

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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

There can be only one topic appropriate for this page in this latest Newsletter – the TANK! What a magnificent effort by all concerned to finally make this great M60A3 Series Tank static display happen for our POST! We owe the Tank Acquisition Committee and all those who donated their time, effort, and services a long and loud “JOB WELL DONE”. Mike Perusich, who stayed with the very involved paper process to get the acquisition to a “Yes” from the tank command, and then made the move happen in an impressive combination of logistics. Larry Pretzer, who generated a plan for the pad and tank layout on our grounds and presented it before the Shelby Township Planning Committee to get the display approved; Dave Wagner, who not only found a company to donate the pad cement, but also got the labor to install the pad donated; Jay Benner, our busy Quartermaster, who helped with documentation, government forms, signatures, and planning; and James Stansbury, our “recently promoted Major” member who helped immensely as a “go-between” with TACOM. We had significant help from several professional companies, including Ray Debuck Construction Inc.; Dee Halverson of Ryan Company Inc; David Bell of Ford Motor Co., our own member Brian Holloway the Heavy Equipment Transporter; and Mike & Denny Connelly of Crane Rental Corporation. We thank you all!

We believe the tank will be an attraction to bring future members into our post, and also serve as a new landmark in our community.

Now on to the work of refurbishing and painting!

We have received a donation of \$200.00 to go towards fixing up the tank, so an account has been established to hold any donation specific to tank repair and refurbishment. Anyone who would like to donate to this fund should note on the check, and it will be used only for that purpose. Thank You!



Mike Crampton
Post Commander



VFW AUXILIARY
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Greetings to all Auxiliary Members

Greetings to all. At the District meeting Sandy Ontsweder made a BIG announcement! During her tenure as National President Gloria Dobbie will serve as National Chief of Staff and Marilyn Malik from the Frasier Auxiliary will serve as National Membership Ambassador. Congratulations to both outstanding Auxiliary members.

On September 15th we are hosting a fundraiser for Denise Frey. It will be a Spaghetti dinner held at Auxiliary 4659 in Shelby Township. Dinner will be served from 4:00 pm until 7:00 pm. We need donations of desserts and any items you can contribute for a raffle. There will be a 50/50 drawing and a lottery board. Please contact me for additional information.

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

Membership

Please be aware that our National organization has changed our procedures this year. Input cannot be done on a local level and we had to wait until after July 1 to process applications. So if your referral is questioning info on their status please let them know or they may call me.

**Denise Frey
Membership Chairman/Camp Trotter Chair
586-569-6336**

Saturday, December 8, 2018 will be the Children's Christmas Party this year. More information will be provided in the next newsletter.

Youth Activities Denise Frey

Are you a crafty person, or just someone who wants to be helpful? We need those who can sew, knit, or crochet to make some lovely lap blankets for our needy veteran's in our hospitals and veterans homes. It is the goal of the Auxiliary to supply as many veterans as possible with lap blankets. They should be 36 inches by 48 inches and of any color and any pattern that you wish. When finished you can drop them off at the Post. If you have any questions please contact me at 586-749-9835. Please help us help our veterans.

**Thank You
Terri Klee
Auxiliary 4659 Hospital Chairman**

Get well wishes and prayers to Denise Frey who was hospitalized again and is now home again recovering.

Terri Klee

Auxiliary 4659 Chaplain

Two New Veterans homes for Michigan!

LANSING, Mich. — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs authorized funding from the VA State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program to build two new veterans homes in Grand Rapids and Southeast Michigan. According to the priority list released this morning, the VA has authorized up to \$123 million for the projects.

