



AMERICAN LEGION POST 46  
NEWSLETTER  
July, August and September 2014

"In Memory of Those Who Served and to Honor Those Who Are Serving."

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To All Fellow Legionnaires of American Legion Post 46

The local, national and even international news of interest to veterans during the past three months has virtually disappeared from the pages of our news journals and from the internet because it has been overshadowed by two recent highly publicized news items. Early in May we learned about the alleged scandals involving the treatment or mistreatment of veterans at our Veterans Administration hospitals which was then closely followed by the controversial administrative decision to the swap of Bowe Bergdahl for five Taliban leaders imprisoned at Guantanamo. These two news stories alone swallowed up the space for other news items of interest to veterans so that the recent commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Normandy, the latest reports regarding the Benghazi tragedy and other items involving the military were consigned to the back pages of the news or overlooked entirely. This newsletter cannot and will not try to examine all the reasons why the vital decisions concerning the VA hospitals or concerning the repatriation of Bergdahl were made or who made them except to remind all veterans that these are both essentially political decisions made in Washington. The continual reminder that the political decisions made in Washington have a direct effect on us all and sometimes have a particularly important impact on our active military and our veterans has been repeated many times in these newsletters. A brief summary of some of the problems faced by the VA Hospital system and various opinions as to how they can best be resolved and some of the various positions taken concerning the release of Bergdahl are included in later sections of this newsletter.

P.S. Just as this newsletter makes the point that the VA Hospital and the Bergdahl stories dominate the news of interest to veterans, we get news out of Iraq as we go to press that Islamic militants have launched attacks and have easily taken Mosul and Tikrit and are on their way to Baghdad. How far this latest rebel uprising can go (using what appear to be hundreds of late model pick-ups), we will learn in the next few weeks. The continued existence of Iraq as a country now appears to be threatened. It will be interesting to see how the administration spins this latest tragic but very predictable development after assuring us that publically announcing a timetable for the withdrawal of our troops would not encourage Islamic militant unrest and would not in any way contribute to the total chaos which is currently taking place in Iraq. Once again, we do not seem to know what to do or which of the warring factions to support. As veterans, we should make our voices heard that any attempts to salvage the future of Iraq from the obvious miscalculations which have led to this chaos do not require yet more sacrifices of the lives and blood of our service men and women.

A variety of proposals were recently discussed at our most recent Post 46 meeting and, because attendance at our recent Post 46 meetings has been so low, we decided to ask the membership at large to become involved in these decisions by asking you to give us your input on some of these proposals. One proposal is to suspend all formal Post 46 meetings for the months of January, February and March. The essential reason given for this proposal was that many of our members do not like to venture forth at night in bad weather. The second proposal was to eliminate our annual Christmas Party and to hold instead a dinner or lunch sometime in September or October. Once again, the weather was noted as a

factor and the fact that many of our members winter down south and cannot attend. Thirdly, it was questioned whether or not the time and expense to prepare and send out this newsletter every 3 months was justified. We receive an average of 8 to 12 responses (emails or letters, yes, some people still write letters) from members after each edition so we have no idea if the remainder of you simply delete the newsletter from your computer or throw the mailed copies away as soon as you receive them. Thanks to rising mailing charges, the cost to Post 46 for postage and handling is about \$400 to \$450. Therefore, you are each asked to vote and give us your input on these three proposals either by emailing a response or marking your ballot included in this newsletter and returning it to us.

Please also take note that our Post 46 baseball team is back in action. We hope that you can attend a game or two, take a load of your shoulders, retreat from the worries of the world and support the team. The team plays a couple of afternoon and evening games at its home field in Chelsea on June 17<sup>th</sup> (4:00 p.m. doubleheader), July 1<sup>st</sup> (4:00 p.m. doubleheader) and July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. This newsletter might not reach you in time to attend these games but the baseball schedule is included on our Post 46 website for your convenience and review. Other items involve the reminder that we are continuing to post job opportunities on our Post 46 web site for unemployed veterans, that the passage of time has caused us to lose a number of our Post 46 members, and that our sales of poppies once again took place in May for the benefit of our hospitalized veterans due to the hard work of our volunteers. Another "thank you" for all you do for our Post 46 and our community. If you would like an article to be published in our newsletter, please forward it to my attention. Have a pleasant and healthy summer and we will visit you again in the fall.



