



Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5

January - February 2024

Publisher & Editor: Jay Benner



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



Out with the Old 2023 - In with the NEW 2024 ! Congratulations to all our members who kept the enthusiasm and pride for our Post alive and well. We have a strong and exciting year ahead!

But first, let's reflect on the accomplishments of the past couple months: A HUGE Salute to our Honor Guard who were kept very busy during November & December at Great Lakes National Cemetery Holly MI, a week of Veterans Day ceremonies at Peace Lutheran Church & School, Washington Twp. Memorial, Shelby Twp. Post 4659 & Pine Ridge Senior Living, and our own Flag Retirement ceremony at the Post. They also participated in several

VFW members' funerals. Contact Bill Barron if interested in joining our Honor Guard.

We held successful Fish Fry's, hosted both Thanksgiving and Christmas "member's" dinners, chartered Cub Scout Pack 158 while sponsoring our Boy Scout Troop 391 and Cub Scout Pack 276.

At our December Post meeting we listened to our Voice of Democracy Scholarship winner's speech (Sanjith Sambath) and our winner for Teacher of the Year (Christopher Davis of Henry Ford II H.S.). Both have been submitted to the District 5 competition & banquet. Our thanks to our Auxiliary for their partnership with us on this project.

Our members definitely come out for Karaoke Night, and we'll have more of those events in 2024. In January, we will be hosting the Macomb County Council Meeting and attending the District Voice of Democracy Banquet with our Post winners.

More Fish Fry dinners and our Italian Night Dinner in January. Our Lenten Fish Fry dinners begin Friday, February 16th and are every Friday including Good Friday. Please ask how you can help for a couple hours each week or just come and enjoy the Fish & Shrimp.

Be Proud of our Post & Community events and lend a hand to keep them successful. More planning of events at our Canteen and House Committee meetings. Give us your ideas for growth & community events.

Art Huge
Commander



8311 Wilson Drive Shelby Twp. MI 48316 586-781-9109

Post Member John Disalvo Bio

Having enlisted in the United States Air Force (USAF) in October 1970, my journey began with a commissioning through Officer Training School (OTS) at Lackland AFB, Texas – a comprehensive three-month program encompassing both basic training and the academic rigors of USAF officer responsibilities. My background in Electrical Engineering, culminating in a Bachelor of Science degree, positioned me for a distinctive path within the USAF.

Shortly after, I underwent a rigorous 6-hour examination, evaluating my aptitude for pilot skills and airplane nomenclature. The outcome led to my inclusion in the Pilot Training Program at Moody AFB in Valdosta, GA, commencing on May 1, 1971. Over the next year, I navigated an intensive curriculum, alternating between flight sessions and academic pursuits, honing my skills in a variety of aircraft.

Pilot Training encompassed mastering the Cessna trainer (Cessna 172), the twin acrobatic jet Cessna T-37, and ultimately, the Northrop T-38 supersonic acrobatic twin-engine aircraft with an afterburner – also utilized by astronauts for maintaining flying proficiency.

Upon successful completion of Pilot Training, I assumed the role of a pilot for the C-141 Starlifter, a substantial 4-engine jet cargo plane with a global mission, including operations in Vietnam. My service in this capacity extended from June 1, 1972, to February 7, 1977, stationed at Dover and Charleston AFB.

Transitioning to civilian life, I joined Delco Electronics in Kokomo, IN. However, my passion for flying persisted, leading me to reenlist in the USAF Reserve (USAFR) at Grissom AFB on October 1, 1977. Here, I piloted the KC-135 Stratotanker, a formidable 4-engine jet air refueler with a weight exceeding 241,400 pounds, capable of supporting worldwide missions.

In August 1983, I furthered my military career by joining the 63rd Tactical Airlift Squadron at the Strategic Air National Guard (SANG) base in Detroit, MI. Specializing in the C-130 Hercules, a versatile four-engine turboprop cargo plane weighing 153,000 pounds, I played a pivotal role in operations during Desert Storm from October 1990 to May 1991.

Continuing my service until October 1993, I retired from the USAF with 22 years of dedicated commitment, achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. My multifaceted career reflects a steadfast dedication to excellence in aviation and military service.

I believe the poem by John Gillespie Magee sums up my feelings about flying. It is something that unless you have flown by yourself in an aircraft that is solely under your control, you will never really understand the feeling of joy and accomplishment.



Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth,
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings.
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-spit clouds, --and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of --Wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hovering there
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...
Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark or even eagle flew--
And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.





VFW AUXILIARY
UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Greetings to all Sisters and Brothers of the Auxiliary.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Another year of great work, let's do better and more this year. We are planning on getting more activities going such as SMTM and Euchre Play. Don't forget our meetings are the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM, hope to see you all soon.



Teacher of the Year Winner
Christopher Davis

By the time you read this, we will have been to District 5's Voice of Democracy (VOD), Patriotic Pen (PP) and Teacher of the Year Banquet. We will be there in support of first place VOD & Teacher of the Year winner's in hope of seeing them advance thru the District judging.

Lisa Love, Chairperson along with Post Commander Art Huge Presented Certificates and Checks to the winners



Voice of Democracy Winner
Sanjith Sambath

This last quarter of the year we participated in our Post Veteran's Day Program, and our joint Membership Event following the Flag Retirement Ceremony. At the District 5 meeting in December, we were present for the Pearl Harbor Memorial.

