



# BADGER



# LEGIIONNAIRE

& WISCONSIN VOL 100 #4 | AUG 2023



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THE MISSION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN IS TO PROVIDE SERVICE TO VETERANS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES.



## THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL 2023 DEPARTMENT CONVENTION!

The 2023 Department Convention was held July 19-23, 2023 in Rothschild. The week kicked off with the 3-day Back to Basics Run. The group of 30 plus bikes, and their riders, drove throughout Wisconsin raising over \$31,000 for Camp American Legion. An impressive three days that saw Commander Julie on her first motorcycle ride. She said it was “the most relaxed I have been in months”.



Prior to the Riders arrival, 2nd District Commander Jim Johnson (now Department Vice Commander) organized a Be The One Walk. This was well attended, and included James “Jim” LaCoursiere, Candidate for National Commander.



The Department Standing Committees were held on Thursday. A couple of highlights were, the Membership Committee approved a ‘join discount’



SEE CONVENTION, PAGE 2

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The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin  
2930 American Legion Drive  
Portage, WI 53901

### 2023 Summer Sweeps Winners

**1st Place – \$10,000**  
Stephen Gilbertson of Chippewa Falls

**2nd Place – \$5,000**  
Ronald Boeldt of Townsend

**3rd Place – \$2,500**  
Greg Eisenhardt of Pewaukee

**4th Place – \$1,000**  
John Christ of Wausaukee

**5th Place – \$500**  
Kenneth Radke of Loganville

**6th Place – \$500**  
Marvin Horn of Rice Lake

**7th Place – \$250**  
John Ramsell of Adams

**8th Place – \$250**  
Frank Haffner of Menasha

“Badger Legionnaire”  
& “Wisconsin”

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“Badger Legionnaire”

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Department Vice Commanders  
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**Harry Bauer**  
**Gail Minks**  
**Linda Pfeiffer**

Department Chaplain  
**Virgil Smith**

Sergeant-At-Arms  
**John Berg**  
**Aimee Korger**

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NECman - **Robert Shappell**  
Alternate NECman - **Frank Kostka**  
Judge Advocate - **Nicholas Lange**

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2nd – **Charlie Young**  
3rd – **Jerry Hook**  
4th – **Steve Kohnke**  
5th – **Craig Ellis**  
6th – **Dave Steinert**  
7th – **Phil Green**  
8th – **Adam Klapperich**  
9th – **Debbie Thomas**  
10th – **Rita Rindahl**  
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”

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**Bonnie Dorniak, Editor**  
**Maggie Geiger, Department President**  
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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.

**BADGER BOYS STATE**

**VETERANS VOLUNTEER AT BADGER BOYS STATE**

By **Thomas A. Skrenes**

It takes many hands to make the Boys State program work. The recent 80th session of the American Legion Youth program held in June at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire campus, was a great success. A group of 680 citizens and 140 volunteer staff worked together to deliver a program that promotes Americanism, leadership and the study of democracy. Counselors, administrators and work groups devoted to operations and logistics makes it all happen. Included in that successful team are the three American Legion members working in Supply. These three are responsible for moving materials in a timely way so that the BBS program can be more productive. Whether it be paper or computers, water bottles or campaign materials Mike Feier, Jim Schmidt and Gene Wall are on it.

Mike Feier is a member of Post 54 in Marshfield. He has been a part of the volunteer staff at Boys State



for 26 years. “We move everything,” he said. “Our job is to be at Boys State early and stay as long as it takes to get the work done.” An advocate for the program, Mike speaks highly of the citizens and their counselors, “The program and these young men, both citizens and staff are unbelievable. A week at BBS gives you a positive view of the future of our country.”

Jim Schmidt from Post 544 in Twin Lakes en-

joys the work and the company of the volunteer staff. “We support the citizens and supply their needs. We do inventory and we transport all of it. I have been doing this for more than ten years and I am so comfortable about our future as a nation when I am a part of this program. Leadership is so important and that is what this program is about.”

Gene Wall from Post 258 in Little Chute is a recent addition to the Supply staff completing this summer his second year at Badger Boys State. A 25-year Veteran of the Air Force, Gene Wall was a 1989 citizen of Boys State. “It is time for me to give back,” he says. “Boys State opened doors for me. It all fits together. We are a great team. I am happy to be on the Supply Team. We are not about being up front. We do the quiet work.”

The Director of Boys State, Bill Cosh, is very pleased to work with our Supply Team. “I am delighted to have these three with us. They deliver excellence with a smile.”

**CONVENTION**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for August 6 for those joining at either the State Fair or the Legion Baseball All-Star Game. The Convention and Activities Commission awarded the 2027 Department Convention to Madison Marriott West in Middleton.

Friday began with opening ceremonies. A big thank you to Post 10 Honor Guard for posting the colors, and Corrine Kostka for singing the national anthem. We were honored to hear from the DAV, VFW, SAL, Auxiliary, Brigadier General David May and Governor Evers. We gave out many awards, including the employment awards to those whose efforts ensure the economic well-being of the Veterans of Wisconsin.

The excitement continued on Saturday with a visit by WDVA Secretary James Bond, and a history lesson from Christopher Kolakowski of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. We were honored to have Brian Eisch, retired Master Sergeant, speak to us about his military and personal experiences and how to overcome the darkest days. We highly recommend you learn more about his experiences on the Netflix documentary “Father Soldier Son”. We honored some well-deserving first responders and youth award winners. The delegates in attendance elected the following leadership for the 2023-2024 year:

**Department Commander**  
**Karl Stuvengen**

**Department Vice Commanders**  
**Jim Johnson**  
**Harry Bauer**  
**Gail Minks**  
**Linda Pfeiffer**

**Department Sergeant at Arms**  
**Aimee Korger**

Saturday evening, we welcomed the Time and a Half Band where guests enjoyed a taco bar, live entertainment and were introduced to the 2023-2024 Legion Family Leadership.

Sunday wrapped up with the Memorial Service and the Installation of the new officers.

Thank you to all the volunteers from the Rothschild and Wausau area Posts. They did a great job supporting the Department and are appreciated for their efforts.

See you at Midwinter in La Crosse!



**IT'S A  
BIG  
LEGION  
FAMILY**

**ABOVE: Legion volunteers stand with American Legion driver Alex Palou with the #10 car in the Indy Car Series.**

**AT RIGHT: The American Legion family helped everyone, including furry family members.**





## BACK TO THE BASICS WITH THE LEGION RIDERS

On Sunday during the Safety Meeting of Commander Julie's "Back to the Basics Tour" the first check was presented and it made me curious as to what the rest of the next three days would bring. Was I ever amazed.

What I really want everyone to know is that this group of members of TAL Family are more than bikers. They are kind, caring, compassionate and emotional! The route that was picked was so beautiful, calming, tranquil and peaceful. Yes, even riding on noisy bikes and trikes, there is a peacefulness none to any other. On Monday, at every stop, along with Commander Julie, I was introduced and felt like I was truly part of the Rid-

ers. The donations and generosity were amazing. The people that greeted us as we rode in and out of a town was heartwarming and much appreciated. Police escorts, Legion Posts and members; fire trucks hoisting the American Flag. The patriotism was outstanding.

So, the next time you see an American Legion Rider, thank them for the wonderful mission they fulfill by making it their mission to ride to collect donations for a much needed, well-deserved program or project in need of financial support. They will not disappoint! Their mission will succeed and provide more than asked for!



### PAIR RECEIVES '1' PINS FOR RECRUITMENT



Glenda Garcia and Wendy Christianson received their "1" pins for membership recruitment.

### POST 539 INITIATES NEW MEMBERS



Initiation of new members Sue Kemnitz and Gail Nohr.



## WALLECA'S 2023 STUDENTS AND STAFF

2023 WALLECA Students and Staff—The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin introduces its sixth Law Enforcement Career Academy. The program provides firsthand experiences and insight into the operations of law enforcement agencies. For one week in July, active and retired members of the law enforcement community work with students to instill an understanding and respect for law enforcement professionals and their techniques.



## BADGER HONOR FLIGHT

Sue Snethen accompanied by her Army Veteran daughter, Kelly, preparing to board their recent Badger Honor Flight.

Wisconsin  
American Legion  
First District

**POW★MIA**

POST 544

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

## 40th Annual Silent March

Lance Park  
55 Lance Drive  
Twin Lakes, WI  
September 16, 2023 at 11:00

For Information Call:  
Post Commander - Jim Schmidt  
262-492-3073  
Post 544  
262-877-3669

## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER



Adjutant Jo Ann Schedler receives the Post 539 Volunteer of the Quarter Award.

Share "In the Spotlight" stories with the Legion Family by sending them to badger@wilegion.org. Please provide high-Res JPEG 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



## PRESCOTT-BAYENS POST 83 PAYS IT FORWARD



The American Legion Prescott-Bayens Post 83 donated \$500 to Sheboygan Area Pay it Forward. Pay it Forward is established to aid homeless individuals and families in the Sheboygan area with basic essentials and help with employment and housing searches. Knowing that they rely on the generosity of the community, Post 83 was delighted to be able to assist in such a worthwhile cause. Pictured from the left: Legionnaires Harvey McBroom and Crystal Wendler, Pay it Forward Founders Scott and Kathleen LaBonte.

## 'I AM NOT INVISIBLE'



Jessica Williams (left) and Cory Ulbrich (right) pose with their I Am Not Invisible displays.

## SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER IN UNION GROVE



Members of the Legion, Legion Auxiliary and SAL from Bixby-Hansen Post 171 in Union Grove came to help put on the Post's annual Spaghetti Fundraiser on Saturday, March 18. The event, looked forward to with great anticipation by local residents each year, was another rousing success. Money raised at this event each year benefits all of the Post 171 Legion family.

## POST 33 PRESENTS COLORS AT NEENAH LEGION BASEBALL GAME



Legion Baseball is back in Neenah! American Legion Post 33 presents the colors at a recent game.

## DISTRICT 11 RIDERS AT WALL THAT HEALS



American Legion Riders District 11 – Volunteered at the "Wall that Heals" that was displayed in Rhinelander, WI where thousands attended.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## POST 473 QUILTS OF VALOR



Roger Udelhoven (top) and Steve Post (above), members of Post 473 in Potosi, receive Quilts of Valor for their military service in the Army. Members of the Post (below) are there for the presentation.



## LEGION POST AND SQUADRON 91 WORKING TO HELP VETERANS



Legion Post 91 and Squadron 91 are working to help our Veterans. LEFT: Holden Andrae of Squadron 91 delivered a high lift chair to Charles Kasprzak. The chair allows Charles to get out of the chair by himself where before his wife always had to help him up. Holden said that the smile on Charles face was worth the time and work. Holden's grandfather is a member of Post 91. RIGHT: Another Squadron member Dylan Lemke presented Post 91 Commander Jerry Wendt with a work of art of the American Flag. Dylan is a 4th grader, and both of his grandfathers are members of Post 91.

