

# Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

March - April 2024

Publisher & Editor: Jay Benner



**Commander Art Huge - Sr. Vice Mike Perusich - Jr Vice Carol Dalpe  
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Kevin DeBruyne - Adjutant Derek Polena**



As we move into Spring and look back on the accomplishments of the past two months, I would like to thank Lisa Love, our Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Teacher of the Year Chairman and our Auxiliary for the great job they did presenting our Post winners to the District 5 competition.

Also, kudos to our Canteen Committee and our Clubroom Manager for the great dinners and Karaoke they have brought to the Post. Hope you didn't miss them.

We are half-way through our fiscal year and I wonder why many of you joined our VFW Post? Was it to learn about Veteran benefits? Was it for the comradery and to meet new friends? Was it to assist fellow Veterans or get involved in helping

our neighbors in the community?

What do you want to accomplish at our Post? Do you want to just attend meetings and have a drink at the Canteen after the meeting with friends? Or after the Covid experience were you seeking something positive to do to feel like you are accomplishing something positive?

After over 20 years of being an inactive member, I personally became active after retirement to feel good about myself and accomplish something positive for other Veterans. I jumped right in and felt the desire to get further involved. Obviously, it worked and here I am today.

You joined for a reason! Are you getting everything out of the VFW that you hoped for? If not, take a chance and try something new. We have many opportunities for programs to help Veterans, the community, and programs for your family including your sons and daughters.

There is a lot of experience at this Post to assist you accomplish whatever you want. Suggest something to one of our Board members and we will take your idea to the House Committee to get your idea approved and on its way to success.

We are not the VFW of old! We are not your Grandfather's VFW. We want to satisfy your thoughtful ideas, so bring them to us. If you don't come to meetings, then call an Officer or me and we'll work to satisfy your need to accomplish whatever it is that you joined for. Please just don't sit at home and let life pass you by.

***Have a Blessed Easter and enjoy our St. Patrick's Day dinner and our April Steak-Out dinner.***

Let's bring in Spring with a full calendar of events. We need You !

**Art Huge  
Post Commander**



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### Greetings All

We have been adding more members to our ranks for they've heard of our work benefitting Veterans and Veteran's programs. These new members have been coming to the meetings and attending Post, Auxiliary and Clubroom functions. If you haven't been attending meetings and/or functions. think about it and meet new friends. **Our Auxiliary meetings are the second Thursday of the month at 7pm.** I would sure love to see and meet some new faces. We are looking for new ideas.



Recently several Auxiliary members joined Post members for lunch at California Pizza who support our Veterans. A good time was had by all.

Loyally  
**Rosemary Diccio,**  
**President**



\*\*\*\*\*

### April is fast approaching.

April means Election of Officers. If you wish to be nominated and considered for an office and unable to attend, submit a letter of intent to either the President or Secretary prior to the meeting. If you'd like a chairmanship, speak with the President. There is more work we can do for our Veterans and it's more efficient if someone is not chairing several chairmanships.

Denise Frey,  
Secretary



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## *MASTER SERGEANT LAURA A. RIOS (Retired)*



Master Sergeant Laura A. Rios (ret) is currently the Chief Veteran Service Officer for the Macomb County Veterans Services Department. She counsel's veterans on their benefits, enrolls veterans in health care and assists in upgrading discharges. She oversees an office of 8 veteran service officers, a financial coach, and 5 administrative staff. Master Sergeant Rios grew up in Lake Worth, Florida, and entered the Air Force in October 1983. Her assignments included bases in Maryland, Ohio, United Kingdom, California and Michigan.

### **EDUCATION:**

- 1986 NCO Prep Course School, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.
- 1988 USAFE NCO Leadership School, Greece.
- 1993 Associate's degree, Information Management, Community College of the Air Force
- 1999 USAFE NCO Academy, Kapaun Air Base, Germany.
- 2005 Bachelors degree in Business Management, University of Phoenix
- 2005 Associate's degree in Human Resources, Community College of the Air Force

### **ASSIGNMENTS:**

1. October 1983-December 1983, trainee, Basic Military Training, Lackland AFB, TX
2. July 1984-August 1984, student, Information Management Specialist Course, Keesler AFB, Mississippi.
3. August 1984 – December 1985, Administrative Support Specialist, 76 Airlift Division, Andrews Air Force Base Maryland.
4. December 1985 – June 1987, Administration Specialist, AFOSI Detachment 440, Andrews Air Force Base,
5. June 1987 – October 1993, NCO in Charge, Administration, AFOSI Detachment 514, Royal Air Force Alconbury, United Kingdom
6. October 1993 – June 1998, NCO in Charge, Information Management, AFOSI Region 1, Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio.
7. June 1998 – December 2002, Chief Mission Support, AFOSI Det 512, Royal Air Force Lakenheath United Kingdom.
8. January 2003 – August 2004, Chief Commander Executive Support, 13th Intelligence Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, California.
9. September 2004 – July 2006, First Sergeant, 9th Services Squadron, Beale Air Force Base, California.
10. July 2006 – Jan 2007, First Sergeant, 9th Medical Group, Beale Air Force Base, California.
11. Jan 2007 – Nov 2009, First Sergeant, 339th Recruiting Squadron, Clinton Township Michigan.

