

# June 2011



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Sgt. Alvin Jonker Post 2326

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June  
2011

**HONOR GUARD**  
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**FACILITY RENTAL**  
Barbara Fletcher: 616-846-4669

**POST OFFICERS**  
Commander Sam Young 616-405-1161  
Sr. Vice Gerald Melcher 616-846-2456  
Jr. Vice Jerry Sias 616-433-1764  
Quartermaster John Boese 616-638-4998  
Chaplain Jerry Tripp 616-837-9180



**LADIES AUXILIARY**  
Carol Verploegh 616-847-8929  
Sally Kemme 616-846-3949  
Beverly Shafer 616-846-5773  
Edna McCarthy 616-842-6586  
Meg Young 616-846-2418  
Anne Parchert 616-842-8034

**OFFICE**  
← President →  
← Sr. Vice →  
← Jr. Vice →  
← Secretary →  
← Treasurer →  
← Chaplain →

**MEN'S AUXILIARY**  
Dan Raggl 616-846-3946  
Bill Schippers 616-846-1102  
Scott Bazany 231-744-5211  
Brandon Weigel 616-844-2719  
Brian Schippers 616-846-6062  
John Zlotnicki 616-638-0239



**CLUB BOARD**  
Chairman Sam Young  
Vice Chairman Jerry Melcher  
Secretary John "Dutch" Ringelberg  
Treasurer John Bosse  
1 Trustee Jerry Sias  
2 Trustee Mark Kelly  
3 Trustee Ted Raggl

Always Post Commander  
3yr Term  
2yr Term  
3yr Term Always Quarter Master  
2yr Term  
1yr Term  
1yr Term



### COMMANDER'S CORNER

By the time that this newsletter is read we will have begun the new post year. Please welcome and help all of our new leadership.

While not all of our goals for this year were accomplished, many were. I will take this time to thank all of the countless people for all of the volunteer work that was done this year.

After 21 years of holding one sort of office or another, I am going to take a break and just be a member, and help where I can. Once again I want to thank those of you that make Post 2326 one of the BEST POSTS there is.

THANK YOU, MEMBERS

Sam

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Bar Opens 3:00 Post MTG 7:30	2 Bar Opens 3:00 Burgers & Brats 5-7:00 p.m.	3 Bar Opens 3:00 Euchre 6:30 p.m.	4 <b>CLOSED</b>
5	6 <b>CLOSED</b>	7 Bar Opens @ 3:00	8 Bar Opens 3:00 Post MTG 7:30	9 Bar Opens 3:00 Burgers & Brats 5-7:00 p.m.	10 Bar Opens 3:00 Euchre 6:30 p.m.	11 <b>CLOSED RENTED</b>
12	13 <b>CLOSED</b>	14 Bar Opens @ 3:00	15 Bar Opens 3:00 Men's Aux MTG 7:00	16 Bar Opens 3:00 Burgers & Brats 5-7:00 p.m.	17 Bar Opens 3:00 Euchre 6:30 p.m.	18 <b>CLOSED RENTED</b>
19	20 <b>CLOSED</b>	21 Bar Opens @ 3:00	22 Bar Opens 3:00 Club Board MTG 7:00	23 Bar Opens 3:00 Burgers & Brats 5-7:00 p.m.	24 Bar Opens 3:00 Euchre 6:30 p.m.	25 Bar Opens @ 3:00 Karaoke 7-11:00 p.m.
26	27 <b>CLOSED</b>	28 Bar Opens @ 3:00	29 Bar Opens @ 3:00	30 Bar Opens 3:00 Burgers & Brats 5-7:00 p.m.		

## HONOR GUARD ACTIVITIES

Another very quite month. I hope the funeral homes still realize that the Honor Guard will do all veterans military rites. They don't have to be just our Post's members. Our team is a little different than the Ritual Team, which limits their group to just our Post members funerals.

I helped the American Legion set up for two blood drives that were held at local churches. I feel our two groups should work together for the good of the community, and for all its veterans and their families

Several of our group, and Chick Borta of the Ritual Team visited several veterans at RobbinsWood Care Center on April 20. These veterans welcome our time with them. I personally would rather visit them while their alive then just to see them at a military funeral after they died.

On May 7, a Saturday, six of our team members went to the Grand Rapids Airport at 9:30 P.M. to welcome home a veteran that was returning home from his second tour in Afghanistan. Along with us were over 100 members of his church group and family members. This went very well. As we were getting ready to go home, a lady that was watching this happy event, mentioned that her son was also coming home from a tour in Afghanistan at 10:10 P.M. She also stated that she had just moved to the Hart area from California only four weeks ago; didn't have any family or friends in this area, and also that she hasn't seen her son in over two years. We asked her if we could have the honor to help welcome her son home also, which she tearfully said yes. I then asked the pastor of the church group if they would also stay, which most of them did. It was heartwarming to see all these folks, and my team mates go this extra step to honor this mother's son. This was my most gratifying experience since being with the Honor Guard. Again, it's great to honor not only the dead, but also the living veterans that are protecting our Country.

