

# Edward C. Headman American Legion Post 217

## “News & Views”

From the Biggest “Little” Post in Michigan and M.A.L.P.A. 1<sup>st</sup> Place Newsletter Award Winner

Newsletter Editors - Bob & Cari Ann Salamon (newsandviews217@gmail.com)

Nov - Dec 2018 Issue

Member of M.A.L.P.A and N.A.L.P.A.

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Steve Mango

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## Fisher House

This year, the Department of Michigan Commander Steve Striggow has selected Fisher House as his project for the year. A Fisher House is a “Home away from Home” for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA Medical Centers. The homes are normally located within walking distance of the treatment facility or have transportation available. There are currently 78 Fisher Houses located on 24 military installations and 33 VA Centers. Many more are under construction or in design. The Ann Arbor Fisher House should be completed soon and a Fisher House for the John Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit has been approved, looking to open in 2020.

During the year 2017, more than 30,000 families were served, with the average stay of 10 days. The program began in 1990 and has offered more than 8 million days of lodging to over 350,000 families. Since its inception, Fisher House has saved military and Veteran families over \$407 million in out of pocket expenses for lodging and transportation.

Edward C. Headman Post 217 is dedicated to helping get the Ann Arbor and Detroit Fisher Houses completed. We are asking our members to donate to this worthy program through the American Legion Post 217 Fisher House Donation Program. Any donation large or small will be greatly appreciated. Our fundraising program will run from November 1, 2018 through February 1, 2019. All donations received by February 1, 2019 will be matched up to \$1000.00 by the Post 217 General Fund as approved at the October 2018 General Membership meeting.

There is a donation form inside this newsletter. Please clip it out, and send it along with your check made out to American Legion Post 217, with Fisher House on memo line, to:

Edward C. Headman Post 217  
Fisher House Program  
2817 Van Alstyne  
Wyandotte, Mi 48192

The Fisher House Foundation is a 501©(3) not-for-profit organization under the IRS Code. If you desire more info, go to [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org)



## FROM THE COMMANDER

Hello Brothers & Sisters!!

Hope everyone is well, Prayers to our members dealing with health issues. Please keep our Adjutant Frank Simon in your prayers as he himself is dealing with some health issues.

Returned from the State Conference where some great programs are being rolled out, we will be working hard to get the Community involved with Programs such as: Boys State, Teacher of the Year, Girls State, Student Troopers, Firefighter of the year, Law Officer of the year Programs. I will be looking for help for some of you to serve on Committees, input on kids to Sponsor, we also need help to offset the cost, further information with links will be on our Web site [www.americanlegion217.com](http://www.americanlegion217.com). These are great Programs to help build young men & women into productive citizens. You can message me at [postcommander217@hotmail.com](mailto:postcommander217@hotmail.com)

We are moving forward on the New camera system installed and Operational at the post, a big Thank You to the SAL for their \$750 donation towards the camera's. The POS (point of sale) system for the lounge will be installed soon along with a few Craft Beers being installed, Octoberfest is available on draft now. We are working at getting the Post decorated along the roof line for Christmas with LED lights, I have the city all lined up with a bucket lift, so any help, input or donations would be appreciated!!

Remember Coffee with the Commander and wife Patty the 3rd Thursday of each month from 9am-11am, come enjoy some (fat free for the day) donuts, coffee & oj along with some easy talk to get to know one another!

Keep in mind any Veteran needing help or assistance come meet with our Service Officer Steve Mango at the Post the 1st Tuesday of the month 5pm-8pm and the 3rd Monday of the month 1pm-5pm.

Veterans Day Service will be Sunday, November 11, 2018, at 4pm in the Post Lounge. The Boy Scouts will be serving Chili and Hot Dogs at 3 pm. Hope to see you there! Remember you can renew your membership online at [americanlegion217.com](http://americanlegion217.com).

Thank You to all that volunteer their time and come in to Support YOUR Post!