### **MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:**

Meritorious Service Medal, three bronze oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, one bronze oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, two bronze oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, one silver oak leaf cluster, two bronze oak leaf clusters, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, one bronze star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border

### **Currently**

Sergeant Rios currently serves on the Executive Council of the Human Services Coordinating Body (HSCB) which is the state designated community collaborative for the county. She also is the Chair to the HSCB Portal of Services Committee which created a universal assessment or screening tool that would identify a person's eligibility for various services. Laura also Chairs the Macomb Veterans Action Collaborative (MVAC) which mission is to develop a "No Wrong Door" system of care where veterans and their dependents either receive the care they need or are referred to the appropriate resources. Some of Laura's volunteer projects include being a Post Service Officer at the VFW Old Settlers Post 4659 in Shelby Township and a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Manager where she supervises 45 volunteers and prepares over a 2,300 tax returns for veterans and low income in the community.

## Membership Notes

### RECRUITING AND 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 is over 96.65% 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.

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**

Sr. Vice Commander

## Canteen - Clubroom Notes

**Hello everyone,**

*Here's hoping we've seen the last of winter and are on our way to a beautiful spring.*

Speaking

of Spring, Lent is upon us and our Friday night Fish Fry's are in full swing. Our fish is delicious and comes with fries, coleslaw, dinner roll, and a cookie!

**4-7 p.m. every Friday till Good Friday.**

We have been enjoying karaoke with Stars & Stripes Entertainment on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month.

It starts at 7:00, right after dinner.

We've decided to replace tacos for the time being.

**The new Thursday special is  
Meatball Sub & Fries for \$5.50.**



We'll have T-shirts for sale in the clubroom. Get one and show your support of our Veterans!

**Kathy Holloway. Clubroom Manager**



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*Carl LaRock Scholarship*

Attention High School Seniors! Applications are now being accepted for the Carl LaRock Memorial Scholarship. Open to children and grandchildren of Post 4659 members, accredited homeschoolers, and students attending Eisenhower, Ford II, Lutheran North, Stevenson, UAIS and Utica High Schools who have a minimum 3.0 GPA. A randomly drawn applicant will receive \$1000! A copy of your high school transcript and letter of acceptance to a college, university or trade school must accompany your application. Send an email to LisaLove.4659@gmail.com for an application and official rules. Deadline is April 22, 2024

Thanks!

Chairman Lisa Love

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**Ray Nadolski-Keller Williams**  
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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.**

One Time Payment - Initial Payment - 11 Payments of			
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



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## Membership Help Wanted

**Comrades,**

Our Post is made up of people of many talents. Many of the membership are retired and some are still employed. Our facility has been around since 1947 and every now and then suffers from old age. As with many buildings and people, there is a time for repair and rehabilitation. As you know from our meetings, we continue to do what we have to do to maintain and improve our facility and its surroundings.

This is where you, our membership, can assist us. If you have a special talent or knowledge of electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, I.T., editing, artistry, gardening, public relations, or any other hobby that could assist us, please let us know.

If you can spare an hour or two or eight, we can use your talents. We can work around your schedule so you can still have time for your children or grandchildren. Right now, we have 3 or 4 people completing all of the tasks that usually arise at the last minute. Some projects can be scheduled.

Please let **Mike Perusich (586) 291-9914** or **perusich@att.net** or myself (810) 499-2448 **arthuge@comcast.net** know if we can count on you to assist us. Thank you !

**Commander Huge**

## California Pizza Kitchen



### 'Good time at the CPK Annual Luncheon'

What a great time our Post members had at the California Pizza Kitchen on February 13, 2024. The staff show us how they could serve us a delicious dinner from an outstanding menu with drinks and desert that put the icing on the cake. *Thank you to the general manager Ray Tasevski, Linda Brohl, Alex & Jordon.*

**Linda Brohl did it again with her drive to support our Veterans. We have been doing this for nine years. California Pizza Kitchen have provided their service for a great luncheon and donated gift cards to our Post to distribute out to the Veterans.**



## Post Members Service Bio's

*Eugene Meridith will be featured in the May-June 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

### Commander's Note

Like the idea??  
Car/Motorcycle Show  
Open House - Veterans Benefits  
Hold a Hunting or Fishing Event  
Contact a Veteran at College  
Membership Booth at  
Community Event

Contact (810) 499-2448 or  
(586) 291-9914

**WE NEED YOUR INPUT !**

Welcome our Newest Members

**Roger D Tomei**

Welcome Transfers

**Joseph Wrobel & Howard Gooisby**

*Loyalty Day*

Post 4659 will be hosting the District Loyalty Day Dinner celebration on Wednesday, May 1st beginning at 6:00pm. Our keynote speaker is our own member, Army Major General Retired Darren Werner. Darren was recently the Commander of TACOM located in Warren MI before retiring.

We will be offering more information during the April Post meetings. Please show your support for our Post and Major General Werner by attending this (free) banquet and ceremony with your fellow comrades.

May 1st of each year is designated as Loyalty Day by Congressional Act 85-529 of 1958. It celebrates the proud

history of Americanism achievements by the VFW. It originally counteracted the Communist May Day hate demonstrations.

Congress officially adopted it in 1958 with Public Law 529. This is the reason we have Loyalty Day. A day for patriotic citizens to hold parades, flag ceremonies, public meetings, School programs, and other Americanism activities.

Our ceremony will include VFW and community leaders, fellow Post members & District Posts, Scouts and neighborhood citizens.

Join us on May 1st to celebrate Loyalty Day. Contact any officer for more details. **DON'T MISS THIS EVENT !**

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