

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



APRIL 2020

HAPPENING THIS
MONTH:

APR

SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LE-
GION MEETING
3:00 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

11

POST & AUXILIA-
RY MEETINGS
6:30 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

13

MEMORIAL DAY
PLANNING
MEETING
6:30 PM
VIDEO/AUDIO
CONFERENCE

14

BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
MEETING
6:00 PM

16

SPRING CLEAN-
UP
9:00 AM
431ST SUPPORT
11:00 AM
TENTATIVE

18

ADOPT A HIGH-
WAY
9:00 AM
TENTATIVE

25

National Honors for Local Student!

An act of patriotism by local student Trey Myers not only lit up social media last year, but also captured the attention of The American Legion's National Office and its Commander, James W. "Bill" Oxford.

At the March 9 Harper Creek School Board Meeting, Post Member Ed Jinks, a US Army Veteran, presented a Certificate of Achievement to Trey on behalf of Commander Oxford and the National Office.

Jinks told the Board, "As he was practicing his basketball skills on the court behind his school, Trey heard the National Anthem playing at a soccer

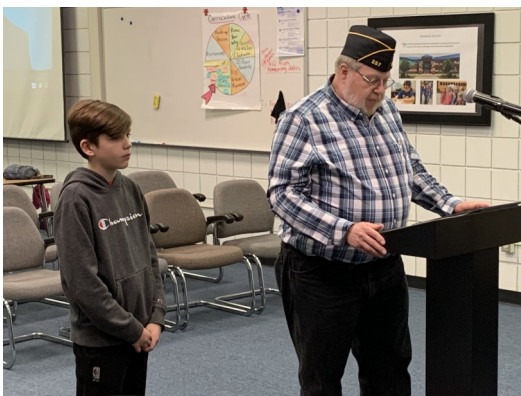


game across the complex. Trey stopped what he was doing, faced the direction of the music, and stood with his hand over his heart...even though there was no one else around."

"What Trey did that day is a testimony to a level of National Pride, Patriotism, and Integrity that is far above his young age - doing the right thing, even when no one else is looking."

SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II Post 257 was honored to present this award to Tray on behalf of our National Organization.

Congratulations Trey!





Post Membership Report

I hope that all are safe, and feeling well during this unprecedented time we are facing. Social distancing is an important way for this nation to get back to normal quickly, however this brings a special challenge to our mission of helping veterans, and especially our membership.

To help our post has been reaching out to all of you to make sure each of you and your family are doing well, and to see if there is any way that we can help. Each of you should have received a phone call from a team who have been doing a Post Buddy Check. If you missed your buddy check, reach out to me and let us know you are doing well, or if there is any way our post can help you, your family, or any other veterans you might know that have a need. No matter how small, or large the need is! We can help, or point the veteran in the direction of assistance.

Our post membership is strong! We currently have 146 members; which

consists of 10 Paid Up For Life (PUFL) members, 120 members renewed for 2020, and 16 2019 members that still need to renew for 2020. 2019 members should have received a personal letter from me, and will soon be getting a mailing from National. Every member is important to us!

Even though things are slow, we still will have the honor of voting in a new member at this month's meeting. You should be getting instructions on how to attend from our commander soon.

Remember, every member is important to us, and to me personally. If you were not contacted, please reach out to me even if it is just to tell me that all is safe and well. If you have help, don't hesitate to reach out. We are happy to help!

Dave Whynot - 1st Vice - Commander /
Chairman - Membership Committee

membership257@gmail.com

Buddy Checks as Important as Ever

Several of our Post's volunteers have been busy calling Members during this uncertain time. The purpose of these all-important Buddy Checks is to stay in communication with you, to let you know we're here for you, and to make sure everyone is safe & sound.

As a result of some of these recent calls, Members were able to express

their needs, and appropriate referrals were made to request assistance.

Just as we learned during our years of Military Service, we never leave a Buddy behind...not then...not now...and not in the future!





Virtual Post Meetings Are Here!

As our Nation struggles to get through the Coronavirus Pandemic, our Post will conduct our April Meetings via Video/Audio Conference. All Members with a computer, a smartphone, or a telephone, will be able to participate in these meetings.

