

January/February 2012

# THE Legion Times

**RICHARD M. JOPLING - AMERICAN LEGION POST 44**

**POST 44 OFFICERS**

Mike Trickey, *Commander*  
 Jim Feliciano,  
*1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander*  
 Carl Morrison  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander*  
 Ron Pearson, *Adjutant*  
 Scott Reilly, *Finance*  
 Gerald King, *Chaplain*  
 Tom Perry, *Service Officer*  
 Jim Stevens, *Judge Advocate*  
 Jim Constance, *Historian*  
 Fran Bleckiner, *Sgt at Arms*  
 Frank Donckers,  
*Past Commander*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Tom Roy  
 John Keto  
 Carl Morrison  
 Ron Titter  
 Dan Jackovich  
 Rob Neumann(SAL)  
 Pam Lajewski-Pearson(Auxiliary)  
 Bob Hanson  
 Ray Carlson  
 Ron Pearson  
 Tom Ranta  
 Fran Bleckiner


**AUXILIARY OFFICERS**

Jennifer Stanaway,  
*President*  
 Adaleen Hogan,  
*Vice President*  
 Rose Ann Emarl,  
*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
 Carol Huempfer, *Secretary*  
 Anne Wood, *Treasurer*  
 Carol Frazier, *Chaplain*  
 Lore'Ann Parent, *Historian*  
 JoAnn Morrison,  
*Sergeant - at - Arms*  
 Executive Board:  
 Diana Peterson,  
 Betty Shaw, Katie Brassard


**S.A.L. OFFICERS**

Rob Neumann,  
*Commander*  
 Greg Maki,  
*Vice Commander*  
 Warren Glass, *Adjutant*  
 Richard Dahlin, *Treasurer*  
 Duane LaBreche,  
*Sergeant - at - Arms*  
 Kim Neumann, *Chaplain*  
 Pete Zyburt, *Historian*

**COMMANDERS CORNER**

Let us please give a moment of silence to reflect upon the passing of a very valued Past Commander, Robert Constance. We will truly miss him. Bob Constance literally dedicated his life to the furtherance of our memorial program. This program centered around our services each Memorial Day at Park Cemetery and at Holy Cross Cemetery. Also, Bob made sure that we remembered our veterans with the placing of flags at both cemeteries prior to Memorial Day. Bob could always be counted on to participate in the memorial services of all veterans whose families called upon our Legion Post to perform ritual. God Bless you, Bob. We will continue these important traditions to time indefinite.

Our post is gearing up for a busy winter. Fish Fry Fridays resume on January 13th and bi-weekly thereafter, and we are happy to report that Taco Tuesdays and Sliders are back! Taco Tuesdays will start on January 10th and Sliders will resume on January 17th and then they shall continue in alternating fashion. Looking forward to it. Cribbage is also back. Mark your calendars for the first Saturday each month and come on in. February 18th will be our annual Valentine's Dinner. Please be sure to sign up in advance at the post.

We will host a Commanders Tour stop on January 16th. Call-in or come in to the post and sign-up for dinner. This is a good opportunity to meet and greet the leadership of our three organizations- Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL. The Department Commander of the American Legion, the President of the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American Legion will all visit our post and stay overnight and tour the Jacobetti Home on Tuesday morning before they head west. I strongly encourage the leaders of our Post, Auxiliary, and SAL to attend.

Our membership team put in a lot of extra effort to try and help us achieve 100% paid membership by December

31st. This would have resulted in \$2.00 per member rebate to our post. A minimum of \$1334.00 would have been ours to use to strengthen our vital programs. We did not make it, but we have achieved over 80% of the way there to the goal of 667 Legion members. Our goal should be much higher. We should set a long-range goal of 800 Legion members. So, we adjust to the next target, which is 100% by the American Legion Birthday in March. This will mean a 50 cent rebate per member. We will make this one, with your help. Dues cards are published and mailed to our post in the Summer and mailings soliciting renewal begin in July. This is because the membership year is based on a calendar year- January 1 to December 31. Therefore, if you have not paid your 2012 dues by January 1st, then you are considered a lapsed member. Club privileges are suspended until dues are paid. Do not be surprised if you are denied service at the club for being in arrears. ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: Look around you at the club, and identify folks who are eligible to join the Auxiliary, SAL, or Legion. Please encourage them to join. If they do not join up and they are eligible, then they must not be served. This is only fair to others who do pay their dues. We simply must support our bartenders on this. It can be next to impossible for them to enforce this. Lastly, you risk the loss of your legion insurance for not paying your dues in a timely manner.

We are pleased to report that Marquette was selected to host the State Class A Baseball Tournament this Summer! August 2-5 will be the exact dates. If you are interested in serving on the tournament committee, then please let the post know. We can certainly use your help. Thank-you. February 3-5 is the UP tournament for our Bantaam AA Legion hockey team. Let's get some blue caps at the Lakeview and root for our team.

