



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

March - April 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**



March Madness – April Showers – All of this will happen, but for now let's look at our accomplishments from the start of the year.

Our Post Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teacher of the Year scholarship winners went to the District 5 competition but were not chosen to go on to the State competition. Tell your children and grandchildren in Jr. High and High School to enter the competition later this year to have a chance to win scholarship money and a chance at a \$35,000 scholarship. Lisa Love would love to help you get to the National competition. Your kids are missing out on a great opportunity!

We began our Saturday Nite Bingo in January for the Post AND the public to enjoy. The Auxiliary and the Post will be rotating months for the fundraisers and a chance to have a great time!

It was cold outside, so it was a good time to have our post Chili Cookoff. Competition was tough, but it was a lot of fun had by all. While some of us were in Kalamazoo at the Department Mid-Winter Conference, our Post held our 1st very successful Meat Raffle and the community loved it. There will be another in the fall this year.

Our Youth Activities brought our sponsored Cub Scout Pack to our Post for their Annual Pinewood Derby. I don't know who had more fun – the parents or the kids?? Our workers had a great time too!

The Lenten season brought us our annual Fish Fry dinners for seven Fridays in a row. A big challenge but thanks to our Post & Auxiliary volunteers, it was again a great success!

March and April will bring us St. Patrick's Day, 3rd Friday of the Month Dinners & Karaoke, and a Membership Drive at our Open House in April. If each of us brought one new member into our Post, think of how much more we could be doing for our Veterans.

I cannot close without giving a "Well Done" to our Honor Guard who tirelessly show up to honor our local veterans at Senior facilities and Funerals and Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly MI every month.

Let's continue to support our fellow veterans in the area. Our hard work does not go unnoticed by our community and communities across the state. Can't wait for spring to get here!

Art Huge, Commander



I would like to welcome Sharon Jeffery, the new Auxiliary Secretary, to our staff. Sharon is a Life Member and has always been a huge supporter of the VFW and anything that helps veterans. If you've ever played Show Me the Money, you know she has everything under control to ensure a good time. We are so glad to have you Baby Cakes!

On January 4th and 31st, I attended ceremonies for the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriots Pen (PP) essay winners. These two competitions award college scholarship money to intermediate and high school students who have submitted winning essays. VFW Department of Michigan and Auxiliary honored the winners who happened to be cousins Levi Darnell/12th grade and Brandon Darnell/8th grade from District 11. In total, almost \$34,000 in scholarships were awarded to the 24 finalists. Programs like VOD and PP are why the Auxiliary does fund raising. How inspiring to be in the company of these young people who will become exceptional citizens one day.

The Friday Fish Frys have begun, and the Buddy Poppy promotion is May 1, 2, and 3. Please think about helping out at either event for just a couple of hours while you enjoy friendship and raise money for veterans in need. Events like these allow us to help others and keeps our Post known in the community. My thanks to all of you who step up when needed.

Auxiliary Meetings are still the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm. Please join us.

Sylvia Pocock, Auxiliary President

Membership

Post 4659 Will be hosting an open house April 18th. This will be a public event open to Veterans. Our goal is to gain membership for not only the Post but also for the Auxiliary. Food will be provided. We want to highlight all the good that this post does in the community and for Veterans as a whole, so if any of the committee groups would like to set up a booth or be present and involved, I believe this would be helpful. If interested in helping my contact info is 269-503-5290

Christopher D. Taylor, Membership Chairman

Commander Note:

Our Post is hosting District 5's Loyalty Day on May 1 at 6pm. This includes a ceremony and dinner. The TACOM Chief of Staff, Col. Jeremiah O'Connor, is our Keynote Speaker. Check the Clubroom or our Facebook page for details. RSVP by April 23rd at (810)499-2448

Clubroom / Canteen Notes



Happy (almost) Spring!

And with Spring comes our delicious fish! Everyone loves our Fish Frys, and they are underway up to and including Good Friday, April 3rd. Dinners are \$15 and are served from 4pm to 7pm or as long as supplies last. Fish or shrimp, french fries or mac & cheese, along with coleslaw, a roll, and a cookie, you can't go wrong.

Speaking of things that so many love, let's hear it for Show Me the Money! Many, many thanks to Sharon Jeffery for spending Sundays providing so much fun for so many people. Here are the dates until she breaks for the summer. March 8th and 29th, April 12th and 26th. And one last one on May 3rd. Play starts at 2pm and bringing snacks to share make it even more of a fun afternoon.

Karaoke with DJ Mary Jane happens on the 3rd Friday of every month. It runs from 7:30pm till 10:30pm and is always such a great time. Dinner beforehand is often a potluck from 5pm til 7pm. We have several great singers of our own and Mary has some friends with great voices that join us as well. Come get your sing on!

If you haven't come to Game Night you're missing out on some friendly competition and a whole lot of fun! Saturday, March 14th and Saturday, April 25th @ 5:32pm is when it'll go down. We all bring a dish to share and that's what actually happens at 5:32, we eat! Games start soon thereafter. Join us!

