



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

March - April 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**



After recovering from our Post's New Years Eve party, 2025 started out with our attendance at the District 5 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen banquet held at the New Baltimore Post. Over a dozen members and Auxiliary members represented us. Our 1st place scholarship winners gave us their speeches at our January 8th Post meeting. There is a great deal of hope from our young students.

We began two important committees. One for our 80th Anniversary Celebration on November 8th and the Committee to address your ideas for the mural in the Canteen to highlight your Desert Storm, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Global War on Terrorism involvement.

Our Post was awarded our 2023-2024 All-State covers at the Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. The Quartermaster and I will wear these proudly because of accomplishments our Post made last year!

We had another District 5 meeting in Waterford in February and our Post enjoyed a fabulous luncheon hosted & paid for by California Pizza Kitchen at Partridge Creek mall. All members were invited.

We will be honoring & presenting VFW Police & Fire awards to four Shelby Township first responders at the Township Board of Trustees meeting on March 4th. Please join us and support our post at the meeting.

Our Lenten Fish Frys will begin for 7 weeks starting Friday, March 7th. PLEASE volunteer for 3-4 hours to help us make these events successful.

April brings us to the 2025-2026 Post elections. On April 23, we will nominate and elect our next leadership group. Many of our current elected officers and chairpersons are from the Vietnam era. It is time for a change to the next group of leaders who should come from a younger generation.

The VFW has a tradition of promoting from within and our Post is no different. Our Junior Vice Commander moves up to Senior Vice Commander and then moves up to Commander of the Post, if you desire. It is a learning and fulfilling experience.

I encourage you to take a leadership role in our Post next year. There are plenty of past post leaders that are willing to train you in your duties. No one wants to see our Post become extinct because of attrition. Posts are closing across the state and nation. I have met many of you and you already have the talent & leadership skills from your time in the service and your current work habits.

Please discuss your thoughts with me or any of our current leadership! We are accessible by phone or in person or at a Post meeting.

Let us continue our efforts to assist fellow veterans and our community as we head into Spring!

Art Huge, Commander



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President's Notes



Hello Everyone,

We have had the coldest last two months that I can remember. I hope everyone has stayed warm. March and April should be a little busy with Euchre and "Show Me The Money" as we are trying to arrange new things to help our vets. I sent some Valentines out to some of our Veterans. We have a few new applications for membership so let's get more of our members to attend our meetings and we'll get to know each other. Hope to see all of you on March 13th.

Loyally,

Rosemary Diccio, President

Important Dates

In the event of inclement weather on a meeting date, please refer to the VFW Auxiliary Post 4659's Facebook page to see if it's been cancelled.

April 10, 2025 is the date of our April meeting and that is also our Election meeting. If you wish to run for an office and are unable to attend, submit a letter of intent to the President or Secretary.

Loyally,

Denise Frey, Secretary

Mid-Winter Conference

I was fortunate to be able to attend my first Department Conference, the 46th Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo. This conference is open to all auxiliary members.

It was a great opportunity to meet other members from around the state and a wonderful way to get to know our own district members. The highlights included learning in a fun way about the Auxiliary Programs and attending the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year Banquet.

Diane Huge, VFW Post 4659 Auxiliary Historian

Congratulations!!



Department Surgeon presents "All State Team" white cover to Post Quartermaster, Jay Benner at a February post meeting. This cover represents participation in all VFW programs, membership recruitment, and community service.

All-State Team "White Hat" awarded to Commander Huge by Past Department Commander, Ray Lopez and Mike Martin, Department All-State Director. Also pictured is Sr. Vice Commander, Kevin DeBruyne accepting for Jay Benner, Post Quartermaster Michigan



Clubroom / Canteen Notes



I hope everyone is doing well as we pull out of these winter months. Spring is coming and our Fish Fry season is upon us. The first one is March 7th. They continue up to and including Good Friday, April 18th. We serve from 4 till 7pm or as long as supplies last. Come early! Karaoke is on the 3rd Friday of every month. Our D.J., Mary starts after dinner at 7:30. Come on down. You might catch Joe Bonanni singing with his backup singers, The Crystals! Show Me The Money spring dates are March 2nd & 23rd and April 13th & 27th. As always, they are Pot Luck. Also, Euchre play is March 15th. If you signed up to bowl, be ready to start the week of March 25th. We've got some great bowlers and fun competition.

If you drop anything off here, please leave a note as to where it's from, who it's for, etc. We've had things show up and we don't know who to thank.

Kathie Holloway, Clubroom Manager

Buddy Poppy Time

May 1, 2, & 3 2025

As you know, the Buddy Poppy program raises money to assist Veterans and their families in their time of need. Our Post has faithfully given hundreds of dollars to our own members and we want to be able to continue doing that.

Therefore, we are asking for your help to keep this program running by giving just two hours of your time to collect donations. Our locations hope to be at Kroger at 23 and 26 Mile, Wal-Mart on 23 Mile, and Vince & Joe's on Van Dyke as we have had in the past. The two-hour shifts are 9:00 AM thru 5:00 PM. If you sign up with a friend it will make it more fun, and double the donations! You will find the Sign-up sheets in the Canteen on the 'Post Notes' board, I'll also bring them to each Post Meeting. With so many time-slots to fill you should find one that will meet your schedule. I thank you all for your support for this worthy cause.

Allen Pocock, Buddy Poppy Chairman

586-726-2423

Carl F. LaRock Scholarship

Accepting applications now! This \$1000 scholarship is open to high school seniors in the Utica School district, Lutheran North HS, area home-schoolers and families of Post 4659 members!