## POST 454 PAYS RESPECTS IN THE 'HOLYLAND'



LEFT: The American Legion Honor Squad from Abler/Engel Post 454 Mt. Calvary paid respect to deceased Veterans at St. Peter's Church Cemetery in St. Peter. The unit conducted services at 10 cemeteries located throughout the area east of Fond du Lac, known as the "Holyland". Honor Squad Commander Willie Sparks far left. RIGHT: Stephen King, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 454 Mt. Calvary, performed taps.

## POST 433 DONATES TO BADGER HONOR FLIGHT



The Barneveld American Legion Post 433 donated to Badger Honor Flight and also provided the Color Guard for the Welcome Home on the 20th of May at the Dane County Regional Airport.

## POST 47 HAS GONE FISHING



Members of Post 47 helped a fellow Veteran, Bill Johnson, get out on a boat to do some fishing. Shane Schmidt provided a loading dock and the crew was able to do a wheelchair transfer to a pontoon where Bill had a great day of fishing, catching 53 panfish as well as a nice bass. Dean Simonson, Post 47 Commander; Shane Schmidt; Dennis Manthey; Norm Bednarek, Post 47 Adjutant and Columbia County Legion Commander; and (seated) Bill Johnson.



## POST 19 QUILTS OF VALOR



ABOVE: Post 19 Hartford presented their fourth Quilt of Valor on June 1 to Roger Kunz. BELOW: On July 6, the fifth Quilt was presented to 1SG Gerald Gramins Ret. Both quilts were presented by Commander Allen Schoessow. Thanks again Quilters of St. Luke Lutheran Church of Slinger, Wisconsin.



## COON VALLEY CENTENARIAN



Coon Valley Post 116 hosted a birthday party on July 8, 2023 for one of their WWII members on his 100-year birthday. Elnor Haugen has been a member of Post 116 for 49 years and served as Post Chaplain for many years, and was a longtime member of the Honor Guard. LEFT: Helen and Elnor Haugen are in front of Post 116 members (L to R) Harlan Helseth, Ron Miller, Roger Mathison, Wesley Guy, Frank Mathison, Mike Callan, Rodney Berg Jr., Bernie Roesler, and Charlie Nelson. RIGHT: Post Commander Mike Callan and Past Department Commander Roger Mathison present Elnor with a birthday cake. A large crowd attended the party.



## POST 33 AT NEENAH JULY 4 CELEBRATION



Neenah American Legion Post 33 performing with the City of Neenah Community Band during the July 4 celebration.

## DISTRICT 11 RIDERS GIVE TO VETERANS FISHING CAMP

American Legion Riders District 11 donated to the Veterans Fishing Camp located in Phillips, Wisconsin. Each year Veterans come and fish for three days at no expense to them. In the Spring, they have a family fishing camp where the Veteran brings his family for three days.





## 100 YEARS AND A GOLDEN AXE

William Verhagen American Legion Post 60 commemorated 100 years of service before a good crowd gathered at Sunset Park, Kimberly, WI on July 3 for fireworks, music and fun.

Hundreds of spectators applauded as Past Commander Richard Staedt presented The Golden Axe Outstanding Firefighter Award to Kimberly Fire Department Chief James Hietpas. Commander Brian Smits reported the 1923 notice to Kimberly Veterans to form an American Legion Post and the organization of William Verhagen Post 60 on 23 October 1923. The Post Name-sake William Verhagen, the first man from Kimberly to die during WWI, died at age 23 on October 8, 1918 at a Kentucky Army Camp during a flu pandemic, leaving behind a young widow and baby.



Wisconsin Department Vice Commander Jeff Zwiers reported on the community involvement of Post 60 and expectations of another great 100 years.

## 50 YEARS OF SERVICE AT POST 211



A 50-Year Certificate of Continuous Service was presented to Thomas Huffman, Post 211, Florence (left), by Commander Mario Zanoni on July 5.

## POST 55 SHERIFF CADETS AT BRAT FRY



Sheriff Cadets who helped with Post 55's brat fry on Memorial Day 2023.

## DISTRICT 2 LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR FOR SHEBOYGAN COUNTY

Wisconsin's District 2 has awarded Jerry Feustel with Legionnaire of the Year for Sheboygan County. Jerry is a member of The American Legion Prescott-Bayens Post 83. Jerry has volunteered to lead the Multi Veterans Service Organizations' Honor/Color Guard for multiple years. He has worked selflessly to arrange Military Honors for numerous funerals annually. Thus, giving a better understanding to the families about the sacrifice their loved one

made for their country and how greatly our country appreciates their service. In addition to planning and arranging funeral honors, Jerry also coordinates the Color Guard's performances in all patriotic parades and ceremonies. Due to his selfless sense of community service Jerry has been named Legionnaire of the Year.

Presenting this award to Jerry is Post Commander Randy Meyer (left) and Legionnaire Harvey McBroom (right).



## RIVER FALLS SAL AND FRIENDS DONATE TO RIVER FALLS ALB



LEFT: River Falls Sons of the American Legion and Friends Donated \$1,500 to Coach Ryan Bishop and the River Falls American Legion baseball team from a euchre tournament that was held May 21. RIGHT: Sons gather with the team for a pre-game huddle.



## POST 116 AUXILIARY DONATES TO COON VALLEY LEGION SIDING PROJECT



On June 11, during the annual American Legion Post 116 Chicken BBQ, the Coon Valley Auxiliary Unit 116 presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to Post 116 to go towards the loan for the new siding project for the Post 116 Clubrooms. Unit 116 President Julie Nelson (left), is shown presenting the check to Post 116 Finance Officer & Past Department Commander Roger Mathison. Other Auxiliary members present, L to R: Mary Elsen, Pauline Aspenson, Gloria Freitag, Becky Lind, Mary Jo Hess, Ellie Brye, and Bella Grethel.

## POST 83 LEGION BASEBALL DONATION



On June 19, Roger Marver, Legionnaire of The American Legion Prescott-Bayens Post 83, presented a check for \$1,000 to Steve Goes, Team Manager of the Post 83 Legion Ball Team. Ryan Salm Legion Baseball Tournament Organizer and Ken Wilhite Adjutant were present for the presentation at Wildwood Baseball Park in Sheboygan. Steve said the funds were much needed and appreciated.

## POST 122 AT PRICE COUNTY RODEO



Post 122 Phillips, along with other Veterans, presented the flags at the Price County Rodeo with over 2,000 in attendance.



## POST 496 MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM AND DEDICATION

The American Legion Post 496 Memorial Day program and memorial dedication on May 29 was attended by an estimated 200 members of the community. Brigadier General David May, Wisconsin Air National Guard, was the main speaker, and 6th District Legion Commander Gail Minks provided comments for the memorial marker and rededication of the memorial aircraft. The memorial marker was installed in May 2022 to “honor all the men and women who served our country in war and in peace.” The memorial aircraft, which was originally dedicated in 1962 to “those who had given their lives for freedom,” was relocated in 2020 to accommodate road expansion. A Post 496 fundraising campaign continues to accept donations to add flag poles, benches, and additional site improvements.

Recipients of this year’s scholarships and grants were

also recognized during the program. This year \$4,500 was awarded to our local students continuing their postsecondary education.



ABOVE: (L-R) Post 496 Commander Jake Pompa, 6th District Commander Gail Minks, Brig. Gen. David May, and Post 127 Commander Jenna Geiser. AT LEFT: (L-R) Post Scholarship Chair Justin Myszka, and recipients Alayna Gunderson, Olivia Hietpas, Connor Funk, Andrew Mader, and Anna Stumo.



## POST 71 WWII COAST GUARD



It was an honor for Post 71 to be in the presence of WWII Coast Guard Veteran Dallas Kobriger during the Memorial Day parade.

## VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

On May 23, 2023, Rio Francis Cuff American Legion Post 208 had the honor of performing a memorial service on behalf of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Partnership program, for the family of deceased U.S. Army Veteran James Farrington. Veteran Farrington served Nov. 10, 1965, to Nov. 9, 1971, which included service in Vietnam in 1966.



Dale Gajdosik, chairperson of the Legion Post 208 Vietnam War Commemoration program; Terry Schraufnagel, Post Commander; Joan Farrington, wife of deceased Veteran James Farrington; Mike and Jana (daughter) Adams, Nicki and John (son) Farrington, Denise (daughter) and Curt Wheeler, and Allan (son) Moll.

## ‘POPPY WEEK’ IN BURLINGTON



The Burlington Ross Wilcox American Legion Post 79 Auxiliary is welcomed at the Burlington Farmers Market each year during our ‘Poppy Day’ week. Members and Veterans also offer poppy coloring books and information to encourage new members.



SAL Squadron 294, Hartland held "Sleepout for Vets" in February, raising 80,000 for two organizations: MHVI (Milwaukee Homeless Vets Initiative) and Veterans Outreach of WI (V.O.W.) Debbie Buchanan (at left) of MHVI receives her check for 40,000 from Squadron 294 Cmdr. Mark Pape, as does Zach Zdroik (at right) from V.O.W.

## SAL 294 HOLDS "SLEEPOUT FOR VETS"



## POST 279, MARSHALL BSA PERFORM FLAG DISPOSAL CEREMONY ON FLAG DAY



American Legion Post 279 and the Marshall BSA Scouts performed a flag disposal ceremony on Flag Day, June 14.

## 60 YEARS OF SERVICE IN HARTFORD



Post Commander Allen Schoessow of Courtney-Carr-Milner Post 19 in Hartford presented Donald W. Radke a National Certificate of Continuous Membership for his 60 years of service. The event was held at Woodlawn Park on June 1.



**CERTIFICATE FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Post 33 Commander Mike Dart presenting a 50-year certificate to Chaplin Kent Kiesling for the Badger Legionnaire.



**VILLAGE OF JACKSON MEMORIAL INSTALLED**



In 2021, the Village of Jackson created a new municipal complex for its Police, Fire and Village Administration offices. Jeff McElroy, Post 486 Adjutant, and Alex Weisheim, VFW Post 7240 Quartermaster-Adjutant in Jackson, worked with a local company, Miller Monument, for a plaque that was left behind. It was sent off for restoration and relocated to their local community center. Miller Monument created this wonderful setting for it, and it was installed in time for Memorial Day.

**POST 33 AWARDS INAUGURAL SCHOLARSHIP**



St. Mary Central High School student Nicholas Berg was recipient of the first annual Post 33 American Legion Scholarship. The scholarship was presented by Vice Commander Bob Borszich (left) and Commander Chase Freimark (right).

**PARK FALLS HOSTS DISC GOLF EVENT**

American Legion Post 182 of Park Falls, WI, hosted a highly successful disc golf event that engaged Veterans and players from across the state. Held at Sandy Point Resort & Disc Golf Resort in Lac du Flambeau, WI, the tournament showcased the Legion's commitment to attracting younger Veterans and fostering community support.

American Legion Post 182's dedication to supporting worthy initiatives was evident through the event's success. The tournament raised \$1,332 for the Park Falls Recreation Arena, demonstrating the Legion's commitment to children and youth while promoting a healthy lifestyle.

As the American Legion continues to adapt and attract younger Veter-



ans, events like the Amber Lake Open highlight the significant impact they can have on building connections and raising funds for charitable causes.

