



BADGER



LEGIIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 99 #4 | AUG 2022

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The Mission of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin is to provide service to veterans, their families and their communities.

DEPARTMENT HOLDS 103RD CONVENTION IN GREEN BAY



The 103rd Department Convention was held July 13-17 in Green Bay. We were honored to award many well deserving recipients including:

(Top row l-r) EMT of the year Vanessa Marrat of the Saukville Fire Department, EMT Division, Law & Order Winner Captain Matthew Spence of the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department, Firefighter of the year Captain Scott Thimm of the Ashland Fire Department.

Middle row (l-r) newly elected 3rd District Commander Jerry Hook received the Joseph R. Meeks Gung-Ho Award, Geraldine Perry received the DVOP Employment Award for her work with veterans and will also be recognized on stage at the National Convention in Milwaukee for her efforts, and Outstanding Enlisted National Guard/Reservist of the year SSG Gerald D. Gerber of Argyle.

Attendees also enjoyed some powerful and inspiring speakers including: (l-r) WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar, National SAL Commander Michael Fox, and Brigadier General Robyn J. Blader.

Saturday's Elections were held and the delegates elected the following 2022-2023 Officers:

- Julie Muhle, Department Commander
- Jeff Zwiers, Department Vice Commander (Districts 6, 8, 9)
- Karl Stuvengen, Department Vice Commander (Districts 1, 2, 7)
- John Polzin, Department Vice Commander (Districts 10, 11, 12)
- Harold Rihn, Department Vice Commander (Districts 3, 4, 5)
- John Berg, Department Sergeant at Arms
- Robert Shappell, National Executive Committeeman
- Frank Kostka, Alternate National Executive Committeeman

Radke wins 2022 Pride and Patriotism Sweepstakes

Department of Wisconsin's grand prize winner, drawn at Department Convention, is Douglas Radke. Douglas is a member of Post 53 in Eau Claire. He served in the Army – Tank Company, Troop A, 2nd Recognizance, 105 cav. 32nd Division. While serving he spent time at Ft. Lewis, Ft. Irwin, and the Yakima Firing Center in Washington. Douglas joined The American Legion because his friend Ralph Gettinger recruited him. He is a retired Conservation Warden and has been married to his wife Barbara since 1976, and they have one son and one daughter. (Please see the rest of the sweepstakes winners below.)

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

2022 PRIDE AND PATRIOTISM SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

PRIZE	DESCRIPTION	NAME/CITY
GRAND PRIZE	\$10,000 Cash	Douglas Radke – Eau Claire
2nd PRIZE	\$5,000 Cash	Ruth Henkelman – Wausau
3rd PRIZE	\$2,500 Cash	Al Jorgenson – Balsam Lake
4th PRIZE	\$1,000 Cash	Ann Lotter – Oconto Falls
5th PRIZE	\$500 Cash	Myron Loberger – Appleton
6th PRIZE	\$500 Cash	Robert Roth – Brookfield
7th PRIZE	\$250 Cash	Thomas Wanta – Eau Claire
8th PRIZE	\$250 Cash	Steven Axtman – Medford

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Executive Editor
Jen Swenson

2022-23 Department Officers
Department Commander
Julie Muhle

Department Vice Commanders
Jeffery Zwiers
Karl Stuvengen
John Polzin
Harold Rihn

Department Adjutant
Nathan Gear

Department Chaplain
John Gessner

Sergeant-At-Arms
Jeremy Nordie
John Berg

Service Officer - **James Fialkowski**
NECman - **Robert Shappell**
Alternate NECman - **Frank Kostka**
Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

District Commanders
1st - Nathan Bond
2nd - Jim Johnson
3rd - Jerry Hook
4th - Linda Pfeiffer
5th - Craig Ellis
6th - Gail Minks
7th - Phil Green
8th - Adam Klapperich
9th - Debbie Thomas
10th - Larry Larson
11th - Gerry Johnson
12th - Scott Markle

Subscribers: To report any upcoming changes of address, please ask your Post Adjutant to fill out a Membership Data Form and forward it to Wisconsin American Legion Headquarters. The change of address form that will be completed by the Post Adjutant should not be confused with the change of address card filled out at the Post Office. Department financial statements are available to Legionnaires in good standing upon written request through their District Commanders.

“Wisconsin”

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin**
2930 American Legion Drive
P.O. Box 140 • Portage, WI 53901
Bonnie Dorniak, Editor
Linda Coppock, Department President
Bonnie Dorniak, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

To change your address: Notify Unit Secretary
Unit Secretary: Notify Department
Headquarters on a Member Change Form

The “Wisconsin” deadline for copy is
4 weeks before publication date.



Julie Muhle
Department
Commander

I want to start out by thanking everyone who helped me in my journey to Department Commander. A special thank you to my daughter, Liz, SAL 2nd District Commander Jeremy Mason and Washington County Commander Joe Leone. You helped make my hospitality rooms successful with all the work you put into it. You are all awesome.

This year my theme is Keys to Success – Back to Basics. I chose Keys to Success because The American Legion offers so many keys for success as a veterans organization – our programs, people, education and communication. We will be working on each of these areas this year.

One of my goals is 100% membership. It can be done. Joe Roberts, a 203% Post Commander, has agreed to be my Membership Chair. We will



Nathan Gear
Department
Adjutant

Hello Friends, Families, and Legionnaires,
The Department of Wisconsin had a outstanding 103rd Department Convention with our American Legion Family. I enjoyed speaking with so many passionate Legion Family members, leaving me exhilarated to serve with you. Our HQ’s Team put together an amazing event, to include several headline speakers that work specifically with veterans from the front lines. If you haven’t had an opportunity to attend or be elected as a delegate, make sure to plan ahead at next year’s 104th Department Convention in Wausau, WI.

Our HQ’s Team is looking forward to FY23. This includes working with our newly elected



David Fuller
SAL Detachment
Commander

I am beginning my second year as Detachment Commander. When I was elected last year, I made training and communication a priority in an attempt to recreate interest in the inner workings and activities of the Squadrons and Detachment. Chris Sherman took on the duties of Training Officer and Allen Watry did the same as Communication Officer, since then Chris has held a number of training sessions mostly at individual posts with nothing but good reviews. Allen created a Detachment newsletter and had it in print and delivered in just one month. I could not be more proud of the dedication and efforts shown by these two men.

The year of 2022 did create some interesting roadblocks mostly because of COVID, and all of the restrictions that it created. We all know that as an organization we suffered greatly because of it and we still struggle to recover from it. I am very happy to tell you that the officers of the Detachment of Wisconsin, the District Commanders and Squadron Commanders have done a terrific job at recovering our membership. At the close of membership this year the total Sons membership was at 105% of last year’s membership total. In addition to that we also added 5 new Squadrons. Things are looking GOOD for the future of the Sons. I would like to invite all

★★★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★★★

be back to doing membership rallies. When I was Membership Chair, we did membership rallies and the Districts that supported them did well. It is a chance to call the 2930 members and get them into a local Post. It is also a chance to help some of the posts that might need a little extra support in making calls.

A best practice of 100% posts is to make frequent contact with their members. My challenge to our posts this year is to do the same. This isn’t as big of a project as it seems. Let’s start with a post that has 150 members. If you can get 10 people to help make calls, this is now 15 members per person per month to call. Break that down by week and it is 4 calls per week per person. Very manageable. Next month, switch up the names so each person is calling someone different! If you have over 150, you could make calls every other week. If you have over 300 members, you could do the calls quarterly. Again, this is a best prac-

tice of 100% posts. Their members pay their dues because they feel informed and like they are a part of the group. I would like to hear from those posts that take up the challenge to let me know how it is working for them.

I will be hosting an open chat session with Post Commanders on August 17 at 6 p.m. and August 20 at 9 a.m. This will give the Post Commanders a chance to ask questions or just have some general discussions. On August 24, at 6 p.m., there will be a Post Commanders course available via Zoom. This will be another opportunity to learn more about the job at hand and more opportunities to succeed. Watch for the link on wilegion.org/legion-college.

I look forward this upcoming year and the successes we will have as a team. Remember to believe that we can succeed! You can be an instrument of change. It starts with ONE. Be the change you want to see!

★★★ DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT ★★★

Department Commander, Julie Muhle, and our newly elected Department Executive Committee Officers. Congratulations Department Officers for your continued leadership and support representing Legion WI. We wish the best of luck to PDC Greg Eirich after his year of “Positive Impact”.

We had an awesome year of working with new partnerships for many of our Legion Programs. I’m excited to share a recent partnership through the Kimberly-Clark (KC) SALUTE Program. We have received several semi-trailer shipments of paper products for all ages. The KC products are distributed to qualifying WI veterans and their families in need statewide. If you are interested in learning more about the SALUTE Program, email info@wilegion.org.

The 50th anniversary American Legion Base-

ball All-Star Game will be held at American Family Field following the Brewers game on August 7. Big shout out to the Wisconsin American Legion Baseball Association Board of Directors and Commissioner Roger Mathison for putting together a memorable 2022 Legion Baseball season.

Our Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) completed another successful year at the Fort McCoy State Patrol Academy with different agencies across the state and country discussing all topics related to the law enforcement field.

Mark your calendars, **September 9-10, 2022 at Columbia County Fairgrounds, 1 Fairgrounds Road, Portage, WI.** 4th Annual Celebration of Freedom is a STATE-WIDE LEGION FAMILY community event that will feature a WWII Traveling Memorial.

★★★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★★★

of the Posts out there that do not have a Squadron to consider sponsoring one. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Detachment Officers to answer any questions and to help you get one started. We have received consolidated squadron reports from 32 squadrons. The amount of donated time, money, and goods have a total dollar value of \$1,404,363 this is what the Sons bring to the Legion. We are not done yet because we will be engaging the Squadrons even more this year.

Our ALF dog program has been more active with four deployments in the past year and that program is in a financially stable state so that we will be able to continue providing comfort to the families of the deployed. The look on the faces of the children that receive them would melt the heart of a stone statue. If you know of a child that ALF could help, please contact our Children and Youth chairman Robert Sirovina.

My Historian, Mike Pook is putting together a scrapbook to enter into the competition at National. Mike is very good at this and his passion shows in his finished product.

Last year the Squadron from Hartland held their 3rd annual sleep-out for homeless veterans which was very well organized. When I heard about Hartland’s fundraiser I called and talked to Mark Pape, who had organized the event, and asked if he would be OK with my Squadron doing the same thing,

Mark was overjoyed with the thought of his idea being expanded. Hartland does their event in February and we do ours in March. At the end of both events the collective total was well over \$100,000 donated to homeless veterans. Both Squadrons are planning on doing it again this year, if you are interested in hosting one, please feel free to contact Mark or myself as we would be happy to help get you started.

Last year the Sons purchased two new laptops to be used by the Adjutant and Assistant Adjutant because of the amount of work it takes to do their jobs as well as sharing of files. We purchased an 8x12 enclosed trailer to store and transport our ALF dogs and meeting equipment. We have had the trailer outfitted with graphics that show our commitment to our veterans, children, and Legion programs. At this point it may seem that I am bragging about what we have done in the past year but that is not the case, I am PROUD of what we have done in the last year. As a team the SONS are able to do so much for the Legion, The Legion family and most importantly our veterans, and we will. As we move forward into the next year, I want to ask all of the Sons to be PROUD. Be PROUD to be a member of the SONS, because of your actions many will benefit.

One last but very important message to you, and on behalf of the Detachment of Wisconsin, I would like to thank each and every veteran for the sacrifices they have made to keep us all safe.



Mary M. Kolar
WDVA
Secretary

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

Greetings! I was so pleased to join many of you in person at your state conventions this year. I enjoyed speaking to both the gathered Legionnaires and the Auxiliary. I look forward to continuing our work together in serving our nation's veterans and their families.

It was wonderful to celebrate the 103 years since the American Legion, and the Auxiliary, were organized to assist veterans. It was so heartening to hear stories from many of you as I walked the halls of the convention about your efforts and volunteer hours you give back to our veterans, families, young people, and local communities.

I was particularly excited to be there with the Auxiliary as I'm a former Badger Girls State delegate. The American Legion Auxiliary will always remain near and dear to my heart. In your home community, as representatives of the American Legion and the Auxiliary, you are more important than ever in our united mission to serve the needs of Wisconsin's veterans, including looking out for the mental health needs of those we love.

