



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

January - February 2026

Publisher & Editor: Lisa Love

**Commander Art Huge - Sr. Vice Carol Dalpe - Jr. Vice Paul Rick
Quartermaster Mick Kolinski - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant Bill Tudrick**



Happy New Year, Everyone! We welcome the new year and another winter with a variety of events. We begin by escorting our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year to the District 5 Banquet at the New Baltimore Post. Our 3rd Friday of the Month Potluck dinner & Karaoke also kicks off the new year. Always a great turnout but we need more of you to join us in the experience.

We will hold our first Meat Raffle fundraiser which, instead of cash, give you the chance to win meat – steaks, pork, chicken, sausages, bacon and many other combinations. We will need a few more volunteers than usual for this event, but the payoff will assist our upcoming needs. Questions? Call me. Buy your tickets in the canteen for a fun evening!

Our goal is to host a children's safety or recreational program. Send me your ideas and do you want to be on the Committee to plan the event?

This year, our Lenten Fish Fry & Shrimp dinners kick off in February and run for 7 weeks. Please come and bring your family to support our Post. If you do not volunteer for any of our programs, at least enjoy a Friday Fish Fry. They are delicious and have the best price in town!

While we continue to attend our District 5 and Department Conferences, we encourage you to attend our Post meetings on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 7pm. Come make a new friend (or two!) and meet our Canteen bartenders!

As always, we kept busy during the last two months. One of our best Veterans Day ceremonies included a great meal. Thank you, Honor Guard and our Keynote speaker, Rick Stathakis, Shelby Twp. Supervisor. Our Honor Guard was kept extremely busy during the Veterans Day week!

Our Boy Scout Troop treated us to a Friendsgiving dinner for our members. The food was excellent and if this is the first time you are hearing about this, you need to come to our Post meetings!

We were able to assist 3 Veteran families in need during Thanksgiving and expanded it to 5 Veteran families during the Christmas holidays. All families were very grateful!

Of course, our most cherished event was our 80th Anniversary celebration. We filled the hall with well-wishers and provided a great meal for everyone. The highlight of the event was our keynote speaker, our Department Commander, Reinold Yanhka. 80th Anniversary etched glasses and challenge coins were given to everyone that attended. Thank you, Doug Young & your wife, for providing the music all night, thanks to our post officers, the committee, volunteers, Honor Guard, Post members & Auxiliary, our sponsors and our Chairman, Ken Klee! Needless to say – it was a very successful and enjoyable evening! Congratulations Post 4659!

8311 Wilson Dr., Shelby Twp., MI 48316 586-781-9109



We honored 3 of Shelby Townships Public Servants at a Shelby Twp Board of Trustees Meeting. Thank you, Karen Franklin & Al Schafer, for your contributions to honoring our Police and Fire Department personnel.

Christmas would not be complete without our Post Christmas Party which we can thank our Clubroom Manager and Canteen Committee Chairman, Kathie Holloway and Joe Bonnani.

To end the year 2025, our New Years Eve Party was a great success and a lot of fun! It was for Post & Auxiliary members and their friends.

Please start thinking about the obligation you made to assist the Post to help our fellow Veterans. Get involved, attend a Post meeting, offer your ideas to help in the community and involve your children & grandchildren in our Post activities!

Thanks for a Great Year!

Art Huge, Commander



The Post's Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th was held indoors due to the inclement weather. The program began with the Honor Guard performing their ritual, followed by a touching speech from Shelby Township Supervisor, Rich Stathakis who is always very supportive of our post. This event was very well attended by guests, numbering close to 80 people who stayed to mingle and enjoyed a light lunch provided by the Auxiliary.

On November 18th, Cub Scout Pack #158 hosted a 'Friendsgiving Dinner' for members of our Post to show appreciation for their service. It was a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings and desserts. Our thanks to the Boy and Girl scouts as well as their parents for this enjoyable evening. The following Friday another turkey dinner took place in the Canteen for our members. Lots of delicious food is going on around here!

Again, this year the Post members were very generous in participating in the Samaritan House Giving Tree where you buy a gift or two for someone less fortunate, to make their Christmas a little bit brighter. Our Auxiliary and Post members are special people, who are always ready to help where needed like the fish fries, potlucks, game night, SMTM or anywhere they see a need. Thank you and please know that all you do is greatly appreciated. I am proud to say that #4659 is known as a very friendly group with a lot of activities going on all the time... Please come and enjoy them with us.

Happy, Joyful Holidays to All,

Sylvia Pocock, Auxiliary President

We are in need for the email addresses for all Auxiliary members. If you get a phone call from someone from our Auxiliary, it is not a scam. For those that have been members for eons the applications did not ask for cell numbers or emails.

Denise Frey, Secretary

Santa was very nice to the children this year and it is so wonderful to see the responses from them. One little girl who didn't want to sit on his lap came up later and offered Santa a bite of her cookie. Another that was a little apprehensive was following him out and with her arms up. Once he knew she was behind him he did give her the hug she was wanting. Others get right into their gift while others will study it and then their face brightens up and they become ecstatic. Santa had an Elf (aka Christine Kempa) with him this year and she entertained the kids in song and handed the gifts out.

Santa gave me a jog this year and I failed. I was to hand out the batteries for the gifts needing them and forgot. It was an accident. Santa did take me off the naughty list.

Denise Frey, Youth Activities

It is with heavy heart that we lost a long, time member, Colette Kove with over 40 years with the organization serving in many positions in many levels.

Carla Badyna, Chaplain

EUCHRE Tournament

Saturday, February 28, 2026, will be our Euchre Tournament. Sign in at 1:00 pm with the game to start promptly at 2 pm. There will be a sign-up sheet in the clubroom prior to February 28. The net proceeds will benefit Veterans Suicide Prevention and Veterans Mental Health Issues.

