

# OLD SETTLER NEWS

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

**OLD SETTLERS POST 4659**

8311 Wilson Dr., Shelby Twp., Michigan 48316 (586)781-9109

**NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018**

Commander Mike Crampton - Sr. Vice Cmdr. Ken Klee - Jr. Vice Cmdr. Larry Pretzer  
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant - Bill Tudrick



## Comrades & Auxiliary

This column is a full-on tornado siren warning ALERT! We have a problem area that is going to hurt us going forward unless we get ACTIVE in working on it. That problem area is MEMBERSHIP. 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 IN. 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 be 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 of State and National Service Officers, as well as our own expert Service Officer, Laura Rios.
2. The 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.

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, call our Membership Chairman, Mike Perusich at 586-291-9914 or me at 586-747-1222.

*Mike Crampton*

Post Commander

**Macomb County's Seville Manor returns to service.  
(From the MVAA Web-Site)**

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency announced it has acquired 103 acres of land in Macomb County's Chesterfield Township where it plans to build a new, state of the art veterans home. The acreage is a former military housing complex that supported the Army Garrison at Selfridge and is known as Seville Manor. The State of Michigan purchased the site for \$820,000 from the U.S. Department of Defense.

“This acquisition realizes our goal to expand accessibility to long-term care facilities for Michigan's veterans,” said Governor Rick Snyder. “Acquiring this property is a significant achievement for the State of Michigan as we move forward to modernize and expand long-term care services to Michigan Veterans.”

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency convened a work group in 2016 to study how the state can move the operation of veterans homes toward sustainability and improve long-term care for veterans. The work group recommended the construction of seven new veterans homes over the next 10 years across Michigan. Their first recommendation was to build two homes, one in the southeastern tri-county area (Prosperity Region 10) and a new home to replace aging facilities in Grand Rapids (Prosperity Region 4).

“Acquiring Seville Manor resulted from a substantial, bi-partisan team effort across state government,” said Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director James Robert Redford. “To get to where we are today has taken leadership from the Governor, support of our legislative partners in the Michigan House and Senate as well as members of Congress and Michigan's two Senators, the Michigan Facilities Board of Directors, and a lot of dedicated effort from the DTMB Real Estate division and staff at MVAA.”

The site has strong military ties. Seville Manor is named for Air Force Major Louis Seville, who was the first member of the United States Air Force to receive the Medal of Honor since its establishment as a separate military service in September of 1947. He was born on November 21, 1915, in Harbor Beach, Michigan, and was killed in action near Hanchang, Korea, on August 5, 1950.

“It is a tremendous honor to build a new veterans home on a site that formerly housed military servicemembers and their families and is named for a true Michigan hero,” said Major General Gregory Vadnais. “I want to thank the Department of the Army for working with us to secure this purchase and return Seville Manor to service.”

To facilitate the build and operation of the new veterans homes, the Legislature created the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority, which is housed within the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs and governed by a nine-member gubernatorially appointed board. The Adjutant General of Michigan designated that the Michigan Veterans Affairs Director serve as his representative as chair of the Authority Board. Workgroup co-chair and Senate Appropriations Chair Senator David Hildebrand authored the legislation creating the Authority which passed with strong bi-partisan support through both Chambers.

“The creation of the new authority and funding for the construction of two new homes for our veterans was a top priority of mine,” said Senator David Hildenbrand (R-Grand Rapids). “I am excited to see this important step accomplished so we can move forward on building much needed new, state of the art facilities for our veterans.”

State Representative Laura Cox (R-Livonia), House Appropriations Committee Chair added, “With 33% of all Michigan veterans residing in the tri-county area, selection of a site in southeast Michigan is important in that it ensures veterans will have a place near home to reside when they need skilled nursing services.”

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature approved \$42 million in state funds for new veteran home construction, paving the way for the state to apply to the VA State Home Construction Grant Program for additional match funds to build a new veterans home in Southeast Michigan and build a new, modern home on 93 acres of state-owned land the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans currently occupies. The VA Home construction grant provides up to 65 percent funding for approved projects and in April 2018 authorized up to \$123 million for new veteran home construction, \$38 million for Grand Rapids and up to \$42 million for Southeast Michigan.

State Senator Darwin Booher (R-Evart), co-chair of the Joint Capital Outlay Committee and sponsor of legislation that authorized up to \$3 million dollars for the purchase of property to build a new veterans home in Southeast Michigan, is pleased with the purchase. “This is a solid location with historic military ties near Selfridge Air National Guard Base.”