Veteran suicide is a crisis we are tackling head on. WDVA is committed to continuing the dialogue surrounding this difficult and important topic. As some of you know, WDVA has held six forums around the

Badger state to get training and tools for anyone concerned about our at-risk veterans. Thank you to all the Legionnaires who attended and learned how you can be a support system for at-risk veterans.

On July 15, I was honored to be at TDS Telecom headquarters in Madison with U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin and DHS Secretary Designee Karen Timberlake as we formally unveiled the new 9-8-8 number for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline. Individuals facing in a personal crisis will no longer need to remember a long ten-digit phone number. Instead, veterans or their families can dial 988, then 1, to get connected with a specialist specifically trained to speak with veterans 24 hours a day. I'm thrilled to see concrete steps to make lifesaving tools like the 988+1 veteran suicide prevention hotline more available to those who are struggling.

Please help spread the word about this new 988+1 veteran support hotline available to you and the veterans in your life. You can also visit 988lifeline.org to learn more. Along with these vital mental health support services, WDVA is proud to partner with organizations who are actively working to improve the lives of Wisconsin veterans.

Congratulations again as you celebrate the 103rd year of Wisconsin's American Legion and your steadfast dedication to always serve our state's veterans. I am grateful for all you do in your goal of serving others who have served.



Lee Roudy
Finance
Director

★★★★ **FINANCE** ★★★★★
DIRECTOR

THANK YOU, AWESOME AND FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS

As we close the financial books on FY2021-2022 and head into the best season, "Audit Season," it is crucial to remember the multitude that Posts, Counties, Districts, Squadrons, and Chapters have accomplished over last year – **in and through YOU, none of it conceivable.**

Legionnaires, Sons, and Riders around Wisconsin, with all the capital outlay improvement projects completed, youth programs won, veteran benefits processed, scholarships awarded, meals served, ball games played, volunteer teams empowered and engaged, monthly meetings held, unclaimed remains interred, Northern Experiences remembered, and the thousands of Legion gatherings on social media – **in and through YOU, none of it possible.**

But yet, it is conceivable for the millions of small acts of kindness demonstrated throughout Wisconsin by the Legion on a daily basis, because we believe in the Mission and know that all things are possible, in and through the hearts and minds of our volunteers.

From the depths of many grateful hearts, thank you, awesome and faithful volunteers for making such a positive impact on those around you – we could not have done it without YOU. May God continue to bless and keep you all.

30-FOOT FINANCIAL TARGET UPDATE

FY2021-2022 Financial Recap, 12 Months Ending June 30, 2022:

- 112.40% of Revenue Budget.
- 95.48% of Expense Budget.
- 3.93% Annualized Time Weighted Return on Temp Restricted Donation Investments.
- 4.90% Annualized Time Weighted Return on Unrestricted Donation Investments.
- \$4.34M in Total Assets.
- \$294K in Total Liabilities.

Considering the bear-market volatility over the past six-months, national-averaged 9.1% CPI inflation rate and 3.6% unemployment rate, the Department has fared better than expected but will need to continue to conserve resources, reduce or cost-share expenses as much as practical, and identify other revenue sources outside membership and direct-mail fundraising in FY2022-2023 to sustain programs and services.

ON THE HORIZON IN FY2022-2023

- Foundation to take the lead on non-Legionnaire fundraising for American Legion Baseball and Troop & Family Support Program.
- Department Fundraising Committee to raise funds for Celebration of Freedom, Junior Shooting Sports, and the Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (WALLECA) through several community fundraising events.
- Department Headquarters to build proper, respectful flag retirement area in memory of Colonel LaVerne H. Griffin, US Air Force Reconnaissance Pilot 1948-1976 sponsored through private donations.

POST 33 PRESENTS COLORS AT NEENAH TOURNAMENT



Neenah American Legion Post 33 recently presented the Colors at the Neenah Baseball Tournament on June 4, at Southview Park. Legion members from left to right are: Bruce Schinke, Bob Borszich, Gene Greening, and Post Commander Mike Dart.

POST 71 GIVES HONOR ON MEMORIAL DAY IN PEWAUKEE



Pewaukee Post 71's Honor Guard giving Honor on Memorial Day in Pewaukee.

"OUR TIME TO SHINE"

July 16, 2022
– WERE YOU THERE? –

The Past Commanders Club (PCC) and Department of Wisconsin give a warm thank you to the American Legion Family and outside guests for attending the Annual Dance on Saturday evening for the Wisconsin State Convention July 16, 2022 at the KI Center in Green Bay. Entertainment was Daddy D Productions, a premier corporate entertainment group of Green Bay. Door prizes, 50/50 raffles, and good ol' camaraderie after COVID marked the success of this event. Introduction of Changing of the Guard (the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders) gave everyone a heads-up on their organization officers for the next year.

PCC looks forward to meeting you at the PCC Annual Meeting at Post 38 Appleton on October 29, the Midwinter Conference in Green Bay January 2023 and the State Convention in Wausau July 2023.



“Surround yourself with good people and they will lift you up!”

OUR MISSION

Helping to Heal - those who served, continue to serve, and their families, through Wisconsin's Northwoods Experience

OUR VISION

Giving Wisconsin Veterans the pathway to quality of life

OUR VALUES

Honor and Stewardship

CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

SUMMER CAMP SEASON IS IN FULL SWING



Jim Klement
Camp American
Legion Director

The summer camp season is halfway through and time seemed to fly by. We have a variety of different weeks throughout summer Veterans and their families enjoy. Here are just some of the weeks that we already had along with what we are planning.

This year we brought back the WI American Legion Chaplains weekend. Even though it was just a weekend, they used every minute throughout the day to make sure they benefited from the weekend. They had scheduled classes, events and of course a church service.

Women's Veterans week was in the beginning of June. We had a lot of new campers this year that got to enjoy along with our seasoned veterans. They

had some nice weather and took a sun-filled cruise to Minocqua with four full pontoons of Veterans. A group of Girl Scouts came to camp to hear stories and help with serving food along with many other tasks to help with Camp.

Vietnam and Korean War Veterans week was not as lucky with the weather. The Minocqua cruise was cut short by rough water but they still managed to have a great time. We had some live entertainment by Mike McAbee which everyone enjoyed.

Veterans and their families' weeks or open weeks followed. It was great to see children again around camp. The beach is packed all day long and the craft shop was busy. We even had a presentation by Northwoods Wildlife Center which brought in a live Red-Tailed Hawk. Everyone loved the presentation and had a rare up-

close look at the hawk.

We also had the 40 et 8 event at the Rainbow Flowage. They are a huge supporter of camp and I appreciate everything that they have done to enable the success of Camp American Legion.

Some of the future weeks that are planned are a Couple Focus week, Legion Riders week, Camp Serenity, along with many others.

We are currently full for the rest of the year and already planning for 2023. As Camp American Legion evolves, we are always looking for volunteers and new ideas. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us. If you have never been to Camp American Legion, I strongly urge you to schedule a tour. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Thank You
Jim Klement, Camp Director

To learn more about the mission of Camp American Legion or to get involved with answering the call, visit wilegion.org or find us on Facebook.

★★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★★

MEMBERSHIP SAVES LIVES!

I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful summer. I know I definitely am. I had the pleasure of attending this year's The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin's 103rd convention in majestic Green Bay. I truly enjoyed getting to conversate with so many Legion Family members and even cutting loose a little bit at the Past Com-

manders Club sponsored dance. Great times were had by all!

The part I found most enjoyment from was when I was able to attend a few of the committee meetings. I sat in on the Americanism and Children & Youth, along with the Membership committee. I walked out of the meetings invigorated and ready to con-

quer the world after listening to all of the amazing, selfless events and activities that my fellow Legionnaires and their posts are doing across the state.

It's opportunities like this that remind me of why I believe so passionately in the country's largest veteran organization and I'm thankful that each of you help support our

mission and the four pillars each year in a vast spectrum of ways.

I know Wisconsin will undoubtedly be at the top of the membership list this year! Remember, Midwinter conference is right around the corner and we'll be sponsoring a lot of fantastic training opportunities there. Plus it's in majestic Green Bay again!

AGENT ORANGE AWARENES EVENT SLATED FOR OCTOBER 1

Members of the Howard J. Schroeder American Legion Auxiliary Unit 457 and American Legion Post 457 will be hosting "In Honor of Our Vietnam Veterans: Agent Orange Awareness" event on Saturday, October

1, 2022. This event is an opportunity to honor our Vietnam Veterans while also getting the word out about how Agent Orange not only affects the Veteran but also the families, where to go for help and the benefits available.



MOUNT CALVARY HONOR SQUAD VISITS 10 CEMETERIES



The American Legion Honor Squad from Abler-Engel Post 454 Mount Calvary paid respect to deceased veterans at St Paul's Church Cemetery on St Paul's Road on Memorial Day. The unit conducted services at 10 cemeteries located throughout the area east of Fond du Lac, known as the "Holyland".

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, October 1

Howard J. Schroeder American Legion
Post 457
6050 W. Mequon Road
Mequon, Wisconsin
More information to follow



★ AMERICAN LEGION ★
FOUNDATION

VETERANS BETTERING
TOMORROW

Paul Fisk
Foundation
President

Anonymous Donor Matches
First \$50 Challenge

The Foundation was contacted by an exciting, generous donor who is challenging Legionnaires and the general public, alike, to raise funds for Legion Programs, by matching up to \$50 for the first 25 donors! Be sure to write “2022 Challenge” on your donation for the match.

Legion Programs, such as American Legion Baseball and Softball, Badger Boys State, Camp American Legion, Jr Shooting Sports, Legion Riders, Oratorical, Scholarship, Sons of The American Legion, and Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy serve Wisconsin Active Duty, Veterans, their families and communities.

Let's break the bank – Challenge Accepted!

Foundation Board of Directors Set SMART Goals
to Support Legion Programs

At the July 2022 Department Convention, the Foundation set Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timely (SMART) goals for Fiscal Year 2022-2023:

- Raise \$50,000 for Troop & Family Support Program
- Financial assistance to Active Duty, Veterans, Their Families
- Raise \$40,000 for Legion Programs

Supports Legion Programs, such as American Legion Baseball and Softball, Badger Boys State, Camp American Legion, Jr Shooting Sports, Legion Riders, Oratorical, Scholarship, Sons of The American Legion, and Wisconsin American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy that serves Wisconsin youth, older adults, adults with disabilities, Active Duty, Veterans, their families and communities.

Watch for the SMART Updates each issue of the Badger Legionnaire!

Show your support for 2023 ★ 2024

Daniel J. Seehafer
for
National Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY It's Personal!

Veterans • Defense • Americanism • Youth



Now “LEADING CANDIDATE”

Family, I can't believe the title “Leading Candidate” is now a reality. It's happening so fast! And yet, I remember it as if it was yesterday, as a good friend of mine publicly stated, “It's not ‘if’ Dan becomes National Commander, but ‘when?’” And now, we know that too—August 31, 2023 in Charlotte, North Carolina.

As of now, though, I have numerous stops to still complete. I'm just really getting started—for many Departments want the “next” National Commander for their official visit. However, whether one is “on-deck” (Leading Candidate) or “in the hole” (Following Candidate), you already need to prepare your message, constructing your vision and articulating it clearly to your audience—in this case, to all Departments.

Well, from my last article, I gave you a detailed agenda of my travel plans. Everything went well, very well—from flights to traffic. However, I didn't expect what happened on July 9 after I visited Connecticut, as a Legionnaire took to social media and posted this on my account:

I just wanted to tell you that in over 13 years active in the Legion I have never had the opportunity to hear someone as well spoken as you!

Today at the Department of Connecticut Convention you got through to everyone in that room over 300 Legionnaires in that meeting listened in silence to your powerful speech.

Veteran suicide is real so many of our brothers and sisters decide to end their life abruptly or agonizingly slow through substance abuse. When you said that you didn't wait ... you acted right away just to help you had an impact on one veteran's life. That was moving ... truly moving. It is such a monumental way to think that a simple action could have such a positive impact on an individual. I really like the way you tied that back to the day you joined the Legion just by saying yes.

