

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



DEC 2020

www.legionpost257.org



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Honoring Our Nation's Veterans

A Low-key Veterans Day event, honoring our Nation's Veterans was put on by our Post Family this year.

A Veterans Day Community Open House brought several Veterans into our Post Home, along with Community members and State Legislators.

Over 100 US Flags lined the streets in front of our Post Home, as Veterans and our Community were treated to Coffee, Soft Drinks & Snacks on Veterans Day. Thanks go out to Blue Star Mothers Chapter 195 for their donation of snacks for this event!



Right: A new piece of Military Hardware was added to our Post's Promotional Arsenal for the Veterans Day Event!



Above: Post Family Members place flags along B Drive N, in front of the building

Left: US Flags line B Drive N and Beadle Lake Rd in celebration of Veterans Day





Kitchen Gets A Makeover!

You'll see a big difference in the Post's Kitchen, the next time you stop by!

The standard kitchen sink is being replaced with a three basin commercial sink to meet the standards required by the Health Department to obtain our Food License.

Thanks to Height's Construction, modifications to the cabinets and a fresh coat of paint will add functionality, along with a great new look!

In addition to the sink, a side by side refrigerator was recently donated to the Post by Jack & Melody Carlsen. Thank You to all who



A worker cleans up after a long day of painting

pitched in to make these needed improvements!

Coffee At The Post

Each Saturday morning, our Post Home opens its' doors for a free "Coffee At The Post" event, inviting Veterans, our Community, and Post Family Members to share some morning relax time.

Biggby Coffee has been donating the coffee for this weekly event, and a selection of great snacks are always on hand.

Be sure to stop by to watch the morning news, chat with some friends, or meet new friends.

Hours are from 0700-1000 each Saturday.



SAL Adjutant, Ken Nierman, fills his cup up with some delicious Biggby Coffee.



Membership



Membership dues for the 2021 year are due by December 31, 2020. Out of our goal of 25 members, we have 22 paid memberships. For those of

you that still need to pay please consider using www.alaforveterans.org to pay online, or you can mail your dues (\$30) to the Post. My personal thanks go to Lee Dirmeyer for her hard work and dedication on Membership. If you have any questions please reach out to Penny or Lee.

Auxiliary Help Wanted

Our Unit is in need of a Historian. The Unit Historian is charged with the responsibility of recording the activities and accomplishments of the Unit. Unit Historians are encouraged to maintain a factual continuing story of the accomplishments in each program in the Unit.

We are just over two years old and have some catching up to do. If you are slightly computer-savvy and are detail oriented, this might be the volunteer position for you. Reach out to Penny for further details.

Elevator Speech

"An elevator speech is a quick and informative way to introduce the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) to someone unfamiliar with the organization. This is something you should be able to deliver in 20 seconds, as if you are on a short elevator ride. By the end of the elevator speech, your audience should know what the Auxiliary is about as well as how they as an individual can contribute. Invite them to a volunteer opportunity or a unit meeting. Remember that you can use



this speech anywhere—it doesn't have to be in an elevator!"



Happy Holidays

As 2020 comes to a close I find myself being thankful for each and every one of our Auxiliary members, all of you bring value to this Unit. I look forward to 2021 and getting to know each of you a little better by volunteering right

next to you. Enjoy the upcoming holidays, do the best we can with what we have been handed this year. Be happy & thankful we can continue our mission for our Veteran's and Community in 2021. —Penny Wright

ALA 101

www.alaforveterans.org

The National web site offers several on-line training courses to educate yourself on the history of the ALA, Branding, Communication, Culture of Goodwill, Fund Raising, Conflict and Leadership. These are all self-paced courses and are very informative. You will need to create a USER ID and a Password to access the courses, and you will need your ALA Membership Number to create your LOGIN.

Once you log in, click on **MEMBERS ONLY** at top of the page, click on **ALA ACADEMY**. Go to bottom of the page and click on **CLICK HERE TO LAUNCH ALA ACADEMY** and you are on your way!

Part of our year-end reports each spring is reporting how many members have completed the ALA101. Now is a good



time to get started on the courses.

