



# Old Settlers Newsletter

Post 4659 - District 5  
July - August 2021



Commander Joe Wrobel - Sr. Vice Cmdr. Mike Perusich - Jr. Vice Cmdr. Ken Klee  
Quartermaster Jay Benner - Chaplain Bob Bartkowski - Adjutant - Bill Tudrick

## Greetings everyone!

We are starting to reopen from the Governor's shutdown and beginning July 1 we will be back to our normal hours of operation. During the pandemic we have made some major changes in our hours, routines, and policies. I know it hasn't been easy and I thank each of you for your patience and understanding as we have worked through these difficult days. Additionally, I ask that you help me congratulate our newly elected officers and committee members of the Post and the Auxiliary and provide them the support they need to help the Post succeed. I know that this will be a successful year when we work together for the benefit of veterans and their families.

We now have a new Kitchen and Hall Room Manager, *Joe Bonanni*! All hall rentals and dinners will go through him and our outstanding Club Room Manager Kathie Holloway in the future. As we move forward we need to check the clubroom boards for postings of upcoming events. We are looking into reoccurring weekly or biweekly dinners, along with volunteers to help support these events for our Post. If you have time to help out the Post, please let us know because we can use your help. Remember that the Old Settlers Post is yours. Without support and volunteers we cannot succeed in the planned events that our membership wants to see happen and to participate in at the Post.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Memorial Day service and luncheon at the post. We owe the Auxiliary a big round of applause for preparing and serving the food! Don't forget that it was Denise Fry who organized and ran the luncheon.

Our roof is finally completed and now we are moving forward to paying it off. Mike and Jay, took on the lion's share of the work to secure funding and a contractor to accomplish this critical repair to your Post. That being said, we are still in the planning stages for more fundraising to pay our outstanding balance. Remember that we still have a *Go-Fund-Me* page if anyone wishes to donate.

Last but not least, I would like to thank each of you for your trust and confidence by allowing me the opportunity to serve you as commander of the Post for another year. I am looking forward to supporting you and the Post into another successful year and will work hard to accomplish our mission to serve our veterans and their families.

God Bless  
**Joe Wrobel**  
Commander



8311 Wilson Drive Shelby Twp. MI 48316 586-781-9109

# Membership

I hope you all are doing fine and in GOOD HEALTH.

The roofs for the Hall and Clubroom project have been completed. There are no more leaks, we have new gutters, and the building looks great! We have made the final payment to close the project with the contractor. However,

a loan from Huntington Bank was secured and over time we will get this paid down as quickly as possible. The Post would like to thank Matt

Williams Construction and their crew for the excellent job well done. All Post Donations Should be sent to:

**VFW Post 4659**

**Attn: Michael Perusich**

**8311 Wilson Drive - Shelby Township, MI 48316**



As we try to get back to normal, I am hoping we all can appreciate what our Board Members, Clubroom, Hall Managers, and support members offered to make this a stronger team for the Post. We continue to improve the Post and to build new membership. Also, please remember those 17 Post members who have passed away in the past year. Our present membership is getting older, not younger, and we have been losing the battle lately with the passing of many of our long-time and active members. We ALL need to make this a top priority and put in some extra time to BRING NEW MEMBERS into our Post.

If your annual dues are expired, please come into the Clubroom and pay them as soon as possible. The Post offers a \$50.00 gift card at a local restaurant when you pay your dues. If you need a new card, contact me to request a duplicate card that will be mailed to you. If you need assistance paying your annual dues, making a payment, or updating to a Life Membership...I can help.

We have discounts when you decide to upgrade to a Life membership with gift cards at a nice restaurant, both for the VFW Membership as well as Auxiliary. Should you have any questions about your membership, address / phone... please contact the Post at (586) 781-9109 or call the VFW National Headquarters at (833) 839-8387. If you know a Veteran who would like to join or a Post member that has passed, please call me (586) 291-9914. Please remember and share that we have an Honor Guard to support and honor our Veterans.