The room was silent and completely drawn to your words. I am really looking forward to you leading our organization!

Thank you for making all of us realize that our camaraderie with other veterans can impact someone so much. Joe Haney



Now, family, I didn't include this to “show-off” or to put a “huia tail feather” in my cap. In fact, it's part of this article solely to let the whole Wisconsin American Legion Family know that this would have never happened without you! Yes, you, who continue to support my journey/campaign with your time, talents and treasures. Again, without you, there would be no candidacy—especially having an impact like I did with Joe.

Be The One (because, after all, it's personal—very personal),
Daniel J. Seehafer
Leading Candidate for National Commander

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The American Legion Department of Wisconsin is partnering with a Veteran-driven research and advocacy group working to improve Veteran awareness of effective PTSD treatment options. The project is called **Reclaiming Your Path**.

To best serve Veterans, we need to know what you think about different talk therapies and medications for PTSD.

PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY

This 3-5 minute anonymous survey will help us do that.

Use the QR code or go to redcap.link/ReclaimYourPath

RECLAIMING YOUR PATH

MCW

LEGION

VET CENTER

Thank You!

reclaimingyourpath.org

Daniel J. Seehafer — Candidate for National Commander

Dan, I support your “It's Personal” campaign for National Commander of The American Legion. Therefore, to help prepare the way for this vital endeavor, I have enclosed my special gift of:

Please make checks payable and mail to:
Daniel J. Seehafer for National Commander
W7550 Shady Lane
Beaver Dam, WI 53916

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Please charge my gift to: Check Visa MasterCard American Express

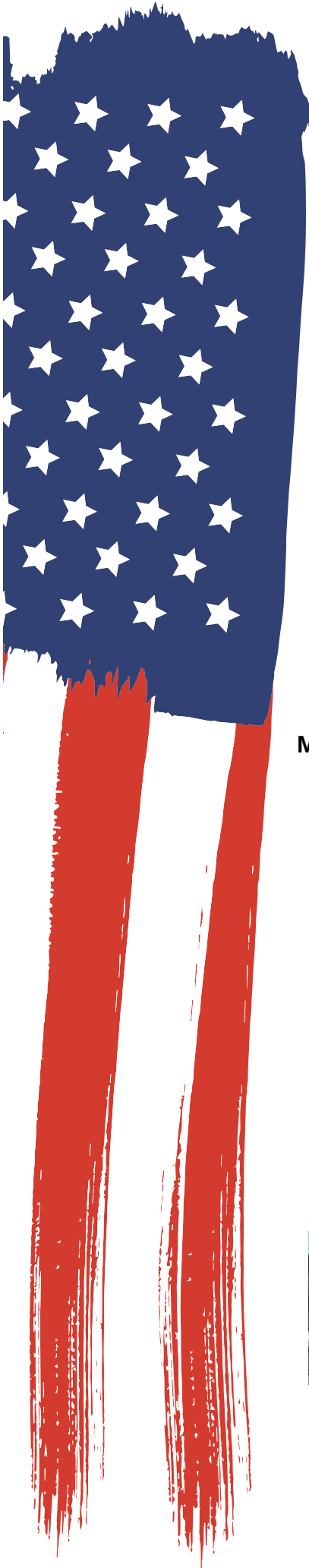
Name on Card: _____ Post/Unit/Squadron: _____

Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVV #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Thank you for your support!



September 9 & 10, 2022

VETERANS MEMORIAL FIELD (COLUMBIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS)
1 FAIRGROUNDS ROAD ~ PORTAGE, WI 53901



STATEWIDE EVENT FEATURING THE WWII TRAVELING MEMORIAL



Bringing Wisconsin's Residents together to:
CELEBRATE our freedom
HONOR those who have and continue to serve
REMEMBER through education, the importance of patriotism and freedom

Friday

- MUSEUM TOURS & SCHOOL VISITS
- BEER GARDEN
- FOOD VENDORS
- CHILI COOK-OFF
- VENDORS
- BLOOD DRIVE

Save a Life,
Give Blood



Saturday

- MUSEUM TOURS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
- LIVE MUSIC
- MILITARY AND FIRST RESPONDER DISPLAYS
- VENDORS
- ADULT SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
(TOURNAMENT MAY RUN INTO SUNDAY-REGISTER AT QR BELOW)



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT LINE-UP



Saturday 1-4 PM



Road Trip

Saturday 5-8 PM



Drew Henderson

Saturday 9-11 PM

For more information, sponsorship details and volunteer opportunities visit wilegion.org

Become a Celebration of Freedom Sponsor!



BADGER BOYS STATE

A BOYS STATE SENATOR WITH A CAUSE

By Zachary Dickhut

Each year at Badger Boys State two outstanding citizens are named to represent Wisconsin at Boys Nation. This is the story of Senator Andriy Ovod from Cedarburg High School. Andriy is a highly intelligent, caring young man whose story is quintessentially American. He was born in Ukraine, and his family won a green card in a lottery system when he was one. By luck alone were they allowed to pass the “lifted lamp beside the golden door.”



BBS Senator Andriy Ovod (left) is from Cedarburg High School.

His family situation required him to spend summers back in Ukraine to be raised by family there, maintaining deep ties to his ancestral home while seizing his opportunities in the United States. With the current Russo-Ukrainian war threatening Andriy’s loved ones still in Ukraine, his unselfish predisposition has called him to action. He and his church have organized relief efforts for the citizens

of Ukraine, and he has met with civic leaders and elected officials at every level of government to seek meaningful action—a cornerstone

lesson for all of us at Badger Boys State. The Wisconsin American Legion Boys State has the honor of sending Andriy to Washington to represent all of us at Boys Nation this year.

While at Badger Boys State in June, Andriy was a citizen in the city of Rennebohm in Mitchell County. His story reminds us of why we have a program like Boys State: to teach the values we share; that so many have fought and sacrificed for. It is through stories like his that we are all reminded of just how precious our opportunities are in America, and that so many still see us as a city upon a hill. Rest assured—that American spirit will be well-represented by Wisconsin in Washington.

We at Badger Boys State are proud of the positive impact that our work has on the lives of young men in Wisconsin. Each year we have boys who need a program like ours to find a higher sense of purpose. However, something interesting happened in Eau Claire this year. After a two-year hiatus, Badger Boys State had a citizen that renewed our sense of purpose.

“My husband stepped out for some fresh air, then I heard a loud thud ...

We were rushed to the hospital where he was diagnosed with broken bones and two spinal obstructions.”

Fortunately, we had purchased the Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus® (EA+) plan for our travels!

We were in London, and after 2 hospitals and 39 days in a rehab facility, Michael was released to travel and EA+ coordinated our

Don't travel another mile without learning more about how EA+ can help you. Call 1-888-293-4008 today!

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return. They provided a nurse escort to monitor Michael on the trip home, an ambulance to the airport, then to the rehabilitation facility so Michael could continue his recovery.

Thank you, EA+! You gave me the freedom to focus on Michael and the relief of not having to make all the arrangements myself.

– Julie & Michael
North Carolina



From Your American Legion Department



“THANK YOU” FROM UKRAINE FOR DONATION FROM POST 1

During the Post 1 June monthly meeting, Martin Kozon, Neal De-gner 1st Vice-Commander’s son-in-law, thanked Post 1 for the donation of \$500 to help Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Mr. Kozon was in Poland, working on his PhD in Eastern European History and was touched by the refugees coming into his grandmother’s city of Będzin. He and his wife raised funds to assist a family and 80 refugee children. Martin was presented a thank you certificate from the President of the city of Będzin, Poland to give to Post 1. The story was picked up and carried by several Polish newspapers with Germantown Post 1 mentioned and thanked in the articles.

The following quote by **Lukaxz Komoniewski** was translated from Polish. It was accompanied by the above photo.

Thank you to Mr. Martin Kozon, a resident of far-away Wisconsin, for collecting and donating food and necessary items to the family living in the partner city of Bedzina-Obuchowie.

On my behalf, the Head of the Organizing Department, Beata Świogoń, has given into his hands a thank-you to the veterans of American Legion Post 1 from Germantown, Wisconsin, and to the residents of Wisconsin for helping the residents of Ukraine.

Since the beginning of this war, many people and organizations have donated not only food and first-need resources, but also electronic equipment or transport services. I also remember those who sacrificed their precious time. I would like to thank each of them individually. It's amazing how people can mobilize and organize help in such a short time.

SMALL TOWN LEGION BALL

I just wanted to share with you a pic that one of our Legionnaire’s caught while sitting at the gate. They are so important to our baseball program and help out so much, but this is why! They love it as much as I do and are a great representation of American Legion Baseball! We couldn’t have such a strong program without our Legionnaires!

–Jim Thorpe
New London Clippers Coach

This photo was Tweeted by Bill Crowe with the quote, "Small town Legion baseball at its best. 'Waiting our turn.'"





Share "In the Spotlight" stories with the Legion Family by sending them to badger@wilegion.org. Please provide high-res JPG photos and email text or a word file. If you'd like to submit hardcopy, you may mail them to PO Box 388, Portage, WI 53901 Attn: Jen



STILL SERVING

By Jessica Maple

Wisconsin native, Navy Commander Matt Steeno found himself struggling to find his civilian career as he began to transition from active duty after 23 years of dedicated service. The effects of COVID further complicated the process, he spent almost nine months unemployed. Steeno joined the Navy in 1996 after earning his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Throughout his deployments he worked as a Damage Control Assistant, qualified as a Command Duty Officer, and was awarded his Surface Warfare Officer designation. His career led him to earn a Master of Science in Systems Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2002. He had tours around the world including England, Africa, and the Arabian Gulf. He worked in support of NATO and as a staff officer at the Pentagon. Yearning for work life balance, he and his wife decided to return to their hometown of Green Bay, Wisconsin to raise their children.

Steen was referred to the Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) program at the Brown County Job Center, also known as an American Job Center in Green Bay, WI. JVSG staff include the Disabled Veteran Outreach Program (DVOP) Specialist and the Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER). The DVOP assisted Steeno with refining his resume. The LVER, Derek Jablonicky, quickly realized that Steeno's leadership skills and talents translated perfectly for a shipbuilding company in Marinette, Wisconsin. Jablonicky leveraged his strong relationship with Fincantieri Marinette Marine to share Steeno's resume with the Human Resources staff. After a series of interviews and some negotiation, a position was created to maximize Steeno's years of experience.

Fincantieri Marinette Marine values veterans in their workforce including disabled veterans. Fincan-

tieri Marine Group and the JVSG staff have worked to help veterans find meaningful careers within the company.

Since their partnership began in 2013, nearly 40 veterans have been hired due to direct referrals. Fincantieri currently employs 2,151 employees, with veterans making up 11.4% of their total workforce. Of the 566 people hired in 2020-2021, 60 were veterans, most of which were JVSG staff referrals. In 2021, Fincantieri won the American Legion Employer of the Year Award and the Disabled American Veteran (DAV) Employer of the Year Award due to hiring and supporting our nation's veterans.

The JVSG staff have imbedded themselves into the community to access the resources that veterans may need to prepare for a new job. "The JVSG staff work hard to build relationships with organizations that support veteran hiring," said VETS Deputy Assistant Secretary Margarita Devlin, "the importance of the JVSG staff and the impact that they have in their communities shouldn't be underestimated."

Jablonicky received the Wisconsin American Legion and DAV LVER of the Year in 2021 for his work in building stronger relationships between employers and veterans. This year, DVOP Nancy Brown will receive national recognition from the DAV as DVOP of the Year primarily for her efforts in working with rural veterans. Brown also worked as a LVER and received the national American Legion LVER of the Year Award in 2016 and is the first Wisconsin JVSG staff to earn both national recognitions. DVOP Geraldine Perry will be recognized this summer in Milwaukee as the national American Legion DVOP of the Year. Perry's recognition is due to her efforts in partnering with the Center for Veterans Issues, a grant recipient, through the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program. The JVSG staff in Wisconsin has created a proven model of success based upon trusted relationships and understanding the needs of all stakeholders.

FIFTY YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP



Ron Papham received his 50 year membership certificate from Robinson Legion Post 538 Commander Gene Brandl. Those receiving 50 year certificates, but not present were: Stanley Lacrose, Ken Schleis, and Al Kohnle.

