



Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 5
Sanford, MI

American Legion
Thomas-Daniels-Hand Post 443
2080 N. Meridian Rd
Sanford, MI 48657

Support our Troops and keep them in your prayers.

The American Legion is....

**STILL SERVING
AMERICA!**



Jan / Mar 2024 Newsletter



Commander's Corner:

Things are happening at the Mighty 443. As we grow in numbers, and gel as a family-oriented organization, we must start the process of creating events that get our members actively involved in our post. Not only activities, but our meetings as well, because without every member having a voice, or presenting ideas, the organization becomes stagnant. With that being said, I need members to join us for our meetings. The SAL meeting is the first Monday of the month, Legion and Auxiliary the second Monday, and Riders the third Monday of the month. Come on out and see what's going on within your organization, the benefits that you've earned through membership and enjoy a night out.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! I am hoping that this newsletter finds all of our members healthy and recovering from the holiday festivities. I know that not all of our members were fortunate to have a normal Christmas or New Year due to the loss of a loved one, loss of job, loss of home etc. If you know of anyone that is hurting, please do a buddy check and maybe stop in to get them the assistance they need, or maybe just be the person that they need to talk to. As the new year starts, we to must start planning our events for the year, as well as other projects around the Legion

If you haven't noticed yet, the new LED sign is up and running. I want to take this opportunity to thank those that assisted with the installation of the sign, as well as those that keep it current with information for all to see. This project started way back before COVID hit, and had a lot of bumps along the way.

Last year we decided to look into getting grant money to do some renovations to our facility, and a building committee was formed. The committee was given a two-fold assignment with this task. First, I wanted to know what infrastructure changes/improvements needed to be made, and second, what it would cost to add onto the current facility so that we could make the bar and kitchen area bigger, while adding a day room with gaming equipment etc. for our veterans to use. This would allow us to offer more opportunities to our members, and have

modern day activities for them to do. With that being said, we still have room for ideas. We are in the process of finding an architect or structural engineer to tell us what we need to do to facilitate our renovations, and do a cost analysis for securing the necessary grants to move forward.

This past Christmas the Riders Partnered with Sanford Strong to raise money for the Riders Toyz for Kids Program. I must say that it was very successful and that a lot of needy children had a wonderful Christmas. We look forward to working with other organizations and partnering with them to make our programs successful.

During the first quarter we will be working on the Wild Game Dinner, slated to take place in the fall, as well as starting up a cornhole night, indoors, during the wintertime. This will allow us to have an event for all to enjoy, plus get us out of the cold and have some fun. We are also working on having cornhole tournaments throughout the year. Do you line dance? Want to Learn? We are working on getting the equipment and instructors to teach our members to line dance, and also hold line dancing events throughout the year for our community. I am working with the State of Michigan currently to add a stage behind the Legion to allow local bands to perform during the summer, and to also put up a big screen to show family movies on movie nights. This will allow local artists to showcase their talent, give our members an opportunity to get up and dance and also allow a family night that the whole family can enjoy. There is a lot more that we are planning, but with limited help, we can only take these projects on one at a time. If you would like to volunteer for one of the projects, let us know and we would gladly make you part of a team.

In closing, please check on each other with buddy checks, let us know how we can help you, and lastly have a happy new year!!!! Mark

Taps: None to report

Adjutant's Corner:

The 2024 membership year is well underway. We are a little over 90% paid membership. Your 2023 membership card expires December 31, 2023.

National voted to raise dues by \$5.00 starting with the 2025 membership year. National also approved for a 3-year renewal. If you pay up for three years you would be locked in to the current rate for the 3 years. You can also go Paid up for Life (PUFL). I know it is pricey however, it can be paid over 12-month installments. This Post will be deciding on whether we raise the dues or not. Come out to a meeting and voice your opinion. We have until May to make a decision.

REMINDER - MULTI-YEAR

MEMBERSHIP: Starting on 12/4/2023, members will be able to renew their membership for three years at a time. This option can be accessed on the national website at www.legion.org/renew. And ONLY those who have not renewed for 2024 can take advantage of this renewal option at this time. This option will be opened up to those who have already renewed for the 2024 membership year at a later date.

Michigan Department has a resolution to only increase dues by \$2.50 for Michigan with the Department using the other half that was saved by putting the Legion Paper online only.

We have some great events coming up.