Through their innovative approach, Legionnaires ensure that the spirit of service and community support endures for generations to come.

**VIETNAM WAR VETERANS COMMEMORATION PROGRAM HELD IN RIO**

As part of the national Vietnam War Veterans Commemoration Program, seven Vietnam War Era Veterans and their families were recognized for their service and sacrifice on May 10, 2023, at a program at Rio American Legion Post 208, Rio, Wisconsin. All seven Vietnam Era Veterans are related.



From left are Rio Post 208 Chairperson Dale Gajdosik; Veterans Donald Rowe, David Rowe, Ralph Pulver, Terry Rowe, Jay Eggleston, Daniel Rowe, and Mick Nauert; and Rio Post 208 Commander Terry Schraufnagel.

**SOFTBALL TEAM FOR FLANAGAN-DORN POST 294 MOVES TO 6-0**



Flanagan-Dorn Post 294 of the American Legion is proud to sponsor a Hartland Athletic Advancement Association Thursday night softball team. Current record 6-0. Pictured, l to r, back, are T. Lamack, J. Johnson, RJ Winkelman, K. Yaeger, J. Matheny, M. Ferree, J. Janicki. Inside car, L to R., M. Berres, M. Dassow, B. Toussaint.

**OVER 1,200 FLAGS IN SHEBOYGAN FALLS AREA**

Prior to Memorial Day post past-commander Larry Ter Maat of Post 149 led a group of Veterans and Boy Scouts in placing over 1,200 flags, at five larger cemeteries, and six smaller cemeteries in the Sheboygan Falls area. Some of the smaller cemeteries are located in family plots at houses and farms which date back to the Civil War. Our thanks to Larry for his work in locating and placing flags at all these locations.



## OCONOMOWOC, WAUPUN KICK OFF SOFTBALL SEASONS TOGETHER



Girls from the Edwin L. Jones Legion Post 91 Oconomowoc, and from the Montgomery-Plant-Dudley Legion Post 10 Waupun met in one of the first Legion Softball games played in Wisconsin. 2023 is the first year of Legion softball for girls. Unfortunately, the girls from Post 91 lost both ends of a double header to Post 10 in two well played games with scores of 9-5 and 20-10. The girls all had fun and made some new friends. Legion youth sports encourage our future leaders to develop good sportsmanship, leadership, fellowship, citizenship, and 100% Americanism.



## OSSEO SOFTBALL OPENS SEASON

Osseo Post 324 Softball hosted their first American Legion softball game on Friday, June 16, 2023 against Durand Post 181 at Osseo. Many American Legion Family members attended along with community members.



## POST 534 AND CUSTOM CANINES



American Legion and Sons of The American Legion McFarland Post 534 donated \$5,000 to Custom Canines for service dogs for Veterans. Left to right: SAL Commander Paul Roelke, Commander Nate Weier, Kathy Chambers, Lead of Custom Canines. Submitted by Dale V. Sankey.

## NEW OFFICERS ELECTED FOR MARSHALL AMERICAN LEGION POST 279



Marshall American Legion Post 279 elected its new officers for 2024. From left: Post Chaplain James Olsen, Executive Committee Member Marlin Hensler, 2nd Vice Commander Gary Johnson, Service Officer John Annen, 1st Vice Commander Dennis Riley, Post Adjutant Deb Relitz, Executive Committee Member Steve Roberts, Finance Officer Jane Cree, Historian Pete Ponti, (behind Pete) Sergeant-at-Arms Shane Brozowski, Commander Scott Relitz and Dane County Adjutant Keith Lovell. Not pictured is Executive Committee Member Robert Zickert.

## TWO MEMBERS, 110 YEARS SERVICE



At a Post 348, DeForest, meeting two members were recognized for a combined 110 years of continuous membership: 60 years for Lyman Wipperfurth and 50 years for Frank Weisensel.



## PHILLIPS FLAG DISPOSAL ON FLAG DAY



American Legion Post 122 Phillips, the VFW and Boy Scouts held a flag disposal on Flag Day, June 14.

## MEMORIAL DAY IN SHEBOYGAN



Army Reserve Captain Darryl Carlson entered the Marine Corps as an infantryman on November 6, 2001 shortly after the Terrorist Attacks on 9/11. Captain Carlson was a Memorial Day guest speaker and is a member of American Legion Post 149 in Sheboygan Falls.



**James Fialkowski**  
Department Veterans  
Service Officer

★★★★ **VETERANS** ★★★★★  
**SERVICE OFFICER**

**ONE LESS WORRY**

I have heard veterans say they are afraid to get mental health help even when in crisis for fear of making things worse for themselves later due to added medical bills if they are seen emergently. Therefore, I am writing this article to enlist our army of informed people to Be The One and help spread the word.

Per the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Veterans COM-PACT Act is now in effect. Veterans in acute suicidal crisis may go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care was added to help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It increases access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Per the VA, the act allows the VA to:

- Provide, pay for, or reimburse for treatment of eligible individuals' emergency suicide care, transportation costs, and follow-up care at a VA or non-VA facility for up to 30 days of inpatient care and 90 days of outpatient care.
- Make appropriate referrals for care following the period of emergency suicide care.
- Determine eligibility for other VA services and benefits.
- Refer eligible individuals for appropriate VA programs and benefits following the period of emergency suicide care.

Eligible individuals, regardless of VA enrollment status, are:

- Veterans who were discharged or released from active duty after more than 24 months of active service under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces, including reserve service members, who served more than 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location who were discharged under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces.

Bottom line, this removes the financial worry for eligible individuals and helps get them continued care.

If you're a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, contact the Veterans Crisis Line to receive 24/7 confidential support. You don't have to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect. To reach responders, dial 988 then Press 1, chat online at <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help-now/chat/>, or text 838255.

**ST. NAZIANZ TRIO MAKE OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT**



**ABOVE: Rich Ward with his Guardian, volunteer Bill Winkler. BELOW: Gary Schmitz with his son David who was his Guardian.**



Three members of Wagner-Eberle-Sukowaty Post 477 – St. Nazianz flew to Washington, D.C. on the June 7 Mission 62 of Old Glory Honor Flight. Rich Ward and Gary Schmitz were honored to fly as Veterans, while Nancy Rivera flew as a Guardian. It was a perfect day and in the words of Gary, "This was the second best day of my life ... the first being the birth of my son, David." Rich's favorite moments were the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. And, as someone who hadn't visited D.C. before, he visited monuments and memorials he didn't know existed. He greatly appreciated the history of the trip and he's very glad that he went.

**AT RIGHT: Veterans Henry Sturm, Ashley Smits (Post 88, Manitowoc), Carol Wheelock, Nancy Rivera (Post 477, St. Nazianz) and Wayne Huske (Post 28, Valders) at the Marine Corps Memorial.**



**POSTS 282 AND 395 RIDE IN MARQUETTE PARADE**



**Kingston Post 395 and Markesan Post 282 participated in the Marquette 4th of July parade. LEFT: (L to R) Terry Klawitter, Randy Schultz, David Jahnke (back to us), Derek Kohn (sailor uniform), Bob Krenz, and Dick Severson (far right). RIGHT: Robert Burdick is a member of the Kingston Post 395.**



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From Your  
American Legion  
Department



**James Bond**  
WDVA  
Secretary-  
designee

★★★★ **WDVA SECRETARY** ★★★★★

Greetings! I was so pleased to join many of you in person at your state convention in Rothschild last month. I enjoyed speaking to both the gathered Legionnaires and the Auxiliary. My message to both audiences was simple: we can only be successful when we work together in serving our nation's Veterans and their families. It was wonderful to also celebrate 104 years since the American Legion, and the Auxiliary, were organized to assist Veterans. Since becoming WDVA Secretary-designee, I have been focused on strengthening relationships and encouraging teamwork to achieve our collective goals and mission of serving the needs of Veterans and their families.

To better achieve these goals, I have begun plans to form a Women Veterans Coordinating campaign effort at WDVA to improve our outreach programs and address the current and future needs of women Veterans in Wisconsin. This includes addressing areas relating to connecting women Veterans to their earned benefits and resources, to their identity as Veterans, and helping connect women Veterans to the community.

Alongside this effort, I will also be forming a Student Veterans campaign to focus on the unique needs and outreach efforts to Veterans enrolled in higher education and

colleges. The intent is similar in scope as we want to engage with our student Veterans, raise awareness of student Veterans' needs, help them access their earned benefits, and connect them with our resources within the community so they may achieve lasting success in life. We are committed to showing younger Veterans that Wisconsin is a wonderful place to work, live, and raise a family.

Each of these groups is integral not only to WDVA's mission of serving Veterans but also to Veteran service organizations like the American Legion and the Auxiliary that provide so many opportunities through your membership. Engaging with and bringing these Veterans to the table to hear their ideas and find new ways to address their needs will assist in our shared goals and mission to better serve all Veterans in Wisconsin.

My appreciation to outgoing State Commander Julie Muhle for her leadership and camaraderie over the past year. Also, my congratulations to your newly elected State Commander Karl Stuvengen. I look forward to collaborating with him as he lead this great organization over the next year and hearing your ideas to meet the needs of our Veteran community.

Lastly, thank you to all of Wisconsin's American Legion members, the Auxiliary, 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.

## PHOTOS OF POST 477 MEMBERS HANG IN THE WHITE HOUSE



Two members of Post 477 had their portraits hanging in the Office of the Secretary of Veteran Affairs and then they were part of a small group of photos in the White House.

## POST 477 GOLF OUTING BENEFITS OLD GLORY HONOR FLIGHT

American Legion Post 477 – St. Nazianz hosted their inaugural Armed Forces Day Tee It Up ‘Fore’ Troops golf outing on May 18 at the Autumn Ridge Golf Course near St. Nazianz.

The golf outing was put together to benefit Old Glory Honor Flight in Appleton. In just the first two flights



of 2023, 24 Manitowoc County Veterans, which includes five Post 477 members, have flown with Old Glory Honor Flight. On Memorial Day,

Post members were very pleased and excited to present Diane MacDonald, Executive Director of Old Glory Honor Flight, a BIG check for \$10,000!



## POST 147 QUILTS OF VALOR

Twenty-two members of American Legion Post 147, Medford received Quilts of Honor presented by Roxanne Ashcraft.



Julie Muhle  
Department  
Adjutant

## ★★ DEPARTMENT ★★ ADJUTANT

Hello! First, I would like to thank everyone for helping me make my year as Department Commander a successful one. It was a great experience and the people and posts I was able to meet and visit were amazing. There is great pride amongst our membership and we can be thankful for all they do for Veterans, their families and the community.

Now, I begin my next adventure as Department Adjutant. My entire career in the Wisconsin American Legion has led to this opportunity. As Adjutant, I plan to be visible and accessible. I will be at as many district fall and spring meetings as I can get to and will be available for questions and training. Should you have questions, please call or visit.

During Convention, many people thanked the headquarters team for the support and work they do to help our programs succeed. I am very proud to join this team, the Camp American Legion team and the VSO team and look forward to the continued work to be completed and to what the future holds!