The Michigan Veterans Facility Board of Directors reviewed national best practices for state veterans home design and operation. The Board has chosen the small house concept for the two new homes. Each home will house 128 members who will reside in four small houses that provide each member with their own room and bathroom, and common spaces that include a space to gather and a small kitchen. The four small houses will connect to a community center that house clinical and therapeutic operations, amenities like a barbershop and beauty parlor and a large space for full membership and community gatherings. Architectural concepts of the new homes are attached. See the artist concept drawings of the new Southeast Michigan Veteran Home at <http://bit.ly/SEMichVetsHome-Aug18>.

“I am excited about working with Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel and Chesterfield Township Supervisor Dan Acciavetti, their boards and staff on building the new Southeast Home,” said Redford. “The future for veterans in Michigan is bright.”



**VFW AUXILIARY**  
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## **Greetings to all Auxiliary Members**

**How ya all doing? We have had a busy couple of months and it continues. Our next meeting is November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a child valued at a minimum of \$10.00. This is a wonderful way to bring Christmas joy to needy children. The December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a potluck beginning at 6:00 pm with the regular meeting beginning at 7:00 pm. We will have some good fellowship prior to the meeting.**

**November 5<sup>th</sup> is a Patriotic Presentation with the children of West Utica Elementary starting at 9:00 am This is a great time to share our love of country with them.**

**November 14<sup>th</sup> will be a visit to the post by Homeless Veterans. Please come and share with them. Donations of clothing, personal care items, games, etc. can be dropped off at the Post.**

**The holidays are just around the corner. Enjoy time spent with family and friends and please be safe. Merry Christmas to all.**

**Mary Ashbrook, President  
248-766-2467**

## **Youth Activities: Kids Christmas Party**

**Santa is coming to town, Saturday, December 8, 2018. Ages: 0-10. Time: 12:00 – 3PM.**

**The sign-up slips will be available in the clubroom the first week of November for you to complete in person. - no phone entries. Check your child's schedule prior to submitting their name, they must be present to receive their gift from SANTA. Deadline for name submission is: Tuesday November 27, 2018.**

**Happy Holiday and Merry Christmas  
Denise Frey, Youth Activities Chairman**

## **THANK YOU**

**I'm so appreciative to the Post and Auxiliary for all you've done for me over the past few months. The benefit fundraiser held for me this past September was successful and I'm grateful. I'm thankful for the support I've received from many of our fellow Post and Auxiliary members whether it being phone calls, personal visits, car rides, texts msgs, errand runs, donation of the hall from the Post, personal donations and all the workers for the benefit. I'd also like to thank a Auxiliary member for the three visits from Florida to assist my Aunt and myself with my home care (my sister). I also can't forget about my District Post and Auxiliary members across District 5 for their support as well.**

**Thank you so much and God Bless You ALL.**

**Denise Frey**



## Scholarship & Michigan Department

### Comrades and Auxiliary Members

We are in the process of collecting our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year entries for our Post judging. The judging has been scheduled, and when it is completed, the first place entries will be forwarded to the District for judging. The names will be published

in the next newsletter. The Post winning students are invited to attend the District Banquet to honor their achievements. The District winners are announced, and the first place students will advance to the State judging. The District Banquet is on January 6, 2019 at VFW Post 7573 in New Baltimore. The doors open at 1:00 pm with dinner at 2:00 pm. The Program will follow dinner. Tickets are \$15.00 each. Please consider supporting our students by attending the banquet. They are our future and always prove to be impressive. My husband Bill and I have co-chaired these contests for many years both on the Post and District levels. Bill will truly be missed by all who have participated. His dedication to the students was appreciated by parents and teachers alike. We will continue to reach out to our schools and community to ensure the success of this program in his memory.

On the Department level, the annual Mid-Winter Conference is in Kalamazoo from January 24, 2019 through January 27, 2019. Each District winner from the Voice of Democracy Contest and Patriot's Pen Contest are treated to a fun filled weekend of activities culminating with the Banquet on Saturday, January 26, 2019. In addition to a Scholarship of \$6,000.00, our first place Voice of Democracy Student will be awarded a trip to Washington DC. Our student will compete with students from all 50 states for Scholarship money.

For District Banquet information, please contact me. For Department Mid-Winter Conference information, visit the Michigan VFW or Auxiliary websites.