Burger night every Tuesday starting at 5 pm. Bingo every Thursday and open to public. Monthly meeting 2nd Monday every month

We still have lots of opportunities for volunteers and slots on committees. The building committee really needs your help in our move to grow the building. We need to hear from our members for fresh ideas. Come in and enjoy your Post.

Welcome to our newest members: Lastly, Buddy checks are very important. We need to continue to check on our elderly veterans and those that are homebound. Don't be afraid to talk about all the good things your Post is doing to other veterans. Invite them out to the Post.

James Arnst Navy, Robert Blasdell Marines, Jack Blasdell Army, Jeff Butler Marines, Jerry Cockrum Marines, Douglas Doud Marines, William Durham Navy, Nathan Fellows Navy, Jason Gomez Army, Tera Holsinger Army, Michael Laske Army, David Montney Army, Allen Peck Army, Duncan Rae Navy, Shannon Richards Army,

Sons of the American Legion:

Welcome to 2024! The SAL is looking for another great year.

Our annual Gun-a-Day Raffle started 1-1-24, so good luck to all ticket buyers. This is one of our best fundraisers year after year. 1-6-24 is the district 10 meeting. If you are wondering how things get done, plan to attend.

SAL brunch is 1-14, we look forward to seeing all of you.

On a membership note, if you haven't already paid your 2024 dues, you're late! They become due again in July. Thanks Dennis

American Legion Ladies Auxiliary:

Check out the Auxiliary on Facebook for upcoming events and information at *Sanford Legion Auxiliary 443*, *Easter egg hunt in March date and time tbd will be teaming up with the church next door for the event.*





American Legion Riders:

State flag raffle tickets are at the bar \$5.00





Post Service Officer

Hi, If you need help with a VA claim, VA Pension, missing medals, DD form 214, burial information or anything else, come to a post meeting and meet with me or call 361-443-4106 or email Phillipglass57@yahoo.com we have a accredited VA claim Officer to help with these problems, she is here the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month I can set you up with a appointment. If you would like your newsletter by e-mail contact me on the above phone number or email. See you at the post meeting Phil

January 2024

	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	3	4 Bingo 6pm	5	6
7	8 <u>Legion & Auxiliary meeting</u> 7pm	9 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	10 Blue star mothers 6pm	11 Bingo 6pm AL Service officer appointments	12 Vets grill open 4pm	13
14 SAL Brunch 8:30	15 <u>Legion Riders meeting</u> 7pm	16 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	17	18 Bingo 6pm	19 Vets Grill Open 4pm	20
21	22	23 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	24 <u>County Emerg meeting</u> 7pm	25 Bingo 6pm AL Service officer appointments	26 Vets Grill Open 4pm	27
28	29 <u>Executive Board Meeting</u> 7pm 6pm Bar Committee	30 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	31			

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 Bingo 6pm	2	3
4	5 <u>SAL Meeting</u> 6:30pm	6 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm  Election day	7 <u>Blue Star Mothers</u> 6pm	8 Bingo 6pm AL Service officer appointments	9 Vets grill 4pm	10
11 SAL Brunch 8:30am	12 <u>Post Meeting</u> 7pm <u>Auxiliary Meeting</u> 7pm	13 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm  (Auxiliary)	14	15 Bingo 6pm	16 Vets grill 4pm	17
18	19 <u>Riders Meeting</u> 7pm	20 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm  (Riders)	21	22 Bingo 6pm AL Service Officer appointments	23 Vets grill 4pm	24
25	26 <u>Executive Board Meeting</u> 6pm	27 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	28 County Emerg meeting 7pm	29 Bingo 6pm		

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 <u>SAL Meeting</u> 6:30pm	5 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	6	7 Bingo 6pm	8 Vets Grill 4pm	9
10 SAL Brunch 8:30am	11 <u>Post Meeting</u> 7pm <u>Auxiliary Meeting</u> 7pm	12 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	13 Blue Star mothers 6pm	14 Bingo 6pm AL Service officer appointments	15 Vets Grill 4pm	16
17	18 <u>Riders Meeting</u> 7pm	19 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	20	21 Bingo 6pm	22 Vets Grill 4pm	23
24	25	26 Hamburger 5pm-7:30pm 	27	28 Bingo 6pm AL Service officer appointments	29 Vets Grill 4pm	30
31						