Darlene Kaiser, Veterans and Family Support



December 6 was the Kid's Christmas party, and we had 2 very special guests - Santa and one of his elves! We sang carols, received presents and had a good time!



Clubroom / Canteen Notes



I hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful holiday season! We've had some fun here in the Clubroom. Halloween party, game nights, karaoke nights, Christmas party, etc. You're always welcome to join us. We did a great job for the Sharing Tree with Samaritan House! We even had to ask Chris & Diane Smiles to bring us some extra tags to fill. I'm so proud of us and how we come together to help the less fortunate!

Looking forward to getting this new year off to a good start. We won't be having a Fish Fry in January, but we've got some good things happening. Show me the Money will be on Jan. 4th and again on the 25th. Potluck dinner and karaoke are on Friday, the 16th. Dinner at 5, and karaoke starts @ 7:30pm.

Who makes great chili? Saturday, the 24th we're having a chili cook off! Details will be posted in the Clubroom ASAP. Our (always popular) Game Night is on the 31 in January. Come at 5:30, bring a snack and have some fun.

Super Bowl is on Sunday, February 8th. My favorite day of football! Show me the Money lands 2 in a row in February, on the 15th and 22nd. Play starts at 2:00pm.

Ash Wednesday is on February 18th so the Lenten Fish Frys will start on the 20th and continue every Friday through and including Good Friday, on April 3rd.

Kathie Holloway, Clubroom Manager

Building & Grounds Committee

I am writing this short note to ask for your help with our Building & Grounds Committee. Presently, we have only three active members that help out doing all the needed maintenance and repairs to our facility. But during the winter months some of our helpers are snowbirds and that leaves us with, at times, only one member to handle any maintenance. Monday is our normal maintenance day which gives us freedom to work on projects freely. Please consider giving some of your time to help keep our already beautiful facilities "beautiful". Your help would be much appreciated, and you are not expected to do more than you are capable of doing.

Allen Pocock, Building & Grounds Chairman



District 5 Commander Dane Bezemek awards Post 4659 with the "All American Post" award at the District 5 meeting in December. Congratulations!

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Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen / Teacher of the Year

Thanks so much to all the entries for this year's VoD/PP/ToY! The judges and I had a very difficult time choosing who we were sending on to compete at the district level! So many excellent views on the topic of "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?"

Congratulations to our winners....

* Voice of Democracy - Eliza Pizzuti, Rochester Adams HS

* Patriot's Pen – Taewan Kang, Van Hoosen Middle School

* Teacher of the Year – Mary Viviano, Pearl Lean Elementary

The last newsletters to be sent out via snail mail will be the May/June 2026 edition!

Newsletters will always be found on the post website – www.vfwpost4659.org

Lisa Love, VOD/PP/ToY chairman



Commander Huge and Chair Karen Franklin (also Al Schafer, not shown) attended the Shelby Township Public Service Awards on December 9 and recognized members of our police, fire department and dispatch units.



Wreaths Across America was held at Resurrection Cemetery in Clinton Twp on December 13. Always a beautiful and moving event! Thanks to all who came out to help place wreaths and remember the fallen.



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New Members

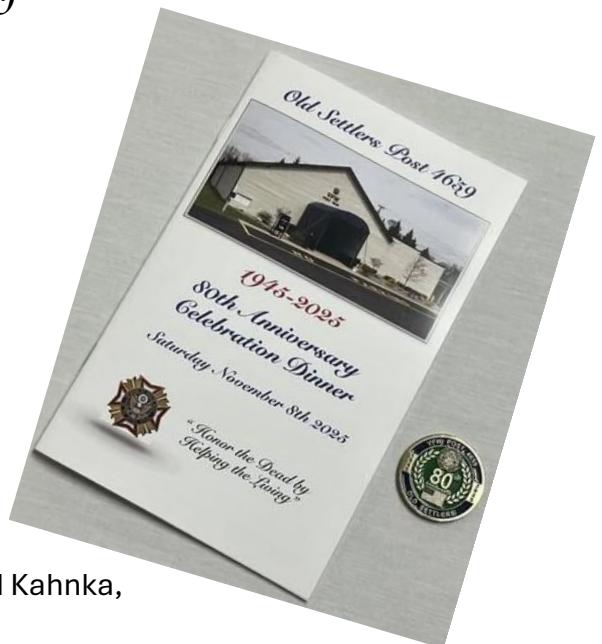
Ray Orlando – Navy
Karl Kopenski – Army
William Potts – Air Force
Anthony "Sam" Samartino – Army
Jack Miller – Navy
James Gurchiek - Navy



Old Settlers Post 4659 80th Anniversary



L to R; Post 4659 Commander Art Huge, Post 4659 Auxiliary President Sylvia Pocock, District 5 President Sandra Kleven, Dept Jr Vice President Jan Passmore, Dept Commander Reinhold Kahnka, District 5 Commander Dane Bezenek



Past Commanders & Presidents; Art Huge, Mike Perusich, Mike Crampton, Ken Klee, Denise Frey, Jo Harder, Diane Cosner-Hill, Rosemary DiCicco



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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 member fees are based upon your age on
December 31st of the current year.**

Under 30 years - \$425.00	51-60 years - \$335.00
31-40 years - \$410.00	61-70 years - \$290.00
41-50 years - \$375.00	71-80 years - \$225.00
Age 81 and over - \$170.00	



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VFW BINGO
Tuesday & Thursday Mornings
Doors Open at 9:00 am
Bingo Starts at 10:30 am

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