John D. Michels  
Membership  
Coordinator

## ★★ MEMBERSHIP ★★ POST-CONVENTION THOUGHTS

Wow! That was quite the event, and it was so good to put names with faces. I want to thank all of you who dropped by the registration table to introduce yourselves and to ask questions. I certainly hope I was helpful. You all gave me a lot to think about when it comes to your needs and what further services I can offer you. The optimism was overwhelming and thanks to all of you who gave me post pins and SWAG.

So, now we begin our 2024 membership journey, and with over 10 months now under my belt, I welcome this new fiscal year challenge. The only difference now is that I am getting inquiries from new officers assuming membership chairman positions, and also more and more members are deciding to renew their membership dues online. I recognize that there may be challenges and problems here and there, and I will do my utmost to solve your problems and get things on the right track.

Congratulations to Amherst Post 22 for winning the drawing for the smoker. I will be at my desk Monday through Friday processing memberships, both new ones and renewals, helping to update your rosters and your officers, and updating you on any new developments.

One thing I want to remind you of is that 90% of your needs are at your fingertips on mylegion.org. So long as the necessary post officers have access to their post information, there is little that you cannot do for yourself. Don't get me wrong – I love to help you, but just know that many of your needs are in your control such as address changes, paying dues, checking to see which members have paid online, headquarters members living in your area, and others. Just let me know how I can help. Have a great next few months, and let's gather those new members into our fold!

## CAMP AMERICAN LEGION . . .

## WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH ADDED NUMBERS



Jim Klement  
Camp American  
Legion Director

Camp American Legion is in full swing and we are having a great year!

We started off the great season with Department Spring Meetings being held at camp. This was a great opportunity for Legionnaires to see camp firsthand and help understand the mission that we have.

The first scheduled week was the American Legion Chaplains week. This was well attended and chaplains from all over the state had a chance to network with other chaplains and also enhanced their knowledge with the classes that were being held.

The following weeks were a combination of VA programs, women Veterans week, Vietnam and Korean War Veterans. We increased our numbers from last year so each week had more Veterans and a lot of Veterans that have never been to camp before.

With the increase of numbers Camp American Legion relies more and more on volunteers to help. Camp is blessed with great volunteers, but we will always have openings for more. The more volunteers that camp has the more we can accomplish. Camp will provide lodging and meals when you volunteer. If you would like to volunteer, please contact camp.

Thank you,  
Jim Klement, Camp Director  
715-277-2510



To learn more about the mission of Camp American Legion or to get involved with answering the call, visit [wilegion.org](http://wilegion.org) or find us on Facebook.



*“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*

# The Last Bugle



We would like to post this retraction of a name posted in the Last Bugle for the June 2023 edition. Jerry A. Fortney, Post 220, is not deceased.

<b>KEY</b>	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	

<b>1 Germantown</b> Donald J. Zoromski	<b>45 Elkhorn</b> Herbert W. Olwig K
<b>3 Antigo</b> Kenneth G. Ivanoski WWII	<b>47 Portage</b> Lynn L. Oestreich V Lynn H. Roundy K
<b>10 Wausau</b> John R. Hochberger WWII Franklin J. Wanta WWII	<b>51 West Salem</b> Raymond J. Walter K Vernetta M. Fish WWII
<b>11 Green Bay</b> Chet A. Kukla WWII Gerald Fictum K Richard J. Lax V	<b>52 La Crosse</b> Tom G. Hutson K
<b>15 Juneau</b> Milton S. Kuenzi WWII	<b>53 Eau Claire</b> Lorraine L. Beaudin WWII Thomas E. Golden K Lois M. Hoelzel K Reuben A. Skaaland K Willis F. Gonitzke V Melvin R. Peterson K Francis E. Boehm K
<b>16 Cudahy</b> Nick Anastas WWII	<b>54 Marshfield</b> Donald J. Bentzler K
<b>17 Arcadia</b> Roger T. Reichwein V Darell M. Herold V	<b>56 Fountain City</b> George S. Kletzke V Merlin D. Sutter K
<b>19 Harford</b> Joseph N. Oleske V John McInnis V	<b>58 Hurley</b> Steven Smith V
<b>21 Kenosha</b> Glenn L. Bishop V James Vanlone V	<b>60 Kimberly</b> Jerald E. Ruechel WWII
<b>26 Baraboo</b> Julius L. Henke WWII	<b>63 Clintonville</b> John Moericke V James F. Ayres WWII
<b>27 South Milwaukee</b> Thomas A. Zingale K	<b>64 Ladysmith</b> Roger A. Kromrey K Erland Lindelof K
<b>28 Valders</b> Arlee Titel V	<b>66 Athelstane-Silvercliff</b> Steven C. Kudirko V
<b>36 West Bend</b> James R. Nixdorf K Richard W. Westerman K	<b>69 Mayville</b> Donald J. Abbott K Roger Gindt V
<b>37 Elk Mound</b> William Thalacker K	<b>70 Oshkosh</b> Thomas J. Galica V Clifford W. Bunks WWII Albert P. Fisher WWII Edwin Kalous WWII
<b>38 Appleton</b> Rodney K. Sternhagen William B. Gauerke V	<b>71 Pewaukee</b> Michael J. Tyloch V
<b>39 Marinette</b> Rodney L. Hemminger WWII	<b>73 Neillville</b> Duane L. Peterson V
<b>40 Bangor</b> Roger Hundt V	<b>74 Oconto</b> Charles M. Vaneyck K Ervin F. Stuckart K
<b>42 Platteville</b> James E. Kopp K	
<b>44 Wabeno</b> Robert W. Rohe K Donald W. Bank K Larry Wolfgram K	

<b>75 Fond du Lac</b> William J. Richardson V James Rude K George A. Stanchfield K Howard Waldschmidt V Thomas Ogrady V Joseph L. Muellenbach V Peter F. Rudzitis PG Heinz Zimmermann K William C. Werner V Theodore F. White K Sheldon Tobey V Terrance L. Schneider G/L Lynn Thuar V Dave Overbo PG	<b>77 Chippewa Falls</b> Don L. Leifheit K	<b>79 Burlington</b> Richard P. Shecterle WWII	<b>80 New Richmond</b> Jeffery R. Geving	<b>81 Mauston</b> Michael Gruszka V Kenneth D. Wilcox V	<b>82 Port Washington</b> Philip A. Scarpace V Leroy Bley WWII	<b>83 Sheboygan</b> John C. Yellstrom V Theodore Dekker K Craig A. Eirich G/L Fred Klauck K	<b>87 Rice Lake</b> Edward J. Lastufka K John R. Barrington V Robert J. Yarish WWII	<b>88 Manitowoc</b> James E. Zipperer V	<b>89 Minocqua</b> Royal Dallmann V	<b>90 Ashland</b> Thomas Zinnecker WWII	<b>91 Oconomowoc</b> Art Boettcher K James F. Quirk V	<b>93 Tomahawk</b> George E. Schuetz K Douglas A. Akey V	<b>98 Cumberland</b> Dean Kolzow V	<b>100 Sparta</b> Rex Slayton WWII Marv Clark V William Roberts V	<b>106 Seymour</b> Steve L. Carpenter V Bruce Teetzen V	<b>108 Clear Lake</b> David J. Stetler G/L	<b>109 Lancaster</b> Ralph H. Alcorn K	<b>110 New Lisbon</b> Michael W. Jacobson V	<b>115 Elroy</b> Allen D. Olson K	<b>116 Coon Valley</b> Allen Bushek V Richard M. Engh K	<b>117 Shawano</b> Roland C. Dobratz K	<b>118 Thorp</b> Gregory L. Hoff G/L	<b>121 River Falls</b> Arnold V. Roen WWII Michael A. Dockendorf V	<b>124 New Holstein</b> Alan Schmidkofer K	<b>126 Brillion</b> Harold Keuer V James A. Schreiber K	<b>132 Siren</b> John E. Lafond V
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<b>134 Boscobel</b> Stephen B. Kretschman V	<b>141 New Glarus</b> Gary R. Klassy V	<b>146 Beaver Dam</b> Ervin F. Hammer WWII	<b>149 Sheboygan Falls</b> Earl E. Kneevers K	<b>150 Wausaukee</b> John F. Lundberg V	<b>151 Madison</b> Donald O. Boe K	<b>152 Menasha</b> Robert J. Oppelt V	<b>154 Mondovi</b> Dick A. McGehee V	<b>158 Maiden Rock</b> Daniel B. Seipel V	<b>164 Jefferson</b> Robert A. Brunner K	<b>165 Two Rivers</b> John Parma K	<b>167 Sauk City</b> Norbert J. Roth K	<b>169 Amery</b> Gerald Carlson K Gary N. Emerson V Gary H. Schock V	<b>173 Whitewater</b> Dennis G. Salverson V	<b>175 Loyal</b> Tom Loos K John Olsen WWII	<b>263 New London</b> Peter J. Bellettiere V James L. Lambert WWII	<b>269 Cushing</b> Richard Lauring V Robert Avery K	<b>270 Theresa</b> Gary Erdmann V	<b>271 Poynette</b> James D. Nelson V	<b>272 Butternut</b> Robert A. Pospichal WWII	<b>280 Coleman</b> Darryl Rouse V	<b>284 Holmen</b> Daniel N. Staff V Harland Edmunds K Vernell S. Hesselberg WWII	<b>288 Cedarburg</b> Douglas C. Sorenson K	<b>291 Augusta</b> David L. Steele V	<b>295 Bloomer</b> Kenneth Gravunder WWII	<b>299 Hales Corners</b> Earl C. Schott K	<b>305 Johnson Creek</b> Michael D. Urban V	<b>306 Green Lake</b> Thomas E. Caestecker K Rodney C. Haferman V	<b>316 Sheldon</b> Thomas R. Panetti V	<b>318 Lake Tomahawk</b> John Joswiak WWII Kenneth C. Osborne V	<b>327 Lyons</b> William R. Mangold V	<b>333 Sun Prairie</b> James L. Dawson WWII Jerome W. Witherill V	<b>336 Onalaska</b> Carl H. Mueller K Raymond G. Becker K Lowell W. Meier K Robert Johnston PG
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<b>317 Pulaski</b> Lawrence F. Laubenstein K Jerome C. Santy K Vincent Kazmierczak K John E. Kassner WWII Robert Gracyalny K John M. Wigman K Mitchell J. Luberdia WWII	<b>338 Cedar Grove</b> James W. Crist V	<b>347 Lomira</b> Jerry A. Lafleur WWII Donald C. Whitty V	<b>348 DeForest</b> Jerry E. Alexander V	<b>353 Cornell</b> David R. Albers V Alvin E. Thomas V Charles B. Seidlitz V John K. Sargent V	<b>355 Grafton</b> Howard L. Thiede K	<b>360 Waunakee</b> Richard J. Reinhold K Leo A. Hendricks WWII	<b>363 Denmark</b> Ronald M. Cattelan V	<b>364 Winneconne</b> Paul O. Muehlenberg K	<b>368 Taylor-Hixton</b> Norbert C. Sedelbauer K	<b>374 Lac du Flambeau</b> Alden B. Bauman V	<b>375 Mukwonago</b> Edward L. Domino	<b>377 Elcho</b> Harold K. Fraley V Robert W. Welch V Lee F. Dinsmore WWII Jack Eaton K	<b>386 Cascade</b> George E. Meyer K James A. Carpenter K	<b>391 Fremont</b> Gary L. Runnoe V Denny Lamers V David M. Winter V	<b>398 Plain</b> Daniel Volk V Patrick Walsh K Norman E. Liegel V	<b>401 Cambria</b> David Munro V	<b>403 Webb Lake</b> William E. Terbilcox K Verlin Brown V	<b>410 Fredonia</b> James R. Witherow V	<b>415 Milwaukee</b> Donald R. Vachon V Jim Ferrier V Raymond W. Kleppin WWII	<b>416 Greendale</b> Hugh Cannon K Robert S. Auer K	<b>426 Milwaukee</b> Richard R. Loreck K	<b>434 Oak Creek</b> Leon House V	<b>435 Superior</b> Vern Oaks V	<b>437 Mazomanie</b> Neil B. Hodgson P James W. Craney PG David L. Clason V	<b>440 Clinton</b> Bernard L. Haines K	<b>445 Cashton</b> Jon G. Torkelson K Victor Gutierrez V	<b>447 Viola</b> Ronald R. Curtis K	<b>449 Brookfield</b> Earl Wood K Harvey A. Kroening K Leo S. Brzezinski WWII Chuck A. Roloff V Elliott Schnackenberg V William J. Prohl K	<b>453 Belmont</b> Patrick J. McDonald K	<b>454 Mt. Calvary</b> Jerome J. Pickart K William L. Nett K	<b>455 Milwaukee</b> Napoleon White K Lloyd Hubbard V	<b>457 Mequon-Thiensville</b> Ronald Miller V	<b>458 Wauzeka</b> Robert Lenz K Alan K. Russell V	<b>459 Eleva</b> Edwin O. Todahl V Donald Matchey V James M. McBee V	<b>461 Pembine</b> Joseph P. Shafer K Craig Pauld K	<b>464 Land O'Lakes</b> Joseph L. Lemens GWOT	<b>469 Marathon</b> Alan E. Kleinschmidt V	<b>470 Saukville</b> Louis Gruman V Clarence T. Miller K	<b>472 Milwaukee</b> Jim Briggs V	<b>479 Milwaukee</b> William Barnes K	<b>480 Presque Isle</b> Albert J. Fletcher	<b>483 Allenton</b> Harold Reindl WWII Anthony H. Montag V	<b>485 Rudolph</b> David Goetz V	<b>496 Sherwood</b> Tony Mueller V	<b>503 Dane</b> Marcel J. Ripp V William P. Schilling V	<b>506 Iron River</b> Robert R. Miller K Leroy R. Forslund K	<b>512 Shiocton</b> Jerome L. Beyer Gerald Diermeier K	<b>518 Green Bay</b> George Torrey V Roger Lepire K Keith R. Watermolen V	<b>519 Stetsonville</b> Tom Lafontaine V	<b>521 Fox Lake</b> Jack Hollnagel V	<b>523 Abrams</b> Eugene E. Dombrowski G/L	<b>524 White Lake</b> Scott Dempewolf V	<b>541 Northfield</b> Richard C. Peters V Alan L. Chandler V Gene Mann V	<b>543 Plover</b> Donald E. Worzella V	<b>546 Racine</b> Rufus J. Perry V	<b>550 Brackett</b> Richard E. Mitchell K	<b>552 Somers</b> Covella D. Pierce K Gregg Vigansky V Robert Settini V Harold E. Scherer K	<b>556 Baraboo</b> John Whitecloud V Dale Whiteeagle PG	<b>2930 Portage</b> Raymond E. Crippes V Donald R. Johnson V Lawrence R. Halvorson WWII	Robert Bromberg K Bill Abitz Lawrence E. Kane G/L David G. Wagner V Tedd Mianowski Ronald D. Hentz V Jack Principe V Frederick R. Praefke Daniel Schreier G/L Philip F. Barden V Arvin Klemme V Kenneth C. Sturgis V Henry Waldren Hugh Cannon K Gordon I. Berg K
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## POST 454 FLAG DISPOSAL



