

ERWIN PRIESKORN AMERICAN LEGION POST 46

P.O. Box 131010

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113

July 10, 2018

To All Fellow Members of Post 46:

If you have not been to Post 46 meetings in a while, you may wonder what we have been doing. Let us bring you up to date on several developments over the past two years in keeping with our goals of aiding veterans organizations in our community and state, and veterans in need. As always, we continue to support regional and state activities of the American Legion, such as seasonal conferences and the Veterans Advocacy Seminar, as well as activities of the Washtenaw County Council of Veterans and the Ann Arbor chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, the Post contributed \$15,000 in support of Wilwin Lodge, an American Legion-sponsored retreat in Custer, Michigan, southeast of Ludington, providing services to PTSD-afflicted veterans and their families. Our specific gift will provide for the construction of a cabin in memory of our former member Michael Malley. This follows a similar gift in the previous fiscal year of \$15,000 for a cabin in memory of another former member, Thomas Scott.

*Notable among the other awards provided by the Post, was \$5,422 provided to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital to help purchase a golf cart for transporting patients and family members throughout the hospital, a large-screen TV set for a community room, and regular coffee service for visitors and bingo prizes for patients.

*\$1,500 went for three scholarship awards of \$500 each to an outstanding cadet or midshipman in each of the Army, Navy, and Air Force programs offered at the University of Michigan. Some day the awarded young officers-to-be will be veterans themselves, and we hope that they will look back on our support of them, and want to join the American Legion themselves, wherever they may reside at the time. Their energy and enthusiasm will be vital in helping our organization flourish in the years to come.

*A total of \$741 went to Warriors and Caregivers United (WACU), an organization established by fellow member John Kinzinger, providing services to veterans and their families to assist in re-integrating returning vets into their families and communities; for the purchase of cemetery flags in advance of Memorial Day; and for the assistance of a brother Post 46 member.

*Funding for administrative expenses of the Post, along with monthly lunches preceding member meetings, and our annual Christmas lunch for members and guests represented less than 12% of our annual budget for 2016-17.

(Over, please)

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018, the Post contributed \$20,000 (part of a \$100,000 pledge payable over the five years) for the construction of a new Fisher House, the VA Hospital equivalent of the ubiquitous Ronald McDonald Houses at Children's Hospitals. This is a part of their \$3.5 million construction financing campaign. The new Fisher House, which will be the first of its kind in the State of

Michigan, will be located adjacent to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital, with construction anticipated to begin in Spring or Summer, 2019.

*In addition, a total of \$5,000 was contributed to the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office Explorer Scouts program; many veterans work in law enforcement following their discharge from active duty.

*\$4,098 went to the Ann Arbor VA Hospital to support continuing bingo and coffee programs, a Christmas Fund for patients, and food items for the Hospital Police force.

*\$3,954 went to WACU (including \$2,454 from sales of Memorial Poppies) to support their programs.

*\$1,500 went once again to three scholarship awards of \$500 to an outstanding cadet/midshipman at the Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC programs at the University of Michigan.

*\$1,000 was provided to the American Legion Foundation's Boys State Program to help underwrite the cost of five local students attending the 2018 Summer Program.

*Funding for administrative expenses of the Post, along with monthly lunches preceding member meetings, and our annual Christmas lunch for members and guests, again represented less than 12% of the Post's total expenditures for fiscal year 2017-18.

So, as you can see, we have been most active in our mission of providing support to veterans and veterans organizations in our community and region, while at the same time providing opportunities for members to spend time with their fellow veterans and members. Let us add that if you are in need of assistance in accessing your earned veterans benefits, please contact one of our Post Service Officers, Mark Lindke at 734.891.2565 or Glen Johnston at 734.358.2657.

We hope that we can continue to benefit from your support, both financial and otherwise, in coming years, and look forward to seeing you at Post 46 events in the future whenever your schedule might permit.

Sincerely,

Oleg Michajlenko

Commander

David S. Barera

Finance Officer