

Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

November - December 2024

Publisher & Editor: Jay Benner



**Commander Art Huge - Sr. Vice Kevin DeBruyne - Jr Vice Allan Schafer
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant Derek Polena**



WOW ! End of the year already and still lots to do. Our Past Accomplishments:

We started September participating in the Romeo Peach Parade with members of our Honor Guard, Auxiliary and two additional cars filled with our Commander and our members. A fun time had by all throwing candy and honoring our flag and our Post.

We resumed our 1st Friday of the month Fish Fry, which is again proving to be very successful in the community. We could use more support from our own members!

A highly successful Post 4659 & District 5 Family Picnic brought a lot of smiles to all the youngsters of our members. If you missed it, you missed a fun filled afternoon. Congrats to Al & Sylvia Pocock & your committee for a well-organized event.

We represented our Post at the Packard Proving Grounds honoring the Rosie the Riveters from WWII. Great historical stories from the families of the actual Rosies'. Our Chaplain, Bob Bartkowski handled the opening and closing prayers, and I had the honor of being a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony to display the "Rosie" plaques we supported.

We co-chaired the POW/MIA ceremony & banquet at the New Baltimore Post 7573 and enjoyed a great country singer as our dinner music & entertainer for the evening. Thank you, Gene Meredith (Chairman) for bringing our Posts' together.

Al Schafer (Jr. Vice) and Karen Franklin (Chairman) of the clothing drive for "Vets Returning Home" were able to donate 1 ½ truckloads of clothing to the charity along with food and checks.

Our officers & chairmen attended the Department Fall Conference in Flint and received excellent tips from the trainers. Our Post was awarded the Department "All-State" Award at the business meeting Diane & I, and our Surgeon & Hospital Chairman, Ben Light attended the Department Commander & Presidents' formal Gala, which was a fundraiser for Michigan's Cancer Program & the Fisher House.

My thanks to Joe Bonanni, Gary Titus, and Kathie Holloway for an excellent 3rd Friday Rib Dinner, which sold 70 dinners to the Post members & the public. Lots of planning & preparation produced a great success! Thanks guys!

We had 16 members & auxiliary attend the Gold Star Mother's Banquet and to round out the month, Karen Franklin hosted the 1st Annual Halloween Trunk or Treat at the Post.

Lisa Love gathered the "Voice of Democracy", "Patriots Pen", and "Teacher of the Year" submissions from our local schools and submitted them to our District 5 & Department Chairmen for scholarships. First place winners go on for even greater scholarships.

To those members who do not attend our activities, you can see there is something for everyone to participate in.

Our upcoming programs are lead off by Chairman Paul Rick, who is putting together a program to honor our Veterans across the country at the Post on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour. Our ceremony will be followed by a luncheon hosted by our Auxiliary. All are welcome to attend!

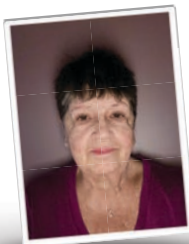
It is a busy week for our Honor Guard who participate at senior homes and cemetery rituals in our area.

Thanks to our Honor Guard Captain Bradley Hoffman and his team.

Art Huge
Post Commander



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VFW AUXILIARY
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Seasons Greeting:

The Auxiliary has been busy the past couple of months as we leave summer going into fall and winter. We've attended the Fall Conference and attended all the meetings. It is a pleasure to meet and enjoy conversation with members from across the state. The joint session with the VFW Post members we were exposed to several new programs passionate to the VFW. They were FOXHOLE, Hero's to Hives, Honor Flight, Mission Six, Fisher House, Bottoms Up and several other presentations. One was the Gold Star Mother's and between our Auxiliary and Post we had 17 members that attended the District 5 Banquet on October 20, 2024.

Thursday December 12 will be our holiday meeting with our District 5 President Don McNichol doing his official visit for our Auxiliary. Hope to see our attending members.