Gloria Dobbie  
Auxiliary 4659 Scholarships Chairman  
586-739-8095  
wadobbie@prodigy.net



### Post Upcoming Meetings and Events

Holly National Cemetery Honor Guard - 1st Wednesday of Each Month  
Post Meetings - 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month - 7:00 PM  
House Committee Meeting - 3rd Wednesday of each month - 7:00 PM  
Auxiliary Meeting - 2nd Monday of each month - 7:00 PM  
Post & Auxiliary Bingo - Tuesday & Thursday at - 10:30 AM  
Veterans Outreach Sessions with Lisa Marie - 2nd Monday of each month - 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM

### Important Dates

November 1st - All Saints Day  
November 4th - Daylight Savings End  
November 10th - US Marine Corps Birthday - Semper Fi  
November 11th - Veterans Day  
November 22nd - Thanksgiving Day  
December 7th - Pearl Harbor Day  
December - 24th Christmas Eve  
December 25th - Christmas Day  
December 31st - New Years Eve

## Clubroom News

Comrades, Family and Friends

**Congratulations to our VFW Post 4659 Clubroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Champions 2018. First Place (Pictured Center) Josh Gambrel, Second Place (Left) Bill Tudrick and Third Place (Right) Ken Klee.**

I would like to thank our three guest Judges, Kevin Cook - Post 1794, Mt. Clemens, Phil Cushard - Post 6802, Richmond and John Gunin – Post 4162, Hamtramck. Of the ten chili's entered, picking the best of the best was a big chore. From ours to yours, "Thank you gentlemen" and all who participated.



**Show Me the Money and Pot Luck Sundays from 2 – 4:30PM has turned out to be quite the success with good times had by all. A dish to pass is not required to play but for those who do and have shared with your Comrades and Clubroom family, "We Thank you". (Kitchen is closed Sundays 2 – 4:30PM on Sundays) As always I owe a debt of gratitude to my staff, your bartenders. And of course, those of you who make life fun and keep us going, "Bless You"!**

**Dates of Interest:**

**10 November – Euchre Tournament. Sign up at 1PM, Play begins at 2PM.**

**11 November – Veterans Day Drink Specials**

**17 November – Club Room Thanksgiving Dinner. Your favorite holiday dish to pass is always welcome.**

**Keep an eye on the club room flyers for an upcoming Member Appreciation day. Due to some of the time-consuming building and equipment issues I had to reschedule.**

**Thank you all and my staff so much.**

**Randall Pearson**

**Come join us for a cold one**





## POST 4659 GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

William Chisholm, William Dobbie, James Head, Otto Nellenback, Charles Sakofahe, Bernard Strohkirch, Joseph Tallerrico, Walter Wachoeki, Robert Waites, William Woren



**Bill Dobbie**

William Andrew Dobbie joined the United States Army in the 26 Sept 1966 and was honorably discharged 2 years later. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal and proud to wear the "Combat Infantryman Badge". It was during his indoctrination at Fort Benning, Georgia that Bill adopted the "Follow Me" spirit. Bill was a wordsmith. He enjoyed verbal jousting. He liked the English language and he admired the phrasing and writings of our Founding Fathers. Bill was proud of his Scottish heritage and very proud to belong to the Veteran's of Foreign Wars. I met Bill in 1969 when we were Die Maker apprentices at Chrysler's, Vernor Tool and Die. There were over 30 apprentices at that plant alone. We worked hard and had a great time. In the mid 80's Bill was elected as a union representative and he wasn't much different way back then, he carried all his notes and references in his left front pocket and names and numbers were in his head. At Old Settler Post, Bill was the Post Commander for 7 years and earned 7 white hats. He managed the Tuesday bingo for over 10 years and that monthly income kept our doors open so that we could continue supporting our community and above all be here for our veterans. He love to speak at the West Utica Elementary School and interact with the children, teachers and veterans. That is where we met Bob and Rose Bardecki and soon Bob became a Post member and Rose a valuable Auxiliary member. If you lived in Shelby Twp. and a flag was flying in your front lawn chances are that Bill knocked on your door. He knocked on many doors. He did everything, and his moto was, "Follow Me". He will be greatly missed.

Bill Tudrick  
 Post Adjutant

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**VFW AUXILIARY BINGO – THURSDAY  
MORNINGS  
DOORS OPEN 9:30 AM – STARTS 10:30 AM**

**Veteran Outreach Sessions at Post 4659  
Monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM  
Lisa Marie (586) 463-3538**

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