Commander,  
Mike Huber

## SR. VICE COMMANDER

Another summer is in the book. I hope everyone enjoyed their time in the sun. Our State Fall Conference took place in Muskegon MI at the end of September. Although it was insightful and informative, attendance was quite sparse. Actually, it's something I've noticed the past couple of conventions and conferences. Our newly elected National Commander, Brett Reistad, addressed the convention, and came up with some startling numbers. The American Legion membership in the past 25 years has gone from 3.1 million members to 1.9 members. He mentioned that membership is dropping every month. Why? Unfortunately, many of our elderly veterans are passing on and younger veterans don't seem to be interested in becoming a member of the American Legion. We have so much to lose if we don't enrich our ranks. Maybe we don't advertise effectively all the programs we support such as Boys and Girls State, State Trooper program, the Oratorical program to name a few. Maybe we don't effectively advertise the community organizations that we support such as the Goodfellows, the Wyandotte Food Pantry, Scouting, Downriver for Veterans to name a few. How many schools, hospitals and retirement centers have been visited by our Americanism team? Too many to mention. Maybe we don't effectively advertise the contributions from our Riders, Auxiliary and SAL. I hope any Legion member reading this article understands our mission. I urge every member to proudly advertise our programs and accomplishments. Make it your goal to bring in a veteran and encourage them to become a member of our American Legion.

For God and country,  
Pete Kalil - Senior Vice Commander

## Chaplain's Corner

The fall season is here! Soon it will be Thanksgiving; time to give thanks to our God and creator for the many Blessings He has bestowed upon His creation. Thank you Lord for these Thy gifts You grant us; your children. May all of you have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Then we come to Christmas in the month of December, a most beautiful time of the season when we celebrate the birthday of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May He be Glorified always as long as there is life upon this earth. God bless all of you in the most Blessed Season!

We pray for our brothers and sisters in the military for a God pleasing and Happy Holiday. For those serving overseas, may they soon return home to their loved ones.

Our wounded Warriors may you soon be healed of your wounds. For the M.I.A.s we pray for accountability as to their whereabouts. For those who have made the supreme sacrifice we pray for comfort to their families. Thank You to all above for their service.

For God and Country!  
Chaplain, Wayne "Bud" Shoup





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Chaplain  
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Darlene Walker

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Beverly Brickey  
Beverly Lapinski  
Caroline Sutherby

Hello Legion Family,

We have mailed our 'No Bake Sale' letters to the Unit members at the end of September. Thank you to all that have responded generously with your donations. There isn't an official end date to this fundraiser so for those of you that want to donate, you still can. We are also having a raffle in the Lounge for a queen size quilt, handmade by our 1st Vice President Claudia Sendo. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. For any out-of-towners, we will accept checks made to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 217 for purchase of tickets with Quilt Raffle on the memo line. If you win, we will gladly take care of shipping you the quilt. I know that some of you are anticipating the dinners that we have had in the past and you all have been very supportive to us, however, this year's group of ladies have many great new ideas that we would like to implement. Please be supportive and if you want to participate please attend our meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

I have appointed Secretary, Linda Stanko as Music Chairman and Girls State Chairman. She has graciously accepted and is providing new songs in our meetings and great leadership with Girls State. Linda attended Fall Conference with me and immediately was motivated to jump in and take ownership. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program is a unique and exciting government-in-action learning program for high school juniors. The program objectives are to develop leadership skills, confidence, pride and an understanding of the governmental process. The Department Chairman, Beryl Robbins is in full swing for the 'kick off' to provide information to all of the high schools in the State of Michigan. The program is held from July 16 - 22, 2019, at Michigan State University. There will be more to follow in the next coming months.

Please attend our meetings if you have any questions, ideas or want to volunteer for any committees or you can always contact me via email at cariann2277@gmail.com or by cell phone/text at 734-576-2946. For those of you that still have outstanding membership dues, please send them in. If you have not received your new membership card, please contact Linda Ciemnicky @ 734-941-5891. Please join our group on Facebook - Wyandotte American Legion Auxiliary Unit 217.

