

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



MAR 2020

HAPPENING THIS
MONTH: MAR

MEMORIAL DAY 2
PLANNING
COMMITTEE
6:30 PM

POST HOME 3
COMMITTEE
6:30 PM

POST & AUXILIA- 9
RY MEETINGS
DINNER@6:00
MEETING @
6:30 PM

PANCAKE 14
BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER
8:00-11:00 AM

SONS OF THE 14
AMERICAN LE-
GION MEETING
3:00 PM

BLUE STAR 19
MOTHERS
MEETING
6:00 PM

Full Speed Ahead!

It's only been a month since we first turned the key to our new Post Home & Community Center, but a LOT of great work has gone on since!

With every passing day, it's starting to look more like our vision of our Post Home. Signage is coming together...boxes are being unpacked...and committees are making sure everything comes together in an orderly fashion.



We have been overwhelmed with the support we've received from Post Membership and the community. Everything from elbow grease to needed donations, it's all coming together to make our Post Home & Community Center feel more like home.



Sons of The American Legion held their first meeting in the hall, giving a Thumbs Up to our new facility!



We were honored to welcome Sen. Bizon into our home for an informal tour as well.

We are looking forward to some great things for our Community and its' Veterans!



Post Home Committee

The Post Home Committee met multiple times during the month, and created the following subcommittees to better manage all aspects of the Post Home.

- Maintenance & Grounds - Lawn Care, Painting, Snow Plowing, Lighting, Plumbing, etc.
- Building & Property Utilization - Building Use Policy & Agreement, Screen User Applicants, Calendar Keeper

- Cleaning & Décor - Janitorial Duties, Decorating, Cleaning Schedule, Cleaning Supply Inventory, Asset Inventory List

Use of the Post Facility...indoors or outdoors...can be requested by contacting **Jessica Earl at 269-830-5104.**

Our facility is open for free responsible use by the Community...donations accepted...not expected...but always appreciated.

Post Family to Host Pancake Breakfast

Beginning Saturday March 14, the Post Family will host a Monthly Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser for our Community!

A delicious fare of pancakes, sausage, fruit slices, coffee, & juice will be available from 0800-1100 on the 2nd Saturday of each month.



We are extremely thankful for the donation of 120 lbs of R & H Pancake mix from Dawn Foods in Jackson.

Come on out and enjoy a filling breakfast while helping us raise funds for Veterans and our Community!



Auxiliary News

Auxiliary membership is at 100! Thank you to all members who have renewed for 2020!

With the move to our new building we have many volunteer opportunities. Attend some meetings of your choice & see where your talents can be used to the fullest. The calendar of events is published in our monthly newsletter. All members are welcome & encouraged to attend any meeting.

Auxiliary101 – it is the goal of our Unit for everyone to take the Auxiliary 101

online course – have you taken the course? Please be sure to report it to an Auxiliary Officer so it can be counted in our year end reports.

www.alaforveterans.org

Auxiliary Unit Receives National Award

Our Auxiliary Unit received the 2018-2019 ALA Brand Ambassador Award from the National Office of American Legion Auxiliary.

Congratulations on a job well done to promote the ALA Brand!



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 Membership Report

When I first joined our post, and humbly accepted the Membership Committee Chair, I had never taken on such an endeavor. I did not expect the exponential growth we have experienced, and continue to foster. Thanks go out to each and every one of you for helping give every American Veteran a larger voice in our local community, state, and nation!

Here is a brief history of how we have grown. In July of 2018, when I began counting members, we were 87 members strong. Through strong outreach, we recruited and retained for a growth of 14 members for a total of 101 members in July of 2019. That put us at a 16 percent growth rate. I was extremely impressed! During that time, National revealed membership goals for the 2020 recruiting year. They wanted us to grow by 21, or another 20 percent. That number was daunting to say the least, but with all of you it didn't take but 7 months to make that goal, and in February we made goal! As I write this we have 127 current year (2020) members. That is 6 more above our goal, and this month we will again have the honor of voting in 2 more fellow veterans, which will bring us to a plus 28 members for 129 current year members. All this when we are only two thirds through the membership drive year! Impressive? I say yes!

However, even with all this growth we still have 17 members that have not renewed for 2020. That makes our retention rate at 84 percent, and I think we



can do better than that. We need as many as we can to join us for 2020. What can you do? The membership committee could use your help in contacting, and assist them in renewing. Having different voices reach out, and encouraging them to renew goes far. How can you do this? Call me, e-mail me, see me at a meeting, and I will give you two or three names to reach out to over the month. I always have an up to date listing.

It's easy to renew. Simply renew at our post meetings, mail in your national renewal slip, or on-line at [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

Can we make this a year of 50 percent growth? I think so, but it's not going to happen without you.

If you have any questions at all, just ask. We are happy to help.

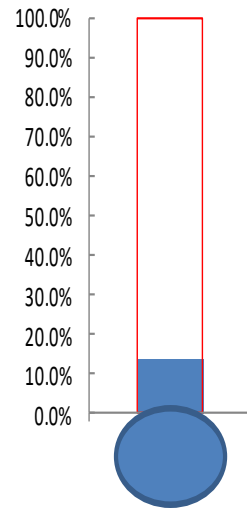
Dave Whynot, 1st Vice-Commander /
Chairman - Membership Committee



Capital Campaign Continues to Grow

Our Post's Building Capital Campaign continues to grow with each passing day! While we're still in the early stages, 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



100%



Post Welcomes Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

On January 22, 1942 the Flint News Advertiser printed a coupon asking Mothers of serviceman to return the coupon after filling it out. The following February 1st 300 mothers met in the Durant Hotel, in Flint Michigan. Captain George H. Maines, who had conceived the idea for this group, acted as the chair of this first meeting. It was decided that after receiving 1000 responses from the ad to form a permanent organization.

On February 6th the organization was reported on Congressional record. Chapters then formed in Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin, New York, Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, Iowa and Washington. In June of 1960 the organization was chartered by congress.

Mothers volunteered throughout the tough times of World War II. They worked in hospitals, train stations, packed care packages for soldiers and were a working part of homeland security during times of war. The organization waned in size over the years but has held together by mothers showing pride in both their children and country. In recent times we have begun to grow in strength. Being



attacked on our own soil has once again started mothers hanging flags in their windows at home proclaiming pride in the fact that we have children protecting our freedom during at time of war.

We now have a local Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. meeting here in our Post Home. Cereal City MOMMAS (Mothers of Military Members Appreciating Service) were chartered in 2014. They hold their monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 6pm. Membership is open to Mothers who have children in the service (active, retired, guard, reserves, etc), or anyone who believes in the Mission. They also have associate members know as Blue Star Dads. Three of our own Post members carry that title.



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

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MichaelDickinsonPost257MI

Bring the Entire Family!



Free Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

**2nd Saturday Each Month
8:00 - 11:00 AM**



**Children's
Book Exchange!
Bring A Book
Take A Book**

**Join us
EVERY MONTH!**

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AMERICAN LEGION POST 257
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**Your Donations Help us
Serve Veterans
&
Our Community!**