



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

March - April 2023



Commander Ken Klee - Sr. Vice Art Huge - Jr Vice Carl Bonanni
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant Bill Tudrick



Comrades

As our administrative year will be coming to an end June 30, we must all be proud of the accomplishments we have made throughout the year. First is membership, once again Old Settlers Post 4659 attained 100% in membership, this is done by everyone working together to recruit and retain our current members. Our membership now stands at 380 paid members for the 2023 year. MEMBERSHIP is the life of any organization. We do have some continuous members who have not paid their 2023 dues, if you are one of them, I would ask to please submit your dues to the National Organization or stop by the Post club room with it, we do accept credit card payments. If you are interested in making a life time commitment to the VFW you will see a payment plan in the newsletter. You can call National and they will take your request. Any member who purchases a life time membership the Post will reimburse you \$50.00.

If you are a continuous member and your 2023 dues is paid and recorded at National by May 30, 2023 your name will be put in a drawing for two chances for a free life membership approved by the Post membership. If you have any questions or if you know of any other veterans who are interested in our organization, please contact me.

Comrades April 26, 2023 will be election of officers for the 2023-24 administrative year. I would hope to see a large turnout for the meeting. Our current attendance has been good and all Post officers would like to see it increase. Meetings only last about one hour or less, hope to see some faces from the past at our next few meetings.

We also have many things going on in the Post club room, our fish dinners are starting up February 24th. and will run for 7 weeks. With the weather warming up in the spring there will be other functions planned. I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Kenneth Klee
Post Commander



A Veteran-whether active duty, retired, served one hitch, or reservist is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The Government of the United States of America", for an amount of "up to and including their life."

**Veterans in crisis can contact the Veterans Crisis Line at
1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 Or text 838255.....You are not alone.**

Post Member Bio

They said: "Join the Navy and see the World". On July 1, 1966, the journey began. After Great Lakes Training Center in IL and a back-to-back training on board the USS Snowden (DE-246). Next my destination was back for several months to the USNR Center in Cleveland OH.



Active duty began and Seaman Art Huge was sent to join the Naval Air Fighter Squadron VF-102 (F4J Phantom II Aircraft) on board the aircraft carrier, USS America (CVA-66). The VF-102 Squadron was nicknamed "The Diamondbacks".

My first stop was Rota Spain for transfer to Naples Italy, where I was put on a mail plane and flown on board the USS America in the Mediterranean Sea. Considered a "black shoe" I was assigned to the Admin Office. My rating choices were Yeoman or Personnel-man. Yeoman (YN) handled Officer records and Personnel-man (PN) handled Non-Commissioned Officers, Airmen and Seamen records.

After stops in Genoa Italy and Valencia Spain, the ship was ordered back to Norfolk VA. The Squadron exited the ship and headed for its home base in Oceana VA. While on solid ground, flight ops were held on a regular daily basis in preparation for the upcoming Westpac Cruise which would take us to Vietnam. Preparation included a 2 week trip to Rosy Roads, Puerto Rico for target bombing exercises.

Heading to Subic Bay, Philippines we had the occasion to cross the equator and earned the right to transition from Pollywog to Shellback in an enthusiastic ceremony for circumnavigating the Globe in the "Domain of Neptunis Rex - Atlantic".

After departing Subic Bay, we headed for Yankee Station in the Gulf of Tonkin. During four-line periods on Yankee Station, Attack Carrier Air Wing Six aircraft began pounding at roads & waterways, trucks & waterborne logistics craft (WBLCS), hammered at petroleum storage areas & truck parks. Our aircraft destroyed bridges and cave storage areas in the attempt to impede the flow of men and war materials to the south. Our sister F4J squadron downed the 1st MIG-21. Our squadron commander was shot down & captured and his RIO was killed on Fathers Day 1968. Soon after, another of our pilots was killed and his RIO was captured.

During our time at Yankee Station I was transferred to the Ordnance Group and spent 12 hours on & 12 hours off loading bombs on the aircraft. During this time period I earned the rank of PN3 Petty Officer 3rd Class.

During our line periods, we visited Hong Kong B.C.C., Yokosuka Japan and Subic Bay, Philippines. We were ordered back to Norfolk and made stops in Sydney Australia, Wellington New Zealand, and our second stop in Rio de Janeiro Brazil. We again made a trip across the "Domain of Neptunis Rex - Pacific".