There is much information provided on the national web site, browse around and take a look at some of the programs that are offered. If you find something that will fit our Unit for an upcoming event or project, bring it forward at a Unit Meeting, no idea can become reality if you don't share it, and no idea is too small. Look what one simple idea of a pumpkin patch brought us!

Unit Facebook Page

Are you a Facebook User? Would you like to engage yourself more on Facebook? Penny is looking for someone to assist with being an Administrator of our

public Facebook page, as well as our private page. If you are interested please let Penny know.



Toys For Tots



Our Post has teamed up with the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys For Tots program to make Christmas a little brighter for local children. We are in need of new, unopened toys for children ages 2-12.

Your Toy Donations may be dropped off at the Post any week-day between the hours of 10:00 AM & 4:00 PM.

You can help make a difference!

American Legion Riders Chapter News

Our newly-forming American Legion Riders Chapter held an organizational meeting with Department Riders Committee Chairman, Robert Kamin. Mr. Kamin discussed rules & procedures, and outlined our steps to get the chapter up and running. At their next meeting, the Riders will formulate their By-laws, which will be presented to Post Membership for approval.

Any Post Family Member who owns & legally operates a motorcycle is eligible for Membership in The American Legion Riders. In most cases, their spouses are eligible for membership as well.

One of the largest annual efforts of The American Legion Riders is in support of



The American Legion Legacy Scholarship, which provides college funding to children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater.



Post Membership Report

Thankfulness and kindness.

Each December has us thankful for what we have, and kindness to share among all of us. Let us not forget what our membership to The American Legion brings to many veterans. Thankful to belong to an organization that endeavors on a mission that is larger than any one of us, but shares caring and kindness to each of us. Help our Post spread thankfulness and kindness to every veteran we can by thanking all that display they are a veteran with a simple handshake of thanks, and kindness by assisting those in need.

I want to thank all of you that have taken the time to join or renew with our Post over the past year, and ask you to attend our monthly post meetings, so you too can enjoy spreading the kindness in finding out how you can assist veterans in need.

I hope that this holiday season finds you well. If any require assistance please feel free to reach out, and our Post will do all we can to assist you.

2021 Membership Goal = 150
Current = 149 (99%)

Target Dates Results

-31 Aug 2020 = 75 (50%)	-
90 (60%) +15	
-28 Sept 2020 = 83 (55%)	-
100 (66%) +17	

-26 Oct 2020 = 98 (65%)	-	
123 (82%) +25		
-30 Nov 2020 = 113 (75%)	-	
130 (87%) +17		
-11 Jan 2021 = 120 (80%)	-	
149 (99%) +29		
-1 Feb 2021 = 128 (85%)	-	
149 (99%) +21		
-1 Mar 2021 = 135 (90%)	-	
149 (99%) +14		
-5 Apr 2021 = 143 (95%)	-	
149 (99%) +6		
-3 May 2021 = 150 (100%)	-	-1

As you can see, we are way ahead of the department challenge, and only one short of our goal!

Renewal is easy, and the easiest is online at The American Legion My Legion website at the renewal tab. Here is the direct link : https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=MYLRENEW+webtrn=wr_membrdata+ml=LANSA:XHTML+part=TAL+lang=ENG#legion-org

You can also stop by our Post that is usually open every day from 10 am till 4 pm. The Post location is 7475 B Drive North, Battle Creek, MI 49014.

David Whynot, 1st Vice Commander and Chair, Membership Committee

Membership257@gmail.com

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!

Dec 18 - 11:00 AM - 6:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive

Officer Directory

Post

Commander - Brian Mohlman
 1st Vice-Commander - Dave Whynot
 2nd Vice-Commander - Samuel Gray
 Adjutant - Robert Dirmeyer
 Finance Officer - Robert Dirmeyer
 Judge Advocate - Jack Carlsen
 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 - Del Kilbourne
 2nd Vice-Commander - Open
 Adjutant - Ken Nierman
 Finance Officer - Ken Nierman
 Chaplain - Robert Dirmeyer
 Historian - Brian Mohlman
 Sergeant At Arms - Terry Favorite