I would like to begin by apologizing to our 5 new members for the unusual experience at our meeting in September. As we are approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas we will be quite busy with helping our veterans and their families and community. Don't forget the Christmas party for the children. Check calendar for dates. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

*Don't forget our Euchre Play every third Saturday
and Show Me The Money every second and fourth Sunday.*

Loyally

Rosemary Dickey, President

Santa Claus is Coming

Date: Saturday, December 7, 2024

Time Noon to 3PM

Ages: 0 - 10

You can start completing the Name slips the first week of November. You need to do that in person. The Clubroom servers will not take your information over the phone. The deadline for names is Sunday, November 24, 2024. Please check your children's schedule for **they need to be present to receive their gift** from Santa.

Youth Activities Chairman

Denise Frey

Memberships

Welcome to our new members gained in September: Gail & Michael Owens, John Ferry, Ellen Gallerani, Betty Lerczak and Cindy Ford.



October brought in Sharon DeBruyne and our President, Rosemary Dickey's daughter's Carla Badyna and Angelique Brock.

Welcome to one and all.

Denise Frey, **Membership Chairman** 586-569-6336

John W. Smith - Old Timer's Group

We the Auxiliary are thankful of the donation received from the Old Timer's. It will assist us in our helping veterans and veteran family members that may fall outside of our different programs, but still need our help.

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POST MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER WITH OUR COMMUNITY



Jerry Kolinski, Diane Huge, Art Huge, Chairman Karen Franklin & Al Schafer at the "Vets Returning Home" clothing Drive on Saturday 9/21/2024



Old Settlers Post Members and Auxiliary at Rosie the Riveter Ceremony at the Packard Proving Grounds



POW/MIA Ceremony & Banquet With our Post Honor Guard & Commander Presentation



Post & Auxiliary Fall Planting Crew



Romeo Peach Festival Parade Line Up On Labor Day 2024



Quartermaster Jay Benner with VFW State Commander Kimberly Napoleon, Terri Klee & Ken Klee attended the 75th anniversary of VFW Lemkee-Blackwell Post 7573 in New Baltimore on Saturday October 26 2024



**NEVER FORGET OUR
FALLEN COMRADES**

VLADIMIR POHORILY



Canteen - Clubroom Notes

Hello Everyone !

You'll notice that we no longer have the pool table. Since it was being used more and more infrequently, it was decided to let it go and to put the space to better use. We'll soon be sporting some new tables in that area! The Samaritan House sponsored SHARING TREE gift tags are now available in the Clubroom. Please inquire with the bartender on duty if you'd like to help a family in need this Christmas. Thank you for your continued support. The Clubroom will be open at 11:00 a.m. for the **Veterans Day Memorial Service** on November 11th. We'll stay open through the luncheon and close at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see everyone here honoring our Veterans past and present. Show Me The

Money will be on Sunday, the 10th and Sunday, the 24th. Sharon starts calling at 2:00! It's POTLUCK. Bring your favorite dish/snack and good luck to all. Our annual **Turkey Dinner** will be on Friday, November 15th. 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Clubroom provides the turkey and there is a sign-up sheet posted in the Clubroom for side dishes and desserts. It's always a delicious meal and all members are welcome. *** We will be CLOSED on Thanksgiving Day***

Show Me The Money will be on Sunday, December 1st and Sunday, December 15th. As always, it starts at 2:00 and is Potluck! Our Clubroom **Christmas Dinner** will be on Friday, December 20th. 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Clubroom will provide the meat, please see the sign-up sheet for a dish to pass. We'll have our gift exchange game for those that want to participate. \$25 wrapped gift! Tickets for the **Hall New Year's Eve Party** are now on sale. \$40 per person, dinner and entertainment provided, cash bar. Tickets must be purchased no later than December 23rd. No exceptions.

Does anyone have any interest in having game nights on Saturdays? Let us know in the Clubroom!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Merry Christmas!

And Happy New Year to all!

Kathie Holloway

Clubroom Mgr

Old Settler Post 4659 and District 5 Annual Picnic



Gold Star Mother's Banquet

We had 16 members & auxiliary attend the Annual Gold Star Mother's Banquet hosted by the 5th District. Post Commander Art Huge presented a donation check from our Post Members

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Greetings Comrades,

Hope all is well with all of you. Just want to keep you informed of upcoming events our Honor Guard will be participating in.

Wednesday November 6th we will be at Great Lakes National Cemetery rendering Funeral Honors for the day. Friday November 8th at 1100 we will be Posting the Colors, Firing Rifle Volleys and playing Taps at the Washington Twp. Veterans Memorial, located at 27 Mile & Van Dyke, Lunch will follow at the Washington Twp. Hall, all are welcome.