Abler/Engel American Legion Post 454 Mt. Calvary held a flag disposal ceremony during a recent monthly meeting. The ceremony was conducted by members of Post 454 Honor Guard. Pictured left to right, Past 454 Commander Richard Marion, Commander Dave Lefebber, Chaplain Milt Krug, Sgt-at-Arms Gary Hass and Honor Guard Commander Willie Sparks.

# WISCONSIN



August 2023

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

## MEMBERSHIP

**Sue Hembrook**  
Department Chair

### GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP, POPPY UP FOR A VETERAN!

Members, we are all embarking on a brand-new membership year. The race is on! Memberships for 2024 can be paid via credit or debit card on the national website (alaforveterans.org) and you can automatically print off a 2024 membership card for your convenience. You can also pay over the phone by calling national headquarters during normal business hours at 317-569-4570. What an easy way to ensure your membership continues on!

Membership packets were sent out so you can also pay your unit's membership chairman. Membership chairmen, if you have not

received your packet, please contact Andrea Stoltz at Department Headquarters as soon as possible (608-745-0124).

President Maggie, Becky Mueller, Amy Luft and I are here to help you in any way that we are able. We urge you to call us with any concerns you may have. We also want to hear of your new members, projects and all the fun stuff your units, districts and counties have accomplished. We are encouraging everyone to have fun in all you do to support our Veterans, military and their families. We plan to work together with our Legion and SAL counterparts to promote membership within our ranks. It takes each and every one of us to get the word out. We are our own best kept secret!!! Get out there in your communities wearing your branded clothing. You already are active in your communities, so

spread the word that you are an integral part of the Legion Family. Advertise what you do in the community. Do things out of the box and share your accomplishments. Let's get in the race!

Your membership team consisting of Becky Mueller, Amy Luft and myself Sue Hembrook are ready and willing to assist you in any way that we can. District Presidents and their Membership Chairmen have also been instructed to reach out to their units to offer support. We need to work membership together to be successful!

The details of our "race" will be announced in the next Unit Mailing and *Wisconsin*. In the meantime, let's start off this membership year with the bang of the starting pistol. The first membership award is due on Veterans Day. All units at 100% are eligible. Two units will

be awarded \$150 each.

Thank you for all that each and every one of you contributes to this wonderful organization.

Your Department Membership Team, guided by President Maggie Geiger:

**Sue Hembrook**

genesuehem@wi.rr.com  
(H) 262-843-4791 / (C) 262-945-9791

**Becky Mueller**

clarenceandbecky@aol.com  
920-464-0320

**Amy Luft**

amyjluff@gmail.com  
414-651-7300

## 102nd American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention Highlights



President Linda Coppock and Commander Julie Muhle rode the American Legion Riders Back to Basics Run to convention.



President Linda Coppock presented eight Awards for Excellence. Pictured with Lone Rock Unit 383 President Lisa Bowen.



2023-2024 American Legion Family Leaders: TAL Commander Karl Stuvengen, ALA President Maggie Geiger, SAL Detachment Commander Allen Watry.



2023-2024 ALA Department Officers (front row): Chaplain Betty Stone, 2nd VP Amy Luft, 1st VP Sue Hembrook, President Maggie Geiger, Sr VP Becky Mueller, Historian Mary Petrie; (back row) Sergeant-at-Arms Morgan Johnsen, Alternate NEC Linda Coppock, Dept Secretary-Treasurer Bonnie Dorniak, NEC Bonnie Jakubczyk, Sergeant-at-Arms Christine Johnsen.



2023-2024 ALA District Presidents (front row): Sandy Mack, District 2; Kathy Grom, District 4; Dept President Maggie Geiger; Diane Steinert, District 6; Linda Tryczak, District 8; Mary Townsend, District 10; (back row): Zondra Morris, District 1; Karen Runk, District 3; Christina Petranovich, District 7; Bonnie Blink, District 9; Claudia Osero, District 11. Not pictured: Linda Bartell, District 5 and Sandy Garlie, District 12.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

**Betty Stone**  
 Department Chaplain  
 bjstone626@hotmail.com

Psalms 16:11 NIV— *You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

### New Beginnings

We are looking toward a new year in membership, leaders, and program chairpersons. What a joy to start fresh and put into practice what we learned from our experiences from the past. Let us pray:

Dear Lord of Heaven and Earth,

We come to you with praise and thanksgiving for the opportunities you have given us to serve the Veterans, community, and nation and make their lives brighter, giving us the joy of helping others. We pray for eyes that will see the opportunities you set before us. As we start this year, may we be ever mindful of your presence and the power that only comes through you. Give us a loving heart as we work together in our units, districts, and department. Give us understanding so misunderstandings do not happen in our ranks. Lastly, give Maggie and the other officers the energy and enthusiasm it takes to be an exceptional officer as they perform their duties. In your most precious name, Amen.

### Music

Songwriter: Lee Greenwood

### GOD BLESS THE USA

And I'm proud to be an American  
 Where at least I know I'm free.  
 And I won't forget the men who died  
 Who gave that right to me.  
 And I'd gladly stand up next to you  
 And defend Her still today,  
 'Cause there ain't no doubt  
 I love this land.  
 God Bless the USA!

We live in a wonderful country. Let us tell others of the pride we have for living in the USA – the best in the world!

## THANK YOU

With the passing of brother/brother-in-law, Bob Blom, we would like to extend to everyone who sent a card, donation, email, text message, plant or flowers, and to those who attended the service, a heartfelt thank you for your condolences, hugs, prayers and support during a very difficult time. We are so blessed to be part of such a great and compassionate organization.

~ PDP Linda Coppock  
 and PDP Diana Blom

## GREETINGS FROM HEADQUARTERS

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

Congratulations to Linda Coppock on a successful year as Department President. The 102nd ALA Department Convention started with President Linda Coppock participating in the Back to Basics Legion Ride and concluded with the installation of 2023-2024 Department Officers at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center in Rothschild.

Convention highlights included reports from department program chairs; tributes to Honored PDP Sue Vorwald (2008-2009) and Linda Cason on her 50 years of employment with ALA-Wisconsin; recognition of Unit Member of the Year Cathy Wilbur, Honorary Junior President Lindsay Stiff, Junior Member of the Year

Natalie Myers, ALA Badger Girls State Governor Emerson Vahlsing, and Little Miss Poppy Avery Smith; introduction of TAL Candidate for National Commander James LaCoursiere (2024-2025); remarks from WDVA Secretary James Bond; and an ice cream social! The Past Presidents Parley (PPP) voted to increase PPP dues to \$7, effective immediately; and President Linda Coppock presented eight Department President's Awards for Excellence.

A special thanks goes out to SuAnn Pangel-Rast of Almond Unit 339 for her expertise in creating the PowerPoint slide show presentation that accompanied all the program reports!

