

National Legion Head Speaks At State Meeting

Commander Johnson Says Economy League Would Increase Veterans' Sufferings

Representatives from more than half of the American Legion Posts in the 17th District attended the conference of Michigan Post and Auxiliary officers in Saginaw Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4. More than 800 officers and delegates from the entire state were at the meeting.

Probably the outstanding event of the conference was the appearance of National Commander Louis A. Johnson, who in the afternoon, he criticized the National Economy League, declared for the payment of the cash bonus but against another bonus army march, and announced that the Legion is opening a national campaign to force Congress to maintain the National Defense Act of 1920.

"Mistaken Economy"
The National Economy League is attempting to "increase" the suffering of disabled veterans through a mistaken idea of economy, Commander Johnson asserted. Federal taxes, from which payments to veterans are made, are "a mere drop in the bucket," while state and local taxes constitute the major proportion of the burden against which the League complains, he pointed out.

"As a member of the rank and file of the Legion," Commander Johnson favors immediate cash payment of the bonus, but he warned that another bonus march would inevitably defeat the things the Legion seeks from Congress. Not only did the National Commander assert that the reduction threatened by Congress of the appropriations for the Army and Navy would imperil their efficiency, but also, he said, the reduction would be "close to a national catastrophe."

The plan now before the Budget Commission would in effect reduce the National Guard by one-half and eliminate the R. O. T. C. and the C. M. T. C., he said.

A warning against Communism was issued by Commander Johnson.

State Commander Presides
State Commander John W. Gilmore of Detroit presided over the conference sessions. Mrs. S. A. Blackburn of Kentucky, National Auxiliary president, took an active part in the two-day meeting and spoke Sunday.

A state-wide Americanism program was begun Monday, December 5, as a result of the conference. "Buy American-Manufactured Goods" will be the slogan of the campaign, advertising for which will be distributed throughout Michigan by unemployed veterans.

The importance of increased membership was stressed at the conference.

GROVES-WALKER REMITTS ALL DUES FOR PAST YEARS

Members In Arrears May Be Re-instated By Paying For Current Year

All dues still delinquent from past years have been cancelled by Groves-Walker Post, No. 346, American Legion of Farmington. This action was voted by the executive committee of the Legion Post, in recognition of present economic conditions, which have made many members unable to keep up their dues.

By this ruling, which permits members in arrears to become re-instated on payment of the current year's dues, the work of Myron "Mike" Carrier, chairman of the membership committee, is expected to be aided considerably.

Members who want to take advantage of the relief offered by this plan are urged to get in touch with Mr. Carrier for a full explanation of it.

Groves-Walker gave a successful feather party November 21, and is planning another for December 19.

ADDITIONAL NEWS ON PAGE FOUR

Turn to page four of this issue for additional news of Veterans' Organizations of the Seventeenth District.

Mrs. Lida Murphy Has Record Of Real Service In Auxiliary



MRS. LIDA MURPHY

Mrs. Lida F. Murphy, committeewoman for the newly formed 17th District American Legion Auxiliary, has behind her a record of real service in the Lloyd H. Green Unit No. 147 of Northville. Mrs. Murphy, who is the wife of Charles F. Murphy, has been sergeant at arms, first and second vice president, and president of the Northville Auxiliary.

Serving on the Northville Rehabilitation Committee, she assisted in caring for 40 ex-service men at Maybury Sanitarium and as president she placed the service basket at Maybury for the pleasure of the boys.

This year she took a home-made birthday cake to each of the 40 men in the Sanitarium on his birthday, and brought 2,500 magazines.

She was elected Alternate Committeewoman for the Sixth District at the last convention, but resigned when the new 17th District was formed.

Cook-Nelson Aids In Finding Jobs

Pontiac Legion Post Has Numerous Activities For Winter Months

All committee chairman of Cook-Nelson American Legion Post of Pontiac have submitted reports of the year's activities which will aid materially in writing up the Post history.

Comrade Lyle Taylor, appointed chairman of the second annual emergency fund drive, reports that \$5,872.33 is paid to ex-service men in Oakland County for various claims every month, which means more than \$70,000 annually and a big saving to taxpayers, as this amount is derived from federal taxes.