We will be using Zoom, which is a state of the art Video Conferencing application. All Members will receive an email invitation with a link to access the online meeting. For those Members without a computer or smartphone, a dial-up telephone number will be provided with an access code.



We've completed several successful tests with various Members, and believe you'll find your experience rewarding and easy to use!

You can prepare for our online meeting in advance by downloading and installing the Zoom Client for Meetings at:

https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting

Legion Basic Training Graduates Honored

Four recent Graduates of The American Legion's Basic Training Course were honored during our March Post Meeting.

This self-paced course is designed to walk Legionnaires through the History, Programs, Hierarchy, and Four Pillars of The American Legion.



Many of us have been spending much more time at home following the Governor's Stay Home Order, and

now would be a good time to get this valuable course in your toolbox.

Congratulations Andrew, Ed, Cindy, & Jack...Job well done!



ALA Academy

Our Unit has been discussing the ALA Academy for a year now. What better time to complete the course while we are all sheltered in at home. Let's see how many can report back by our May meeting that they completed the ALA101 Course.

Learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary with ALA Academy

Want to learn more about the American Legion Auxiliary? ALA members have access to FREE online training with ALA Academy! The American Legion Auxiliary is providing all members with the tools they need to help grow the organization as a team. The ALA Academy is designed to help members learn as part of a process that includes learning the information, sharing it with others, practicing their new skills, and, eventually, making those new skills a habit. Classes now available: ALA 101, an introductory course to the ALA; ALA Communications 201, an introduction to how the ALA uses E-Communication; and ALA Leadership 201 which discusses how to be an effective leader.

American Legion Auxiliary Academy Quick Reference Guide

How to get to the ALA Academy:
<https://www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/>

1. Please do not utilize a smartphone to take the course. (explained further down)
2. Once you are logged into the ALA Website, you will be redirected to the

ALA Academy page. Click the blue button, "Click here to launch the ALA Academy." This will open the Academy in a separate window.

Once in the ALA Academy:

3. Select "Visit your ALA Academy" on the right of the screen
4. Select: "Enroll in ALA 101" – do this course first. Then next time select: "Enroll ALA Communications 201"
5. Hit the "Launch button".

Helpful hints and reminders:

The actual courses open in a separate window, which means it may take a couple of extra steps to get to the content. Your "Pop-up Blocker" may be triggered, since the courses open in a separate internet browser window. Once you have disabled the pop-up blocker, you may see a message that says "Content is running." Since the content is in a separate window, hover over the browser at the bottom to see the multiple windows.

Note:

Both courses have several links that will lead you to the ALA Website or other courses – these will open in new windows. Just remember to find the separate window in which your course launched to continue taking it. Want to use a smartphone or other small device? Be patient, we are not there yet. We are still implementing technical aspects for the Academy to work on these smaller devices. Ultimately, it will be compatible across most platforms. The courses are large, so taking them on a smartphone would use a lot of data and memory.

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Auxiliary News

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Having trouble accessing the courses? Please reply to this email or contact StrategicPlan@ALAforVeterans.org with your questions.

To get to the content, just hover over your internet browser (example is Chrome) and the other window that is open.

Trying to get back to take another ALA Academy course?

Step 1: Get back to the home screen, but

hitting the home icon.

Step 2: Select the Visit LMS Catalog button

This screen should then appear:

Step 3: Select the ALA Academy

Your screen should now look like this, so that you can enroll in one of the course

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[ALA 101](#)

[ENROLL](#)

ALA Poppy: The Remembrance Poppy

Each year, the American Legion Auxiliary's three-quarters of a million members – direct female relatives of wartime veterans – raise more than \$5.5 million through the distribution of the symbolic red poppies to support active-duty military, veterans, and their families. The Auxiliary's 8,000+ neighborhood units distribute poppies throughout the year, especially on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The red poppy has become a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars. It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. One hundred percent of the donations collected directly support the needs of veterans, military, and their families.

Last year, American Legion Auxiliary members raised more than \$5.5 million from poppy donations, 100 percent of which was used exclusively to support active-duty military, veterans, and their families

through the Auxiliary's outreach program services.