Requirements are the application, current transcript & letter of acceptance from your college / university / trade school. Winner(s) will be chosen by random draw April 23, 2025.

For more info and/or an application, email lisalove.4659@gmail.com

Lisa Love, LaRock Chairman

Commander's Notes

2025-2026 Elections are April 23rd.

Take A Leadership Role!

Need new faces - Need new ideas! Talk to the Commander about "Time Management" and the "Expected Commitment".

Save the Date:

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Post 4659 80th Anniversary Celebration. More information in the coming months.

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Commander's Notes

Nominations for Post elections will begin at the Post meeting on Wednesday, March 26th. Nominations will continue until Election night on April 23rd. Below are the positions being elected in the order of election:

Commander:

1. Preside at all meetings of the Post and conduct meetings in accordance with Article X (following Roberts Rules of Order)
2. Enforce strict observance of the laws and usages of this organization
3. Oversee all activities of the Post (Canteen & Hall)
4. Approve all disbursements of funds properly authorized by the Post
5. Assure all reports are correctly prepared and promptly forwarded
6. Assure the Post Trustees have examined the books and records and prepared the Trustees Quarterly Report of Audit each quarter.
7. Be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Sr. Vice Commander:

1. Shall assist the Commander in preserving order, preside in the absence of the Commander, provide such advice or assistance as may be required and perform such other duties as are incident to such office or may from time to time be required by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

Jr. Vice Commander:

- Shall assist the Commander in preserving order, preside in the absence of the Sr. Vice Commander, provide such advice or assistance as may be required and perform such other duties as are incident to such office or may from time to time be required of the Jr. Vice Commander by the laws and usages of the organization or lawful orders from proper authority.

Quartermaster:

1. Is the chief financial officer of the Post.
2. Qualify and secure a bond in a sum at least equal to the amount of the liquid assets.
3. Collect all monies due the Post, giving receipt therefore, and have charge of the funds, securities and other property of the Post.
4. Shall be the accountable officer of the Post and the Treasurer of all committees handling funds.
5. Disburse funds as properly authorized by the Post using acceptable banking practices.
6. Receive all annual membership dues and Life membership fees and forward to the Department & National Headquarters immediately.
7. Provide the Post trustees with all records, files and statements required or necessary for the preparation of the Post Trustee Quarterly Report of Audit.
8. Maintain a Relief Fund.
9. Reconcile and verify all transactions listed on bank statements and Post records.
10. Report on transactions concerning receipts and expenditures at a regular or special Post meeting.
11. File appropriate forms as required by Federal, State and Local statutes or regulations.

Trustees:

1. Regularly review the Report of Receipts and Expenditures of the Post Quartermaster.
2. Within 30 days from the end of each quarter, properly audit the books and records of the Post Quartermaster and submit a report to the Department Quartermaster.
3. Trustees shall not be eligible to serve as an elected officer, Adjutant, or on a committee whose books, records, and accounts are audited by the Trustees.
4. One of three (3) trustees shall be elected.

Have a say in the future of our Post!



NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN COMRADES

Raymond Klein
Robert Runyan



New members

Christopher Arnold
William Barkell

Reinstate Life member

Randal Bailey

Transfer members

Glen Schmidt
Joseph Pietrzy



Post Member Bio



Alyssa Crowder is a new member of VFW Post 4659 who has volunteered to assist with the Newsletter. She maintains our Calendar for us, so please contact her with any dates you want to see on the calendar. alyssapeardon@gmail.com

CS1 Alyssa (SW/ AW) Crowder-
Leading Culinary Specialist

Petty Officer Crowder was born in Royal Oak, MI on April 12, 1974. She grew up in Shelby Twp and went to Eisenhower High School. She enlisted in the United States Navy on July 15, 2002 in Warren, MI, went to bootcamp then attended Culinary "A" school in San Antonio, Texas as a Mess Specialist Seaman, now changed to Culinary Specialist. Her duty stations were the USS Emory S Land AS39 in Sardinia, Italy, LaMadalena, USS Ashland LSD48 in Little Creek, Va, Naval Hospital Pensacola, (during this time she volunteered to help in aid of the Haiti earthquake on the USS Comfort) then transferred to San Diego Region Legal office then the USS Comstock LSD45 in San Diego as well where she continued her education and received her Bachelor's Degree in Business with concentration in hospitality management. Then to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii then back to Cali to the USS Montgomery LCS8, then the USS Gabrielle Giffords LCS10. She ended

her career on shore duty at LCSRON. She retired in July 2024 after 22 years. She says "It was worth it and she wishes she would have joined at an earlier age." (She joined when she was 28 years old). She moved back to Shelby Twp in May and discovered the VFW and became a member in October 2024 and now is the calendar editor. You may also see her at the dinners volunteering or Show me the Money days. She currently works a couple side jobs but mostly likes spending time with her 13 yr old son.

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After several committee meetings - this is the main design we will have added to our Canteen wall. Suggestions to add the following medals: Kosovo Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Afghanistan Campaign Medal and to add a map of the region, a map of Africa, a tank (M1A1-M1A2), C130 aircraft and/or a nuclear submarine. Your thoughts are welcome by March 12th.

Thank you!



California Pizza Kitchen, the creator of California-Style Pizza, has honored our Veterans at Post 4659. It's been a 10 year event, and they help our non-profit organization with donations at Christmas time for Veterans. Linda Brohl is their driving force that really makes it happen with all the employees supporting the event.

L to R - Joe Bonanni, Mike Perusich, Linda Brohl, Art Huge, Patricia Neal, Jay Benner, Kevin Debruyne, Tom Smith, Bill Barron



Remember!



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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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