I wish safety to the hunters going into the woods. I wish all of you a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. You are all in my prayers for happiness, health and strength.

For God and Country - Service Not Self  
Cari Ann Salamon - President



Commander  
Ken Craft

Sr. Vice Cmdr.  
John Crossno

Jr. Vice Cmdr.  
Ken Gorecki Sr.

Adjutant  
Rob Bunton

Chaplain  
Ed Gorecki

Financial Officer  
Terry Connelly

Sgt. of Arms  
Ken Gorecki Jr.

Judge Advocate  
Bob Mayrand

As your new Commander I want to thank you in advance for your support in the coming year. We have gone through a difficult time the past few months but have come out stronger and wiser for it. I am happy to announce that we have satisfied all the requirements necessary to once again be self-governing and in control of our own destiny.

Our focus this year will be on retaining our current members as well as recruiting new members. We will strive to keep each member better informed and we will listen to your ideas and suggestions. Without our valued members this Squadron cannot excel and the fewer members we have the less ideas, support and funding we will have available to impact our community and more importantly, our veterans. We need to work diligently on improving our Squadron's environment and information flow. Let's all support all our current members as well as new members who are stepping up and taking positive roles. Here's to a successful year.

Ken Craft, Squadron Commander

S.A.L. GOLF OUTING - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We have secured July 13, 2019, for the Brian Smith Memorial Golf outing at Westborn golf course in Rockwood, MI. It will be held at 1:30 p.m. that day and will have a Steak dinner as the meal. We need people for the golf committee so anyone interested in being on it or helping should call Committee chair Mark Kusiak at 1-734-365-4362 or my self at 1-734-284-6600.

Thank You,  
Bill Shaw.



Legion Riders Update

- Director  
Marty Gore
- Asst. Director  
John Crossno
- Treasurer  
Ron Vilag
- Chaplain  
Bill Speed Rice
- Membership  
Liz Rice
- Sgt-at-Arms  
John O Easley
- Road Captain  
Pati Starkman

We had a successful comedy night held on Sat Oct 10. Final numbers aren't in, but we had a near capacity crowd this year at the VFW Post 1136. Kudos once again, the team pulled off another successful event. Special call-out to Mike Neubecker, for arranging the entertainment, Ron Vilag, keeping team on track and Bill and Liz Rice, who catered the event and all of the various sponsors, donations and all the unseen actions and items KUDOs to all. Last year, we raised nearly \$4,000, so we are optimistic our numbers are going to be minimally at this amount.

Update on our 100,000 mile challenge. Last year we surpassed our goal, this year. . . we are at just shy of 62,000 miles. We have had a lot of challenges with weather, key leaders not able to ride and push, but we still have some good weather to take advantage of, so big push to get as much as we can. We have had others step up to fill the shoes of these key ride leaders and they have done a good job.

We have our annual participation with the Detroit Veteran's Parade on Nov 11. Our Christmas Party is Dec 8 th and the Pub Crawl will be Dec 1.

Thank you,  
Martin "McFly" Gore  
Director – Downriver Chapter ALR Post 217

**Booster Club Members** - Thank you all for your donations for this issue of the newsletter. Those that have donated in previous issues, your names are displayed on the computer screen in the Post Lounge. You are very much appreciated.

In Memoriam Elizabeth Boutain Patterson    Richard and Barbara Boutain    Joseph Struntz

There isn't a dollar price per line. Whatever you wish to donate to help defray the cost of the newsletter is appreciated.

**Booster Club Form**

Our Booster Club members are very special people. They help us continue to publish this newsletter. If you would like to join the Booster Club, please complete the form and provide your donation. We will add your name to the list that will be published in the current issue.