**There are three qualifiers for membership in the VFW, as set out in our National Bylaws.**

**An individual must meet all three in order to become a member. They are as follows**

- 1: **Citizenship** – must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. National.
- 2: **Honorable Service** – must have served in the Armed Forces of the United States and either received a discharge of Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions) or be currently serving.
- 3: **Service in a war, campaign, or expedition on foreign soil or in hostile waters\***.

This can be proven by any of the following:

- **An authorized campaign medal - Receipt of Hostile Fire Pay or Imminent Danger Pay** (verified by a military pay statement)
- **Service in Korea for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days**

\*This information is available through a veteran's DD-214. If other information is needed or if a veteran's DD-214 is not complete, they can [contact the National Personnel Records Center online](#) or at 314-801-0800 to request more information.

If you are not eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars but you have a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, or spouse who would be eligible then you may apply for membership in the VFW Auxiliary.

You can learn more at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org).

Be safe,

**Mike Perusich**

Sr. Vice Commander



# VFW AUXILIARY

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I would like to start by congratulating Commander Joe Wrobel and our newly elected Post Officers. We send our best wishes for another successful year to the entire Post membership. It's exciting to see what the New Year will bring as we support them.

Our Auxiliary was recently recognized at the State Convention with the Auxiliary Achievement Award. Congratulations and thank you to all of our Auxiliary members for making this possible! I would also like to thank you for the confidence you have in me when you reelected me for another year, thank you.

As a reminder, our Auxiliary meets on the second Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Post Home. During our last meeting, we approved a motion that we hope will bring more attendance and participation from our Auxiliary members. At the conclusion of each meeting, there will be a drawing for \$10. The name drawn is chosen from those attending that meeting.

The hope is that now that COVID-19 is relatively behind us in our business dealings, you will consider coming back to our meetings supporting the Post and making a difference in the lives of Veterans and our Community. We're looking forward to new ideas as we begin the Auxiliary year, please join us!

On to scholarships! The 2021/2022 Theme for the Voice of Democracy Contest is: "America: Where do we go from here?" and the Theme for the Patriot's Pen Contest is "How Can I Be a Good American?"

The deadline for entries to the Post is October 31, 2021. Please provide this information to your family members, neighbors, youth groups, libraries, and anyone who may be interested in participating. By providing the information early, applicants have ample time to prepare their essays. The date that the Post winning entries are due to the District is no later than November 15, 2021. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

### **Gloria Dobbie**

Auxiliary 4659 President

Auxiliary 4659 Scholarships Chairman



## *Canteen-Clubroom Notes*

Hello everyone and welcome back! It's really good to see everyone as we start getting back to normal. The Clubroom is now open from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. We are closed on Sundays and Mondays. Wii bowling, the pool table, and corn hole are open and a corn hole tournament is in the works! Tuesdays are still free jukebox day and we have live music on most Fridays.

Come and see us for dinner when you can. The kitchen is open and we have Coney Dog specials on Tuesdays and Tacos on Thursdays. Watch for Friday Dinner specials, coming soon!

We had a Steak Out on June 12th, Joe and Carl Bonanni did an awesome job with the steaks, as always. Reno was on stage and provided us with some fun entertainment. For information on events/activities please check our Website, Facebook Page, or call the Clubroom during open hours or myself at (586) 322-5404.

Hope to see you soon!

**Kathie Holloway**

Club Room Mgr.

# Scholarships



Congratulations to Zachary Brown from Rochester Adams High School for being one of our Carl F. LaRock Scholarship winners this year! Zachary is going to Florida State University in the fall and definitely appreciates the \$1000, courtesy of Comrade LaRock's legacy!

This scholarship is named after PFC Carl F. LaRock (Nov. 2, 1909 – May 24, 1994,) who served in the U.S. Army as an anti-aircraft artillery gun crewman from July 29, 1943, thru Dec 23, 1945.