DISTRICT 11 LEGION RIDERS



District 11 Legion Riders helped with the #40 Never Forgotten Honor Flight on June 6, 2022.

FIVE VETERANS, FIVE BRANCHES



Post 440 Clinton honored 5 Veterans who represent the 5 branches of the Military on Memorial Day. Honored are George Ferger (Army), Lawrence Turner (Navy), Jeffrey Johnson (Air Force), Fred Clint (Coast Guard), and Francis Weiland (Marine Corps).

SONSIO GRAND PRIX AT ROAD AMERICA



The sight from the starting grid at the SONSIO Grand Prix at Road America on June 12.



POST 60 SERVICE AWARDS



Arthur F. Behling was presented a certificate by Post 60 Commander Richard Staedt for 75 years of continuous membership.



Post 60 Commander Richard Staedt presented a certificate to Michael Mass for 50 years of continuous membership.

POST 449 DONATION TO CAMP AMERICAN LEGION



A big thank you to Cudworth-Stenz-Griesell-Smith American Legion Post #449 for their donation from their Green Bay Packers ticket sale. Pictured are Al Reich, Jim Klement, Mike Cannon.

DOGS2DOGTAGS FROM POST 149

Presentation of Check for Sheboygan Falls Charity Dogs2DogTags, which rescues dogs and trains them as companions for veterans. Left to Right: Bob Roska, Post 149 Commander; Torre Willadsen, D2D Founder (Civilian Contractor with 7th Marines); Chuck Stelzner, Post 149 Adjutant, Nancy Rivera, D2D Veteran Outreach (ret. Army Sergeant Major)



POST 149 VETERAN'S QUILT



Presentation of Post 149 Veteran's Quilt to Post Commander Bob Roska for over 25 years as Post Adjutant by Adjutant Chuck Stelzner.



HONORING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Joe Bailey, member of Earl Gulligan Post 133 presented Commander Everett T. Burdick and Retired Colonel James Olson certificates for 50 years of service in the Military.

Everett T. Burdick, Commander Post 133, actively served in the Navy and Army National Guards and retired as a Master Sergeant. Everett was employed at Volk Field for 28 years, retiring in 2001.

Colonel James Olson joined the U.S. Army in 1968, serving in the Panama Canal Zone until 1970. He joined the Wisconsin National Guard and retired in 2005. Colonel Olson commanded the 64th Troop in Madison and the 426th Regiment at Ft. McCoy.



POST 395 HONORS TWO PAST MEMBERS

American Legion Post 395 from Kingston, WI recently had a dedication for two past post members on June 14, 2022. The benches dedicated to honor two Post members who were not only Veterans but very civic minded citizens. Ambassadors who served their fellow Veterans, citizens friends neighbors and community. Orin W. "Moe" Helmer U.S. Army Korea and Retired Master Chief Petty Officer John Richard "Jack" Meyers, Vietnam Veteran were promoters of Kingston organizations and events.



VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PROGRAM



Rio Francis Cuff American Legion Post 208 on June 11 honored eight Vietnam Era veterans and two surviving spouses at a ceremony at the Post building in Rio. Post 208 is a Partner in the national Vietnam War Commemoration program. ABOVE: Veterans included – standing, L-to-R: Nelvin Olson, Robert Wylesky, Tony Dombrowicki, Calvin Burden, Randall Johnson, John Davis, and Terry Schraufnagel, Post 208 Commander. Seated, L-to-R: Dale Gajdosik, Vietnam 50th Post 208 Chairperson, James Gollither, and Gerald Paul. BELOW LEFT: Spouse of Mervin Homman, Dorothy Homman, with daughter Debbie Homman Pribbenow to her left, and Dale Gajdosik, Vietnam 50th Post 208 Chairperson. BELOW RIGHT: Spouse of John Holloway, Krickett Holloway with son Jeff to her right, and son Mike to her left.

FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY



Legion Post 122 Phillips conducted a Flag disposal along with the VFW on June 14. Fourteen boxes of flags were collected with the help of local Boy Scouts.





The American Legion Family Scholarships were awarded to Wautoma High School Graduates. Front Row: Gabriel Ascher Scholarship Recipient, Julie Walker American Legion Post 317 and Auxiliary Unit 317 presenter, Bailey Blader-Lucht Scholarship Recipient, Delores Bruch, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 317 President. Back Row: Leo Gonnering, American Legion Riders-District 8 Vice President, presenter; Kenneth Bruch, Post 317 Chaplain, Vice Commander; Hayley Moore, Recipient. Olivia Seifert, Recipient was absent.

Photo submitted by Delores Bruch.

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS AT WAUTOMA HIGH SCHOOL

The American Legion Family consisting of the Wolman-Minsky American Legion Post 317, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 317 and the American Legion Riders District 8 presented scholarships to four graduates at the Wautoma High School Awards Night on Wednesday, May 11.

The presenters for the American Legion Post 317 were Kenneth Bruch, Vice Commander and Chaplain, Julie Walker, dual member of Post and the Auxiliary Unit 317, Delores Bruch, President of Unit 317 and Leo Gonnering, Vice President of the American Legion Riders, District 8 of Wisconsin.

The American Legion Post 317 presented four \$1,000

Scholarships each to: Gabriel Ascher, Bailey Blader-Lucht, Olivia Seifert, and Hayley Moore (who also received \$750 from the Department of Wisconsin Americanism & Government Test). The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 317 presented two \$500 scholarships each to Bailey Blader-Lucht and Hailey Moore.

Further, Bailey Blader-Lucht was recognized for receiving the Department of Wisconsin Past President Parley \$1,000 scholarship in the nursing field.

Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated academic work, extracurricular participation, and volunteer hours in serving veterans, their families and serving our community.



DISTRICT 8 RIDERS ANNOUNCE 2022 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Wisconsin District 8 American Legion Riders recently announced award winners of three \$1,000 scholarships to be paid to the student's college of choice upon successful completion of their first term. This year marks the sixth consecutive year that a "Boys" and "Girls" college scholarship has been awarded and the second year that a "Technical" scholarship has been awarded to a District 8 high school senior.

A five-person Scholarship Committee reviewed 52 applications this year from soon-to-be high school or home schooling graduates residing in the Marathon, Portage, Shawano-Menominee, Waupaca, Waushara or Wood Counties. The average Grade Point Average of all applicants was 3.878 and seventeen students held perfect 4.0 or higher. Nine students had ACT scores of 31 or higher on a 36 point scale. The highest ACT this year was 34 (better than 99% of over two million test takers in 2022). Many applicants had hundreds of community service hours in addition to working part-time jobs. Needless to say, this year's applicant field was extremely competitive!

Girls Scholarship Winner: Hayley Moore

Hayley is graduating from Wautoma High School in Wautoma, Wisconsin in Waushara County. She is planning on attending UW - La Crosse. She was a 2022 Girls State delegate and is a member of the Wautoma American Legion Auxiliary. **Alternate Winner: Amber Fietzer, Little Wolf High School, Manawa**

Boys Scholarship Winner: Michael Brierton

Michael is a student at D.C. Everest Idea Charter School and plans on attending UW - Stevens Point. He is an Eagle Scout and a Department of Natural Resources Junior Instructor for Snowmobile Education Courses. **Alternate Winner: Carson Gunderson, Lincoln High School, Wisconsin Rapids**

Technical College Scholarship Winner: Heidi Moen

Heidi is graduating from Stratford High School in Stratford and plans to attend Northcentral Technical College. She served a youth apprenticeship at Dental Crafters as well as has taken several courses offered through Dental Crafters. **Alternate Winner: Claire Gehm, Bonduel High School, Bonduel**

Congratulations again to all the scholarship winners. Thanks to all the outstanding scholarship candidates who took the time to apply. The committee regrets that they only had three scholarships to award as so many candidates were worthy of the honor.



From left: Legion Adjutant Kathy Smith, Maycie Phillips, Joshua Maynard, Alec Perrizo and Klye Charniak.

AMERICAN LEGION JONES-MODROW-YOUNG POST 74 PRESENTED SCHOLARSHIPS AND CITIZENSHIP TO STUDENTS

Each year Post 74 gives three \$2,000 scholarships and a Citizenship award of \$500 to Oconto High School graduating seniors, this year's recipients of the \$2,000 scholarship are Maycie Phillips, Joshua Maynard and Kyle Charniak. The \$500 Citizenship

award was given to Alec Perrizo. Students must demonstrate that they promote citizenship, have a positive attitude, participate well in school and community activities and have a good understanding of civic responsibility.

KOHLER MEMORIAL DAY



Kohler Memorial Day – Post 149 (Sheboygan Falls) Honors at Kohler cemetery led by Jim Willfahrt Honor Guard Leader (far right).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



BIKE AND BUGGY PARADE IN PEWAUKEE

102nd Pewaukee Bike and Buggy parade that was held at Village Park on July 4th. Pewaukee Post 71 members assist the children in riding around and showing off their decorated bikes and wagons to the judges.



NEENAH/MENASHA HONORS STUMPF



The Neenah/Menasha Honor Guard dedicated Armed Forces Day to honor Metal of Honor recipient Kenneth Stumpf. Stumpf passed away on April 23, 2022.



RIO FLAG DISPOSAL

Rio American Legion Post 208 has a mailbox for residents to drop off flags for disposal outside our Post building. This year, on June 14, we braved 100 degree heat to hold our traditional ceremony and burn those we collected. We normally have a great response from the community to provide this service and are proud to do it. ABOVE: Commander Terry Schraufnagel reads ceremonial words prior to the ceremony while Jerry Traut, Dale Gajdosik, and Bob Adams participate. BELOW: Commander Terry Schraufnagel and George Scott hold one of the largest flags of the ceremony while Dale Gajdosik and Bob Adams look on.



OUTSTANDING TEACHERS HONORED IN HARTFORD



On June 2, Mark Murphy and Sarah Bailey were given Certificates from Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 in Hartford for being Outstanding Teachers. Mark (left) is a High School teacher and spent 23 years in the Air Force. Sarah (right) is a first grade teacher with a connection with Military service. Presenting is Don Pridemore Post 19 Americanism Chairperson.

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR POST 250



On Saturday, May 28, American Legion Red Cloud Post 250 celebrated their 100 year anniversary by unveiling a banner of Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud Jr. and hosted members of the Ho-Chunk nation. Corporal Red Cloud is honored for his bravery. Post 250 Commander Al Arndt said that he has not seen such a small community give so much in such a little amount of time after raising \$5,000 in a year for this project.



QUILTS FOR POST 432 VETERANS



Hammond-Roberts Legion Post 432 held Memorial Day Services in Roberts and in Hammond. Each year Post 432 honors 4 members with a homemade quilt as part of the Quilts of Valor program. This year's recipients were Gary Hawkins, Bill Jones, and Bruce Bond, who are pictured, and John Lyon. The quilts were made by members of the Hammond-Roberts Auxiliary.

COMBINED HONOR GUARD IN TWO RIVERS



The combined Military Honor Guard from American Legion Post 165 and VFW post 1248 of Two Rivers on Memorial Day 2022.

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION IN NEENAH



Neenah Legion Post 33's Memorial Day Ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery.

