Fee Schedule Age as of Dec. 31st.**

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**VFW BINGO**  
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Bingo Starts At 10:30 am



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