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As is our regular custom, listed below are some of the events for the next three months in which all Post 46 members are invited to participate. Please join us from time to time and share your stories of life and service with other fellow veterans so that you are no longer just names on a roster. Life and events slow down during the summer months which give you all time to enjoy the great Michigan outdoors; however, if you are able to do so, you are invited to participate in the meetings and other events of your local American Legion Post which honor our veterans and our local community.

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| July 4  | Independence Day  |
| July 7  | Regular Post Meeting<br>Director's Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 P.M. |
| July 16 | Luncheon Meeting<br>Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.  |
| July 21 | WCCV Meeting, 7:30 P.M.   |

- August 4                    Regular Post Meeting  
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- August 15                    Bingo, Veterans Hospital, Ann Arbor, 7:00 P.M.
- August 18                    WCCV Meeting, 7:30 P.M.
- August 20                    Luncheon Meeting  
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- September 8                Regular Post Meeting  
Directors Room, Weber's Inn, 7:00 p.m.
- September 17              Luncheon Meeting  
Classic Cup Café, Jackson Road, 11:45 a.m.
- September 21              2<sup>nd</sup> District Meeting
- September 22              WCCV Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

#### LUNCHEON MEETINGS

As always, our luncheon meetings are held each month at the Classic Cup Café on Jackson Road, Ann Arbor. This is usually just a social gathering and provides an opportunity for all members to get together, relax, enjoy a meal and get to know other members of Post 46 in an informal setting. We are often surprised when members we have not seen for some time show up and bring us up to date on what has happened in their lives since they last made contact with us. If you are one of these and have tales to tell, please drop in.

#### VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HOSPITALS - THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY.

In 1989, the Veterans Administration was elevated to Cabinet level as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The American Legion had fought hard for this promotion arguing that veterans deserved representation at the highest level of government. President Bush also hailed the creation of the new VA Department saying: "There is only one place for the veterans of America - in the Cabinet Room at the table of the President of the United States of America". There is an old saying or proverb which states something like: "Be careful what you wish for - you might get it." Back in 1989, with overwhelming support from both political parties and all veterans' organizations, the VA went from being a huge governmental bureaucracy to becoming a huge **political** government bureaucracy and all issues involving the VA became subject to that game known as "political football" where one political party blames the other for any shortcomings rather than working in a bi-partisan way to get the job done. Further, with each incoming administration, it has now become necessary to appoint a new Secretary of Veterans Affairs whether or not the existing Secretary had established a stellar and competent record.

Some of the stories being reported regarding the treatment of veterans at the VA hospitals are enough to make one's blood boil - "secret" waiting lists of patients waiting to see a doctor, failures to make appointments, deception and lack of accountability toward both veterans and government audit authorities to the point of falsification of records, management level corruption or indifference, etc. - have piled up to such an extent that they have drowned out the praises from many veterans who, in fact,

have received or are receiving timely treatment and responsible care in the VA hospitals. Fingers are now being pointed in all directions to pin blame for these outrageous shortcomings upon a variety of people or causes - incompetent administrators or medical staff, rigid procedures and policies, inadequate funding, inflexible union work rules, or outdated facilities and treatment. There are already so many opinions suggesting how to fix the VA system floating around that they already outnumber the numerous problems that need to be resolved.

As a part of the process to "improve" the VA Hospital system, on May 30, 2014, the VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki, announced that he was firing the top administrators of the VA Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona, which had become the "ground zero" for what was considered a systematic problem of hospital officials manipulating or falsifying appointment schedules. Shinseki also asked the Senate to vote on legislation granting him greater authority to fire managers and other personnel for what he called a "breakdown in trust and integrity." Later that same day, President Obama then accepted the resignation of Shinseki. Shinseki offered his resignation to avoid being a "distraction" as the VA works to make improvements to its system and faces directly into the scandals which have been uncovered. The resignation of Shinseki is an obvious requirement of the "buck stops here" policy so that someone at or near the top of the chain of command of the VA had to be sacrificed to persuade veterans that the problems will be addressed in one way or another; however, as one disgruntled hospitalized veteran remarked: "The problem is not at the top - the problem is right here at the bottom in this hospital."