PLEASE fill out this form, make your check or money order payable to the American Legion Post 217 and send it to:

American Legion Post 217  
ATTN: News Editor  
2817 Van Alstyne Blvd.  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed : \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Post 217 Change Information Form**

Member of: Legion \_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name is spelled incorrectly please change the spelling to: \_\_\_\_\_

I am reporting the death of a member

Date of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out any pertinent information and return to the appropriate Membership Committee: (ie.. Legion, Auxiliary or Sons of American Legion)

American Legion Post 217  
2817 Van Alstyne  
Wyandotte, MI 48192

## NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 <i>Honor Guard Rifle Club 10 am</i>	7 Legion Exec Comm Mtg 5 pm	8	9	10 Watkins Day 11:30 until Sold out - No Carry Outs 
11 Veterans Day - 4pm Chili & Hot Dogs @ 3pm	12	13 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	14 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	15 Coffee w/ Commander 9 - 11 am	16	17
18	19	20	21 Legion General Membership Mtg. 7pm	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Santa Pub Crawl 6 - 11pm
2	3	4 WVHG Rifle Club 10 am	5 Legion Exec Comm Mtg 6 pm	6	7	8 Watkins Day 11:30 until Sold out - No Carry Outs
9	10	11 Legion Riders Mtg. 7pm	12 Auxiliary Meeting 7 pm	13 S.A.L. Mtg 7pm	14	15 Sing-a-Long w/ Ken and Dave 8-11pm
16	17	18	19 Legion General Membership Mtg. 7pm	20 Coffee w/ Commander 9 - 11 am	21	22
23	24	25 Merry Christmas!!	26	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve Party - Jerry Somers 7pm - ??? Bring a dish to pass					

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE YOUTH CADET LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM - POST CHAIRMAN WALT SZUPER

The Michigan State Police and the American Legion provide many opportunities to the people they serve. First hand knowledge of one of those opportunities was experienced by me this past summer and also some 30 years ago. My son, now in his forties, was afforded the opportunity to attend the Youth Cadet Law Enforcement Program. Fast forward to this past summer and my grandson had that very same experience. This would not have been possible had it not been for the American Legion Post 217. The program provided an experience of being on their own, away from home, and making decisions for themselves that would benefit them in later life. It's difficult at best to turn a sixteen year old son or daughter out into a situation that parents know little about. However, some of the doubt is removed when the place your sending them is overseen by law enforcement personnel. Upon returning from their week in Lansing at the MSP training facility both said what a thrilling, fulfilling, experience they encountered.

American Legion Post 217 is looking for potential candidates for this program in 2019. It is open for both female and male students of high school age. They must be in good academic standing, junior or senior in high school. So, Mom's, Dad's, Grandparent's. Aunt's and Uncle's speak with the young adults and see if there may be an interest in attending this very beneficial program. If anyone has questions regarding this program please feel free to contact, Walt Szuper Executive Board Member of Post 217 at 734-718-7981. Also, more information will be made available on the Post website in the very near future.

## 'Tis the Season

G	L	I	R	S	M	S	G	F	V	R	I	S	T	FAMILY
N	C	O	D	R	Y	O	I	N	A	L	E	S	U	THANKSGIVING
I	F	M	V	R	U	A	M	M	E	M	S	F	R	CELEBRATION
V	R	V	I	E	L	E	S	R	O	I	I	A	K	CHRISTMAS
I	S	H	N	O	E	L	T	H	K	T	E	L	E	NOEL
G	A	N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	Y	YULETIDE
S	M	O	F	R	I	E	N	D	S	O	H	S	P	BIRTH
K	T	S	N	Y	D	O	E	T	H	M	T	E	R	TRAVEL
N	S	N	S	I	E	A	G	R	O	H	R	I	A	GIFTS
A	I	O	S	T	F	I	G	A	L	O	I	K	Y	LOVE
H	R	W	B	M	A	L	O	V	Y	T	B	O	E	FRIENDS
T	H	V	O	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	S	O	R	COOKIES
K	C	G	N	C	A	N	D	L	E	S	N	C	S	ORNAMENTS
S	Y	L	F	M	L	O	M	E	V	G	L	U	W	SNOW
														TURKEY
														LAMB
														PRAYERS
														HOME
														CANDLES
														HOLY