The Last Bugle



KEY WWI-World War I WWII-World War II
 V-Vietnam K-Korea
 G/L-Grenada/Lebanon
 P-Panama PG-Persian Gulf
 GWOT-Global War on Terrorism

- 1 **Germantown**
Robert J. Koscielak V
- Cloid O. Huckstep K
- Lee E. Murry K
- 3 **Antigo**
Edward P. Sikora K
- Ken George V
- Donald Graves K
- 4 **Athens**
John Nowicki
- 6 **Stevens Point**
Ronald Berna V
- 8 **Waukesha**
Richard J. Lokken G/L
- 9 **Wisconsin Rapids**
Fredric G. Jesse V
- Louis T. Rosandick WWII
- 10 **Wausau**
John Eldred K
- Richard A. Detert V
- 11 **Green Bay**
Fred D. Gerondale V
- 12 **Spooner**
Richard L. Wilson K
- 13 **Richland Center**
Richard R. Wilson WWII
- Don P. Roseberry V
- Judy Mulholland-Harsti V
- 16 **Cudahy**
Donald A. Jensen
- Leonard Bania WWII
- 21 **Kenosha**
Earl J. McDermid V
- 26 **Baraboo**
Robert J. Madalon WWII
- Ed J. Cummings V
- John D. Geoghegan WWII
- 28 **Valders**
Roger Selle V
- 30 **Edgerton**
Allen E. Farrington K
- 36 **West Bend**
Kenneth C. Nyberg V
- Darrel D. Olson V
- Thomas S. Smith V
- 37 **Elk Mound**
James D. Emery V
- 38 **Appleton**
Peter J. Vandenbogat K
- Donald L. Hopp V
- Helmut Schwab K
- Arthur R. Schurer V
- Walter A. Klemm K
- 39 **Marinette**
David A. Semrau V
- 40 **Bangor**
Lester Bjorkman WWII
- Ronald Paulus V
- 42 **Platteville**
John L. Fortney V
- 43 **Ripon**
Harold Ferch V
- 44 **Wabeno**
Edward J. McCraw K
- 52 **La Crosse**
Arthur J. Fregin K
- Donald Peterson K
- William J. Devic K
- Leslie E. Snyder K
- 53 **Eau Claire**
Larry A. Winnich V
- Monroe J. Yule K
- Jerome D. Hazen K
- 54 **Marshfield**
Bernard Holman V
- 59 **Stoughton**
Howard O. Nelson K
- Oris O. Hougan K
- 60 **Kimberly**
Alois Vandenboggard WWII
- Raymond Bonfigt V
- Merrill Hansen K
- 63 **Clintonville**
James McKay V
- 64 **Ladysmith**
Marion E. Wisherd WWII
- 70 **Oshkosh**
Thomas D. Arndt V
- Donald Bartelt WWII
- Gerald T. Williams K
- William G. Schmidt K
- 72 **Sturgeon Bay**
Carl Scholz WWII
- William Boettcher K
- 77 **Chippewa Falls**
Douglas F. Gullickson K
- Ronald J. Weinfurter K
- 79 **Burlington**
Michael J. Dunn V
- 80 **New Richmond**
John M. Mortensen V
- Robert L. Goodlad K
- 82 **Port Washington**
Robert W. Klintner K
- 83 **Sheboygan**
Earl J. Mayer WWII
- 85 **Muscoda**
Wayne A. Dieter K
- 87 **Rice Lake**
Donald K. Nelson WWII
- John F. Anderson V
- Glen M. Fankhauser K
- Charles G. Halverson K
- Gerald L. Crotteau V
- Richard L. Engness V
- George J. Weseli WWII
- George F. Holub K
- 89 **Minocqua**
Albert C. Rowe WWII
- Robert E. Johnson K
- James A. Pietila K
- 91 **Oconomowoc**
Ronald Sowinski OTHER
- 93 **Tomahawk**
John J. Taskay K
- 95 **Delavan**
Elton K. Feffer K
- 98 **Cumberland**
Arnold Peer K
- 100 **Sparta**
William J. Bohn V
- 102 **Walworth**
John A. Daniels WWII
- 103 **Galesville**
Edward J. Stanislawski V
- 105 **Shullsburg**
Helen I. Tindell K
- 106 **Seymour**
James A. Hopkins K
- Donald A. Buckland V
- 108 **Clear Lake**
Robert G. Danielson V
- 111 **Somerset**
Richard A. Jorgenson V
- 113 **Mount Horeb**
Patrick F. Odonnell PG
- Russ Arnold K
- 116 **Coon Valley**
Floyd Storey V
- Allen L. Walker V
- 117 **Shawano**
Michael Kast V
- Fredric Hoffman V
- Eugene Zeuske WWII
- John Fiskens V
- 118 **Thorp**
Walter W. Filippek WWII
- 120 **West Allis**
Gregory J. Jacoby V
- 121 **River Falls**
Dwayne Carlson K
- Richard Hartenstein WWII
- Harold W. Pruitt K
- 124 **New Holstein**
Duwayne L. Wibben K
- 125 **Chilton**
Robert Nolan WWII
- Byron G. Hacker V
- 129 **Black River Falls**
Lionel Pettibone V
- Amos W. Kingsley V
- Colin R. Carrimon V
- Roy C. Greengrass V
- David F. Mike V
- 130 **Sharon**
Gunnar G. Berglund V
- 131 **Coffax**
Steve J. Close K
- Charles L. Scott V
- David P. Schindler V
- 132 **Siren**
Herbert A. Howe
- Christopher G. Sower
- MISSING
- 134 **Boscobel**
William R. Walker K
- James Terrell OTHER
- 137 **Turtle Lake**
Donald L. Freer V
- 142 **Blanchardville**
Clifford Lien K
- 146 **Beaver Dam**
Garfield H. Benson V
- Ronald Bussewitz K
- 148 **Bloomington**
Jerome R. Usgaard V
- Roger Lestina V
- 150 **Wausaukee**
Paul D. Massio WWII
- 152 **Menasha**
Walter L. Keating V
- 155 **Westby**
Ronald E. Brudos V
- Stuart T. Holman V
- 159 **Cadott**
Norman Castle K
- 164 **Jefferson**
Paul J. Quale K
- 165 **Two Rivers**
Pamm O. Disjardin V
- 166 **Fort atkinson**
Debra Findlay
- William L. Sleaver K
- 169 **Amery**
John A. Stansbury V
- 182 **Park Falls**
Jerome J. Woodie K
- 185 **Grantsburg**
Willis McLain V
- 187 **Wisconsin Dells**
Duane L. Langer V
- Ronald J. Halcarz K
- Edward Lukaszewcz
- 189 **Watertown**
Max F. Stueber WWII
- Rex A. Denny V
- 192 **Franklin**
Peter Bliske V
- 194 **Cameron**
Harlan E. Becker V
- 199 **Reedsville**
Clinton Boehm
- 204 **Ellsworth**
Duane Melstrom V
- 205 **Janesville**
Richard O. Brewer V
- 207 **Elmwood**
George A. Churchill K
- 208 **Rio**
Vernon L. Wavra WWII
- 209 **Orfordville**
Gary A. Lawler V
- 210 **Waupun**
Roger R. Randrup K
- Donald J. Rehrauer K
- Eugene L. Perry V
- Elton J. Hopp V
- 214 **Darlington**
Al Berrey WWII
- Rodney M. Lindell V
- 215 **Pardeeville**
Mark W. Twing G/L
- Larry N. Hastings V
- 218 **Hayward**
Fred E. Jonas K
- Kenneth E. Ormsby WWII
- James A. Flottum V
- 219 **Milwaukee**
John H. Bosch WWII
- 220 **Soldiers Grove**
Terry Tummlire V
- 222 **Campbellsport**
Ronald W. Reese V
- 234 **Omro**
Merle A. Carpenter WWII
- 242 **LaVale**
Nicholas G. Streit WWII
- 243 **Plymouth**
Brennan Wegener GWOT
- 246 **Genoa**
Bernard Domke K
- Charles F. Brendel WWII
- 249 **Fredric**
Douglas Harlander WWII
- 250 **Adams**
John J. Pavelec K
- James E. Jochims K
- Thomas R. Shackelford V
- Kenneth W. Marden K
- Gregory G. Schmidt V
- Jeffrey R. Treat G/L
- 251 **Argyle**
Richard L. Vinger V
- Herbert Baumgartner K
- 262 **Luxemburg**
David L. Foster V
- 263 **New London**
Arthur F. Hansen K
- Lamont Carpenter V
- Duane R. Brown K
- Lewis E. Strite V
- 267 **New Auburn**
James H. Davis K
- 272 **Butternut**
Marvin R. Steben V
- 280 **Coleman**
Louis Skarda K
- 282 **Markesan**
James Talma V
- 283 **Suring**
Gerald F. Heins V
- 284 **Holmen**
Stephen K. Meyers V
- Gary M. Schams V
- 286 **Oostburg**
Jan H. Harmelink V
- Larry Brethower
- 293 **Silver Lake**
Ira Helton G/L
- 294 **Hartland**
Orville A. Marks WWII
- Robert Schroeder WWII
- Ronald J. Weber V
- 295 **Bloomer**
Friedrig H. Hitz K
- William R. Barten V
- Marcel Sobotta V
- Arnold C. Ruff V
- Gordon E. Johnson V
- 296 **Brookfield**
Robert F. Kramer K
- 304 **Palmyra**
Richard Cartwright WWII
- 310 **Racine**
John A. Fair K
- Pablo Amaya WWII
- 312 **Peshtigo**
Russell J. Coble V
- 315 **Stoddard**
Gary Brosinski V
- 317 **Wautoma**
Charles F. Hutler K
- 318 **Lake Tomahawk**
Richard McPherson WWII
- 320 **Humbird**
Raymond F. Theiler V
- Benjamin V. Cusick K
- 324 **Osseo**
Robert C. Lien V
- William J. Doyle K
- 330 **Wilson**
Larry M. Flick V
- Roger E. Kronholm K
- Richard V. King K
- 331 **Shorewood**
Charles L. Entwisle V
- 332 **Black Creek**
Norbert Theobald
- 333 **Sun Prairie**
Thomas Valley V
- 335 **Avoca**
Joseph J. Dougherty V
- 336 **Onalaska**
Gerald G. Sjolander V
- Donald Mullikin WWII
- 337 **Pulaski**
Leonard Hodkiewicz WWII
- Richard Blasczyk K
- Wayne L. Caelwaerts V
- 339 **Almond**
Joel S. Morgan V
- 340 **Berlin**
Daniel A. Beyer V
- 342 **Lena**
John D. Duame K
- 343 **Hancock**
Walter J. Callahan V
- 347 **Lomira**
Richard A. Amerling V
- Robert C. Geiger V
- 351 **Montello**
Edward D. Buchholz K
- 352 **Cassville**
Mayre Klein V
- 355 **Grafton**
Daniel I. Harris V
- 356 **Muskego**
Charles M. Case K
- Dennis D. Dennee V
- 366 **Princeton**
Duane Kuglin
- 368 **Taylor-Hixton**
Ralph Stalheim K
- 372 **Forestville**
Don R. Miraz V
- 375 **Mukwonago**
Thomas Kay V
- Richard E. Pritchard V
- Ralph Gingras
- 382 **Menomonee Falls**
Arthur Dekneef K
- 384 **Kewaskum**
Raymond Gutjahr K
- Floyd Klug PG
- 385 **Verona**
Merlin R. Becker WWII
- 387 **Franklin**
Everett Henning K
- Harvey Grunewald K
- 391 **Fremont**
Donald H. Steege WWII
- 393 **Edgar**
Edmund Krebsbach PG
- 396 **Indian Creek**
Robert A. Blake V
- 399 **Okauchee**
Alan E. Orne K
- 401 **Cambria**
James E. Radke V
- 406 **Milwaukee**
Charles A. Seidner WWII
- 410 **Fredonia**
Robert L. Karlinsky G/L
- 415 **Milwaukee**
Darrell G. Malmarowski V
- Steven Roufus G/L
- 416 **Greendale**
Bernard S. Brzycki WWII
- Jerald Smith V
- Chester Trojanowski WWII
- Robert A. Popke K
- Louis J. Kruczynski WWII
- 428 **Amberg**
Kenneth Harris WWII
- Gerry W. Roush G/L
- 434 **Oak Creek**
Thomas P. Mihalko V
- Jim C. Penn V
- 483 **Allenton**
Richard Ackerman K
- 436 **Wrightstown**
Roy E. Liebergen V
- 437 **Mazomanie**
Dale Pope WWII
- Robert C. Brewer V
- Arthur G. Poehlman V
- 442 **Wisconsin Rapids**
George Gross V
- 446 **Steuben**
Robert Wallin WWII
- 449 **Brookfield**
Robert J. Ziarkowski K
- Robert W. Helm WWII
- 454 **Mt. Calvary**
James R. Fahrback V
- Neal K. Seibel V
- Lavern A. Koenen K
- 455 **Milwaukee**
Charles D. Hallberg V
- 457 **Mequon-Thiensville**
Donald A. Molyneux WWII
- Herbert R. Brendemuehl K
- 474 **Milwaukee**
Richard Lipski V
- 477 **St. Nazianz**
Orville T. Bonde WWII
- 481 **Madison**
John E. Ellis K
- William S. Gilfoy V
- 483 **Allenton**
Kenneth A. Heinecke V
- 485 **Rudolph**
Roger J. Schaaf V
- 486 **Jackson**
John A. Russell V
- Thomas H. Gauger V
- Arthur G. Poehlman V
- 488 **New Berlin**
Gordon G. Messmer K
- 490 **Milwaukee**
Wanda K. Brewer PG
- 492 **Rothschild**
Ronald Cywinski
- 496 **Sherwood**
Kenneth Kuehl K
- 499 **Gordon**
JoeKauffman V
- Marlene A. Lucas K
- 501 **Madison**
Robert M. Sergenian K
- Sherry A. Schaefer V
- Jerome M. Nelson K
- Walter C. Sauer WWII
- 503 **Dane**
Robert M. Schilling V
- 509 **Rosholt**
Harry Glinecki K
- John E. Ellis K
- William S. Gilfoy V
- 483 **Allenton**
Kenneth A. Heinecke V
- 485 **Rudolph**
Roger J. Schaaf V
- 486 **Jackson**
John A. Russell V
- Thomas H. Gauger V
- Arthur G. Poehlman V
- 488 **New Berlin**
Gordon G. Messmer K
- 490 **Milwaukee**
Wanda K. Brewer PG
- 492 **Rothschild**
Ronald Cywinski
- 496 **Sherwood**
Kenneth Kuehl K
- 512 **Shiocton**
James M. Main V
- 517 **Dorchester**
Ronald Busse K
- 518 **Green Bay**
William Johnston WWII
- 519 **Stetsanville**
Melvin Gebert WWII
- Paul R. Noble K
- 521 **Fox Lake**
Ewald A. Macheel WWII
- 534 **McFarland**
Vern Gulseth K
- 537 **Milwaukee**
Frederick C. Hoepfner K
- Keith J. Tenant V
- Max R. Grudzielanek K
- Daniel J. Jarecki WWII
- Jean P. Baral K
- Glenn E. Duchateau V
- 538 **Carlton**
James E. Konop V
- 539 **Green Bay**
Audrey Nall K
- 541 **Northfield**
Clarence H. Christianson V
- 552 **Somers**
James B. Goshaw K
- Harry J. Kreger V
- Charles Bostetter V
- Thomas V. Bostetter V
- 2930 **Portage**
Alan L. Richards V
- William L. Brown V
- Alan Hanson V
- Mark J. Scafe V
- Gerald Schad V
- John R. Willis K
- Richard F. Shakal K
- Leonard R. Piottier V
- Robert J. Hebl K
- Edwin Prah V
- Kenneth Singerhouse K
- Roger A. Pearson K
- Tony Betko V
- Richard Shakal K

