

Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

May - June 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**



Thank you for re-electing me as your 2024-25 Commander. I appreciate the confidence you have shown me. I will try to live up to your expectations! Our new incoming officers are Sr.Vice -Kevin Debruyne, Jr.Vice - Allan Schafer and Adjutant - Derek Polena.

The last two months were busy in the Canteen/Clubroom and the Hall. We served over 1100 Lenten Fish and Shrimp dinners. All-in-all the events were highly successful. We gained a few new members and the public learned more about the VFW along with our purpose and mission. We met our membership goal to be over 100% for 2023-2024.

Our 1st Friday of the Month Fish Fry will be on May 3rd. This is open to the public. Bring your family and friends to support the Post. In addition, our International dinners and karaoke have been a big hit with our members and friends. We've heard some really good voices, and it is always a packed house. No pressure to sing- just have fun listening!



Join us on the 3rd Friday of the month. Next meal on May 17th is a Polish/Hungarian/Ukrainian/Czech/Slovakia/Austrian themed dinner. We are looking for you "closet" chefs to help us with your best dishes or at least your recipe. The dinner is open to Veterans and the public.

By the time you read this our Buddy Poppy Days will be completed, and we will be adding the collections to our Relief Fund. These funds will be used to assist fellow veterans & their families who are in need during the year.

We are making plans for our Memorial Day ceremony outdoors at the Post Memorial (weather permitting). The event begins at 11am and a luncheon follows in the Hall sponsored by our Auxiliary. Thank you Auxiliary! I know our Honor Guard will be in high demand during that week!

We are working on a Flag Day celebration and Flag Retirement ceremony for the weekend of June 14th. It was a great success last year.

Our officers (current & newly elected) will be involved in the Department (MI) Convention and training during May and June. I appreciate their commitment to the Post!

Art Huge
Post Commander



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VFW AUXILIARY

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HELLO AUXILIARY SISTERS AND BROTHERS:

Summer will be here before we know it and we are expecting more members to join us for meetings the second Thursday of each month. We are looking for more Euchre players and new ideas on how to help our veterans.

May will bring our installation of the newly elected officers:

President: Rosemary Dicicco
Sr. Vice President: Donna Miller
Jr. Vice President: Sylvia Pocock
Treasurer/Secretary: Denise Frey
Chaplain: Jo Harder

Conductor: Doloras Missovich
Guard: Deborah Hadley
Trustee 3Yr: Cris Pierson
Trustee 2 Yr: Joe MacDonald
Trustee 1 Yr: Darlene Kaiser

Loyally
Rosemary Dicicco
President

Membership Notes

Many Auxiliary members have received an email from Auxiliary Trustee, Joe Mac Donald, listing the upcoming events of Post and Auxiliary 4659. The email is meant to reach out and encourage member involvement in our goal to provide assistance to our Veterans. There is so much more that we can do but many hands are needed. We also need to update member's information on our roster so you may get a phone call from me, confirming your accuracy. Of course, we invite you to visit the Post Clubroom any time to become familiar with the variety of activities and events we have going on... There are no strangers at Post and Auxiliary 4659. We hope to see you at future Auxiliary meetings (2nd Thursday of every month).

Sylvia (Lerczak) Pocock
Cell (586) 991-0696

Important Request: We are also looking for missing cell numbers and email address' for Auxiliary members that joined before there was such things as cell phones and email addresses' or that wasn't part was part of the application. Also, if you are planning to move, please let us know the new address so we can update all our systems. If your mail is returned, we are charged the cost of the current postage.

Denise Frey
Secretary
frey11@comcast.net

Exciting News!!!!

The VFW Auxiliary now has it's own official Facebook page! Stay updated on our events, connect with the local community and join the conversation! Don't forget to "like" and follow us to show your support.

Donna Miller
Historian and Media Relations

Eugene R Meredith Major USMC RET



Eugene (Gene) Meredith's journey began in the small town of Alpena, Michigan, where he spent his childhood surrounded by the love (and shenanigans) of two older brothers. After early career experiences in a bakery, lumber yard, and construction companies, he graduated from Alpena High School and made a commitment to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Marine Corps. The bond he shared with his high school sweetheart only grew stronger over the years, blossoming into a 51-year marriage filled with love and support, as well as two daughters and two grandsons.

