

SSG MICHAEL A.
DICKINSON, II
POST 257
FAMILY

Newsletter



JAN 2021

www.legionpost257.org

2021
Happy New Year

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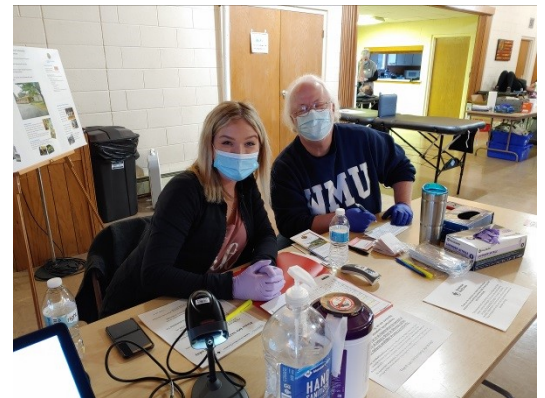
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2020 Post Efforts Net 135 Units of Blood!

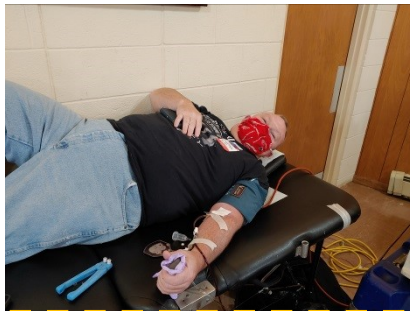
During a year that was marked with Stay-at Home orders, uncertainty, and severe blood shortages, the Post Family kicked things into high gear to provide four Red Cross Blood Drives during 2020!

Each drive provided a full day of volunteer opportunities for Post Family Members, as well as volunteers from a WMU Sorority.

Red Cross staff has been extremely pleased with the support and turn-out



Post Member John Howe, and Kiara Bartlett, welcome incoming donors to our latest drive. With COVID protocols in place, each donor was screened for any signs of infection.



Above: Department of Michigan Adjutant, Ronald Runyan, donates blood during our December Drive. Ron is also one of our own SAL Squadron 257 members.

Below: WMU Sorority members Kiara Bartlett, Lydia Mearing, and Olivia Gries helped make the December Drive a HUGE success! Thanks for your hard work!



at each of our drives, and has scheduled two additional drives on Feb 26 & Mar 26.

Aligned under The American Legion's National Security Pillar, these blood drives provide vital services for our local Community. Thanks to everyone who was able to help out with each of these Blood Drives!



Post 257 Judge Advocate, Jack Carlsen, is interviewed prior to his donation appointment.



Holiday Photo Shoot A Big Success!

Half a dozen local Photographers donated their time and expertise to provide our Community with free Holiday Photo shoots! With their customized backdrops, numerous families had the opportunity to have that special picture taken, just in time for the Holidays.

Even that Jolly Old Elf was there to lend a hand!

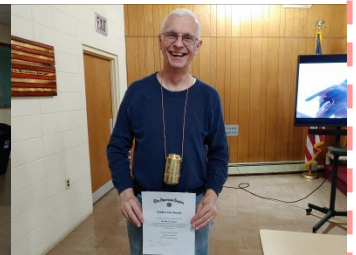


Post Members Receive Golden Can Award!

Four Post Family Members recently received the coveted Golden Can Award with accompanying Citation, for their diligent work during last Summer's Can & Bottle Drive.

Samuel Gray, Brad Langley, Ken Nierman, and Andrew Mohlman devoted countless hours to support this highly successful Fundraising Event, adding over \$8,500 to our Capital Campaign.

Please be sure to compliment and thank these dedicated Post Family Members the next time you see them.





Two Ramps in One Day!

Post Members volunteered their muscle and engineering skills to help Habitat for Humanity complete their final two Veteran Ramp Projects of 2020. Both ramps were completed in one day in the Rolling Hills Home Park. Great Job by All!



Jamin' At The Post



Our Post Home has seen a wide variety of activities during it's first year, and December was no exception.

Several talented Post & SAL Members recently took advantage of the

free space & awesome acoustics to spend an afternoon polishing their musical skills.

It was an afternoon of great music and laughs!



Auxiliary Membership

Thank you to everyone that paid your membership dues for 2021. Our Unit goal set by National is 25 members, we are currently at 27 members which puts us at 108% of our goal. Great job everyone!



Book Exchange



Did you know we offer a book exchange for our Post Family members for adults and children? Feel free to take a book, leave a book, or exchange books. Perfect season to read a good book. Have books to donate? Bring them in!

Save The Date!

Sunday, February 14 is Valentine's Day. The Auxiliary will be offering a delicious meal to Post Family Members and your Valentine. Stay tuned, more to come!



January Membership Meeting

For the month of January, we will be conducting our meeting via Zoom. Let's hope after this we can all gather together again. Zoom information will come out in your email later this week.





Holiday Baskets

Thanks to the generosity of our Post Family, we raised \$481.77 for our Veteran Holiday Baskets this year. Your donations allowed us to help a family of four, another family of two, and a third family of nine. When one of the families came to pick up their items, one child said "Look Dad, we are rich!". Our thanks to Barb Jinks & Melody Carlsen for all their shopping skills and time spent seeking out these families and making a brighter holiday for them. These two Ladies



were such good shoppers they ended up with \$11.23 left over to start our fund for 2021.