Faced with this torrent of criticism, we will leave it up to you, gentle readers, to consider some of the problems which have raised their ugly heads and which have apparently been caused primarily by the overwhelming of VA Hospital resources and let you decide how they could best be resolved. 1. Is the VA Hospital system underfunded? Funding for VA has risen from \$49 billion in 2001 to \$154 billion in 2014 so that it is now the second largest federal budget expense second only to the DOD. Further, it has been reported that the veteran population declined by some 4 million during this same period. Should yet more money be appropriated to the VA Hospital system or should more time and attention be devoted to the efficient operation of the current system and facilities? 2. Should the VA focus its attention only to disabilities specifically attributed to military service? The original principles of the VA system was to care for veterans with disabilities incurred while in service, especially those incurred in combat or while training for combat. During the past 20 years or so, a "mission creep" has taken place so that the VA now treats large numbers of veterans for the ordinary and expected effects of aging or a dubious lifestyle such as prostate cancer, diabetes, heart disease, alcoholism, loss of hearing, etc. On the other hand, one must consider the general commitment which was made to provide a lifetime of hospital care to veterans. 3. Should the VA administrators be given greater authority to fire underperforming personnel? This issue is primarily raised in the context of an administrator dealing with the unacceptable behavior of a union employee before the administrator can discipline or discharge the employee through a lengthy union-dictated procedure. This union procedure is obviously in place to prevent the arbitrary or capricious discharge or disciplining of employees and to attract qualified and loyal employees; however, the current process has proven to be unusually unworkable when dealing with VA personnel. 4. Should the VA simply authorize a veteran to receive care outside the VA system when the VA is unable to provide proper care to that veteran within a reasonable period of time? This issue raises a number of questions as to the health care system of our nation, in general, and the VA health care system, in particular. The promotion statements for the ACA made many such promises such as "You can keep your own doctor" which has been proven to be untrue. Further, the VA system is geared to be the healthcare system which is able to provide specialized care to veterans and it should not easily surrender this mission.

These are but four issues facing the “new” VA administration. If any of you have opinions regarding one or more of these issues, make them known to your American Legion national office and/or to your federal politicians in Washington. Many of you might have noticed at least one ray of light in all this picture of gloom – the VA Health System here in Ann Arbor recently received the highest praise for its care and treatment of veterans. Robert McDivitt, a member of Post 46, is the director of the Ann Arbor VA, was very pleased that the Ann Arbor VA Hospital received “silver status” from Planetree for significant advancement in patient-centered care, the first health care organization in the U.S. to receive such recognition. “Our goal is to truly become a veteran-driven organization with veterans actively involved in every facet of our organization from our governance board to health-care delivery and everything in between” said McDivitt. The Ann Arbor VA projects it will provide health-care service to some 64,000 veterans in 2014. To meet this increased demand, the hospital has spent some \$20 million a year to add a new emergency department and to renovate the inpatient medical/surgical unit, inpatient mental health unit and outpatient clinic. Many members of Post 46 contribute to the care of veterans by volunteering their time at the VA Hospital. Congratulations to McDivitt for operating a first class hospital right here in Ann Arbor and our best wishes that he can achieve the high standards he has set for himself and the hospital.

#### THE RANSOM PAID FOR THE RETURN OF BOWE BERGD AHL.

The surprise release by the Taliban of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowie Bergdahl has generated furious and heated discussions among military veterans and the general public. Some want Bergdahl to be tried for desertion upon his return to the U.S.A; some are outraged at the high price paid for his ransom (the release of five top-ranked Taliban prisoners from the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba); while others are simply pleased that the only U.S. military prisoner being held overseas has been safely returned, whatever the price paid to accomplish his release, under the “no prisoner left behind” philosophy.

