

**SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY**

Newsletter



AUG 2020

**HAPPENING THIS
MONTH: AUG**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY 4
US COAST
GUARD!**

**PURPLE HEART 7
DAY**

**SONS OF THE 8
AMERICAN LE-
GION MEETING
3:00 PM**

**POST & AUXILIA- 10
RY MEETINGS
6:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING**

**BLUE STAR 20
MOTHERS
MEETING
6:00 PM**

**HALLOWEEN 24
COMMITTEE
MEETING
6:30**

**COMMUNITY 28
YARD SALE &
9:00 - 4:00 29**

Honoring Our Hero's Sacrifice

During an intimate and moving ceremony, the Supreme Sacrifice of SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II was honored and celebrated by our Post Family.

On the 14th Anniversary of his passing on July 17, 2006, SSG Dickinson was honored by his former Coach, SAL Member Larry Quick. Larry enlightened all of us with stories of Michael, and shared our Post's Namesakes words with all who were in attendance.

We were joined by two of Michael's



sisters, Angela & Renee, as they shared their childhood memories of one of our Nation's True Heroes.

Post Cleans Up the Highway!

After a three month delay due to the State's Covid-19 restrictions, our Post Family Members were back on the road during the July Adopt-A-Highway Event. This important Community Service Project is a great way to give back to our Community, and an awe-

some tool for building camaraderie within our Post's Membership.

A special thanks goes out to SAL Member, Del Kilbourne, for the use of his BIG Truck for the event, and congratulations to Post Member Jack Carlsen for nailing the 22 Push-up Challenge!





Delivering the Cans & Bottles

Our Post Family came together to put the finishing touches on our Can & Bottle Campaign.

Over 25 Family Members and Harper Creek High School Student Volunteers pitched in to pack boxes, build pallets, and load SAL Member Terry Favorite's semi trailer with over 125,000 returnable cans & bottles!

Thanks to all your hard work, two truckloads were delivered to the distributor on Friday July 24 & Monday July 27th. Through the generosity of Gertsen Interstate Systems, Inc., and Butch & Helen Abbs (AL Post 55 Albion), the two loads were waiting at the dock when the distributor opened their receiving doors.



The overwhelming response of this Can & Bottle Drive can't be underestimated, as more than 125,000 cans & bottles were collected. Members of the Community actually thanked us for taking them out

of their homes!

It was a GREAT job by all, and a lot of long hours in the pole barn, but was WELL worth the extraordinary effort by all our Post Family Members...THANK YOU!!!





Post Membership Report

July of 2020 closes our first month of the 2021 membership drive. I am happy to say in the first month alone over 30 percent of our membership are current for 2021 already! Let's see if we can keep that ball rolling and get to 60 percent by the end of August.

We just got our new membership cards, and I was able to catch up and get them out to everyone. Be looking for yours in the mail.

Remember, renewing is easy by one of three ways.

1st is a [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org). Just go to the web site, click the renew tab that is located at the top right, enter you membership ID number, and pay the dues. I will be notified and send you your card.

2nd is mailing the renewal slip that na-

tional mailed you. You can mail that to the post, or bring it with you to a meeting. One word of caution for members that have recently joined us is that your renewal slip may have the address of your previous post. Please be sure to mail it to: Post 257, 7475 B Drive North, Battle Creek MI 49014.

3rd is to contact any post official by phone, or coming to a meeting and we will be happy to assist you. You can easily reach me at member-ship257@gmail.com

I look forward to working with each of you, giving a larger voice to the veteran, over the next year!

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

Operation Pumpkin Patch



Our Auxiliary's next big fundraising project has begun to blossom! It's called Operation Pumpkin Patch, and Post Family Members Jeff & Carrie Stout generously donated an unused garden to plant and harvest pumpkins.

Pumpkins will be offered to the community this Fall as a Post Capital Campaign Fundraiser.

If you own a truck or trailer, please stand by for your assignment in mid October, as we will be harvesting these orange treasures, and will transport them to our Post's grounds.



Auxiliary News

Membership

Every year National assigns us a goal to reach for membership.

Not only does this help keep us on track, it also brings in more funding for the local, Department, and National levels.

We need these programs to keep the American Legion & Auxiliary moving forward to the future. Our Unit goal this year (2020/2021) is 25 members.



This month, we would like to welcome Kathryn Philo to our Unit!

Another Community Yard Sale

Our end-of-Summer Community Yard Sale is scheduled for August 28 & 29. We have a good collection of items to sell – we can use more. Bring us what you have! We will need volunteers for set-up on the evening of August 27, as well as volunteers during the sale (both days). We will also be doing another bake sale; we need cookies, fudge,

pies, breads, cakes – anything yummy & edible! All proceeds from the sale will be donated to our Capital Building Fund.