## NEWS FROM THE CHAPLAIN

One member of our Honor Guard, Fred Hodges, is a member of the Robinson Baptist Church.

He mentioned to "Honor Guard Commander" Al Schmidt, that his church was getting ready, in a few weeks, to go as a group to Grand Rapids Airport. The reason being that one of their young men was returning home from serving in the military from Afghanistan.

Nick Anderson answered his country's call and as a member of the Marine Corp. was sent to Afghanistan.

Some of Nick's closest friends lost their lives in that far away country, and some of them lost limb's.

Upon hearing Nick's story, Commander Al Schmidt indicated, if the family and the church wanted the "VFW Honor Guard" there, we would be glad to welcome him home. When it was confirmed we were going, Al announced at our May meeting about the event, and invited the "Honor Guard" and "Ritual Team" to join in. Six members of our "Honor Guard" showed up at the Airport along with about one hundred members of the "Robinson Baptist Church".

We all lined up by the ramp leading from the terminal with the "Honor Guard" holding the American, VFW and MIA flags. When Nick finally came down the aisle, everyone burst into applause and the "Honor Guard" snapped to attention. He was hugged and kissed by his family and the church members. I'm not sure there were many dry eyes about then. The Minister called everyone in a circle and thanked God for Nick's safe return.

Standing off to the side was a woman and her husband. With tears in her eyes, she said "my son is also in the Marine Corp., he left Afghanistan and will be coming in on the next flight." They had just moved here from California four weeks earlier. They had not seen their son in two years. Commander Schmidt asked the Lady if she would like the "Honor Guard" to wait with her to welcome her son home. She said, "that would be wonderful". When the parents of Nick Anderson and the church members heard about what we were doing they said, "we are welcoming him home too". Some of the kids took their welcome home "Nick signs", turned them over and wrote welcome home Dan. When Dan came down the terminal aisle his Mom rushed forward, and everyone burst into applause, the "Honor Guard" snapped to attention and that young veteran received a welcome home he will not soon forget. One of the first to welcome him home was Nick.

Commander Schmidt reminded us on the way home, "the motto of the "VFW" is Honoring The Dead By Helping The Living." The Bible teaches us that pride can be a bad thing. Proverbs 16:18, "Pride goes before destruction". Righteous pride is alright, with the Lord, I believe. I felt a lot of pride that night for parents who guide and set examples for their children, churches that pray for their flock no matter where they are. I especially felt a lot of pride for the "VFW" and for our "Honor Guard".

God bless and looking forward to seeing you at the meeting June 1st.

## LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Ladies Auxiliary, June, 2011

Welcome summer! Hopefully the frosty weather is behind us.

The Department Convention held in Troy beginning June 8 will close on June 12. The newly elected officers will now assume their duties. We hope you will have a successful year.

Locally, Auxiliary #2326 has retained their line of officers to rule another year. Some of our chairmen have held their position for several years and would like to take a break. We would welcome some new energy in our ranks. Just come join us if you are truly interested in the welfare of Veterans.

This past month we draped the Charter for three of our members. We offer our sympathy to the families of Frances Grabman, Beverly Brady and Patricia Sibley. May they rest in peace.

Auxiliary meeting date is Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Day is Wednesday June 14. Proudly fly your flag!

Have a wonderful summer.

### Charity Gaming Events

This January, February, March and May, Post 2326 has sponsored the Charity Gaming events at Century Lanes in Holland as a fund raiser to pay our bills. The first three have had great success and each has brought in over \$4000 each. It has been brought to our attention that we can sponsor up to 4 weekends a year per license. The Post has one license and the Auxiliaries are eligible for 4 more each making it up to 12-16 total. The key requirement for these events are people, before we commit to more we would like to find 5 team leaders to staff the events. Each team leader would take 2 or more weekends and find enough help, 2 shifts of 2 volunteers each day for 4 days. As our supplier A-1 Bingo is opening a new facility the remaining license would be used at Alpine Road in Grand Rapids, unless a cancelation became available in Holland. If you are interested in becoming a team leader please call Ted Raggl at (616)520-1478 or Dan Raggl at (616)846-3946. These games are Texas Hold'em tournaments and cash tables where our function is to sell and cash poker chips. It is a 4 day event, Thurs. and Fri. from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. and Sat and Sun from noon to 2 a.m. We will need volunteers for 2 shifts each day (approximately 6-7 hours), an early shift and late shift of 2 persons each. Members of the Post and Auxiliaries are eligible. We so far have approximately 20 volunteers but need more to cover all the events that will require 16 people per weekend. So if you would like to join in the fun and help the post contact either Dan or Ted Raggl

### Don't Forget!



Thursday Night  
Burgers and Brats  
Are Back!!

Beginning on Thursday June 2, 2011 "Burger and Brat Nite" during the summer out on the patio (inside if the weather is bad). Beginning on Thursday June 2, 2011 and each Thursday thereafter we will have cooked to order "Burger and Brat Nite" From 5-7p.m (Maybe longer if activity warrants) Bar will open at 3p.m.



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★ Winner of April \$100 Meijer Gift ★  
★ Card is Arthur F. Schwartz ★  
★ Congratulations! ★  
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