

Caledonia American Legion Memorial Post 305

Serving Our Veterans, Their Families and the Community

MARCH 2026



FROM THE LEGION COMMANDER

March is here! Spring is right around the corner! That brings back one of our best Post 305 traditions: the Friday Fish Fry. Join us every **Friday from 5–7 p.m. (or until it's gone!)** for a great meal and even better company. These evenings are a great way to support the post and stay connected with fellow Legion family members. Bring friends, neighbors, and anyone who enjoys good food and good community.

Post 305 is proud to host a **Veterans Benefits & Resources Open House** on March 12, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Several organizations will be on-site to share information, answer questions, and provide services for veterans. This event is an important opportunity to: Learn about benefits you may be eligible for; connect with service officers and support programs and get guidance on claims, healthcare, and available resources. We strongly encourage all Legionnaires to attend and to invite any veterans who may benefit from this event. Your presence helps strengthen our mission and our community.

Our Post's future depends on us. The continued success of Post 305 relies on active participation from our members. We encourage all Legionnaires to stay engaged, get involved, and help shape the future of our Post. **Membership meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.** Dinner is provided starting around 7 p.m. Your attendance, ideas, and voice are essential to keeping Post 305 active, connected, and moving forward.

Memorial Day will be here before we know it, and the services conducted by Post 305 remain among our most important responsibilities. Participation has been low, and **we respectfully ask members who are able to consider taking part in future services.** There is plenty of time to obtain a uniform and learn what is involved.

Attending the monthly membership meetings is a great way to get started and stay informed. Our Post thrives when members step forward—whether it's helping at events, attending meetings, or considering leadership roles. As we look to the future, Post 305 will need

Legionnaires willing to guide and support our mission of service to veterans and our community.

Together, we keep Post 305 strong.

..... **Brian Stauffer**



FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Greetings to all our members of Unit #305!

The Euchre Tournaments are going great!! We had 15 tables in February. The players are very enthusiastic and enjoy playing at our Post. Next tournament is March 14th. Sign up at noon, play begins at 12:30pm. Buy in is \$10 cash with prizes awarded to the top 3 teams. Please bring a snack to share.

We are excited to announce that we are early in the process of having shirts made for Auxiliary Unit #305. More details will available at our next meeting. Please consider attending. Make sure to mark your calendars for the "Back to the 80's" party to be held Saturday, April 25th. The planning committee is busy getting the details worked out. If you would like to volunteer; it's not too late!! Contact Dar Craven at cravenc50@yahoo.com or 616-581-8807. Let's work together to make this event successful and fun for our Legion family and community. Do you have your 80's outfit together yet???

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR FUDRAISER: Rada Cutlery. It's best to order online <http://www.radafundraising.com>. The organization that you want to support is Caledonia American Legion Auxiliary #305. We get 40% from all orders to help our Vets!! Call Lori Trutsch at 616-581-6918 with any questions. Our next Auxiliary meeting will be held March 11th. Happy Hour at 5:30pm, meeting begins at 6:30pm.

Thank you all for your support of our American Legion #305. God bless you, our Veterans and Military!!

..... **Dar Craven**



FROM THE POST MANAGER

Hi everyone.

What a change in weather we have had. It's great to see the sun in the sky. February was another busy month at 305. The start of our fish fry's, a few hall rentals and our usual activities make a fun place to hang out. We welcomed the 5th district Jr Auxiliary members for a Poppy party as well as Life Line Screening. I hope everyone took advantage of what we have to offer.

March has a few more activities than last month. Of course, Fish Fry's every Friday in March tend to bring a big crowd. This is a great fundraiser for the Post and takes a ton of Volunteers to make happen. You are appreciated!! Our Commander is hosting a Veterans Outreach event that could change Veterans lives. Tell your Veteran friends and family to mark March 12. The ALR is hosting a Corn Hole/Chili contest on the 21st.

Our kitchen continues to outdo themselves. The food they are putting out is the best around. They are working hard to keep things fresh and new for our members. You may have noticed some new menu items made from scratch. Let us know what you think. We always appreciate feedback. This is your post!

The BINGO and Trivia nights are getting better and better. More people are coming to trivia and BINGO is standing room only some nights. We have a new cordless microphone system in the lounge that helps with the many events in there. This was a no cost addition to our Jukebox. Queen of Hearts is going strong. We are drawing every Tuesday night. You can buy tickets all week and you do not need to be present to win.

Other happenings: Breakfast is the 7th; Euchre Tournament is the 14th; Burrito Day is on the 19th; Blood Drive on the 23rd. Thank you to all of our members that are proudly showing their card when asked. We truly appreciate each of you! Check out the calendar and get involved. Thank you all for supporting 305.

Peace and happiness to all.

..... **Tom Hyde**

BRICK WALL OF SUPPORT

Bricks may be purchased by anyone wishing to show support of our Post, you do not need to be a member of the Legion, SAL or Auxiliary. Bricks may also be purchased in memory of friends or family who have or are serving in the military. Call the Post at 616-891-1882 for details.

Use the QR code below to donate to the post!



FROM THE SAL COMMANDER

Hello SAL Members,

Well, it's that time of year, the fish fry's started on February 20 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm or until the fish are gone. If you haven't volunteered in the past please think about it. I would like to give a shout out to Dan Nelson for his effort on getting the ice cream working and saving the post a great deal of money.

This year's roadside cleanup will be Saturday April 18th. Would sure like to see some new faces at this event. Coffee and donuts at 8:45am at the post. April 10th will be the SAL steak fry so mark your calendar. Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership and if you haven't it's never too late.

..... **David Shellenbarger**



FROM THE ALR DIRECTOR

Spring is coming soon and we are ready to ride! We have many rides already planned for 2026 and all the information is available on www.alr305mi.com. This website provides all the information about upcoming riders events as well as Legion events. It informs you about what we are involved in, and our mission as the Post 305 Riders. We look forward to sponsoring events and helping out with the Legion events this year. We have grown to over 50 riders in the past year and are always looking for new members to join and we are open to others who want to ride and help in supporting the Veteran community.

On March 21st we are doing our annual Spring Fling Chili cookoff and Cornhole tournament. Everyone is welcome to participate in either event. The reigning champions say they cannot be beat this year. So, bring in your best chili recipe and practice up playing bags to help support us and the Legion as well. On September 12th we are having the 5th annual Wally Run. Come in and support us and keep the legacy of our past members going as well as support our mission to help us raise funds for our mission of providing veterans with service dogs.

The meaning of life is the exhaustion of passion and the beginning of wisdom, meaning that when we exhaust all the wonderful things on earth, we become very wise. Life is a passionate moment. Yesterday is history; tomorrow is the future. Today is a gift--that is why it is called the present.

..... **Mark K. Winterburn**