When Carl passed away he donated more than \$62,000 to the Old Settlers Post 4659. Through a vote of the membership, \$12,000 went toward building the memorial and flagpole out in front of the post and the balance became the Carl F. LaRock Memorial Scholarship.

The LaRock Scholarship is open to all high school seniors in the Shelby Township area (Utica / Stevenson / Eisenhower / Ford II / Lutheran North / UAIS) and graduates of these schools under the age of 21, who have a letter of acceptance from any college, university, or trade school.

Veterans, children, and grandchildren of Old Settler's Post 4659 members, regardless of residence, who meet all other criteria are also able to apply. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required and veterans, children, and grandchildren of any veteran will get an extra .25 added to their GPA.

Up to 3 winners are randomly chosen for \$1000! For more information and to apply for the scholarship email: [lisalove.4659@gmail.com](mailto:lisalove.4659@gmail.com)

Lisa Love  
VFW Post 4659  
Scholarship Committee

## California Pizza Kitchen

On Tuesday the 15th of June, Members of Old Settler's VFW Post 4659 were invited to California Pizza Kitchen for a Luncheon (located at Partridge Creek Mall) and for the 6th year in a row a very generous donation that the Patrons of California Pizza Kitchen supplied by purchasing Gift Cards for Veterans.

WOW!! What a lunch Jessica Moore and her Staff put together for us. The restaurant is gorgeous and the food was delicious. Linda Brohl plus Staff did a super job taking care of us. But the STAR of the show was the Gift Cards that were given to our Post to pass out to needy Veterans and Families.

Linda spearheaded the effort and we cannot say enough about the outstanding job she did getting patrons to donate, CPK again did an outstanding job from what they all did past years. Post Members that attended had a super time and enjoyed the "Luncheon Party."



# Quartermasters Corner

## Military Personnel and Retirement the VFW's Concerns:

The VFW has long argued that Department of Defense (DOD) retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons. Military retired pay is earned by 20 or more years of service in the United States Armed Forces, allowing retirees to maintain their standard of living while attempting to enter the civilian job market for the first time in the middle of their prime working years.

Service-connected disability compensation is a benefit meant to supplement a veteran's lost earning potential as a result of the disabilities he or she incurred while in service. However, military retirees who are less than 50 percent service-connected disabled are required to offset their retiree pay with the amount of VA disability compensation they receive. Also, Chapter 61 retirees who were medically retired with less than 20 years of military service face the same dollar-for-dollar offset. As a result, some disability retirees are separated before becoming eligible for Longevity retirement, while others have completed 20 or more years of service.

As of 2020, there are 575,476 Chapter 61 retirees—more than 42,000 of whom have been medically discharged due to combat-related injuries, and unjustly denied the benefits they deserve. In 1996, the Military Housing Privatization Initiative (MHPI) began as a result of DOD's struggle to build and maintain adequate housing.

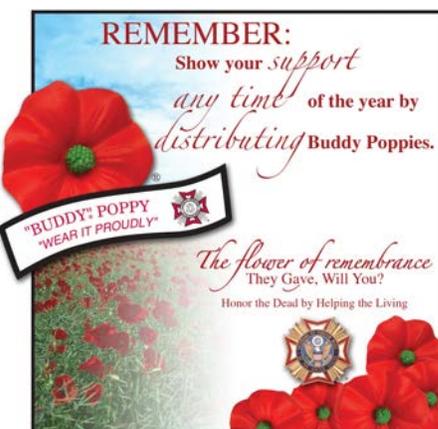
However, in the past few years, the MHPI program has been plagued with widespread complaints of neglected or careless repairs and unsafe conditions. Residents have been exposed to high levels of toxins and environmental Residents have, lead-based paint, asbestos, Residents have, and sewage. Maintenance issues have gone unresolved since privatized housing companies have strong financial incentives not to hold units vacant for lengthy repairs or renovations.

In response, DOD implemented a bill of rights to ensure tenants receive quality housing and fair treatment from the private housing companies. Nevertheless, before service members move to a new base, they are not given access to historical maintenance records about their new homes, which is inconsistent with standard practice for all new home buyers in the United States.

