



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

May - June 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**



Thank you for electing me as your Commander again! I appreciate your support at the elections and throughout the 2024/2025 year. Congratulations to our newly elected officers and thank you to all of our Standing Chairmen and Project Chairmen.

Now, on to another great year of activity for our Veterans, both in our membership and in the community. Looking back at the past two months, we were able to award 4 of Shelby Township's 1st Responders at the Township Trustees meeting, began planning for our Post's 80th Charter Anniversary, had the best attended and most successful Lenten Fish Fry dinners, and had a great time at our 3rd Friday Canteen dinners & Karaoke.

Our membership count is always a challenge. When you see someone with a military hat or shirt, please take the time to introduce yourself to them and if qualified, ask them to join us at our Post. Be proud of our Old Settler's Post and the work we do for Veterans across the county and state. We are one of the busiest and most productive posts in the District.

Coming up is our Loyalty Day Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the Post. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you haven't been to a function in our Clubroom give Loyalty Day a try!

Our Buddy Poppy Days are in early May and Flag Day in June will be another opportunity for us to retire the many old and worn out flags collected from the community. Memorial Day and other programs will need your support both financially and as volunteers. What have you done for your post lately??

I can't forget our Honor Guard. We are aging and could use a few more young volunteers to assist with the current team. Just a few hours a month would help! We will train you.

It is great to see our "snowbirds" come back and fill our membership meetings again. Plan to have some fun this spring and summer. Looking forward to a Great 2025/2026 year!

Art Huge, Commander

The new approved By-laws (2/27/25) are available to be picked up at the Post 4659 Office.



VFW AUXILIARY
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Greetings Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers

Congratulations to the newly elected Auxiliary Officers! Whether you've served in this capacity or you're new to this position, you have our best wishes for a successful year! We've got several new officers this year. The first one is Sylvia Pocock as President. I have enjoyed my office and I'm sure that Sylvia will do a great job. We have many opportunities to participate in our neighborhood to encourage the public to get involved. We are looking forward to seeing more members at our meetings in the coming year. Happy summer to all!

Rosemary Dickey, 2024-2025 President



Hello Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you for electing me as Auxiliary President for the 2025-2026 year. For those who don't know me, I'll tell you a little about myself. I have been married to Allen for 38 years, he is an Air Force, Vietnam Veteran, I have two married sons, two grands and two great-grands whom I adore. We have lived in Shelby Township for 23 years and love the area. We are relatively new to Post 4659 having transferred about two years ago, we wish we had done it sooner as we have met many nice people.

As your president, I hope to bring new energy and ideas that will make our Auxiliary and Post move forward in many areas helping veterans and their families, as well as leave a positive impression with the community. This can only be done with the support of our Auxiliary members. I cordially invite you to come to an Auxiliary meeting the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM so that we can get to know each other.

Sylvia Pocock, 2025-2026 President

2025 - 2026 Auxiliary Officers

President: Sylvia Polcock
Sr. Vice President: Diane Huge
Jr. Vice President: Donna Miller
Treasurer: Denise Frey
Chaplain & Patriotic Instructor: Carla Badyna

Guard: Pam Riden
Conductress: Rita Bonanni
Trustee #3: Rosemary Dickey
Trustee #2: Darlene Kaiser
Trustee #1: Joe MacDonald

See you all soon.

Denise Frey, Secretary

Clubroom / Canteen Notes



Happy Spring Everyone!

We had a great turn out for the Tigers Home Opener! We'll always have the game on, so come in and cheer on the Detroit Tigers with us.

We're about halfway through the spring Wii bowling season, it's always so much fun! Thank you Joe MacDonald for all you do! If you haven't played yet, think about joining us when we start up again in the Fall.

Speaking of Fall, that's also when Show Me The Money will resume. Unfortunately the May dates have had to be canceled. Many thanks to Sharon and Darlene for donating their time all these Sunday afternoons. Everyone loves SMTM!

The 3rd Friday of every month we have a dinner followed by KARAOKE, (featuring Joe & the Crystals 😊) May 16th will be a potluck, so bring your favorite dish to share. June 20th will be a STEAKOUT!! Details and ticket sales for that will be available in the Clubroom before the end of May.

We are going to host game nights on Saturdays, May 17th and June 20th at 5:00 pm. Play will start at 5:30. Bring a game, bring a snack if you like, and of course, bring a friend. Or 10! See you here. It'll be fun, I promise!

Our Lent Fish Fry season was very popular and very delicious! Joe, Kevin and their crew do a great job in the kitchen. Alyssa, Nancy, Debbie and all the volunteers kept things going in the Hall. And, my special thanks to Joan Carpenter - She gets the food out to the Clubroom customers while I'm busy behind the bar. I'd be lost without you, Joanie. Thank you!!

We'd like to welcome new Post member, Chris Taylor, and his wife Brittney! We've been enjoying their company in the Clubroom. Chris has already been volunteering and helping out with the fish fry! Welcome to you both!

Please note the canteen will be closed on Mother's Day, Father's Day and July 4.

Kathie Holloway, Clubroom Manager

Buddy Poppy Time

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members that participated in our Buddy Poppy Days. We didn't have as many locations that we have had in the past but we did pretty good raising donations. Most importantly we'll be able to help our comrades in need.