The circumstances surrounding Bergdahl’s release and the subsequent public celebration by the White House with Bergdahl’s parents have been the subject of many news articles, TV talk shows and the internet which have focused on three still unexplained and puzzling aspects of this secret transaction between the Taliban and the White House. The first contested issue which has been strongly debated was the decision by the White House to negotiate the release of Bergdahl in secret without any notice or consultation with Congress. The declining state of Bergdahl’s health was given as the primary reason for pushing forward with the transaction and why the President ignored a statute demanding that Congress be consulted 30 days in advance of any prisoner release from Guantanamo Bay; however, Dianne Feinstein, normally a strong supporter of President Obama and who runs the Senate Intelligence Committee, was highly critical stating that she “heard no evidence that Sgt. Bergdahl was in immediate medical danger that made it necessary to act without consulting Congress.....There certainly was time to pick up the phone and call and say ‘I know you all had concerns about this, we consulted in the past, we want you to know we have reviewed these negotiations.’” The second major talking point has been the controversy regarding Bergdahl’s military record and the details concerning his capture by the Taliban. National Security Adviser, Susan Rice, declared publically that “He served the United States with honor and distinction.” This description of Bergdahl’s service and disappearance provoked considerable outrage from many veterans to the point that a petition was promptly submitted to the White House website with 4,000 signatures accusing Bergdahl of desertion and being absent without leave: “Punish Bowe Bergdahl for walking off base with intent not to support the War on Terror. Bowe Bergdahl broke several Articles under the Uniform Code of Military Conduct and needs to be punished not rewarded.” Bergdahl obviously deserves the benefit of the doubt until all the facts are known; however, it was also obviously upsetting to

all veterans when six soldiers who were serving with Bergdahl recently appeared on television and, to a man, expressed their opinion that he had deserted his post in Afghanistan in June 2009 before ending up in the hands of the Taliban. Salt is then rubbed into the wounds by allegations that up to six soldiers might have been killed while searching for Bergdahl after his disappearance. Nathan Bethea, an officer serving in Bergdahl's battalion, wrote: "Bergdahl was a deserter and soldiers from his own unit died while trying to track him down." The Pentagon has so far not confirmed any such published allegations but has promised a full investigation and report.

The third hotly debated issue in this complicated chain of events and possibly the most serious is the price or ransom paid for Bergdahl's release. Five Taliban commanders, reputed to once be the "Who's Who" of the Taliban chain of command and responsible for the deaths of many Americans, were released and delivered to Qatar, the country which was at the center of the negotiations. Obama has made the assurance that releasing the Taliban commanders under the condition that they remain in Qatar for a year "under close supervision" will not jeopardize US security or cause any direct loss of American lives. Unfortunately, Reuters has reported that, within one day of their release, the five Taliban commanders were already moving freely around Qatar and that two of them have publically pledged to rejoin the battle against the US and to "kill Americans."

Bergdahl has recently returned to the United States in the midst of a cloud of controversy and suspicion. Bergdahl would normally be entitled to be promoted to Sgt., to receive about \$300,000 in back pay and to receive special compensation following his release as a Taliban "prisoner of war." Based on service length and known pay rates, Bergdahl's back pay and hostile fire pay would be about \$150,000. If he is designated as a "Captive or Prisoner of War", Bergdahl would also receive special compensation that would total about \$148,000 plus interest. If Bergdahl is found guilty of AWOL, he would forfeit all pay he would otherwise receive since he went missing on June 30, 2009. If found guilty of desertion, he would forfeit all compensation, lose all veterans benefits and even be charged for the cost of returning to the U.S. Therefore, labelling Bergdahl as either a prisoner-of-war or as a deserter would have considerable financial consequences both to Bergdahl personally and the US taxpayer. Gen. Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, has the closing words: "As for the circumstances of his capture, when he is able to provide them, we'll learn the facts. Like any American, he is innocent until proven guilty. Our Army's leaders will not look away from misconduct if it occurred. In the meantime, we will continue to care for him and his family."

#### BINGO NIGHT AT THE VA HOSPITAL

The periodic summer-time Post 46 Bingo night is scheduled at the VA Hospital on August 15, 2014. If you can join us and help hospitalized veterans with their bingo cards and hand out prizes now in the form of \$2 bills, please let us know. The VA Hospital has installed a digital type of bingo device which displays the random numbers on a screen so that neither Steve Duncan nor Elmer White have to pick up the balls and call the numbers on them. If this technical progress continues, will the players even have to mark a bingo card? Please volunteer your time and spend an evening with our hospitalized veterans - you will hear (but do not have to believe) some amazing stories.