The convention closed with the installation of new district presidents and department officers. Newly elected Department President Maggie Geiger's theme for the upcoming year is "Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and their Families – One Day at a Time" and her special project is Dogs2DogTags, which places

trained dogs with deserving service members who have been diagnosed with post-combat stress and anxiety (dogs2dogtags.org).

Although we are still collecting dues for the 2023 membership year, 2024 membership cards and rosters were mailed to the units in mid- to late July. Any unit that has not received their membership packet should contact Andrea Stoltz at department headquarters immediately.

2024 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.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)) or call the national organization during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 7 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 2024 can be processed after September 1.

## NATIONAL SECURITY

**Karen Degner, Dept. Chair**  
 kdegner88@gmail.com  
 920-918-9772

As we begin a new year, we can support those currently serving and their families by supporting their Soldier & Family Readiness Groups. Other ways to be involved include nominating an Enlisted Servicemember for the Salute to Servicemembers Award, providing military honor cords to graduating high school seniors committed to military service, including POW/MIA recognition at meetings, and being a resource for gas/food gift cards for servicemembers in need in your area or in the state.

Donations to the Support Military Families fund can help with emergency financial needs. Sending coupons to overseas commissaries and remembering military family recognition months are always ways to support the National Security program. November is Military Family Appreciation Month, Purple Up is in April for the Month of the Military child, Military Spouse Appreciation and Armed Forces Day are in May. These are special times we can thank those serving and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Emergency Preparedness is another aspect of National Security and includes having a plan in case of fire or natural disaster. The Ready WI website has information and guidance for you to make a plan.

What do you do to support the National Security Program that you would like to share with others throughout the state?

I realize we just finished with year-end reporting, but keep track of all you do throughout the year and remember next April to complete and submit Unit Year End Reports. We can't all do everything or every program, however, by providing the unit name, number and city with a zero for any programs your unit isn't able to support counts as reporting!

Send me photos throughout the year in support of the National Security program. Reach out to let me know if you are interested in becoming a resource for the military community. I would love to hear from you by phone or email or come to your meeting.

## ALA MEMBER JOINS DOD DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERT ADVISORY PANEL

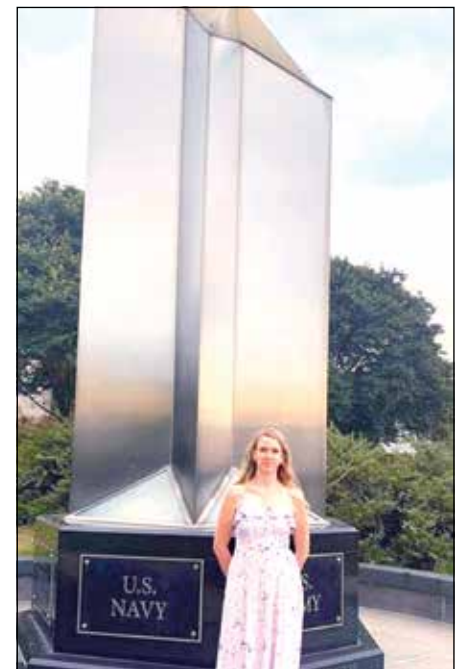
Submitted by Betty Glaser  
 Unit 511, Ridgeland

Kyler Steffe has been a member of Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland for 27 years. While attending Winona State University, she was a student advocate for victims of gender-based violence and helped run the university's sexual abuse report hotline. She graduated in 2016 with a Communication Studies major with a leadership and advocacy emphasis, and two minors in women, gender, and sexuality studies and social justice.

After college Kyler worked as a legal advocate at a domestic violence and sexual assault agency in Winona, Minnesota before moving to the West Coast where she worked as a legal advocate at her community's domestic violence services agency and then at her county's child advocacy center where she advocated for and assisted children, teens, and adults with civil protection orders.

In the beginning of 2023 she took the role as the Navy's Family Advocacy Program Victim Legal Advocate. Her main responsibilities are speaking with and supporting survivors of domestic abuse and sexual abuse, assisting with civilian protection orders and/or military protection orders, safety planning, empowering survivors, and assisting survivors to obtain resources for safety.

Kyler was nominated by her boss with the Family Advocacy Program in the Navy to be a subject expert about domestic abuse in the Armed Forces. 734 Navy personnel across the nation and overseas were nominated for the subject matter expertise topic and 20 were chosen to represent the Navy. The Department of Defense (DOD) has selected Kyler to be a member of the domestic violence expert advisory panel with a focus on improving survivors' access to domestic abuse services in the U.S. Armed Forces. The DOD is conducting this panel as a Congressionally mandated study to provide analyses and recommendations for improving domestic abuse prevention and response in the U.S. Armed Forces.



**Kyler Steffe in front of the Armed Forces monument, submitted by Kyler Steffe.**

The panel will have representatives from each branch of the Armed Forces, and Kyler Steffe will be representing the U.S. Navy. These domestic violence experts will meet with the head leaders of the DOD to discuss access to domestic violence services for survivors of violence, identify what needs to be improved, and what changes can be made in governing policy to assist victims. Kyler recently received an email from Washington, D.C. headquarters congratulating her on this new position.

The ALA members of Unit 511 are so proud of Kyler and the difference she is making! Kyler is the daughter of Mike and Becky Steffe. Mike is the Commander for American Legion Post 511 and Becky Steffe is the President of ALA Unit 511.





## American Legion Auxiliary 2023 State Convention Citations



### President's Award for Excellence – Linda Coppock, Department President

8 – awarded to Orfordville Unit 209, District 1; Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Shiocton Unit 512, District 9; Abrams Unit 523, District 9; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

### Chaplain – Linda Kostka, Department Chaplain

2 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Green Bay Unit 11, District 9; Grantsburg Unit 185, District 12.

### Children & Youth – Mary Petrie, Department Chairman

6 – 'Believe & Achieve' Awards – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Saukville Unit 470, District 2; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; Thorp Unit 118, District 7; New London Unit 263, District 8.

### History – Sue Turowski, Department Historian

1 – Best overall (District) Certificate of Merit – awarded to Judy Kuta of District 2.  
1 – Best overall (Unit) Certificate of Merit – awarded to Alyssa Fraser of Thorp Unit 118, District 7.  
8 – Certificates of Participation – awarded to Susan Christian of Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Mary Molaski of Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Darlene Meyers of Franklin Unit 387, District 2; Janet Brown of Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Patricia Katalinick of Chilton Unit 125, District 6; Vickie Dux of Neillsville Unit 73, District 7; Amanda Szalewski of Wausau Unit 10, District 8; Rose Heinz of Appleton Unit 38, District 9.

### Leadership – Joyce Endres, Department Chairman

1 – Unit Member of the Year – awarded to Cathy Wilbur of Appleton Unit 38, District 9.  
1 – Honorable Mention - awarded to Jean Hensen of Waunakee Unit 360, District 3.

### Legislative – Diane Weggen, Department Chairman

5 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Diane Burkhalter of Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Susan Christian of Watertown Unit 189, District 2; Deborah Niebuhr of Cross Plains Unit 245, District 3; Susan Wells of Neillsville Unit 73, District 7; Marla Knuettel of New London Unit 263, District 8.

### M. Louise Wilson – Joan Chwala, Department Chairman

1 – Certificate of Merit – awarded to Amy Luft of District 2.

### Membership – Becky Mueller, Department Chairman

11 – Extra-Gnome-inary Awards – awarded to Pewaukee Unit 71, District 1; Fort Atkinson Unit 166, District 2; Lone Rock Unit 383, District 3; Greendale Unit 416, District 4; Milwaukee Unit 448, District 5; Two Rivers Unit 165, District 6; Humbird Unit 320, District 7; Tigerton Unit 329, District 8; Deanna Farley, District 9; Ridgeland Unit 511, District 10; Fifield Unit 532, District 11.

### National Security – Karen Degner, Department Chairman

4 – Certificates of Recognition – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Neenah Unit 33, District 6; New London Unit 263, District 8; Algoma Unit 236, District 9.

### Past Presidents Parley – Bonnie Jakubczyk, Department Chairman

1 – Mentor of the Year – awarded to Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan of Waunakee Unit 360, District 3.

### Poppy – Patti Westpfahl, Department Chairman

7 – Poppy Poster Awards – awarded to Easton Schurter, District 7 (Class I); Audra Ciolkosz, District 7 (Class II); Isabella Schroeder, District 9 (Class III); Sela Meeks, District 2 (Class IV); Jenna Nicholson, District 9 (Class V); Bethany Levy, District 2 (Class VI); Anna James, District 9 (Class VII).

### Public Relations – Sandra Mack, Department Chairman

1 – Certificate of Appreciation – awarded to Crystal Shaw of Caledonia Unit 194, District 1.

### Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation – Mike Rohan, Department Chairman

6 – 'Believe' Awards – awarded to Port Washington Unit 82, District 2; Grafton Unit 355, District 2; Richland Center Unit 13, District 3; Wautoma Unit 317, District 8; Tigerton Unit 239, District 8; Mercer Unit 424, District 11.

## DISTINGUISHED GUESTS REPORT

**Diane Weggen  
Department Chair  
Committee: Gladys Beese, Jeannine Conratt,  
Virginia Kodl, Pat Smith**

The Distinguished Guests Committee had quite the year, thanks to the American Legion Family members who so graciously welcomed our Distinguished Guests!

National President Vickie Koutz flew from sunny Florida into below zero temperatures for the Midwinter Conference in Green Bay. She did share that she was not too excited about coming into the cold; however, she thoroughly enjoyed her visit: Friday night at Lambeau Field, the ALA workshop on Saturday morning, viewing the GNOME (Get New and Old Members Excited) racers on display, and the Hawaiian-themed party featuring a talent contest and Daddy D's band.

The band played and entertained their way into NP Vickie's heart. She invited them to be the band performing in Charlotte, NC at the National ALA States Dinner.

National Central Division Vice President Ann Rehbein of Iowa visited ALA Badger Girls State at the UW-Oshkosh campus. She flew in from Michigan ALA Girls State on Wednesday evening, arriving in time for the Flag Disposal Ceremony performed by the Oshkosh Post 70 Legionnaires. Next was the General Assembly featuring Past National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms reading the book America's White Table. Blue Star Banners were presented to delegates who currently have a family member serving in the military.

Thursday (school pride day), NCDVP Rehbein donned her Iowa University duds to join del-

egates at the county meetings and state fair. The day ended with the inauguration of those elected to govern the State of Badger. Guest speakers included Governor Evers, Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky, and Wisconsin Education Superintendent Dr. Jill Underly. Friday morning NCDVP Rehbein left to finish her week at Iowa ALA Girls State.

Past Department President Sue Vorwald (2008-2009) from Roberts was the Honored Guest at this year's ALA 102nd Department Convention. Her theme was "Oceans of Love to Our Veterans".

Honored PDP Vorwald began her long weekend with the DEC Luncheon, Past Presidents Parley business meeting, and PDP Dinner on Thursday. Friday at the opening of the convention, she participated in the processional. During the afternoon Recognition Program, she recognized officers and district presidents who served with her and shared a number of stories about her time as Department President. The program ended with all enjoying ice cream sundaes.