Again, "THANK YOU" to everyone that helped.

Allen Pocock, Buddy Poppy Chairman

586-726-2423

The Lenten Fish Fry dinners were a huge hit! We appreciate all of our volunteers and everyone who came to enjoy dinner with us!





NEVER FORGET OUR FALLEN COMRADES

John Patrick



New Members

Ny Han Lam Robert Cannon David Diccio

Transfer Members

Christopher Taylor Colleen Smith Larry Richards Peter Wrubel



Post Member Bio

Ben Light served in the US Army from 2004-2006. He attended Basic Training & Advanced Individual Training at Ft. Sill, OK, where he trained at the Field Artillery School to become an MLRS crew member. Upon completion of AIT, Ben was sent to Camp Stanley, Korea for a year of foreign service.

Ben currently serves as a DOD employee at the Detroit Arsenal as a logistician for the Tank Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM). Ben has been married to Leah since 2016 and they have created a wonderful life together. They have three kids: Jude, Wesley and Nora; three cats: Aggy, Cheese and Quattro; and 14 chickens (most have names).

Ben's service awards include: the Army Achievement Medal / National Defense Service Medal / GWOT Service Medal / Korean Defense Service Medal / Army Service Ribbon / Overseas Service Ribbon

Ben has been the Department Surgeon and Hospital Director since 2023 and the Department Social Media Director since 2020. He has also served as a VFW Department Service Officer (2017-2019) serving over 3000 Veterans and their dependents, bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the State of Michigan. Ben is currently serving District 5 as the Service Officer and the Post 4659 as Surgeon, Hospital Chair and Drug & Safety Chair. He has been an All-American/All-State Post Commander (2021-2022) and an All-American District Commander (2022-2023). Ben has served as a National Aide-de-Camp three times and on the General Resolutions Committee.



Ben is currently a candidate for State Jr. Vice Commander. He has been fully endorsed by Post 4659, District 5, Friends and Family. Ben has also been endorsed by Post 1136, Post 1146, Post 4162, Post 6756, and District 4.

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Save the Date!!

November 8, 2025 is Post 4659's 80th Anniversary!

More information is coming soon!



Our Auxiliary made special Easter visits (bringing treats!) to Westwood Senior Living in Chesterfield and Vets Returning Home in Roseville.

L to R : Rosemary Diccico, Diane Huge, Chrissy Balone, Eileen Maringo, Pan Riden, Rita Bonanni



A special ceremony recognizing four of Shelby Township's first responders was held at the Township Board of Trustees meeting on March 4. Post 4659 donated \$1000 to the Gary Sinise Foundation in their names.

L to R : Officer Dennis Washburn, Firefighter Brenden Riggs, Officer Noah Nye and 911 Dispatcher Kiara Brown.

The awardees with Chairman Karen Franklin, Commander Art Huge and Jr Vice Commander Al Schafer.



MEMBERSHIP HELPS THE VFW POST 4659 GROW

Our present membership is getting older, not younger, and we have been losing the battle lately with the passing of many of our long-time and active members. We ALL need to make this a top priority and put in some extra time to BRING NEW MEMBERS into our Post. Active members are great, but we need members in all modes of participation, active or passive.

I suspect every one of us knows SOMEONE who qualifies, whether it is parents, children, in-laws, grandchildren or other relatives, your mail carrier, grocer, barber, electrician, doctor or dentist, pharmacist, police officer, firefighter, lawyer, religious leader, co-worker, banker, car dealer, insurance agent, or teacher.

APPROACH them!!

Help them to fill out an application! Tell them what they are missing:

1. We have expert assistance from the State and National Service Officers, and our own expert Service Officer, Laura Rios.
2. VFW provides assistance to PROTECT existing Veteran benefits that you now receive or may receive in the future.
3. An opportunity to take an active part in Post 4659's patriotic, community service, and youth activity programs.
4. Satisfaction in knowing that you are supporting an organization that fights for the maximum defense and security of our country.
5. Receiving the acclaimed VFW Magazine each month, keeping you informed on all matters pertaining to you as a Veteran.
6. The feeling of true comradeship that exists only among Veterans who served overseas in time of war.
7. Many social functions at your Post and Canteen for you as well as other members of your family.
8. The opportunity for your spouse and family members to join the VFW Auxiliary, working hand-in-hand with Post members in all functions and programs.

Ask about Life membership discount....Pay your dues early by 60 days get a great meal at California Pizza Kitchen.

If there is a question, have them bring in their DD-214 or other proof of serving overseas in times of conflict or war. Other proof might be "Returning Orders", "Leave and Earnings Statement", "Free mail/War Zone pictures", "Hostile fire/Imminent Danger Pay", or "Qualifying award citation". If you have ANY questions on a particular prospect, give me a call.

Mike Perusich, Membership 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 Membership Fee Schedule Age as of Dec. 31st.



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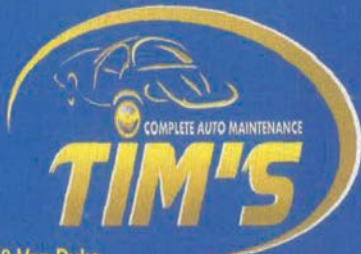
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VFW BINGO

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Bingo Starts at 10:30 am



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