#### LOSS OF LEGIONNAIRES

Post 46 lost a number of its veteran members during the past year and we traditionally post their names in this summer issue of the newsletter. One of the difficult aspects of being an "active" member of Post 46 is that one becomes part of a close family of friends and, far too often, we lose each other. Unfortunately,

we sometimes do not learn about the loss of a member until many months after the death or severe illness of the veteran particularly if the Legionnaire has not been active in Post 46 for some time and the member's family does not contact us. Our listing of our veterans in this newsletter who we have recently lost might not, therefore, be complete:

**JAMES DOYLE            JAMES ARMOUR            ROBERT MCINTYRE    LLOYD WICKS**  
**ROBERT OXENGER    CLAUDE MARSHALL    JAMES WANZECK**

Our best wishes and condolences go to the families of these treasured veterans. They all share together in the honor of having served their country. To them, we repeat a portion of our American Legion prayer: In memory of our departed comrades, may we sincerely say "May their souls rest in peace".

### FINDING AND HONORING WWII VETERANS

This year, the Ann Arbor News/MLive.com is sponsoring an effort to chronicle the living men and women of Michigan who served during World War II. The Ann Arbor News plans to document all such living veterans in listings in local communities throughout Michigan in order to honor them for their service. The expressed plan is to culminate the project on Veterans Day with events throughout the state. Stories will be published throughout the year about Michigan's role in the war and the men and women who served.

The role of Post 46 is to get the message out to all our World War II veterans and encourage them to tell the Ann Arbor News about themselves, their memories of World War II and their families and careers since that time. A family member or friend could also submit this information on their behalf. This project by the Ann Arbor News appears to be a great opportunity to preserve the stories and histories of our World War II veterans, stories which are too often forgotten or not recorded to the subsequent regret of us all. The basic information requested includes: Veteran's name, age, place of residence and email and/or phone number. Further, the veterans is asked to specify the years served during World War II, branch of service and the locations served during the war. It is the final piece of information, marked "optional" which should prove to be the most interesting to readers because it simply asks "Tell us more". This information should then be mailed to: The Ann Arbor News, Attention: Kyle Mattson, 111 N. Ashley Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

An online form to provide this information is available at [mlive.com/veterans](http://mlive.com/veterans) or you can contact Kyle Mattson directly at 734-623-2549 or at [kylemattson@mlive.com](mailto:kylemattson@mlive.com). We encourage all Post 46 World War II veterans to participate and collect and provide this information to the Ann Arbor News and do so without any further delay. As they say, do it today!!!

### BASEBALL WRAP UP AND REPORT

The Post 46 baseball team has opened up to a fast and furious start. The team was undefeated for the first many weeks of the season and was on a hot streak sending all opposition down to defeat; however, all good things must come to an end and, on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the teams lost its first game during a tournament at the Thomas More College baseball field to Illinois Sparks-Red by the close score of 3 to 2. The team finished the tournament with 3 wins and 1 loss and now heads for home. Congratulations to Commander Duncan, the coaches and players for such a great start to the season and for representing Post 46 on the diamond in such a sterling manner. We are sure that you Tiger fans would like to see Detroit begin its season with such a winning record. Our Veterans Appreciation was scheduled for June 24<sup>th</sup> at our home field in Chelsea with a ceremony at 6:00 P.M. and the game at 6:30 P.M. Unfortunately,

this game had to be cancelled due to bad weather. Please check the web site to learn when it is rescheduled together with the schedule of all other Post 46 baseball games.