Landing in Norfolk VA on December 16, 1968, I was honorably discharged and headed home to my wife and son (who was born when I was in Puerto Rico). I began my business career in January 1969 and worked in sales & marketing for automotive suppliers for the next 50+ years.

Art Huge

Sr Vice Commander

810-499-2448

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Greetings Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers

We started the new year being busy as usual. On January 8, several Auxiliary and Post members were in attendance at the 5th District VOD and Patriots Pen program held at Post 7573 in New Baltimore. While we didn't have any Post and Auxiliary winners ending up as District winners, it was nice to visit with the families.

Later in the month I attended the District 5 meeting alone. You don't have to be an officer or chairman to attend these meetings. Any member in good standing can attend. Just bring yourself and your dues card. The next one will be towards the end of April.

Please be careful out and about with these crazy weather systems. We want to see you around once the warmer weather comes around.

Loyally,
Rosemary Dicicco, President

April Elections

Our April meeting, April 13th, 2023 will be our election of officers. If you'd like to become an officer but are unable to attend you must write a letter of your interest. Provide the letter to the President or Secretary prior to the meeting. It will be read along with all the other correspondence we received. If you desire to accept a chairmanship for the 2023 - 2024 year, please let our President Rosemary know.

Watch the clubroom for news and dates on SMTM. They are shared with the Post and generally held the 2nd and 4th Sundays. Euchre Play is normally the 3rd Sunday of the month. Please note that things or dates can be changed if need be.

You may refer any questions to me.

Denise Frey, Secretary
586-569-6336

The Post would like to thank all who attended our New Years Eve party and made it a success. Thanks to Bella Musica and their special guests for providing the awesome entertainment. The delicious dinner was catered by Paulas Catering located in Romeo. Special thanks to Norm Dams owner of Little Ceasars Pizza on 21 mile and North Ave. for generously donating the pizzas for our midnight snack, Carl and myself for preparing the tasty subs. Randy Pierson and myself for decorating the hall and Megan Pierson for the great job behind the bar. A thank you also to the committee members who planned the event and the volunteers who pitched in to make it a successful event. GREAT JOB BY ALL.

Joe Bonanni Hall Manager 586-808-0754

Membership Participation

Spring is on the way! And VFW Post 4659 is ready to bring March in with a roar.



We were fortunate to have a relatively mild winter and were able to recover from a great New Years' Eve party, participate with 5 members of our Post & Auxiliary at the District Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Banquet at the New Baltimore Post, complete our 4th quarter Post audit and represent our Post at the Department's weekend Mid-Winter Conference in Kalamazoo MI.

Our last several Post Membership meetings have been attended with increased membership participation (I guess the Covid Pandemic is officially over). Speaking of participation of members, we had a great showing of member support at the last District 5 meeting which our Post hosted. Thank you to all who took the time to support our Post.

We are going to be renovating the Canteen with a new ceiling and offering our members a chance to show Pride in your military service and Pride in our Post (personalized ceiling tiles). The Canteen offered a great time at our Super Bowl Party. I hope your team took home the trophy!

We kicked off our annual Fish Dinner during Lent and the volunteer response has been terrific. This is a great fundraiser for us and a chance to increase our relations with the public. If you would like to volunteer for any of the 7 Fish Dinners, please contact me.

A defibrillator was donated to our Post by the Lions Club, and we are offering CPR Classes through the Shelby Township Fire Department on March 25th and May 20th. Would you know what to do if your spouse or friend dropped next to you and needed your assistance?? Come to a meeting to sign up for the class or contact me.

Membership is always an issue as we continue to lose members due to God's will. We were recently recognized at the last District 5 Meeting for our performance and ability to bring in new members to our Post. Our activities help draw eligible veterans to our Post, but it doesn't happen without your participation. Carry an application with you so when you meet a veteran at the store or in church or at a watering hole somewhere, you can ask them to join us. Offer to bring them to a meeting on the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month. Food and beverages are reasonably priced in our Canteen, and they will be greeted with a handshake and a friendly smile.

Have a great St. Patrick's Day and a blessed Easter Holiday!