Post 496 MEMORIAL AIRCRAFT



American Legion Post 496 of Sherwood enhances memorial aircraft site with a new monument. As part of a planned multi-phase project, Thomas E. Kees American Legion Post 496 installed a new monument at the site of a loaned vintage aircraft adjacent to the village community center. The site enhancement is intended to "HONOR ALL MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN WAR AND IN PEACE". It obtained a loaned jet aircraft in 1962 from the National Air Force Museum for display. At the formal ceremony, it was dedicated "to those who had given their lives for freedom." For the past 60 years, the Post has maintained the lease of this display aircraft, and over the years the members indicated interest in enhancing the site with a formal memorial. When the aircraft was moved in 2020 to accommodate future road work planned by the Village, interest was again spurred for additional enhancements to the site.



SURING POST 283 MARKS 100TH BIRTHDAY
 Suring American Legion Post 283 celebrates its 100th birthday with special guest U.S. Congressman Mike Gallagher.

WISCONSIN



August 2022

American Legion Auxiliary
P.O. Box 140
Portage, WI 53901

alawi@amlegionauxwi.org

The official publication of the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary

www.amlegionauxwi.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Linda Coppock
Department
President

I am honored to be your ALA President! Are you ready to continue to make history?

I chose the simple word "Believe" to be my theme this year. I have been an ALA member since I was six years old. From that age on, I have always been proud to be a member. The ALA was a place where I could feel good about any little task being done, knowing it benefited a veteran.

The Auxiliary became a very important part of my life. The American Legion Family, as I knew it growing up, was more than an organization, it **was** a family. Everyone looked out for each other, their families, and their communities as a whole. We all worked together to provide one mission – to help veterans, the active military, their families, and the community as well.

Our mission has not changed since the ALA was formed over 100 years ago, but the way we work our mission may have.

Technology has left a void in the personal contact we once had. A pandemic forced us to rethink how to best serve our isolated veterans, their families, and our members. But unit members have become very creative in their efforts to continue to serve the needs of those we vow to care for.

TAL Commander Julie Muhle and I both agree we have lost the personal touch with our members, and we want to get "Back to the Basics" of the organization. In the early years it was clear members volunteered to support the needs of veterans, their families, and their community. We still do that; however, we lack in providing the hands-on needs some may require, both our veterans and our members. We have taken for granted the knowledge our members may have of the programs we support. We have taken for granted everyone may have the capacity to



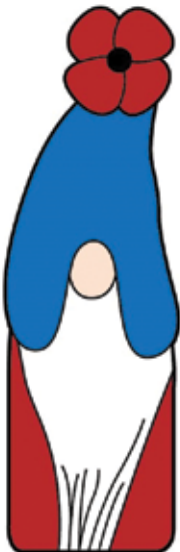
mentor new members when they join. We have overlooked the needs of our members overall.

It is my goal to reeducate members about our programs. Try to create more exciting gatherings to get members back to attending unit meetings and most of all, let members know they are of great value!

I "Believe" in this organization. I "Believe" everyone has a talent to share, no matter the size. I "Believe" we can create a stronger American Legion Family as we all work together to obtain the same goal that benefits our veterans, active military, their families, and our communities!

Most of all, I "Believe" this organization has so much to offer with your help. I "Believe" you can help make the magic happen! Let's have a fun-filled year "Getting New & Old Members Excited!" I "BELIEVE" in YOU!

MEMBERSHIP



Becky Mueller
Department Chairman
clarencandbecky@aol.com
920-464-0320

Getting New & Old Members Excited!

Are you ready for a new membership year? Are you ready to BELIEVE in President Linda and the American Legion Auxiliary? Are you ready to continue to make a difference to our Veterans, military, their (our) families, and communities? Are you ready to be EXCITED!!!!

Welcome to a new membership year – obviously, we are not finished with 2022 yet, but we are poised to dive into 2023 with excitement and energy. Continue to send in your renewals and rejoins for this calendar year. Keep everybody on board. We have spent the year saluting, serving, and celebrating our mission. Congratulations on a wonderful year.

Beginning NOW membership renewals and rejoins for the calendar year of 2023 are being accepted. Start

turning them in every week or two. Do not wait – get them in so we can track your progress every time a report is sent out by department headquarters. Let us get excited about every upward percentage. (FYI: New 2023 memberships are accepted after September 1.)

A new membership team is being put in place. I, Becky Mueller, am the 2022-2023 membership committee chair. I belong to Seymour Unit 106 in 9th District. Joining me are Mary-Ellen Crandall, member of Pewaukee Unit 71 in 1st District; Donna Bellettiere, member of New London Unit 263 in 8th District; and Barbara McDaniel, member of Gordon Unit 499, in 12th District. Barb is a dual member and our liaison with The American Legion. These outstanding women bring years of knowledge and experience on all levels of our organization. Their biggest asset is that THEY ARE EXCITED TO BE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY and are looking forward to working with each one of you.

This membership year each of you can earn an exclusive *GNOME* membership pin for signing up one new member – beginning on September 1, 2022. Every

unit, county and district are also eligible for awards. Our first random drawing will be August 4, 2022, and every (I repeat, every!) unit that has sent in a renewal (officers – this means you) is eligible for the \$75 prize. (PUFLs are not included). Here is your chance to get excited about winning. P.S. Your unit must also have an updated 2023 officer form on file with Department to be eligible to win!

Membership packets have been mailed out to every membership chair on record. If you have not received yours, please contact us immediately so you can fully participate.

Remember all our department and district officers and chairpersons are available for your questions and concerns.

- **Becky Mueller**
920-464-0320, clarencandbecky@aol.com
- **Donna Bellettiere**
920-986-3712, dbellettiere@sbcglobal.net
- **Mary-Ellen Crandall**
262-894-5420, dabs1951@yahoo.com
- **Barbara McDaniel**
715-374-2666, skcbemcdan@msn.com

On behalf of Past Department President Diane Weggen and the members at Chippewa Falls Veterans Home, the Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary and I are pleased to "CELEBRATE" the success of Department Convention with you.

There were 71 units and individuals who "SERVED" together for the purpose of raising \$5,125.00 to help build the beautiful courtyard at the Chippewa Falls Veterans Home.

I personally "SALUTE" everyone who participated in this year's fundraiser!

Without each and every one of you, our mission to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities would not happen. When we all work for a common goal, it is amazing what positive things happen!

THANK YOU ALL,
Sue Turowski, 2021-2022 Department Fundraising Chair

Thank You!

Thank you to Department of Wisconsin ALA staff, officers and all members who worked and participated to make the 101st ALA Department Convention a success and a celebration.

I owe a debt of gratitude and I salute all the Department Committee chairmen; past national and department presidents; unit, county, and district leaders; and members of the Legion Family who supported and invited me to participate while sharing how and why they serve to fulfill the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our Hospital Reps/Depts are recognized for addressing the challenges of the past two years as they served veterans in the veterans' homes and VA medical centers.

Serving as your 2021-2022 Department of Wisconsin ALA President has been an honor. Thank you for the opportunity. May the leaders and all of us have an outstanding 2022-2023 Auxiliary year!

For God and country ~ Diane Weggen

2022 Membership Rankings

District 12	103.77%
District 3	96.44%
District 2	96.44%
District 1	96.01%
District 7	94.37%
District 6	94.00%
District 10	93.79%
District 8	92.58%
District 5	92.57%
District 4	92.43%
District 9	90.85%
District 11	90.66%

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Linda Kostka
 Department Chaplain
 lkostka@gmail.com
 715-209-8135

Heavenly Father, Thank you for so many freedoms and spiritual blessings. Help us not to take our freedoms for granted.

Bring us together, not working against one another. We need your presence and guidance, so we can live in freedom, showing charity towards all, with unity and the bond of peace.

We humbly pray for your presence during these difficult days.

Amen.

Life is like a notebook. Two pages are already written by God. First page is Birth. Last page is Death. Center pages are empty, so fill them with smiles and love.

Let the peace of God rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

Bonnie Dorniak
 Executive Secretary/Treasurer
 608-745-0124
 deptsec@amlegionauxwi.org
 www.amlegionauxwi.org

Congratulations to Diane Weggen on a successful year as Department President! President Diane's year concluded at the 101st Department Convention at the Hyatt Regency/KI Center in Green Bay, where the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) was greeted by National President Kathy Daudistel, National Detachment Commander Mike Fox, honored Past Department President Diane Kranig, and many other Legion Family dignitaries.

Highlights of convention included reports from department program chairs, a memorial service in honor of past department presidents Virginia "Ginny" Faust and Laurel DuBois who passed away since last convention; remarks from honored PDP Diane Kranig (2006-2007); and recognition of Unit Member of the Year Ted Kubiak of Unit 360 in Waunakee, Junior Member of the Year Makayla Wallock, and ALA Badger Girls State Governor Grace Nwankwo. President Diane Weggen presented four Department President's Awards for Excellence. A

parade of checks during a refreshing ice cream social with National President Kathy Daudistel raised \$2,345 for the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation. A special thanks to Angie Chappell of the American Legion Headquarters staff for her dedicated planning and coordination to ensure we had a successful convention.

The convention closed with the installation of new district presidents and department officers. Newly elected Department President Linda Coppock's theme for the upcoming year is "BELIEVE" because she believes in this organization and the mission we serve. Are you a *Believer*, too? It is often said that actions speak louder than words, so if you *believe* in the American Legion Auxiliary, let your actions show it as we serve our veterans, the military, their families, and our communities.

In other news from department headquarters, membership cards and rosters for the 2023 administrative year were mailed to units in mid-July. Any unit that did not receive their membership packet should contact Andrea Stoltz at department headquarters immediately.