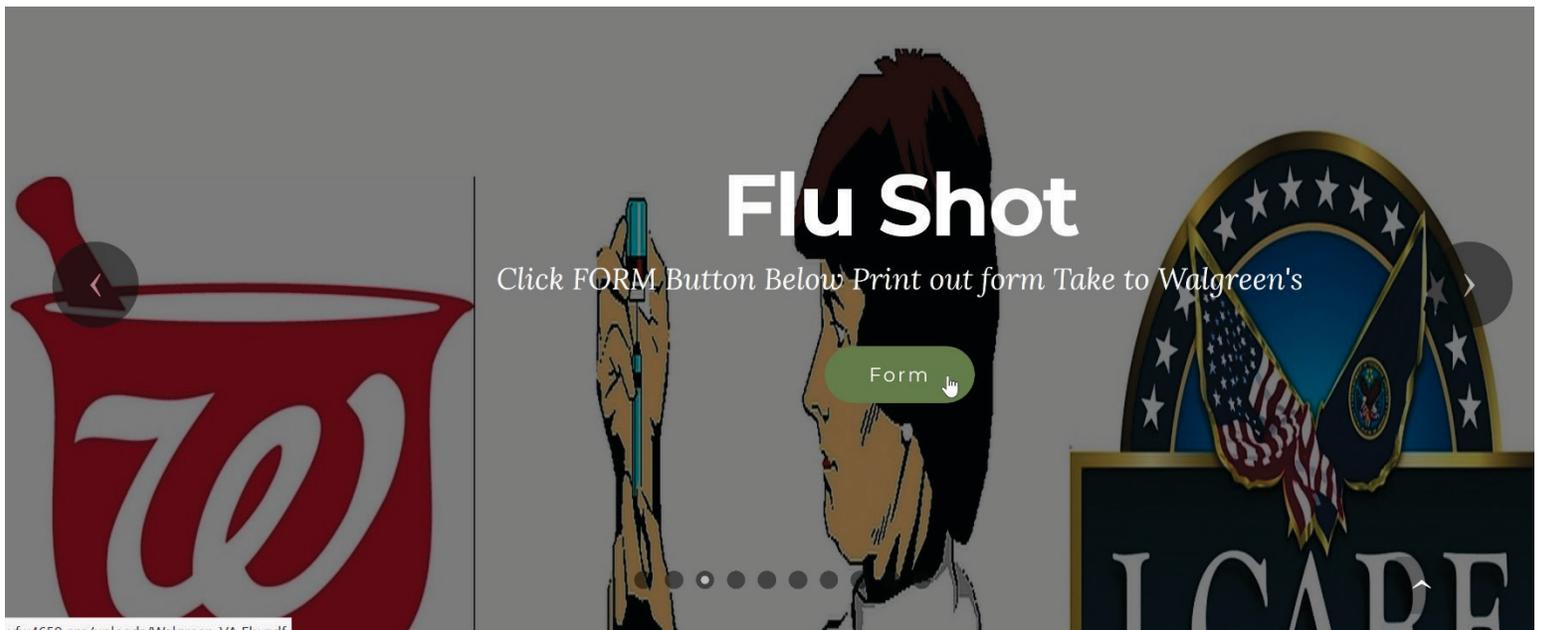
“This is great news for our state’s veterans,” said Gov. Rick Snyder. “I am pleased Michigan gained the support from the federal VA with this grant funding for two veterans homes. It will pave the way for new, modern facilities that are long overdue and will better meet the needs of our veterans. Our brave men and women who served our state and nation deserve the absolute best, and I am proud of the work that is being done to help make Michigan the best place for veterans to live, raise a family, work and retire.” In 2016, the Michigan Legislature approved \$42 million in state funds for the projects. The VA State Home Construction Grant Program provides up to 65 percent funding for approved projects and has authorized up to \$38 million for Grand Rapids and up to \$42 million for Southeast Michigan.

A plan to modernize long-term health care for the state’s veterans was created by a workgroup convened by the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency to study best practices and chart a path to modernize state run facilities providing long-term care to veterans. The workgroup comprised of health care and financial experts and legislators completed their report in August 2016, recommending application to the VA State Veteran Home Construction Grant Program to build up to seven new veterans homes across the state. Based on recommendations from the group and with strong bi-partisan support from the legislature, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law PA 560 of 2016, creating the Michigan Veterans’ Facilities Authority, governed by a nine member board. The first action of the Authority Board was approval of the grant application designating that the first two homes be built on the current 90 acre campus in Grand Rapids and on a site to be determined in Southeast Michigan.

“We appreciate VA’s support of Michigan’s veterans in announcing this much needed funding to build new, modern veterans homes in our state,” said Michigan Veterans Facility Chair/Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency Director James Robert Redford. “This is an important first step that allows Michigan to continue providing veteran-centered care in a modern, home-like setting, eventually expanding the number of veteran homes across the state in order to serve veterans close to where they live.”

The Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board of Directors continues work to finalize site selection in southeast Michigan, based on legislative direction to locate a new state veterans home in Michigan Prosperity Region 10. The board has a goal of beginning construction of the new facility in Grand Rapids in September 2018.

For more information about the new veterans home project in Grand Rapids, visit the Michigan Veterans Facility Authority Board, Public Documents at MichiganVeterans.com. © Reprinted from MVAA website



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For Veterans under VA care
Go To our Website www.vfw4659.org

When you see the banner above on the home page just “CLICK” on the “FORM” Button and it will bring up the form, print, fill out and take to your nearest Walgreens!



Scholarship & Michigan Department

Comrades and Auxiliary Members

and Patriot's Pen Contests.