Comrade McDonald is putting forth an unusual amount of energy in the various activities of our post and showing a great interest, especially with reference to the welfare of the veteran. His appointments to various committees are complete, and a meeting of all committees was held at the Legion Home on Auburn Avenue Monday, November 28, beginning with a supper at 6 o'clock. This was the formal launching of the post's activities for the year. All officers and executive committee members were present.

Vice-Commander Hopps is working out plans for a membership drive which should prove successful. Twenty-three members will be entitled to special Round-Up buttons for having their dues paid by November 12 during the Aerial Round-up. Memberships were picked by special plane at the Pontiac airport. The buttons will be received by the Adjutant later.

Comrade Ben Smith has been appointed chairman of the employment committee and is laying plans to get some results. This is a big job, but he is tackling it without any if or ands. He will meet with the employment managers of Pontiac as a first attempt to see what can be done.

Comrade MacDonald is more interested in the work of this committee than in any other, as if a veteran has a job, it means more interest in post activities and bigger membership as well. The Drum and Bugle Corps paraded at Both Pontiac and Birmingham. There was a very fine parade of all veterans' and civic organizations on Armistice Day.

A big feather party was held and some fine birds were taken away for Thanksgiving dinners. The second clothing drive was attempted on the post Saturday, November 26. Comrades appointed were Koehler, Cole, Osborn, Smith, Fox, and Walton. They divided up the city into territories.

The post placed second in Michigan in post activities and community service, according to a communication received from National Headquarters. A merit award citation certificate will be awarded the post, with official presentation being made by the Department officer.

Plans are being made for a show to be put on before spring. It has been announced by Comrade DeCamp of the entertainment committee.

Comrade Baylavian has returned from the Great Lakes Naval Academy.

D. A. V. Hits At Economy League

Says Veterans Can Thank Organizations For Getting Compensation

By M. H. Fridmoch, Adjutant, Pontiac Chapter

D. A. V. W. W. Pontiac Chapter No. 16, Disabled American Veterans of the World War, being well aware of the activities of President Hoover's Economy League in its efforts to reduce and eliminate the benefits to disabled veterans by the government, is making a determined effort to acquaint the veterans of this district with the facts. The Pontiac Chapter of the D. A. V. has potential members of 73 disabled veterans. Many of these veterans do not belong to nor are they affiliated with any veterans' organization.

The disabled veteran who is receiving compensation from his government partners does not realize that he is receiving these benefits, not because of a grateful government, but because his comrades in various veterans' organizations have, for years, seen the need for aid. These organizations have fought and won many proper legislation. The disabled veteran should lend his aid, to whatever extent it might be by becoming a member of the Disabled American Veterans of the World War. This organization has been conceived and extended solely for his benefit.

The Disabled American Veterans of the World War is a national organization, and recognized by act of the Congress of the United States. Its officers are in constant touch with Congress at Washington, and know at all times the sentiment of that legislative body. These national officers have informed us, through the D. A. V. publication and by communication, that now more than ever, does the disabled veteran face drastic cuts or entire elimination of his compensation.

There is only one way to offset this; by the help of every man available and eligible to membership. In addition, the D. A. V. is responsible for the enactment of the law giving the disabled veteran an added five per cent and a preference on all civil service examinations. The organization has worked diligently and effectively in finding employment in other channels.

Chairman Kirby, of the National Disabled Veterans of the World War legislative committee, has digested the legislative program for the coming session of congress, as follows, so far as amendments to the World War Veterans Act has been seen fit to conduct a membership drive at this time of which the results to date are highly gratifying. Clifford Starkweather, of 320 Fremont Street, Pontiac, has been designated as captain of membership team, while Peter L. Lagassey, of 892 Stanley, Pontiac is Captain of the opposing team. All potential members of the disabled American Veterans are requested to get in touch with

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Sims Censured By Eastern Man For Statements

Says "Steal" He Refers To Is Act Of Congress Similar To One Giving Sims Pension

Charging Admiral Sims with implying that Spanish War veterans are receivers of stolen property, a Rhode Island veteran announced statements by the National Economy League man in a letter to the Newport, Rhode Island, Mercury.

The communication follows:

To the Editor of the Mercury: Admiral Sims has been quoted twice recently in your paper as referring to Spanish War Veterans legislation as a "steal." In fact, he classifies these veterans as thieves or receivers of stolen property, in this instance, government funds.

