

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



JUL 2020

HAPPENING THIS
MONTH:

JUL

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

11

BENEFIT CAR
SHOW
3 - 9 PM

11

POST & AUXILIA-
RY MEETINGS
6:30 PM

13

BLUE STAR
MOTHERS
MEETING
6:00 PM

16

A BEER
WITH MICHAEL
6:30 PM

17

ADOPT-A-
HIGHWAY
9:00 AM
@ FIREKEEPERS
GAS STATION

18

Honoring our Nation's Flag



During a fitting gathering, our Post shared our first Flag Day Ceremony with members of our Community. As several Post Family Members paid tribute to our Nation's Colors, Com-



munity Members learned about our flag and the sacrifices it represents. During the ceremony, several unser-

viceable flags received this honorable retirement.

A flag folding demonstration was also provided by Post Membership.

We look forward to an even larger event in years to come!



Recognizing Our 2020 Graduates



Several newly enlisted US Army Recruits were honored at our Post for their successful graduations from local High Schools & College.

During a low key celebration, Post 257 Member, Josiah Elzy, congratulated them on their success, and provided them with valuable information about



SFC Elzy...aka Post 257 Member Josiah Elzy...briefs new Army Enlistees during a ceremony to honor their High School Graduation.

what to expect during their next adventure to Army Basic Training.

Congratulations and Best of Luck to All!

Save the Date - A Beer With Michael



In recognition of the date that our Post's Namesake, SSG Michael A. Dickinson, II, gave our Nation the Ultimate Sacrifice, our Post Family will share memories with his Family, Educators, and Coaches.

This Annual Event called "A Beer With Michael", is a special opportunity for

Michael's Coach and Squadron 257 Member, Larry Quick, to share touching correspondence he and Michael had.

Please be sure to join us at 6:30 PM on Friday July 17, as we toast a warrior who gave the true meaning to the word "Patriotism".





Post Membership Report



July brings us to celebration of the independence of our great nation! Another reason to celebrate is how much our post has grown over the past year,

and I would like to thank all of you that have joined us in service to veterans for our local community, state, and nation.

July also starts the 2021 membership drive for the year, and yes, it is time for me to start poking everyone to renew. Our 2021 membership cards should be here any day now. Be one of the first to get it!

Remember there are three easy way to renew:

- 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 national 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.

I look forward to the 2021 Membership Drive, and I am sure I will be announcing incentives for both the members, and the post in upcoming months.

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

Buddy Checks...Never Let Up!

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!





Auxiliary News

Membership

Congratulations to our Unit for achieving a 104% membership for the 2019/2020 year. Our goal was set at 25 and we ended up with 26 members.

We would like to welcome our newest members to our Unit: Julie Kilbourne, Melody Carlsen, and Karen Cadwalader. When you see these Ladies please welcome them to our Post Family!

We are now accepting payment for your 2020/2021 dues. Your current membership is valid until December 31, 2020 (excluding our newest members). You can pay by check, cash, or credit card, in person, on-line or by mail. Several convenient ways for everyone. Our dues remain at \$30 for senior members (age 18 & older), and \$5 for Junior members.

Community Yard Sale

We knocked this event out of the park! We had 7 community partners at our Post Home to sell their goods with us. There is already talk about another sale the end of Summer or early Fall. Save your treasures, donate them to our next sale. My **Thank you** to all who volunteered for set-up, tear-down,

made baked goods, and for those that helped during the sale. Come to the next Membership Meeting (July 13) to hear the total raised and help present the final check to the Post. As a reminder, our proceeds from the sale are being donated to our Post Capital Building Fund.

Poppies

We have scheduled July 24 & 25 to distribute poppies in our community. This is normally done during the month of May but COVID-19 put it on delay. We still need locations where we can distribute the poppies – what business do you know that will support this project? While some people like to donate for a Poppy this is not a fund raiser, we are honoring our Veterans by handing out poppies in their memory.

Reach out to me if you have any questions, ideas, or just to chat – I am always available for each of you, anytime. I am proud & honored to be a part of this Unit!

Service Not Self –

Penny Wright

269-838-8902

Alaunit257@gmail.com



Can & Bottle Campaign - Time to turn them in!

An area Beverage Distributor has stepped up to help us redeem the mountain of cans & bottles we've collected over the last two months.

With well over 100,000 cans & bottles removed from Community homes, we had nightmares of hand-feeding every one of them into the machines at grocery stores.

Fortunately, we now have a way to redeem these containers in a MUCH more efficient manner, by weight or volume.

Thanks to SAL Member, Terry Favorite, two semi-trailer loads will be delivered on July 24 & 27. We'll need to get some

muscle power together on the 23rd & 25th to fill Terry's truck. More information will be made available when details have been ironed out.

Thanks to EVERYONE to donated their time & efforts to make this a resounding success!



HAM-ing it up at the Post Home

On Saturday & Sunday June 27 & 28, American Legion Post 257 was host to the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society (SMARS) and WX8BTL Skywarn Radio Club, as they prepared for Field Day. This is an annual event that practices

radio communications nationwide and sometimes even worldwide. The clubs set up a communications network operating on HF, UHF and VHF frequencies, then operated continuously from 2:00 PM Saturday thru Sunday at 2:00 PM. Contacts are recorded and then scored by the ARRL (Amateur Radio



Relay League), as are all other stations, to see who can make the most contacts.. This year we had approximately 500 contacts. This included some Canadian Provinces and as far west as Hawaii.

It was a good contest and fun was had by all. The scores were very good and we had some new operators that may soon be licensed operators. We look forward to the next time.

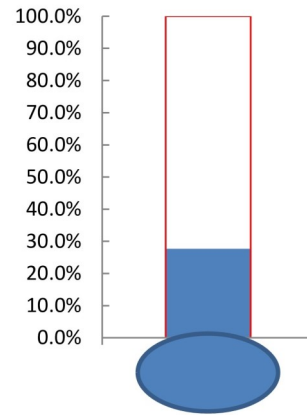




Capital Campaign Progresses!

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!



Post Hosting Weekly Cruise-In!

Each Saturday evening, the Misfits Car Club meets under the trees on the West side of our property.

This weekly Cruise-in brings a lot of activity and exposure to our Post, as well



as

providing the Misfits with a great location to hold their weekly gatherings.

Come on out on Saturday evenings and enjoy a relaxing evening!

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!

July 18 - Adopt-A-Highway 9:00 AM @ Firekeepers Gas Station

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 - 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 - Vacant
 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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