2023 renewal notices will be mailed by the national organization in mid-September, but you don't have to wait until then to renew your dues. To expedite processing, you can

pay your dues online (www.AL4forVeterans.org) or call the national organization during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 7:00 am – 3:30 pm Central Time). Members who pay for multiple people can take care of everyone's dues with one simple phone call to 317-569-4570! New members for 2023 can be processed after September 1.

If you have not already done so, please register for an ALA in the Know conference at a location that works best with your schedule. The curriculum has been updated so there is something to **Get New & Old Members Excited!** A registration form is included below.

Looking for family friendly activities? Mark your calendar for The Legion Family's Celebration of Freedom event at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Portage on Friday and Saturday, September 9-10, 2022 featuring the World War II traveling memorial. Many other activities are also planned, including food and beverage vendors, a blood drive, softball tournament, live entertainment, and the first Legion Family BATTLE OF THE BOWLS Chili Cook Off on Friday, September 9! Do you have an award-winning chili recipe? If so, enter the contest and put it to the test! Visit www.wilegion.org for more information or to register for the Chili Cook Off.



DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN JUNIOR CONFERENCE

St. Patrick's Church
 2546 St. Patrick's Rd, Lena, WI 54139
 and
 NEW Zoo Green Bay
 4378 Reforestation Rd., Green Bay, WI 54313



SATURDAY September 10, 2022

Join us at our Junior Conference being held on Saturday, September 10, 2022, in the Green Bay area at 9 am. We'll start with a meeting to elect our Honorary Junior Officers, work on a project and the patch program, have lunch and then head to the Zoo. Bring your family and especially any Sons of the American Legion members. If you have any questions, please call Chairman Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943.

2022 JUNIOR AUXILIARY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION Reservations Deadline: August 20, 2022

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: _____ District #: _____ Unit #: _____
 Phone #: _____ Email: _____

(PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME / UNIT #	FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? (YES/NO)	REGISTRATION/ Lunch (\$10.00)	Junior member	Senior Member	T-SHIRT SIZE Kid/adult
GRAND TOTALS:		\$			

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Please send reservation form with check payable to American Legion Auxiliary to:
 Laura Calteux 7012 W. Squire Ave. Greenfield, WI 53220



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN ALA IN THE KNOW (Important Info for Every Member)



2022 REGISTRATION FORM

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2022
 (Please submit one form per person)

Members are encouraged to register early---space is limited! Registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registrations received after capacity is reached, will be returned. **No reservations will be accepted on site. Reservation deadline for all sessions is SEPTEMBER 1st.**

Session is \$25/person and includes morning refreshments, a light lunch, and program materials. Sessions will include information on a variety of topics and Auxiliary programs. New topics will be covered, so come out and join the fun!

Schedule for all conferences:

8:00 am – 9:00 am Registration/Morning Refreshments
 9:00 am – 3:30 pm Informative presentation, lunch break, interactive program session, Q&A

Reservation deadline for ALL sessions: **September 1, 2022**

Please print clearly:

District #: _____ Unit #: _____ Unit City: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: home cell: (____) _____

Please share one (1) question you would like addressed during the session:

Select One:

- | DATE | LOCATION |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 09/17/2022 | American Legion Post #175
302 N. Union, Loyal, WI 54446 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 09/24/2022 | Hortonville Community Center
531 N. Nash Street, Hortonville, WI 54944 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 10/08/2022 | Portage County Public Library-Pinery Room
1001 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, 10/22/2022 | American Legion Post #355
1540 13 th Avenue, Grafton, WI 53024 |

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED (\$25/person): \$ _____

Mail check, payable to ALA-Wisconsin, by **SEPTEMBER 1st** to:
 ALA Wisconsin, P. O. Box 140, Portage, WI 53901-0140.

A \$25.00 fee will be charged for any check returned by the bank.

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND (AEF)

Donna Jensen
Department Chairman
djensen20@gmail.com
414-303-6186

It is an honor to serve this year as the chairman of the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF). Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

What is the AEF and what does it do? This national program was first established in 1969 and the purpose is to provide temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or another personal crisis.

The AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of Auxiliary member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. For the past five decades this fund has been helping Auxiliary members get back on their feet, with the generous support of current Auxiliary members. **To be eligible**, it is required to be a member of the American Legion Auxiliary,

with dues current and membership for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years); who have not received a grant of the same type they are applying for within the last 12 months; and are applying within six months of the disaster. Applicants are eligible to apply for a Disaster Assistance grant or a Temporary Assistance grant when:

- A financial crisis hits, leaving a member without resources to pay rent/mortgage and/or utilities, and no other source of aid is readily available.
- A natural disaster or weather emergency leaves a member with a damaged or destroyed primary residence and/or significant emergency expenses (lodging, food, fuel, supplies, etc.), and no other source of aid is readily available.

The generous support of units is what has kept this fund available to members. Please add a donation to the AEF to your unit's budget and agenda for this year.

Check the website (www.ALAforVeterans.org) for additional information and the application forms.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Karen Degner
Department Chairman
kdegner88@gmail.com
920-918-9772

National Security includes supporting our troops, their families and emergency preparedness. Units can do this by providing support at Soldier & Family Readiness Group events, making sure members have a plan for emergency situations, remembering POW/MIAs at meetings, supporting blood drives, participating in Suicide Awareness training, sending coupons to overseas commissaries (check out the Department website), and being a resource for needs throughout the state for those currently serving and their families. Another simple way to show your support is to wear RED on Fridays (**R**emember **E**veryone **D**eported). The USO of Wisconsin, Operation HomeFront, Fisher House and Camo Quilt Project are additional ways to help.

We can recognize and thank those in uniform and their families during National Military Family Appreciation Month in November, "Purple

Up" day in April for the Month of the Military Child, and Military Spouse Appreciation Day and Armed Forces Day are in May. Suicide Awareness and Prevention can help those who are struggling. Do you want to learn more about emergency preparedness, C.E.R.T. See Something/Say Something, or volunteer Soldier & Family Readiness opportunities with the Wisconsin Army National Guard? If so, you can find these and more at: <https://dma.wi.gov/DMA/>.

Please email me photos throughout the year for all that you do to support the National Security program. Reach out to me if you are interested in becoming a resource for the military community or other ways you may be able to support our military communities and engage in emergency preparedness. Remember to complete and submit Unit Year End Reports, providing the unit name, number and city with a zero for any programs your unit isn't able to support. As always, feel free to contact me for more details, with suggestions, request other ways to provide support, or with any questions you may have.

EDUCATION

Sandy Garlie
Department Chairman
sraegarlie@gmail.com
218-348-2515

In the spirit of Service, not self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future

in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

The purpose of the Education program is to promote quality education for children and adults through classroom activities, literacy programs, scholarship promotion, and support of education beyond high school – especially for military children. This program includes focused attention on educational and scholarship opportunities for military families (including military children whether their parent(s) are active duty or reserve), enhancing respect for the sacrifices of our military heroes among schools by scheduling Veterans in Community School programs, and supporting veterans to pursue higher education and vocational education.

The basic program is Let's Get Organized and Make a Plan...deadline is March 2023. Thank you for your family's service.

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS RECAP

Joyce Endres
Department Chairman
ljendres@charter.net

"People are guests in our story, the same way we are guests in theirs. But we all meet each other for a reason because every person is a personal lesson waiting to be told." ~ Lauren Klarfeld

The Wisconsin American Legion Auxiliary was honored to host several distinguished guests during the 2021-2022 administrative year as we joined Department President Diane Weggen to SALUTE, SERVE and CELEBRATE the ALA mission with over 17,000 Wisconsin ALA members.

The Wisconsin ALA organization includes units, counties, districts, departments, Central Division, and National. Central Division National Vice President Denise Delaney-Wrolen joined us for The American Legion Midwinter Conference, January 14-15, 2022, in Wisconsin Dells. CDNVP Denise shared her insights during a Legion Family training session, led by the ALA Leadership Team.

Various distinguished guests joined us for the 101st ALA Department Convention, July 14-17, 2022, in Green Bay. Our most honored guests were ALA National President

Kathy Daudistel and honored Past Department President Diane Kranig. NP Kathy and PDP Diane shared their experiences with the Legion Family all weekend. President Kathy's theme, *caring for those who care for others*, was the focus of her message. PDP Diane highlighted memories of her year as 2006-2007 Department President.

Additional convention honored guests included Junior Member of the Year Makayla Wallock, ALABGS Governor Grace Nwankwo, special guest speaker Tracy Rosinski of Heartland Home Health/Hospice, 2021-2022 Department Commander Greg Eirich, 2022-2023 Department Commander Julie Muhle, National SAL Commander Mike Fox, SAL NEC Chris Sherman, SAL Department Commander David Fuller, American Legion Riders President Ray Pasbrig, 9th District President Marian Brown, WDVA Secretary Mary Kolar, video greetings from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, and In Flanders' Field sung by Megan Rielly and signed by Jarod Rielly.

It was a pleasure to serve as your Distinguished Guests Chairman. My thanks go out to PNP Diane Duscheck, Past Central Division National Vice Presidents Teresa Isensee and Virginia Kodl, and PDP Joanie Dickerson for their guidance and support.

M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

Joan Chwala
Department Chairman
ctr68552@centurytel.net
715-668-5661



Unique Loan Fund Program Meets Wisconsin's Mission

More than ninety years ago, a lady named M. Louise Wilson had a vision. She wanted to assist women who required financial support to further their education. Because the American Legion Auxiliary made this vision a reality, the lives of unit members have been enhanced as we use these loans to further educate our own members.

Q. What makes this loan unique?

A. It is so simple to apply for the loan. Applicants must contact the program chairman to indicate their interest in a loan. The chairman then sends all necessary information to the applicant. There is no interest on this loan unless the student fails to pay it back. Six months after graduation, payments of \$50 per month will be due.

Q. What are the requirements?

A. The applicant must: 1) be a current member of the American Legion Auxiliary, 2) submit a copy of the DD214 for the veteran that made her eligible for membership, 3) send a transcript of her high school grades, 4) include three letters of recommendation, 5) be approved by the program chairman (most correspondence can be done through emails), and 6) have a responsible adult co-sign the promissory note.

Q. What is the amount of the loan?

A. If approved, the applicant can borrow up to \$800 per year for five years. One year from the date of the first loan, the applicant may apply for an additional \$800 by sending a copy of college grades and maintaining membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. If approved, she may continue to borrow until the total reaches \$4,000 or she graduates from college, whichever comes first.

Q. Why do you ask for donations?

A. Donations ensure that future generations will be able to take advantage of this program. Unit presidents receive a copy of the donation sheets, which are also posted on the Department website.

Please spread the word about the loans and the need for additional funding.