Rear Admiral Charles M. Thomas, Camp No. 3, United Spanish War Veterans of this city, whose membership includes many citizens, resents any such characterization, and might with more accuracy and truth apply the shorter and uglier title to the gallant admiral whose zeal for economy has led him on his latest crusade for publicity.

Here are the facts: The "steal" he so blatantly refers to, is an act of congress granting pensions to men who served in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States from April 1898 to July 4, 1902, being the period covered by the Spanish war, China relief expedition and Philippine insurrection. By act of Congress of the United States, he receives from the government a substantial income each month.

Both these acts are entirely legal, yet according to the admiral one is just a "rank steal." To the average man, and particularly to the veteran, it seems illogical. He is an admiral educated by the government, who as an officer drew a substantial salary for 40 years, and now receives \$6000 retired pay per annum.

The average Spanish war veteran was the enlisted man who served one or more enlistments in a period during which the Spanish war occurred. He usually received from \$9 to \$20 per month. He received his "undiminished" or "unearned" pay in those far-off days, and now he is allotted by the government a pension varying in amount from \$20 to \$60 per month on account of disability, whether or not he incurred an injury.

Behold the thief, according to Admiral Sims. We present the admiral as the super-patriot.

A few other examples of super-patriots on the roll of the leaders of the Economy League may interest the taxpayers for whom they express such a tender solicitude:

Admiral Byrd, \$5000 per annum. General Harbord, \$6000 per annum. General Pershing, \$21,500 per annum.

Comparisons are odious, but the greater outlay on behalf of this group of economists than would pay the maximum pension to 400 veterans of the Spanish war.

For Rear Admiral Charles M. Thomas Camp, No. 3 United Spanish War Veterans.

JAMES O'BRIEN, Adjutant

ASK MEMBERS TO CHRISTMAS PARTY AT LEGION BILLET

Santa Claus Will Distribute Gifts To Children At Other Lake

All members of the 17th District are invited to attend the party at the Otis Lake Billet Auditorium Sunday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m. It is announced by District Committeewoman Lida F. Murphy, Santa Claus will be there, to make it a real Christmas for the children.

The auditorium has been remodeled and is warm and comfortable, but there will be no place to serve a lunch, so those attending are asked to eat before coming to the Billet.

The gifts must be at the Billet not later than December 14. All units sending presents are asked to have their packages marked with their names, so that Miss Kennedy will have no difficulty giving credit for donations.

NOTICE ATTENTION UNIT PRESIDENTS

The 17th District welfare chairman is: Mrs. Leah MacGregor, Birmingham, Michigan.

The 17th District Rehabilitation chairman is: Mrs. Grace Brownell, Rochester, Michigan.

In order to receive credit for things sent to either the Billet or Legion Hospital, please notify these chairmen.

Mrs. Hattie DeVriendt of Farmington is the new publicity chairman. I would like all units to send notices of interest to her for publication in the Oakland Veteran.

Mrs. Lida Murphy, 17th District Committeewoman.

4 Legion Posts Given Citations

Successful November District Meeting Is Held At Plymouth

National citations were presented four posts at the 17th District Legion meeting November 25 in Plymouth. The posts and the Auxiliaries joined for this meeting, which was very successful from every point of view.

Commander Harry Barnes and State Officers of the Legion and Auxiliary were present at the gathering, which was topped off by a banquet at the Hotel Mayflower.

Posts which received the citation for Americanization work were Pontiac, Hazel Park, Rochester, and Northville. Ben Smith was appointed District Employment Chairman by Committeewoman Joseph MacGregor.

The next meeting will be December 30 at Hazel Park, for the Posts-only. The next joint meeting will be at Pontiac in January.

NORTHVILLE POSTS ARMISTICE AFFAIR IS SOCIAL SUCCESS

Work In Conjunction With Central Welfare Committee To Aid Needy

The Annual Armistice Day dance held by Lloyd H. Green Post of Northville on the evening of November 11 was again a big social success. All present danced to the strains of the tunes of "Chick" Miller's orchestra into the wee hours of the morning, with added features to keep them interested every moment. Sad to say, the crowd was not large enough to make the taxpayers feel financial success, but the good time enjoyed will be an advertisement for next year, when we hope to balance the dance budget.