Through his years of service, from earning the rank of LCpL to achieving the rank of Major, Gene dedicated himself to upholding justice and protecting the values he holds dear. Each milestone, from earning his BA degree in criminal justice to obtaining an MBA, was a testament to his unwavering determination and resilience. He was deployed across 5 continents, 6 of the 7 seas, and an unspecified number of countries with the brotherhood of arms with which he still enjoys a rich network of meaningful connections.

He had the honor of serving and commanding in the following locations:

- Platoon Commander, 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Tank Battalion: Camp Lejeune, NC
- Executive Officer, AT-TOW Company, 2nd Tank Battalion: Camp Lejeune, NC
- Company Commander, D-1-1 U.S. Army, Marine Corps Tank Training Company: Ft. Knox, KY
- Armor Officers Basic Team Chief, Instructor: Ft. Knox, KY
- Marine Combat Cargo/Supply Officer, Comphibron 3/7, Naval Station: San Diego, CA
- Company Commander, Charlie Company, 2nd Tank Battalion: Camp Lejeune, NC
- Company Commander, Headquarters & Services Company, 2nd Tank Battalion: Camp Lejeune, NC
- Inspector Instructor, AT-TOW Company, 4th Tank Battalion: Broken Arrow, OK
- Combat Replacement & Assessment Officer: Desert Shield & Desert Storm
- Liaison Officer (Acquisition), PEO Ground Combat Systems, TACOM: Warren, MI

He earned several awards including:

Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal w/1star, Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, American Campaign Medal w/1 star, Navy Achievement Medal w/gold star, Navy Commendation Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/1star, Sea Service Deployment Ribbons w/2star, Kuwait Liberation Medals (Saudi Arabia & Kuwait), Army Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation w/1star, Navy Unit Commendation, United States Cavalry & Armor Association. Order of Saint George Bronze Medallion

Following a distinguished Marine Corps career culminating in retirement in 1996, Gene embarked on a new chapter with General Dynamics Land Systems. For two decades, he spearheaded crucial efforts as Director of Project Management, successfully steering a billion-dollar business. His leadership skills also flourished as Director of Operations, where he guided a global team of 1,200 colleagues across 21 time zones, ensuring smooth service and repair of heavy combat equipment.

Gene's commitment to service didn't stop there. After his second retirement, he dedicated himself to his community. He actively volunteered in Shelby Township's Solid Waste and Recycling Committee, as well as the Planning Commission, shaping responsible practices for the future. He currently serves on the board of directors for the USMC Tankers Association, fostering camaraderie and supporting fellow veterans. He also proudly serves as a member of the **VFW Post 4659 Honor Guard**, paying "*Honors*" to fallen heroes. When not volunteering, he enjoys traveling with his wife, spending time with his grandsons, fishing and hunting with friends, playing cards, and hitting the gym for some PT.

He is a life member of the following organizations: VFW Post 4659, American Legion, Disabled American Veteran, Marine Corps League, Military Officers Association, Catholic War Veterans of the U.S., United States Marine Corps Tankers Association, and the Knights of Columbus, St Lawrence Council. He also holds membership in the following organizations: Associate member of the Shelby Township Fraternal Order of Police Lodge, North Macomb Sportsmen's Club, Marine for Life Program, and the Marine Corps social organization, The Redcoats.

Canteen - Clubroom Notes



Hello Everyone,

Happy Spring to you, let's hope it's here to stay this time and that summer isn't far behind.

If you haven't seen them yet, check out the T-shirts we have for sale in the Clubroom. We have them for Veterans and, also, for those of you that support our Veterans here at Post 4659. Let one of the bartenders know if you need a particular size. I can order as needed.

The last chances to play Show Me the Money are May 5th and 19th @ 2:00 before Sharon takes a break for the summer! SMTM is a Potluck event. Many thanks to Sharon, Darlene, Carol, and all that have helped with SMTM. It's always a full house and always a good time!