Veterans handcraft the flowers with assistance from unpaid volunteers. The veterans not only earn a small wage, which helps to supplement their incomes and makes them feel more self-sufficient, but the physical and mental activity provides many therapeutic benefits for the veteran.

☐ A veteran who devotes five to six hours per day assembling the red crepe paper poppies can make as many as 2,000 to 3,000 poppies in a week.

☐ Volunteers do not sell poppies – they “distribute” them, with a request that the person receiving the poppy make a donation to the poppy fund to support the Auxiliary's veteran outreach programs.

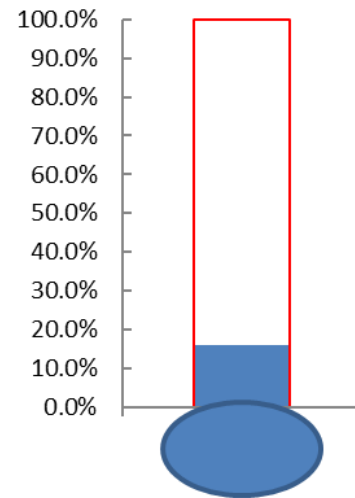
☐ Founded in 1919 to support the work of The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary is recognized as the world's largest women's patriotic service organization.



Capital Campaign Continues to Grow

Our Post's Building Capital Campaign continues to grow with each passing day! As we move further down the road to our purchase, we need to ensure we're all sharing our Post Home & Community Center with everyone we know.

Trifold flyers and Donation Forms are available to all at our Post Home. Be sure to keep a generous supply on hand...you never know who you're going to run into!



SAL News

Our Sons of The American Legion Squadron has been busy contacting other Squadrons in our District, hoping to gain interest in starting a 3rd District SAL Association.

Without this 3rd District Association, the individual needs and voices of each Squadron go unheard at Detachment Meetings & Convention.

Information was distributed to other

Posts during the March 3rd District Meeting in Union City.

The Squadron has three new members to vote in at their next meeting, which will bring us to 180% of our 2020 Membership Goal.

Andrew Mohlman

1st Vice-Commander

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 Saturday of each month @ 3:00 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!



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 25 - Adopt-A-Highway Pickup - 9:00 AM

May 16 - Flag Placement - Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens - Time: TBD

May 25 - Memorial Day Ceremony - 11:00 AM Floral Lawn Memorial Gardens

Officer Directory

Post

Commander - Brian Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Dave Whynot
 2nd Vice- Commander - Orval King
 Adjutant - Robert Dirmeyer
 Finance Officer - Robert Dirmeyer
 Judge Advocate - Samuel Gray
 Service Officer - Kathy Dillon
 Sergeant At Arms - Brad Langley
 Chaplain - Bill Hohman
 Historian - Dave Whynot
 Members-At-Large:
 Dean Newsome, John Howe, Chris Jenney

Auxiliary

President - Penny Wright
 1st Vice-President - Jessica Earl
 2nd Vice-President - Open
 Treasurer - Penny Wright
 Secretary - Carol Langley
 Sergeant At Arms - Renee Dickinson
 Chaplain - Lee Dirmeyer
 Historian - Diana Cloud
 Executive Committee Members:
 Vicki Dickinson, Kim Siedelburg, Lisa Simon

SAL

Commander - Orval King
 1st Vice-Commander - Andrew Mohlman
 Adjutant - Ken Nierman
 Finance Officer - Ken Nierman
 Chaplain - Robert Dirmeyer
 Historian - Brian Mohlman
 Sergeant At Arms - Open

SSG MICHAEL A. DICKINSON, II
POST 257

7475 B Drive N

Battle Creek MI 49014

Phone: 269-579-6458 E-mail: commanderpost257@gmail.com



MichaelDickinsonPost257MI

SSG MICHAEL A. DICKINSON, II
AUXILIARY UNIT 257

7475 B Drive N

Battle Creek MI 49014

Phone: 269-838-8902 E-mail: alaunit257@gmail.com



MichaelDickinsonPost257MI

SSG MICHAEL A. DICKINSON, II
SAL SQUADRON 257

7475 B Drive N

Battle Creek MI 49014

Phone: 269-274-6574

E-mail: SALsquadron257@gmail.com



MichaelDickinsonPost257MI