2022 – 2023 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HOSPITAL REPS/DEPS

OFFICERS

President	Linda Coppock
Senior Vice President	Maggie Geiger
First Vice President	Becky Mueller
Second Vice President	Sue Hembrook
Historian	Sue Turowski
Chaplain	Linda Kostka
Executive Secretary/Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Nat'l Executive Committeewoman	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Alt. Nat'l. Executive Committeewoman	Diane Weggen
Parliamentarian	Teresa Isensee
Sergeant-at-Arms	Jennifer Gardner
Asst Sergeant-at-Arms	Lisa Blom

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

1st District President	Zondra Morris
2nd District President	Amy Luft
3rd District President	Karen Runk
4th District President	Laura Calteux
5th District President	Linda Bartell
6th District President	Diane Steinert
7th District President	Christina Petranovich
8th District President	Linda Tryczak
9th District President	Bonnie Blink
10th District President	Margaret Larson
11th District President	Claudia Osero
12th District President	Betty Stone

CHAIRMEN & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALA in the Know Program

Chairman	Amanda Szalewski
Vice Chairman	Patti Westpfahl

Americanism	Sue Hembrook
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Donna Jensen

ALABGS Committee

Chairman	Danyelle Thompson
Vice Chairman	SuAnn Pagel-Rast
Executive Director	Delores Woolf
Assistant Executive Director	Joanie Dickerson
Committee	Laura Calteux
Committee	Bethany Fredericks
Committee	Jennifer Leahy
Committee	Sheryl Polster
Committee	Theresa Schindler
Department President	Linda Coppock
Senior Vice President	Maggie Geiger
Executive Secretary/Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Americanism Chairman	Sue Hembrook

Bowling Committee

Chairman/Tournament Director	Jenni Syftestad
Committee	Lisa Blom
Committee	Shannon Churchill
Committee	Janet Heidtke
Committee	Germaine Hying
Committee	Linda Kostka
Committee	Sue Middlestead
Committee	Toni Moegenburg
Committee	Margie Schoonover
Dept President	Linda Coppock
Senior Vice President	Maggie Geiger
Executive Secretary/Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak

Child. & Youth/Liaison-Child Welfare Fdn	Mary Petrie
Community Service	Kay Grosskopf
Constitution & Bylaws	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Distinguished Guests	Diane Weggen
Education	Sandra Garlie

Finance Committee

Chairman	Diane Duscheck
Vice Chairman	Kathy Wollmer
Committee	Sue Keyzers
Office Policy Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Alternate NEC	Diane Weggen

Fundraising	Loirre Barber
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Junior Activities	Laura Calteux
Assistant Jr. Activities	Char Kiesling

Leadership Committee

Chairman	Joyce Endres
Committee	Patti Westpfahl
Committee	Teresa Isensee

Legislative	Diane Weggen
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Liaison to TAL Communications Committee	
Editor – Wisconsin Publication	Bonnie Dorniak

M. Louise Wilson Ed. Loan Fund	Joan Chwala
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Membership

Chairman	Becky Mueller
UD & R	Donna Bellettiere
UD & R	Mary Ellen Crandall
TAL Liaison	Barb McDaniel
UD & R	12 District Presidents

Music (current Chaplain)	Linda Kostka
National Security	Karen Degner

Office Policy Committee

Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Committee	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Committee	Virginia Kodl

Past Presidents Parley / Cavalcade of Mem.	Bonnie Jakubczyk
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Poppy Program	Patti Westpfahl
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Public Relations Committee

Chairman	Sandra Mack
Committee	Shirley Krier
Committee	Bob Shappell

Standing Rules	Diane Kranig
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Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R)

VA&R Chairman	(James) Mike Rohan
Director of Hospital Volunteers	Sue Hembrook
Christmas Gift Shop Supervisor	Diana Sirovina
Christmas Gift Shop Assistant	Linda Bartell
Homeless Women Veterans Grant Chrmn	Pat Smith
Service to Veterans Chairman	Maggie Geiger

HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES & DEPUTIES

Chippewa Falls – Wisconsin Veterans Home	
Representative	Nancy Randen
Deputy	Teresa Steinke

Dayton Care Center - Kenosha

Representative	Sue Hembrook
Assistant	Vacant

Iron Mountain, MI – Oscar G. Johnson USVAMC

Associate Representative	Anna Wender
Associate Deputy	Nellie DeBaker

King – Wisconsin Veterans Home

Representative	Nancy Neuroth
Assistant Representative	Alice Bentley
Deputy	Pat Daniels
Deputy	Dawn Lind

Madison – Middleton Memorial VAMC

Representative	Sheila Frye
Deputy	Vacant

Milwaukee – Zablocki Memorial VAMC

Representative	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Deputy	Sandra Kaebisch
Deputy	Sue Middlestead
Deputy	Vacant

Minneapolis, MN – Minneapolis VA Health Care System

Associate Representative	Jeanne Williams
Associate Deputy	Betty Swenson

Tomah – VA Medical

Representative	Patricia Flanders
Deputy	Helene Stein
Deputy	Vacant
Deputy	Vacant

Union Grove – Wisconsin Veterans Home

Representative	Mary Ellen Crandall
Deputy	Kathie Wilhelm

MAY/JUNE 2022 ALA DAILY SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

May 2022

1	\$25	Ronald Troemel	Whitewater
2	\$15	Anita Kammerer	Brodhead
3	\$15	Jason Faas	Cedarburg
4	\$15	Eileen Schoemaker	Stoughton
5	\$15	Bernice Baumann	Lowell
6	\$15	Nola Nagel	Eastman
7	\$15	Karla Malean	Wilson
8	\$25	Julie VanKirk	Amberg
9	\$15	Terri Schlimgen	Barneveld
10	\$15	Donna Jensen	Milwaukee
11	\$15	Doris Volden	Westby
12	\$15	William LaRose	Eau Claire
13	\$15	Carol Jahnke	Appleton
14	\$15	Mary Boumeester	Hudson
15	\$25	Judy Alshouse	Chetek
16	\$15	Kathi Pozorski	Marathon
17	\$15	Jan Schiedler	Cadott
18	\$15	Connie Mueller	Plymouth
19	\$15	Patricia McNulty	Waunakee
20	\$15	Barbara Tollers	Barron
21	\$500	Margaret Larson	River Falls
22	\$25	Barbara Tremi	Slinger
23	\$15	Shirley Bemish	Arbor Vitae
24	\$15	Heather Treptow	Kimberly
25	\$15	Irma Hanson	Chaseburg
26	\$15	Sharon Breitenfeldt	Leopolis
27	\$15	Patricia Kreuzer	Wausau
28	\$15	Ada Krista	Fall Creek
29	\$25	Marie Deja	River Falls
30	\$15	Teri McElroy	Jackson
31	\$15	Clarice Rush	Black River Falls

June 2022

1	\$15	Sally Parish	Sauk City
2	\$15	Nancy Larson	River Falls
3	\$15	Lyn Elver	Verona
4	\$15	Norma Socha	Edgar
5	\$25	Tracy Luedtke	Lomira
6	\$15	Bonnie Scheehle	Boulder Junction
7	\$15	Christine Hetrick	Fox Lake
8	\$15	Joanne Bunkelman	Fond du Lac
9	\$15	Darlyn Oschmann	Jefferson
10	\$15	Jean Miller	Pewaukee
11	\$15	Samantha Weggen	Honolulu, HI
12	\$25	Helen Strop	Rochester, MN
13	\$15	Vicki Barnes	Minocqua
14	\$500	Janet Robaidek	Pulaski
15	\$15	Joan Burkwald	Menomonee Falls
16	\$15	Betty Heckman	Nekoosa
17	\$15	Letta Moon	Monroe
18	\$15	LaVonne Pulvermacher	Lone Rock
19	\$25	Bernice Steffens	Union Grove
20	\$15	Audrey Schneider	New Holstein
21	\$15	Delores Raddatz	North Freedom
22	\$15	Aleta Elko	Gillett
23	\$15	Carol Faller	Thiensville
24	\$15	Mary Lavin	Medford
25	\$15	Bill Czapplewski	DeForest
26	\$25	Rachelle Dickau	Oak Creek
27	\$15	Leslie Kiesow	Larsen
28	\$15	Linda Stump	Tomah
29	\$15	Riggs Bagby	Westville, OK
30	\$15	Joan Elliott	Madison



UNIT 324 CELEBRATING MEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS!

FAR LEFT: Monica Brazee, a member of Carl Nelson Unit 324 in Osseo since she was five days old, graduated with honors from I Forward on June 4, 2022. The Unit provided the stole to message her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary.

LEFT: Unit 324 Junior Member Frankee Drummer is pictured with Unit President Sherry Brasda. Frankee was chosen as 2022 Miss Osseo! Several factors were considered in her selection, including her service with the ALA at various Post/Unit activities and laying wreaths with Wreaths Across America at four different cemeteries.

CONVENTION

**2022
DEPARTMENT
CONVENTION
HIGHLIGHTS**
JULY 14-17, 2022
GREEN BAY,
WISCONSIN



PDP Diane Kranig was the honored guest at Department Convention. Pictured (l-r) are members who served with her during her term as Department President (2006-2007): Joan Chwala, Betty Stone, Joyce Endres, Kathy Wollmer, Diana Sirovina, Diane Kranig, Sue Vorwald, Teresa Isensee.



2022 ALA Badger Girls State Governor Grace Nwankwo shared highlights of her experience at the Girls State session and received the ALABGS Proclamation signed by Governor Evers.



Many Past Department Presidents celebrated together at a dinner during Department Convention. Pictured (l-r, back row): Diane Duscheck, Diana Sirovina, Sue Vorwald, Teresa Isensee, Diane Kranig, Virginia Kodl, Pat Smith, Diane Weggen, Char Kiesling, Laura Calteux. (Front Row): Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, Joanie Dickerson, National President Kathy Daudistel, Joyce Endres, Loretta Shellman, Joan Chwala, Berne Baer.



AT LEFT: Department President Diane Weggen presented four Department President's Awards for Excellence. Pictured: 6th District President Diane Steinert receiving an award on behalf of St. Nazianz Unit 477.



ABOVE LEFT: 2022-2023 Department Officers: (back row) Alternate NEC Diane Weggen, Secretary Bonnie Dorniak, Chaplain Linda Kostka, Historian Sue Turowski, NEC Bonnie Jakubczyk. (Front row): 2nd VP Sue Hembrook, 1st VP Becky Mueller, Department President Linda Coppock, Senior VP Maggie Geiger.

ABOVE RIGHT: 2022-2023 District Presidents are Getting New & Old Members Excited! Pictured (back row): 2nd District Amy Luft, 4th District Laura Calteux, 6th District Diane Steinert, 8th District Linda Tryczak, 10th District Margaret Larson. (Front row): 1st District Zondra Morris, 3rd District Karen Runk, 7th District Christina Petranovich.

AT RIGHT: Members participated in a Parade of Checks during an ice cream social with National President Kathy Daudistel and donated \$2,345 to the ALA Foundation.





UPDATES FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY

Welcome from the 2022-2023 Legion Family Leaders: SAL Detachment Commander Dave Fuller, ALA President Linda Coppock, and Legion Commander Julie Muhle!

The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Riders challenge all members to believe in this organization, work together, and get back to the basics of serving veterans, the military, their families, and our communities.

2022-2023 Legion Family Events

- **September 9-11, 2022** – Celebration of Freedom at Columbia County Fairgrounds, Portage, WI (visit www.wilegion.org for details)
- **September 17, 2022** – ALA in the Know Conference, Legion Post 175, Loyal, WI
- **September 24, 2022** – ALA in the Know Conference, Hortonville Community Center, Hortonville, WI
- **October 1, 2022** – Legion Family Membership Rally, Marshfield/Neillsville area (details pending)
- **October 8, 2022** – ALA in the Know Conference, Portage County Public Library, Stevens Point, WI
- **October 22, 2022** – ALA in the Know Conference, Legion Post 355, Grafton, WI
- **January 12-15, 2023** – Midwinter Conference, Radisson, Green Bay, WI
- **May 20, 2023** – Joint Legion Family Testimonial, Black Creek, WI
- **July 19-23, 2023** – Department Convention, Wausau, WI
- **August 25-31, 2023** – National Convention, Charlotte, NC

ALA BADGER GIRLS STATE

Danyelle Thompson, Chairman
alabgs.chairman@gmail.com
 920-379-6489

The 2022 Session of ALA Badger Girls State was held at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh from June 19-24 after a two-year hiatus. Over 500 delegates completed the program and learned about civil service, patriotism, the importance of voting, and how to run for an elected office. The session wasn't without its hiccups, but overall it was a great success.

Many elected officers and civil servants came and spoke to the delegates, including Senator Ron Johnson and Governor Tony Evers. Chief Judge Lisa Neubauer from the Court of Appeals attended the Inaugural and administered the Oath of Office to the ALABGS Elected Constitutional Offices. The American Legion and Riders from Oshkosh Post 70 also came one night to do a flag disposal ceremony and answer questions. It is always the most highly rated part of the program, and this year was no exception.

The delegates arrived on Sunday and immediately began working to create the 51st State of Badger. They were put into two political parties, the Nationalists and Federalists, began running for city offices, and of course- began making friends. By the end of the week, they had a full working state government and left on Friday after making lifelong friendships.

Last, but certainly not least, special recognition must be given to the 57 people who gave up their week to serve as counselors. Many answered the call and stepped up to give up all or part of a week to do everything from working the store, running a daily newspaper, or serving as a city counselor. Many had no idea what they were walking into, but both myself and the rest of the ALABGS Committee thank everyone for their hard work and dedication. And thank you to every unit that raised money and sent such fine delegates to our session. The program cannot be a success without the help and commitment of everyone involved.