### FROM THE MILITARY MAILBAG

- **Duty, Pity and Respect.** A fellow veteran recently got his hands on an advance copy of "Redeployment", a short story collection by Paul Klay, a U.S. Marine who served from 2005 to 2009 including a tour of duty for over a year in Iraq. In his book and in a recent lengthy article in The Wall Street Journal, Klay advances the general theme that "No, I do not have post-traumatic stress disorder. Let's treat veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with respect - and not as if we're all somehow broken". Klay is concerned that the focus on PTSD by the press, health organization, and the military has become so concentrated that all returning veterans are now considered to be damaged in some way or another so that they need our pity and compassion. A similar observation by another veteran is that "PTSD has graduated from a diagnosis into an idiom used by soldiers and civilians to talk about all kinds of suffering, loss, grief, guilt, rage and unrewarded sacrifice". In showering too much pity on returning veterans, Klay is concerned that, being perceived as damaged goods, returning veterans are prevented from once again rejoining normal society, have more trouble finding jobs and are even feared as being unstable. He concludes that "though many veterans appreciate the well-meaning sentiments behind even the most misdirected pity, I can't help feeling that all of us, especially those who are struggling, deserve a little less pity and a little more respect." An interesting angle on a very complex issue involving our returning veterans - the book is a collection of short stories some of which reflect upon the problem of "pity" versus "respect."
- **World War II Vet Abused.** Two people were arrested in the robbery of a 100 year old Carson City, Nevada, World War II veteran at his home over the recent Memorial Day weekend. Two men evidently forced their way into Jim Sorentino's house looking for a safe which he supposedly had in his home. There was no safe so the two men fled with a wrist watch, pocket knife and wallet for a total worth of about \$30. Both men have since been arrested and charged. Sorentino lives alone but has a caretaker - the caretaker was reportedly held at gunpoint during the robbery.
- **World War II Vets Applauded.** A group of World War II veterans received a nice surprise recently when a gate agent at our own Detroit airport serenaded them with a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem over the loudspeaker system. Anna Marie Barile sang over the PA system as a tribute to the veterans waiting as passengers for Delta flight 98 from Detroit to Paris. The tribute, which Delta stated was part of a larger send-off ceremony for groups of World War II veterans travelling to Omaha Beach to recognize the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, was evidently very touching to other passengers waiting for the flight and even continued on the plane. The experience struck a very personal note for one passenger on the flight, Alyssa Vermeulen, who captured a large portion of the celebration on video which was posted on U-Tube. Vermeulen has several veterans in her family including her grandfather who served as a marine in World War II. "It truly was beautiful," she said, "and it made the long plane ride, that would usually be filled with complaints of small bathrooms and uncomfortable seats, take on a whole new meaning of gratitude for what we are so lucky to have." Amen.
- **Decommissioning of North Hall.** The University of Michigan will conduct a "decommissioning" ceremony of historic North Hall where all ROTC programs at the University are presently headquartered. The ceremony will take place at 10:00 A.M. on Friday July 11<sup>th</sup>. If any Post 46 members would like to attend, please RSVP to [roperc@umich.edu](mailto:roperc@umich.edu) or call 734-764-1498. Situated in the middle of the main campus near the Dental School and the Power Center, North Hall was constructed in 1899 as a hospital. It became the center of ROTC training and education in 1940. North Hall is now scheduled for demolition to make way for a Biological Science Building and the ROTC

programs will be transferred to other locations. This historic building may have particular memories for many of our members but time and progress continue to march ahead.

MARK YOUR BALLOT -THAT IS A DIRECT ORDER

As all of you are well aware, our regular Post 46 meetings have not been well attended. Two of our Executive Committee members, Doug Woolley and Dale Burgess, are regular contributors but the third member, Tom Scott, has continued to find it difficult to attend meetings due to an injury. Some officers are also regularly present so that Post 46 decisions are made by its officers and executive committee members with very little input from any other Post 46 members. To solicit some membership opinions, it was decided to submit three proposals recently suggested at our latest meeting to the vote of the membership. Some of these proposals might seem inconsequential, almost like rearranging deck chairs on the Titanic, but it is hoped that they will at least arouse some interest in the membership.

- (1) Due to poor attendance at meetings particularly during the winter months, should Post 46 suspend all regular meetings during the months of January, February and March?  
Vote Yes ( ). Vote No ( ).
- (2) Should Post 46 cancel its traditional annual Christmas Party and, instead, schedule some sort of membership dinner or luncheon in September or October?  
Vote Yes ( ). Vote No ( ).
- (3) The cost of printing and sending out the quarterly Post 46 newsletter has increased to about \$400. Should Post 46 cancel any further issues of its newsletter to save this expense?  
Vote Yes ( ). Vote No ( ).

Please review these matters carefully and register your vote either by marking and mailing your vote to Commander Duncan at 6655 Jackson Road, #125, Ann Arbor, MI 48103 or sending Commander Duncan an email at: [duncanssm@comcast.net](mailto:duncanssm@comcast.net). Thanks for your input.

POST OFFICERS

Steve Duncan, Commander & Finance Officer  
Greta Krapohl, Sr. Vice Commander  
Michael Malley, Jr. Vice Commander & Judge Advocate  
John "Laurie" Howley, Sgt. at Arms  
Elmer White, Adjutant  
Oleg Michajlenko, Service Officer  
Thomas Scott, Executive Committee  
Douglas Woolley, Executive Committee  
Dale Burgess, Executive Committee

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