Saturday November 9th at 1000 we will be doing a ceremony at the Pines of Hayes in Sterling Heights, located 1/2 mile south of Hall Road on Hayes. Monday November 11th at 0900 we will be doing a Ceremony at Pine Ridge Villas of Shelby, located on the SE corner of Ryan and Utica Roads, at 1000 well be doing a ceremony at Prestonville Cemetery on 25 Mile Rd between Jewell and Schoenherr Roads and 1100 we'll be back at the Post for Our Veterans Day Service and luncheon. Wednesday December 4th well be back at Great Lakes National Cemetery rendering Funeral Honors for the day.

As you can see, we are quite busy. We're getting asked to support more events. We had to turn down two invitations on November 11th as we couldn't work it out logistically. We welcome anyone who is interested in joining our team, if we have more members, we could support the increased requests for our services.

Please consider joining our dedicated group of professionals.

If interested, let me know at a meeting or give me a call at 586-457-5403.

Respectfully,
Brad Hoffman
Honor Guard Captain

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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 is a pathway to Retention

Presently we are at 95.10%

Our Life Members = 346

Annual Members = 60

Total Membership = 406

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 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 it's 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.

Membership Committee
Mike Perusich

Whitmer Signs Bills Expanding Eligibility for Disabled Veteran Registration Plates

LANSING, Mich. – Today, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 5127, which expands the eligibility of the Disabled Veteran registration plate to partially disabled veterans. Governor Whitmer continues to ensure Michigan's service members, veterans, and their families have the opportunities and support they need to succeed.

"Today, I signed a bill that will support more veterans in the state of Michigan by making sure they are eligible for the benefits of their service," said Governor Whitmer. "Michigan's veterans are the best of us and deserve the support of the state. Let's keep working together so they can get good-paying jobs, affordable housing, and quality health care. Michigan will always fight for those who fought for us."

House Bill 5127, sponsored by state Representative Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park), expands the eligibility of the Disabled Veteran registration plate to partially disabled veterans. Specifically, it would expand eligibility to veterans with a service-connected disability of 50% or more.

The plate also provides veterans with free access to Michigan state parks. In this year's budget, all veterans were granted free access to Michigan's state park system.

"This legislation highlights the importance of honoring Michigan's disabled veterans and the sacrifices they've made," said state Representative Mike McFall (D-Hazel Park). "By expanding access to specialized license plates, we're making it easier for our veterans to receive the recognition they deserve. I am grateful for the support this bipartisan legislation has received and proud to see it signed into law."

Welcome our Newest Members and Transfers

ALYSSA CROWDER

MANFRED DROMKE

JOHN KEATING

JOANN WILSON

November 2025 will be **Old Settlers Post's 80th anniversary!** Initial planning is in the works for our celebration. I am looking for pictures, articles, personal stories or anything that you would like to share of the Post or even surrounding areas up until now.
Please email them to me at lisalove.4659@gmail.com

- Welcome New Members -

Your participation at meetings, Clubroom activities, Youth and Community programs is encouraged for all.

You are a member of one of the Top Posts in the State.

Be Proud to Participate!
Take advantage of our many programs.

Quartermaster Jay Benner

Halloween - Trunk or Treat



What an amazing event put on for the community and our youth. Our Post members, Auxiliary, and canteen patrons all came together for our first Trunk or Treat event. We had a great turnout of kids, approximately 60 and a parking lot of cars, more than we even hoped for. The kids all enjoyed the sweet treats, games, cider/doughnuts. It was hard to tell who had more fun, the kids or those running the games and passing out candy. Thanks again to all who attended and those who participated! With continued support this could become an annual event.

Karen Franklin



Flag Ceremony

Flag Disposal took place Saturday October 19th at the farm of Jay Caldwell.

Jay is an Auxiliary member of our Post and stepped up to help with a location to take care of more than 65 bags of worn flags. Our Post Honor Guard did honors for the event. Some Lions Club members also were present for the event. Food and drinks followed and all present helped for over 2 & 1/2 hours to Properly burn and retire our flags.

Mike Perusich
Past Commander



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Bingo Starts At 10:30 am



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