Education & Training - Coming Soon!

ALA Academy

The Auxiliary will be conducting training for all Auxiliary members via Zoom on Saturday mornings. There are a total of 7 courses to complete, one course will be shared via Zoom each Saturday. The courses will include ALA101, Communications 201, Branding, Culture of Goodwill, Fundraising,

Dealing with Conflict, and Living our Motto (Service Not Self). These courses are a great way to learn and educate yourself to better serve our Veterans and Community. Watch your email for the start date & time.





*2nd Vice-
Commander
Samuel Gray
hands cargo off
to Mark Kloha
from Sanford
Post 443.*



Our Blue Star Mothers Chapter, Cereal City MOMMAS, was contacted by the 110th Wing's Airman & Family Readiness Program, asking if they could provide items to support 200 Servicemembers who would be in Quarantine during the Holidays. They

were in need of items to keep them occupied during the 14 days they would be housed at Alpena

CRTC (Combat Readiness Training Center), MI ANG. As a part of their upcoming deployments, these servicemembers were required to remain in place to ensure they don't carry the Coronavirus along with them.

After deciding the Cereal City MOMMAS could support this mission, they reached out to our Post for delivery assistance. At the time, the destination was unknown, except where there was a need to know. Knowing the location is about a 5 hour drive from Battle Creek, we came up with the idea of inviting other Michigan Posts to participate in transporting these needed items to the deploying servicemembers...a relay as such. After studying maps, Posts were selected based on their location along the route to Alpena CRTC. Contact was made with each Post, along with details of rendezvous locations and times. Each Post that was contacted was MORE than willing to lend a hand with this VERY worthwhile mission!

On Tuesday, 15 Dec 2020, **Operation MOMMA Drop** commenced at 12:00 Noon! The first leg of the trip brought Commander, Brian Mohlman, and 2nd Vice-Commander, Samuel Gray, to a rest area along US-127 just North of Clare, MI. There, they met with Sanford Post 443 Member, Mark Kloha, where they transferred the cargo, and handed off the packet of delivery instructions.

Mark Kloha proceeded North to Grayling, where he met up with Post 106 Adjutant, Brenda Bess. Again, the cargo was transferred, delivery instructions were handed off, and Brenda and her husband finished the drive to Alpena Post 65, where they were met by Post 65 Adjutant, Ryan Wright. Once the cargo arrived, Ryan contacted Alpena CRTC's First Sergeant, MSgt Andy White, to arrange for final pick-up at the Post. The entire Operation took just

over 6 hours to complete!

*TSgt Michael Kearns,
First Sergeant of the
AF's ROM Mission, ac-
cepts goods from Al-
pena Post 65*

*Mark Kloha
from Sanford
Post 443 trans-
fers cargo to
Grayling Post
106 Adjutant
Brenda Bess*



*Grayling Post
106 Adjutant
Brenda Bess
delivers cargo to
Alpena Post 65
Adjutant Ryan
Wright*





Legion Training Saturdays Start This Month!

Beginning Saturday January 9th, and continuing through the month of February, the Post will offer valuable Legion Training each week.

With subjects ranging from American Legion History, Programs, Membership, Post Operations, and Officer Training, we're sure you'll find this information interesting and rewarding.

Join us each Saturday at 10:00 AM, immediately following Coffee at the Post,



as we present the latest segment of training in the main hall/meeting room.

Improving the View



A number of Post Family members brought out the ladders & chainsaws to make a BIG difference in the street view of our Post property.

Starting at the corner of B Drive N and Beadle Lake Rd, all the trees across the South end of the property received a much-needed pruning.

Motorists will now have a clear view of our Post Home as they drive by on B Drive N.





Post Membership Report

Reaching Goals!

I hope everyone enjoyed their holidays, and each of you were able to spend time with family. For this month I wanted to take the time and thank each and every one of you in assisting our post in making our goals. Our goal for 2021 membership is 150 current members, and to date we have 163! That is nine percent over our goal, with 4 months left to reach even higher!

If you have not renewed, it easy and you will help us reach be the highest number of current members by the deadline of 3 May 2021. The department has lucrative prizes for posts that exceed the goals, and we are in the running!

You can renew 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_memberdata+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 Connaders and Chair, Membership Committee

Membership257@gmail.com

Put Your Stimulus to Work For Vets

As many of us begin to receive the 2nd round of Stimulus dollars, we are presented with a pain-free opportunity to ensure our Post will operate debt free for years to come!

Your generous Donations will be used to pay down the loan balance that we used to make the purchase of our Post Home last October.

To Donate today, simply go to www.legionpost257.org and click on the **DONATE** button.

If we all pitch in...even a little bit...we'll ensure that our Post is able to provide the valuable services that our Veterans and our Community deserve!

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!

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 - Ed Jinks
 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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MichaelDickinsonPost257MI



American Legion Post 257

January 2020

Jan 2021 (Eastern Time - Detroit)



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