This Post is working in conjunction with the Northville Central Welfare committee during the winter. We have made several cash donations into the fund and when our treasury permits are ready and willing to supply more. We are also ready to make any assistance available in making any money making or raising plan a success.

In the mean time we will not see a veteran suffer and will seek to continue this work among needy veterans regardless of whether the central organization acts or not.

The loyal Auxiliary of this Post have just shipped barrels of home canned fruit to the Billet and American Legion hospital. On Armistice Day each buddy in the sanatoriums around Northville received a generous helping of good things to eat and smoke. Every time one of these men has a birthday he receives a home-baked birthday cake. The ambition of the Unit is to give and spread sunshine. Do we appreciate this loyal band of big hearted women? Think it over, comrade.

Additional Veterans' News On Page Four Of This Issue

Propose Bigger Army And Navy At V. F. W. Meet

Criticize Economy League At Annual State Convention In Lansing

Congressional appropriations to increase the Army and Navy, the chief item in their program for preparedness, were proposed by officials of the Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars and unanimously approved by the 500 delegates who attended the annual convention in Lansing Saturday and Sunday, December 3 and 4.

Unless a naval construction program is started at once, the United States will be the third naval power in the world by 1936, the resolution stated. In asking for "ample provision for a suitable Army," the veterans stated that the country never before has had less reason to expect war.

Another resolution opposed the program of the National Economy League for a reduction of \$452,000,000 in the expenditures for veterans' compensation. It declared that if the Federal aid to former soldiers and their widows is drastically reduced, the welfare demands on the local governments will be increased proportionately.

Visit Home
An inspection trip to the National V. F. W. Home at Eaton Rapids was on the program for Sunday, Robert C. Woodside of Pittsburgh, president of the home, was present. There was a general meeting at 1:30. A banquet in the evening closed the meeting.

Other state and national officers, present besides Mr. Woodside, were Robert Handy, Kansas City, Missouri, National Adjutant-General; George K. Brobeck, Minneapolis, National Inspector-General; and W. W. Waukena, Akron, Ohio, Commander of the Ohio Department; and Carl J. Schoeninger, Detroit, Commander of the Michigan Department.

HAZEL PARK POST AUXILIARY PLANS MANY ACTIVITIES

Campbell Auxiliary Is Only One To Exceed Membership Quota

The William H. Campbell American Legion Post Auxiliary of Hazel Park met at Mrs. Campbell's home, 1304 E. Pearl Street, September 12. Officers for the coming year elected were: President, Mrs. Lavina Campbell; Secretary, Mrs. Emma Childers; Vice-president, Mrs. Effie Foster; Treasurer, Mrs. Marie Deveau; Chaplain, Mrs. Margaret Shisler; Publicity Director, Mrs. Fern Roberts, and Sergeant-at-Arms, Mrs. Wheeler.

On September 29, the Auxiliary met at Mrs. Childers' home, 23361 Couzens Avenue. Mrs. Leah MacGregor and Mrs. Bailey of Birmingham were our guests. Mrs. MacGregor, the district committee woman, installed the new officers. After the meeting, a light lunch was served and an enjoyable time was had by all.

On October 12 six of the Auxiliary members, Mrs. Deveau, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Farnsworth, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Foster and Mrs. Childers went to Otter Lake, the Legion's Billet for children whose parents are unable to care for them. They took with them a box of canned goods containing fruits and vegetables. They were given a hearty welcome and shown the cottages and buildings on the grounds.

On October 25 the Auxiliary met at Mrs. Campbell's home. Mrs. Farnsworth is the first new member of this year. Mrs. Helen Cornish was also present. After the meeting, pop-corn was served.

On October 28 four of the Auxiliary members went to Holly, Michigan to a party given in honor of the incoming officers of the Department of Michigan. The tables were decorated with flags and candles of red, white and blue. A nice dinner was served, after which we sang songs about the different officers present, which Mrs. Haggerty had composed. A lovely program was arranged and each officer gave a speech. Mrs. Thelma Bailey received a diamond studded Past-President pin and the other officers, a floral tribute. Gold Star Mothers were also honored with a corsage. Wonderful time was had by all. The (Continued on page four)