Art Huge
Sr Vice Commander
810-499-2448



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Comrades, Friends and Post 4659 Family

Not much longer now and we will once again bid farewell to Old Man Winter while welcoming all our Snowbirds home for Spring, first day of Spring is on Monday, 20 March. The boy's of Summer, our beloved Detroit Tigers are soon to follow with opening day at Comerica Park against the Boston Red Sox Thursday, 6 April at 1:10PM. Keep an eye open for the posted fliers in your club-room for further Opening Day festivities and upcoming events information.



Friday Fish Dinners are currently underway and will be available from 5PM -8PM every Friday until Easter in both your club-room and the hall. *St. Patricks Day is Friday, 17 March.* Easter Sunday is April 9 and your club-room will be CLOSED in observance. Armed Forces Day is Saturday, 20 May.

It is hard to believe that you all have entrusted me to be your Canteen Club manager now for the past 10 months. For that I thank you all as well as my outstanding staff for the privilege and the honor. Spending time and visiting with you all truly warms my heart, puts a smile on my face and means more to me than words can express. You all are the reason our Post Canteen is so successful and always the relaxed fun place to be.

"Your support and willingness to be involved is greatly appreciated and never goes unrecognized".

Randall Pierson

Post 4659 Club Room Manager
U.S. Air Force Desert Storm Veteran
586-488-7579



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.

One Time Payment - Initial Payment - 11 Payments of

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|----------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| Through Age 30 | \$ 425.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 38.64 |
| Age 31-40 | \$ 410.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 37.27 |
| Age 41-50 | \$ 375.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 34.09 |
| Age 51-60 | \$ 335.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 30.45 |
| Age 61-70 | \$ 290.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 26.36 |
| Age 71-80 | \$ 225.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 20.45 |
| 81 And Over | \$ 170.00 | \$ 45.00 | \$ 15.45 |

Post 4659 Fish Dinner

Friday Feb. 24th.

Thru April 7th.

4:00 pm To 7:pm

Beer Battered Cod

Dinner \$12.00

Butterfly Shrimp \$12.00

Chicken Tenders \$12.00

Includes Fries, Roll,

Cole Slaw, Cookie,

Fountain Drink, Coffee

Kids Menu Available

VFW 4659 Canteen Ceiling Renovation Update

"If you build it, They will come."

We are heading in the right direction. Thanks to the members who have signed up for a ceiling tile. Our plan is to use the last week of March to close the Canteen, March 26th thru March 30th for replacing the ceiling with the 2x2 new tiles. We will update with new white grid, tiles with members names, lighting, vents, and fans.

There is still time to sign up for your ceiling tile if you are interested. Sign up at the club or contact me ASAP. Our committee is overseeing the process that is on-going. We are pricing the tiles at \$125 for the 2x2 tile with your *Name, Branch of Service and your Conflict*. Any questions please contact me or send me an Email. The new tiles have arrived and the first batch of tiles have been sent over to the printer.



I made a commitment after the new roof project was finished to support the Canteen with a new ceiling. We are getting there, and change is necessary. I really want to express my thanks to some members and support of donations that came in to support the club. Without that support we can't get the job completed or done. I look at it as our home and let's take care of the old place. When you see something that's needed, bring it up at our house meeting or join me on the Building/Grounds Committee. Looking forward to the next big project, might just be new ceramic floors in the Hall bathrooms along with new cabinets with sinks and counter tops. Paint jobs on the walls and just juice up the Hall area. What do you think?

Mike Perusich

Chairmen - Building & Grounds Committee

perusich@att.net 586-992-3980

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NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN COMRADES

DAVE WAGNER

NEW MEMBERS

CHRISTOPHER BOYD

TRANSFER MEMBER
STEPHEN SCHMOOK

JAY WEIR

KEVIN BEBRUYNE

Members Service Bio's



In the upcoming newsletters if someone wants to write their bio of experiences in the service to our country, we will put it into the newsletter. Please include some Photos that can be used. Jay and I will find the room somewhere in the newsletter.

Scott Metcalf will be featured in the next issue This will give Members a chance to know you better, where you were stationed, what you did and your tours away from home. If I can be of any help please contact me.

Mike Perusich
perusich@att.net



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