

THE AMERICAN LEGION

JOSEPH B. WESTNEDGE POST #36

NEWSLETTER 14-01

ADJUTANTS COLUMN

Hello. I am Don Gillespie, the Joseph B. Westnedge Post 36 Adjutant and it is my pleasure to introduce you to the newly elected officers of our Post. The Post Commander is Don Harrison. He is assisted by Sr. Vice Jake Rickli, Jr. vice and Finance Officer Dick Priest, and Sgt. at Arms Cordell Gardner. Jack Post continues as our Chaplain and Jim Saur is now our Judge Advocate. There are several committee slots available is you would like to help out your Post.

Our post now has a Facebook page, "American Legion Post 36 Kalamazoo". If you are on Facebook or care to be, check it out for updates of our current and upcoming events and to see posts by the other sister organizations at our Red Arrow Club. We share updates from our other local military support groups, including the VFW, Blue Star Mothers, DAV, Red Arrow Riders, and the VA. While our page is in its infancy, we are learning more and more every day and it in providing a good and inexpensive way for us to communicate.

In the interest of better communication, we are also trying to get a list of Email addresses from our members so we can quickly and inexpensively send out our newsletters, updates, and meeting minutes for as many members as possible. Better communication will help our Post stay active and on top of current events and needs. And, good communications is a two way street. We cannot help each other if we don't know what the needs are. Please stay in touch with your Post. If you have Email and are willing to provide it, send it to me at dlgilles@att.net. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to your support and the hard work of Sr. vice Commander Jake Rickli, we had a banner year in membership renewals. We surpassed our goal of 146 members and signed up over 150 for the year 2014. Some of the new members are already contributing to our programs. If you know a qualified veteran who might like to join, call Jake @ (269)343-3356.

AMERICANISM

We continued our patriotic leadership in the community by participating in 9 events this past year. Our Post float and members appeared in four parades and we attended three memorial services at Fort Custer National Cemetery. We also recognized and presented awards to outstanding ROTC Cadets at Western Michigan University and participated in an impressive flag retirement ceremony presented at our Post by the Boy Scouts.



THE RED ARROW CLUB

Call Stacie at
(269) 349-7218

COMING EVENTS

Thurs. 7/18- Monthly Meeting @ Growlers Military Appreciation Game. 6:30 meeting, 7:05pm game.

Tues. 8/05- Red Arrow House Meeting 6 to 7pm.

Fri. 8/08- Veterans Day at the Kalamazoo County Fair 11am – 11pm.

Fri. 8/15- Karaoke Night.

Thu. 8/21- Monthly Meeting 7 to 8pm.

Fri. 8/22- Karaoke Night and Lions football.

Mon. 9/01- Labor Day – Club is closed.

Tues. 9/02- Red Arrow House Meeting 6 to 7pm.

Sun. 9/07- 3rd District Meeting at Charlotte.

Sun. 9/14- Lions Football Party 1 to 4pm. Burgers, brats and beer.

Thu. 9/18- Monthly Meeting 7 to 8pm.

Wed. 9/25- Dinner and A Movie Night 6 to 10pm.

NEED A RIDE TO THE POST?

Our monthly meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 7pm. If you need a ride to a meeting, please contact Don Gillespie at (269)626-0398, Jim Saur at (269)375-2544 or Jake Rickli at (269)343-3356. Lack of transportation should not stop anyone from participating in our Post events.

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VETERAN EVENTS

In addition to our efforts to inspire patriotism and help veterans with their benefits and personal difficulties, our group needs to have fun enjoying social events as well.

Two events coming up in the near future are the July 18th Military Appreciation Night at the Kalamazoo Growlers game and the August 8th Veterans Day at the Kalamazoo County Fair.

We will have a member at the gate of the ball park to direct you and your family to our section. An abbreviated meeting will be held before the game. Bring your cover. Veterans get in free.

Veterans Day at the Fair will be free admission all day for the veterans. Bring some form of ID showing your veteran status. We will have a table under the grandstand, along with many other veterans groups. At 1900 there will be a ceremony and entertainment in the grandstand. There will also be a raffle and door prizes. And wear your Post hat if you have one.



Legionnaires Jake Rickli and Jim Saur. Post 36 presented a Wreath at Fort Custer National Cemetery during the Memorial Day Ceremony..

DD214 UPDATE

The American Legion is tax exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as amended. The American Legion recently reported that the Internal Revenue Service was fining Legion posts – up to \$1,000 per day – for not keeping records of veterans' DD-214s, the separation document given by the military to prove honorable service, or other valid documentation. The Legion felt it was being wrongly targeted, resulting in the passing of three resolutions during the organization's national convention in Houston that called upon Congress to look into the IRS' field investigations into Legion posts, while lawmakers wrote letters to the IRS asking why inspectors were asking posts to provide discharge papers or service records during reviews of their tax-exempt statuses.

The IRS has now revised its position on the DD-214 requirement in section 501(c)19 of the Internal Revenue Code. Effective immediately, DD-214s are only required if an agent "possesses information that contradicts documentary information provided (by the veterans service organization) or if the organization fails to satisfy a reasonable request..." If an agent requires proof of membership eligibility, he or she will first request four sets of documents before requesting DD-214s or other discharge documents.

If you would like our post to have a copy of your DD214 on file, please send them in. Having them on file will allow us to quickly assist your family if needed for veteran's benefits.



American Legion Post 36 members at the 2014 Schoolcraft Fourth of July Parade.

The Four Pillars of the American Legion

1. Strong National Security
2. Taking Care of Veterans
3. Mentoring Youth
4. Patriotism and Honor (Americanism)