Thank-you very much to all our volunteers who are always working behind the scenes to make us the strong team that we are.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE LEGION  
 Michael Trickey, Commander

**PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

So far, 19 flags have been sponsored for the "Avenue of Flags." The Avenue of Flags is the special Americanism project of the Past Commanders Club. Past Commander Pete Shelafoe is the chairman of the project. Tom Ranta and Tom Roy are his close assistants. Let us thank them for their good work. We were fortunate to have fair weather on Veterans Day, so the flags were on display at Harlow Park from morning to dusk. We have room for 11 more flags. Sponsorship is a one time cost of \$50.00. Your \$50.00 gets you a 3x5 flag, pole, and mount. Also, this includes a sponsor's gold tag affixed to the pole. You may personalize this with the name of a veteran or family. Flags are flown on Memorial Day, Flag Day, July 4th, and Labor Day. Weather permitting on Veterans Day.

Past Commander Shelafoe

**FOUR CHAPLAINS/POST EVERLASTING**

On Sunday, February 5, 2012 at 2:00PM, The American Legion, Richard M. Jopling, Post 44 of Marquette will observe Four chaplain Sunday. This ceremony commemorates the four heroic chaplains who died when the USS Dorchester was torpedoed during World War II.

The Post Everlasting ceremonies will follow to honor the passing of our comrades from Post 44 who have died during the past year.

The Four Chaplains/Post Everlasting services will be held at the Jacobetti Home for Veterans Chapel Marquette, Michigan. Family, relatives and friends are invited to attend these services.

Following the services the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 44 will serve coffee and cake.

**MEMBERSHIP  
COMMITTEE**

Ray Carlson, *Chairman*  
Ron Pearson  
Jim Stevens  
Carl Morrison

**CANTEEN COMMITTEE**

Bob Hanson, *Chairman*  
Bill Richards  
John Keto  
Fran Bleckiner  
Rob Neumann(SAL)  
Pam Lajewski-  
Pearson(Auxiliary)

**HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Tom Roy, *Chairman*  
Jim Constance  
Dan Jackovich  
Bruce Wood  
Bruce Dupras  
Carl Morrison  
Steve Robare(SAL)  
Glenn Koskela(SAL)

**HARLOW PARK  
SUB-COMMITTEE**

Scott Reilly  
D. Joe Buys  
Jim Constance  
Mike Trickey  
Tom Knauss

**KITCHEN**

Adaleen Hogan  
Dave Mercure  
Carl Morrison  
Bob Wood  
Karyn VanLinden(AUX)  
Marie Taylor(AUX)

**CHARITY GAME  
COMMITTEE**

Ron Titter, *Chairman*  
Tom Roy  
Mike Trickey

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
COMMITTEE**

Tom Ranta, *Chairman*  
Dewey Jones  
Marvin Gibson  
Mike Trickey  
John Dawydko

**COUNTY FAIR BINGO  
COMMITTEE**

Ed Jachimski, *Chairman*

## AUXILIARY NEWS

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a Merry Christmas and safe holiday season. I think you'll agree that Julie Peterson and Linda Richards did a wonderful job co-chairing another successful Christmas Raffle. Our ladies out did ourselves again with the Adopt-a-Family for Christmas!

January brings our regular meeting on the 10th at 7 pm. The Mid Winter Tour Dinner will be at the Post on Monday, January 16 at 7 pm. Cocktails will be at 6. I would love to see all of our officers there.

February 5 is the Four Chaplin at Jacobetti. February 14 is another regular meeting at 7 pm.

Respectfully yours, Jennifer Stanaway, President

## JUNIOR NEWS

The Juniors were busy this holiday season. Caroling at Jacobetti, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, adopting a Veteran and her child for Christmas, handing out Christmas cards at Jacobetti and their tray favors as well. They are having a Papa Murphy Pizza card fundraiser for \$5. Find one of our girls or ask at the bar.

Our next meeting is on January 15 at 2 pm at the Post. On Feb. 4 we will be gathering at my house to decorate the Valentine Heart shaped cookies for Jacobetti. There will be NO meeting on Feb 19. Check us out on Facebook (American Legion Unit 44 Juniors). We will keep our schedule there along with our photos.

Jennifer Stanaway, Coordinator

## VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

We are pleased to report that Tom Ranta has been elected to this permanent committee. He will help the committee as a caretaker of the Veterans Memorial Mall. Welcome Tom. The Veterans Memorial Committee works closely with the Legion Post and the assets of the memorial are reported as assets of our post when we file our annual taxes. The Legion is the caretaker of the fountain. Currently, Tom Roy is leading this effort. Good job Tom. The Veterans Memorial Committee preserves the mall area where the monument rests. Tom Knauss, D. Joseph Buys, Scott Reilly, Jim Constance, Tom Ranta, and Mike Trickey are the permanent members.