\*\*\*\*THE POST WILL NO LONGER BE ACCEPTING CANES, CRUTCHES, WHEELCHAIRS, ETC.... OUR STORAGE IS LIMITED AND FULL. THANK YOU!!!!\*\*\*\*

## TABS FOR TOTS

If you donate tabs, please sign the list located by the Tab Drop Box on the landing going upstairs. Please print legibly. Proceeds for Tabs for Tots goes toward pediatric items at Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital. Your donations are appreciated and many are multiple monthly donors; Thank you!

Al Starzec	Bill Payne	John G. Dainus	Keith Poremsky	In Memory of Jack Kell
Jerry Thomas	Jerry Drinkert	Gloria Mohr	Myra Loeckner	Brad & David James
Bonnie Bodart	Lester Pegouske	Darlene Walker		

# Downriver Post 217

## Santa Pub Crawl



Sat December 1, 2018—6pm till 11pm  
 \$20 per person, includes bus ride and  
 pizza at the end of the crawl



Tickets available at the Post bar

Costume (Santa, Elf, Christmas Carol, Grinch) a  
 must to get on the bus to make this work



December 15th  
 In the Post Lounge  
 Christmas Sing-a-Long w/  
 Ken & Dave  
 8 - 11 pm

Come enjoy the  
 decorations and Sing  
 Christmas Songs

### FISHER HOUSE DONATION

From: \_\_\_\_\_ Legion \_\_\_\_\_ Aux \_\_\_\_\_ SAL \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the American Legion Post 217 and write Fisher House on the memo line.  
 All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your donation.

### Children's Christmas Party - Sunday, December 2, 2018 - 1pm to 3pm

Open to all children/grandchildren ages 2 yrs to 10 yrs of members of A.L. Post 217. Deadline for sign up is Friday, November 23, 2018. We will have food, drinks, snacks and a gift for each child from Santa.

This year we are asking for a \$5.00 deposit for each child signed up due to numerous no-shows in past years. You will receive your \$5.00 back along with the gift for your child when you attend. Anyone signed up that does not show will forfeit deposit.

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Grandparent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Grandparent Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR**

SERVICE OFFICER HOURS	FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH	5:00 PM TO 8:00 P.M.
	THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH	1:00 PM TO 5:00 P.M.
POST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING	1 <sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY	@ 6:00 P.M.
AUXILIARY UNIT MEMBERSHIP MEETING	2 <sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAY	@ 7:00 P.M.
POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	3 <sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY	@ 7:00 P.M.
SAL MEETING	2 <sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY	@ 7:00 P.M.
RIFLE CLUB MEETING	1 <sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY	@ 10:00 A.M.
LEGION RIDERS MEETING	2 <sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY	@ 7:00 P.M.

**\*\*\*\*NEW HOURS\*\*\*\***

**The Post Service Officer Steve Mango will have the following hours:**

**1st Tuesday of every month - 5pm - 8pm**

**3rd Monday of every month - 1pm - 5pm**

**If you cannot meet him at the Post during the above hours, do not hesitate to call him at 734-626-3552. He will do all he can to provide you with help and direction needed.**

**Attention Veterans:**

If you need to file a claim with the Veterans Administration, the American Legion has a Veterans Service Officer to assist you, located at the Downriver Community Conference – John D. Dingell Building, 15100 Northline Road, Southgate, Michigan 48195. Effective March 1, 2017, hours are every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm in Room 100 (park in the west parking lot / enter through the Michigan Works Entrance). Bring a copy of your DD 214 paperwork, or for WWII Vets, bring a copy of your discharge paperwork. - 313-964-6640 - Ask for the Southgate Office.



Time Sensitive Material - Please Expedite Delivery To:

The American Legion  
Edward C. Headman Post 217  
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Wyandotte, MI 48192  
Phone: 734-282-2698  
www.americanlegion217.com

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