

Newsletter

APR 2022

 **AMERICAN
LEGION**

**VETERANS STRENGTHENING
AMERICA**

**SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II**

**POST 257
FAMILY**

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THE AMERICAN LEGION
FAMILY



Post Elections Right Around the Corner!

NOMINATIONS



Our Post's Annual Election of Officers will be held during our May Meeting. **Nominations for the offices of Commander, 1st Vice-Commander, 2nd Vice-Commander, Finance Officer, Historian, Service Officer, and Sgt At Arms, and 3 Members-At-Large, will be accepted during our April Meeting.** Each position has a one year term of office.

Leadership in our Post is entrusted to all of us, and we encourage all our members to actively seek a position that will be enhanced by your talents and aspirations.

All Members of our Post are eligible to run for any office of our Post, and we hope you will consider taking on a leadership role to improve the overall success of our Programs and Community activities, and to steer our Post into the future.

If you are interested in any of these positions, all it takes is for you to talk to a fellow Post member and ask them to nominate you.

The Wall That Heals Coming to Harper Creek HS



The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans

Memorial along with a mobile Education Center, is coming to Battle Creek on JULY 14-17, 2022 at Harper Creek High School's Soccer Field Complex, and will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public.

Hosting this event is the CALHOUN COUNTY RED WHITE BLUE FOUNDATION.

Join American Legion
Post 257 Today! Scan
the QR Code below





Ways & Means Report

American Legion Fundraising

Every service organization in America is involved in raising monies to serve their constituencies. The American Legion is no different and makes major contributions to their local Post communities to provide not only a place for veterans and their families to congregate and share common interests, but also to make things better for the for those we serve. Every Legionnaire serves his country twice, once when wearing the uniform, and again after she/he leaves military duty, most usually in their later years. This need to continue serving can be found in both the Legion charter, and in the Preamble to the American Legion.

Is American Legion Fundraising Necessary?

With so many non-profit organizations and charitable causes, why should the American Legion be on your list of priorities? First of all, you must understand what exactly the American Legion does in order to feel compelled to give. The American Legion was founded by

Congress in 1919 to help and equip veterans and their families who need a leg up in a variety of different ways. Known within the legion as "mutual helpfulness", this patriotic organization is a not-for-profit community service group, and makes a difference in the lives of approximately 3 million legion members across the country.

With this being said, like many non-profits in this country, funding is limited, and expenses often go beyond the cash available. Fundraising is essential to each American Legion post (there are 15,000 of them), as they work hard to assist every veteran and his/her family members who walk through their doors.

The Ways and Means Committee will start meeting on the 4th Monday of the month. Our next meeting will be on April 25, 2022, at 6:30pm. The SSG Michael A. Dickinson Post 257 American Legion success depends entirely on active membership, participation, and volunteerism.

**Samuel Gray, 2nd Vice-Commander
Ways & Means Chair**

Post Family Meeting Schedule

The Post & Auxiliary meet the Second Monday of each month @ 6:30 PM, and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 257 meets the 2nd Sunday of each month @ 5:00 PM

We welcome your attendance and participation, and extend an invitation to all who are interested in membership in the SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II Post 257 Family!



Membership Report

Happy Spring Legion Family! We have achieved 100 percent of our American Legion Membership goal as of this month! Well done everyone. As veterans we know that 100 is never enough. We have reached our minimum target now we need to go above and beyond. Our strength is in our numbers, our numbers enable us to positively impact the lives of veterans, their families and our community.

We have had five Legionnaires earn this years National Commander Incentive Pin so far this year. Congratulations to Brian Mohlman, Jack Carlsen, Sam Grey, Pat Kinney, and Josiah Elzy. There are a couple of members who are close to earning their incentive pin. It only takes three new members to earn the incentive pin so, I challenge everyone to get out and beat those bushes.

I understand that it is difficult to sometimes approach strangers and start talking American Legion but, they are not strangers they are brother and sisters in uniform. We are not only recruiting new members, but we are also in-

troducing veterans to resources and outlets that they may not be aware of, and we can make a positive difference in their lives. So, be brave and get chatty with a veteran.

Last, there is one last membership goal that I believe we can accomplish, The National Commanders 100 Percent American Legion Family Ribbon. American Legion National Commander Paul E. Dillard will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 31, 2022. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of an Auxiliary unit, Sons squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award. Earning this award speaks volumes about our post as a Family. So, remember, our Family is not only veterans but also the sons, daughters, granddaughters, grandsons and spouses of veterans. Get chatty and help expand and strengthen our post.

Jack Carlsen, 1st Vice-Commander

Membership Committee Chair

100%



Post Family Hosts March 3rd District Meeting

Our Post Family had the privilege of hosting the 3rd District Meetings on March 6.

We were well represented by Post 257 Membership, with 9 of our members participating in the meeting.

Nominations were opened for 3rd District Officers, with our own Dan Holdridge nominated for 2nd Vice-Commander.

Immediately following the meeting, an organizational meeting of the 3rd District Sons of The American Legion was held with several Squadrons from across the district represented.

2021 3rd DISTRICT 2022 MEETINGS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| SEP 12, 2021 | Post 196 - Union City 104 Coldwater Street |
| Nov 7, 2021 | Post 53 - Hillsdale 1611 Steamburg Road |
| JAN 9, 2022 | Post 79 - Marshall 11401 - 17 Mile Road |
| MAR 6, 2022 | Post 257 - Harper Creek 7475 B Dr N. Battle Creek |
| MAY 1, 2022 | Post 55 - Albion 1230 Edwards Street |
| JUNE 23-26 | Annual Convention Kalamazoo |

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT
www.michiganlegiondistrict3.org

Farmers Market Kicks Off 2nd Season!

