# *Caledonia American Legion Memorial Post 305*

## Serving Our Veterans, Their Families and the Community

## OCTOBER 2026

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**FROM THE LEGION COMMANDER**

American Legion Family,

I'm pleased to share some wonderful news regarding our parking lot renovation project. The Michigan Department of Military & Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has increased our grant award, and it now covers the full cost of the parking lot renovation.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone whose hard work got this project completed on time, and to every member who donated toward the cost of the lot and to our SAL for fronting half of the money so that we could submit our reimbursement requests to the DMVA. Your generosity and commitment to our Post made a real difference.

This project has made a meaningful difference for our Post. The newly repaved lot has significantly improved safety and accessibility for our veterans, their families, and the local community members who rely on our facility for services, events, and everyday visits. Many of our veterans face mobility challenges, and a smooth, well-maintained lot makes a real difference in their ability to access our building with dignity and ease. We are deeply appreciative of the DMVA's continued partnership with Post 305 and its commitment to supporting the veteran community across Michigan.

To those who donated: with the grant now covering the full project cost, the e-board will be reviewing other important facility projects within the Post where we can put any excess donations to good use. We will keep membership informed as those projects move forward.

I also want to encourage everyone to take part in our upcoming events. Join us for our annual Pulaski Days Polish Dinner on October 2nd, and mark your calendars for our largest fundraiser of the year, Operation Help-A-Vet, taking place October 17th at the Barry County Fairgrounds. We're also looking for volunteers to support our next Texas Hold-Em event, running October 8th–11th — sign-up sheets are available in the lounge.

Our next Legionnaires general membership meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7th @ 7:30 PM, with dinner served at 7:00 PM. Thank you again for your generosity and your dedication to our Post.

.....***Scott Baldwin***

**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

Good day, fellow Auxiliary Members!!

Here we are already in October, and fall is upon us! Where has the time gone? I would first like to say “Thank You” for the wonderful attendance and support at our last meeting. Your encouragement and willingness to be there meant more to me than you know. You all helped me get through my first hurdles in more ways than I can express, and I truly appreciate each and every one of you.

Many topics and upcoming events are marked on the Post calendar. Euchre has started with a nice turnout for the first month! Please spread the news that Euchre is held every 3rd Saturday of the month. Sign-up begins at 11:45 a.m., and cards will start promptly at 12:30 p.m. sharp. The entry fee is $10.00 per person.

Our Children’s Halloween Party is scheduled for October 25, 2026, from 1:00–3:00 p.m. Please contact Meg Sallese if you are able to volunteer for this event. Our Children’s Christmas Party is scheduled for December 12, 2026, for our Legion Family and guests. Please contact Penny Overholt if you are able to volunteer for this event.

Membership cards are in and available in our lounge. The current membership dues are $40.00 per year. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2026. Happy Hour is at 5:30 p.m., and our meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. sharp.

Please bring your ideas and fundraising ideas to the meeting so we can continue to make our Post one of a kind!! God Bless each and every one of you, our Veterans, and our Military!!

With appreciation,

.....***Tammy Gehl***

**FROM THE SAL COMMANDER**

Hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather and football season. The 2027 SAL Membership cards are now available at the Post. See the bartenders to receive them. There will be no steak dinner this fall, but we will be hosting one on April 2, 2027. The Legion is hosting their biggest fundraiser (Operation Help-A-Vet) at the Barry County EXPO Center on Saturday, October 17. There will be many raffle opportunities and live auction items to bid on. If anyone is interested in attending this event or would like to donate anything, please contact Rick Lameyer at (616) 291-1701.

Our next membership meeting will be on Monday, October 12 with social hour and free pizza starting at 6:30pm and the meeting starting at 7pm. We welcome all members to join us.

.....***SAL Board***

**FROM THE ALR DIRECTOR**

The transition from summer to fall is a beautiful, tragic reminder that we must now trade in our beach towels for leaf blowers…but the riding season is far from over and there's lots ahead! Give your bike a once-over to make sure everything is tight--as the temperature drops, parts contract…and parts already loose tend to fall off.

Every year September brings us two important events…First, The Honor Cruise recognizes families who lost a loved one in military service and supports veteran relief efforts across West Michigan. On the 11th, we rode from the Boat and Canoe Club to elementary, middle and high school campuses all over Grand Rapids to show support for our fallen servicemembers and to remind our youngest generation that the freedoms they enjoy are not to be taken lightly…they are a precious gift that come at a great cost. The event was a huge success.

The second event, the main event, happened the very next day on the 12th. The 2026 Wally Run was a record-breaking success with 122 total participants on 101 bikes stretching for over one mile down the road. We stopped at Post 298 in Battle Creek, Post 42 in Charlotte and the Shamrock Tavern in Freeport (Wally's favorite watering hole). Over the next year, proceeds from the event will go a long way for local charities serving veterans in the West Michigan area.

Lions football season is here and the Riders are sponsoring Sunday games that start at 1:00pm and 4:25pm with doors opening prior to kickoff. A partial menu and drinks will be available at the bar. We are continuing our Thursday night get together and will ride as long as the weather permits (usually well into October). Everyone is welcome to join us at 5:00pm.

I'd rather be a rider for a minute, than a spectator for a lifetime.

Sincerely,

.....***Alex F. DeVoe***

***FROM THE POST MANAGER***

Hello Members.

It feels like fall in the air. I hope everyone had a great summer. We were busy in September. We had 12 events in the hall. Including the Wally Ride and a couple 5th district events. Great to have the 5th district Legion and Auxiliary here.

October is filling up fast. Starting with the Polish Meal on the 2nd, Community breakfast on the 3rd, Operation Help-A-Vet on the 17th, plus a few Celebrations of life, Kids Halloween party and more.

With our cleaning lady out on a medical leave, we have had a few members step up and do the work. Thanks to all of you that have helped keep our building clean and fresh.

Also, thanks to everyone that has helped with the lawn care this year. We appreciate all you do for 305. As you may have noticed there are a couple new faces around here. We continue to add some part-time people to keep our lounge and kitchen running smoothly for our members. Please help welcome them!

We are looking into our menu and changing things up a bit. We have heard everything you are telling us and we are working toward improvement. Watch for updates, check out the calendar and get involved. It takes all of us to keep this place the best place in town!!

As always, talk to me if you have concerns or accolades for our team. Thank you all for supporting 305. Peace and happiness to all.

.....***Tom Hyde***

Polish Meal Fundraiser Friday Oct.2. Noon until 7PM or gone. Open to Public $15, fresh Kielbasa, Golumpki (Cabbage Roll), Pierogies (Potato & Cheese Dumplings), Kapusta (Sauerkraut) Rye Bread. Proceeds benefit Community Rebuilders Homeless Veterans Program. Prizes include $500 Meijer shopping spree, Lowes craftsman toolbox & tool set, Airbnb getaway, Blackstone griddle, 4 burner gas grill/air fryer, & 50-inch smart tv.

**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 and help pay for post projects!