

THE BUGLER SUMMER 2019

2019-2020 Officers

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Publicity Chair - Elizabeth LaPouttre

Historian – Judy Flynn

Foster Closet of Bay City

The Foster Closet, which services the Bay-Saginaw area spoke with us regarding the great need foster families face for their foster children during the Operation Little Angel presentation at June Convention. We were able to gift them with many useful items to aid their families in providing basic needs and comforting measures when children are put into placement. There are many foster closets around the state. If you are interested in your unit collaborating with a local foster closet, please visit them online at <https://fosterclasetofmichigan.org/> to see what blessings your local foster closet might be in need of.

“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.” - **Kalu Ndukwe Kalu**

Publicity Chair

Elizabeth LaPouttre

Semper Fidelis Ladies! Some of you know who I am, others do not. I thought that I would introduce myself and let you know how I can help your unit this year. I first joined the auxiliary at the age of 16 in 1999, mostly because my mother, grandmother, and grandfather insisted upon it and paid my joining fee. As soon as I was in college my unit gave me responsibilities as Chaplain. I had a lot of learning about the auxiliary to complete my new title effectively and as I reflect back upon my college years, I probably could have done a better job at my title. However, my unit continued to put their faith into my abilities, gave me encouragement monthly, and I never felt criticized or that I wasn't doing a good job. I am eternally grateful for their grace and patience with me. I remember as a young college student the rituals, meeting structures, and conventions seemed so foreign and intimidating. I felt like a fish out of water, definitely like an outsider. However, I was welcomed with open arms and continually included. And here we are today, 20 years later. I have had a lot of changes in my life since my first meeting. I have not always kept my membership active these past 20 years due to various reasons. However, the single MOST important reason I am a 2016 charter member of the Edson Kline VanSlyke Unit in Bay City is because this organization and the ladies in it has always made me feel a part of the group, I have always felt welcomed if I showed up at a convention and was always met with a smile or a hug. I am proud and honored to serve the Department as Publicity Chair. I hope that throughout this next year I can inspire you to view your unit and the community it serves with fresh eyes and a renewed spirit. I can help implement social media presence, brainstorm ideas for becoming more visible in your community, submit articles to your local newspapers, share ideas with other units in this publication, and showcase a project or event your unit is hosting. I am excited to serve you and am hoping to get to know a few of you better. You can contact me at 989-545-8798 or send an email to: mrs.lapouttre@gmail.com

Growth.....A time for Planting.

As we move into the growing season and begin cultivating our vegetables and beautiful flowers, please remember that your unit needs to grow as well. Growth can sometimes be trying, as is exhibited with this year's spring and early summer having cooler than normal soil temperatures, rain, storms, and lack of sunshine, and then extreme heat and humidity in July. As we face obstacles in our state regarding produce, many obstacles are being faced by organizations everywhere in the growth department. It is a sad reality that the MCLA is dwindling every year. We MUST think outside the box of our traditional recruiting efforts in order to grow, maintain, and continue the great work of our auxiliaries throughout the state and nation. It has come to a time that perhaps our focus should be shifted from asking "How can I recruit more members?" and rather to answering the question, "How can my unit gain visibility in our community?" I believe there are multiple answers to this question, but I believe we must think in a non-traditional manner. I truly believe that visibility in your community through positive interactions with the public will be a recruiting tool in and of itself. Do good deeds, have fun for a cause, and people will want to be a part of it naturally. I will list a few ideas and hope you consider trying at least one or two... Because after all, if you never try you have already failed.

*Are you **VISIBLE** in **YOUR** community?*

Host an open house or picnic for military bound high school graduates and their families. Offer to send their soldier cards of encouragement (you never know if you will run into a Marine Mom!)

Run a craft show as a fundraiser...low on volunteers? Collaborate with another military organization and split the profits.

Create a small scholarship or award in your local area and have students in middle school or high school write an essay on how they plan to become active and involved citizens in their community

Contact your local high school when you have fundraisers and see if any students are interested in gaining volunteer hours for scholarships or graduation requirements

Support other military or community organization's fundraising efforts by showing up! Wear your MCLA Logo Shirt and Pin!