Then the big event was the Children's Christmas Party. It was a super success as usual.

Loyally,
Rosemary Diccio,



Membership Notes

It is with deep sorrow that we are sending our prayers to the friends and family of Elaine Eberwein who passed in December. Elaine was a Life Member who in the past was a very active member with our fund raisers and being the Hall Chairman for a bit.

We welcome new member, Patricia Teeple, who qualifies and is joining under her son a Post member who served in Afghanistan.

At the National Convention in July, they increased the portion of the funds for the annual membership which will be effective in July with the new VFW year. A motion was made as how that increase affects our continuing annual members and new annual members. We will again address the motion at our January meeting. National did state that they wouldn't address an increase for new Life Members for at least 4 years.

Denise Frey
Membership Chairman

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Gathering of Flags



Knights of Columbus Color Corps



Commander Art Huge
Macomb County
Commissioner Sylvia Grot
Jr. Vice Commander Carol Dalpe
Shelby Twp. Clerk Stanley Grot

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.
 OLD SETTLERS POST 4659 8311 WILSON DRIVE, SHELBY TOWNSHIP
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 Join Us in the Post Hall
FREE Meal and Refreshments 
WE WANT YOU
 TO ASK US QUESTIONS ABOUT:
 VETERANS BENEFITS & VFW ACTIVITIES & MEMBERSHIP

VFW 4659 Honor Guard
Flag Folding Ceremony
(Bill Barron & Mike Perusich)



Appropriate Disposal of Flags
"Pyro-technicians(Gene Meredith) at work"

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Children's Christmas Party

Another successful event. We had 26 kids this year and we didn't have any no shows. I'm not sure if the kids loved Santa more than the adults like the hot dogs. We had a lot of workers from Commander Art helping me unbox the tree and setting it up. Which I took a break and ate my fish dinner there were lovely volunteers that had started putting the bulbs on.

Thanks to Rita Bonanni, Chris Bonanni, Diane Huge, Janice Meredith, Gene Meredith and myself it was done within minutes. There might have been a couple others, but I didn't know their names. With the wrapping,

shopping and the party there were Rosemary Diccico, Donna Miller, Art Huge, Carol Dalpe, Kathy Kennedy, Jo Harder, Chrissy Bolone, Robin Brooks Campbell & Cheryl Schabath. The face painting was a hit again this year and of course Santa. He didn't have to

deal with the Grinch this year. I believe the Grinch was afraid of our kids. If I forgot anyone, I apologize for missing you but I do appreciate your assistance. Santa did tell me he enjoyed visiting the kids and seeing his VFW friends.

Denise Frey
Youth Activities



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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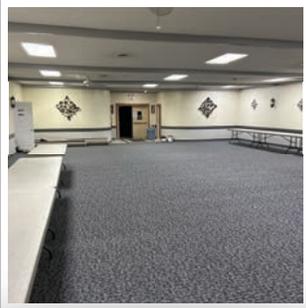
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Hall Project Update

In a significant contribution towards improving our facilities, VFW Post 4659 extends its gratitude to the Shelby Township Lions Charities Club for their generous donation of \$2,500. This financial support, presented by Lion President Joe Burke to Past Commander Mike Perusich, a Lion himself, comes at an opportune moment. As we move forward on a much-needed project to install new carpeting in the Post's main hall and canteen, the Lion's contribution will play a pivotal role in ensuring its successful completion and maintaining the comfort and aesthetics of our Post.



Beyond the immediate impact on our facility, this funding demonstrates the Lion's dedication to fostering a mutually beneficial relationship with Post 4659 and making a practical difference within Shelby Township. As the Lion's operate out of our Post, meeting in the main hall on the first and third Thursday of every month, their investment in this upgrade directly aligns with their mission statement and commitment of service to our community. VFW Post 4659 expresses its sincere appreciation for this practical support and looks forward to continuing its productive relationship with this community service organization.

Karl Marberger
Lions International

On December 16, 2023 Post 4659 Honor Guard along with Knights of Columbus, and the Boy Scouts helped with honors at *Wreaths Across America*. It all took place at Cadillac Memorial Cemetery starting at 12 noon. Bill Barron commander of the Post honor guard presented a wreath for Marine branch of service. The Knights of Columbus conducted honors at the chapel. The Boy Scouts along with family and friends put wreaths on the veterans grave sites in the cemetery.



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Ryan Patrosso & Lawrence Reynaert**

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Canteen - Clubroom Notes

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone had a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

We'll be starting January off right with our first Fish Fry of the year on Friday the 5th, 4-7:00 p.m.. Show me the Money starts on Sunday, the 7th @ 2:00 p.m. and Sharon has set dates with me for twice a month through Spring.

Check the Post monthly calendar for exact dates.

Friday, the 19th we'll have an Italian Dinner for members only from 4:00-7:00 p.m. KARAOKE with Stars & Stripes Entertainment starts just as soon as the dinner ends. If you like to sing, or just like the show, come join us. Brandon & Linda do a great job, it's such a good time!



If you have any ideas and/or suggestions we'd love to hear from you.

Auxiliary meetings are the 2nd Thursday of the month
Please try to attend.

Post meetings are the 2nd & 4th Wednesday at 7:00 PM
Please check out the pictures from our last few events.
Come join us, we have fun! See you at the Post- **Kathie**



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