We will have corned beef sandwiches for sale on St. Patrick's Day. And maybe some green drinks?! It's also free juke box day, don't want to miss all that!

We had a Chili Cook off last month, congratulations to Steve (1st), Sylvia (2nd), and Art (3rd)! evidently venison is popular.....who knew? Anybody have suggestions for any other friendly competitions we could have? We're up for (just about) anything!

Clubroom is open 1pm-9pm on Tuesday and Sunday, 3pm-9pm on Wednesday through Saturday.

Hope to see you soon,

Kathie Holloway,

Clubroom Manager



A delightful selection of chili!

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We remember our fallen comrades.

- Albert Izzi
- James Julien
- Leonard Lafata
- Richard Martz
- William Tanner



Honor Guard

Greetings Comrades,

Hope all is well with all of you. Just want to keep you informed of upcoming events our Post Honor Guard will be participating in.

Wednesday, March 4th and Wednesday, April 8th, we will be at GLNC performing funeral honors for the day. On Friday, May 1st we will be posting colors for the 5th District Loyalty Day Program being hosted at our Post. On Wednesday, May 6th we will be performing Honors at GLNC, later in the Month we'll be involved in several local Memorial Day Ceremonies, including our Post Ceremony.

As you can see, we are quite busy. We're getting asked to support more events. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our team, if we have more members, we could support the increased requests for our services. Please consider joining our dedicated group of professionals. If interested, please let me know at a meeting or give me a call at 586-457-5403.

Respectfully,
Brad Hoffman, Honor Guard Captain



**JAY BENNER
US NAVY**

**CANDIDATE FOR OLD SETTLERS POST
COMMANDER 2026 - 2027**

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Commander Note:

Election of Officers and Trustees – April 22, 2026

Comrades: I will not be seeking re-election as Commander of our Post 4659. My wife, Diane, will be retiring in May after 28 years from her job. I retired in 2019 and have been looking forward to her retirement for 8 years. You will have the opportunity in April to elect new leadership for the Post.

Please be sure to come to our Post meeting on Wednesday, April 22nd at 7pm to vote. Thank you for your support during the past 3 years.

~Art

Scouting Activities



We had a great Pinewood Derby event with pack 158. Thirteen scouts participated and three will go on to the district championship. The pack much appreciated the use of our hall and the storage of the track, which will save them from paying storage fees. The scouts suggested that next year we have the veterans compete against them, in a no rules race as a special fundraiser for the pack. Sounds like a challenge!

Carl F. LaRock Memorial Scholarship

If you know any high school seniors, let them know about the LaRock Scholarship! Simply turn in an application, transcript & letter of acceptance from any institute of higher learning. As a random draw, it's an easy way to make \$1000 for their education and to carry on Comrade LaRock's legacy! Entries are due by April 17; the drawing will be held at the membership meeting April 22.

For an application and details, contact me at lisalove.4659@gmail.com

Lisa Love, LaRock chairman

The May / June newsletter will be the LAST newsletter to be sent out via snail mail!

You can always find current newsletters on the website under "news"

www.vfwpost4659.org

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Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen

Going back to the District 5 VOD/PP/ToY Banquet held at the New Baltimore Post 7573.... Unfortunately, our winners did not place at the district level, but we still think they did a fantastic job expressing their opinions on "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country."

Post 4659 Voice of Democracy 1st Place winner:
Eliza Pizzuti & her family with Commander Art Huge and VOD/PP/Toy Chairman Lisa Love



Post 4659 Patriots Pen 1st Place winner:
Taewan Kang & his family with Commander Art Huge and VOD/PP/Toy Chairman Lisa Love

Commander Note:

POST ELECTIONS - As Spring approaches and there is a change of seasons, so also does a change in VFW Post leadership. Our Post nominations for Officers & Trustees begin at the March 25th Post meeting. Elections this year will take place on April 22nd. It is time to step up and use your leadership skills to take our Post to the next level of greatness! We encourage generational change. Take the Challenge! Speak to our Commander, Officers and past officers with questions about commitment for the 2026-27 year.

Buddy Poppy

Post Poppy Time is just around the corner! Mark your calendar for May 1, 2 & 3. Collection times will be the same as always from 9am to 5pm all three days. Collection location should be our best and famous - Vince & Joe's, both Kroger Stores, Walmart, Home Depot and Meijer. We are counting on you to make this the biggest collection ever.

Sign-up sheets will be posted on the "Post Notes" board in the canteen and will be passed around at all meetings once we receive the final approval.

Allen Pocock, Buddy Poppy Chairman

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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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Club Room Open

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www.facebook.com/vfw4659



Veterans' Outreach Sessions
Call (586) 469-6507

VFW BINGO

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings

Doors Open at 9:00 am

Bingo Starts at 10:30 am



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.