As a result, the VFW proposes that DOD develop base housing comparison tool to beat central information center for service members. Based on the model of the GI Bill Comparison Tool, it would provide access to information about the base and private housing private housing service members make informed decisions about whether to live on or off base. Additionally, it would allow oversight of the housing situation at each base around the country, so problems could be addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

The VFW calls on Congress to direct DOD to develop and implement a comparison tool for base housing. The VFW's Solutions: Congress must pass the Major Richard pass that would enable Chapter 61 veterans discharged due to combat-related injuries to be entitled to DOD longevity payment and VA disability compensation without offset. Congress must enact legislation to implement a new online comparison tool for service members, and to serve as a central information center for oversight. Call your Congressmen

**Jay Benner**  
Quartermaster

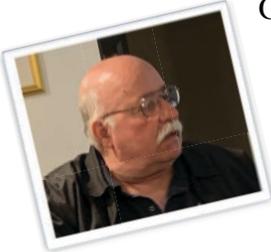


## Bingo

Do you know that there is BINGO twice a week at the hall. Tuesday is the BINGO fundraiser for the Post and Thursday is the BINGO fundraiser for the Auxiliary. Do you play BINGO? Do you know of others that like to play BINGO? Talk us up to your friends and family in case they don't know. Don't play BINGO but might like to work BINGO. Due to illnesses, vacations, doctors appointments etc we may be short of workers. If you want to be involved in this fundraiser and would like to learn to work BINGO on Thursdays, contact me, your Auxiliary BINGO chairman. If you are interested in working Tuesday BINGO, I can put you in touch with Randy Pierson Post Bingo Chairman.

**Denise Frey 586-569-6336**  
**Auxiliary BINGO Chairman**

*Americanism - Community Service - Hospital*



Comrades, each month The VFW mandates that every VFW Post report their volunteer work to the State. As the new Chairman I am asking each member of the post to report what they do, date of project, number of members participating, number of hours, and miles driven. This can involve youth activities, scouts, little league, volunteering in schools and churches, visiting veterans in hospitals, driving veterans to doctors appointments and any patriotic events you participate in. Do you fly the American flag or POW-MIA flag 24-7? This is all reportable. If you have any questions, please contact me kennethjkle51@gmail.com. Or **586-260-4200**.

Thank You  
**Kenneth Klee**  
 Chairman



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**Gavin Eschtruth** an Eagle Scout, constructed 17 Memorial Flag Cases for the post.

The cases will be offered to families of Post Members who are deceased. You can contact the Post if you may need one of the Flag Cases. Ask for Mike Perusich the Sr. Vice Commander

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- Virginia Pimental James Johnson
- Michael Mueller Frank Greco

**Transfer Members**

- Phillip Ulmer
- Thomas Ligorotis
- Marvin Martin



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- Michael Schroeder Henry Muniz Victor Johnson
- John Kuypers James Walker

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## Life Membership Information

VFW MEMBER SERVICES (CURRENT MEMBERS ONLY)

Monday - Friday 8:15 am until 5 pm.

Please call 1-833-VFW-VETS or 1-833-839-8387 to safely renew or convert to Life Membership over the phone with credit or debit card. Also, VFW members can update mailing address and or contact information.

### Life Membership Fee Schedule Age as of Dec. 31st.

One Time Payment -	Initial Payment -	11 Payments of
Through Age 30	\$ 425.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 38.64
Age 31-40	\$ 410.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 37.27
Age 41-50	\$ 375.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 34.09
Age 51-60	\$ 335.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 30.45
Age 61-70	\$ 290.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 26.36
Age 71-80	\$ 225.00	\$ 45.00 \$ 20.45
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**Veterans Outreach Session at old Settler Post  
2nd Monday of each Month 10:00 AM - 4:30pm  
Lisa Marie 586-463-3538**

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**Bingo Starts At 10:30 am**



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