When you visit the park, you see that there is a tree and flowers located on the north end of the mall near the fountain. This is from our Auxiliary Unit 44. They take care of this area, but we help them upon request.

Please remember that this project is perpetual. You may memorialize a veteran with a paving stone(brick) at any time. The cut off date for the brick to be installed this year is March 31st. Applications are available at our Legion post or at Range Bank on McClellan Avenue. Better yet, visit [www.superiorfishing.net](http://www.superiorfishing.net) and download a form. There, you are able to browse through the entire project layout, history, and total brick inventory. Thanks to Joe Buys for making this possible

## FROM THE CANTEEN

Well it's 2012 and the beginning of a year with a round of things starting back up again, with a few changes. Tacos and Sliders will be starting with Tacos on January 10th from 5-7pm and they will rotate with Sliders every other Tuesday. The change is that you will order your tacos with what you want on them and we will deliver them to your table, so we can keep the cost down. Same thing with sliders. Any one interested in helping out on Tuesdays from 5-7 only should let Mary Koskela or Robbie Neumann know. Cribbage is Saturday January 7th at 1pm and February 4th at 1pm.

The sign-up sheet is up for dart league starting January 11th at 7pm. Come down and sign up. It's a fun league. Also, look for a sign-up sheet for the 3rd Annual SAL Valentine Dinner. It is Saturday February 18th from 5-7pm. Menu is steak, shrimp, twice baked potatoes, salad, roll and dessert for \$15.00 per person. So, bring your spouse, friend, or someone special out for a great dinner. Thanks Mary Koskela for all the new curtains. Great job. Also, a big thanks to Bill Forslund who cooked for both kid's parties. Also, thanks to all the girls who worked the parties and helped decorate the club. You do a fantastic job(Pam, Mary, Leanne, Cindy, Kelly, Linda Sue, Jan T, Marice). Without your help, the parties could not go off, as well as they do. And Santa(Lee) did a wonderful job. All you had to see was the children's faces! Thank-you SAL for all the presents that Santa gave away. Look forward to seeing you around the club for the functions, or just a cocktail or two.

Remember, can beer is a dollar on Tuesdays and a frosty mug for 50 cents. Rail drinks are a dollar on Thursdays. On Sundays come on in and enjoy football. Both Packers and Lions made the playoffs, but only one team can go to the Super Bowl, which is February 5th. We will have a Super Bowl party. Just bring a snack. We will be having Trivia, 50/50, drink specials all starting at 4pm with kickoff at 6:18pm.

Welcome, Jan Rabbitaille, your new bartender. Remember, to check your calendar for upcoming events. Croatian chicken and a couple of other dinner ideas are in the works.

Cathy and Crew

## TRIVIA THURSDAY IS COMING IN JANUARY

January 19th from 7-8pm, for the first time, we will conduct a trivia contest for members and guests of Post 44. There will be 50 cent hot dogs, pop corn and don't forget it will be "Thirsty Thursday" so rail drinks are only one dollar. There will be prizes for each game. Paul Duby, an experienced trivia guru, will direct competition using his vast selection of questions on generally accepted trivia topics. There is no cost to play. Make plans to join us.

Canteen Committee

Bob Hanson, Chairman

<b>JANUARY 2012</b>						
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>1</b> American Legion Baseball Bottle & Can Drive 10:00AM Post Closed	<b>2</b> SAL Mtg -1900	<b>3</b> Hawn Birthday Party Beer Specials	<b>4</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>5</b> Baseball Special Meeting -1800 Thirsty Thursday	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Cribbage- 1300
<b>8</b> Pitcher Day	<b>9</b> 1800- Baseball Committee Mtg 1800 1900- Executive Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> Taco Tuesday 1700-1900 Beer Specials	<b>11</b> Dart League Starts Whiney Wednesday	<b>12</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>13</b> Fish Fry 1700-1930	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Megan's Baby Shower Pitcher Day	<b>16</b> Commander's Tour Reception And Dinner	<b>17</b> Sliders 1700-1900 Past Commanders Club - 1815 General Membership Mtg 1900	<b>18</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>19</b> Trivia 7-8PM Thirsty Thursday	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Pitcher Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Taco Tuesday Beer Specials	<b>25</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>26</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>27</b> Fish Fry 1700-1930	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Pitcher Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Sliders				
<b>FEBRUARY 2012</b>						
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
			<b>1</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>2</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>3</b> Room 7 Party Rental	<b>4</b> Cribbage - 1300 Auxiliary Mtg 1900
<b>5</b> 4 Chaplains Sunday/Post Everlasting @ Jacobetti Home Super Bowl Party 1600-?	<b>6</b> SAL Mtg- 1900	<b>7</b> Taco Tuesday Beer Specials	<b>8</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>9</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>10</b> Fish Fry 1700-1930	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Pitcher Day	<b>13</b> Executive Committee Mtg-1900	<b>14</b> Auxiliary Mtg - 1900 Sliders Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>16</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> SAL Valentine Dinner 1700
<b>19</b> Pitcher Day	<b>20</b> Past Commanders Club 1815 General Membership Mtg 1900	<b>21</b> Taco Tuesday Beer Specials	<b>22</b> Whiney Wednesday	<b>23</b> Thirsty Thursday	<b>24</b> Fish Fry 1700-1930	<b>25</b> Blackburn Birthday Party
<b>26</b> Pitcher Day	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Sliders	<b>29</b> Leap Day			