Saturday evening, Honored PDP Sue enjoyed visiting with friends, listening to the band, and dancing at the Legion Family event. Honored PDP Vorwald ended her special weekend by attending the Legion Family Memorial Service.

Having time with National President Vickie Koutz, National Central Division Vice President Ann Rehbein, and Honored PDP Sue Vorwald has been a privilege. It truly was a pleasure to serve on the Distinguished Guests Committee.

Thank you, President Linda, for the appointment and Past Distinguished Guests Chair Joyce Endres and ALA Executive Secretary Bonnie Dorniak for all the printed (and spoken) support.

## AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND

What is the Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) and what does it do? AEF is a national program that was established in 1969 to provide temporary emergency assistance to eligible members of the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) who have endured a significant financial setback as the result of an act of nature or other personal crisis.

The AEF was created with a bequest from the estate of ALA member Helen Colby Small of Burlington, Wisconsin. For the past five decades this fund has been helping Auxiliary members get back on their feet through the generous donations of current Auxiliary members. To be eligible, the applicant must be a member of the ALA for three consecutive years (the current year and immediate past two years), cannot have received an AEF grant of the same type within the last 12 months, and is applying within six months of the disaster.

Eligible applicants may apply for a Temporary Assistance grant or Disaster 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.

Applications for assistance are available on the department website ([www.amlegion-auxwi.org](http://www.amlegion-auxwi.org)).

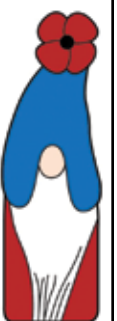
The Auxiliary Emergency Fund is maintained by the generous support of units and members throughout the country. Please consider a donation to the AEF this year.

## THANK YOU! The G.N.O.M.s have rallied!

On behalf of Past Department President Linda Coppock and myself, thank you to all the districts, counties, units, and individuals who created 104 of the absolutely cutest Gnome baskets ever! We would also like to thank the American Legion Family for your support in raising \$5,880 through our raffle basket fundraiser at Department Convention – proving that we "BELIEVE" in the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Thank you everyone for your help. I couldn't have done it without you.

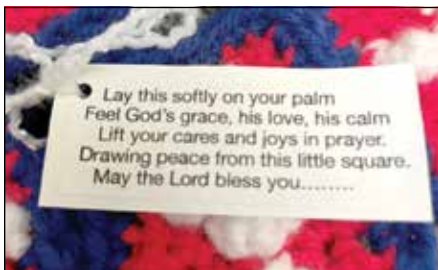
Lorrie Barber  
2022-2023 Department Fundraising Chair



# JACKSON UNIT 486: HONOR CORDS FOR GRADUATES



S/Sgt. Henry F. Gumm Unit 486 in Jackson gives the graduating students going into military service, special honor cords and a wooden cross with a crocheted prayer square.



# ALA UNIT 89: COMMUNITY CELEBRATION



Members of ALA Unit 89 and the Madson-Empey Post 89 participated in the 70th Anniversary Million Penny Parade in Woodruff, WI. The parade and morning festivities honored Dr. Kate Pelham Newcomb and the museum dedicated to her memory. Pictured: ALA Unit 89 President Betty Grundy, youngest ALA member Emma Keelan (age 9), and oldest member/Sunshine Chairman Joyce Kaziak (age 102). Joyce was one of two Grand Marshals in the parade.

2023 - 2024 DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, HOSPITAL REPS/DEPS	
<b>OFFICERS</b>	
President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
First Vice President	Sue Hembrook
Second Vice President	Amy Luft
Historian	Mary Petrie
Chaplain	Betty Stone
Nat'l Exec Committeeperson (NEC)	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Alternate NEC	Linda Coppock
Parliamentarian	Teresa Isensee
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Sergeant-at-Arms	Christine Johnsen
Asst Sergeant-at-Arms	Morgan Johnsen
<b>DISTRICT PRESIDENTS</b>	
1st District President	Zondra Morris
2nd District President	Sandy Mack
3rd District President	Karen Runk
4th District President	Kathy Grom
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	Mary Townsend
11th District President	Claudia Osero
12th District President	Sandy Garlie
<b>CHAIRMEN &amp; COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	
<b>ALA in the Know</b>	
Chairman	Patti Westpfahl
Vice Chairman	Diane Steinert
<b>Americanism</b>	
	Diane Burkhalter
<b>ALA Badger Girls State</b>	
Chairman	Danyelle Thompson
Vice Chairman	Jennifer Leahy
Executive Director	Delores Woolf
Asst Executive Director	Joanie Dickerson
Committee Member	Bethany Fredericks
Committee Member	Shirley Krier
Committee Member	SuAnn Pagel-Rast
Committee Member	Sheryl Polster
Committee Member	Theresa Schindler
Department President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
Americanism Chair	Diane Burkhalter
<b>WALASBA (Bowling Committee)</b>	
Chairman/Tournament Director	Jenni Syftestad
Committee Member	Lisa Blom
Committee Member	Shannon Churchill
Committee Member	Linda Coppock
Committee Member	Linda Kostka
Committee Member	Sue Middlestead
Committee Member	Toni Moegenburg
Committee Member	Margie Schoonover
Department President	Maggie Geiger
Senior Vice President	Becky Mueller
Executive Secretary-Treasurer	Bonnie Dorniak
<b>Children &amp; Youth/Liaison-Child Welfare Fdn.</b>	
	Margaret Larson
<b>Community Service</b>	
<b>Constitution &amp; Bylaws</b>	
Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan	Sue Keyzers
<b>Distinguished Guests</b>	
<b>Education/M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan</b>	
	Diane Weggen
<b>Finance</b>	
Chairman	Diane Duscheck
Vice Chairman	Kathy Wollmer
Committee Member	Sue Keyzers
Office Policy Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Alternate NEC	Linda Coppock
<b>Fundraising</b>	
	Crystal Shaw
<b>Junior Activities</b>	
Chairman	Laura Calteux
Vice Chairman	Char Kiesling
<b>Leadership</b>	
Chairman	Joyce Endres
Committee Member	Linda Coppock
Committee Member	Teresa Isensee
<b>Legislative</b>	
	Linda Coppock
<b>Liaison to TAL Marketing &amp; Communications</b>	
Editor-Wisconsin Publication	Bonnie Dorniak
<b>Membership</b>	
Chairman	Sue Hembrook
Committee Member	Becky Mueller
Committee Member	Amy Luft
Unit Development & Revitalization	12 District Presidents
<b>Music</b>	
	Betty Stone
<b>National Security</b>	
	Karen Degner
<b>Office Policy</b>	
Chairman	Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan
Committee Member	Diana Sirovina
Committee Member	Virginia Kodl
<b>Past Pres. Parley/Cavalcade of Memories Poppy</b>	
	Char Kiesling
	Kay Grosskopf
<b>Public Relations</b>	
Chairman	Bob Shappell
Committee Member	Crystal Shaw
<b>Standing Rules</b>	
	Diane Duscheck
<b>Veterans Affairs &amp; Rehabilitation (VA&amp;R)</b>	
VA&R Chairman	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Director of Hospital Volunteers	Sue Hembrook
Christmas Gift Shop Supervisor	Diane Sirovina
Christmas Gift Shop Assistant	Linda Bartell
Homeless Women Veterans Grant Chairman	Pat Smith
Service to Veterans Chairman	Linda Kostka
<b>HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVES &amp; DEPUTIES</b>	
<b>Dayton Care Center - Kenosha</b>	
Representative	Sue Hembrook
Assistant	Crystal Shaw
<b>Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital - Madison</b>	
Representative	Sheila Frye
Deputy	Noreen Schmidt
<b>VA Great Lakes Health Care System - Tomah</b>	
Representative	Helene Stein
Deputy	Patricia Flanders
<b>Zablocki VAMC - Milwaukee</b>	
Representative	Bonnie Jakubczyk
Deputy	Sue Hembrook
Deputy	Sandra Kaebisch
Deputy	Sue Middlestead
<b>Wisconsin Veterans Home - Chippewa Falls</b>	
Representative	Nancy Randen
Deputy	Teresa Steinke
<b>Wisconsin Veterans Home - King</b>	
Representative	Nancy Neuroth
Deputy	Alice Bentley
Deputy	Pat Daniels
Deputy	Dawn Lind
<b>Wisconsin Veterans Home - Union Grove</b>	
Representative	Mary Ellen Crandall
Deputy	Kathie Wilhelm
<b>Oscar G Johnson USVAMC - Iron Mountain, MI</b>	
Associate Representative	Anna Wender
Associate Deputy	Barbara VanBoxtel
<b>Minneapolis VA Health Care System - Minneapolis, MN</b>	
Associate Representative	Jeanne Williams
Associate Deputy	Karen Taylor

# UNIT 511 RHINELANDER: YOUTH GOOD DEED AWARD

Willard L. Hinzman ALA Unit 511 in Ridgeland presented National Good Deed Awards to Junior members Alyson and Camryn Comstock.

As part of their high school project for Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Alyson and Camryn partnered with Soldiers' Angels to collect needed items. They sought guidance from ALA President Becky Steffe and collaborated with the PF Lions and Auxiliary members. They strategically placed donation boxes, identified strategies and marketing tools, and engaged the public. They collected enough donations to fill a vehicle and U-Haul! They met with representatives from Soldiers' Angels and delivered almost 2,000 items which will be distributed to military families and deployed servicemen



and women. When Alyson and Camryn presented their project at the Wisconsin State FCCLA competition, they won and went on to compete at the national level.

Pictured (l-r): Becky Steffe, President ALA Unit 511; Camryn Comstock; Mary Townsend, 10th District President; Alyson Comstock; Mary Peterson, County President.

## EDUCATION / M. LOUISE WILSON EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND

**Diane Weggen**  
Department Chair

The new school year signifies a fresh start or a new beginning: a time to make changes or renew energies/enthusiasm with what has been done in the past. With the Education Program year completed and a new one beginning, ALA units have the opportunity to begin anew: add a new program or improve on past performance.

Considered the “Father of our Constitution”, James Madison stated, “a popular Government, without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a Prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy.” Just as the founding fathers For God and Country, the American Legion Family understands that education is vital for the success of a democracy.

The purpose of the ALA Education Program is to promote quality education for all children and adults through literacy programs, scholarships, and classroom activities and opportunities.

Units are encouraged to work with Posts, Squadrons and Riders supporting and/or par-

ticipating in the following activities: Veterans in Community Schools, Give 10 to Education, American Education Week (11/13 -11/17/2023), Teacher Appreciation Week (5/8 – 5/12/2024), Assist Military Children, Veterans Pursuing Education and ALA Scholarships.

The American Legion joined with the National Education Association to establish and promote American Education Week because an educated populace is necessary for national security. Work with the Legion Family to thank all who have roles in educating the nation’s youth, including teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Greater success is achieved by working with school personnel. Make an appointment to visit with the superintendent, principal or a teacher to share the educational activities of the ALA.

Invite a Legionnaire to be the unit’s Veteran in the classroom sharing his or her experiences/stories with students. Talking with a Veteran makes it personal. When students learn how Veterans served and problems experienced, they better understand why Veterans deserve to

be honored and thanked and learn what Veterans did to protect America’s freedoms.