With just over a month to go, our Post Family's Farmers Market will officially Kickoff its 2nd season on Saturday May 21st! Running from mid May thru October 1, Farmers, Crafters, and Small Business Vendors will set up on the East side of our property from 9:00 AM—2:00 PM each week.

Join us every Saturday as we're sure you'll be amazed by all the seasonal selections of plants, vegetables, crafts, and good eats!

Please help us spread the word around the Community!



MEMBERSHIP INFO !

A **big** welcome to all of our new members that have joined us this past year. We are so happy to have you in our Post Family!

Unit 257 was given a goal of 37 members. Today we have 53 members which puts us at 143% ! We also have the highest percentage in the state of Michigan, and are in 1st place for 3rd District. Way to go Membership, you're doing great things as we continue to grow to work the Mission of the ALA!

Happenings !

The Auxiliary has been very busy the past few months, a few of the great things we accomplished were:

In August 2021 the Auxiliary donated a flagpole to Harper Creek High School that was installed on the end zone so they could proudly display a 12th man flag. The 12th man on a football team represents the fans.



Trunk or Treat 2021 was a great success! It's a good thing when you run out of candy 20 minutes into a 2-hour event, right? A few runs to restock & we were back in the game!



Happenings.....

In October 2021 we had our 2nd Annual Operation Pumpkin Patch. Be sure to join us in the Fall of 2022, it's a fun time you will want to be a part of. Our Thanks to the Post Family for all their work & support on this project.



We answer the call to our Community! When Harper Creek High School reached out to us to purchase much needed medical supplies for the response teams emergency supply bags we stepped up. There was no funding available this year for them to purchase their own supplies. The Auxiliary was proud and honored to support this community need and purchase supplies for the students in need.

Volunteer definition: freely offering to do something.

The Auxiliary has many volunteer opportunities. Great way to get to know each other better and keep that bond we all share within the American Legion Family. Thanks for all you do!!!

VOLUNTEER

All that's missing is U!





We will be conducting our annual elections at our May meeting. If you are interested in any of the board positions have someone nominate you at the meeting. When the election process starts, all positions are available. Elected positions will be: President, 1st Vice-President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer. Appointed positions awarded by the President are: Secretary, Sergeant-at-Arms, Chaplain, and 3 members of our Executive Board. Please consider a Board position during the elections. Great way to learn more about the ALA and the Mission.

Purple Up! For Military Kids Day



The entire month of April is designated as the [Month of the Military Child](#), but April 15th has a special place in that observance. April 15 brings a special dread for some because it is traditionally the day federal income tax filings are due at the IRS.

But there's a happier and more encouraging aspect to April 15th each year in the form of an observance among military families, military family support communities, and others worldwide in the form of **Purple Up! For Military Kids Day**. Held on April 15th of each year, "**Purple Up! For Military Kids**" is a day for Department of Defense Education Activity communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices.

Purple Up! Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 15, 2022.



Post 257 American Legion Riders (ALR) are now one year old with 15 current members.

First event of the riding season is scheduled for Saturday, May 14. Watch for details in the near future. The ALR welcomes anyone who would like to volunteer with us, you don't have to be an ALR member to volunteer.

LOOK TWICE



SAVE A LIFE

Do you qualify to be an ALR member?

Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.

Have you noticed the candy machine by the front doors? It's a fund raiser for the ALR. Purchase some candy & support the ALR while you satisfy that sweet tooth at the same time. It's only 25 cents for a handful.





257 ALERT Ready to Roll for First Responders!



After months of preparation and training, the SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II Post 257 American Legion Emergency Response Team (ALERT) is ready to serve First Responders in the Calhoun County area!

ALERT Mission

To serve Calhoun County first responders during long on-scene emergencies.

Providing shelter (warmth / cooling) and comfort items: hydration, nutrition, hygiene, and other items as needed to aid in the on-scene recovery and sustainment of first responders.

Through the hard work of the entire ALERT Team, First Responders will finally have a much needed asset they can depend on to keep their volunteers and staff ready to tackle any emergency they run into. Great Job ALERT Team!!



Post/Auxiliary/SAL

Volunteer Opportunities!

The Post, Auxiliary, & SAL have several opportunities to volunteer in the Community and to support our Military in the near future! Now is the time to pitch in and help make a difference for our Veterans and our Community!

April 23 - Adopt-A-Highway 9:00 AM @ Firekeepers Casino Gas Station

July 13—17 - The Wall That Heals

Officer Directory

Post

Commander - Brian Mohlman

1st Vice-Commander - Jack Carlsen

2nd Vice-Commander - Samuel Gray

Adjutant - Robert Dirmeyer

Finance Officer - Trena Philo

Judge Advocate - Rick Frantz

Service Officer - Ed Jinks

Sergeant At Arms - Pat Kinney

Chaplain - Bill Hohman

Historian - Ed Jinks

Members-At-Large:

Dean Newsome, John Howe, Jim
Hoglen

Auxiliary

President - Penny Wright

1st Vice-President - Jessica Earl

2nd Vice-President - Melody Carlsen

Treasurer - Katherine Philo

Secretary - Carol Langley

Sergeant At Arms - Cleo Keyes

Chaplain - Julie Kilbourne

Historian - Open

Executive Committee Members:

Vicki Dickinson, Kim Siedelburg, Glea
Anthonissen

SAL

Commander - Andrew Mohlman

1st Vice-Commander - Del Kilbourne

Adjutant - Dan Holdridge

Finance Officer -

Chaplain - Brian Mohlman

Historian - Brian Mohlman

Sergeant At Arms - Terry Favorite

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