## UPPER PENINSULA HONOR FLIGHT

The mission of the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight is to fly World War II veterans to visit the World War II Monument on the Mall in Washington D.C.

The UP Honor Flight is a "hub" of the national Honor Flight Network, Inc. The first UP flight was in September, 2011 with 84 veterans going. There are 120 veterans on the waiting list for the next flight(s) including 35 from Marquette County. At least 1 flight is planned for the spring of 2012 and possibly 2.

The initial flight was from Delta County and the key volunteers are from there. It is anticipated that future flights will be from Escanaba since the logistical groundwork has been laid there.

For this to happen, help is needed in 4 areas:

1. WWII veterans need to be identified and apply.
2. Guardians are escorts for the veterans on the trip to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. Guardians pay their own expenses for the trip with a \$500.00 tax deductible donation to cover airfare, bus transportation, meals, and a souvenir shirt.
3. Volunteers are needed to help with flight preparation, fund raising, community awareness events, and other areas.

4. Donors needed to cover the cost of the trip for the Veterans. Donors can "adopt a vet" for \$500.00, but all donations are appreciated. There is no cost for the veteran to participate in the flight. Donations cover airfare, bus transportation in Washington, meals, a shirt, and other mementoes. Memorial gifts or gifts in honor of someone you love or respect are appropriate.

Applications for veterans, guardians, and volunteers as well as donor information are online at [www.upperpeninsulahonorflight.org](http://www.upperpeninsulahonorflight.org) or by calling 906 280-1471. To volunteer in the Marquette area, contact Dewey Jones 906 361-9651.

The UP Honor Flight is entirely a volunteer organization with 501c non-profit status. Receipts and disbursements are handled through the Community Foundation of the Upper Peninsula.

To adopt a vet or be a guardian is a financial sacrifice in these challenging times. However, it is an insignificant sacrifice compared to what these veterans did in World War II. We must not allow this opportunity to express gratitude to the remaining WWII veterans pass without action.

## 2011 BLOOD DONATIONS

Following are blood donations made on behalf of Post 44 during January through August, 2011. During this time, we had 60 donations. We thank these donors as blood and its products are often critical in saving lives, there being no substitutes. For those who have not donated blood recently or have never given blood or platelets, please consider making a donation by calling the Regional Blood Donor Center at 225-4610 for an appointment (but it's not necessary to have an appointment) or by visiting the Regional Blood Center at the corner of College Avenue and Hebard Court. There are parking spots reserved for donors. Please indicate your donation be credited to Post 44. If you have questions about these or past donation statistics, please call Joe Buys at 226-2624 or email [djosephbuys@gmail.com](mailto:djosephbuys@gmail.com). Periodically I post donations to my web site at [www.superiorfishing.net](http://www.superiorfishing.net). Thank you.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Jan-Aug 2011</u>
Armstrong, Mary L.	33	9
Buckett, John D Jr	8	3
Buys, D. Joseph	394	20
Constance, James H.	148	4
Fletcher, Edwin	61	1
Jackovich, Dan	76	2
LaFayette, Ken	88	3
Newby, Steven M.	1	1
Peano, Debra	17	2
Peterson, Diana M.	102	4
Schwenke, Richard E.B.	75	4
Swanson, Robert E.	41	5
Voorhees, Dan	10	1
Weinrick, Charles M	4	1
<b>Total: Jan - Aug 2011</b>		<b>60</b>

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Any member who has changed his/her address or will be changing it in the near future, please let us know. By letting us know it speeds up getting information to you from the Post, Department or National. You can do this by stopping by the Post, mail, phone (906-225-0781) or **NEW! e-mail [post44mqt@gmail.com](mailto:post44mqt@gmail.com).**

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American Legion News

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POST HOURS  
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Friday 1pm-12am  
Saturday Noon-12am  
Sunday Noon-1pm