Give 10 to Education may be actions or donations of items in sets of ten: ten visits to read to a class or giving the teacher ten books to share with students. Necessary classroom supplies and volunteering (tutoring, assisting, etc.) are welcomed throughout the school year.

ALA units should seek out military families who may need assistance. Due to moves or negative experiences, military families may need help or just some friendly faces.

Provide Legion Family scholarship information to members, schools and the community. Scholarships are given to promote and support education beyond high school, with special emphasis on military children, Veterans and service members.

The M. Louise Wilson Educational Loan Fund also promotes the ALA mission and is funded by donations. Female Auxiliary members can apply for interest-free loans to further their education at a technical, two or four-year college/university.

Applicants must:

Be a resident of Wisconsin and a current female member of the ALA.

Submit a copy of the DD214 document of the Veteran who provided eligibility.

Send a transcript of high school grades and three letters of recommendation.

Co-sign the promissory note along with a responsible adult.

Have the application approved by the Education Chairman.


Correspond on a regular basis through email.

Begin repayment of loan six months after graduating or ceasing to be a full-time academic student.

If approved, the applicant can borrow up to \$800 per year for five years, for a total of \$4,000 by sending a copy of satisfactory college grades and maintaining membership in the ALA.


This program depends on Legion Family donations and ALA applicants honoring their responsibility to repay their loans.

For God and Country, the ALA Education Program supports Veterans, military, their families and communities.



**DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN FALL JUNIOR CONFERENCE**

Turning Rivers Youth Camp  
N885 Youth Camp Rd.  
Campbellsport 53010



**OCTOBER 21-22, 2023 - 1pm Saturday til 2pm Sunday**

Join us at Camp Hometown Heroes for our Fall Conference and learn about the camp, and what it does for military children, our American Legion Auxiliary, and what you can do for our Veterans, and military. There will be hiking, crafts (lots!), outdoor cooking, and learning about wilderness survival. Bring your sleeping bag and pillow for a fun weekend with friends!

If you have any questions, please call Laura Calteux at 414-379-2943.

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**2023 JUNIOR AUXILIARY FALL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**  
Reservation needs to be in by **October 7, 2023**  
You will get a confirmation of your reservation with additional information.

Form submitted by (please print clearly):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME / UNIT #	FIRST TIME ATTENDEE? (YES/NO)	REGISTRATION (\$10.00)	Junior Member	Senior Member	Sons of the American Legion
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

## BADGER GIRLS STATE

**Danyelle Thompson**  
Department Chair  
alabgs.chairman@gmail.com

and had fun in the process.

Some highlights of the week included a flag disposal ceremony conducted by Oshkosh American Legion Post 70, a Talent Show, Hearings on Bills, and a College and Career Fair. The week culminated with the Inaugural Ceremony, where State Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky performed the oath of offices, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Jill Underly gave greetings, and Governor Tony Evers spoke about civic responsibility and the future of women in Wisconsin.

The 2023 session of American Legion Auxiliary Badger Girls State (ALABGS) took place from June 18-23 at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Over 500 delegates attended and spent the week learning about all levels of state government, legislation, and civic engagement. The delegates debated real world topics, campaigned for various offices,



**Fifty-seven (57) counselors gave up their week to help make the program a success. I want to thank everyone who gave up even one night of their summer to help put the program on – from those who were with the delegates 24/7, to those who were in the office counting thousands and thousands of pennies, your contributions were noticed and appreciated.**

**I hope the delegates returned to your units with stories of the things they learned and the fun they had. I also hope they will talk about the program to the upcoming high school juniors so more and more young women in Wisconsin realize what a fantastic program ALABGS is.** (Photo Credit: Alex Koon, UW-Oshkosh Staff)



**Karl Stuvengen**  
Department  
Commander

★ DEPARTMENT COMMANDER ★

First of all, I want to thank you for your support in electing me your Department Commander. I will do everything in my power to justify your confidence in making that choice, and I look forward to serving you in any way that I can.

I think we have assembled an awesome team of officers and committees at the Department level. Each is here to help you in any way we can. I am a firm believer in the chain of command, and I encourage you to use it any time you have questions or concerns about The American Legion. Involvement is the key. Often times asking your County Commander questions can lead to faster responses, and can quickly get you back on track. Remember, the more you keep your County and District officers in the loop, the better they will be able to assist you in carrying out the mission.

In the coming year, I look forward to meeting Legionnaires from around our great state and learning about all of the great things you are doing.

**So, who is this new Department Commander?**

My name is Karl Stuvengen (Stoov engen (hard G, accent on the first syllable)). I was born in California and raised in Wisconsin. I am the son of two WWII Veterans, Chuck and Bobbe Stuvengen, who many of you may remember as very active Legionnaires. I graduated from high school in Orfordville, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. I got out of the Navy in 1982 and went to college on the GI Bill. I worked in several different industries until settling on electrical contracting. After 9/11, I reenlisted in the Navy Reserve. I was recalled to active duty 3 times in the 2000s, going to Japan, Iraq and Kuwait. I retired in 2019 as a Senior Chief Electrician's Mate (E-8). I am a PUFL member of Wells – Davis – Young – Neal Post 209 in Orfordville. I am the third Department officer from my Post (PNH/PDH Bobbe Stuvengen, PDVC Jim Dallman). I have been active in The American Legion for many years at all levels of the organization. I am a 2018 graduate of the National Legion College. I retired from my civilian job as Director of Public Works in Orfordville in 2019. My wife Debi and I have 7 children and 5 grandchildren.



**Allen Watry**  
SAL Detachment  
Commander

★ SAL DETACHMENT COMMANDER ★

It is an honor to be elected the Detachment Commander of the Wisconsin Sons of The American Legion. I joined the SAL 10 years ago so I could ride in parades with my father (the late Charles Watry) as a Legion Rider. I had no thought of becoming a Detachment Commander. But after a short time I quickly realized why my father and mother (Kathy Watry) were so involved with the Legion Family, which naturally led me to get more involved.

And 10 years later, I now have a new cover to wear.

Before sharing our plans for 2023-2024, I need to acknowledge the success the Detachment has achieved under our last 3 Commanders. These successes include:

- Consistently growing membership. Our squadron count has increased 10% and Membership increased by almost 19%.
- Executing the Josh/ALF transition. We were the only Detachment to continue forward with a new program when GI Josh was shut down. Now other Detachments want to follow our lead.
- Successfully hosting the 2022 National Convention, which was also our 50th National Convention.

- Growing Freezing for a Reason to support Homeless Veterans and Veterans in Stress.

All this success means the bar is set quite high for us for 2023-2034, but I am certain we are up to the challenge. So what will our focus be? What will success look like for 2023-2024? Here are a couple thoughts:

- Staying focused on what we are already doing well. We will continue to grow our membership, turn ALF into a National Program, and continue to expand Freezing for a Reason.
- Growing the visibility of the Sons of the American Legion in Wisconsin. We will strengthen our connections inside and outside of the Legion Family. We will be visible in our communities and the Legion Family. And we will continue to be Proud of what we do!!
- Supporting those in need in our communities as a part of the Be The One Campaign.

Before I close my first article, I would like to thank the Legion Family for your support of the Sons of The American Legion. We could not do all we are doing without the support from the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the Riders.

And thank you to all Veterans. Thank you for service and dedication to our great nation.



**Maggie Geiger**  
Department  
President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As American Legion Auxiliary members, we tend to forget how important our membership and contributions are to our Veterans, military, their families, children and youth, and our communities.

I hope all of you understand and realize how important you, your membership, hours of volunteering, mentoring and kindness shown to others has helped keep our organization alive and well for 105 years!

Enhancing the Lives of our Veterans, Military and Their Families, One Day at a Time, is my theme this year. We do this and have been, by working our ALA programs!

Respecting one another, kind words and actions, accepting new ideas, mentoring, stepping up into leadership roles, remembering all members, whether it is with a call or visit, will help make all of us have stronger friendships, and units.

Units throughout the state have done so much and continue to work hard to support all the American Legion Auxiliary programs. Find a program or event that you individually enjoy, don't be afraid to ask your unit to try something new. If you don't try, how will you know if it could have been a success?

I can tell you from personal experiences, not all ideas I've come up with were a home run, but the support my unit gave me has been priceless and so appreciated. Some events you've tried might not have worked out for your unit, but another unit might adopt the idea and it turns out great! Sharing ideas with other units, counties and districts will help us all enhance the lives of our heroes.

TAL Commander Karl Stuvengen and SAL Commander Allen Watry and I agree that we need to continue educating and promoting all our members about all TAL programs. Supporting each other with our endeavors, getting our names out into our communities, becoming a family that works together for our core principles – justice, freedom and democracy – will help grow our organizations.

Thank you all for your support. I am honored to be your 2023-2024 ALA President. Let's go out and be excited and have fun being an ALA member!



**Brad Heller**  
Asst. State Director  
American Legion  
Riders Association

★ LEGION RIDERS ★

Here we are, the 104th Convention in the rearview mirror and summer quickly drawing to a close. I hope everyone who attended Convention enjoyed the great time of fellowship and camaraderie. Good luck to all the new officers who've assumed various positions within the Legion Family. My name is Brad Heller and while I serve in many roles, I'm proudly writing to you as the Assistant Director for the American Legion Riders Association of Wisconsin. I'm looking forward to the new term in this position, working with and meeting you down the road.

The Riders have had quite the busy summer so far with Districts participating in a host of different parades, escorts, honor flights, fundraisers, rides, and other community events. We were fortunate enough to hold our quarterly meeting at Convention. I'm sure most recognized us on Saturday at Convention, as we proudly wore our vests and showed we are a part of the Legion Family! Also, on Wednesday at Convention we completed the Back to Basics Tour state ride, in support of Camp American Legion at Bull Falls Harley-Davidson. It was a great culmination to a successful ride and grand start to Convention. For all those who helped make the ride a success, I want to sincerely thank you for your efforts. It takes a village... and without your support the great things we accomplished would not have been possible. If you or your post are interested in being involved in next year's ride please feel free to reach out to Director Corey Doehrmann or myself for more information.

While summer's end is drawing near, the Riders are just as busy as ever keeping the mission first and supporting Legion programs. As Director Doehrmann stated in the June Badger Legionnaire we are here to assist if your post/detachment/unit is in need of assistance. As an association we look forward to helping our Legion Family and reveling in everyone's success. It is my hope that these opportunities grow into strong partnerships that further the Legion's missions and strengthen our organization. The Riders are a great resource that has yet to be tapped in many instances. If there is any need of the Riders please reach out. We will make every effort to support you and hopefully in turn, you are just as eager to support us. We are stronger when we work towards common goals. Our Veterans, our children, our country, and our communities are the mission. Let us always be mindful of this as we work in our memberships and within our organization.

"Leadership, Accountability, Mission First!" Be The ONE, and be LEGION STRONG. Brad Heller's email address is [brheller65@gmail.com](mailto:brheller65@gmail.com).

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