Euchre is the 3rd Saturday of every month, sign up at 1:00, play starts at 2:00.

We have Karaoke with Stars & Stripes Entertainment on the 3rd Friday of the month, starting right after the dinner special. May 17th is a Polish/Hungarian dinner. I hope you can join us for a delicious meal and lots of fun and entertainment with karaoke hosts, Brandon and Linda.

We're open 1-9 every day, except Monday when we're closed for maintenance.

The jukebox is free on Tuesdays! Happy Hour is 1 till 3 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The kitchen is open till 8, (closes at 7 on meeting nights). Check out our daily food specials.

We've lost someone very special to all of us. Carl Bonanni passed on Monday, April 15th. He was one of our most active members.

Carl and his brother, Joe, cooked together in our kitchen for all our dinners, steak, Italian, fish fry, you name it, they were there. He was fun and happy and entertaining. He will be missed. Our condolences to his wife, Kris, his daughter, Maria, Joe & Rita, and all of their family.



Carl LaRock Scholarship

We'd like to congratulate Mia Jalics of Utica High School for being this year's \$1000 PFC Carl LaRock Memorial Scholarship recipient! Mia is an AP Scholar with Distinction, a National Merit Commended Student and a Valedictorian at UHS. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society and is on the Student Council. She will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall to major in computer science.

The PFC Carl LaRock Scholarship recipients are drawn randomly. It is open to high school seniors of local high schools and accredited homeschoolers who are enrolled in any college, university or trade school and have a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Chairman Lisa Love



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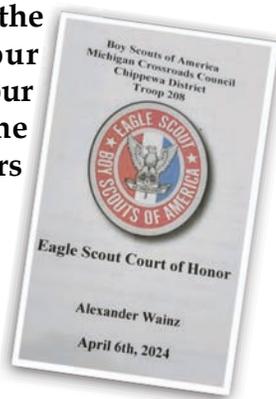
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Boy Scout Troop 208



Boy Scout Troop 208 held their Eagle Scout Court of Honor at our Post on April 6th. Alexander Wainz achieved his Eagle Scout status. Alexander built two picnic tables for our Post and lead the troop to replant new trees in our Memorial Garden area and clean up our landscape area. The VFW was the Charter of Pack 79 for many years where he started his scouting journey.



Pictured from left to right are: Paul Elliott (Scoutmaster), Commander Art Huges, Alexander Wainz (Eagle Scout), George Wainz (Father), Zoe Wainz (Mother).

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Life Membership Information

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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
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Membership Notes

Comrades,

Membership is a pathway to Retention

Retaining members is as important as recruiting them. Mentoring annual members is the best way to keep our membership roster active for our VFW Post 4659. When our VFW Post Commander Art Huge assumed his position in July 2023, he issued a challenge to all members. "Recruit at least one new member this year". He said if each member brought in a new member, Post would double its membership.

While membership recruiting remains top priority so too is retention, according to Post Quartermaster Jay Benner. "It's important we retain these annual members or better yet, convert those members to Life Members".

Posts active in the community tend to retain more members. "Posts with higher levels of engagement are the ones doing the best in membership" If the Post does not have a retention person on the membership committee its missing the boat. Several ways to also improve retention is by mentoring new members coming into the Post. When you notice someone new at our Post meeting make sure you do not leave them standing alone in the back of the room.

We all need to heed the words spoken at the opening of each Post meeting, according to: VFW's RITUAL's Opening Post Ceremonies.

"Comrades, We are assembled again to transact business of mutual benefit. Do not let petty jealousy or trivial personalities influence our deliberations. Let us always uphold the obligations of unselfish comradeship and loyalty to our organization and to the government of the United States of America."

"What this means is to knock down the walls of division within the Post and work for common goals"
When we work as a team, we will be more positive with good results.

Sr. Vice Commander
Mike Perusich

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Post Members Service Bio's

Allan Schafer will be featured in the July-August 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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in person! 😊 "

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

Welcome our Newest Members
Kristen Malbur & Thomas Mcguire

Welcome Transfers
Paul Rick & Ben Light



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