Labor Day brings the official close of the summer season, and the start of a new academic year. Post and Auxiliary 4659 will be visiting the schools, churches, youth groups, and home-schooled students in our community to present the 2018 / 2019 Voice of Democracy

The Voice of Democracy is an audio essay contest open to all high school students in grades 9 thru 12. The 2018/2019 theme for the Voice of Democracy is "Why My Vote Matters". Rules and Entry forms are available on the VFW National Website, the Department of Michigan VFW Website, and the Michigan VFW Auxiliary Website under Programs.

The Patriot's Pen is an essay contest open to all middle school students in grades 6 thru 8. The 2018/2019 Patriot's Pen Theme is "Why I Honor The American Flag". Rules and Entry Forms are available on the Websites. The deadline for entries to the Post in both contests is October 31, 2018. Our first place Post winners in each contest will be forwarded to VFW District 5 for judging on the next level.

Please give your family members and neighbors the opportunity to participate in our 2018/2019 Program. If you have any questions regarding the Scholarships, please feel free to contact me.

Our Teacher of the Year Contest coincides with the youth essay contests. A first place award are presented to Teachers who instill Patriotism and Loyalty in their students. Awards are presented on three levels: High School, Middle School, and K thru 5. The deadline for Post entries in each level is October 31, 2018. Rules and entry forms are available on the 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

- September 3rd - Labor Day
- September 11th - Patriot Day
- September 17th - Constitution Day
- September 18th - US Air Force Birthday
- September 22nd - First day of Fall
- October 8th - Columbus Day
- October 13th - US Navy Birthday
- October 31st - Halloween

Clubroom News

Comrades, Family and Friends

The sweltering months of July and August are behind us. As we enter into the cooler days of the fall months I am happy to report to you that your club room air conditioning has finally been fixed. For that reason, I am happy to announce that for the remainder of the summer your club room will provide FREE AIR CONDITIONING with the purchase of every drink and or menu item. As many of you know our beloved post 4659 building and much of the equipment in it is very old. Your Patience and understanding as we have worked around issues that present themselves is greatly appreciated and for that, I thank you all. My staff and I have a number of different events planned for the months of September and October so here they are:



September 15th Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for long time Auxiliary member Denise Frey - 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. All proceeds will go to assist with medical bills.

September 24th - Wii Bowling League Begins. Signup sheet is in the Club Room. A nine game average must be established prior. If not, women will begin with a 170 and men will start with a 190 average. Good luck to all.



October 13th - Second Annual CHILI COOK OFF. Defending first annual championship Darlene Kaiser will be defending her trophy.

October 27th _ Club Room Halloween Party and costume competition. Prizes and Swag will be awarded the three best costumes. Keep Costumes classy and PG rated please.



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

Melvin Dale, Alfred Davidge, Kenneth Gentile, Sidney Huene, Edward Martin, Ken Vanderbeke, Norman Van Sparrentak, Lester Willet

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Walter Obarzenak, Lee Price, Alan Schafer, Richard Sederchuk, Nicolas Smith, Larry Spencer



The following article 1st appeared in Military.com on line news. If you are paying for Survivor Benefit Plan this may effect you.

Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) is saying that many retirees who have VA pay their full or partial **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)** payment may be getting an erroneous bill from the Treasury Department. Currently, there are four methods of paying for your SBP coverage:

- Deductions from your retired pay
- Deductions from your CRSC Pay
- Deductions from your VA pay
- Direct remittance
- Paid Up Status

A change in the billing agency from DFAS to the Department of the Treasury Centralized Receivables Service is the cause of the mix-up. Previously DFAS sent the monthly bills to those who choose direct remittance as their payment method, or those whose VA pay isn't enough to cover the monthly SBP premium. Unless you have made a change to your VA remittance for your monthly SBP premium, VA will still pay your recurring monthly premium amount (whether that is the full or a partial amount), so you don't need to pay the monthly premium amount shown on the Centralized Receivables Service bill. DFAS and VA are working with the Treasury to fix the problem, but DFAS warns that you may get an erroneous bill next month as well. In April of this year a new law went into effect requiring DFAS to deduct SBP premiums from CRSC pay. There is no indication that this issue is related to that change. If you have any questions, you should contact DFAS directly at 800-321-1080 M - F 8 AM - 5 PM Eastern.



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MACOMB COUNTY FREEDOMFEST



Join us at a **FREE** family event to celebrate patriotism and military service.
All activities and services are free of charge and open to the public.

Saturday, 15 September 2018 - 10:00AM - 2:00 PM Lunch: 11:00AM - 1:00PM

Macomb CCC South Campus Sports & Expo Center (12 mile & Hayes)

Flag Ceremony at 10:00AM followed by award ceremony

Onsite resume assistance & coaching

VA Healthcare registration - Patriotic Scavenger Hunt to win prizes

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**VFW BINGO – TUESDAY MORNINGS
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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, 2nd Monday 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Lisa Marie (586) 463-3538**

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