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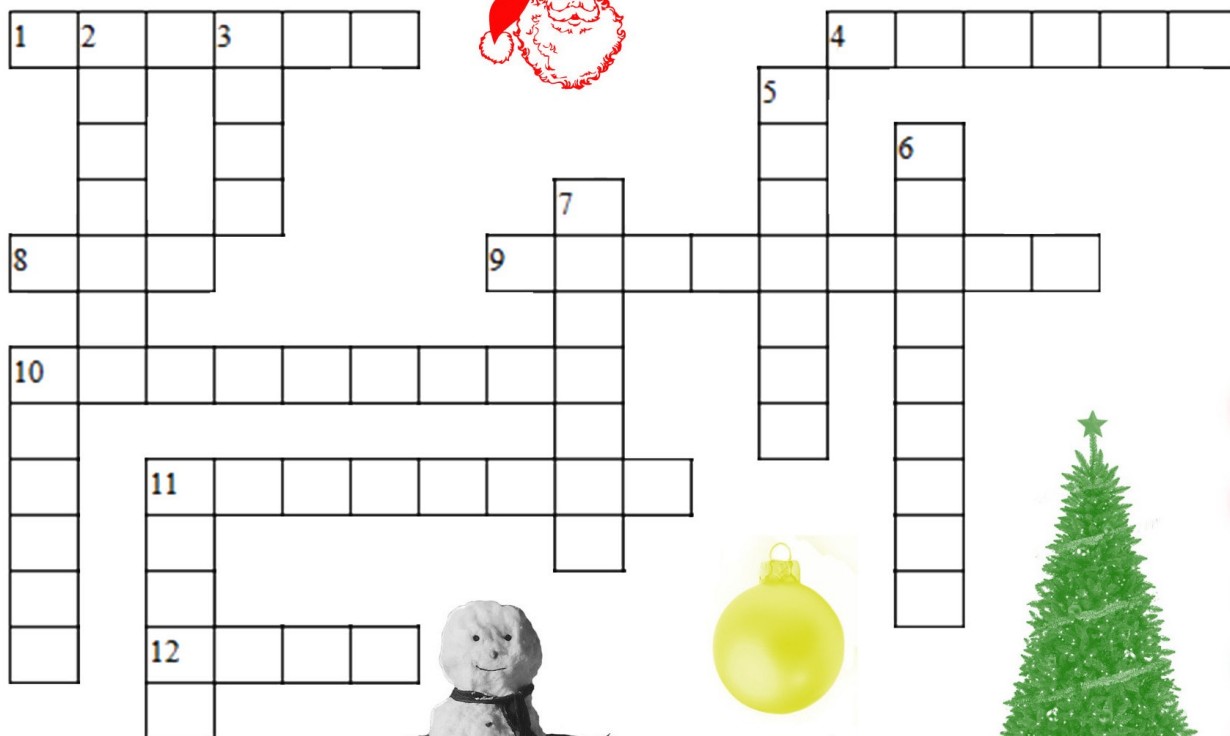
Phone: 269-274-6574
 E-mail: SALsquadron257@gmail.com



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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Santa's Crossword



ACROSS

1. Famous snowman
4. What Santa travels in
8. Makes toys for Santa
9. Used to decorate a Christmas tree
10. December 25
11. Hung by the chimney with care
12. What presents are left under

DOWN

2. Reindeer with a shiny red nose
3. Covers the ground on a white Christmas
5. Santa comes down this
6. Red and White hooked shaped candy
7. Left under the tree Christmas morning
10. Left out for Santa
11. Jolly toy maker



American Legion Post 257



Dec 2020 (Eastern Time - Detroit)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
				8am - Dept Service Officer		7am - Coffee @ Post 10am - ALR By-Laws
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
			8am - Dept Service Officer	8am - Dept Service Officer		7am - Coffee @ Post 3pm - SAL Meeting
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	6:30pm - Post & Auxiliary		8am - Dept Service Officer	8am - Dept Service Officer 6pm - Blue Star Mothers	12pm - Red Cross Blood	7am - Coffee @ Post
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			8am - Dept Service Officer	8am - Dept Service Officer	Christmas	7am - Coffee @ Post
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
			8am - Dept Service Officer	8am - Dept Service Officer	New Years Day	7am - Coffee @ Post