Re-Purpose Your Printed Media



Wondering what to do with your “old” editions of MILEgionnaire newspaper, your Auxiliary & American Legion

monthly magazines? A great way to recycle them is to donate them to our local Blue Star Mothers Chapter. They can include them in troop boxes they ship overseas. They also accept any other magazines you may subscribe to. You never know who may read an edition & find just the information they’ve been searching for.



Post Opens its' Doors to Student Drivers

While the coronavirus has altered the way our Post Family conducts business, it hasn't altered our focus on community involvement. Since the pandemic hit Michigan, which included more than a 90-day shut-down of non-essential activities, the Post 257 Family has hosted blood drives, provided relief for mounting returnable cans and bottles in local residents' homes, and hosted an Amateur Radio Nationwide Field Day.

Local driving school, Complete Stop Driver Training, reached out to our Post, looking for an alternate location to house their summer driving classes. For years the classes took place at Harper Creek High School, and because of Michigan's coronavirus re-



strictions, no classes can take place on school grounds.

Our post recognized the need to provide this much-needed educational program to local youth as a vital part of their overall educational experi-

ence. With class size restrictions of only eight students, three two-hour sessions were conducted at our post home during the month of July.

These 10-12 grade students received valuable information about American Legion programs, to include Boys State, Student Trooper, the Oratorical competition, and several national and department scholarships. They also heard from 2019 Girls State Alumnus, Allie Graham, who told them all about her experience.

We Are Not Invisible!



Post Family Member and Army Veteran, Carrie Hudenko, participated in a photo-shoot called "We are

Not Invisible". This project highlights the many conflicts Women Veterans face before they reach combat. One of those conflicts is suicide, the number 22 Carrie wears represents the number of Veterans who take their life daily by suicide.

Please take a moment and check on those serving/served, and make sure they are OK. It could change their day!

The link to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline is: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/help-yourself/veterans/>





Post Members Share with Student Athletes

Leading into the 4th of July weekend, Post Members Stephanie Branham, Josiah Elzy, and Samuel Gray, had the opportunity to share some of their Military experiences with several Harper Creek High School Student Athletes.

Motivating talks with these students covered subjects such as, what it means to be a Veteran, what it meant(means) to serve, as well as many others.



National Commander's Incentive Pin

During our July Post Meeting, Members Brad Langley and Josiah Elzy were honored for their OUTSTANDING Recruiting efforts during the 2020 Membership Year.

Having recruited three New Post Members, Brad & Josiah each received the National Commander's Membership

Incentive Pin during a brief ceremony in the presence of their peers.

Congratulations on a job well done!!





Capital Campaign Receives BIG Boost!

Thanks to the generosity of several organizations, our Post's Capital Campaign received a much appreciated boost during the month of July!

Our own Auxiliary Unit raised \$600 during the first Yard Sale, and presented their gift to us during our July Meeting.



Local Blue Star Mothers Chapter 195...Cereal City MOMMAS...made a generous donation of \$500 to our Capital Campaign!



We were also blessed to receive a VERY generous grant from the Harper Creek Optimist Club, in the amount of \$2,500, for our work with Children & Youth.



The extreme generosity of our Community Partners is overwhelming to us, and we are honored that such trust is placed in all of us!

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!

Aug 28 & 29 - Community Yard Sale 9:00 - 4:00

Officer Directory

Post

Commander - Brian Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Dave Whynot
 2nd Vice- Commander - Open
 Adjutant - Robert Dirmeyer
 Finance Officer - Robert Dirmeyer
 Judge Advocate - Samuel Gray
 Service Officer - Open
 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 - Open
 Executive Committee Members:
 Vicki Dickinson, Kim Siedelburg, Lisa Simon

SAL

Commander - Andrew Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Open
 2nd Vice-Commander - Del Kilbourne
 Adjutant - Ken Nierman
 Finance Officer - Ken Nierman
 Chaplain - Robert Dirmeyer
 Historian - Brian Mohlman
 Sergeant At Arms - Terry Favorite

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MichaelDickinsonPost257MI

**Free
Event!**

**Bring Your Goods!
Join us for a**

Community Yard Sale

Friday & Saturday

Aug 28 & 29 9am-4pm

American Legion Post 257

7475 B Drive N

Battle Creek, MI 49014

**More Info @ - 269-838-8902 or 269-420-3007
Sponsored by American Legion Auxiliary Unit 257**



**Bring your
goods, crafts,
treasures,
whatever you
want to sell**

**No Charge for
Yard Space**

**Bring your own
table, canopy,
etc for set-up**

**Set-up for One
Day or Both**